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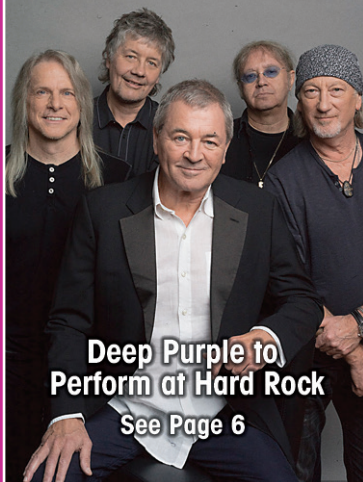
Volume 21

September 2019

www.gtrnews.com

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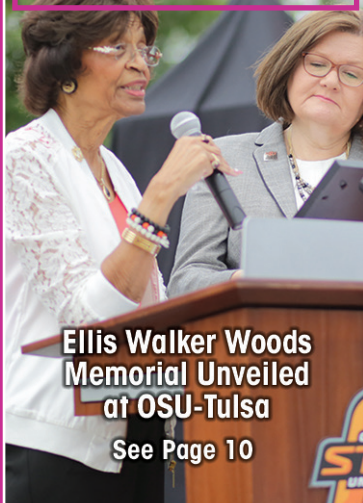
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# Tulsa State Fair Remains One of Oklahoma's Premiere Attractions

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](http://tulsastatefair.com/p/about/fts).

The Tulsa State Fair has been one

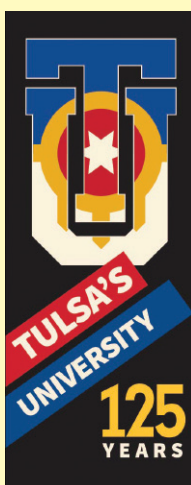
of Oklahoma's most popular annual events since 1903 when it was known as the "Tulsa County Free Fair." That tradition continues this year with "11 days of Awesome." For a full lineup of entertainment, attractions, promotions and all things Tulsa State Fair, visit [tulsastatefair.com](http://tulsastatefair.com).

## 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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The University of Tulsa celebrates its True Blue identity



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 [tulahurricane.com](http://tulahurricane.com). Find more details at [tualumni.com/homecoming](http://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 Ronne, 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.



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**CHRIS JANSON** Fri, Oct 4  
**WHISKEY MYERS** Sat, Oct 5  
**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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**SEPTEMBER 2019**

Vol. 27, No. 9 (Union Boundary);  
Vol. 23, No. 9 (Jenks District Gazette, Midtown Monitor);  
Vol. 21, No. 9 (Owasso Rambler, Broken Arrow Express);  
Vol. 16, No. 9 (Bixby Breeze)

**COPY DROP-OFF:** 5401 S. Sheridan Rd. • Suite 302 • Tulsa, OK 74133



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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](http://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

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



KAREN KEITH

years at KJRH as an anchor, reporter, as well as executive producer and host of "Oklahoma Living." She is proudest of her work on documentaries that took her to Vietnam, Israel, Germany, Russia and Mexico.

In 2002, Keith became the Mayor's Director of Community Relations and Vision implementation. Serving as part of the team focused on Vision 2025, she helped form the Vision 2025 Oversight Committee. She also worked on the Arena and Convention Center Design Committee and the Vision 2025 Downtown Housing Fund Committee.

Following her service at City Hall, Karen worked for the Tulsa

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](mailto: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.

We’re fortunate to live in a city where talent abounds and creativity runs high, and where organizers with resources and knowledge can bring in the world’s most sought-after entertainment to our door.

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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 subdues.

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](http://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

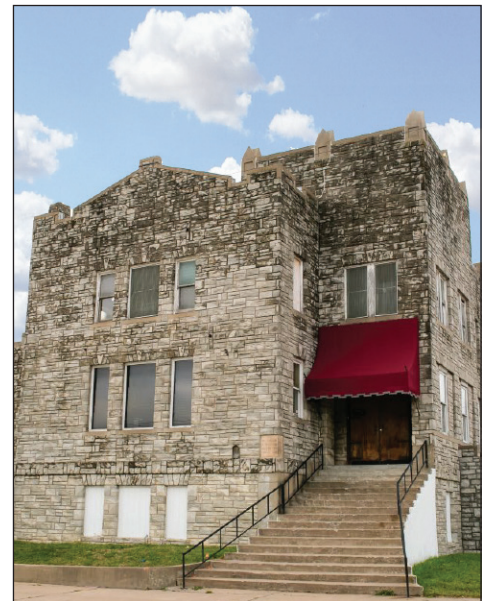
**LEGENDARY ROAD:** The section of south 3rd Street near Trenton Avenue where the Church Studio sits was renamed "Leon Russell Road" in 2010. Today, the area is seeing a resurgence as several businesses have opened in recent years, including Teegarden Studios, inspiring the name "Studio Row" for the 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](http://www.seniorstar.com). For those interested in a career in the senior living industry, visit [www.seniorstar.com](http://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](http://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.

“I really enjoy working at Tulsa Tech because I can utilize my strengths toward helping our faculty and staff,” Roger Banos-Rangel, a systems analyst in the IT department said. “And it feels good knowing that my work helps students on a daily basis.”

If you’re looking for a great place to grow your career and make an impact, check out Tulsa Tech’s employment opportunities online, visit one of our six campus locations, search tulsatech.edu or call 918-828-5000 to find out more.

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<b>Owasso Campus</b> 10800 N. 140 E. Ave.	<b>Sand Springs Campus</b> 924 E. Charles Page Blvd.	

# Owasso Resident Celebrates Life at CTCA

Cancer Treatment Centers of America hospitals across the nation came together recently to celebrate 235 cancer survivors who have met their five-year milestone after first receiving treatment and were invited to celebrate their personal triumphs over cancer.

This year, 35 of those honorees attended the Tulsa celebration and many brought their families. The event was held in the CTCA lobby and a recognition ceremony luncheon was held at the Renaissance Hotel where survivors shared their stories and concluded with attendees dancing the "Cancer Fighters Slide," an original song and dance created for the event.

Among the survivors and celebrants was Owasso resident Job Lorenzen, who came to Tulsa to receive treatment at CTCA. After recovering, he brought his family to Owasso where he now makes his home.



**HAPPY FAMILY:** Job Lorenzen with his family. Before moving to Oklahoma from Nebraska, he made many trips to Cancer Treatment Centers of America, where he recently celebrated his successful treatment.



Courtesy photos

**THANKFUL SMILES:** CTCA Cancer Survivor Job Lorenzen with Jay Foley, left, president and CEO of Cancer Treatment Centers of America Tulsa and Darren Keller, Vice Chairman of the Board of Cancer Treatment Centers of America. This picture was taken at Celebrate Life where five-year survivors were recognized.

# TTCU Presents \$7,500 Donation to Owasso Schools

TTCU Federal Credit Union presented a \$7,500 donation to Owasso Public Schools District as part of its School Pride program. Over the past 12 years, the School Pride program has distributed more than \$1 million to area schools.

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 \$98,000 has been donated to the Owasso Public Schools District thus far.

"We know how hard educators

work each and every day to make sure that the students under their care receive an excellent education," CEO and President Tim Lyons said. "TTCU is proud to support those efforts. Our contribution is our way of honoring our roots as a credit union founded by educators."

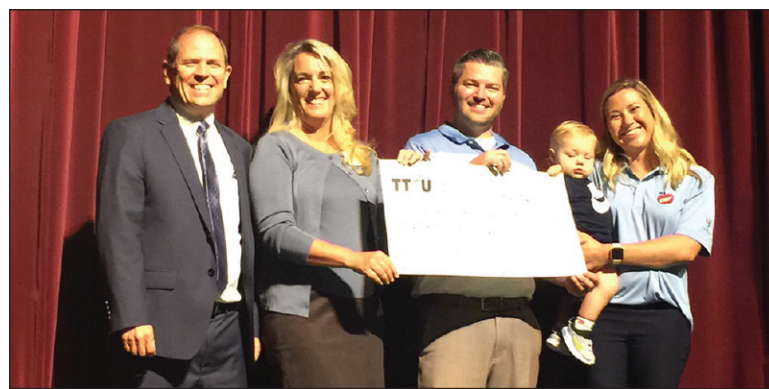
A TTCU checking account with a School Pride Visa debit card can be opened online or at any branch. Visit [ttcu.com](http://ttcu.com) for more information.

**About TTCU Federal Credit Union**

TTCU is the second-largest

credit union in Oklahoma with sixteen branches; six in Tulsa, two in Broken Arrow, one in Bixby, Jenks, Claremore, Miami, Muskogee, Owasso, Sapulpa and Tahlequah.

Established in 1934, TTCU Federal Credit Union is a \$1.9 billion credit union serving more than 130,000 members who are educationally affiliated, including students and their families as well as hundreds of Select Employee Groups in NE Oklahoma with a full complement of depository, lending and financial advisory services. TTCU is federally insured by the NCUA.



Courtesy photo

**SUPPORTING EDUCATION:** TTCU Federal Credit Union President and CEO Tim Lyons, left, presents a donation to members of the Owasso Education Foundation.

# Slim Chickens Opens in Owasso, Holds Ribbon Cutting

Slim Chickens, a leader in the "better chicken" segment of fast-casual restaurants, celebrated its

recently opened Owasso store with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 8712 N. Garnett Road.

The ribbon-cutting event marked the beginning of Slim Chickens' round-up campaign, in which all Oklahoma restaurants will be participating in through the end of September. Customers will have the opportunity to round up their bill to the next dollar to benefit Make-A-Wish Oklahoma.

Since its founding in 2003, Slim Chickens has celebrated more than 90 openings in 14 U.S. states and international markets, with an overall goal of opening 600 restaurants by 2025. This is the eighth Slim Chickens location in Oklahoma and the brand plans to expand its footprint within the Mid-South

region of the U.S. throughout the next several years. The brand has signed on 65 units within the past six months of 2019 and will continue to expand into new territories across the U.S. and overseas.

"This ribbon cutting ceremony marks our entry into the Owasso market, and we are thrilled to expand the Slim Chickens 'better chicken' concept in Oklahoma," said Slim Chickens Co-Founder and CEO Tom Gordon. "Our freshly made Southern dishes and homemade recipes make our loyal guests feel good about the food they are eating. We're really proud to be able to both commemorate our first Owasso area location with this celebration and give back to the Oklahoma community at large with the statewide round-up promotion benefiting Make-A-Wish Oklahoma."

By focusing on providing only 100 percent fresh, all-natural chicken tenders prepared using proprietary buttermilk marinating then hand breading and always cooking fresh to order, the brand has committed to providing a "better chicken" experience in its sector of the restaurant industry for menu quality and guest hospitality that can't be found anywhere else. The down-home Southern brand offers fresh, hand-breaded or grilled chicken tenders and wings paired with a choice of 17 housemade sauces for exception-



Owasso Rambler photo

**GRAND OPENING:** Members of the Owasso Chamber of Commerce and staff from Slim Chickens get ready to cut the ribbon for its official opening in Owasso.

al flavor that has earned admiration from both guests and critics. Slim Chickens also offers fresh sandwiches, salads, wraps and its signature chicken and waffles. To offset the savory side of the menu, rotating desserts served in Mason jars are also available.

**About Slim Chickens**

Slim Chickens opened in 2003 in Fayetteville, Arkansas, with a focus on fresh, delicious food with a southern flair in a fast-casual setting. Guests can always expect fresh chicken tenders and wings cooked

to order and served with housemade dipping sauces. With over 90 locations opened and a fanatical following in 14 U.S. states as well as international locations in Kuwait and London, the eternally cool brand is an emerging national and international franchise leading the "better chicken" segment with a goal to grow over 600 restaurants over the next decade. Southern hospitality is not just for the south; everyone everywhere can appreciate honest food and socialize with friends and neighbors. To learn more about the brand, visit [slimchickens.com](http://slimchickens.com).

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OWASSO SPORTS

# Rams Defensive Lineman Focused on Title

## Owasso Senior Will Play For The University of Tulsa Next Year

By MIKE MOGUIN  
Sports Correspondent

Haydon Grant has played football as long as he can remember.

"It runs in the family," he said. The defensive lineman has been a force for the Rams through his high school career.

Grant, a 6'4", 225-pound senior, recorded 43 tackles and four sacks last year while the Rams reached the Class 6AI semifinals.

While he aims to help the Rams get back to winning a state championship in December, he already has his college plans set. Grant announced on Twitter June 21 that he'll be playing at the University of Tulsa next year.

"It just felt like it was the right spot," Grant said. "I took some visits up there and met with the coaching staff and decided that was my place.

"Playing close to home would be amazing. I'll be playing in front of the people I've been around my entire life and playing big-time football at the same time," he said.

TU already has a crop of local talent from other area schools on its roster, as well as other commitments from the city in its 2020 recruiting class. Grant sees a plus in that.

"I feel like keeping people local helps support the players that are there everyday, working to make a better team," he said.

He chose the Golden Hurricane

over Army, Northern Iowa and Western Illinois.

In addition to playing defense, Grant has duties as the deep snapper on the field goal and PAT unit.

To be successful as a defensive lineman, Grant said, you must have the mentality to get after the ball every play.

"Making plays is always a highlight and you love doing it," he said. "But, it's not always about that. It's about, overall, as a team, winning.

"I love the mentality you can have in football," Grant said. "You can go hit somebody and do what you want to do and they (opponents) can't do anything about it."

When it comes to his role model players, Grant likes J.J. Watt of the Houston Texans.

"That's who I grew up watching and I still watch his highlights and watch the moves he uses and I try to use the same moves," he said.

Grant gives credit to the Owasso coaching staff for the Rams' ascent as a top contender in Class 6AI.

"They have brought us together when it comes to facing difficult opponents. You have to give it all to the coaching staff," he said.

"Coach B (Blankenship) not only helps us in our athletic career, he also wants to train us spiritually and get us right (with God) and help us in all other aspects in life, and he works with us on that," Grant said. "So, he also

works on everything with us, not just football."

After winning state in 2017, Owasso got off to a 1-3 start last year.

"Going into the year, we knew it would be a growing year that we would have to work hard and grind through," Grant said. "We lost a lot of key players like Josh Proctor and Wayne Jones. We came in knowing that we had to grind, knowing that we wouldn't just walk on the field and win. I feel like we came together by the end of the year and finished out strong."

And the Rams did. They went 6-2 the rest of the way, including a 10-7 loss to eventual state champion Broken Arrow in the semifinals.

"I feel like in the game against Broken Arrow in the semifinals, we gave it everything we had. I feel like we did what we needed to do. We just didn't come out on top," Grant said.

The result served as a springboard through the offseason.

"Anytime you lose, you want to come back and beat that team," Grant said. "But I would say this offseason, we've worked on ourselves because we know that if we are the best we can be, (our opponents) is not going to be our problem.

"We're focusing in on every game like it's the biggest game," Grant said.



HAYDON GRANT

Courtesy photo

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Together We Are Stronger.



**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.

“As a family, we believe in the power of

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.

# TULSA FOOTBALL

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Courtesy photo

**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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# Tulsa-Area High School Grads Starring for TU

By MIKE MOGUIN  
GTR Sports Writer

As Tulsa takes the field this year, Golden Hurricane fans have a 1-2 punch running attack to enjoy. Coach Philip Montgomery identifies it as such and can be found in local talent – Corey Taylor of Holland Hall and Shamari Brooks of Union.

“It’s an honor to be at the university and to be able to play for Coach Monty (Philip Montgomery),” Taylor said. “We’ve also had other great running back tandems between (James) Flanders and (D’Angelo) Brewer and Shamari is a great running back to be in a system with. I’m very happy with where I am here at this university.”

Taylor often plows through defenses while Brooks shows the same cuts he made through holes while helping Union win the Class 6A state championship in 2016.

I agree with that (1-2 punch),” Brooks said. “He’s the power type of back and I’m the twitchy type of back.”

Last season, in 11 games with one start, Taylor rushed for 846 yards and 11 touchdowns on 178 carries. Brooks started in all but one game, which he missed due to an injury. He rushed for 967 yards with seven TDs, including four games over the century mark.

With the duo manning the backfield, it draws more fans out.

“It is a big plus,” Taylor said. “It is awesome to see fans from high school come out to the games and see that they’re still supporting us. This is our city and that’s what we play for.”



HOLLAND HALL GRADUATE COREY TAYLOR



UNION GRADUATE SHAMARI BROOKS

“It’s fun,” Brooks said. “I bet it’s fun for him too. Just being from Tulsa, it’s a rough city, so if you’re able to make it in any type of way, it is a positive.”

When asked about his favorite memory at Holland Hall, Taylor said it was beating OKC Casady as a sophomore.

“That was a fun game for us,” he said. “It was kind of the turning point in our season, where we came back and re-established the legacy of Holland Hall football.”

One thing that motivates the local products is that TU was picked by the media to finish 2019 last in the American Athletic Conference.

“It’s great motivation and we love it,” Taylor said. “We love being the underdog. We know we have a lot of things that we want to prove to ourselves. I think that the work we have put in has prepared us for the most success we can have on the field.”

After closing 2018 with an upset win of SMU, the Hurricane built off that game.

“I think we’ve made a ton of progress throughout the offseason,” Taylor said. “The strength and conditioning staff did a great job of getting us stronger, faster and bigger. We’ve been putting in a lot of film work with our coaches. So, we’re extremely confident with the work that we’ve put in.”

A fun season, these guys believe, is in store for TU.

“We’re very excited about this season, excited about the playmakers we have out on the field and the guys who can go out there and make a difference,” Taylor said.

Speaking of Tulsa’s schedule this season, Taylor said, “My thoughts on that, I’m extremely excited. We love big platforms. We love to play on large stages and we’re looking to go out there and compete and to come out with a ‘W.’”

Taylor and the rest of the Golden

Hurricane look forward to the Friday night game on Nov. 8 against UCF, that has only lost only once – last season’s Fiesta Bowl – in the past two years. They have respect for how UCF has represented the conference.

“I think UCF has been doing a very good job over the past couple of years, so we’re really excited to

be able to get the chance to go after them, step on the field and have a great competition.

“We’re extremely proud of them and everything they do for the conference. Just showing that we’re a real contender no matter who we play, Big 10, Big 12, ACC, that we’re ready to go out there and compete,” Taylor said.

## Stanley Cup at Oilers Game

The Tulsa Oilers, ECHL affiliate of the Stanley Cup Champion St. Louis Blues, announced that the Stanley Cup will be at the BOK Center opening night, October 11 to celebrate the St. Louis Blues winning their first Cup in franchise history. Fans in attendance will get the opportunity to take their picture with the Stanley Cup.

The oldest trophy in North American professional sports,

the Stanley Cup originated in 1892, initially intended to be awarded to the hockey champion of the Dominion of Canada. From 1926 onward, it has been awarded to the champion of the NHL, with each winner of the cup having his name engraved on the bands for eternity. When a new band fills up every 13 years, the oldest band is removed and put on display at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.

## GTR 2019 COMPOSITE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME
Aug. 22	Hale 0	Edison 7	Sept. 20	Milwood	Cascia Hall	Oct. 11	Claremore	Rogers	Oct. 26	OSU	Iowa State
Aug. 23	Victory Christian 26	Unity Christian 18		Webster	Tulsa NOAH		Tulsa City	Bixby		OU	Kansas State
Aug. 29	Arkansas Baptist 13	NEO 69		Edison	Claremore		Memorial	Skiatook		Missouri Southern	NSU
	Jenks 38	Mansfield Legacy 0		Holland Hall	Metro Christian		Hale	McAlester		Cisco College	NEO
	Central 41	Grant 0		Rogers	McLain		Metro Christian	Wyandotte		East Central	Rogers
Aug. 30	Tulsa 7	Michigan State 28		Summit Christian	Depew		Holland Hall	Westville	Oct. 31	Fort Gibson	Central
	OSU 52	Oregon State 36		San Jose State	Arkansas		Central	Poteau	Nov. 1	Ponca City	BTW
	Inola 19	Lincoln Christian 51		OSU	Texas		Cascia Hall	Vinita		Kansas	Metro Christian
	McLain 32	Victory Christian 20		Wyoming	Tulsa		Rejoice Christian	Ketchum		Afton	Rejoice Christian
	Broken Bow 9	Metro Christian 35		NSU	Pittsburg State		Union	Putnam City North		McLain	Wagoner
	Owasso 47	Bentonville West 34		Kilgore College	NEO		Lincoln Christian	Webster		Durant	Edison
	Tulsa NOAH 54	Capitol Hill 0		Union	Owasso		Norman North	Owasso		Bishop Kelley	Coweta
	Webster 0	Hale 47		Broken Arrow	Jenks		Yukon	Shawnee		Ada	Hale
	Gravette 6	Cascia Hall 38		Sapulpa	Bixby		Arkansas	Jenks		Edmond Memorial	Broken Arrow
	Union 44	Lake Ridge 47		Edison	Glenpool	Oct. 12	OU	Kentucky		Moore	Owasso
	Bixby 77	Mansfield 47		Bristow	McLain		Washburn	Texas		Tahlequah	Memorial
	Hulbert 6	Hominy 42		Central	Hilldale		NEO	NSU		Sequoia	Cascia Hall
Aug. 31	Portland State 13	Arkansas 20		Webster	Checota		NEO	Tyler Junior College		Victory Christian	Kiefer
	Broken Arrow 42	Mansfield 13		Metro Christian	Adair	Oct. 17	Edmond Santa Fe	Broken Arrow		Idabel	Lincoln Christian
	BTW 0	North Little Rock 19		Summit Christian	Prue		Roland	Lincoln Christian		Spiro	Holland Hall
Sept. 1	Houston 31	OU 49		Hale	Bishop Kelley		Beggs	Victory Christian		Central	Empire
Sept. 5	NSU	Emporia State		BTW	Bartlesville		Collinsville	East Central		Bixby	Shawnee
Sept. 6	Broken Arrow	Union		Memorial	East Central		Sapulpa	BTW		Webster	Stigler
	Fayetteville	Owasso		Rogers	Tahlequah		Hale	Edison		Edmond Santa Fe	Jenks
	Bixby	Jenks		Lincoln Christian	Stigler		Jenks	Edmond Memorial		Christ Prep Academy	Tulsa NOAH
	Sapulpa	Edison		Cascia Hall	Vertigris		Berryhill	Cascia Hall	Nov. 2	Tulsa	Tulane
	BTW	Bishop Kelley		Victory Christian	Victory Christian		Rogers	Skiatook		Mississippi State	Arkansas
	Hale	East Central		Tulsa NOAH	OCPHS		Sequoia	Holland Hall		NSU	Northwest Missouri
	Memorial	Central		Okl. Union	Rejoice Christian		Metro Christian	Chelsea	Nov. 7	Cascia Hall	Inola
	Victory Christian	Rogers		Texas A&M	Arkansas		Broken Bow	Central		Memorial	Pryor
	Cascia Hall	Holland Hall		Kansas State	OU	Oct. 18	Bishop Kelley	Glenpool	Nov. 8	UCF	Tulsa
	Lincoln Christian	Jones		Texas Tech	OU		Okmulgee	Webster		McAlester	Bishop Kelley
	Summit Christian	Yale		NEO	Navarro College		Claremore	Memorial		Skiatook	East Central
	Tulsa NOAH	Choteau-Mazie		Owasso	Barnsdall		Moore	Union		Grant	Tulsa NOAH
Sept. 7	South Dakota	OU		Pryor	Rogers		Bixby	Bartlesville		Hale	Durant
	McNeese	OSU		Bishop Kelley	Edison		Classen SAS	Tulsa NOAH		Edison	Ada
	Arkansas	Ole Miss		Muldrow	Central	Oct. 19	Tulsa	Cincinnati		Central	Sallisaw
	Tulsa	San Jose State		Collinsville	Memorial		Auburn	Arkansas		Rogers	Collinsville
	NEO	Georgia Military		East Central	Claremore		Baylor	OSU		Grove	McLain
Sept. 12	Okmulgee	Rogers		Glenpool	Hale		West Virginia	OU		Union	Edmond North
	McLain	Central		Mustang	Union		NSU	Lincoln		Spiro	Holland Hall
	Central Missouri	NSU		Chouteau-Mazie	Metro Christian		New Mexico Military	NEO		Caney Valley	Victory Christian
Sept. 13	Jenks	Union		Owasso	Edmond North		Jenks	Norman		Broken Arrow	Enid
	Owasso	Broken Arrow		Tulsa NOAH	Oklahoma Bible	Oct. 25	Owasso	Mustang		BTW	Page
	Beggs	Webster		Keys	Holland Hall		Norman North	Union		Lincoln Christian	Checota
	East Central	Stilwell		Morris	Victory Christian		Yukon	Broken Arrow		Muskogee	Bixby
	Rejoice Christian	Kiefer		McLain	Cleveland		East Central	Tahlequah		McAlester	Bishop Kelley
	Bentonville	BTW		Norman	Broken Arrow		Central	Stilwell		Putnam City North	Owasso
	Memorial	Edison		Webster	Idabel		Lincoln Christian	Okmulgee		Metro Christian	Salina
	Bishop Kelley	Bishop McGuinness		Jenks	Enid		Coweta	Hale		Rejoice Christian	Colcord
	Metro Christian	Oklahoma Christian		Seminole	Lincoln Christian		Metro Christian	Nowata		Westmoore	Jenks
	Vian	Lincoln Christian		Jay	Cascia Hall		Webster	Roland	Nov. 9	Iowa State	OU
	Verdigris	Victory Christian		Bixby	BTW		Holland Hall	Vian		Western Kentucky	Arkansas
	Casady	Holland Hall		South Coffeyville	Summit Christian		Edison	McAlester		NSU	Central Oklahoma
	Tonkawa	Tulsa NOAH		Tulsa	SMU	Oct. 5	Tulsa	Commerce		OU	Baylor
Sept. 14	OSU	Tulsa		OU	Kansas		OSU	Muskogee	Nov. 16	Kansas	OSU
	Colorado State	Arkansas		NSU	Texas Tech		NSU	McLain		Fort Hays State	NSU
	OU	UCLA		NSU	Nebraska-Kearney		Page	Bixby	Nov. 23	Houston	Tulsa
Sept. 19	Vian	Owasso		Blinn College	NEO		Memorial	Rogers		Arkansas	LSU
Sept. 20	Bixby	Putnam City		Broken Arrow	Westmoore		Victory Christian	Sperry		TCU	OU
	Lincoln Christian	Stigler		Durant	Bishop Kelley		Cascia Hall	Locust Grove		OSU	West Virginia
	Bishop Kelley	Memorial		Oologah	McLain		Ada	Bishop Kelley	Nov. 29	Missouri	Arkansas
	Haskell	Rejoice Christian		Victory Christian	Haskell		Tulsa NOAH	Lighthouse Christian	Nov. 30	Tulsa	East Carolina
	Hale	Skiatook		Pryor	East Central		Memphis	Tulsa		OU	OSU
							Arkansas	Alabama			

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

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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.

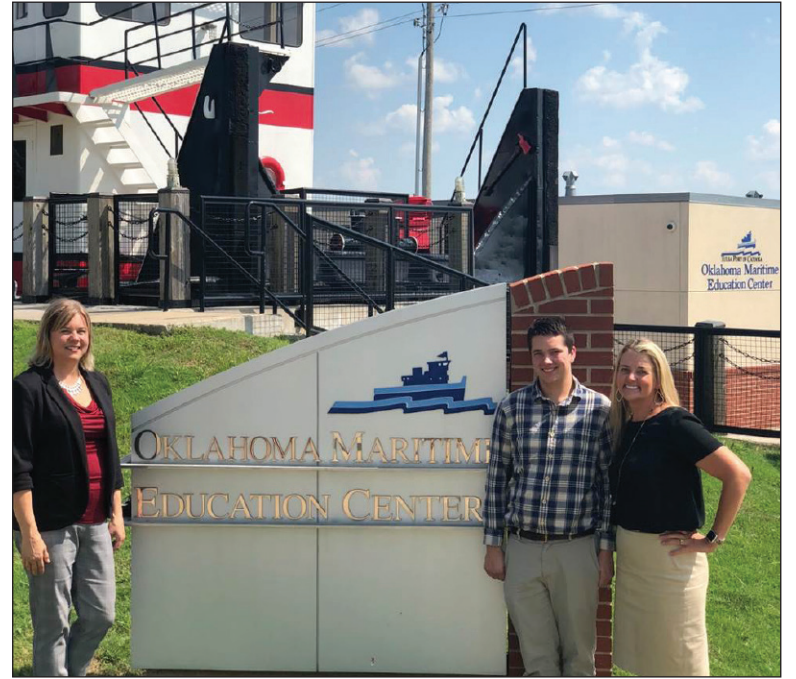
Sailsbury added that having the Tulsa Port of Catoosa participating will allow them to offer a one-of-a-

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.



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

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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.



TERRY SIMONSON

“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.”

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](http://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 transitions.

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](http://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. 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.



KLOPPENBURG



HAGOOD



COX

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 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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