

BUZZ

December 2024



PERRYTON ISD honored the inaugural member of the **RANGER HALL OF FAME, MIKE HARGROVE** at the Perryton vs. Lubbock Estacado football game in October. The former Major Leaguer (notably with the Cleveland Indians) said it was a tremendous honor and was humbled by the recognition. Hargrove shared that in

high school, football was probably his favorite sport, though Basketball Coach **ROY PENNINGTON** had an incredible influence on his life. "What a great man, a great basketball coach. I'm not sure where I would've gone or the direction my life would've taken had I not met and been mentored by Roy Pennington," Hargrove said. He added that he came to play baseball seriously in college when he was actually attending on a basketball scholarship.



LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY (LCU) announced the election of **ALAN RHODES** as the new Chair of the LCU Board of Trustees. Rhodes brings a wealth of experience to this position, having served on the board since 2015 offering valuable insights into the university's strategic direction, financial health, and academic

vision. As a member of the LCU Board, Rhodes most recently served as the chair for the Trustee Development Committee. A resident of Amarillo, Alan Rhodes is a shareholder with the **UNDERWOOD LAW FIRM** and has practiced with the firm for over 40 years, and he served as President of the Firm for more than two decades. Rhodes was instrumental in the development of Underwood's Public Education Section and served as the President of the Texas Association of School Board's Counsel of School Attorneys. Currently Mr. Rhodes's practice focuses on planning for family businesses, including families owning dairies. In addition, Mr. Rhodes is a member of KAMP Hotels, LLC, a hotel development company with interests in a number of hotel ventures, including several in Amarillo and Lubbock. Alan Rhodes has a rich history of service and leadership in both his professional and personal life. Currently, Mr. Rhodes serves as Secretary and Director of Eastern European Mission, an organization that provided more than approximately 2 million Bibles and Bible based materials throughout eastern Europe in 2024.

MS. STEPHANIE J. JAMES with **UNDERWOOD LAW FIRM** has been selected as one of 40 individuals to serve as a **2024-2025 TEXAS BAR FOUNDATION NOMINATING CHAIR**. Nominating Chairs for each of the 17 State Bar of Texas districts are selected for their outstanding professional achievements and their demonstrated commitment to the



Texas Bar Foundation. Selection is a mark of distinction and recognition of Ms. James's contributions to the legal profession. Stephanie James' practice consists of a wide variety of civil litigation, healthcare and employment matters. She represents clients in personal injury litigation, nonsubscriber litigation, healthcare litigation, commercial litigation (including contract disputes and deceptive trade practices claims), construction disputes, employment disputes, and general civil litigation.



JONATHAN GRAMMER, President of **GRAMMER LAND & EXPLORATION CORP.**, has been appointed to the **ADVISORY BOARD AT TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**. The College of Arts and Sciences is the largest in the university and encompasses the schools of Economics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, English, Mathematics, Political Science, Geology and Renewable Energy. In addition, Mr. Grammer was recently elected to the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE TEXAS BUSINESS HALL OF FAME**. Founded in 1982, The Texas Business Hall of Fame recognizes excellence in entrepreneurs and business leaders from across the State of Texas. Every year the TBHF recognizes pioneers in Texas business and awards scholarships to recent undergraduate and graduate students to advance their innovative and entrepreneurial business start-ups.



MARIA JUAREZ, director of enrollment services at **AMARILLO COLLEGE**, recently was re-appointed by the **TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD (THECB)** to a second two-year term on the **APPLYTEXAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, which provides advice and recommendations regarding applications and admissions policies to the THECB.



NORTHWEST TEXAS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM (NWTHS), welcomed **CHERYL JONES** as **HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR**. Cheryl brings a wealth of leadership experience, with a focus on transforming workplace culture, optimizing productivity, and executing strategies that align with corporate objectives across complex organizations. She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration from Abilene Christian University and her Master of Business Administration from West Texas A&M University. Cheryl is an active member of the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) and the No Limits, No Excuses Partnership, a Gates Foundation initiative at the Amarillo Area Foundation.

An Amarillo company has been named to the **20TH ANNUAL AGGIE 100**. The Aggie-Owned company is working to make soil healthier. **AMERICAN COMPOST**, co-owned by **RYAN ZIMMER**, a 2006 A&M graduate, along with his in-laws **JOHN** and **JUSTIN HOMEN**, has developed a patent-



Ryan Zimmer

pending compost that's showing great promise in improving soil health and boosting agricultural yields. John and his son Justin run the daily operations of American Compost, while their mother, Tonya, manages the office—making it a true family-operated business. In addition to its impact on the agricultural industry, American Compost is expanding into the consumer market with a version of the compost now being used on lawns and golf courses across Texas. With a compound annual growth rate of 52.16%, as noted by the Aggie 100™, the company is experiencing significant growth.



EDUCATION CREDIT UNION FOUNDATION (ECU FOUNDATION) announced the awarding of the 2024-2025 Pocket Change Grants to 145 dedicated teachers and support staff across the Texas Panhandle. This year's grants will be awarded across 13 counties and 84 campuses. Since its inception

in 2009, the Pocket Change Grant program has aimed to empower educators by providing the necessary funds for creative and impactful learning projects. With this year's grants, the program will reach an exciting milestone, surpassing \$1 million in total grants to Texas Panhandle teachers. **MARCUS SMITH** is, ECU CEO and ECU Foundation Board President.

CMMS CPAs & Advisors PLLC



An ATLAS Navigators, LLC Firm

Formerly Connor McMillon Mitchell & Shennum, PLLC



Gary Mitchell, CPA
CMMS CPAs & Advisors - Partner

CMMS CPAs & Advisors PLLC - Amarillo
801 S. Fillmore, Suite 600 Amarillo, TX 79101
806.373.6661



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF AMARILLO

recently unveiled the new **SUNSHINE FOR CHARLOTTE PLAYGROUND** which serves area families who must travel to Amarillo to receive medical treatment for their children and call the Ronald McDonald House their "home away from home." The new playground is ADA accessible, preschool friendly (the majority of children staying at the House are 9 years of age or younger), and offers interactive, educational, and fun features geared toward younger children in what will likely be the most stressful season in their families' lives. The funds to cover the new playspace and surrounding turf landscaping were made possible by race funds from last year's Sunshine for Charlotte 5K & Family Fun Day - a yearly fall tradition for the Ronald McDonald House. Since Sunshine for Charlotte was first organized and hosted in collaboration with the Ronald McDonald House in 2021, the event has raised enough funds to sponsor a Sunshine for Charlotte guest suite in the newly rebuilt House, fully fund 2 full years of family stays in that suite, and cover the expenses to build this new playground. Since first opening its doors in 1983, RMHC of Amarillo has

provided more than 75,000 nights of lodging to families when they need it most. Additionally, the organization delivers more than 2,500 gifts and toys to pediatric patients in area partner hospitals each year, and serves upward of 5,000 visits to guests at the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Northwest Texas Healthcare System.



Clay Stribling



Keralee Clay

The **AMARILLO AREA FOUNDATION** announced a leadership transition as President and CEO **CLAY STRIBLING** takes on the role of Executive Advisor. **KERALEE CLAY**, who joined the Foundation eight years ago and has served as Senior Vice President, assumes the role of Interim President and CEO. *AW*

When you need a little extra care...



- Physicians Referrals Welcome
- Nursing and Non-Nursing Home Care Services
- For Brief Periods or on a Long-Term Basis
- Affordable Fees and Charges

PRIVATE NURSING CARE AT HOME



Member
Texas Panhandle



The Goodcare Services Center
1999-2000



Licensed by the
Texas Department
of Aging and
Disability Services

Answered 24 - Hours 7 Days a Week

(806) 373-7373

Ken Cargle, Owner and Administrator