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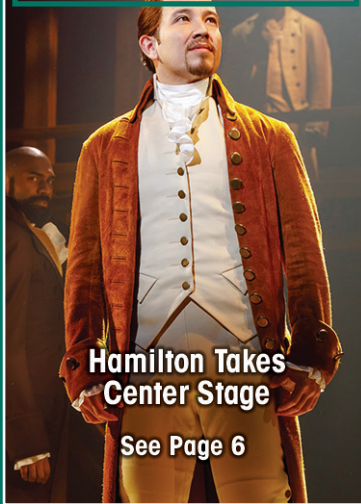
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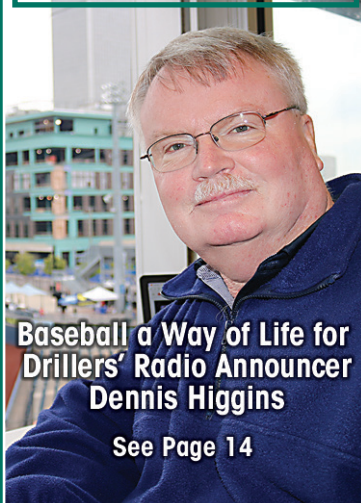
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Tulsa County Parks Offer Excellent Recreation with Golf, Tennis and More

By RON PETERS
Tulsa County Commissioner

Of the 77 counties in Oklahoma, Tulsa has the only county operated park system in the state. While at times it may be hard to distinguish a city park from a county park, generally county parks are designed and operated to be multipurpose with numerous activities offered for all ages which draws millions of people every year.

When the county park system first began, citizens of Tulsa County were very fortunate to have two Tulsa families step forward to donate land to be used exclusively for park purposes. It was the hopes of the LaFortune and Chandler families that these dedicated parks would make public access easy no matter where you lived in the county. Later, the county added O'Brien and Haikey Creek parks. The goal wasn't to have as many parks as possible but, rather, to have a few very good "super" park facilities offering a wide choice of recreational and healthy activities.

Whether it is Haikey Creek near Broken Arrow and Bixby, O'Brien near Owasso and Collinsville, Chandler near Sand Springs or La Fortune in the heart of Tulsa, everyone is just minutes away from some of the best recreational facilities in the state of Oklahoma.

Under the steady professional leadership for almost 40 years by Parks Director Richard Bales, the county park system provides a wide choice of outstanding recreational and healthy opportunities that can't be found anywhere else in Oklahoma. Collaborating with Richard is the Citizens Advisory Board lead by some of Tulsa County's finest citizens.

Whether it's tennis, golf, running and walking trails, ball fields, soccer fields, swimming, community or recreation centers, the parks department staff is always taking care of these important public assets and promoting healthy

programming in both natural and developed environments.

Many consider LaFortune Park the crown jewel of the county park system. No other park in Oklahoma provides the high quality facilities and grounds like LaFortune. The nationally recognized Case Tennis Center now draws tennis players, teams and tournaments from across America with 21-lighted outdoor courts and 3 indoor courts. It's no wonder it was awarded the United States Tennis Association's "Outstanding Featured Facility of the Year" in 2018. The recently completed \$3 million renovation of the 18-hole par 3 golf course, with lights for night playing along with the 18-hole championship course makes playing golf possible all year long. Add in the trails, picnic facilities and swimming pool and there is something for everyone of every age at LaFortune.

The recently opened splash park in Chandler Park drew hundreds of children on opening day. It is the largest splash pad park in the state of Oklahoma with over 30 water features and 3 water slides. This is just the latest feature in a park that also has rock formations for climbing, baseball complex, picnic shelters, an 18-hole disc golf course and a gorgeous panoramic view of Tulsa and Sand Springs. And Chandler Park is the only county park facility that is solar powered.

For those in north Tulsa County, O'Brien Park has the county's only golf training center to complement the ball fields and green spaces. Perhaps the most popular attraction at O'Brien is the Victory Garden. In an effort to combat health concerns due to poor access to fresh produce in North Tulsa, the parks department establishes a community garden. The Victory Garden is the only teaching/community garden in the park system. The goal is to educate participants in the "seed to table" process and send them home with the tools to



ENJOYING THE LINKS: Tulsa County Commissioner Ron Peters pauses during action at the LaFortune Park golf course recently. A gift from Tulsa's LaFortune family, the park offers an updated and lighted 18-hole Par 3 golf course, a regulation 18-hole golf course, walking and running trails, picnic and swimming facilities and more.



FUN AT CHANDLER: Youngsters have fun recently at the newly opened splash pad park at Chandler Park. The largest splash pad park in Oklahoma, it offers 30 water features and 3 water slides.

start a garden in their own backyard or neighborhood.

The citizens of Tulsa County have lots of parks to choose from. What's important is to provide individuals and families with a safe,

clean and well maintained area that offers activities for all ages and abilities. The Tulsa County park systems is the best in Oklahoma when it comes to parks and recreation.

KUDOS of the MONTH: TCC for 50 Years

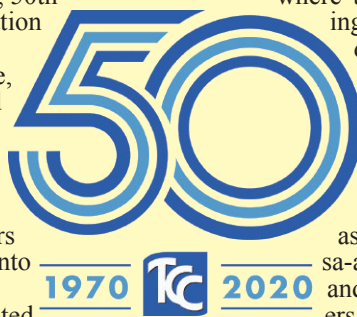
Tulsa Community College launches a year-long 50th Anniversary celebration in September.

By numbers alone, TCC has served nearly 450,000 students in five decades. But the story of this institution is more than numbers and reaches deep into the community.

"TCC has educated generations of Tulsans. And, in doing so, the College has helped to define Tulsa itself. From our beginning to our footprint to-

day, the College meets students where they are, working to shape and develop them as they learn," said TCC President and CEO Leigh B. Goodson.

What started as a call from Tulsa-area community and business leaders for access to public higher education led to the opening in 1970 of Tulsa Junior College, later changed to Tulsa Community College.



As with any start-up, the early years included stories of sacrifice and grit. With a larger than anticipated response and more students than classroom seats the first semester, students improvised and brought lawn chairs until enough seats could be ordered.

The College would grow from 2,800 and one campus to a multi-campus college serving more than 24,000 students each year.

"We celebrate the success our students have achieved through education. Since 90 percent of TCC's graduates live and work in the greater Tulsa area, we also



TULSA JUNIOR COLLEGE METRO CAMPUS, 1975

celebrate the contributions they make to our community," said Goodson.

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PSO, Oklahoma Food Bank Join to 'Shine a Light' on Area Neighbors in Need

Project Has Provided Nearly 300,000 Free, Energy-Efficient Light Bulbs

Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) and the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma (Food Bank) have teamed up to distribute 65,000 energy-efficient LED bulbs to Tulsa area and northeastern Oklahoma families in need.

Since 2014, PSO and the Food Bank have worked together to coordinate the distribution of energy-efficient bulbs as part of PSO's Shine A Light project. To date, nearly 300,000 northeastern Oklahoma households have received the free light bulbs.

PSO also coordinates with the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma in McAlester and the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City to provide bulbs outside of northeastern Oklahoma. To date, this combined effort has resulted in the distribution of 450,000 bulbs in PSO-served areas across the state.

This year, delivery of 100,000 LEDs to the food banks began in early July. The food banks are now distributing the bulbs through their networks of partner agencies.

"We know that families in need are often forced to make difficult decisions and food dollars sometimes get cut in order to cover other life expenses," said Jeff Brown, PSO Consumer Programs manager. "Through the Shine A Light Project, we can provide our neighbors ways to save energy and lower costs."

Research shows that up to three-quarters of clients served by Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma report having to choose between paying their utility bills and paying for food.

"Food insecurity isn't something that happens to a family in isolation, it's often part of a larger constellation of issues impacting poverty and health," stated Eileen Bradshaw, executive director for Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. "This gift from PSO takes those issues into consideration and helps reduce costs for the families we serve. We are grateful for this generous donation and proud to partner with PSO in order to distribute these low energy lights through our network of agencies."

Founded in 1981, the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma is one of the largest, private hunger-relief organizations in Oklahoma. With branches in Tulsa and McAlester, it distributes food to people in need through 720 programs and Partner Agencies in 24 counties of eastern Oklahoma. Feeding programs include emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, child feeding programs, senior feeding programs and veteran's initiatives. In addition, the Food Bank helps raise public awareness about hunger and the role of food banking in alleviating hunger. For more information, visit okfoodbank.org; find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/okfoodbank or follow us on Twitter @okfoodbank.org and Instagram @okfoodbank.org.



GTR Newspapers photo

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION: Pallets loaded with boxes full of LED bulbs provide the backdrop as Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum (second from right) hands Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma board president Tom Hutchison a mayoral proclamation designating July 25 as Shine A Light Day in Tulsa. Joining them are Kara Joy McKee, Tulsa City Councilor-District 4 (far left) and Jeff Brown, Energy Efficiency and Consumer Programs manager for PSO (far right).

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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

Tulsa Sobering Center Celebrates First Year

When data showed public intoxication was the most prevalent charge for frequent offenders in Tulsa, I knew we had to do something. That's why in 2016, Tulsa Deputy Police Chief Jonathan Brooks and then City Councilor Karen Gilbert and I embarked on a journey to Oklahoma City to research a Public Inebriate Alternative (PIA), otherwise known as a "drunk tank".

Through extensive research and help from community partners like 12&12, a leader in addiction recovery and treatment, and a grant from the Hardesty Foundation, we were able to open Tulsa Sobering Center in May 2018. Its measurable goal was to offer true jail diversion with a restorative approach, aiming to save the City and citizens money, conserve officer time,

and help decrease the tendency for individuals to reoffend.

At the discretion of the Tulsa Police Department, adults detained for public intoxication, who have not committed any other crimes, are taken to the Tulsa Sobering Center for a 10-hour period to "sleep it off" in a safe clean environment. During their stay, participants are provided with food, a place to rest and at their discretion, information about and access to counseling and rehabilitation programs for substance abuse. At the end of the holding period, adults are released from Tulsa Sobering Center without criminal charges, court dates or a record of arrest.

A year later, I'm extremely pleased to say Tulsa Sobering Center has been a huge success.

From May 2018 – May 2019, 767 people utilized the facility, all of whom would have otherwise gone to jail.

In its first year, Tulsa Sobering Center saved nearly 3,000 hours of officer time, getting police back to patrols more quickly. Police officers who used Tulsa Sobering Center averaged a 10-minute return to service time compared to previous booking times that took hours.

The data shows the Sobering Center connected individuals to life-saving treatment. Of the 767 who visited the facility, 73 entered the medically-supervised detoxification program at 12&12, and upon completion, 32 of the 73 went into treatment at 12&12.

With \$250,000 of yearly City funding, we're already seeing a return on our investment. Tulsa Sobering Center saved the citizens of Tulsa hundreds of thousands of dollars in jailing and policing expenses in its first year alone.

The reason for Sobering Center's success was a combination of the efforts from Tulsa Police and our community partners. Without the collaborative effort and common vision, none of this would have been possible.

The program works around the clock, 365 days a year, seven days



Courtesy photo

SUCCESSFUL TEAM: Celebrating the successful first year of the Tulsa Sobering Center are, from left, Tulsa Police Chief Chuck Jordan, Michelle Hardesty, 12&12 Counselor Amy Hardy, Mayor G.T. Bynum, Tulsa Deputy Chief of Police Jonathan Brooks, Tulsa City Councilors Jeannie Cue and Cass Fahler and 12&12 CEO Bryan Day.

a week, to help build a safer city for all Tulsans. It's a true community resource, a win-win for everyone, and an example of what we can accomplish when common sense programs are put into action that focus on the underlying sources

of crime. Tulsa Sobering Center has proven it's helping the City be more fiscally responsible with its public safety funding while taking a unique approach to address mental health and addiction in our community.

Area Utilities, Salvation Army, City of Tulsa Team Up to Promote Home Energy Month

July was Home Energy Aid Month across Oklahoma and Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) teamed up with The Salvation Army, City of Tulsa and other local utilities to help raise awareness and support for area residents who need temporary assistance paying their home heating or cooling bill.

Home Energy Aid Month is a time to help thousands of Oklahomans facing financial emergencies pay for the household energy on which all citizens rely. Families and individuals who qualify for Home En-

ergy Aid receive assistance through the Salvation Army to help pay their utility bills.

Funds to provide the assistance are generated through customer contributions to Public Service Company of Oklahoma's Light A Life, Oklahoma Natural Gas' Share The Warmth and Oklahoma Gas & Electric's Lend A Hand programs.

"Through the generosity of neighbors helping neighbors, last year The Salvation Army helped over 1,850 individuals and families in

need of utility bill assistance thanks to the utility companies' programs," said Major Mark Harwell, Area Commander of The Salvation Army. "100 percent of the funds given through these programs go to help those in need. It takes only a moment to check the contribution box on your utility bill and help your Green Country neighbor in need."

To lend support to the effort to raise awareness and increase contributions to the utility-supported energy assistance programs, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum declared July "Home Energy Aid Month" in Tulsa.

Customers of PSO, ONG or OG&E made contributions by looking for the Light A Life, Share the Warmth or Lend A Hand information on their monthly energy bills. Each utility paid all administrative costs, so every penny donated went to help those in need.

Donations may continue to be made directly to The Salvation Army at www.SalArmyTulsa.org. All donations are tax deductible.



Courtesy photo

ENERGY AID: Participating in Home Energy Month are, from left, Chuck Mitchell, manager of community development, OG&E; Chris Phillips, regional community relations manager, ONG; Peggy Simmons, president and chief operating officer, PSO; Jeannie Cue, Tulsa city councilor; and Major Mark Harwell, Area Commander, The Salvation Army.

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GREATER TULSA PERSONALITIES

David Blankenship's Distinguished Career Capped with Okla. Military Academy Honor

Tulsan Stood at the Forefront of the Aviation Industry with Rockwell

Tulsan David Blankenship has enjoyed a career in which he stood at the forefront of the aerospace industry as an executive with Tulsa-based Rockwell International, where he began in the early 1960s.

In June, Blankenship was honored at Rogers State University as a distinguished alumni of Oklahoma Military Academy, which preceded Rogers State.

Blankenship graduated from Webster High School in Tulsa and attended junior college at the Oklahoma Military Academy (OMA) in 1952.

At OMA he lettered in football, basketball and baseball and also served on the Drill Team. He says making lifelong friendships remains one of his fondest memories while at OMA.

Blankenship attended the University of Tulsa and joined the Air Force ROTC, graduating in 1955. He received his wings at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Okla. and was sworn into duty as a second lieutenant. He served three years on active duty, and as a Captain he finished his commitment to the Air Force by serving in an Air Force Reserve Unit as a pilot at

Davis Field in Muskogee. During the Cuban crisis, he was recalled to active duty until the crisis ended.

In 1962, Blankenship began working with the aerospace industry (North American Aviation) when the company was moving to Tulsa. He was tapped to set up the office and hire personnel. He continued in executive positions as the company transitioned to Rockwell International and ultimately Boeing. He provided leadership in a variety of areas from hiring to training to public and government relations in the U.S. and overseas.

In retirement, he continues his past connections to Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology, where he currently serves as consultant to the CEO. He also serves on the board of Central Bank of Oklahoma.

Blankenship joined the Air Force Association and attended his first annual convention in 1967. The Air Force Association is a national organization promoting the U.S. Air Force and honoring Airman and Air Force heritage. He never missed the spring or fall meetings until 2017. He was elected to the board, elect-



GTR Newspapers photo

HAPPY FAMILY: David Blankenship holds his Oklahoma Military Academy Distinguished Alumni award on the campus of Rogers State University in June as he is surrounded by proud family members. To his right is his wife Joan.

ed President from 1982-83, and served as Chairman of the Board in 1984. He led the research and construction of the AFA Building in Virginia while President and dedicated it as Chairman.

He received the National Defense Service Medal in 1962, the National Management Association Leadership Award in 1967 and the Exceptional Service Medal, an honor by the Air Force for "inspirational leadership and dedicated support of strong de-

fense through airpower." He also is a member of the Webster High School Hall of Fame.

In 1967, Blankenship was named one of the Outstanding Men of America, and in 1973 he received the National Management Association's Leadership Award.

Editor's Note: The Oklahoma Military Academy operated in Claremore from 1919 to 1971, when the school transitioned to a community college and later be-

came the known as Rogers State University. OMA was recognized as "The West Point of the Southwest" with more than 10,000 men and women attending the school during its distinguished history. The OMA Alumni Association was formed to preserve the school's legacy. OMA Alumni have been instrumental in providing support to RSU, including both scholarships and development of the Claremore campus. To learn more, visit www.rsu.edu/OMA.



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VARIETY

'Hamilton' Takes Center Stage

The entertainment scene for August is dominated by the musical that is at the top of everyone's list, "Hamilton." Due to the efforts of local Broadway promoter Celebrity Attractions, 56,000 ticket holders in Tulsa will have their shot at what Broadway mavens consider the most inventive, dynamic and relevant work of musical theater to command the stage in two decades. Winner of 11 Tony Awards, including Best Musical and the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for drama, "Hamilton" plays at the Tulsa PAC for three weeks, Aug. 20 through Sept. 8.

Inspired by Ron Chernow's book by the same name, "Hamilton" is the masterwork of Lin-Manuel Miranda. Before "Hamilton," Miranda created the musical "In the Heights," which played several years ago at the Broken Arrow PAC and will be released as a film in 2020.

Despite being frequently described as a rap or hip-hop musical, "Hamilton" combines those musical styles with R&B, operetta, blues, jazz and pop to tell the story of America's fledgling years via the travails of the brilliant statesman Alexander Hamilton. The historical figure was born out of wedlock in the West Indies. His father abandoned him, and his mother died when Hamilton was only 13. He came to the U.S. to make his mark and succeeded in not only being a major player during America's war for independence, but becoming the first Secretary of the Treasury, and the founder of the U.S. Coast Guard and the "New York Post."

America, the land of opportunity, is celebrated through "Hamilton's" driving musical narrative. Jefferson, Washington, Lafayette

and King George II all weigh in at some point. Everyone has his say, and through lyrics that are smart and fun. During the intrigue and gamesmanship of American Revolution, Hamilton gained admiration for his political savvy, but distain from Aaron Burr, the man who ultimately bested him in a gun duel. The musical propels the main character toward the fate that awaits him, but not before the audience is thoroughly enthralled and entertained.

"Hamilton" isn't the only game in town, however. At the Hard Rock Casino, Aug. 17, enjoy ventriloquist Terry Fator, winner of "America's Got Talent," Season 2. He is talented enough to have a theatre named for him at The Mirage in Las Vegas. Fator has 15 puppets that sing and impersonate famous singers or celebrities. Donald Trump is a relatively new puppet.

Brian Setzer's Rockabilly Riot Summer Tour electrifies The Joint at the Hard Rock on Aug 22. A three-time Grammy winner and well-known Stray Cats guitarist, songwriter and vocalist, Setzer will appear as part of a foursome of musicians playing drums, piano/guitar and bass.

Making music together for more than 30 years, Spin Doctors slam into the Osage Casino Skyline Event Center on Aug. 17. Still retaining four of its original members, the rock band from New York City has explored a range of styles over their three decades together and are planning a new studio album.

Timed to coincide with the release of their new album, "DNA," The Backstreet Boys will bring their biggest arena tour in 18 years to the BOK Center, Aug. 28. The group has

(Continued on page 7)

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN



Courtesy photo

MARY J. BLIGE: No one can sing about love's heartbreak like the veteran R&B diva. River Spirit Casino hosts Blige for one concert only, Aug. 23.



Courtesy photo

THE BACKSTREET BOYS: The BOK Center welcomes the group for their biggest arena tour in 18 years, Aug. 28.



Photo by Joan Marcus

HAMILTON: Joseph Morales stars as the brilliant statesman Alexander Hamilton in Celebrity Attractions' presentation of "Hamilton," Aug. 20-Sept. 8 at the Tulsa PAC.



Courtesy photo

TBII: Enjoy a trio of fresh contemporary works, composed by hot choreographers and danced by Tulsa Ballet's young and talented second company, Aug. 23-25 at Studio K.

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Chamber Music Celebrates Sixty-Six Years on Route 66

By NANCY HERMANN
Variety Editor

Chamber music has evolved from the days of gilded rooms and powdered wigs into a vibrant experience that features some of the finest musicians on the planet. Concerts are visceral and compelling musical conversations between players and audience members. The music draws from a variety of timeframes and inspirations and is played on instruments as diverse as saxophone and violin.

Formerly known as Concerttime and celebrating its longevity under the banner of "Sixty-Six Years on Route 66," Chamber Music Tulsa has been the art form's passionate advocate for decades.

Program Committee member Kathleen Gerety, CMT Board President Claire Farr and CMT Executive Director Bruce Sorrell shared their perspectives on the organization and its upcoming season.

GTR: Kathy, you've been heavily involved in programming choices for several years. What was the spark that created the Route 66 theme for this year?

Gerety: I think it was the happy coincidence of the 66th season and the prominence of "66" in local lore (Route 66, Phillips 66, etc). Broad themes can be an effective way to guide us in selecting programs for a season, and there is an increasing interest in develop-

ing connections between our programs and distinctively "Tulsa" history and culture.

GTR: Is there a performance or group that you are particularly looking forward to this season?

Gerety: I'm especially excited that we've programmed contemporary music with every ensemble, and that both Miró Quartet and McGill-McHale Trio are performing brand-new works.

GTR: When you travel to conferences or concerts to hear ensembles that are prospective candidates for the CMT concert season, what are you looking for specifically?

Gerety: Most (but not all) ensembles that we hear in showcases are very good players. We seek excellence, of course, but also personality, expressiveness, and stage presence. "Stage presence" for me means that the musicians are conscious of their audiences, draw them in, and have the poise and maturity to talk to their listeners about the music, and about their choices of repertoire. Musicians who choose to concentrate on chamber music are generally very thoughtful artists and like the intimacy and interactions that are the defining characteristics of chamber concerts. So we tend to choose groups that display those qualities in ways that engage and entertain our audiences.

GTR: Claire, as board president,

what, in your view, does CMT do well?

Farr: We remain focused on truly excellent ensembles and programs, and we continually look for ways to offer those programs in appealing formats. For example, we recently added the Friday Gallery Series to expand the opportunities for a concert with wine and food beyond our traditional Saturday Salon series, which has been sold out for years. Our board has explicitly concentrated on inclusion and accessibility in our defining core values and beliefs. In the last several years, our program committee has increasingly worked to take demographic diversity into considerations in selecting musicians and composers. The board also prioritized keeping student tickets at only \$5 for our Sunday concerts so families can afford to attend.

GTR: Which performances are you excited about in this "Sixty-six Years on Route 66" lineup?

Farr: I'm very excited about the Harlem Quartet, which makes their debut on our series in November. The quartet offers a unique blend of repertoire across classical, Latin and jazz. Their passionate commitment to diversity and excellence has made them a leading ensemble in educational residencies. Beyond their concerts on the CMT series, the quartet will be in Tulsa for a week to perform for all 3,500 fourth graders in the Tulsa Public



SEASON OPENER: The American Brass Quintet opens Chamber Music Tulsa's season, Sept. 21-22.

Schools through the Any Given Child-Tulsa program.

GTR: Why does CMT value the education component of what it offers the community?

Farr: CMT is committed to musical education and outreach to the community because we believe in the transformative power of excellent live chamber music. It was striking to me that a commitment clearly stated back in our original incorporation in the 1950s remains today: "To cultivate... and encourage a popular education, understanding, taste and love of music..."

GTR: Bruce, our community loved the Miró Quartet's performances during CMT's highly successful Beethoven Winter Festival in 2017. What is it about the Miró that draws such a response every time they perform?

Sorrell: They have a visceral approach to music-making that electrifies the room. Though they give quiet passages keenly felt intensity, in bravura passages they unleash a controlled ferocity that keeps you at the edge of your seat.

GTR: For someone who is new to chamber music, how can they best acclimate themselves to the experience in order to gain a deeper appreciation?

Sorrell: In my opinion, you don't have to know anything about chamber music to enjoy its beauty. The excitement of hearing chamber

music played in an intimate setting is truly thrilling. The biggest thing that I think is true of our series is that everyone is passionate about sharing the experience. Even if you don't know much about it, we will welcome you and hope you will become as hooked as we are.

Chamber Music Tulsa season opens with American Brass Quintet, Sept. 21-22, followed by the Lysander Piano Trio, Oct. 11-13; Harlem Quartet, Nov. 8-10; Daedalus Quartet, Jan. 31-Feb. 2; McGill-McHale Trio, Mar. 6-8 and the Miró Quartet, Apr. 4-5. A Friday Gallery series will be held at alha and Duet Jazz. Sunday concerts are performed at the Tulsa PAC. Check the Chamber Music Tulsa website, chambermusiculsa.org, for ticket prices and special event information.

August Packed with Entertainment

(Continued from page 6)

been setting and breaking records in Las Vegas for more than a year.

It's great to see the River Spirit Casino up and running like they never dropped a stitch. Whoa. They've booked the Canadian band Nickelback on Aug. 16; Oklahoma's country music star Vince Gill on Aug. 17; crooner ("Wicked Game") and guitarist Chris Isaak for Aug. 22; and the truly incomparable Mary J. Blige, Aug. 23.

I came to appreciate Mary J. Blige late in her career. If you don't know her music, check out her 2014 studio album "The London Sessions." It was number one on the R&B charts. I downloaded the album after hearing one song. Blige has been nominated 32 times for a Grammy and won nine. She has eight multi-platinum albums and 80 million albums sold. Her life hasn't been a piece of cake. She can sing about pain and heartache like no one else.

Ballet is back in late August with TBII's "On Your Radar."

As you may know, TBII is Tulsa Ballet's ultra-talented second company of dancers. Slated for Aug. 23-25 are three fresh and riveting contemporary works. A joy to experience in the intimate Studio K, this program is always one that I leave saying, "I am so glad I saw that." Upcoming is a world premiere by Daniel van de Laar titled "This Must be the End," along with Ma Cong's "Melodia" and "Watercolor" by Jimmy Orrante.

A singer/songwriter who doesn't sing about all the pain he's endured in his life, but could, is Rob Thomas. Along with penning songs for his Matchbox Twenty band, he's written for Willie Nelson and Mick Jagger, among many others. The song "Smooth" that he wrote verses for and sung on Santana's major comeback album in 1999 won Grammys for Best Song of the Year, Record of the Year and Best Pop Collaboration. He told "Rolling Stone," "My songs are more famous than I am, and I'm okay with that." His sixth studio



Courtesy photo

TERRY FATOR: The "America's Got Talent" winner and his puppet friends entertain on Aug. 17 at the The Joint at Hard Rock.

album, "Chip Tooth Smile" was released in April 2019. Thomas appears in concert at the Brady Theater on Aug. 30.

That's a wrap for summer entertainment, and there's plenty to look forward to in the performance season ahead.

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JJ Cale Decides to Stay Around

YouTube has me pretty well figured out.

Using what I can only assume is witchcraft and sorcery, the video sharing app has developed an uncanny ability to determine what I want to see and hear.

A staple in my recommended viewing section is a roughly 90-minute video of JJ Cale and Leon Russell at the Paradise Studios in Los Angeles.

In addition to Cale, who is playing a very JJ Caled-up \$50 Harmony guitar, and Russell, on a more customary Hammond B3 organ, the band includes Ambrose Campbell on congas, Bill Boatman on guitar and bass, Jimmy Karstein on drums, Larry Bell on piano and vocals, Marty Green and Pat "Taco" Ryan on saxophone, Nick Rather on bass and Shamsi Sarumi on percussion.

Rounding out the band on acoustic and electric guitar, harmonica, cabaza and backing vocals is Cale's collaborator, muse and partner Christine Lakeland Cale.

In April, Lakeland Cale did something for which she is uniquely qualified: she released her late husband's 15th studio album, "Stay Around."

Posthumous albums raise red flags for me. Except in rare cases when an artist dies between the completion of an album and its release, as was the case with Leon Russell's "On a Distant Shore" in 2017, it can feel like a money

grab; scavengers picking clean the carcass of a legendary career.

But JJ Cale is another rare case. Famously reclusive after moving to California in 1980, it was in the studio where the Central High School graduate was truly in his element.

"The studio was definitely one of his most comfortable situations to be in," said Lakeland Cale in a recent interview promoting the album's release.

A former Air Force electronics technician, Cale had a passion for the technical side of music. "John enjoyed working on guitars and recording," she recalled. "That was a constant."

That passion for recording, however, didn't extend beyond the studio. He was never interested in media appearances or touring to promote an album. A piece of well known JJ Cale folklore is his record company telling him, "your album is a hit, you gotta get out there and promote it," and Cale responding, "if it's already a hit, why do I need to promote it?"

In other words, he loved recording, he didn't love making an album.

This is further evidenced by his last studio album, "Roll On," in which the title track was 34 years old when the album was released in 2009. His laid-back style is great for guitar grooves, not so much for getting music out in a timely fashion.

Given these facts, it's no surprise that the two-LP Stay Around

Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL



CHILI CON MUSIC: Horton Records' annual fundraiser, the Rock 'n Folk 'n Chili Cook-off, features chili from some of Tulsa's best restaurants, and live music from some of Tulsa's best musicians. Bring a non-perishable food item and/or a winter coat to Cain's Ballroom Nov. 9.



NEW RELEASE: JJ Cale's latest album comes out nearly six years after the Tulsa Sound icon's death. Featuring 15 previously unreleased tracks on two LPs, the album is vintage Cale.

doesn't sound like a collection of leftovers and outtakes. This is a complete, expertly mixed and produced album.

I'm not going to offer a review, except to say, if you love JJ Cale, you'll love this album. Never one to rebrand himself or change his sound, this is vintage Cale doing what he's been doing since Johnny Cale and the Valentines entertained Tulsans in the 1950s.

I could talk JJ Cale all day, but I really should devote some of this column to the artists who don't have Grammys and platinum records on the wall. Yet.

Skyline Festival

More than 45 Oklahoma musicians converge on 18th Street and Boston Avenue for a festival honoring the late great Tom Skinner on Aug. 18 from 12:30 - 10:30.

Bands like Pilgrim, The Damn Quails, Randy Crouch & Flying Horse Band feat. Paul Benjamin, and Tom Skinner's own Science Project Band donate their time and talent for this annual fundraiser for Red Dirt Relief Fund (RDRF).

This year, nine of the performing musicians have benefitted from RDRF, a non-profit organization that helps Oklahoma musicians in need. RDRF has granted more than \$160,000 to musicians in the state since 2012.

Kicking off the festival at 12:30



SKYLINE FESTIVAL: From left, Kurt Neilson, Gene Collier and Craig Skinner perform at Tom Skinner's Skyline Festival in 2017. This year's Skyline Festival is Aug. 18 across three venues at 18th Street and Boston Avenue in Tulsa.

on Aug. 18 is the VIP Gospel Brunch at Burn Co. BBQ featuring John Fullbright and Friends sharing "the gospel according to Tom Skinner."

As this column goes to press, there are still VIP Brunch tickets available.

Advanced tickets are \$12 (not including VIP Brunch) or \$20 at the

door. Go to reddirtrelieffund.org/skyline for more information and tickets.

This is great music for a great cause. I hope I see you there!

Horton Chili Cookoff

Grab a few non-perishable food items or a winter coat and get to Cain's Ballroom Nov. 9 for Horton Records 6th Annual Rock 'n Folk 'n Chili Cook-off.

This is a great event every year, featuring chili from some of Tulsa's best restaurants, as well as a stellar lineup of local bands.

This year, I'm especially excited about the Tribute to Tulsa Music featuring Chris Combs, Paul Benjamin, Jesse Ayock, John Fullbright and more. The best Tulsa musicians of today honoring the best Tulsa musicians of the past? Yes, sign me up.

Get your tickets at hortonrecords.org, and don't forget to bring a donation. Giving back to the community in the form of food and winter clothing while enjoying an all-ages musical event of this caliber is the ultimate win-win.

MisFEST, MOJO Fest, Medicine Stone and Stone River are a few other upcoming festivals, each offering an opportunity to enjoy numerous local and regional bands. It's the best way to discover what you want to see and hear, no witchcraft or sorcery required. All you've got to do is keep searching, keep listening.

Read More GTR at www.gtrnews.com

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

CTCA Tulsa Awarded as High Performing Hospital in Lung and Colon Cancer Surgery

Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) Tulsa has been named a High-Performing Hospital in both Lung Cancer and Colon Cancer Surgery by U.S. News & World Report. The recognition was announced in the publication's 30th annual Best Hospitals rankings, released on July 30, to help patients make more informed health care decisions. The rankings compared more than 4,400 medical centers nationwide. While several other hospitals in the state ranked in one of the categories, CTCA Tulsa is the only hospital in Oklahoma to receive this recognition in both categories.



GTR Newspapers photos

TULSA TREASURE: The Cancer Treatment Center of America hospital in Tulsa has been given a best hospital ranking by U.S. News & World Report.

"Surgery is an important element of a patient's treatment plan when facing a lung or colon cancer diagnosis," says Jay Foley, CTCA Tulsa President and CEO. "At CTCA Tulsa, we bring together a comprehensive team of medical professionals committed to helping patients understand the complexities of their disease and the wide array of evidence-based treatment options available to them."

Conditions ratings, which evaluates hospitals that treated enough patients, according to the U.S. News & World Report criteria, in the respective categories to be considered. Hospitals are rated high-performing, average or below average in each procedure or condition. According to the publication, for each group, they assessed each hospital's risk-adjusted outcomes, such as 30-day mortality, 30-day readmission and length of stay.

They also factored in variables that have been linked to higher quality, including volume, nurse staffing and whether the hospital employed a specially trained physician known as an intensivist. In addition, patient satisfaction scores were factored into the ratings in most procedures. Access to information about performance enables patients to better select facilities that are the most likely to offer better, safer care. "Patients need to have confi-



CELEBRATING LIFE: Cancer Treatment Centers of America hospitals across the nation came together in celebration in June to celebrate 235 cancer survivors who have met their five-year milestone after first receiving treatment and were invited to celebrate their personal triumphs over cancer. This year, 35 honorees from all over the country attended the Tulsa celebration and many brought their families to help them celebrate. The event was held in the CTCA lobby and a recognition ceremony luncheon was held at the Renaissance Hotel where survivors shared their stories and concluded with attendees dancing the "Cancer Fighters Slide," an original song and dance created for the event.

dence in the center where they choose to be treated as well as the people treating them," says Foley. "We are honored to be recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a leading hospital in both lung cancer and colon cancer surgery, not

just in Oklahoma but nationally as well." The full report in U.S. News & World Report is currently online at health.usnews.com. For more information on CTCA Tulsa, visit cancercenter.com.

Tulsa ER & Hospital Opens for Emergency Care

Tulsa ER & Hospital has opened to treat pediatric and adult patients. The facility will offer emergency medical care 24 hours, seven days a week.



GTR Newspapers photos

WELCOMING PATIENTS: Tulsa ER & Hospital personnel welcome patients to their new facility. From left are Chief Nursing officer Rusty McGuire, Dr. Jennifer Galbraith and Medical Director Dr. Mark Blubaugh.

Medical Director Dr. Mark Blubaugh states, "Our mission is to provide the residents of Tulsa, and its surrounding communities, with a shorter wait time, while still providing exceptionally high-quality medical care to each patient that comes through our doors."

room physicians, skilled ER nurses, medical technicians, radiology technologists, and front desk staff committed to improving patient care in Tulsa.

ma Workers' Compensation, and offers competitive rates for self-pay. The staff are well-qualified and trained to provide comprehensive care from illness, to trauma, to life-threatening conditions. To learn more about Tulsa ER & Hospital, visit www.tulsaer.com.



IMPRESSIVE FACILITY: Tulsa ER & Hospital is located at 717 W. 71st St. in Tulsa.

With the opening of Tulsa ER & Hospital, the community will gain access to relatively quick emergency care. The goal is to get patients back from the waiting area in five minutes or less. Patient-focused care when people need it most is just part of the concierge-style experience. The facility also boasts a full clinical laboratory and the most advanced imaging and diagnostic equipment available, including CT scans, ultrasound, and digital X-Ray. If needed, patients can be observed or admitted for a short stay in the inpatient unit.

The Tulsa ER & Hospital team is comprised of expert emergency

care in Oklahoma but nationally as well."

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DINING OUT IN GREATER TULSA

SwampHouse Brings Added Life to Tulsa's Studio Row

Local Dining

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Writer

SwampHouse, 1529 E. 3rd St., opened in May in Studio Row, one of Tulsa's up-and-coming neighborhoods located near 3rd Street and Trenton Avenue. The restaurant and music venue, which sits across the street from the historic Church Studio, features live music Thursday through Saturday nights.

The restaurant exterior is reminiscent of a southern-style home with a wrap-around covered front porch. The main entrance door is surprisingly nondescript, located on the building's east side with no signage above the door. But don't be afraid, it is, in fact, the entrance.

The indoor dining room is a fair size and includes a medium-sized, welcoming bar with table seating.

My party arrived at 6:30 p.m. on a Saturday, and we sat outside on the screened-in porch. We were hesitant, at first, to choose the porch, but the misters pulled us in. Though it was quite muggy to begin with, our waitress said that once the sun goes down, the porch becomes exceptionally pleasant. It seems that everyone knew that, because the outside area completely filled up an hour or so later, and the early heat turned into a mild, very pleasant evening, except for the flies.

Around 7 p.m., a three-piece band began playing indoors, and the garage door that separates the outdoor patio and the indoor dining room opened soon after to bring the whole restaurant together.



BLACKENED CATFISH: SwampHouse's Blackened Catfish, cooked and blackened to the perfect degree. The fish is served on a bed of red beans and rice with a side of hush puppies and a slice of perfectly-ripe watermelon.



SHRIMP AND GRITS: Five blackened shrimp on top of "cheezy green chile grits" plus a side salad. The grits were creamy with a number of green chiles that made the grits more than just some spicy mashed potatoes.



STUDIO ROW LOCATION: SwampHouse, 1529 E. 3rd St., opened in May in one of Tulsa's up-and-coming neighborhoods, located near 3rd Street and Trenton Avenue.



FOOD AND MUSIC VENUE: The restaurant features live music Thursday through Saturday nights.

We started our meal with the battered and deep fried gator bites, with swamp sauce — a house-made cream sauce that paired well with the breaded gator. The bites were "chewier than chicken," as my friend noted, but still tasty. Although, I will add, most things taste good when they're fried. The bites came on a bed of fries. The fries also paired well dipped in the swamp sauce.

For my entree, I chose the catfish, with the option of fried, grilled or blackened. When my dish was delivered, the food server raved about it, saying it was his favorite dish. After eating it, his comment does not surprise me one bit.

I chose to have my fish blackened, and the spice and seasoning were perfect. The fish came on a bed of red beans and rice with a side of hush puppies and a slice of perfectly-ripe watermelon. The fish was delectably tender, and the beans and rice were the perfect compliment.

My friend chose the shrimp and grits — five blackened shrimp served on top of "cheezy green chile grits" plus a side salad. The grits were creamy with a number of green chiles that made them more than just some spicy mashed potatoes. The grits had a nice level of spice that added to the flavor but weren't too much.

The shrimp were tender and blackened well. SwampHouse is open Tues-

day through Sunday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. To learn more, visit swamphousetulsa.com.

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EDUCATION

Tulsa Tech Earns National CDA Gold Standard Certification

In recent years, researchers have learned that the human brain develops the vast majority of its neurons, and is at its most receptive to learning, between birth and three years of age. The last four decades have produced many new practices and principles for use in the classroom with young children, as well as countless books, videos and activities to enrich the home environment.

Tulsa Tech's Child Development Associate (CDA) part-time, evening program has recently been awarded the CDA Gold Standard by the Council for Professional Recognition (the Council). As a non-profit organization, the Council's mission is to recognize and promote professionals and organizations that are making strides in the early childhood education sector.

"This achievement confirms our commitment to providing the highest quality of education for our students," said Teresa Berg, adult coordinator at Tulsa Tech. "Our focus is the well-being of children and families throughout the Tulsa area, and we're excited to be recognized at the national level."

In this pivotal and growing indus-

try, the CDA credential is recognized in all 50 states, and the CDA Gold Standard sets Tulsa Tech apart from other training programs, allowing our students' confidence in the quality of the CDA program they are selecting.

Tulsa Tech is now the first technology center in the nation, first program in Oklahoma and west of the Mississippi River to earn the gold standard. It is a reflection of the hard work by the 14 certified instructors, staff and administrators who work in our Adult Career Development department to earn the CDA Gold Standard Award.

As a nominee for the prestigious award, Tulsa Tech successfully demonstrated that its early childhood education training adheres to the Council's three industry-leading principles:

- Alignment with the CDA formal education coursework found in the CDA's eight subject areas
- Sound business policies and practice
- Quality student services that meet their educational and professional needs

"We believe that our CDA Gold Standard Training Certification adds value and integrity to the

early childhood profession by verifying connections between the Council's proven teacher competencies and the quality of training resources available to CDA students," said Valora Washington, chief executive officer, Council for Professional Recognition.

In addition to offering high-quality training, CDA Gold Standard applicants must provide evidence that they serve the CDA student community with excellence, which includes professional development that prepares students for successful completion of their training program. The CDA Gold Standard is valid for three years and can be renewed.

"It's exciting to think about the many young children, families and communities that will benefit from the high-quality education and training students will receive from CDA Gold Standard Training Certification programs such as Tulsa Tech," Washington added.

Regardless of the industry, Tulsa Tech strives to provide the best training possible to create successful outcomes for students looking to get hired right away, move into other educational pursuits or join the military. Our full-time programs are accredited through the Oklahoma State Department of Education, Oklahoma State Board of Career & Technology Education, as well as numerous industry-specific accrediting boards, associations and agencies. Our part-time, evening classes are accredited in the same manner, and the CDA Gold Standard goes above and beyond that accreditation process and is the standard bearer for excellence in early child development training.

Find out more about the CDA

News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE: Shelley Kinder and Teresa Berg showcase the CDA Gold Standard earned by Tulsa Tech team for child development training.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT: The CDA Gold Standard is the standard bearer for excellence in early child development training.

Gold Standard at cdacouncil.org.

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MAKE YOUR OWN PATH

Superintendent Hartzler Welcomes All to Union's 100th Year

Courtesy Union Public Schools

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! This one will be remarkable for many reasons, but especially because it marks Union's first 100 years as a district. The historic vote to consolidate four rural school districts – Union, Central, Sunnyside and Alsuma – into the one that we know today as Union Public Schools happened in May 1919. Our plan is to celebrate all year long. We are even producing a special centennial book.

of my favorite times of the year. We look forward to welcoming your child back to Union Public Schools. Our goal with this "Back to School" guide is to make your child's transition as seamless as possible. We will also unveil a new, improved website at www.unionps.org in August, as well as the launch of a district phone app.

We were extremely pleased with the public response when parents and teachers were asked to weigh in on the various options. Change is always difficult, but we appreciate your flexibility as we work to

ensure all students get to school on time.

These are exciting times to be a part of Union Public Schools. This fall marks the launch of Union Virtual, the district's first 100 percent online education program for grades 6-12. The 100 students accepted into the pilot program are required to take six hours of instruction per day, and can proceed at their own pace or work ahead. Students have the flexibility to participate in the district's stellar array of clubs, programs, and activities, which really sets Union Virtual apart.

Preparations for a new stadium and Fine Arts addition are already underway. At the close of the 2019 football season, demolition of the west (home) side of the stadium will begin in December. Given the 40-year history of Union's Tuttle Stadium and our many memories, it will be a bitter sweet moment, indeed. But, the new facility will most assuredly welcome in a new era of memories and serve our students and community well for many decades to come.

The continued success of your child is our primary focus. We will remain vigilant in our pursuit of

the district's mission: "To graduate 100 percent of students college and career-ready." This means more emphasis on ensuring we help meet your child's social-emotional needs, as well as the continued implementation of the district's 1-to-1 initiative. Beginning fall 2019, all students in grades 9-12 will have access to a laptop or other portable device 24/7.

On behalf of Union's teachers and administrators, WELCOME BACK!

Sincerely,
Superintendent Dr. Kirk Hartzler

Union Names Jami Rozell New Girls' Soccer Coach

Union Public Schools' Athletic Department has hired Jami Rozell as head coach of the girls' soccer program.

Rozell steps into this position having served as an assistant coach at Union for the last six years. During that time, Rozell assisted in leading the team to six playoff appearances in six seasons, one first-round finish, one quarterfinal finish, one semifinal finish, three state championships, and two USA Today and Top Drawer Na-

tional Championships. During that time, Rozell was also honored to serve on the All-State East coaching staff, a game that finished 6-1, East vs. West.

Prior to her career at Union, Rozell was a member of the Broken Arrow High School girls' soccer coaching staff from 2011-2012. In addition, she was a member of the Tulsa Soccer Club Hurricane coaching staff from 2011-2018, coaching various age groups. Rozell also coached for the Oklahoma Texans from 2010-2011.

"Jami has been an integral part of our girls' soccer program's success over the last six years," said Em-

ily Barkley, Athletic Director for Union Public Schools. "In addition to her wealth of soccer knowledge, Jami has gained the respect and trust of the Union soccer community through her hard work and dedication to the players, staff, and booster club. We feel like Jami is the perfect fit to continue the tradition of excellence and high standards that are synonymous with Union girls soccer. We look forward to seeing the program grow under her leadership."

Rozell has represented both North Dakota and Oklahoma, coaching within both State Associations' Olympic Development

Programs. She was a member of the Oklahoma Olympic Development coaching staff from 2012-2013, and the North Dakota Olympic Development Coaching Staff from 2009-2010.

Rozell began her competitive coaching career in the Red River Soccer Club in Fargo, North Dakota, as an active student athlete within the soccer community. Her coaching career for Red River Soccer Club extended from 2005-2009. At that time, she also served as a player evaluator for the RRSC, served on the coaching staff for RRSC skills and developmental camps, and officiated matches within the community.

Rozell played Division I collegiate soccer for North Dakota State University from 2004-2007. During her playing career, she was two-time team captain. She was named All-Tournament at both the Bison Invitational and the University of Northern Colorado Classic, and was also named Division I Independent Women's Soccer Newcomer of the Week during her freshman season. As part of the defensive line, her career included 10 shutouts in 2005, eight shutouts



JAMI ROZELL

in 2006, and a "goals allowed" average less than one per game during 2005-2006.

Rozell earned a Master of Science in Health and Kinesiology from Northeastern State University in 2014, and currently teaches Physical Education at the Union 8th Grade Center and the Union High School Freshman Academy.

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Together We Are Stronger.



UNION SPORTS

Union WR to Play for Les Miles in Kansas in 2020, Looking to End HS Career with State Championship

By MIKE MOGUIN
GTR Sports Writer

Family roots grow strong. Kyler Pearson can attest to that.

Not many people know that he was born in the Sunflower State, the Union wide receiver said. That played a big role in Pearson's decision in June to choose the University of Kansas as his destination for college football.

"Most of my family grew up in Kansas," he said. "My dad played at a Kansas school and my mom attended there (Emporia State) as well. My family has a lot of history in Kansas. It just worked out that I went to the camp and I did really well. I direct messaged Les Miles about a month before I went to the camp and I told him I wanted to go to Kansas. Then a month later, I go to the camp and he gets to watch me play and I get offered and I committed a week later. I feel like it was the right fit and I'm thankful I have that chance."

Gearing up for his senior year at Union, Pearson stands at 5'8" and weighs 155 pounds. KU coaches overlooked his height at the camp, he said, with his quickness and route-running likely getting their attention.

"I just run real crisp routes and I've gotten a lot faster, running a 4.45 in the 40," Pearson said. "Whenever I get that one step on you, I'm probably going to pull away and I think that they noticed that. I was kind of gritty and you have to be that way when you are small."

Kansas was the only D-I offer he received.

Pearson said he can best be compared to the legendary Wes Welker, whom he considers his favorite receiver. Welker, who is 5-9, had to overcome adversity in regards to his height to have success at the NCAA Division-I and NFL levels.

Christian McCaffrey, a running back and return specialist for the Carolina Panthers, is another favorite of Pearson, who returned to Union last year after playing his sophomore year at Putnam City.

"This is where I grew up. It's where I got to watch my brothers play. All my best friends were here and I felt it like it would give the best opportunity to play Division-I football," he said.

His older brothers, Kale and Kaylor, also played as receivers at Union. Kale Pearson was the starting quarterback of the Redskins' 2010 state championship team.

The younger Pearson and his teammates would like nothing more than to add 2019 as a state championship year for the program. The Redskins were ousted in the Class 6AI semifinals last season by Jenks.

In what was another epic battle between the rivals, Pearson caught a go-ahead touchdown pass that gave the Redskins a four-point lead with 20 seconds left in the game. Jenks answered immediately on the following drive with an 87-yard pass reception that set up the go-ahead and

game-clinching score, inflicting a 27-24 defeat to Union.

"It was very tough to go out like that, especially for the seniors," Pearson said. "I just felt like we could have done a little more to get them the win. That last drive, I felt like was one of the best drives we put together in the entire year. We had 45 seconds left to drive down the field and go up. I think I touched the ball five times that drive and to finish with a touchdown with 20 seconds was really a high point. We were all excited and I felt like we had the game."

"But we should have known that Jenks-Union games have always been like that and the game is not over until you hit zero and we found that out the hard way," Pearson added. "It was a very big change of emotions and it helps us prepare for the next year. Knowing how those seniors went out, we don't want to go out like that."

Pearson believes the loss kicked the Redskins into a different gear heading into this season.

"We want it more now," he said. "I think we're starting to realize that we have the talent to do it and we can't let something like that happen again or it will be another wasted game."

As always, Broken Arrow, Jenks and Owasso will be fiercest foes in the race.

"We can't worry about what they're doing, we just got to focus on ourselves," Pearson said. "If we focus on ourselves and do what we are supposed to do, it'll



MIKE MOGUIN for Union Boundary
FAMILY AFFAIR: Wide receiver Kyler Pearson is the third member of his family to play football for Union. A University of Kansas commit, he holds out hope for a state football title this upcoming season.

take care of itself. We are definitely talented, we just got to play like it. We got to buy into what Coach

(Kirk) Frid (Fridrich) is wanting us to do and we just have to out and play to our ability."

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SPORTS

Baseball a Way of Life for Drillers Radio Announcer Dennis Higgins

Veteran Broadcaster Is in 25th Season with Over 3,000 Games

By GLENN HIBDON
GTR Sports Writer

Baseball has been very, very good to Tulsa Drillers play-by-play announcer Dennis Higgins. Not only is the sport his passion and profession, but it's a way of life for the native Californian.

Now in his 25th season in the business and 10th with the Drillers, the 62-year-old Higgins loves both minor league baseball and living in Tulsa. He plans on making ONEOK Field his final destination along a career path of hearing the words "Play Ball."

"I won't retire until they knock on the booth and say 'you're done.' It's been nice having you here, but it's time to go," said Higgins, who will broadcast his 3,000th game this season. "I love it here because they treat me like the Vin Scully of Tulsa. They take care of me financially and I don't want to move around. I want to stay here and retire here."

In a roundabout way, Higgins has Scully to thank for his broadcasting journey. Higgins and his brothers grew up in Oxnard, California, listening to Scully and Dodgers' games on radio. The legendary announcer gave Higgins the desire to follow him into the booth.

"My brother and I would listen to Scully every night," said Higgins, recently named Oklahoma's Sportscaster of the Year. "My brother Mike kept his own box scores and sometimes acted like he was the announcer, trying to emulate Scully and saying, 'It is gone.'"

"When I was young, mom worried about me. She would see me talking to myself in the backyard when I was pretending to do the games, crowd noises and all. My mom would spend all day cooking dinner and at 6 o'clock we would be out playing or listening to games. We ruined more dinners that way. It got to the point where my mom said 'I hate that (Scully's) voice.'"

Higgins discovered baseball through his brother, who delivered donuts for Helms Bakery. The product contained Dodgers baseball cards. Higgins vividly remembers following the 1962 World Series with Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale, leading to his desire to reach the airways.

"I got a late start," said Higgins, who earned a degree in government from Sacramento State. "I thought I would be in politics, but a friend called me and I went to driving a beer truck for seven years. The money was good and I would get off at 3 or 4 o'clock."

"I was talking on the phone one night with my dad and he said, 'when are you going to get off that truck?' I knew I wasn't getting any younger and I decided to attend a sportscaster camp in LA. As a rookie I got to do NBA games and minor league baseball. I had never done basketball and it was so fast, I began to wonder if this (play-by-play) was for me."

Higgins refused to give up his dream and enrolled in grad school at San Francisco State. While attending the broadcasting school, Higgins was given the chance to do basketball and football games that were broadcast live on cable television in San Francisco. Higgins was eventually hired by radio station KNBR, the flagship station of the Giants and Warriors. He started as an intern and then promoted to a producer/reporter.

Due to the politics that permeates big league franchises, Higgins said his season with the Giants broadcasting team in 2000 was not a good fit and major league baseball is "too big for its britches".

"I'd rather do the minors because they have nice ballparks, the hotels aren't that bad, the players and managers are more accessible and I'm the No. 1 guy," he said. "I think the AA level is the best of the minors because you have the best up and coming players and they represent Tulsa. The Drillers have a great ballpark and work ethic."



GTR Newspapers photo

HOME BASE: Dennis Higgins in his broadcast booth before a recent Tulsa Drillers game at ONEOK Field.

Higgins spent 1995-99 with the Wichita Wranglers of the Texas League and still airs Butler County (Kan.) Community College football and men's basketball. He also sells sponsorships for the Butler athletic department, meaning he has very little free time, even during the offseason.

One of the dwindling old school play-by-play men, Higgins works alone in the broadcast booth. There is no "color analyst" or anyone to take the microphone if necessary.

"Everybody starts out that way, wanting to do everything themselves," said Higgins, who started his short season career in 1991 at Helena, Montana, of the Pioneer League. "I'm long past that. It would be nice if I had a partner because the listeners probably get tired of my voice. I think it's a financial situation for franchises. Some minor league teams do have two men, especially at home. They might hire a young guy to do a couple of innings."

"At this level it's pretty much solo. Early on you get a lot of reps (innings), but as you get older, doing 140 games in 153 days, you have very little time off. I usually start at 3 p.m. and on the road I'm with the team and I have to go to the ballpark with them. I use the booth as an office to do my personal stuff."

"My goal was never major league baseball. It was too lofty a goal for me because I started too late and I'm too old."

When Higgins reached San Francisco, there were those who told him "you'll never last, you'll

be home in a week." Now the veteran voice can look back and recall broadcasting the Drillers to a Texas League championship in 2018 and realizing his dream along the way. Not too shabby for a minor league lifer.



STATE TENNIS CHAMPS: Bishop Kelley team members celebrate with their championship trophy which they won earlier this year at the OSSAA 2019 State Tennis Championships.

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Showtime Coming to Broken Arrow Aug. 23

Network to Broadcast 'Rumble In The Rose' Outdoor Boxing Event

By **BOB LEWIS**
Contributing Editor

On Aug. 23, the Showtime Cable Network will introduce Broken Arrow's award-winning Rose District to millions of viewers across the country.

Taking center stage that evening will be a unique outdoor boxing event dubbed "Rumble in the Rose" taking place in the intersection of Main and Commercial streets. It is expected to attract upwards of 1,500 live spectators along with Showtime's national audience.

Headlining the main event will be unbeaten Oklahoma heavyweight **Trey Lippe Morrison**, who now stands at 16-0. His opponent is yet to be announced.

For Morrison, who has won all 16 of his bouts via knockout, excellence in the ring is a family tradition. His father, Tommy, is a former world heavyweight champion.

Scheduled to compete in other bouts are super middleweights **Vladimir Shishkin** and **DeAndre Ware** and junior welterweights **Shohjahon Ergashev** and **Abdiel Ramirez**.

This event is the outgrowth of a friendship between **Brent Brassfield**, Broken Arrow's Business Retention and Develop-

ment Coordinator, and Tulsa-based boxing promoter **Tony Holden** coupled with the willingness of the B.A. City Council to think outside the box when it comes to promoting the community's ultra-successful downtown redevelopment project.

In an earlier interview, Holden told the Tulsa World, the Rose District, "is beautiful. It'll look great on TV."

Holden said boxing is making a comeback after a period where mixed martial arts was more popular among younger spectators. "I think it's going to continue to grow. What boxing needs is a heavyweight. That's why there's a lot of attention on Trey," he said.

Showtime is an American premium cable and satellite television network that serves as the flagship service of the Showtime Networks subsidiary of CBS Corp. According to the company's website, services for Showtime and CBS All Access, which carries broadcast network programming and originals, are on track to reach 8 million subscribers in 2019 and 16 million by 2022.

City Manager **Michael Spurgeon** said the city is investing about \$110,000 to stage this event. "We believe that based on ticket sales, promotions and sponsorships, we should be able to recoup about 75 to 80 percent of our investment," he said.



GTR Newspapers photo

HEAVYWEIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT: Unbeaten heavyweight boxer **Trey Lippe Morrison** talks to the media and onlookers at B.A.'s Rose District Plaza during the announcement of the "Rumble in the Rose" coming to Main and Commercial streets Aug. 23. To Morrison's left are boxing promoter **Tony Holden**, B.A. Mayor **Craig Thurmond** and B.A. City Manager **Michael Spurgeon**.



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GTR 2019 COMPOSITE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME
Aug. 22	Rogers	McLain	Sept. 20	Hale	Skiatook	Oct. 11	Claremore	Rogers	Oct. 26	OSU	Iowa State
	Hale	Edison		Milwood	Cascia Hall		Ponca City	Bixby		OU	Kansas State
	Memorial	Central		Webster	Tulsa NOAH		Memorial	Skiatook		Missouri Southern	NSU
	Webster	East Central		Edison	Claremore		Hale	McAlester		Cisco College	NEO
Aug. 23	Heritage Hall	Holland Hall		Holland Hall	Metro Christian		Metro Christian	Wyandotte	Oct. 31	East Central	Rogers
	Hominy	Rejoice Christian		Rogers	McLain		Holland Hall	Westville		Fort Gibson	Central
Aug. 29	Arkansas Baptist	NEO	Sept. 21	Summit Christian	Depew		Central	Poteau	Nov. 1	Ponca City	BTW
	Jenks	Mansfield Legacy		San Jose State	Arkansas		Cascia Hall	Vinita		Kansas	Metro Christian
	Central	Grant		OSU	Texas		Rejoice Christian	Ketchum		Afton	Rejoice Christian
Aug. 30	Tulsa	Michigan State		Wyoming	Tulsa		Union	Putnam City North		McLain	Wagoner
	Inola	Lincoln Christian		NSU	Pittsburg State		Lincoln Christian	Webster		Durant	Edison
	McLain	Victory Christian		Kilgore College	NEO		Norman North	Owasso		Bishop Kelley	Coweta
	Broken Bow	Metro Christian	Sept. 27	Union	Owasso		BTW	Shawnee		Ada	Hale
	Owasso	Bentonville West		Broken Arrow	Jenks		Yukon	Jenks		Edmond Memorial	Broken Arrow
	Tulsa NOAH	Capitol Hill		Sapulpa	Bixby	Oct. 12	Arkansas	Kentucky		Moore	Owasso
	Webster	Hale		Edison	Glenpool		OU	Texas		Tahlequah	Memorial
	Gravette	Cascia Hall		Bristow	McLain		Washburn	NSU		Sequoia	Cascia Hall
	Union	Lake Ridge		Central	Hilldale		NEO	Tyler Junior College		Victory Christian	Kiefer
	Bixby	Mansfield Timberview		Webster	Checota	Oct. 17	Edmond Santa Fe	Broken Arrow		Idabel	Lincoln Christian
Aug. 31	Portland State	Arkansas		Metro Christian	Adair		Roland	Lincoln Christian		Spiro	Holland Hall
	Broken Arrow	Mansfield		Summit Christian	Prue		Beggs	Victory Christian		Central	Empire
	BTW	North Little Rock		Hale	Bishop Kelley		Collinsville	East Central		Bixby	Shawnee
Sept. 1	Houston	OU		BTW	Bartlesville		Sapulpa	BTW		Webster	Stigler
Sept. 5	NSU	Emporia State		Memorial	East Central		Hale	Edison		Edmond Santa Fe	Jenks
Sept. 6	Broken Arrow	Union		Rogers	Tahlequah		Jenks	Edmond Memorial	Nov. 2	Christ Prep Academy	Tulsa NOAH
	Fayetteville	Owasso		Lincoln Christian	Stigler		Berryhill	Cascia Hall		Tulsa	Tulane
	Bixby	Jenks		Cascia Hall	Vertigris		Rogers	Skiatook	Nov. 7	Mississippi State	Arkansas
	Sapulpa	Edison		Victory Christian	Dewey		Sequoia	Holland Hall		NSU	Northwest Missouri
	BTW	Bishop Kelley		Tulsa NOAH	OCPHS		Metro Christian	Chelsea	Nov. 8	Cascia Hall	Inola
	Hale	East Central	Sept. 28	Okla. Union	Rejoice Christian		Broken Bow	Central		Memorial	Pryor
	Memorial	Central		Texas A&M	Arkansas		Bishop Kelley	Glenpool		UCF	Tulsa
	Victory Christian	Rogers		Kansas State	OSU	Oct. 18	Okmulgee	Webster		McAlester	Bishop Kelley
	Cascia Hall	Holland Hall		Texas Tech	OU		Claremore	Memorial		Skiatook	East Central
	Lincoln Christian	Jones		NEO	Navarro College		Moore	Union	Nov. 9	Grant	Tulsa NOAH
	Summit Christian	Yale		Owasso	Barnsdall		Bixby	Bartlesville		Hale	Durant
	Tulsa NOAH	Choteau-Mazie	Oct. 3	Pryor	Rogers		Classen SAS	Tulsa NOAH		Edison	Ada
Sept. 7	South Dakota	OU		Bishop Kelley	Edison		Tulsa	Cincinnati		Central	Sallisaw
	McNeese	OSU	Oct. 4	Muldrow	Central		Auburn	Arkansas	Nov. 16	Rogers	Collinsville
	Arkansas	Ole Miss		Collinsville	Memorial		Baylor	OSU		Grove	McLain
	Tulsa	San Jose State		East Central	Claremore		West Virginia	OU	Nov. 23	Union	Edmond North
	NEO	Georgia Military		Glenpool	Hale		NSU	Lincoln		Spiro	Holland Hall
Sept. 12	Okmulgee	Rogers		Mustang	Union		New Mexico Military	NEO	Nov. 8	Caney Valley	Victory Christian
	McLain	Central		Chouteau-Mazie	Metro Christian		Jenks	Norman		Broken Arrow	Enid
	Central Missouri	NSU		Owasso	Edmond North	Oct. 25	Owasso	Mustang		BTW	Page
Sept. 13	Jenks	Union		Tulsa NOAH	Oklahoma Bible		Norman North	Union	Nov. 9	Lincoln Christian	Checota
	Owasso	Broken Arrow		Keys	Holland Hall		Yukon	Broken Arrow		Muskogee	Bixby
	Beggs	Webster		Morris	Victory Christian		East Central	Tahlequah		McAlester	Bishop Kelley
	East Central	Stilwell		McLain	Cleveland		Central	Stilwell		Putnam City North	Owasso
	Rejoice Christian	Kiefer		Norman	Broken Arrow		Lincoln Christian	Okmulgee		Metro Christian	Salina
	Bentonville	BTW		Webster	Idabel		Coweta	Hale		Rejoice Christian	Colcord
	Memorial	Edison		Jenks	Enid		Metro Christian	Nowata		Westmoore	Jenks
	Bishop Kelley	Bishop McGuinness		Seminole	Lincoln Christian		Webster	Roland	Nov. 9	Iowa State	OU
	Metro Christian	Oklahoma Christian		Jay	Cascia Hall		Holland Hall	Vian		Western Kentucky	Arkansas
	Vian	Lincoln Christian		Bixby	BTW		Edison	McAlester	Nov. 16	NSU	Central Oklahoma
	Verdigris	Victory Christian		South Coffeyville	Summit Christian		Rejoice Christian	Commerce		OU	Baylor
	Casady	Holland Hall		Tulsa	SMU		BTW	Muskogee	Nov. 23	Kansas	OSU
	Tonkawa	Tulsa NOAH		OU	Kansas		Catoosa	McLain		Fort Hays State	NSU
Sept. 14	OSU	Tulsa		OSU	Texas Tech		Page	Bixby	Nov. 23	Houston	Tulsa
	Colorado State	Arkansas		NSU	Nebraska-Kearney		Memorial	Rogers		Arkansas	LSU
	OU	UCLA		Blinn College	NEO		Victory Christian	Sperry	Nov. 29	TCU	OU
Sept. 19	Vian	Owasso		Broken Arrow	Westmoore		Cascia Hall	Locust Grove		OSU	West Virginia
Sept. 20	Bixby	Putnam City		Durant	Bishop Kelley		Ada	Bishop Kelley	Nov. 30	Missouri	Arkansas
	Lincoln Christian	Stigler		Oologah	McLain		Tulsa NOAH	Lighthouse Christian		Tulsa	East Carolina
	Bishop Kelley	Memorial		Victory Christian	Haskell		Memphis	Tulsa		OU	OSU
	Haskell	Rejoice Christian		Pryor	East Central		Arkansas	Alabama			

Former Tulsa Football Star Eddie Dukes Wins Jim Thorpe Sports Excellence Award

SPORTS

By **MIKE MOGUIN**
GTR Sports Writer

When you think of the 1964 University of Tulsa football team, the names of Jerry Rhome and Howard Twilley come to mind. They were part of a stellar passing attack for the Golden Hurricane's Bluebonnet Bowl championship squad that year.

Another major element was Eddie Dukes, a nose guard who anchored a stout defense, helping TU to a 9-2 record and a 14-7 win against Ole' Miss in their bowl game.

Dukes, a Choctaw nation member, recently won the Jim Thorpe Sports Excellence Award and was honored at the Dream Keepers 21st Annual Awards Banquet last November, an event held by the City of Tulsa and the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission. He won the awards based on his service as a coach and a teacher in the community.

Recently, Dukes watched his two grandsons at a football camp at TU coordinated by coach Philip Montgomery. He shared some of his memories of his senior season.

Dukes grew up in Talahina, near the Kiamichi Mountains and was all-conference standout in football, baseball and track in high school. He went into the Air Force right after graduation.

Dukes played as a running back and linebacker in high school, so when finished up his time in the

armed forces, he attempted to walk-on as a fullback in 1960 at Oklahoma State.

"I had visions of being a fullback. I weighed only 200 pounds and had four years of experience lifting weights. So I had some strength," Dukes said. "But some coaches came up and said 'Dukes, you would probably succeed more at line than a running back in the backfield.' So, I said 'okay. I'll move up to the line.' The minute I moved up to the line, I was third or fourth-team fullback."

Within two days of practice, Dukes was on the second team on the line. "So I decided that this is where I'm going to have to be if I'm going to play," he said.

The next year, Dukes played at Eastern State College in Wilburton. He arrived at TU in 1962, but had to redshirt when he incurred an injury.

Eventually, that memorable campaign of '64 came.

"Here I am at the line, I'm 5-11, 235, and was better off at the middle (nose guard)," Dukes said. "People had a hard time getting between my legs because I was so short, and being stout enough, I was hard to block. "So that was a natural place for me. They couldn't get to my knees, so they double-teamed me. I didn't make many tackles, but, they couldn't move me off the line either."

Dukes loved being double-teamed.

TU opened the season against Arkansas in Fayetteville.

"As far as the environment of playing football, that Razorback Stadium was hard to beat when we were playing. It was an exciting



Courtesy photo

JIM THORPE WINNER: Eddie Dukes, who recently won the Jim Thorpe Sports Excellence Award, played nose tackle on TU's 1964 Bluebonnet Bowl team.

game," Dukes said.

The Hurricane had a 14-7 advantage at halftime, but wound up losing 31-22.

"We just made a couple of bloopers," Dukes said.

That Arkansas team, which had Jerry Jones and Jimmy Johnson as members and Barry Switzer as an assistant coach, would go on to win a share of the national championship.

TU won its next three games, including a 58-0 romp on the road against Louisville. Then came a heartbreaking 28-23 setback at Cincinnati.

"Cincinnati slipped by us," Dukes said. "The story of that game was, we were on the two-



University of Tulsa

HURRICANE LINEMAN: TU nose guard Eddie Dukes helped Tulsa to a 9-2 bowl-winning season in 1964,

yard line and Rhome threw a pass to Twilley in the closing seconds and the whistle blew. All the players would tell you that. We would have won the game had we had another play.

"We were moving down the field and we thought we were going to win the game and the clock ran out on us," Dukes added.

TU would not lose again that year. A significant moment came when the Hurricane dismantled Oklahoma State, 61-14, at home.

"What stands out about OSU is their fans," Dukes said. "They were all around the field. It got so crowded that (Coach Glenn) Dobbs said on record that he could have sold 50,000 seats that day. The stadium held over 25,000 back then."

Dukes believes that one way his

TU career benefits him today is the discipline he learned. One team that stands out to him the most is the 2010 squad because of its win at Notre Dame.

"I think of those players on that team," he said. "They get to say 'I played for a team that beat Notre Dame.' No one can ever take that away."

As for the Tulsa teams of today, Dukes is optimistic.

"I'm appreciative of the head coach (Montgomery) here," he said. "I think he really cares about kids. He has demonstrated and shown to a lot of us that he genuinely cares about children. He's had his struggles here. He's struggling now to win. But he knows how to handle kids. He can get on you, but he also knows when to pat you on the back."

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Hosted by: from left, Tulsa Public Schools Athletic Director Gil Cloud, local and national TV sportscaster Chris Lincoln.

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Bank of America Center Building has 'Wow Factor'

The Bank of America Center Building at 15 West 6th Street, originally known as the Fourth National Bank of Tulsa Building, was built on the site of the old Tulsa County Courthouse. In 1967 when it opened, at 412 feet tall, 32 stories, it was the tallest building in Tulsa. Today it is the fifth tallest in Tulsa and the ninth tallest in the state. Its net occupiable area is 288,774 square feet.

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

The original owners of this structure probably considered it a cutting edge contemporary building although it is frequently referred to as a design product of the international school.

Designed by the Tulsa architectural firm, Kelley and Marshall, it was an immediate financial success. Kelley and Marshall, who were also involved in real estate development, built at least two other

office towers of similar design in different cities. The architects were proud enough of the Bank of America Building that their offices were located on the top floor for many years.

What is most interesting about this building is how it functionally combines four different types of occupancies in one single tower and from the exterior articulates them in the overall design.

The bulk of the ground floor with storefront glass walls at Boulder and 6th Street was planned to be retail space. Originally it was occupied by Fourth National Bank.

Today, it is the downtown branch of Bank of America. Above it is a seven-floor parking garage accessed by a ramped entrance from Boulder Avenue. On top of the garage are 21 floors of commercial office space capped by three floors of a private club. The building is

owned and managed by Price Family Properties.

The top three floors are occupied by the Summit Club. When it opened on one floor as the new kid on the block, it was one of three downtown clubs. Two of them have closed, while the Summit Club remains and is thriving.

From its exterior, the Bank of American Center follows a classic tripartite design with a base, a shaft and a distinctive cap. The base is the parking garage which with a glass ground floor appears to float. It is faced with cream colored rusticated marble panels composed of small rectangular pieces. For a few years, there was an adhesive problem with these which has apparently been fixed. Ventilating this base are tall, narrow louvered openings spaced regularly around the perimeter.

The shaft is glass curtain wall with golden bronze glass spandrels arranged in a horizontal banded pattern. This shaft is strongly recessed back from the parking garage below.

The crown of this building, its tour de force, are the three top floors, glass deeply recessed behind overhanging roof and column structures highlighted by aggres-



Courtesy photo

INTERNATIONAL DESIGN: The Bank of America building in Tulsa is frequently referred to as a design product of the international school which is "characterized by an emphasis on volume over mass, the use of lightweight, mass-produced, industrial materials, rejection of all ornament and color, repetitive modular forms, and the use of flat surfaces, typically alternating with areas of glass."

sively projecting balconies. The off white color of the base below is carried out in the marble facing of columns, balcony railings, and

roof fascias. This wow factor cap dramatically sets the building apart from other high rise Tulsa structures.

Tulsa Area United Way Day of Caring is Sept. 6

More than 5,000 volunteers will work on approximately 450 community service projects during the Tulsa Area United Way's annual Day of Caring on Friday, Sept. 6.

The 28th Day of Caring will begin at 7 a.m. with a free breakfast and program for volunteers at the VFW Post 577 at 1109 E. Sixth St. Parking is available north of the VFW and along Sixth Street near Centennial Park.

Sponsors of the Day of Caring are Arvest Bank, Hillcrest Medical Center and Osage Casino.

"The Day of Caring is one of our community's most enduring and popular events," said Alison Anthony, president and CEO of the Tulsa Area United Way. "5,000 people coming together in service on a single day creates great energy and real impact."

The Tulsa Area United Way's Day of Caring is also one of the nation's largest single days of community service.

The United Way's Trailblazers - companies and organizations that conduct their fundraising campaigns early during the summer - will reveal their results at the Day of Caring breakfast and program.

"The Trailblazers provide momentum and energy as we begin our annual United Way campaign for the community," Anthony said.

The breakfast and program will feature a performance of the cast of Up with People, an international travel program that empowers young adults to make a difference in the world through volunteerism, leadership and the performing arts.

Non-profit organizations, schools, municipalities and other organizations can still submit work projects for the Day of Caring, and volunteers can register to participate by calling 918-295-6630. Work projects may include general clean-up, landscaping, painting, light construction, school projects and outings for senior citizens. Individual volunteers, as well as employee groups from large companies and small businesses are invited to participate.

Day of Caring t-shirts are available to order online while supplies last at tauw.org/tees

For more information about the Day of Caring, visit www.tauw.org.



GTR Newspapers photo

LA FIESTA DE TULSA AT GATHERING PLACE: Latino and Hispanic cultures were celebrated at Tulsa's Gathering Place with La Fiesta de Tulsa on July 26. Thousands attended the event that hosted festive music, dance, art, activities, food and drink. Guests were entertained by live music performed by local and national talent, including international music sensation Diana Reyes. Other performers included Proyecto Insomnio, La Gozadera Band, Tonatiuh Dance Co., Baila Tulsa and more.

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THE ECONOMY

Whitmarsh-Oller RE/MAX Team Continues Expansion

By LESA JONES
Contributing Writer

“The fastest-growing RE/MAX office in the nation” is expanding its reach once again with the addition of a south Tulsa location at 91st Street and Memorial Drive.

Owners Amy Whitmarsh and Lori Oller acquired the former RE/MAX Life office, at 7506 E. 91st St., July 1, from RE/MAX Boone Realty of Columbia, Missouri.

Now with local ownership and a name change, RE/MAX Results Tulsa adds 15 full-time agents to their already successful team. Oller and Whitmarsh were selected as the Broker/Owners of the Year for Oklahoma in 2018 and RE/MAX Results has grown from seven to 80 agents just since 2017.

In addition, the dynamic duo also recently acquired a Bartlesville office and partnered with the city’s top producing agents.

Now with the expansion into Tulsa, RE/MAX Results once again aligns itself with agents who fit their standard of professionalism and world-class customer service.

Whitmarsh, one of the nation’s “Top 100 Realtors” three years



OVERSEEING EXPANSION: Lori Oller, left, and Amy Whitmarsh started with seven agents when they acquired RE/MAX Results in Owasso. Last fall, they purchased another RE/MAX office in Bartlesville and in July, they purchased the former RE/MAX Life office in south Tulsa bringing their total to 80 agents.

ENTHUSIASTIC AGENTS: With the purchase of RE/MAX Life in south Tulsa, RE/MAX Results added an additional 15 agents to their already successful team. Lori Oller and Amy Whitmarsh were named Broker/Owners of the Year for Oklahoma in 2018.

in a row said, “We are so excited to partner with the Tulsa agents and to enlarge the RE/MAX footprint throughout the greater Tulsa area.”

Oller has been a realtor since 2002 and became a managing broker in June 2016.

As owners, Oller and Whitmarsh have created a workplace culture that is unlike the typical real estate brokerage.

“We have an office of full-time

professional agents lifting the standard for our profession,” Oller said. “Our agents are service-minded, learning-based and are willing to mastermind and share best practices with each other.

We often say, “All ships rise with the tide,” meaning when we lift each other up and support each other, we all succeed,” she said.

Whitmarsh added, “Our success comes from partnering with the right agents for the right reasons.

We want to grow, but not just for the sake of growing.”

She says they seek out agents who want to continue to learn, continue to be better and continue to develop their business practices with their Agent Development Program.

As sisters and business partners, Whitmarsh and Oller are endeavoring to set a new standard in what agents can expect from their brokers and owners. For them,

agent-centered is not just a catchphrase. They provide unmatched support and knowledgeable experience to all of their agents.

RE/MAX agents average 17.0 transactions per agent per year compared to their nearest competing brokerage at 11.1 according to 2018 Real Trends 500 data. For more information or to schedule an interview, call Lesa Jones at 918-254-0600 or email lesajones@remax.net.

PSO Seeking Approval to Add Low-Cost Wind Energy

As part of its long-range plan to increase reliance on natural gas and renewable energy resources, Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) has filed an application seeking regulatory approval to add 675 megawatts (MW) of Oklahoma wind-generated power to its energy mix. This reflects a 45.5 percent share of 1,485 MW total requested in conjunction with its sister company, Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO).

The proposal includes partial ownership in three Oklahoma wind generation facilities located in seven counties in north central Oklahoma – Alfalfa, Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Kingfisher, Major and Woods. The three facilities represent approximately a \$2 billion investment in Oklahoma and PSO’s 45.5 percent ownership share is projected to save PSO customers over \$1 billion, net of cost, during the time they’re in service.

“Our long-range goal at PSO is to rely on a well-balanced mix of natural gas and renewable sources like wind to meet the needs of our customers,” said Peggy Simmons, PSO president and COO. “We’re excited about this opportunity because it will save our customers money and boost the state’s economy with new investment and tax revenues.”

Oklahoma wind power currently makes up approximately 20 percent

(1,137 MW) of the energy serving PSO’s customers. The company’s long-term plan shows customers will benefit from additional wind energy beginning in 2022. PSO began a competitive bidding process in early 2019, which determined these resources deliver the most overall value to customers.

PSO is pursuing this acquisition in conjunction with its sister company, Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO). The

amount of generation acquired by PSO or SWEPCO can be scaled to align with individual state resource needs, as determined by the respective state commissions. The wind energy will come online by December 2021 pending regulatory approvals.

PSO’s current energy plan also includes increased natural gas and solar generation resources to meet PSO customer needs over the next 10 years.

Edward Jones

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Tulsa HBA Wins National Awards

The Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa was honored with two national awards, the Best Association Operations Program and Best Membership Recruitment Plan Implemented, at the National Association of Home Builders Association Management Conference in July.

The Best Association Operations Program was given for the creation of the Membership Center, where all members can find available resources and tools to benefit their membership all in one place. The Best Recruitment Plan award was given for the Fall 2018 Paradise is Calling membership drive, where the Tulsa HBA recruited over 80 members.

“These awards illustrate the inno-

vative programs that HBAs across the NAHB Federation are developing for their members,” said Mike Means, Executive Officers Council (EOC) president and executive vice president of the Oklahoma HBA. The Association Excellence Awards is an annual program designed to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of state and local home builders’ associations and executive officers in the field of association management. EOC membership is comprised of the staff executives who direct more than 650 NAHB-affiliated state and local home builders’ associations representing more than 140,000 home builders in communities across the United States.

The mission of the Home Build-

ers Association is to advocate for the home building industry while promoting ethical business practices and standards.

As “the voice of Tulsa’s housing industry,” the HBA of Greater Tulsa helps promote policies that will keep housing a local priority, and aims to provide and expand opportunities for all consumers to have safe, decent and affordable housing.

Founded in 1942, the HBA of Greater Tulsa currently has approximately 1,000 members. About one-third of HBA members are home builders, and/or remodelers. The remaining members are associates working in closely related fields within the housing industry, such as mortgage finance and building products and services.

The association is member-driven, with a professional staff of nine in Tulsa. More than 70 members serve on the association’s board of directors, which helps set the association’s agenda.

The HBA’s various groups provide a wide range of services to members, focusing on key issues such as remodeling and green building, promotional events and philanthropy. The association also represents the industry’s interests with local government and strives to ensure that housing remains a priority when laws are made and policies are established.

The HBA of Greater Tulsa’s builder members construct nearly 70 percent of the new homes built each year in the Tulsa Metro area.



WINNERS: Jeffrey Smith, Executive Officer of the Tulsa Home Builders Association with Mike Means, Executive Officers Council President and Executive Vice President of the Oklahoma Home Builders Association.



VAST CHANGES: Sign company men worked diligently during a recent August rain to place a new Vast.bank sign at the company’s location near East 81st Street and South Yale Avenue in Tulsa. The company has changed its name from Valley National Bank.



GOING UP: The new Vast Bank headquarters building across from ONEOK Field in downtown Tulsa is taking shape. Expected to open in December, the building will include a rooftop “In the Raw” sushi bar, rotating art installments and office space.

NET: The National Energy Dialogue Continues



The first International Energy Policy Conference was held in 1992. One of the speakers of the conference stated, “I think most Americans would welcome messages from an industry expressly committed to the importance of what it does, confident in its ability to manage risks, and willing to defend its important work against extremist assault. Most Americans understand the need for secure supplies of affordable energy. And they always embrace conviction.” This quote best summarizes the importance of the conference, and especially dialogue. The conference theme and dialogue has been and continues to be “striving for energy efficiency and environmental preservation.”

Since the inception of the conference, it has hosted dignitaries, Fortune 500 companies, industry experts, ambassadors, and delegations to discuss energy efficiency,

environmental preservation, and the whys, hows and solutions of a national energy plan. The conference, which launched in the Oklahoma City area, has hosted events in Tulsa, Washington, D.C., Houston, Denver and Dallas as well as other cities throughout the US.

National Energy Talk Present and Future

We found, for example, that our Facebook page “America Needs America’s Energy” has a following of over 22,000 people across the US.

Therefore, this is an example of an area where National Energy Talk can complement the industry and be an active voice on social media.

With the launch of National Energy Talk (NET), what once was an annual conference has expanded into a media-driven platform with year-round engagement. Today, NET is helping lead a national dialogue on energy issues, views, and solutions through events, publications, video, audio and online content. NET believes in the power of people: “Nothing moves without energy.”



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

NET is National Energy Talk is a platform engaging a national dialogue on energy issues, views and solutions. We address the needs, plans and issues that all types of energy face

today. Through discussion, we can create a national energy vision.

Join the Talk

The founding principle of NET remains steadfast: the availability of reasonably priced energy is paramount to the economic and business development both in the United States and other countries around the world. Your involvement can help continue to bring about this change.

A National Energy Conversation in the Heartland

National Energy Talk officially launched on May 1, 2017. Many thanks to Exploring Energy Radio Show for airing the announcement and to Oilman Magazine and GTR Newspapers for their great support through our columns!

The 2019 and 2020 plans are underway. Keep up with the activities of National Energy Talk (NET) by visiting the National Energy Talk page on Facebook.

Future Goals

It is important that the message

is national in scope. Therefore, future goals include visits in Washington, D.C., Houston and other US cities. As consumers and stakeholders of energy, we must drive the process, evaluating how we can best leverage our natural resources here at home to ensure long-term energy independence and security.

Future generations are depending on us. America needs America’s energy!

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

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DEQ NOTICE OF TIER II PERMIT APPLICATION FILING

A Tier II application for an air quality acid rain permit renewal has been filed with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by Green Country Energy, LLC, 12307 S. Florence Ave., Jenks, OK 74037.

The applicant requests approval to obtain an acid rain permit renewal from the DEQ Air Quality Division at the Green Country Energy, LLC facility located at 12307 South Florence Avenue in Jenks Oklahoma, 74037 located in Tulsa County.

In response to the application, DEQ has prepared a draft permit (Permit Number 2018-1439-ARR3), which may be reviewed at the Tulsa County public library in the city of Jenks or at the Air Quality Division's main office (see address below). The status of all permit applications is also available for review in the Air Quality Section of the DEQ's web page: www.deq.state.ok.us

This draft permit would authorize the facility to emit the following regulated pollutants: NOx = 802 TPY, CO = 802 TPY, SO2 = 35.4 TPY, VOC = 137 TPY, and PM10 = 247 TPY.

The public comment period ends 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Any person may submit written comments concerning the draft permit to the Air Quality Division contact listed below. Only those issues relevant to the proposed renewal are open for comment. A public meeting on the draft permit renewal may also be requested in writing at the same address. Note that all public meetings are to be arranged and conducted by DEQ/CSD staff.

In addition to the public comment opportunity offered under this notice, this draft permit is subject to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review, EPA objection, and petition to EPA, as provided by 40 CFR § 70.8.

If the Administrator (EPA) does not object to the proposed permit, the public has 60 days following the Administrator's 45 day review period to petition the Administrator to make such an objection as provided in 40 CFR § 70.8(d) and in OAC 252:100-8-8(j). Information on all permit actions and applicable review time lines is available in the Air Quality section of the DEQ web page: www.deq.state.ok.us/

For additional information, contact Gregory Holler at 12307 S. Florence Ave. in Jenks, Oklahoma 74037 or call (918) 296-6479 or contact DEQ at: Chief Engineer, Permits & Engineering Group, Air Quality Division, 707 N. Robinson, Suite 4100, P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, Ok, 73101-1677 or call (405) 702-4100.

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Meeting New People, Trying New Places the Goal of Bourbon Tulsa Weekly Social Club

By DJ MORROW INGRAM
Contributing Writer

"Please don't make this story about me. Bourbon Tulsa Weekly is not about me," stressed Michael Patton.

But it's hard not to. Patton is the creative brain behind a relatively new "social club" that meets each week to "try out new places and meet new people" (according to the club business card). And its success isn't surprising coming from the man who was at the forefront of Tulsa's environmental and recycling efforts, led the Metropolitan Environmental Trust 22 years, created the Tulsa Bull Run, helped spur Ozone Alert Days and is now the executive director of Land Legacy. But he's right. This story is about Bourbon Tulsa Weekly. The Michael Patton story (which is fascinating, inspiring and funny) is for another time.

Each Tuesday at 5:30 p.m., an ever-changing group of people, often strangers to each other, gather at a different Tulsa establishment for an hour of socializing, networking and just having a good time. Although the name of the "social club" is Bourbon Tulsa, the consumption of alcohol is secondary to the mission of the club.

"It's all about a safe, positive way for Tulsans to get out, meet new people and experience new venues," Patton said. "We also hope it helps these local, small businesses get new customers in the door."

The name of the club (no dues, no officers, no club business) was chosen because "bourbon is truly an all-American liquor" that has even been recognized by the United States Congress as a "distinctive product of the United States," Patton said.

Tuesday was chosen because it's a night when there is less going on in the active Tulsa nightlife and one of the harder nights for local businesses to draw crowds.

"There are probably a handful of people who actually drink bourbon at the meetings," said Patton. "Most of the women drink wine and most of the men drink beer, but we do have some bourbon aficionados who will drink and compare bourbons." Several of the businesses have catered to the name: Bread and Butter Kitchen offered bourbon pecan pie, the Tulsa Press Club created a special bourbon menu and The Brook offered bourbon tastings.

"The bar managers and owners have all been so gracious about hosting the club and are enthusiastic about getting on the schedule," Patton said.

Nikita Layson, co-owner of 473 Bar and Backyard with her husband, Andrew, was enthusiastic about hosting the group in early August.

"We've only been open about three and a half months so this is a great opportunity for us to get new people through the doors and see who we are," Layson said. "We think 473 is perfect for this type of group - we're nestled in the quaint Kendall-Whittier neighborhood, our menu is focused on locally produced and boutique wines and beers and we aim for a 'chill vibe' with great music."

Jeff Pugh, a local landscape architect, attended Bourbon Tulsa Weekly for the first time at 473 Bar out of curiosity after seeing it on



GTR Newspapers photo

TUESDAY SMILES: Bourbon Tulsa Weekly participants meet Tuesday afternoons in various establishments throughout greater Tulsa for socialization and fun. This photo was taken recently at The Brook in Tulsa's Brookside. The "social club" was founded by Tulsan Michael Patton, third from right in the photo.

Facebook. "I loved the idea of visiting a new place that I might not otherwise go to and meeting new people. If it works out to be good for my business, that's a plus."

Local attorney and former city councilor Terry Doverspike commented that he liked that there is no structure, no dues, no expectations and no political agenda to the group.

"Although I've somewhat retired I'm not interested in sitting on the couch watching 'Jeopardy,'" Doverspike said. "I love that this group is so diverse. It crosses generations, occupations, ethnicities."

"It's safe in that you're not signing up or committing to anything. It's technically just one hour, it's not a private club, you can always bring friends or relatives with you and it exposes you to different businesses."

Communication for the club is managed through a Facebook page, Bourbon Tulsa Weekly, although it does maintain a Gmail account. Patton has scheduled locations through the end of the year with no repeats until the one-year anniversary Jan. 7, 2020 when the group will return to the Tulsa Press Club, the site of the first meeting. The attendance ranges weekly from 10 to 40. Patton is always the first to arrive. He greets everyone and makes sure no one is sitting alone.

"The idea is so simple it's simply brilliant," said Betty Dalsing, a local artist. "It's a great way to meet new people and reconnect with old friends."

Patton is happy with the success of the club and says his only concern will be if the numbers grow to where it won't fit into some of Tulsa's smaller establishments. But it's a problem he will enthusiastically attack.

"Years ago I started my career wanting to change the world," he said. "Now I just want to change the world's mood."

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Groundbreaking Held for Vision Tulsa Project, The Widening of S. Mingo Rd. in Union District

Mayor G.T. Bynum and City Councilor Lori Decter Wright led a groundbreaking recently for the Vision Tulsa project – widening of South Mingo Road between East 71st Street and East 81st Street.

“Over the last half century, we’ve seen tremendous population gains in areas of town where the street infrastructure hasn’t kept up,” Mayor Bynum said. “It makes sense to increase street capacity to reflect today’s traffic needs, and voters recognized that when they approved funding for the widening of Mingo between 71st and 81st Streets.”

South Mingo Road between East 71st Street and East 81st Street will be widened from two lanes to five lanes – two northbound lanes, two southbound lanes and a center left-turn lane, and sidewalks will be

constructed on both sides. The road will be reconstructed with a concrete surface, replacing the current asphalt surface.

This project also includes replacing the roadside ditches with storm sewers, curbs, gutters and inlets. A new traffic signal will be installed at 71st and Mingo, with Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant ramps at the corners. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-August, with completion in fall 2020, weather permitting. The City of Tulsa has contracted with APAC-Central Inc. for this \$7,430,589 project.

The Vision Tulsa sales tax has provided \$15 million for the South Mingo Corridor, with funding for design and right-of-way acquisition on other segments, including

91st Street between Mingo Road and Memorial Drive, and Mingo Road between 81st and 91st streets.

These projects are planned to accommodate significant traffic increases and current and future economic development. City of Tulsa traffic counts for South Mingo Road between East 71st Street and East 81st Street total approximately 18,550 vehicles per day, according to figures from 2017.

About Vision Tulsa

Vision Tulsa, an \$884 million sales tax renewal package approved by voters in 2016, is making substantial investments in economic development, education, public safety, streets and transportation needs citywide. With citizen priorities providing the driving force behind the creation of Vision Tulsa.



Union Boundary photo

FIRST PHASE: City of Tulsa officials and others participated in the groundbreaking of the Mingo Road widening between 71st and 81st Streets in the Union School District. Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum is in the middle, and to his immediate right is Tulsa City Councilor Lori Decter Wright. To the Mayor’s immediate left are Tulsa City Parks Director Anna America and Tulsa City Councilor Jeannie Cue. They are joined by other officials and participants in the project.

Water Rationing Still Possible in Broken Arrow

By **BOB LEWIS**
Contributing Editor

As strange as it may sound after record spring rainfall and persistent flooding problems, city officials warn that water rationing may be necessary in Broken Ar-

row this summer. It all depends on what Mother Nature has in store for the area.

The city says residents use an average of about 13 million gallons of water per day (MGD); but in the summertime, that figure climbs to over 24 MGD. Highest monthly

water usage generally occurs in July, August and September due primarily to the need for more frequent watering of lawns and landscaping. This causes stress to the water supply and, if not properly managed, can lead to a shortage.

To deal with this reality, in 2016, the city council adopted a Water Conservation Plan to help make sure all our citizens will be able to receive water, even if supply is low.

The plan contains three triggering stages. Stage One is a time when the probability of a water shortage exists and continues to rise. It calls for voluntary cutbacks in water use, lawn watering on an alternate day schedule and concentration of watering times during evening hours when demand is normally the lowest.

Stage Two is triggered when daily water demand for three consecutive days is in excess of 95 percent of availability and/or the storage system is unable to recover about 70 percent of its capacity by 5 a.m. During these times, voluntary actions requested in Stage One become mandatory.

Stage Three goes into effect during emergency situations caused by falling water pressure, continuing demand in excess of capacity and the storage system’s inability to recover about 60 percent by 5 a.m. During these times, all non-essential residential use is banned.

If any of these stages need to be put into place, citizens will receive an automated call from the city manager. Notices will also be posted in local newspapers, on the

city website and its social media sites.

Broken Arrow’s main water supply comes from its Verdigris River Water Treatment Plant which produces approximately 19 MGD. The city recently completed construction of a second supplemental water connection with the City of Tulsa. This new connection, when needed, will provide Broken Arrow with an additional five million gallons of water a day while the plant is at peak production. In addition, the primary water connection with Tulsa is capable of providing up to four MGD.

The total combined water delivery from both the plant and Tulsa is approximately 28 MGD, above traditional demand, but close enough to dictate careful attention and handling.

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