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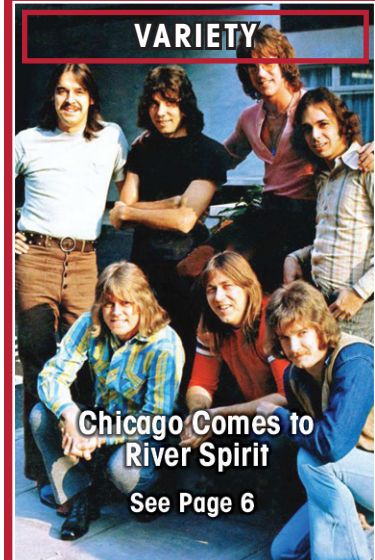
Volume 23

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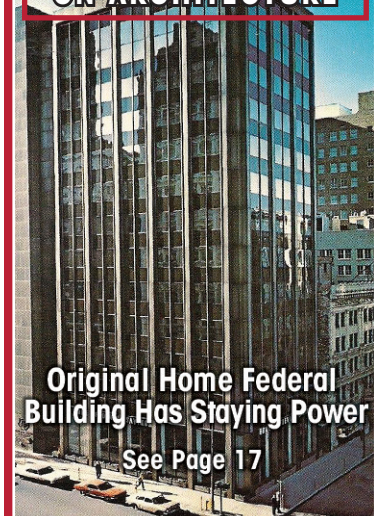
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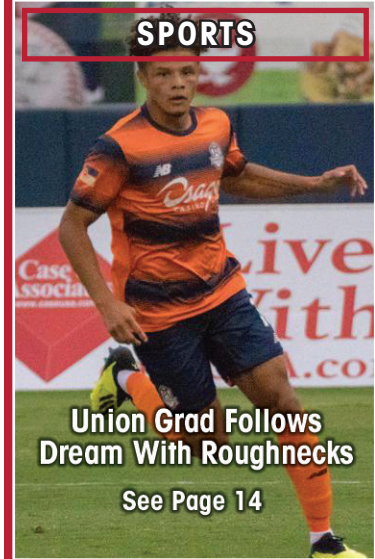
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Route 66 Rises with Sculpture Dedication

Tulsa Mayor Bynum Welcomes Lt. Gov. Pannell to Route 66 Rising Historic Event

Mayor G.T. Bynum welcomed Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell to Tulsa July 2 for the dedication and ribbon-cutting at the "Route 66 Rising" sculpture at the Avery Traffic Circle – East Admiral Place and Mingo Road.

"Route 66 is rising in Tulsa right now," Bynum said. "Tulsa is the birthplace of Route 66, thanks to Cyrus Avery. Tulsa is home to one of the world's foremost historians on Route 66, Michael Wallis. And now there is a new sense of revitalization along Route 66, with venues like Mother Road Market drawing new visitors and Buck Atom greeting travelers as they cruise through Tulsa. It is a special time in the history of this American icon, and we are excited for this latest improvement."

Joy Avery, granddaughter of Cyrus Avery – Father of Route 66, was a special guest and speaker at the event. Avery, a former Tulsa County Commissioner and Oklahoma State Highway Commissioner, also served as a Consulting Highway Specialist to the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads. Cyrus Avery lived in Tulsa during the planning stages of Route 66 as a national highway, and he was influential in bringing the highway through Tulsa, including a bridge across the Arkansas River.

"Route 66 Rising" is approximately 70 feet wide and 30 feet high. This \$682,000 project was funded by Vision 2025, a Tulsa County sales tax from 2004 through 2016 that provided for regional economic development and capital improvements. Vision 2025 included \$15 million for projects on Route 66 in Tulsa. Beginning in 2017, the Vision Tulsa sales tax replaced Vision 2025 within the city limits of Tulsa.

An artist from New Mexico,



MOTHER ROAD RIBBON CUTTING: Present at the Route 66 Rising ribbon cutting on July 2 are, from left, Rhys Martin; Executive Director & CEO of the Route 66 Alliance Ken Busby, Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith, Tulsa City Councilor Jeannie Cue, Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell, Joy Avery, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, Tulsa City Councilor Phil Lakin Jr., Miss Route 66 and Mrs. Oklahoma.

which is another state along Route 66, created the "Route 66 Rising" sculpture. The artist, Eric F. Garcia, said his work was inspired by "a time when the Oklahoma dust bowl was a reminder of the hard times during the Depression and how the Old Route was a symbol of hope."

The intersection of Admiral Place and Mingo Road has been named the Avery Traffic Circle, in honor of Cyrus Avery. This location is on the original 1926-1932 alignment of Route 66.

Avery Traffic Circle also is the former site of Cyrus Avery's tourist court. With full-brick Tudor Revival architecture, the tourist court consisted of an auto service and gas station, the Old English Inn restaurant, and tourist cabins.



ROUTE 66 RISING: The "Route 66 Rising" sculpture was created by New Mexico artist Eric F. Garcia. It is approximately 70 feet wide and 30 feet high and stands at the intersection of Admiral Place and Mingo Road known as the Avery Traffic Circle, in honor of Cyrus Avery. This location is on the original 1926-1932 alignment of Route 66.

KUDOS of the MONTH: Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement, celebrating its 100th year, is a volunteer-delivered organization that encourages students from kindergarten through 12th grade to foster work-readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills, and to provide experiential learning to inspire students to dream big and reach their potential.

JA volunteers are business people, college students, parents, and retirees. These dedicated individuals are the foundation of the organization. They provide experiential learning opportunities for students, both in and out of the classroom.



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JA helps students realize that the education they are getting today will help them have a bright future tomorrow. Its unique, volunteer-delivered programs show students all of the possibilities that lay before them. The students begin to realize they can choose different paths: College? A specific trade? Start their own business? Through volunteer participation,

be it organizations or individuals, the following statistics below can begin to change in the nation's communities:

- 20 percent of U.S. students will not complete high school on time and earn a diploma.
- 49 percent of U.S. employers recognize that talent shortages impact their ability to serve clients and customers.
- 36 percent of Americans say that they have at some point in their lives felt their financial situation was out of control.
- 91 percent of millennials wish



INSPIRING STUDENTS: Junior Achievement of Oklahoma inspired more than 59,300 students statewide during the 2018-2019 school year.

they had greater access to entrepreneurial education programs.

For more information, visit www.jaok.org.



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Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea Exhibit Appears at Tulsa Zoo

The Tulsa Zoo presents Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea through Jan. 5, 2020. Made entirely of plastic debris collected from beaches, Washed Ashore sculptures unmask the impacts of plastic pollution on oceans, waterways and wildlife.

Tulsa Zoo guests can view 11 colorful, larger-than-life sculptures of aquatic animals on display throughout the zoo. This temporary exhibit is included in the cost of regular zoo admission.

The artwork was created by the non-profit organization WashedAshore.org dedicated to educating about plastic pollution through art. Oregon-based artist Angela Haseltine Pozzi and her team of volunteers constructed each piece from plastic litter collected on West Coast beaches.

Guests are invited to get up close to view the sculptures, which range from a 10-foot-tall Adélie penguin, a 6-foot-tall river otter, to a 6-foot-long clownfish with anemones, multiple jellyfish and more.

"We want everyone to examine the artwork closely. You can find everything from flip flops, toothbrushes and bottle caps, to combs, pails and shovels, and plastic bottles, all collected from beaches," said Washed Ashore Executive Director John Tannous. "The goal of the art is to get people to think about what they buy. When you are no longer using a package or product, it does not disappear. Every piece of plastic in the exhibit was once purchased by somebody."

The poignant sculptures represent the more than 315 billion pounds of plastic in oceans today. "Exhibits like this are a way to connect our actions to wildlife conservation," said Terrie Correll, Tulsa Zoo president and CEO. "These sculptures are a powerful reminder of our personal responsibility, even in landlocked Oklahoma. Bringing together art and conservation, Washed Ashore will visually represent why reducing one-time use plastics is vitally important."

The zoo is in a unique position to educate guests about how their actions impact wildlife and lead the community in conservation. As part of the zoo's green practices, the Tulsa Zoo is moving away from plastic that is used once and thrown away.

The zoo's efforts to reduce its ecological footprint were recognized by the Metropolitan Environmental Trust, which granted the 2018 America Recycles Award to the Tulsa Zoo. Also in 2018, the zoo received the Henry Bellmon Sustainability Award for mid-sized businesses from Sustainable Tulsa.

About the Tulsa Zoo

The Tulsa Zoo is Green Country's largest paid daily attraction, welcoming more than 700,000 guests each year, it is owned by the City of Tulsa and managed by Tulsa Zoo Management, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information about the Tulsa Zoo, visit www.tulsazoo.org or call 918-669-6600.

Follow @Tulsa Zoo on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest and YouTube.



BRADY THE ADELIE PENGUIN: The 10-foot-tall Adélie penguin stands on an iceberg at the entrance to the Tulsa Zoo.



PLASTICS ASHORE: Zoo visitors look at examples of plastics taken from our oceans that are part of the Washed Ashore exhibit.

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EDITOR & PUBLISHER
D. Forrest Cameron, Ph. D.

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Margaret Butler • Lesa L. Jones
Bob Lewis • Joanne Whitney

EDITORS AT LARGE
Terrell Lester • K.J. Webb

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Blake Austyn • Nancy Hermann
Glenn Hibdon • Mike Mognin
Roger Coffey • D.J. Morrow-Ingram

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Krista Gardner

CO-PUBLISHER
Sharon Cameron

ART DIRECTOR
Bryan Cantrell

PHOTOGRAPHY
Harry Lentz • Dean Atchison
Kevin Adams

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GREATER TULSA REPORTER
P.O. Box 470645 • Tulsa, OK 74147-0645
918-254-1515 • 918-254-1550 (fax)
info@gtnews.com
advertising@gtnews.com

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

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CIVICS

Weathering the Storm After Historic Flooding

If there's one thing Tulsans do best, it's our ability to overcome obstacles. The resilience and will-

Yet, it's in trying times when you see what a community is really made of. Following days of severe

ingness of everyone who worked long hours and helped others during Tulsa's May flooding has been inspiring.

From mid-May to early June, Tulsa experienced severe weather and historic flooding. The Arkansas River was flowing at its fastest rate in more than 30 years, putting lives, structures and areas along the river at risk. Widespread rainfall created a flooding emergency, multiple tornadoes left behind damage, and a 70-year-old levee system

put Tulsa to the test. The night of Monday, May 20, severe storms and an EF-1 tornado hit North Tulsa. Then Wednesday, May 22, an EF-0 tornado struck south Tulsa leaving downed power lines and widespread tree limb debris.

From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM
Mayor of Tulsa

weather, storms, hail, downpours, and fear that the Arkansas River was going to expose Tulsa's earthen levee system, Tulsans and all of our responders worked together to help our fellow neighbors in these trying times. With patience and after 10 straight days of disaster response, we caught a break in the weather, allowing Lake Keystone to dip below its flood pool, alleviating flooding issues downstream.

I'm proud to say that our operation ran like a well-oiled machine through communication and teamwork to keep residents safe. From different levels of government, to non-profit agencies, to utility companies, the common thread that bound us



RIVER RISING: The Arkansas River as seen from the 51st Street Bridge along Interstate 44 during the late May, early June high water time throughout greater Tulsa. SHARON CAMERON for GTR Newspapers

together was giving everything we had to our community. I'm incredibly grateful for the Army Corps of Engineers who kept us updated throughout the event. I'm also thankful for Governor Kevin Stitt, Vice President Mike Pence, FEMA Director Pete Gaynor, our Congressional delegation, and state legislators for their continued support throughout the event.

At this point in time, we have now turned to recovery. President Trump approved an Oklahoma Disaster Declaration on June 1, making federal funding available for those affected by the storms.

The primary river flood damage we sustained in Tulsa was our infrastructure. I'm told River Parks estimates close to \$8 million worth of damages to their trail systems. As a city, we are looking at approximately \$5 million that we will be seeking federal reimbursement for and we are continuing to evaluate damages and expenses from the severe weather events — primarily on roads, storm sewers and our parks.

Following disaster assessments, no residential structures in Tulsa took on water, but areas within Tulsa County were affected and

some residents lost everything due to substantial flooding. FEMA has set up a Disaster Recovery Center at Case Community Center, 1050 W. Wekiwa Road in Sand Springs for Tulsa county residents. It's recommended homeowners, renters and businesses contact their insurance company and register with FEMA prior to visiting the center. To register, visit disasterassistance.gov.

For those interested in volunteering, please call 211. You can also contribute to local non-profits helping in recovery efforts, by visiting tulsacf.org/2019storms.

Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency (TAEMA) Gave Tulsa County True Leadership During Flooding

During the recent horrific flooding which impacted hundreds of homes and businesses, many public and private agencies stepped up to help those affected. The task of pulling all these responsive agencies and people together to provide a coordinated and effective response requires there to be a single point of contact that oversees the relief efforts. A single point that can prioritize where resources should be deployed, can communicate both the current situation and the expected next events, and answer all the questions from both responders and the citizens.

In Tulsa County, those leadership responsibilities fall to the staff of the Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency (TAEMA), formerly known as the Tulsa City-County Civil Defense Agency. Under the skillful and steady hand of Director Joe Kralicek, TAEMA mobilized a massive ef-

From Tulsa County



By COMMISSIONER
RON PETERS

fort to warn, protect, remove, and coordinate evacuations throughout the areas flooded.

From the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Joe and his team brought together the federal, state, county and city elected leaders to stay on top of the minute-by-minute changes in the flood waters and to strategically deploy information and resources as the impact of the flooding changed hour by hour.

TAEMA's role is to ensure that Tulsa's governmental leaders, who routinely make decisions on their own, come to a decisive consensus on an action plan to address the state of affairs.

Very few citizens probably know about TAEMA until a crisis hits and the TAEMA team rolls into action. TAEMA provides services which include emergency operations planning, staffing the EOC, coordinating emergency services, as-

essment of damages, providing public information about personal safety procedures during the disaster, etc. They are also responsible for Tulsa's emergency siren and public address system.

Educating us on our personal responsibilities to be prepared and protected is at the heart of TAEMA's mission. They do this by conducting area training all year long, speaking to community organizations, keeping up with the latest technology designed for disaster responsiveness, and bringing Federal recourses when we need it.

Recently TAEMA released a family preparedness app for mobile devices known as "Tulsa Ready," designed to help citizens create family plans for dealing with disasters.

To stay up to date on the latest information, training, and technology for the management of emergencies, the staff at TAEMA participates in training provided by FEMA, Oklahoma's Department of Emergency Management, Homeland Security, and other sources to keep up with the latest developments in emergency management.

While each weather event creates unique and unknown threats TAEMA knows any response activity will require an immediate and coordinated response. TAEMA continues to prioritize monitoring weather and



O'BRIEN PARK: This aerial photo of O'Brien Park and Recreation Center, 6149 N. Lewis Ave., was taken on May 22. The water has since receded, and the county is working to get it fully restored. facebook.com/theparksoftulsa

activate the warning system when needed. Response readiness requires not only TAEMA but also many response partners to be prepared to accelerate operations with little or no notice.

The citizens of Tulsa County are in good hands and well protected thanks to the skills, dedication, and faithful discharge of duties by the team at TAEMA.





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Regional Leaders Bring Waterway Concerns to D.C.

More than 80 business and community leaders carried the region's call for levee repairs, waterway infrastructure and flood relief to Capitol Hill as part of the Tulsa Regional Chamber's June One Voice Washington D.C. Fly-In.

The timing of the fly-in carried significant influence as federal officials discussed ongoing flood relief in the wake of historic flooding along the Arkansas River and in northeast Oklahoma.

In addition to meeting with Oklahoma's congressional delegation, trip attendees met with James C. Dalton, director of civil works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Dalton leads, manages and directs the policy development, programming, planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance activities of the Army Civil Works Program, a \$6 billion annual program of water and related land resources.

Dalton announced he will reevaluate the Tulsa area's \$158 million in backlogged projects, particularly the west Tulsa levee, which he said will likely move forward as a higher priority. To put the Army Corps priority list into perspective, the agency has nearly \$100 billion in unfunded construction backlogs across the nation, Dalton said.

"Mr. Dalton addressed our concerns with careful consideration for Oklahoma's flooding and candidness regarding his agency's own need for funding," said Elizabeth Osburn, senior vice president of government affairs for the Tulsa Regional Chamber. "Mr. Dalton and our elected officials from Oklahoma were attentive due to recent events and gave us a chance

to make the case anew for these vital needs."

Another highlight was a conversation with Rep. Markwayne Mullin, whose district contained some of the worst flooding in Oklahoma. Mullin discussed his work connecting state leaders to federal officials as flood waters rose. Mullin said he and others identified previously unknown hurdles that slowed reaction time between agencies. He also promised to clear those obstacles to speed coordination in the future.

NASA Administrator and former U.S. Rep. Jim Bridenstine addressed the group on the final day of the trip. He discussed plans to go back to the moon and eventually inhabit it as a launching point to Mars and beyond. He said he hopes the moon will soon be looked at as more than a refueling station to Mars, suggesting the world's first trillionaire would be the person who figures out how to mine the moon for rare metals and return them to Earth at a profit.

The OneVoice Washington D.C. Fly-In is the Chamber's signature federal advocacy trip on behalf of the regional business community. The annual event helps build collaborative relationships between federal elected officials and the northeast Oklahoma business community. Business leaders, local elected officials and regional suburban chamber leaders have the opportunity to speak to Oklahoma's congressional delegation about the federal priorities included in the OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda, a list of policies endorsed by a coalition of more than 75 cities, counties, econom-



TULSA CONTINGENT: A group of the attendees from Tulsa and surrounding areas gathered on the east steps of the Capitol during the June One-Voice event. In the front at left is Mike Neal, Tulsa Regional Chamber CEO.

ic development organizations and education institutions across the Tulsa region.

The OneVoice agenda is now in its 12th year. The document has become a well-respected resource for state and federal policymakers.

"The OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda is the foundation for all of our advocacy efforts," said Mike Neal, president and CEO

of the Tulsa Regional Chamber. "That agenda is assembled collaboratively, and regionally endorsed, and it enables us to maximize our impact every time we meet with federal and state legislators. Those legislators see the agenda as a direct reflection of our region's most pressing needs, and it forms the basis for all of our discussions, especially during this important

annual trip to Washington."

In addition to meeting with Dalton, Bridenstine and members of Oklahoma's federal delegation, trip attendees met with policy experts from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Administration and the Department of Energy. Attendees also heard from Florida Rep. Francis Rooney.



HONORING VETERANS: The Military History Center in Broken Arrow hosted a Flag Day ceremony June 15. In the photo, Oklahoma's First District Congressman Kevin Hern honors World War II veteran Oscar "Junior" Nipps. The event included ceremonial raising of the American flag, flags of each service branch, Medal of Honor flag, and flags of the Army Reserve, Air National Guard and 45th Infantry Division.



OZONE ALERT HONOREES: Ozone Alert officials honored two Tulsans during the annual Ozone Alert kickoff held earlier this year at Oneok Field, the home of the Tulsa Drillers. Honored were Rhonda Jeffries, third from left, and Michael Patton, second from left. At left is Steve Piltz of the National Weather Service in Tulsa, and at right is Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith. Jeffries and Patton were honored for their 20-plus years of volunteer communication efforts for the Ozone Alert program.



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VARIETY

Tulsa's Summertime Entertainment Peaks

The Tulsa Awards for Theater Excellence (TATE) held its annual gathering in June, recognizing theatre organizations in our area for quality work presented last season. Theatre adds so much richness to our cultural scene, and this was a great year. If you are not a regular at theatrical performances, I hope you will be in the future. If you are an aspiring thespian, or raising one, please contact local theater companies to see when auditions or workshops are scheduled.

Youth theatre takes the spotlight in the weeks ahead. Theatre Tulsa's summer programs for children include two shows. The company's Broadway beginners' program welcomes children, ages 5 to 8, in addition to an older group, ages 8 to 14. No theatre training or audition is required. This summer, the students will perform Disney's "Aladdin Jr.," July 12-14. Advanced teenagers are part of Theatre Tulsa's Broadway Bound bootcamp. Their project is "RENT, the School Edition," July 19-21. All programs will take place at the Tulsa PAC.

Capping the month of July at the PAC is Choregus Productions' Summer Heat International Dance Festival. I missed this festival in 2017 and regretted it even more

when I heard about the marvelous dancers and fascinating programs. Manuel Vignouille is an award-winning French choreographer, now based in New York. He formerly was with the Ballet du Grand Theatre de Geneve and Cedar Lake Dance companies, which we have enjoyed at Summer Heat in the past. The Manuel Vignouille-Motions company will demonstrate their honed technique and athleticism during a world premiere slated for July 25.

Giordano Dance Chicago is featured on July 27. The company was founded by Gus Giordano in 1963. He specialized in jazz dancing and appeared on Broadway. The troupe, now run by his family, is referred to as "America's original jazz dance company."

On July 28, Fly Dance Company closes Choregus' festival with its electric blend of street dance and classical music. They call their style "theatrical hip hop."

The Exchange Choreography Festival, in conjunction with Summer Heat, returns July 26-27. It draws dance-makers from across the country who put on new works and participate in a conversation with audience members and each other about the performances and contemporary dance. Looking ahead, singer and pia-

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN



CHICAGO: The classic rock band brings six decades of music to the River Spirit Casino Aug. 1



SUGARLAND: The multi-award-winning duo entertains at the Hard Rock, Aug. 1.



MARSHALL TUCKER BAND: The southern rockers visit The Joint at Hard Rock Hotel and Casino July 28.



REO SPEEDWAGON: The 1970s and 80s rock band has toured every year since 1967. See them at River Spirit Casino July 27.

no man Michael Cavanaugh pays tribute to the music of Billy Joel and Elton John at the PAC on Aug. 1. Cavanaugh was handpicked by Joel to appear in Broadway's "Movin' Out," which showcased Joel's music. Cavanaugh was the centerpiece of that mega-hit show.

Two Canadian heartthrobs appear at the BOK Center in July. Michael Buble's appearance several years ago at the PAC, before he was over-the-moon popular, was one of the best pop concerts I have ever seen anywhere. This is Buble's "Love" tour, and I know there will be lots of love to go around. His setlist includes "My Funny Valentine," "When I Fall in Love," "Sway" and "Cry Me a River." Catch his show, July 15.

Like Buble, Shawn Mendes hails from Canada. He attracted fans in 2013 with a Vine clip he shared covering a Justin Bieber song. He's only 21, but has racked up one hit after another, including "Stitches," "Lost in Japan" (my favorite), and currently, "Senorita" (with Camila Cabello) and "If I Can't Have You."

In addition to his own music, the 25-song set will cover tunes by Coldplay, Whitney Houston

and others. Along with his singing and songwriting, Mendes models for Calvin Klein and Armani. His concert is July 20.

Singer and TV personality Cardi B also garnered an audience through Vine. She's the only woman to win the Grammy Award for Best Rap Album as a solo artist, and the only woman to have 10 singles simultaneously on the Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop chart. The BOK Center welcomes Cardi B on July 23.

The River Spirit Casino Resort roars back with actor Tony Danza, July 19; REO Speedwagon, July 27; and the band Chicago, Aug. 1. Best known for TV's "Taxi" and "Who's the Boss," along with a memorable presence on Broadway in heavies like "The Iceman Cometh." Danza presents a light-hearted show that blends storytelling and American Songbook music.

Both REO Speedwagon and Chicago have toured every year they have been together. REO Speedwagon marked its 40th anniversary in 2007. Chicago's music spans six decades!

Formed in 2009, The Head and the Heart, an Indie Folk band from

Seattle, plays at the Brady Theatre, July 15. Country music and folk singer Robert Earl Keen appears at the Cain's, July 19.

Across town at The Joint at Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, The Marshall Tucker Band takes the stage on July 28, followed on Aug. 1 by Sugarland. Jennifer Nettles and Kristian Bush of Sugarland won five consecutive CMA Awards for Vocal Duo of the Year. I enjoy Nettles work. She has the most pleasing, engaging voice and great stage presence.

For other summertime options: spend evenings listening to music (free) at the Guthrie Green, attend a Drillers' game, and join the Circle Cinema in celebrating its 91st year. Tulsa's only non-profit theatre stages a film festival, July 11-15. Festival programming will have an emphasis on independent films and filmmakers who have an Oklahoma connection. Films include documentaries, silent films and classics.

The livin' is easy this time of year. Have fun tasting, exploring and savoring the entertainment coming our way in the weeks ahead.

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Tulsa Sound Goes International; Fall Festivals on the Horizon

"When the flower's in bloom, the petals feel like wings"
 — Paul Benjamin

The Paul Benjamin Band is in full bloom and spreading its wings to bring the Tulsa Sound to France during a three-week tour in July.

"Thank you all for your support through the years," said Benjamin on a recent Instagram post. "I never thought anything like this would ever be possible."

Drummer Patrick Ryan and bassist Paul Wilkes round out the European-bound trio that has been described as "the new Tulsa Sound."

"New Tulsa Sound" does not mean reinvented Tulsa Sound. The band stays true to the groove-based genre founded by its heroes J.J. Cale and Leon Russell with a style Benjamin describes as "boundary-free, 70s-style rock."

The band leaves for France on July 15, and as of press time, the tour dates have yet to be posted. Check paulbenjamin.com for dates and other news about the tour.

I would be hard pressed to find a better international ambassador for the Tulsa Sound both on and off the stage than Paul Benjamin. The people of France are getting a truly authentic dose of Tulsa music as well as the spirit and vibe that goes with it. Way to go Paul!

Fall Festival Season Around the Corner

The dog days are officially here. And while it's worth it to brave the heat for incredible outdoor music like the recent Woody Guthrie Festival in Okemah, by the time August gets here, it's time to start looking ahead to the lineup of festivals that coincide with the highly anticipated cooler weather.

Here are a few of the upcoming festivals on my radar:

MisFEST

Not quite fall, but hopefully more fall-like weather will be in store for this year's MisFEST: Music is She and She is Music Sept. 14 at Guthrie Green.

This is year three for the one-day festival that celebrates women in music by providing a platform to help women succeed in the music industry. This year, MisFEST is moving from River West Festival

Park to Guthrie Green in downtown Tulsa. The lineup is still forthcoming, but if it's on par with the last two years, which featured acts like Branjae, The Golden Ones, Lauren Barth, Nightingale, Rachel Bachman, Lincka, Faye Moffett, and more, you won't be disappointed. Check out MisFest.com for more information.

Medicine Stone

This is year seven for the premier Red Dirt music experience. With a lineup hand picked by festival founders Jason Boland (Jason Boland and the Straglers) and Evan Felker (Turnpike Troubadores), the festival draws thousands of Red Dirt fans from all over the country for three days of music and camping along the Illinois River.

In addition to the annual appearance by the organizers, Jason Boland and Turnpike Troubadores, this year's lineup includes Parker McColum, Todd Snider, Cody Canada and the Departed, John Fullbright, American Aquarium, and many more.

The seventh annual Medicine Stone will be held Sept. 20-22 at Diamondhead Resort in Tahlequah. For the full lineup, visit medicinestoneok.com.



VIVA LA TULSA SOUND: Paul Benjamin, pictured here at a recent Fourth of July gig, is taking his three-piece band to France for a three-week tour in July.



MEDICINE STONE: Ben Han of Red Dirt Rangers entertains fans from across the country at last year's Medicine Stone Festival at Diamondhead Resort on the banks of the Illinois River. This year's festival, held at Diamondhead again, runs Sept. 20-22.

Stone River

Medicine Stone is not the only must-see festival being held the first weekend of Autumn. Sept. 20-22 is also the date of the 10th Annual Stone River Festival, held on 40 acres of private wooded land three miles north of Chandler, Oklahoma.

Stone River, which features a playground and other play areas for children is a more family friendly gathering than the aforementioned Medicine Stone Festival. It's a weekend of grassroots music, showcasing primarily Oklahoma bands/musicians, as well as food trucks, and arts and crafts vendors that the whole family can enjoy. A portion of the proceeds from this year's festival will be donated to the Little Light House in Tulsa, an organization that provides aid and support for young children with physical and mental challenges.

MOJOFest

Tulsan Jamie Oldaker and his wife Mary, along with the legendary Church Studio are hosting the

third annual MOJOFest on Oct. 5. This year's festival, held in the Pearl District of Tulsa, just off Leon Russell Road at 3rd Street and South Trenton Avenue, comes on the heels of Oldaker reuniting with his old bandmate Eric Clapton, which will happen Sept. 20-21 at the Crossroads Festival in Dallas. And while Oldaker's MOJOFest lineup may not compare with Crossroads in terms of star power, the Tulsa Sound Pioneer puts his musical connections to use to book acts from around the country, as well as some local favorites.

Oldaker's original Sand Springs band, the Rogues Five are expected to play, as is John Fullbright, The Subduces out of New Orleans, and, the High Priestess of Soul herself, Ann Bell.

MOJOFest benefits Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless, so go to facebook.com/MOJOFestTulsa/ and get your tickets. It's good music for a good cause.

Brad James: At Fellowship Hall

No, that's not the name of a Fall festival. I'm switching topics before I run out of room to give a quick shout out to Brad James Band for recently completing the studio album, Brad James Band at Fellowship Hall Sound in Little Rock Arkansas, a recording studio famous for great sound engineering and one of the best two-inch analog tape machines in this part of the country.

The official release date is Aug. 9, but you can preorder your digital album, cd or vinyl today. Congratulations to Brad James and the rest of the band. I can't wait to hear the full album. You can listen to one track and preorder the album at bradjamesbandtulsa.com.

Stay cool out there music fans. It won't be long before cooler temperatures arrive, inspiring us all to get outside and keep searching, keep listening.

Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL

and camping along the Illinois River.

In addition to the annual appearance by the organizers, Jason Boland and Turnpike Troubadores, this year's lineup includes Parker McColum, Todd Snider, Cody Canada and the Departed, John Fullbright, American Aquarium, and many more.

The seventh annual Medicine Stone will be held Sept. 20-22 at Diamondhead Resort in Tahlequah. For the full lineup, visit medicinestoneok.com.



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DINING OUT IN GREATER TULSA

Tulsa Club Chamber an Impressive Downtown Addition

Local Dining

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Writer

Downtown Tulsa's Deco District welcomed a long-time friend back to the neighborhood, with the reopening of the revitalized Tulsa Club Hotel, 115 E. 5th St., which opened in May of this year. The hotel's restaurant, Chamber, opened in mid-June.

Tulsa Club's history began when it was founded in 1925 as a high-society club for wealthy oil barons. It moved into the Tulsa Club building after construction was completed in 1927. The club continued to be profitable for many decades until economic decline caused it to close its doors in 1994.

However, after the purchase of the shuttered building by the Ross Group, it is experiencing a rebirth as a boutique hotel in a revitalized downtown.

The Chamber restaurant is located slightly below the hotel's main entrance level. The restaurant also has its own entrance near the corner of 5th Street and Cincinnati Avenue.

Chamber opens daily for breakfast and remains open for lunch and through the evening hours.

Its dinner menu features appetizers, soups and salads, and entrees, plus a la carte sides.

I started with the drink menu, which features a number of specialty cocktails. I chose the First Lady - grapefruit vodka, St. Germain, prosecco. This drink, the bartender said, is very popular and, I learned, for good reason. It comes with edible flowers in an ice cube; it's a beautiful drink both for the eyes and the tastebuds, refreshing and effervescent.

For our appetizers, we chose both the Fried Pimento Cheese and Shrimp Cocktail Tostados.

If you like cheese and pimentos, you will like the Fried Pimento Cheese. The app is pretty straight



SEARED SCOTTISH SALMON: One of Chamber's seafood entrees, topped with warm spinach, cherry tomatoes and roasted cauliflower. Other entree offerings include filet mignon, ribeye, lobster tail and pork chops.

forward: two cheese balls with nice seasonings and jalapeño pepper jelly to add moistness.

The tostados were delectably delicious. I could have done with another plate of them. The combination of shrimp, guacamole and cocktail sauce make for a beautiful flavor, sitting atop a tostado and a bed of micro greens. A refreshing combination.

For our entrees, we chose the Seared Scottish Salmon and the Pepper Lavender Seared Ahi Tuna Salad.

The salmon had a skin that I needed to take off, but after that was done, the warm spinach, cherry tomatoes and roasted cauliflower combined for a tasty flavor complimented nicely by the fennel apple relish and pomegranate balsamic.

My partner ordered the Ahi Tuna Salad, with well done tuna. Her reason for ordering the dish was on our server's recommendation due to the dish featuring edible flowers and also the lavender flavoring. Yet, the dish had no noticeable lavender flavor nor edible flowers. (We later found out that



TASTY OFFERINGS: The First Lady, a popular Chamber cocktail made of grapefruit vodka, St. Germain and prosecco, complete with an ice cube filled with edible flowers, sits next to shrimp cocktail tostados.

they had run out of the flowers.) Despite all of that, the dish still had a very enjoyable flavor with its combination of mixed greens,



CHAMBER WELCOME: Chamber General Manager Chelsea Hill and Assistant General Manager Clint Walker welcome guests to the restaurant of the Tulsa Club Hotel, 115 E. 5th St. The chamber's art deco interior pays homage to its history. In the background is the restaurant's bar that looks out onto Cincinnati Avenue.



GTR Newspapers photo

red onion, berries, cucumber and almonds. The flavors were memorable and made us want to try the dish again when all of its ingredi-

ents are in stock. Dinner reservations at the Chamber are encouraged. To make a reservation, call 918-582-5722.

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PSO Contributes to Adaptive Sports Complex

AEP Foundation Donates \$150,000 to The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges

A \$150,000 gift that contributed to the building of an adaptive sports complex at Tulsa's Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges was recognized June 27 during a special ceremonial "big check" presentation at The Center.

The gift from the American Electric Power Foundation (AEP Foundation) was presented by Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) President and Chief Operating Officer Peggy Simmons. PSO is a subsidiary of AEP.

"On behalf of the AEP Foundation, PSO is pleased and honored to formally recognize The Center for the great work it does to address the needs of those who have physical challenges," said Simmons. "The Center's efforts relate directly to one of our core values, which is inclusion, and how our entire community benefits when we seek to provide opportunities that enhance quality of life for everyone."

The AEP Foundation's contribution was part of a capital campaign launched in 2014 that raised more than \$12 million. The result of the campaign is

the 37,000-square-foot Hardesty Family Adaptive Sports Complex, which opened earlier this year on the northeast corner of 11th Street and Utica Avenue, adjacent to The Center's main facility at 8th Street and Utica Avenue.

"The Center is incredibly thankful to the entire community of supporters who contributed to this campaign. Through the addition of The Hardesty Adaptive Sports Complex, The Center will not only enhance many of our services, but we will be able to expand our reach as well, most notably through the opportunity to serve physically challenged children and youth through summer camps and after-school programs," said Lori A. Long, executive director at The Center.

"We are most grateful for our relationship with the AEP Foundation and Public Service Company of Oklahoma. Their generosity in the Tulsa metro area and support of at-risk and underserved populations truly reflects their value of 'putting passion into action, improving the lives of people living in the communities we serve.' It is because of supporters like them that we can improve the quality



APPRECIATIVE GIFT: Lori Long, executive director of The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges, second from right, shows her appreciation for the gift from the AEP Foundation and PSO. At right in the photo is Peggy Simmons, PSO president and chief operating officer. The additional five in the photo are, from left, Sean Kouplen, Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce; Jeff Brown, PSO manager for consumer programs, and lead for PSO's ADAPT Employee Resource Group; Tiffini Jackson, PSO vice president for external affairs; State Senator David Rader, Tulsa; and Tom McPherson, AEP IT manager in Tulsa and a board member at The Center.

of life for many Tulsans, while building a community that fosters hope, health and humanity," added Long.

In addition to the AEP Foundation gift, The Center earned nearly \$21,000 in PSO rebates for energy efficiency, and plans to use the

funds to continue retrofitting various aspects of its facilities that will qualify for additional rebates and provide ongoing energy savings.

OKLAHOMA HEART INSTITUTE AND HILLCREST MEDICAL CENTER HONOR TWO LONG-TIME VOLUNTEERS AND WW II VETERANS



GREAT CITIZENS: In recognition of the 75th anniversary of D-Day, Oklahoma Heart Institute and Hillcrest Medical Center honored two longtime volunteers and World War II Navy veterans, Morris Neighbors and Melvin Rippetoe. Mr. Rippetoe, hospital corpsman, volunteers at Oklahoma Heart Institute and has been a volunteer within Hillcrest since 1995; and Mr. Neighbors, Radarman 2nd class, has volunteered at Hillcrest for 20 years and works at its fitness center. In the photo at left are, from left, hospital volunteer and veteran Melvin Rippetoe; in the center standing, Kevin Nowak, Oklahoma Heart Institute CEO; and at right is hospital volunteer and veteran Morris Neighbors. In the photo at right, Hillcrest personnel and visitors welcome Melvin Rippetoe and Morris Neighbors.



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EDUCATION

Oklahoma Fund for Teachers Announces Grant In Honor of Teacher of the Year Donna Gradel

B.A. Teacher is a Top-Four Finalist For National Teacher of the Year

The Oklahoma Fund for Teachers has announced the establishment of an annual teacher professional development grant in honor of Broken Arrow High School environmental science teacher Donna Gradel, the current reigning Oklahoma Teacher of the Year and a top-four finalist for National Teacher of the Year.

Gradel, a two-time Fund for Teachers fellow, was honored at a recent reception at the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics in Oklahoma City. The event was hosted by the national Fund for Teachers, the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence and the Tulsa Community Foundation, which partner to administer Oklahoma Fund for Teachers grants.

Gradel received a framed certificate announcing the fund, which will provide a professional development opportunity for an Oklahoma teacher who, like Gradel, is "helping students become problem solvers and world changers."

During the reception, Gradel shared how her Fund for Teachers fellowships to Kenya in 2012 and 2015 helped lay the groundwork for student projects to provide clean water and high protein foods for children suffering from protein deficiency. She described how she engaged students in

problem-solving design projects and took student groups to Kenya to build a large-scale aquaponics system and, later, a fish-food system. Last summer, she returned to Kenya with a third student group to build a chicken coop and chicken-food harvesting facility. Her students are now preparing for a large-scale production of low-cost sustainable fish and chicken food with the goal of helping thousands of children suffering from protein deficiency.

"My students who worked on these projects and those who were able to travel to Kenya will never be the same," Gradel said. "Their trajectory in life has changed. They have the mindset that they can make a difference in the world. They have the confidence and grit it takes to work on solving relevant real-world problems."

The Fund for Teachers Reception also recognized a new tribal alliance comprised of the Chickasaw Nation, Cherokee Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation who are helping support grants for 27 teachers through the 2019 Oklahoma Fund for Teachers Program.

"The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence recognizes the tremendous positive influence Na-

tive American tribes are to our state's educational endeavors," said Foundation President Cathryn Render, explaining that the foundation reached out to tribes with the goal of encouraging teachers with Native American tribal membership to apply for Fund for Teachers fellowships. "We are very proud of these five founding members for stepping up to recognize the value of the amazing Fund for Teachers program. And of course, we are delighted that over 23 percent of the fellows selected this year were indeed tribal members."

Gradel also thanked the Tribal Alliance for the investment they are making in Oklahoma teachers. "You are going to get an amazing return on that investment in the form of greater engagement in the classroom and greater learning potential for our students."

Since 2002, more than 1,000 Oklahoma teachers have received Fund for Teachers grants totaling over \$3.6 million, providing self-designed summer professional development experiences in the United States and around the world. In 2006, Oklahoma became the first state in the nation to offer grants to educators statewide when the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence



Courtesy photo

DONNA GRADEL FUND FOR TEACHERS: Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence President Cathryn Render (left) and Executive Director Emily Stratton (right) join Fund for Teachers Executive Director Karen Webb (second from right) in presenting a certificate to Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Donna Gradel announcing the establishment of an annual "Donna Gradel Fund for Teachers Fellowship," which will provide a grant to an Oklahoma teacher who, like Gradel, is helping students become problem solvers and world changers. Gradel teaches environmental science at Broken Arrow High School.

joined the national Fund for Teachers and the Tulsa Community Foundation as state partners. Fund for Teachers fellowships empower teachers to explore their academic passions, deepen their scholarship and enhance their craft, said Karen Webb, executive director of the national Fund for Teachers.

"Through experiential learning, bold experimentation and the realization of personal ambition, teachers are better equipped to

impart tools and skills which serve their students far beyond the boundaries of the classroom," Webb said. "Fund for Teachers knows that good teachers become great teachers when they have the resources to explore their subject matter in the real world and translate it to their students and communities."

For information on the Fund for Teachers program and 2019 fellows, visit www.fundforteachers.org.

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Tulsa Regional Chamber Celebrates Ribbon Cutting For Tulsa Tech Industry Training Center at Lemley

On a bright, sunny June afternoon, dignitaries, elected officials and guests from throughout the Tulsa area recently celebrated a ribbon cutting for Tulsa Tech's newest facility, the Industry Training Center located at the Tulsa Tech Lemley Memorial campus at 3420 S. Memorial Dr. in Tulsa.

The 12,000-square-foot facility is designed to provide training in three main areas: welding, machining and workplace safety. The Industry Training Center had a "soft" opening last fall and is already buzzing with training for multiple companies.

"This is the first facility that Tulsa Tech has dedicated to customized industry training and will allow for us to serve our business partners 24/7," said Dr.

Steve Tiger, Tulsa Tech Superintendent and CEO. "And the training that is taking place happens almost that often."

Serving approximately 750 companies over the last year, the training center will help to continue and expand the offerings of customized employee training for companies large and small. Fully adapted training opportunities can be achieved at the new facility, one of six campus locations or on-location at the place of business.

"It doesn't matter the size of the company or the industry, the number one thing that we hear about from companies looking to expand or relocate to our region is 'can you help us find an available, skilled, well-trained workforce,'" said Mike Neal, president

and CEO of the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce. "The partnership that we have had with Tulsa Tech and the customized training that it is doing for companies is critically important."

Businesses are one of Tulsa Tech's important stakeholders, as these partners are crucial in the development of curriculum and program opportunities for hiring of new employees through its programs and placement services, and the customized development of training programs for existing employees.

The Industry Training Center is part of a comprehensive remodel of the flagship Lemley campus, established in 1965. The transformation continues with a 199,813-square-foot Client



Photo by Vanessa Azier/Tulsa Tech

GRAND OPENING: Tulsa Tech Superintendent and CEO Dr. Steve Tiger gets ready to cut the ribbon as Tulsa Regional Chamber CEO Mike Neal (fifth from left), elected officials and dignitaries celebrate the opening of Tulsa Tech's new Industry Training Center.

Services Center currently under construction and set to be completed in spring of 2020. Future projects include a full remodel of classrooms, labs and shops throughout the campus.

BTW Graduate Earns Simon Youth Scholarship

Woodland Hills Mall honored Madison Dill, a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, with a \$1,500 scholarship check presentation in July. The scholarship is provided by Simon Youth Foundation, a national nonprofit that champions educational opportunities for students of all backgrounds. Each year, SYF awards a scholarship to a deserving student who lives within 50 miles of a Simon property.

Dill plans to attend Oklahoma State University this fall. Throughout her high school career, she was involved in several activities including the Spanish Club, Girls Rise Club, National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, National Hispan-

ic Honor Society and was co-editor of the yearbook. She was also very active in her church, serving as a member of the Chapel Choir, Bell Choir and United Methodist Women.

Simon Youth Foundation is a national nonprofit committed to helping students reach graduation day. SYF works toward this mission by partnering with local public school districts to launch Simon Youth Academies, alternative classroom settings located primarily in Simon Malls that provide students at risk of dropping out with the personalized support needed to reach graduation day, and by providing Simon Youth Scholarships to graduating seniors who live near Simon

centers. Since its inception, SYF has maintained a 90 percent graduation rate at its 35 Simon Youth Academies in 15 states, helping more than 17,000 students earn their high school diplomas, and has awarded \$17 million in scholarships. Visit syf.org to learn more.

Woodland Hills Mall is a 2-level, 1 plus million square-foot, super regional shopping center anchored by Dillard's, JC Penney and Macy's. The center features more than 120 fine stores, including over 60 stores unique to Tulsa. Among Woodland Hills Mall's amenities are a carousel, a children's play area, a glass elevator and a food court with selections to suit everyone's tastes.



GTR Newspapers photo

EDUCATIONAL AWARD: Madison Dill, right, is all smiles as she displays her scholarship check from the Simon Youth Foundation at the center Court of Woodland Hills Mall in July. At left is Eileen Neighbors of Woodland Hills Mall.

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TPS NEWS

TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS HONORED BY THE OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE



OLIVIA PORTER: Booker T. Washington High School teacher Lindsey Manduano (left) congratulates Olivia Porter, an Academic All-Stater from Tulsa, during the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Academic Awards Banquet, held recently in Tulsa. Porter, a 2019 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, was among 100 outstanding seniors from Oklahoma public schools who were honored by the foundation as Academic All-Staters. She received an Academic All-State scholarship sponsored by American Heritage Bank. The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence is a statewide nonprofit organization that recognizes and encourages academic excellence in Oklahoma's public schools. Manduano, a Spanish teacher, was Porter's honored teacher guest at the banquet.

RICHARD HASEGAWA: Alana Hughes (left), Tulsa Grantmaking director with the Charles and Lynne Schusterman Family Foundation, congratulates Richard Hasegawa, an Academic All-Stater from Tulsa, during the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Academic Awards Banquet. Hasegawa, a 2019 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, was among 100 outstanding seniors from Oklahoma public schools who were honored by the foundation as Academic All-Staters. He received an Academic All-State scholarship sponsored by the Schusterman Family Foundation.



HARPER MCINTYRE: Thomas A. Edison Preparatory High School teacher Kyler Phillips (right) congratulates Harper McIntyre, an Academic All-Stater from Tulsa, during the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Academic Awards Banquet. McIntyre, a 2019 graduate of Thomas A. Edison Preparatory High School, was among 100 outstanding seniors from Oklahoma public schools who were honored by the foundation as Academic All-Staters. She received an Academic All-State scholarship sponsored by the Meshri Family of Catoosa. Phillips, a calculus teacher, was McIntyre's honored teacher guest at the banquet.

NIKITH KURELLA: Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence trustee Judy Kishner (second from right), her husband Tom Kishner (right), and Booker T. Washington High School teacher Jason Abercrombie (left) congratulate Nikith Kurella, an Academic All-Stater from Tulsa, during the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Academic Awards Banquet, held recently in Tulsa. Kurella, a 2019 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, was among 100 outstanding seniors from Oklahoma public schools who were honored by the foundation as Academic All-Staters. He received an All-State scholarship sponsored by the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation, for which Judy Kishner also serves as a trustee. Abercrombie, a math teacher, was Kurella's honored teacher guest at the banquet.

MIDTOWN SPORTS

Coach Embrey Sees Success for BTW Players

By MIKE MOGUIN
GTR Sports Writer

After leading Booker T. Washington to a pair of state titles in girls' soccer in her two seasons as coach, Kassie Embrey has left to take the same position at Broken Arrow.

Embrey said that leaving Booker T. was hard. In a recent interview, she made her love for her players and the administration known. Seven players graduated from the 2019 squad, including three, Ashton Gordon, Lauren Cousins and Zoe Athens, who are bound to play at the college level.

Gordon and Athens each had a goal in BTW's 5-3 win over Bishop Kelley in the Class 5A title game in May. Cousins scored the only goal to give the Lady Hornets a 1-0 win over Cascia Hall in the 2018 title game. Embrey sees

great success for the trio.

"They're all three great players. I think they will get out of it what they put into it. If they put 100 percent into it, then I think they're going to be extremely successful and go far," she said. "I know Ashton's goal is to play for the U.S. Women's National Team. That is why she is leaving a year early to go get that D-I experience. Ashton is one of those girls who sets a goal and works her butt off until she reaches it. So, I see that for her."

Gordon is headed for Arkansas.

"Zoe is going to NOC-Tonkawa. She is more about 'let's still play soccer because we love it and we've done it, but also, let's have some fun at college,'" Embrey said. "And she's being roommates with one of her best friends. I think she'll get 100 percent out of what she puts into it is



Courtesy of Broken Arrow High School Athletics

CHAMPIONSHIP COACH: Kassie Embrey coached BTW to two state championships in girls soccer before moving on to B.A.

what they'll get out of it. Lauren is going to Rockhurst (in Kansas City, Mo.) and she doesn't know anybody, so I think her plan is like soccer-oriented as well. But I think all three will be successful if they want it, they will be," she added.

Before she came to BTW, Embrey was an assistant at Bishop Kelley for one season, helping the Lady Comets win the Class 5A title in 2017.

"I worked for Troy Takarchik (head girls coach at Kelley), who at the time had 14 state championships. He asked me to come work for him and I thought, 'who better to learn from than someone with that much success running programs and winning state.' And I worked with him and we won state," Embrey said.

It was Takarchik who helped Embrey get the job at Booker T.

"He's the one that helped put my name in for that job and I went there and was able to win two championships back-to-back while I was there as the head coach. It was awesome," she said.

Interestingly, her last championship came against Takarchik and Kelley.

"I was excited," Embrey said. "I would say that if we didn't win I wouldn't have had a problem with him winning. I still respect him as a coach like tons, but, yes, it was exciting to go from learning from him to being able to compete with him at the same level that he coaches and being able to win."

"Finding her was like a diamond in the rough," BTW Athletic Director Brad Calip said of Embrey. Calip said that he is currently looking at resumes while finding a candidate to take over the BTW girls soccer program.

Tulsa Promotes Crissy Strimple to Head Softball Coach

The University of Tulsa has named former Golden Hurricane slugger Crissy Strimple as the school's sixth head softball coach, Vice President and Director of Athletics Derrick Gragg announced recently. Strimple has spent 14 seasons in the Tulsa dugout as a player and coach, including the last eight seasons as the associate head coach.

During her time with the Golden Hurricane, TU student-athletes earned 64 all-conference honors, 29 NFCA All-Region laurels and six NFCA All-America awards. The program amassed 464 wins, five regular-season conference titles, six conference tournament crowns and 10 NCAA Regional appearances.

"It is an honor to accept the posi-

tion of head softball coach at The University of Tulsa," Strimple said. "Sincere and heartfelt thanks to Dr. Gragg and Crista Troester for trusting me with this opportunity. Coaching the Golden Hurricane has been a dream of mine since I played here in 2003. The university and City of Tulsa hold a special place in my heart and to represent both is an honor."

"Many thanks to John Bargfeldt, my mentor and friend for life, for his guidance over the last 12 seasons. Coaching under John, I have learned so much about the game and how to do things the right way. His influence on Tulsa softball will endure for a long time to come. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. I am excited to assume my new role and, with the help of my coaching staff and student-athletes, I look forward to continuing and building upon our winning tradition."

"As a 12-year assistant who has helped build the TU softball program both as a coach and student-athlete, Crissy is the ideal person to take over as head coach," Gragg said. "She has demonstrated an outstanding ability in all aspects needed to be a successful head coach at the highest level of collegiate softball. Crissy's attributes in coaching and recruiting, as well as her loyalty, work ethic and commitment to her Alma Mater make her the perfect fit in continuing the success of Tulsa softball."

"Crissy has been a loyal and great assistant for me for a number of years and I am very excited that she is getting this well-deserved opportunity," former TU head coach Bargfeldt said, adding "I always thought of Crissy as the heir-apparent with the way she has been so loyal to the university and to me. I am confident that she will continue to give the program nothing but her utmost effort and dedication. I wish her nothing but the very best in her new role."

Strimple graduated from TU in 2003 with a degree in exercise sports science before she earned her master's degree in education with emphasis on sports administration from Arkansas in 2006



Courtesy The University of Tulsa

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SPORTS

D.J. Dean Follows His Dream with Roughnecks

Union Graduate Leaves College for Pro Career

By **GLENN HIBDON**
GTR Sports Writer

Dominique Jeremias Dean, better known as D.J., wakes up every morning thankful for the opportunity he's been given. The 20-year-old Tulsa is determined not to waste it.

Whenever Dean dwells on becoming a professional soccer player seemingly overnight, he pauses to reflect on how it could all go away in a heartbeat.

"I know a lot of players my age would love to be in my position," said Dean, an attacker for the Tulsa Roughnecks of the United Soccer League. "Every day I go out and practice and think about that. It keeps me focused and working hard. I know at any time there are kids out there who can take my place."

"I'm just trying to enjoy my time going from no experience at all to playing pro soccer. It's been a mental adjustment playing with these guys, knowing this is what they do (full time for a living)."

Dean's road to the professional ranks began at Union High School. After becoming an all-state performer playing on "the best team in the state" as a senior, he traveled to the University of Central Arkansas. Attending the school's preseason camp, he decided the college route wasn't for him.

"My goal was to play professional soccer and in college I felt like the players were so young, I might as well take the opportunity now to play pro," Dean said. "At first I looked overseas, but then I got in with the Roughnecks and went to their combine. It went well and they invited me to preseason camp last year. I played in a couple of preseason games and they signed me."

Voila! Just like that, Dean is a pro ready to follow his dream. However, finding his niche with the Roughnecks has been another journey in itself. Dean played in 14 games last year in the team's disastrous three-win season. In 2019 he started the team's season opener, only to be injured and miss the next couple of outings.

After returning to the lineup, Dean suffered a shin contusion and was sidelined for a month. As of mid-June, he still had not scored his first goal as a Roughneck.

"It's been frustrating, very frustrating watching from the sidelines," said Dean, who played a full 90 minutes for the first time in his career against El Paso on June 15. "I've gone through a lot of rehab and I'm just now getting back to form. I feel good physically, but I'm not 100 percent fit. I don't have any bumps or bruises, but my endurance is still missing."

While Dean awaits the full return of his physical tools, he reflected on his athletic roots and where they could have led him. Soccer was not his first love.



Courtesy Tulsa Roughnecks

HOMEGROWN STAR: D.J. Dean hopes to help lead the Tulsa Roughnecks to a future championship.

"Basketball was the first sport I tried. My dad played college basketball in Wichita," Dean said. "I found out I was too short and it just wasn't my thing. My mom decided to sign me up for youth soccer and right away I knew it was the sport for me. I think my quickness and skill and patience made me a better soccer player than basketball."

Dean played youth soccer for "every single team in Tulsa" and started as a freshman at Union. Ironically, he even played for current Roughnecks coach Mike Nsien on one youth team.

"I think I played well for him, but he doesn't do me any favors now," said Dean. "He makes it 10 times harder for me knowing the potential I have. If you work

hard and do what he says, he will reward you. There is nothing more than I can ask of him as a coach. He has grit and works hard and he really cares about the team. He really wants us to win."

There is one more hidden hero who wants Dean and the Roughnecks to triumph. Flor Dean, D.J.'s mother.

"Growing up, she was a single mother raising two kids and going to school. That really motivated me," said Dean, who has up to 20 family members and friends at every Roughnecks home game. "She gave me inspiration by her example that hard work will pay off. She supported me in whatever I was doing and missed only one game my whole life. If I ever hit it big, the first thing I'm going to do is make sure she is set for life."

Dean wants to pay it forward as an example for Tulsa Soccer Club players. He wants to show them that it's possible to become a professional soccer player. "You're only one step away."

In the meantime, the 5-foot-9 winger hopes to propel Tulsa into the USL playoffs this year. The 2018 campaign led to the coaching staff's firing during the season. Nsien took charge, leading the

Roughnecks to all three of their season victories.

"The team didn't mesh together well and it didn't play the style the coach wanted," said Dean, the only 2018 player retained by the Roughnecks this year. "In our meetings before this season he (Nsien) said I had a lot of potential and he wanted to bring me back and that's a good feeling. I have the potential to play in a bigger league and every kid wants that. It's a dream to play for the national team and in the World Cup."

Dean's chance at international stardom begins in Tulsa and leading the Roughnecks to USL success could be the catalyst.

"We've got a lot of work to do. We've got to have the guts and the heart," said Dean, who lists Ronaldinho as his hero. "I think we have a productive team that passes well and we're very smart, but our attitude has to change. We were too comfortable by winning so much early in the season. We've slowed a little bit."

"My goals this year are to score a lot of goals, help the team win and make a name for myself. I want to put Tulsa on the map."

One thing is certain. Dean, Tulsa's homegrown star, knows how lucky he is to have the chance.

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Metro Christian Girls Repeat as 4A Tennis Champs

Four Patriot Players Won Individual Titles

By **MIKE MOGUIN**
GTR Sports Writer

Metro Christian repeated as state champions in girls' tennis when it won the Class 4A meet in Oklahoma City.

The Lady Patriots finished with 33 points. Another Tulsa area private school, Regent Prep, was second with 22. Four Metro players won individual titles.

Sophomore Lauren Michalcik won the No. 1 singles championship with a 7-5, 6-3 win against Beth Bayless of Regent Prep. Freshman Grace Deiningner was victorious in the No. 2 singles final, 6-2, 6-1, against Taryn Clark of Christian Heritage, and sisters Hallie and Lauren Sutton, senior and sophomore, respectively, finished as the No. 2 doubles champions by winning over Aubrey Colombe and Treity Miller of Byng, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Sophomore Emma McNeese and junior Arden Row contributed to the cause, placing third in No. 1 doubles.

"I love playing with my team and I was so proud of all of them, that we won again," Michalcik said.

"It's really cool," Deninger said. Michalcik and Deninger swept through their sets en route to their titles.

However, the Sutton sisters were dealt with adversity when they dropped their first set before rallying to win the next two.

"We had to reset and we did a lot better," Lauren Sutton said.

"There was a lot of mental distractions because we were both really nervous and worked up," said Hallie Sutton, who played

later at the All-State games. "We both had to sit back and play the best we can."

That they did and out came the victories.

"It's really awesome, because we're so close," Lauren Sutton said.

"When you win with your sister, it is something special and I will always have it as a memory to tell in going forward," Hallie Sutton said. "It is something I'll never forget."

When Hallie Sutton plays at All-State, she will be wrapping up her tennis career as she prepares for college at Oklahoma State.

"I'll definitely remember the people and especially how challenging it was to get this last state (title)," Hallie Sutton said. "It was fun for all of us."

This marks Metro's fourth state championship in girls tennis. In addition to capturing the title last year, it won championships in 2012 and 2013. Having also won last year, Metro has captured state both years in Emily Points' tenure as coach. A few of the girls believe the program is on the verge of becoming something special.

"I love being part of a team," Michalcik said. "I love that I have the opportunity to play with all of them here and I definitely think it is growing."

"I think in the past couple of years, we've had more people come into the program that actually care about tennis," Row said. "Not just as an extracurricular activity, but people who actually put in time and effort, and I think that's still continuing."

"Everybody puts in a lot of time playing tennis. They don't

limit it to just school," McNeese said. "They'll play at tennis clubs and put in a lot of effort multiple times per week."

Metro will try to win a third consecutive title next spring. But it will be harder since it will be moving up to Class 5A, where Tulsa's Bishop Kelley won this year.

"It will be more challenging, but at least we have some good players coming up," Lauren Sutton said.

"I think we can (compete in 5A)," Roe said. "We just have to work on our mental games and let (foes) know we're not defeated."

"I'll just practice hard through the summer until next year," Michalcik said. "So it will be tougher competition and a lot more challenging."

Area Private School Athletics – Quick Hits

Bishop Kelley won the tennis state championships in Class 5A. The girls won their title with 33 points, pacing ahead of runner-up Cascia Hall by 27 points. Top-seeded sisters Reagan, senior and ORU signee, and sophomore Kate Miley respectively won the No. 1 and No. 2 singles championships. Sophomore Aubrey Bailey and junior Bailey Wollmershauser captured the No. 2 doubles title. On the boys' side, the Comets shared the title with Oklahoma City Heritage Hall as each school finished with 27 points. The No. 2-seeded team of seniors Matthew Gawey and Zac Vaughn repeated as No. 2 doubles champion.

Kelley also won state in Class 5A boys soccer, as it blanked OKC Northeast Classen in the title game. Sophomore Cooper



Metro Christian Athletics

CELEBRATION: The MCA Patriot girls tennis team celebrates winning the Class 4A state championship at the Oklahoma City Tennis Center. From left are freshman Grace Deninger, sophomore Lauren Michalcik, senior Hallie Sutton, junior Arden Rowe, sophomore Lauren Sutton and sophomore Emma McNeese.

King and senior Austin Rodgers scored the goals.

Kelley also had a pair of individual state champions in girls track and field. Seniors Tess Crosley and Sadie Boos respectively won the 3,200-meter run (11:59.24) and the shot put (42-11½) in mid-May at the Class 5A meet in Moore.

Junior Nate Gibson won the

1,600-meter run for Lincoln Christian in the Class 4A meet in Catoosa. He ran a time of 4:27.09.

Holland Hall had two champions in track at the Class 3A meet. Junior Carrington Jackson-Jones won the girls' 100-meter run with a time of 12.25 and junior Jake Martens won the boys' 400-meter run with a time of 49.75.

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Chili Bowl to Stay in Tulsa Through 2034

SPORTS

Officials from the city of Tulsa and Expo Square joined Emmett Hahn recently to announce a long-term deal to keep the Chili Bowl Nationals at the Tulsa Fairgrounds Expo Center through 2034. The agreement is the longest ever approved by the fair board.

The board also approved new grandstands on the north and south side of the racetrack. To mark the occasion the announcement was attended by Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell and other Oklahoma dignitaries. The annual winter event pumps millions into the Tulsa economy each year.

The upcoming Chili Bowl Nationals will take place on January 13-18, 2020.



READY TO ROLL: Midget racing cars will be ready to race in the upcoming Chili Bowl Nationals to be held at Expo Square January 13-18, 2020.



HAPPY SIGNING: Tulsa County Commissioner Stan Sallee, left, is all smiles as race promoter Emmett Hahn signs the agreement to keep the Lucas Oil Chili Bowl at Tulsa's Expo Square through 2034.

Tulsa Tough Continues to Receive National Attention

Editor's Note: Much of the information in this article is courtesy of Wikipedia

Saint Francis Tulsa Tough Ride and Race again was a successful event in June. The three-day festival features non-competitive riding through scenic areas around the Tulsa metropolitan area and professional level races. It is held each year on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the second weekend in June.

Saint Francis Tulsa Tough attracts professional and amateur racers from across the country racing criterium style races on three different venues in the streets of Downtown Tulsa and along the Arkansas River. Prize money rivals the largest purses in the nation. The quality of the venues and the top level race operation already has professional teams making Tulsa an important stop on their annual racing schedules.

In 2008, Tulsa Tough's women's pro races were selected by U.S.A. Cycling to be on the prestigious National Racing Calendar. Based on voting by racers, race officials, and announcers, Tulsa Tough was ranked in the top 10 out of 30 NRC races in only its third year. With this proven success, the



GOING UP: Tulsa Tough riders head up the famous Cry Baby Hill to the east of Riverside Drive in Tulsa.



COMING DOWN: Tulsa Tough riders head to Riverside Drive on their way to Cry Baby Hill.

men's and women's races were again on the National Racing Calendar for 2019 and after the event were ranked in the top four among all NRC events. Top professional cycling teams plan their domestic racing schedules around NRC events, assuring a high level of national attention on the hosting events.

Saint Francis Tulsa Tough offers two days of tour rides with 50 km, 100 km, 200 km, and 100 mi options each day covering nearly

400 miles of Northeast Oklahoma hills and scenery. All routes feature aid stations and rolling support for riders of all sizes and abilities. The tour rides are expected to grow to well over 5,000 riders as cycling enthusiasts discover the challenging, epic riding available in Oklahoma's Green Country.

Saint Francis Tulsa Tough has received national attention from major cycling publications and continues to be a topic on cycling

forums and in the media.

It is jointly promoted by the Tulsa Sports Commission and Tulsa Wheelmen and is supported by corporate sponsorship. Guidance for the event comes from an executive committee made up of several Tulsa area cyclists and business people.

Besides the cycling, there are many fun events for everyone during Tulsa Tough, including kids rides, fun rides and serious criterium racing on the streets

of downtown and along the Arkansas River.

Cry Baby Hill, the last part of the grueling River Parks Criterium race, serves as the annual finale of the race. There, Tulsans line the hill to cheer contestants on, chug beers and parade around in costumes. Although the event began organically, it has grown to become one of the largest parties and social events in the city. Regardless of age or preference, Tulsa Tough is a great experience for everyone.

Cascia Hall Names Head Girls Basketball Coach

Janson Hightower has been made the new head girls' basketball coach and middle school athletic director. Coach Hightower will join his father as a part of the Cascia Hall community where Coach Danny Hightower is a teacher and head boys' basketball coach. Most recently, Coach Hightower served

as head men's basketball coach at Southwestern University where he was named SCAC Coach of the Year in 2019.

Hightower graduated with a BA in Economics and Business with honors from Hendrix College. During his time at Hendrix, he played collegiate basketball

and served as team captain for the 2009-10 season. He led the SCAC in assists in 2009-10. He also led his team in assists in the 2007-10 seasons and steals in 2010. From 2008-2010, he was a SCAC All Academic Team Member. Hightower received his MBA in 2012 from University of Central

Arkansas. "I am excited and honored to join such a prestigious institution as Cascia Hall. I look forward to working with our students and challenging them to work to achieve their best, on and off the court," he said.

Cascia Hall Athletic Director Lindsay Rodgers commented "We

are proud to welcome Coach Hightower to our staff and look forward to his contributions both on and off the court. His wealth of experience will bring great things to girls' basketball and athletic administration." He will inherit a team with three starters including senior standout, Kate Dreyer.

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Original Home Federal Building Has Staying Power

52-Year-Old Structure Being Remodeled

When I was a young architect, I met and worked (through a mutual non-profit volunteer organization) with a remarkable woman, Phyllis Edmonds.

She had recently retired from a long career with Home Federal Savings & Loan (later to become Sooner Federal) where she was one of the first women to break the glass ceiling of upper management to become head of marketing.

One of her most successful projects was the creation of a new company headquarters building at the corner of Fourth Street and Boston Avenue.

Home Federal was founded in 1920 and grew to be one of the largest savings and loan businesses in Oklahoma with more than 28 branches throughout the eastern portion of the state, some of which were designed by my architectural firm.

In 1965, the company purchased the site of the former Pioneer Telephone Building and retained the architectural firm of McCune,

McCune and Associates to design the new Home Federal Savings & Loan Building. The project was completed in 1967.

This building was a handsome 12-story glass curtain wall structure presumed to have been inspired by the Ludwig Mies Vander Rohe's famous 1958 New York Seagram Building on Park Avenue in Manhattan. The McCune brothers (sons of Malcolm McCune who designed Utica Square) had recently designed a major children's wing addition to the Boston Avenue Church, the Shell Building, John Knox Presbyterian Church and had been heavily involved in the design of Tulsa's new Civic Center.

The simplicity of the Home Federal building is striking. Even more so is its color. Its skin was originally bronze aluminum with dark gray glazing and dark gray polished concrete aggregate at its south end. Age and weathering have given the aluminum and concrete exterior a pleasing bronze

green color, which boldly contrasts with buildings nearby.

The restroom and elevator core of this structure was placed at its southern end, unlike the typical center core design of most high-rises. At the exterior, it appears as a separate element, which can be identified by its unbroken wrap of concrete. Beyond this element are five bays of slender aluminum faced columns at the east and west elevations and three bays at the north elevation. Within each bay is a pair of single glazed curtain wall glass panels with bronze colored spandrels. The exterior columns create a strong vertical appearance.

There is no penthouse apartment at the top of this building. Rather there is a VIP conference boardroom suite with a pegged oak plank floor, a large fireplace with a brass and copper hood and 18 foot high walnut wall panels.

Sadly, Home Federal is no more. After the name change to Sooner Federal, in the 1990's the company was taken over by BOK and 4th Finance of Wichita, Kansas. BOK acquired 19 Sooner branches and 4th acquired the other nine. The headquarters building was finally purchased by a development company owned by the Hawkins family. For many years it had a commercial office occupancy. Today the interior is being remodeled to create a 103-unit hotel to be called Hyatt Place.

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA



Courtesy

ORIGINAL STRUCTURE: The Home Federal Saving and Loan building as it looked when it opened at 400 South Boston Avenue in 1967. Currently the building is being remodeled and will open soon as a Hyatt Place hotel. At the right of the Home Federal building is the Orpheum Theater, a 1,500-seat movie house that opened in 1924 and was torn down in 1970.



Courtesy photo

TULSA FLAVORS: St. John Health System hosted the 26th annual Street Party, Tulsa Flavors, on the campus of St. John Medical Center. From left are Ascension St. John President and CEO Jeff Nowlin, Mindy Nowlin, Event Chairs Dianne and Hastings Siegfried, and Ascension St. John Foundation President Lucky Lamons. Proceeds from the event benefit the St. John Health System Foundation.



Courtesy photo

TU UNCORKED: The University of Tulsa held its annual Uncorked fundraising event this year at Cain's Ballroom. From left are TU graduates and Honorary Chairs Pat ('90) and Paula ('86) Kuykendall, Event Chairs Seth ('03) and Katie ('01, '02) Ahrens and Event Chairs-Elect Kyle ('93) and Ana ('94, '96) Brown.



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THE ECONOMY

Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation Announces Shops at Mother Road Market Development

The Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation announced a new development. Shops at Mother Road Market, located on the southwest corner of 11th Street and Lewis Avenue, will feature five retail spaces that will be filled by a mix of new and established local retail concepts.

Shops at Mother Road Market will offer customers an extended shopping experience in addition to the current retail options inside Mother Road Market, including The Nest, Mythic Press, Decopolis and the Kitchen 66 General Store.

Shop spaces available will range from approximately 575 square feet to 1,500 square feet. Shops at Mother Road Market will also add approximately 32 parking spaces, as well as an additional outdoor patio on the south side of the development. The new development is estimated to open in spring of 2020.

“Through review platforms, social media feedback and personal feedback our team has received, we have recognized that our customer base is interested in additional retail in this area,” said LTFF CEO and President Elizabeth Frame Ellison.

While two of the five spaces for lease will be held for established retail businesses, the remaining three spaces will be filled with startup ventures.

The leasing process for those three spaces will follow a competition format that includes filling out an application, demonstrating proof of concept with a pop-up opportunity at The Vault inside Mother Road Market, taking advantage of partner organization programming, and more.

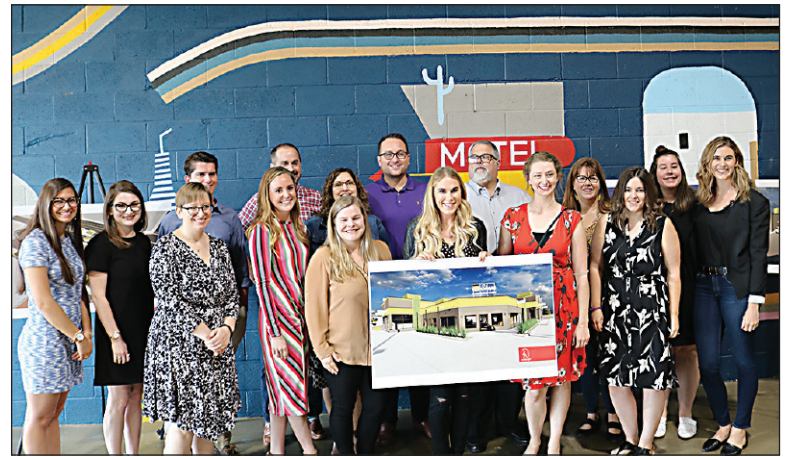
“The Shops leasing competition gives us the opportunity to utilize LTFF’s pipeline of entrepreneurial programming and tie those re-

sources together to launch startup retailers,” said Ellison. “We’re able to offer three competition winners a comprehensive package that features subsidized rent, as well as additional startup resources from complementary programs like Kiva Tulsa and 36 Degrees North.”

The new tenants will be announced in conjunction with the one-year anniversary of Mother Road Market in November. For details on the competition and property renderings, visit www.motherroadmarket.com/shops.

“We envision restoring the vibrancy and innovation to Route 66 in Tulsa, and now with Mother Road Market and Shops at Mother Road Market anchoring those efforts, we feel confident the Route 66 corridor is moving quickly in that direction,” said Ellison.

Those interested in participat-



GTR Newspapers photo

NEW VIEW: Elizabeth Frame Ellison, with her colleagues, holds a drawing of the upcoming Mother Road Market development with colleagues at the Mother Road Market. Ellison currently serves as president and CEO of the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation.

ing in the leasing competition for one of the three start-up spaces, or leasing one of the two spaces re-

served for established businesses should visit www.motherroadmarket.com/shops.

2019 Parade of Homes Another Success

The 2019 Greater Tulsa Parade of Homes, held June 15-23, was a perfect opportunity to discover all that Tulsa area homes have to offer.

Visitors viewed the latest trends and spoke directly to the area’s top builders, all during this unique, free event that showcased the best in new home building.

During the Parade of Homes, over 150 new homes ranging in price from \$150,000 to more than \$1 million were open.

The annual event is presented by the Home Builders Association

of Greater Tulsa and sponsored by Samsung Chef Collection and Pella of Oklahoma. Homes were spread throughout nine different cities in the Tulsa region, from Glenpool to Claremore.

More than 60 local building companies participated in the event, which provides buyers the largest and broadest showcase of new homes and building trends. Buyers explored hundreds of floor plans and viewed the latest innovations in everything from technology to energy efficiency and home decorating ideas. In addition, all

featured builders are members of the Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa, meaning they are experienced, insured, ethical professionals, organizers said.

In addition to homes, the event also highlighted six communities which showcase the trends in Greater Tulsa amenities. The Grand Plans for this year’s event were Stone Canyon and Yorktown. The Regal Plans for this year were Forest Ridge and Winchester Park. For information about this year’s Parade of Homes, see www.tulsahba.com.



GTR Newspapers photo

PARADE OF HOMES WELCOME: Welcoming visitors to the Parade of Homes at a Cobblestone Home in Bixby are Hali McCoy, left, director of marketing and public relations for the Home Builders Association and Tarah Duncan with Metro Appliances and More.

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Tulsa Regional Chamber Volunteers Raise \$3.1 Million During 25th Resource Campaign

The Tulsa Regional Chamber's annual Resource Campaign concluded recently, raising a total of \$3,179,039. During the course of the 10-week campaign, 55 volunteers sold sponsorships to 302 member companies for the Chamber's programs, events, services and publications.

This year marks 25 years of the campaign, which has raised more than \$55 million since its inception in 1995. Campaign revenue makes up nearly 25 percent of the Chamber's annual budget.

"The Resource Campaign is one of the primary ways Chamber members invest in regional economic prosperity," said 2019 Chamber Chair David Stratton, executive vice president of Tulsa corporate banking for BOK Financial. "Funds raised from the campaign enable the Chamber to affect the trajectory of northeast Oklahoma. From partnerships with the public sector on transformative investments like Vision Tulsa and ONEOK Field, to regional collaboration on economic development and legislative advocacy, the impact of the Tulsa-area business community throughout the last quarter of a century is truly remarkable."

The campaign funds the Chamber's member services and pro-

gramming within its four strategic initiatives: economic development, regional tourism, government affairs and community development. Campaign revenue also supports the contributions the Chamber makes to its regional economic development partnership, Tulsa's Future; and the convention and visitors bureau housed at the ChamberVisitTulsa.

Mark Poole, president and COO at First National Bank and Trust of Broken Arrow, led this year's campaign.

"A lot has changed in Tulsa during the last 25 years, but one thing has remained an absolute constant: the commitment and dedication of our campaign volunteers," said Poole. "The success of this campaign is a direct reflection of their commitment. From our humble beginnings raising \$106,000 in 1995 to surpassing \$3 million in 2019, I'm honored to be part of this campaign's history."

Thirty-year Chamber employee Karen Humphrey has managed the campaign since its inception. As campaign executive director, Humphrey coordinates and directs the efforts of campaign volunteers, Chamber leadership and staff each year.

"We would not be celebrating 25



Courtesy Tulsa Regional Chamber

WINNING TEAM: The Tulsa Regional Chamber fund-raising team stands behind a row of illuminated ice sculptures showing the 2019 fund raising total of \$3,179,039. The event was held at the Tulsa Club Hotel June 13. From left are David Stratton, 2019 Tulsa Regional Chamber chair; Mike Neal, Tulsa Regional Chamber president and CEO; Allison Walden, resource development senior vice president; Justin McLaughlin, Chamber executive vice president and COO; Shannon Hicks, resource development administrator; Mark Poole, 2019 Chamber resource campaign chair; and Karen Humphrey, resource campaign executive director.

years of the Resource Campaign without Karen Humphrey," said Mike Neal, president and CEO of the Tulsa Regional Chamber. "She is highly regarded within the chamber industry, as evidenced by the respect she commands among peer chambers and her 2015 in-

duction into the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Executives Hall of Fame. Raising \$3 million in one year is a significant achievement; raising \$55 million during the course of a career is unrivaled. Karen is incredibly special to our organization, and we're thrilled to

celebrate her and her impact this year."

The Tulsa Regional Chamber's Resource Campaign is considered a model program by chamber peers and continues to be one of the largest campaigns of its kind in the nation.

Liquefied Natural Gas is the Global Transformation



Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is fast evolving in international markets. Natural gas, an abundant source of clean energy, has long been considered as an energy option. Oklahoma, from Tulsa to Elk City, will greatly benefit from the LNG international markets. In particular, Russia has dominated the natural gas market, especially in Eastern Europe, for quite some time. Recently, the U.S. has made inroads into the LNG market through its efforts with Poland.

According to Tom DiChristopher, "Poland took another step toward weaning itself off Russian energy supplies in June by signing a 20-year agreement with San Diego-based Sempra Energy to import U.S. liquefied natural gas. The signing marks the third long-term contract the state-controlled Polish Oil and Gas Company, or PGNiG, has inked with an American LNG company this year. In the coming years, War-

saw plans to replace Russian gas with pipeline supplies from Norway and shipments of LNG, or gas super-chilled to liquid form for transport by sea."

In my book, America Needs America's Energy: Creating Together the People's Energy Plan, I emphasize the importance of LNG. In 2012 at the International Energy Policy Conference, which I chaired, Bob Tippee noted: "Always a ravenous importer of oil, the United States was supposed to import a growing amount of methane in the form of LNG. Then, surprise! The country became able to produce all the natural gas it needs, and more.



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

The gas occurs in low-permeability rock strata, especially shales, that hadn't produced much before. Until very recently, no one knew how to make it happen. Now companies are drilling horizontal wells and, in effect, manufacturing the permeability that nature didn't provide with hydraulic fracturing. Suddenly, huge new volumes of natural gas have appeared in pipelines and, more importantly, on the development horizon."

As I have stated, "Natural gas, especially Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), appears to be one of the key areas of dialogue. Natural gas is leading the transition from being

a net importer to a net exporter primarily due to the LNG efforts in the Gulf Coast region. The Sabine Pass operation, operated by Cheniere Energy, has shipped over 175 cargoes to some 25 nations. According to an article in the American Oil and Gas Reporter, "Since U.S. LNG export terminals are contracted with LNG buyers under long term (typically 20-year) purchased agreements, LNG exports represent a stable and growing new demand for domestic natural gas supplies." And the article goes on to state, "In aggregate, the first wave of U.S. LNG export terminals coming on line during the next couple of years is expected to have a total operational capacity of 9.5 Bcf/d."

Among other companies involved in U.S. terminal LNG planning are Dominion Energy, Pacific Summit Energy, Kinder Morgan, GAIL Global, Sempra Energy and Freeport LNG.

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world, needs America's energy and know-how!"

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

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Christy Craig Thames Joins Retrospec Films

By NANCY HERMANN
Variety Editor

Retrospec Films, Oklahoma's largest production studio and Tulsa-based film company, has named Christy Craig Thames as director of client relations. Operating from an expansive 12,000-square-foot facility in Tulsa, Retrospec has grown into a nationally known multi-faceted film company. The addition of Thames to the current staff is another step in expanding Retrospec's client-centered expertise and services.



Photo by TONY LI
CHRISTY CRAIG THAMES

"Relationships are everything in this business," emphasizes Retrospec Owner and Director Jason Burks. "As we grow, we need someone who knows business and scalability — someone who is genuine and engaging. Added to that, Christy's strong appreciation and understanding of the arts and the Tulsa community is a big win."

Thames and her husband, Dustin, are longtime advocates and patrons of the arts. She serves several local non-profits, including Tulsa Symphony's board of directors, the Tulsa Foundation of Architecture's board of trustees, and the advisory board for Harmony Project Tulsa.

With advanced degrees in biochemistry and chemistry from the University of Tulsa, Thames has served in leadership roles that include founding her own biotech company in 2009, leading strategy and business development initiatives for a large international oil and gas firm as well as overseeing brand and public relations for locally owned businesses. Her experience includes the creation and spearheading of marketing, customer and public relations plans and E-Commerce.

Founded by Burks in 2001 and specializing in unique adventure cinematography services, Retrospec has filmed in seven countries and in all 50 states. The company excels in both photography and video. "We tell stories the way they should be told and let our work speak for our passion," says Burks. His team competes with other national film companies in providing pre-production planning, location scouting, talent acquisition, and storyboard and scripting, along with complete film production, post-production and editing. Retrospec also employs a team dedicated to social media content creation and management.

"Creating business and operation strategies that maximize shareholder value and interests are key ways I have helped companies," says Thames. "Developing a company's cultural enrichment through increased civic and community engagement is another important component in the overall success of a company," she adds.

Thames says, "Retrospec Films is transforming the way businesses, products, and organizations share their stories. For me everything begins with establishing a strong understanding of a client's business. That pulse leads to an organic creative strategy where my team and I can share a company's story in a profoundly impactful way for both business and the company culture."

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BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

AVB Bank announces that board member **Neely Kimbrough** was inducted into the 50-Year Club during a special awards brunch at the Oklahoma Bankers Association's 2019 Annual Convention & Trade Show. This honor acknowledged more than five decades of Kimbrough's service to the banking industry.



KIMBROUGH

Kimbrough began his banking career with Arkansas Valley State Bank (AVSB) in 1962 as a lender. Named president in 1966, Kimbrough then assumed the position of chief executive officer in 1984. He served as chairman of the board for 10 years, from 1990 – 2000. Retiring from AVSB in 2000, Kimbrough remained on AVSB's board of directors. AVSB's name was rebranded in 2008 to AVB, and Kimbrough now serves as an AVB board member.

Kimbrough stated, "Banking is a people business, and trust is essential in building a relationship. I have loved every minute of it!"

Founded in Broken Arrow in 1905, AVB Bank is currently in the fifth generation of family management and sixth generation of family ownership.

Taylor Rider has joined the **Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors** staff as an intern.



RIDER

"We are very happy to have Taylor join our team this summer," said David Reed, principal of the Tulsa firm. "He has a great attitude and is eager to learn. He is already a productive part of the team."

With its sports architecture expertise, Sparks Reed provided the 22-year-old Oklahoma State University student a chance to delve into his favorite fields: athletics and commercial design.

"I really enjoy the computer side of design," said Rider, who also uses pen and ink on occasion. "I think computers open up a lot of power, speeding up the design process while allowing you to go into more detail."

His initial work for Sparks Reed surprised Rider in many ways.

"As a kid, I loved playing with Legos and Lincoln logs," he said. "From that, I became interested in floor plans and design. I like being able to express creativity this way."

"But I didn't realize how complicated a process it was – and how long a process it was – until this internship," said Rider, who intends to graduate from OSU's School of Architecture in December. "I got a taste of it in college, but this job taught me how diverse a job this is."

Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors was founded in 2011 by principals David Reed, Gary Sparks and Jill Selman. To learn more about the firm and its past projects, visit sparksreed.com or call David Reed at 918-884-6007.

"I feel very blessed to be here," said Rider, noting his tutelage under Sparks Reed principal David Reed and intern architect Bryan Broadrick. "David and Bryan have been very open to letting me fail, and that's helped me gain experience. They've put a lot of trust in what I'm doing. That's been nice, being turned loose. A little scary, too, but nice."

Mayor G.T. Bynum announced that **Becky Gligo** will serve as the **Housing Policy Director for the City of Tulsa.**



GLIGO

Gligo will be responsible for working with city and state housing agencies, non-profit entities, philanthropic organizations and developers to achieve key outcomes of neighborhood revitalization and affordable housing preservation and development. Gligo will also identify and implement local and state policy changes that will help reduce Tulsa's rate of evictions while developing and implementing affordable incentives to help increase the safety, health, affordability and preservation of existing housing in Tulsa.

"With her long-standing commitment to improving people's lives in the areas of housing and education, Becky will fill an integral role at the City of Tulsa through a focus on housing," Mayor G.T. Bynum said. "I am very grateful for the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation's partnership in addressing this need in our community."

Prior to the City of Tulsa, Gligo served as the director of portfolio management for Tulsa Public Schools where she monitored seven charter schools and Oklahoma's first partnership school. In this role, she also served as the Tulsa Public Schools liaison to the Tulsa Housing Authority and Urban Strategies, Inc. for the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to join the City of Tulsa's efforts to ensure that all Tulsans have access to stable and sound housing opportunities," said Gligo. "I look forward to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to protect and expand affordable housing across our city."

The **City of Broken Arrow** has announced **Matt Hendren** as Parks and Recreation Director.



HENDREN

"I am honored to be chosen to lead the Broken Arrow Parks and Recreation Department into an exciting future," Hendren said.

Hendren joins the city from Norman, where he has served as parks superintendent since 2015. Prior to that, he worked for Wyandotte County, Kan., as well as for golf courses in the Kansas City area.

"I am excited to have Matt join our leadership team," said City Manager Michael Spurgeon. "The energy and experience he will bring to the Parks and Recreation Department will be a vital addition to the organization."

Hendren is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional, Certified Aquatic Facility Operator, a graduate of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Directors School, and a trustee for the Oklahoma Recreation and Parks Society Board of Directors. He will be in charge of 41 parks and 800 acres of public space.

Jessica Smith, a commercial banking officer at the First National Bank in Broken Arrow, graduated from the **Oklahoma Bankers Association's 2018-19 Emerging Leaders Academy** at the OBA's 122nd Annual Convention and Trade Show.



SMITH

Smith was selected from a large pool of applicants to participate in the academy, which consisted of six one-day sessions from October 2018 to March 2019. Each session centered on developing leadership and management skills by using creative instruction techniques and active participation.

The OBA represents approximately 200 banks across the state and serves as the primary advocate for the banking industry. It's also heavily involved in continuing education for bankers, fraud training and prevention as well as legal and compliance services and communications for its member banks.

The **Jenks Chamber of Commerce** has announced the addition of **Lane Castleberry** to its staff to serve as director of communications.



CASTLEBERRY

Castleberry previously served as web content and social media coordinator for Oklahoma Baptist University from 2012 to May 2019. He graduated from OBU with a degree in news and information in 2011.

Castleberry will be responsible for all public relations, design and creative efforts to maintain the Chamber brand. He will regularly communicate with current and prospective Chamber members, members of the public and the media. Castleberry will plan, promote and enhance programs that achieve the Chamber's mission and goals.

Eager to start working, Castleberry said he looks forward to getting more acquainted with the Jenks community.

"Jenks is a beautiful city with a vibrant community, and I very much look forward to interacting with the people who make Jenks great," he said.

President and CEO of the Chamber Josh Driskell is glad to welcome Castleberry to the Chamber staff.

"We look forward to working with Lane," Driskell said. "His skill set will be a benefit to both the organization and to our members."

When not working at the Chamber, Castleberry said he enjoys spending time with his fiancée, Codi, playing board games and writing music.

For questions about the Chamber, or to welcome Lane to the team, email lane.castleberry@jenkschamber.com or call 918-299-5005.

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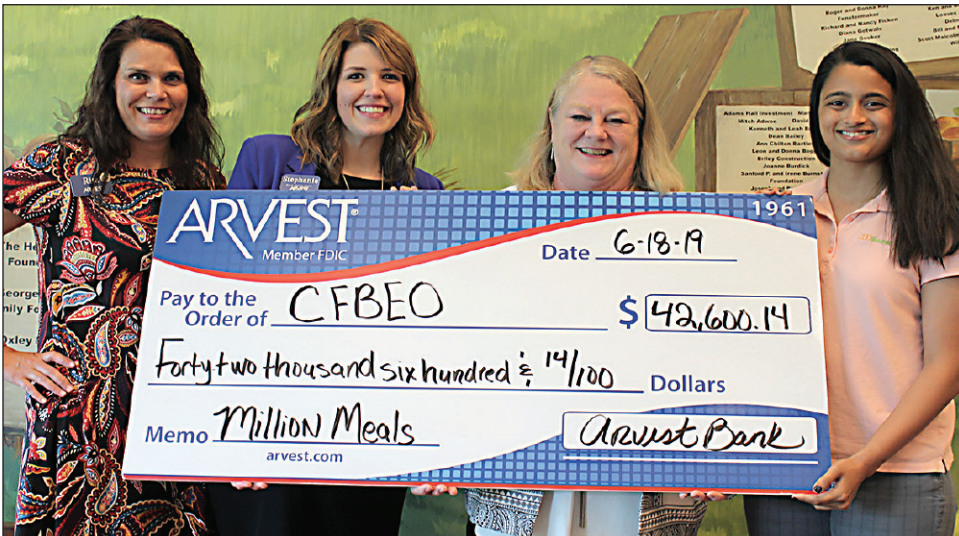
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TULSA ARTIST'S GUILD: Members of the Tulsa Artist Guild held an art show at the Broken Arrow Historical Museum in June. From left, front row, are Pat Flanagan, Marilyn Golla-Gass and Helen F. Howerton. Back row from left are Maurice Clyma, Joey Frisillo, Carman Schaar-Walden, Anke Dodson and Catherine Johnston. The show included fine art in painting, drawing and sculpture. The next art show will be held Oct. 1 through Oct. 31 at The Hive Gallery, 115 S. 1st St. in Jenks.



GTR Newspapers photo

OKLAHOMA HISTORY PERSONIFIED: Rodger Randle, director of the Center for Studies in Democracy and Culture at the University of Oklahoma - Tulsa, welcomes Dr. Bob Blackburn, the Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, to the Center's luncheon presentation series. Blackburn's talk was titled, "From Will Rogers to Donald Duck, How Popular Culture Reflects Oklahoma History." Blackburn is also leading the development of the OK Pop Museum in Tulsa. The event was held July 2.



Courtesy photo

MILLION MEALS PLUS: Arvest Bank recently launched its annual Million Meals initiative to fight hunger in the four-state region the bank serves. The bank has announced that with the help of customers and community members, it has exceeded the campaign goal by raising a record total of 2.4 million meals in the fight against hunger. This is the second consecutive year for a record total of meals raised. From left are Rita Garrison and Stephanie Adkins of Arvest Bank and Eileen Bradshaw and Anushka Raje of the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma.



GTR Newspapers photo

HONORING VETS AT GATHERING PLACE: A ceremony at Gathering Place was held July 4 to honor veterans of World War II. In the photo, a member of Boy Scout Troop 153 introduces his troop and asks questions and guides the conversation between the veterans and the local boy scouts. In the background is Gathering Place Executive Director Tony Moore.

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SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER: Tina Commodore, News Director for Fox 23 and KRMG, presents Northeast Oklahoma Board Chair Shiela Haynes with a check for \$121,922 at the Volunteer Appreciation event in Northeast Oklahoma Monday evening. On Thursday, May 30, in response to the devastating tornadoes and flooding in northeastern Oklahoma counties, the Cox Media Group, (CMG) held a bucket brigade fundraiser for the American Red Cross of Oklahoma and helped to raise \$127,000 that was earmarked for recovery efforts. The storms that moved through the Tulsa area in the latter part of May this year caused devastating damage and left numerous people temporarily homeless. The Red Cross immediately deployed volunteers and workers to assist the residents of the area, and CMG responded with great speed to help provide funds to the Red Cross. For more information, or to make an appointment to donate blood, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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Calendar grid with columns for SUNDAY through SATURDAY and rows for dates 14-31 July and 1-3 August. Each cell contains event details, times, and ticket information.

Advertisement for Central Bank of Oklahoma featuring a young girl holding a green flower and the text: 'EVERYTHING YOU NEED. EVERYWHERE YOU GO. When you start a relationship with Central Bank, you'll immediately have access to a community bank with comprehensive offerings...'.

City of Tulsa Enters into Historic Partnership With Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust

Mayor G.T. Bynum and the Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust signed an agreement creating a historic partnership that will allow for the future growth of the Tulsa Performing Arts Center (PAC) while creating an enhanced experience for PAC visitors.

Originally intended to provide a modern facility to house local, nonprofit performing arts organizations, the PAC opened its doors in March 1977. Constructed with a then unique combination of public and private funds, the Center was owned and operated by the City of Tulsa.

Beginning immediately, the Tulsa PAC will continue to be owned by the City of Tulsa, but under the management of the Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust, which will be handling the day-to-day operations of the PAC moving forward. "In the last decade, the City of Tulsa has recognized the tremendous benefit we gain for cultural assets owned by the citizens of Tulsa when we can partner with a not-for-profit entity that is focused on operating them," Mayor G.T. Bynum said. "Gilcrease Museum and the Tulsa Zoo have both enjoyed a renaissance since adopting this management approach. We believe the Tulsa Performing Arts Center has the potential to experience a similar renewal under the

management of the Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust."

"The management agreement between the City of Tulsa and The PAC Trust is truly a monumental moment in the life of the Performing Arts Center. This agreement will give us the financial stability and operational flexibility to be at the forefront of performing arts in our region," Mark W. Frie, Chief Operating Officer, Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust said. "Over the coming months and years, you will see a greater diversity in programming, a continued focus on making the arts accessible to all citizens of Tulsa through our Orbit program and a focus on an attainable long-range plan for the facility. It's my desire for the PAC to be the synergistic hub of the city where collaboration, creativity, innovation and unity happen on a daily basis."

Public funds for building the PAC were provided by a 1973 bond issue. To encourage approval, civic leaders John H. Williams and Leta Chapman posed a challenge to Tulsa citizens: If they would vote to fund half of the total cost for a new performing arts center, Williams and Chapman would raise a matching amount in private dollars. Led by Mayor Robert J. LaFortune, Tulsa voters overwhelmingly approved the challenge and "Everyone's Place" held its first concert on March 19, 1977, featuring the Tulsa Philharmonic and jazz great Ella Fitzgerald.

Today, many arts organizations utilize the facility including Tulsa Opera, Tulsa Ballet, Tulsa Symphony, Theatre Tulsa, American Theatre Company, Theatre North, Tulsa Town Hall, Chamber Music Tulsa, Choregus Productions, Theatre Pops, Tulsa Project Theatre, Celebrity Attractions (presenting Broadway shows) and many other local, regional and national groups.

"I believe our community wants to see the PAC thrive, grow and prosper. With improvements in the facility, partnerships and collaborations, audience growth and diversity through arts, we can continue to entertain and educate and while remaining financially secure," Billie Barnett, Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust Chair said. "The PAC Trust takes on this task with enthusiasm and commitment so that all citizens will want to experience the Tulsa Performing Arts Center and consider it 'Everyone's Place.'"

The management agreement follows multiple studies recommending a management agreement as a necessary next step in creating a stronger Performing Arts Center in Tulsa. The basic structure of the management agreement would generally emulate other management agreements the city already has with SMG (BOK Center and Convention Center), The University of Tulsa (Gilcrease Museum), TZMI (Tulsa Zoo), and Billy Casper Golf Management (Page



Courtesy City of Tulsa

LOOKING FORWARD: City of Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, left, and Tulsa Performing Arts Center Chief Operating Officer Mark W. Frie at the signing of the agreement creating an historic partnership that will allow for the future growth of the Tulsa Performing Arts Center (PAC) while creating an enhanced experience for PAC visitors.

Belcher and Mohawk Golf Courses), by which the PAC Trust will manage the city-owned asset for a management fee. The fee will represent baseline operating support, based on current net operating funding. The agreement will be for a term of 25 years, subject to annual appropriations. PAC employees who were employed by the city will now be employed by the PAC Trust.

The names of people and shows that have come through the Tulsa PAC is too numerous to list, but many nationally-known superstars have graced the stage including Fitzgerald, Red Skelton, Luciano

Pavarotti, Itzhak Perlman, Andre Watts, Beverly Sills, Joshua Bell, Kelly Clarkson, Michael Bubl , Jerry Seinfeld, Chris Botti, Cathy Rigby, Tony Bennett, Steve Martin, David Sedaris, Kelli O'Hara, Kenny Loggins, Norah Jones, Lyle Lovett, Judy Collins and more. Some of the biggest shows that have come through include the touring Broadway productions of The Book of Mormon, Wicked, Disney's The Lion King, Cats and Jersey Boys. The all-time attendance record of 94,588 for one show was set in 1996 by the 5-week run of The Phantom of the Opera.

Nominations Now Open for the 2020 Women of the Year – Pinnacle Awards

YWCA in partnership with the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women will honor exemplary women leaders in the Tulsa community.

Nominations are now open for the 2020 Women of the Year – Pinnacle Awards event. This event recognizes those women from the Tulsa community who are exemplary leaders, who have served as role models, and whose contributions have made a long-lasting impact. Women in Tulsa continue to make changes and break barriers, and the event will celebrate those who are lead-

ers in their fields.

The award categories for the event include nominations for women leaders in arts and humanities, corporate/business/trade, community building, and education and public service. A Rising Star award will also be given to a young woman who is making significant contributions to her school, community and/or work place. There will also be a Corporate Champion Award to recognize a business in Tulsa that sets an example for developing women as leaders, creating an inclusive work environment, and

dedicating resources to ensure a safe and equitable workplace for all.

"Through our partnership with the Mayor's Commission on the status of women, we have had the opportunity to recognize women from all over Tulsa who are groundbreakers, change makers, and overall advocates for improving the Tulsa Community," said Julie Davis, YWCA CEO. "It is incredibly inspiring to hear the stories of these women's lives, their history, and their passion for service to Tulsa." Past award winners come from a variety of back-

grounds and include women such as Alison Anthony, President and CEO of Tulsa Area United Way, Kimberly Johnson, CEO of Tulsa City-County Library, and Deborah Hunter, Family and Children's Services Case Manager and poet.

Nominations are open online through Monday, July 22, at TulsaPearlParty.org and can be made by individuals or businesses. The award winners will be announced at the end of summer, and the awards celebration will take place leading up to International Women's Day on Thursday, March 5, 2020.

Gilcrease Museum Capital Project Moves Forward with Selection of Architects

The City of Tulsa announced the nationally recognized SmithGroup and Tulsa firm IArchitecture were selected to lead the design process for Tulsa's most historic and valuable cultural institution, Gilcrease Museum.

Planned improvements for the museum will be guided by the museum's recently completed interpretive master plan and feasibility study, developed by Gallagher & Associates, and focused upon transforming the visitor experience

and effectively showcasing the vast Gilcrease collection.

The implementation of the Gallagher Plan as well as the museum's improved design will allow Gilcrease Museum to better engage the Tulsa community as well as its national audience through architecture, exhibitions and programming that reflect a changing America. In addition, the improvements will allow for more of the Gilcrease collection to be exhibited as well as the addition of expanded space for hosting traveling exhibitions. Some of the other features will include a new building facade, a grand entry and great hall, open storage space for additional displays, and dedicated education space.

"Gilcrease Museum contains the greatest collection of American art and history outside of that owned by the federal government. The citizens of Tulsa own it, and they overwhelmingly approved funding in Vision Tulsa for the museum facility to be updated in a way that

reflects the quality of their collection," Mayor G.T. Bynum said. "We received proposals from many of the best architecture firms in the world, and after a difficult selection process I am excited to move forward with the team of internationally-renowned SmithGroup and Tulsa-based IArchitecture."

Voters approved the Vision Tulsa package in 2016, which included the \$65 million capital project for Gilcrease Museum. A generous donation of an additional \$10 million from the A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Foundation will lead to a total project budget of \$75 million. The University of Tulsa has managed Gilcrease Museum for 11 years on behalf of the City. TU is committed to help move Gilcrease toward long-term sustainability as it continues to support its faculty and student engagement with the Gilcrease Collection through the Helmerich Center for American Research.

With offices in 11 major cities nationwide, SmithGroup has in-depth

museum renovation and expansion expertise. Highlights of their project experience includes the National Museum of African American History and Culture (Smithsonian), National Museum of the American Indian (Smithsonian), Library of Congress, National Gallery of Art, Museum of the Bible and International Spy Museum.

"We couldn't be more excited to work with SmithGroup and IArchitecture on the largest makeover in the museum's 70-year history," said Susan Neal, executive director at Gilcrease Museum and TU vice president for public affairs. "Keeping Gilcrease integral to Tulsa's quality of life is at the heart of this project along with ensuring it serves as a major tourism driver for the Tulsa economy. We've hired a world-class team to support this world class museum in keeping with the mayor's goal to make Tulsa a nationally competitive city for talent, economic investment, and diversity."

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