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Winning Lineup of Shows

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Gil Cloud Continues

Amazing Sports Career

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FEATURE



\$30 Million in Improvements Provided by Vision Tulsa

By RON PETERS Tulsa County Commissioner

Nothing announces the begin-ning 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 enter-tainment 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 vis-itors, 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.

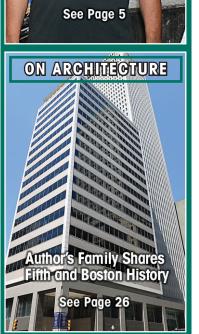
To help fairgoers hit the midway without worrying about traffic or finding a place to park, the Fair Transit System (FTS) is the best



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 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



Kenny Alexopoulos

Continues Aquarium Succ

way to get there. FTS pick-up the fairgrounds.

EARS

and friends there this year.

of the

OF

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: GRY unemployment, poverty, health care, shelter, trans-

portation and more.

Iron Gate started in 1978 when three Trinity Episcopal Church parishioners stepped outside а men's Biclass ble to make homeа less man sandа wich. 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.

Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group – Serving the Heart of Metropolitan Tulsa and Beyond



2018 GTR Readers' Choice for Best of Greater Tulsa

Creater	Best Travel Agency Spears Travel	Best Bar & Pub	Best Deli	Best Clothing Store – Men's
Tulsa		Blue Rose	Jason's Deli	Jos. A. Banks
	Best Tag Agency	Best Romantic Destination	Best Hamburger	Best Consignment Shop
	Barnes Tag Agency	Mayo Hotel	Arnold's	Top Drawer
	Best Insurance Agent Charles Campbell, Farmers	Best Concert Venue BOK Center	Best Italian Food Mondo's	Best Formal Wear Store Facchiano's
	Best Wireless Phone Service	Best Local Band Midlife Crisis	Best Mexican Food El Rio Verde	Best Furniture Store Mathis Brothers
SINESS & SERVICES	HEALTH & WELLNESS	Best Place for Family Fun Tulsa Zoo	Best Asian Food Lanna Thai	Best Gift Shop The Perfect Touch
Best Auto Repair Service	Best Health Club	Best Sports Team	Best Pizza	Best Grocery Store
Superior Imports	Siegfried Health Club	Tulsa Drillers	Andolini's Pizzaria	Reasor's
Best Bank	Best Dentist	Best Movie Theater	Best Ribs	Best Appliance Store
ntral Bank of Oklahoma	Richard Stephens, D.D.S.	AMC20	Burn Co. BBQ	Hahn Appliance Center
Best Drug Store Walgreen's	Best Eye Doctor Tiffany Harrel, O.D.	EATERIES	Best Seafood Bonefish Grill	Best Electronics Store Best Buy
Best Financial Advisor Edward Jones	Best Health Food Store Sprouts	Best New Restaurant Amelia's	Best Steakhouse Ruth's Chris Steakhouse	Best Jewelry Store Diamond Brokers
Best Public Golf Course	Best Pediatrician	Best Coffee Shop	Best Sushi Bar	Best Paint Store Spectrum Paint
Battle Creek	Sylvia August, M.D.	Topeca Coffee Shops	In The Raw Sushi	
Best Hair Salon	Best Physician	Best Spot for Breakfast	Best Ice Cream Shop	Best Shopping Center/Plaza
hloff Salon & Day Spa	Martin Davis, D.O.	First-Watch	STG Gelateria	Utica Square
Best Heat & Air Service	Best Veterinarian	Best Place to Eat with Kids	SHOPPING	Best Skin Care Store
Airco Services	Wynter Wheat/Paw Prints	McDonald's		Merle Norman – Brookside
Best Hotel	SCHOOLS	Best Sunday Brunch	Best Antique Store	Best Tire Store
DubleTree Warren Place		Cheesecake Factory	Miss McGillicutty's Antiques	Hercules Tires
Best Lawn Care	Best Preschool Miss Helen's Private School	Best Bagel & Bread	Best Bicycle Shop	Best Thrift Store
Green Leaf		Einstein Bros. Bagels	Bicycles of Tulsa	Goodwill
Best Credit Union	Best Dance School	Best BBQ	Best Car Dealer	Congratulations to
a Teachers Credit Union	Miss Shelly's	Burn Co. BBQ	Jackie Cooper Imports	
Best Nail Salon	ENTERTAINMENT	Best Outdoor Dining	Best Carpet/Tile Store	All the 2018
Passion		In The Raw Sushi	Bert Henry Carpet & Tile	Best of Greater Tulsa
Best Photographer	Best Radio Host	Best Chicken	Best Clothing Store – Women's	Winners!
Harry Lentz	Poppa Nite/Radio IDL	Charlie's Chicken	Donna's Fashions	

Tulsa connected



At AT&T we know businesses help communities thrive. In Tulsa and across the nation, we empower connections that help to

build a better tomorrow.

AT&T is committed to giving back to the Oklahoma communities such as the Tulsa Community. That is why More than 135,000 hours of personal time given by AT&T employees and retirees in Oklahoma to community outreach activities in 2016. As well as more than \$3.6 million contributed by AT&T, the AT&T Foundation and our employees from 2013 - 2015 through giving programs in Oklahoma.





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FavoriteMediaSourcesNamed 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

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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

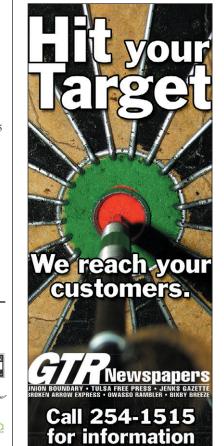
ONLINE: Favorite lifestyle or special

- 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

Favorite overall investigative

ALL MEDIA:

or in-depth report Survivors of the Oklahoma City Bombing... Frontier

ALL MEDIA: Favorite overall source. organization or outlet for news News On 6



ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Krista Gardner

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CIRCULATION C O U N C I L

PRESS CLUB





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 out-Tulsan standing residents who convened in June to help the City of Tulsa tackand resolve le long-standing а problem: dilapidated or unmaintained properties. During the next six months, our Fel-Innovation lows 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-



From Tulsa's

By G.T. BYNUM Mayor of Tulsa

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.

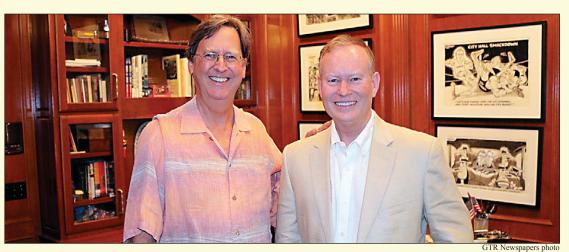
Overcoming these obstacles while improving the health and enhancing the quality of life for our neighborhoods ties directly into the City of Tulsa's strategic Action and Implementation Management (AIM) plan, which connects people, processes and purpose. This specifically addresses the four pillars of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

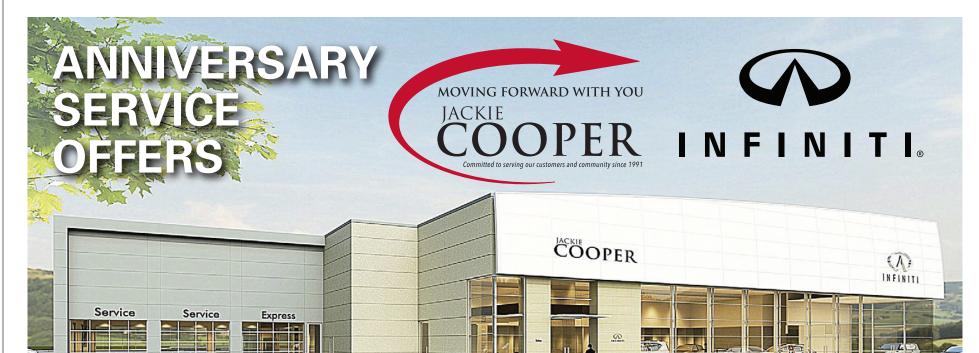
As a city, we will continue to work together to address and solve problems. Together, we can achieve our dreams, thrive and build a better community for generations to come.



CIVIC INNOVATION FELLOWS: Front row from left, Xan Black, TRSA; Jane Beckwith, Holland Hall; and Grace Smith (1 Architecture). Back row from left, Kirk Elam, Bios Corporation; Nikhil Kawlra, Collegiate Hall Charter School; and Travis Lowe, University of Tulsa.



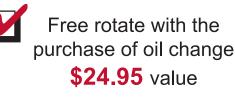
FORMER MAYORS: Former Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett, left, recently hosted former Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett at Bartlett's home in Tulsa. The two served as mayors of their respective cities during much of the same time while in office. Cornett will face Kevin Stiitt in the Oklahoma Republican Governors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







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All offers valid August 1st through September 29th 2018 Cannot combine offers

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.

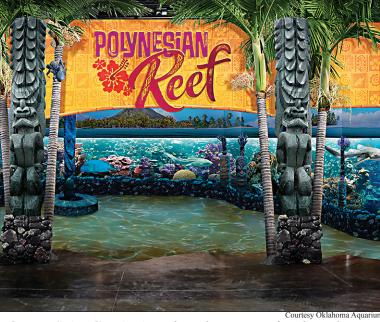
Alexopoulos holds a dual degree in marine biology and marine fisheries from Texas A&M University, with a specialization in aquaculture and fish disease.

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-



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



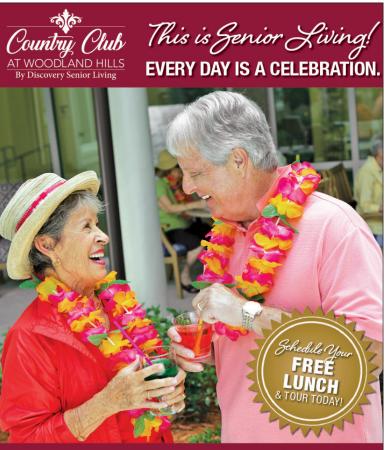
NEW LEADER: Kenny Alexopoulos was named chief operating officer of the Oklahoma Aquarium in May. Alexopoulos has been with the aquarium since 2000. He takes the reins as the fourth COO in the organization's history.

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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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 success-

ful 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 per-forms 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

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN

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 Septem-

turn-of-the-century story of

New York's newsboys who

lead a strike in the wake of

ber 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-



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



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

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!

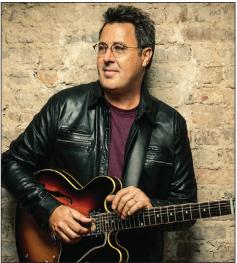
Gill will soon wrap his current tour as a band member with The Eagles. When Eagles' frontman Glenn Frey passed away, the band brought in Gill and Frey's son, Deacon, to perform the songs Glenn made famous. For his upcoming Tulsa show, he'll perform his hits and songs from his "Down to My Last Bad Habit" 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 Mis-FEST. This event focuses on empowering women and features an all-female lineup. Headliner for MisFEST is Nashville singer,



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



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



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 (al-

Searching for

The Sound

By BRYAN CANTRELL

support

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music

though, 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.

Pablo, Sorry 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

sparce, 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

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 Pittslev's brothers and sisters of music will descend on Venue Shrine, 112 E. 18th St., for "Songs for Sawyer." Sawyer is Sawyer Pittsley, the



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

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 and make a direct donation.

This installment of Searching for the Sound marks the oneyear 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.

'estival, Birthday a Success i**rcle** (nema Film

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 in-cluded KTUL-TV, Quik Trip, The



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

Tulsa Voice, The Church Studio, Tulsa Project Theatre, The Tulsa Historical Society and Museum, Whitty Books, Topeca Coffee, Na-

Film Festival.

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



TULSA STAR: Gray Busey greets the audience at the Circle Cinema.

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

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GREATER TULSA REPORTER NEWSPAPERS

August 2018

DINING IN GREATER TUL 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 midtown 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 brick-and-mortar locations to 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 drinkand-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 Tipsy 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



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.

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 I took a bite, and I'm glad that I 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 Septem-ber's national Hunger Action Month, area restaurants are helping the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma fight childhood hunger in eastern Öklahoma 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 fixedpriced 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. Addi-tionally, 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.



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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2 **Ediblend Announces Fresh Kiosk at CTCA**

Ediblend has announced its partnership with the Tulsa lo-cation 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 graband-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 privi-lege for us," says Kacere. Ediblend will continue to oper-

ate 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 fi-nancial 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 or Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat @ediblendcafe. For more about Cancer Treatment Centers of America, visit 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, commu-nications 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 personnel 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. More information and details are available at Red-

CrossBlood.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 Red-CrossBlood.org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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Tom Cole, John Gaberino, Susan

Harris, former Governor Brad Hen-

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Schusterman, Don Walker, and John-Kelly C. Warren.

For information regarding spon-

sorships and tickets to the 2018

Vision in Education Leadership

Award Dinner, call 918-595-7836

or www.tulsacc.edu/visiondinner.

Zamarin.

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 advocator 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

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 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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school, Apparel

Tulsa Tech offers career and tech- programs in area high schools nical 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 de-

mands placed upon our partner schools, we've worked in tandem to expand career training in the high school setting. Accommodating busy schedules eliminating and travel time is now a necessary level of convenience for some of our students that partici-

pate 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



By DR. STEVE TIGER

Superintendent

Design at Union School, High Interior Design at Charles Page High School, and Introduction to Manufacturing, soon to be offered at Glenpool High School.

recently The 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 dona-

tion 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 Asb-jornson, 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



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.'

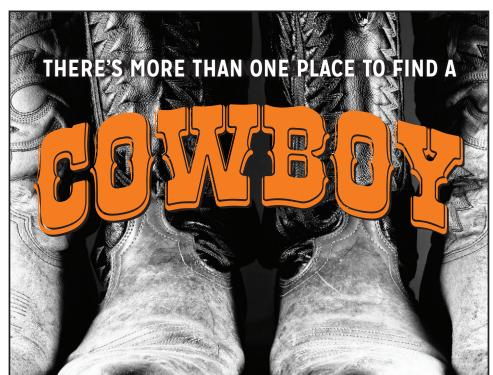
In the past 50 years, Tulsa Tech has grown from a single campus vocational school under the guidance of Tulsa Public Schools to an independent school district with six campuses and 17 off-campus programs which offer career tech training programs that help students prepare for both career and college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

Today, Tulsa Tech is the largest technology center of Oklahoma's nationally-recognized CareerTech system, training over 5,000 fulltime 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 tulsatech.edu.







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UNION NEWS Greater Tulsa Association of Realtors Hosts Backpack for Kids Party for 1st Day of School

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.³

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 children.



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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UNION BOUNDARY

UNION SPORTS Union Linemen Choose Hurricane as Next Step

By MIKE MOGUIN GTR Sports Writer

Ricky Stromberg and Darrias Murdock have a lot in common with the game of football. Besides being teammates at Union, where they play on opposite sides of the line among many teammates, they will continue in that status as both seniors recently made verbal commitments to play their college ball at the University of Tulsa.

Stromberg, a 6-3, 320-pound offensive guard, announced his decision via Twitter on June 25. Murdock, a 6-5, 270-pound defensive end, committed to the Golden Hurricane three days later.

"I liked the family aspect of the coaches and it felt like home," Stromberg says. "It felt right to do it (choose TU) and I think I can go there early and make an impact." "It's close to home," Murdock

"It's close to home," Murdock says of TU. "I don't like being too far away from home and I felt like it was the best place for me. That's why I committed."

Going together at the same time is also a thrill.

"It's a very cool thing," Stromberg says. "Murdock and I have been playing together since we were in the third grade. Now we're going to the same college together too."

"I think it's real cool that I get to spend another four years with Rickey. It just feels more like home," Murdock says.

Stromberg says he chose the Golden Hurricane over North Texas while Murdock said he went with TU's offer over one from Missouri State.

They'll also be joining former teammate Shamari Brooks, a key member of the 2016 Class 6AI state championship team, who is expected to impact TU this season.

Both Stromberg and Murdock are among a crop of local talent attending TU. Other local high schools also have former players making the Skelly Field turf home.

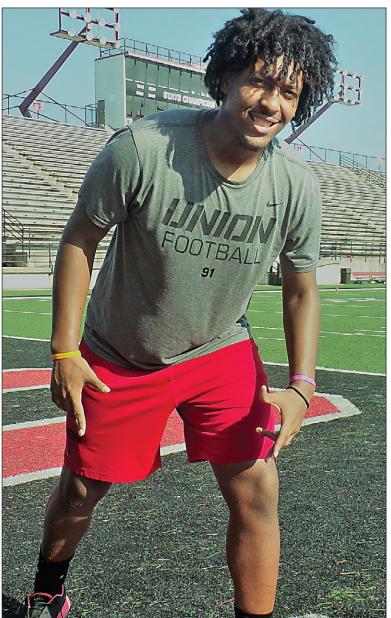
"I think it's going to be a big impact," Murdock says. "I think we're going to win some games (at TU).

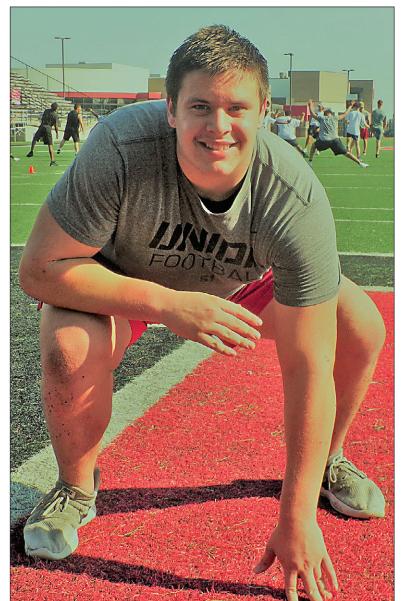
Both players enjoy the physicality of the game.

"I like getting to hit people. I think it's pretty fun to hit people," Stromberg says.

"You get to hit somebody. That's my favorite thing – to hit somebody," Murdock says.

What the guys like about playing on the line revolves around the most important position of the





RICKY STROMBERG

DARRIAS MURDOCK

game, each with a different perspective.

"It's physical. It's being down in the trenches," Stromberg says. "In protecting your QB. I feel like a bodyguard when I'm an offensive lineman. So, that's what I like," Stromberg says.

"You get to hit the QB, and you get the glory by getting your name out there. When you hit somebody, you get your name on the jumbotron," Murdock says. The Redskins relished in the glo-

The Redskins relished in the glory of winning state two seasons ago, but were forced to settle for a runner-up finish after falling to Owasso in the state championship game last year.

"It was disappointing losing, because I felt we could have won," Murdock says. "It was just mental errors. Our focus this year is being more disciplined. We just got to stay more focused and we can win this year."

"It was shocking because I was expecting to win," Stromberg says. "The year we won, it was a good feeling. When we lost, it was probably the worst feeling. So, it goes from high to low."

Both players, as well as the rest of their teammates, are expecting a better outcome in pursuit of a second state title in three seasons. Stromberg says, "Our theme this year is 'Uncommon, don't lose

year is 'Uncommon, don't lose again,' It speaks for itself right there." "Being more disciplined and not

losing our head and staying calm will be key," Murdock says.

"You can expect us to play hard," Stromber adds. "We're working hard. You can expect us to bounce back from last season.

Both players are looking forward to the opener against Broken Arrow on Aug. 24, as well as the rematch with Owasso on Sept. 21.

"Those are my two schools that I want," Stromberg says. "I look forward to the Broken

"I look forward to the Broken Arrow game," Murdock says. "But I still want to play Owasso to get that revenge."

Unlike last season, apparently Union and Broken Arrow will not be on the national stage being televised by ESPN. But, Murdock certainly liked it last year.

"That was a cool experience to get to be on TV," he says.

After Union plays BA, the Redskins will meet Lake Ridge, a school from Mansfield, Texas at Union-Tuttle Stadium on Aug. 31. That will be followed by the annual Backyard Bowl matchup against Jenks at Chapman Stadium.

After a week off, the Redskins will host Owasso on Sept. 21 for the state championship rematch.

The rest of their slate consists of opponents from the Oklahoma City suburbs, beginning with a road trip to Mustang on Sept. 28.



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Page 16

SPORT **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 ed-

ucation. 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 LEST 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 percep-tion, 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)



Oilers Jerseys a Highlight with Fans

By GLENN HIBDON *GTR Sports Writer*

Sweat drips from brows, teeth clinch 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 then 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 Michel Beausoleil and Paxton Schulte among his favorite players. Memories mean more to him than gameworn 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 yearround 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





Courtesy photo

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, Jocqua Mclendon, Eddie Oakes, Jeremiah Milton and Alycia Hawkins.

STARTING AT JUST



Page 18

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 (OSHOF) 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 OSHOF as a member of the class of 1995. Rhome received his induction in 2001, while Pearson was inducted into the OSHOF 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

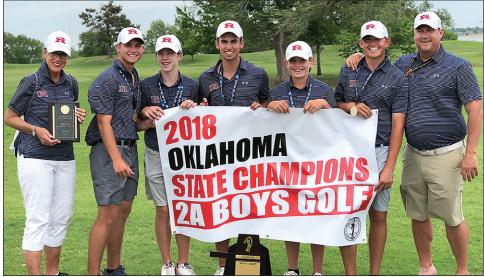
Largent was a second-team All-American at Tulsa and went on to a 14-year All-Pro career with the NFL's Seattle Seahawks. Pearson, an undrafted free agent with the Dallas Cowboys, was named to the NFL's 1970s All-Decade Team.

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

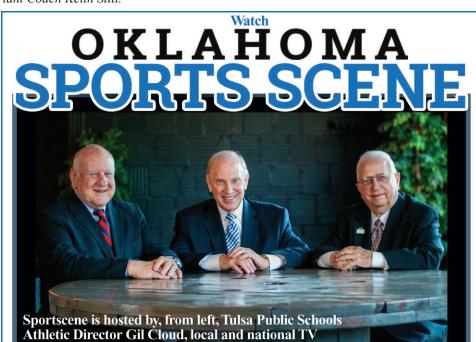


RECORD SETTERS: Hurricane football greats and today's TU Head Football Coach Philip Montgomery recently attended the Oklahoma sports Hall of Fame Leadership Luncheon. From left are Drew Pearson, Howard Twilley, Philip Montgomery, Jerry Rhome and Steve Largent.

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.



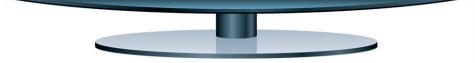
sportscaster Chris Lincoln, and Tulsa sports legend J.V. Haney.



STATE TENNIS CHAMPS: *Metro Christian won i n 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.





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	Nowata	Rejoice Christian	Sept. 15	Arkansas State	Tulsa	Oct. 5	Westville	Holland Hall	Oct. 26	Owasso	Moore
Aug. 23	Central	Bishop Kelley	Separe	Pittsburg State	NSU	00000	Wvandotte	Metro Christian	00020	Southmoore	Union
Aug. 24	Union	Broken Arrow		Trinity Vally C.C.	NEO		Skiatook	Memorial		Jenks	Edmond Santa Fe
Aug. 24	Jenks	Bixby	Sept. 20	Tulsa	Temple		East Central	Pryor		Shawnee	Bixby
	Bentonville West	Owasso		East Central	Memorial		Bishop Kelley	Durant		BTW	Ponca City
	Cascia Hall	Gravette		Hilldale	Central		Webster	Lincoln Christian		Rogers	East Central
	Lincoln Christian	Inola	Sept. 21	Jenks	Broken Arrow		Vinita	Cascia Hall		Coweta	Bishop Kelley
	Victory Christian	McLain	-	Owasso	Union		Lighthouse Christian	Tulsa NOAH		Edison	Durant
	Okla. Union	NOAH		Bixby	Sapulpa		Summit Christian	South Coffeyville		Hale	Ada
	Metro	Broken Bow		Checota	Webster	Oct. 6	Iowa State	OSU		Wagoner	McLain
Aug. 25	BTW	North Little Rock		McLain	Bristow		Texas	OU		Central	Fort Gibson
Aug. 30	Missouri State	OSU		Rejoice Christian	Okla. Union		Alabama	Arkansas		Cascia Hall	Sequoya
9.00	Emporia State	NSU		Stigler	Lincoln Christian		NEO	Blinn College		Lincoln Christian	Idabel
	Arkansas Baptist	NEO		Bishop Kelley	Hale	Oct. 12	South Florida	TU		Webster	Seminole
Aug. 31	Owasso	Fayetteville		Adair	Metro Christian		Edmond Santa Fe	Broken Arrow		Holland Hall	Spiro
0	Lake Ridge	Union		Dewey	Victory Christian		Union	Moore		Metro Christian	Kansas
	Mansfield Timberview	Jenks		Talequah	Rogers		Edmond Memorial	Jenks		Kiefer	Victory Christian
	East Central	Hale		Verdigris	Cascia Hall		Southmoore	Owasso		Rejoice Christian	Afton
	Holland Hall	Cascia Hall		Pocola	Holland Hall		Bartlesville	Bixby	Oct. 27	Vanderbilt	Arkansas
	Bishop Kelley	BTW		Glenpool	Edison		BTW	Sapulpa		Tulane	TU
	Rejoice Christian	Crossings Christian	G (00	OCPH	NOAH		Glenpool	Bishop Kelley		Kansas State	OU
	Central	Memorial	Sept. 22	Texas Tech	OSU Oklahoma		Edison	Hale		Texas	OSU Ciana Callana
	Jones	Lincoln Christian		Army			Skiatook	Rogers Collinsville	N 1	NEO Enid	Cisco College Broken Arrow
	Edison	Sapulpa		Arkansas NSU	Auburn Missouri Western		East Central	Claremore	Nov. 1	Edmond North	Union
~	Rogers	Victory Christian		NEO	Kilgore		Memorial Miami	McLain		Jenks	Westmoore
Sept. 1	Florida Atlantic	OU	Sept. 28	Edmond North	Owasso		Central	Broken Bow		Pryor	Memorial
	Eastern Illinois	Arkansas	Sept. 20	Enid	Jenks		Webster	Okmulgee		Collinsville	Rogers
G	Central Arkansas	Tulsa		Union	Mustang		Cascia Hall	Berryhill		Stigler	Webster
Sept. 6	NSU	Central Missouri		BTW	Bixby		Lincoln Christian	Roland	Nov. 2	Owasso	Putnam City North
Sept. 7	Union Broken Arrow	Jenks Owasso		Collinsville	Memorial		Victory Christian	Beggs	110112	Page	BTW
	Edison	Memorial		Idabel	Webster		Metro Christian	Chelsea		Bixby	Muskogee
	Central	McLain		Broken Arrow	Norman		Holland Hall	Sequoya		East Central	Skiatook
	Bishop McGuinness	Bishop Kelley		Victory Christian	Morris		Rejoice Christian	Quapaw		Durant	Hale
	Rogers	Okmulgee		Central	Muldrow	Oct. 13	Ole Miss	Arkansas		Ada	Edison
	Lincoln Christian	Vian		Metro Christian	Chouteau-Mazie		OSU	Kansas State		Bishop Kelley	McAlester
	Stillwell	East Central		Cascia Hall	Jay		Lindenwood	NSU		McLain	Grove
	Kiefer	Rejoice Christian		Rogers	Pryor		Tyler J.C.	NEO		Sallisaw	Central
	Victory Christian	Verdigris		Edison	Bishop Kelley	Oct. 18	Broken Arrow	Yukon		Inola	Cascia Hall
	Oklahoma Christian	Metro Christian		Claremore	East Central		Mustang	Owasso		Checotah	Lincoln Christian
Sept. 8	UCLA	OU		Hale	Glenpool		Commerce	Rejoice Christian		Panama	Holland Hall
-	Arkansas	Colorado State		Lincoln Christian	Seminole		Muskogee	BTW		Salina	Metro Christian
	South Alabama	OSU	~	NOAH	Grant		Bixby	Page		Colcord	Rejoice Christian
	Tulsa	Texas	Sept. 29	Arkansas	Texas A&M		McAlester	Edison	Nov. 3	OSU	Baylor
	Georgia Military	NEO		Baylor OSU	OU		Hale	Coweta		OU	Texas Tech NSU
Sept. 13	Stillwell	Union		Nebraska-Kearney	Kansas NSU		Tahlequah Diahan Kallari	East Central	Nev 10	Central Oklahoma TU	Memphis
	Skiatook	Hale		Navaro College	NEO		Bishop Kelley McLain	Ada Catoosa	Nov. 10	LSU	Arkansas
~	NOAH	Webster	Oct. 4	TU	Houston		Okmulgee	Lincoln Christian		OSU	OU
Sept. 14		Central	001.4	Owasso	Norman North		Locust Grove	Cascia Hall		NSU	Fort Havse
	Claremore	Edison		Coweta	Edison		Vian	Holland Hall	Nov. 17	West Virginia	OSU
	Cascia Hall	Millwood	Oct. 5	Westmoore	Broken Arrow		Nowata	Metro Christian	1100.17	Kansas	OU
	Rejoice Christian	Haskell	0000	Jenks	Yukon		Sperry	Victory Christian		Arkansas	Mississippi State
	Rogers Metro Christian	McLain Holland Hall		Putnam City North	Union	Oct. 19	Union	Norman North		TU	Navy
	Metro Christian Putnam City	Bixby		Bixby	Ponca City		Norman	Jenks	Nov. 23	Arkansas	Missouri
	Memorial	Bishop Kelley		Poteau	Central		Rogers	Memorial		OU	West Virginia
	Sapulpa	East Central		McAlester	Hale	Oct. 20	OU	TCU	Nov. 24	OSU	TCU
Sept. 15	OU	Iowa State		Rogers	Claremore		TU	Arkansas		SMU	Tulsa
Sept. 15	Boise State	OSU		Shawnee	BTW		NSU	Missouri Southern			
	North Texas	Arkansas		Haskell	Victory Christian		NEO	New Mexico Military			
				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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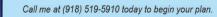
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Success Continues at Jackie Cooper After Three Decades of Greg Kach Leadership

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 Siggi 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 overseas 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 Čoyle 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 question-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.²

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

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, con-tact Krysta Gilbert at 405-744-



DANIEL COYLE

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FRANK ABAGNALE

American Natural Gas and its NAT Impact Impact he could never practice art again. ilies of Czech descent in Tulsa, the Czech Republic in November



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 t.h.e 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

Part of the punishment of not join- Oklahoma City and other commu-

ing 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 labor-

er. 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 ar-

rived in Oklahoma with only two I reached out to several of my 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

nities 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.

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





SCOTT VAUGHN

Tina Parkhill, owner of Parkh-ill'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.

TINA PARKHILL

"As OSU alumni, Tina and Scott have valuable insight for our continued efforts to provide quality higher education oppor-tunities 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.3

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.

PEOPLE NOTES SS &

Tulsa Opera, one of the nation's most veteran regional opera companies and an historic incubator of rising vocal talent, has appointed McConnell inter-



Ken McCONNELL

im 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 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

company providing news. weather, sports and information content across the state, including KOTV Channel 6 in Tulsa, recently hired Tony Lo-

Presto, CPA, as chief financial officer. In this role, LoPresto will lead financial operations for both Griffin Communications and its subsidiaries.

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



LOPRESTO

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 Universi-

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

council The

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

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

Council has announced Boul-Patrick longtime den, municipal expert, will serve as council admin-CRAWFORD istrator for the council office beginning Aug. 20.

The Tulsa City that law BOULDEN

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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 Vid-Coordinator eo of the Year honoree, returns to the sport of football following 17 months working NASCAR. in



Smith was named the director of football video operations at The University of Tulsa, it was announced by Head Coach Philip Montgomery.

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 Commu-

brary Trust has Shawn named Crawford executive director. "We are excited to welcome

The Tulsa Li-

Shawn to this position," says Mar-tin 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.2

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ble for oversee-

ing design direction and providing quality assurance for architectural projects in the office.

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).

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.

nication in December 2013.





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.

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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.





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 approxi-mately 22,500 square feet of the

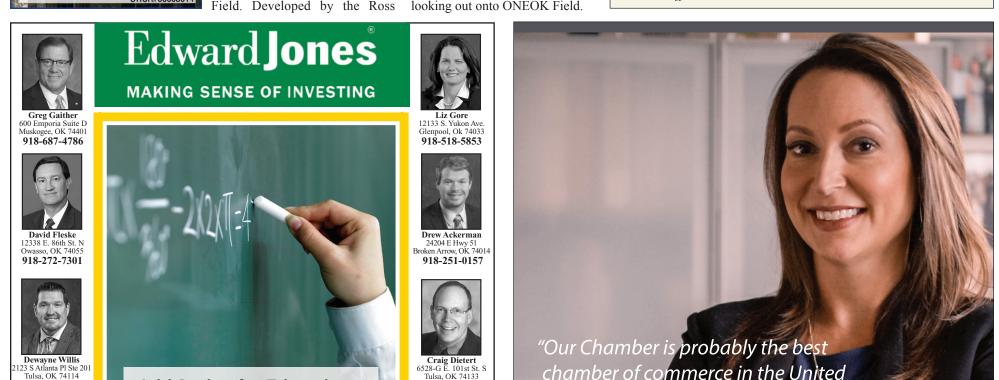
100,000-square-foot building that will sit just across from ONEOK Field. Developed by the Ross

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.



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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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.



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.



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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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. rose two stories to a simple flat matching 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

Öriginally 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



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

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 refaced 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.



columns at the east and south elevations were faced in cream colored marble which marble architrave/lintel.

On Architecture

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

The building's corners and

parapet were faced with

the same marble forming

a frame around each face.

The architects were Carson

10000000 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 im-mediately adjacent to the

> 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.



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.





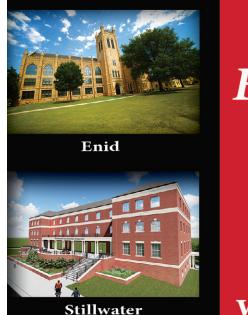


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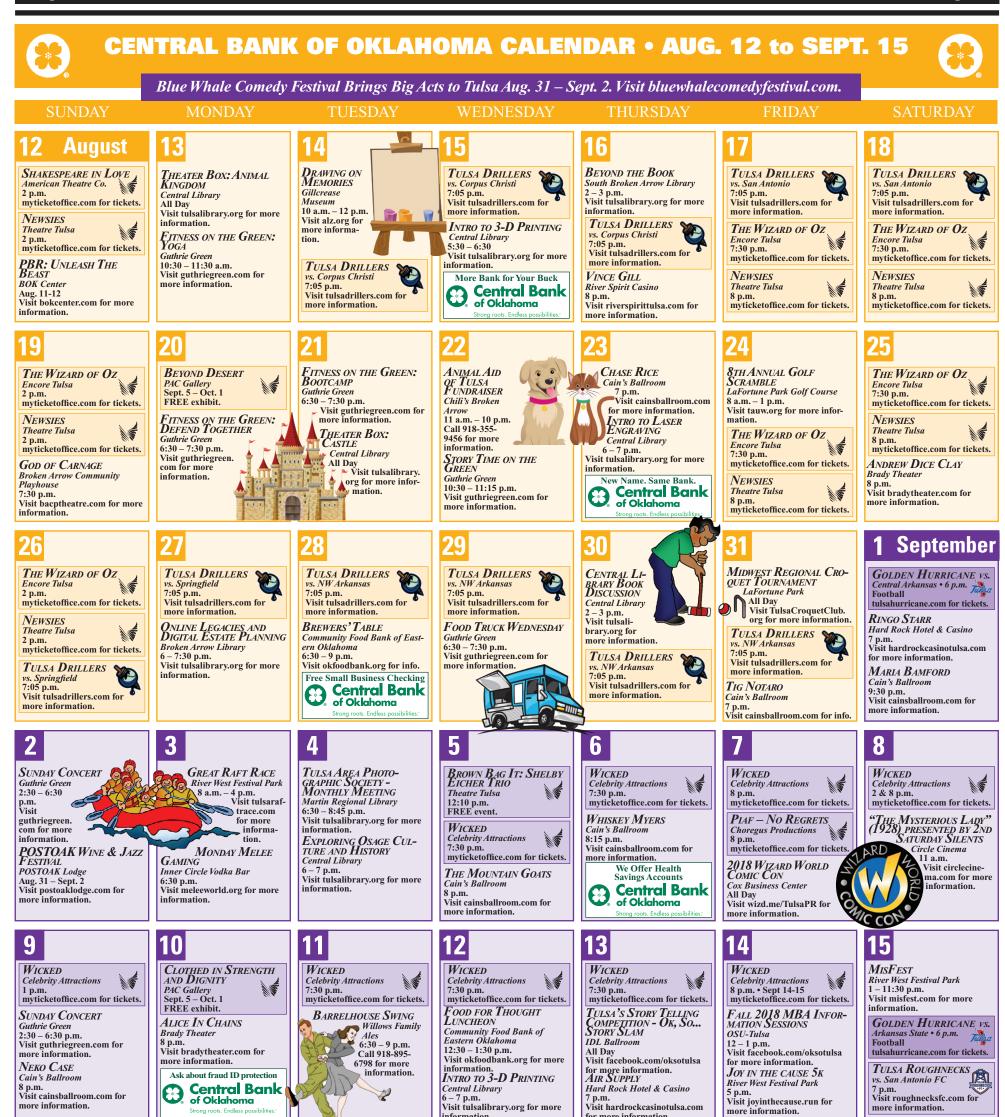


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UNION AREA NEWS Union-Area Residents Open Area's Only Soda Fountain

UNION BOUNDARY

Candy Castle Offers Unique Drinks, Ice Cream Flavors

Summer is here, and the weather is hot and humid on the Oklahoma front. With outdoor activities and the kids at home on summer break, it's tough to find drinks and snacks a step away from the ordinary to refresh the family. The new owners Andy and Tricia McGuire of south Tulsa's only soda fountain, Candy Castle, have treats that will thrill the family.

With less than two month's in proprietorship, the Bixby Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new business ownership June 7. The ceremony was a celebratory moment not only for the McGuires but for the community as well. Nothing makes a community grow and provide jobs better than a healthy small business, and Candy Castle has hired three new employees within its first month.

After walking into the newly acquired store and taking a seat at its soda fountain, patrons will view menus on the wall boasting unique drinks such as the Lime Rickey, Super Sweet Kick-inthe-Pants Soda or the Harry Potter Giggle Potion. The Pink & Blue, a soda made of ice cream, bubble gum syrup topped with cotton candy, will be a popular choice. Candy Castle's ice creams also claim one-of-a-kind flavors such as Oklahoma pothole, moose tracks, superman and playdough, and that's not even mentioning the hard-to-find retro candy such as Neccos, candy cigarettes, pop rocks and candy necklaces.

Candy Castle also provides onsite party services for those who have a birthday, graduation or school or church party they want to celebrate in a distinctive style.

The McGuires left their careers, Andy as a gas and oil financial controller and Tricia with a fulltime cleaning service, to embark on this adventure and have a genuine passion for the products and service they provide. Customers should enter the store and clock how many seconds passes before they hear a cheerful greeting shouted from the back; chances are it won't take more than "two Mississippi."

"We hope to provide a fun, unique, family-friendly store where people of all ages from the community can come and enjoy themselves," Andy McGuire says. Candy Castle is located on Memorial Drive and 106th Street in the Vineyard Shopping Center next to Rustic Cuff at 7890 East 106th Place South, Suite V-6, in Tulsa. Call 918-960-8300 to book a party.





RIBBON CUTTING: Family and friends joined Andy and Tricia McGuire for the ribbon cutting of the Candy Castle in the Vinyard Shopping Center. The ribbon cutting was hosted by the Bixby Chamber of Commerce.

Guided by an unparalleled level of public input, the City of Broken Arrow is presenting for voter approval on Aug. 28 a comprehensive blueprint for community growth over the next 10 years.

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