

BankersDigest

SOUTHWEST BANKING NEWS SINCE 1942

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ARKANSAS FNBC Bank Hires Snider and Fletcher for Company's Move into North Arkansas Market

In July, Ash Flat-based FNBC Bank CEO and President **MARTY SELLARS** announced the bank's move into Jones-



SNIDER



FLETCHER

boro with the hiring of **BRAD SNIDER** as community president and **BROCK FLETCHER** as vice president and commercial lender. This move marks FNBC Bank's entrance into the growing Northeast Arkansas market.

With more than 30 years of banking experience, Snider served for the past decade as an executive vice president and market man-

ager for another Jonesboro bank. He holds a BS degree in accounting from Arkansas State University.

Fletcher brings more than 17 years of banking experience to FNBC Bank, most recently working as a vice president of commercial lending in Jonesboro. He holds a BS degree in interdisciplinary studies and an MPA (master of public administration) degree, both from Arkansas State University.

The bank plans to open a loan production office in Jonesboro first, with the intention of applying for a full-service location. The loan production office will open its doors on August 23.

FNBC Bank, headquartered in Sharp County, was chartered in 1912 as The Bank of Ash Flat. Today, it serves a six-county footprint throughout North Central and Northeast Arkansas. Jonesboro is the bank's 11th location. 🏦

TEXAS

Inter National Bank Hires Sinnott and McGurk

In May, McAllen-based Inter National Bank appointed **JEFF SINNOTT** senior executive vice president, chief opera-



SINNOTT

tions, technology and ERM officer.

Prior to joining Inter National Bank, he was executive vice president and COO for Southwest Bank. He has been an active leader in banking operations

and technology for the past 25 years.

Sinnott earned his BA degree in business analysis/management information systems from Texas A&M University. In addition, he graduated with honors from the Graduate School of Banking in Colorado.

ROBERT A. MCGURK has been named senior vice president, commercial lender. He brings more than 20 years of



MCGURK

experience in the banking industry, having served BBVA Compass Bank for 10 years before working with Elsa State Bank & Trust Co. There he served as an advisory director to the

bank's board, as well as directing and overseeing the IT steering committee as a part of the senior management team.

McGurk is a graduate of the University of Texas-San Antonio. He was awarded the SBA Financial Services Advocate of the Year Award in 2001.

Founded in 1985, Inter National bank has 20 branch locations. 🏦

OKLAHOMA MidFirst Bank Names Dobson President, Announces Additional Senior Management Changes

Oklahoma City-based MidFirst Bank recently announced that **TODD DOBSON** has been named the bank's new



DOBSON

president. He joined MidFirst Bank in 1991 and has served as its chief financial officer since 1995, and as a member of the board since 2007. Dobson spent seven years with Price

Waterhouse before joining MidFirst Bank. He is a CPA with an accounting degree from Oklahoma Christian



MORGAN

University and an MBA degree from Oklahoma City University.

The bank also announced additional changes to its senior management team. **DJ MORGAN** has been named se-

nior executive vice president and chief commercial banking officer. He has been with MidFirst Bank since 2006 and serves in a senior leadership role over private banking, wealth management

Continued on page 6

OKLAHOMA

Hardy Joins IBC Bank–Oklahoma as Executive Vice President, Commercial Banking

IBC Bank–Oklahoma has appointed **DAVID R. HARDY** as executive vice president, commercial banking. He has



HARDY

worked in the banking industry for more than 15 years. In addition to his role with IBC Bank–Oklahoma, Hardy serves on the board of directors for the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and Junior Achievement of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City region.

Hardy graduated from Kansas State University with a BS degree in business administration and earned an MBA degree from the University of Kansas.

IBC Bank–Oklahoma is a member of International Bancshares Corp., a \$12.1-billion multi-bank financial holding company based in Laredo, Texas, with 188 facilities serving 90 communities in Texas and Oklahoma. In 2016, IBC Bank celebrated its 50th anniversary. IBC Bank–Oklahoma has been serving the Sooner State since 2004 and has a retail branch network of 49 locations. 🏠

TEXAS

Sefzik Named Executive Vice President of Comerica’s Business Bank; Foley Named Texas Market President

On July 25, Dallas-based Comerica Inc. announced that **PETER L. SEFZIK**, Comerica Bank’s Texas market president, will be



SEFZIK

both effective August 17.

Sefzik began his banking career with Comerica Bank as a credit analyst in 1999 and has served as Texas market president since 2015. Prior to that, he was the senior vice president and national private-banking director in wealth management, following three years as the regional managing director of wealth management for the Texas, Arizona and Florida markets.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in international relations and an MBA degree in international management from Baylor University, Sefzik went on to graduate with a juris doctorate from the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University.

As Comerica Bank’s Texas market president, Foley will oversee all business and community development



FOLEY

efforts in Dallas, Comerica’s headquarters market, including management of middle-market and energy lending. Additionally, he will manage seven regional presidents. Foley joined Comerica Bank in 1992 after serving four years as an officer in the U.S. Army. He has spent his career with the company in middle-market banking, including serving as a group manager from 2002 to 2010, before being recruited as the chief credit officer in Texas. Foley earned a bachelor’s degree in finance from Texas Christian University, where he was designated a Distinguished Military Graduate, and holds an MBA degree in industrial management from the University of Dallas.

In addition to Texas, Comerica Bank has locations in Arizona, California, Florida and Michigan, with select businesses operating in several other states, as well as in Canada and Mexico. 🏠

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Focusing on National Fraud Awareness Week: The Perfect Time to Reevaluate Your InfoSec Policy

WITH SO MUCH CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION IN THEIR TRUST, it seems obvious that banks and other financial institutions would have stellar data security strategies in place. However, with one in four financial institutions admitting that they've never trained their staff on information security policies or do not even have information security policies in place, quite the opposite appears to be true.

While many businesses are increasingly investing in digital security safeguards in light of heightened cyber attacks, physical data is often overlooked. As a result, many financial institutions have gaps in their information security strategies as they neglect to address the ways in which physical data should be safely handled and processed in the office, subsequently leaving themselves susceptible to the threat of a range of negligent employee behaviors.

With August 5 marking the start of National Fraud Awareness Week, there is no better time for financial institutions to take a second look at their existing information security protocols and ask themselves whether or not they're covering all their bases when it comes to the protection of both digital and physical data. To create an all-encompassing security strategy, there are several aspects that financial institutions need to consider:

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER—INVEST IN EMPLOYEE TRAINING. With 25 percent of information breaches caused by employee error, it's evident that the need for employee training around the treatment of physical data is widely needed; however, a shocking 30 percent of financial firms admit that they don't train employees on physical information security best practices.

It's important to create guidelines for managing physical data as it pertains to handling confidential documents and devices containing sensitive information both inside and outside the office. With two in five financial institutions admitting that employees have lost items containing sensitive customer data—including mobile phones, laptops and company USB drives—it's



INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

ANN NICKOLAS
Vice President,
National Accounts
Shred-it

clear that financial institutions need to be proactive in establishing a culture committed to data security at all levels.

Leaders can develop a continued culture of information security by developing a data security plan that details how employees should handle the sensitive information they interact with regularly, whether this means encouraging employees to double-check that they have all notes and paperwork in their possession when traveling outside the office or simply advising that all confidential documents and devices be securely locked away or shredded before being discarded.

Furthermore, offering ongoing training opportunities for employees is essential to driving these messages home and embedding these principles into everyday work functions. Conducting



regular information sessions, especially for new employees, is a great rule of thumb to inform new hires of your individual security standards and expectations. Regular training sessions will also serve as an opportunity for seasoned employees to refresh their knowledge. As a supplementary precaution, leadership should implement regular review procedures to identify any issues and assess employee progress following training sessions.

CREATE A COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST. Like most businesses that work with private and confidential information, financial institutions are heavily regulated and need to be aware of the different privacy laws and legislation impacting the industry. For example, the *Gramm-Leach Bliley Act* covers the protection and privacy of consumer information in the financial services industry and requires financial institutions to explain their information-sharing practices to their customers and safeguard sensitive data.

It's helpful to develop a security policy handbook that employees can use to understand existing and new industry

Continued on page 10

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TEXAS **First Financial Bank Board Elects**

Knight to Senior Vice President in Midlothian

On July 24, the board of directors of Abilene-based First Financial Bank NA announced the election of **JOHN KNIGHT**



KNIGHT

as senior vice president and commercial leader in Midlothian. He has more than 23 years of experience in the financial services industry with a focus on commercial lending.

Knight holds a bachelor of business degree in management from the University of Texas–Arlington, as well

as a masters of business degree in strategy and entrepreneurship from Southern Methodist University. He previously served on the Ellis County board for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and is president-elect of the Texas CASA board of directors. He was a member and president of the City of Ovilla economic development board from 2008 to 2016 and recently rejoined that board.

First Financial Bankshares Inc. is a financial holding company that through its subsidiary, First Financial Bank NA, operates 72 branch locations across Texas. 🏡

ARKANSAS **Bullock Appointed Vice President of**

Commercial and Consumer Lending at Cornerstone Bank

JASON TENNANT, president and chief lending officer for Eureka Springs-based Cornerstone Bank, recently announced the hiring of **TAMMY BULLOCK** as vice president of commercial and consumer lending for the bank’s Eureka Springs office. She joins the Cornerstone Bank lending team with



BULLOCK

more than 23 years of banking experience, most recently employed with Equity Bank in Eureka Springs for the past 21 years.

She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas with a BS degree in business administration. Bullock, a lifelong resident of Eureka Springs, also owns and operates the Best Western/Eureka Inn with her husband, Jed.

“[Tammy’s] knowledge of the Eureka Springs market will be invaluable as we continue our truly local community banking model just as we have for the past 106 years in Eureka Springs,” Tennant says.

Chartered in 1912 as the Bank of Eureka Springs, Cornerstone Bank operates branches in Eureka Springs, Holiday Island, Berryville, Huntsville, Harrison and Green Forest. 🏡

TEXAS

Southwest Bank Names Bowers Community Affairs Officer, Smith Commercial Banker

Southwest Bank, a division of Pine Bluff, Arkansas-based Simmons Bank, has expanded both its community affairs and commercial banking teams in the Dallas/Fort Worth region. The bank has named **STACY BOWERS** community affairs officer for the area and **KYLE SMITH** as commercial banker in Dallas.

With vast experience in Community Reinvestment Act initiatives, fair-housing and nonprofit relationships, Bowers

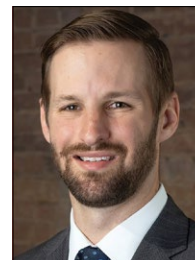


BOWERS

will spearhead Southwest Bank’s community development programs, with an emphasis on serving underserved communities. In 2013 and 2014, Bowers was named Community Outreach Leader of the Year by her previous employer, CitiBank. She is a graduate of the University of Texas.

Smith will oversee business development, management of loan and depository portfolios, structuring of

loan requests and underwriting processes for new loans. Prior to joining Southwest Bank, he was assistant vice president of commercial lending at City Bank.



SMITH

A graduate of Texas A&M University, Smith is development officer for the Dallas/Fort Worth Wing of the Commemorative Air Force where he oversees its fundraising and philanthropic efforts.

Simmons Bank is a state-chartered bank that began as a community bank in 1903. It operates approximately 200 branch locations throughout Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas. 🏡

TEXAS **Tubbs Joins Texas Bank and Trust Team as**

Assistant Vice President and Credit Analyst in Richardson

CODY TUBBS has joined the staff of Longview-based Texas Bank and Trust as assistant vice president and credit analyst in the bank’s Richardson location, according to **ROGERS POPE**, the bank’s chairman. Employed in the financial services industry since 2013, Tubbs was most recently a credit analyst

and assistant vice president with First United Bank. He is a magna cum laude graduate of Hardin-Simmons University with a bachelor of business administration degree in finance.

Founded in 1958, Texas Bank and Trust Co. has more than 20 locations in the Lone Star State. 🏡

LOUISIANA

MidSouth Bank Promotes Richard and Bastarache

Lafayette-based MidSouth Bank has promoted **NICHOLAS RICHARD** to senior vice president and director of specialty



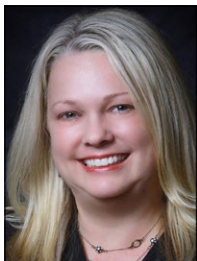
RICHARD

products. He is in charge of litigation financing, treasury management, accounts-receivable access, insurance-premium financing, asset-based lending/working capital

support and government-guaranteed loans. Before joining MidSouth Bank in 2017 as director of A/R access and SBA/USDA lending, Richard was a vice president in middle-market lending at Whitney Bank for more than 13 years.

Richard earned both a bachelor's degree in accounting and an MBA degree from the University of Louisiana and completed LSU's Graduate School of Banking in 2015.

DAWN BASTARACHE has joined MidSouth Bank as executive vice president of corporate development



BASTARACHE

and strategy. She is also responsible for the enterprise project management office, strategic planning, vendor management and product management at the bank.

With 25 years of banking experience, Bastarache most recently worked as senior vice president and director of operational risk at Cadence Bank in Birmingham, Alabama. Before that, she was senior vice president/omni channel director at Hancock Holding Co. based in Gulfport, Mississippi.

She has a bachelor's degree in business management from Jacksonville State University and an MBA degree from the University of Alabama.

MidSouth Bank NA has 42 locations in Louisiana and Texas. 🏦

TEXAS

Happy State Bank Promotes McNeely to HR EVP

On July 26, Amarillo-based Happy State Bank announced that **RENEE MCNEELY** has been promoted to executive vice president of human resources. Employed at Happy State Bank since 2008, she now oversees the human resource duties for nearly 700 employees.

McNeely graduated from West Texas State University (now West Texas A&M) with a BBA degree in accounting. She later received her professional in human resources (PHR) certification and began

her career as an human resources professional in 1990.

Happy State Bank has been in business since 1908 and operates 35 offices in Texas. It has been named one of *American Banker* magazine's "Top 75 Best Banks to Work For in the USA" for five years in a row. 🏦



MCNEELY

TEXAS

Griffin Financial Group Expands Investment Banking Team, Gosser Sr. Joins Fort Worth Office

Austin-based Griffin Financial Group announced in mid-July that **JOHN M. GOSSER SR.** has joined as a director on



GOSSER SR.

the financial institutions group investment banking team. He serves as an advisor to the management teams and boards of directors of banks, thrifts, asset managers and

specialty finance companies, as well as fintech and other companies in the banking industry.

For more than 30 years, Gosser has advised boards and executive teams for hundreds of community banks. Prior to joining Griffin Financial Group,

he served as senior vice president of capital markets and SBA sales for TIB-The Independent Bankers Bank. He has also served as a managing director and director of sales for Shay Financial Services and as a vice president of Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas and One National Bank, where he began his banking career.

Gosser received a BA degree in economics and a BA degree in business from Ouachita Baptist University. He also completed the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at SMU.

Griffin Financial Group is part of Stevens & Lee/Griffin, a multidisciplinary professional services platform that, in addition to Griffin, consists of Stevens & Lee, one of the 200 largest law firms in the country. 🏦



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TEXAS

Kipp Appointed to Serve on the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Board

The Federal Reserve Board of Governors has appointed **MARY E. KIPP** to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas board of



KIPP

directors. She will serve a term ending December 31, 2020. Kipp previously served on the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas' El Paso branch board from 2016 to 2018.

As a board member for the Dallas Fed, she will provide input into regional and national economic conditions as part of the Federal Reserve's monetary policy functions.

Kipp is president and CEO of El Paso Electric Co., a regional electric utility. She joined El Paso Electric in 2007 and has overseen many divisions of the com-

pany, including legal and compliance, regulatory and rates, human resources, external affairs, public relations, and environmental, health and safety.

Kipp spent four years as a senior enforcement attorney in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Office of Enforcement in Washington, D.C., where she investigated and prosecuted violations of federal energy laws.

Kipp received her BA degree from Williams College and JD degree from the University of Texas School of Law. She also attended Exeter College at Oxford University.

Each Federal Reserve Bank has a nine-member board of directors. Three members represent commercial banks, three represent the public and three are appointed by the Board of Governors in Washington, D.C. 🏠

OKLAHOMA

Schmidt, Chairman and President of Spiro State Bank, Passes Away

Longtime banker **WILLIAM FRED SCHMIDT JR.**, chairman and president of Spiro State Bank, died on July 20. Born in



SCHMIDT JR.

Kansas City, Missouri, in 1938, he spent his formative years in Kansas City, Fort Worth and Amarillo, Texas—but the time he spent with his mother's family in the West Texas town

of Balmorhea truly shaped his character. Schmidt graduated from the University of Texas–Austin with a BBA degree in 1960 and entered the banking business as a trainee at a bank in Beaver. After a year, he moved to Houston to join MacGregor National Bank.

In 1966, Schmidt was named chairman of the board and president of Spiro State Bank. He spent the rest of his life dedicated to providing banking services to the community that was his home for more than 50 years. He served as president of the Independent Bankers Association of Oklahoma in 1977–78 and as its chairman of the board in 1978–79. He was proud of his work advocating for community banking in the state. He took a great interest in supporting local education, community development and agriculture; and the Spiro Area Chamber of Commerce awarded him their Lifetime Achievement Award.

Schmidt was an accomplished fisherman, traveling to various parts of Mexico, the Gulf of Mexico and Canada where he fished annually for more than 25 years. According to his obituary, although he lived in Oklahoma for most of his life, he was a Texan at heart. Devoted to Texas Longhorn sports, he was never happier than when he was drinking whiskey and water, with a cigar in hand, watching the Longhorns win.

Spiro State Bank has been serving the financial needs of LeFlore County and Eastern Oklahoma since 1913. 🏠

MidFirst Bank *continued from page 1*

and commercial banking. Morgan earned an economics degree from Rhodes College, as well as both a juris doctor degree and MBA from the University of Oklahoma.

GREG SCHAEFER has been named executive vice president and chief financial officer. He joined MidFirst Bank



SCHAEFER

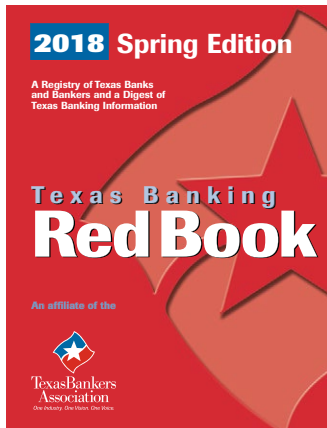
in 2000 and most recently served as director of finance administration. Schaefer is a CPA with an accounting degree and MBA degree from Oklahoma Christian University. Before

joining MidFirst Bank, Schaefer spent three years in public accounting.

With more than \$15 billion in assets, Oklahoma City-based MidFirst Bank is one of the largest privately owned banks in the country. MidFirst Bank has banking centers in Oklahoma, Arizona, California, Colorado and Texas, and provides commercial lending, wealth management, private banking and mortgage lending nationally. 🏠

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TEXAS

Commercial Bank of Texas Acquires Cushing Branch of Texas Bank and Trust

RUSTY RUST, president and CEO of **COMMERCIAL BANK OF TEXAS NA**, recently announced the acquisition of a **TEXAS BANK AND TRUST** branch in Cushing. The Commercial Bank of Texas evaluation team reviewed the purchase with the objective of adding branches in the East Texas market and creating opportunities for loan and deposit growth.

Closing on the transaction is anticipated to occur in the fourth quarter of this year. Upon the closing, Commercial Bank of Texas will take over operations of the Cushing banking center in its current location.

Founded in 1901, Commercial Bank of Texas currently has 18 branches in 12 communities, including Alba, Allen, Bedford, Diboll, Emory, Kennard, Lewisville, Lufkin, Nacogdoches, Palestine, Roxton and Wells. 🏡

TEXAS

Spirit of Texas Bancshares to Acquire Comanche National Corp. and its Banking Subsidiary

On July 19, Conroe-based **SPIRIT OF TEXAS BANCSHARES INC.**, the holding company for **SPIRIT OF TEXAS BANK SSB**, announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Comanche-based **COMANCHE NATIONAL CORP.** and its subsidiary, **COMANCHE NATIONAL BANK**, in a cash-and-stock transaction for total consideration valued at approximately \$55.9 million. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2018.

“We are pleased to announce our eighth acquisition in Texas and our first acquisition since becoming a public company in May,” says **DEAN O. BASS**, Spirit of Texas Bancshare’s chairman and CEO. “Comanche National Bank expands our North Texas presence and has a proven history of strong earnings and sound asset quality.”

Comanche National Bank operates eight locations in North Central Texas. As of June 30, the bank, on a consol-

idated basis, reported total assets of \$349 million, total deposits of \$307 million and total equity capital of \$37.7 million. Comanche National Bank is expected to expand Spirit of Texas Bank’s footprint into the counties of Comanche, Jack, Palo Pinto and Parker.

“This is as an excellent opportunity for Comanche to become part of a larger community bank that will enable us to offer our customers and the communities we serve a broader array of financial services while still maintaining the convenience of local decision makers,” says **WILLIAM K. “KENDALL” NIX**, chairman and chief executive officer of Comanche National Corp. Upon completion of the transaction, Nix will join Spirit of Texas’ board of directors and will serve as vice chairman of Spirit of Texas Bank SSB.

Spirit of Texas Bank operates in the Houston, Dallas/Fort Worth and Bryan/College Station metropolitan areas. 🏡

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TEXAS PlainsCapital's New North Texas Branch Fuses Brick and Mortar with State-of-the-Art High Tech

In late July, Dallas-based **PLAINSCAPITAL BANK** announced that it is consolidating its two Arlington branch operations and staff into a new, larger facility near AT&T Stadium. The bank's new 9,200-square-foot Arlington location at 804 N. Collins St. opened for business on July 30 and the two previous branches were closed. The new branch is located in a designated low-income area, presenting an opportunity for PlainsCapital Bank to assist in the revitalization efforts happening around AT&T Stadium.

Construction on the new commercial banking center began in July 2017. The facility features a 3,200-square-foot lobby, 6,000 square feet of commercial lending space and state-of-the-art technology services, including an interactive console located in one of the two drive-through terminals that will allow customers to video conference with a remote PlainsCapital teller. Operating 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, the interactive video console will offer the same services customers would find at the bank's teller desks, as well as function as a regular ATM.

"We believe there should be a complementary balance between the digital and physical banking experiences we provide our customers," says **JERRY SCHAFFNER**, PlainsCapital Bank's president and CEO. "There is so much business development occurring in North Texas, particularly in the high-growth area around Arlington. We want to maintain prominent visibility in the community and our new location is an important part of that."

PlainsCapital Bank is the sixth largest Texas-headquartered bank by deposit market share, operating more than 60 branches in Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Lubbock, the Rio Grande Valley and San Antonio. 🏠



The recently installed buffalo statue in front of PlainsCapital Bank's new Arlington branch was commissioned by Texas western artist Bruce Greene.

MISSISSIPPI

First Bancshares to Acquire Florida-Based FMB Banking Corp.

On July 24, Hattiesburg-based **THE FIRST BANCSHARES INC.**, the holding company for **THE FIRST, A NATIONAL BANKING ASSOCIATION**, announced the signing of an agreement and plan of merger with Monticello, Florida-based **FMB BANKING CORP.**, parent company of **FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK**. The First Bancshares has agreed to acquire 100 percent of the common stock of FMB Banking Corp. in a combined stock-and-cash transaction. The closing of the transaction is expected to occur in the fourth quarter of 2018.

As of June 30, FMB Banking Corp. had approximately \$480.7 million in consolidated assets, \$329.1 million in loans, \$421.6 million in deposits and \$38.8 million in consolidated stockholder's equity. Farmers & Merchants Bank serves Jefferson and Leon counties in Florida and Thomas County in Georgia through six full-service offices. The transaction will expand The First's footprint in the Florida panhandle, mark its entry into Southern Georgia and further bolster the bank's presence in the Tallahassee market.

Upon completion of the transaction, the combined company will have approximately \$3 billion in total assets, \$2.5 billion in total deposits and \$2 billion in total loans. The company will have 67 locations in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

"An important part of our community bank model is local support and ownership," says **M. RAY "HOPPY" COLE**, president and CEO of The First Bancshares and The First. "It helps ensure that we remain responsive to the needs of our clients and local markets. FMB shareholders will have a significant ownership position in our combined company and will be a part of continuing to build our franchise in the Gulf South."

Founded in 1996, The First has locations in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and Florida. 🏠

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TEXAS

Veritex Holdings Announces Merger with Green Bancorp

On July 24, Dallas-based **VERITEX HOLDINGS INC.**, the parent holding company for **VERITEX COMMUNITY BANK**, and **GREEN BANCORP INC.**, the parent holding company for **GREEN BANK NA**, jointly announced a definitive agreement to merge Green Bancorp and Green Bank NA with and into Veritex Holdings and Veritex Community Bank, respectively. Closing on the transaction is expected to occur in the first quarter of 2019.

The transaction will create a leading Texas community bank, with 43 branches across the state, ranking as the 10th largest Texas-based banking institution by deposit market share. The combined franchise would have approximately \$7.5 billion in assets, \$5.6 billion in loans and \$5.9 billion in deposits, based on the companies' balance sheets as of June 30.

"In addition to producing significant accretion to EPS and improvements to virtually all of our key operating metrics, this merger results in a top 10 Texas-based community bank with virtually all of its franchise in the attractive MSAs of Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston," says **C. MALCOLM HOLLAND**, Veritex chairman and CEO. Holland will continue to serve as chairman and CEO of the combined company. **TERRY EARLEY**, current CFO of Green Bancorp, will continue to serve in that capacity for the combined company, and **GEOFFREY GREENWADE**, current president of Green Bancorp, will serve as the Houston president.

"The merger of Green and Veritex creates a uniquely focused Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston franchise," says **MANNY MEHOS**, chairman and CEO of Green Bancorp. "I am thrilled to join the board of this combined organization and work with Malcolm, Terry, Geoff, and the rest of the management team."

Veritex Community Bank is a Texas state-chartered institution with locations throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex and in the Houston metropolitan area. 🏠

TEXAS

Fannin Bank is Banking on Bonham

Economic development is going strong in Bonham, where a \$17.5-million restoration of the historic 1888 Fannin County Courthouse is underway downtown. In addition to that major renovation, Bonham-based **FANNIN BANK** has been working on two projects that are already changing the landscape in the county seat.

The bank's new mortgage and operations center will open in September, and Fannin Bank is also putting the final touches on the first pocket park in downtown Bonham. Pocket parks, also known as parkettes or mini-parks, are developed on small lots of land accessible to the general public.

According to a report from *North Texas e-News*, the bank's Bonham branch was constructed with Austin stone, and that theme continues in the architecture of the mortgage and operations center, as well as the pocket park.

BRYAN PEELER, chairman of Fannin Bank, and **ALLEN SANDERSON**, Fannin Bank vice chairman and CEO, explained to *North Texas e-News* why the construction of a mortgage and operations center was necessary: "Due to the growth that our bank has experienced over the

past few years, it became evident to our board and management that our current banking facility would not meet the need for additional office space that is required."

Fannin Bank, the only locally owned and managed bank in Fannin County, was founded in 1921 as Guaranty State Bank in Windom. The name was changed to Fannin Bank in 1976 and a branch office opened in Bonham in 1987. The company serves customers in the North Texas communities of Bonham and Honey Grove. 🏠



Fannin Bank executives in front of the Bonham branch: Allen Sanderson, vice chairman and CEO; Todd Kluger, information technology coordinator; and Bryan Peeler, chairman of the board.



Building lasting relationships is at the heart of community banking. We can help you strategize, stay compliant, and take the pressure off your day-to-day operations so you can spend more of your day doing what you enjoy most.

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ARIZONA

Branches

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) reports that it has approved an application by **ALERUS FINANCIAL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**, based in Grand Forks, North Dakota, to open a branch at 1540 S. Stapley Dr., Ste. 105, in Mesa.

TEXAS

Mergers and Acquisitions

The OCC reports that **KEYSTONE INTERIM BANK NA**, based in Austin, has applied to merge **BALLINGER NATIONAL BANK**, based in Ballinger, with and into **KEYSTONE BANK NA**.

Branches

The OCC reports that it has approved an application by **LEGEND BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**, based in Bowie, to open a branch at 6851 NE Loop 820, Ste. 100, in North Richland Hills.

The OCC reports that it has approved an application by **LONE STAR NATIONAL BANK**, based in Pharr, to open a branch at 101 America Dr. in Brownsville.

The OCC reports that **COMMUNITYBANK OF TEXAS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**, based in Beaumont, has applied to open a branch at 11550 Fuqua St., Ste. 100, Houston.

The OCC reports that it has approved an application by **WELLS FARGO BANK NA**, based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota to relocate a branch from 4010 S. Braeswood Blvd. in Houston to 4004 S. Braeswood Blvd. in Houston.

The OCC reports that **BANK OF AMERICA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, has applied to relocate a branch from 1901 University Ave. in Lubbock to 2332 19th St. in Lubbock.

The OCC reports that it has approved an application by **THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF EAGLE LAKE**, based in Eagle Lake, to relocate a branch from 1001 Milam St. in Columbus to 408 Walnut St. in Columbus.

Fraud Awareness *continued from page 3*

regulations. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), for example, came into full effect in May and will impact financial institutions that process information belonging to EU citizens. In regards to GDPR, the handbook should articulate that any employee who obtains information from EU residents must keep a record of the category of data collected/received and document how long it has been stored before being securely destroyed. This guideline should also detail the safest information-storage and destruction methods for this data, in both physical and digital formats.

By documenting these strategies and guidelines, businesses can ensure that day-to-day processes are in compliance with industry regulations, including making updates to the way client information is received, treated and transferred, both internally and to third-party businesses.

KEEP CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION UNDER LOCK. The paper trail of sensitive information that banks and financial institutions generate is not always considered to be as risky as the computers and devices containing digital data. However, the first step toward establishing a culture committed to data security is to identify your business' information security strengths and weaknesses. This should include reviewing how physical data is processed and handled. The most vulnerable physical information often lies in unassuming places—think printers, messy desks, old storage bins and employee recycling bins that are scattered and unattended throughout the office. These risk points are vulnerable to both insider and outsider threats because they could contain documents that share sensitive client and company information.

To prevent breaches or non-compliance, it is helpful to develop a document-management process that details how to organize physical documents securely for storage, retrieval and record-keeping. Key areas to include within the document-management process:

- ▶ Determine a lifespan for physical documents. Financial institutions must keep tabs on what and how sensitive materials—from W-2s to bank and insurance statements—are being stored within the office in order to maintain compliance and avoid the risky pile-up of confidential documents.
- ▶ For documents that need to be filed, make sure they're being kept in secure, locked filing cabinets and that only critical employees have access to the locked console.
- ▶ Think twice before tossing. For any documents that need to be discarded, ensure they are securely shredded before throwing them in the trash.

Ultimately, the widespread damage resulting from a breach or non-compliant behavior can make or break a business, no matter its size. Consider National Fraud Awareness Week as an opportunity to develop an environment that prioritizes data security and ensure that your employees are equipped with the knowledge your business depends on to maintain compliance and security. Your reputation and longevity depends on it. ■

With a history of senior leadership roles in companies like Compass, Cintas and Coca-Cola, Ann Nickolas offers a unique perspective on information security and privacy challenges. She is vice president of Shred-it, which offers products, services, policies and training to help businesses secure their financial information.

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

EXPERIENCED, ABLE LOAN OFFICER:

Locally owned and operated, \$750-million A+ Rated community bank (by Weiss Ratings) located in East Texas seeks loan officer. Applicant should have experience in all lending areas and must understand loan regulatory requirements and the importance of outstanding customer service. Primary duty will be generating new loan business with secondary responsibility being servicing existing customer relationships. Salary is commensurate with qualifications. Submit résumé to advertising@bankersdigest.com, with "MAY-1" in the subject line.

COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST:

The Compliance Alliance division of the Texas Bankers Association in Austin is in search of a compliance specialist. Must have three to five years banking or regulatory experience or compliance consulting. Must be detail-oriented with strong communication skills and working knowledge of banking regulations. We offer excellent benefits and competitive salary commensurate with experience. Please submit résumé to Peyton Taylor at Peyton@texasbankers.com.

COO/CASHIER /VICE PRESIDENT:

Community bank located in Henryetta, Oklahoma, is looking for an individual with experience in bank financials. Will be responsible for supervision of the operations area. Experience in asset liability management a plus. The successful candidate will deal with

audit and examination reviews and auditors. We are willing to train bank internal auditor from CPA firm. CPA certification is not required. Salary commensurate with experience. This is an executive position.

COMMERCIAL LENDER: Looking to get away from the hassles of big city living? First Texas Bank Killeen seeks loan officer for its Belton location. Preferred candidate will have five to 10 years of commercial and real estate lending experience. Must have excellent business development, credit analysis and customer service skills. Should be knowledgeable of current regulations and underwriting guidelines. Competitive salary and benefits package. Email résumé and salary requirements to stephaniea@firsttexasbank.com. First Texas Bank is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

PRESIDENT: Community bank just outside of the Dallas/Fort Worth area is looking for a president or senior banker with 10-plus years experience in all aspects of operating a retail bank. Work with the current president during transition. Send résumé to apotenti@babich.com or call Anthony Potenti 214/515-7609.

SENIOR COMMERCIAL LENDERS:

DALLAS, HOUSTON AND AUSTIN: Texas bank looking for senior commercial lenders in Dallas, Houston and Austin with five to 10 years' experience originating C&I, CRE, SBA and deposit relationships. Could move into a leadership role. Prefer credit trained,

currently producing in the their market. Base salary 125-200k+, progressive incentive plan. Send résumé to apotenti@babich.com or call Anthony Potenti at 214/515-7609.

COMPLIANCE OFFICER WANTED for \$750M East Texas bank to administer the bank's robust compliance management system and ensure proactive regulatory compliance, with emphasis in lending. Please contact Charles Hassell at 903/683-2277 or send résumé to chassell@citizens1stbank.com.

BANK SEARCH AND PLACEMENT:

We specialize in officer-level searches requiring high degrees of confidentiality and personal, in-market interaction. Simply better service. Mark Mitchell, Lone Star Search, 972/335-9009, mark@lonestarsearch.net.

LOAN ADMINISTRATION MANAGER-

CENTRAL TEXAS: Understanding of all types of loan documentation criteria and lending-related policies and procedures, including compliance. Knowledge of commercial, consumer and mortgage loans is preferred. Management experience is preferred, but not required. Kevin@Babich.com 214/515-7606.

PRESIDENT: Looking for senior CRE lender/manager for president role in central Texas with \$700-million bank. Strong builder construction development lending with strong credit skills. Please call or email Kevin@Babich.com or 214/515-7606.

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