



PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 26, 2025

For nearly a century, the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society (PPHS) has had a long-standing relationship with what is now West Texas A&M University (WTAMU). Together, we have worked to preserve and share the history of this region through the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. The Museum was closed in March 2025 by WTAMU due to serious life safety concerns outlined in the State Fire Marshal's report. The decision was about protecting the lives of staff, visitors, volunteers and countless others.

PPHS values this long-standing partnership and supports WTAMU's role in assessing and addressing the current situation to prioritize the safety of both the public and our collection.

Since 1932, PPHS has served as a trusted and respected steward of the Museum's priceless collection of more than 2 million historical artifacts. While WTAMU owns and maintains the building, PPHS owns and oversees the vast collection, educational exhibitions and interpretive programs that preserve and share the region's cultural heritage.

Our steadfast desire is for these artifacts and stories to remain accessible to the public. With the building closed indefinitely, the PPHS Board will support the Museum staff as they explore creative ways to bring the collection to the public — through temporary exhibits, digital tools and community partnerships — until a permanent location is secured.

Our members are vital to this institution, and their voices matter in shaping the future of PPHM. We encourage our members, donors and the broader community to stay engaged and support our endeavors as we navigate this transition together. With your support, we will continue to honor our mission and ensure that the history of the Texas Panhandle Plains remains protected and accessible for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Ellen Jones, President
Panhandle-Plains Historical Society
Board of Trustees