

BUZZ

November 2024

Representatives of **AMARILLO NATIONAL BANK** recently held a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony for the bank's 29th new branch location, at 1700 Coulter Street. The new Medical Branch showcases ANB's new look and feel with better access for customers and improved landscaping. This location is a full-service branch with driveups, an atm and will be the home of Professional and Executive Banking. To celebrate the day \$25,000 donations were given to two nearby organizations: The Turn Center and the Ronald McDonald House, both who serve vital needs for the area.



The nomination of **JOE STREET**, owner and president of **STREET TOYOTA** in Amarillo, for the **2025 TIME DEALER OF THE YEAR AWARD** was announced by **TIME**. Street is one of a select group of 49 dealer nominees from across the country who will be honored at the 108th annual National Automobile Dealers Association

(NADA) Show in January. The **TIME Dealer of the Year** award is one of the automobile industry's most prestigious and highly coveted honors. The award recognizes the nation's most successful auto dealers who also demonstrate a long-standing commitment to community service. Street was chosen to represent the Texas Automobile Dealers Association in the national competition - one of only 49 auto dealers nominated for the 56th annual award from more than 20,000 nationwide. Street earned a B.B.A. at the University of Oklahoma in Norman in 1971. After college, he started selling Buicks at a dealership in Oklahoma City, where he received awards for sales volume and was named sales manager. In 1975, Street moved to Fowler Toyota-AMC-Jeep in Norman as general sales manager until 1982. With great business success, Street channeled his experience and sales acumen into his own venture and became the Toyota dealer in Amarillo in 1982 with the help of two silent partners, who he was able to buy out in eight years. Street Toyota has won the Toyota President's Award 21 times. In the area of community service, Street is a major benefactor and longtime board member of the Guyon Saunders Resource Center, a safe daytime refuge that offers basic services for those who are experiencing homelessness. Further, the dealership spends hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to support local nonprofits and special events in the community. For his good works and charitable giving, Street was named the 2013 Man of the Year by Amarillo Globe-News.

THE FURMAN FAMILY announce their purchase of **WELLINGTON SQUARE**, located at 1619 S. Kentucky. Construction of Wellington Square began in September 1976, with an estimated project cost of \$7.5 million. It was originally built by a Dallas-based group, who modeled the design after the Old Town Shopping Center. Over the years, Wellington Square has been home to numerous Amarillo businesses and remains a thriving hub of activity today. Wellington Square is located at I-40 and Georgia.



INTERSTATE BANK announces the retirement of Danny Skarda, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, and the election of **BLAIR BERG** as his successor. Blair Berg, who has served as Interstate Bank's Chief Financial Officer for the past five years, brings 18 years of industry experience. He holds a degree

in accounting and business administration from Texas Lutheran University and has demonstrated exceptional leadership, critical thinking, and a strong commitment to the community. He also serves as Chairman of the Finance Committee at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.



JUDGE MATT HAND, Potter County Court at Law #2, has been elected the Chair-Elect of the **TEXAS CENTER FOR THE JUDICIARY**. The Center's mission is to promote judicial excellence through education. The Center is the primary source of judicial education for all appellate, district court, statutory county

court, probate, associate and retired judges of the State of Texas. Judge Hand will serve as the Center's chair for the 2025-26 year. In addition to his other duties, Judge Hand presides over the Panhandle Regional Problem Solving (Mental Health) Court and is a Commissioner to the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health.



TYLER JOLLEY, DDS has joined the **DENTAL GROUP OF AMARILLO**. An Amarillo native, Jolley attended Oklahoma State University where he received his Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. After graduating Summa Cum Laude from OSU he moved to Dallas to attend Texas A&M College

of Dentistry where he obtained his Doctorate of Dental Surgery. Dr. Jolley is an active member of the American Dental Association and the Texas Dental Association.

A planned gift of \$1 million will support **WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY** female athletes, officials announced. The gift establishes the **LISA G. HENNEN ENDOWMENT FOR LADY BUFF ATHLETICS**, named for the donor, a WT alumna. Hennen also made an immediate gift of \$25,000. Scholarship recipients must be a female student athlete with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Preference is given to female athletes with majors in the Paul Engler College of Agriculture



Lisa Hennen

and Natural Sciences, the Paul and Virginia Engler College of Business, the College of Engineering or the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. A minimum of \$1,000 will be awarded annually to one or more students. Hennen, who grew up in Dallas and Houston, graduated from WT in 1983 with a Bachelor of Business

Administration degree in finance. She has lived in Dallas since graduating, where she spent 10 years in commercial and mortgage banking, and 27 years as a field claims adjuster in homeowners property insurance. At WT, Hennen was a member of the rifle team and participated in tennis and intramural softball and soccer.

Recently **REP. RONNY JACKSON (TX-13)** introduced legislation to rename the U.S. Post Office in downtown Amarillo as the **MAYOR JERRY H. HODGE POST OFFICE BUILDING** to honor the life and legacy of Jerry Hodge.

KELLEY MAGEE announced that through the generosity of an anonymous donation **SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL's** playground was recently expanded and renovated in honor of his past wife, **LISA MAGEE**. In her memory a plaque was placed there.

BOOKER ISD's BOB L. KIRKSEY ELEMENTARY was one of three Texas Panhandle schools, and one of 31 Texas schools named as a Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Across the nation, 356 schools received the

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prestigious recognition that highlights schools that excel in academic performance or make significant strides in closing achievement gaps among different groups. Kirksey Principal is **LAURETTE WAURER**. The other panhandle area schools receiving the award include **GRUVER HIGH SCHOOL** and **NAZARETH SCHOOL**.

A visionary plan to bring **PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL MUSEUM** and **PIONEER AMPHITHEATRE** into the 21st century is underway, thanks to **WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY** and state leaders. Following a feasibility study commissioned with the support of The Texas A&M University System, WT is actively pursuing a transformation of the iconic landmarks, one which would celebrate their legacies and leave intact the historic Pioneer Hall, while catapulting them into the future.

In further news, **PPHM** announced that the museum has

acquired a **TYRANNOSAURUS REX SKULL**, a landmark addition to the paleontology collection. The massive skull, at over four feet long, sports a mouth full of banana-sized bone-crushing teeth evolved to penetrate the most formidable defenses and bring a swift, merciful end to its prey. This specimen was excavated from the Hell Creek formation in Montana. The original specimen is on display at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture. The skull now residing at PPHM is a cast of a the massive 66-million-year-old find, nicknamed the "Tufts-Love Rex" after the two volunteers who discovered it in 2015. It is one of approximately 15 known T. rex skulls in the world. The PPHM skull measures 4 feet long by 3 feet wide. Based on this size, paleontologists estimate this dinosaur is about 85% the size of the largest T. rex found to-date, and one of the most complete specimens. At the hips, the T. rex stood 15- to 20-foot-tall and was as long as a school bus from tail to head, more than 40 feet in length. *AOW*

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