



SUCCESS CONTINUES AT JACKIE COOPER

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VALLEY NATIONAL BANK TO ADD TO TULSA SKYLINE

See Page 24

# JENKS DISTRICT GAZETTE

One of Six Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers

Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group

Volume 23

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## Construction Underway at Tulsa State Fair

### \$30 Million in Improvements Provided by Vision Tulsa

By **RON PETERS**  
Tulsa County Commissioner

Nothing announces the beginning of fall in Tulsa County like the Tulsa State Fair. Running this year from Sept. 27 to Oct. 7, the Tulsa State Fair is Tulsa County's largest family event, providing educational experiences and entertainment during an 11-day span.

This historical event is based upon heritage, family values and quality entertainment for all ages. With the goal of providing an educational and entertaining experience to the community, it has more than 100 years of history and continues to stand out as one of the top fairs in the country.

The Tulsa State Fair is expected to draw more than a million visitors, which will pump millions of dollars into the local economy. This puts the fair at the top of the list along with the BOK Center as one of the most popular attractions in our region.

Thanks to the citizens' support for Vision Tulsa, the Tulsa Fairgrounds is seeing \$30 million in improvements. This year's Fairgoers will see the new Mega Barn, Pavilion exterior updates, the greatly expanded Oklahoma Stage and improvements to the Tulsa State Fair entrance gates.

Fairgoers will be glad to see the return of some of their favorite attractions, including the Sea Lion Splash, All Star Dog Challenge, Sarah the Cheese Sculptor, Oklahoma State Sugar Art Show, and Kachunga and the Alligator Show.

Joining these popular attractions are two new acts: Pogo Fred and Farmer Phil. And, of course, Disney on Ice, which runs Thursday, Sept. 27 through Sunday, Sept. 30. This year's theme is "Dare to Dream."



**OVERSEEING PROGRESS:** Present at the construction at the Tulsa State Fair are Amanda Blair, Tulsa State Fair manager and Expo Square COO, and Mark Andrus, president and CEO of Expo Square. In the background is construction for the greatly expanded Oklahoma Stage. Other improvements include the new Mega Barn, Pavilion exterior updates and improvements to the Tulsa State Fair entrance gates.

For many Fairgoers, the main attraction is the wide variety of food found no place else but at the fair. Each year, new foods hit the midway, and this year is no exception. New foods this year include the bubble waffle wrap, gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches, grilled cheese donuts, double chocolate funnel cake and the bacon onion bomb.

One of the more exciting new additions to the fairgrounds is the larger Oklahoma Stage. This permanent structure will attract high-quality entertainment all year long. Bringing the stage alive for the fair are 11 acts, which include Colt Ford, Easton Corbin, Black Stone Cherry, Granger Smith, Seether, Roots and Boots plus many others. Fireworks will kick off each concert at the Oklahoma Stage, starting at 7:30 p.m.

To help fairgoers hit the midway without worrying about traffic or finding a place to park, the Fair Transit System (FTS) is the best way to get there. FTS pick-up



**CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP:** The Tulsa County Public Facilities Authority (TCPFA) and the Tulsa State Fair have announced the continued partnership with North American Midway Entertainment (NAME) as the midway provider through 2021 for the Tulsa State Fair.

locations are Nathan Hale High School, OSU-Tulsa, Tulsa Public Schools Service Center and Tulsa Promenade Mall. All FTS shuttles drop off and pick up at the Pavilion near the northwest section of the fairgrounds.

The Tulsa State Fair has been Oklahoma's "gathering place" since 1903 when it was known as the "Tulsa County Free Fair." We hope you will continue this great tradition by joining your family and friends there this year.

## KUDOS of the MONTH: Iron Gate

Iron Gate is celebrating its 40th year with the mission of feeding the hungry of Tulsa every day. Members of Iron Gate feed people in three ways, through the soup kitchen, grocery pantry and Kids Pantry.

The people who eat at Iron Gate are called "guests" because they are invited to eat there. The philosophy is that all people are guests on this earth and guests treat one another with courtesy, kindness and respect.

The Vision of Iron Gate is to be a friendly, welcoming place where all are greeted with a smile, a place of comfort and

wholesome food, and a temporary respite from the major problems awaiting guests outside the gates of Iron Gate: unemployment, poverty, health care, shelter, transportation and more.



Iron Gate started in 1978 when three Trinity Episcopal Church parishioners stepped outside a men's Bible class to make a homeless man a sandwich. The ministry grew and the word on the street spread: "If you're hungry, go

to the church with the iron gate." Iron Gate separated legally from the church and became its own 501(c)3 organization in 1984. Since opening, Iron Gate has never turned anyone away who was hungry. Iron Gate recently announced it will be moving from the Trinity Episcopal Church location to a new facility at West Archer and North Frisco in Tulsa. Thanks to the generosity of Trinity Episcopal Church, foundations, corporations, the faith community and individuals, Iron Gate continues serving the hungry of Tulsa every day.

# 2018 GTR Readers' Choice for Best of Greater Tulsa



## BUSINESS & SERVICES

Best Auto Repair Service <b>Superior Imports</b>
Best Bank <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b>
Best Drug Store <b>Walgreen's</b>
Best Financial Advisor <b>Edward Jones</b>
Best Public Golf Course <b>Battle Creek</b>
Best Hair Salon <b>Ihloff Salon &amp; Day Spa</b>
Best Heat & Air Service <b>Airco Services</b>
Best Hotel <b>DoubleTree Warren Place</b>
Best Lawn Care <b>Green Leaf</b>
Best Credit Union <b>Tulsa Teachers Credit Union</b>
Best Nail Salon <b>Passion</b>
Best Photographer <b>Harry Lentz</b>

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

Best Travel Agency <b>Spears Travel</b>
Best Tag Agency <b>Barnes Tag Agency</b>
Best Insurance Agent <b>Charles Campbell, Farmers</b>
Best Wireless Phone Service <b>AT&amp;T</b>
Best Health Club <b>Siegfried Health Club</b>
Best Dentist <b>Richard Stephens, D.D.S.</b>
Best Eye Doctor <b>Tiffany Harrel, O.D.</b>
Best Health Food Store <b>Sprouts</b>
Best Pediatrician <b>Sylvia August, M.D.</b>
Best Physician <b>Martin Davis, D.O.</b>
Best Veterinarian <b>Wynter Wheat/Paw Prints</b>

## SCHOOLS

Best Preschool <b>Miss Helen's Private School</b>
Best Dance School <b>Miss Shelly's</b>

## ENTERTAINMENT

Best Radio Host <b>Poppa Nite/Radio IDL</b>
--

## EATERIES

Best Bar & Pub <b>Blue Rose</b>
Best Romantic Destination <b>Mayo Hotel</b>
Best Concert Venue <b>BOK Center</b>
Best Local Band <b>Midlife Crisis</b>
Best Place for Family Fun <b>Tulsa Zoo</b>
Best Sports Team <b>Tulsa Drillers</b>
Best Movie Theater <b>AMC20</b>
Best New Restaurant <b>Amelia's</b>
Best Coffee Shop <b>Topeca Coffee Shops</b>
Best Spot for Breakfast <b>First-Watch</b>
Best Place to Eat with Kids <b>McDonald's</b>
Best Sunday Brunch <b>Cheesecake Factory</b>
Best Bagel & Bread <b>Einstein Bros. Bagels</b>
Best BBQ <b>Burn Co. BBQ</b>
Best Outdoor Dining <b>In The Raw Sushi</b>
Best Chicken <b>Charlie's Chicken</b>

## SHOPPING

Best Deli <b>Jason's Deli</b>
Best Hamburger <b>Arnold's</b>
Best Italian Food <b>Mondo's</b>
Best Mexican Food <b>El Rio Verde</b>
Best Asian Food <b>Lanna Thai</b>
Best Pizza <b>Andolini's Pizzeria</b>
Best Ribs <b>Burn Co. BBQ</b>
Best Seafood <b>Bonefish Grill</b>
Best Steakhouse <b>Ruth's Chris Steakhouse</b>
Best Sushi Bar <b>In The Raw Sushi</b>
Best Ice Cream Shop <b>STG Gelateria</b>
Best Antique Store <b>Miss McGillicutty's Antiques</b>
Best Bicycle Shop <b>Bicycles of Tulsa</b>
Best Car Dealer <b>Jackie Cooper Imports</b>
Best Carpet/Tile Store <b>Bert Henry Carpet &amp; Tile</b>
Best Clothing Store – Women's <b>Donna's Fashions</b>

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Best Appliance Store <b>Hahn Appliance Center</b>
Best Electronics Store <b>Best Buy</b>
Best Jewelry Store <b>Diamond Brokers</b>
Best Paint Store <b>Spectrum Paint</b>
Best Shopping Center/Plaza <b>Utica Square</b>
Best Skin Care Store <b>Merle Norman – Brookside</b>
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Best Thrift Store <b>Goodwill</b>

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# GTR Newspapers

UNION BOUNDARY • MIDTOWN MONITOR • JENKS DISTRICT GAZETTE  
BROKEN ARROW EXPRESS • OWASSO RAMBLER • BIXBY BREEZE

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# Favorite Media Sources Named At Tulsa Press Club Newsies

The Tulsa Press Club held its annual Newsies Awards presentation recently. The media outlets represented include print, television, radio and online. Winners were chosen by votes from the public. The various categories and winners follow:

- PRINT/ONLINE MEDIA:**  
Favorite reporter  
*Andrea Eger*
- TELEVISION:**  
Favorite reporter or anchor  
*Tess Maune*
- RADIO/PODCAST:**  
Favorite reporter, anchor or personality  
*Rick Couri*
- PRINT/ONLINE MEDIA:**  
Favorite opinion writer, critic or columnist  
*Ginnie Graham*
- PRINT/ONLINE MEDIA:**  
Favorite sports reporter  
*Barry Lewis*
- TELEVISION:**  
Favorite sports anchor or reporter  
*Harold Kuntz*
- PRINT/ONLINE MEDIA:**  
Favorite photographer  
*Tom Gilbert*
- ALL MEDIA:**  
Favorite social media personality (Individual)  
*Tess Maune*
- ONLINE:**  
Favorite lifestyle or special interest blog or podcast  
*What the Ale, Tom Gilbert*
- ALL MEDIA:**  
Favorite social media presence (Media Outlet)  
*Fox 23*
- TELEVISION:**  
Favorite weather team  
*News On 6 Warn Team*
- PRINT:**  
Favorite magazine  
*Tulsa People*
- RADIO/PODCAST:**  
Favorite station or series  
*KWGS*
- TELEVISION:**  
Favorite Anchor Team  
*6 In the Morning*
- ALL MEDIA:**  
Favorite website or mobile app  
*Fox 23*



**POPULAR SPORTS REPORTER:** Barry Lewis, a sports writer for the Tulsa World and sports historian, won the award at Newsies as the Print/Online Favorite Sports Reporter. In the background at the lectern is moderator Ashli Sims of the Tulsa Press Club board of directors.

- ALL MEDIA:**  
Most impactful or memorable piece  
*The Girl Scout Murders, Maureen Wurtz and Dre Debars*
- ALL MEDIA:**  
Favorite overall investigative
- or in-depth report**  
*Survivors of the Oklahoma City Bombing... Frontier*
- ALL MEDIA:**  
Favorite overall source, organization or outlet for news  
*News On 6*

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The Union Boundary, the Jenks District Gazette, the Owasso Rambler, the Broken Arrow Express and the Bixby Breeze are distributed monthly to nearly every home in the Union, Jenks, Owasso, Broken Arrow and Bixby school districts. The Midtown Monitor is distributed to selected neighborhoods in the Tulsa school district. All six papers are distributed to news stands and other outlets in more than 700 locations throughout the Greater Tulsa area.


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CIVICS

Citizens Get Involved with Civic Innovation Fellowship

Residents Tackle Long-Standing Problems

Citizens often ask me, "What can I do to help the city?" My answer is, get involved in your community and help us build a better Tulsa.

One way Tulsans can use their talents, knowledge and experience to help our city overcome challenges is through the City of Tulsa's Civic Innovation Fellowship.

We recently selected six outstanding Tulsan residents who convened in June to help the City of Tulsa tackle and resolve a long-standing problem: dilapidated or unmaintained properties. During the next six months, our Innovation Fellows will dedicate

one night a week to help us reimagine a way to encourage residents to increase property maintenance and decrease the overall number of properties with code violations.

The City of Tulsa spends nearly \$4 million annually addressing property code violations. In Tulsa, one-out-of-eight residential properties are vacant and in some neighborhoods, it's as many as one in five. A few nuisance properties can lead to instability in the neighborhood, declining property val-

ues, and an influx of disengaged homeowners and tenants.

Currently, when a property-code violation is reported, the city's Working in Neighborhoods Department inspects, notifies property owners with a citation, and follows-up to see if the nuisance has been resolved.

If the property owner does not remediate the violation, the city abates the nuisance by hiring a contractor to do the work, sends the property owner an invoice, and if not paid, places a lien on the property. Voluntary compliance by the homeowner is the preferred option as it leads

to the correction of the violation, avoiding city-imposed fees with the deed when the owner is ready to sell the property.

Overcoming these obstacles while improving the health and enhancing the quality of life for our neighborhoods ties directly into the City of Tulsa's strategic Action and Implementation Management (AIM) plan, which connects people, processes and purpose. This specifically addresses the four pillars of AIM: Opportunity,

Well-Being, City Experience and Inside City Hall.

Our Mission is to build the foundation for economic prosperity, improved health and enhanced quality of life for our community. Our Vision is that Tulsa will be a globally competitive, world-class city. Our Values are committed teamwork - we will work together toward common goals. We have high expectations and we expect excellence in our work, our organization and the City we are building.

As a city, we will continue to work together to address and solve problems. Together, we can achieve our dreams, thrive and build a better community for generations to come.

From Tulsa's Mayor

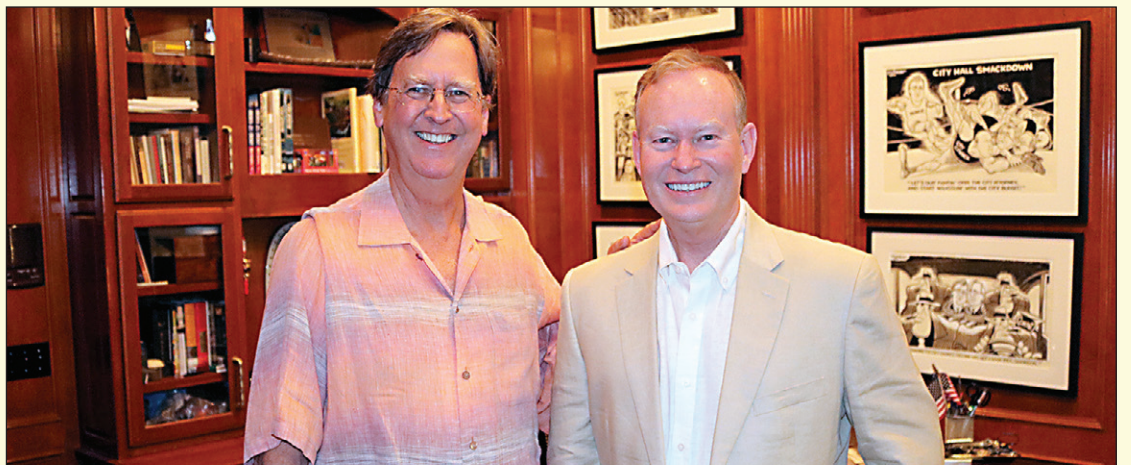


By G.T. BYNUM Mayor of Tulsa



Courtesy photo

CIVIC INNOVATION FELLOWS: Front row from left, Xan Black, TRSA; Jane Beckwith, Holland Hall; and Grace Smith (I Architecture). Back row from left, Kirk Elam, Bios Corporation; Nikhil Kawlra, Colleague Hall Charter School; and Travis Lowe, University of Tulsa.



GTR Newspapers photo

FORMER MAYORS: Former Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett, left, recently hosted former Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett at Bartlett's home in Tulsa. The two served as mayors of their respective cities during much of the same time while in office. Cornett will face Kevin Stiitt in the Oklahoma Republican Governors primary runoff Aug. 28.

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# Kenny Alexopoulos Leads Oklahoma Aquarium

By EMILY RAMSEY  
Contributing Editor

*Editor's Note: The Oklahoma Aquarium, including its newly-appointed Chief Operating Officer Kenny Alexopoulos, is one of Greater Tulsa Reporter's "10 to Watch in Greater Tulsa 2018," as announced in its January 2018 issue. GTR was the first news group in Greater Tulsa to introduce "10 to Watch," which launched in January 2009.*

*Throughout the year, GTR is publishing a series of articles, featuring each of its "10 to Watch," with next month's issue to feature Tulsa County Commissioner Ron Peters.*

The Oklahoma Aquarium recently celebrated its 15-year anniversary and continues to see success with a steady annual visitor count of over a quarter million and regular exhibit openings. In March of last year, Sea Turtle Island opened, with aquarium staff currently preparing to open the Polynesian Reef in September.

Leading the charge is Kenny Alexopoulos, who was named chief operating officer in May. He has been with the Oklahoma Aquarium since 2000.

Alexopoulos's assignment when he first came on board was to design and build the aquarium's fish quarantine facility. Among the many photos hanging in his office is one of him working with the aquarium's incubating penguin eggs.

Alexopoulos holds a dual degree in marine biology and marine fisheries from Texas A&M University, with a specialization in aquaculture and fish disease.

Alexopoulos spent his early professional years working in fish conservation in Alaska as a fisheries observer for National Marine Fisheries Service, monitoring the health and supply of fish in order to set the annual fishing season. He also spent time working in an environmental lab before getting his start in the aquarium industry, working with water quality at Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas.

He, later, moved onto the Oklahoma Aquarium and has held various roles since starting with the organization, including lead biologist and deputy director. He was named COO in May, after the departure of Teri Bowers last year. Alexopoulos is the aquarium's fourth COO.

Alexopoulos was drawn to the aquarium industry for a number of reasons, but besides the obvious connection to his fields of study, namely biology and water quality, aquariums also appealed to him for other, maybe less obvious, reasons.

For one, there's the artistic ele-



Courtesy Oklahoma Aquarium

**POLYNESIAN GETAWAY:** The Polynesian Reef is planned to open at the Oklahoma Aquarium in September. This will be the aquarium's second largest exhibit and will feature 75 different species and over 600 tropical fish.

ment.

In order to keep costs low, the aquarium staff designs and builds all of its exhibits, Alexopoulos says.

When a new exhibit is in the works, Alexopoulos creates a small-scale replica, complete with rocks, corals and any other elements that will be included in the exhibit. Alexopoulos has gained so much experience in designing exhibits that he and his partner often consult on exhibit designs at aquariums around the country and the world, including recently for the Israel Aquarium in Jerusalem, Israel.

Alexopoulos is also responsible for many murals inside the aquarium as well as the shark sculpture that sits at the front entrance of the aquarium.

Secondly, the aquarium's bull shark exhibit offers staff an opportunity for adventure and to be a part of something unique, Alexopoulos says.

The Oklahoma Aquarium stands alone as the only aquarium in the country with a bull shark collection, he continues. It also holds the designation as having the largest bull shark collection in the world. For these reasons, the aquarium often receives inquiries from and works with organizations around the world. For example, the aquarium uses its bull sharks to conduct bite testing, information that is sent to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in order to help create more shark resistant tethers that are used in tsunami early warning detection.

Up next for the Oklahoma Aquarium is the opening of its

Polynesian Reef, which will be the aquarium's second largest exhibit.

"With this exhibit, we wanted to create a destination, Polynesian feel, with tiki poles, bamboo, a volcano," says Alexopoulos. "The exhibit will feature 75 different species and over 600 tropical fish."

The exhibit will be home to zebra sharks that were hatched at the Oklahoma Aquarium in November, a humphead wrasse that can reach up to 400 pounds, and a rusted steel hull of a sunken ship that will be home to a giant moray eel.

The exhibit will also celebrate the reef habitat and highlight their importance to the health of the oceans and the planet as a whole, Alexopoulos says. Corals thrive in shallow water where enough sunlight can reach their polyps to catch energy from the sun. Since the 1980s, increased water temperature has caused many corals to bleach or become unhealthy, but everyone can make a difference and help protect important reef systems.

Since Sea Turtle Island opened last year, it has become the aquarium's second most popular exhibit—after the bull sharks, Alexopoulos says. "I think our Polynesian exhibit will rival Sea Turtle Island in popularity."

About six months after Polynesian Reef opens, Alexopoulos plans to get under way with the creation of a larger, more interactive exhibit area for the aquarium's giant pacific octopus. Alexopoulos also hopes to possibly add a second octopus to the exhibit due to the species' anti-social tendencies, therefore providing each



GTR Newspapers Photo

**NEW LEADER:** Kenny Alexopoulos was named chief operating officer of the Oklahoma Aquarium in May. Alexopoulos has been with the aquarium since 2000. He takes the reins as the fourth COO in the organization's history.

octopus time for isolation.

As the Oklahoma Aquarium moves forward, its future looks bright. Yet, Alexopoulos is hopeful that visitors view the venue as more than simply a place to be entertained but to be educated.

"The Oklahoma Aquarium pro-

vides conservation education and exposes the public to environments that they may never see. Hopefully, that inspires them to get involved to help with conservation of our natural resources that are in such strain."

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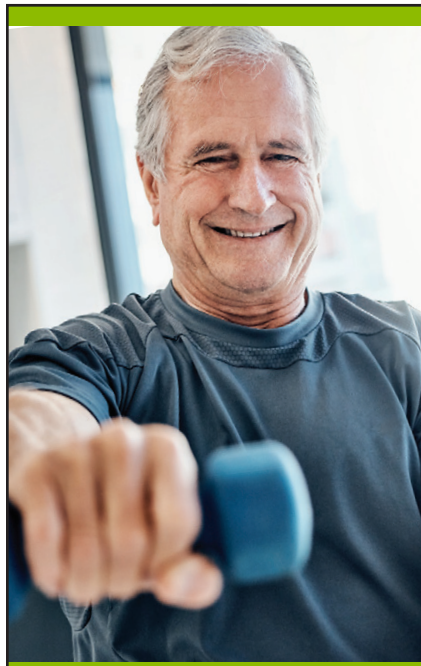
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VARIETY

# Winning Lineup of Shows Slated for Local Venues

Tulsa continues its winning streak of solid entertainment with diverse and enticing options.

Prominent in the winner's circle is Ringo Starr, who launches the U.S. leg of his current tour at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino on Sept. 1. A member of the most successful rock group of all time, Starr's contributions to music helped define an era. So why is the Fab Four's star drummer taking to the road for a multi-city tour? "Rolling Stone" rock critic David Wild wrote of the former Beatle, "Ultimately what's most impressive about Ringo Starr isn't what he's been, but rather who he is." Wild admires Starr's "heart and soul, wit and wisdom."

As a diehard Beatles fan, I find it heartwarming that Ringo Starr still finds joy in making music and sharing it with audiences. His All Starr Band showcases musicians who are famous in their own right: Colin Hay ("Who Can It Be Now," "Land Down Under"), Steve Lukather ("Africa," "Hold The Line," "Roseanna"), Gregg Rolie ("Black Magic Woman," "Evil Ways") and Graham Gouldman of 10cc ("I'm Not In Love," "Things We Do For Love"). Joining the band on percussion and sax is Warren Ham and Gregg Bissonette on drums. The concert will feature hits by all the musicians.

Air Supply's Graham Russell and Russel Hitchcock met in Sydney in 1975 when they were appearing in an Australian production of "Jesus Christ Superstar." They shared a love of Beatles music and grew a friendship that led to worldwide success as a rock music powerhouse. You might recognize their hit songs "All Out of Love" and "Every Woman in the World." The Aussie duo performs at the Hard Rock, Sept. 13.

Tapping into fantastic local talent, Theatre Tulsa opens its 96th season with "Newsies," running through Aug. 26 at the Tulsa PAC. This is a colossal cast of 60 trained singers, dancers and actors headed by well-known performers Pete Brennan and Tabitha Littlefield. With music by Alan Menken and Jack

Feldman, "Newsies" is the turn-of-the-century story of New York's newsboys who lead a strike in the wake of publisher Joseph Pulitzer's wage cut. In addition to "Newsies," the theatre organization Encore makes a return to the PAC with the musical "The Wizard of Oz," Aug. 17-26. This is a great show for kids.

Looking ahead to September at the PAC, Choregus Productions hosts Broadway star and two-time Tony nominee Christine Andreas in "Piaf — No Regrets," Sept. 7. Andreas will channel the great Edith Piaf with music sung in both French and English. I'm looking forward to enjoying a performance in the recently renovated Doenges The-

atre. The new configuration incorporates comfortable fixed seating along with cozy tables that effectively share the stage with the performer.

Dominating Chapman Music Hall in September is the return of "Wicked," Sept. 5-23, presented by Celebrity Attractions. This is the prequel to "The Wizard of Oz" that tells the story of two "witches," their rivalry and friendship. The music by Stephen Schwartz soars and delights. Every cast I have seen perform the roles of Galinda and Elphaba has been excellent. This production is certain to provide a magical and transporting experience. "Wicked" can be scary in parts. It is recommended for ages eight and above. At the River Spirit Casino, you can en-

## Show Buzz



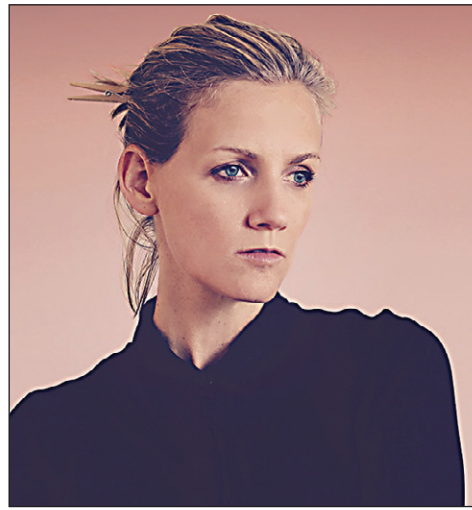
By NANCY HERMANN



**RINGO STARR:** The legendary Beatle and his All Starr Band kick off a North American tour at the Hard Rock Sept. 1.



**WICKED:** The phenomenal Broadway musical returns to the Tulsa PAC, Sept. 5-23, presented by Celebrity Attractions.



**MISFEST:** Nashville's Katie Herzig headlines an all female lineup for MisFEST at River West Festival Park, Sept. 15.



**VINCE GILL:** The Oklahoma native performs his hits at River Spirit Casino Aug. 16

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joy the charm and talent of country music superstar Vince Gill, Aug. 16. Gill is the most-awarded male country artist in Grammy history and one of the nicest people in the entertainment business. I guess that is partly because he's a native Okie!

Gill will soon wrap his current tour as a band member with The Eagles. When Eagles' frontman Glenn Frey passed away, the band brought in Gill and Frey's son, Deacon, to perform the songs Glenn made famous. For his upcoming Tulsa show, he'll perform his hits and songs from his "Down to My Last Bad Habit" album.

Also at River Spirit is the contemporary rock band from Seattle Candlebox, performing Aug. 25. Upcoming at the Brady Theater is Andrew Dice Clay, Aug. 26 and Alice in Chains, Sept. 10.

September will be an epic month for park activities. While including the Gathering Place on your must-do list, add a visit to River West Festival Park, Sept. 15, for MisFEST. This event focuses on empowering women and features an all-female lineup. Headliner for MisFEST is Nashville singer,



**NEWSIES:** Theatre Tulsa's high-energy production is running at the Tulsa PAC through Aug. 26.

songwriter, producer and Emmy-nominated Katie Herzig. The festival will include food trucks, interactive art installations and family activities, along with a special "Uncovering the Music" event with Herzig, Sept. 14 at the Woody Guthrie Center.

You are always a winner with live entertainment. Sample and enjoy.

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# Community Lends a Hand to Tulsa's Blues Man

"Laughter is the language of the soul."  
— Pablo Neruda

I begin with that quote for two reasons: First, to make myself sound smart and well read (although, full disclosure, I got it from a Simpson's episode). The second reason is to make the following assertion: Pablo Neruda is full of s\*#@!

Maybe I'm being a little harsh on the Nobel Prize-winning poet, but seriously, laughter? The primitive cackling and squawking reminiscent of our primate ancestors? I find the idea itself laughable.

Sorry Pablo, there's no debate here. The language of the soul is music. Classical, Heavy Metal, Jazz, Bluegrass, etc.: they're just different dialects that speak to different souls.

And while all music speaks to all souls to some extent, each soul has a native tongue, a language that not only communicates with it but engages; grabs it with both hands, shakes it and screams, "wake up!"

For me, and many guitar junkies like me, that language is Blues, and no one in town speaks it better than Dustin Pittsley.

Bassist Donnie Wood, drummer David Teegarden and keyboardist

Chris Kyle round out the Dustin Pittsley Band, a roots-based, hard-rocking, southern blues band that has emerged as a flagship of the New Tulsa Sound.

The first time I saw Pittsley, he was playing John Prine and Beatles songs to a sparse, half-interested happy hour crowd at a bar on Brookside.

That was nearly 20 years ago, and since then, I've watched him grow into a thoughtful songwriter, a soulful singer and a bonafide guitar assassin.

I wish I could devote this entire column to Pittsley's talent, catalog of music, influences, career highlights (which would certainly include joining Buddy Guy on stage in Chicago at the request of the blues legend), but unfortunately,

life is what happens while you're busy making other plans. That's a quote by John Lennon, a far more reliable source than Pablo Neruda.

You can visit [dustinpittsley.com](http://dustinpittsley.com) to see all the upcoming gigs, and I encourage you to go to as many as possible. But the show I'm really pushing here will not feature The Dustin Pittsley Band at all.

On Aug. 19, dozens of Pittsley's brothers and sisters of music will descend on Venue Shrine, 112 E. 18th St., for "Songs for Sawyer."

Sawyer is Sawyer Pittsley, the

one familiar with the Tulsa music scene, the community has stepped up to offer some assistance. And, musically speaking, it's quite an offer.

The lineup includes John Fullbright, Chris Combs, Jimmy Markham, Levi Parham, Paul Benjamin, Don White, Jesse Aycock, Seth Lee Jones, Jacob Tovar, Little Joe, Wink Burcham, Beau Roberson, Red Dirt Rangers, Monica Taylor... The list goes on.

"Songs for Sawyer" begins at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the door with all proceeds benefiting the Pittsley family. The concert will be recorded, with plans to release a live album which will also benefit the Pittsley family.

You can also go to [gofundme.com/supporting-sawyer-pittsley](http://gofundme.com/supporting-sawyer-pittsley) and make a direct donation.

This installment of Searching for the Sound marks the one-year anniversary of this column. Can you believe I've done this 12 times already!? Looking back on the year, one theme that has surfaced repeatedly is the kindness, generosity and closeness of Tulsa's musical community. I referred to the performers as Pittsley's brothers and sisters of music, because that's exactly what they are: family.

Join the family on Aug. 19 at Shrine. It'll be a Sunday afternoon of good music and even better people, many of whom are fluent in the language of the soul.

Thank you to everyone who has supported Searching for the Sound over the past year. Year two will be even better, as the encouragement and feedback you've given me is all the inspiration I need to keep searching, keep listening.

## Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL



BETH TURNER for GTR Newspapers

**TRIPLE THREAT:** Soulful vocals, thoughtful songwriting and filthy guitar shredding make Dustin Pittsley one of the best blues acts around.

five-year-old son of Dustin and Amber Pittsley. Sawyer was born with several brain abnormalities that have hindered his verbal and physical development. He must take a variety of medications and is currently receiving physical, occupational and speech therapy.

There are travel expenses, procedures that are not covered by insurance, missed work, even home modifications to accommodate Sawyer's needs.

The Pittsleys have never asked for help with any of this financial burden, but to the surprise of no

# Circle Cinema Film Festival, Birthday a Success

The Circle Cinema Film Festival and 90th Birthday Celebration was a huge success with sold-out shows, insightful discussion with special guests (including actors Tim Blake Nelson, Jeanne Tripplehorn, Heather Langenkamp, Ryan Merriman, Mary Kay Place, former actress and Tulsa philanthropist Peggy Dow Helmerich,

and more), and even an impromptu song from Gary Busey made it a week to remember.

Special thanks to The Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Arts, and Culture and the Mid-America Arts Alliance, the National Endowment for the Arts for generously funding the event. Community partners included KTUL-TV, Quik Trip, The



**FULL HOUSE:** The Circle Cinema was packed to see Gary Busey at the recent Circle Cinema Walk of Fame Medallion Dedication.

**TULSA STAR:** Gary Busey greets the audience at the Circle Cinema.

Tulsa Voice, The Church Studio, Tulsa Project Theatre, The Tulsa Historical Society and Museum, Whitty Books, Topeca Coffee, Native Crossroads and deadCenter

Film Festival. All of the special birthday wishes were received from Mayor G.T. Bynum, Bishop Carlton Pearson, director Sterlin Harjo, and more

can be found online at [YouTube.com/CircleCinema](http://YouTube.com/CircleCinema). Many of the panels and Q&As were recorded by videographer Leo Evans as well.

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DINING IN GREATER TULSA

# Torchy's Tacos Offers Trendy Concept

## Local Dining

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**  
Contributing Writer

Torchy's Tacos, 3330 S. Peoria Ave., opened its first and, currently, only Tulsa location in April of last year. The fast-casual restaurant sits in downtown Tulsa's Brookside in a prime corner spot storefront that has been home to a number of restaurants who could not prove the test of time, including Wolfgang Puck's and Hopbunz.

However, the Austin-based restaurant chain may be the one to change that, due to the popularity that Austin-based companies can have.

The restaurant began in 2006 as a food truck and has since grown to brick-and-mortar locations throughout Texas and Colorado and three locations in Oklahoma.

The menu is focused on 15 signature tacos. In addition, there are a few breakfast taco choices, chips and dips, sides and desserts plus one burrito and one salad, I suppose to appease those not in a taco mood.

The menu also offers approach-

able prices, with nothing over \$8. The restaurant is set up as a fast-casual order-at-the-counter concept. Although, a full bar sits near the front of the restaurant, where patrons can get full drink-and-food service.

I chose to sip a margarita, so I sat at the bar. The bartender suggested the Skinny 100, an on-the-rocks margarita made from scratch with a specialty 100 proof tequila. The first sip told me that they do not skimp on their alcohol.

Later, I opted for a house frozen margarita to compare. The frozen version is certainly tamer and \$2 cheaper; for some individuals, that may be more of the ticket for them.

For my dinner, I chose to sample tacos. First, I selected the Fried Avocado—hand-battered and fried avocados in a corn tortilla with refried beans, pico de gallo, lettuce, cheese and poblano sauce. I loved the flavor of all of the veggies in this taco. I did not need to add any additional sauces, the flavor was excellent.

On the other hand, the Tippy Chick, chicken fajita, spinach, grilled corn, green chiles, cheese and chipotle sauce in a flour tortilla, was missing a lot of the moistness and flavor that I found



BLAKE AUSTYN for GTR Newspapers

**BROOKSIDE LOCATION:** Torchy's Tacos is located at 3330 S. Peoria Ave. in Brookside.

in the avocado taco. I needed to add a lot of a secondary sauce that came with the dish: bacon bourbon marmalade, which helped with the moistness, but I wouldn't have chosen to add the sweetness.

My tablemate ventured away from the taco theme and chose the Grande Burrito. Individuals get the choice of beef, pork, chicken or veggie and the choice of pinto or black beans. She chose veggie and black beans.

I took a bite, and I'm glad that I

did. This was, by far, my favorite dish of the night, with its depth of flavor and heartiness. In the burrito are the usual suspects: pico de gallo, sour cream, guacamole and cheese, but something about the combination of those flavors rolled into the tortilla made it out of this world.

As a side order, my friend tried the Street Corn, topped with cilantro, ancho aioli sauce and cheese. Nothing memorable or inventive here. Just the basic flavors.

We also opted for a small order of chips and salsa. Again, nothing to write home about.

Torchy's is currently open seven days a week: Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.-10 p.m. and closing at 11 p.m. on Fridays; Saturday 8 a.m.-11 p.m.; and Sunday 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

However, starting on Sept. 4, Monday-Friday, the restaurant will begin opening at 10 a.m.

For more information, call 918-495-4073.

## Tulsa's Restaurant Week to Fight Hunger is Sept. 7 - 16

In conjunction with September's national Hunger Action Month, area restaurants are helping the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma fight childhood hunger in eastern Oklahoma by participating in Tulsa's twelfth annual Restaurant Week September 7 - 16.

Restaurant Week is a delicious opportunity for Tulsans to experience the area's best restaurants at a great price and help fight hunger in Oklahoma. Restaurant Week specifically supports the Food Bank's Food for Kids programs.

Each Restaurant Week meal purchased will provide a donation to the Food Bank's Food for Kids programming, and will also be matched by George Kaiser Fam-

ily Foundation up to \$25,000. Additional sponsors to Restaurant Week include: TulsaPeople, Jarboe Sales Company, Curtis Restaurant Supply and OpenTable. Thanks to events like this, the Food Bank was able to provide more than 600,000 meals to hungry children last year.

To kick off the twelfth year of Restaurant Week, local establishments in the Brady Arts District are offering special treats outside of the typical fixed-priced menus. From 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 6, Antoinette's Bakery is offering a special slice of pie; Chimera is offering a specialty cocktail; Laffa is offering a special appetizer and Prairie Brew Pub will have a special beer. From

each specialty item purchased, the restaurants donate \$1 to the Food Bank.

Participating restaurants and their menu offerings will be listed starting August 15 on Tulsa People's Restaurant Week page.

Restaurant Week patrons can select from a variety of fixed-priced lunch and dinner menus designed to suit any taste and budget. Restaurants will offer lunch menus priced at \$15 per person for two or three courses; two or three-course brunch menus for \$22; and a two to four-course dinner menu at one of three price points: \$20, \$35 or \$45 per person. Each menu features appetizer, entrée and dessert options. Donations to the Food Bank range from \$2 from each lunch menu to up to \$7 from the \$45 dinner menu.

In addition to the kick-off evening, this year's Restaurant Week event also features three special days to provide more fun to Tulsa. From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 12, select food trucks at Guthrie Green's Food Truck Wednesday will offer special dishes, with \$1 from each going to the Food Bank. Additionally, on Friday Sept. 14, local barbecue establishments, including Albert G's and most Rib Crib locations, will donate a portion of their proceeds to the Food Bank. Finally, Naples Flatbread is hosting a San Gennaro Feast to close out Restaurant Week on Sunday, Sept. 16, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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**TRUE BLUE NEIGHBORS:** University of Tulsa alumni volunteer to help neighbors of the Kendall Whittier neighborhood. Helping at a recent True Blue event are, from left, Geordie Matson, Class of 1979; Anna Studenny Krupka, Chair, True Blue Committee and Class of 2002; Shelly Allen of the Kendall Whittier Food Pantry; and James Maddux, Class of 1993.



Courtesy photo

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS FORUM:** The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa hosted candidate forums for four Tulsa City Council races ahead of the Aug. 28 election. Above at 36 Degrees North on July 24 are District 4 candidates, from left, Barbara Kingsley, Juan Miret, Kara Joy McKee and Daniel Regan.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

# Ediblend Announces Fresh Kiosk at CTCA

Ediblend has announced its partnership with the Tulsa location of Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) in bringing plant-based whole food in a fresh, convenient kiosk for patients, caregivers and employees.

The fresh kiosk, located in the hospital's main gallery, features ediblend fan-favorite items including their signature grab-and-go blends, salads, breakfast items and snacks. The fresh kiosk promises to be a quick and convenient way for visitors and patients alike to fuel up with whole food options 24/7.

"We are excited to offer healthy, to-go, whole-food options around the clock to our patients, caregivers and staff with this new ediblend kiosk," says Jay Foley, CTCA Tulsa president and CEO.

Owned by sisters Piper Kacere and Amy Murray, ediblend has been in business since 2014, inspiring Tulsans to live a healthier lifestyle by choosing restorative, plant-based foods and blends. Ediblend focuses on making plant-based, whole food undeniably delicious and accessible to the community of Tulsa. Its new, fresh kiosk concept is the first of its kind in Tulsa and is light years ahead of the traditional vending machine. Cutting-edge technology allows for a unique user experience in addition to functionality like the ability for ediblend to see inventory in real-time, making quality service possible.

Amy Murray, co-owner of ediblend, says "We have seen many of our own clients transform

their lives with a plant-based lifestyle and we can't wait to offer fresh, plant-based options for the amazing patients and staff at Cancer Treatment Centers of America."

As native Tulsans, Piper and Amy care deeply about the health of our community. "Our mission has always been to empower our customers to make good eating choices with superfoods that will nourish from the inside out. To be able to launch our fresh kiosk concept at such a tremendous facility as CTCA is a unique privilege for us," says Kacere.

Ediblend will continue to operate two locations at 2050 Utica Square and 10115 S. Sheridan Rd., while launching their fresh kiosk concept at CTCA. Following this endeavor, it will also be launching an additional fresh kiosk at the Mother Road Market.

"Our growth has been largely customer driven and this new concept is no exception. We wanted to develop a way to get our plant-based products in the hands of more people in a quick and convenient way that made financial sense," says Murray.

Ediblend offers an expanded menu at each of its two café locations, including made-to-order blends, acai bowls in addition to one and three day cleanses.

For more about ediblend superfood café and a complete café menu, visit [www.ediblend.com](http://www.ediblend.com) or Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat @ediblendcafe. For more about Cancer Treatment Centers of America, visit [cancercenter.com](http://cancercenter.com), Facebook.com/cancercenter and Twitter.com/cancercenter.



HEALTHY BLENDS: Jay Foley, CTCA Tulsa president and CEO, with Amy Murray and Piper Kacere of ediblend at the hospital's main gallery.

## Red Cross Asks for Donors

Thousands of people have responded to the emergency call for blood donations issued by the American Red Cross in early July. Still, there continues to be an emergency need for donors of all blood types, especially type O, to give now to address a severe blood shortage.

Red Cross blood donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than they are coming in, and right now there is less than a five-day blood supply on hand. The Red Cross strives to keep a five-day supply of blood to meet the needs of patients and to be prepared for emergencies that require significant volumes of donated blood products.

"Patients don't get a summer break from the need for lifesaving treatments, so it is critical that hospitals have access to blood products each and every day," said Jan Hale, communications manager of the Red Cross Southwest Blood Services Region.

There is a particular need for type O blood, which plays an important role in ongoing patient care and emergencies. Type O positive is the most transfused blood type and can be given to patients with any Rh-positive blood type. Type O negative is the universal blood type and can be given to any patient. It's what emergency room person-

nel reach for when there is no time to determine the blood type of patients in the most serious situations.

In thanks, all those who come to donate blood July 30 through Aug. 30, will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email. (Restrictions apply; see [amazon.com/gc-legal](http://amazon.com/gc-legal). More information and details are available at [RedCrossBlood.org/Together](http://RedCrossBlood.org/Together).)

Donors of all blood types are urged to make an appointment to give now using the free American Red Cross Blood Donor App, by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



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EDUCATION

# David Page is Named TCC Vision Honoree

The Tulsa Community College Foundation has named David Page as the 2018 Vision in Education Leadership Award recipient. He is being honored for his enduring commitment to excellence in education and leadership of key initiatives and organizations that have impacted economic development, quality of life and social services for Tulsa.

The annual Vision in Education Leadership Award Dinner is Thursday, Sept. 27 at the Cox Business Center. A reception will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner to follow at 7 p.m. The 2018 Vision Honorary Chair is Becky J. Frank. Susan Harris is the 2018 Foundation Dinner Chair.

The Vision Dinner raises critical resources for TCC students, faculty and staff. Three organizations have set the pace this year as Visionary sponsors: ARVEST Foundation, ONE Gas and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation.

“David Page brings his heart and his head to every education need in our community,” said TCC President & CEO Leigh B. Goodson, Ph.D. “David has been a champion and advocate for education in Tulsa for decades. He is a consensus builder and a successful leader because he takes the time to listen and makes sure people have been heard and included in the decision making.”

Page is the private bank market manager and vice chairman of JP-Morgan Chase in Oklahoma. He is currently Chair of the Tulsa Stadium Trust, Philbrook Museum of Art Trustee, and serves on the boards of the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Central Oklahoma.

As Chair of the Tulsa Regional

Chamber in 2009, Page took the lead on the role of chief advocate for education reminding the business community that “world changers” are individuals who have had a chance at education regardless of their economic status and go on to create good in the world. Then, his calm leadership was essential when Tulsa Public Schools announced Project Schoolhouse and its intention to achieve significant cost savings through school closings. Page agreed to lead the monumental effort as the comprehensive and collaborative process yielded more than \$5 million in savings.

The Vision Dinner makes a difference in the lives of many of TCC’s 25,000 students by providing support for academic, leadership development and scholarship programs for TCC.

“Last year alone, the TCC Foundation was able to transfer more than \$2 million in support to the college. The Vision Dinner is the cornerstone to that support,” said Lauren Brookey, TCC Vice President of External Affairs and President of the TCC Foundation.

The 2018 Vision Dinner sponsorship levels are \$25,000 for Visionary, \$10,000 for Leadership, \$5,000 for Excellence, \$3,000 for Achievement, and \$1,500 for Dedication.

In addition to Visionary sponsors ARVEST Foundation, ONE Gas and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, Leadership sponsors include Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, Cox Communications, Omni Air International and the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation.

The Vision Award is presented annually to an individual dedicated to education excellence and com-



DAVID PAGE

Courtesy photo

munity leadership. The 2018 TCC Vision in Education Leadership Award Dinner committee members are David Cole, Kirk Hays, Eleanor Payne, Roger Ramseyer, and Chad Zamarin.

Past honorees include Alison Anthony, Keith Ballard, David Boren, Montie Box, U.S. Representative Tom Cole, John Gaberino, Susan Harris, former Governor Brad Henry, Jake Henry Jr., George Kaiser, Paula Marshall, Lynn and Stacy Schusterman, Don Walker, and John-Kelly C. Warren.

For information regarding sponsorships and tickets to the 2018 Vision in Education Leadership Award Dinner, call 918-595-7836 or [www.tulsacc.edu/visiondinner](http://www.tulsacc.edu/visiondinner).

## TCC Seeks Public Comments For Sept. Accreditation Visit

Tulsa Community College seeks comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency.

A team of peer reviewers representing the Higher Learning Commission will visit TCC Sept. 24-25. The team will review the institution’s ongoing ability to meet HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation.

Comments must be in writ-

ing and must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs.

Submit comments to HLC at [hlcommission.org/comment](http://hlcommission.org/comment) or mail to:

Public Comment on Tulsa Community College Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411

All comments must be received by Aug. 24, 2018.

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# Tulsa Tech Program Offerings Grow In Area Schools

## Increased Demand for Flexible Career, Technical Training Fuels Partnership

Tulsa Tech offers career and technical training to a growing number of students throughout the metro area at several partner school district sites. Enrollment has grown to nearly 1,000 students in schools throughout Tulsa County in programs such as pre-Engineering, web design, manufacturing and more.

With the many demands placed upon our partner schools, we've worked in tandem to expand career training in the high school setting. Accommodating busy schedules and eliminating travel time is now a necessary level of convenience for some of our students that participate in extra-curricular activities, or have expanded class loads.

The off-campus programs in area high schools increased last year, with five more sites adding career training programs. The additions to the off-campus programs included Foundations of App Development at Catoosa High School, Foundations of Engineering at both Collinsville High School and Skiatook High School, along with Foundations of Manufacturing at Charles Page High School and East Central High School.

The off-campus career training

programs in area high schools will again expand for the 2018-19 school year, with Pre-Engineering available at Broken Arrow High School, Apparel Design at Union High School, Interior Design at Charles Page High School, and Introduction to Manufacturing, soon to be offered at Glenpool High School.

The recently announced manufacturing program is the result of a unique partnership between AAON, Inc., Glenpool High School and Tulsa Tech. AAON has pledged a \$100,000 donation toward the construction of the classroom and lab, as well as a commitment to 50 percent of the operational costs for the next five years. This particular type of corporate partnership is a first in the history of Tulsa Tech and is groundbreaking for Oklahoma's CareerTech system.

The business community in the Tulsa Metro is experiencing a skills gap regarding their current and future workforce, and this groundbreaking partnership is a tremendous example of education and business cooperating in a meaningful way to improve the situation.

The Foundations of Manufacturing program will be embedded into Glenpool High School and will serve as an elective class, offering students the opportunity to learn the many different aspects of the manufacturing process, including automated design and machining, robotics, blueprints, welding and more. Students will then have the opportunity to progress to full-time career training programs at Tulsa Tech, including HVAC, welding, machining, drafting, mechatronics and more.

"We are excited to build upon the wonderful relationship that we have with Tulsa Tech, as well as other educational partners like Glenpool Public Schools," said Norman Asbjornson, AAON CEO. "Manufacturing across the country has a growing skills gap, and this is an opportunity to expand the talent pipeline for our business in a tangible way."

AAON has nearly 1,700 employees locally, with another 350 employees between its Longview, Texas, and Parkville, Missouri, facilities. The company operates a 1.37 million sq. ft. manufacturing facility in Tulsa and will be opening a 134,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art research and development lab in fall 2018.

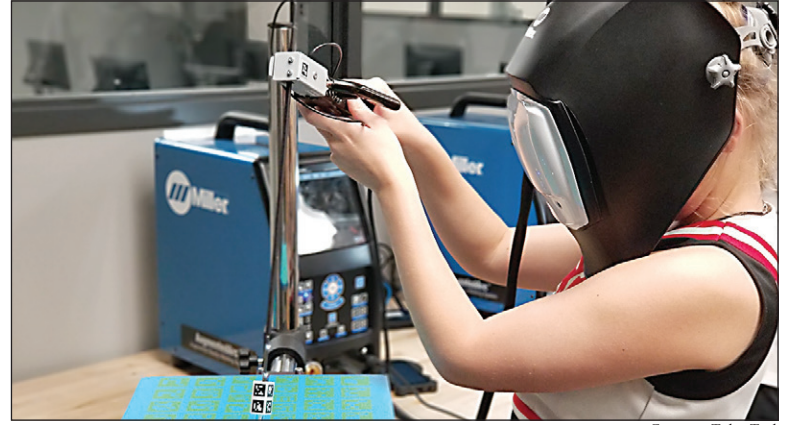
"Glenpool is thrilled to offer this type of career training to introduce students to another pathway for a successful future," said Kim Coody, principal at Glenpool High School. "Offering a flexible elective through Tulsa Tech is a great way for students to see successful career choices that can be accomplished after graduation."

Dr. Scott Williams, Tulsa Tech's

### News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER  
Superintendent



Courtesy Tulsa Tech

**CAREER TRAINING:** The off-campus career training programs offered by Tulsa Tech in area high schools will expand again for the 2018-19 school year.

associate superintendent for Instruction believes developing foundational knowledge and skills on a technical level, in a format that is convenient for secondary students, is essential.

"Embedding Tulsa Tech programs in the high school allows us to be a good partner with our sending schools," Williams said. "It enables us to provide a level of education, which gives students more opportunities to enter a career training program of their choice."

In the past 50 years, Tulsa Tech has grown from a single campus vocational school under the guidance of Tulsa Public Schools to an independent school district with six campuses and 17 off-campus programs which offer career tech training programs that help students prepare for both career and college skills.

Today, Tulsa Tech is the largest technology center of Oklahoma's nationally-recognized CareerTech system, training over 5,000 full-time adult and high school students, as well as nearly 10,000 part-time enrollments, and even thousands

more employees involved in customized corporate training and consulting services.

If you are currently looking for a challenging new career for both high school and adult students, quality corporate training, or exciting evening and weekend classes, Tulsa Tech invites you to visit today. For more information, please call 918-828-5000 or visit us online at [tulsaitech.edu](http://tulsaitech.edu).

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# GTAR Hosts Backpack for Kids Party

The Greater Tulsa Association of Realtors hosted the 13th annual Backpacks for Kids Party, providing backpacks for 516 kids on Aug. 2 at the GTAR office in Tulsa.

The children are chosen by Family and Children's services of Tulsa. They are given a backpack equipped with all the items they will need for their first day of school. The children and their family were invited to attend a pizza party where they received their backpacks. "Students deserve to start the school year with confidence," said Committee Co-Chair Shelley Carson. "The Greater Tulsa Association of Realtors is proud to partner with Family & Children's Services to make that happen for these kids."

Before the event, GTAR's Backpacks for Kids volunteers unloaded a truck with newly purchased

clothing, shoes and other items to fill over 500 backpacks. Volunteers sorted the items and filled each backpack with personalized items based on information provided by the child's family.

"The backpacks give the kids something new to be excited about before school starting," said one social worker from Family & Children's Services. "It also shows the family that there are those that care and want them to succeed."

Backpacks for Kids began in 2006 as a community outreach program for the Greater Tulsa Association of Realtors. The GTAR Foundation was established as a 501(c)3 charitable organization and is run entirely by volunteer members of the association. Since 2006 a total of \$370,000 has been raised to help support the chil-



**SUPPORTING STUDENTS:** Volunteers from the Greater Tulsa Association of Realtors display backpacks that were given to young students for their first day of school. The backpacks contained needed school supplies.

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# JENKS SPORTS

## Two-Way Star Noah Hernandez Ready for Season

By MIKE MOGUIN  
GTR Sports Writer

Ask Noah Hernandez what would best describe him as a running back and he makes it clear.

"Pretty hard-nosed. I usually don't try to make any cuts. I like to just run through you," he said, laughing.

This Jenks standout has been a factor in the Trojans' rushing attack shining in a memorable debut against Bixby as a freshman.

Last year, as a junior, after missing the first two games, he logged 564 yards and seven touchdowns on 74 carries. Heading into his senior campaign at 5-10 and 190 pounds, he's expected to carry the load.

But, Hernandez understands the work doesn't come solely from him.

"It all comes down to the fact that the offensive line is a major key to a running back's success," Hernandez said. "So, I give huge kudos to our offensive line."

A two-way starter, Hernandez also plays linebacker.

"I've played both for a long time," he said. "At running back, I like to score touchdowns and run the ball. At the same time, I like to play the defensive side of the ball. You get to hit people and fly around."

Last year, Hernandez forced 60 tackles on defense. In 2016, he had 103 tackles, four sacks and four takeaways.

Hernandez is also a weapon on the Trojans' special teams. He returned a kickoff 83 yards for a TD last season.

The brotherhood involved in the

game is what he enjoys most about the gridiron.

"When we go out on a Friday night, you know that the guy battling next to you has your back no matter what and you have his. That's what I like about it," Hernandez said.

Like every other Jenks Trojan, Hernandez will be undergoing a transition this season with a new coach. The legendary Allan Trimble retired during the offseason due to complications of ALS. Keith Riggs, a member of the Trojan coaching staff since 2003, was promoted to head coach less than a month after Trimble announced his retirement.

"We knew it was coming soon. It was really sad in the community, but, obviously, we want the best for Coach Trimble," Hernandez said.

"He'll definitely be missed," the Jenks running back added. "But, I kind of like how we got Coach Riggs in there as a head coach because he has been here a long time and knows how things are done here at Jenks. So, we just kept everything the same, and his (Trimble) legacy will live on. Just a new change, but, everything should be fine with Coach Riggs."

The Trojans had to overcome adversity last season after their first 0-4 start the program had in decades.

"It was really hard because you grow up in the Jenks system and you see teams that go undefeated and you see teams that win state four years in a row," Hernandez said. "It's hard, especially when you come out 0-4 and you have the media and everybody in your ear saying that 'this hasn't happened

in so many years.' But we had to keep our head up and work and get through that. We knew that if we kept working, we could get to where we want to be. We learned a lesson from it -- just to battle through and not give up on anything because at the end of the day, we know what our goal is at the end of the season every year."

The Trojans reeled off seven straight wins before being eliminated in the Class 6AII semifinals. They have only one goal for 2018.

"Gold Ball," Hernandez said. A state championship would be Jenks' first since 2015.

"It's (offseason training) been going awesome. We're getting into shape. All of us are probably in the best shape of our lives right now. As a team, we're looking good," Hernandez said.

As usual, Union and Broken Arrow are perceived as the toughest foes for Jenks on the schedule, Hernandez said.

"Union is always a competitor for us," he added. "It's the rivalry that everybody wants to see. In Jenks-Union, you're going to get the best effort."

Not on the Trojans' schedule is Owasso, last year's state champion, that broke the Jenks-Union stronghold that stood 21 years on the state's largest classification. Jenks would like it if that was different.

"Yes (Trojans wish Owasso was on the schedule)," Hernandez said. "Especially after last year how things played out at the end of the season. We hope to see them again this year in the playoffs."

Being accustomed to having the upper hand in the series, Jenks



MIKE MOGUIN for Jenks District Gazette  
**TROJAN STRENGTH:** Jenks running back Noah Hernandez curls a dumbbell during an offseason workout at the Trojans' gym last month. Hernandez said the Trojans are in great shape heading into the 2018 football season.

was stunned by the Rams twice last year, losing 48-10 in the regular season opener and 21-0 in the postseason.

The Trojans open the season at 6AII runner-up Bixby on Aug. 24, then host Mansfield (Texas) Legacy Aug. 31. The annual matchup

with Union follows on Sept. 7 at TU's Chapman Stadium.

After a week off, a visit to Broken Arrow will be made on Sept. 21. Then comes a home date with Enid on Sept. 28. The rest of the season consists of opponents from the Oklahoma City suburbs.

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**SPORTS**

# Gil Cloud Continues Amazing Sports Career

## TPS Athletic Director Enters 49th Year in Administration

By **TERRELL LESTER**  
GTR Editor at Large

Gil Cloud just doesn't know when to stop.

Or, even how to stop.

He is in perpetual motion.

Here, there, everywhere. Always moving forward.

High school athletics directors know all too well the demands that accompany the job.

Games to play. Coaches to hire. Superintendents to placate.

Then there's Gil Cloud.

He is director of athletics for Tulsa Public Schools. He has nine high schools, nine athletics programs, to supervise. Nine times the coaches to hire. Nine times the games to play.

Then there are the 11 junior highs within his purview.

He should be retired. He's 72 years old.

And he did try his hand at retirement. Once.

It didn't take.

To Cloud, retirement is a dirty word.

Especially when one has the well-being of teenagers to consider. When one has the state's second-largest school district to represent and promote.

It is not the workday that motivates Cloud. Not the job.

It is the lives of young people, the student-athletes, that drive Cloud.

What can he do to make their futures brighter? To make their high school memories luminous?

Cloud searches for answers to those questions daily.

Cloud is in his 49th year in education. In all but seven of those years he has carried the label of athletics director.

The 1964 graduate of Tulsa's Will Rogers High School, and a football letterman, took a turn on the coaching carousel before entering the administrative field.

He was head football coach at McAlester High School and Coffeyville (Kansas) High School. He coached baseball at Cameron Junior College, was on the football staff at Kansas State University.

But in 1975, he checked in his coaching gear. He was hired as the first full-time athletics director at a suburban school just beginning to flourish on the eastern

edge of Tulsa: Union.

Before his departure in 1991, Cloud had propelled Union into the upper echelon of high schools. With Grade-A facilities, namely an 11,000-seat football stadium unrivaled at the time, Union was positioned to become a formidable opponent.

Cloud's reputation as a visionary grew in tandem with the maturation of Union.

He was an untiring, unyielding man of action.

"We wanted to be the best," he said. "And I think we set a pretty good foundation."

When he arrived at Union, the high school's enrollment was 525, he recalled. He inherited a coaching staff of 11 to oversee 10 varsity sports.

Mingo Road was a two-lane, blacktopped road, flanked by pastureland and farm ponds.

When he departed, Union's enrollment had expanded to 2,500 and his office managed 58 coaches in 21 extracurricular activities.

Mingo Road had evolved into a four-lane thoroughfare, flanked by untold acres of mercantile triumph.

He moved on to similar roles as athletics director at Guthrie High School, Arkansas Tech University, Northeastern State University and Upper Iowa University.

He was contemplating retirement in 2011, serving as president of a consulting firm providing services to college, universities and secondary schools.

Tulsa Public Schools contacted him. The athletics director had been dismissed. The department was plagued by scandal.

As lead consultant in the search for a new AD, Cloud submitted a report to TPS, indicating that he was unable to single out one name from the list of applicants.

Considering his own background, and comparing that with the people he had interviewed, Cloud concluded that he was the best candidate for the job.

TPS Superintendent Keith Ballard agreed.

Cloud assumed control of the athletics office in the spring of 2012. He was 66.

He was tasked with stabilizing a department.

He was energetic, forward-thinking.



Photo by TERRELL LESTER

**FACING CHALLENGES:** Successful Tulsa Public Schools Athletic Director Gil Cloud is working diligently to answer the current funding shortfalls in Tulsa Public Schools. The photo was taken in the TPS Hall of Fame room.

He moved quickly to breathe new life into the office, the school district.

He had to don a variety of hats. He had to be a salesman. A public relations professional. A fund-raiser. A businessman. A human resources authority.

It was a challenge Cloud was prepared to tackle.

"In my first year at Union as athletics director, the three most important things I did was hire officials, schedule games and hire coaches," he said. "Those were the three most important things."

"Today, it's raise money, raise money, and raise more money."

"If I don't do that, I can't even think about those other things. You can't hire an official, you can't pay for the kind of transportation that we need to have to go to games. You can't provide the kinds of meals, the kinds of uniforms that we all want."

Cloud compared his role as AD to that of a CEO.

"Are we in business? Yes," he said. "Do we produce a product? Yes. It's entertainment."

"But the other product that we're producing are live human beings."

"We want these kids to be better when they leave our program."

"And how can we make them better? If we both have the same

level of kid, and I have more money to spend on my kid than you do, I've got a better chance to win. I can hire a better coach. I can travel better. I can eat better. I can buy better equipment."

"And people want to be a part of something that looks really positive."

"Image is everything," he said.

As Cloud talked about perception, he was viewing the TPS Athletics Hall of Fame room that he created.

One year into his tenure with TPS, Cloud launched the hall of fame to recognize athletes and coaches who have contributed to the success of a school district that traces its beginnings to pre-statehood.

TPS has been able to shine a lasting light on the careers of TPS alums such as Kenny Monday, Wayman Tisdale, Spencer Tillman, Tony Casillas, Bill Allen, Dave Rader.

For all his work through all the years, this might just be Cloud's finest legacy.

At a time when education funding is suffering, and his own department has seen its operating budget cut by \$500,000 in two years, Cloud has managed to survive. Even thrive.

TPS schools captured five team state championships during the

2017-18 school year. Memorial won in boys basketball. Washington turned in winning performances in football, girls basketball, girls soccer and boys swimming.

Three other TPS programs finished runners-up in state championship competition.

But not all is golden.

In the last two school years, Cloud has eliminated 50 programs from the nine high school athletics departments. He has eliminated 70 coaching positions.

Only two schools now field swim teams. Pools have been razed at some schools.

Baseball now is played at five schools, softball and wrestling at six. Golf and tennis are on the interscholastic menu at three schools each.

The nine high schools each field interscholastic teams in these sports: football, volleyball, basketball (boys and girls), soccer (boys, girls), track (boys, girls), cross country (boys, girls) and spirit squads.

It is a sobering realization for Cloud and for TPS.

It forces an athletics administrator to step up and explore all fund-raising opportunities.

Fortunately for TPS, for its 3,200 high school athletes, Cloud

*(Continued on page 19)*

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# Oilers Jerseys a Highlight with Fans

By GLENN HIBDON  
GTR Sports Writer

Sweat drips from brows, teeth clench and drama awaits following Tulsa Oilers games at the BOK Center. Whether the Oilers win or lose, the real battle begins in the ONEOK Club, where fans face rugged action, fighting it out for game-worn jerseys.

It's auction time and for many fans represents the highlight of the evening, a growing trend at hockey rinks all across the nation. Players just off the ice return to help their teams sell specially-designed jerseys for big bucks. For the Oilers, minimum bids are \$200 and the precious garments can reach \$5,000.

Specialty jerseys are a license to print money for most teams.

"This has been going on for years in other leagues and in the last 10 years it's kind of picked up momentum," says Taylor Hall, general manager of the ECHL member Oilers. "Technology has made it easier to get creative, and fans love hockey jerseys. We've been doing it (auctioning) since the '90s and it doesn't seem to be slowing down."

The Oilers had 12 auctions after games last season and Hall said the schedule will be the same for 2018-19. He said a new theme will feature the Ice Girls and many of the old ones will return.

"We always try to have different themes and concepts. We want to let our imagination run wild and to let the theme be very unique," Hall said. "We have Pink in the Rink Night, Military Night and one to benefit autism and the Alzheimer's Association. We had one for the Wild Turkey Federation and some fun ones like Christmas, Batman and Star Wars."

The Tulsa Oilers Hockey Jersey

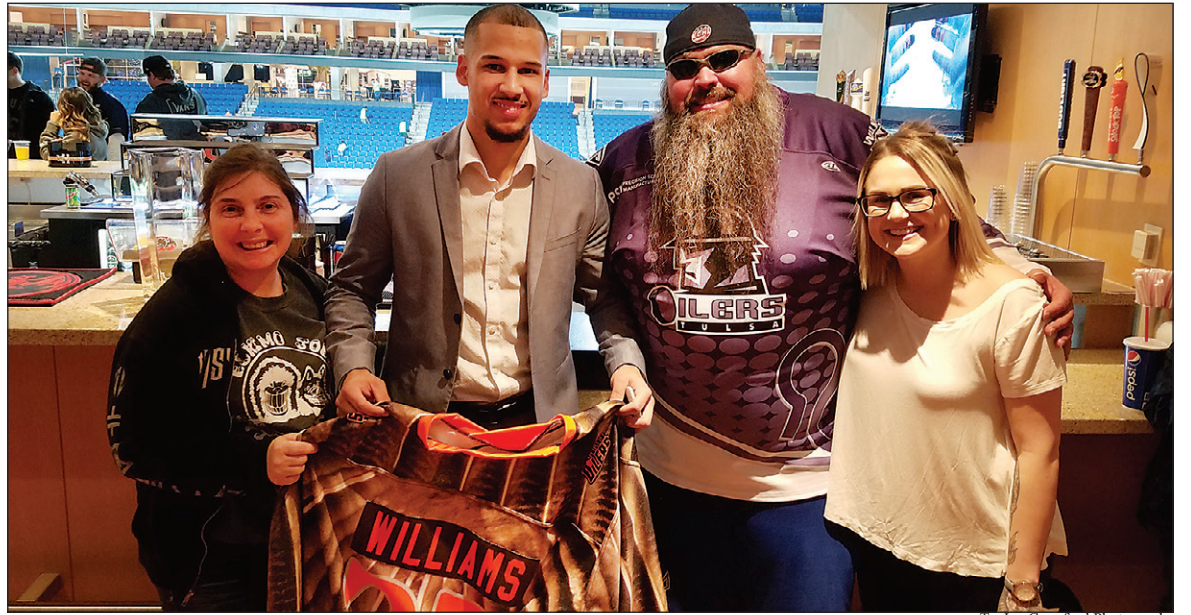
Collectors website proves just how enthusiastic fans can be. Organized by super fan Nathan Paul, the group has more than 330 members, and they stick together no matter what. When member Daryle Fox's house was destroyed by fire, he lost 55 jerseys among a plethora of memorabilia. His jersey cohorts donated 30 or so replacements in a display of solidarity.

"Facebook is good for people to connect and bring them together," says Paul, who has over 200 jerseys. "They can buy, sell or trade and find what they're looking for. They can reminisce about old times and stories. There is so much history there."

Many families create memories by winning jersey bids for the entire clan. The York family of York Plumbing, a major sponsor of the Oilers, is a constant presence at auctions along with John Horton and his family.

"I used to think I was (a major collector) until I met Nathan. We're amateurs compared to him," says Horton, who enjoys keeping up with winning bids and displaying them on Facebook. "We buy jerseys here and there and most of them are connected to players we like. Our girls make connections to players during the season and we try to get those. We don't put them behind glass. We wear them. We don't get jerseys because they're a good investment. It's all about memories."

Fans start showing up even before games are over. They must sign up for the auction and are given numbers. John Peterson, Oilers broadcaster and PR man, is the auctioneer with Hall serving to identify bidders. Hall said up to 300 people attend auctions with \$300 as the average winning bid. The Oilers have a graphic designer on staff who creates many of the jersey ideas.



**HAPPY WINNERS:** Oilers player Devin Williams holds the jersey won by the Stewart family after a game last January. At left is Melissa Stewart and next to Williams is Mikel Stewart. The Stewart family won Williams' jersey at the auction that night.

Profits from the auctions go to the charities featured or to the Oilers for operational expenses.

Hall said as the number of auctions increase during the season, the amount bid for jerseys goes down, making them more affordable.

"I love to see fans wearing old jerseys because we get great advertising from them," Hall said. "In the future we will have more on-line stuff, more digital auctions, but it's fun right now with the atmosphere we have. Our guys come up and the fans cheer for them. It's a great way for them to interact. It's wild and crazy."

Players model their jerseys, autograph them and take pictures with the winning bidder. Enjoy it while it lasts because future online auctions are set to include autographed

jerseys, helmets, gloves and sticks. Hall says the current auction process is increasing attendance and the number of season ticket holders is growing. So are bids.

"The most sought after (jersey) is John Vanbiesbrouck's (NHL goalie who played for Tulsa). It sold at auction for \$1,850," says Paul, a district manager for Safelite Auto Glass. "There is also a connection to the '90s because players stayed around longer and formed more relationships. But I think they had too many (auctions) last season. I spent so much money I don't want my wife to know. In the future, it might be used in divorce proceedings."

While Paul is an avid collector, Horton has just 50 or so jerseys. Services manager at Tulsa International Airport, Horton lists Mi-

chel Beausoleil and Paxton Schulte among his favorite players. Memories mean more to him than game-worn sweaters.

"I do like turn-back-the-clock jerseys," says Horton, who maintains contact with many former Tulsa players. "And I try to never miss an Oilers game."

With Paul's website in year-round use, hockey season is now 24/7 in Tulsa. And there is one certainty for Hall and the Oilers. Hold an auction and money flows.

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## TULSA BOXERS WIN IN DALLAS



**CHAMPS:** Four Tulsa amateur boxers recently won championship belts from the "5th Annual Battle in Big D," Aaron Sloan, head coach and owner of Tulsa's Engine Room Boxing Gym announced. Jerimiah Milton (24 yrs, 201+lbs, Engine Room,) Eddie Oaks (31 yrs, 152 lbs, Engine Room,) Joqua McLendon (26 yrs, 165 lbs, Engine Room,) and Neida Ibarra (23 yrs, 125 lbs, Tulsa Boxing Gym) each won his/her respective weight division at the USA Boxing sanctioned tournament hosted by the Dallas PAL (Police Activities League.) Andre Brown (23 yrs, 152 lbs, Engine Room) received a silver medal. The boxers competed alongside close to 700 amateur fighters from across the country at this event.

"We are so proud of all of our Tulsa boxers," said Coach Aaron Sloan. "They held their own against great competition from all over the U.S. Our fighters were 10 and 2 overall, and we're pleased to be bringing home four championship belts and one silver medal."

The Police Athletic/Activities League is a youth mentoring program that utilizes educational, athletic and recreational activities to create trust and understanding between police officers and youth. Boxing is a cornerstone program of the Dallas PAL since 1961.

In the photo, front from left are coaches Aaron Sloan and Danny Skipper. In back are, from left, Ron Gamble, Andre Brown, Joqua McLendon, Eddie Oakes, Jerimiah Milton and Alycia Hawkins.

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# TU Football Greats Honored at Hall of Fame

The University of Tulsa football greats – Steve Largent, Drew Pearson, Jerry Rhome and Howard Twilley, all Oklahoma Sports Hall of Famers, were special guests at the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame (OSHO) Leadership Luncheon recently.

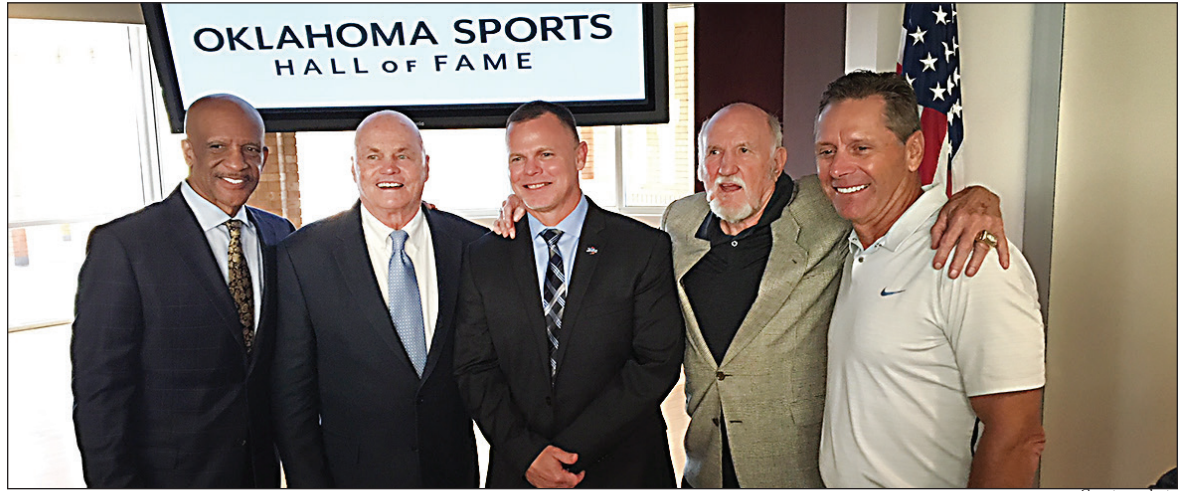
The four TU legends talked to a sellout crowd of over 360 about their playing days at TU and beyond.

Largent was an Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame inductee in 1994, a year earlier than his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1995. Twilley was inducted into the OSHO as a member of the class of 1995. Rhome received his induction in 2001, while Pearson was inducted into the OSHO in 2008. Rhome and Twilley were

Heisman Trophy Runners-up in consecutive years – 1964 and 1965. Rhome was honored in 1964 after completing 69-percent of his passes for 2,870 yards and 32 touchdowns, while Twilley's 1,779 receiving yards and 16 TDs garnered him runner-up honors a year later. His single-season statistics for 1965 still stand today as Tulsa records.

Largent was a second-team All-American at Tulsa and went on to a 14-year All-Pro career with the NFL's Seattle Seahawks. Pearson, an undrafted free agent with the Dallas Cowboys, was named to the NFL's 1970s All-Decade Team.

Tulsa head coach Philip Montgomery and a number of former TU football student-athletes attended the luncheon.



**RECORD SETTERS:** Hurricane football greats and today's TU Head Football Coach Philip Montgomery recently attended the Oklahoma sports Hall of Fame Leadership Luncheon. From left are Drew Pearson, Howard Twilley, Philip Montgomery, Jerry Rhome and Steve Largent.

# TULSA AREA PRIVATE SCHOOLS CELEBRATE SUCCESS



**STATE GOLF CHAMPS:** Several of the Tulsa private schools shined with sports championships in the spring. Above, Regent Prep won its first state championship in boys' sports as it swept the team and individual titles in golf. From left, Head Coach Maggie Roller, Braden Gilbert, James Roller, Jackson White, Grant Benjamin, Karsten Sanders and Assistant Coach Keith Stitt.



**STATE TENNIS CHAMPS:** Metro Christian won in Class 4A girls' tennis under the leadership of first-year coach Emily Potts, front row, left, with Coach Olivia da Silva. Back row from left, Lauren Michalcik, Lauren Sutton, Grace Whitten, Lauren Elias, Arden Row and Hallie Sutton.



**STATE SOCCER CHAMPS:** In addition to Bishop Kelley winning the Class 5A state title in baseball, the Comets also repeated as champs in boys' soccer and took home a title in boys' tennis. Above, Bishop Kelley boys' celebrate their soccer title after winning the Class 5A final.

Watch

## OKLAHOMA SPORTS SCENE

Sportscene is hosted by, from left, Tulsa Public Schools Athletic Director Gil Cloud, local and national TV sportscaster Chris Lincoln, and Tulsa sports legend J.V. Haney.

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- Terrell Lester – Sports Historian/ Freelance Writer
- Dale Day – Remington Park Announcer // Preview new TB season

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# GTR 2018 COMPOSITE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME
Aug. 23	Nowata Central	Rejoice Christian	Sept. 15	Arkansas State	Tulsa	Oct. 5	Westville	Holland Hall	Oct. 26	Owasso	Moore
Aug. 24	Union Jenks	Bishop Kelley	Sept. 15	Pittsburg State	NSU	Oct. 5	Wyandotte	Metro Christian	Oct. 26	Southmoore	Union
	Bentonville West	Broken Arrow	Sept. 20	Trinity Vally C.C.	NEO	Oct. 5	Skiatook	Memorial	Oct. 26	Jenks	Edmond Santa Fe
	Cascia Hall	Bixby	Sept. 20	Tulsa	Temple	Oct. 5	East Central	Pryor	Oct. 26	Shawnee	Bixby
	Lincoln Christian	Owasso	Sept. 21	East Central	Memorial	Oct. 5	Bishop Kelley	Durant	Oct. 26	BTW	Ponca City
	Victory Christian	Gravette	Sept. 21	Hilldale	Central	Oct. 5	Webster	Lincoln Christian	Oct. 26	Rogers	East Central
	Okla. Union	Inola	Sept. 21	Jenks	Broken Arrow	Oct. 5	Vinita	Cascia Hall	Oct. 26	Coweta	Bishop Kelley
	Metro	McLain	Sept. 21	Owasso	Union	Oct. 6	Lighthouse Christian	Tulsa NOAH	Oct. 26	Edison	Durant
Aug. 25	BTW	NOAH	Sept. 21	Bixby	Sapulpa	Oct. 6	Summit Christian	South Coffeyville	Oct. 26	Hale	Ada
Aug. 30	Missouri State	Broken Bow	Sept. 21	Checota	Webster	Oct. 6	Iowa State	OSU	Oct. 26	Wagoner	McLain
Aug. 30	Emporia State	North Little Rock	Sept. 21	McLain	Bristow	Oct. 6	Texas	OU	Oct. 26	Central	Fort Gibson
Aug. 30	Arkansas Baptist	OSU	Sept. 21	Rejoice Christian	Okla. Union	Oct. 6	Alabama	Arkansas	Oct. 26	Cascia Hall	Sequoia
Aug. 31	Owasso	NEO	Sept. 21	Stigler	Lincoln Christian	Oct. 6	NEO	Blinn College	Oct. 26	Lincoln Christian	Idabel
	Lake Ridge	Fayetteville	Sept. 21	Bishop Kelley	Hale	Oct. 12	South Florida	TU	Oct. 26	Webster	Seminole
	Mansfield Timberview	Union	Sept. 21	Adair	Metro Christian	Oct. 12	Edmond Santa Fe	Broken Arrow	Oct. 26	Holland Hall	Spiro
	East Central	Jenks	Sept. 21	Dewey	Victory Christian	Oct. 12	Union	Moore	Oct. 26	Metro Christian	Kansas
	Holland Hall	Hale	Sept. 21	Talequah	Rogers	Oct. 12	Edmond Memorial	Jenks	Oct. 26	Kiefer	Victory Christian
	Bishop Kelley	Cascia Hall	Sept. 21	Verdigris	Cascia Hall	Oct. 12	Southmoore	Owasso	Oct. 26	Rejoice Christian	Afton
	Rejoice Christian	BTW	Sept. 21	Pocola	Holland Hall	Oct. 12	Bartlesville	Bixby	Oct. 27	Vanderbilt	Arkansas
	Central	Crossings Christian	Sept. 21	Glenpool	Holland Hall	Oct. 12	BTW	Sapulpa	Oct. 27	Tulane	TU
	Jones	Memorial	Sept. 22	OCPH	Edison	Oct. 12	Glenpool	Bishop Kelley	Oct. 27	Kansas State	OU
	Edison	Lincoln Christian	Sept. 22	Texas Tech	OSU	Oct. 12	Edison	Hale	Oct. 27	Texas	OSU
	Rogers	Sapulpa	Sept. 22	Army	Oklahoma	Oct. 12	Skiatook	Rogers	Nov. 1	NEO	Cisco College
Sept. 1	Florida Atlantic	Victory Christian	Sept. 22	Arkansas	Auburn	Oct. 12	East Central	Collinsville	Nov. 1	Enid	Broken Arrow
Sept. 1	Eastern Illinois	OU	Sept. 22	NSU	Missouri Western	Oct. 12	Memorial	Claremore	Nov. 1	Edmond North	Union
Sept. 1	Central Arkansas	Arkansas	Sept. 22	NEO	Kilgore	Oct. 12	Miami	McLain	Nov. 1	Jenks	Westmoore
Sept. 6	NSU	Tulsa	Sept. 22	Edmond North	Owasso	Oct. 12	Central	Broken Bow	Nov. 1	Pryor	Memorial
Sept. 7	Union	Central Missouri	Sept. 28	Enid	Jenks	Oct. 12	Webster	Okmulgee	Nov. 1	Collinsville	Rogers
Sept. 7	Broken Arrow	Jenks	Sept. 28	Union	Mustang	Oct. 12	Cascia Hall	Berryhill	Nov. 1	Stigler	Webster
Sept. 7	Edison	Owasso	Sept. 28	BTW	Bixby	Oct. 12	Lincoln Christian	Roland	Nov. 2	Owasso	Putnam City North
Sept. 7	Central	Memorial	Sept. 28	Collinsville	Memorial	Oct. 12	Victory Christian	Beggs	Nov. 2	Page	BTW
Sept. 7	Bishop McGuinness	McLain	Sept. 28	Idabel	Webster	Oct. 12	Metro Christian	Chelsea	Nov. 2	Bixby	Muskogee
Sept. 7	Rogers	Bishop Kelley	Sept. 28	Broken Arrow	Norman	Oct. 12	Holland Hall	Sequoia	Nov. 2	East Central	Skiatook
Sept. 7	Lincoln Christian	Okmulgee	Sept. 28	Victory Christian	Morris	Oct. 13	Rejoice Christian	Quapaw	Nov. 2	Durant	Hale
Sept. 7	Stillwell	Vian	Sept. 28	Central	Muldrow	Oct. 13	Ole Miss	Arkansas	Nov. 2	Ada	Edison
Sept. 7	Kiefer	East Central	Sept. 28	Metro Christian	Chouteau-Mazie	Oct. 13	OSU	Kansas State	Nov. 2	Bishop Kelley	McAlester
Sept. 7	Victory Christian	Rejoice Christian	Sept. 28	Cascia Hall	Jay	Oct. 13	Lindenwood	NSU	Nov. 2	McLain	Grove
Sept. 7	Oklahoma Christian	Verdigris	Sept. 28	Rogers	Pryor	Oct. 13	Tyler J.C.	NEO	Nov. 2	Sallisaw	Central
Sept. 8	UCLA	Claremore	Sept. 28	Edison	Bishop Kelley	Oct. 18	Broken Arrow	Yukon	Nov. 2	Inola	Cascia Hall
Sept. 8	Arkansas	OU	Sept. 28	Claremore	East Central	Oct. 18	Mustang	Owasso	Nov. 2	Checotah	Lincoln Christian
Sept. 8	South Alabama	OU	Sept. 28	Hale	Glenpool	Oct. 18	Commerce	Rejoice Christian	Nov. 2	Panama	Holland Hall
Sept. 8	Tulsa	Colorado State	Sept. 28	Lincoln Christian	Seminole	Oct. 18	Muskogee	BTW	Nov. 2	Salina	Metro Christian
Sept. 8	Georgia Military	OSU	Sept. 28	NOAH	Seminole	Oct. 18	Bixby	Page	Nov. 2	Colcord	Rejoice Christian
Sept. 8	Stillwell	Texas	Sept. 29	Arkansas	Texas A&M	Oct. 18	McAlester	Edison	Nov. 3	OSU	Baylor
Sept. 8	Skiatook	NEO	Sept. 29	Baylor	OU	Oct. 18	Hale	Coweta	Nov. 3	OU	Texas Tech
Sept. 8	NOAH	Union	Sept. 29	OSU	Kansas	Oct. 18	Tablequah	East Central	Nov. 3	Central Oklahoma	NSU
Sept. 13	Star-Spencer	Hale	Sept. 29	Nebraska-Kearney	NSU	Oct. 18	Bishop Kelley	Ada	Nov. 10	TU	Memphis
Sept. 13	Claremore	Webster	Sept. 29	Navaro College	NEO	Oct. 18	McLain	Catoosa	Nov. 10	LSU	Arkansas
Sept. 13	Edison	Central	Oct. 4	TU	Houston	Oct. 18	Okmulgee	Lincoln Christian	Nov. 10	OSU	OU
Sept. 13	Cascia Hall	Edison	Oct. 4	Owasso	Norman North	Oct. 18	Locust Grove	Cascia Hall	Nov. 10	NSU	Fort Hayse
Sept. 13	Rejoice Christian	Millwood	Oct. 4	Coweta	Edison	Oct. 18	Vian	Holland Hall	Nov. 17	West Virginia	OSU
Sept. 13	Rogers	Haskell	Oct. 4	Westmoore	Broken Arrow	Oct. 18	Nowata	Metro Christian	Nov. 17	Kansas	OU
Sept. 13	McLain	McLain	Oct. 4	Jenks	Yukon	Oct. 18	Sperry	Victory Christian	Nov. 17	Arkansas	Mississippi State
Sept. 13	Metro Christian	Holland Hall	Oct. 4	Putnam City North	Union	Oct. 19	Union	Norman North	Nov. 17	TU	Navy
Sept. 13	Putnam City	Bixby	Oct. 4	Bixby	Ponca City	Oct. 19	Norman	Jenks	Nov. 23	Arkansas	Missouri
Sept. 13	Memorial	Bishop Kelley	Oct. 4	Poteau	Central	Oct. 19	Rogers	Memorial	Nov. 23	OU	West Virginia
Sept. 13	Sapulpa	East Central	Oct. 4	McAlester	Hale	Oct. 19	OU	TCU	Nov. 23	OSU	TCU
Sept. 13	OU	Iowa State	Oct. 4	Rogers	Claremore	Oct. 19	TU	Arkansas	Nov. 24	SMU	Tulsa
Sept. 13	Boise State	OSU	Oct. 4	Shawnee	BTW	Oct. 19	NSU	Missouri Southern			
Sept. 13	North Texas	Arkansas	Oct. 4	Haskell	Victory Christian	Oct. 19	NEO	New Mexico Military			
			Oct. 4	McLain	Oologah	Oct. 25	Broken Arrow	Edmond Memorial			

## Gil Cloud, Union's First A.D., Leads TPS

(Continued from page 16) is a time-tested, enterprising fund-raiser.

He has compiled a year-round roster of some 12 or so events that generate money for his department's operating expenses.

There's a golf tournament in the summer. The Grady Skillern All-City Football Preview has been around for 76 seasons. The basketball Tournament of Champions is a 53-year-old Oklahoma tradition.

The most recent addition to Cloud's list of revenue sources is the hall of fame banquet during

the winter. "If the only thing that we accomplish through the hall of fame was that we created a better image for this school system, for this athletics program, then it's well worth whatever it was," Cloud said.

"Making the additional funds above that obviously is important to us. But to be able to be an integral part of the educational process when people always want to look at athletics (and say), 'why do we have to have athletics and why are we spending all that money on athletics?'"

"Well, let me tell you why. We're building people that can go out there and be productive citizens. A lot of times, the only thing that keeps some of these people in school is to be able to play athletics," he said.

"I've never, ever apologized for an athletics program, because I know I'm keeping kids in school that (otherwise) would be on the streets today."

Since his arrival, Cloud has seen TPS dedicate and open new fieldhouses at Washington, Memorial and Edison high schools. A fieldhouse at McLain is scheduled to

open in January. A new football stadium at Rogers is due in 2019. A new track recently opened at East Central. A fieldhouse is on the drawing board for East Central.

The source for the construction boom was a pair of bond issues passed in 2010 and 2015 during the tenure of then-Superintendent Ballard.

TPS recognized, according to Cloud, the level of commitment needed to compete in the ongoing athletics "arms race" with the flourishing Tulsa County suburbs of Union, Jenks, Bixby, Owasso and Broken Arrow.

"You have to provide the opportunities for your kids that are comparable to what they see (elsewhere)," Cloud said.

"If you want to give your kids every opportunity to be successful, then you're looking for ways to improve your program every year. Status quo doesn't get it. It takes money," he said.

From selling signs on a gymnasium wall to creating game-day media guides to applying for grants, Cloud knows how to make a dollar. And how to stretch a dollar.

"We've had to tighten our belts," he said.

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THE ECONOMY

# Success Continues at Jackie Cooper After Three Decades of Greg Kach Leadership

## Infinity Dealer Holds Grand Opening

By TRACEY NORVELL  
Contributing Writer

In 1991, Greg Kach remembers achieving a personal career milestone.

"My goal was to be an automobile dealer by age 35. I missed it by one day but was no less happy with the accomplishment!" reports Kach.

Partnered with the late Jack Cooper, Kach in 1991 purchased the Tulsa Siggie Grimm dealership on 11th Street, the historic Route 66. As Jackie Cooper Imports, with a modest showroom, a staff of 23 and storage needs fulfilled with space in nearby buildings, the company began selling and servicing Mercedes-Benz, Nissan and Volvo vehicles.

"Our company is really a service-oriented business, we just happen to sell and service cars," continues Kach. "Our goal has always been to have a strong, evolving vision and plan to serve our customers well for the long term. We invest in continuous training and we are vigilant about gathering team member observations, customer feedback, while stocking the best mix of new and preowned quality, good-value vehicles available. Customer wishes and needs drive us to be always moving forward with our best efforts for them and the community we live in."

Jackie Cooper now employs over 250 and has three locations on South Memorial Drive in Tulsa. The team mantra is, "This is where I belong."

"We want each person who is a guest at our stores to feel exactly the same way," says Steve Lujan, one of the group's general managers. It is a sentiment shared by Infiniti General Manager Tim Hensley, Nissan General Manager Kip Karn and Mark Lorentz, who oversees construction and remodeling projects. Lorentz and Kach met playing high school basketball.

Where did the career path begin for Kach? In Duluth, Minnesota.

"My father was a Chevrolet dealer for 23 years. His business afforded me a great start in the industry. Beginning in the parts department at age 13, I advanced to car detail and light maintenance on the preowned lot. My sales career

began as a favor to a college business policy teacher.

"Uncomfortable with the shopping process, he asked me to help him buy a new Caprice wagon. Most of my teachers and coaches had traded with my family, but it was my very first sales transaction from start to finish. I got the bug! I then sold full-time, working afternoons and evenings while finishing college."

Kach became general manager when his father semi-retired. He later stayed on as new car manager when the family sold the dealership until 1985 when he relocated to North San Diego County. Kach says he struggled at the high-turnover, fast-track store the first three months.

"I changed to wholesaling cars. I returned to retail sales, joining Hoehn Motors in Carlsbad, California. Within six months, I was promoted to Oldsmobile Sales Manager. Six months later, I was Mercedes / Porsche Sales Manager. At 32, I was the youngest in the sales department and in a position which had always been held by a Hoehn family member.

"When Hoehn acquired an Acura franchise, I was asked to hire staff, open it and be general sales manager. Returning a year later to the Mercedes store, I met my wife, Connie, who worked in Hoehn's finance department. An Oklahoma native, Connie introduced me to Jack. We moved our family to Tulsa in 1991 to join Jack in purchasing and opening Jackie Cooper Imports of Tulsa. From the beginning, the business was busting at the seams, in need of more space."

Wanting to expand the operation and carry more lines of performance imports, the company broke ground at 93rd Street and Memorial Drive in 1998, soon after becoming one of the first dealers on what is now "Auto Row." New lines included first Porsche, then Infiniti, smart and Maserati.

As the company grew, many coveted manufacturers' awards were earned:

Mercedes Best of the Best, Infiniti Award of Excellence, Premier Porsche Dealer and, for the past 13 consecutive years, Jackie Cooper Nissan has earned the Nissan Owner First Award of Excellence — one of only eight among 1,350



**GRAND OPENING:** Greg Kach with his wife and children at the recent Jackie Cooper Infiniti "Fun Under the Big Top" grand opening. From left are Kathryn Kach, Tara Mitchell, Connie Kach, Greg Kach, Alex Kach and Connor Kach.



**GO RED FOR WOMEN:** Jackie Cooper has been a long-time supporter of the American Heart Association. Pictured at the AHA's Go Red For Women 2004 debut kick-off are, from left, Greg Kach, Mandy Leemhius, Ann LaGere and Bill LaFortune.

Nissan dealerships to achieve this distinction.

Along with model lines expanding, showrooms are regularly updated and expanded. In 2005, a second location was completed at 98th Street and Memorial Drive, exclusively for Nissan sales and service.

"In 2017, we broke ground for an exclusive Infiniti store at 86th and Memorial; it had to be the coldest, soggiest Valentine's Day ever, still over 80 community leaders, chamber ambassadors, customers and friends showed up, huddling under a tent for the ceremonies."

Today Jackie Cooper offers Infiniti, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Porsche and pre-owned vehicles.



**FIRST OF MANY:** At Jackie Cooper's 1998 ground breaking at 93rd and Memorial were, from left, Greg Kach, Joe Cooper and Jack Cooper.

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# OSU Spears School of Business Unveils Speakers for Tulsa Business Forums Series

2018-2019 Season Begins Nov. 7

The 2018-2019 Tulsa Business Forums speaker series will feature presentations by Bozoma Saint John, Daniel Coyle and Frank Abagnale.

The series is sponsored by Oklahoma State University's Spears School of Business, along with corporate sponsors. The Tulsa Business Forums brings national business leaders to the Tulsa community and surrounding areas.

"The Tulsa Business Forums is a great opportunity to hear and learn from the best of the best in the world," says Ken Eastman, dean of the Spears School of Business. "This unique series offers Oklahomans a place to gain knowledge from national business leaders who have extraordinary experiences and invaluable expertise and wisdom."

The schedule for the 2018-2019 Tulsa Business Forums is:

Nov. 7, 2018 – Bozoma Saint John, chief marketing officer for Endeavor and former chief branding officer for Uber; 8-9:30 a.m., Tulsa Southern Hills Marriott (breakfast and ques-

tion-and-answer session). Her question-and-answer session will include topics of "Brand Identity and the Importance of Disruption."

Feb. 7, 2019 – Daniel Coyle, New York Times best-selling author; noon-1:30 p.m., downtown DoubleTree Hotel (lunch and presentation). His presentation will address "The Culture Code: The Secrets of Highly Successful Groups."

April 10, 2019 – Frank Abagnale, renowned cybersecurity and fraud prevention expert, best-selling author and subject of "Catch Me If You Can;" 10-11:30 a.m., Tulsa Performing Arts Center. His presentation will be on the subject of "Catch Me If You Can."

Series sponsorship opportunities are available for \$5,000 and sponsor benefits include special events with the speakers and marketing and leadership development opportunities. Table sponsorships are available for \$2,750.

Tickets can be purchased for the individual presentations at \$85 for the Bozoma Saint John November event or Daniel Coyle's



BOZOMA SAINT JOHN



DANIEL COYLE



FRANK ABAGNALE

February event and \$50 for Frank Abagnale's presentation in April. Discounts are available for \$40 per person for orders of 30 or more tickets for the Abagnale briefing.

For more information concerning the Tulsa Business Forums registration or sponsorship, contact Krysta Gilbert at 405-744-

5086 or email [krysta.l.gilbert@okstate.edu](mailto:krysta.l.gilbert@okstate.edu).

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## American Natural Gas and its NATO Impact



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

In the fall of 1997, I was approached by a friend of mine, Vladimir, who asked if I could assist his native country, the Czech Republic in getting into NATO. At the time, he told me the Czech Republic's leaders needed to meet with key U.S. Senate leaders. The US Senate would have to ratify the Czech Republic going in to NATO by 2/3rds of the Senate votes in order to be considered.

Vladimir, a prominent Czech artist, and his family escaped from Czechoslovakia in October 1981. The escape occurred three days before hearing a verdict from the Czech Communist regime.

The Russians invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968. Vladimir and his artists group painted posters about the invasion. He spent several months in jail along with probation. Vladimir was told that

he could never practice art again. Part of the punishment of not joining the Communist party was that he could not get a job. However, about a year later he was able to get a job as a laborer.

Years later in 1981, the case was reopened. He was going to have to go to court and prove his innocence. There was no proof of guilt. The decision to escape was evident. In 1982, Vladimir and his family arrived in Oklahoma with only two suit cases and speaking no English. Vladimir and his family were welcomed to Oklahoma and to the U.S. with open arms. Fam-



MARK A. STANSBERRY

ilies of Czech descent in Tulsa, Oklahoma City and other communities welcomed them. He began painting again.

Vladimir and I met for the first time in early 1997. I was so fond of his art that I bought a painting. He had talked to me several times about the Russian invasion, about his love for the U.S., and his love for the Czech Republic and its people.

Though I lived in Oklahoma, I had a small business location in Washington, D.C., in 1997.

I reached out to several of my friends and contacts. I was able to arrange a meeting between the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate and the Prime Minister of

the Czech Republic in November 1997.

In November 1997, there were only about 40 U.S. Senators in favor of the Czech Republic entering NATO, meaning at least 27 senators were needed for ratification. By spring 1998, the necessary 2/3rd votes were in place. By March 1999, the Czech Republic entered NATO.

I only played a small part, a meeting between two world leaders. Vladimir played a crucial part. He knew what the price of freedom was. He fought for it.

Vladimir was concerned about how Russia controlled Eastern Europe especially with the supply of natural gas. He hoped to see the day that that control would end, at least be curtailed.

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Mark A. Stansberry is chairman of The GTD Group, an award winning author and Energy Advocate. Facebook: National Energy Talk.

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## OSU-TULSA NAMES BUSINESS, CIVIC LEADERS TO ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES



TINA PARKHILL



SCOTT VAUGHN

Tina Parkhill, owner of Parkhill's South Liquors and Wine, and Scott Vaughn, president and chief executive officer of Global-Health, have been appointed by Governor Mary Fallin to the Oklahoma State University-Tulsa Board of Trustees.

"As OSU alumni, Tina and Scott have valuable insight for our continued efforts to provide quality higher education opportunities in Tulsa," OSU-Tulsa President Howard Barnett said. "While both are successful in business, they are also strongly committed to community service and making life better for other Tulsans."

Parkhill and Vaughn join OSU-Tulsa Trustees Charles Ford, board chairman Sean Kouplen, Brett Lessley, Tucker Link, Dr. Trudy Milner, John O'Connor and Pete Patel. Link and Milner are also members of the OSU/A&M Board of Regents.

Vaughn was appointed to a seven-year term to fill a seat left by outgoing trustee Robyn Ewing. Parkhill will serve the remainder of the term left by Ed Keller, partner in Titan Properties, LLC and director of Oklahoma Tomorrow.

Keller retired from the board after 20 years as a trustee. The board honored him for his service during its June meeting.

Parkhill graduated from OSU in 1993. She began her career as Tulsa-area representative of E. & J. Gallo Winery before spending several years in sales and management roles with Vistalign, a business consulting firm, and The Rowland Group, a professional staffing agency. In 2011, she opened Parkhill's South Liquors & Wine.

She is president of the board of directors for Leadership Tulsa and Family & Children's Services and is vice president of the board for the bART Center for Music.

In addition, Parkhill is a national board member and member of the leadership council of the OSU Alumni Association. She was named Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser by the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Eastern Oklahoma in 2017.

After his graduation from OSU in 1993, Vaughn spent 17 years as a health care national industry partner with BKD CPAs & Advisors.

In 2010, Vaughn joined Global-Health, a \$320-million health maintenance organization that provides affordable health care coverage to more than 44,000 Oklahomans. Vaughn has been actively involved in several civic and charitable organizations, including the Tulsa Area United Way and the Child Abuse Network. He is a member of the board of directors for Philbrook Museum of Art, the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and the advisory board for the OSU School of Accounting.

In 2015, Vaughn and wife Kayla were named Outstanding Philanthropists by the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Eastern Oklahoma.

The OSU-Tulsa Board of Trustees consists of nine members, with seven appointed for seven-year terms by the governor and approved by the Oklahoma Senate as well as two who are members of the OSU/A&M Board of Regents.

## BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

**Tulsa Opera**, one of the nation's most veteran regional opera companies and an historic incubator of rising vocal talent, has appointed **Ken McConnell** interim executive director and chief executive officer. General Director and CEO Greg Weber is stepping down to pursue personal interests, but he remains closely connected with the organization.



McCONNELL

McConnell has been with Tulsa Opera since 2014, initially serving as chief financial officer and then promoted to chief administrative officer in 2016. McConnell has guided the organization in balancing its budget four out of five past seasons. He served as Weber's right-hand man on all organizational decisions, and he is a trusted collaborator with the board of directors.

McConnell says, "I am honored to accept this role with Tulsa Opera and will continue to advance the company's longstanding vision of educating and providing the highest quality artistic product to current and future generations for years to come."

Now entering its 71st season, Tulsa Opera's mission is to produce professional opera of artistic integrity and enrich its region through innovative education and outreach programs.

**Griffin Communications**, an Oklahoma-owned multimedia company providing news, weather, sports and information content across the state, including KOTV Channel 6 in Tulsa, recently hired **Tony LoPresto**, CPA, as chief financial officer. In this role, LoPresto will lead financial operations for both Griffin Communications and its subsidiaries.



LOPRESTO

LoPresto is an Oklahoma City native and received his bachelor's degree in accounting and MBA from Oklahoma State University. He is chair elect of the OSU Alumni Association Board of Directors, serves on the Oklahoma State University Foundation Board of Governors and the board of the Oklahoma Center for Non-Profits. LoPresto and his wife, Alexis, reside in Oklahoma City with their family.

**Dewberry**, a privately-held professional services firm, announced that **Eric Vogt**, AIA, LEED GA, has been promoted to director of design in the firm's Tulsa office. In his new position, Vogt will be responsible for overseeing design direction and providing quality assurance for architectural projects in the office.



VOGT

Vogt has 15 years of experience in the architecture profession, with extensive experience as an architectural designer. His project portfolio includes the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Science - A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Medical Academic Building, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City Allied Health Building, Lawton Public Safety Facility, and the CTCA Midwestern Regional Medical Center expansion.

He is a registered architect in Oklahoma, as well as a LEED Green Associate. He is a member of the American Institute of Architects and National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NACRB).

**The Tulsa Library Trust** has named **Shawn Crawford** executive director.



CRAWFORD

"We are excited to welcome Shawn to this position," says Martin L. J. Newman, president of the trust. "He brings a wealth of experience and passion to the trust."

Crawford most recently served as CEO of the Bartlesville Community Foundation. Under his leadership, the foundation increased its assets six-fold over five years. Crawford has also served as the director of development for the Catholic Diocese of Salina, Kansas. He guided the diocese through the first capital campaign in its 125-year history.

Earning his Ph.D. in English from Oklahoma State University, Crawford says the trust position feels like the perfect combination of his interests in literacy, art, educational opportunities, and nonprofit advocacy. "Books transformed my life, and my local public library was the place where I could discover the world. Supporting the outstanding work of the Tulsa City-County Library can offer everyone in the community access to their own transforming discoveries."

The mission of the Tulsa Library Trust, a 501(c)3 foundation, is to increase the Tulsa City-County Library's capacity to provide the highest quality programs and services to citizens for lifelong learning. The trust invests in services and programs beyond the funding capabilities of the Tulsa City-County Library's annual operating budget.

**Oklahoma State University-Tulsa** faculty member **Kenneth Ede, Ph.D.**, was recently appointed to a three-year term on the state's Hazardous Waste Management Advisory Council.



EDE

The council serves as the initial rulemaking body for the state's Land Protection Division at the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. Ede will serve on the task force as a member representing the general public.

Ede is director for the Environmental Science Graduate Program, Professional Science Master's program and scientist-in-residence at OSU-Tulsa. He is also an adjunct professor in management in the OSU Spears School of Business.

Prior to his current university positions, Ede was associate director of the environmental science graduate program and served as OSU assistant dean of engineering.

He was environmental health and safety manager for American Airlines Maintenance and Engineering Center in Tulsa for 18 years before joining OSU.

Ede's research areas include environmental chemistry, environmental management and industrial environmental sustainability.

**The Tulsa City Council** has announced that **Patrick Boulden**, longtime municipal law expert, will serve as council administrator for the council office beginning Aug. 20.



BOULDEN

Boulden recently served as a special assistant city attorney for the City of Stillwater, where he focused on land-use planning and rights-of-way management and is currently the city prosecutor for the City of Jenks, as well as an Associate municipal judge in Tulsa's municipal court.

Boulden began his career serving eight years as a police officer for the City of Tulsa. He then continued his work with Tulsa, serving 28 years in the City Attorney's Office. During this tenure, Boulden worked in the fields of human resources, criminal prosecution, labor relations, contracts, zoning, condemnation, environmental law and telecommunications law. While in the Tulsa City Attorney's Office, he served as the manager of the Contracts and Condemnation Division, the Criminal Division and the Real Property and Zoning Division.

Boulden holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Tulsa College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice Studies from the University of Tulsa.

**Keith Smith**, a former FCS Video Coordinator of the Year honoree, returns to the sport of football following 17 months working in NASCAR. Smith was named the director of football video operations at **The University of Tulsa**, it was announced by Head Coach Philip Montgomery.



SMITH

Smith comes to Tulsa from the Hendrick Motorsports team where he has been since February 2017. During his time at Hendrick Motorsports, he organized film from multiple race teams pit stops and converted all film from practices and races each week for the 488 Hendrick coaching staff.

Before that, Smith spent three seasons as the director of football video services at Kennesaw State University, where he organized all phases of the video department. Smith was named the 2016-17 FCS Coordinator of the Year.

Smith is a veteran of the United States Army, where he served from 2001 to 2006. He received his bachelor's degree from Shepherd University in Sports Communication in December 2013.

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# Valley National Bank to Add to Tulsa Skyline

In a recent ceremony, executives from Valley National Bank joined Mayor G.T. Bynum and Tulsa Regional Chamber CEO Mike Neal to break ground on a six-story building located at 110 N. Elgin Ave. that will house its new downtown location and executive offices.

Speaking at the ceremony, VNB Chairman of the Board Tom Biolchini said he was thrilled to see this milestone come to fruition. "This is the Biolchini family and Valley National Bank stakeholders doubling down in Tulsa. It's our statement to this community that we are here to stay. We want to be a part of the growth and success of this incredible city for years to come."

Valley's leadership sees this as a strategic move that fits in perfectly with its future vision for servicing its customers. Having a presence in downtown Tulsa will provide better access to local business owners and the downtown community at large. It is also an opportunity for VNB to invest in the energy of downtown and create a legacy location for the multi-generational, locally owned bank.



GTR Newspapers photo

**OPENING CEREMONY:** Valley National Bank representatives and Tulsa business and civic leaders took part in the groundbreaking of the new Valley National Bank building which will be located at 110 N. Elgin Ave.



**GREAT VIEW:** People inside and outside of the new Valley National Bank building will have great views. The rooftop floor will house an In the Raw restaurant.

Also speaking at the ceremony, Valley National Bank CEO Brad Scrivner shared how the construction of this downtown branch is one of many future plans to take VNB into a new era that will put customers in control of their banking experience. "We have a vision of making banking surprisingly easy by delivering amazing experiences to multiple generations of customers, and this investment in downtown Tulsa is a strong statement that we are here for the long haul. We look forward to making other exciting announcements in the coming months and years as we continue to shape our brand and upgrade our technology to accomplish that vision of making banking surprisingly easy," he said.

VNB will occupy approximately 22,500 square feet of the 100,000-square-foot building that will sit just across from ONEOK Field. Developed by the Ross

Group and designed by KKT Architects, the new building is the result of a years-long collaboration to bring together the vision of Valley's leadership team to create an addition to Tulsa that would be timeless, beautiful, cool, appropriate and inspiring. A rooftop conference room and event space will be available for rent and will feature perfect views of ONEOK Field. In addition, there will be a 388-space parking garage that will be available to the public for events like Drillers games and First Fridays in the Tulsa Arts District.

Early tenant agreements have been made with BKD, Summit Financial, Jackson Hole Capital Partners and In the Raw, which will have a rooftop restaurant. Additional office and ground-level retail space is still available. Each floor will have an outdoor terrace looking out onto ONEOK Field.



Courtesy photo

**EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE:** HouseMaster Home Inspections serving Tulsa recently presented Brenda and Bill Woodward with the company's Century Club Award, which recognizes real estate service providers for their integrity and commitment to service in working with their customers and clients. Dan LaBrake, owner of HouseMaster Home Inspections located in Broken Arrow, center, presented the award at Woodward's Berkshire Hathaway Home Services office in Tulsa.



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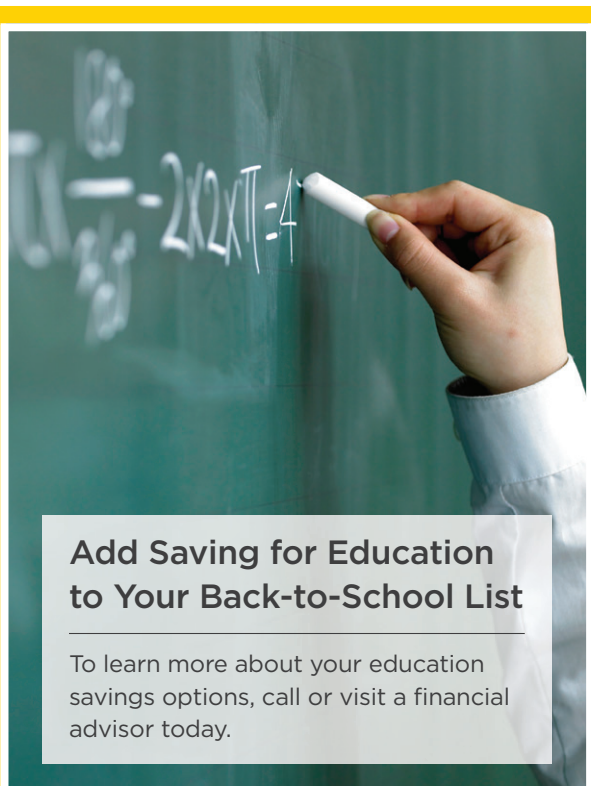
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**FAITH**

# Small Broken Arrow Church is Making a Big Impact Around Town and the World

By **BOB LEWIS**  
Contributing Editor

Broken Arrow's Hope Church may rank among the community's smallest houses of worship, but it is making its presence felt in a big way around the community -- and around the globe.

Senior Pastor Joe Cook is one of the community's most active volunteers, devoting considerable time and energy assisting Broken Arrow Public Schools and the chamber of commerce. Despite these highly visible undertakings, he says he often feels his greatest contributions come from working behind the scenes with a variety of organizations.

Those close to Cook and his wife and fellow Senior Pastor, Danielle, say they make a dynamic team. "Much of what I am and what this church has become is a direct reflection of her influence," he said.

Since adopting Sequoyah Middle School as a Partner In Education, the Hope Church congregation has become involved in a myriad of educational activities ranging from helping teachers secure supplies they need to an outreach that focuses on serving hungry kids.

Church Member Ina Dilldine jokes that she has spent more time behind bars than many of the inmates in the state's penal system. That's literally true because she has led a prison ministry for many years. In this role, she makes monthly visits to death row and has been a chaplain to local youth in need of spiritual guidance during some of the most high-profile cases in Tulsa County.

As a service to elderly men and women who can no longer maintain their own res-

idences, Hope Church members provide spiritual assistance to a number of the community's nursing homes and assisted living centers. Then, there are those who devote themselves to supporting local school athletics and a member who serves as an officer of the Build A Better Broken Arrow Committee.

On a global front, Teaching Pastor Joel Leitch and his JSL Ministries operation is helping spread the Word of God in some of the world's most remote and dangerous countries. By using his professional credentials he is able to enter mostly closed nations and then work with long-term medical missionaries and the underground church to provide support and training.

A former naval aviator turned counselor, Leitch teaches behavioral medicine with the "In His Image" family practice residency program housed at Saint John's Family Medical Care center. His focus on mental health is complimented by more than 30 years as a licensed medical health professional.

Augmenting these activities, the church supports ministries in Africa, the Czech Republic, on college campuses across the nation and orphan homes through their giving and sending of members on short-term missionary outings.

In many ways, Pastor Cook says Hope Church is like "the little engine that could." "Don't be fooled by our physical size," he said. "This church family has a big heart and a strong desire to give back to the community. To look at all they do is a constant source of amazement."

Hope Church is located at 1502 E. College St. in Broken Arrow.



Courtesy BOB LEWIS

**HELPING OTHERS:** The Hope Church pastoral team works diligently to help spread the Word of God. From left are Teaching Pastor Joel Leitch, Senior Pastor Joe Cook and Senior Pastor Danielle Cook.

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Courtesy RACHEL FEUERBORN

**PEOPLE WHO CARE:** In celebration of another year in partnership, Life Church presented Stand in the Gap Ministries with a \$20,000 grant and renewed its commitment to continue connecting people in need with people who care. Since 2015, the two organizations have worked together to break the cycles of abandonment, disruption, and poverty. Pictured from left are Kyle Duncan, LifeGroups/LifeMissions Pastor for Life Church South Broken Arrow and Francois Cardinal, Executive Director of Stand in the Gap Ministries.

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# Author's Family Shares Fifth and Boston History

In 1903 my maternal grandfather, C.C. Cole arrived in Tulsa to start a lead, zinc and coal mining company with his older brother, J.R. Cole. As their business prospered, they bought a lot at the northwest corner of Fifth Street and Boston Avenue, where they built a two-story red brick building and called it the Cole Building. The Cole brothers used the second floor for their offices. These same offices were the setting for architect, designer and owner representative meetings when historic Boston Avenue Methodist Church was planned. The street level was let to a retail tenant.

The 1929 Wall Street crash and the depression years that followed financially wiped out the Coles. J.R. declared bankruptcy and moved from Tulsa. C.C. hung on, but eventually lost the building in the 1930's to the First National Bank and Trust Co. when he was unable to make the mortgage payment. Although C.C. had previously been a director of First, the bank had long coveted the property as a site for its downtown headquarters.

Plans for a new bank building at the site were delayed by the depression years and World War II. It wasn't until the late 1940's that the Cole Building was demolished and construction began on a new high rise building and what a building it was.

Originally titled Tulsa Banking Co., First National Bank and Trust Co. was Tulsa's oldest bank. Its new headquarters opened in 1950. The building was fully leased two months before the bank moved in. At 20 stories, in a design that was cutting edge for the time, it was the first high rise building built in Tulsa since 1928.

Window fenestration was a series of horizontal mirrored glass bands which appeared to float between horizontal spandrels faced with light buff brick. Perimeter rectangular

columns at the east and south elevations were faced in cream colored marble which rose two stories to a simple flat matching marble architrave/lintel.

## On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

The building's corners and parapet were faced with the same marble forming a frame around each face. The architects were Carson and Lundin who had also worked on the Rockefeller Center in New York City.

At the south elevation, the third and fourth floors stair-stepped back beneath projecting sun shade roofs. These floors filled the space created by the L shaped building shaft. Atop the tower was a 3,300 sq. ft. penthouse apartment first occupied by the bank's CEO, Otis McClintock and then later by his son Frank.

In 1973, First National built a 41-story tower immediately adjacent to the north and directly connecting to the 1950 building. I worked on this building as a young staff architect for the design firm of Murray, Jones and Murray. The new building was called First Place.

The 1980's were hard years for the banking industry. In 1984 First National merged and became part of Liberty National Corporation with headquarters in Oklahoma City. Years afterwards, the first and second floor columns and lintel above along with the ground level columns of First Place were re-faced with gray granite to tie the two buildings together. A projecting entrance canopy was also added. In 2014 the complex was sold. Today it is owned by the Price Family Properties.

Fortunately, the eye catching mural depicting Oklahoma history in a bright colored abstract Picasso-like manner still exists at the second floor. Over 50 feet in length, it was the main banking lobby focal point, located behind the main teller line. Created by artist Fred Conway in 1951, it is well worth a visit to see it.



GTR Newspapers photo

**STATELY BUILDING:** The First National Bank of Tulsa building was completed in 1950 with a modernistic look at Fifth Street and Boston Avenue. In 1973, First National built the 41-story tower, in the background, directly connecting to the 1950 building.



Courtesy Tulsa Historical Society

**BANK LOBBY MURAL:** The mural pictured above was placed behind the main teller line of the then-First National Bank of Tulsa. Created by artist Fred Conway in 1951, it depicted Oklahoma history and still exists in offices on the second floor.



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<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>THE WIZARD OF OZ</b> Encore Tulsa 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>NEWSIES</b> Theatre Tulsa 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>GOD OF CARNAGE</b> Broken Arrow Community Playhouse 7:30 p.m. Visit bacptheatre.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>BEYOND DESERT</b> PAC Gallery Sept. 5 – Oct. 1 FREE exhibit.</p> <p><b>FITNESS ON THE GREEN: DEFEND TOGETHER</b> Guthrie Green 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>FITNESS ON THE GREEN: BOOTCAMP</b> Guthrie Green 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p> <p><b>THEATER BOX: CASTLE</b> Central Library All Day Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>ANIMAL AID OF TULSA FUNDRAISER</b> Chili's Broken Arrow 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. Call 918-355-9456 for more information.</p> <p><b>STORY TIME ON THE GREEN</b> Guthrie Green 10:30 – 11:15 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>CHASE RICE</b> Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p> <p><b>INTRO TO LASER ENGRAVING</b> Central Library 6 – 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p><b>New Name. Same Bank.</b> <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b> Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>8TH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE</b> LaFortune Park Golf Course 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Visit tauw.org for more information.</p> <p><b>THE WIZARD OF OZ</b> Encore Tulsa 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>NEWSIES</b> Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>THE WIZARD OF OZ</b> Encore Tulsa 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>NEWSIES</b> Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>ANDREW DICE CLAY</b> Brady Theater 8 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>THE WIZARD OF OZ</b> Encore Tulsa 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>NEWSIES</b> Theatre Tulsa 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. Springfield</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. Springfield</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information.</p> <p><b>ONLINE LEGACIES AND DIGITAL ESTATE PLANNING</b> Broken Arrow Library 6 – 7:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information.</p> <p><b>BREWERS' TABLE</b> Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma 6:30 – 9 p.m. Visit okfoodbank.org for info.</p> <p><b>Free Small Business Checking</b> <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b> Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information.</p> <p><b>FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAY</b> Guthrie Green 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>CENTRAL LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION</b> Central Library 2 – 3 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>MIDWEST REGIONAL CROQUET TOURNAMENT</b> LaFortune Park All Day Visit TulsaCroquetClub.org for more information.</p> <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information.</p> <p><b>TIG NOTARO</b> Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for info.</p>	<p><b>1 September</b></p> <p><b>GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Central Arkansas</b> • 6 p.m. Tulsa Football tulsahurricane.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>RINGO STARR</b> Hard Rock Hotel &amp; Casino 7 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.</p> <p><b>MARIA BAMFORD</b> Cain's Ballroom 9:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>SUNDAY CONCERT</b> Guthrie Green 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p> <p><b>POSTOAK WINE &amp; JAZZ FESTIVAL</b> POSTOAK Lodge Aug. 31 – Sept. 2 Visit postoaklodge.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>GREAT RAFT RACE</b> River West Festival Park 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Visit tulsaraft.com for more information.</p> <p><b>MONDAY MELEE GAMING</b> Inner Circle Vodka Bar 6:30 p.m. Visit meleeworld.org for more information.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>TULSA AREA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY - MONTHLY MEETING</b> Martin Regional Library 6:30 – 8:45 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p><b>EXPLORING OSAGE CULTURE AND HISTORY</b> Central Library 6 – 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>BROWN BAG IT: SHELBY EICHER TRIO</b> Theatre Tulsa 12:10 p.m. FREE event.</p> <p><b>WICKED</b> Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>THE MOUNTAIN GOATS</b> Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>WICKED</b> Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>WHISKEY MYERS</b> Cain's Ballroom 8:15 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p> <p><b>We Offer Health Savings Accounts</b> <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b> Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>WICKED</b> Celebrity Attractions 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>PIAF - NO REGRETS</b> Choregus Productions 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>2018 WIZARD WORLD COMIC CON</b> Cox Business Center All Day Visit wizd.me/TulsaPR for more information.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>WICKED</b> Celebrity Attractions 2 &amp; 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>"THE MYSTERIOUS LADY" (1928) PRESENTED BY 2ND SATURDAY SILENTS</b> Circle Cinema 11 a.m. Visit circlecinema.com for more information.</p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>WICKED</b> Celebrity Attractions 1 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>SUNDAY CONCERT</b> Guthrie Green 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p> <p><b>NEKO CASE</b> Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>CLOTHED IN STRENGTH AND DIGNITY</b> PAC Gallery Sept. 5 – Oct. 1 FREE exhibit.</p> <p><b>ALICE IN CHAINS</b> Brady Theater 8 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.</p> <p><b>Ask about fraud ID protection</b> <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b> Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>WICKED</b> Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>BARRELHOUSE SWING</b> Willows Family Ales 6:30 – 9 p.m. Call 918-895-6798 for more information.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>WICKED</b> Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>FOOD FOR THOUGHT LUNCHEON</b> Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Visit okfoodbank.org for more information.</p> <p><b>INTRO TO 3-D PRINTING</b> Central Library 6 – 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>WICKED</b> Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>TULSA'S STORY TELLING COMPETITION - OK, SO... STORY SLAM</b> IDL Ballroom All Day Visit facebook.com/oksotulsa for more information.</p> <p><b>AIR SUPPLY</b> Hard Rock Hotel &amp; Casino 7 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>WICKED</b> Celebrity Attractions 8 p.m. • Sept 14-15 myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>FALL 2018 MBA INFORMATION SESSIONS</b> OSU-Tulsa 12 – 1 p.m. Visit facebook.com/oksotulsa for more information.</p> <p><b>JOY IN THE CAUSE 5K</b> River West Festival Park 5 p.m. Visit joyinthecause.run for more information.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>MISFEST</b> River West Festival Park 1 – 11:30 p.m. Visit misfest.com for more information.</p> <p><b>GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Arkansas State</b> • 6 p.m. Tulsa Football tulsahurricane.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>TULSA ROUGHNECKS vs. San Antonio FC</b> 7 p.m. Visit roughnecksf.com for more information.</p>

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# Oklahoma District 30 Runoff Set for Aug. 28

Incumbent Mark Lawson and Kent Glesener are running in the Oklahoma House of Representatives District 30 primary runoff election to be held Aug. 28. Lawson and Glesener defeated Jake Rowland and Chuck Threadgill in the Republican Primary.

Glesener has been endorsed by former State Representative Mark McCullough in the runoff election.

"Kent is a man of integrity, has an extensive business background, and has a heart for serving others," McCullough said. "Having known Kent for years, he understands the challenges facing Oklahoma individuals, families, and small business. He has the proven leadership we need to make a difference for all Oklahomans."

McCullough represented District 30 in the state house of representatives from 2006 until 2016.

"I am proud to receive Mark's endorsement," Glesener said. "He represented our district well for a decade and understands what it takes to lead in Oklahoma City. I look forward to putting my 45 years of business experience to work for the people of our district."

"Join me in voting for Kent Glesener, as the clear and best conservative choice on August 28," McCullough said.

Glesener says, "As a businessman who has lived and raised our children 30 years here, I believe it is time for real solutions to the flawed budget process, lack of transparency, need for performance audits, and the misuse of funds. As a strong believer in the value of life and for betterment of education, we cannot afford to allow these failures in our state government to continue for the sake of our children.

Glesener is a professional civil

engineer and owner of Paradigm Construction & Engineering, a bridge building company, having built large bridge projects in Oklahoma, multiple states and Alaska.

He and his wife of 39 years, Christie, are active members of Victory Church in Tulsa.

They are parents of two married children who are in business and the medical field.

Glesener is co-founder of an international mission and involved in humanitarian projects.

On his purpose for running, Glesener says, "The voters of District 30 were promised an elected official who represents their conservative values of defending life, protecting their hard-earned money, and fighting for education accountability. Our incumbent representative has made each of these promises, while fulfilling very few, if any of them. As a true conservative business owner with a proven record of 45 years experience, I have decided to step up, provide common sense leadership and problem solving to give my constituents what they deserve.

"Together we must rebuild the strong foundation of our state."

Glesener was born and raised on an Iowa dairy farm and learned hard work from an early age. There were cattle and pigs to feed, cows to milk, and crops to harvest. He says, "Not only did I learn responsibility through this experience, but it also brought our family closer together and gave me a love of family and farming. Patriotism and love of country were infused in me through the Eagle Scout program my father led for 25 years, and I am grateful to have had these valuable skills through many life situations.

After attending Iowa State University and earning a Bachelor of



Courtesy photo

**ENDORSEMENT:** Mark Glesener, left, with former District 30 State Representative Mark McCullough. McCullough has endorsed Glesener for the District 30 seat.

Science in Civil Engineering, I worked on dams, the Alaska pipeline, the Atigun Mountain Pass, plus managed and built many bridge and road building projects in several states over a 45 year career."

In 1988, Glesener and his family moved to Sapulpa and built a home, establishing roots in the community, continuing to build bridges throughout Oklahoma and surrounding states. He says, "Since 1999, I have been running my own bridge-building com-

pany and realize more than ever to pray, serve the people, create teamwork, cast vision, and understand how every dollar spent matters to any entity's success."

Kent and his wife also founded a Humanitarian Aid and Education non profit in 1996 to aid, comfort and give hope to Jewish Holocaust survivors in Israel and Eastern Europe. They take teams and travel, conducting business seminars, men and women's conferences, speak to the youth in schools and help in feeding the

hungry. They are expanding into building schools and ministry buildings here and other countries as well.

"With knowledge that prayer changes lives," the Gleseners started a Faith and Freedom Prayer Network to help provide information and prayer to leaders in the community and the nation. He says they are part of the Council of National Policy who are conservatives dedicated to networking to create solutions for the love of our country.



Amy Meisner was diagnosed with MS in 1997. For someone who has always danced, MS would seem like the end. But for Amy, it means the start of a new chapter. She'll never leave the floor, still dances from her wheelchair, and is a great choreographer. Embracing Amy's undying passion, the National MS Society teamed up with LaTonya Swann to create an entirely new and inspired dance experience through virtual reality. See their experience and find out how you can share yours at [WeAreStrongerThanMS.org](http://WeAreStrongerThanMS.org).

**Together We Are Stronger.**

