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BIXBY BREEZE

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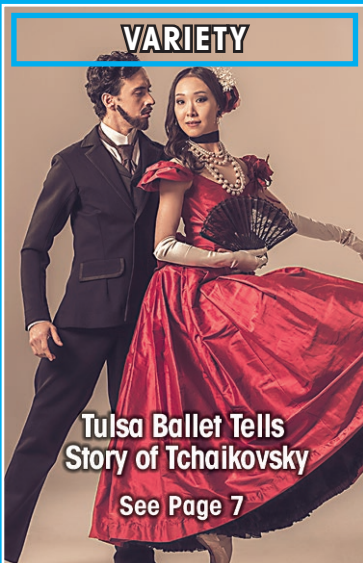
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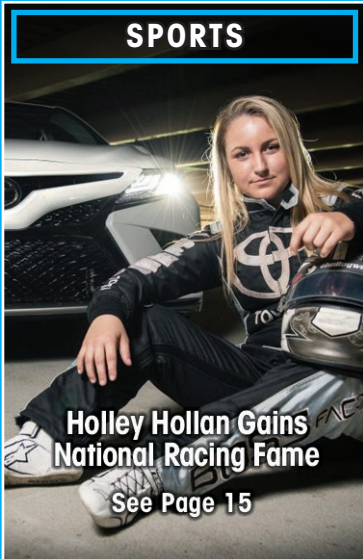
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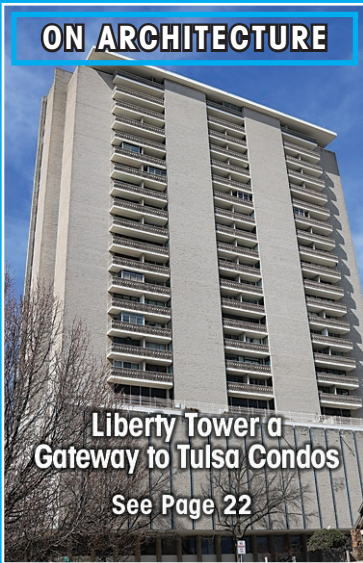
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Bixby Educational Endowment Foundation (BEEF) Hosts 18th Annual Academic Celebration April 4

The Bixby Educational Endowment Foundation (BEEF) will host the upcoming 18th Annual Celebration of Academic Awards on Thursday, April 4 at 7 p.m. in the Bixby High School Auditorium.

At the event, over 35 BEEF scholarships will be awarded to Bixby High School seniors, totaling over \$98,000. All attending Bixby High School seniors will be entered in a drawing to win one of two \$500 scholarships.

Former BEEF scholarship recipients will be speaking about their college careers and National Merit & Academic All State students will be recognized. In addition, there will be a presentation of National Honor Society Seniors and awarding of honor cords.

A highlight will be recognition of Bixby's Teachers of the Year.

Supporters of the Bixby Educational Endowment Foundation (BEEF) are big believers in education and opportunity. Working with educators, community leaders, caring citizens, and through the efforts of many, more than \$1,617,000 in teacher grants and scholarships have been awarded by BEEF since the inception of the foundation.



SUPPORTING EDUCATION: Looking forward to the April 4 event are BEEF Board Members and the scholarship sponsor, Mabrey Bank. From left, BEEF President Terri Paxton, BEEF member Gina Redding, BEEF member Caroline Farmer, BEEF member and Mabrey Bank representative Erin Melton, Bixby Superintendent Rob Miller, BEEF member Michelle Walker, BEEF member and Mabrey Bank representative Pam Phillips, and BEEF member Tara Judd. The photo was taken at the Mabrey Bank location on Memorial Drive near 151st Street.

Bixby Rotary Seeking Host Families

Special from the
Rotary Club of Bixby

The most powerful force in the promotion of international understanding and peace is exposure to different cultures. The world becomes a smaller, friendlier place when we learn that all people—regardless of nationality—desire the same basic things; a safe comfortable environment that allows for a rich and satisfying life for our children and ourselves.

Youth Exchange provides thousands of young people with the opportunity to meet and interact with people from other lands and to experience their culture. The goal is to plant the seeds for a lifetime of international understanding within these young adults, with hopes that they in turn will pass on this

knowledge, and strengthen international relations.

Since 1927, students and host families from all over the world have had their horizons broadened and their lives enriched by the generosity of Rotary's Youth Exchange program. The program today involves more than 82 countries and over 8000 students each year.

High school students between the ages of 15 and 19 are eligible for Rotary Youth Exchange. As the oldest exchange program of its kind, Rotary's Youth exchange program takes pride in choosing students who are articulate, excel academically, and demonstrate leadership in their communities. Ideal candidates possess qualities like flexibility, and a willingness to try new things. This "open minded" spirit will enable them to become excellent cultural ambassadors.

Exchange students usually arrive in August in time to begin school and depart for their home country in late May or early June.

Ideally, students will have three host families during their stay, for a period of approximately three months each. This allows them to experience the lifestyles, cultures, and family dynamics of three different families.

In addition to providing room and board, host families are expected to exercise general parental supervision over the student just as they would their own children, and to involve him or her in daily household chores and activities. Host families are encouraged to expose the student to the many cultural, religious, and traditional events that their families enjoy.

The Rotary Club of Bixby is actively seeking host families for the

2019-2020 school year. Membership in Rotary is not a requirement, but host families must live within the Bixby school system.

The club is sponsoring a young man from a small town near Milan, Italy. He is 17 years old and his career goal is to become an architect. He is very athletic and plays on a competitive soccer team. In his spare time he likes to listen to music and play board or video games. His parents report that he is open minded, kind and helpful.

Please consider hosting this young man in your home for a few months during the coming school year. Not only could you provide an unforgettable experience for him, but it will enrich the lives of every member of your family.

For more information, contact Mike Gately at youths@bixbyrotary.com.

KUDOS of the MONTH: American Legion Post 1

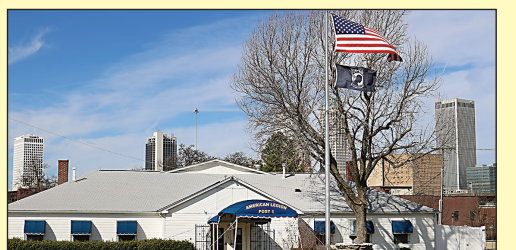
Tulsa's American Legion Post 1, located at 1120 E. 8th St., is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

Known as the Carson-Wilson-Rigney-Forrester-Shoemaker American Legion Post 1, the post is named after local military heroes Joseph C. Carson, Sergeant, Company D, 358th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, United States Army; Alex E. Wilson, Jr., Private First Class, Company I, 28th Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division, United States Army; Keith Belvin Rigney Sergeant, E5, United States Army; Jordan Duayne Forrester, Specialist 4, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile), United States Army; and Jared Shoemaker Corporal, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, United States Marine Corps.



The Tulsa American Legion post began in 1919, the same year the American Legion was founded as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest full-time veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national

security and continued devotion to the nation's service members and veterans. The Tulsa Post 1 is planning a 100th year weekend celebration, gala and prayer breakfast the weekend of June 22. For more information, call 918-830-4879 or visit tulsapost1.org. The Tulsa Post 1 commander is Bryan Davis.



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For more information, call 918-830-4879 or visit tulsapost1.org. The Tulsa Post 1 commander is Bryan Davis.



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Tulsans Stand Proud After Commissioning of USS Tulsa

By MCI WOODY PASCHALL
LCS Squadron 1, U.S. Navy

The littoral combat ship USS Tulsa (LCS 16) was commissioned as the Navy's newest surface combatant in a ceremony in San Francisco Feb. 16.

The Independence-variant LCS is the Navy's second ship to be named for the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

"She truly is an amazing ship and an amazing addition to the fleet, but as impressive as she is, she would be nothing without the sailors you see lining her deck this morning," said Cmdr. Drew Borovics, Tulsa's commanding officer. "And as much as they have already accomplished, they know their true greatness lies ahead as Tulsa enters the fleet and stands ready to answer her nation's call. They are the finest sailors our Navy has to offer. They are tough, able and ready to take our nation's newest warship to sea."

Indeed, in little more than three years, the ship has progressed from its keel laying in Mobile, Alabama, to its commissioning. Kathy Taylor, the ship's sponsor and former Tulsa mayor, was present for both events and many in between.

"I have gotten to know the crew of this exceptional USS Tulsa, and I know they will fight when they must," said Taylor. "I know they will protect this country at all costs, because they know everything they fight for and they protect keeps the promises made to all Americans."

Current Tulsa mayor G.T. Bynum emphasized the bond between the people of Tulsa and the Sailors who serve aboard the Navy's newest ship.

"Wherever you are in the world, whatever day it might be or whatever hour in that day, we hope you know that there are hundreds of thousands of your fellow Tulsans who are thinking of you, and who are honored to be associated with you and are so proud of you," said Bynum.

The crew visited the city little more than a year ago to learn more about it and its people. Oklahoma Sen. James Lankford recounted some of the characteristics of the city and its people beginning at the city's founding as the destination of a forced migration of Native American people, through booming growth and cultural turmoil and into a city renowned for its diversity and beauty.

"When you arrive at any port of our nation or any port around the globe, you will bear all of our names and all of our history," said Lankford. "You are capable of operating in all environments. Your mission is to protect our seas and deter aggression, but when deterrence fails, we also know you are fully capable of restoring the peace. Your actions, your words, your faith, your discipline and your power will reveal to a curious world just who we are as Americans. You are our ambassadors for freedom and you bear the name Tulsa and the United States of America."

Tulsa will join the fleet at a time of expansion of capability as well as increased demand on the Navy forces.

Secretary of the Navy James Guertz noted Tulsa is the fifth ship the Navy has commissioned in the past 50 days and one of 13 ships slated to be commissioned this year, up from eight a year ago, as part of broader efforts to ensure the nation's maritime freedom.



USS TULSA



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jacob I. Allison

NAVAL SALUTE: Distinguished visitors stand and salute for the parading of the colors during the commissioning ceremony of littoral combat ship USS Tulsa (LCS 16). LCS 16 is the 15th littoral combat ship to enter the fleet and the eighth of the Independence variant. It is the second Navy combat ship named after Tulsa. U.S. Sen. James Lankford, standing at front, delivered the commissioning ceremony's address, and former Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor, third from right, served as the USS Tulsa ship sponsor. At right is Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum

"Having the right mix of ships with the right number of ships, to include Tulsa, makes us ready to execute prompt and sustained combat operations at sea to fight and win against any adversary," said Adm. John C. Aquilino, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. "Let there be no doubt, that is what Tulsa is ready to do."

After the ceremony, the ship will transit to San Diego to join Commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron One (COMLCSRON ONE) and eight other littoral combat ships currently homeported at Naval Base San Diego.

Tulsa is the 15th littoral combat

ship and the eighth of the Independence variant.

Littoral combat ships are high speed, agile, shallow draft, mission-focused surface combatants designed for operations in the littoral environment, yet fully capable of open ocean operations. As part of the surface fleet, LCSs have the ability to counter and outpace evolving threats independently or within a network of surface combatants. Paired with advanced sonar and mine hunting capabilities, LCSs provide a major contribution, as well as a more diverse set of options to commanders, across the spectrum of operations.



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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.

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CIVICS

Improve Our Tulsa: Making a Difference

At the beginning of the year, we announced the findings of a partnership between the city of Tulsa and Gallup. The purpose of this partnership is for us to have a thorough understanding of the lives Tulsans lead — where we are thriving and struggling, what our hopes and concerns might be. We call it the Gallup-Tulsa CitiVoice Index, and it is the most thorough analysis of its kind in the United States.

When asked what the top area for improvement in Tulsa should be, ahead of perennial candidates like public safety or even education, Tulsans said our roads rank as their top priority for improvement.

From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM
Mayor of Tulsa

Over the last decade, the City of Tulsa has been in the midst of an unprecedented road construction program. Anyone who has driven around town can testify to this. In 2008, voters approved the Fix Our Streets program which did more work on streets in five years than had been done in the previous quarter century combined.

In 2013 we called our capital improvements program, Improve Our Tulsa, and Tulsa voters approved \$918.7 million for projects through a combination of sales tax and property tax. Funds from that package became available in 2014, and we have been working

diligently to complete those projects.

Here are some of our Improve Our Tulsa successes:

We have completed 22 neighborhood street rehabilitation projects and 11 arterial street rehabilitation projects, with 13 projects currently under construction. The rest of the projects are in various stages of design.

The largest Improve Our Tulsa street project that we have completed so far is Riverside Drive between 24th Street and 33rd Place, which opened to traffic immediately following the opening weekend at Gathering Place in September 2018. We also have completed nearby rehabilitation projects on East 31st Street between Riverside Drive and Peoria Avenue, and on Riverside between Joe Creek and 81st Street.

Other completed projects include North Mingo Road, East 36th Street to East 46th Street; the North Mingo Road and East 46th Street intersection; East 51st Street, South Sheridan Road to South Memorial Drive; the East 61st Street and South Sheridan Road intersection, and South Sher-



Photo courtesy of City of Tulsa.

EFFICIENT ROADWAY: Cars pass under the Riverside Drive tunnels and Gathering Place land bridge on Sept. 10, 2018, when Riverside Drive reopened to traffic after a reconstruction project.

idan Road, East 81st Street to East 91st Street.

Some non-street projects completed include the new Lost Kingdom exhibit at Tulsa Zoo, new playgrounds at Lacy Park and Hunter Park and the new McClure Park pool.

In 2019, we will have an opportunity in November to vote on Im-

prove Our Tulsa II, \$597 million of capital improvements to be funded again through an extension of our existing sales and property taxes. But before that, the City Council and I will have town hall meetings in April and May to hear from you about what projects you think should be included. I hope to see you there.

Court Services Helps in Pretrial Release Cases

While the issue of jail and prison overcrowding has become a major topic of interest lately with policy makers at both the state and local levels, Tulsa County has been a leader in addressing this issue for over 50 years. The vast majority of defendants in the jail are waiting for their case to be processed through the courts. This is referred to as "pretrial incarceration."

Even though most of these defendants have a bond set which would allow for their release, a lot of them don't have, or cannot get the money to pay the bond. As a result, they often lose their jobs, are separated from their children, become delinquent on financial obligations, while costing the taxpayers thousands of dollars to pay for their incarceration.

This is where the pretrial services offered by Tulsa County can help those defendants, waiting for their

day in court, to avoid the harsh circumstances outlined above. Pretrial services have been provided in Tulsa County since 1963, when the local bar association instituted the Tulsa County Pretrial Release Program which was then referred to as "New Day."

In 1983, the Tulsa County Commissioners created a more formal pretrial release program to ease serious overcrowding at the county jail. Just two years later, based on its success, the division, became close to a 24-hour operation. In 2001 the division changed its name to Tulsa County Division of Court Services.

Today, Court Services operates a comprehensive pretrial/community supervision program offering services such as electronic location and alcohol monitoring, jail diversion for those with mental health issues, community service

programs, risk and needs assessments, urinalysis testing and investigations for the courts. Court Services also utilizes resources in the community for defendants to get assistance with mental health and/or substance abuse needs and employment opportunities.

The Court Services division helps between 400 and 500 individuals each year through pretrial release, court-ordered supervision and community service work programs, providing support to the Drug/DUI Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Court, Community Sentencing, Women's Justice Team, 1st Step Male Diversion Program and Women in Recovery.

Recently, Tulsa County, along with private sector partners, commissioned a comprehensive analysis by the Vera Institute, to examine the incarceration procedures at the county jail. After the study was completed, one of Vera's key recommendations to reduce unnecessary pretrial incarceration was to develop a pretrial release process that is individualized and not based solely on one's ability to pay the bail fee. Vera recommended, and Court Services embraces, a shift to a risk-based system.

Using highly advanced and proven methods, Court Services is now equipped with a very effective risk

assessment instrument that enhances the pretrial evaluation process. This pretrial evaluation assesses the defendant's current life situation, available personal and financial resources, support systems, transportation, medical and mental health needs, substance abuse needs and past criminal history.

Court Services is more than a pretrial release service. Once the defendant is determined not to be

a risk to public safety and deemed likely to appear in court as required, they monitor the defendant based on their risk and supervision level to assure that the defendants follow their court ordered pretrial release plan. This may mean staying drug and alcohol free, remaining employed or gaining employment, keeping required appointments, and abiding by other terms and conditions of their court ordered pretrial release.

From Tulsa County



By COMMISSIONER
RON PETERS



Courtesy photo

RIDING TO END POLIO: Tulsa Rotarian Bob McKenzie, right, rides his bicycle annually as part of a fundraiser to help eliminate polio. Above, he is with three Rotarians from around the nation who last year rode from Oceanside, California to Annapolis, Maryland to help raise funds to combat the disease. For more information, visit Rotary.org/polio

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GREATER TULSA PERSONALITIES

Broken Arrow's Mike Cooper Continues a Family Tradition that Began in the 1700s

Community Service Includes Mayorship of Enid, Oklahoma, B.A. Chamber Board Chair

Former AT&T Executive Forms Consulting Firm

By **BOB LEWIS**
Contributing Editor

Editor's Note: Greater Tulsa Personalities is a monthly feature in GTR Newspapers that focuses on interesting people making important contributions in the Greater Tulsa region.

Anybody seeking to write a comprehensive biography of Broken Arrow resident Michael G. "Mike" Cooper better make sure they have plenty of time and a good supply of paper. He is an exceptionally busy man devoted to extending a family tradition of business leadership and community service that dates back to the 1700's.

In researching his family tree, Cooper found one of his relatives fought in the Revolutionary War and was later credited with founding the city of Holden, Maine. Others served as decorated soldiers, aldermen, state senators and educators. The first members

of the clan to move to Oklahoma settled in Wagoner where they became the city's first blacksmiths, established a hatchery and were community leaders. A great uncle was mayor of Bixby.

"I guess public service is just something in our genes," he said.

Currently Board Chairman of the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce and a director of the Broken Arrow Economic Development Corp., Cooper's resume includes a dazzling array of contributions at local, state and national levels.

After serving as chairman of the Enid, Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce, he burst upon the public scene in 1995 when he was elected mayor of that city. One of the biggest challenges he faced during his four-year term came when Vance Air Force Base, the community's largest employer, landed on a federal list of military facilities to be closed.

To help keep that from happen-



MIKE COOPER

ing, Cooper was instrumental in creating the Vance Development Authority and served as its chairman for five years. Not only did his actions save the base, they helped create a national model that continues to guide local, state and federal lawmakers in finding ways to help military facilities fulfill their missions.

Furthering his military and community contributions, from 2001 to 2003 he served as chairman of the U.S. Air Force Association's Texas/Oklahoma Region.

"One of the really great things about running for mayor was the fact my children had the opportunity to get involved in our campaigns. They saw first-hand how government works and the impor-

tance of giving something back to the community," he said.

In addition to leadership of the B.A. Chamber and EDC, Cooper's resume includes chairmanship of the Oklahoma Strategic Military Planning Commission, presidency of the National Association of Defense Communities and director positions with the Tulsa Region Chamber of Commerce, Oklahoma Academy, Tulsa Community College Foundation, Northwest Oklahoma State University Foundation and Tulsa Better Business Bureau.

Additionally, he served as U.S. Air Force Honorary Commander from 2003-18, was a member of Leadership Oklahoma Class of 2004 and was honored as a Distinguished Graduate by Tulsa Community College. During his time in Enid, he was named one of the state's five outstanding mayors by the Oklahoma Municipal League. In 2005 he was recognized for "unique and lasting contributions to the community" by being part of the Enid Walk of Fame.

Growing up in Skiatook, Cooper said he gave almost no thought to what the future held in store for him. "Give me a ball and mitt or a football and I was a happy guy," he recalled. All that changed during a career days assembly at his high school.

"One of the presenters was a repairman for Southwestern Bell," he said. "The guy had a tool belt around his waist and talked about his job and the career opportuni-

ties offered by the telephone company. I thought to myself 'I can do that' so I went to work for Ma Bell as a lineman."

Following a government ordered breakup of Bell, Cooper found himself on the payroll at AT&T. "My field experience really helped when I entered the management ranks because I knew how to do many of the jobs I was overseeing," he said.

After a 45-year career with AT&T, Cooper "retired." That word is in quotes, since he continues to serve the company by spearheading its community and government relations activities. Only now he does it through Cooper Public Strategies, a Broken Arrow-based consulting firm he founded in 2006.

To say that Cooper is bullish on Green Country and its prospects for the future would rank as an understatement.

Pointing to the redevelopment of downtown Tulsa, the explosive growth of Broken Arrow's Rose District, the strength of the city's manufacturing companies and advances being made in the education establishment, Cooper believes Eastern Oklahoma is one of the most dynamic locations in the region.

"We have a strong corps of energetic young leaders eager to make their mark," he said. "I truly believe we are on the leading edge of great things happening. I'm just proud to say I have been part of it all."

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VARIETY

Entertainment For Cold-Weather Blues

Winter is wearing thin, and I couldn't be happier. This is the time of year when we dream of spring, and when indoor entertainment is a great diversion. Here are some suggestions for those cold-weather blues.

The River Spirit Casino Resort hasn't opened its Margaritaville pool yet, but there is a selection of hot entertainment in the casino's Paradise Cove. Comic Wayne Brady appears, Mar. 23. Maybe you know Brady from his guest TV appearances on several shows, including "How I Met Your Mother," "The Bold and the Beautiful" and improv comedy's "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" Possibly you will recognize him from TV's "Let's Make a Deal," for which he just won a Daytime Emmy Award as the show's host.

Also coming to Paradise Cove are Paquita la del Barrio and Angela Aguilar. Barrio is a campy Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter and actress whose onstage persona has made her a favorite of women. She is prone to joke about what she finds to be sexist behavior, and she incorporates teasing male audience members into her act. Appearing with her is 16-year-old vocalist Angela Aguilar. Raised in a family of singers, Aguilar has been around showbiz for most of her life. She was nominated for an American Grammy and two Latin Grammys, including "Best New Artist." Aguilar and Barrio perform at the River

Spirit on March 29.

The Brady Theatre hosts The John Mellencamp Show, Mar. 16 and the BOK Center welcomes Travis Scott, Mar. 26. Scott had to cancel an earlier gig at the BOK because of technical difficulties. At the BOK Center the following night, Mar. 27, Weezer and The Pixies team up for an evening of music.

At Hard Rock's The Joint, catch the American rock band 3 Doors Down, Mar. 28; The Beach Boys — Now and Then, Apr. 5; Gladys Knight, Apr. 11; and Diana Ross on Apr. 13.

The two remaining original Beach Boys are Mike Love and Brian Wilson. They tour separately and sometimes together. This appearance

of The Beach Boys will feature Love and a solid group of musicians performing Beach Boys hits.

Gladys Knight, "The Empress of Soul," is known for her "Midnight Train to Georgia" and "That's What Friends Are For." If you have been watching TV's "The Masked Singer," you will know that recently she was unmasked as the show's bee.

The supremely elegant Diana Ross was honored at this year's Grammys for an outstanding career that includes 14 Top Ten albums and 18 No. 1 singles. She was nominated for an Oscar and won the Golden Globe award for her turn as Billie Holliday in "Lady Sings the Blues."

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN



DIANA ROSS: The Motown diva comes to Hard Rock's The Joint, Apr. 13.



GLADYS KNIGHT: "The Empress of Soul" brings swank and style to the Hard Rock, Apr. 11.

Coming up at the Tulsa PAC is C.S. Lewis' "The Screwtape Letters," Mar. 18-31, staged by Fellowship for Performing Arts. FPA is a New York City-based theatre company that produces work from a Christian world view. In this play, Screwtape shares his schemes for delivering the soul of an unsuspecting human to his master, Satan.

Tulsa Ballet stages a new work, "Tchaikovsky: The Man Behind the Music," Mar. 29-31, choreographed by Tulsa Ballet resident choreographer Ma Cong. People know Tchaikovsky from his large body of work, especially his ballets, "Romeo and Juliet," "Sleeping Beauty" and "The Nutcracker." What people don't know is the anguish he suffered from trying to surmount a secret life that could result in imprisonment and an end to his career. This piece includes music from Tchaikovsky and other composers, including Oliver Peter Graber.



NOW AND THEN: Led by Mike Love, "The Beach Boys—Now and Then" revisits the band's big hits, Apr. 5 at the Hard Rock.



THE WEDDING SINGER: Theatre Tulsa presents this light-hearted comedy/musical Apr. 5-14 at the Tulsa PAC.

Theatre Tulsa, which has a musical theatre Midas touch, returns to the PAC stage with "The Wedding Singer," April 5-14. Based on the 1998 film of the same name, the story follows a wannabe star who is not quite ready for the bigtime. He gets jilted at the altar but finds love elsewhere in this comedy, with music by Matthew Sklar, lyrics by Chad Beguelin and book by Tim Herlihy and Beguelin.

Two fascinating speakers come to Tulsa in early April. Former Tulsan Frank Abagnale became known through the "Catch Me If You Can" movie (starring Leo DiCaprio as Frank) and musical, based on the book Abagnale co-wrote that details Abagnale's life as a con artist, impersonator and forger. After doing time for his misdeeds as a young man, Abagnale became a renowned cybersecurity and fraud prevention expert. The OSU-Tulsa Business Forums hosts him on Apr. 10. Welcome home, Frank!

Tulsa Town Hall closes its season, Apr. 12, with a modern-day Indiana Jones, space archaeologist Sarah Parcak. Winner of the \$1 million TED prize, Parcak proposed in her



TULSA TOWN HALL: Space archaeologist Sarah Parcak closes Town Hall's season with, "Indiana Jones in Space," Apr. 12

talk a plan for citizen-scientists to identify potential archaeological sites from space using infrared satellite imagery. She's done work in Egypt, Rome, Peru and elsewhere. The title of her lecture is "Indiana Jones in Space."

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Tulsa Ballet Tells Story of Tchaikovsky

*'The Man Behind the Music'
Runs Mar. 29-31 at the Tulsa
Performing Arts Center*

By NANCY HERMANN
Variety Editor

Emanating from the romantic era of music, the work of composer Peter Tchaikovsky is high theatre. Audiences know his sensitive "Sleeping Beauty Waltz," the swelling love theme from "Romeo and Juliet," and "The Nutcracker's" luscious "Waltz of the Flowers." Along with his famous ballets, Tchaikovsky created the impassioned "1812 Overture" and the tender Violin Concerto in D Major. In total, his oeuvre encompasses 169 works, including concertos, cantatas, ballet, symphonies, opera and songs.

Who is the man behind this music?

Having danced and overseen productions of Tchaikovsky's ballets over many years, Tulsa Ballet Artistic Director Marcello Angelini knew the composer's heart. Love and pathos abound in Tchaikovsky's music, but how and why did those feelings originate? Angelini was keen to have others know and empathize.

"I always felt his story had to be told because it shapes, molds and encompasses the diversity of his music," suggests Angelini. "Once you know the man behind the music, you can actually hear his words through his melodies — whether those are words of passion or an expression of struggle, or a sign that he is giving up on life and society."

Angelini first had an idea for a ballet based on Tchaikovsky's life in 1999. For several reasons, he thought Tulsa Ballet was not ready to tackle the subject matter. He revisited the idea ten years later, but still hesitated. Then, two years ago, he felt it was time to move forward, "to create a non-judgmental work. One meant to open a conversation for whom-ever chooses to come see it," he says.

Tulsa Ballet's resident choreographer and former dancer Ma Cong was chosen to create

movement that could best convey the story. Oliver Peter Graber, who had composed music for Tulsa Ballet's "Dorothy and the Prince," was asked to construct a score around the piece. He pulled from Tchaikovsky's music and added compositions from Alexander Glazunov, Mikhail Glinka and Fritz Kreisler, along with original music of his own.

The team of Angelini, Cong, Graber and Russian historian Daniela Kolic met last summer to assemble the various pieces into a whole. After reviewing the most important influences in Tchaikovsky's life, they decided to center the ballet on three of Tchaikovsky's relationships. One was with the Belgian opera star Desiree Artot, with whom Tchaikovsky was smitten. The woman he did marry for a short time was one of his former students, Antonina Miliukova. She had pursued the composer through passionate letters.

A relationship that was most troublesome for Tchaikovsky at the time, and illegal, was his liaison with the violinist Iosif Kotek. It is said that the composer wrote his Violin Concerto with Kotek's help, or used him as an inspiration, or both. "They were very private, but very loving," says Cong of the relationship.

"This ballet is trying to tell people not all, but something about Tchaikovsky's struggle — what was troubling him at the time he composed his music," explains Cong. "Those relationships somewhat changed his life and pushed him further artistically. They



THE MAN BEHIND THE MUSIC: Told through this original, new ballet, the story of Russian composer Peter Tchaikovsky centers around the relationships that inspired him.

inspired him to create the most beautiful music."

Tchaikovsky was the toast of Russia for a time and revered around the world. He famously came to the United States in 1891 to conduct his music at the grand opening of what would become Carnegie Hall. In 1893, at age 53, three days after premiering his Sixth Symphony, "Pathétique," in St. Petersburg, he became ill and died. The circumstances surrounding his death are suspect. Some speculate suicide, but the mystery persists.

"I am so happy with the team we assembled, one that I am confident can make this ballet a success," adds Angelini. "It has been great working with and leading this creative team to arrive at the story we wanted to tell. What is this story? One of judgmental societies. With their taboos and

fears of what is different, they destroy the lives of others who are loving human beings just like the rest of us."

Tulsa Ballet presents "Tchaikovsky: The Man Behind the Music," Mar. 29-31 at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.

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OSU-Tulsa to Celebrate Community Support During A Stately Affair at Cox Business Center

Oklahoma State University-Tulsa and OSU Center for Health Sciences are hosting their fifth biennial fundraiser 'A Stately Affair in Tulsa' on May 16 at the Cox Business Center.

This year, the gala marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of Oklahoma State University-Tulsa and the 30th anniversary of OSU Center for Health Sciences joining the OSU system.

"This will really be a night to celebrate OSU in Tulsa," Jay Helm, co-chair for the benefit gala and chairman of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, said. "OSU's presence in Tulsa is strong and we want to recognize the great impact both Tulsa campuses have made in our community and across the state."

As a business administration graduate of OSU, Helm has long provided leadership and support for the university and its efforts in Tulsa. He previously served on the OSU/A&M Board of Regents and the OSU-Tulsa Board of Trustees before being appointed in 2013 to



GARY L. TRENNPOHL

a nine-year term as a state Regent. He is also on the Board of Trustees for the OSU Medical Authority and Trust, which provides support for medical education, research and health care at OSU-CHS and OSU Medical Center. Helm was honored as an 'OSU in Tulsa Icon' during the 2017 fundraising gala.

Helm and his wife Fayenelle, along with his daughter Christian Leikam and her husband Robert, both graduates of OSU in Stillwa-



TED HAYNES

ter, are co-chairs for the 2019 'A Stately Affair in Tulsa.'

"As a family, we are all excited to be able to help give back to the university that has given so much to us and to our community," Helm said. "It has been tremendous to see how OSU has changed the educational landscape in Tulsa so that more of our residents have access to a top notch education."

In addition to generating scholarship donations for students of both



GLENDA LOVE WILLIAMS

Tulsa campuses, 'A Stately Affair in Tulsa' will honor four community leaders who have been instrumental in improving access to and quality of education for Tulsa area students.

The 2019 OSU in Tulsa Icons are the late Jerry Hudson, former chair of the OSU Medical Authority and Trust; Ted Haynes, former president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma; Gary L. Trennepohl, founding president of



JERRY HUDSON

OSU-Tulsa and Glenda Love Williams, former OSU-Tulsa Trustee and retired president and chief executive officer of the Ronald McDonald House Charities. To learn more about the Icons, visit astatelyaffair.com.

Patron support opportunities are still available at a number of levels. For sponsorship information, email Cindy Webb or Paula Koehn at the OSU Foundation in Tulsa or call 918-594-8500.

ORU Celebrates 10 Years of Quest Scholarships

Ten years of the Quest Whole Person Scholarship means nearly 6,000 Oral Roberts University students have benefited from this amazing program.

To celebrate a decade of helping students, ORU's Alumni Association hosted a scholarship dinner Feb. 18 in Lippencott Auditorium at the Global Learning Center. The dinner featured the two people re-

sponsible for helping launch the scholarships, Mardel CEO Mart Green and Jamie Weathers, class of 2008 student response speaker. It was Weathers' inspiring speech that prompted Green, who was chair of the Board of Trustees at the time, to launch the program.

"I felt very strongly: here is a moment in time that we have an opportunity to actually inspire and

motivate people," said Weathers. "I thought, why not make this moment really great?"

Currently, 75 percent of ORU students benefit from a Quest scholarship and even more students will benefit from the International Quest Whole Person Scholarship, which ORU launched last year in honor of the its founder, Oral Roberts' centennial birthday.

Students from around the world can now earn a whole person education.

"Green's goal in establishing the scholarship program was to recognize students who are tireless in their quest for wholeness," said Johnnie Hampton, Chair of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. "Because of Green's generosity and an amazing faculty and

staff, students emerge from ORU as servant leaders who are spiritually alive, intellectually alert, physically disciplined, socially adept, and professionally competent."

Hampton encouraged alumni to attend the dinner, which also served as an opportunity to raise funds for ORU scholarship programs.



Agent Katherine Barnes



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TCC HARDESTY STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER: *Tulsa Community College President Leigh B. Goodson, right, and 2018 TCC Foundation Chair Konnie Boulter announce the naming of the Hardesty Student Success Center on the TCC West Campus. The new facility will be named after the Hardesty Family Foundation as part of the \$1 million gift TCC's Campaign for Completion, the college's first multi-year fundraising campaign. Goodson and Boulter unveiled the architecture renderings of the signs at a recent TCC Board of Regents meeting as representatives from the Hardesty family and the Hardesty Family Foundation looked on.*

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Tulsa Tech Expanding to Meet Student Needs

For more than five decades, Tulsa Tech has been preparing students to enter the workforce in a variety of industries. Once they graduate, students are qualified for a successful career.

"Tulsa Tech averages a 96 percent positive placement rate for all fulltime students," said Steve Tiger, superintendent and CEO. "Our mission of educating people for success in the workplace is showcased by the skilled workforce we place throughout the region and beyond with our business, industry, education and military partners."

Students can choose from a variety of programs, including aerospace, automotive/alternative fuels, health sciences, information technology and pre-engineering. Tuition is free for public, private and home-schooled high school students with low-cost tuition for adult learners.

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

Students from 27 public high schools and 24 private schools are served. Tulsa Tech has 409 students in grades 9-12 enrolled in preengineering with an 85 percent retention rate this year, which is more than any CareerTech in the state. Counties served

include Creek, Okmulgee, Osage, Pawnee, Rogers, Tulsa, Wagoner and Washington.

News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent

Once those students graduate, they can seek job opportunities across an extremely large network due to the hundreds of partnerships that Tulsa Tech has developed with regional companies to provide student placement and work-based experience. In fiscal year 2018, Tulsa Tech's economic impact to the region was \$675 million.

"I am very excited about the number of companies that we are partnering with to improve our region's workforce as well as working with economic development partners to attract new companies to our region," said Tiger. "Last year, Tulsa Tech served over 750 companies. We are not only improving thousands of lives through preparing them for workplace success, but we are truly an economic

growth driver."

Like the trade skills they teach, Tulsa Tech's campus is evolving to fit the needs of today's world. In 2021 Tulsa Tech will unveil the latest addition to Lemley Memorial Campus when the Client Service Center opens. This expansion will streamline services and consolidate classrooms into the new state-of-the-art facility.

The center will be 199,813 square feet of diverse space and home to updated training classrooms, large and small group meeting spaces, admission and testing areas, various



Courtesy Tulsa Tech

STREAMLINED SERVICES: Tulsa Tech's new Client Service Center is scheduled to open in 2021, and will streamline services and consolidate classrooms into a new state-of-the-art facility.

district departments, administration offices and board of education meetings.

The expansion project comes at a time when Tulsa Tech has seen what Tiger calls "significant growth" in enrollment the last three years across instructional delivery arms: full-time career majors; Adult Career Development, Business and Industry Services; and extension programs located in Tulsa County public high schools.

"When I say significant, I really mean it," said Tiger. "We have increased student enrollment by 39 percent over a three-year period. People are beginning to realize the importance of workforce training and the ability of our state's CareerTech system to deliver."

The Lemley Memorial Campus spans more than 40 acres and includes 10 instructional buildings featuring more than 238,000 square feet of classes, laboratories and shops.

"If individuals want to be successful in

the job market, they should consider Tulsa Tech," said Tiger. "We are extremely affordable, student focused and provide exceptional instruction which result in positive student outcomes."

Tiger said he and the rest of the staff are excited about what the future holds for the campus and for the students who will utilize the facilities to advance their careers.

"The impact Tulsa Tech is having on lives and our region's economic growth is tremendous," said Tiger.

"The rebuild of our Lemley Memorial Campus, including the new Client Services Center, will provide an opportunity to continue our growth and student success well into the future."

If you're currently looking for exciting classes for high school and adult students, quality corporate training, or a challenging new career, Tulsa Tech invites you to visit today. For more information, please call 918-828-5000 or visit tulsaitech.edu.

PSO ANNOUNCES \$50,000 AEP FOUNDATION GRANT TO TU



Courtesy photo

SUPPORTING ENGINEERING LABS: Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) has announced a \$50,000 grant to the University of Tulsa on behalf of the American Electric Power Foundation to help bring new state-of-the-art equipment and technologies to the school's Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Department. At the announcement from left front row are Peggy Simmons, PSO president and chief operating officer and Dr. Kaveh Ashenayi, the Hans S. Norberg Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Back row from left are Douglas Jussaume, applied associate professor of electrical and computer engineering; Steve Baker, PSO vice president of distribution operations; and Dr. James R. Soren, dean of the College of Engineering & Natural Science.

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Luxe Furniture & Design Opens New Showroom

A new interior design studio and furniture shop has opened in the north Bixby region. Luxe Furniture & Design, once residing on Riverside Parkway, is now sharing the Home Hardware Building at 10545 S. Memorial Dr. The 8,000 square-foot space now occupied by Luxe features 26 styled furniture vignettes and a design center full of fabric and rug samples.

"The goal of the new showroom is to provide inspiration to those wanting to redecorate or redesign their home," said Luxe owner Tamara Noel. "We want to provide an experience that is unique to most other furniture

stores in the area."

Luxe's staff contains a group of seasoned interior designers that help store customers by creating custom design plans.

"Our designers will go to your home and take measurements and draw a floor plan with furniture, fabric and accessory suggestions. This way, you will have a beautiful and fully functional space," said Noel.

However, the design services don't stop just at furniture placement and custom pieces. Luxe designers also help homeowners and builders choose finishings for homes including paint, tile, flooring, lighting and other

design elements that make up a home.

"We recently made the decision to expand our service offerings because our designers were already doing this for clients," said Noel.

Luxe Furniture & Design has been a Tulsa staple for six years after previously operating as Luxe Home Interiors and Norwalk Furniture. Noel purchased the business in 2013 after spending her previous career in oil and gas. Now with the newly designed showroom, she feels as if the space perfectly showcases the variety of styles and services that Luxe designers can provide.



Bixby Breeze photos

READY FOR BUSINESS: Luxe owner Tamara Noel gets ready to cut the ribbon at her new store location. She is surrounded by family, store personnel and members of the Bixby Chamber of Commerce.

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BEAUTIFUL FURNISHINGS: "The goal of the new showroom is to provide inspiration to those wanting to redecorate or redesign their home," said Luxe owner Tamara Noel.



CONVENIENT LOCATION: The new Luxe Furniture & Design is located at 10545 S. Memorial Dr.

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BIXBY SPORTS

West to West Point: Spartan Standout Headed to Army

Bixby Linebacker Signs with Black Knights

By MIKE MOGUIN
GTR Sports Writer

All Noah West needed was one visit and his mind was made up. A linebacker on Bixby's 2018 Class 6AII state champion, West signed with Army on National Signing Day. "I took my official visit the weekend before signing day and I was just amazed with all the facilities and the whole culture there. Right after my first day of my official visit, I decided that's where I wanted to be," West said. West, 6-3, 222, who also played tight end, chose Army over Abilene Christian, along with other schools from which he received D-I offers. He also had some D-II offers, including University of Central Oklahoma. He, along with teammates Ethan Hall and Cade Cavender signed letters of intent on Feb. 6 before friends, family and school administrators with their respective schools. While West declared his allegiance to West Point, Hall signed with the University of Tulsa and Cavender signed as a preferred walk-on with Oklahoma State. West had a phenomenal impact in the Spartans' 34-13 win over Stillwater in Class 6AII state title game in November. He forced nine tackles, four solo, three for loss and 2.5 sacks that evening. "I think I was just playing for everyone around me - my teammates," West said. "I didn't want to end up how it was last year. I

wanted to get that taste out of my mouth. It could have been my last game ever, you just never know. So, I just wanted to give it my all on every play." When asked what he will remember about being a Bixby Spartan, he said "it will be the brotherhood. Every kid on this team plays for each other. The friendships that come out of this are crazy. We're all so close." When visiting Army, West said he really liked the coaches. "They definitely know what they are doing, obviously," West said. "The players are just all hard-working. They worked hard in high school to get there and now they work even harder in school and in the weight room and on the field. That shows. They were ranked 19th in the country this year at the end of this season. I think they're all hard-working. It's a lot like Bixby." As for military training, it's done in the summer, West said. The No. 1 priority is academics during the school year. Army came to Norman this past fall to play the University of Oklahoma. "I didn't get to go, but I really wanted to," West said. The Spartans' linebacker agreed that the Black Knights played a disciplined and methodical style of football against the Sooners. "I watched the whole thing on TV and that's what really impressed me about them," West said. "Before the game, I didn't think it was going to be close. I think it showed

their hard work too." Army dominated in time of possession, keeping the ball for about 75 percent of the game. The defense was impressive as well, mounting a goal line stand and holding the Sooners well below their scoring average. Army came just short short of pulling off the upset, succumbing 28-21 to OU in overtime. West watched Army at other times in the season too. "I watched quite a few of them," he said. "Another one that sticks out is the bowl game against Houston. They beat them 70-14. Houston was a previously ranked team. They had a pretty good program the last couple of years and they just killed them. That was very shocking." Army tied a pair of bowl records in the blowout win against the Cougars: most points scored and largest margin of victory. West said he is considering majoring in engineering and is ready to impact the program. "I just hope to go in there and work as hard as I can and try to get on the field as soon as possible," he said. He is also prepared for the culture shock. "It's not the New York that everyone else thinks of (referring to Manhattan)," West said. "It's got a lot of mountains and trees. So, it wasn't that too big of a difference and New York City is 45 minutes away. It will be a big culture change, but I think I can handle it. It's beautiful up there."



D1 TALENT: Noah West, right, is joined by Bixby teammates Ethan Hall, left, and Cade Cavender after the players sign with the respective schools for whom they will be playing NCAA Division I football. West is bound for Army, while Hall is going to the University of Tulsa and Cavender is headed for Oklahoma State University.

One game West is looking forward to is when the Black Knights welcome OU to West Point in 2020. "Hopefully, Coby Tillman and I get a go at each other," he said, with laughter. Tillman is a former Bixby standout who is playing at OU as a walk-on. "He'll be playing fullback and I'll be playing inside linebacker," West said.



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SPORTS

Metro Christian Swimmer Wins at State Meet

Isabelle Packard Victorious With Two First-Place Medals

By MIKE MOGUIN
GTR Sports Writer

Isabelle Packard won another pair of state championships at the Class 5A state swimming meet last month in Edmond, taking home first-place medals in the girls' 200-yard and 500-yard freestyle races.

The win in the 500 was her fourth straight gold medal for the Metro Christian senior, which means she accomplished the rare feat of being a four-time state champion, a first in school history. Packard finished the 500 freestyle with a time of 5:13.94, winning by nearly 27 seconds over runner-up Kylie Allemeier of Altus (5:40.84).

"It's an accomplishment that I can be proud of," Packard said. "It's just exciting."

In the 200, Packard's time was 1:54.67, finishing nine seconds ahead of Kyle Catton of Harrah (2:03.91), who placed second. That was her third first-place finish in that event, marking seven gold medals in her high school swim career.

"I give the Glory to God," Packard said.

Her sophomore season was the only year she didn't win the 200, when she finished runner-up. Rebounding to win it last year is what she considers among her most memorable moments in high school. Another came when she anchored the 200-yard freestyle relay team while setting a state

record time of 1:43.03 in a first-place finish.

With graduation looming, Packard will be taking her swimming endeavors up north to the University of Illinois. She toured the campus in November then made the decision to go in early January. She chose the Fighting Illini over Air Force.

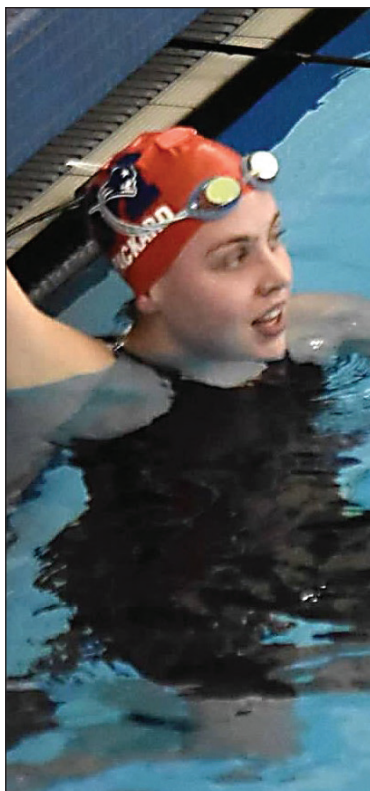
"I have family there, so that's always a good thing, and whenever I went to talk to the coaches and met the team, it just felt like a really good fit," Packard said. "It felt like I belonged there."

As Packard reflects on her time at Metro. She said that the sport has taught her to have a hard work ethic.

"I work really hard to be dedicated," she said. "Swimming has really helped me with being focused and being able to take constructive criticism in the pool and it has transferred into school, from projects to being able to accept that you don't know everything, that you are not always right, and just learning from other people."

Packard hopes her accomplishments can give the Metro swim team some recognition, "so, maybe we can grow. It gives people something to look up to and try to achieve and to win state."

For any young person who wants to swim, Packard's advice is to "Work really hard, even when you don't feel like it," she said. "It doesn't always have to be ef-



THE WINNER: Isabelle Packard won the girls 200 and 500-yard freestyle events at the Class 5A state swim meet Feb. 16 in Edmond.

fort-wise, but, work on something specific you need to get better at. Always try your hardest and don't give up whenever you feel like you're failing because I had a three-year period, where I didn't go with any best times at all and still kept trying to work hard and not give up, and eventually, I started dropping time again. Just keep a positive attitude and hard work ethic."



FREESTYLE TALENT



HARRY LENTZ for GTR Newspapers

TULSA TIME: Darien Jackson goes high for two points in Tulsa's win over Temple in February at the Reynolds Center. Tulsa is a center of basketball in the postseason as the city hosts the NCAA First Round at the BOK Center March 22-24.

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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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Holley Hollan Gaining National Racing Fame

By GLENN HIBDON
GTR Sports Writer

Seventeen-year-old Holley Hollan doesn't mind recognition. In fact, she's craves it. Fame and fortune are her goals and she's just getting started.

"I was on TV during the Chili Bowl," said Hollan, a midget car racer from Broken Arrow. "I was eating lunch and some people came up to talk to me. They had seen me on the news. I want to make it known that I'm from here and I hope to motivate people."

Called "Hollywood" by her fans, Hollan has the pedigree to succeed. A fourth generation racer and the daughter of Tulsa businessman and racer Harley Hollan, the personable blonde has her career already mapped out: Become the first female to win a national midget event and then it's on to NASCAR. No big deal.

"This is the year my career is taking off. This is the year to make some things happen," Hollan said. "I've been competing consistently and I'm working toward winning a national race. That would do a lot for me. I have top notch equipment and it's only making me better."

Hollan is in the midst of her first full season on the USAC Nos Energy Drink National Midget Championships series. Over 80 races are on her schedule and she must also find the time to complete high school and work for her father's business.

Hollan, who attended Broken Arrow schools until her freshman year, is a senior online at the Depic Charter Schools. She said after turning 19, she will move to North Carolina full time and pursue the NASCAR ranks, all under the watchful eye of her father.

"I grew up around race tracks



KEEPING THE TRADITION: At 17 years old, Holley Hollan is a fourth generation racer and the daughter of Tulsa businessman and racer Harley Hollan.

and watched him race. When I turned five I saw other kids race and I wanted to do it. I won the Port City junior sprints championship when I was 12," said Hollan. "Even now my dad answers questions for me and a lot of times he races with me. He does a good job of giving me information and I definitely have an advantage because he races mini sprints. He's my best friend."

As a freshman in school, Hollan followed in her father's footsteps and began doing mechanical work on her race cars. Now she builds them professionally for Driven Midwest, her dad's company. She also sells racing parts to customers.

Christopher Bell of Norman, winner of the last three Chili Bowls, saw Hollan compete and she was subsequently invited to join Keith Kunz Motorsports' Toyota team. Last year she ran five times. This season she's running the full circuit in the Bullet Toyota.

In January's Chili Bowl, Hol-

lan advanced to the D feature and ranked as the highest finishing female in the event. She said with the team and equipment behind her, she felt fast and confident.

"We had bad luck," Hollan said. "A car crashed in front of me and I stalled in the D feature. I thought we could have done better than we did. My goal coming in was to make a feature on prelim night and I did. I was happy with it (her finish) because with all that competition, you have to take what you can get."

With experience in both stock cars and midgets, Hollan said she enjoys racing, no matter the class. She enjoys speed, pure and simple. And the transition from dirt to asphalt has been challenging.

"I'm still learning both of them," she said. "In midgets you get sideways at full throttle and it's completely different, but I do enjoy both of them."

Despite her burgeoning talent, Hollan said one of her biggest adjustments moving up in the sport



FAST LANE: Harley Hollan is in the midst of her first full season on the USAC Nos Energy Drink National Midget Championships series. Over 80 races are on her schedule and she must also find the time to complete high school and work for her father's business.

is competing against drivers she idolized as a child.

"I have to put that in perspective," she said. "But I run 110 races a year and the more laps I run the better I feel. My goals are to consistently get better and, obviously, to be the first female to win a national USAC midget race. That's my ultimate goal this year."

There are other goals for Hollan to consider. One of them is being accepted by both male and other female competitors. She said sometimes that proves difficult at best.

"Being a female in a male dominated sport, for obvious reasons, sets me apart," noted Hollan. "I don't have pink on my suits or my car. Even when I was five I didn't want to look like a girl racing. In some ways it gives me an advantage. Toyota is trying to find a female to win a national race and they put me in a perfect position to win."

"There two or three other girls I race with and winning is good for me and there are some keyboard

warriors out there who are jealous. A lot of girl racers don't like to see me where I am. I've been exposed to that ever since I was younger and it gets worse the higher up you go. There are people who don't want you to get higher and then there are other drivers who are happy to see a girl do well. I do feel like I've made a positive impact in the sport."

Hollan has found it's a constant struggle to make believers out some naysayers who doubt her ability and the legitimacy of the sport itself.

"People I went to school with contact me. A lot of them used to think that what I do is not a sport," Hollan said. "Now they see me doing well in racing and they step back and see it in a different way."

Hollywood is hoping that someday her critics and scoffers see her on the podium at a NASCAR event. That would be the ultimate proof of her racing talent while also serving as her sweetest revenge.

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DINING IN GREATER TULSA

Mother Road Market Presents Mac & Cheese Showcase

First Installment of Food Innovation Series

Mother Road Market kicked off a new Food Innovation Series Feb. 22, as diners tasted the most innovative classic dishes. The first event of the series was Mother Road Market's inaugural Mac Off!

A sold-out crowd of 200 customers came to the Mac Off to sample the best of the best macaroni and cheese dishes from Mother Road Market's top chefs in the Demonstration Kitchen.

Participating restaurants were Bakeshop, Bodhi's Bowl, Metropolis by Andolini's, Nice Guys Shrimp Shack and Oklahoma Joe's BBQ.

Special gifts for door prizes were from The Nest, Mythic Press and The Farm Stand.

Mother Road Market is located at 1124 S. Lewis Ave. in Tulsa.

About Mother Road Market

Mother Road Market, a non-profit development of the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation, is housed

on historic Route 66 in the 1939 Scrivner-Stevens Grocery building. Mother Road Market is a vibrant community space, allowing Tulsans and tourists alike to eat, sip, shop and enjoy over 20 different business concepts, all under one roof. Customers are also able to browse specialty gift items in our retail store options and even purchase fresh ingredients like local produce, meat and dairy to take home and cook their own creations.

The WEL Bar offers a full bar, plus coffee offerings throughout the day. Kitchen 66, Tulsa's kick-start kitchen and program of Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation, is housed at Mother Road Market and also operates the Kitchen 66 Takeover Cafe and Kitchen 66 General Store. Mother Road Market features a demonstration kitchen for cooking classes, indoor and outdoor seating areas with views of downtown Tulsa, nine holes of



GTR Newspapers photo

ALL SMILES AT BODHI'S BOWL: James Wagner, left, owner of Bodhi's Bowl, one of five restaurants participating in the Mother Road Market Mac and Cheese Showcase, had fun with a customer who tried to guess how many noodles were in her serving. The restaurant is named after Wagner's son, Bodhi.

Mother Road Mini Golf, rentable event spaces and children's play areas. Entrepreneurs have the op-

portunity to use the 320 square foot small shop model to pilot test their latest concepts without the

burdensome financial investment of opening a full-scale restaurant or retail space.

Zoe's Kitchen a Win for Healthy But Flavorful Food

Local Dining

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Editor

Zoe's Kitchen boasts a handful of greater Tulsa locations, with four Tulsa-area restaurants, including Tulsa Hills and south Tulsa, and a fifth in Broken Arrow.

Its menu consists of a variety of healthy, fresh mediterranean items of starters, bowls, salads, pitas, kabobs, sandwiches and more in a fast-casual dining setting. Zoe's began in Alabama over 20 years ago and is currently in 20 states throughout the country.

A friend and I recently visited Zoe's Brookside location at 3629 S. Peoria Ave.

Its interior is bright with plentiful seating located in a convenient spot along Peoria Avenue.

My party began with the Pesto

Basil Hummus, which comes with the dipping choice of cucumbers, pita bread, or both. I enjoyed the bright pesto basil flavor, which is a bit of an untraditional hummus flavor. Other hummus options are Classic and Harissa Red Pepper.

For our entrees, we chose the Mediterranean Salad Trio Bowl with Baked Falafel added for an additional dollar. Grilled Chicken, Lamb Kafta and Harissa Salmon are also available as add-on proteins for an additional charge. Like so many of Zoe's dishes, it was flavorful and fresh. The dish is a combo of pesto farro, quinoa, and cauliflower rice with house-made Greek tzatziki, Italian salsa verde, feta, cucumbers and fresh dill. At first, I figured that it would be fairly dry, but the tzatziki, salsa and feta added the needed moistness.

Our other main dish was the Spinach and Mushroom Piadina—a flatbread sandwich with mushrooms, spinach, feta, parmesan and mozzarella—and our cho-



Photos by BLAKE AUSTYN

MEDITERRANEAN BOWL: The Mediterranean Salad Trio Bowl, with Baked Falafel plus pesto farro, quinoa, cauliflower rice, house-made Greek tzatziki, Italian salsa verde, feta, cucumbers and fresh dill.

sen side of marinated slaw. Other side options include roasted vegetables, fresh fruit, pita chips, pasta salad and baked falafel.

This sandwich was suggested as a favorite of the server who took our order at the front counter. Its most noticeable flavors were mushrooms and spinach, which I love. The other flavors served as side notes. So, if you aren't into mushrooms and spinach, unless you're trying to be, choose another sandwich.

Regarding the marinated slaw,



HEALTHY EATING: Tulsa is home to five Zoe's Kitchen locations, including in Brookside at 3629 S. Peoria Ave. The fast-casual restaurant offers healthy, fresh mediterranean items of starters, bowls, salads, pitas, kabobs, sandwiches and more.

while I love cole slaw (and was expecting a version of that), this proved to be simply cabbage with feta cheese. Though the feta proved to be a welcome added flavor to the cabbage, most people would find it to be bland. While I appreciated the healthiness of the side dish, I too found it to be a bit too bland for my liking.

We selected, as our dessert, the pre-boxed chocolate cake, which sits in the grab-and-go area and is a great value—a nice gooey slice of chocolate cake for under \$3.

And it is delicious!

As I prepared to order, an older man walked up to the counter—a “regular” by the way that he was greeted—and purchased two cake slices to go.

The grab-and-go area also features various snack boxes and salads.

More information about Zoe's menu and its locations can be found at zoeskitchen.com. Depending on the location, Zoe's is open approximately 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.



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Oklahoma's Largest Collection of Fiddles Lost As Fire Destroys Double Stop Fiddle Shop

University of Oklahoma graduate Byron Berline has put together quite a career.

The three-time National Fiddle Champion is well established as Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys, Berline was one of the most sought-after session fiddlers in the music industry, with a recording resume loaded with household names, including The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Elton John, The Byrds, Willie Nelson, the Band, The Eagles, The Doobie Brothers... the list keeps going.

After 26 enormously successful years in Los Angeles, Berline, who was born in Kansas and raised in Oklahoma, returned to the Sooner state with his wife, Bette, making Guthrie the couple's new home. He opened Double Stop Fiddle Shop in historic downtown Guthrie, boasting the largest collection of violins and bows in Oklahoma, as well as new and vintage guitars, mandolins and banjos. On the upper floor was the music hall, where the Byron Berline Band was formed in 1996.

For more than two decades, the band played regularly in the music hall, occasionally touring nationally and even as far away as Chi-

na while Berline maintained his residence in Guthrie and operated Double Stop Fiddle Shop. It was the perfect second act of a story-book career.

But as the three-act structure dictates, crisis rears its ugly head during act two. Such was the case on Feb. 23, as a fire destroyed the Double Stop Fiddle Shop and virtually all of its inventory.

I use the word crisis rather than tragedy because, thankfully the building was unoccupied and nobody was hurt, but considering the vast collection of irreplace-

able instruments that was lost, the word tragic doesn't seem like hyperbole.

As is always the case when one of their own is in need, the local music community is rallying to help. A Facebook fundraising page, facebook.com/doublestop-support, has been set up to help alleviate the costs associated with the cleanup and moving forward. The Community Church in Guthrie has become an alternate venue to the music hall, hosting the Byron Berline Band's March 9 and March 23 shows. And, a benefit is scheduled for March 31 at Tower Theater in Oklahoma City. The

Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL



BYRON BERLINE



DEVASTATING LOSS: Double Stop Fiddle Shop posted this photo on its Instagram account shortly after a fire on Feb. 23 destroyed the building it has called home since 1996.

benefit will feature a silent auction as well as performances by Jana Jae, The Bonhams, Steelwind, Red Dirt Rangers, and more. Check out towertheatreokc.com for the complete lineup and tickets.

Tulsa at SXSW

The Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Arts and Culture (FMAC) is once again giving Tulsa music a presence at the South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas.

Thirteen Tulsa bands will take the stage on March 14 beginning at 11 a.m.

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Augustine on Rainey will host the 5th annual Tulsa Boom Factory, featuring Combsy, Henna Roso, Eric Himan, Jared Tyler, Dialtone, Electric Billy Club and Nightingale.

From 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. is the 3rd annual Tulsa Music SXSW Show-

case, featuring Broncho, Republican Hair, Casii Stephen, Branjae, Roots of Thought and Zunis.

Tulsa has maintained a presence at the internationally recognized festival since 2015 thanks to Tulsa FMAC, an organization dedicated to showing the world that Tulsa is a creative hub and a cultural destination.

Tulsa FMAC has been instrumental in garnering exposure for local artists and musicians, but the organization serves as more than a promoter. It's also a valuable resource for creative industries, providing a database of film crew, musicians, artists, and creative support services, bringing people together to ensure that Tulsa's creative industries continue to grow and flourish.

You can find the database at tulsafmac.com. The database is a great resource for creative pro-

fessionals, and the rest of the website is a great resource for those of us who enjoy the arts — those of us who are on a mission to keep searching, keep listening.

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THE ECONOMY

ORU Entrepreneurial Program Receives \$1 Million Gift

Stovall Center Added to College of Business

Oral Roberts University has received a \$1 million donation, along with a \$500,000 matching grant, to launch the Stovall Center for Entrepreneurship. Known for their entrepreneurial spirit, ORU Alumni Jim and Crystal Stovall (1981), along with the Tulsa Community Foundation, have made this generous donation because they know the power entrepreneurship can have in transforming lives, especially among the disadvantaged and underserved.

"The Stovall Center for Entrepreneurship will enable ORU to continue building whole leaders for the whole world who are equipped with new and innovative business ideas that transform not only people but also communities and nations," said ORU President Dr. William M. Wilson. "This amazing gift will allow ORU to aggressively pursue our commitment to developing leaders in business and entrepreneurship."

The Center will reside within the College of Business and allow ORU to attract and retain students with exceptional abilities to create new business concepts, start-up incubators, accelerators and launchpads. It will also host workshops, boot camps, and lectures; set up networking with entrepreneur collectives; provide space for entrepreneurial faculty and professionals to mentor and coach students; and allocate resources for mission-based entrepreneurial initiatives such as micro-financing and venture capital.

"We envision the Stovall Center for Entrepreneurship will provide

the essential knowledge, skills, and ethics needed to equip ORU students to engage the world's biggest challenges with God's best solutions," said Jim Stovall. "In this extraordinary age of entrepreneurship, our desire is to unite and champion a thriving entrepreneurial spirit among all ORU students."

Stovall is founder and president of Narrative Television Network, which has made television and media accessible to the 13 million blind and visually impaired in the United States. He founded the network in 1988, just a year after fully losing his sight at age 29. He's the recipient of the President's Committee on Equal Opportunity Entrepreneur of the Year award and the International Humanitarian of the Year award, joining Jimmy Carter, Nancy Reagan, and Mother Teresa. Stovall is also a recipient of ORU's Lifetime Global Achievement honor and a member of the University's Board of Reference. Stovall is the bestselling author of over 40 books including *The Ultimate Gift*, *The Ultimate Life*, and *The Lamp*, all of which have been made into major motion pictures.

In the years ahead, the Stovall Center for Entrepreneurship will feature an array of new academic programs including undergraduate and graduate degrees in entrepreneurship, a major in social entrepreneurship, an entrepreneurial executive certificate program, and certificates for entrepreneurial enterprises in healthcare, technology, ministry, and others. The Center is also committed to applying advanced technology such as artificial

intelligence, augmented and virtual reality, and ORU's Titan supercomputer to enhance product development and business success.

Oral Roberts University (ORU) is a world-renowned Christian university located in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Founded in 1963, ORU serves students from 50 states and 103 countries, representing over 51 denominations. ORU offers 77 undergraduate majors, 65 undergraduate minors, 14 master's programs and three doctoral degrees, plus NCAA Division I athletics. For more information on ORU, visit oru.edu.



Courtesy ORU

ENCOURAGING ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Jim Stovall, right, and Crystal Stovall present a \$1 Million check to ORU President William M. Wilson on the ORU campus in March.

Vast Bank Tops Out Downtown

Marking a construction milestone for the new six-story Vast Bank headquarters under construction in downtown Tulsa next to ONEOK Field, developers, builders and tenants held a topping-off ceremony Feb. 28. The 100,000 square foot building is set to be completed in December 2019 and will feature a grab-and-go sushi bar from In the Raw, Hummingbird Coffee + Beer, rotating art exhibit and rentable rooftop terrace, the Rendezvous Room. Each floor will feature a terrace and view of ONEOK Field. Other tenants include BKD CPAs and Advisors and Casillas Petroleum. Additional space is still available for lease. The building was designed by KKT Architects and developed by the Ross Group.



GTR Newspapers photo

HEADED TOWARD COMPLETION: Tom Biolchini, right, of Vast Bank gives opening remarks with Clint Black of Ross Group before the topping out ceremony at the new Vast Bank headquarters in downtown Tulsa.



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Junior Achievement Announces 2019 Tulsa Tycoons and Centennial Celebration

Junior Achievement of Oklahoma announced the honorees for its 4th Edition of Tulsa Tycoons, A Night of Monopoly fundraiser. The 2019 honorees are:

- Dr. Clarence Oliver-JA Centennial Honoree
- Lynn Flinn, Rowland Group-Work Readiness Honoree
- Pat Piper, Bank of Oklahoma-Financial Literacy Honoree
- Dana Weber, Webco Industries-Entrepreneurship Honoree

This year, Junior Achievement of Oklahoma's largest fundraiser is both a chance to honor local business leaders and celebrate a significant milestone. JA was founded in 1919, so this year's Tulsa Tycoons event will include commemoration of the organization's centennial.

"Very few organizations make it to 100 years, much less continue to grow and thrive like Junior Achievement has," said JA of Oklahoma President Shannan Beeler. "We are taking this opportunity to celebrate and honor what's come before, but also look toward the future as we work to inspire and prepare our young people to succeed in our ever-changing world. We've selected companies and Honorary Tycoons this year who represent each of the three pillars – financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work readiness – upon which JA was built."

Tulsa Tycoons, a Night of Monopoly, 4th Edition, includes a mobile auction, live auction, networking, stories of JA impact, and amazing food. In addition, attendees can engage in low-key Monopoly-themed activities.

The event will be held on Thursday, May 2, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Cox Business Center in downtown Tulsa.

Funds raised from the event and auction will support Junior Achievement programs, which will bring lessons on financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and work readiness to more than 58,000 students this academic year. Financial literacy prepares students to manage resources effectively through courses on budgeting and planning. Entrepreneurship lessons focus on what it takes to start, manage and grow a business. Work readiness helps ensure students understand the skills they need to successfully enter the workplace.

"We look forward to honoring this year's Tulsa Tycoons because of their commitment to business, education and the Tulsa community," said Beeler. "Their leadership in the community should be an inspiration to any student now learning about business and entrepreneurship through Junior Achievement."

Sponsorships and tickets are now available. For more information concerning Tulsa Tycoons, A Night of Monopoly, 4th Edition, contact Martha Rongey at mrongey@jaok.org, call 918-663-2132 or visit tulsatycoons.com.

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WORKING WITH ROTARACT: In addition to the upcoming Junior Achievement fundraiser, JA works with many local groups to enhance its goal. Above, The Rotaract Club of Tulsa presented a check to Junior Achievement of Oklahoma for \$3,000 during the JA BizTown Town Hall Meeting in February 2019. From left are Brian Jackson, JA Development Manager, Jonathan Slay, Rotaract president and Jessica Carney, Rotaract president-elect. The donation offsets the cost of program materials and curriculum for 120 students in the simulated BizTown city run by 4th – 6th grade students. In partnership with the Rotary Club of Tulsa, the Rotaract Club of Tulsa was founded in 2011 as an organization for young professionals under age 40.

Oklahoma's Green Deal Includes Natural Gas



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

Oklahoma's Green Deal: Natural Gas. The Green New Deal proposed by New York Congressional representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has recently gained national attention. Her main emphasis is on the need to battle global warming and the answer is a "massive government intervention."

The Green New Deal proposes to increase funding in billions of dollars to eliminate fossil fuels, to implement better energy efficiencies especially regarding buildings, and to have air travel replaced with rails. Is this proposal to be taken seriously? A recent survey by programs at Yale and George Mason Universities showed that 92 percent of Democrats, and 64 percent of Republicans support the Green New Deal.

The deal is a 10-year governmental intervention program which has a goal of achieving 100 percent of U.S. power demand from clean, renewable and zero-emissions sources. With the 2020 elections before us, and the outcomes uncertain, energy education is needed more than ever.

Across the State of Oklahoma, from Tulsa to Elk City, there are reserves of natural gas. Net exports of natural gas continue to

grow. Liquefied natural gas continues to grow as a significant U.S. export. Liquefied natural gas export facilities are currently under construction in the U.S. Asian demand growth continues to grow.

In my book, "America Needs America's Energy: Creating the People's Energy Plan", natural gas is addressed. Natural gas reserves are critical to a strong US economy and extremely important for America's energy security. Natural gas is available. We should definitely be embracing it in the U.S. for transportation and power generation in even a bigger way. Natural gas is an abundant, clean fuel that has many domestic uses. It is important to our country's energy sustainability.

Natural gas pros: Natural gas burns more cleanly than other fossil fuels. Natural gas can be piped into homes to provide heating, cooking, and to run appliances. Natural gas can be used as a fuel for vehicles.



MARK A. STANSBERRY

Natural gas is available. We should definitely be embracing it in the U.S. for transportation and power generation in even a bigger way. Natural gas is an abundant, clean fuel that has many domestic uses. It is important to our country's energy sustainability.

Natural gas pros: Natural gas burns more cleanly than other fossil fuels. Natural gas can be piped into homes to provide heating, cooking, and to run appliances. Natural gas can be used as a fuel for vehicles.

Natural gas is relatively abundant, clean-burning, and easy to distribute.

America, and for that matter, Oklahoma, needs to take the lead in energy leadership for us to achieve energy security. Throughout the speeches I have made around the country, I have stated my belief that America should be the center for energy excellence because the world needs our expertise. Natural gas and all forms of energy will be necessary in the future. My theme now for more than 25 years has been "striving for energy efficiency and environmental preservation." It is time to take a stand and evaluate our own impact.

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

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

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TCC Foundation Names Leadership for 2019

Tulsa Community College Foundation has named a new executive committee and new members to the Foundation Board for 2019.

TCC Foundation Chair is Phil Lakin, Jr., Tulsa Community Foundation chief executive officer. He previously served on the executive committee for two years. The executive leadership committee also includes Vice Chair David Stratton, BOK Financial Executive Vice President and Tulsa Commercial Banking Director and Secretary/Treasurer Tim Lyons, TTCU Federal Credit Union president and chief executive officer. Konnie Boulter, program director, The Oxley Foundation will serve as past chair.

“We value the time these dedicated business and community leaders give to the TCC Foundation,” said Leigh B. Goodson, TCC president and chief executive officer. “The Foundation’s role is essential to the success of our students and we have an ambitious year ahead with the on-going Campaign for Completion, TCC’s first multi-year campaign, and the upcoming 50th Anniversary celebration.”

New TCC Foundation Trustees for 2019 include: Scott Asbjornson, AAON, Inc.; Jeff Brooks, Muscogee Creek Nation Casinos; Kevin Gross, Hillcrest Health-



PHIL LAKIN

Care System; Jennifer Jezek, York Electronic Systems, Inc.; Sean Kouplen, Regent Bank; and Jackie Price Johannsen, Price Family Properties. Each trustee is appointed for a three-year term.

The chief purpose of the foundation, founded in 1970, is to support the college in its mission to provide university transfer and workforce development degrees and certificates. Each year, the foundation raises approximately \$2 million for scholarships, programs and student development activities at TCC. Last year, the foundation launched its first ever multi-year fundraising campaign to remove navigational, financial and physical barriers while continuing the important work of support for scholarships, internships and projects.

BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

Wisconsin-based **Greenheck Group**, a global manufacturer of commercial air movement, control and conditioning equipment, has hired **Rachel Anderson** as director of its new Tulsa campus to lead community integration and employer-of-choice initiatives in the Tulsa region.



ANDERSON

Anderson has more than 15 years of public relations, leadership consulting and community relations experience in Tulsa. Previous roles include vice president of inclusion and account services for Schnake Turnbo Frank, and vice president of communications and marketing for the Tulsa Regional Chamber.

Greenheck Group broke ground on its Tulsa campus in December 2017. Production of the company’s first business line in Tulsa, the Accurex brand, launched in November 2018. The number of Greenheck employees could grow to more than 600 in the next five years, and the company has created the campus director role to serve as the primary leader and point of contact for Greenheck Group within the community.

Tulsa-based **Big Elk Energy Systems, LLC** has named **Jamin Fagan** as its new U.S. director of sales.



FAGAN

Fagan comes to Big Elk as a longtime, active member of the hydrocarbon energy industry. Before joining Big Elk, Fagan served as director of business development for an engineering, manufacturing and construction company, overseeing significant sales growth and increasing revenue by more than 100 percent during his tenure.

As director of business development for Big Elk, Fagan will be responsible for the development and performance of all sales activities, with a primary focus on new business growth.

“We’ve experienced national, record-breaking growth at our company and its because of our people. With the addition of Jamin, we’ll not only continue that trend, but take it to the next level,” said Geoff Hager, CEO of Big Elk. “We’re excited about the depth of knowledge and industry relationships he brings to our company. He’s a perfect fit for our culture, and we’re just getting started!”

Mayor G.T. Bynum announces that **James Wagner** will serve as the chief financial officer for the **City of Tulsa** and oversee the finance department.



WAGNER

The Finance Department administers centralized public financial functions for the city through seven divisions: accounting, administration, budget and planning, city clerk’s office, purchasing, treasury and utility services.

Wagner currently leads the Office of Performance Strategy and Innovation (OPSI) for Mayor Bynum, which is responsible for using data to align citywide strategies toward priority goals set by the mayor and city council. Through his team’s work, city employees are using data to empower better decision making while lowering barriers to adopting new and innovative practices.

Wagner fills a vacancy left by the passing of longtime City Finance Director Mike Kier in December.

Wagner has been instrumental in creating Tulsa’s first performance management system, TulStat, and received national recognition for his role in creating the Civic Innovation Fellowship Urban Data Pioneers.

Most recently, Wagner helped acquire a \$1 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies for the Greenwood Art Project and works with the Bloomberg Philanthropies and Harvard City Leadership Initiative to create technical approaches in building a stronger animal welfare system. He was also selected as a participant in the Results for America Local Government Fellows Program.

Shane Nelson, president of Action Staffing Group, has joined the **OK2Grow board of directors**. He has been involved in OK2Grow for several years. He says his involvement with OK2Grow stems from the opportunity to mentor and help educate Oklahoma students.



NELSON

“To me, the bottom line is that students need opportunities and companies need employees,” said Nelson. “We have to work together to make that happen and OK2Grow is a great place to do it.”

“The available workforce in our country is shrinking every year but the number of jobs available is increasing. Over the next 10 years, more than 2.5 million baby boomers will be retiring and currently, there is a major gap of eligible candidates to replace them. According to the department of labor, there will be a need for more than 3.5 million jobs in the manufacturing field, with 2.5 million baby boomers retiring during the same period. To address the issue, companies have to work in partnership with organizations like OK2Grow to help educate students on available careers and the pathway to those careers.”

SMG has named **Casey Sparks** manager of **BOK Center** and **Cox Business Center**. Sparks most recently served as the assistant general manager for the BOK Center for five years.



SPARKS

Sparks began her career in Columbia, South Carolina at the Colonial Life Arena after graduating with a degree in sport and entertainment management. Since then, she was recruited to AT&T Center, a 18,500-seat venue in San Antonio, Texas home of the NBA San Antonio Spurs before moving to Tulsa as the regional director of sales and marketing for 17 facilities, including BOK Center. Sparks was instrumental in BOK Center’s pre-opening venue development and grand opening plans, where she helped host 184 events in the first 10 months of operation. During her tenure, she led the new arena to be a national and international ranked facility for ticket sales.

“It is an honor to continue to be part of this team,” said Sparks. “Cox Business Center and BOK Center are spectacular facilities with a reputation of being the best.”

BOK Financial has named **Susan Hermann**, senior vice president, director, corporate communications.



HERMANN

Hermann brings extensive knowledge to BOK Financial, having served 18 years with CoBiz Financial, most recently as the director of corporate communications. Prior to CoBiz Financial, Hermann worked in communications and community relations for the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and The Reynolds and Reynolds Company.

Hermann, a longtime Colorado resident, will be based in BOK Financial’s corporate office in Denver.

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PASSPORT PHOTO

Liberty Tower a Gateway to Tulsa Condominiums

Built in the Early 1960s, the High Rise Remains Popular

Following World War II, new construction proliferated in Tulsa

library, commercial office space, and a tenant lounge. A floor plate with a center double loaded corridor accessing units, both sides allows each to have a generous exterior balcony. Security is emphasized with a strategically placed on-site building management office suite and reception desk.

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

At 254 feet, 23 stories tall, Liberty Tower was one of Tulsa's earliest contemporary high-rise condominium towers. Designed by Kelley-Marshall Architects, it dominates the southwest corner of 15th Street and Boulder Avenue. Its formal address is 1502 S. Boulder Ave.

The building and its surface parking lot to the west, occupies an entire city block. The amenities provided at Liberty Tower are numerous. These include, a parking garage at lower level topped by an outdoor pool, designated guest parking, a small

Liberty Tower's exterior is a palate of shades of gray. The face of the base which is the first two floors at Boulder Avenue is gray brick punctuated with two story storefront with light colored span-drels. At the west, due to the slope of the site, this base becomes three stories. Periodic vertical slits every four to six feet provide ventilation for the parking garage.

The tower rises off this base with an aggressive cantilever on the east (Boulder) and south. Four expanses of light gray rubble faced masonry become vertical pylons at the east and west elevations. These elevations are symmetrical. The pylons are sep-



arated by three vertical banks of metal railed balconies. Each balcony is separated into two parts with a dividing partition.

Capping the tower is a simple overhanging roof with a thin flat fascia in a shade of pale gray.

One of the notable images of Liberty Tower is its maintenance. The exterior is very clean. The public areas are pristine. They could have been finished out yesterday. Of course, this is an outward expression of a very active condominium association, known



GTR Newspapers photo

NO VACANCY: Built in 1965, Liberty Tower was one of Tulsa's earliest contemporary high-rise condominium towers. At 254 feet, 23 stories tall, the tower remains a popular residence in downtown Tulsa.

in downtown property owner circles for its aggressive representation.

It's not surprising that Liber-

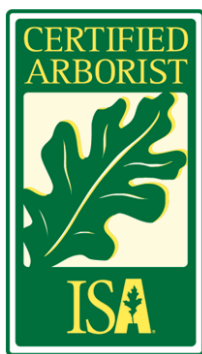
ty Tower remains virtually full. Only occasionally do units come on the market for sale and when they do, they do not linger.

GALA SUPPORTS LITERACY



Courtesy

BIG DREAMS: The Tulsa Dream Center recently hosted their second annual Night of Dreams gala at the Mayo Hotel to raise critical funds for the Dream Center's LIFE (Literacy Is For Everyone) program, an after school and summer reading program for at-risk youth in north Tulsa. Night of Dreams committee members, back row from left, are Tulsa Dream Center Executive Director Aaron Johnson, Lauren Beach, Carmen Cavanaugh, Katy Schmelz and Denise Geuder. Front row from left are Director of Development Olivia Martin and Amber Johnson.



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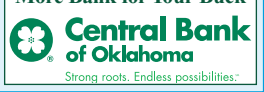

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CENTRAL BANK OF OKLAHOMA CALENDAR • MARCH 10 – APRIL 13, 2019

Baseball Returns to ONEOK Field! Drillers Home Opener is April 4.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10 March GOLDEN EAGLES vs. Dallas • 1 p.m. Baseball Visit oruathletics.com for info. BREAKBEAT POETS WRITING WORKSHOP (ALL LEVELS) Center for Poets and Writers at OSU-Tulsa 2 – 4:30 p.m. Visit tulsa.okstate.edu for more information.	11 SO YOU WANT TO MAKE A MOVIE? Ahha Tulsa 7 – 9 p.m. Visit tulsa.okstate.edu for more information.  	12 WEST TULSA DULCIMER CLUB Zarrow Regional Library 6 – 8 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. ANXIETY MANAGEMENT SUPPORT GROUP Mental Health Association Oklahoma 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit mhaok.org for more information.	13 FOOD FOR THOUGHT LUNCHEON Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Visit okfoodbank.org for more information. PAWS FOR READING Herman and Kate Kaiser Library 3:30 – 5 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	14 PROFESSOR SMART (YOUNG AT ART SERIES) PAC Trust 11:30 a.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. PJ MASKS LIVE: SAVE THE DAY BOK Center 6 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. 	15 PROFESSOR SMART (YOUNG AT ART SERIES) PAC Trust 11:30 a.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA IRISH FESTIVAL Guthrie Green March 15-16 Visit guthriegreen.com for info. PROFESSOR SMART (IMAGINATION SERIES) PAC Trust 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	16 STUDIO SATURDAYS Philbrook Museum 12:30 p.m. Visit philbrook.org for more information. THE DINNER DETECTIVE The Hilton Garden Inn 6 – 9 p.m. Visit thedinnerdetective.com for more information. JOHN MELLENCAMP Brady Theater 8 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.
17 GOLDEN EAGLES vs. Purdue Ft Wayne • 1 p.m. Baseball Visit oruathletics.com for info. 2019 AKC NATIONAL AGILITY CHAMPIONSHIP Expo Square March 15 – 17 Visit www.akc.org for more information. FUNDAY SUNDAY Gilcrease Museum 12 – 4 p.m. Visit gilcrease.org for info.	18 SPOTLIGHT CHILDREN'S THEATRE CRAYONS IMPROV CAMP Spotlight Theatre 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. • March 18-22 Visit crayonsimprov.com for more information.  SPLASH BREAK Oklahoma Aquarium March 18-22 Visit okaquarium.org for more information.	19 STORYTIME AT GATHERING PLACE Gathering Place 10 a.m. Visit gatheringplace.org for more information. JAZZ NIGHT Gilcrease Museum 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit gilcrease.org for more information. 	20 JOBNEWSUSA.COM TULSA JOB FAIR Renaissance Tulsa Hotel & Convention Center 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visit jobfairsnearme.com for more information. AN EVENING WITH MARIKO TAMAKI: WOMEN IN COMICS Central Library 7 – 8:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	21 SPRING BREAK AT GATHERING PLACE: ART & MUSIC ONEOK Boathouse 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Visit gatheringplace.org for more information. NCAA TOURNAMENT OPEN PRACTICE SESSIONS BOK Center 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. 	22 NCAA MEN'S DIVISION I BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FIRST & SECOND ROUNDS BOK Center March 22-24 Visit bokcenter.com for more information. MUDDFEST WITH PUDDLE OF MUDD Brady Theater 6 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.	23 SMASH MOUTH Osage Casino's Skyline Event Center 6 p.m. Visit osagecasino.com for more information. WAYNE BRADY River Spirit Casino Tulsa 6 p.m. Visit riverspirittulsa.com for more information.
24 TULSA CYBER SUMMIT 2019 Hyatt Regency, downtown Tulsa All day Visit utulsa.edu/cybercon for more information. PUDDLES PITY PARTY Cox Business Center Assembly Hall 8 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.	25 MUSIC MONDAYS Central Library 11 – 11:30 a.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. BOOKS SANDWICHED IN: "SAPIENS: A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMANKIND" Central Library 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	26 TRAVIS SCOTT BOK Center 8 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. TULSA MASTER GARDENERS LUNCH & LEARN: SPRING GARDEN TIPS Central Library 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more info. 	27 WEEZER AND PIXIES BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. BADFISH: A TRIBUTE TO SUBLINE Cain's Ballroom 7:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. 	28 C.S. LEWIS' THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS Fellowship for Performing Arts 7 p.m. • March 28-30 myticketoffice.com for tickets. AMERICAN GIRL LIVE Cox Business Center Assembly Hall 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. DEATH GRIPS Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for info.	29 TCHAIKOVSKY: THE MAN BEHIND THE MUSIC Tulsa Ballets 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TRUTV IMPRACTICAL JOKERS BOK Center 7:30 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. PAT GREEN Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for info.	30 NEEDTOBREATHE: ACOUSTIC LIVE TOUR Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for info. TULSA OILERS vs. Utah 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information.  TCHAIKOVSKY: THE MAN BEHIND THE MUSIC Tulsa Ballets 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.
31 TCHAIKOVSKY: THE MAN BEHIND THE MUSIC Tulsa Ballets 2:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. C.S. LEWIS' THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS Fellowship for Performing Arts 3 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	1 April HEALTH-CARE APPLICATION ASSISTANCE Central Library 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.  	2 TULSA AREA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY - MONTHLY MEETING Martin Regional Library 6:30 – 8:45 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. RUSKO Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	3 BROWN BAG IT: CYNTHIA SIMMONS TRIO: JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH PAC Trust 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. FREE event. HOZIER Brady Theater 8 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.	4 AMERICAN DREAMS World Stage Theatre Co. April 4 – 7 myticketoffice.com for tickets. EURYDICE Chapman Theatre on TU's Campus 8 p.m. Visit utulsa.edu/tutheatre for more information. DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	5 THE WEDDING SINGER Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.  TULSA OILERS vs. Kalamazoo 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. BATTLE OF THE BANDS 2019 Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	6 AQUARIUM RUN 2019 Oklahoma Aquarium 8 a.m. Visit okaquarium.org for more information. THE WEDDING SINGER Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.  TULSA OILERS vs. Kalamazoo 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information.
7 THE WEDDING SINGER Theatre Tulsa 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.  TULSA OILERS vs. Wichita 4:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. ALADDIN Sand Springs Community Theater 7 p.m. Visit sandspringstheatre.com for more information.	8 STEAMWORKSHOP Central Library 2 – 3 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.  47TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE AMERICAN INDIAN University Center at NSU 7 p.m. Visit nsuok.edu for more information.	9 TULSA MASTER GARDENERS LUNCH AND LEARN: FRUIT TREES Central Library 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.  STS9 Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	10 FRANK ABAGNALE OSU-Tulsa Business Forums 10 a.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. FOOD FOR THOUGHT LUNCHEON Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Visit okfoodbank.org for more information.	11 THE WEDDING SINGER Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. GLADYS KNIGHT The Joint at Hard Rock 8 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information. 	12 SARAH PARCAK Tulsa Town Hall 10:30 a.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. THE WEDDING SINGER Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. CARNIVALE ICÔNE FEATURING SNOOP DOGG, NELLY AND CHROME0 BOK Center 8 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.	13 TRIAL BY JURY Oklahoma Performing Arts Inc 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.  RACHMANINOFF'S "SYMPHONIC DANCES" Tulsa Symphony 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. THE WEDDING SINGER Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

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AREA NEWS

Bixby High Students Put on Day of Volunteering

The Bixby High School Interact Club sponsored the Bixby Big Event on Saturday, March 2. The Big Event is the largest one-day, student-run service project in the nation, with 125 high schools and colleges participating. This was Bixby's 4th year to put on the event.

With eight committees and 20 members, the students prepared for this day of service since October. From talking with sponsors to chatting with local businesses, the Interact Club organized 18 projects for this year's event. The

projects placed a focus on giving back and saying "thank you" to the community. Volunteers cleaned, painted, and landscaped at the district schools, picked up trash at the local parks, and gave back to the police and fire departments, among other things.

Numerous clubs, sports teams, and other organizations selected projects for their group to take on. Last year, about 330 students, faculty, and staff registered to take part in the event. This year, the Interact Club topped that number, and helped their community

in even bigger ways.

The Big Event started at Texas A&M in 1982 and has become a nationwide tradition, resulting in a collective 957,668 service hours completed since its formation. It began in Bixby in 2016 as a project of the Interact Club. Interact is Rotary International's high school service club. It promotes the idea of "service above self," and furthering goodwill both on a local and international level. For more information about the Big Event visit bixbybigevent.com.



Courtesy photo

SERVICE ABOVE SELF: The Bixby High School Interact Club sponsored this year's Bixby Big Event.

Flight Night Raises \$500,000 for Education

Flight Night presented checks totaling \$500,000 to fund nearly twenty programs in a ceremony recently. Funds were the result of the 2018 Flight Night gala held in September and will support potentially life-changing STEM learning opportunities for an estimated 155,000 Oklahoma students and teachers this year.

Speaking at the presentation were John B. Herrington, Ph.D. (CDR, USN (Ret), Astronaut, STS-113), Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell (State of Oklahoma), Mayor G.T. Bynum (City of Tulsa) and Bailey J. Siegfried (NORDAM).

Commander Herrington is a retired U.S. Naval Aviator and former NASA astronaut. Born in Wetumka, Oklahoma and a member of the Chickasaw Nation, Commander Herrington was the first enrolled Native American in space. He spoke on Wednesday to the critical role STEM programs have in inspiring and fostering tomorrow's generation of innovators and explorers.

Flight Night Board Member and Event Co-Chair Bailey J. Siegfried, whose late father Ray H. Siegfried II founded Flight Night, shared that the non-profit has raised more than \$2.4 million for local STEM education

since 2014. "We are grateful for this strong community support of Flight Night, which allows us to bring transformative learning to students, and much-needed support for teachers," Siegfried said. "As powered-by-Flight Night programs expand their outreach, we're excited to see students develop a passion for STEM, and for the rewarding careers their interest and imagination opens up for them as adults."

Xan Black, executive director of the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance said, "Flight Night has been a force multiplier in STEM Education in Oklahoma, allowing us to expand our reach from 3,000 students to an estimated total of 500,000 students by the end of 2019. We are thrilled that this includes 56 percent female participants, and we are seeing a steady rise in STEM confidence in young women across Oklahoma. This simply would not have been possible without the partnership with Flight Night."

Benefiting projects include:

Ongoing Support of Unique Mobile Fab Lab:

Operations, programs and materials for



Courtesy photo

COMMUNITY SUPPORT: Proudly displaying checks to Flight Night are, from left, Brandon Thompson, Xan Black, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, Commander John Herrington, Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell, Brian Carr, Lindsey Helmerich, J. Terrell Siegfried, Bailey J. Siegfried and Tulsa Tech Superintendent Dr. Steve Tiger.

the Flight Night Mobile Fab Lab featuring multiple experiential learning labs, digital fabrication tools, such as 3D printers, laser cutters and a three-axis mill. The unit moves from school to school in a custom-built, high-tech trailer, with no cost to students or schools.

For Educators: Professional Development, Classroom Grants and 'Stem Innovator' Awards:

Flight Night Professional Development Academy launches in 2019 offering varying levels of training matched to Oklahoma curriculum standards along with the summer Sensational Science professional development for educators, classroom and professional development grants totaling nearly \$50,000.

STEM Events that Inspire Learning:

Flight Night funds a variety of events throughout the region that spark creative thinking and innovation in young minds. These include: Flight Night Drone Competition, a unique competition where stu-

dents race drones through a series of obstacles while facing additional challenges that test their abilities in coding, flying and problem-solving; the Kite Festival, an event that brings the science of flight to classrooms around the state in an interactive learning and design process followed by students flying their kites; STEM Career Expo, afterschool STEM programming and other programs designed to illuminate career pathways for students; and the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) Explainers program where students present science projects and interact with explainers on the Smithsonian NASM floor over the course of the school year.

Flight Night is primarily funded through the support of the community at an annual gala of the same name, which will be held on Sept. 12 at Tulsa Technology Center, Riverside Campus. Patrons can expect another fantastic and unique aerobatic airshow incorporating custom static displays and entertainment. Event details will be announced soon.



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