

Scientists: ‘Kissing bug’ disease endemic in U.S.

INSIDE, 3A



AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 | AMARILLO.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

WE WILL NEVER FORGET PATRIOT DAY



WEST TEXAS A&M

College of Engineering lands big \$5M gift

Campaign tops \$175M

Michael CuvIELLO
Amarillo Globe-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

CANYON — West Texas A&M University’s College of Engineering has received a \$5 million gift from an anonymous foundation — the largest in its history. The challenge grant will establish a new institute for engineering research and push WT’s One West campaign past its current \$175 million goal. The donation was announced Tuesday, Sept. 9 outside the Engineering and Computer Sciences Building before faculty, students and campaign leaders.

A challenge built on Panhandle grit

Under the terms of the 10-year grant, the College of Engineering must secure at least \$500,000 annually in external research funding focused on Panhandle opportunities and issues. The foundation will then contribute a matching \$500,000 each year, building endowments to support WT’s people, programs and places — the three priorities of the One West campaign. “Research is an essential part of what we do at WT,” President Walter V. Wendler said in prepared remarks. “This donor, like WT, is committed to doing whatever is best for the Panhandle region. We serve regionally by paying attention to the opportunities and challenges inherent in rural communities across the region, state, nation and planet.” Wendler said research conducted through the new institute will help drive industry growth, job creation and investment in the Panhandle; develop and retain talent; transfer knowledge across sectors; engage communities; and shape policy. He stressed that the terms of the gift mean WT has to perform, not just receive. “We don’t get the funds unless we earn them,” Wendler said. “That’s the beauty of this challenge. It keeps us accountable, and it keeps our focus on results that matter for our students and

See GIFT, Page 3A



Cheryl Fairly, a member of the One West Campaign Leadership Committee, speaks Tuesday during the announcement of a \$5 million anonymous gift to West Texas A&M University’s College of Engineering in Canyon. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL CUVIELLO/AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS



Audience members applaud Tuesday during the announcement of a \$5 million anonymous gift. The challenge grant pushes WT’s One West campaign past \$175 million.

9/11

Responders worry about cuts

Advocates say program affected by HHS chaos

Nancy Cutler
Rockland/Westchester Journal News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Soon, 2,983 names will be read aloud at what was Ground Zero on Sept. 11, 2001. Similarly solemn ceremonies will remember those lost 24 years ago in the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Speeches and prayers will likely include pledges to “never forget.” Meanwhile, the World Trade Center Health Program flounders, advocates warn, as 9/11 responders continue to die from the toxic exposures at Ground Zero. Survivors, including those who lived, worked or went to school in Lower Manhattan, face similar illnesses. The WTC Health Program, established as part of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010, offers screenings and treatments for diseases and disorders classified as caused by exposures on Sept. 11, 2001, and the months after. Among the issues in question: The status of long-planned studies to include World Trade Center Health Program coverage for conditions like cancer and autoimmune disorders, which have been seen at what appears to be higher incidence among the 9/11 community. Any delays weigh on 9/11 survivors

See 9/11, Page 3A

Tri-State Fair ventures into archery, quiz bowls for 4-H, FFA youth

Nell Williams
Amarillo Globe-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Tri-State Fair Exhibition has upped their game to include more urbanized varieties of opportunities in learning and competition in FFA and 4-H programs. With the Amarillo Tri-State Fair & Rodeo in the air, many youngsters involved in 4-H and FFA have visions of blue ribbons and buckles in their head, but many

more are getting ready to show the product of their hard work throughout the year — or take place in new competitions available. Whether it be in showing livestock or horse and cattle judging, consumer purchasing, cooking, archery or any of a number of new additions added to the menu, more than 3,000 kids participate in the Tri-State Fair in different ways, according to Brady Ragland, CEO of the Amarillo Tri State Fair Rodeo and Exposition.

“The showing of animals has been traditional for more than 100 years,” he said. But, along with that, the number of competitions has increased from one or two to around nine in the last three years. “And we’re still adding,” he said. All areas are family based and are involve the entire family, instilling responsibility, hard work, ethics and into the overall program, making it more well-rounded. “A lot of it has do with demand,” he

See FAIR, Page 2A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to amarillo.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 115 | No. 259
To subscribe 806-345-3407
©2025 \$3.00

