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Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group

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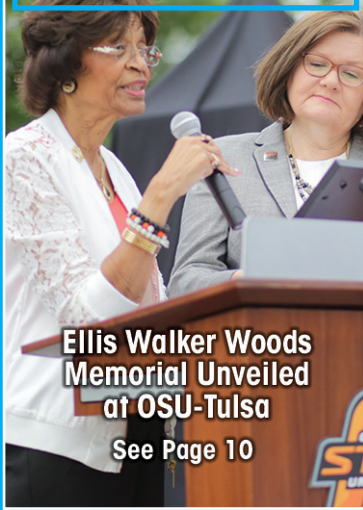
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Tulsa State Fair Remains One of Oklahoma's Premiere Attractions

By **RON PETERS**
Tulsa County Commissioner

Nothing announces the beginning of fall in Tulsa County like the Tulsa State Fair.

Running from Sept. 26 – Oct. 6, the Tulsa State Fair is the city's largest family event, providing educational experiences and entertainment during an 11-day span.

With more than 100 years of history, it continues to stand out as one of the top fairs in the nation. The goal of this historical event is to provide an educational and entertaining experience to all attendees.

The Tulsa State Fair is expected to draw more than a million visitors during the 11 days, and add millions of dollars into the local economy. This puts it at the top of the list along with the BOK Center as one of the most popular attractions in our region.

Thanks to the citizens' support for Vision Tulsa, the Tulsa Fairgrounds has added more than \$30 million of improvements, including a new Mega Barn, Pavilion exterior updates, and the greatly expanded, popular and permanent Oklahoma Stage.

Fairgoers will be glad to see the return of some of their favorite attractions, including the surgical suite, petting zoo and birthing center, the all-star stunt dogs challenge, Sara the cheese sculptor, and the extreme ride slingshot. Joining these crowd pleasers are several new attractions and, of course, the always popular Disney on Ice that runs Sept. 27 through 30. This year's theme is Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party.

The fair has also announced two new rides, Star Dancer and the Space Roller. These rides feature over-the-top spinning motion and state-of-the-art light packages that midway thrill seekers will not want to miss. In addition, the wine garden in Expo Center has been expanded and the kids free activities have been enlarged.



Courtesy Tulsa State Fair

MASSIVE MIDWAY: The Tulsa State Fair is expected to draw more than a million visitors from Sept. 26 through Oct. 6, adding millions of dollars to the local economy.

For many fairgoers, the main attraction is the wide variety of food offerings unique to the fair.

Each year, new foods hit the midway and this year is no exception. New foods this year include the double decker funnel cake, deep fried red velvet oreos, caramel apple nachos, and bacon mac and cheese empanadas.

One of the more exciting new additions to the fairgrounds is the larger Oklahoma Stage. This permanent structure will attract high quality entertainment all year long.

Bringing the stage alive for the fair are acts which include Lanco, Ginuwine, Chris Jason, Whiskey Myers, La Fiera de Ojinaga and many others.

To kick off each concert, there will be fireworks at the Oklahoma Stage, starting at 7:30 p.m.

To help fairgoers hit the midway without worrying about traffic or finding a place to park, the Fair Transit System (FTS) offers trans-



Courtesy Tulsa State Fair

RIDES: In addition to classic favorites like the Ferris Wheel, the fair has announced two new rides for 2019.

portation from its pickup locations at Nathan Hale High School and the Tulsa Promenade Mall. All FTS shuttles drop off and pick up at the Pavilion near the northwest section of the fairgrounds. For a shuttle schedule, visit tulsastatefair.com/p/about/fts.

The Tulsa State Fair has been one

of Oklahoma's most popular annual events since 1903 when it was known as the "Tulsa County Free Fair." That tradition continues this year with "11 days of Awesome." For a full lineup of entertainment, attractions, promotions and all things Tulsa State Fair, visit tulsastatefair.com.

KUDOS of the MONTH: The University of Tulsa

For 125 years, True Blue TU community members have forged their own paths — and paved the way for others.

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and embraces a culture of inclusion: the True You. It doesn't matter who you are, where you are in your journey to self-discovery or which path you choose to follow. There's a place for every student at TU, the top-ranked university in Oklahoma.

TU is a national leader in cybersecurity, energy, STEM education and more, all with a foundation in critical and creative thinking. After 125 years of academic excellence, the university looks to the

future with excitement and optimism as it strengthens its brand and strives to become bigger and better. The work it does today is laying the foundation for another 125 years of exceptional commitment to the TU community and the city of Tulsa.

The public is invited to TU's anniversary celebration in conjunction with Homecoming 2019, Oct. 24-27.

Join TU for the annual homecoming bonfire, pep rally and fireworks display on Oct. 26 at Dietler Commons on campus. The next day, cheer on the Golden Hurricane football team against the



Courtesy photo

CELEBRATING 125: University of Tulsa students gather to celebrate TU's 125th anniversary all year long.

Memphis Tigers at Chapman Stadium. Tickets are available by calling 918-631-4688 or visiting tulsa-hurricane.com. Find more details at tualumni.com/homecoming.

Tulsa's Gathering Place Receives International Attention with TIME Magazine's Top 100 Honor

TIME magazine has named Tulsa's Gathering Place one of the world's top 100 places to visit in its Sept. 2, 2019 issue.

In compiling the list, the following is from TIME: "How does one measure the greatness of a place—in miles covered, dollars spent, or visitors captivated? Such metrics can play a part, but also important is something that many travelers aspire to experience: the sense that one has stumbled upon the extraordinary."

"To compile our second annual list of the World's Greatest Places, TIME solicited nominations across a variety of categories—including museums, parks, restaurants and hotels—from our editors and correspondents around the world as well as industry experts. Then we evaluated each one based on key factors, including quality, originality, sus-

tainability, innovation and influence.

"The result: 100 new and newly noteworthy destinations to experience right now, from America's hottest hometown pizzeria to a Tokyo museum bringing digital art to life."

Associate Partnerships Editor Wilder Davies writes in part, "When the philanthropist George B. Kaiser spearheaded the creation of this \$465 million green space on Tulsa's waterfront, he hoped to help unite the city. The 66-acre park, which is open to the public for free, includes playgrounds, gardens, a skate park, a BMX track, a concert venue and a number of restaurants. It also hosts a variety of public programming, from Zumba classes to family nature walks, furnished by a \$100 million endowment. Designers also prioritized acces-



sibility: the park is built to be ADA-compliant, and there are desensitization areas for individuals on the autism spectrum."

A few examples on the TIME list include the Camp Adventure in Ronneby, Denmark, the Mori Digital Art Museum in Tokyo, Japan, and the Star Wars: Galaxy Edge at Disneyland in Anaheim, California.

Gathering Place literature notes that the facility was voted USA Today's Best New Attraction of 2019. Gathering Place is funded by a combination of more than 80 corporate and philanthropic organizations. Construction began in September 2014 and Phase I (66.5 acres) opened in September 2018. Renowned landscape architect firm Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates designed the unique Park with input from the community. When Phase II and III are completed, the footprint of Gathering Place will be 100 acres.



GTR Newspapers photo

BRINGING CULTURES TOGETHER: An example of bringing cultures together at the Gathering Place was La Fiesta de Tulsa held July 26. Latino and Hispanic cultures were among those attending 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 Projecto Insomnio, La Gozadera Band, Tonatiuh Dance Co., Baila Tulsa and more.



Courtesy photo

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CHRIS JANSON Fri, Oct 4
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LA FIERA DE OJINAGA Sun, Oct 6



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Tulsa Community College Holds Opening for Student Success and Career Center at Southeast Campus

The new Student Success and Career Center on the Tulsa Community College Southeast Campus revolutionizes the college onboarding and career process. Designed with the student in mind, the facility allows students to meet with answer center specialists, academic advisors, career specialists and local companies. The \$5.3 million facility, part of the Vision Tulsa package approved by voters in 2016, is now part of the campus at 10300 E. 81st St.

Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, Tulsa City Councilor Lori Decter Wright, TCC Board of Regents Chair Sam Combs and TCC President Leigh Goodson took part in a grand opening celebration. They, along with city and county leaders, toured the new facility and experienced how students are benefitting from the state-of-the-art building.

"For nearly 50 years, Tulsa Community College has been a critical piece to the development of Tulsa's workforce," Bynum said. "With this investment in our city by Tulsa voters, we are giving individuals the tools they need to graduate from college with a degree or certificate and to start a career."

A 2017 study found more than 90 percent of TCC graduates remain in the Tulsa area and invest their careers in Tulsa businesses. The Student Success and Career Center puts students first with increased personalized service tied directly to TCC's on-going Pathways Project work, which targets increasing graduation rates, especially among our most underserved populations. "TCC is very intentional with the work we are doing about getting all students successfully to college and into the workforce," President Goodson said. "Between Pathways and this new facility, we are better equipped to remove stumbling blocks and that means more citizens better prepared to enter the Tulsa area workforce. The College is grateful to the voters of Tulsa for their support."

The concept of the Student Success and Career Center is a one-stop shop location from the first-time students enter TCC until they graduate and enter the workforce or transfer. There are key support services integrated into the student experience making it easier to navigate college – removing the long lines or wait times associated with applying to and completing the necessary steps to enroll for classes. These are important considerations when the goal of 918 Educate is to boost Oklahoma's post-secondary attainment from 40 to 70 percent.

"This new, state-of-the-art Student Success Center provides a place for today's students to meet their ongoing needs for support and guidance as they develop into tomorrow's workforce," Councilor Wright said. "It also serves as a space where employers can connect and engage with students for a highly well-trained workforce."

TCC serves approximately 24,000 each year. The Southeast Campus, the largest of the four main campuses, routinely serves about half of those students. Already, students are seeing a positive impact with early indicators for fall 2019 showing more students taking full-time course loads and more first-time students enrolling. Plus, Tulsa employers, excited about the Career Center, are already stopping by for tours to get a first-hand look at the interview rooms and business center.



OPENING DAY SMILES: Present at the opening of the TCC Student Success and Career Center are, from left, Tulsa City Councilor Lori Decter Wright, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, TCC student Karen Espinosa, TCC President Leigh Goodson and TCC Board of Regents Chair Sam Combs.



THE TCC STUDENT SUCCESS AND CAREER CENTER

"We are thrilled with the opportunity to engage Tulsa-area employers with the college as we look at providing opportunities that could include job shadowing, internships and interviewing on-

site," said Terri Alonso, Dean of Advising, Retention, and Career Services. "We would love to hear from Tulsa employers who would like to connect with what TCC is doing."

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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

Annual 918 Day a Community Building Time for Tulsa

Tulsa's second-annual 918 Day is just around the corner, set for Sept. 18.

918 Day is one of my favorite days of the year because I get to spend the entire day meeting with people from across the city who are passionately striving to make Tulsa the best city it can be.

We launched 918 Day last year as part of the Resilient Tulsa Strategy, which calls for increasing social cohesion by facilitating connections and community-building in all corners of the city.

This year's theme "What makes Tulsa, Tulsa?" poses a question we want all Tulsans to help answer by helping create an

inclusive community for all Tulsans – and you can help by participating in 918 Day.

From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM
Mayor of Tulsa

To celebrate 918 Day, the city is hosting a free community-wide Scavenger Hunt on Sept. 14. In groups of four, participants will be able to test their local knowledge of Tulsa through various clues to locations across Tulsa. Those who sign up for the scavenger hunt will receive a special edition 918 Day T-shirt. The winning team will be announced the following week with a grab-bag of Tulsa treasures and a lunch with Chief Resilience Officer Krystal Reyes and myself. For 918 Day, participants can also

be part of in the many community-led events that will be occurring, and businesses around town will be offering special 918 Day discounts.

To register for the Tulsa Scavenger Hunt, visit: www.cityoftulsa.org/ResilientTulsa. On the same webpage, organizations and businesses can register their events or discounts and residents will be able to view all of the 918 Day festivities as well.

When registering events, they need to take place between September 14-18, must be free and open to the public and have a 918 Day-related theme. Businesses in Tulsa are also encouraged to show support by offering 918 Day-related discounts. In 2018, some of our local businesses were creative. A hotel offered a discounted room rate at \$91.80 and a pizza company offered a discounted pizza at \$9.18.

For another twist on 918 Day, I will be taking a Tour of Tulsa on September 18, where I will stay up for 24-hours straight and visit locations throughout the city. Tulsa is home to so many unique busi-



Courtesy photo

READY FOR TRIVIA: A Scavenger Hunt team gears up for some Tulsa Trivia in the city's first 918 Day last year.

nesses, organizations and entertainment venues, so it will make for an exciting day. Follow my adventures on Facebook (Mayor GT Bynum) and Twitter (@gtbynum).

It can be easy to stay in a routine where participants keep close to their neighborhood, but in reality,

there is so much Tulsa has to offer in all corners of our city. 918 Day is raising awareness of Tulsa's hidden gems and highlighting the remarkable people who strive to make Tulsa a world-class city. Please join me in celebrating the 918!

Greenwood Art Project Calls for Public Artwork Proposals to Honor Tulsa's Black Wall Street

On August 22, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and MacArthur Fellow Rick Lowe officially kicked

off the Call for Artist Proposals for the public artworks celebrating and commemorating a vibrant

community in the Historic Greenwood District known as Black Wall Street. The news conference was held at the Greenwood Cultural Center, 322 N. Greenwood Ave.

Lowe, a nationally renowned artist and founder of Project Row Houses, is working with Oklahoma artists to tell the story of Greenwood through eight temporary art installations. At the news conference, he announced more information about four workshops to be held in September and October to help interested artists understand the expectations and process for application. The deadline for proposal applications is Nov. 1.

In January, Bloomberg Philanthropies announced the grant to commission temporary works of art accessible to the public and visitors in the historic Greenwood District of Tulsa, the location of Black Wall Street, the most prominent district of black-owned businesses in the United States in the early 20th century.

Last year, Bloomberg Philanthropies invited mayors of U.S. cities with 30,000 residents or more to submit proposals for temporary public art projects that address important civic issues and



GTR Newspapers photo

ARTFUL ANNOUNCEMENT: MacArthur Fellow Rick Lowe, left, with Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, officially kicked off the Call for Artist Proposals to Honor Tulsa's Black Wall Street at the Greenwood Cultural Center.

demonstrate an ability to generate public-private collaborations, celebrate creativity and urban identity, and strengthen local economies.

More than 200 cities applied for the 2018 Public Art Challenge

with proposals reflecting diverse artistic media addressed a range of pressing issues and social themes such as community development, environmental sustainability, cultural identity and immigration.



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GREATER TULSA PERSONALITIES

Karen Keith Named 2019 TCC Vision Honoree

Tulsa County Commissioner Honored for Leadership, Moving Tulsa Community Forward



KAREN KEITH

The Tulsa Community College Foundation announces Karen Keith is the 2019 Vision in Education Leadership Award recipient. The award will be presented at the annual Vision in Education Leadership Award Dinner on Sept. 19 at the Cox Business Center. A reception will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner and program to follow at 7 p.m.

John and Lesa Smaligo are serving as the 2019 Vision Honorary Co-Chairs. Roger Ramseyer is the 2019 Foundation Dinner Chair. This year's Visionary sponsors are the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, Cox Communications, ONEOK and TTCU Federal Credit Union.

Keith is being honored because of her leadership in moving the greater Tulsa community forward and her commitment to improving the lives of Oklahomans. She shapes the conversation about where the region is headed by listening, educating, and building consensus. Elected in 2009, she has served three terms as a Tulsa County Commissioner. She has been a strong advocate for the new Family Justice Center and is credited for ushering this project through years of delays and setbacks. She is also a member of the Task Force on the Future of Higher Education, established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, to examine ways to improve college

degree completion and productivity across the state.

"Karen Keith loves this community and works passionately to build a better one for all citizens of Tulsa County," said TCC President and CEO Leigh B. Goodson, Ph.D. "Whether it is leading the successful effort to fund and build a new juvenile justice center or inform the community about the aging levee system, she has demonstrated the highest levels of community leadership."

She served as the 100th president and was on the board of the Rotary Club of Tulsa and is a Paul Harris Fellow. Keith and her husband, Tulsa attorney Patrick Malloy, several years ago took part in the International Rotary convention in Portugal.

Keith also serves on the Oklahoma Historical Society board of directors. She is a member of Leadership Oklahoma Class XX, the Oklahoma Academy, and the chamber of commerce organizations in Tulsa, Jenks, Sand Springs and Southwest Tulsa.

Keith grew up in Muskogee. She was active in 4-H and graduated from Muskogee High School in 1972. She put herself through college with scholarships and a variety of jobs. A 1976 graduate of Oklahoma State University, her degree is in Radio, TV-News and Public Affairs. Keith worked 26 years in broadcasting with 21

Metro Chamber of Commerce as the Director of Partnership Development for the Tulsa Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The annual Vision Dinner continues to support students by providing funds for scholarships, leadership development and mentoring opportunities, technology and equipment necessary to prepare for today's work force.

"Founded nearly 50 years ago, the TCC Foundation has a long tradition of providing financial resources to support the College's mission. This year, we are finishing a remarkable journey as we complete the \$20 million Clearing the Pathway: Campaign for Completion designed to help more students earn college degrees. Whether through the Vision Dinner or annual campaign, we are removing barriers to student success," said Kari Shults, interim vice president of advancement and TCC Foundation president.

In addition to the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, Cox Communications, ONEOK and TTCU Federal Credit Union as Visionary sponsors, AAON, The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation, ARVEST Foundation, ONE Gas, Price Family Properties, Robin Flint Ballenger, Ruth K. Nelson, and The Williams Companies, Inc. are Leadership sponsors.

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The 2019 TCC Vision in Education Leadership Award Dinner committee members are Scott Asbjornson, Jeff Brooks, Kevin Gross, Jennifer Jezek, Jackie Price Johannsen and Sean Kouplun.

Past honorees include Alison Anthony, Keith Ballard, David Boren, Montie Box, Pete Churchwell, U.S. Representative Tom Cole, Bill Doenges, Leonard Eaton, Martin Fate, Ted Fisher, John Gaberino, Dr. Jim and Ann Halligan, Susan Harris, former Governor Brad Henry, Jake Henry Jr., Michael Johnson, George Kaiser, Ron King, Robert LaFortune, Nancy McDonald, David Page, Ron Peters, Lynn and Stacy Schusterman, Don Walker, and John-Kelly C. Warren.

For information regarding sponsorships and tickets to the 2019 Vision in Education Leadership Award Dinner, call 918-595-7836 or email visiondinner@tulsacc.edu.

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VARIETY

September Brings Entertainment to Our Door

Is there life after “Hamilton?” The show lived up to every bit of hype and then exceeded it. What can we enjoy in the weeks ahead that will keep us energized with displays of heightened creativity and talent?

“Creations in Studio K” is a contemporary dance program of three works presented at Tulsa Ballet’s headquarters on South Peoria. In late August, former dancer and choreographer Garrett Smith graced Tulsa Ballet’s rehearsal studio to fashion a new piece, set to the music of Phillip Glass. I witnessed his thoughtful, skilled work with the dancers and later heard him discuss his passion for the creative process. That experience will add immensely to my enjoyment of his yet unnamed piece that will be performed Sept. 12-22 in Studio K.

Also on the program will be resident choreographer Ma Cong’s “Escaping the Weight of Darkness,” danced to the painterly, evocative music of contemporary Italian composer Ezio Bosso. I am such a fan of Cong’s work. His Tchaikovsky ballet last year was a highlight of the season. Completing the triple-bill program will be a dance-fan favorite, Val Caniparoli’s “Prawn-watching.”

Alexandra Cousteau, the grand-

daughter of ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, opens Tulsa Town Hall’s speaker series at the PAC, Sept. 13. I interviewed Cousteau recently about her ocean and coastal conservation projects. The changes we can make in our lifestyles to ensure the health of the oceans, she suggested, are not sacrifices. “They are actually investments in our quality of life, in our health and in the future of our community,” she told me. I look forward to continuing our conversation during

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN

her Tulsa stay.

Tulsa Symphony launches its 2019-20 season, Sept. 14, with violinist Rachel Barton Pine. The “Washington Post” called her “exciting” and “boundary-defying.” On the evening’s program are Rossini’s “Barber of Seville,” Barber’s Violin Concerto, Op. 14 and Mussorgsky’s “Pictures at an Exhibition.” Daniel Hege conducts. The next Tulsa Symphony Concert is Oct 5, featuring compositions by Debussy and Rioult.

“Picasso at the Lapin Agile,” comedian Steve Martin’s first play, is about a 1904 exchange of ideas between two geniuses, Picasso and Einstein. At the height of their creative powers, they meet at a Parisian bar called the Lapin Agile and, along with bar mates and others, have witty and insightful conversations about the commonalities that fuel creativity in art and science. Theatre Tulsa presents the 90-minute play, featuring Juan Reinoso as Picasso and Thomas Hunt as Einstein, Sept. 14-22.

Portico Dance Theatre celebrates its 10-year anniversary with two evenings of dance, Sept. 20-21. The program, “Project Alice,” is based on the “Alice in Wonderland” story and incorporates jazz, ballet, modern dance, stage combat and aerial performance. There’s more contemporary dance at the PAC with the Rioult Dance Company New York, presented by Choregus Productions, on Oct. 5.



Courtesy photos

LES MIS: Celebrity Attractions presents the classic musical adaptation of Victor Hugo’s landmark novel Sept. 24-29 at the PAC.



DEEP PURPLE: The English Heavy Metal pioneers perform at the Hard Rock Sept. 21

Chamber Music Tulsa kicks off its “66 Years on Route 66” season with the American Brass Quintet, Sept. 22. In previewing the Tulsa concert, the quintet wrote, “Audiences can expect the same brilliance and power one gets when listening to a great marching band section, just on a more intimate scale.”

The PAC September calendar wraps with a show that is in the top five favorite musicals of people who are musical freaks, “Les Misérables.” I relish hearing different voices have their way with “Bring Him Home,” “One Day More” and “I Dreamed a Dream.” Celebrity Attractions presents the Claude-Michel Schönberg/Alan Boublil take on Victor Hugo’s landmark novel, Sept. 24-29.



HEART: The BOK Center hosts two iconic classic rock bands as Heart joins Joan Jett and the Blackhearts for an Oct. 2 concert.



BRANFORD MARSALIS: The Jazz master and his quartet play the PAC Oct. 6

The Brady Theatre welcomes English rocker Jeff Beck, Sept. 18 and the enduring seven-member band Kansas, (“Carry on Wayward Son,” “Dust in the Wind,”) Sept. 27.

On Sept 20, the BOK Center hosts YouTube and reality TV singer and dancer JoJo Siwa, whose songs and stance on anti-bullying have found favor with young audiences. The former Disney Channel family band the Jonas Brothers entertains on Sept. 29. Looking ahead, Heart with Joan Jett and the Blackhearts comes to the BOK Center, Oct. 2, and the superstar reggaeton singer from Columbia, J. Balvin, is slated for Oct. 3. Contemporary Christian music singer Lauren Daigle performs on Oct 4, and Billie Eilish includes a Tulsa stop on her tour, Oct. 7. With her “When We All Fall Asleep” hit album, Eilish caught the crest of a wave and is riding high. Shoring up her popularity is her authentic persona, along with a distinctive voice and fresh style.

Among the many acts coming through at the casinos, look for

comic Sebastian Maniscalco at River Spirit, Sept. 12, and Dwight Yoakum, Sept. 19. A darlin’ of country music, Yoakum has extensive film and TV credits. His musical and theatrical talents combine into a well-rounded evening of entertainment.

An audience favorite, “hot and fluffy” funnyman Gabriel Iglesias appears at the River Spirit on Sept. 20. The perennial Oakridge Boys perform there on Oct. 5. Across town, the English band that pioneered heavy metal, Deep Purple, appears at the Hard Rock Sept. 21.

For more entertainment options, check out the Tulsa State Fair at the Fairgrounds, Sept. 26 through Oct. 6, jazz master Branford Marsalis and his quartet at the PAC, Oct. 6, and jazz of all descriptions throughout the month at Tulsa’s jazz club, Duet.

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MOJOFest on Studio Row Celebrates Tulsa Sound

A significant American Music landmark sits at 3rd Street and South Trenton Avenue in Tulsa.

Currently undergoing an extensive restoration, scheduled for completion in summer 2020, Leon Russell's Church Studio is ground zero for the Tulsa Sound.

Established as a recording studio in 1972, the historic building started out in 1915 as Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, one of Tulsa's first churches. It served as a sanctuary shelter during the race massacre of 1921, perhaps lending inspiration to the name of Russell's record label, Shelter Records.

From 1928 until circa 1946, it was known as the Church of the United Brethren in Christ before a stint as the First Evangelical United Brethren Church. In the 1950s, the original red brick was replaced with the gray "castle" stone that we see today. In 1961, it became the First Church of God, its final iteration as a house of worship.

Russell purchased the building and opened The Church Studio in 1972, recording for artists like Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt, Peter Tosh, and Tom Petty, who signed his first record deal in the Church Studio.

The church was not the only building Leon purchased on 3rd Street in the 1970s. At one point, Russell owned as many as 14 properties in the neighborhood around the church that were used to house musicians and employees, store instruments, and provide office space.

In 2010, Tulsans chose to rename a section of 3rd Street where the church is located "Leon Russell Road," and in 2017, The Church Studio building was added to the National Registry of historic places.

In 2016, the church was purchased by Tulsa Teresa Knox, who is currently overseeing its restoration. Like Russell in the 1970s, Knox didn't limit her real estate acquisition to the church alone. She owns 11 properties around 3rd Street near the church; an area that is seeing a resurgence, with coffee shops, bars, restaurants, art galleries and other businesses opening within the last few years.

Also joining the neighborhood is another Tulsa Sound pioneer, David Teegarden Sr., who recently opened his studio, Teegarden Studios, just a block to the east of the historic church, inspiring the name, "Studio Row" for the increasingly busy 3rd Street corridor.

One of the musicians responsible for creating this epicenter of Tulsa Sound is drummer/percussionist Jamie Oldaker, one of the early Church Studio session musicians hired by Russell who went on to record 11 albums with Eric Clapton before joining fellow Tulsa-area musician Steve Ripley to form the Tractors in 1988.

After reuniting with Clapton at the Crossroads Festival in Dallas in September, Oldaker returns home to Tulsa to host the Third Annual MOJOFest, a festival created to celebrate the marriage of Jamie and Mary Oldaker

(Mary Oldaker + Jamie Oldaker = MOJO) through live musical performances, community engagement, and charitable stewardship. In its first two years, the event has helped raise more than \$20,000 for the Day Center for the Homeless in Tulsa.

This year's festival will be held on Studio Row, and while the musicians will be performing outside, church will be in session when the High Priestess of Soul Ann Bell takes the stage. Bell, an Edison High School graduate and cofounder of the band Tulsa County with former husband Larry Bell, has been praised by some as the white Aretha Franklin. She spent three years touring with Leon Russell and if you've never seen her perform, do not miss this opportunity. Her performance at Leon Russell's piano dedication ceremony in February is the best thing I've seen all year.

Also joining the lineup are local favorites John Fullbright and Friends, The Golden Ones, and Roots of Thought, as well as the New Orleans-based quartet, the subdudes.

MOJOFest kicks off at 4 p.m. on Oct. 5. All proceeds go to benefit The Day Center for the Homeless and The Church Studio Music Foundation. For more information and tickets, visit mojofesttulsa.com.

Tom Skinner's Skyline Festival



AUCTION ITEM: The Pioneers of Red Dirt poster, signed by Randy Crouch, Tom Skinner and Chuck Dunlap was one of many silent auction items at Tom Skinner's Skyline Festival Aug. 18. The annual festival raised \$15,441 for Red Dirt Relief Fund.

A day that began with a sold-out Sunday gospel brunch featuring John Fullbright and Friends and featured more than 40 local artists across three venues raised \$15,441 for Oklahoma musicians in need in August.

This is the fourth year for Tom Skinner's Skyline Festival, a fundraiser for Red Dirt

Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL



Photo by PHIL CLARKIN

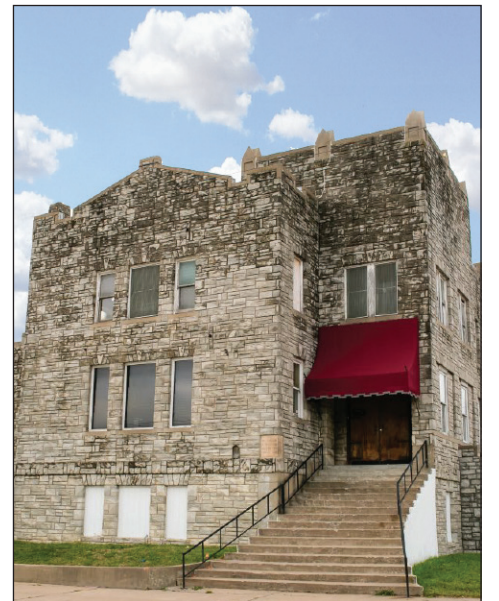
LEGENDARY ROAD: The section of south 3rd Street near Trenton Avenue where the Church Studio sits was renamed "Leon Russell Road" in 2010. Today, the area is seeing a resurgence as several businesses have opened in recent years, including Teegarden Studios, inspiring the name "Studio Row" for the stretch of 3rd Street between Peoria and Utica Avenues.

Relief Fund that continues to grow in popularity due to its stellar lineup of local musicians who donate their time and talent to support the non-profit organization that has provided more than \$100,000 for musicians in need since its inception in 2012. This year's total nearly doubled the amount of money raised in previous years.

In addition to the lineup, which included The Damn Quails, Pilgrim, Science Project Band, Randy Crouch with Flying Horse band featuring Paul Benjamin, and many more, the festival featured a silent auction loaded with Red Dirt memorabilia which contributed significant dollars to the record-setting total.

Skyline Festival gets its name from Skyline Radio, a song by the late Tom Skinner, who often referred to Red Dirt music as more of a brotherhood and a community than a musical style. The growing popularity of this festival is proof that the brotherhood and community continue to thrive.

As the dog days of summer subside, there is no better time to engage with that community. All you have to do is keep searching, keep listening.



thechurchstudio.com

CHURCH STUDIO: The famous studio is currently undergoing an extensive renovation. It's scheduled to be completed next summer.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Former Football Standout Todd Alpers Now One of State's All-Star Physical Therapists

*Broken Arrow Physical Therapy
A Leader in Physician Referrals*

By **BOB LEWIS**
Contributing Editor

Clients of Broken Arrow Physical Therapy aren't the only ones who rave about Todd Alpers and his staff. Area physicians also show a high level of respect by referring patients to them on a frequent basis.

The reason why is simple. Alpers and his employees are experienced, exceptionally skilled, friendly and their success rate is outstanding.

This continuing saga of success began when Alpers, a self-described sports nut as a kid, con-

sidered becoming a coach. The more he looked into that profession, however, the more he realized it wasn't for him. By contrast, physical therapy seemed like a great fit because it allowed him to stay close to athletics while fulfilling his desire to help a wide profile of people. The chance to observe at a local clinic sealed the deal.

The journey down this career path accelerated in 1988 when, as a Marlow High School senior, he earned all-state recognition and a scholarship to play football for East Central University in Ada.

While excelling in pre-physical



THERAPY TEAM: Dr. Todd Alpers with his staff at Broken Arrow Physical Therapy, which is located at 3341 S. Elm Place in Broken Arrow. The phone number is 918-449-1332.

therapy studies, he started all 40 games during his four-year college career, earning Second Team All-Oklahoma Intercollegiate Conference honors and an All-OIC honorable mention award. He was a two-time Academic All-American and during his senior year was voted ECU Student of the Year.

More recently, he received ECU's Milan Award, an annual recognition of former student athletes who have distinguished themselves in their chosen professions.

Following his graduation from the University of Oklahoma in 1994, Alpers earned his orthopedic specialist and hand certifications and a doctorate in physical therapy. He opened his own clinic in 2000 after working locally for a group of orthopedic surgeons and serving as a site coordinator for a national corporation.

At the same time, he joined with

three other professionals in creating Independent Therapy Partners, a network of four clinics, designed to help boost the image of physical therapy while providing the best possible service to patients in Broken Arrow, Claremore, Jenks, Owasso and communities neighboring these cities.

Since launching the business with a staff that consisted of himself and Office Manager Beverly Reedy, Broken Arrow Physical Therapy has grown into an operation of 15 people that includes four physical therapists and two physical therapist assistants. A tribute to their level of excellence is the fact about half of the people they serve are return patients.

For years, Alpers said most of his away-from-the-clinic life revolved around the time he and his wife, Lee Ann, followed the soccer exploits of their two sons. One of them, Ryan, is still a player and has earned a place on the Univer-

sity of Tulsa varsity team while preparing for a career in dentistry. Their other son, Kyle, is a student at the University of Oklahoma. For now, he has set sports aside to prepare for a career in energy management and finance.

An avid outdoorsman, most weekends these days find Alpers handling honey-do chores at the family's Grand Lake retreat and doing his best to put a dent in the lake's white bass and crappie populations.

Professionally, he says he remains driven by the satisfaction derived in helping people — some of them recovering from surgeries or serious injuries.

"Being hands-on is one of the best parts of this profession because it allows me to really get to know my patients. I couldn't come to work every day for almost 20 years if I didn't believe I was making a difference," he said.

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Edward Jones Associates Join The Walk to End Alzheimer's

The financial service firm of Edward Jones Associates is the national presenting sponsor of this year's walk and has committed \$12 million over five years to support the mission of the Alzheimer's Association.

The firm has been at the forefront when it comes to raising awareness of issues that affect both the physical and financial health of their clients. Edward Jones branches

around the country will be participating in the event.

The Tulsa walk will take place on Saturday Sept. 21 at Veterans Park at 18th Street and Boulder Avenue. Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. and the walk begins at 9 a.m.

Walk to End Alzheimer's is more than a walk. It is an inspiring experience that calls participants to unite in a movement to reclaim the future for millions. In addition

to the .5 and 1.5 mile walk, participants learn about Alzheimer's disease and how to get involved with this critical cause, from advocacy opportunities, the latest in Alzheimer's research and clinical trials and support programs and services.

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CTCA Raises Over \$41,000 For Tulsa Area United Way

From August 15-29, Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) Tulsa hosted its annual Tulsa Area United Way (TAUW) fundraising campaign with a goal of raising \$40,000 to help benefit the 59 TAUW partner organizations in the local community.

CTCA not only met its goal, but exceeded it, raising \$41,023.89. It was a great effort by all involved in making this campaign a success and generously giving to support those in need. Plus, it was a fun time for those involved at CTCA, as this year's campaign was titled "Slimetime" as the accompanying photo of CTCA President and Chief Executive Officer Jay Foley suggests, as he agreed to be slimed, and even taped to a post, for donations.

"Slimetime" also included donating money to slime Douglas Kellt, M.D., Susan Brown, R.N., Care Manager; Tammy Holden, Chief Nursing Officer; and Traci Offutt, stakeholder.

In addition, CTCA staff held a Hollywood-themed campaign for the United Way fund-raising effort. Departmental teams competed in various activities and challenges to raise funds for the campaign.

To be congratulated are the following teams: Radiation Oncology (Department with the Most Participation in the Campaign), Marketing (Team Costume Contest Winner), and the Clinic team who won the Starstruck Trivia challenge.



GTR Newspapers photo

SLIMETIME: CTCA President and CEO Jay Foley was slimed and taped to a post by fellow employees as part of the fund-raising fun during the "Slimetime" event to raise funds for the Tulsa Area United Way in August.

Fortune Ranks Tulsa's Senior Star a Top 10 For Aging Work Services

Senior Star has announced that it has, once again, achieved a Top 10 ranking on Fortune magazine's list of 50 Best Workplaces for Aging Services.

In response to a nationwide survey, Senior Star employees described their sense of pride in serving residents and their families, and credit Senior Star as a place where one is inspired and empowered to go above and beyond their daily job duties. Respect, camaraderie, being valued and inclusion were among the employees' top workplace highlights.

"When I speak about inclusion, what I'm talking about is a sense of belonging," said Senior Star CEO Anja Rogers. "The diverse people who choose to unite and serve with Senior Star make a positive difference in helping each other feel they are working right where they belong. It's a special part of what makes it a great place to work for all."

The survey cited above is America's largest ongoing annual workforce study conducted by Great Place to Work in partnership with Fortune magazine.

Senior Star owns and operates 15 communities across the country, four of which are in Oklahoma – Burgundy Place, Woodland Terrace in Tulsa; The Arbors and Plantation House in Okmulgee. For more information about Senior Star call 918-592-4400 or visit the website at www.seniorstar.com. For those interested in a career in the senior living industry, visit www.seniorstar.com



About Senior Star

Senior Star is currently ranked as number three on Fortune magazine's list of 50 Best Workplaces for Aging Services for 2018-2019 and is a nationally-recognized industry leader in providing quality and innovative services to aging seniors. The portfolio includes 15 senior living communities in seven states comprising 2,200 residences. Living options include independent living, assisted living and memory support. For more information about Senior Star visit www.seniorstar.com.

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EDUCATION

Ellis Walker Woods Memorial Unveiled at OSU-Tulsa

A memorial to Ellis Walker Woods, the first principal at the city's iconic Booker T. Washington High School, was unveiled Aug. 16. The memorial is located at Oklahoma State University-Tulsa, near the site of the original high school.

Woods was born in eastern Mississippi, where he worked as a farmhand to fund his college education. He came to Tulsa as a young man after learning the city was in need of black teachers and made his career at Booker T. Washington, where he was principal for 35 years.

His influence in Tulsa was far-reaching. Woods sheltered children at the school during the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and allowed the American Red Cross to use the building to treat the injured and provide temporary refuge.

Although the school survived the Race Massacre, the building was inadequate for the needs of its students, and Woods was instrumental in the effort to build a new Booker T. Washington High School at its current location at 1545 E. Zion Street.

"Woods was more than a principal," said Captola Dunn, E.W. Woods Memorial Committee



Courtesy OSU-Tulsa

PRESENTING THE PROCLAMATION: Distinguished educator Dr. LaVerne Ford Wimberly presents OSU-Tulsa President Pamela Fry with a proclamation entrusting the Ellis Walker Woods Memorial to OSU-Tulsa.

chair. "He answered a calling when he came to Tulsa. He was shelter in the darkest of times and he provided hope to his students because he genuinely believed in their goodness, their strength and their abilities."

The outdoor memorial comprises a bust of Woods with biographical information, an eternal flame and granite columns engraved with names and images of notable Booker T. Washington alum-

ni. Inspirational words attributed to Woods appear throughout the memorial.

The committee, made up of school alumni and supporters and co-chaired by Dunn and her son Malcolm, began plans for the memorial some 30 years ago and broke ground in October of last year. Dunn's late husband, Albert Edgar Dunn, and classmate Richard Gipson were the project's founders.



GTR Newspapers photo

STATELY MEMORIAL: The Ellis Walker Woods Memorial stands tall on the OSU-Tulsa campus. The surrounding granite pillars denote Ellis Walker Woods years of service to Booker T. Washington High School with inscriptions of outstanding graduates from those years.

During the ceremony, the committee dedicated the memorial to the community and entrusted its care and maintenance to OSU-Tulsa.

"We are committed to serving our community and being good stewards of this memorial and the legacy it represents," OSU-Tulsa President Dr. Pamela Fry said. "Ellis Walker Woods undertook his journey to meet educational needs in Tulsa. This memorial

will forever serve as a reminder to that calling and an inspiration to our community and visitors from around the world."

The Ellis Walker Woods Memorial is located at the intersection of Greenwood Avenue and John Hope Franklin Boulevard on the OSU-Tulsa campus, 700 N. Greenwood Ave. It is open to the public. For more information about the memorial, visit ewoods.org.

Dr. Linda Nichols Named Dean of TU's College of Business

University of Tulsa Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Janet K. Levit has announced that Dr. Linda Nichols has been appointed dean of TU's Collins College of Business. Dr. Nichols is director of the School of Energy Economics, Policy and Commerce and the A. Charles Funai Professor of Energy and Accounting. She succeeds Larry Wolford, who stepped down

in May, and her term as dean is effective immediately.

Dr. Nichols earned her bachelor's degree from the University of New Orleans and her doctorate from Louisiana State University. She is a CPA and worked in the energy sector before moving into academia. She held the position of Ernst and Young Professor and director of accounting programs at

Texas Tech University, where she was employed for more than 21 years.

A respected TU faculty member, Dr. Nichols led the reinvention of TU's MBA program after joining Collins College as associate dean, director of Graduate Business Programs and Collins Professor of Accounting in 2011. She has served as director of the School of Energy since 2018 and has been at the forefront of online education at TU.

In the past decade, Dr. Nichols has provided industry training in 20 countries across five continents. Provost Levit says, "Her strong leadership and professional acumen will prove invaluable as we pursue opportunities to enhance our culture of student success and bolster partnerships in the Tulsa business community."

Levit continues, "After accepting letters of interest from internal applicants, the search committee conducted interviews with viable candidates and selected two finalists they believed would be successful in leading the Collins College of Business. With consensus from President Clancy, the TU Board of Trustees' Executive Committee and myself, and in accordance with the process announced in May, Linda has all of our support."

"I want to thank Senior Associate Dean Ralph Jackson, who served as interim dean this summer while we conducted the search. I am also grateful to Chapman Professor of Computer Information Systems Akhilesh Bajaj, who chaired the search committee,



Courtesy photo

DR. LINDA NICHOLS

as well as the committee members: Heather Anderson, assistant professor of management; Rick Arrington, CCB assistant dean; Rob Moore, applied assistant professor of energy business; Li Sun, Edward E. and Helen T. Bartlett Associate Professor of Accounting; Mike Troilo, Chapman Professor of International Business and Finance; and Lyn Entzeroth, dean and Dean John Rogers Endowed Chair for the College of Law."



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A Great Place to Work & Make an Impact

Tulsa Tech Invests in No. 1 Asset: People

As we travel to visit other locations throughout the great state of Oklahoma, we reaffirm that Tulsa Tech is a great place to work. We shout it at our back-to-school events, during our first day back from summer break, at our all-staff meetings, even at the grocery or hardware store when people find out where we work.

Our mission as a district is to “educate people for success in the workplace” and each year we get to tell those special stories about students and clients who overcome so much in their lives to make their own path in this world.

Without all of our dedicated and talented faculty and staff, they may not find passion in their work, making it much more challenging for us as an organization to meet our lofty goals.

“I love working at Tulsa Tech because I think that it’s awesome to teach students in a specific industry that they are interested in,” said District-wide Teacher of the Year and Early Childhood Education Instructor SueAnn Cardwell. “We get to challenge our students to be the best that they can be in the

workplace. It’s just a great place.” Employees make up our biggest asset, and our district has placed a

focus on the development of our people. Faculty and staff are driven by a passion to see students succeed and continue their career pathways toward working in industry, moving on to higher educational goals or maybe joining the military. That passion often leads to engagement, and an engaged employee is vital to the future of the district, but also is vital as we continue to lead and teach the students who are joining our workforce today.

In a nutshell, the term Employee Engagement is where employees feel passionate about their jobs, are committed to the organization, and put discretionary effort into their work. Employee engagement is not the same as employee satisfaction. Employee satisfaction only indicates how happy or content your employees are. As many companies know, with an engaged staff you’re more likely to see:

- A lower risk of turnover, which helps reduce onboarding costs
- A boost in customer satisfac-

News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent



Photo by VANESSA AZIERE, Tulsa Tech

TEACHER OF THE YEAR: Tulsa Tech Superintendent and CEO Dr. Steve Tiger congratulates 2018-19 Teacher of the Year SueAnn Cardwell at the district-wide back-to-school celebration in August.

tion through interactions with engaged employees

- An increase to your company’s overall success

Tulsa Tech each year approaches employee engagement as one of our core opportunities for improvement and we annually conduct a Best Places to Work survey to highlight areas of success.

If our employees are not engaged at work, it’s hard to imagine a positive outcome/experience for our clients, students and customers that come into our facilities. We hope that all of our employees understand that their role plays a direct impact on the success of our students and clients, and in turn,

leads to the success of the organization.

The changing landscape of our workforce is also playing a major role in employer needs within our region. Millennial is no longer just a term to encapsulate “young people.” Born around 1980, they are now the largest living adult generation, and many are already within your workforce and parents of students at Tulsa Tech. They are on track to make up 75 percent of the workforce by 2030 and will continue to influence work environments and culture for years to come. Research suggests that Millennials are driven by open communication, a great work culture, involvement with causes, and bring an enthusi-

asm to learn. Providing opportunities for career growth, impact in our community, and a strong culture within our organization (we think) makes us a great place to work.

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BIXBY SPORTS

Explosive Spartans Romp Past Jenks, 57-7

By **RON HOLT**
Bixby Football Writer

For the second straight week, Bixby High's Spartans were explosive offensively and had a bend-but-don't break defensive mentality in capturing another stunning road victory – this time romping past longtime rival Jenks, 57-7.

It was a rare win in the series but the second in the past three seasons for Class 6A-II's top-ranked Bixby, 2-0 this season.

In Zero Week, the Spartans opened the season with a 77-44 romp at Mansfield (Texas) Timberview, which entered its season with high expectations.

In front of a large Allen Trimble Stadium crowd, Bixby seized the momentum early and for the second straight week the Spartans turned opponent miscues into points. Third-ranked Jenks, a Class 6A-I power, turned the ball over six times – five by pass interceptions – while Bixby took care of the ball providing zero gifts.

The Presley brothers – senior Brennan and sophomore Braylin – were dominating. Braylin ignited the Spartans' ground attack, rushing for 118 yards on 10 carries and scoring four touchdowns. Brennan was a two-way star. He grabbed four passes for 144 yards and two touchdowns while intercepting three passes.

Junior quarterback Mason Williams was near perfect as he completed 16-of-19 passes for 291 yards and four TDs, while senior receiver Luke Creeger caught five passes for 51 yards and two scores. Senior cornerback Jordan Reagan intercepted two passes, his first of the season.

Bixby's defense allowed 350 to-



Photo by DAVID STACY

BRYLIN PRESLEY: The sophomore running back and brother of Brennan Presley ignited the Spartans' ground attack, rushing for 118 yards on 10 carries and scoring four touchdowns.

tal yards but repeatedly thwarted Jenks' offensive advances with clutch play and by coming up with turnovers.

"I think being able to throw the ball the way we can made them back off, so we thought we had a chance to run the ball. We had a couple of good looks, we practiced them all week and the kids executed well. It was good to be able to run the ball a little," said 10th-year Spartan head coach Loren Montgomery, who realizes a need to keep the Spartans focused on improvement going forward.

"I think we're a mature bunch but it's one of those things that we have to make sure of is that we don't become complacent and that we continue growing as a team. There's room for all kinds of improvement out there," he added.

Jenks, 1-1, failed to keep its first drive alive when an open Trojan receiver dropped a pass in Spartan territory on a third down play. Jenks was forced to punt with Bixby taking three plays to score as Braylin Presley raced 23 yards for a touchdown with 9:23 left in the first quarter. Reis Vernon's point-after kick gave the visitors a 7-0 lead.

"We definitely wanted to establish the run," said Braylin. "It worked out really well for us ... everyone worked hard this week and the line blocked perfectly. It was a

good game overall. We just need to come in confident and knowing we can win. And, we have to keep improving in practice."

After Jenks' second drive ended in Bixby territory, the Spartans needed two plays to expand the lead to 14-0 as Williams hit Brennan Presley, who out-legged the Trojan defense for a 79-yard TD at the 3:27 mark of the first quarter.

Jenks quarterback Stephen Kittleman was sacked to start the Trojans' third drive. He fumbled the ball and Bixby junior linebacker Nick Wedel recovered at the Jenks eight. In one play, Braylin Presley ran up the middle for a touchdown and 21-0 Spartan lead after Vernon again converted the point-after.

Early in the second quarter, Brennan Presley stepped in front of a Kittleman pass at the Jenks 45. Six plays later, Williams connected with Creeger for a 11-yard touchdown and a 27-0 lead.

Things continued spiraling for Jenks on a bad snap on a punt attempt by Bo Estes. The ball rolled out of the end zone for a safety and 29-0 BHS lead. One play later, Williams passed to Brennan Presley for a 59-yard TD and 36-0 lead with 7:29 left before intermission.

Reagan's second pass theft set up another Spartan drive, which ended in a 26-yard TD sprint by Braylin Presley for a 43-0 lead with 2:11 left in the first half.

"I think our improvement was due to watching film last Sunday and working out a lot of miscommunication we had on defense," said Reagan. "I think we had a good preparation week and tonight we wanted to keep the defensive momentum. This feels great."

On Jenks' initial second half drive, Brennan Presley intercepted Kittleman and returned it 26 yards to the Trojan 21-yard line. Braylin Presley found an opening up the middle for a 21-yard, one play touchdown and 50-0 lead with 8:41 showing in the third stanza.

Brennan Presley set up the final BHS score as he snared his third interception and returned it for a touchdown, but a penalty brought the ball back to the Bixby 34-yard line.

This lengthy scoring drive was capped off by a 13-yard TD pass play from Williams to Creeger. Creeger caught the short pass and relied on a solid block by offensive lineman Caleb Townsend to reach the end zone. Vernon's point-after kick gave Bixby a 57-0 lead with 4:32 left in the third frame.

"I think we improved a lot," said



Photo by DAVID STACY

BRENNAN PRESLEY: The senior wide receiver and corner back was a two-way star, catching four passes for 144 yards and two touchdowns while intercepting three passes.



Photo by DAVID STACY

DALTON PERRY: The senior tackle was great on the line for the Spartans



Photo by DAVID STACY

SPARTAN SUPPORT: Bixby students were ready for action before the game in Jenks

Brennan Presley of the defense. "Coming off last week when we gave up a lot of points, we focused this week on making the right checks and things like that.

"Not many people beat Jenks at all and for us to come out here in dominating fashion at their home ... I think we held ourselves to our own standards," he added.

After giving up 44 points a week ago, the Spartans' defense continued their turnovers caused advantage. In two games this season, Bixby's defense has intercepted six passes and recovered three fumbles. The Spartans' offense has two turnovers in two games.

"I think we improved a lot tonight," said senior defensive lineman Owen DeWoody, who felt he played one of his better games as a Spartan. "Coach Flo (Rodney Flowers) had a great system for us. He worked us hard this week and things worked out. We practiced hard and saw everything on film that they would do.

"This win definitely boosts our ego, but we want to keep getting better throughout the year. It feels pretty good, but we're not satisfied," he added.

NEXT GAME – After playing in

Week Zero, Bixby is idle Friday, September 13. The Spartans return to action Friday, September 20, in a non-district game at Putnam City, starting at 7 p.m. at Putnam City Stadium.

Bixby routed the Pirates, 64-0, last year at Lee Snider Stadium but PC pulled out a 37-35 home turf win over the Spartans in 2017. BHS led 50-0 at intermission last season. Putnam City opened the 2019 season with a 50-0 loss at Putnam City North Friday night.

NOTES – Jenks ran 64 plays to 48 for Bixby but the Trojans averaged 5.5 yards per play while the Spartans averaged 9.7 yards per play. ... Jenks' Kittleman passed for 255 yards, completing 22-of-37 attempts. Jenks only score came on a one-yard run by Griffin Forbes with 1:02 left in the third quarter. ... Bixby's last win over Jenks was 35-18 in 2017 at home while the last Spartan win at Jenks was a 40-6 romp in 1968. The 57 points were the most by BHS against the Trojans since a 68-6 Spartan win in 1958. ... Bixby's season-opening opponent, Mansfield Timberview, lost at Austin Lake Travis, 48-26, last Friday night.

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Spartan Senior Offensive Lineman Prepared to Do His Part to Secure Fourth State Title in Five Years

Senior Kobe Williams Ready to Lead

By MIKE MOGUIN
Sports Correspondent

When Kobe Williams reached high school, Bixby coaches saw him as a better fit on the offensive side of the line after playing defense since fifth grade.

Williams, 6'3", 262 pounds, has since been a key component to the Spartans' offensive line, having been part of two state championship squads and one runner-up in the last three seasons. He alternated last year between guard and tackle on the right side.

Bixby coach Landon Montgomery describes Williams as someone ready to take on a leadership role.

"Ever since I started playing high school ball, I always looked to the leaders that were already on the team," Williams said. "They just pushed me to be a better person than who I am today."

Williams is one of three starters returning to the line. He had to sit out spring practice to nurse an injury, but was impressed with the younger linemen.

"Watching the younger linemen step up and playing their part in what we needed them to do, they did really well," he said.

The most important thing as offensive linemen, Williams said, "is how we all come together when we're needed the most. Whether it's during practice or during a game or even when we're working out, just the brotherhood this offensive line has is just amazing."

"Sometimes, as offensive linemen, we wish we got a little bit more recognition. But, at the end of the day, as long as we protect our QB and our receivers and our running backs are doing what they need to do, then everything is all good," Williams added.

The feeling of winning state last season was great. Especially after coming up short the previous year.

"We were all so happy when we won. Losing (in 2017) really hurt, but coming back (in 2018), it really put a chip on our shoulder and made it special for us coming back to win state," the Bixby lineman said.

Williams plans to play college football and has received offers from Northeastern State and Bethel College. He is a fan of LSU since his father is a Louisiana native. He also has cousins who played in the past for the Tigers.

One player Williams likes to emulate is Chasen Hines, a starter on the LSU offensive line.

His favorite NFL team is the Jacksonville Jaguars.

"I like how the offensive line really connects with each other. I actually like their running back, Leonard Fournette. He came from LSU. He is a really good player as well," Williams said.

Thrilled to be a part of the Class 6A Division II dynasty, Williams hopes for nothing more than to help the Spartans win back-to-back state championships, and a fifth in six years.



RETURNING STARTER: Bixby's Kobe Williams is expected to anchor the Spartans' offensive line this season. Photo courtesy of DAVID D. STACY

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SPORTS

Tulsa Roughnecks Move Forward with New Ownership

Craft Brothers Pull Off a Hat Trick

Tulsa natives and brothers, JW Craft, Ryan Craft and Kyle Craft have announced the acquisition of Tulsa Roughnecks FC from former ownership group the Tulsa Drillers and Prodigal Soccer LLC. The sale was completed on July 31, beginning a new era for one of the historic brands in North American professional soccer.

A threesome leads to a magical term in soccer, the "hat trick," when a player scores three consecutive goals in the same game without being interrupted by any other goals. It could be said that the Roughnecks have their own hat trick with the three Craft brothers.

"My brothers and I have a passion for Tulsa and a passion for soccer," said JW Craft. "We are committed to significantly increasing the investment in this franchise and developing the Roughnecks into a team Tulsans can enjoy and be proud of for years to come."

The Roughnecks are a member of the USL Championship, sanctioned by the U.S. Soccer Federation as the second-highest level of professional soccer in the United States. Majority owners Jeff and Dale Hubbard, co-chairs of the Tulsa Drillers and owners of Tulsa Professional Soccer LLC, along with minority owners Bob Funk and Tim McLaughlin, owners of Prodigal Soccer, launched the club in 2013, with the Roughnecks' inaugural season in the USL Championship beginning in 2015. Tulsan, Barry Williams, stepped in as Roughnecks team president and minority owner for the 2019 season and provided the stability necessary to facilitate a new long-term ownership change.

"We want to thank all the previous owners for their hard work," said JW. "We are excited to begin a new era for professional soccer in Tulsa."

"We are very pleased to welcome the Craft family as the newest member of the USL Championship community," said USL Executive Vice President, and Tulsa native, Court

Jeske. "We are entering into an incredibly exciting period in this club's history, and on behalf of everyone at the United Soccer League, we look forward to watching the club's success on and off-the-field under the Craft family's leadership."

With the Roughnecks currently in the middle of their 2019 Championship season, the new ownership does not plan on major changes right away. Instead, the Craft brothers look forward to connecting with Roughnecks fans and Tulsa's soccer community in order to understand how they can better serve those communities and the city of Tulsa.

"Our first job will be listening to our fans and supporters, getting their feedback and suggestions," said Ryan Craft. "Ultimately our focus is on building a successful professional soccer club that represents the Tulsa community in an authentic way, is a perennial playoff team, and a team that will compete for championships in both the USL and against MLS teams in the U.S. Open Cup."

"We are very appreciative of the efforts that have been made by the Tulsa Drillers over the last four and a half seasons," said JW. "And we look forward to continuing to play at ONEOK Field while we develop our long-term soccer specific stadium strategy."

Since 2011, the USL Championship has experienced unprecedented growth in attendance, reach, and in the number of clubs across North America. In 2019, the Championship will see over three million fans attend matches across the league's 36 professional clubs with every game available on ESPN+.

"With the continued popularity and growth of soccer in our country, the sky is the limit for what a professional soccer team can do for a city," said Ray Hoyt, president of VisitTulsa and the Tulsa Sports Commission. "With the commitment and investment from the Craft brothers, we look forward to the long-term success of the Roughnecks in Tulsa."



KICKOFF AT THE GATHERING PLACE: The Tulsa Roughnecks held its opening press conference at Tulsa's award-winning Gathering Place. From left during the announcement are Ryan Craft, JW Craft and Court Jeske, executive vice president of the United Soccer league.

The Roughnecks' next home games are Sept. 21 and Sept. 25. The regular season concludes with three straight home games, October 5, 12 and the final game of the 2019 USL Championship regular season against Reno 1868 FC on October 19.

sports to strengthen, unite, and inspire communities," said Ryan. "We believe the Tulsa Roughnecks can become a critical part of the heartbeat of this community and we are committed to making that dream a reality." For information on the Roughnecks and their schedule visit roughnecksfc.com.

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HURRICANE QUARTERBACKS: Tulsa presents three talented quarterbacks for the 2019 season. From left are Seth Boomer, redshirt sophomore from Collinsville; Zach Smith, redshirt junior from Grandview, Texas, and a transfer from Baylor; and Davis Brin, redshirt freshman from Boerne, Texas. While Boomer was the go-to quarterback last season, Smith began this season as TU's starting quarterback.

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Dirt Track Racing to be Reincarnated in Tulsa

SPORTS

By **GLENN HIBDON**
GTR Sports Writer

Legendary dirt track Tulsa Speedway bit the dust 14 years ago. Next spring, a reincarnation will take place at Tulsa Raceway Park.

An as yet unnamed quarter-mile facility is expected to open north of the drag strip next March, running up to nine different classes in front of grandstands containing room for 2,000 fans. The plan is the brainchild of TRP owners Todd Martin and Keith Haney, along with race director Jimmy Boles and dirt track general manager Barry Grabel.

Grabel wants to call the new facility "Tulsa Speedway," in honoring the old race route. He hopes many familiar names and families will return to cockpits and grandstands, bringing back the lure of good times past.

"This will be the first dirt track in Tulsa in 15 years," said Grabel, who took on the project in December. "Todd Martin and Keith Haney approached me and said 'we have a mud track that hasn't

been used in a couple of years and we would like to convert it into a stock car track. Can you help us?'"

Grabel jumped at the chance to transition the old mud bog facility into the rebirth of Tulsa Speedway.

"The concession stand, bathrooms, bleachers and lights were already out there and it's easy to put in two high banked turns," Grabel said. "We plan to run on Friday nights around the drag strip's schedule. We will not run a weekly show, but will have a high points champion in each class."

On race nights, fans will pay a \$15 admission fee, which entitles them to watch dirt track racing and up to 80 cars test and tune at the drag strip. Dirt track classes include winged and non-winged sprint cars, A and B modifieds, factory stocks, late models, mid-gets and perhaps flat track motorcycles. A smaller track inside the main oval welcomes micro mid-gets. Grabel said classes will rotate from show to show.

"Races will start at 7:30 p.m.," said Grabel. "We will try to maintain a three- to three-and-a-half-hour program. We will start on time because we don't want to hold the crowd captive."

"A lot of the teams are tired from being on the road and they want a local place to go on Friday nights.

Then they can take their families somewhere else on Saturdays and Sundays. I think we can be an asset to the city because we will entertain fans. Our whole objective is to get fans back into the seats."

Meanwhile, Boles said construction on the track has been delayed due to poor weather and was behind schedule at the beginning of September. Boles, who has worn just about every hat at TRP in his 15 years at the site, is excited about the prospect of combining the two types of motorsports.

"We want to turn dirt track fans into drag fans and drag fans into dirt track fans," he said. "It's kind of a challenge, but we think we can make it so everybody has a place to race."

Boles grew up around motorsports and has a taste for the administrative and maintenance sides of racing. Toward that end, he's hoping revenue generated by the dirt track will help bring back NHRA national events to TRP.

Before the 2020 dirt track season can open, there is still much work to do. TRP purchased additional lights, fences and a wrecker truck from South Coffeyville Speedway and is looking for a grader. Clay dirt has yet to be installed by Blaine Morton, owner of Morton Excavating of Coweta. Clay is expected to limit the dust and flying dirt particles during races.

"We're still in the beginning stages of getting some stuff bought," Boles said. "The cost (of the entire project) depends on how much help we can get. It could be between \$50,000 and \$500,000. We wanted to open by the end of the year so we could get some practice sessions done, but we're at the mercy of the weather right now. Nature has slowed us down."



GTR Newspapers photo

POINTING TO THE FUTURE: Tulsa Raceway Park General Manager Barry Grabel points to the location of the new dirt track facility that will be built just north of the current Tulsa Raceway Park where drag races are currently held. The new facility will be an oval track, as opposed to the drag track, which is a straightaway.

Arkansas to Play in Tulsa vs. TU in 2027

When the Arkansas Razorbacks visit H.A. Chapman Stadium to face the Tulsa Golden Hurricane in 2027, it will be 75 years since the two teams last played in Tulsa.

Tulsa and Arkansas have agreed to a new three-year contract that has the Razorbacks coming to Tulsa to kick-off the 2027 season on Sept. 4, 2027. The two teams will also play twice in Arkansas, first on Nov. 21, 2026 and again on Sept. 1, 2029.

"I know a lot of our fans and former players have waited a long time for Arkansas to return to Tulsa to play football. We're excited to have Arkansas join Oklahoma State in coming to Chapman Stadium in the decade of the 2020's," said Tulsa's vice president and director of athletics Dr. Derrick Gragg. In 2027, H.A.

Chapman Stadium, formerly known as Skelly Field and Skelly Stadium, will be three years shy of celebrating its 100th birthday. The two teams faced off in the inaugural game of Skelly Field on October 4, 1930, as Tulsa scored a 26-6 victory over the Razorbacks.

Tulsa last hosted Arkansas on Nov. 22, 1952, when the Howard Waugh-led Hurricane captured a 44-34 victory over the Hogs. While Arkansas leads the overall series by a count of 54-16-3, the Hurricane has a 10-8-2 mark in Tulsa against the Razorbacks.

In the next 11 seasons (2020-2030) Tulsa will play five home games against Power 5 schools, including the Arkansas contest and four games against Oklahoma State.

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Original Cities Service Building Houses Practicality

There is nothing remarkable about the building in this month's article except its pleasing proportions and subtlety. Perhaps that was the original architect's intent. Its site encompasses a full city block at 110 West 7th Street, which includes an office tower and a three-level parking garage. The tower sits back from its corners at Boulder and Cheyenne Avenues and 7th Street creating a raised, open entry plaza, which further enhances the building.

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

The building consists of five column bays in the east and west directions and nine bays in the north and south. It rises to 28 stories in height. The ground floor is full two stories with freestanding columns sheathed in white marble, fronting recessed dark gray glass storefront walls. The remainder of the building is faced in a marble masonry material.

A geometric façade is achieved by a waffle like grid of deeply recessed glass openings. These are close to square in size with a horizontal pattern of two squares for each equal column bay. The pattern continues vertically until the top floor (probably the executive office level) is reached. There, the height of the glass opening increases 150 percent creating tall rectangles of the same width as the openings below. There is no noticeable cap highlighting this

tower, only a subdued parapet that is flush with the geometric grid.

Although this building's look is not particularly original (there are projects in other cities that are similar) it is very easy on the eye. At almost 45 years old, it represents an almost timeless design.

Worthy of note is the history of this building which today is named Robinson Park. In 1971, the second largest oil company in Bartlesville, Cities Service Oil Co., decided to move to Tulsa. As part of the move a new headquarters building was needed

and in 1974 the building was built for \$15 million.

Cities had virtually outgrown the building and was building a new larger office tower (reviewed in an earlier article) in 1982 when the company was acquired by Occidental Petroleum. At this time the building was renamed Occidental Place. In 1998, Occidental Place was purchased by Prescott Realty for \$28.55 million. Eventually the current owners, Square Deal Capital, purchased the building for \$35.6 million. Today the property is managed and owned by Robinson Park Property Managers, which is an offshoot from the commercial brokerage firm of Newmark Grubb Levy Strange Beffort. The fact that the value of this building has continued to increase to over twice its original construction cost is an indication among other things, of the quality of its architecture.

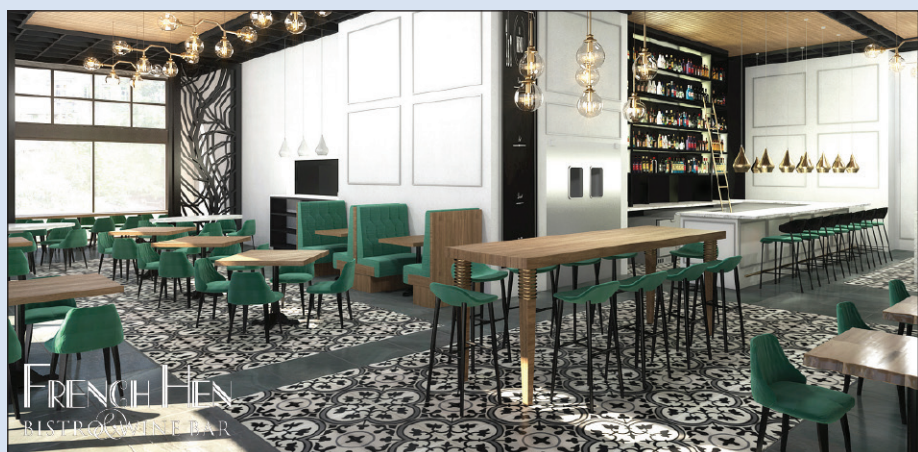
Current tenants include Airgas, Hillcrest Medical Center and Chase Bank.



WELCOMING ENTRANCEWAY: The entranceway what to what is known today as the Robinson Park Building is inviting to the many employees and visitors to the facility.



STATELY LANDMARK: The Robinson Park Building stands at 28 stories with a geometric façade that is achieved by a waffle-like grid of deeply recessed glass openings.



Courtesy JAMES BOSWELL Architect

FRENCH HEN MOVING DOWNTOWN: Kathy Bondy, owner of Tulsa's renowned French Hen Bistro and Wine Bar, has announced she will move to the downtown Vast Bank building after 40 years in south Tulsa. The six-story building is currently under construction at 110 N. Elgin Ave across from ONEOK Field. The new French Hen location, designed by Architect James Boswell, will occupy 2,761 square feet of the ground floor and will seat approximately 80 guests. The French Hen will remain at its current location at 7143 S. Yale Ave. until it moves to the Vast Bank building in January 2020.

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THE ECONOMY

Tulsa Port of Catoosa Partners with Skills2Grow Program to Offer Internships

OK2Grow Announces the Program to Give Students Training in Manufacturing, Technology and Trades

OK2Grow, a local non-profit that works to build tomorrow's work force today, is expanding the Skills2Grow program for 2019-2020 school year. Skills2Grow provides high school students with training in manufacturing, technology and skilled labor trades along with the opportunity to start working in part-time jobs with manufacturing companies, while earning high school credits.

This school year, OK2Grow is adding two more school districts to the program. Catoosa and Owasso Public Schools are joining Broken Arrow, Sand Springs and Union. More companies are also joining the program, including the Tulsa Port of Catoosa.

"We are thrilled to be able to expand and offer this valuable program to even more students throughout Northeastern Oklahoma. Not only does Skills2Grow teach students valuable skills and provide training that can help them create a successful future, it also helps our local manufacturing companies create a pipeline of skilled



Courtesy OK2GROW

INTRODUCTION TO MANUFACTURING: *Derrick Williams, operations manager with Tristar Glass at Tulsa Port of Catoosa with Canaan Kallweit, a senior at Catoosa High School*

labor," said April Sailsbury, executive director of OK2Grow.

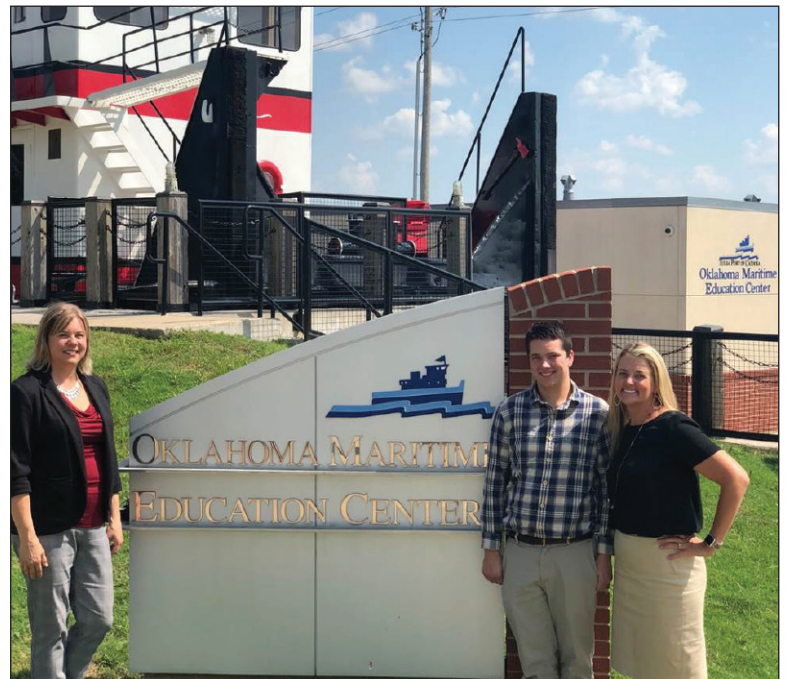
Sailsbury added that having the Tulsa Port of Catoosa participating will allow them to offer a one-of-a-

kind opportunity for students from Catoosa High School and possibly other schools to work and learn at the port. Companies from the Tulsa Port of Catoosa working with the program include: CF Industries, TriStar Glass, Umicore and ISTI.

The shortage of skilled and trained workers in the manufacturing and trade industry exists nationwide. Locally, The Tulsa Port of Catoosa works closely with the companies at its industrial park to promote job opportunities, specifically to current students and recent graduates.

"Programs such as Skills2Grow will help provide high schools students a career path in the industry," said Sheila Shook, Workforce and Education at the Tulsa Port. "The Tulsa Port's partnership with these organizations will shed a light on the opportunities for jobs right here in Oklahoma."

OK2Grow chose Tulsa Tech as its partner for the training because of its skilled instructors, their high-quality training and the certifications they will be able to issue the students.



Courtesy OK2 GROW

TOURING THE PORT: *Sheila Shook, left, in charge of Workforce and Education at the Tulsa Port of Catoosa, gives a tour of the facility to student Canaan Kallweit, a senior at Catoosa High School and part of the Skills2Grow program at the Tulsa Port of Catoosa, and April Sailsbury, executive director of OK2Grow.*

More than 60 high school seniors from five area school districts are participating in this year's Skills2Grow Program. Canaan Kallweit is a senior at Catoosa High School and is excited about this program which he says is different than any class he's had in high school.

"I'm learning how to be successful in the working world immedi-

ately after I graduate from high school. I am learning things that other high school classes haven't taught me like how to apply for a job and how to interview. I am also learning how to read blueprints," explained Kallweit.

For more information, contact Media Representatives Diane White at 918-770-3905 or Robyn Aydelott at 918-779-5771.

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Outlet Mall in Jenks Set to Open in 2021

The largest mall owner in the United States has confirmed it plans to have a new outlet mall at 101st Place and Beach Street in Jenks up and running by the spring of 2021.

Simon Premium Outlets, a retail platform of Indianapolis-based Simon Property Group, has acquired 51 acres of land for the project. The company also owns Woodland Hills, a regional mall that opened in Tulsa in 1976 and was purchased by Simon in 2002.

According to its website, Simon Property develops and manages premier shopping, dining, entertainment and mixed-used destinations. It owns or holds an interest in 206 income-producing properties across the country. One of them is a

330,000-square-foot shopping center it recently opened in suburban Denver.

In 2016, Simon and mall owner General Growth Properties purchased teen apparel chain Aeropostale for \$243 million. This enables Simon to occupy space at its malls. The company also recently invested in an e-sports company that will open spaces at its malls.

The shopping center in Jenks is expected to occupy at least 340,000 square feet and create 400 temporary construction jobs and 800 full-time and part-time positions when it opens.

An agreement between the developer and the City of Jenks says the company will invest about \$100

million in the mall. The city is obligated to pay Tulsa Premium Outlets a sales tax contribution equal to 1.5 percent of mall sales. That contribution, not to exceed \$17 million, will offset an estimated \$30 million the mall will incur in public improvement costs.

This project promises to be a major asset to the community and stoke what is already a hot retail area.

In 2013, municipal voters approved a bond initiative that devoted \$7.5 million to develop and upgrade the interchanges at the Creek Turnpike and Jenks intersections. The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority appropriated an additional \$10.5 million to expand the interchange at the Creek Turnpike and Elm Street.



GTR Newspapers photo

JOBS: The outlet mall is expected to create 400 construction jobs and 800 positions once it opens in 2021.

OSU School of Business Presents Tulsa Business Forums

Martha Stewart, Jonathan Mildenhall and Dan Cockerell will be the featured speakers during the 2019-20 Tulsa Business Forums speaker series, sponsored annually by the OSU Spears School of Business and corporate sponsors.

"The Tulsa Business Forums provides a great opportunity to hear and learn from the best of the best in the world," said Ken Eastman, dean of the Spears School of Business. "This unique series offers Oklahomans a place to gain knowledge from national business leaders who have extraordinary experiences and invaluable expertise and wisdom."

The 2019-20 TBF schedule:

Jonathan Mildenhall, former chief marketing officer, Airbnb, will deliver a presentation from

8-9:30 a.m., Oct. 31, on "A Purposeful Brand: The Power Behind Airbnb" at the Tulsa Downtown DoubleTree Hotel (breakfast and presentation).

Dan Cockerell, former vice president, Magic Kingdom, Walt Disney World, will speak from noon-1:30 p.m., Feb. 26, 2020, on "The Magic Behind Disney: Secrets to Success" at the Tulsa Downtown DoubleTree Hotel (lunch and presentation).

Martha Stewart, American businesswoman, founder of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, creator of Martha Stewart's Living magazine, will share her thoughts from 9:30-11 a.m., April 1, 2020, during "A Conversation with Martha Stewart" at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.

Series sponsorship opportunities are available including a premier



JONATHAN MILDENHALL
Oct. 31



DAN COCKERELL
Feb. 26



MARTHA STEWART
April 1

sponsorship for \$10,000 and supporting sponsorship at \$5,000. Sponsor benefits include special events with the speakers and mar-

keting and leadership development opportunities. Table sponsorships are available for \$3,000.

For more information concern-

ing the Tulsa Business Forums sponsorship, contact Krysta Gilbert at 405-744-5086 or email krysta.l.gilbert@okstate.edu.

NET: Oklahoma a Leader in Energy Alternatives



Oklahoma is and will be an energy leader not only in the oil and gas sector, but in other energy sectors as well. National Energy Talk alternatives addresses wind and energy. In 2009, I wrote an op-ed, which was published in two major city newspapers. In summary, the op-ed stated: "The 'Pickens Plan' proposed by T. Boone Pickens, and Aubrey McClendon's 'CNG Now' initiative, should both be at the forefront of national debate regarding energy solutions. The time to act is now. We cannot afford decades more of inaction...Therefore, we should address all forms of energy including natural gas and wind power...It will take courage to make the critical and difficult decisions that challenge the way we consume and produce energy.

The message is clear: America can be energy efficient and maintain environmental preservation. Let's adopt a national energy agenda where natural gas and wind power are major parts of the solution."

In my 2012 book, American Needs America's Energy, I describe some of the pros and cons of solar and wind. Solar pros: solar energy is secure, normally reliable in certain areas of the country and solar energy is clean. Solar cons: solar energy can be costly to produce and is largely

financed by government incentives. Wind pros: wind is inexpensive, clean, produces no pollution, costs are three to five cents per kilowatt hour (2009), and can revitalize rural economies. Wind cons: wind turbines alter the scenic view, can be loud and kill birds. America is far behind the rest of the world in wind energy usage.

Recently, The Wall Street Journal had an article entitled "Plugging In the Wind." The author of the article states, "When Michael Skelly

first visited the Oklahoma panhandle in 2009, he gazed at a giant grid with squares of corn and grassland. There were few houses, one every mile or so. Half had been abandoned decades ago by homesteaders who gave up to the elements. This pancake-flat landscape, he thought, held the key to overturning one of the greatest misconceptions of the climate-change crisis. For years, the wind and the sun were widely dismissed as niche sources of power that could never fill America's vast need for energy. But now the cost of solar and wind power had fallen so much that the U.S. could substantially reduce harmful emissions while also lowering the price of electricity. Put it all on a big enough grid, one that could use the ample sunshine from the desert Southwest to keep Atlanta's office towers cool, or the persistent wind in the Great Plains to run Midwestern factories, and you'd address the often-repeated

critique of renewable energy: The sun isn't always shining and the wind isn't always blowing. On a big enough grid that's not an issue."

America and the world is depending on Oklahoma's energy sector to make a difference. Join our effort by visiting Facebook: National Energy Talk.

Mark A. Stansberry is Chairman of the GTD Group, an Award Winning Author and Energy Advocate.



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Terry Simonson Honored With Legislative Award By Oklahoma Association Of Chiefs of Police (OACP)

Terry Simonson, director of governmental affairs for Tulsa County, was presented with the prestigious Legislative Counsel of the Year award from the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) at its annual conference this past month in Durant, Oklahoma. Simonson received the award—the first time it has been given in 6 years—in recognition for his efforts to push legislation that focuses on public safety through the state.

“We recognize that in order for Oklahoma Law Enforcement to be effective it requires a hand-in-hand working relationship with legislators and prosecutors,” said OACP President George Haralson. “There are often times when existing legislation concerning state criminal laws need to be adjusted or modified so that we can keep up with concerns that impact the safety of the public. Terry does an excellent job of advocating for legislation essential for improved public safety.”

“Terry has worked tirelessly to ensure that public safety legislation is top-of-mind and that the decision makers understand the importance and impacts,” said Tulsa County Board of County Commissioners’ Chair Karen Keith. “The County is so honored that Terry was presented with this most-deserved award for his enormous successes.”



TERRY SIMONSON

Tulsa County Governmental Affairs aims to raise awareness about the needs, challenges, and opportunities facing county government while representing county officials at the state legislature and before other federal, state and local governments.

The Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police is the largest law enforcement executive and administrative association in Oklahoma and boasts more than 500 members from municipal, campus, corporate, federal, state, tribal, rail, and law enforcement executives who live and work in Oklahoma. Learn more about OACP at theoacp.org.

BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

The Tulsa Oilers, affiliate of the National Hockey League’s St. Louis Blues, announce The appointment of Zack Reynolds as the team’s broadcaster and director of media relations.



REYNOLDS

Reynolds, 26, is not a new voice to the Oilers’ broadcast booth. Upon graduating from Oklahoma State University in 2015, he was hired as corporate ambassador and color analyst for the team.

Reynolds also served as an intern in the media relations department during the 2015-16 season.

“We’re extremely lucky to have Zack take over the position. He’s been with the organization the past four seasons, assisting day-to-day with media relations responsibilities, and learning under award-winning broadcasters Rob Loeber and John Peterson.” Tulsa Oilers’ General Manager Taylor Hall said.

Reynolds immediately takes over all media and broadcasting responsibilities with the team, including play-by-play and building relationships with the local media.

The Oilers host the Kansas City Mavericks to open the regular season on Friday, October 11th at 7:05 p.m. at the BOK Center.

Gateway First Bank, one of the largest banks in Oklahoma and one of the largest mortgage bank operations in the United States, announces the appointment of Jeff Schmidt as chief mortgage operations officer.



SCHMIDT

As chief of mortgage operations, Schmidt will manage the underwriting, appraisal, closing/funding, post-closing and construction lending departments. In addition, Schmidt is tasked with the expansion of Gateway’s mortgage call centers based in Dallas and Frisco, Texas. He will report directly to Gateway’s CEO Stephen Curry.

“Jeff brings deep expertise in mortgage banking derived from his 35 years of experience in both mortgage and banking. His knowledge will help us build the robust mortgage operation we need to support our growth goals,” said Curry.

Schmidt’s career in financial services began as a bank teller. Throughout his roles over the next 20 years, he served as assistant vice president of operations, senior loan officer and regional vice president over underwriting, closing and post-closing.

His management experience includes leadership roles in personal and real estate banking, finance, operations, regulatory compliance, and merger transactions.

Schmidt held roles in Texas, Alaska and Washington before returning to his roots in Texas.

He joined the Gateway team in October 2010 as regional vice president, and has been recognized in Mortgage Executive Magazine’s “Top one percent of Mortgage Originators in America” every year since 2011 and as a Top Originator by Scotsman Guide in both 2017 and 2018.

For more information about Gateway, visit www.gatewayfirst.com.

Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum announced that Jed Cochran will serve as chief of intergovernmental relations for the city.



COCHRAN

Cochran will coordinate regional, state, federal and tribal relations for the city, and will serve as Mayor Bynum’s veterans affairs liaison. Cochran will also help develop and manage state, federal and private foundation grants.

Prior to the City of Tulsa, Cochran served as regional director and northeast field representative for U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe where he was responsible for identifying policy needs for the State of Oklahoma. He also worked extensively with elected officials, municipal and industrial leaders and Oklahomans across 20 counties.

“I am excited and honored for the opportunity to work with Mayor Bynum and his team in this new capacity. I look forward to serving the citizens of Tulsa in assisting with the continuous growth of our city,” Cochran said.

Cochran holds a bachelor of arts in government from Oral Roberts University. The chief of intergovernmental relations position is a member of the Mayor’s cabinet and will report to Mayor Bynum.

Hall Estill law firm, with offices in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Denver, and Northwest Arkansas, has announced that Tulsa Associate Raymond “Ray” E. Penny, Jr. was the recipient of the Region II Prosecutor of the Year award at the Association of Oklahoma Narcotics Enforcers banquet.



PENNY

Prior to joining Hall Estill, Penny served as deputy director of the gang and organized crime prosecution unit in the Tulsa County District Attorney’s Office.

He was presented this award for a variety of accomplishments within his deputy director role, including working with the Tulsa Police, Homeland Security, DEA Task Force Agents, and the FBI to perform the coordinated arrests of several members of a New York MS-13 set, and prosecuting over 200 cases which involved narcotics or illegal street drugs. Penny additionally prosecuted one of the largest methamphetamine busts in recent Tulsa history, has tried 11 jury trials and disposed of 30 drug cases by plea.

Saxum, an integrated communications consulting firm, recently hired Jordan Cox and Hannah Kloppenburg in its Tulsa office and Madison Hagood in Oklahoma City.



KLOPPENBURG

As account coordinators, they will assist with maintaining client relationships, planning and implementing strategy, as well as day-to-day administration of client accounts. All three started at Saxum as graduate fellows before being hired full time.

Prior to joining Saxum, Cox worked as an account executive intern for Champion Management, and as a media content creator and photographer for Pine Cove Christian Camp and Kanakuk Christian Camps. Cox received her bachelor’s degree from Baylor University, where she majored in marketing and minored in media management.

Kloppenburg received her bachelor’s degree in communications and Spanish from the University of Tulsa where she graduated magna cum laude in 2018. On campus, she served as editor-in-chief of the university’s student newspaper, The Collegian, and was named a Student Editor-in-Chief of the Year finalist by the Great Plains Journalism Awards. Kloppenburg worked as a communications intern at YWCA Tulsa and an advertising intern at AcrobatAnt before arriving at Saxum.



HAGOOD



COX

Hagood is a graduate of Oklahoma Christian University in Edmond, Oklahoma where she received her bachelor’s degree in public relations and is currently working toward her MBA with a focus in marketing. While in school, she was the editor in chief as well as sports and features editor at The Talon News and served as the social media coordinator at Thoomazo, connecting the talents of fellow OC students with the needs of alumni and friends. Hagood also served as a public relations intern for Caring Hearts for Children in Fort Worth, Texas, volunteered with Let’s Start Talking Ministry and served as a Fellowship of Christian Athletes campus leader.

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Madison, Wisconsin a Great City with Many Attractions

TRAVEL

By **EMILY RAMSEY**
Contributing Editor

Madison, Wisconsin, is home to a lot: the state capitol; the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with over 30,000 students; lakes galore, making it a haven for water lovers during its pleasant, too few summer months; and so many bars and restaurants it would keep visitors busy for a year of night-outs, at least.

Therefore, even with its brutally long and harsh winters, unsurprisingly, the city welcomes thousands of tourists and students each year.

Below are some highlights from my recent trip; however, far more enjoyments than can be recorded here await you if you choose to visit this sought-after city:

Wisconsin State Capitol

Even if visitors do not choose to explore the building and its historical exhibits, the impressive structure can be seen from numerous areas of the city, sitting as a beacon of light and magnificence for visitors like me as they enter the city on Washington Avenue. With the city's downtown streets running circular, revolving around the Capitol building, the city is set up so that the beautiful structure is almost perpetually within your gaze.

Dane County Farmers' Market

Madison is home to what's considered to be the nation's largest producer-only farmers' market. The Saturday morning market is home to nearly 400 produce, meat, cheese, bakery and plant vendors. Beyond that, on adjoining streets, are arts and crafts vendors. The



OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

market runs for about seven hours, so you will have plenty of time to shop. But the earlier visitors can arrive, the better. The crowds grow as the hours pass.

Outdoor and Water Activities

Devil's Lake State Park is about an hour's drive from Madison.

The area features 27,000 acres of parkland, including water recreational areas for floating, swimming, kayaking and canoeing. Beyond water activities, visitors can hike, bike, camp, rock climb, bird watch and more. Wisconsin is home to more than 60 state parks, so there's much exploring to be



WISCONSIN STATE CAPITOL

done. There is also kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding available on Madison's local lakes—Lake Mendota, Lake Monona and Lake Wingra—and water gazing on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which sits right on the water and is open for the public to enjoy.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

This lakeside garden property features 16 acres of gardens, adjoining Lake Monona. The garden property saw its beginnings in the early 1900s thanks to Michael

Olbrich. When he unexpectedly passed away, the garden was named in his honor. The 16 acres of display gardens includes areas of shrub roses, tropical plants and the Thai Pavilion, which is the only pavilion in the continental United States and the only one outside of Thailand surrounded by a garden. The park offers a very real walk through nature, with many of its manicured gardens still left very natural, with an almost English garden feel. The gardens are free to explore with a small cost to wander its conservatory.

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COVENANT LIVING OF BIXBY RESIDENTS AND STAFF DONATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR TEACHERS, STUDENTS



HELPING AT BIXBY NORTH: Covenant Living of Bixby residents and staff presented donated school supplies to Bixby North Elementary School to help kick off the school year. Pictured from left to right in the back row: Jen Laub (dining director), Diane Moore (assisted living director), Melba Loftis (resident), Velma Foster (resident) and Tina Fullmer (resident engagement coordinator). In the front row from left to right: Kelli Williams (business office manager), Gracie Edens (Bixby North Elementary teacher), Rosemarie Walsh (resident), and Teri Melton (director of marketing).

Residents and staff at Covenant Living of Bixby understand that kicking off the school year means that teachers and students may be in need of school supplies. A 2018 survey by the U.S. Department of Education found that 94 percent of school teachers will spend nearly \$500 of their own money to stock up for their classrooms. That's why for the third year in a row the senior living community has held a school-supply drive.

A large cardboard box, made to look like a school bus, was set up in the lobby as a drop-off point for the residents and staff to fill up. Over the course of a month, the donations start pouring in with everything from notebooks, paper, pens, pencils, crayons, tissue and snacks.

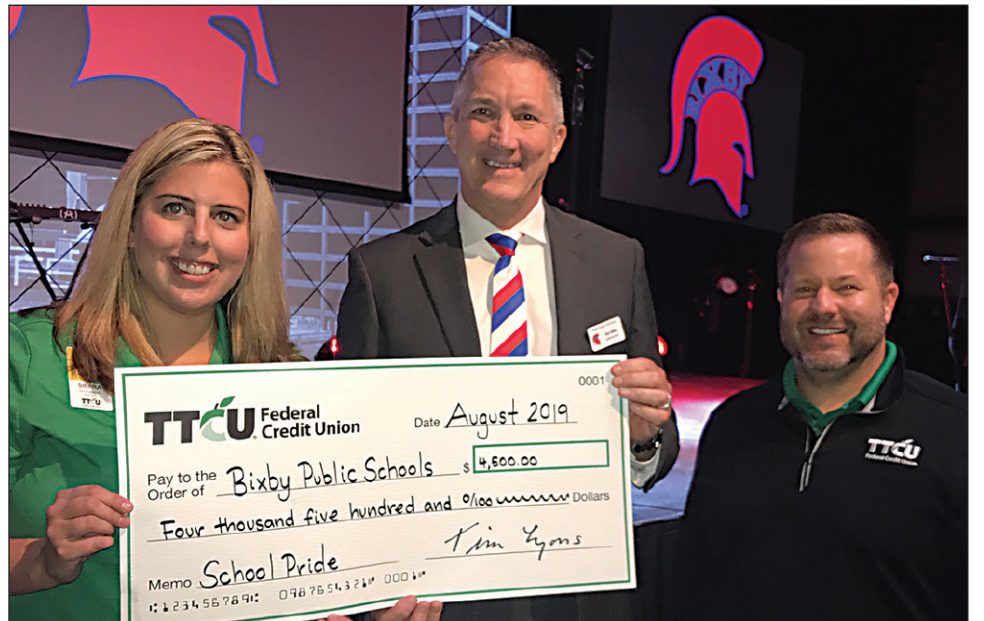
"Many of our residents haven't needed to buy school supplies for a lot of years now, but the opportunity to give back to the community seems to get them in the school shopping mood," said Garrett Lee, Covenant Living of Bixby Executive Director. "We know we're all part of the larger community here and seeing how much these school supplies can help makes it that much easier to get in the giving spirit."

The donated school supplies were given to an adopted classroom at Bixby North Elementary School. They were presented to school teacher Gracie Edens, who teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) to Pre-K through the third grade.

"When partnering with the school, we're able to receive a list of items from the teacher that are known to be needed for the classroom," said Lee. "This gives our residents an opportunity to make sure all of those supplies are obtained, and I'm pretty sure there are some extras thrown in as well."

Covenant Living of Bixby, a faith-based not-for-profit rental care retirement community, is located at 7300 E. 121st Place S, in Bixby. It is administered by Covenant Living Communities and Services, one of the nation's largest not-for-profit senior services providers. Covenant Living serves 5,000 residents at 16 retirement communities nationwide and is a ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church. For more information about Covenant Living at Bixby, visit www.CovLivingBixby.org or call 877-762-8031.

TTCU DONATES TO BPS



SUPPORTING EDUCATION: TTCU Federal Credit Union Bixby Branch Manager Sierra Lancaster, left, and Senior Vice President of IT Andy Tripp, right, present a donation of \$4,500 to Bixby Superintendent Rob Miller as part of its School Pride program. The program began in 2007 as a way for TTCU to give back to area schools. TTCU members select from among over 60 School Pride designs honoring area schools, and every time they use their debit card, TTCU makes a financial donation to the school. Over \$50,000 has been donated to the Bixby Public School District thus far.



Same-Day Appointments in Bixby

MATTHEW ELSE, D.O.

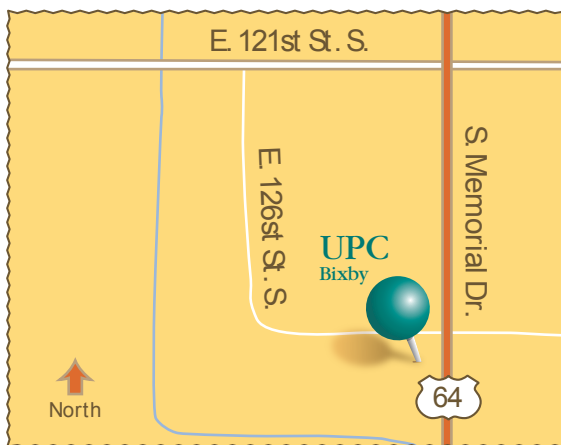
Family Medicine

Dr. Else enjoys creating lasting relationships. "A trusting physician-patient relationship leads to better outcomes," he says. He advises patients to stay active and eat well. "It's important to get at least 30 minutes of physical activity a day. This can seem like a daunting task so I sit down with people and discuss what activities would be feasible for them and how they can ease into a regular routine."

SAME-DAY APPOINTMENTS

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