



Childress' Smith overcame heart condition to build Hall of Fame career

SPORTS, 1B

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The TEXAS Outdoor Musical crew is participating in a special production of "Taming of the Shrew," to be staged on two Monday evenings, July 14 and 21, in Palo Duro Canyon's Amphitheatre. PROVIDED BY RACHEL DAWSON

SHAKESPEARE UNDER THE OPEN SKY

Shakespeare in the Canyon presents 'Taming of the Shrew' on July 14, 21

Nell Williams
Amarillo Globe-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Panhandle Heritage Foundation is presenting Shakespeare in the Canyon's "Taming of the Shrew" two Mondays, starting at 8 p.m. July 14 and July 21 in the beautiful surrounding of Palo Duro Canyon's Amphitheatre.

This season's production will be set in the 1960s, according to Rachel Dawson, director of the play. Guests can look forward to an incredible show that features the acting, singing and dancing abilities of the TEXAS company. Tickets

are \$25 and can be purchased at Texas-show.com or by calling the box office at 806-651-2181.

TEXAS the Outdoor Musical has long been a staple of cool Panhandle summer nights. With Shakespeare in Canyon, the organization continues to grow its cultural impact and offer audiences new ways to connect with the performing arts, according to Honnah Taylor, director of marketing and communications.

Shakespeare in the Canyon is supported in part by a grant from the Amarillo Area Foundation, whose commitment to the arts has made this series possible.

Playing the lead on the production are Allie Meredith as Katherine and Ethan Wilkerson as Petruchio. Other players include Edgar Carmarena as Grumio and Sahara Seifried as Curtis.

How popular has the Shakespeare in the Canyon been?

"This season, I have the privilege of directing Shakespeare in the Canyon's production of 'The Taming of the Shrew,'" Dawson said. "This role holds special meaning for me, having per-

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TTU System Chancellor Mitchell plans to step down

Education official will retire within next year

Mateo Rosiles
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

After serving 15 years in various leadership roles in the Texas Tech University System and Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, Chancellor Dr. Tedd Mitchell has decided to take a step back.

On Friday, Mitchell, who is now 63 and was appointed as the 5th chancellor of the TTU System in 2018, announced his plans to retire within the next year.

"For more than 15 years, I've had the greatest honor of serving this incredible enterprise, first as President of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and for the past several years as Chancellor of the Texas Tech University System," Mitchell said in a letter.

He went on to say that it was a "true privilege and joy" to carry the baton as chancellor, but feels that it is his time to pass it to someone new.

Under Mitchell's leadership, the TTU System has been able to help accomplish monumental milestones, alongside the five component universities in the system and the system's Board of Regents.

"Throughout my tenure, I've been privileged to lead through periods of tremendous growth and transformation, working alongside extraordinary leaders, faculty, staff and students across our five universities," Mitchell said. "Their commitment to higher

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TxDOT: New safety beacons will be added to Loop 335 at Arden Road

Michael Cuviello
Amarillo Globe-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, or RRFBs, are expected to be operational by mid-August along the southwest portion of SL 335, enhancing pedestrian safety near an existing school zone.

The safety improvements follow an incident on June 16, when a West Plains High School student was struck by a vehicle while in the crosswalk at the intersection of Arden Road and SL 335. The student was crossing the loop at approximately 8:30 a.m. when the vehicle hit them in the marked crosswalk.

The Texas Department of Transportation said the new RRFBs will serve as a supplemental safety feature and will

operate independently from the current school zone signals.

When activated by pedestrians, the beacons will flash yellow lights to alert drivers to stop.

"If yellow lights are flashing, you must stop to allow pedestrians to cross the roadway," TxDOT said in a statement. "If a pedestrian is in the crosswalk, you must stop and wait until the person has cleared your lane."

Pedestrians are urged to look both ways, ensure traffic has stopped or cleared the crosswalk, and remain inside the painted lines while crossing. Officials also recommend wearing bright, reflective clothing during nighttime or inclement weather for better visibility.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, RRFBs have been

shown to increase driver yield rates to as high as 98 percent at marked crosswalks, depending on factors such as speed limit, number of lanes, and road type.

The RRFBs are being installed near a developing section of SL 335, where the current frontage roads will eventually support new main lanes. TxDOT estimates those lanes will be ready for bid within the next five to 10 years.

An intersection study is underway to determine whether a traffic signal is warranted at the RRFB location. Findings will be released once the analysis is complete.

Drivers are reminded to continue slowing down, paying attention, and adhering to posted school zone speed limits while in the area.

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