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PROGRESS IN TULSA**

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**OSU-CHS AWARDED \$1.8 MILLION  
TO COMBAT OPIOID EPIDEMIC** See Page 11

# BROKEN ARROW EXPRESS

One of Six Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers

Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group

Volume 22

January 2019

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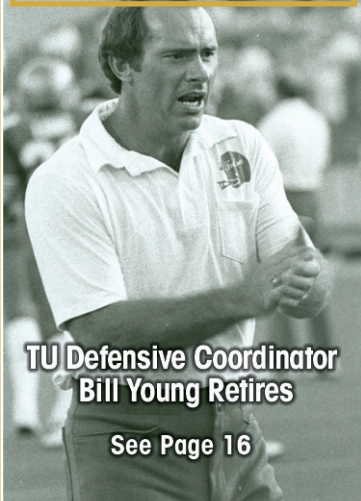
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## ‘You’re Looking Good, Broken Arrow’

### City Manager Presents Upbeat and Positive ‘State of the City’ Report

By **BOB LEWIS**  
Contributing Editor

While some communities might find it virtually impossible to surpass a year filled with laurels – including a couple of national Most Livable City awards – City Manager Michael Spurgeon says Broken Arrow is on track to do exactly that.

Excitement and enthusiasm took center stage in Spurgeon’s fourth annual State of the City address presented during the December meeting of the BA Chamber of Commerce.

#### Infrastructure Enhancement

A self-proclaimed “infrastructure guy,” Spurgeon said one of his top priorities is the implementation of a plan for completion of the 88 projects listed in the \$210 million general obligation bond package that was overwhelmingly approved by voters last year.

Given the size and complexity of many of these undertakings, he noted it will take some time to get them all completed, but he pledged that the city will be thoughtful in establishing work schedules and in communicating plans as funds become available.

#### Recycling Pilot Programs

Beginning in January, Spurgeon said the city will launch a pilot program to test the viability of adding curbside recycling, a service not currently offered but recommended by residents in a 2016 customer survey.

On the drawing board are two projects. The “Thursday pilot” is a two-cart system, one for trash and the other for recycling. The “Friday pilot” employs one cart for recycling, and standard plastic bags for refuse disposal.

Spurgeon said the tests, which will involve 500 households each, will extend from January 24-25 to May 24-25. They will then be measured separately with results reported to the city council for its consideration and direction for future refuse and recycling service.

#### Economic Development

The city manager devoted considerable attention to the subject of economic development, including both the need to seek new business and industry and aid and retain operations already here.

Toward that end, he said a major focus in 2019 will involve improvement in the business climate in the southern portion of the city.

For some time, officials have pointed out that economic development is generally booming in many parts of the community, but south Broken Arrow is not following suit. A number of steps have been taken to make this area more appealing, including widening streets, the addition of an exit from the Creek Turnpike at Aspen and the installation of new water and sewer lines. The city manager also noted a study is now underway to identify opportunities to revitalize the once thriving New Orleans and Elm Place area.

On a highly positive note, Spurgeon indicated that it is likely the city will soon close on a piece of property near Aspen and the Creek Turnpike to house a new Sound-Mind Behavioral Health Hospital. Construction of that facility is anticipated to begin in 2019. When completed, it is expected to employ about 150 people and attract patients from across the region.

#### Innovation District

Spurgeon also said the Chamber



**B.A. TEAM:** Broken Arrow City Manager Michael Spurgeon, in front, with his staff. To his immediate left is Krista Flasch, Communications Director; To her left is Mary McAtee, Digital Content Specialist. Top row from left are Brian Barger, Convention Sales and Marketing Manager; Russell Gale, Assistant City Manager of Administration; Norm Stephens, Economic Development Manager; and Kenny Schwab, Assistant City Manager of Operations. Second row from left are Lori Hill, Tourism Director; Crickett Moore, Executive Assistant; Holly Owings, Receptionist; Jennifer Hooks, Community Relations Liaison; and TJ Gerlach, Communications Coordinator.

of Commerce, Broken Arrow Economic Development Corp. and the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology are working with the city to develop a concept for a unique undertaking in southeast Broken Arrow that is being called the Innovation District. By merging high-tech manufacturing, housing and education, planners say it should eventually attract thousands of high-paying jobs to the area.

In his presentation, Spurgeon pointed to the city’s strong financial position, the strength of its public-private partnerships and applauded its 800-plus employees for their continuing commitment to providing outstanding community service.

“This is a great time to be a Broken Arrowan,” he said, “because we have so many people here who want to be part of something that’s bigger than themselves.”

## KUDOS of the MONTH: TCC Signature Symphony

From the music of John Williams to Bach and Broadway, Signature Symphony at Tulsa Community College has entertained for four decades. The 2018-2019 season marks this professional orchestra’s 40th anniversary.

To help celebrate the milestone, Signature Symphony will recreate the debut program, “Bach and Sons, Inc.,” 40 years after the first concert performed by the Tulsa Little Symphony. Tulsa Little Symphony would later become TCC’s orchestra-in-residence, Signature Symphony. The special performance will be at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26 at



**FUN TIMES:** Maestro Andrés Franco and Signature Symphony musicians have fun during performances even dressing in costume such as the recent “Star Wars and Beyond” concert.

the VanTrease Performing Arts Center for Education on the TCC Southeast Campus.

The current season is a year-long anniversary celebration created

with input from Signature Symphony audience members, musicians and advisory board members to include audience favorites from the professional orchestra’s history.

Since its formation in 1979, Signature Symphony at TCC has been committed to providing rich musical experiences and valuable musical instruction through its outreach, including free open rehearsals on the Thursday before every Classics concert. The next open rehearsal is 6:30 p.m., Jan. 24, and allows music lovers of all ages to experience professional orchestra rehearsals and enjoy educational interactions with our conductor, musicians and guest artists.

For information on the remaining TTCU Pops and Signature Classics performances or to purchase tickets, call 918-595-7777.





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# Tulsa Boat, Sport and Travel Show To Highlight Bravo's Captain Lee

The Tulsa Boat, Sport and Travel show will host The Stud of the Sea, Captain Lee Rosbach from Bravo TV's "Below Deck," on January 28 and 29.

The reality TV icon is known for captaining luxury yachts and hosting vacationers on their open sea adventures. "Below Deck" focuses on his crew as they tend to the wealthy and sometimes high maintenance clients of the mega yachts he commands. Captain Lee will first appear at VIP Night, which is sponsored by State Farm-Corbin Cooper, for exclusive meet and greet opportunities with guests. He'll return the following day to sign autographs for general admission.

"Having Captain Lee at VIP Night is going to be such a treat for our guests. He's operated some of the most luxurious yachts in the world, and he's a really nice guy," said Jennifer Maricle, executive director of the Tulsa Boat, Sport and Travel Show. "I mean, who doesn't love to binge watch shows on Bravo?"

Visitors to the Tulsa Boat, Sport and Travel show will also have an opportunity to win an RV, sponsored by Dave's RV. The 23-foot, 2019 Salem FSX has a retail value of \$22,265. To enter, attendees will embark on a scavenger hunt to visit four exhibitors' booths throughout the show and leave their submission at the Dave's RV booth.

"This is such a fun contest for attendees and exhibitors alike. People get to visit a part of the show they may have overlooked in the past, and at the end of the fun you have a chance to win a new RV!" said Maricle.

Gulf States Toyota is back for another year as Presenting Sponsor of The Tulsa Boat, Sport and Travel Show. "The regional Toyota group has been a loyal supporter of the event and we are thankful they decided to continue their support for the 2019 show," added Maricle.

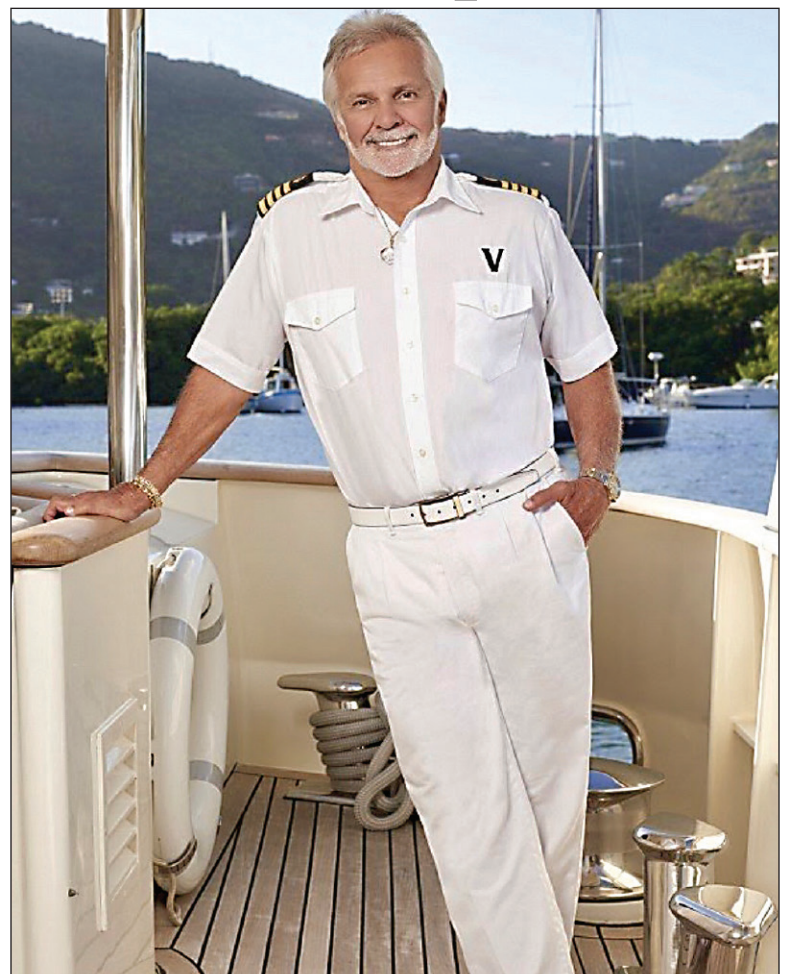
This year, VIP Night is getting an update with a new sponsor. State Farm-Corbin Cooper has put its support behind the popular Monday night event, which features a first look at the latest 2019 models as well as free food and beer while supplies last.

Other returning sponsors for 2019 include Hydrohoist and Osage Casino.

To purchase tickets or see a list of vendors, dates and times, visit [TulsaBoatShow.com](http://TulsaBoatShow.com) or follow on Facebook and Twitter @TulsaBoatShow and use the hashtag #TulsaBoatShow.

The recently opened Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center in Broken Arrow is this year's official hotel sponsor, giving attendees and exhibitors a new place to call home for the week.

To purchase tickets or see a list of vendors, dates and times, visit [TulsaBoatShow.com](http://TulsaBoatShow.com) or follow on Facebook and Twitter @TulsaBoatShow and use the hashtag #TulsaBoatShow.



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

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## CIVICS

# State of the City: Becoming Globally Competitive

Last November, I was privileged to present our State of the City's

report to one of the largest audiences in Tulsa history! My administration's focus is to become globally competitive: creating equal opportunities for all Tulsans, improving public safety and further developing the city we want for us and for those who come after us.

The evolution of our great city is being noticed by people around the country and around the world. They realize Tulsa is becoming a globally competitive, world-class city. Our mindset is one where we recognize not only our competitors around the world, but also our collaborators here at home.

## From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM  
Mayor of Tulsa

With \$300 million in downtown projects scheduled to begin construction in the next 12 months, our city's core continues to grow at an unparalleled pace. Additional numbers that speak to our city's resurgence, is a 30 percent decrease in homicides over last year. Also, a recent study by the U.S. Treasury's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency found Tulsa's job growth has outpaced not only our state's but the country's.

In 2018, we landed the two largest new employers to ever come to Tulsa in the history of our city – the Amazon distribution center, and Greenheck, a ventilation system manufacturer. While these two companies are historic wins for Tulsa, they represent a

broader trend. The U.S. Comptroller of the Currency issued a study in September 2018 showing that year-over-year, Tulsa outpaced not just Oklahoma but the United States as a whole, in job growth!

In 2019, our city's top three priorities will focus on infrastructure, education and development. The City Council and I will work to put together an estimated \$500 million renewal of the Improve Our Tulsa capital improvements package. The funding for this first initiative will go primarily to improve city streets and fix and replace aging and defective infrastructure, including police cars, fire trucks and park buildings. This is the city's basic infrastructure program. Although the city has made major strides in improving its roads, the reality is our streets are still a long way from something we can be proud of.

Our second initiative is to have a communitywide discussion for a plan on how Tulsans can improve their education system, from kindergarten through college, rather than wait for someone else to come up with a solution. Local education leaders, area-elected officials and Tulsa residents will be invited



Courtesy Tulsa Historical Society

**LOOKING FORWARD:** Tulsa has had a great history known once as "America's Most Beautiful City" and also as "The Oil Capital of the World." Tulsa is now becoming a globally competitive, world-class city.

to be part of the dialogue. We must find a way to put ourselves in a position to act and establish the best educational system that we can.

For our third significant initiative, we will tackle one of the city's less-known problems: long wait times for building plans to be reviewed and construction permits issued. Currently, initial plan reviews take an average of five weeks for those who are trying to invest in our city. That number will be reduced to five days by

adding five plan reviewers, making available self-certification and third-party plan review programs, and modernizing internal permitting processes.

I hope you share my excitement for the path Tulsa is on right now. Please know in Tulsa, people still matter more than partisanship. I ask you to join me in advancing our community on behalf of the people we love. For the full 2018 State of the City address, visit: [cityoftulsa.org/media](http://cityoftulsa.org/media).

# Energy Assessment Districts to Help with Costs

As an elected official I believe it makes sense to look for opportunities that couple together economic development with energy conservation. Helping commercial property owners lower their energy costs with redevelopment or retrofit projects can be a winning combination for the entire county.

To make this option available to the citizens of Tulsa County, we plan to introduce legislation that would permit counties to create energy assessment districts, commonly known as Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy, or C-PACE.

PACE programs have been around for about 10 years

and now exist in more than 30 states including Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Colorado and New Mexico.

Under a voluntary PACE program, counties can form special

assessment districts to help commercial property owners finance energy retrofits and new construction by placing an additional assessment on their property through private financing. No public dollars or taxpayer funds are used or are at risk.

Implementing a PACE program can address two major roadblocks to clean energy growth at the commercial level: (1) lack of available capital and (2) hesitancy to make long term energy efficiency/renewable energy investments for fear that the indebtedness cannot be recouped.

Unlike other types of assessment districts where the property owners in the district must pay a fee for some improvements, in a PACE assessment district the commer-

cial property owners would have to opt in to participate. There is no requirement that a commercial property owner has to participate. This is the opposite of traditional assessment districts where a property owner has to prove why it should be exempt from paying the assessment.

Financing in a PACE program has many benefits not available through a typical lending arrangement: (1) there is no requirement for any upfront funding by the property owner; (2) the assessment contract on the property transfers with the property upon sale; (3) the commercial property owner has the annual installment included on the property tax statement sent out by the County Treasurer; (4) typical terms allow the property owner at least 10 years and up to 30 years to repay the loan and the energy savings from the improvements to the property often equal or exceed the amount of the annual payment. Finally, if there is a primary lender on the property, the lender must give its consent for the transaction to move forward, ensuring that the transaction is reviewed carefully to insure that the bank is not jeopardizing its collateral. Over fifty (50) national and regional lending institutions have given their consent for PACE funded projects.

## From Tulsa County



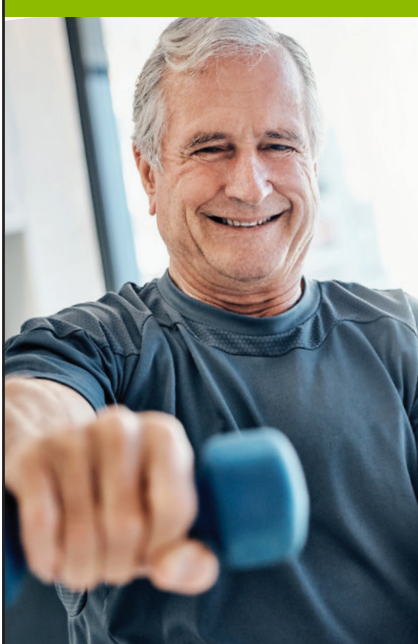
By COMMISSIONER  
RON PETERS



Designing a PACE program involves action at both the state and county level. First, a state must establish laws enabling counties to create special energy assessment districts that recognize energy efficiency and renewable energy as public "goods". Second, once the enabling law is in place, each county would pass a resolution creating the assessment district and author-

izing annual assessment lien creation and project financing. Finally, the county would establish administrative and funding processes.

Tulsa County believes the passage of the PACE legislation will provide commercial property owners and developers with a significant tool for economic development, property improvements and energy conservation.



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## GREATER TULSA PERSONALITIES

# CEO Aaron Darden Brings RAD, CNI to Tulsa

## Positive Changes Coming To Tulsa Housing Authority

By DJ MORROW INGRAM  
Contributing Writer

*Editor's Note: Greater Tulsa Personalities is a new feature in GTR Newspapers to highlight and focus on interesting people making important contributions in the Greater Tulsa region.*

For more than 50 years, the Tulsa Housing Authority (THA) has provided housing assistance to the Tulsa's most vulnerable citizens. It has grown to include more than 2,800 housing units serving over 20,000 people. But declines in federal funding have left many of the units challenged by deferred maintenance resulting in hubs of poverty.

Enter Aaron Darden, who officially joined THA as its president/CEO in May 2017. His fresh vision is transforming the agency and changing how Tulsans are provided affordable housing options.

Darden, who came to Tulsa from the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency in Nashville, began by working to change the culture of the agency. Reorganization, new personnel, a focus on employee training and a revamp of nearly every aspect of the agency brought a new level of professionalism to THA.

"Without a doubt he is a positive change agent," said Rick Neal, chairman of THA's Board of Commissioners. "Not only does he have the expertise in the field of public housing, he is also a leader with the heart and passion for the organization's mission and role in our community."

### A RAD-ical Change

Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) is a way to de-concentrate poverty by creating mixed-income properties. It allows public housing authorities (like THA) to convert from Section 9 Public Housing to the Multi-Family Section 8 Program. The U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program began in 2012 as a small pilot. By 2017 Congress had made 225,000 units eligible for such financing; this year HUD lifted the cap to 455,000. So far, 98,000 of the nation's 1.15 million federal housing units are being renovated under the program.

THA plans to convert all its properties to RAD.

"This will allow us to own our properties outright, stabilize funding and allow for redevelopment of our aging sites into mixed-income communities," Darden said.

The first property to be redeveloped is Comanche Park in North Tulsa at 36th Street and North Peoria. THA is utilizing a community-driven and supported planning process to create the plan for a new mixed-use, mixed-income community.

"While this approach takes a bit longer to implement, it will be a product of the community it serves," Darden said. "Experience in other communities has shown this provides for better long-term success."

The project will result in a one-for-one replacement of the Comanche units, enhanced and improved economic and cultural diversity of the area, a mixed-income community and a green, sustainable and financially feasible development.

At the same time, more than \$15 million in improvements will be made to the Sandy Park and Apache complexes.

"About \$45,000 will be spent on every unit in these complexes on things like granite countertops and stainless steel appliances plus some 'curb appeal' changes to the exterior," he said. "They will be market rate properties where people will be proud to live."

### Tulsa is CHOSEN – Choice Neighborhood Implementation

In July 2018 it was announced that THA, in partnership with the City of Tulsa, was one of five cities chosen nationwide to be given the Choice Neighborhood Implementation (CNI) grant of a \$30 million grant.

"Over the next five years, this will transform the Eugene Field community into a vibrant, mixed-income community on the Arkansas River," Darden said, citing the importance to the more than 40 community partners who were a part of the application.

The Zarrow Foundation has committed \$12 million for the project and the George Kaiser Family Foundation has committed \$27 million.

"All in all, there is more than

\$120 million being leveraged for this project and that is only the housing piece," he said. The CNI program focuses on the entire neighborhood with a focus on people, income growth, health, safety and schools. Key elements of this particular project include a neighborhood grocery store and community center.

"It will be a really cool place to live."

Construction on the project is expected to begin in 2020 and completed by 2024.

### An Emphasis on People

"It is really important to stress that these projects are not a way to replace those currently housed."

Residents will not lose rental assistance, rents will not increase and current residents will have the first right to return.

"We will relocate residents affected, including moving expenses and assistance in locating new residences," Darden said. "We will have a team dedicated to easing this process for our residents."

"We want to be a part of the changing public perception of those needing housing assistance," Darden said. "These projects will help us decentralize poverty in our community as it now exists."

### A Focus on Partnerships

While building and remodeling is a primary focus of THA, Darden says the social service aspect of the agency is just as important.

"We partner with nonprofits, churches, agencies and companies to provide assistance to our residents," he said. "From tutoring to life skills classes to youth programs and more, we are here to make life better for everyone in our communities."

"Our goal is self-sufficiency with dignity."

Darden credits his dedicated staff and Board for the accomplishments in his first 20 months at THA.

"No one does this alone," he said, adding that he is always looking for new partnerships.

Aaron Darden started his career in the public sector at the Nashville, Tennessee Metropolitan Development and Housing Agen-



AARON DARDEN

Courtesy photo

cy in 2008. For nearly a decade, Darden served in leadership roles throughout the agency. He left the agency serving as director of recapitalization and was previously chief operating officer of affordable housing. He holds the Certified Public Housing Manag-

er, Certified Occupancy Specialist and Certified Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Specialist designations. Darden also holds a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Memphis and an MBA from Tennessee State University.



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## VARIETY

# Entertainment Fun Predicted for New Year

Remember when people feared Y2K would create global chaos? That anxious time leading up to 2000 is now two decades old. Here we are in 2019, Y2K-wiser and, as a matter of course, dealing with whatever personal, world or domestic issues draw our attention. At home, when I feel even run-of-the-mill chaos encroaching, I put down my phone, turn off TV and turn on music. A night on the town offers the same respite — a chance to relax, refocus, and remember that life should be fun.

So, if you need a laugh, and who doesn't, you might want to check in with funnyman Brian Regan. He's a comic's comic. Jerry Seinfeld has long been a fan, so much so that he produced a Netflix series starring Regan that debuted on Christmas Eve. You can see Regan live at the Brady, Jan. 25.

If you'd rather kick back with music that night, River Spirit Casino and Resort hosts multi-Grammy Award winner Toni Braxton. An R&B diva, known for her husky, coloratura voice, Braxton also can belt out soul and pop with the best. Listen again to "Un-break My Heart" if you haven't heard it lately. Her Jan. 25 appearance is part of Braxton's "As Long As I Live" tour, also featuring SWV (Sisters with Voice).

As far as I know, Braxton doesn't sing country. For that, hop over to Catoosa. At Hard Rock's The Joint, Texas country music singer/songwriter Clay Walker performs, also on Jan. 25. He just released a new album, "Long Live the Cowboy."

One more show to put on your list for Jan. 25 is Golden Hornet's "The Sound of Science" with cellist extraordinaire Jeff Zeigler, a former member of the Kronos Quartet. Golden Hornet is a composer lab. "The Sound of Science" program, which has become an acclaimed album, features eight works created by renowned contemporary composers. Each is a tribute to a celebrated scientist. Their music will be performed on Zeigler's amplified cello and incorporates other electronics. This evocative presentation is hosted at the PAC by Choregus Productions.

More music can be enjoyed that weekend at the VanTrease PAC, located at TCC's south campus for an all-Bach program, Jan. 26, performed by the Signature Symphony.

There's still time to catch Theatre Tulsa's "Beauty and the Beast," playing through Feb. 3. Margaret Stall and Drew Rosene star in this "tale as old as time," with music from the 1991 animated film written by Alan Menken and with lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice. Look for great costumes, choreography and musical direction. The musical is staged in one of the PAC's smaller venues. Young

people, especially, will enjoy the up-close theatre experience, and the production will appeal to all ages.

For non-musical theatre, consider Theatre North's "The Green Book." "The Negro Motorist's Green Book" was a motor guide during the 1930s through 1960s for finding restaurants and hotels that accepted people of color. The two-act play, written by Calvin A. Ramsey, runs Feb. 3-10.

Don't miss a rare opportunity to hear a nationally recognized saxophone quartet. The Kenari Quartet comes to Tulsa for a week of residency, Jan. 22-28. Chamber Music Tulsa

## Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN



**TONI BRAXTON:** The R&B diva appears at River Spirit Casino and Resort Jan. 25.



**CLAY WALKER:** Country music comes to The Joint Jan. 25.



**ELTON JOHN:** The incomparable entertainer returns to the BOK Center on Feb. 9.



**KELLY CLARKSON:** The megawatt singer lights up the BOK Center on Feb. 8.



**KENARI QUARTET:** The rare saxophone chamber music ensemble performs at the Tulsa PAC Jan. 27.

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hosts the group's stay, including a Jan. 27, 3 p.m. performance at the Tulsa PAC. Formed in 2012, Kenari is passionate in their promotion of music by living composers. The Kenari's stop in Tulsa will be a performance season highlight.

TV journalist Lara Logan speaks at Tulsa Town Hall's event, Feb. 1. From all accounts, she is fearless. Logan provided vital reporting from inside an extremely dangerous Afghanistan. She was the only major American television journalist in Iraq when the last war broke out, having found a way back into Baghdad after CBS evacuated all personnel. In 2011, she was brutally assaulted by a large gang in Cairo's Tahrir Square during the Arab spring. Interviewing her for the Tulsa Performing Arts Center's INTERMISSION magazine, I found her to be candid, genuine and dedicated to her craft. I am so much looking forward to hearing her presentation, "On the Front Lines with Lara Logan."

Also at the PAC is Tulsa Symphony Orchestra's performance of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7 in C Major, Feb. 2, conducted by Gerhardt Zimmermann. This is a moving piece, written during the 900-day German siege of Leningrad (now Saint Petersburg).

A trio of heavy hitters are up Feb 8 through Feb. 11 at the BOK Center. Kelly Clarkson's show is slated for Feb. 8. This winner of the first American Idol competition has the pipes! Her warm TV presence as a judge on "The Voice" has earned her new fans.

Elton John's shows are worth every dollar. He just doesn't hold back. I love watching his hands on the keyboard as much as revisiting "Rocket Man" and "Tiny Dancer." My favorite Elton John tune is "Your Song." What's yours? He returns to the BOK on Feb. 9.

Popular American rapper Travis Scott rocks the BOK on Feb. 11. Also, be sure to peruse the upcoming jazz schedules for Tulsa's jazz club, Duet, and the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame.

We have many choices. That by itself is worth celebrating. I'm viewing 2019 with a sense of optimism, and I plan to have some fun along the way. Join me!

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# Red Dirt Founding Father Steve Ripley Remembered

*"I love Nashville country and Texas Tex-Mex and Cajun and Motown soul, but in the heart of America, we got the beat that's guaranteed to tap your toes..."*  
— Steve Ripley, Tulsa Shuffle

The song Tulsa Shuffle, from the Tractors' 1994 platinum-selling debut album, would be the theme song for this column if such a concept existed. No other song embodies the Tulsa Sound and speaks to the spirit and soul of Red Dirt music, just as no other musician embodies and embraces our unique genre more than the late, great Steve Ripley, who passed away on Jan. 3, two days after his 69th birthday.

Ripley, who grew up on his family's Oklahoma Land Run homestead in Pawnee County before attending Oklahoma State University, was more than a musician. He was a songwriter, inventor, producer, engineer, radio host, and as of 2016, the official curator of the Leon Russell collection at OKPOP.

It was Ripley who introduced the term Red Dirt into the musical lexicon. His band's 1974 album, "Moses Live," was released under Ripley's own label, Red Dirt Records, an event which many historians and musicians agree marked the birth of the Red Dirt genre.

He was Leon Russell's sound engineer. He played guitar on two J.J. Cale albums. He owned the legendary Church Studio for 19 years. In his final years, he worked to rescue and preserve the musical archives of his friend Leon Russell.

There is simply no one more immersed in the history of Tulsa music.

His story extends beyond our community. He played on Bob Dylan's album Shot of love before embarking on a world tour with his musical hero, joining Dylan's great gospel band in 1981. In a 2009 interview with Rolling Stone, Dylan was asked if he had ever played a set with the perfect guitarist. Dylan took the question as an opportunity to reminisce about a few of the countless guitarists he's played with, and mentioned Ripley among a handful of his favorites.

Ripley left his fingerprint on 1980s pop music as well. It was his invention, the Ripley Stereo Guitar, that was used by Eddie Van Halen on the album 1984. His Burbank, California-based company, Ripley Guitars has created guitars for Steve Vai, Ry Cooder, Dweezil Zappa and Jimmy Buffet.

After purchasing the Church Studio in 1987, Ripley began recording the demos that would become the Tractors' self-titled first album. After selling more than two million copies and reaching number two on the Country billboard charts, the Tractors went on to record six more albums and earn two Grammy nominations over the next decade and a half.

While the Tractors were categorized under the broad umbrella of Country music, what Ripley, drummer Jamie Oldaker, guitarist Ron Getman, pianist Walt Richmond and bassist Casey Van Beek created was truly a genre of one.

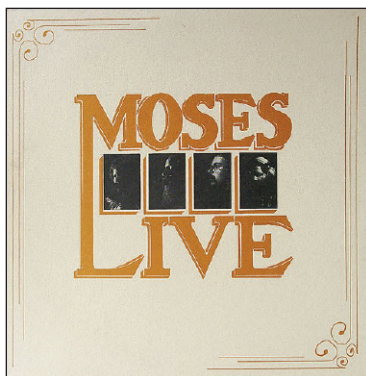
In an interview for Voices of Oklahoma recorded in April 2018, Ripley shares a lyric from a song he was working on at the time that addresses the question of musical genre. "We play farm music. Where you end up is tied to where you start. We owe as much to Johnny B. Goode as we do to Your Cheatin' Heart."

Ripley moved back to his family's farm in Pawnee County in 2005. He made a few updates to the property, including a recording studio, where he produced his radio show for the Oklahoma Historical Society.

In 2016, OKPOP acquired the Leon Russell archive and Ripley became official curator of the collection, tasked with restoring, cataloging, digitizing, and archiving the vast collection of Leon Russell master tapes.

Ripley's legacy is intact and his genius is undeniable. His contributions are glaring. You can't learn about the history of Tulsa music without learning about Steve Ripley. He's there at every turn. Ubiquitous. The Forrest Gump of Tulsa music.

Ripley's family requests donations to The Red Dirt Relief Fund, [reddirtrelieffund.org](http://reddirtrelieffund.org), in lieu of



**BIRTH CERTIFICATE:** Steve Ripley's band released the album "Moses Live" in 1974 under Ripley's label, Red Dirt Records. It is widely considered the birth of the Red Dirt genre.

flowers. Red Dirt Relief Fund provides a safety net of critical assistance to Oklahoma music people in times of need.

We ended 2018 saying goodbye to Roy Clark, now, sadly we begin 2019 saying goodbye to another legend; an ambassador who brought Tulsa's brand of music to the world.

Ripley had his priorities straight and kept things in the proper perspective. This is evidenced by his sign-off from every one of his radio shows, "Don't forget, family is what's important. Tell your mama you love her. Kiss your babies. We're all in this together. Bye-bye, kids."

I couldn't agree more. However, since I live in the heart of America, where we got the beat that's guaranteed to tap your toes, I'm gonna stick with my own sign off and remind you all to keep searching, keep listening.

## Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL



**OKLAHOMA BLUES:** Guitarist, songwriter, inventor, engineer, radio host and curator Steve Ripley passed away at his home in Pawnee County on Jan. 3.

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# Gov. Stitt Appoints Tulsan Sean Kouplen to Serve As Sec. of Commerce and Workforce Development

Gov. Kevin Stitt has appointed Tulsan Sean Kouplen as the next Secretary of Commerce and Workforce Development, a cabinet position that will require Senate confirmation. "Sean Kouplen is a proven business leader and entrepreneur, full of vision, energy and passion for seeing our state thrive and achieve Top 10 status. His reputation and network, both in the state and nationwide, will help propel Oklahoma forward to achieve a robust recruitment agenda," said Stitt.

Upon confirmation, Kouplen will serve on the governor's cabinet in an unpaid capacity, casting vision for the Commerce Department and playing a strategic leadership role in recruiting business growth and in the development of Oklahoma's workforce.

Kouplen will also continue his role as Chairman and CEO of Regent Bank in Tulsa. Under his leadership, the bank has grown in size from \$72 million to almost \$600 million in assets since 2008. Kouplen has been named Central U.S. Community Banker of the Year, Oklahoma Small Business Financial Champion, one of Journal Record's Most Admired CEO's, Citizen of the Year in Bixby, Top National Young Alumni by his fraternity, and Top 100 MBA of the Century by Oklahoma State University. Kouplen has held numerous local and statewide leadership positions and currently serves on the board of directors for MetaFund, Hillcrest South Hospital, OSU Foundation, SouthPoint Church and is a member of Young President's Organization and Oklahoma Bankers Association. Kouplen holds B.S. and M.B.A. degrees from OSU.

"I am excited to work with the outstanding professionals in the Department of Commerce to grow Oklahoma's economy. Our goals are to aggressively target busi-

nesses to expand in Oklahoma and educate all state business and community leaders about our excellent economic and community development programs," said Kouplen.

"As a business owner and CEO, I bring a very pragmatic, strategic approach to the position. We will target those businesses, inside and outside the state who are most likely to expand here. We will also work hard to tell our story to fellow Oklahomans. Our state has many remarkable business success stories and we want to highlight those and inspire the next generation of Oklahomans to stay right here and do great things."

The following are quotes of support for the appointment of Sean Kouplen:

"Governor-elect Stitt has made an excellent choice in selecting Sean Kouplen as his Secretary of Commerce. Sean is a creative and innovative leader. Not only has he led his bank to dramatic growth, but he is also a devoted family man and serves his community in many capacities. Sean will lead the way in developing new economic opportunities for Oklahoma and will provide wise counsel on the Governor's cabinet."

— **Burns Hargis**, President of Oklahoma State University

"Sean Kouplen has been a close friend for many years and he is a person with tremendous integrity, energy and business acumen. He is a selfless community leader who has built one of the country's top community banking organizations. His creativity and drive will undoubtedly propel Oklahoma into a top economic growth state."

— **Jim Bridenstine**, Administrator of NASA and former U.S. Representative from Oklahoma

"Governor-elect Stitt's cabinet selection of Sean Kouplen as Oklahoma's Secretary of Com-



SEAN KOUPLEN

Courtesy photo

merce shows he is working diligently to select proven leaders in business. In addition to being a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Sean is passionate about Native American issues and I know he will strengthen our Nation's partnership with the State of Oklahoma. We look forward to working with him in his new role and with Governor-elect Stitt to grow our economy together."

— **Principal Chief James Floyd**, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

"I have worked with Sean Kouplen for several years and know him to be a tremendous supporter of this Hispanic business community. His company actually won a top award this year for its tre-

mendous support of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and our partner businesses. We are looking forward to working closely with Kouplen in his new role as Secretary of Commerce to expand existing Hispanic-owned businesses and attract new ones to our state."

— **James E. Sanchez**, Chairman of Tulsa Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

"Sean Kouplen is an outstanding business and community leader who cares deeply about our state. Over the last 10 years, he has built a tremendous company known for its nation-leading growth and amazing corporate culture. Faith is a very important part of Sean's life and he treats everyone he en-

counters with respect. He will undoubtedly do an excellent job as Secretary of Commerce and I can't think of anyone better to lead us toward top 10 economic growth."

— **Piyush Patel**, Author of Lead Your Tribe, Love Your Work and Angel Investor, founder of Digital-Tutors

"I have had the pleasure of knowing Sean Kouplen for more than 10 years, and in that time have watched him be a man of integrity in business, a wonderful father, and a strong leader in his church. As Secretary of Commerce, he will bring not only his knowledge of business, but also the knowledge that it is people and relationships that are the true key to success in any endeavor. The tools he will bring with him to this role will position the Department of Commerce and our state to be the best possible in the country. Our businesses will thrive and those looking to start a business or relocate will notice and want to tap into what we have."

— **Krystal Crockett**, President/CEO of Bixby Metro Chamber of Commerce

"Much of Oklahoma's economy originates in rural communities across the state. It is heartening to have a person like Sean Kouplen named to lead economic development efforts, knowing that he brings great insights from his work in serving rural residents, businesses, farms, ranches and community organizations. With his background in agricultural economics and his demonstrated acumen in leadership, Sean is well suited to ensure that all of Oklahoma's economy grows and thrives."

— **Thomas Coon**, Vice president of agricultural programs at Oklahoma State University

## Rogers State Public Television Moves to Channel 32

RSU Public TV is moving from channel 36 to channel 32 on Feb. 11 as part of a "repacking" effort.

Repacking is mandatory by the FCC and will affect three stations in the Tulsa television market, including RSU Public TV.

By definition, repacking is the process of moving broadcasters into a smaller and more tightly packed spectrum band in order to free up broadcast spectrum for wireless carriers nation wide, resulting in the need to upgrade out-dated equipment.

Royal Aills, general manager of RSU Public TV says, "This is

really a blessing for us. Our transmitter is at the end of its life. With a new transmitter, we will operate for the next 20 years."

Viewers on cable and satellite should not be affected. Those who watch TV over the air with an antenna will need to rescan their TV's on Feb. 11 at 9 a.m.

Aills says, "Viewers who have trouble rescanning their TV's can go to our website at rsu.tv or call for instruction on how to rescan. We will also have a phone bank set up should anyone want to call. We will walk them through the rescan." That number is 1-800-823-7210.

So how do you rescan your TV's? Select "scan" or "autotune" on the TV or converter box control menu to start the scanning process. Instructions are usually available by pressing the "set-up" or "menu" button on the remote control. This move is happening behind the scenes, so the channel number viewers know will not change. No additional equipment purchases is required.

RSU Public TV has been on the air for 37 years and is the only university-owned public TV station in Oklahoma. For more information, visit [www.rsu.tv](http://www.rsu.tv).



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# Boston Ave. Church Architect Controversy Continues

Periodically when it's a slow news day and newspapers need filler material, an enterprising columnist will bring up the old unsolved issue of who designed The Boston Avenue United Methodist Church. This authorship has become important because the church is considered an art deco masterpiece and a Tulsa landmark by the design community.

Because my grandparents, the C.C. Coles, played a key role in the creation of this building, I think I have some special insight in this saga.

The Boston Avenue building would never have happened without the convergence of two separate individuals, One pair of individuals and a certain time in Tulsa's history.

In the 1920's, Tulsa's population swelled from a modest 7,200 at statehood to 142,000 at the end of the decade. Tulsa was a young man's oil boom town where anything was possible. The optimism in the community was almost palpable. In 1922, 60-year-old Dr. John A. Rice was assigned to Boston Avenue as its senior pastor. By 1925, it was obvious that the church had outgrown its Fifth Street and Boston Avenue building. In 1926, Rice appointed a 12 person building committee, chaired by C.C. Cole, a long-

time church member and real estate investor.

## On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

Dr. Rice knew his career was drawing to a close. This was a chance to create a new kind of Methodist Church building before he retired. C.C. Cole's wife Audrey was sensitive to design and networked with Tulsa's art community. The Coles toured the United States looking for unique church design ideas. Rice and his wife travelled to Europe for the same

purpose.

The committee received designs from interested architects, which they rejected for lack of originality. Audrey Cole knew of a local artist, a high school art teacher who could provide an idea. The committee gave her a shot. Based on a rough sketch of a circular worship space with a tall tower she was selected. The artist was Adah Robinson, a Quaker and teacher with no architectural



ADAH ROBINSON: From a painting by Jo Beth Harris. It hangs in Bishops Hall at the church.



BRUCE GOFF

training or experience. One of her prize pupils, a recent Central High School graduate who worked as a draftsman for a well-respected architectural firm, Rush, Endacott and Rush, was a person Robinson trusted to transform her designs into construction documents. The draftsman's name was Bruce Goff. He had no formal architectural education.

The subsequent contracts were letters of agreement written by C. C. Cole. Rush, Endacott and Rush was to be the architect of record. The architects agreed to "cooperate with Robinson in all matters pertaining to the artistic features of the project."

Adah Robinson was to be in charge of design "all matters artistic both as to interior finish and outside design." The project was soon fast tracked due to the pastor's failing health. It was thought his eventual replacement might not be as sympathetic to the new church's design. Construction was begun before drawings were completed.

Boston Avenue is a smorgasbord of unique design features; everything from light fixtures to its radiator grills are unique to the church. Many items such as the sanctuary balcony railing and the Great Hall's wall sconces and wall and ceiling treatments had to be ripped out and changed. They were based on the architect's drawings but did not agree with Robinson's designs.

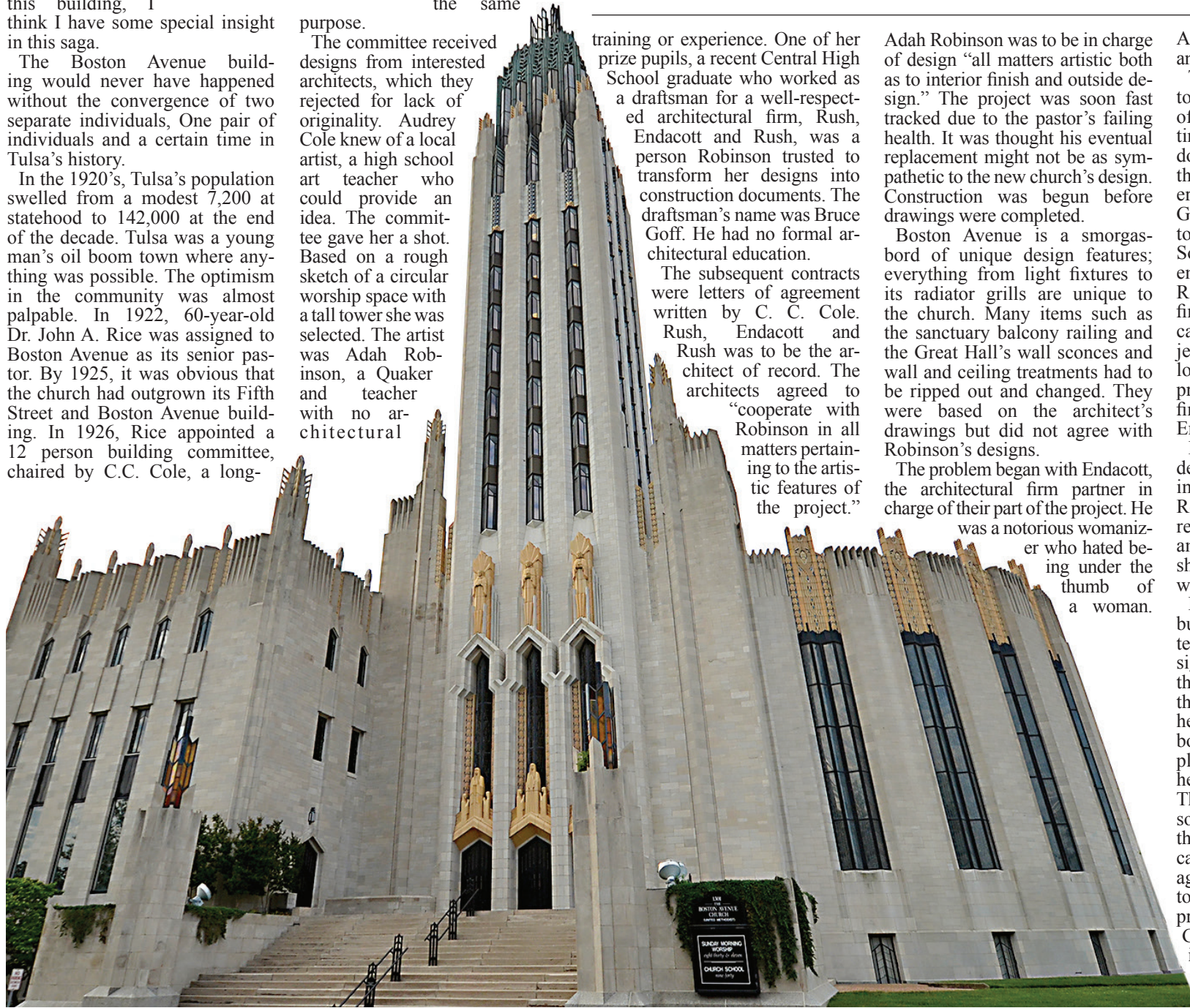
The problem began with Endacott, the architectural firm partner in charge of their part of the project. He was a notorious womanizer who hated being under the thumb of a woman.

As the project progressed, so did the animosity.

The architects and the artist had to hold all their meetings at Cole's office, considered a neutral setting. Robinson's contract fee was doubled due to her difficulty with the architects. The committee never once met or were introduced to Goff. Endacott constantly tried to undermine Robinson to Cole. Somehow he convinced Goff to end his close relationship with Robinson with a partnership in the firm at the end of the project as a carrot. By the middle of the project, Goff and Robinson were no longer speaking. By the end of the project in 1930, the architectural firm's name was changed to Rush, Endacott, and Goff.

In later years, Goff claimed the design of this famous building, an important reference in his resume. Robinson, with Quaker reticence, refused to comment, which was amazing because she was never shy about vocally evaluating the work of her students.

Did Adah Robinson design the building or did Bruce Goff? Architects tend to support Goff as the designer. Rice supported Robinson as the designer. The C. C. Coles spent the rest of their lives defending her authorship. The administrative board of Boston Avenue mounted a plaque below a bronze bust of her head displayed in the church parlor. The plaque reads "Adah M. Robinson whose creative mind conceived this church, the design, significance, color, symbols, whose courage and patience carried through to completion." The church never provided any recognition to Bruce Goff. All of the major players in this saga are long deceased. Readers, I think you know my opinion, but what is yours?



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## HEALTH & WELLNESS

# OSU Center for Health Sciences Awarded \$1.8 Million to Combat Opioid Epidemic

The Center for Wellness and Recovery at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences (OSU-CHS) has been awarded more than \$1.8 million in state and federal funds to combat the opioid epidemic in Oklahoma. The two awards will focus on education of the public regarding opioid prescriptions, treatment of those with opioid use disorder, and on training of resident physicians to identify and treat opioid use disorder.

Opioid misuse in Oklahoma is a problem that is compounded by the lack of patient education on the effects of opioids, failure to recognize the symptoms of early addiction, and a lack of available trained and certified providers of medication assisted treatment. In 2016, 813 Oklahomans died from overdoses resulting in a rate of 21.5 people per 100,000 compared to the national rate of 19.8 people per 100,000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Trust for America's Health reports that the rate in Oklahoma could in-

crease to 31.7 people per 100,000 by 2025, if drastic steps are not implemented.

"OSU Center for Health Sciences is committed to lead the fight against opioid use disorder for the sake of our rural communities, and for all Oklahomans. These grants will give us more resources to help educate and treat those suffering from addiction, as well as prevent the next generation from becoming addicted to these drugs that can become deadly when misused," said Dr. Kayse M. Shrum, president of OSU-CHS, and dean, OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine.

### About Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences

Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences educates osteopathic physicians, scientists, allied health professionals and health care administrators for Oklahoma with an emphasis on serving rural and underserved Oklahoma.

OSU-CHS offers graduate and professional degrees with over



**OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES:** Located in Tulsa at the corner of Southwest Blvd. and West 17th Street, OSU-CHS will utilize state and federal funds to provide education, training and treatment to combat opioid abuse.

1,000 students enrolled in academic programs in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, the School of Allied Health, the School of Health Care Administration, the

School of Biomedical Sciences, and the School of Forensic Sciences.

OSU Medicine operates a network of clinics in the Tulsa area

offering a multitude of specialty services including cardiology, family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry and women's health.

## Cardiothoracic Surgeon Joins St. John Clinic in Tulsa

### Cornell University Graduate George M. Comas, M.D. Brings Wealth of Experience

Cardiothoracic surgeon George M. Comas, M.D., has joined Ascension Medical Group, part of St. John Health System in Tulsa. He brings with him a wealth of training and experience at some of the nation's leading teaching hospitals.

Dr. Comas joins St. John from

Abington Hospital-Jefferson Health in Pennsylvania, where for the past two years he has been an attending cardiothoracic surgeon and assistant professor of surgery. Prior to that, he was an attending cardiothoracic surgeon with Lee Memorial Hospital System in Fort Myers, Florida.



**DR. GEORGE M. COMAS**

Dr. Comas earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from Cornell University Medical College in New York City in 2003. In 2009, he completed his general surgery residency training at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, where he also completed a two-year fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery. He completed a second two-year fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at Emory University Medical Center in Atlanta in 2013.

Dr. Comas also has authored or co-authored dozens of medical papers and abstracts and from 1996 to 1998 served in the Peace Corps,

teaching physics, math and chemistry in Cameroon, Africa.

Appointments with Dr. Comas can be made by calling 918-712-3366.

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## American Red Cross Asks for Blood Donors

### January is National Blood Donor Month

The American Red Cross encourages people to help meet the urgent need for blood and platelets by resolving to give blood this January – National Blood Donor Month.

Donating blood or platelets is a way to make a lifesaving impact in the new year for patients like Judy Janssen, who was diagnosed with end-stage autoimmune liver disease in 2016. Janssen received frequent blood transfusions – sometimes multiple times a week – until she underwent a liver transplant last January.

"Blood donors make a really big difference with very little effort," said Janssen, who received dozens of transfusions before and during her transplant surgery. "I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for blood donations."

The critical role of blood and platelet donors has been celebrated each January for nearly 50 years during National Blood Donor Month, which coincides with one of the most difficult times to maintain a sufficient blood supply for patients. Busy holiday schedules, extreme winter weather and

seasonal illnesses often impact donor turnout this time of year.

The Red Cross encourages eligible donors to resolve to give blood or platelets regularly, beginning in January.

Make an appointment to donate blood or platelets by downloading the free American Red Cross

Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Another way to help keep the blood supply strong in the new

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## EDUCATION

# Endowment Creates Scholarships for Minorities at TU

### Arnall Family Foundation Funds Program

The University of Tulsa announced a \$5 million endowment made possible by Oklahoma entrepreneur and TU alumna Sue Ann Arnall that will make a meaningful education at the state's top-ranked university more accessible and affordable. The new program, established through a gift from the Arnall Family Foundation, will annually award 10 scholarships to African American students from Oklahoma.

The endowment addresses the roots of racial inequality and social injustice that many minorities face by empowering students with the tools they need to earn a valuable degree from a small, private research university. The Arnall Scholarship Fund offers academic, non-athletic program awards to African American undergraduate students or those studying in TU's College of Law.

"We want to break down barriers and pave pathways for bright young people from our state who might not otherwise pursue a college degree or may need assistance taking the first step toward a legal career," Arnall said. "My sincere hope is that these scholarships create opportunity at my alma mater and that the recipients then inspire others to follow in their footsteps."

Arnall (BS '77, JD '80) is a



CHRISTOFF ORR



ALEXANDER MCKAUGHAN



PIERRE ROBERTSON



SUE ANN ARNALL

member of the TU Board of Trustees as well as a board member and president of the Arnall Family Foundation, which is dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk children in Oklahoma, criminal justice reform and animal welfare. The organization's financial commitment aligns with TU's five-year strategic plan, which seeks to provide the resources to support the academic ambitions of historically underrepresented and first-generation students.

"Thanks to this insightful gift, a personalized TU education is just as accessible as a public ed-

ucation," TU President Gerard Clancy said. "As Arnall Scholars, these students can realize greater potential for their academic endeavors, their careers and their communities through the critical component of financial support. We are grateful to Sue Ann for recognizing and then fulfilling this need in Oklahoma."

Recipients for the 2018-19 academic year are Olusola Adeyeye (nursing), Samuel Darbeh (undecided), Tavion Dyer (political science), Alexander McKaughan (marketing), David Nnaji (mechanical engineering), Strephon O'Brien (art), Christoff Orr (me-

chanical engineering), Josiah Parks (undecided), Pierre Robertson (law) and Khalil Rozell (energy management).

"The Arnall Scholarship Fund exemplifies one of the many ways TU and its stakeholders are committed to diversity, equity and inclusiveness," said TU Vice President of Diversity and Engagement Jacqueline Caldwell. "We are excited about this tremendous level of support that allows our university to attract even more African American students who will then become role models for future generations."

Arnall is a 20-year veteran of

the energy industry and leads a group of companies under Essay Management Services, LLC. She is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association and holds executive residence at Oklahoma City University.

Arnall also serves on the board of directors for the Central Oklahoma Humane Society and the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics, and the board of trustees for Mercy Hospital.

For more information about the Arnall Scholarship Fund or to schedule an interview, please contact Gail Ellis at 918-631-3730 or [gail-ellis@utulsa.edu](mailto:gail-ellis@utulsa.edu).



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A recognized contributor to regional economic prosperity, we have one vision, to the region's leader of career and technical education, resulting in a quality job for every Tulsa Tech student and a skilled workforce for every company, and our mission is simple; educating people for success in the workplace.

We take great pride in being a highly-diversified institution that rivals the complexities of many colleges and universities, and serving as a link between students and the developing economy of the Tulsa metro area.

Tulsa Tech currently serves nearly 6,000 high school and adult students exploring over 90 full-time career majors in addition to providing training for over 31,000 customers in both part-time classes and customized business and industry training.

Students can choose from a variety of exciting programs including health sciences, aerospace, pre-engineering, automotive, and information technology. Tuition is free for public, private, and home-schooled high school students with affordable tuition for adult learners. We offer morning, afternoon, evening and all-day classes to fit any schedule.

Tulsa Tech offers the Accelerating Independence Scholarship, which covers 100 percent of tuition and fees for individuals age 18-23 with GED or high school degrees from any in-district, public, parochial or home school. This scholarship was developed to help provide a pathway for this age group to acquire the skills that

currently align with the industry needs of our region.

Increasing student educational access and career success are among Tulsa Tech's top priorities. To facilitate this, we have created many shorter courses aligned with overall career majors, and industry certifications, provided to our students in a more business friendly way. Many of these part-time classes build upon larger career majors, and ultimately offer students optional pathways within a particular career field.

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## News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER  
Superintendent



**CAREER PATH:** Television production, health occupations and aerospace programs are just a few of more than 90 full-time career majors Tulsa Tech currently offers to nearly 6,000 high school and adult students.



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## BROKEN ARROW NEWS

# B.A. City Attorney Living His Childhood Dream

By **BOB LEWIS**  
Contributing Editor

Broken Arrow City Attorney Trevor Dennis is living proof that childhood dreams can come true.

Maybe it was because he grew up in the generation when 'LA Law' was the hottest show on television, he quips, "but I knew at any early age that I wanted to be a lawyer."

Being part of his high school's debate team and participation in Boy's State helped lay the foundation for fulfillment of his dream. But it was the opportunity to work in a small law firm in his hometown of Coffeyville, Kansas, that launched him on a career path that led to Kansas State University where he earned a bachelor's

degree in 1999 and the University of Tulsa College of Law where he received his Juris Doctorate 2003.

After graduating, Dennis served as an intern with a Tulsa law firm specializing in medical malpractice cases, working his way up the corporate ladder to the position of Associate Attorney. When given the opportunity to join the City of Broken Arrow's Legal Department as Assistant City Attorney in 2009, he was both eager and well prepared.

With the retirement of long-time City Attorney Beth Anne Wilkening in 2018, he was tapped to take the reins of the department that consists of six attorneys and two full-time and one part-time legal assistants. His job description in-



TREVOR DENNIS

cludes a myriad of responsibilities including being the chief legal advisor to the City Council, commissions and authorities.

Dennis says his time in city government has been everything he had hoped it would be – and perhaps a bit more.

"The thing about working for a municipality is you never know what will walk through the front door," he said. Illustrating this fact has been a diversity of challenges ranging from a resident who insisted he had every right to keep a small pony in his backyard as a family pet to development of meaningful regulations on the emerging medical marijuana industry.

Away from the office, Dennis is a dedicated family man with a wife

and two children, the oldest of whom is involved in competitive cheer. He is also getting involved in the long-standing Oklahoma passion of deer hunting – not with a rifle, but a cross bow.

"I really love the outdoors and being in the woods," he said. He admits he has yet to bag his first deer but is hopeful that situation will change in the near future.

Dennis says his career goal is to be Broken Arrow's city attorney for a very long time.

"I truly love being able to serve this community," he said. "My predecessor was here, I believe, for 20 years. I would like to continue that trend and intend to stick around for as long as they will have me."

# Arvest Bank Awards \$500 to Broken Arrow Teacher

*Erin Shelby to Use Funds on Classroom Enhancements*

Arvest Bank has announced that Erin Shelby, who teaches First Grade at Leisure Park Elementary in Broken Arrow, has been awarded \$500 as part of a four-state program to support education.

In addition, Sarah Carter of Robertson Elementary in Tulsa was also awarded \$500. A total of 116 awards, totaling \$58,000, are being given this year. The award was a surprise to both teachers.

"I plan to purchase a new educational area rug so that every student has enough room to sit during whole group instruction," said Shelby. "I am so appreciative to Arvest Bank for providing mon-

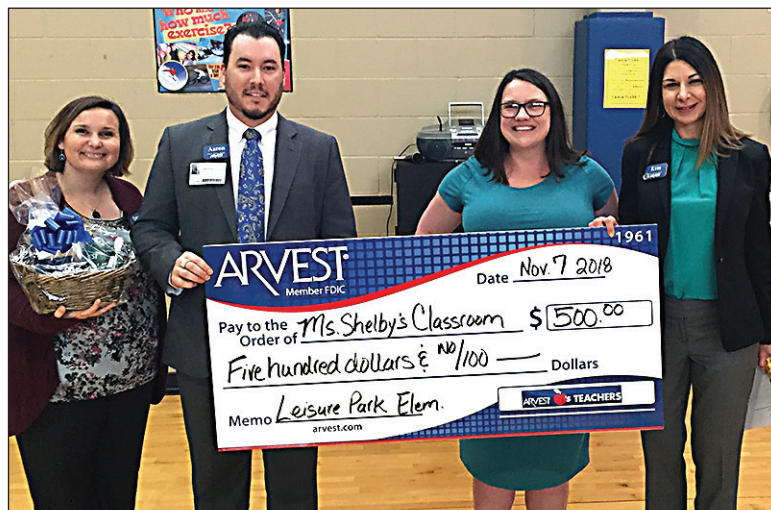
ey to use in the classroom. I have taught for 12 years and have spent thousands of dollars on my classroom. For Arvest to recognize this and be willing to contribute means so much."

The Arvest initiative to honor educators was launched on Oct. 15. Nominations were accepted via the Arvest Bank Facebook page, and the awards come at a time when some school budgets have been cut.

"Arvest is thrilled to help support not just Mrs. Shelby and Carter, but all of our award recipients," Arvest Sales Manager Kim Adams said. "We know how hard teachers

work to educate the children in our communities, and we hope these prizes can make their jobs a little easier."

Arvest Bank, named by Forbes magazine as one of "America's Best Large Employers" for 2018, operates more than 270 bank branches and serves customers in more than 135 communities, with extended weekday banking hours at many locations. Arvest also provides a wide range of banking services including loans, deposits, treasury management, credit cards, mortgage loans and mortgage servicing. Arvest is an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC.



Courtesy photo

**SUPPORTING EDUCATION:** From left, Dawn Fender and Aaron Calhoun with Arvest Bank, Erin Shelby and Kim Adams.

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## BROKEN ARROW SPORTS

# Tigers Coach Competed In Legendary NFL Game

By **MIKE MOGUIN**  
GTR Sports Writer

The storm delay at the Class 6A championship on Nov. 30 is not the only time Broken Arrow coach David Alexander dealt with adverse weather conditions in a game.

Remember the Fog Bowl? That 1988 NFL postseason battle between the Chicago Bears and the Philadelphia Eagles? Where fog came onto the field in the middle of the game?

Familiar names from that debacle are Mike Ditka, Buddy Ryan, the coaches, respectively. Bears like Jim McMahon and Mike Singletary, Eagles such as Randall Cunningham and Reggie White, the list goes on.

But one player people may not be aware of who competed in that game is Alexander. Also a former University of Tulsa standout, the Tigers' coach started left guard for the Eagles in that legendary game that had its 30th anniversary on New Year's Eve.

The game, played at Soldier Field in Chicago, was an NFC Divisional playoff with a berth in the NFC Championship on the line. The fog obscured the view for most fans and press box workers. Field cameras had to be used for the action to be seen on TV.

"It stands out quite a bit, because it was so different, such a unique environment," Alexander said. "But, the first thing that pops into my head that no one talks about is the crowd couldn't see what was going on. It was so quiet. There was no cheering. There was no music being played. It was just like a practice."

Through the game, Alexander



Internet File Photo

**FOG BOWL:** Philadelphia Eagles' offensive lineman David Alexander (72), along with quarterback Randall Cunningham (12) and referee Jim Tunney, center, in dense foggy conditions in a playoff game against the Chicago Bears on New Year's Eve 1988. Alexander was involved in the famous crazy weather game, played 30 years ago.

mostly had the task of blocking Dan Hampton or Steve McMichael, two of the leading players on the Bears' famed defense of that era. It was a big experience, he said.

The game started as a competitive and fierce battle. Chicago scored two touchdowns while all of Philadelphia's points came on field goals despite moving the ball effectively. It scored a few touchdowns that were negated by penalties. The Eagles had possession when the fog descended from Lake Michigan, not far from the stadium, a few minutes before halftime. The drive led to their third field goal of the game and they were down 17-9 going into the locker room.

"We were standing on the field and there was a TV timeout. We were about at the 30-yard line. We all looked down there and the fog, like a stage at a concert, had come off the lake and hit the stadium. It

was coming down the stairs of the stadium at the far end and the crowd started going crazy. We thought, 'well, that was kind of weird.' We played the rest of the half and then we go in at halftime, and we come out and you can't see anything. The fog got worse as the game went on. By the time it was over, you could hardly see anything."

Alexander explained the view the players had in each situation.

"If you were on the sidelines, you could see the hash marks. You could probably see about 20 yards," Alexander said.

"You could see the tight end, the tackle, and maybe the guard and then it fades away," he said. "If the ball went (one) way, they just ran out of sight. You just couldn't see them. You didn't know whether to cheer, you didn't know what was going on."

"On the field (from the line), you



Broken Arrow High School Athletics

**COACH ALEXANDER:** Broken Arrow coach David Alexander watches as his team practices. He has led the Tigers to the Class 6A title game for the second time as head coach.

could see the linebackers, but you couldn't see anybody on the sidelines, that's what I remember the most," Alexander added.

"It didn't seem like a playoff game. I played in other playoff games and the crowd is going nuts, especially on the road. But in this game, you can't hear anything. It's a great environment, and here we are in a playoff game against the Chicago Bears and nothing -- it was bizarre. It was like the twilight zone," he said.

The only scoring that took place in the fog-filled second half was a pair of field goals -- one by each team. The Bears won 20-12 and the Eagles' season came to an end.

"We had some great football players," Alexander said. "We probably underachieved with the talent we had. We never could move far enough in the playoffs, the way we should have."

The Eagles lost their first playoff game the next two seasons as well and Ryan was fired as coach. They would not win a postseason game until 1992.

Alexander's last season with the Eagles came in 1994. He ended his playing career two years later with the New York Jets.

Now, he coaches Broken Arrow to playoff appearances every year and just led the Tigers to their first ever state championship.

"As a head coach, you have to be prepared for all kinds of things that no one else would think of, and weather can be one of those. In a situation like that (fog), you've got to run with the football, because you're not going to be able to throw it down the field," he said.

"I've been in a strange weather game, so, maybe that helps me now as I'm making plans for Friday nights," Alexander said.

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## SPORTS

# Tulsa Defensive Coordinator Bill Young Retires

## Coaching Career Spanned 50 Years

Courtesy **DON TOMKALSKI**  
The University of Tulsa

A coaching career that has spanned 50 years came to an end as University of Tulsa defensive coordinator Bill Young announced his retirement. Young will be replaced by TU linebacker coach Joseph Gillespie.

Young, 72, just completed his fourth year with the Golden Hurricane in his second coaching stint at the university. He first coached at Tulsa, under John Cooper from 1980-84, and returned on coach Philip Montgomery's staff as defensive coordinator and line coach in 2015. In all, Young spent nine seasons coaching at Tulsa.

Young's defense turned in a solid 2018 season, ending the regular season with the nation's 7th best pass defense, while allowing opponents 120+ yards less in total offense than a year earlier. He helped coach Tulsa to two bowl games, including the 2015 Camping World Independence Bowl and the 2016 Miami Beach Bowl, capping a 10-3 season.

It's a coaching career that has also included stops as the defensive coordinator at Arizona State, Ohio State, Oklahoma, Southern Cal, Kansas, Miami (Fla.) and his alma mater Oklahoma State. He coached in 22 bowl games, including the Rose, Orange, Cotton and Fiesta bowls.

"Coaching has been good to me, a great experience," said Young. "I can't imagine doing anything else

and having enjoyed it as much. I started off as a high school coach, then worked my way into college. It's been fantastic. I've had the opportunity to work with some unbelievably good coaches and people. I think a little bit of all of them rubbed off on me, and hopefully helped me become a better coach."

Asked about what lies ahead in retirement, Young quipped, "I'm going to shut the alarm off, I know that. I don't know if I'm ever going to use that again. But, it's a good question. I don't really know, but I'm going to enjoy it, I hope."

Young will certainly enjoy more time with his wife Lawanna. "I have a lot of projects to do around the house, but I'm not going to do them any time soon. I'll take a little time to just decompress," added Young.

Before beginning his coaching career, Young was a three-year starter at defensive end/outside linebacker at Oklahoma State (1965-67), earning his degree in Education in 1968. After coaching six years on the prep level in Oklahoma, Young returned to his alma mater as a part-time coach at OSU under Jim Stanley.

After one season at Iowa State, Young joined Cooper's staff as Tulsa's defensive tackles coach in 1980 before being elevated to defensive coordinator in 1983. Young moved with Cooper to Arizona State (1985-87) and Ohio State (1988-95). He joined the coaching staff at Oklahoma for the 1996-97 seasons and was at Southern Cal

for three years (1998-2000).

Young spent the 2001 season as an NFL assistant, coaching the defensive line for the Detroit Lions. A year later, he returned to the college ranks with the Kansas Jayhawks, where he was the defensive coordinator for eight years (2002-07). Young then spent one year at the University of Miami (Fla.) before landing back at his alma mater, Oklahoma State, in 2009, as the Cowboys' defensive coordinator for four seasons.

After that, Young had stops at Wyoming (2013) and as head coach at Yukon (Okla.) High School in 2014 before returning to Tulsa.

In discussing his years as a collegiate coach, Young cited a phrase of John Cooper's — "The mountains don't get any higher, but the valleys get deeper. I think there's something to that," said Young.

"I thought really strong about retiring last year, but I decided to coach another year," said Young. "I just got the feeling that it was time. I've never wanted to be a burden and always wanted to feel that I was contributing, and if I got to the point that I didn't feel that way I needed to get out."

"It was a real blessing for me that Coach Montgomery allowed me the opportunity to come back here to The University of Tulsa. Tulsa was a favorite place for me from my first stop here," added Young.

"Bill has made great contributions to our football program not only now, but under coach Cooper



**EARLY DAYS:** Bill Young coaching at Tulsa in the 1980s on the staff of John Cooper.



**2018 SEASON:** Bill Young coached one of the best defensive teams in the nation in 2018 on the staff of Philip Montgomery.

in the early stages of his career. More than anything Bill has done so much for our profession and for me personally. It was sure an advantage of having a guy that has been in so many different situations and coached at every level of football," said Montgomery. "He's a guy that you can bounce ideas off of and get opinions from. I've never coached with anybody more humble. It was never about Bill. It was always about our team and how he can help get our student-athletes to a level that he knew they could achieve."

"In any profession, the longevity of 50 years is incredible, but with the peaks and valleys in sports, to coach for 50 years is just an un-

believable achievement. To coach that long and have the vision, passion and integrity that Bill had is just remarkable."

"Bill does it the right way on and off the field. You'll never find anybody that will say a negative thing towards coach Young. He has great respect across the country. He's one of the most humble and loyal people you'll ever meet," added Montgomery.

Young was born in Hereford, Texas, but spent most of his childhood in Oklahoma. He attended Grant High School in Oklahoma City.

A profile of new defensive coordinator Joseph Gillespie will appear in the February GTR editions.



*Tulsa*

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# Hockey Fan Preserves Oilers History

## Tim Pannell a True Historian

By GLENN HIBDON  
GTR Sports Writer

There are Tulsa Oilers souvenirs everywhere, decorating Tim Pannell's home in Broken Arrow. Of course he has jerseys, programs, photos and scrapbooks. Then his collection is topped off with one of a kinds, including the Sam Avery Trophy, inscribed with the name of each season's Oilers MVP through the early 1980s.

As Tulsa celebrates its 90th anniversary of professional hockey, Pannell has been amassing memorabilia galore over half that span.

"Back in 1971, my uncle Leon Pannell was a season ticket holder. He asked me if I wanted to go to a hockey game and I was hooked," said Tim, who was seven years old. "I liked the fights and the fast pace of the whole thing, the skating and hitting. I got my first Oilers puck, my first collectible, that season and I started buying programs and saving them. We would go early to the games to watch warmups and someone would give me a puck almost every game."

Now 54, Pannell frequently displays his hockey treasures during Oilers games in the BOK Center. That first season in the Convention Center, Pannell fell in love with hockey and he and his favorite team have come a long way since, both on and off the ice.

"I played hockey in the THL (Tulsa Hockey League) when I was 12," said Pannell, a refuge and recycling inspector for the City of Tulsa. "When it would snow, we would go out and play in the street. We used Pepsi Oilers hockey sticks that were given away to kids at games and the pucks I collected. Some of them would go down the drain and there was no getting them back. I lost a ton of pucks."

Pannell and his fellow Oilers fans have seen their favorite franchise win many times over its 90-year history, including six league championships. It all started on Jan. 1, 1929, when the team played its first home game, marking the opening of the Tulsa Coliseum. The Oilers won their first title that season in the American Hockey Association and again two seasons later.

The AHA became the United States Hockey League in 1945-46 before disbanding in 1951. In 1964 the Central Hockey League was formed and the Oilers won titles in 1968, 1976, 1984 and 1993. Tulsa joined the ECHL in 2013-14 as Pannell's collection continued to grow.

"I got a signed Gordie Howe stick and the Jolly Green Giants book that Hal O'Halloran put out after the 1976 championship," Pannell said. "I got the Sam Avery Trophy when a guy was auctioning off Oilers stuff in 1984. I've got a program from when Tulsa played the Omaha Knights at the old coliseum in 1945-46, Tony Martino's goalie pads, Dave Barr's helmet from 1982-83 and Mike Berger's stick."



**DECADES OF MEMORABELIA:** Tim Pannell's Tulsa Oilers hockey collection can be viewed in of lobby of the BOK Center before and during most Tulsa Oilers hockey games.

Pannell said his favorites players are Jim Wiley and Andy Champagne. Both players coached him in the THL and he played with their sons. Pannell said he has four or five scrapbooks from the 1940s and early 1970s, filled with articles from the Tulsa World and Tulsa Tribune.

"I would like to have a jersey from the 1928-29 season, but I don't know if there is one out there," Pannell said. "A guy on e-bay has a wool letterman jacket from 1928-29 that he wants \$12,500 for. He bought it from some estate and it's been out there (for sale) four or five years. I would also like to have a program from the first year. The Tulsa Historical Society may have one."

While suitable collectibles have changed over the seasons, so has the game itself. Pannell still appreciates the "good old days" when hockey was rough and teeth were few.

"Players seemed bigger back then," said Pannell. "A guy who was 6-3 was big then and now guys 6-7 or 6-8 are common. Back then there was more fighting and now the game has gotten faster with more finesse. There used to be a lot of goons. Even in 1992-93 it (the CHL) was like a goon league. I guess there are a few guys still around who are like goons."

Today Pannell mourns the lack of fighting, but fondly recalls the routine of attending Oilers games. He would look forward to getting home from school and doing his chores so his parents would allow him to go to the Convention Center.

"We would pop popcorn to take to every game. We could take our own because it was allowed back then," Pannell said. "I would get a puck and buy a program. I remember 10 cent beer night, 10 cent hot dog night and playing Oklahoma City because there were always fights. In the 70s our fans threw beer over the glass on the Oklahoma City players and they attacked the stands."

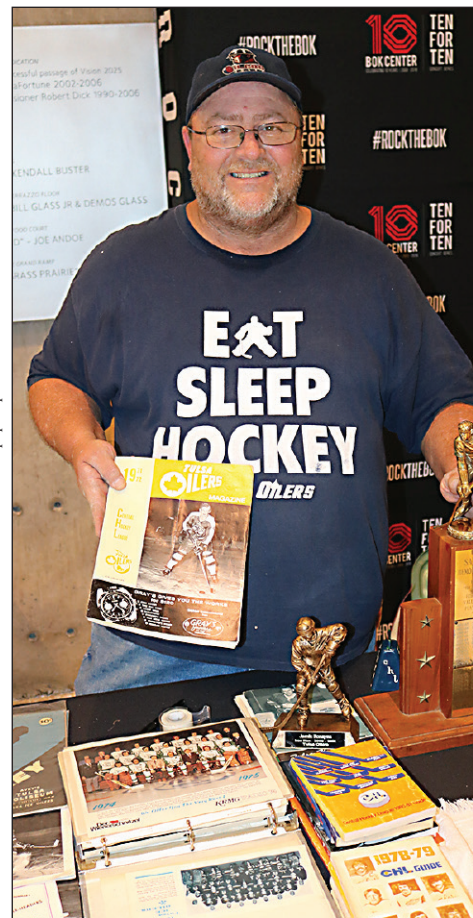
Fun times, indeed. But there were other more rewarding moments for Pannell and Oilers fans.

"When we won the championship in 1976 and 1993 I was excited," said Pannell. "But I was sick to my stomach when we lost hockey in 1984. I was so disappointed. I thought 'what are we going to do? Is it ever going to come back?'"

To fill the void until the Oilers did return eight years later, Pannell and his friends found a way to survive — and thrive.

"We kept a group of guys together all those years," he said. "We went to Oklahoma City and played pickup games. We had nowhere to practice, but we still played games in Oklahoma City and Arkansas. I remember reading in the Tulsa Tribune (in 1992) that hockey was coming back and I knew I was going to buy season tickets. The game was more family friendly than the old days."

"I remember being at the final game of the 1993 playoffs in Oklahoma City when we won the championship. I made my way



**ICE OILERS HISTORIAN:** Tim Pannell displays part of his collection before a recent Tulsa Oilers hockey game at the BOK Center.

down to the locker room and (Mike) Berger came out and took me in while the team celebrated. Tony Fiore signed his stick for me, the one he used to score the winning goal."

The Oilers come and the Oilers go, but Pannell's love of the team remains constant. He will always have faith in its rebirth and success. After all, he has the premiere Oilers collection to prove it.

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# TPS Inducts 14 at January Hall of Fame Event

By **TERRELL LESTER**  
Editor at Large

A class of 14 was enshrined in the Tulsa Public Schools Athletics Hall of Fame in January at the Marriott Southern Hills.

All nine TPS high schools were represented, as has been the case in each of the previous six induction ceremonies.

The honorees have left their footprints in the TPS athletics landscape either as a student-athlete or as a coach-administrator. Their names have become synonymous with success in fields as diverse as rodeo and golf, tennis and track.

A father-son tandem is being honored along with a coach who taught thousands of Tulsans to swim over more than a half-century.

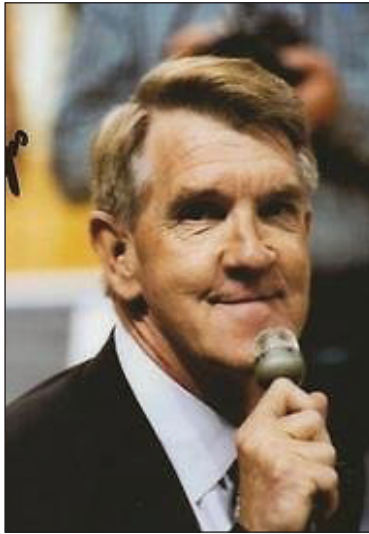
Hall of Fame honorees are selected by a committee, chaired by TPS Director of Athletics Gil Cloud. Committee members include past Hall of Fame inductees, retired coaches and administrators, and representatives of the Tulsa media.

Plaques of all honorees are permanently displayed in the Athletics Department Hall of Fame gallery, Education Service Center, 3027 S. New Haven Ave.

The 2019 inductees (\* denotes posthumous honorees)

**Ken Bays**,\* longtime TPS administrator and one-time coach. Principal at Memorial and assistant superintendent in two administrations. Bays is a 1968 Memorial grad who earned eight varsity letters in three sports before becoming a three-year starter at the Air Force Academy and an Air Force pilot for eight years.

**Janice Burba Gibson**, 1979 Nathan Hale grad who played on the boys golf team, won a Big Eight



**JOHN PHILIPS**



**JANICE BURBA GIBSON**



**TOMMY EVANS**



**LARRY MILLER**

Conference title at Oklahoma State and competed for 13 years on the LPGA Tour.

**Dan Crookham**,\* 1967 East Central grad who garnered 11 varsity letters in four sports and coached football and wrestling and was director of athletics at Will Rogers and Thomas Edison. Organized Sooner Stampede football trips to Europe, Australia, Russia. Member of Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

**Tommy Evans**,\* 1949 Will Rogers grad and two-time state wrestling champion who became two-time NCAA champ and Olympic silver medalist (1952). Coached University of Oklahoma to two national titles. Served in Air Force and Army as pilot. Member of National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

**John Jackson**, 1988 Booker T. Washington grad was two-time conference champion and record-holder in high jump and long jump. Set University of Oklahoma record in triple jump.

**Bill Lantz**,\* most successful coach in TPS history, winning 19 cross country and five track state championships during 38-year career at Central. Member of Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame. Tulsa's William C. "Bill" Lantz Park, 4902 E. Independence St., named in his honor.

**Ulysses S. Mitchell**,\* 1921 Booker T. Washington grad and all-around athlete. Returned to Washington in 1931 as assistant coach. Following service in World War II, came back as football coach, basketball coach, director of athletics until retirement in 1963. Member of Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

**Larry Miller**, head football coach at Nathan Hale in 1960s, assistant football coach and assistant principal at Booker T. Washington in 1960s and '70s. Launched Miller Swim School in 1960.

**John Phillips**, 1965 McLain grad who lettered in three sports and spent 45 years as basketball coach, notably at Thomas Edison

and McLain, and University of Tulsa. Won state championship at Broken Arrow. Member of Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

**Gary Roberts**, 1985 East Central grad who became NCAA wrestling All-American at University of New Mexico. Returned to East Central to coach wrestling and serve as athletics director, now in his 25th year.

**Terry Scott** spent 30 years as head coach in TPS, four at Booker T. Washington (cross country, track) and 26 at Central (basketball and director of athletics). Won three state championships at Central with career record of 456-208.

**Jim Shoulders**,\* 1946 East Central grad who became a rodeo legend, often referred to as the Babe Ruth of rodeo. He won 16 world championships. Charter member of the ProRodeo Hall of Champions and Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductee.

**Don Undernehr**, 1965 Daniel Webster grad who earned All-City



**GARY ROBERTS**

and All-State football honors before a 35-year career in education, all with TPS. Coached football at McLain and served as director of athletics and assistant principal. Principal at Webster for 10 years, retired as TPS Director of Community Education.

## Tulsa to Host Big 12 Wrestling Finals Through 2024

The Big 12 Conference and the Tulsa Sports Commission announced a partnership to host the Big 12 Wrestling Championship at Tulsa's BOK Center through 2024.

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Tulsa previously hosted the tournament in 2017 and 2018, and the Tulsa Sports Commission announced earlier this year an extension of that partnership through 2020.

"Based on the experience through the first two years of our partnership with the Tulsa Sports Commission for this to be the preeminent collegiate wrestling championship, continuing our presence in this market speaks to the dedication of all involved," commented Big 12 Associate Commissioner Bob Burda. "Being able to build upon the foundation already established for the next six years clearly puts a stake in the ground for the Big 12 to grow this championship in Tulsa into the foreseeable future."

The 2018 Championship set an all-time tournament record with more than 18,000 tickets sold.

The 2019 Championship will be held March 9 and 10, while the 2020 Championship will be March 7 and 8.

"We have great pride in the lasting relationship we've forged with the Big 12 Conference over the last five years," said Vince Trinidad, executive director of the Tulsa Sports Commission.

"The Big 12 Wrestling Championship adds a high level collegiate competition to Tulsa's

amateur wrestling résumé, and the execution of a well-run event makes this an amazing experience for the universities, student-athletes, coaches and fans."

The Big 12 Championship is the largest neutral-site wrestling conference championship in the NCAA. Cultivating this relationship with the conference has been a strategic priority of the Tulsa Sports Commission for the past five years.

"The Tulsa Sports Commission has worked diligently to meet our strategic goals to recruit, retain, enhance and develop tourism opportunities throughout the Tulsa region," said David Jeter, chair of the Tulsa Regional Tourism executive board and

senior vice president and regional manager of business banking for BOK Financial. "Hosting the Big 12 Wrestling Championship through 2024 proves our strategy is working, and we appreciate the opportunity to be the chosen destination for collegiate wrestling."

Housed at the Tulsa Regional Chamber, Tulsa Regional Tourism is an umbrella organization that administers VisitTulsa, the city's convention and visitors bureau; the Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Arts & Culture, an accredited film commission; and the Tulsa Sports Commission, which markets Tulsa as a destination for amateur sporting events.

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# Holland Hall's Gabby Gregory Signs with Sooners

By MIKE MOGUIN  
GTR Sports Writer

Playing basketball at OU has been a life-long dream for Gabby Gregory.

It came true on Nov. 14 when she signed at a ceremony before family, friends, coaches and administrators at Holland Hall, where she currently stars on the court.

"It's a dream of mine ever since I was little to play at Oklahoma. It's really surreal to be able to do it," Gregory said.

There were other schools in the running for Gregory's talents. Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas State and Missouri were among them. But Oklahoma was destined to win out.

"Yeah. I've been an OU fan my whole life. I've been going to football games since I was really little. I was even a ball girl for one of the women's basketball games," she said.

Gregory believes that time may have been when she in the second grade.

"I've always wanted play at OU and play for Sherri Coale," she said. "So, to be out there, it was like being a little kid, like, that's your dream, playing for Oklahoma."

Nowadays, Gregory makes things happen for Holland Hall. She has helped her team to state the past two seasons while leading in points scored.

She sees basketball as a place of escape.

"If I'm having a bad day, I go shoot with my dad or if I'm playing in a game, or if I go to practice, I'm not thinking about the homework I've done or the problems in my life," Gregory said. "It's



MIKE MOGUIN for GTR Newspapers



Courtesy OU Athletic Dept.

**HEADED TO OU:** Gabby Gregory of Holland Hall signed to play basketball with the Sooners on Nov. 14.

just very freeing and you get to be yourself.

"The thing that sets me apart from other people is my versatility," she added. "I'm not the biggest, the strongest, nor the fastest, but I'm able to go outside and inside and I think that really creates problems when people are trying to match up with me one-on-one, and I think that will be the one thing that will set me apart when I go to college."

Gregory spoke with a lot of coaches while going through the recruiting process. She was impressed with the personality of the Sooners' coach.

"You meet a lot of coaches who are very cool and very down to earth. But, I think Coach Coale is

probably the most, like intellectual, and just really understanding person that I've talked to," Gregory said. "I can talk on the phone with her for an hour and I wouldn't even notice, but some coaches I've talked to, I would be on the phone for 10 minutes and I'm just waiting for them to be like, 'okay, I have to go.' But, with Coach Coale, you don't even notice because she is so easy to talk to. She is just so intelligent about every aspect of the game and life. I'm super excited to just get to know her and play for her and then the impact that she'll have on me for the rest of my life."

Gregory has already immersed herself as part of the Sooner clan. "I've been down there several

times and I've met all the girls," she said. "They're super sweet. Everyone seems to be like really close and like a family and that's the most important thing to me about going to play somewhere. I want to feel like I'm part of a family and that's how it feels."

OU is young this year with two seniors, no juniors and several freshmen and sophomores playing. That means there will be no seniors when Gregory arrives next year. But, she is confident she and other incoming freshmen next year can make an impact.

And, of course, a national championship will be the aim.

"That's everyone's goal," Gregory said. "They make the NCAA Tournament every year, so that's

obviously another goal. It's a big deal just to make the tournament. I hope we can make it back to the Final Four."

In the meantime, Gregory hopes to lead Holland Hall to another trip to state. She scored 31 points in her team's 59-50 win against Cascia Hall on Dec. 21. Going into Christmas, the Lady Dutch were 4-2 and ranked 11th in the state.

"We got bumped up to (Class) 4A, so, it'll be a very tough conference once again," Gregory said. "3A was really hard. 4A is very hard as well. Just to make it back to the state tournament is obviously our goal. It won't be easy, but I think we can do it. We look really good so far."

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## THE ECONOMY

# Greenheck Group Celebrates Progress In Tulsa with Huge Investment, 600 Jobs

Greenheck Group, a Wisconsin-based manufacturer of air movement, control and conditioning equipment, recently celebrated the completion of phase one at its Tulsa campus, a \$100 million capital investment that will employ 600 people.

This first phase includes more than 200,000 square feet of operational space and 20,000 square feet of office space. These facilities will support operations and distribution for Greenheck Group's Accurex brand of commercial kitchen ventilation systems and its Dedicated Outdoor Air Systems business unit.

"Tulsa has been an ideal partner for expanding our operations," said Jim McIntyre, CEO of Greenheck Group. "We are ready to hit the ground running in 2019 with more in store. Tulsa's talented workforce is ideal for our investment plans. Our partnership with the Tulsa Regional Chamber, Cherokee Nation, the Governor's Office and the City of Tulsa has been vital to this expansion's success. Since we started in 1947, the Greenheck Group has focused on continuous growth and innovation. These core values helped us climb to where we are today and will continue to aid our steps into the future."

With the completion of phase one, Greenheck leadership also revealed renderings and details about the second phase of construction, which will include over 160,000 square feet of manufac-



**RIBBON CUTTING:** Greenheck personnel and Tulsa political and business leaders participated in the ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the \$100 million capital investment of phase one. Helping to cut the ribbon is Greenheck's Jim McIntyre with a smile from Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin. Fifth from right is Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and to his left are Tulsa Regional Chamber President and CEO Mike Neal, 2018 Tulsa Regional Chamber Chair Steve Bradshaw and Cherokee Nation Secretary of State Chuck Hoskin Jr. At the right is President of Pelco Structural Phil Albert

turing space for dampers and power roof ventilators. The campus will support more than 600 jobs once phase two opens for production in early 2020.

"The Greenheck Group is a terrific corporate citizen that has created hundreds of high-quality jobs for Oklahomans," Gov. Mary Fallin said. "The state of Oklahoma welcomes Greenheck Group to our growing corporate community. The company's ongoing investment in this campus is a great achievement and demonstrates the strength and potential of the Oklahoma economy. This is just another indication that our commitment to pro-business policies is retaining and attracting a wide variety of

jobs and businesses to our state."

Greenheck Group employs more than 3,700 people worldwide, with manufacturing and assembly facilities in Wisconsin, Kentucky, California, Tennessee, Minnesota, North Carolina, Mexico and India.

"Greenheck Group is known for their commitment to being an employer of choice, and we are incredibly proud that an exemplary company with a global presence is choosing to locate in our community," Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum said. "The City of Tulsa worked diligently with Greenheck leadership to ensure this project's timely completion, and we look forward to a continued partnership in the years to come."



**ECONOMIC LEADERS:** Greenheck executives visited with Tulsa Regional Chamber President and CEO Mike Neal before the ribbon cutting at Greenheck's Tulsa Facility. From left are Greenheck President and CEO Jim McIntyre, Neal, and President of Greenheck Fan Operations Dave Kallstrom.

"We're proud to have collaborated with so many outstanding Tulsa's Future partners, including the city of Tulsa and the Tulsa Regional Chamber, to bring Greenheck to northeast Oklahoma and the Cherokee Nation," said Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker. "Greenheck is a worldwide company that could have chosen many other cities for this expansion. We're pleased our commitment to strong partnerships and collaboration set us apart, and we're excited to remain involved as we assist Greenheck in recruiting the skilled workforce they need to fill these jobs."

"Projects of this size and magnitude require cooperation between

multiple public and private entities," said Tulsa Regional Chamber President and CEO Mike Neal. "Tulsa's Future, the Chamber-led regional economic development partnership for northeast Oklahoma, facilitates this collaboration. We commend all the partners involved in this project, with special gratitude for the City of Tulsa's timely infrastructure improvements. Since breaking ground last year, Greenheck has completed or started construction on nearly 360,000 square feet of manufacturing production and announced the creation of more than 600 jobs. We at the Tulsa Regional Chamber are thrilled to be partners in Greenheck's prosperity."

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# Tulsa's Future Surpasses \$1.1 Billion Goal

Tulsa's Future, a regional economic development partnership of public and private investors led by the Tulsa Regional Chamber, has surpassed its goal to generate \$1.1 billion of new capital investment in northeast Oklahoma between 2016 and 2020. Currently, more than \$1.107 billion in capital investment projects are underway in the region.

"When we devised our five-year goals, we certainly considered \$1.1 billion in capital investment an ambitious mark to hit," said Brien Thorstenberg, senior vice president of economic development for the Chamber. "Our partners throughout the region, which include municipalities, counties, tribes, educational institutions and workforce development organizations, have really embraced the collaborative foundation of Tulsa's Future. Their efforts and commitment to regional prosperity have exceeded our expectations and allowed for this incredible amount of capital investment in such a short period of time."

Major economic development projects that were announced in 2018 include Sofidel Group's \$360 million facility in Inola, which added 300 jobs; Amazon's \$130 million fulfillment center near the Tulsa International Airport, which created 1,500 jobs; Whirlpool's \$55 million expansion, which added 150 jobs; Spirit AeroSystems' planned \$80 mil-

lion expansion, which will create 250 new jobs; and phase two of Greenheck Group's \$100 million Tulsa manufacturing campus, which added more than 600 new jobs.

Through Tulsa's Future, the Chamber provided direct support in 2018 for the creation of 5,089 total new jobs, which includes 2,045 new positions with a salary greater than \$50,000 and 3,044 new jobs with a salary under \$50,000.

"We only track direct, primary jobs at companies in our region with which we have actively worked," Thorstenberg said. "The Tulsa's Future partnership focuses on supporting new primary jobs, which in turn create other jobs in our economy. Every engineer or manufacturing employee we help bring to Tulsa then supports more secondary jobs, such as cashiers, restaurant workers and others that thrive on a growing economy."

Now in its third phase, Tulsa's Future has supported the creation of 66,640 new jobs in the Tulsa region since its inception in 2005. Since its third phase began in 2016, the Chamber has supported the creation of 13,773 new jobs.

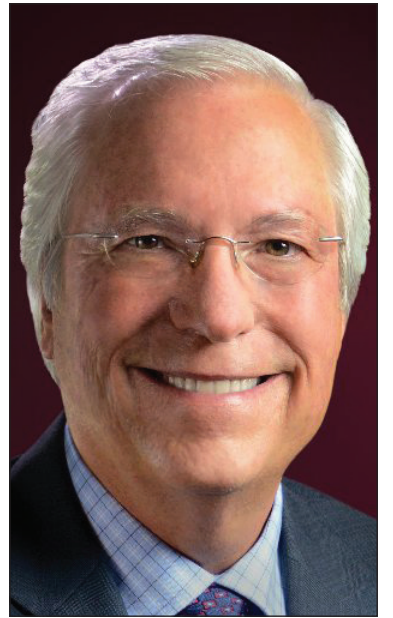
"We had a tremendous, record-breaking year with more than \$823 million in capital investment announced," Thorstenberg said. "Sofidel's announcement in Inola earlier this year got



BRIEN THORSTENBERG



KIAN KAMAS



CHIEF BILL JOHN BAKER

us off to a terrific start. We've had the opportunity to work on significant projects all year, and my entire economic development team is really proud to be a part of it. Our entire region should be excited about the economic growth and stability that comes with new investment and job creation."

Tulsa Regional Chamber President and CEO Mike Neal applauded the record-breaking year and the extraordinary collaboration that made it possible, particularly from the governor's office.

"Gov. Mary Fallin played an exceptionally active role during her years in office to recruit new companies and help retain and expand existing regional employers, and that was certainly the case in 2018," said Neal. "We also praise Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce and Tourism Deby Snodgrass and her entire team who work every single project along with Chamber staff and our regional partners."

"Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and Kian Kamas, chief of economic

development for the City of Tulsa, are to be commended for their active engagement with many projects," added Neal. "We also thank Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker and our other tribal and regional partners who represented northeast Oklahoma so well. Finally, I particularly applaud Brien Thorstenberg, Chamber Vice President of Economic Development Bill Murphy and our entire economic development team for their fabulous collaborative efforts."

## Oklahoma's Water and Energy Resources are Vital



I attended the "Oklahoma Shale Cost-Effective Water Management Congress" Dec. 12-13, 2018,

with the main focus on the Scoop and Stack Plays of Oklahoma. The conference has been designed to bring together regional operators and service providers from across the nation to share their knowledge and experiences on proven and effective ways to optimize water management strategies.

Topics at the conference were



MARK A. STANSBERRY

water solutions; strategies for driving capex, opex and design costs to effective levels; water recycling and reuse; cost-effectiveness of handling disposal; planning, designing, and installing water management systems; and water sourcing and availability.

Among the presenters scheduled to speak at the conference were Gage Hermann, EVP and CCO of Lagoon Water Solutions; Mike Moore, Hydrologist, Oklahoma Corporation Commission; David Gregory, technical services engineer, Flexsteel Pipeline Technologies; Shellie Chard-McClary, division director, Water Quality Management, Oklahoma Department of Environmental

Quality; Michael Frow, petroleum engineer, Argentum Energy; and Mark Patton, president of Hydrozonix LLC.

### Findings from the conference:

The shale revolution has positioned the U.S. as the world's leader in oil and gas. With that growth, it has made the oil and gas industry a major consumer of water. The industry's water usage is low on a national level compared to many other industries. However, the water availability and locating the sources of water can be a major challenge to the oil and gas industry. As water volumes have increased to rise regarding fracs, not a lot of produced water reuse is taking place. There are the challenges of induced seismicity and disposal, and commercial water infrastructure.

Patton noted that reusing produced water in completions can reduce costs greatly. As he stated in the December issue of *The American Oil and Gas Reporter*, "We have seen operators complete wells using 100 percent produced water, but blends with 30-50 percent produced water

and 50-70 percent freshwater are more common. More aggressive blends increase chloride levels which can cause incompatibility with traditional friction reducers, forcing the operator to use higher concentrations or switch to cationic friction reducers, which cost more. Operators need not worry that produced water fracs will be less effective than freshwater. Numerous studies show that even at 100 percent, produced water is as effective as freshwater and may even slightly improve production."

Oklahoma's water and energy development and infrastructure are vital. As has been the theme of the International Energy Policy Conference which I founded in 1992, we must "strive for energy efficiency and environmental preservation," even more important today.

National Energy Talk (NET)-National Energy Talk, an energy advocate initiative, was launched July 31, 2017 in Elk City, Oklahoma. Meetings have been held in Tulsa, Edmond and Oklahoma City along with presentations in Houston, Denver and other cit-

ies. In 2019, NET will continue its efforts as a platform engaging a national energy dialogue. Go to Facebook: National Energy Talk to support/learn more about NET.

Mark A. Stansberry is chairman of The GTD Group, an award-winning author and Energy Advocate.

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## MABREY BANK ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Mabrey Bank is ringing in 2019 with a new executive leadership team to guide the \$1.1 billion family owned bank into the future. Scott Mabrey, center, has been appointed as the new CEO, John Pixley, right, will become the new President, and Carlisle Mabrey IV, left, will serve as Chief Operating Officer.

"These changes are a product of the natural growth and development of the bank and have been on the planning horizon for a number of years" said Carlisle Mabrey III. After four decades as the bank's CEO, he will become Executive Chairman of the Board and has executed a thoughtful succession plan, many years in the making. This will ensure continued growth and success for the organization.

Scott Mabrey, as CEO, will be responsible for guiding the strategic direction of the organization and providing leadership and vision to continue to drive the bank's core values of "professionalism, stewardship of community resources, high performance, integrity, reliability and teamwork." Scott has more than 20 years of banking experience, having most recently served as Mabrey Bank president. He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, earning both his Bachelors and Juris Doctorate.

As the new president of Mabrey Bank, Pixley will have responsibility for all commercial lending and drive growth initiatives across the organization. He joined Mabrey in 2012 after more than 30 years of

experience in banking, specializing in service to middle market businesses and individuals. Pixley is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and Louisiana State University's Graduate School of Banking of the South.

Carlisle Mabrey IV will begin serving as the chief operating officer with the responsibility to set operational strategy, maximize company resources, identify new and innovative customer solutions, and oversee retail banking across all 15 locations. He is a graduate of Austin College where he earned a Bachelor's in Business Administration and Management in addition to a Master of Arts in Teaching.

"Mabrey Bank is indeed fortunate to have highly qualified and dedicated professionals throughout the bank," said Carlisle Mabrey III, "These changes continue a pattern of deep collaboration across multiple generations of family leadership while also best leveraging the expertise and experience of Scott, John, and Carlisle."

### About Mabrey Bank

Founded in 1924, Mabrey Bank is committed to providing the friendly and flexible service of a family owned bank in addition to the financial offerings and technology of a large national bank. The Mabrey family has been involved with the bank for four generations, providing steady leadership. Mabrey Bank has 15 locations throughout Oklahoma and provides financial services to more than 25,000 customers and maintains assets totaling more than \$1.1 billion.

## BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

Broken Arrow Mayor **Craig Thurmond**, Vice Mayor **Scott Eudey** and City Councilors **Mike Lester** and **Johnny Parks** have been appointed to federal committees by **The National League of Cities**.

Thurmond was tapped for the Community & Economic Development Committee which is responsible for developing policy positions on issues involving housing, community and economic development, land use, recreation and parks, historic preservation and international competitiveness.

Eudey will serve on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee which develops policy positions on transportation, including planning, funding, safety and security of public transit, streets and highways, aviation, railroads and ports.

Lester is a new member of the Public Safety & Crime Prevention Committee which is responsible for developing policy positions on issues involving crime prevention, corrections, substance abuse, municipal fire policy, juvenile justice, disaster preparedness and relief, homeland security, domestic terrorism, court systems and gun control.

Parks was named to the Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Committee which is responsible for developing policy positions on air quality, water quality, energy policy, national wetlands policy, noise control, and solid and hazardous waste management.

**Charles Vokes** has been named **City of Broken Arrow** utilities director. Vokes brings more than 35 years of utilities experience to the post. His specialty in water quality issues gained recognition through his publication titled, "Impact of Ozone and Biological Filtration on Water Quality Parameters in Arlington, Texas" in the journal of the International Ozone Association.

Vokes graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a degree in biological sciences and began his career with Arlington Water Utilities. Before coming to Broken Arrow, he served as facilities director for the Buckman Direct Diversion, a joint city/county project in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



THURMOND



EUDEY



LESTER



PARKS

**Erin DeWeese** of Brian D. Wiggs Homes in Tulsa, has taken the helm as the 2019 president of the **Home Builders Association (HBA) of Greater Tulsa**.

DeWeese was installed as the head of the thousand-member trade organization during the annual Installation Gala along with builders Mike Fournier of The Sonrise Companies and Jeff Starkweather of Epic Custom Homes, who were elected to the positions of vice president/treasurer and vice president/secretary, respectively.

DeWeese has been employed at Brian D. Wiggs Homes since 2010 and currently holds the position of vice president for finance. He has worked his way up through the Builder's Council as vice president and president, and spearheaded the 40 Below Young Professionals Council as its first president.

In addition to the installation of new senior officers, several honors were presented during the annual end-of-year celebration. Highest honor, which acknowledges builders who best utilize associate members for their building projects, was awarded to Dana Day of Day Build and Design.

Peter Grant of Grant Homes Remodel & Restoration and Ken Saltink of All American Remodel were also honored.

Jerry and Tana Van Cleave of Vancrete, were 2018 Associates of the Year for their service to multiple HBA events. Life member Lora Phillips was named 2018 executive committee Member of the Year.

Rita Boggs of Charter Title & Escrow was awarded the 2018 Spike Award, an award that distinguishes members for outstanding association recruitment and retention efforts.

The 2018 Young Leader of the Year Award went to Kevin Blackburn of Classe Homes for his leadership in the 40 Below council.

**Hall Estill** announces that **Johnathan L. Rogers** has been elected **shareholder** in the Tulsa office.

"John has earned this accomplishment through both his talent and his commitment to the firm's clients and our community," said Mike Cooke, managing partner for Hall Estill.

Rogers joined Hall Estill in 2008 and concentrates his practice in the areas of labor and employment law and general civil litigation. Prior to joining Hall Estill, he served as law clerk to The Honorable James H. Payne in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma. Rogers received his J.D. with highest honors from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.



DEWEESE

**Gateway Mortgage Group**, a full-service mortgage company licensed in 40 states and the District of Columbia, announced **Jennifer Smith** as senior vice president of enterprise initiative planning and execution. She will oversee enterprise program processes and execution in this new role.

Before joining Gateway, Smith was head of change management at Santander Consumer USA. She had a diverse career with Bank of America spanning more than 22 years in various roles and divisions, including merger/acquisition execution, operations oversight for the office of the president, information technology transformation, and regulatory enforcement action oversight.

"I am excited to join the Gateway team," said Smith. "This is an amazing company with an amazing culture. I look forward to implementing new strategies and policies that will complement the current business model at Gateway."

**Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO)** President and Chief Operating Officer **Peggy Simmons** announces that two new members have been added to the **PSO Leadership Team**.

**Tiffini Jackson** has been named vice president, external affairs. She takes over the position previously held by John Harper, who retired earlier this year.

Jackson began her career with PSO in 1990. She served in various policy and community development related positions prior to beginning her most recent role as director, corporate communications, in 2013.

In her new role, Jackson will have responsibilities for PSO's external affairs, governmental and environmental affairs, and corporate communications functions.

Filling the other leadership position is **Matthew Horeled**, who has been named vice president, regulatory and finance.

Horeled comes to PSO from Ashland, Kentucky, where he has served as director, regulatory services at one of PSO's American Electric Power sister companies, Kentucky Power.

Horeled joined AEP in 2007 as a risk & insurance management analyst at AEP headquarters in Columbus, Ohio. He has held positions in corporate planning and budgeting, regulatory, business operations, and financial management with AEP in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.

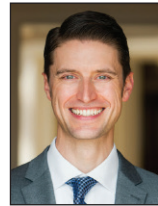
As PSO's vice president of regulatory and finance, Horeled will have responsibility for all regulatory and financial matters of electric service to PSO's more than 550,000 customers.



SMITH



JACKSON



HORELED

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## DINING IN GREATER TULSA

# Duet Restaurant and Jazz Club Shines Downtown

### Local Dining

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**  
Contributing Editor

Duet opened in August 2018 as the second project for Tulsa Chef Tuck Curren, who has successfully owned and operated Biga at 4329 S. Peoria Ave. since 2000.

Curren was not intent on opening a second restaurant, he said, but after being approached by George Kaiser to be a part of Kaiser's Archer Building at Archer Street and Detroit Avenue and learning of Kaiser's local-focused vision for the building and jazz club/restaurant concept, Curren couldn't say no.

Duet, 108 N. Detroit Ave., sits on Detroit Avenue at the back corner of the building and features an ideal outdoor eating space that, while outside with only dark screens separating it from the indoor portion of the restaurant, is successful in creating one large, welcoming, all-encompassing eating space.

The menu features a fair amount of vegetarian and seafood dishes with a slightly larger portion of meat options, including the Herb Crusted Lamb Lollipops, which our server rated at the top of her list, Pork Medallion Tamales and Albuquerque Burger.

The menu also includes about six appetizer choices. We opted to start with the Fried Oyster Tostados, with radish slaw, chile vinaigrette and tomatillo salsa on a baked corn tortilla.

The genius of a fried dish is that



BLAKE AUSTYN for GTR Newspapers  
**OYSTER TOSTADOS:** Duet's Fried Oyster Tostados with radish slaw, chile vinaigrette and tomatillo salsa on a baked corn tortilla.

basically any item can have its flavor masked by being fried, giving patrons an opportunity to try something new or different without much risk. I, for one, am not a huge fan of oysters—the slimy texture takes away my appetite. Yet, in its fried form, the oysters are barely recognizable.

The dish was tasty, with the help of the sauces. It felt artsy, due to the way it was decorated with the sauces used to create a decorative, colorful plate.

For my entree, I chose the Ginger Snap Crusted Salmon; my dining companion chose the previously-mentioned Lamb Lollipops, thanks to our server's suggestion.



GTR Newspapers photo  
**WELCOMING GUESTS:** Duet bartender Samantha Hathaway welcomes guests to the excellent facility. Duet sits at 108 N. Detroit Ave. in downtown Tulsa's Arts District. It opened in August 2018 as part of the Kaiser Family Foundation's Archer Building, which features a slew of local businesses.

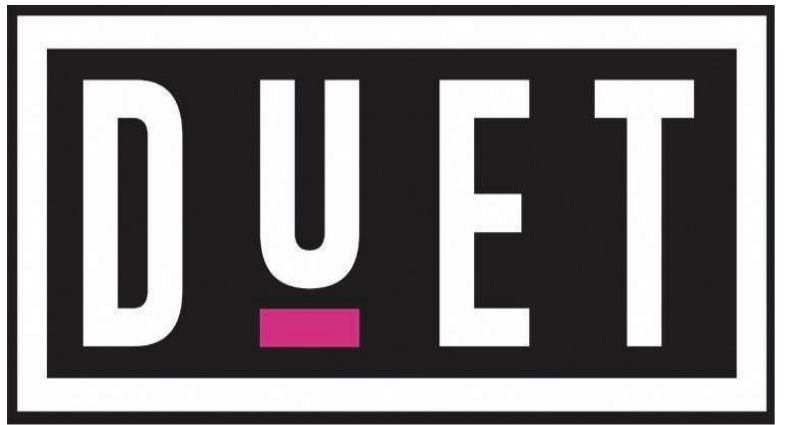
The salmon sat on a bed of rice noodles and vegetables with a sesame-scallion vinaigrette.

The lamb was topped with sauce algiers and came with a side of fennel and cucumber quinoa.

We found both dishes to be extremely tender and flavorful. However, we were disappointed with the size of the portions.

The meals are slightly-up-scale-priced at an average of \$15. But when the dishes consist of a piece of meat and a small side of vegetables, and you walk out ready for another meal, that dinner cost suddenly seems quite out of proportion.

That is my only complaint for Duet.



Otherwise, it's a beautiful dining space; plus, there is the added element of the jazz club below ground, which I was told has seen

many sold-out evenings.

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## FAITH

# Faith Has Guided the Career of Ted Robertson

## Tire Company Executive Associated With Area Christian Business Groups

By **BETHANY DUARTE**  
Contributing Writer

Long before “marketplace ministry” was a buzzword in the evangelical sphere, Ted Robertson was walking it out as a local businessman. Tires were his medium of communication, and his pulpit was the Robertson Tire Company.

Born in 1931 into a lay pastor’s home, Robertson’s faith was a steady influence in his life from an early age. His brother is a pastor in the Assembly of God church, and Ted has been a long-time member of The Assembly at Broken Arrow. He has openly shared his testimony with a number of groups including the Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International meeting. Each time he spoke and shared his story, another invitation would follow.

Robertson reportedly felt called to take the ministry outside the walls of the church, which led him to have a strong witness with his team, his coworkers, and his col-

leagues. Despite his familial roots in pastoral ministry, his passion was rooted in the marketplace. After graduating from Will Rogers High School, he began working in a tire store in the Tulsa area before launching out on his own.

Founded in February 1962, Robertson Tire first began offering tires and excellent customer service to Tulsa residents out of a downtown location with only a handful of employees. Robertson Tire has become one of the most trusted and well-respected tire retailers in the Tulsa metro with a staff of more than 100. The company has received several local and national accolades, including being voted as one of the “Top 100 Independent Tire Dealers” in the nation and as “Tulsa’s Best Tire Dealer” by the US Chamber of Commerce for the last 10 years. Now with 11 stores spread across 7 cities in the Tulsa Metro area, the business reportedly sells more than 100,000 tires a year.

This growth is no surprise, based

on Robertson’s core commitment to his customers. “Our company was built on treating customers fairly and providing excellent service,” Robertson said. Founded on the core principles of professionalism, experience, and integrity that so reflect the founder, this thriving business maintains the same value system today with his sons at the helm. He has remained involved with both the company and its dealings, even after handing the reins of the leadership over to his sons in 1999.

As local natives, the company has a rich heritage of community involvement. They support local and national initiatives, ranging from sports sponsorships for local schools to Operation Smile, a national organization helping to provide life-changing surgeries worldwide to children born with cleft palates.

Robertson is individually associated with a number of business and faith organizations within the Tulsa metro including the Tulsa

International Fellowship of Christian Businessmen, of which he was the Tulsa chapter president for many years and is responsible for forming a separate chapter for young businessmen. He still helps host the monthly men’s breakfast for the IFCB at the Wyndham Hotel. He is still involved with his church, now lining up the speakers for the Assembly’s men’s prayer breakfasts, a change that has produced a major increase in attendance and helping with the Southern Gospel Worship Gathering held on the first Saturday of every month.

Through his marketplace pulpit, Robertson has created a legacy based on excellence, integrity, superior level customer service, and a commitment to giving back. His charitable contributions through Robertson Tire are a staple in the community. His example of taking “faith into the world” is one



**TED ROBERTSON**

that has had a positive impact on both the faith community and the marketplace. For that, Tulsa can be grateful for the many contributions of Robertson and his family’s commitment through Robertson Tire.

# ORU’s College of Theology Ph.D. Program is Accredited

Oral Roberts University has taken a critical step forward in becoming a premier research institution for the global Spirit-empowered movement, as the university’s new Ph.D. in Theology program has received approvals from the university’s two accreditors: the Higher Learning Commission and the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada.

“A theology Ph.D. program has been the unrelenting pursuit of ORU from its very early years,” said President Dr. William M. Wilson. “We have been working diligently over the past couple of years to develop this program with the undergirding values of world Christianity and the Spirit-empowered movement.”

Renowned Pentecostal historian, Dr. Vinson Synan, will lead the program with Dr. Eric Newberg, professor of theological and historical studies, serving as associate director.

“It’s vital that we understand the

connections and interactions between theological studies and the global explosion of Spirit-empowered Christianity,” said Dr. Won-suk Ma, dean of ORU’s College of Theology and Ministry. “The program will equip our doctoral practitioners to develop original research, teach in higher education, and engage the world with the message of Christ.”

The first track of the program explores the contextual theologies of global Christianity. Contextual theology utilizes a method of theological practice that takes into account four facets of theological reflection: the spirit and message of the gospel, historical and theological orthodoxy, the religions and cultures of a nation or region, and the global trends in Spirit-empowered Christianity.

“The program’s coursework will

be modular, utilizing online technology and minimizing the need for practitioners to live in Tulsa,” Ma said. “This will allow full-time Christian leaders to undertake this research program.”

The international Ph.D. program, utilizing global experts as advisors, is expected to launch fully in August.

### About ORU

Oral Roberts University is a world-renowned Christian university located in Tulsa. Founded in 1963, it serves students from 50 states and 101 countries, representing over 51 denominations. ORU offers more than 76 undergraduate majors, 12 master’s programs and two doctoral degrees, plus NCAA Division I athletics. For more information on ORU, visit [www.oru.edu](http://www.oru.edu).

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## AROUND THE REGION



GTR Newspapers photo

**WELCOMING SISTER CITY MAYOR:** The Tulsa Global Alliance recently held a reception at Marshall Brewing Company to welcome Tulsa Sister City Mayor Dr. Jörg Nigge, Mayor of Celle, Germany. From left are Ursula Monroe, Tulsa Celle Partnership; Margaret Bannochie, Coldwell Banker Select; Chair, Tulsa-Celle Sister City Partnership; Dr. Jörg Nigge, Mayor of Celle; Cathy Izzo, TGA Sister City Program Coordinator and Administrator; Alejandro Muñozcano, Local Sales Manager for Tyler Media and Tulsa Global Alliance Vice-Chair for Sister Cities; Alisa Dougless, Director of Administration and Operations, OU-Tulsa College of Arts and Sciences; and Tulsa Global Alliance Board Chair Eric Marshall, Brewmaster and Founder, Marshall Brewing Company; and Tulsa Global Alliance Vice-Chair for International Visitors.



Courtesy photo

**ROYCE MYERS ART EVENT:** Royce Myers Art hosted a holiday open house in December. From left are musician Greg Hosterman, artists Paula Wood and Reian Williams, and Kay Myers and Royce Myers. The event highlighted gallery artists and Paula Wood Creations jewelry. Royce Myers Art, Ltd. is located at 1706 S. Boston Ave. in the historic Nine of Cups building. Hours for the gallery are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and appointments by request. Paula Wood jewelry is highlighted in the photo. Royce Myers Art is not only a visual feast, but guests learn about artists and the philosophy behind their work. Graced with native American art, there are always several pieces new to the gallery that depict Oklahoma flavor. All genres of art are represented from abstract to realism. The gallery is open to the public, but serves the design and commercial industry providing personalized art for spaces large and small.



GTR Newspapers photo

**BROKEN ARROW CHAMBER RECEPTION:** The Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce held an Elected Officials Reception this past fall at the Battle Creek Golf Club. Enjoying the event are, from left, LaTonya Cundiff, Lori Lewis of the Broken Arrow Chamber, Sally Redwine, and Ted Cundiff and Kelley Rash of AVB Bank.



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*Tulsa Boat, Sport and Travel Show Returns to Expo Square Feb 1 – 3*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>13 January</b> <b>FUNDAY SUNDAY</b> Gilcrease Museum 12 – 4 p.m. Visit gilcrease.org for more information. <b>BOOK OF MORMON</b> Celebrity Attractions 1 & 6:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>BEAUTY AND THE BEAST</b> Celebrity Attractions 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	<b>14</b> <b>LEGO BUILD</b> South Broken Arrow Library 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>MAKE YOUR OWN MOVIE WITH THE GREEN SCREEN</b> Central Library 4 – 5:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	<b>15</b> <b>TEEN WRITING WORKSHOP: INFORMAL ESSAY</b> Owasso Library 5 – 6 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.  New Name. Same Bank. <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b> Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	<b>16</b> <b>HOMESCHOOL ART – AGES 9-12</b> Philbrook Museum of Art 1 p.m. Visit philbrook.org for more information. <b>GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. UCONN</b> • 5 p.m. Men's Basketball tulahurricane.com for tickets.	<b>17</b> <b>BABY &amp; ME MATINEE: "WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING"</b> Hardesty Regional Library 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>GOLDEN EAGLES vs. South Dakota</b> • 7 p.m. Men's Basketball Visit mabeecenter.com for info.	<b>18</b> <b>BEAUTY AND THE BEAST</b> Celebrity Attractions 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>METALLICA</b> BOK Center 7:30 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. <b>ERIC JOHNSON AH VIA MUSICOM TOUR</b> Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	<b>19</b> <b>RIVERFIELD ROCKS</b> Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. <b>BEAUTY AND THE BEAST</b> Celebrity Attractions 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>DAVID SPADE</b> The Joint Tulsa 8 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.
<b>20</b> <b>WILD KRATTS LIVE 2.0</b> Innovation Arts & Entertainment 1 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>BEAUTY AND THE BEAST</b> Celebrity Attractions 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>DEMETRI MARTIN</b> BOK Center 8 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.	<b>21</b> <b>SO YOU WANT TO MAKE A MOVIE? (ALL LEVELS)</b> AHHA Tulsa 7 – 9 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. Free Small Business Checking <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b> Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	<b>22</b> <b>KENARI SAXOPHONE QUARTET</b> Central Library 12 – 1 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>THEME IMITATION WRITING WORKSHOP (ALL LEVELS – POETRY)</b> Center for Poets and Writers at OSU-Tulsa 7 – 9 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	<b>23</b> <b>JOBNEWSUSA.COM TULSA JOB FAIR</b> Renaissance Tulsa Hotel & Convention Center 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visit www.jobnewsusa.com for more information. <b>DIY PUZZLES USING THE LASER ENGRAVER</b> Central Library 4 – 5 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	<b>24</b> <b>FIBER FEST WEEKEND RETREAT</b> Shepherd's Cross Jan. 24 – 26 Visit ShepherdsCross.com for more information. <b>BEAUTY AND THE BEAST</b> Celebrity Attractions 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	<b>25</b> <b>TULSA OILERS vs. Allen</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. <b>BEAUTY AND THE BEAST</b> Celebrity Attractions 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>GOLDEN HORNET'S "THE SOUND OF SCIENCE"</b> Choregus Productions 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	<b>26</b> <b>BEAUTY AND THE BEAST</b> Celebrity Attractions 2 & 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>CHAMPAGNE AND CHOCOLATE</b> Living Arts 7-9 p.m. Visit livingarts.org for more information. <b>TULSA OILERS vs. Allen</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information.
<b>27</b> <b>GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Houston</b> • 1 p.m. Men's Basketball tulahurricane.com for tickets. <b>KENARI SAXOPHONE QUARTET</b> Chamber Music Tulsa 3 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>TULSA OILERS vs. Allen</b> 4:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information.	<b>28</b> <b>MAKER MONDAY: SEWING FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS</b> Central Library 5:30 – 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>STEAM WORKSHOP</b> Central Library 2 – 3 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	<b>29</b> <b>TEEN WRITING WORKSHOP: SHORT PLAY</b> Owasso Library 5 – 6 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>YOGA FOR EVERY BODY</b> Central Library 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>TULSA OILERS vs. Utah</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information.	<b>30</b> <b>TRAVELS WITH TULSANS: CROATIA, SLOVENIA &amp; SLOVAKIA</b> Central Library 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for info. <b>GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Memphis</b> • 7 p.m. Men's Basketball tulahurricane.com for tickets. <b>TULSA OILERS vs. Utah</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information.	<b>31</b> <b>FROM SCRIPT TO SCREEN: INTRO TO SCREENWRITING FOR TEENS</b> Central Library 6:30 – 8 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>GOLDEN EAGLES vs. South Dakota</b> • 7 p.m. Men's Basketball Visit mabeecenter.com for info.	<b>1 February</b> <b>LARA LOGAN</b> Tulsa Town Hall 10:30 a.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>1-2-3 PLAY WITH ME: A PARENT/CHILD WORKSHOP</b> Owasso Library 10 – 11:15 a.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for info. More Bank for Your Buck <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b> Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	<b>2</b> <b>HIGH SCHOOL HOOPS SHOWCASE</b> BOK Center All Day Visit bokcenter.com for info. <b>SING FOR OUR SCHOOLS</b> All Souls Unitarian Church 7 – 10 p.m. Find Sing for Our Schools on Facebook for more information. <b>SHOSTAKOVICH'S 7TH SYMPHONY</b> Tulsa Symphony 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.
<b>3</b> <b>THE GREEN BOOK</b> Theatre North 3 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>TULSA BOAT, SPORT &amp; TRAVEL SHOW</b> Expo Square 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit tulsaboatshow.com for more information.	<b>4</b> <b>CRAFTERNOON DELIGHT: DROP-IN CRAFTS</b> Central Library 2 – 3:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>ACIE JAMES DUO</b> Blackbird on Pearl 9 p.m. Visit blackbirdonpearl.com for more information.	<b>5</b> <b>DEEP (DIABETES EMPOWERMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM)</b> Martin Regional Library 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>TULSA AREA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY – MONTHLY MEETING</b> BOK Center 6:30 – 8:45 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	<b>6</b> <b>BROWN BAG JT: JAMBALAYA JASS BAND</b> PAC Trust 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. FREE event. <b>GOLDEN EAGLES vs. Denver</b> • 7 p.m. Women's Basketball Visit mabeecenter.com for info. Ask about fraud ID protection <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b> Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	<b>7</b> <b>BORROWED FORMS WRITING WORKSHOP (ALL LEVELS – PROSE)</b> Center for Poets and Writers at OSU-Tulsa 7 – 9 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>HARLEM GLOBE-TROTTERS</b> BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.	<b>8</b> <b>LINDY IN THE PARK</b> Guthrie Green 6:30 – 9 p.m. Visit www.guthriegreen.com for more information. <b>KELLY CLARKSON</b> BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. <b>THE RESURRECTION OF BLACK WALL STREET</b> Tulsa Project Theatre 8 p.m. • Feb 8 – 9 myticketoffice.com for tickets.	<b>9</b> <b>GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Temple</b> • 11 a.m. Men's Basketball tulahurricane.com for tickets. <b>THE GREEN BOOK</b> Theatre North 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>ELTON JOHN</b> BOK Center 8 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.
<b>10</b> <b>THE RESURRECTION OF BLACK WALL STREET</b> Tulsa Project Theatre 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>THE GREEN BOOK</b> Theatre North 3 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>WINTER JAM</b> BOK Center 6 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.	<b>11</b> <b>PAWS FOR READING</b> Schusterman-Benson Library 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>TRAVIS SCOTT</b> BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.	<b>12</b> <b>LIVE UNITED LUNCHEON AND AWARDS</b> Cox Business Center 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Visit tauw.org/awards for more information. We Offer Health Savings Accounts <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b> Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	<b>13</b> <b>BUILD A READER STORYTIME: FAMILY</b> Jenks Library 10:30 – 11 a.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>FOOD FOR THOUGHT LUNCHEON</b> Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Visit okfoodbank.org for more information.	<b>14</b> <b>HEARTS FOR REFUGEES PARTY</b> Stokley's Event Center 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Visit powerofanickel.org for more information. <b>JEFF DUNHAM</b> BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.	<b>15</b> <b>TULSA OILERS vs. Wichita</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. <b>THE LITTLE PRINCE</b> Tulsa Opera 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE</b> American Theatre Co. 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	<b>16</b> <b>TULSA OILERS vs. Idaho</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. <b>SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE</b> American Theatre Co. 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>SHANE SMITH &amp; THE SAINTS</b> Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for info.

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# City of Broken Arrow Ranks Among Safest in America

Broken Arrow has been ranked as one of the safest cities in the country by 24/7 Wall St., a Delaware corporation which runs a financial news and opinion company with content delivered over the Internet.

In the organization's most recent report, BA comes in at number 19 on the list of the nation's top 20 safest cities. It is the only Oklahoma location on the list.

In recent years, the incidence of violent crime in Broken Arrow has declined more than in nearly

any other city, according to the report. There were 124 violent crimes reported per 100,000 city residents in 2017, down 19.2 percent from 2016.

"The Broken Arrow Police Department is proud to be listed among the safest cities in America," said Police Chief Brandon Berryhill. "This wouldn't have been possible without support from our citizens and City Council. We will continue to strive for the best for our community. Sustained positive community en-

gagement is the hallmark of our success."

To identify the safest cities in America, 24/7 Wall St. reviewed violent crime and population statistics for cities with populations of 100,000 or more from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The website calculated the rate of violent crime per 100,000 people.

According to the report, the safest city in America is Irvine, California followed by Murrieta, California, Gilbert, Arizona, Surprise, Arizona and Naperville, Illinois.

## Rose District Revitalization Honored

The efforts that led to the revitalization of Broken Arrow's Main Street, known as the Rose District, have earned another honor – finalist for the Route Fifty Navigator Awards.

Now in its third year, the Route Fifty's Navigator Awards "celebrate the best of government" by honoring people or teams who work for or with state, county or municipal governments. Route Fifty names 50 finalists across five categories.

Broken Arrow was nominated under "The Electeds" category, which recognizes the leaders in a state or local government who drive change in the communities they serve. Mayor Craig Thurmond was nominated for his work championing the Main Street renaissance.

"This nomination may carry my name on it, but the renewal in the Rose District was a collaborative effort by many different entities," Thurmond said. "I don't consider this recognition a personal victory but rather a deserving recognition of what Bro-



ken Arrow has achieved through the cooperation of the City, Broken Arrow Public Schools, the Broken Arrow Chamber, private investors and of course the residents of the City. The Rose District would not be what it is today without everyone working together."

The other nine finalists in The Electeds category were:

Bob Berkowitz, County Super-

visor, Del Norte County, Calif.: "Daily Town Hall"; Carol L. Blood, Nebraska District 3 State Senator; VA audiology machines; Rafael Castellanos, Chairman, Port of San Diego; "Blue Economy" incubator; Bob Culver, County Executive, Wicomico County, Md.; Community Outreach Addictions Team; Nathan Deal, Governor, State of Georgia; Georgia Cyber Innovation and Training Center; Amanda Edwards, Council member At-Large, City of Houston; Hurricane Harvey recovery; Annissa Essaibi-George, City Councilor At-Large, Boston; reducing homelessness and improving education outcomes for families in Boston; Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, Alaska District 35 State Representative; rural economic development; Chris MacArthur, City Council member, Riverside, Calif.; GrowRIVERSIDE Initiative.

Essaibi-George and Kreiss-Tomkins were named the category winners at a celebration on Nov. 7 in Los Angeles.



Broken Arrow Express photo

**SUCCESSFUL WOMEN:** The B.A. Chamber Successful Women's Community Impact Award was established to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of women in Broken Arrow. From left are Jessica Mugg of the B.A. Chamber, award winners Aleisha Wickersham, Jennifer Deal and Kim Vento, and emcee Lori Fullbright.



Broken Arrow Express photo

**B.A. BREWING COMPANY:** The Broken Arrow Brewing Company was represented at the Tulsa Press Club's First Draft fundraiser, held at Tulsa's ONEOK Field, in November.

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