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MIDTOWN MONITOR

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Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group

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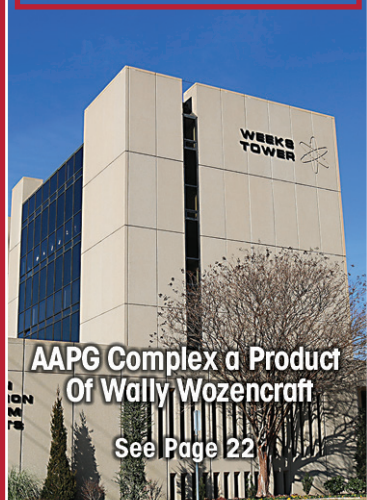
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Tulsa's Gathering Place Continues To Receive National Attention After Being Voted Best New Attraction

The Gathering Place is adding "Best New Attraction" to its list of accolades after winning the *USA Today's* 10 Best Readers' Choice 2018 Best New Attraction award. On Jan. 18, Executive Park Director Tony Moore was joined by Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum in the Williams Lodge to announce that the park had received the national honor at the same time that *USA Today* announced it to its 2.6 million readers.

"The Gathering Place being named the country's Best New Attraction is a monumental moment for the Park, our employees and all guests that have joined us since the grand opening in September," Moore said. "It has been exciting to see the community and country come together to vote for our inclusive space as a top destination in the nation."

Gathering Place faced off against 19 other national contenders from metropolitan cities across the country, including a comedy club, historical museums, heritage centers, theme parks and other unique attractions to ultimately claim the title of Best New Attraction.

"The opening of Gathering Place last year was a great point of pride for our city and the announcement today confirms Tulsa is home to the Best New Attraction in the country," Mayor Bynum said. "Gathering Place is truly the best city park in the world and will continue to be a place that brings people together and honors the civic pride we all have."

Gathering Place aims to provide an inclusive space for Tulsa residents and visitors alike to experience nature in a whole new way and offers more than 100 different daily experiences, insuring no two visits are the same.

Gathering Place was chosen to be one of 20 nominees for the award by a panel of relevant experts,

which included editors from *USA Today* 10Best.com and sources for both of these media and other Gannett properties, according to 10Best.com. Voting was open to the public for four weeks, allowing users to vote for one nominee per category daily.

To learn more about this award, visit: www.10best.com.

About Gathering Place

A project of George Kaiser Family Foundation, Gathering Place, with a first phase of 66.5 acres, will ultimately transform nearly 100 acres of Tulsa's waterfront along the Arkansas River into a dynamic and active space when the project is completed. A public-private partnership, GKFF and numerous corporate and community philanthropists gave ownership of the \$465 million park to River Parks Authority who in turn signed a long-term operational and management lease back to an entity of the foundation to ensure the highest quality operation, maintenance and programming for the life of the park.

Gathering Place is doing business as Tulsa's Gathering Place, LLC. To learn more about the project, visit www.gatheringplace.org.

About USA Today

USA Today is a multi-platform news and information media company. Founded in 1982, *USA Today's* mission is to serve as a forum for better understanding and unity to help make the USA truly one nation. Through its unique visual storytelling, *USA Today* delivers high-quality and engaging content across print, digital, social and video platforms, and is a leader in mobile applications with more than 16 million downloads on mobile devices. *USA Today* is owned by Gannett Co., Inc. (NYSE: GCI).



IMPRESSIVE TOUR: George Kaiser of the George Kaiser Family Foundation leads a tour of the Gathering Place during the recent Tulsa visit of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. From left are Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, artist Rick Lowe, Mayor Bloomberg, George Kaiser, and Gathering Place Executive Park Director Tony Moore. Mayor Bloomberg was in Tulsa for the Greenwood Art Project. Please see page 24.



FUN TIMES: The Gathering Place is a fun place for young and old. Enjoying a recent visit are Beckett Cameron (front) and, from left, Eva Blystone, Astasha Blystone, and Stephen, Daniel and Cosette Cameron.

KUDOS of the MONTH: Tulsa Oilers for 90 Years

The tradition of Tulsa Oilers hockey that began with the home opener on Jan. 1, 1929 as part of the grand opening of the Tulsa Coliseum continues to run deep today.

The Oilers, also known as the "Ice Oilers," played its home games at the Tulsa Convention Center from the 1960s until the team moved into the newly completed BOK Center in 2008.

Since its opening there, the Oilers have drawn more people to the BOK Center than any other team or event. With 36 home

games stretched over six months, the Oilers play an important role in the rejuvenation of downtown Tulsa and help increase the city's economic strength. Over the last seven seasons, the Oilers are responsible for more than 40 percent of the BOK Center's total attendance. In the past 24

seasons of hockey, four million fans have flocked to downtown Tulsa to cheer on the Oilers. Former player Taylor Hall now serves as general manager, and Jason Christie is the head coach.



GREAT FANS: Longtime season ticket holders, 97-year-old Jean Keen and 90-year-old Richard Baldwin, helped the Oilers celebrate 90 years of hockey in Tulsa. With them is General Manager and former player Taylor Hall.



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Mayfest Announces New Home In the Tulsa Arts District; 47th Annual Festival Set for May 17-19

Tulsa Mayfest will move to a new home in the Tulsa Arts District for the 2019 and future festivals, Mayfest organizers announced recently. Additionally, the festival will move to a three-day format and include an increased presence from local visual artists. Mayfest is set for, May 17 – 19.

The move to the Tulsa Arts District alleviates recent space and expansion issues felt by the festival. To offer additional art experiences to attendees, the festival needed additional square feet. The new location also allows for creative partnerships with the galleries in the Tulsa Arts District, and partners like Gilcrease Museum and Philbrook's location downtown.

More than 400,000 guests attended Mayfest in 2018, with an economic impact of approximately \$5.7 million. Each year, the festival offers visual and fine arts, live music on a variety of stages and festival food from across the country. Artists and musicians come from approximately 25 states to showcase their talents to Oklahomans. Admission is free.

The expanded footprint means the festival can invite and host additional visual artists from the Tulsa area. In the absence of the Blue Dome Arts Festival, the Mayfest board of directors sought to offer a new artistic venue for local visual artists to reach art lovers. Approximately 80 local artists will be accepted. All visual artists are invited to apply, and the applications are available now. The deadline for local artists' application is Feb. 28.

Mayfest is also moving from a four-day festival format to a three-day event. With ever-increasing costs to operate the festival, this change allows the 501(c)3 organization to save operating costs while also allowing an easier time commitment for local artists who might have a full-time job. Additionally, the new dates reduce the impact of traffic and road closures for the downtown community.

"We are beyond excited about the 2019 festival and the future of Mayfest," said Heather Pingry, executive director of Mayfest. "The board of directors and our event chair have worked tirelessly over the past months to present a re-imagined festival to the Tulsa community. Tulsa lost a treasure with the discontinuation of the Blue Dome Arts Festival, and we hope to help fill the gap for both local artists and the community as a whole."

This year marks the 47th annual Mayfest, and the festival has a history of adapting and changing due to market needs and fluctuations. The Junior League created the festival in 1973, and it has been located in various districts of downtown, with various timing footprints.

"Long-time Tulsans probably remember how Mayfest has changed over time, and it's one thing we are very proud of," said Nick Karlovich, festival chair. "At various points in time, Mayfest has been a two-day festival, or a 10-day festival. We love the ability to adapt and keep the festival viable for the long term. The additional numbers of local artists participating in the event will be a bonus, as well as the new art experiences offered by the galleries and partners in the arts district."

The musical and performing artists will grace stages in the area. The Invitational Gallery, Youth Art Gallery and KidZone will return for the 2019 festival, with exact locations announced at a later date.



ANNOUNCEMENT AT AHHA: Heather Pingry, executive director of Tulsa Mayfest, makes the announcement about the Mayfest move to the Tulsa Arts District at AHHA in the Tulsa Arts District Jan. 30. At left is Holly Becker, executive director of AHHA Tulsa with Bob Fleishman, president of the Tulsa Arts District Business Association.

The Tulsa Arts District Business Association and Building Owners Association members have been involved in conversations regarding the move and are ready to embrace the festival. Likewise, Mayfest is excited to showcase businesses in the Tulsa Arts District to its guests.

For more information and finalized maps as the festival nears, visit tulsamayfest.org. Artists, musicians and food vendors can also apply to the 2019 festival at the website.

About Tulsa Mayfest

Tulsa Mayfest is a family friendly outdoor tribute to the arts and music created to promote a broader knowledge of and appreciation for arts and humanities among serious, as well as casual, art lovers. Approximately 410,000 people attended the 2018 festival. For more information, visit www.tulsamayfest.org. Mayfest is presented by MidFirst Bank. Other sponsors include Public Service Company of Oklahoma, The Gelvin Foundation and GKFF.

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THE GREATER TULSA REPORTER NEWSPAPERS

The Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers consist of the Union Boundary, the Jenks District Gazette, the Midtown Monitor, the Owasso Rambler, the Broken Arrow Express and the Bixby Breeze. The papers target news coverage to school district areas. The papers also have common pages of information of interest to all readers in the Greater Tulsa area.

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

All advertising published in any or all of the GTR Newspapers is subject to the applicable rate card, copies of which are available at the GTR Newspapers office or from the account representative listed in the above newspaper credits.

CIVICS

Reading Partners Needs the Participation of Citizens

Here in Tulsa, we are living in exceptional times. We are working to make our city the best version of Tulsa it can be. Often when I'm out in the community, I'm asked, "How can I help Tulsa?" One of the best ways to help is by getting involved in Reading Partners.

Many of our third graders are having a tough time learning to read. TPS is right at 50 percent for third-grade reading proficiency. We must do much better. Children who go through Reading Partners' exceptional program have more than a 90 percent success rate. That's significant because

third-grade reading proficiency is one of the strongest indicators of whether someone will graduate from high school.

When I first took office, the City Council and I established that support for education is a priority for the city, and that improving high school graduation rates was a shared goal. We included this in our Strategic AIM Plan.

I'm pleased to say our city has already met its goals for high school graduation rate and per capita income. The graduation rate, for example, has improved from 73 percent to 76.9 percent, which exceeded the city's

goal. However, we still need to ensure our children excel in reading so they will graduate from high school. That's where Reading Partners comes in.

Last year in Tulsa, more than 1,500 students participated in the program and nearly 90 percent of them met literacy growth goals. Reading Partners' volunteers give an hour a week, children do better in school, graduate from high school and go on to create a more law-abiding and educated workforce here in Tulsa. This is a long-term initiative for our city, but the kids who interact with their Reading Partner will see the impact immediately.

That's why I'm asking you to consider helping Tulsa children succeed in school and life. Your participation in Reading Partners can empower a young student to gain the reading skills they need to become a proficient reader that will last a lifetime.

We need 500 volunteers to sign up before Feb. 28 to help Reading Partners serve 1,600 students this year.

From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM
Mayor of Tulsa



Courtesy photo

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Reading Partners needs 500 volunteers to sign up by Feb. 28 in order to serve 1,600 students this year. Please see www.readingpartners.org or call 918-949-1979.

So, please volunteer now through April 2019 to make an impact on a Tulsa student. You can sign up online at www.readingpartners.org or call 918-949-1979.

Please join me in this worthwhile endeavor to ensure our third graders succeed in reading as we continue to build a better city for the next generation and beyond.

Tulsa County Elected Officials Bring Requests to Legislature

In Oklahoma, county government is an extension of state government and is therefore limited by the laws of the state when implementing new ideas to improve services and operations.

The elected officials of Tulsa County can only do that which the Legislature has approved. Because of this, it is incumbent upon the elected officials of Tulsa County to bring to the Legislature requests which will solve problems, embrace new ideas and technology, and provide the management tools to provide the best service possible.

In this Legislative session, we have developed a legislative agenda that covers a broad range of areas which includes benefits for county and school district construction projects, improved working environment for county employees, applying the modernization of alcohol laws in Oklahoma to the county's golf courses, providing commercial economic development incen-

tives through energy conservation, and bringing state of the art technology to the Sheriff's Office.

From Tulsa County



By COMMISSIONER
RON PETERS

Cost Savings for Construction Projects

Under the current laws governing how school districts and the county can use the construction manager at risk method for building projects the requirement that construction firms have to bid against each other for the project is absent from state law.

Currently, the selection of the construction firm is based solely on qualifications and negotiations. With competitive bidding not required, the county and school districts potentially spend millions of dollars more on a project than they need to. Our legislation would require that all qualified firms would have to submit a bid and their project plans.

Improved working Environment
Tulsa County believes it's important

to support county employees in planning for their future once they retire.

To do this, we have proposed legislation that would increase the amount which the county can match when an employee decides to participate in the deferred savings incentive plan. In addition, in order for the employee retirement system to remain actuarially sound so we can live up to our promise made to the employees, we have a bill that will allow the county to increase its annual appropriations to the retirement fund.

Modernizing Alcohol Rules At Golf Courses

When the voters in Oklahoma voted to modernize the availability of beer and wine the primary focus was on grocery and convenience stores. But golf courses have been providing beer to golfers as well. In order to bring the availability of beer and wine in compliance with the new laws, we have a bill that would allow the availability of beer and wine on the golf course and in the golf restaurants. Since these are public golf courses and the new laws applied only to privately owned businesses, a new law allowing the same availability at a publicly run golf course is necessary.

Incentives For Energy Conservation On Commercial Property
Over the last decade a new op-

portunity for private capital to be accessed by commercial property owners for energy conservation and energy renewable improvements have developed in 25 states. Commonly referred to as PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) our legislation would allow the county to establish a commercial PACE program that will bring commercial property owners together with private capital funders to develop properties with energy retrofits and improvements.

New Technology For Public Safety

The advancements of new technology to improve public safety

has seen a significant growth over the past decade. As such, current laws on the books have to be modernized to allow the use of the technology by Sheriff's Offices. In particular, the advent of the body worn camera and the use of DNA in criminal investigations have proven to be very effective tools for fighting crime and providing public safety.

To keep up with these advancements, we have legislation that will help us manage the operations of the body worn cameras and which would allow the taking and testing of DNA when a person charged with a felony offense is booked into the county jail.



GTR Newspapers photo

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARADE: Tulsa City Councilors and civic leaders led the 40th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Parade held Jan. 31 in the Greenwood District in downtown Tulsa. The MLK Day Parade is for participants of all ages to have fun, remember Dr. King's legacy and learn how they can be a part of keeping his dream alive.

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GREATER TULSA PERSONALITIES

Krista Flasch Says Job Tops Being 'Indiana Jones'

*From South Korea to Minnesota
And ORU and Television, B.A.
Gets World-Class Communicator*

By **BOB LEWIS**
Contributing Editor

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Greater Tulsa Personalities* is a feature in *GTR Newspapers* to highlight and focus on interesting people making important contributions in the Greater Tulsa region.

Krista Flasch has come a long way on her career path—nearly 10,000 miles, in fact. That's the distance between Korea where she was born to Minnesota where she grew up to Oklahoma where she received her college degree to South Carolina where she launched her career and back to Oklahoma where she now serves as Communications Director for the City of Broken Arrow. A native of Seoul, Flasch and her younger brother were put up for adoption when she was six years old. That's how they came to be members of an American family that owned and operated a pig farm in rural Minnesota. To call going from one of the largest metropolitan areas in Asia to a tiny town in a new country a culture shock would be an understatement. The fact she began school shortly after her arrival and had to learn English while somehow keeping up with classroom assignments didn't make things any easier.

"That's when I fell in love with this language and learned to appreciate the importance of clear, concise communications," she said. Flasch says her adopted parents were very religious people "and that's how I ended up at Oral Roberts University." Her initial goal was to gain fame in the theatrical world, but she quickly decided that life simply wasn't for her. "I didn't want to be a starving artist, so I became a starving journalist instead," she joked. After graduating Summa Cum Laude with a degree in mass communications and media studies, she moved to South Carolina and put her talent to work as a reporter/producer at a television station in Charleston. While she enjoyed the life of an on-air personality, she came to realize her job was professionally confining. So, to expand her horizons, she mustered up the courage to resign and begin working in marketing and public relations from her home. The next step along her career path brought her back to Tulsa and to KJRH Channel 2. She now realizes how important that experience was in fully understanding the ins and outs of the news business—a skill that became abundantly important when she was named communications director for one of Oklahoma's fastest growing cities.

Shortly after settling into her new job in 2014 she learned she would be getting a new boss, Michael Spurgeon, who had been hired as city manager. When he said he put a high priority on transparency in all aspects of city government "it was like music to my ears," she said. To fulfill the responsibilities being placed upon her, Flasch hired a videographer to help take advantage of non-print opportunities. Next came a communications coordinator to focus on print product needs and news releases, freeing her to spend more time in management and long-range planning. The daily tasks of Broken Arrow's city hall news bureau range from videos, social media and a dedicated television channel to a monthly newsletter that goes out with utility bills, an annual report and a yearly financial update to the community as well as maintaining close working relationships with the news media. Then there are special assignments, the most recent of which involved a multi-faceted information campaign on the city's largest ever general obligation bond issue. Its overwhelming acceptance by voters provides testimony to the quality of the work performed. Spurgeon applauded his communications director when he said



Courtesy photo
BROKEN ARROW'S COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR: Krista Flasch is helping Broken Arrow in its quest to become a world-class city.

she is "the epitome of what every organization seeks. Her ethics and integrity are beyond reproach and she is the ultimate team player" Away from the office Flasch is mom to two daughters, plays the piano and is an avid runner who has set her sights on competing in a half marathon this year. She also enjoys traveling, which began with a humanitarian venture to Africa while she was a student at ORU. "I secretly dream of being 'Indiana Jones' finding hidden treasure in remote parts of the world," she quips.

While that might be exciting, it will have to wait while she devotes herself to a more immediate goal: helping Broken Arrow become a world class city with a communications program that serves as a model on how transparency in government should be handled. "I owe a lot to the people who encouraged me to step outside the television world and get my feet wet in the multi-aspects of communications, she said. "I love what I am doing and have a great deal of respect for the people I work with. "I believe we make a very good team."

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VARIETY

February Offers Much to Love on Tulsa Stages

Valentine's Day month. Gotta love it. How are you planning to celebrate? A pair of show tickets tucked inside a card says, "I enjoy spending time with you." Celebrate all month, or longer.

If you do venture out on Valentine's Day, comedian Jeff Dunham at the BOK Center would be fun, and the Commodores at the Hard Rock will conjure a romantic groove. Or, come sail away with the rock band Styx at River Spirit on Feb. 14.

Of interest to people with young ones, and a must-see for those who enjoy opera is "The Little Prince," staged by Tulsa Opera, Feb. 15 and Feb. 17. French pilot and writer Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (1900-1944) used his passion for aviation to explore lofty ideas like finding wisdom. His book "The Little Prince" was translated into 190 languages and sold more than 200 million copies. It is one of the most popular books of all time. Film composer Rachel Portman created the music for this opera, based on Exupéry's story. It will be conducted by Columbia's Lina Gonzales-Granados

On Feb. 18 you can choose between "Fire and Rain" singer James Taylor appearing with Bonny Raitt at the BOK Center, and the touring jukebox musical "Jersey Boys" at the Broken Arrow PAC. Taylor surprised me the last time I saw him in concert. He sounded the same as he did decades ago. I would pay to attend this concert just to hear Bonnie Raitt sing "I Can't Make You Love Me."

Highly entertaining, "Jersey Boys" comes to our area for one show only, Feb. 18. If you love music from the 60s, you will know every song The Four Seasons made popular.

Two locally produced musicals are slated for the PAC in the weeks ahead. These are outstanding casts. American Theatre Company brings us Stephen Sondheim's "Sunday in the Park with George." This Sondheim work has never

been performed in Tulsa. Its plot centers on French pointillist artist Georges Seurat (Samuel Briggs). The musical observes the artist as so obsessed with his work, he loses sight of anything else, including his muse, Dot (Karlena Riggs). With music by Sondheim and book by James Lapine, this piece won the 1985 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, along with a multitude of other awards. It runs at the PAC Feb. 15-24.

A musical more familiar to most is "My Fair Lady," presented by Theatre Tulsa, Feb. 22-Mar. 2. Among the many beloved tunes from this Lerner and Lowe masterwork are "I Could Have Danced All Night," "On the Street Where You Live," and "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face." This is the story of posh Englishman Henry Higgins (Mark Frie) and an unsophisticated Cockney waif, Eliza Doolittle (Tabitha Littlefield) who teach each other valuable life lessons while falling in love. Vern Stefanic directs.

A weightier theatre experience is World Stage Theater's "Best of Enemies," Feb. 28-Mar. 3 at the Tulsa PAC. The "enemies" are Klansman C. P. Ellis and African American Civil Rights activist Ann Atwater. Their true-life relationship during the desegregation of Durham, North Carolina's schools in 1971 is the basis for the play.

After you've pondered the universe with "The Little Prince," or reflected on the state of race relations with "Best of Enemies," let go of all seriousness for a couple of hours of non-stop laughter with "The Play That Goes Wrong." In the vein of Michael Frayn's "Noises Off," this show is about an amateur theatre company that thinks it's ready for the bigtime with their version of a 1920s mystery, "The Murder at Haversham Manor." Mayhem erupts onstage during the

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN



MY FAIR LADY: Tabitha Littlefield and Mark Frie star in Theatre Tulsa's presentation of the classic musical, showing at the PAC Feb. 22-Mar. 2.



CHAMBER MUSIC: Chamber Music Tulsa features the Gryphon Trio Mar. 1 and 3.



THE COMMODORES: The Funk/Soul band revisits their hits, Feb. 14 at the Hard Rock classic musical, showing at the PAC Feb. 22-Mar. 2.



THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG: A Broadway laugh-a-minute farce, presented by Celebrity Attractions, runs Feb. 25-Mar. 3



SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE: The first-ever Tulsa production of Stephen Sondheim's play comes to the PAC, Feb. 15-24.



TULSA TOWN HALL: Internationally known photographer Platon talks about time spent with world leaders and celebrities Mar. 8 at the PAC.

performance, completely undoing everything and everyone. Including the audience. Celebrity Attraction hosts, Feb. 26 through Mar. 3 at the Tulsa PAC.

Tulsa Ballet knows that we look forward to a romantic tale this time of year. On Feb. 21-24 enjoy the music of Tchaikovsky and the beautifully danced story of "The Sleeping Beauty." Tulsa Ballet's former principal dancer HyonJun Rhee returns from Korea to dance the role of The Prince opposite NaEun Kim in this lush production.

Looking ahead to March? Chamber Music Tulsa follows the overwhelming success of last month's Kenari Quartet with The Gryphon Trio. The trio will perform a program titled "Moonshine Ballads and Various Charms" with singer Patricia O'Callaghan at the Renaissance Square Event Center on Mar. 1. O'Callaghan was a big hit when she was here last. Her music pulls from a range of composers — Arlo Guthrie, Aaron Copland and Randy Newman among them.

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Celebrity Attractions Reveals New Season Roster

Les Mis, Frozen Among 2019-20 Highlights

By NANCY HERMANN
Variety Editor

Celebrity Attractions' CEO Kristin Dotson enjoys a challenge.

For more than 35 years, the Tulsa-based company has cultivated one of the largest season subscription series in the country. Last year, subscriber numbers reached an all-time high with the addition of the blockbuster "Hamilton" to Celebrity's 2018-19 season roster. Dotson knew her company had set the bar high for whatever shows might follow, and she wondered, along with hopeful subscribers, what could possibly rival "Hamilton." At a recent gathering at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center, Dotson and her team revealed their answer.

Opening the 2019-20 season on Sept. 24-29 is the musical that many die-hard Broadway fans name as their favorite of all time, "Les Misérables." Set in volatile 19th-century France and based on Victor's Hugo's novel, "Les Mis" is about persistence, shattered dreams, redemption and the power of the human spirit. The show's beloved songs were penned by Frenchmen Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg. "Bring Him Home," "I Dreamed a Dream," and "One Day More" are among them. This staging earned Tony nominations for Best Revival of a musical. Scenery for the new production features imagery inspired by the paintings of Victor Hugo.

"Les Mis' is such an iconic title," says Dotson. "It seems to speak to people on so many different levels. The characters, the lyrics, the story, the staging — it is definitely a favorite for many, and the national tour is way overdue. It's been 17 years since the show has made its way to Tulsa. Such a great title for this season, along with 'Miss Saigon,' to balance out the four new productions coming our way."

An "everlasting gobstopper" of a musical comes in the form of Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," Nov. 19-24. This is the tale of an inventive young boy, Charlie Bucket, who lives with his struggling grandparents and who loves candy. When he wins one of five Golden Tickets that are hidden inside a candy bar wrapper by the eccentric Willy Wonka, Charlie embarks on an adventure with Grandpa Joe to discover how sweet it is, or not, inside the factory. The songwriters from "Hairspray" wrote the

score, which includes "Pure Imagination" and "The Candy Man," along with other lively tunes.

"Miss Saigon" returns to Tulsa Dec. 31, 2019 to Jan. 5, 2020. Based on Puccini's "Madama Butterfly," the musical follows the doomed romance of an American Marine and a young Vietnamese girl who meet before the fall of Saigon. This production features a cast of 42 performing music written by the "Les Mis" team of Boublil and Schönberg. Mounted in London, and Tony-nominated for its Broadway revival, "Miss Saigon" is a touching, soaring love story about the true-to-life trauma of those who were brought together and separated by the wartime chaos of Vietnam.

The celebrated playwright Terrence McNally and the creators of the Tony Award-winning "Ragtime" have teamed up to tell the story of the youngest daughter of Russia's last tsar in the upcoming musical, "Anastasia." Although her family was murdered by the Bolsheviks in 1918, rumor persisted for years that she had escaped the fate of her parents and siblings. The musical imagines the princess on the run and traveling from Russia to Paris in the 1920s. Pursued by a Soviet officer, Anastasia is helped by caring people to safe place where she can find love and peace. "Anastasia" plays at the Tulsa PAC April 7-12, 2020.

Disney's "Frozen" has been a runaway hit with families ever since the first "Let It Go" let loose on the big screen in 2013. Music from the blockbuster animated film was combined with a dozen new songs in this Broadway production, earning 16 Tony Awards. "Frozen" is about two sisters who search for love, each in her own way. Landing the "Frozen" tour for Tulsa, slated for June 3-14, 2020, was a major coup.

"We are thrilled to have 'Frozen' on our season this early in its tour," says Dotson. "To host the Oklahoma premiere of the hottest 'snow' on Broadway is an honor, and Tulsa will love the production — complete with Disney magic," she adds.

Closing the season, and with rave reviews wherever it plays, "Come From Away" is coming to Tulsa, July 14-19, 2020. The story of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small Newfoundland town that took them in after 9/11 is told through the music of Tony Award nominees Irene Sankoff and David Hein.

"The story is so incredible. It is



LES MISERABLES: The beloved musical opens the Broadway season Sept. 24-29 at the Tulsa PAC.



CHOCOLATE FACTORY: Henry Boshart as Charlie Bucket and Noah Weisberg as Willy Wonka star in Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," Nov. 19-24.

such a testament to the triumph of the human spirit," says Dotson. "I left the show wanting every single person in the country to see it. Theatre normally is an escape, but this true, very inspiring story allows you to embrace what happened and find light after one of the darkest days in our history."

Celebrity Attractions wants the very best experience for every ticket buyer. Celebrity offers the reminder that only the Tulsa PAC and Celebrity Attractions are official retail ticket outlets. Beware of scalpers. Tickets for new season subscribers will be available online, by phone and in person. For up-to-date information on the season, join the Celebrity Attractions mailing list at www.CelebrityAttractions.com.



COMING IN 2019-20: Tulsa PAC Director Mark Frie and Celebrity Attractions' CEO Kristin Dotson share a stage moment to help announce the 2019-20 Broadway season.

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The Tulsa Sound Makes Its Presence Felt in 1974

Eric Clapton's 1974 album, "461 Ocean Boulevard," marked a turning point in the career of the legendary blues man. It was a resurgence as well as a departure from the Cream-era Clapton, finding laid back grooves to replace the more aggressive guitar leads that put him on the map in the 1960s. It's also an excellent example of the far-reaching impact of the Tulsa Sound.

Conventional thinking tells us that the two pillars of the Tulsa Sound are J.J. Cale and Leon Russell. I'm not going to argue against that claim. However, for the sake of spirited discussion, I will make the case that neither Tulsa icon

made as significant an impact on the music industry, or on pop culture, as the other two heads on the Tulsa Sound Mt. Rushmore: bassist Carl Radle and drummer/percussionist Jamie Oldaker.

Okay, a few things to unpack there. Yes, I just casually stated as fact my personal response to the bar-room-debate-starter classic, "Who's your Mt. Rushmore..." (If you're more of a Chris Rock/High Fidelity top-five person, I respect that variation.) And although I feel it would be foolish for you to debate me on my Mt. Rushmore, if you want to make a case for Elvin Bishop or Flash Terry, we can have that conversation.

But the conversation I want to have now is regarding my more outlandish claim that Radle and Oldaker had a more significant impact on music and pop culture than Russell and Cale. That's a more difficult claim to defend, but, hey, it's my job. So lets gets back to "461 Ocean Boulevard."

In 1973, Oldaker, a Tulsa native and Edison High School graduate,

had just finished recording the album, "Back in 72" with Bob Seger. It was that album, featuring the hit "Turn the Page," that gave the 22-year-old Oldaker his first significant experience in the studio. He returned to Tulsa and was hired by Leon Russell to be a session musician at the legendary (and nearly renovated) Church Studio.

Around the same time, fellow Tulsan Carl Radle returned to Tulsa after a stint with Eric Clapton's side project, Derek and the Dominoes, and began to play and record with Oldaker and Russell. The Tulsa Sound was flourishing.

Conversely, Clapton's career was not flourishing. It was stagnating, possibly circling the drain as he spent the better part of three years in the early 1970s struggling with addiction; reclusive and rarely picking up a guitar, much less recording or touring.

Many of Clapton's friends and fellow musicians, including Radle, made efforts to get him back in the studio and get his life and career back on track. As part of this effort, Radle sent Clapton a tape that featured Oldaker on drums. More than a year later, Clapton called Radle to tell him he was ready to record a new album. "Bring Jamie and the other kids from Tulsa with you," he said.

This presented a tough decision to Oldaker, who felt loyalty to Russell and didn't want to leave his band. He ultimately made the decision, with Russell's blessing, to join Clapton and record "461 Ocean Boulevard."

Critics, for the most part, praised the album, making note of the departure from Clapton's earlier recordings. In one review, critic Robert Christgau used the phrase,

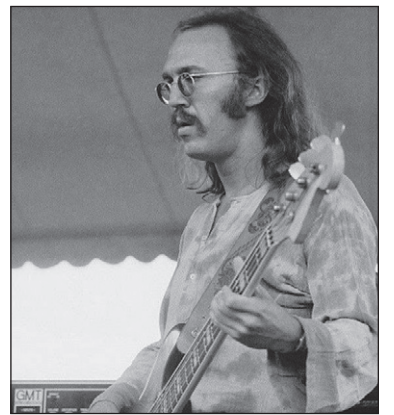
Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL



JAMIE OLDAKER



CARL RADLE

for the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless, held in the East Village downtown. Lately, he's been working with the Oklahoma Historical Society to help get tulsas's OKPOP Museum up and running.

So, credit Radle and Oldaker with getting Clapton back in the game, helping him reinvent his sound, and ushering Ragae into the main stream. Does that move the needle more than "After Midnight?" Does that add more thread to the cultural fabric than "Mad Dogs & Englishmen?" Discuss among yourselves. And if you enjoy such a discussion, you might also enjoy...

Leon Russell: A Life in Music

The Woody Guthrie Center is hosting a five-week course on Leon Russell's development as a musician, his place in rock and roll and his legacy. Led by music historians Randy Cale and John Cooper with several spe-

cial guests, classes are held weekly starting March 5 and wrap up in mid April. The class is \$100, or \$75 for Woody Guthrie Center members. The fee for attending a single class is \$25. Go to woodyguthriecenter.org to reserve your spot.

The class will cover Russell's early years in Tulsa, his influence on music in Los Angeles, bringing Tulsa to the world with Mad Dogs & Englishmen, his solo years and his resurgence in the 2000s. The class will also feature guest speakers who worked alongside Russell and those in Tulsa who are working to preserve his legacy.

As for the Mt. Rushmore debate, perhaps we can pick that up between sets at one of our local music venues in the near future. I'm not sure where or when, but it'll happen. We're bound to cross paths as long as we keep searching, keep listening.

Tulsa Gridiron Set for March 1 & 2

Nothing is off limits this year as the Tulsa Gridiron takes a humorous look at the issues, events and personalities of power and prestige in politics and cultural events of the day.

The show will be at 8 p.m. March 1 and 2 in the Assembly Hall of the Cox Business Center.

The Tulsa Gridiron Review provides scholarships for students seeking journalism and communication majors.

"This is a fast-paced show with a lot of parodies written to songs the audience will know," said Randy Krehbiel, chairman of the trust that puts on the show and chief author.

Well-known area musical director, vocalist and song writer Rebecca Ungerman returns as director of the show and she has brought Jordan Hehl and Josh Westbrook as music directors.

This year's Interlocutor will be



KJRH News Anchor Travis Guilory, also known locally in theatre productions.

The cast includes veteran Gridiron performers Ungerman, Rachel Bachman, Ed Bettinger, Suzanne Bloomfield, Nick Bushta, Carson Cash, John Cory, Kelly Cory, Jane Duenner, DJ Morrow Ingram, Joan Gallo, Crystal Kline, Ann Lauderdale, Kelly

McEver, Mike McEver, Megan Stevens, Jennifer Thomas, Gabriel Todd, Renee Walker and April Wind.

Newcomers to the cast are Ryan Devlin, Jonathan Galluzzi, Mendi Kellner, Meg Matlock and Megan Sayler-Hudelson.

The show is written by a committee of authors led by Tulsa World reporter Krehbiel. Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton returns as the show's stage manager and Tim Moore as the show's technical director.

The Gridiron tradition of the Roasting Ear Award will go to The Gathering Place. This annual award is presented to a politician, community leader, other notable (and now, local attraction) who has received the most press in the previous year - good or bad.

Sponsors include AEP-Public Service Company of Oklahoma, East Side Christian Church, Gu-RuStu and Walsh Branding.

Tickets are available online at www.tulsagridiron.org/tickets.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Pastor Weldon Tisdale Named Gatesway CEO

Broken Arrow-Based Non-Profit Faces Major Financial Challenges

By **BOB LEWIS**
Contributing Editor

The Gatesway Foundation, a Broken Arrow-based non-profit organization dedicated to aiding adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, has hired Pastor Weldon Tisdale Sr. as its new Chief Executive Officer replacing CEO and former board president Jim Pacula.

Gatesway was founded in the 1960s by Helen Gates to assist adults like her son Ronnie who was born with Down syndrome. At that time, the then 21-year-old man had virtually no employment opportunities and his living options were limited to being homebased or confined to a nursing home.

Since then, Gatesway has grown into an organization that encourages independence and provides opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to live and work in the community and improve their quality of life. Its scope of operations includes employment programs, residential operations and an array of services offered to local businesses.

"Mrs. Gates was one of our most important historical figures be-

cause of her genuine concern for the well-being and advancement of those with intellectual disabilities," Tisdale said. "Her devotion to Ronnie changed the course of countless lives in the Tulsa area, and I'm honored to be selected as CEO of the alliance that will carry on in her name."

Tisdale's first mission will involve spearheading efforts to solve lingering budgetary problems caused by years of mismanagement and compounded by what agency officials describe as chronic underfunding by the state. Toward that end, a number of steps have been undertaken, including the sale of some properties and the trimming of the number of individuals served.

In 2016, Gatesway's annual hot air balloon festival was grounded. Its annual golf tournament was dropped a year earlier.

"The state's underfunding for our clients provided the backdrop for Gatesway's turnaround; but out of every bad experience comes something good," agency officials said in a news release.

"With the leadership of Pastor Tisdale, Gatesway will polish off its reorganization with a return to the Helen Gates Way of rallying

the public behind our clients," the release said.

About Weldon Tisdale

A member of one of Tulsa's most prominent families, Weldon Tisdale is skilled in nonprofit organizations, corporate strategy and development, strategic planning, public speaking, organizational leadership and fundraising. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Organizational Behavior from Yale University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the SMU - Edwin L. Cox School of Business.

His resume includes service as director of business development for the Williams Communications Group and as senior pastor of Friendship Church.

His father, the late Louis Tisdale, was a long-time Tulsa pastor and community leader. Following his death in 1997 the Osage Expressway was renamed the L.L. Tisdale Expressway in his honor. One of his brothers, the late Wayman Tisdale, was a three-time All American basketball player at the University of Oklahoma, National Basketball Association standout and an internationally known musician.



READY TO LEAD: Pastor William Tisdale, right, with a Gatesway client during the announcement of Tisdale's appointment of Chief Executive Officer.

GTR Newspapers photo



GRAND OPENING: The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges recently held its Grand Opening event for The Hardesty Family Adaptive Sports Complex. The new facility will be adding an additional 37,000 square feet to The Center, an adaptive rock-climbing wall, a resistance therapy pool, a yoga room, a roof top terrace, and an outdoor sports court. From left are Mike Neal, Tulsa Regional Chamber; John Graves; Sarah Graves; Lori Long, the center's executive director; Judy Kishner, The Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation; Emeka Nnaka, the center member ambassador; Kara Joy McKee, district 4 city councilor; Michelle Hardesty, The Hardesty Family Foundation; Allison Anthony, Tulsa Area United Way; Scott Beller, the center's board president

Courtesy photo



GTR Newspapers photo

TULSA BONE & JOINT EXPANSION: Tulsa Bone & Joint Associates, a full-service orthopedic and sports medicine practice, recently celebrated the groundbreaking of its Union Pines Surgery Center and additional campus expansion at 4808 S. 109th E. Ave. in Tulsa. From left are Dr. William Surbeck, Dr. Wesley Stotle, Dr. Scott Dunitz, Dr. Jessica Childe, Tulsa Chamber of Commerce CEO Justim McLaughlin, Dr. David Mokhphee, Dr. Chris Martin and Dr. Britney Else.

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EDUCATION

Higher Education Chancellor Presents Legislative Agenda

Strengthening Oklahoma's workforce pipeline through degree and certificate completion continues to be the state system of higher education's top priority. That was the message delivered by Chancellor Glen D. Johnson as he presented the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's FY 2020 budget request and 2019 legislative agenda to an audience of lawmakers, community leaders and educators at Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow on Jan. 16.

"As we continue our work to build Oklahoma's economy and workforce by increasing college degree completion, we must focus on increasing faculty salaries, restoring base operational funding and fully funding the concurrent enrollment program for high school seniors," said Johnson. "Low salary levels are straining public college and university faculty retention and recruitment

in nursing, business, education, sciences, engineering and other high-demand programs that are essential to meet Oklahoma's workforce needs. Concurrent enrollment, which strengthens student preparation, reduces family costs for college and decreases the time required to complete a degree, is currently funded at approximately 87 percent of the cost to our state system colleges and universities."

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education recently voted to request \$878.2 million for FY 2020, which reflects an increase of \$101.5 million or 13.1 percent over the FY 2019 appropriation of \$776.7 million.

The State Regents are requesting \$38.7 million to provide a 7.5 percent increase in faculty salaries. The average faculty salary at Oklahoma's public colleges and universities is more than 10 percent below their peers in other

states. The request also includes \$20.4 million to increase the number of faculty and instructor positions and restore course sections to meet academic instruction requirements. Increased funding for financial aid and scholarship programs will also be a priority; the State Regents are seeking \$12.3 million to restore significantly diminished scholarship programs and fully fund the concurrent enrollment program.

The State Regents will also continue efforts to protect the dedicated funding source for the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship program, through which more than 80,000 students have earned college tuition scholarships since the program's inception in 1992.

Another area of legislative focus for the state system of higher education will be to maintain current law regarding weapons on campuses. Oklahoma higher education



Courtesy photo

BUDGET PRESENTATION: Chancellor Glen D. Johnson presents the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's FY 2020 budget request and 2019 legislative agenda to an audience of lawmakers, community leaders and educators at NNSU-BA on Jan. 16.

supports the second amendment and gun ownership. Under current law, campus presidents have the discretion to permit the carrying of weapons when an exception is

warranted. The State Regents and the presidents of all 25 state system institutions strongly believe that the current law with regard to weapons on campus is working.

Higher Learning Commission Reaffirms Accreditation for Tulsa Community College

The Higher Learning Commission has reaffirmed Tulsa Community College's accreditation. TCC is the largest community college in Oklahoma, serving 24,000 students annually in college credit courses.

HLC, the regional accrediting agency, visited in September 2018 to review TCC's ongoing ability to meet HLC's Criteria for Accreditation. The HLC criteria consists of five core components from mission to resources, planning and institutional effectiveness and four assumed practices from ethical and responsible conduct to teaching

and learning: evaluation and improvement.

"The report confirms all the hard work we are doing to support students and produce a trained workforce for the Tulsa community," said TCC President and CEO Leigh B. Goodson. "The HLC reviewers cited TCC as a vibrant institution that is an integral part of the greater Tulsa community and praised Tulsa Achieves for addressing local educational needs."

TCC is in the middle of refining the student learning assessment process for a majority of the college's academic programs. In 2022

as part of a mid-cycle Assurance Review, TCC will provide HLC a comprehensive update regarding assessment practices and how we are using student outcome metrics to make decisions about curriculum and teaching strategies.

Accreditation allows students to qualify for financial aid, and for students to be able to transfer credit hours to other institutions of higher education. Accreditation is affirmation that TCC operates in the right way, meeting HLC's criteria and incorporating best practices for students, faculty, staff and the Tulsa community.



Courtesy OSU-CHS

OSU-CHS TRIBAL SCHOOL: Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences (OSU-CHS) announces the establishment of multiple scholarship funds totaling \$475,000 from the Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and 13 private donors in honor of the nation's first tribally affiliated medical school – the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Cherokee Nation. The new medical school is the result of a partnership between OSU-CHS and the Cherokee Nation and is set to open in 2020 on the campus of the Cherokee Nation's W.W. Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah.

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Tulsa Tech Board of Education Members Honored

January was School Board Recognition Month and an opportunity for local schools and communities to honor the more than 2,700 elected school board members for their untiring dedication to children and schools. Tulsa Tech faculty and staff celebrated and recognized board of education members during their monthly board meeting on Jan. 28.

At Tulsa Tech, our board members not only must develop policies and make tough decisions on complex educational and social issues impacting the entire community, they also bear responsibility for over 600 employees across six campuses, and over 58,000 students annually in full-time, part-time, as well as corporate training classes. We're very proud of the board members who help guide our district, and the impact each individual has on our community and region.

Ray A. Owens, PhD

The Rev. Dr. Ray A. Owens is the Pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Tulsa. In addition to his parish work, Owens serves as the Affiliate Assistant Professor of Ethics and Black Church Studies at the Phillips Theological Seminary. He is deeply involved in the Tulsa community. He serves on the Steering Committee of IMPACT-Tulsa and is a board member for Tulsa Educare. He is also the founder and chairman of the board of the Met Cares Foundation, a non-profit organization that seeks to facilitate the development of high performing schools in the north Tulsa community. Owens is an active member of both Alpha Phi Alpha and Sigma Pi Phi fraternities.



Rick Kibbe

Rick Kibbe graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University with a bachelor's degree, and a major minor in social science and secondary education. He completed his Master's Degree in secondary administration from Northwestern Oklahoma State University, and completed his superintendents certification from Oklahoma State University. Kibbe has been in education for 34 years, 26 of which have been in administration. He has also served as an adjunct instructor at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. While serving as superintendent at Catoosa Public Schools, he was named Superintendent of the Year for the 2008-09 and 2010-11 school years. Kibbe is also active in his community as a member of the Catoosa Economic Development Authority, as well as a part of the Catoosa Chamber of Commerce.



Mark Griffin

Mark Griffin is continuing his lifelong dedication to serving Tulsa area students. After 32 years at Tulsa Public Schools and Tulsa Tech in instructional, support and administrative roles, Griffin retired from his previous duties at Tulsa Tech in 2014. His professional emphasis has been in educational technology, both using technology to enhance instruction and teaching technology to students. Griffin is a Fellow of the J.C. Sparkman Institute has received numerous national and state awards for his instructional work including the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education's "Friends of Trade and Industrial Education Award," a rare honor for an individual. His core beliefs center on building strong relationships within Tulsa Tech, as well as with other schools and enterprises in our service area.



News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent

reer and Technology Education's "Friends of Trade and Industrial Education Award," a rare honor for an individual. His core beliefs center on building strong relationships within Tulsa Tech, as well as with other schools and enterprises in our service area.

David E. Charney

David E. Charney is an attorney, real estate developer and owner of a local homebuilding company. Charney is co-owner and Managing Partner of Owasso Land Trust, L.L.C., a real estate development company with investment activity throughout the Tulsa area. He is involved in several civic organizations in the Tulsa area and currently serves as Chairman of the Owasso Economic Development Authority and Chairman of the Tulsa County Board of Adjustment. Charney also serves on the Board of Directors of RCB Bank Holding Company, an Oklahoma Banking corporation with over 40 branches throughout Oklahoma and Kansas. He is on the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice, as well as currently representing District 4 as a member of the Tulsa Technology Center's School Board.



Danny Hancock

Danny Hancock has been part of the construction industry for more than 30 years. Hancock is a construction manager for Cowen Construction, a 120-year-old company based in Oklahoma. Hancock is a graduate of Charles Page High School and also received a certificate of completion from the plumbing program at Tulsa Tech. He attended OSUIT in Okmulgee receiving his Associate's Degree in applied science, with emphasis on construction technology in 1993. Hancock stayed active in multiple training programs, including HVAC training at Tulsa Tech,



while working for a Tulsa mechanical construction company. He carries a plumbing contractor's license in Oklahoma, as well as a master plumbing license in Arkansas. He has served as an adviser for Tulsa Tech and OSUIT programs for nearly two decades. Hancock recently served as president of the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors and was appointed in 2014 to serve as a state code commissioner on the Oklahoma Uniform Building Code Commission.

Sharon Whelpley

Sharon Whelpley brings many years of experience and knowledge to the Tulsa Tech community. After retiring from Tulsa Tech following 12 years of service, Whelpley was elected to the Broken Arrow Public Schools Board of Education, where she provided 20 years of service to help guide a path for student success. An avid volunteer, Whelpley has served the Broken Arrow community through organizations and events such as Gateway Ballroom, Tulsa Garden Center, Broken Arrow PTA, and the Broken Arrow School Foundation to name a few. Whelpley has been a resident of Broken Arrow for over 35 years, married to husband Lee, has three children, four grandchildren, and is a member of First Baptist Church in Broken Arrow.



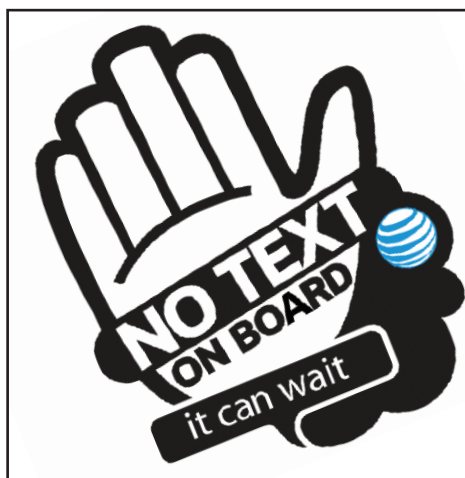
Dr. Jim Baker

Dr. Jim Baker's background in education serves him well as a board member by providing the perspective of a practitioner in formulating policy-making decisions. Not only has Baker served in all executive positions on the board, but also led an effort to define and address safety issues long before school violence became a national concern. Baker was named to the 2000 Oklahoma State School Boards Association All-State School Board, a select group of five board members from the more than 3,500 across the state.



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Tulsa Transit Moves Forward on New System

Ground Broken for New Aero Bus Rapid Transit Station

The City of Tulsa and Tulsa Transit broke ground on a new Aero Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) station in January. Mayor G.T. Bynum, city officials, the Tulsa Transit board and other community leaders were in attendance to commemorate the ground breaking.

The event featured addresses from Tulsa Transit's General Manager Ted Rieck, Mayor Bynum, City Councilor Kara Joy McKee, and Tulsa Transit Board Member/City Chief of Performance Strategy and Innovation James Wagner, all expressing their optimism and excitement for the project.

"We hope that this will be a first step in a transformation for Tulsa Transit and for transit in Tulsa to become a mode that people will want to use over and over again," said Rieck.

"Imagine what Tulsans might

step up and want to do around public transit if all of a sudden they could see what it was like to have public transit as a vehicle of choice in our city," Mayor Bynum prompted.

"We can change a generation or two or three with an investment like this. We are changing not only the physical nature of the city but also the social fabric of the city, and I think there is tremendous value to that, as well." Wagner concluded.

BRT is designed to provide enhanced bus service in key corridors by reducing travel times and providing a high level of passenger amenities.

Tulsa's new Aero BRT will feature modern buses and comfortable stations, with frequent service along the route and enhanced amenities such as real-time arrival



GTR Newspapers photo

READY TO RIDE: Breaking ground for the new Aero Bus Rapid Transit Station are, from left, James Wagner, Tulsa Transit board member; City Councilor Kara Joy McKee; Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum; Ted Rieck, general manager of Tulsa Transit; and City Councilors Vanessa Hall-Harper and Phil Lakin.

al signs, sheltered seating, bicycle racks and level boarding.

The system will have two types of stations, standard and constrained, running along Peoria

Avenue from 54th Street North to 81st Street South.

Funding for the project comes from part of the Vision Tulsa and Improve Our Tulsa package. The

station will open in late summer of this year.

The event was held at Centennial Park at Sixth Street and Peoria Avenue.

Cascia Hall Senior a Finalist in National Competition

Braden Milford has been named a finalist in the Regeneron Science Talent Search, the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors.

Each of the 40 finalists will receive at least \$25,000 in awards and were selected from a pool of highly-qualified entrants based on their projects' scientific rigor and their potential to become world-changing scientific leaders.

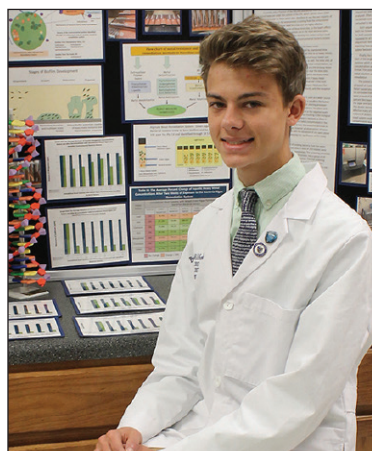
The Regeneron Science Talent Search, created and produced by the Society for Science & the Public, is designed to engage and inspire the next generation of sci-

entific leaders. Alumni have gone on to win the Nobel Prize, found successful companies, and invent groundbreaking medical treatments.

The Cascia Hall senior was selected from a pool of nearly 2,000 entrants, all of whom completed an original research project and extensive application process.

Earlier this month, the Society and Regeneron named the top 300 scholars; the 40 finalists were selected from that pool.

Milford will travel to Washington, D.C. from March 7-13, where he will undergo a scrupulous judging process and com-



BRADEN MILFORD

pete for more than \$1.8 million in awards. He will also have the opportunity to interact with leading scientists, meet with members of Congress, and display his project to the public at the National Geographic Society on March 10.

The top 10 Regeneron Science Talent Search 2019 winners will be announced at a black-tie gala awards ceremony at the National Building Museum on March 12. In total, more than \$3 million in awards will be distributed throughout the Regeneron Science Talent Search.

Previously, each of the top 300 scholars received \$2,000 with an

additional \$2,000 going to their high school.

Milford was selected for his project on "Designing a Novel Heavy Metal Bioremediation System Utilizing Immobilized Mixed Algae Partnered with Heavy Metal Resistant Microbial Isolates Collected from Contaminated Superfund Mine Sites and Identified with a 16S Ribosomal Subunit Analysis." Milford represented the United States at the 2018 Stockholm Junior Water Prize international competition where he presented his patent-pending system for cleaning contaminated water inexpensively.



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MIDTOWN SPORTS

Hornets Ready for Run at State Championship

By MIKE MOGUIN
GTR Sports Writer

Booker T. Washington is rocking the floor in 6A boys basketball this winter, and there is nothing the Hornets would like more than to win state in March.

As of Feb. 1, Booker T. was 15-2 overall, ranked third, and rolling in their first year in the Frontier Valley Conference.

One of the highlights of the Hornets' year so far is a 68-56 win over Jenks on Jan. 15 at the Nathan E. Harris Fieldhouse.

"You've got to start with Bryce (Thompson)," Hornets' coach Conley Phipps II said. "He was unbelievable. He made some huge plays down the stretch. He grabbed loose balls and rebounds and led us in scoring."

Thompson, a junior and son of former TU player Rod Thompson, led BTW with 26 points that night. He made his fair share of dunks in that game. And, there were other Hornets who contributed.

"Seth Hurd (senior) came up big tonight. He made some big plays, got some big rebounds. Jalen Breath (junior) made some big plays, made some big rebounds, Trey (junior, Phipps, son of the coach) did some good things at times, so it was a team effort. We can go six or seven deep and everybody that played did a good job, certainly contributed," Phipps said.

Phipps is in his second year as BTW coach, a role which he has embraced.

"Booker T. has a great basketball tradition," Phipps said. "It has a great academic tradition, great athletic tradition, so it's an honor



Courtesy photo

COACH PHIPPS: Second-year coach Conley Phipps II works the sideline at a recent game.



Courtesy photo

BRYCE THOMPSON: The Junior guard throws down a dunk, helping the Hornets to a 74-67 win at Sapulpa on Feb. 1.

to be part of it. They're out there singing the school song (after a win over Jenks). I feel like year two is little more comfortable than year one. So, we're going in the right direction."

The Hornets hope to continue their roll into the state tournament, which they are hungry to win after being denied the last two years.

"I know our goal is the gold ball," Phipps said. "Two years ago, when coach (Joe, now coaching Union girls) Redmond coached, they got beat in the 6A finals. Last year, we got beat in the 5A state finals. So, the goal is to get to the 6A state finals and hopefully have a different outcome."

Booker T. lost to Edmond North in the 2017 6A state final and lost to cross-town rival Memorial last year in the state 5A final.

Playing in the Frontier Valley Conference has boosted the

strength of the Hornets' schedule. They also beat teams in the Lone Star state to open the season. It was at an event known as Hoopsfest in Duncanville, Texas. They beat Dallas Kimball, who is known for being a powerhouse in that area just like BTW is in Tulsa. The Hornets also got a win over Arlington Lamar.

The win over Jenks ranked among the memorable of the season, Phipps said.

"It's a Top 10 game. Two top 10 teams slugging it out," he said. "We won the Tournament of Champions, that's a huge win for our program and a huge win for our guys," Phipps said.

The win in the TOC title game came against Memorial, which was No. 1 in 5A at the time. When Jenks came around, BTW was No. 2 and the Trojans were No. 7.

"So, we played a tough schedule

and I think it helped us for sure," Phipps said.

BTW lost at home to Sapulpa early in the season, but it avenged that loss with a 74-67 win over the Chieftains (ranked fourth at the time) at their place on Feb. 1.

"I think it's experience that's the key," Phipps said. "I think our guys have been in a lot of big games. They've been in big games in the summer, playing in front of a bunch of coaches. We've been in big games this year. Last year, we've been in big games, so, I think that experience helps for sure."

"You've got to be ready to play every night. So, our margin for error is not very big," Phipps added.

Former McClain Star Declares for NFL draft

Josh Jacobs, a former McLain standout tailback who played at

Alabama the past three seasons, has declared for the NFL draft. He was featured in the March 2016 issue of the Midtown Monitor.

The college junior announced his decision along with three other Crimson Tide teammates on Jan. 11.

Jacobs, a graduate of McClain in 2016, chose Alabama over OU and Missouri before a school assembly on national signing day that year. He was a versatile threat on offense for the Tide during the 2018 season, rushing for 640 yards and a team-high 11 touchdowns and caught 20 passes for 247 yards and three TDs.

In Bama's 45-34 CFP semifinal win against Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl, Jacobs ran for 98 yards on 15 carries, scored one TD passing while catching four passes for 60 yards.



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

Together We Are Stronger.



SPORTS

Metro Christian Experiencing Success on Hardwood

By **MIKE MOGUIN**
GTR Sports Writer

Metro Christian Academy is having an outstanding year on the hardwood.

Part of that is due to loads of talent. Another factor is that the players have bought into lessons taught by the athletes who came before them.

As of Feb. 4, the Patriots were 16-4 overall and ranked fourth in Class 3A, and hope to make the state tournament for the first time in two years.

"We have had a three-year run here where we've been successful," Metro boys coach Bryon Flam said.

"We went to the state tournament two years ago (2017) here at Metro. But, we had a group of seniors the year before that were tired of losing. They had a great work ethic, which they taught to this younger group," Flam said. "Although that senior class (2016) didn't win, the next year, it allowed us to be successful. Our guys bought in to what that bunch taught, as well as to what we are teaching and it has rubbed off and carried from there."

Flam, who is in his sixth year as

Metro's coach, has wealth in his basketball background. He was a member of Broken Arrow's 1997 state championship team, being teammates with current B.A. coach Beau Wallace and playing for legendary coach John Phillips. He was also a student manager one year for Eddie Sutton while attending Oklahoma State.

He said this year has been surprising, although he knew his Patriots would be good. Throughout most of the season, he said, they have benefitted from depth. In most games, they have had to overcome a size disadvantage.

The tallest players on the MCA roster are 6-5 Evan Sadler (junior, forward) and Harrison Blake (senior, forward). Blake and Evan Grantham (6-3, sophomore, forward) also bring size, respectfully weighing 205 and 190 pounds, from playing for the Patriots' football team.

Metro has had to overcome adversity due to a starter being out with an injury. Blaze Munoz (6-3, junior, forward) broke his hand four games into the season and has been out since. But, he is expected to return in time for the district tournament, Flam said.

The starters for Metro have been

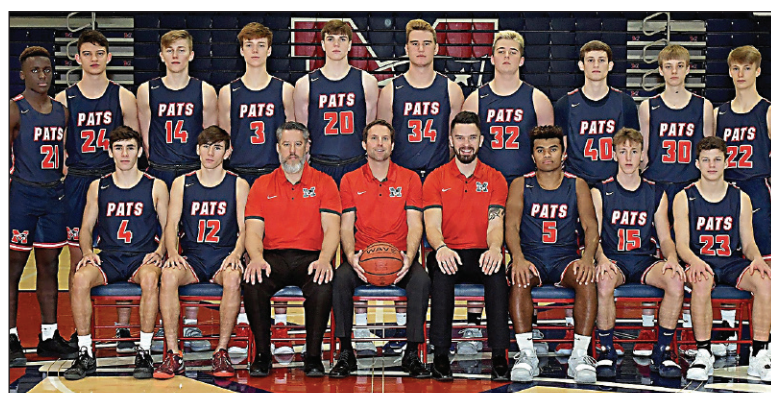
Caden Hale (6-1, junior, guard), brothers Jacob (6-0, senior, guard) and Zach Mershon (5-11, senior, guard), with Trevor Burns (6-4, senior, forward), Sadler and Ian Sluice (6-2, sophomore, guard) rotating in the No. 4 and No. 5 spots.

"Trevor had been a guard in our program, up until his senior year. He probably grew two inches over the summer and we moved him to the forward position and he's been outstanding for us this year," Flam said. "Ian has come on lately scoring. He scored 28 in the semifinal game in the Lincoln Tournament."

"We have a little team, but they play hard," Flam said. "They're very unselfish. We have about four guys who average about 10 points per game and another averaging eight."

In their latest game, as of submission of this story, Metro picked up a big win, 41-36, against Regent Prep, ranked eighth in Class 2A, in the High School Hoops Showcase event on Feb. 2. Burns led Metro with 14 points. Zack Mershon got 12 and Jacob Mershon picked up 10.

"What's been great for us is we have had a different leading scorer every night and these guys



Courtesy of Metro Christian Academy Athletic Department

TOP TEAM: Metro, boys' basketball team, led by head coach Bryon Flam, front row, middle, is ranked fourth in the Class 3A at the start of this month.

don't care," Flam said. "It's that 'whatever it takes' attitude. When they want to play defense, we're pretty solid on the defensive end. But we're averaging the most points that we've averaged in my six years as well. So, that has helped," Flam said.

By playing teams bigger than they are, Flam and his team believe it is going to prepare them for the playoffs.

"What's helping us is we've shot the ball really well this year, and we've rebounded well, although we've been smaller than most of

our opponents," he said. "Last I've checked, we've outrebounded our opponents and that is something we have stressed daily."

"We've had a lot of players who have accepted their roles that we have given them. We have guys that aren't playing a lot of minutes that normally would have played a lot for us. It's just that our depth is so good and they have accepted that and they give us minutes off the bench," Flam said.

"Overall, we have 11 guys we feel comfortable playing," Flam added.

Tulsa Football Hosts OSU in Upcoming Season

A season opener against perennial powerhouse Michigan State and a home schedule that rivals the best in recent history highlights The University of Tulsa's 2019 football season, as the school recently released its schedule.

Seven 2018 bowl participants are featured on Tulsa's 2019 schedule, including Michigan State and Oklahoma State in non-con-

ference action, while five of Tulsa's eight American Athletic Conference opponents also played in a bowl game in 2018.

Michigan State and Oklahoma State are joined on Tulsa's non-league schedule by two of Tulsa's former conference members, San Jose State and Wyoming, when the schools were members of the Western Athletic Conference (WAC).

In addition to OSU, Tulsa's highly competitive home schedule features Wyoming and American Athletic Conference opponents UCF, Houston, Memphis and Navy.

"Obviously, our schedule is really tough," said Tulsa head coach Philip Montgomery. "To start the season on the road at a perennial powerhouse team in Michigan State, then turnaround and travel to the West Coast for a game against San Jose State, and then you're back home playing Oklahoma State and a week later Wyoming."

"You don't have a chance to breathe, starting with the back-to-back road games, then when you finally get home you have the Cowboys here in your home stadium. It's a challenging non-league schedule that will definitely help prepare us for an extremely competitive conference schedule," added Montgomery.

Tulsa opens the season on Friday night, Aug. 30, in East Lansing against the Michigan State Spartans in the first-ever meeting between the two schools. The Hurricane will continue its season on the road with a matchup against San Jose State in the Bay area on Sept. 7.

A week later, the home season opens with a visit by Oklahoma State in the Bank of Oklahoma Turnpike Series on Sept. 14. The Cowboys and Hurricane have met 71 times previously, the second-most in Tulsa history. OSU leads the series 39-27-5. Another band of Cowboys will visit Chapman Stadium a week later as Tulsa renews a se-

ries with the Wyoming Cowboys, on Sept. 21.

"We have a lot of exciting home conference games when you look at Navy, Memphis, Central Florida and Houston. Those teams have perennially been at the top of our league, so we know we have our hands full at home and we have tough road games in the midst of that."

"Navy has been consistently good year-in and year-out and Memphis won the west division last year. After those two, we have Central Florida coming to town, a team that lost just one ballgame in the last two years, then we finish it up with a rivalry game against Houston," said Montgomery.

For 2019 Football Season Tickets, visit tulsahurricane.com.

New season tickets will be available online or by calling 918.631.4688 starting Feb. 18.

2019 Tulsa Football Schedule

Date	Opponent
Aug. 30 (Fri.)	at Michigan State
Sept. 7	at San Jose State
Sept. 14	OKLAHOMA STATE
Sept. 21	WYOMING
Oct. 5	at SMU*
Oct. 12	NAVY*
Oct. 19	at Cincinnati*
Oct. 26	MEMPHIS* (Homecoming)
Nov. 2	at Tulane*
Nov. 8 (Fri.)	UCF* (ESPN Networks)
Nov. 23	HOUSTON*
Nov. 30	at ECU*

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Tulsa Oilers' Peter Sivak Keeps on Going and Going

Veteran on Ice Has Played For 18 Teams in 19 Professional Seasons

By **GLENN HIBDON**
GTR Sports Writer

Like a crazed battery-powered bunny rabbit, Peter Sivak keeps on going and going and going. At 36, Sivak is one of the oldest players in the ECHL, suiting up with 18 teams in four leagues through 19 professional seasons. He came to Tulsa for one reason: to provide instant offense for good friend Rob Murray, coach of the Oilers. Instead, Sivak experienced the first major chink in his career.

Less than 24 hours following surgery for a torn labrum and with four pins placed in his shoulder, a heavily bandaged Sivak arrived at the Oilers training room to begin rehab, and face an uncertain future. When most players his age have long since retired from minor league hockey, why does Sivak continue?

"I don't think he has anything else to do," said Murray, who coached Sivak at ECHL Alaska and won the Kelly Cup with him in 2013-14. "He's a guy who leads by example and he's better now than then. I understand him and we've always had a good relationship. He's always had his best years with me."

Yes, indeed. The 5-foot-11, 179-pound scoring ace of the Aces piled up 31 goals and 52 assists in that championship season. It was the highlight of a career that's seen

Sivak amass 609 points in 965 games, including 284 goals. Before his injury, Sivak recorded eight points in 10 games with the Oilers. Then came the 11th game at Idaho.

"It was an awkward play where he was reaching around a guy and hurt his shoulder," Murray said. "The doctors decided he's out for the year and we don't know when he's coming back. We haven't had that discussion yet. Thirty-six is really old for this league, but he is not the prototypical player. He still has value and he brings a lot to the game."

Sivak arrived in Tulsa planning on being a player/coach for the Oilers. Before the injury, he ran a couple of optional practice sessions and now keeps statistics during games, helping Murray break down opponents' trends and tendencies. It helps Sivak deal with the emotional and physical pain of his situation.

"It is painful," confirmed Sivak. "After surgery I couldn't sleep. I had to lie down flat and take pills for the pain. I go back (to the doctor) in two weeks."

"I haven't had many injuries before. I've always been pretty healthy. This is the reason I still play, I like hockey. I like scoring, for sure, and I like being with the group (teammates). Maybe I will go into coaching. I've helped with camps before and I think I would like coaching the small kids."

Before that day comes, Murray is

hoping there are more on-ice goals ahead for his friend.

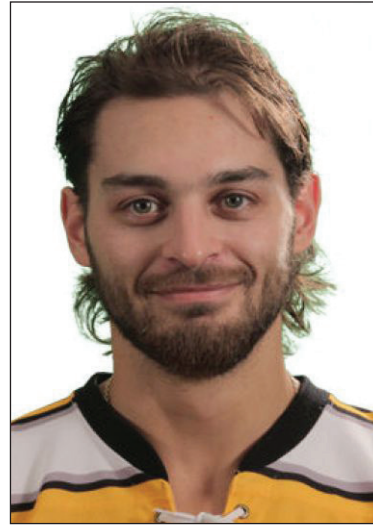
"He had a good season last year in Rapid City," said Murray. "He thought about retiring, but he became a free agent over the summer and he said he wanted to play again. He still brings a lot to the game and we miss him. He would have continued to contribute (on ice)."

No matter what awaits Sivak after his playing days are over, no one should feel sorry for him. Hockey has already led to his success in more ways than one. He met his wife Alisha, already an American citizen, while attending the Slovakian championship game. She led to Sivak also becoming a citizen and the pair now have a home in San Francisco where Alisha is an occupational therapist.

Therapy will become a familiar routine for Sivak. He said riding a stationary bike will form the basis of his recovery along with vertical jumping. When Sivak does recover, he may still have a few glory days ahead of him as a call up with the American Hockey League. Murray said an AHL team phoned him recently inquiring about Sivak.

After playing 19 games with four different AHL teams, how come he hasn't stuck?

"Because I'm too old," Sivak said bluntly. "The AHL is for young guys, guys who are NHL prospects. I never got drafted by the NHL and I was 30 when I was



PETER SIVAK

the team. He said as long as your legs are still there, you can still contribute.

"He's also very proactive in helping the younger guys. If he sees something they're doing wrong, he will talk to the guys and draw stuff up for his line mates," Murray said. "He feels he can still play and I don't see why he shouldn't. He takes care of himself and his off-ice habits are excellent. He's not hard on his body."

While it's obvious that Sivak does not have many seasons left, there are a couple of accomplishments that no blue liner, no skeptic can take away.

During the 2011-12 season in Slovakia, he scored a goal in 3.23 seconds one of the fastest all-time in any level of hockey. In 2009-10, he scored a goal on NHL great Dominick Hasek. Hasek finished his career in his native Czech Republic and Sivak faced him.

"Oh yeah, I scored a goal against him," Sivak volunteered, beaming with pride. "I scored on Dominick Hasek, the legend."

And that memory sustains this little geriatric bunny, who has already established himself as a minor league legend in his own right. No matter the situation, he keeps on going and going....

still playing in Slovakia.

"I don't know right now how much longer I will play. It's year to year. I always wait until summer and see how I feel and then make the decision. She (his wife) likes that I play hockey, but she misses me and would rather have me at home."

Murray still wants him with the Oilers for various reasons. He said Sivak is a multifaceted player with a really quick release on his shot and is one of the better skaters on

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

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Second Chance at Life Worth the Fight for CBS News' Lara Logan During Horrific Ordeal

By LESA JONES
Contributing Editor

Lara Logan knew she was about to suffer a horrific death at the hands of a 200-300 person mob as they ripped her clothes apart.

She remembers how she felt with great detail as they were tearing her bra off her body and the necklace from her neck in Tahrir Square as she was there reporting on the 2011 Egyptian Revolution for *60 Minutes*.

The Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent for CBS News told a sold-out Tulsa Town Hall audience at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center that in that moment she wanted her children, a four-year-old son and a 10 month old daughter, to know that she died fighting.

"How can I give up on my children? They deserve better from me and I didn't have a lot to give them at that point. So I thought I am going to fight so that when

they read about this they'll know that I died fighting," she said.

"They could take a lot from me, but they couldn't take that," she said of the men who gang raped her in the crowded, dirty streets that day.

Raised in South Africa at the height of apartheid, Logan discussed the impact that Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and others had on her young life as she began her career as a journalist at age 17.

She said her "soul was forged in that environment."

In the midst of the attack, Logan said, "I knew I began to die, and I really had to stop fighting the sexual assault at the point. I was fighting for something that was long gone."

Adrenaline was gone. Strength was gone; at that point even a breath was hard to take.

Logan says she's been repeatedly told she is brave for even speaking of her ordeal. She scoffs at the idea and says it isn't bravery, that it didn't take courage to speak about it.

"Because all of my life I have stood by and stood up for what I believe in," she said. "I knew when I disappeared in that moment that this was not going to be my dirty, little secret that I was going to carry in shame the rest of my life. This didn't belong to me. The only way to live it was to live it honestly."

Logan also recalled a young woman named Allison in South Africa that she had met as a young journalist at the age of 20 or 21. The woman had been brutally attacked, her throat was cut and she

was left for dead alongside the road. Yet, with grit and determination she dragged herself on her hands and knees to get help. She found the strength within herself to give a detailed description of the perpetrators and they were arrested the next day.

At the trial Allison was asked how she was able to recover and be so strong and she said, "They took so much from me that night, why would I give them the rest of my life as well?"

At 41, at the time of her attack in Egypt, Logan remembered Allison's words from all of those years before. She says she's thought about it so much since that time.

"What does it do when you say those words? You say, 'I decide.'"

It was like that moment when I was almost dead and I thought, "No, I decide how I am going to die and I will die fighting."

She described a moment when as she says she was like a "writhing, naked little animal" and no one would touch her because she was naked. Eventually, a group of soldiers beat their way through the crowd and covered her with a traditional robe and brought her to safety.

Don't feel sorry for me she says.

"I know bad things happen to good people all the time," Logan said. "That's the way the world works. I never had a moment of anger. Why? Because I had a second chance at living and I wasn't going to waste it."

Though Logan has traveled the world reporting on some of the most complex issues and wars today, she still has a thirst for knowledge.



LESA JONES for GTR Newspapers

TOWN HALL PRESENTATION: Lara Logan talks about her ordeal in Egypt during the Tulsa Town Hall presentation at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center in January.

"I'm really at the point where I know nothing," Logan said. "All this time and all the places I've been, all the work and all the knowledge that I've acquired and I've never known less than I do right now."

But politics is the last thing she cares about.

"My issue is not politics, my issue is the truth. How can I acquire as much information, if possible

all of the information, in order to figure out the truth and then find a way to communicate it in a way that's meaningful and memorable."

The next Tulsa Town Hall will feature internationally acclaimed photographer Platon on March 8. He has produced more than 20 covers for Time Magazine and is a colorful storyteller and human rights activist.

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Veteran Joshua Starks Leads VFW Post 577

By **TERRELL LESTER**
Editor at Large

It would not be unreasonable to envision Tulsa VFW Post 577 as a living history museum.

In less than a year, the two-story brick building at 1109 E. Sixth St., will be celebrating its centennial milestone.

If the walls could talk.

Instead, a competent proxy for those walls would be Joshua Starks, post commander for some 18 months.

Despite his relative youth, he is 42, he is well-versed on the narrative that traces the storyline of this facility. Deftly and willingly, he can share that background and its legacy with little prompting.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars had been meeting for three years in Tulsa's first City Hall, at Fourth Street and Cincinnati Avenue, when the Oklahoma National Guard in 1920 opened its armory about a mile away from the city's downtown hub, according to Starks.

It wasn't until 1947 that the VFW Post made the move into what would become its permanent home.

The structure, still sound and aging handsomely, is passionately maintained by a volunteer staff of veterans while serving as a beacon of hope for those who have served their country on foreign soil.

In its earliest years, the armory housed the National Guard and served as a field hospital during the 1921 Tulsa race riot.

It has survived tornadoes, endured the heat and drought of the 1930s.

A speakeasy was operated at times within the armory during the period when Oklahoma was under the restraints of prohibition.

Following the conclusion of World War II, the Oklahoma National Guard moved its headquar-

ters to the new armory at the Tulsa Fairgrounds. In 1947, the VFW purchased the property on Sixth Street for one dollar, with the National Guard retaining the sole right of return.

In the 1950s, the first decade of rock and roll, and into the Sixties, the newly positioned VFW Post rolled out its red carpet for weekend dances, welcoming veterans and civilians who were emerging from the grips of World War II and the Korean War.

Today, the post is continuing to embrace veterans who have returned from wars in locations such as Vietnam and the Middle East.

Starks is one such veteran. As a lieutenant in the Army, he commanded troops against the Taliban during an 18-month deployment in Afghanistan.

Returning to his Tulsa home in 2012, he struggled during his reintegration into the civilian world. He rejoined Spirit AeroSystems, where he still works as an aircraft inspector, but continued to be haunted by wartime memories and fallen brothers.

Friends and veterans led him to Post 577 in 2014.

Immediately, he liked what he saw, liked what he heard.

Still, there was something lacking.

Summoning up the leadership skills he acquired in Officer Candidate School and honed in battle, Starks embraced the mission of the VFW and strengthened his Post's commitment to the veteran. He soon moved into the Post's leadership chair.

By charter, the VFW is a volunteer organization. All monies brought into the VFW, Starks stressed, goes to veterans' services.

Of chief concern to Starks and the VFW are those services offered to

veterans. The VFW can be an advocate, an intermediary, in handling what Starks calls "the leg work," in taking a veteran through the procedures that lead to the successful claiming of federal benefits for themselves (particularly medical) and their families.

Post 577, Starks said, has a membership of some 450.

It extends a helping hand to those hundreds, even thousands, of Tulsa-area veterans not connected to it or its programs.

Starks proudly points to 2018 and the Post's work with veterans.

The Post operates with an annual budget of \$190,000, Starks said. Funding comes from donations, with no federal help, he said. His budget must cover building maintenance, taxes, utilities, etc.

Last year, he said, it helped 244 veterans file disability and medical claims totaling \$14,000 each. Each claim, he said, renews automatically each year.

For the three years that Starks has had a hand in the post operation, his volunteers have helped veterans obtain more than \$10 million in such claims.

As Starks was transitioning into the role of Post commander, he began to see the road in front of him.

"Vietnam veteran after Vietnam veteran walked in the door and they were all crippled up; they've lived a hard life," he said. "They had come home from war, had gone to the Veterans Administration, and didn't get the services or were denied the services or were told they didn't qualify for the services they were entitled to."

"Then they walked away and they dealt with their (post-traumatic stress disorder), their (traumatic brain injury) or their bullet wounds on their own for the entire life.



GTR Newspaper photo

ENTHUSIASTIC COMMANDER: Joshua Starks, who served in the U.S. Army as a lieutenant in Afghanistan, leads the Tulsa VFW Post 577 at the relatively youthful age of 42.

They lost families, lost home, lost jobs.

"They had been coping with their issues on their own without support services for decades. There is this trail of human wreckage behind them."

"I said we have to change the way we do business. We can fight."

"I can't not fight it. I have to try," he said.

With the help of volunteers, donations from Tulsa's community leaders, Starks has Post 577 at the forefront of the fight for those veterans in need of medical and disability support.

It has become a beacon of hope.

"We don't know where the veterans are. He might be in a house five blocks away. He needs help," Starks said.

"But he's been told that he can't get help. How do we reach him? We don't know where he is. We don't know where she is."

"But what we can do is turn the light on, and we can make it as bright as possible. We can swing that light around and they will

come.

"As you help one or two successfully, they will go back and call a friend, as well."

"It's word of mouth. And it's been huge," he said.

"We have accomplished some amazing things."

"What we're doing is still trying to keep (the spirit of) those same soldiers that I had deployed with in Afghanistan alive and to save some of the guys that we (are still losing)," he said.

"It hasn't stopped. I haven't put my oath down. I haven't put down my sword. I haven't stopped."

"I'm still trying to take care of soldiers. And this place allows me to do that," he said.

Among the fundraisers at VFW Post 577 are luncheons on Wednesdays and Thursdays (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and Saturday breakfasts (8 a.m. to 10 a.m.) and a lounge that is open Monday through Saturday, 3 p.m. until midnight. All are open to the public.

Additionally, the Post has meeting rooms available for rent.



GTR Newspaper photos

TULSA PRESS CLUB'S FIRST DRAFT: The Tulsa Press Club's annual First Draft craft beer tasting was held this past fall at ONEOK Field. Enjoying the fundraiser for journalism scholarships are, from left, TPC 2018 President Nicole Amend, Blue Cross Blue Shield; TPC General Manager Rebecca Watson; TPC board member Ashli Sims, Iron Gate; and TPC 2019 President Clair Johnson, CareATC.



MLK DAY PARADE ATTENDEES: Members of the Rotary Club of Tulsa were enthusiastic attendees at this year's Martin Luther King Parade. In the front row are, from left, Club Executive Director Tina Miller; Past-President Linda Bradshaw; Current Club President Hannibal B. Johnson; and Diversity and Inclusion Co-Chairs Michelle Place and Daniel Gomez.

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THE ECONOMY

Tulsa Regional Chamber Inaugurates BOK's David Stratton as 2019 Chairman of the Board

Initiatives Include Diversity, Downtown and Direct Flights

The Tulsa Regional Chamber inaugurated David Stratton, executive vice president of Tulsa corporate banking for BOK Financial, as the 2019 chair of the Board of

Directors during its annual meeting in January. More than 1,400 attendees watched as Stratton outlined his five strategic imperatives for the organization in 2019: de-

velops, development of the workforce, downtown, direct flights, and diversity.

"As I hope you agree, let's all take it upon ourselves ... to inspire our kids, or any child for that matter, that there are places they can go in life, and that success awaits them - hopefully right here in the Tulsa region," Stratton said during his inaugural speech.

Stratton succeeds outgoing chair Steve Bradshaw, also of BOK Financial, who reflected on the Chamber's success in 2018 to improve education funding, attract more new economy jobs, and increase the number of direct flights to and from the region.

"I take no personal credit for the good fortune we experienced in 2018," said Bradshaw. "On the contrary, I was privileged to work alongside the most driven, innovative and determined volunteers, elected officials, regional partners, young professionals, and education administrators you'll ever meet. I feel grateful to have been given that opportunity."

A Claremore, Oklahoma native, Stratton earned a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Oklahoma and his MBA from the University of Tulsa. In addition to his board service with the Chamber, he serves on the boards for



Courtesy Tulsa Regional Chamber

PROUD PAPA: David Stratton with his children after his inauguration as the 2019 Tulsa Regional Chamber chairman of the Board of Directors at the Cox Business Center in downtown Tulsa.

the Foundation for Tulsa Schools and the Tulsa Community College Foundation. He is the past board president of Street School.

Also at the annual meeting, Bradshaw presented several awards to a number of the Chamber's most outstanding partners in 2018:

- **Volunteer of the Year:** Nicolas Stolusky, Tulsa Zoo Management
- **Regional Economic & Workforce Development Partner of the Year:** Sid McAnnally, ONE Gas
- **Regional Business & Edu-**

cation Advocacy Partner of the Year: Jay Helm, American Residential Group

• **Regional Tourism Partner of the Year:** Fred Dorwart, Fred-eric Dorwart, Lawyers

• **Community Development Partner of the Year:** George Kaiser Family Foundation for Gathering Place

• **Regional Partners of the Year:** Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and Chief of Economic Development Kian Kamas

• **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Stuart Solomon, AEP-PSO

Dana Day Receives HBA Spirit Award

Dana Day, founder of Day Build and Design, was selected as this year's Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa Spirit Award honoree in recognition of the construction of a 4,591 sq. ft modern farmhouse in midtown Tulsa which was featured in the 2018 Parade of Homes. This custom-built home features unique amenities specifically designed for its homeowners such as a man cave that transitions to an exterior covered porch and a two-level hidden alcove for children's play.



Courtesy photo

DANA DAY

Day has been a member of the Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa for close to a decade. She currently serves as the 2019 HBA Builders Council vice president/treasurer and

is a member of the HBA board of directors. She is a recent mayoral appointee to the City of Tulsa board of appeals.



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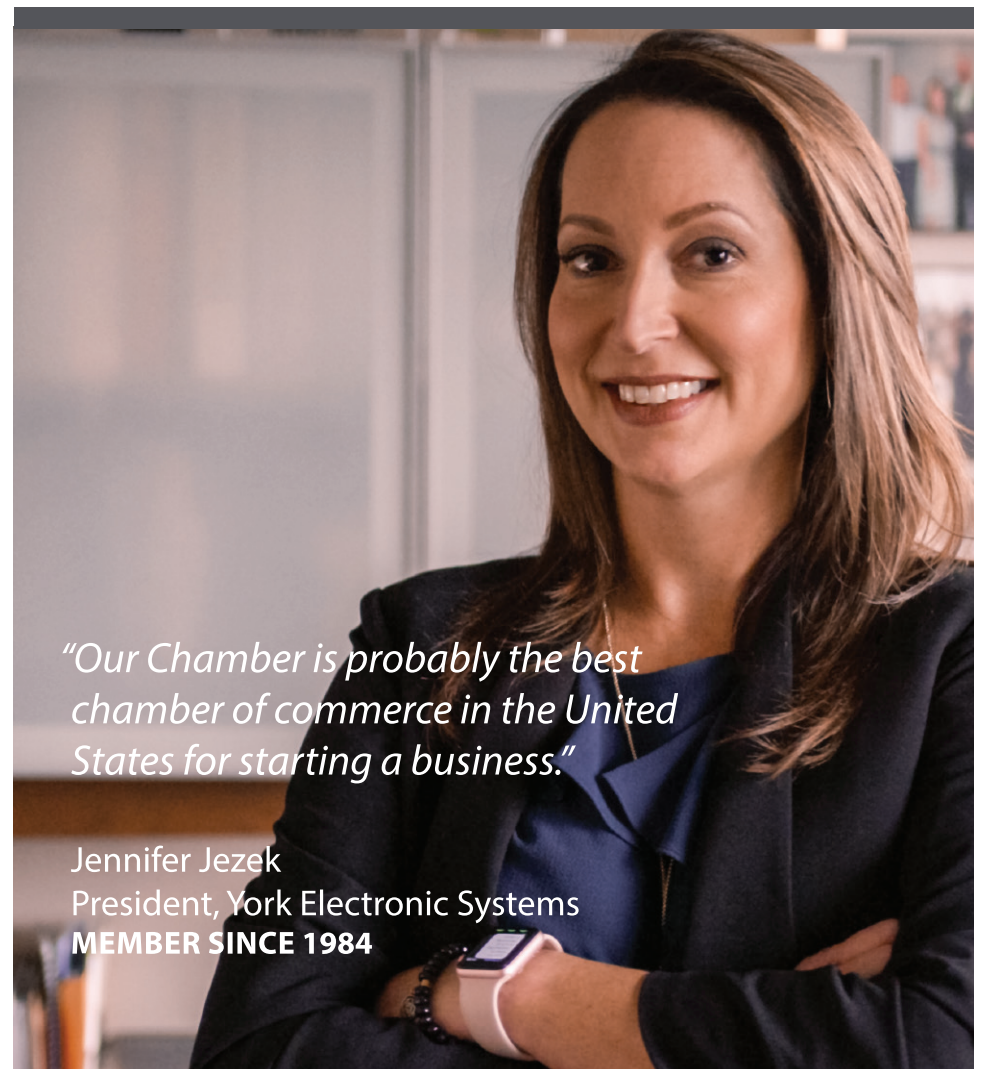
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AT&T Debuts New Store in Highland Plaza

Facility Was Heavily Damaged in 2017 Tornado

Along with many other businesses, the AT&T store was heavily damaged in tornado that struck Highland Plaza in August 2017.

The store was officially re-opened to start 2019, and the company invited customers, friends and members of the Tulsa Regional Chamber and others to celebrate Jan. 31.

"The customer response has been tremendous, and our business neighbors in Highland Plaza have been thankful as well," said AT&T Oklahoma Director of Sales Melissa Phillips. "Oklahomans know how to rebound from a natural disaster, and AT&T is with them all the way."

The store is the first one of its kind in Oklahoma. It is what AT&T calls a "premium entertainment" format — "we want customers to know we do much more than connect them to family and friends. We show them how we connect them to the best entertainment in the world."

Phillips adds, "Tulsa is important to AT&T, and we wanted to make sure the customers in this neighborhood and visitors to the plaza have



TULSA TWISTER: The 2017 Tulsa tornado took place on Aug. 6. Major damage was inflicted on the Highland shopping and office area in southeast Tulsa.



READY FOR BUSINESS: The rebuilt AT&T store has officially opened for business in the Highland Shopping area. The address is 5505 E. 41st St.

a convenient place to shop."

The new store design reflects the changing ways customers use their mobile devices for entertainment. In the last year alone, video traffic on the AT&T network grew over 75 percent. According to AT&T, in the new store, customers can interact with content across many different screens and find the best video, internet and wireless options available. This is one of 5,300 AT&T owned and authorized retail stores nationwide.

Some key features of the new store format are:

Entertainment, everywhere. The new AT&T stores illustrate the intersection of content and connection. Representatives are trained to

show how services, like DIRECTV and DIRECTV NOW and products can add value to customers' connected life.

Smartphones and more. Phones have been moved off the walls to the center of the store to make it easier to compare and choose. Areas to show the most popular brands that have products like VR glasses, tablets or smartwatches that work with smartphones.

A comfortable experience. The AT&T stores have a personal connection with the reps and services and the store provides comfortable areas where customers and representatives can work together in selecting phones, plans and sometimes adding TV and home broadband.



CONGRATULATIONS: Tulsa Regional Chamber President and CEO Mike Neal congratulates Melissa Phillips of AT&T on the opening of the Highland Plaza location.

America's Energy and Environmental Stewardship



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

In 1992, I founded the International Energy Policy Conference (IEPC) with the theme being "Striving for Energy Efficiency and Environmental Preservation." This underlying theme has been part of each conference event that has been held in Tulsa, Norman, Stillwater, Washington, D.C., Denver, Houston, Oklahoma City, and other locations.



MARK A. STANSBERRY

Twenty-seven years later, from the first IEPC conference, America's energy and environmental steward-

ship continues to be addressed. Especially, the subject of climate change continues to be debated. Also, included in the climate change debate are the prospects of a carbon tax.

Many oil and gas companies are taking the lead in addressing environmentally sound policies. Oil and natural gas will be in demand for quite some time. The way we use and preserve energy are important concerns for our society.

Front and center for a carbon tax is Exxon. Exxon has committed \$1 million over two years to promote a national tax on carbon. The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a climate change

report. The writers of the report want to drastically cut carbon

emissions over the next few decades.

Former Republican U.S. Congressman Ryan Costello states, "The disconnect may be widest on climate change, in which the gap between Republican voters and their elected leaders continues to grow. More than 80 percent of Americans including nearly two-thirds of Republican voters believe that the government should take action to reduce carbon emissions according to one survey."

As Mark Mills, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, in a Wall Street Journal article states, "Even a compromise that yielded enough in subsidies to double the green-tech 'progress' of the past couple of decades would result in wind and solar supplying less than 10 percent of America's energy. Even with subsidies, it would be a struggle to keep nuclear power and corn alcohol at 10 percent of America's energy supply. Meanwhile, the absolute level of hydrocarbon consumption would still go up, comprising a smaller share of a much larger pie."

As I wrote in my 2012 book "America Needs America's Energy: Creating Together the Peo-

ple's Energy Plan," "A heated debate over proposed legislation for a "cap and trade" system occurred in 2009...although the concept behind the cap and trade system seems simple, the devil is in the details."

Future generations are depending on us. Looking forward as we envision the future, together we all should strive to make the planet a much better place to live.

National Energy Talk (NET)-National Energy Talk, an Energy Advocate Initiative, was launched July 31, 2017 in Elk City, Oklahoma and 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. Mark A. Stansberry is Chairman of The GTD Group, an award-winning author and energy advocate.

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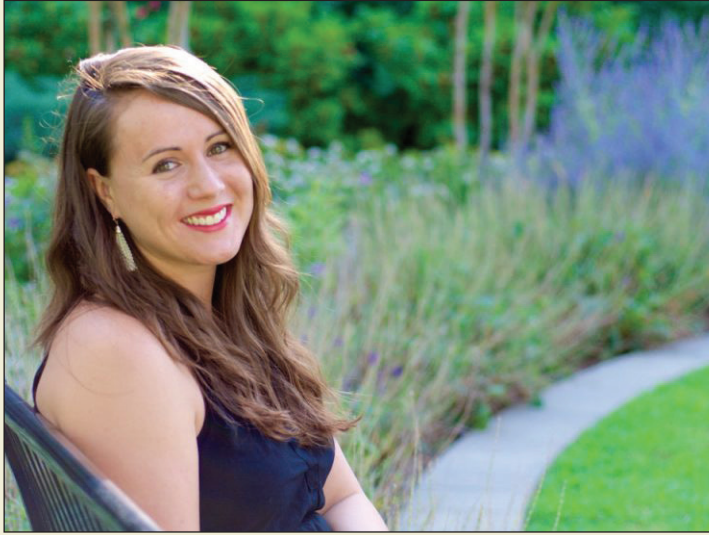
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SCHNAKE TURNBO FRANK PROMOTES HANNAH JACKSON TO VICE PRESIDENT – TULSA



HANNAH JACKSON

Schnake Turnbo Frank, a strategic communications and leadership development firm with offices in Tulsa and Oklahoma City, has promoted Hannah Jackson to vice president in its Tulsa office.

Jackson joined the firm in the fall of 2013 as an account executive and moved up to senior account executive before her most recent promotion. She has experience working with a wide range of industries and brings a background in marketing communication and strategic planning to Schnake Turnbo Frank.

“We are very proud of Hannah and excited for her growth at STF and the extraordinary leadership she provides to the benefit of our clients and STF team,” said Becky J. Frank, partner, chairman and chief executive officer of STF. “Hannah works diligently providing the best strategic counsel to our clients and serves our communities in ways that truly better peoples’ lives.”

Jackson graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and from Oklahoma State University with a Master of Science in integrated marketing communications. Prior to joining Schnake Turnbo Frank, Jackson was the communications manager at the Tulsa Regional Chamber where she maintained day-to-day communication and project manage-

ment for the Chamber’s education and workforce department, which included Tulsa’s Young Professionals and Mosaic, a diversity business council.

“Hannah has been an essential asset to the STF team, and she is a talented and tenacious leader in strategic communications and in the community,” said Aaron Fulkerson, partner and chief development officer of STF. “Her strategic and innovative ideas, commitment to clients, and follow-through are all outstanding.”

In addition to Jackson’s professional experience, she is active in the community. She is the immediate past president for the Association for Women in Communications – Tulsa chapter, a board member with Global Gardens and Oklahoma Sustainability Network, and is active with the Autism Center of Tulsa and Tulsa’s Young Professionals.

Schnake Turnbo Frank is an Oklahoma-based consulting organization that specializes in strategic communication and leadership development. Since 1970, STF has consistently provided direction and the necessary tools to ensure their clients success in the workplace, community and online. The firm has offices in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. For more information on STF, please visit www.Schnake.com or call 918-582-9151.

BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

Gov. Kevin Stitt announces the appointment of **Lt. Governor Matt Pinnell** to **secretary of tourism and branding**, a cabinet position that requires Senate confirmation.



PINNELL

“Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell is an exceptional businessman and he has an evident passion for our state and the people of Oklahoma,” said Stitt. “As our state’s lieutenant governor, he will be an active and effective salesman for all of Oklahoma.”

“I want to thank Gov. Stitt for appointing me to his cabinet as secretary of tourism and branding,” said Pinnell. “Tourism and effectively branding and marketing our state are vitally important to achieving our goal of making Oklahoma a top ten state.”

In addition to serving as secretary of tourism and branding, Pinnell will sit on the department of commerce executive committee and lead the department’s effort to maximize Oklahoma’s Opportunity Zones, of which 117 have been designated in Oklahoma by the Trump administration.

“Lt. Gov. Pinnell is a critical member of our Commerce executive team because of his knowledge of Oklahoma business and passion to help them succeed,” said Sean Kouplen, secretary of commerce and workforce development.

Pinnell was sworn in as the 17th lieutenant governor of the State of Oklahoma on Jan. 14. He also owns a small business with his wife, Lisa, an entrepreneur and inventor. Prior to his election as lieutenant governor, Pinnell served as director of state parties for the Republican National Committee from 2013 to 2017.

The **Oklahoma Hotel and Lodging Association** announced its **2019 board of directors** at its annual Lodging Summit on Jan. 15.

The OH&LA has elected the following board officers who represent membership statewide: Chair: **Ryan Parker** – Riverwind Hotel/Traditions Spirits, Norman; vice chair: **James Cunningham** – Hyatt Regency Hotel, Tulsa; treasurer: **Gerald Rappaport** – Skivin Hilton Hotel, Oklahoma City; secretary: **Michelle Hartman** – Indigo Hotel Downtown Tulsa; immediate past chair: **Bryan Davis** – Courtyard by Marriott Bricktown, Oklahoma City; president/CEO: **Jim Hopper** – Oklahoma Hotel & Lodging Association.

2019 board members from the Tulsa area include **Jon Davidson** – Shangri La Resort, Monkey Island; **Romel Chatterjee** – 3S Hospitality Group; **Trisha Kerks-tra** – POSTOAK Lodge & Retreat; **Heather McGregor** – McGregor Insurance Group; **Pete Patel** – Promise Hotels; **Roshan Patel** – Leisure Hospitality Management, Inc.; **Chelsea Penn** – Metro Tulsa Hotel & Lodging Association; and **Kyle Reans** – River Spirit Casino & Resort.

Gov. Kevin Stitt announces the appointment of **Lisa J. Billy** as **secretary of Native American affairs**, a cabinet position that will require Senate confirmation.



BILLY

Billy currently serves in the Chickasaw Nation Legislature, a seat she has held since 2016. She previously served in the Chickasaw Nation Legislature from 1996 to 2002. Billy also served in the Oklahoma House of Representatives from 2004 to 2016 representing District 42.

During her time in the legislature, Billy held various leadership roles including floor leader from 2014 to 2016, deputy whip from 2004 to 2008, and vice chair of the Republican caucus from 2006 to 2008. She formed the Native America caucus in the Oklahoma Legislature in 2006 and has been recognized for her work on prison reform policies. Billy holds a B.A. from Northeastern State University and an M.Ed from the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Lee Denney, USDA Oklahoma State director of rural development and former speaker pro tempore of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, says, “Lisa is an amazing representative of our native people here in Oklahoma. She is very open to working with native people and non-native people to move the state forward, as seen during her time in the Oklahoma legislature. She began the Native American caucus when we were elected to the House of Representatives in 2004, and she welcomed not only members of the tribes, but all Oklahomans to participate in the meetings, fostering collaboration between the tribes and the state of Oklahoma. She will serve our state well as the secretary of Native American affairs.”

Omni Aircraft Sales, specialists in business aircraft brokerage and acquisitions welcomes Director of Aircraft Sale, **Brian Olds**.



OLDS

Olds has more than 10 years of aviation sales and marketing experience and has had success working on both domestic and foreign projects.

Prior to joining Omni, Olds owned his own brokerage, from which he brings an entrepreneurial spirit and relationships from abroad. He has a great track record of managing business jet transactions. Whether it be aircraft brokerage, or acquisition, Olds is an expert in business jet markets. He takes pride in a high-level of customer service and transparent approach with his customers.

“Brian Olds is a great addition to our sales team. He brings a wealth of knowledge and industry experience to our group,” President Mike Skow said.

Omni Aircraft Sales is an affiliate of Omni Air Transport, headquartered in Tulsa, with satellite bases in Nashville, Dallas and Houston.

Mike McConnell, an energy professional with more than 30 years of leadership experience, has been named the new director of the **Robert M. Zinke Energy Management Program** in the Michael F. Price College of Business at the **University of Oklahoma**.



MCCONNELL

McConnell will take the reins beginning June 1, following longtime director Steve Long’s retirement. Long has served as director of the program since 2006.

McConnell is president of McConnell Interests in Austin, Texas, and has served on the program’s board of advisors as well as the Price College of Business board of advisors since 2001. McConnell left as president of Jones Energy Inc., in 2018, after 14 years.

McConnell joined Jones Energy in 2004, where he was responsible for coordinating leadership, growth and commercial and operational decisions. Over his tenure, McConnell transformed the company from a small private operator through a private equity capitalization into a public E&P NYSE entity.

McConnell’s appointment comes on the heels of Steve Long’s retirement, after serving as director of the program for 13 years. McConnell said Long has offered helpful advice along the way.

The Price College of Business’s website is price.ou.edu.

ASAE announces that **Chandy Rice**, director of education for the Oklahoma Restaurant Association, has earned the Certified Association Executive designation, the highest professional credential in the association industry.



RICE

To be designated as a Certified Association Executive, an applicant must have a minimum of three years experience with non-profit organization management, complete a minimum of 100 hours of specialized professional development, pass a stringent examination in association management, and pledge to uphold a code of ethics. To maintain the certification, individuals must undertake ongoing professional development and activities in association and nonprofit management. More than 4,300 association professionals currently hold the CAE credential.

“Chandy’s hard work to attain the highest designation for association professionals is something we at the Oklahoma Restaurant Association recognize and appreciate,” said ORA CFO Debra Bailey, CAE.

ASAE is a membership organization of more than 44,000 association executives and industry partners representing 7,400 organizations. Its members lead, manage and work in or partner with organizations in more than a dozen association management disciplines, from executive management to finance to technology.

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AAPG Complex a Product of Wally Wozencraft

The northwest corner of 15th Street and Boulder Avenue, at 1444 S. Boulder Ave., is a building that is the result of a series of additions and some serious remodeling. The building is the headquarters for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

This organization has been the ideal client for architect Wally Wozencraft. Because his work has met with such high approval, the Association has become a repeat client for the architect for almost 40 years. Although he hesitates to acknowledge it, at 92, Wally is the oldest practicing architect in Tulsa.

Work on the building began in the 1970's. At that time, the association building was a small two-story rectangle built in the late 1950's. The first change was a two-story freestanding warm-tone concrete screen wall which wrapped the south and east sides of the site. Positioned about seven feet away from the original building, the wall is pierced by two rows of vertical slit openings ap-

proximately 12 inches wide with 12 inches of concrete between them. Because of the sloping site, the wall is just over 20 feet high at Boulder Avenue but becomes more than 30 feet tall at its south elevation. It effectively changes the appearance of the original building.

The second project to be built was the six-story Weeks Tower positioned directly west of the original building. When interviewed, Wozencraft noted that the use of hydraulic elevators in a structure of this height was unusual. The tower's skin is warm-tone concrete and dark gray curtain wall glazing.

As time went on, the association needed more space, but the site was maxed out. The west side of the site abutted an alley filled with subsurface major utility lines. West of the alley, the association owned a second lot.

The solution was obvious. Span the alley with an air tunnel, a bridge, and connect it to another structure. This structure built by Flintco Construction became a second six-story tower similar to



THREE STAGES: The American Association of Petroleum Geologists headquarters building, located on the northwest corner of 15th Street and Boulder Avenue in Tulsa, has been constructed in three stages utilizing the services of architect Wally Wozencraft.

the first. Its skin is warm-toned concrete on the east and west elevations with a dark gray curtain wall glazing on the north and south. Spandrel panels are charcoal gray. The connecting bridge is also sheathed in gray curtain wall glass over a steel frame. The

new building is called the Pratt Tower and contains 4,800 gross square feet on each of its six floors.

An additional lot provides on-site parking. Two levels of covered parking are provided on the north side. The lowest is below grade.

Today, Wozencraft is working on yet another remodel for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. This one involves interior remodeling of the third and fourth floors. And for the future? Another project for the association is certainly possible.

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Tulsa Named Bloomberg Philanthropies 2018 Public Art Challenge Winner and Will Receive \$1 Million for Greenwood

Greenwood Art Project Celebrates Historic Area

Tulsa has been named a Bloomberg Philanthropies 2018 Public Art Challenge winner and will receive \$1 million for “The Greenwood Art Project,” a group of temporary public artworks which celebrate and commemorate a vibrant community in the Historic Greenwood District known as Black Wall Street.

On Jan. 17, Michael R. Bloomberg, philanthropist and former New York City mayor, joined Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and artist Rick Lowe for a celebratory press conference at the Greenwood Cultural Center located at 322 N. Greenwood Ave.

Black Wall Street was the most prominent district of black-owned businesses in the United States in the early 20th century. Located in the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, in 1921, this community was devastated by racially motivated attacks now known as the Black Wall Street Massacre. Urban renewal projects in the 1950s and 1960s, including the construction of a major highway through Greenwood, further harmed the area. This public art project seeks to celebrate the history of Black Wall Street and create a more equitable future for residents and visitors.

For the “Greenwood Art Proj-

ect,” Lowe, a nationally renowned artist and founder of Project Row Houses, will work with local artists to tell the story of this neighborhood through a series of installations. Eight art installations will be located at significant sites throughout this historic district, including at the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Center and the Greenwood Cultural Center.

Bloomberg said, “Nearly 100 years after violence rocked Black Wall Street, and 50 years after a highway cut the neighborhood in half, the Greenwood Art Project responds with a message of unity and hope. The project will commemorate a community that once existed – and inspire people to envision a better, fairer future.”

Mayor Bynum said, “In Tulsa, the racial and economic disparities that still exist today can be traced to the 1921 race massacre. The city as a whole suffers when economic inequality touches any neighborhood. The Greenwood Art Project will help encourage connections and engage citizens to understand the dangers of hatred, the power of resilience and the importance of reconciliation.”

The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission is a key project partner. Composed of 46 members from across the busi-



ness, cultural and civic landscapes of Tulsa, the commission includes Oklahoma State Senator James Lankford and John W. Franklin of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African American History and Culture – who is also the son of historian and Greenwood resident John Hope Franklin. Additional partners include the Tulsa Arts Fellowship, the University of Oklahoma, and

the George Kaiser Family Foundation.

Lowe said, “The story of Black Wall Street is already one of triumph and tragedy. Through the Greenwood Art Project in time for the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre, we have the opportunity to establish a future of prosperity, reconciliation and unity – a narrative that every city in America stands to learn from. I am

committed to this project because of everything that it stands for.”

In the coming months, Lowe will work with stakeholders and members of the community, including Jeff Van Hanken, Arts and Cultural Committee Chair for the 2021 Centennial Commission Steering Committee, to help shape the concept for the installations that will engage and help build bridges in the Tulsa community.



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