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MIDTOWN MONITOR

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Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group

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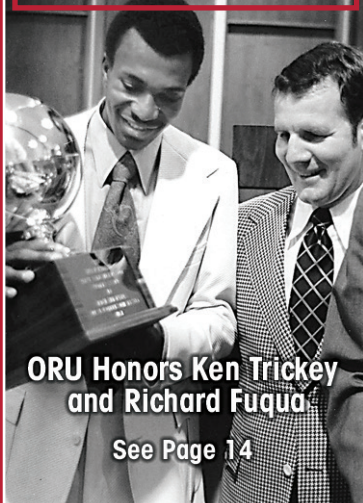
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Ground Broken for Football Stadium at Will Rogers College Junior and Senior High

Students, teachers, parents and community leaders attended the groundbreaking on Nov. 1 for a new football/soccer and track stadium at Will Rogers College Junior High and High School, located at 3909 E. 5th Pl. in midtown Tulsa.

The event featured remarks by district officials, school leaders, and community members, including the welcome and introduction of guests by Rogers Principal Nikki Dennis, introduction of guests by Executive Director of Athletics for Tulsa Public Schools Gil Cloud, remarks by Superintendent Deborah A. Gist, remarks by Bond Oversight Chair Bill Richert and former Rogers football star and now State Senator David Rader.

The groundbreaking ceremony also included the following guests: Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, Representative John Waldron, Instructional Leadership Director Stacey Vinson, Board President Shawna Keller, Board Member Jania Wester, Bond Director Chris Hudgins, Athletics Director Krystel Markwardt and Assistant Athletics Director Brent Thomas.

The project is part of a \$415 million bond project passed by Tulsa voters in 2015. The project features a new stadium that will be complete and open for the 2020-2021 school year.

The stadium is the first in the history of 90-year-old Will Rogers College High and Junior High School. It uses a game-changing building design by Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors.

Crossland Construction hopes to finish this \$4.5 million project in time for the 2020 school year.

"This facility should give Will Rogers an athletic identity of its own," said Sparks Reed principal and cofounder David Reed. "It creates a place where both the home and visiting teams should like to play."

The Sparks Reed design emulates the school's historic art deco styling while accommodating site constraints. The 12,000-square-

foot steel and masonry structure will welcome visitors with an entryway of yellow brick and glass that echoes the high school's iconic art deco tower.

"I love the design," said former University of Tulsa quarterback and coach Dave Rader, a 1975 Will Rogers High School graduate. "I like the way it ties in with the school."

"From my first vision of the school over 55 years ago, it's always been the blond brick," said Rader, who now serves Tulsa in the Oklahoma state Senate. "For me, as I drive up and see the blond brick, I know it's Will Rogers High School."

The entryway opens to a tunnel that leads fans past concessions, restrooms, and a 900-square-foot-plus hospitality suite to bleachers seating 1,000 fans. A second floor provides press boxes, a weight room, sports trainer and administrative offices.

"It's one of the most exciting things we've done in Tulsa for a long time," said Gil Cloud, executive director of athletics for Tulsa Public Schools.

"Now Rogers can play at home instead of having to travel to a home game," said Cloud. "It will be right out their back door. It will also give us a quality facility for soccer and track, and we have quality men's and women's soccer teams. It's also a multipurpose facility. The band will use it in the morning for band practice."

This design adapts the school's existing practice field and running track for Will Rogers' first home field. That decision forced Sparks Reed to overcome elevation and site issues.

The existing field sits in a flood plain detention pond 25 feet below its available parking area. While the field retains water only in emergencies and drains well under stormy conditions, the detention area could not be relocated.

"This meant we had to keep the majority of our construction out of



GROUNDBREAKING CREW: Members of the Rogers Stadium groundbreaking included, from left, Stadium Bond Oversight Chair Bill Richert, Tulsa Public Schools Athletic Director Gil Cloud, Oklahoma State Senator Dave Rader, and Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith.



ARTISTIC STADIUM: The new stadium is designed by Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors and will blend in with the classic architecture of the Will Rogers School building.

the flood plain," said Sparks Reed architect Bryan Broaddrick.

The design embraced this with an L-shaped structure that works like a bridge, extending over the slope to connect the main building with the press box and bleachers.

"Spectators will enter the stadium from the top and filter down into the stands," said Broaddrick.

The field's west sideline runs up against Tulsa's Turner Park, allowing no space for bleachers. This forced Sparks Reed to put all seating on the east sideline, behind the home team benches.

These factors should separate the Will Rogers game experience from every other school in the region, said Broaddrick.

"It's going to mean a lot to the school," said Rader, who represents District 39 in Tulsa. "To be competitive in today's school market, you need to have the best students you can possibly have. This helps attract more students."

To learn more about Tulsa-based Sparks Reed and its past projects, check out sparksreed.com or call David Reed at 918-884-6007.

KUDOS of the MONTH: Tulsa's Gathering Hearts

In 1999, Tulsans Gary and Cheryl Kuney followed God's call to quit their jobs, sell their home and possessions and move their young family to spread the Gospel and serve those in the hurricane-ravaged Central American country of Honduras. Now the ministry is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Gathering Hearts provides English/Bible and computer classes for more than 200 students, with an additional 100 students in other classes offered. Gathering Hearts provides a daily children's feeding and education program, a medical and dental clinic, vocational training programs and a new conference center with dormitory that offers church leader training and welcomes



visiting short-term missionary teams.

The bridge between Tulsa and Honduras is strong, with several local churches providing mission volunteers on week-long trips over the years. Those include Christ Presbyterian, First United Methodist and TurningPoint churches of Tulsa and Beacon Hill Baptist of Owasso. Addition-

al teams are welcome and invited to apply. Currently, funds are being raised to build a new three-story education building. A sports complex is also underway to provide a safe venue to attract youth to play soccer and hear the Gospel.

The Gathering Hearts mission is located



TULSA APPRECIATION: Gary and Cheryl Kuney display a certificate of appreciation from the Honduras religious community.

near Puerto Cortes, in the northern part of the country. For more information, contact Patty Colwell, patty.colwell@gatheringhearts.com.



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Ground Broken for Historic OKPOP Museum in Tulsa

Oklahoma Historical Society officials and Nabholz Construction Corp. representatives were joined in October by Gov. Kevin Stitt, Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, members of the Oklahoma legislature, Tulsa Regional Chamber and VisitTulsa for a ceremonial groundbreaking for the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture (OKPOP). Nabholz will construct the iconic space at 422 N. Main St. in Tulsa, across the street from the historic Cain's Ballroom, home of Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys.

The high-end exhibits at OKPOP will include artifacts and archival materials directly from Oklahoma's famous musicians, filmmakers, actors, artists, cartoonists, authors, comedians, athletes and more. OKPOP is managed by the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS), a state-wide organization which opened the Smithsonian-affiliated Oklahoma History Center in 2005.

"OKPOP is dedicated to telling the story of Oklahoma and the historical influence our citizens have made on popular culture around the world," said Dr. Bob Blackburn, executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society. "These world-class exhibits will inspire future generations of Oklahomans and inform thousands of visitors about the gifted individuals whose talent was directly impacted by their roots in Oklahoma."

Last year, OKPOP unveiled the "grit and glitz" design by Overland Partners in collaboration with Tulsa's Lilly Architects.

"The design conveys the collision of cultures and artistic styles unique to Oklahoma, which has created a rich story telling tradition where creativity flourishes," said Jeffrey Moore, executive director of OKPOP. "The building facade reflects the idea of the 'grit' of the Oklahoma work ethic through the use of gray brick and black steel, mixing with the 'glitz' of show business, expressed with gold and silver metal skins."

The 60,000 square-foot space will be a "living experience" and will include event venues, audio and recording studios, exhibit galleries, performance stages and retail space. A 4,300 square-foot terrace will allow guests to have a bird's-eye view of the popular North Main Street and famous music hall, Cain's Ballroom.



RIP STELL for GTR Newspapers
CEREMONIAL BEGINNING: Tulsa and Oklahoma area dignitaries moved the first dirt guitar-looking shovel at the groundbreaking of the OKPOP museum, located on North Main Street across the street from the historic Cain's Ballroom.

"OKPOP is a monumental achievement for the state of Oklahoma," said Shane Fernandez of Nabholz and the 2020 chairman of regional tourism for

visitTulsa. "This project took nearly 10 years to come to fruition and Nabholz' leadership has been there since the early stages of conception."



TULSA PRESS CLUB'S FIRST DRAFT: The Tulsa Press Club's annual First Draft craft beer tasting features more than 100 Oklahoma craft beers along with 25-plus additional craft beers. Looking forward to the event are, from left, Tom Gilbert, Tulsa World; Ben Allen, Craft Magazine; Becki Watson, Tulsa Press Club; and Ashley Parrish, formerly of the Tulsa World. First Draft is held at the John L. Rucker Warehouse on November 15 from 6:30 - 9:30

p.m. VIP ticket holders get access to the venue and beer selection at 5:30 p.m.

First Draft proceeds help fund journalism scholarships through the Tulsa Press Club, whose mission is to foster and promote ethical journalism, defend freedom of the press and the public's right to information, and encourage the exchange of ideas between media and their publics.

For information, call the Tulsa Press Club at 918-583-7737.



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THE GREATER TULSA REPORTER NEWSPAPERS

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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.

All advertising published in any or all of the GTR Newspapers is subject to the applicable rate card, copies of which are available at the GTR Newspapers office or from the account representative listed in the above newspaper credits.



GTR Media Group photo
OKTOBERFEST VISITORS: Mike and Shannon Hendrickson came all the way from Seattle, Washington to attend this year's Oktoberfest in Tulsa. They had a great time, and he said that they were in Tulsa for her 50th birthday present.

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CIVICS

Improve Our Tulsa Critical for Capital Improvements

Over the past year, the City Council and I held Improve Our Tulsa town hall meetings across the city to hear where Tulsans thought we should focus our capital improvement efforts. The majority of the feedback we received was regarding street improvements, which matched the 2019 Gallup CitiVoice Index results showing Tulsans overwhelmingly rank city streets as a top priority.

The Gallup CitiVoice Index results did not surprise me due to the large footprint we must maintain at the city. For context, the city of Tulsa is larger than San Francisco, Boston, Washington D.C. and Miami combined in square miles and we have 1,444 lane miles across the city to maintain –

meaning, we have a lot of ground to cover as it pertains to street maintenance. Although we have made substantial progress on our streets in the past decade, we must continue to maintain the streets we have recently completed while rehabilitating older streets in our city so they do not fall into disrepair.

This is where we need your help. On Nov. 12, Tulsans will get an opportunity to vote on the extension for Improve Our Tulsa, a \$639 million capital improvement program designed to fund improvements to Tulsa's basic infrastructure. This is not a tax increase, but instead simply continues our existing tax rate for the next six years. The majority of funding will go to

our streets and the rest will provide needed funding for public safety, infrastructure and capital projects. Improve Our Tulsa will also prepare our city for the next economic recession by providing a funding source for our Rainy Day Fund.

For streets and transportation, the Improve Our Tulsa extension would fund street rehabilitation and widening, new sidewalks and overlays, bridge repairs, traffic calming with funding for pavement marking and signage and pedestrian and bike lanes. In public safety, we will be able to replace our run-down police cars, fire trucks and 911 alert system. For infrastructure and capital projects, we will bring major renovations to our parks with rehabilitation and replacement of unused equipment, fund animal shelter renovations, create a Route 66 Bus Rapid Transit route, and we will finally be able to replace our old heavy-duty dump trucks and snow and ice trucks that we must have to handle snow and ice storms.

Over the last several years, Improve Our Tulsa has completed an array of projects that have improved the quality of life for

From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM
Mayor of Tulsa



Courtesy City of Tulsa

NEEDING REPAIR: Rusted out City of Tulsa snow trucks.

Tulsans including street and intersection rehabilitations across the city while opening new playgrounds and swimming pools for our youth, but we can't stop there. Our city deserves more. This program will decide the future of our city – we have to fix our streets. Our first responders must

have vehicles that work so they can reach Tulsans in danger. Our parks should have safe equipment that is safe for kids to use. Improve Our Tulsa will take care of these common-sense things, but only if Tulsans turn out and vote.

I look forward to seeing you on Nov. 12 at the polls.

Tulsa County Takes the Lead to Pass Rapid DNA Act

While DNA is the most powerful investigative technology available to law enforcement, it has been terribly underutilized in investigations. Historically, DNA results have taken months or even years due to over worked and underfunded state labs. As a result, there are also many occasions where a person of interest is booked into a jail on an unrelated offense and the jail administrators don't know that this person is wanted for another crime where his DNA was collected. The best know case of this was the crime spree of Ted Bundy across America.

To fix this problem, Congress passed the "Rapid DNA" bill in 2017. This bill tied state labs and jail booking systems into the FBI's criminal DNA database. This will allow states and

localities to use this latest DNA technology and interface with the FBI's data base. However, before this could happen, state legislators would have to pass legislation allowing the use of the Rapid DNA technology in the state.

With Tulsa County taking the lead, The Rapid DNA Act, authored by Representative Carol Bush and Senator Wayne Shaw was passed, making Oklahoma one of the few states to have done this.

The taking of DNA during the booking process is following along the same path as other criminal investigative tools like electronic fingerprinting, breathalyzer and drug testing. The DNA collected at booking is used to see if there is a match to DNA already in the criminal database from other

agencies. While the DNA sample taken at booking is not considered evidence in the criminal case, it is invaluable in identifying who a suspect may be or in exonerating someone who is believed to be a suspect.

The most important feature of the Rapid DNA technology is that the results can be known in less than two hours, not weeks or months. With this quick turnaround, the prisoner being booked is very likely still in jail and the jail will know to hold the prisoner to face the earlier charges as well.

The use of Rapid DNA can go beyond criminal cases. Over the past year the Rapid DNA technology developed by ANDE has been used to identify family members of those who died in the horrific fires in Paradise, California. More recently, ANDE's Rapid DNA was used to help identify family members of those who died in a California boat fire.

Rapid DNA can also be extremely beneficial following natural disasters and helping to identify victims and their family members. And Rapid DNA has been used with the discovery of mass graves and finding if there are any surviving family members.

Though the Oklahoma Bureau

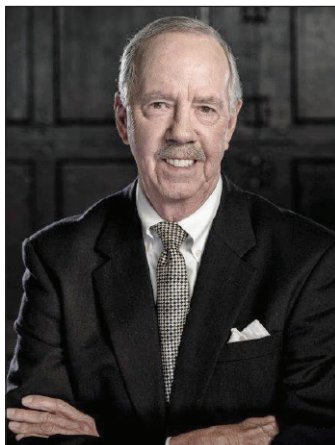
of Investigation (OSBI) has yet to embrace this new technology to address the extreme backlog of sexual assault and rape kits, the State of Kentucky has done so with amazingly fast success.

To support Tulsa County's implementation of Rapid DNA, the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office has recently awarded a \$50,000 grant to begin the implementation. The Sheriff is also

allocating funds from the jail budget to support the first years set up. ANDE will also provide Tulsa County with a free week of intensive training on the use of the Rapid DNA technology.

Tulsa County is on the cutting edge of using the latest technology to deliver enhanced public safety, not only to the citizens of Tulsa County but to victims of crimes committed in other states.

From Tulsa County



By COMMISSIONER
RON PETERS



GTR Media Group photo

NATIVE AMERICAN DAY: The City of Tulsa celebrated Native American Day Oct. 14 at Guthrie Green. The date is shared with Columbus Day nationally.

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PSO, Port Authority Agree to Energizing Land Agreement

More than 2,000 acres in Inola may soon become one of the state's premier economic development sites following the ownership transfer of Public Service Company of Oklahoma's (PSO) Inola River-Rail Site.

PSO is transferring the property to the City of Tulsa-Rogers County Port Authority, which plans to develop the site to attract large-scale economic development projects.

"Attracting Sofidel to our Inola property last year has played a huge role in bringing attention to this location as an excellent site for large-scale projects," said PSO President and COO, Peggy Simmons. "We are very pleased to partner with the Port Authority, which has the expertise and years of experience with land development to build on that success and take this location to the next level."

The property is located along the Verdigris River, which is part of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, and connects to the Port Authority's existing facilities at the Tulsa Port of Catoosa. With both barge and rail access available at the Inola site, the location is ideal for much-needed expansion of Port operations and for future industrial development.

"In 1963, the City of Tulsa-Rogers County Port Authority began the vision to turn 2,000 acres of ru-

ral Rogers County property into an inland waterway port and industrial park. Today, there is more than a billion dollars of private investment at the Tulsa Port of Catoosa, with 70 companies employing over 3,200 people. We are very thankful to PSO for having faith in the Port Authority as the right partner to bring development experience to this property and assist industrial and manufacturing facilities to locate and thrive in the region," said the Tulsa Port Director David Yarbrough. "As we approach the 50th anniversary of the Tulsa Port of Catoosa and the completion of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, we are excited to start this new chapter in our history and create opportunity for the next generation."

PSO has owned the Inola property for decades and in 2014 it began a stringent, 18-month site certification process and started marketing the location for high impact economic development projects

In 2018, tissue manufacturing giant Sofidel purchased 240 acres at the site to construct a \$360 million facility. The 1.8 million square foot plant will permanently employ 300 people and have an estimated annual economic impact of \$100 million.

Though long-term plans for development are just underway, terms of the agreement call for the Tulsa Port of Catoosa to develop



OFFICIAL TRANSFER: PSO President and Chief Operating Officer Peggy Simmons displays the commemorative certificate with the date of the land transfer to the City of Tulsa/Rogers County Port Authority. With Simmons from left are Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce Sean Kouplan, PSO Economic Development Manager Janet Smith, Chairman of the City of Tulsa/Rogers County Port Authority Board of Directors Steve Dowty and Rogers County Commissioner Ron Burrows.

and enhance the property's infrastructure. PSO will continue to be the electricity provider for the property, co-develop a master plan with the Port and help in co-marketing efforts.

About the Tulsa/Rogers County Port Authority

Located at the head of navigation for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System in Northeast Oklahoma, The Tulsa Port of Catoosa is one of the largest, most-inland river ports in the United States.

Whether it's agricultural commodities, building materials, petroleum products or machinery, it can be shipped in and out of the Tulsa Port of Catoosa daily using a combination of barge, rail and truck.

With 70 current industrial and transportation tenants, the Tulsa Port of Catoosa is managed and operated by the City of Tulsa-Rogers County Port Authority and provides development services through Tulsa's Port of Catoosa Facilities Authority. Both are public entities charged with implementing the Port's mission, which is to promote the long-term viability of the waterway and its ability to provide water transport, grow

the employment and economic base of Northeast Oklahoma, optimize the region's barge and related rail and truck bulk freight patterns, and operate in a financially independent manner.

More information on the Tulsa Port of Catoosa can be found at www.tulsaport.com.

About PSO

Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO), a unit of American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP), is an electric utility company serving more than 554,000 customers accounts across 30,000 square miles in eastern and southwestern Oklahoma.

Based in Tulsa, PSO has nearly 3,800 megawatts of primarily gas-fired generating capacity, 22-thousand miles of distribution lines, 37-hundred miles of transmission lines, and is one of the largest distributors of wind energy in the state.

For more information, visit PSO-klahoma.com.

Oklahoma Turnpike Authority Breaks Ground on Gilcrease

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority recently officially broke ground on a new portion of the Gilcrease Expressway in Tulsa. The extension will connect the Tisdale Expressway with I-44 on the west side of town. The five mile project is expected to alleviate congestion during peak drive times.

Governor Kevin Stitt was joined at the groundbreaking by Secretary of Transportation and ODOT/OTA Executive Director Tim Gatz, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith. The project is expected to be completed by November of 2022.

In other OTA news, the OTA has approved preliminary budgets for operations and maintenance and capital investments in 2020 that will be 8 percent higher than budgets for 2019.

Authority members also approved toll rates for the Southwest John Kilpatrick Turnpike in Oklahoma City. OTA officials said the rate for Pikepass holders



CHEERS FOR ACTION: Area dignitaries, including Governor Kevin Stitt, Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith, Tulsa Regional Chamber CEO Mike Neal, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and others applauded the long overdue extension of the Gilcrease Expressway in west Tulsa.

in two-axle vehicles to travel the length of highway between Interstate 40 and State Highway 152/Airport Road will be 65 cents. The cash rate will be 75 cents. OTA members gave preliminary approval to a \$109,522,785

budget for operations and maintenance of the state's turnpike system in 2020. They also signed off on a proposed \$118,396,578 capital budget. They scheduled a final vote on the budgets for Dec. 4.

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VARIETY

Plenty of Entertainment Ahead for the Holidays

The holiday season can be heaven or hell, depending on your perspective. One way to approach a crush of stressful expectations is to focus on quality time with friends and family. A shared activity is a great way to connect.

When choosing entertainment, I tend to gravitate toward theatre, dance and chamber music, but a masterful comedian, an engaging speaker, an awe-inspiring magician, and rock music that is so good I have to stand up and boogie are magic carpets that proffer a satisfying ride. In the weeks ahead, our local entertainment venues offer a range of experiences that will

make sharing holiday time memorable and fun.

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN

Presented at the Tulsa PAC Nov. 7-17 is the comedy "Love, Loss and What I Wore," adapted from Ilene Beckerman's book into a play written by two gifted writers (and sisters), Nora and Delia Ephron. In the play, five actresses inhabit the lives of women who've had significant experiences to recall or bemoan. Their humorous and poignant monologues and ensemble pieces reference articles of clothing that characters' stories. That premise resonates with me. I have abandoned the outfit I was



Courtesy photos

GRADY NICHOLS: The saxophonist headlines a Christmas show at the PAC, Nov. 30, featuring well-known musicians and the Tulsa Christmas Choir.

wearing when I had a fall-out with a friend, and kept that outdated turquoise number at the back of my closet because I wore it when I met David Baldacci! The last time I saw this play, I attended with a riotous group of gal-pals and we had a blast. This production is presented by OK World Stage Theater.

Coming Nov. 10 is a captivating chamber music group, the Harlem Quartet. They've played for President Obama at the White House, and shared a 2013 Grammy win with Chick Corea and Gary Burton. Their diverse repertoire incorporates classical, Latin music, and jazz. On Nov. 8, Harlem Quartet plays at the DUET jazz club with a program that includes Debussy, Dizzy Gillespie's "A Night in Tunisia" and Rodgers and Hart's "My Funny Valentine." The Quartet also performs a full, eclectic program on Nov. 10 at the PAC.

Texas oil tycoon turned Nazi-treasure hunter Robert Edsel speaks at the Tulsa PAC, Nov. 15. You might know him as the author of "The Monuments Men," which became a major motion picture produced and directed by George Clooney and starring Matt Damon, Bill Murray, Clooney and other big names. Edsel pioneered horizontal drilling, retired early and moved to Europe. His time in Florence, Italy led him to discover the previously little-known true-life stories of the men and women (soldiers) who risked their lives to save and recover art following World War II. In my recent interview with Edsel in advance of his Tulsa Town Hall lecture, he emphasized, "At the end of the war, in a break with thousands of years of civilization, the victors did not keep the spoils of war. They returned them to the countries from which they were taken." It's a great story that he will share in greater



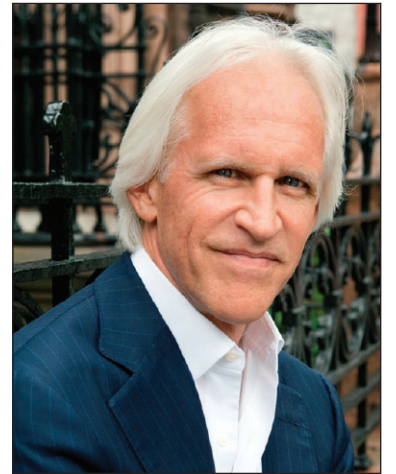
JIM GAFFIGAN: The popular comic brings his "Pale Tourist Tour" to Paradise Cove Nov. 21.

detail than was possible in the film. Also coming to the PAC is a Tulsa Symphony concert with pianist Robin Sutherland. Local classical music fans will know Sutherland from his performances at OK Mozart. The Nov. 16 concert will feature Sutherland performing Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24 in C Minor, and the music of Berlioz and Lutoslawski. Gerhardt Zimmermann conducts.

Grady Nichols Christmas Show caps the PAC calendar, Nov. 30. Saxophonist Nichols is joined by Andy Chrisman, Kelly Ford and Donald Ryan, and the event will introduce the Tulsa Christmas Choir. This community-engaging presentation will benefit the ALS Patient Services, a non-profit organization that helps patients with ALS, and their families.

The popular rock group Twenty One Pilots stops at the BOK Center for their Bandito Tour, Nov. 9, and the hip-hop/rap act Bad Bunny, Latin music's "King of Trap," is up on Nov. 10. Country music lovers will want to check out the "Old Dominion Makes It Sweet Tour" coming to the BOK Center, Nov. 14, featuring the tenth winner of "American Idol," country singer Scotty McCreery, and country music guitarist and composer Ryan Hurd. He has written number one hit singles for Blake Shelton and Luke Ryan. Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, from "Whose Line is It Anyway," display their trademark brand of improv humor at the BOK Center on Nov. 24.

Head over to the Brady Theatre for the Tedeschi Trucks Band, Nov. 12, and Indigo Girls, Nov. 16. At the Hard Rock, Nov. 15-16, is an encore presentation of the musical "Nanyehi," starring Michelle Honaker and Travis Fite. Nancy Ward, Nanyehi's English name, was a Cherokee who successfully crusaded for peace and justice. On Nov. 30, "Holiday Dreams," a holiday-themed cirque, comes to the Hard Rock, followed by country music's Travis Tritt, Dec. 5.



ROBERT EDESEL: Author of "The Monuments Men" and "Saving Italy" comes to the PAC Nov. 15.

The River Spirit Casino hosts a show for people who long to revisit the 1990s. Vanilla Ice and Salt N' Pepa team up for a lively gig, Nov. 14. Then, comic Jim Gaffigan returns Nov. 16 with his "Pale Tourist Tour." Enjoying immense popularity, his albums are multi-platinum-selling hits. You can see Gaffigan providing commentary on "CBS Sunday Morning" and in two major feature films that open in 2020.

If you're up for some vintage rock, get tickets now for Three Dog Night, appearing at River Spirit's Paradise Cove, Nov. 21. They are the music mavericks behind "Joy to the World," "Mama Told Me (Not to Come)" and "One (is the Loneliest Number)."

Another event that will sell like crazy is Criss Angel's "RAW—The MindFreak Unplugged," hosted at the Osage Event Center, Dec. 8. This illusionist/musician has dominated magic for decades in Las Vegas and around the globe.

There's more holiday entertainment ahead in the latter weeks of December. In the meantime, I wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving, spent with friends and family who put the "happy" into your holidays.

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Tulsa Ballet Ushers in Unique Works for 2019-20 Season

By EMILY RAMSEY
Contributing Editor

A new season has launched for Tulsa Ballet. As with its previous seasons, beloved favorites return in addition to new, unique works.

The season kicked off in September with its Creations in Studio K, which featured short performances by Resident Choreographer Ma Cong, Garrett Smith, who has created works for Houston Ballet and Marinsky Ballet, and Val Caniparoli.

Throughout the year, family-friendly Peter and the Wolf runs at both locations, 1212 E. 45th Pl. and 1901 W. New Orleans St. in Broken Arrow. The ballet is targeted for young audiences and includes narration.

Giselle, a haunting love story, recently finished its run at the PAC on Nov. 3. Accompanied live by the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra, Giselle returned to Tulsa after 15 years.

Returning favorite The Nutcracker, in its 50th year, will usher in the

holiday season, running December 7-22. "Nutcracker is a holiday tradition in the United States," says Artistic Director Marcello Angelini. "It's a story about family, happiness, generosity, bravery and love. As such, it embodies the holiday spirit, it reminds us of the important facets of life, and it inspires us to be better human beings."

The ballet is set in 1920's Paris, the birthplace of classical ballet, and features spectacular sets and costumes and an on-stage snow fall.

Next up will be Dorothy and the Prince of Oz, Feb. 13-16, 2020, a returning ballet that includes vibrant costumes, battle scenes and puppets.

Existing work (but new to Tulsa) Vendetta, A Mafia Story runs March 26-29. This work was created by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa. Angelini first viewed the work at its premiere. "The piece was fantastic, fun, entertaining, kind of Film Noir, very innovative in concept and look," he says. The story,



Courtesy Tulsa Ballet

THE NUTCRACKER: Celebrating its 50th year as a Tulsa holiday tradition. Performances are Dec. 7-22.

which focuses on two infamous rival mob families, includes touches of Broadway, Moulin Rouge and Vaudeville.

In summing up the season, Angelini says, "We don't strive to be different. On the contrary,

we are all about consistency. We wish for consistent growth; we look for consistent artistic quality, consistent entertainment value, consistent mix of classical and contemporary works; new full evening story ballets; and

consistent quality of creations. "And by virtue of being consistently good, we continue to introduce different works to our audience, both existing ones like Vendetta and brand new ones like world premieres."

'Live From Cain's' Receives Public Broadcasting Grant

Historic Venue to Host Public Radio Music Show

"Live From Cain's," the public radio music show at the crossroads of the American music and cultural experience, has received a \$200,000 development grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) to support the production of a seven-episode pilot season beginning in 2020. The grant will be used to grow "Live from Cain's" from the concept stage to a viable music program for eventual national distribution within the public radio system. Funding from CPB and community sources will support show productions and research, as well as strategies for digital content and marketing.

"The CPB grant is a real game-changer for the future of this show," said Julie Watson, "Live From Cain's" co-executive producer. "Thanks to CPB and with additional support from the philanthropic and corporate communities, we have a very real opportunity to amplify the music DNA that's at the heart of the Tulsa cultural experience with public radio audiences in Oklahoma and across the country."

The pilot radio series will follow the successful completion of the first-ever "Live From Cain's" pilot show, recorded at historic Cain's Ballroom and set to air on Sunday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. on KOSU 83.3/91.7/107.5 & 107.3 in Stillwater/Oklahoma City/Northeast Oklahoma; Saturday, November 30 at 4 p.m. on KGOU 106.3/105.7 in Norman/Oklahoma City; and Sunday, Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. on KWGS

89.5 in Tulsa. The additional radio shows will also be recorded live at the iconic American music hall that is known by musicians and patrons alike as one of the world's top performance venues. As the home of Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys from 1934 to 1942, Cain's Ballroom was especially significant for popularizing Western swing through a midnight radio show and a daily noon-hour broadcast that aired across much of America.

Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter, Robbie Fulks, who has appeared on numerous public radio programs and previously hosted a music performance/interview program for XM satellite radio, will host "Live From Cain's". He will be joined by Tulsa musician Paul Benjamin, who will lead an all-star house band, the Oklahoma Specials, featuring a rotating lineup of homegrown talent from Grammy-nominated musician John Fulbright to pros such as Travis Linville, Paddy Ryan and Jeremy Watkins.

"Public media provides a vital platform for arts, culture and information that documents and shares the American experience in all its richness and diversity. CPB is proud to support the development of 'Live From Cain's' as it continues a tradition of music in Tulsa and the heartland," said Kathy Merritt, senior vice president, journalism and radio, for the CPB. For more information, visit www.livefromcains.com



Photo by Donna Meier Photography

LIVE FROM CAINS: The pilot show recorded at the historic Cains Ballroom will air Sunday, December 1 at 8 p.m. on KWGS 89.5 in Tulsa.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

OSU Medicine and Its National Center for Wellness and Recovery Receive NIH Grant Through HEAL Initiative

National Institute of Health Awards \$452,275 as Part of Helping to End Addiction Long Term

Oklahoma State University Medicine and its National Center for Wellness & Recovery have been awarded a grant totaling \$452,275 from the National Institutes of Health as part of its Helping to End Addiction Long-term Initiative, or the NIH HEAL Initiative.

OSU Medicine National Center for Wellness & Recovery's award is one of 29 grant awards across 22 states made by the National Institutes of Health as part of the HEALy Brain and Child Development study (HEALy BCD). The money funds an 18-month planning grant to better understand how exposure to opioids affects infant and child development.

"This grant will allow us to plan for a longitudinal study to better understand brain development, particularly emphasizing the role of prescription and other opioid exposures during pregnancy," said Julie Croff, Ph.D., executive director of the National Center for Wellness & Recovery (NCWR) and associate professor of Rural Health at OSU Medicine.

Croff and Amanda Morris, Ph.D., regents' professor, Human Development and Family Science at OSU-Tulsa and George Kaiser Family Foundation endowed chair in Child Development, are principal investigators on the grant. Drs. Croff and Morris are currently investigators in the Center for Integrative Research on Childhood Adversity (CIRCA), an NIH-funded Center of Biomedical Excellence.

The OSU NCWR researchers are part of a five-university consortium that are collaborating on this project including teams from the University of California, San Diego, Emory University, Case Western Reserve University and the University of New Mexico.

OSU NCWR will work with this consortium and other funded sites to map out a plan to develop a common protocol in a diverse group of high-risk communities. The OSU NCWR team is also collaborating with other local researchers, including Laureate Institute for Brain Research and the University of Oklahoma.

A second phase of the study will



OSU AWARDED GRANT: Julie Croff, Ph.D., left, executive director of the National Center for Wellness & Recovery (NCWR) and associate professor of Rural Health at OSU Medicine, visits with Amanda Morris, Ph.D., regents' professor, Human Development and Family Science at OSU-Tulsa and George Kaiser Family Foundation endowed chair in Child Development

follow thousands of children from before birth to pre-adolescence. Researchers will use neuroimaging and neurodevelopmental assessments to gauge the impact of prenatal substance exposure. "Importantly, we will also be able to look at factors that influence healthy brain development and resilience," said Morris. Participants, the children and their mothers, will be referred to treatment as needed.

"We established the National Center for Wellness & Recovery to address the opioid epidemic head on and to provide hope and answers to those who struggle with addiction," said Dr. Kayse Shrum, president of OSU Center for Health Sciences, and dean, OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. "The NIH grant will go a long way in helping the academic scientific community understand the long-term impact of prenatal exposure to opioids," Shrum said.

"We are excited to be a part of the NIH HEAL Initiative and look forward to working on this groundbreaking research effort," said Croff.

The NIH HEAL Initiative aims to improve treatments for chronic pain, curb the rates of opioid

use disorder and overdose and achieve long-term recovery from opioid addiction.

"It's clear that a multi-pronged scientific approach is needed to reduce the risks of opioids, accelerate development of effective non-opioid therapies for pain and provide more flexible and effective options for treating addiction to opioids," said NIH Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., who launched the initiative in early 2018. "This unprecedented investment in the NIH HEAL Initiative demonstrates the commitment to reversing this devastating crisis."

Launched in November 2017, the OSU NCWR provides comprehensive care for those suffering from addiction while advancing treatment through education, research and policy. In 2018, its Addiction Medicine Clinic opened and employs the state's first certified academic addiction physicians. The clinic is a member of the Hazelden Betty Ford Patient Care Network. In March, OSU Medicine received nearly \$200 million from the state of Oklahoma's opioid lawsuit settlements to support NCWR.

Oklahoma State University Medicine is a nationally recog-

nized academic health center focused on teaching, research and patient care. OSU Medicine offers graduate and professional degrees at the Center for Health Sciences through its College of Osteopathic Medicine, the School of Allied Health, the School of Health Care Administration, the School of Biomedical Sciences, and the School of Forensic Sciences. OSU Medicine also operates a network of clinics in the Tulsa area offering a multitude of specialty services including addiction medicine, cardiology, family medicine, internal medicine, pain management, pediatrics, psychiatry and women's health. More information is available online at health.okstate.edu.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), the nation's medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and is investigating the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit www.nih.gov.

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University of Tulsa Grads of Exercise and Sports Science Enter Health Professions

Students in The University of Tulsa's exercise and sports science (EXSS) program have a broad range of career goals. Some want to become athletic trainers. A good number want to work in fitness centers. Others go into teaching or rehabilitation. And, a healthy proportion want someday to become a physician, physician assistant or some other sort of medical professional.

"Currently, nearly a quarter of EXSS students follow the program's pre-medicine track," said Eric Wickel, chair of the Department of Kinesiology and Rehabilitative Sciences. "This plan includes the required prerequisites for medical school and it provides students with hands-on application in courses such as Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics. Many EXSS students taking the pre-medicine track also participate in faculty-led or student-driven research projects focused on understanding human movement."

Two such students are recent EXSS graduates Madeline Lyons (BS '18) and Kelson Goins (BS '19). Both are now in their first year of doctor of medicine studies – Lyons at the OU-TU School of Community Medicine in Tulsa and Goins at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City. Goins sees his medical future in orthopedics. Two options he is considering are surgery or sports medicine. For Lyons, a career as a pediatrician is the goal.

Real-World Training and Clinical Knowledge

Even though it's still the first semester of med school for these TU alumni, they are already reaping the rewards of their EXSS studies. "Kinesiology and the prevention and treatment of sports injuries are extremely important to the gross anatomy course I'm now taking," said Goins. Lyons echoed these insights, adding that completing anatomy and physiology courses (plus anatomy and physiology labs) during her undergraduate studies gave her a head start when she got to medical school.

"I also learned a lot about biomechanics from Professor Roger Kollock at TU, and that is proving useful when I'm dealing with movement and musculoskeletal exams," Goins continued. "Overall, I'd say it's the functionality and practicality of the EXSS program – its emphasis on real-world understanding and clinical knowledge – that is proving most valuable. Those dimensions don't get emphasized as much in some of the more common pre-med majors." Lyons added, "it's the clinical correlations skills you get in EXSS that make such a difference when you arrive at med school."

Research Opportunities

An important component in a person's application to medical school is research experience. During her time at TU, Lyons was involved with Kollock's Biomechanics Lab for over two years as part of the Tulsa Undergraduate Research Challenge



TU GRADUATE KELSON GOINS



TU GRADUATE MADELINE LYONS

(TURC). "That lab has all the equipment – such as a myoMOTION™ machine, force plates, functional movement screen equipment, an accelerometer – needed when running various biomechanics and exercise physiology tests. The experience taught me the fundamentals of research as well as how to prepare a presentation. In addition, you want to have a very competitive résumé when you apply to med school, and through TURC I was able to accomplish that too."

For information about the The University of Tulsa's exercise and sports science (EXSS) program, call 918-631-2000.

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EDUCATION

Grand Opening of \$2.5M Chemistry and Biology Labs Renovation Project at TCC

Tulsa Community College is celebrating the grand opening of a \$2.5 million renovation of three biology and chemistry labs at its Metro Campus. The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation provided a \$1 million gift and Morningcrest Healthcare Foundation provided \$300,000 specifically for the project through the \$20 million Clearing the Pathway: The Campaign for Completion.

"These new labs, in partnership with our generous donors, are designed to provoke thought and enhance understanding, which is a critical piece for career achievement," said TCC President and CEO Leigh B. Goodson, Ph.D. "TCC is committed to building students success through education, whether they go directly from an associate degree to the workforce or transfer to a four-year university. We are grateful for the community's support and investment in our students."

Students are already benefitting from state-of-the-art learning laboratories and expanded space for experiments. Behind the scenes, the remodeled, ultra-modern labs allow for equipment storage areas, larger lab prep rooms with added safety features for faculty and students working with chemicals, an instrument room for students to conduct research and a specific room for chemical storage.

The new biology lab also features a six-foot living plant wall that nourishes an appreciation for life and nature and provides air cleaned by the plants. An interactive pe-

riodic table is displayed at the entrance to the chemistry labs that showcases chemical elements, real examples of where they are found and used, and computer graphics and tutorials to guide the students to greater learning and understanding.

"These labs serve a large number of students in general education courses across every career path and degree major," said TCC Board of Regents Chair Sam Combs. "By providing an innovative learning environment and expanded opportunities for undergraduate research, our students are developing important critical thinking skills."

As the demand for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) graduates grows, hands-on experience is critical to prepare and engage students toward careers in this important sector. Currently, one in three TCC students graduate with a degree or a certificate designed to immediately step into the workforce.

"The lab project was just one piece of the highly successfully Clearing the Pathway: The Campaign for Completion. With the help of our donors and a generous community, we are removing barriers to students success and producing more college graduates for the workforce," said Kari Shults, TCC interim vice president for advancement and president of the TCC Foundation.

The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation is a lead donor to the Campaign for Completion. Other major donors



Courtesy TCC

NEW INTERACTIVE PERIODIC TABLE: TCC students Renole Ceesay and Abigail Williams, enrolled in General Chemistry I, are already benefiting from the newly-remodeled chemistry and biology labs on the TCC Metro Campus. They took a break from their studies to look at the new interactive periodic table showcasing chemical elements, real examples of where they are found and how they are used.

include the A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Foundation, George Kaiser Family Foundation, Hardesty Family Foundation, Herman G. Kaiser Foundation, Ruth K. Nelson, The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation and The Oxley Foundation.

Helmerich Trust is an "Engineer" level sponsor. The Mary K. Chapman Foundation, Maxine and Jack Zarrow Foundation, Morningcrest Healthcare Foundation, and Sanford and Irene Burnstein Foundation are "Designers." "Planners" include an anonymous donor, Robin

Ballenger, Coretz Family Foundation, John Steele Zink Foundation, Diane and Frank Murphy, ONEGas Foundation, ONEOK Foundation and Williams. The Barnett Family Foundation, Marge & John Gaberino, Kathy Taylor, and Joseph Parker are "Advocates."

"Guides" are Jim and Susannah Adelson, Tom and Julie Adelson, Tom and Joan Atkinson, AT&T, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, Randy Bunn, Richard Bunn, Jim and Janet Cameron, Sam and Rita Combs, the Lyons

Family, Cox Communications, Sharon King Davis, Phil and Jana Frohlich, Leigh and Mark Goodson, M. Ted and Sheila Haynes, Ron and Myra Jeffris, Caron and Shawn Lawhorn, Dr. Peter and Meredith Madden, Bill and Pat McKamey, Darcey and Joseph Moran, Nadel and Gussman, Pierce and Debbie Norton, Paul and Patricia Samuels, Bill and Susan Thomas, Bob and Jill Thomas, Maureen and T. Lane Wilson, Kenneth and Wanda Wolfkill, and Bronya and Chad Zamarin.



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Tulsa Tech Offers the Sweetest Holiday Gifts

Culinary Classes Can Turn a Kitchen Zero Into a Kitchen Hero

The smell of pumpkin spice, a turkey baking in the oven, friends and family gathering around the table, all signs the holidays are near. It also means that it is time to put together your shopping lists.

For many, the holidays mean spending a lot of money on gifts for everyone. This year, instead of a present for everyone in the office, how about you invest in yourself?

The kitchen is the heart of any home, and a culinary class is a great way to spend time with your friends while learning how to create some amazing food.

"In the class, I want to make you more confident and comfortable in your kitchen," Chef Sarah Leavell, adjunct culinary instructor said. "The purpose is to send you home with a new skill."

Billionaire investor and philanthropist Warren Buffett calls investing in yourself "the investment that supersedes all others." Buffett often tells a story of spending \$100 to attend a public speaking course. For less than that, and three hours of your time, our professional instructors can take you from a kitchen zero to a kitchen hero.

"What is great about these class-

es is the experience," Jamie Dunn, adjunct culinary instructor said.

"When you are watching shows on Food Network you are just watching visually, but when you come here, you are engaged and actually doing it yourself."

Our classes offer more than a sharpening of cooking skills this holiday season, they offer you peace of mind. Gone from your life is waiting in endless lines, and think of the money you can save. The National Retail Federation reports the average person spent more than \$1,000 on gifts during the winter holidays in 2018,

and over the past decade, total holiday sales grew nearly 40 percent to more than \$700 billion. However, how many things from the mall come with a personal touch?

"I think that something fresh-baked or handmade is the best gift," Leavell said. "There is nothing more personal, and it is just better than some store-bought baked goods."

"When you make a gift for somebody it is personal and has a part of you in it," Dunn added.

If you really want to wow your friends and family, there is no better way than with a new you. A quick search on Google for "how to im-

prove my cooking skills" will show you results like "15 ways to improve your cooking" or a YouTube video to watch. Classes at Tulsa Tech offer you hands-on, real-world skills that will help save money and time planning and cooking, and are taught by trained chefs.

"These classes are a great place to start, you are going to get some professional skills," Leavell said. "This is a great program to up your home cooking skills, or just get comfortable with a new ingredient."

"Anytime you learn a new skill you have added to what your abilities are," Dunn added. "When you invest in yourself by taking a cooking class, you are investing in others."

Every year, our Adult Career Development instructors help nearly 12,000 Tulsans just like you. These evening and weekend classes are designed to fit your schedule and help you develop new skills, refresh an old one or ignite a new passion. So no matter what the class is you can learn the skills you need in a few hours or over the course of a few weeks.

"Classes here are an experience you will remember and you can go home and use," Dunn said. "That is the key with these classes, it is something you can use."

"I really enjoy teaching about food, because it is something I am passionate about being able to learn and grow is such a special thing," Leavell added.

If you're currently looking for exciting classes to help grow your culinary palate, Tulsa Tech invites you to visit today. For more information, call 918-828-5000 or visit us online at tulsaitech.edu.

News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent



Photo by Vanessa Aziere/Tulsa Tech
GOURMET GURU: Tulsa Tech Adjunct Instructor and Chef Sarah Leavell helps adult students create tasty confections in gourmet kitchens like this one at the Owasso Campus.

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By MARGARET BUTLER
Contributing Writer

The Jim Sloan family of Tulsa has opened its third Meineke Car Care Center Tulsa-area location just south of the Walmart at 10848 S. Memorial Dr. The additional Sloan family Tulsa-area Meineke locations are at 4751 S. Memorial Dr. in Tulsa and 710 N. Aspen Dr. in Broken Arrow.

Meineke Car Centers offer high-quality, low-cost under-car repair services for everything from oil changes to tire replacement, transmission work and general auto repair.

According to co-owner, Jim Sloan, who has been in the oil and gas industry locally for over 30 years, "When looking for an exceptional franchise opportunity where my wife, Carole, and I and our daughter, Summer Brock, and her husband, Seth Brock, could become independent business owners, Meineke was our franchise of choice. On average, people are keeping their cars longer - nearly six years. That makes reliable car care even more import-

ant today. Meineke is an international company that's always on the cutting edge of technology and provides excellent service to its customers and franchise owners."

He also said, "We opened our first two Car Care Centers in July at 48th Street and Memorial Drive and in Broken Arrow at 710 North Aspen. Now, 108th Street and Memorial Drive is our third locally-owned Meineke store. With the growing outstanding reputation of the Meineke brand and proven popularity of our other two car care centers, we anticipate opening our fourth Meineke location in the Tulsa area by the end of next year."

Co-owner, Summer Brock commented, "What sets us apart from the competition besides our excellent car care is our integrity, personalized customer service and involvement in the community. If a customer needs help with transportation while their car is being serviced, we can offer Uber or a shuttle service. We donate proceeds from oil changes to Operation Homefront, a national nonprofit whose mission is to build strong, stable and secure military families so they can thrive in the communities that they've worked so hard to protect. We also offer discounts to veterans and seniors."

Meineke Car Care Center is an internationally trusted name in car repair that's recognized by over 92 percent of Americans. It has been an industry leader for over 45 years and has over 900 locations in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and China.

According to Sloan, "Our highly trained experienced technicians are master certified, receive on-going training and use all the

latest technology available to provide high quality repair work to help get our customers back on the road."

He added, "We also offer a Meineke Credit Card for financing major repairs or purchases. Our customers can join the Meineke's Rewards program where they earn points for fixing or maintaining their vehicle which can be redeemed for anything from oil changes and brakes, to tire maintenance and protection. Every one dollar spent equals one point earned." Sloan continues, "Plus, customers earn even more points with maintenance bonuses. We also offer a Meineke App that lets you do everything you need to do to take care of your vehicle, from scheduling appointments and checking service history to accessing your Meineke Rewards."

Meineke also offers a national fleet services program. Its benefits include convenient hours, pick-up and drop-off, financing and payment via centralized billing, employee benefits such as savings on personal vehicles, nationwide coverage at 900-plus Meineke centers, corporate oversight via a single point of contact, preventative car care for better fuel economy and minimizing downtime, available towing, safety inspection and online scheduling.

Repair, maintenance and safety services at this new South Memorial location include oil changes, exhaust and mufflers, brakes, tires and wheels alignment and balancing, AC repair, steering and suspension, tests and inspections, batteries, CV joints and driveshafts, driveline service, transmission services, tune-ups, wiper blades and more.



Bixby Breeze photo

AUTOMOTIVE FAMILY: The Sloan family welcomes customers to their new location at 10848 S. Memorial Dr. From left are Jim Sloan, Carole Sloan, Summer Brock and Seth Brock.



Bixby Breeze photo

CAR ENTHUSIAST: Jim Sloan and family are enthusiasts for automobiles. The car to the left is a 1953 Buick which is owned by Summer and Seth Brock and was completed for their wedding. The car to the right is a fully custom 1969 Camaro.

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MIDTOWN SPORTS

Central High Grad, Golden Hurricane Lineman Makes an Impact on the Field, in the Kitchen

By MIKE MOGUIN
GTR Sports Writer

Shemarr Robinson has been a big factor at defensive tackle during his career at Tulsa.

A 6-3, 312-pound senior, Robinson, a former Central standout, had a season-high seven tackles against Navy on Oct. 12.

"It feels good to represent the talent in your backyard," Robinson said.

His favorite TU moments so far were making a sack against Tulane his freshman year and having a career-high eight tackles, including one for a loss of two yards, against Arkansas State last season.

When he is not playing football, Robinson tends to a hobby in the kitchen.

He began cooking at the age of six.

"When I lived in Mississippi, my mom worked at a school called Olive Branch Elementary in Olive Branch, Mississippi. She would bring stuff back from the cafeteria. First thing I ever cooked was some chicken strips. I just fried some chicken and I thought 'that's kind of fun,'" Robinson said.

"Ever since then, I've been cooking," he added.

Robinson is originally from St. Louis. He moved with his family to Mississippi at the age of six, returned to the Gateway City in the fifth grade, then came to Tulsa before his freshman year in high school.

When he reached 11 years of age, Robinson cooked his first full Thanksgiving dinner.

"It was really fun," he said. "My mom taught me how to cook. But my grandpa is really like the cook of the family. He was in Vietnam, so he knows a lot of different recipes, a lot of different seasonings to put in food. He basically just put all the stuff in the kitchen for me and was like, 'It's yours. You can make a Thanksgiving meal,' and ever since then, I haven't really missed an opportunity to cook."

Things worked out well for Robinson the first two times he cooked. But the third time came with incident.

"I spilled a little grease out and I was kind of scared. I was scared for a couple of years after that," he said.

Eventually, he got past that. Robinson said that preparing a Thanksgiving can take days.

"You got to season the turkey up and make sure it's tender enough to put in the oven, if you put it in the oven. I've been deep-frying my turkeys the past couple of years," he said. "You got to make sure it's ready. You got to prep it. You got to season it. It's definitely a process that takes days."

This Thanksgiving, he'll likely be preparing another dinner.

His favorite dish? Peach cobbler.

"The thing about Peach cobbler is you can make it different every time and the range of flavors you can have on peach cobblers is amazing," Robinson said. "It's like how you make chicken a lot of different ways, you can make peach cobbler a lot of different ways. You can make some pie crust, you



Courtesy of the University of Tulsa Sports Information Department

DEFENSIVE DISRUPTER: Shemarr Robinson sheds blockers and breaks into the backfield during a Sept. 7 game at San Jose State. Robinson and the TU defense held the Spartans to just 16 points en route to a 34-16 victory.

can throw some biscuits on there every now and then. You can vanilla extract on the peaches. You can throw some extra cinnamon in there. There is just a lot you can do.

"It is a very diverse dessert. Sometimes, you can eat it with ice cream. Sometimes, you can eat it with cake," he said.

Don't think Robinson will make meals for his teammates.

"Nope," he said with laughter. "Because they would try to steal my recipes and I don't give my recipes out."

Recently, Robinson has been making some oriental food.

"But fried chicken, sweet potatoes, macaroni and cheese and

cabbage is probably my favorite combination."

Perhaps a career in the restaurant business is in store?

"Maybe when I'm old and retired I might give it a shot," he said. "But, as of now, I just cook for a pastime."

"Whenever I need some food. I can make my own," he said.

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SPORTS

Coach Ken Trickey, Richard Fuqua Remembered At Oral Roberts Preseason Basketball Banquet

By **TERRELL LESTER**
Editor at Large

Over the first weekend of November, Tulsans turned the clock back one hour for Daylight Saving Time.

Just a few days prior to that time change, an intimate group in Tulsa turned the clock back even further, back 50 years to remember a basketball coach and his five-chapter Cinderella storybook.

More than a dozen players from the golden age of Oral Roberts University basketball gathered to celebrate the days of their youth, the years of their maturity, the litany of their accomplishments.

At the focus of their retrospection was the coach who brought them all together, the coach who molded them into a functioning and celebrated unit, the coach who shaped their lives, Ken Trickey.

Trickey, who died in 2012, was hired in 1969 by ORU President Oral Roberts to take control of a four-year-old basketball program struggling to find its way along the path of nondescript colleges and their unremarkable teams.

Within a run of five years, Trickey had turned this small-college basketball neophyte into a bright-lights, Top 20 sensation.

Many of the building blocks in that foundation of success, and ultimately in the construction of the Mabee Center, were reunited in Tulsa during the late-October weekend with members of the Trickey family and a pair of assistant coaches.

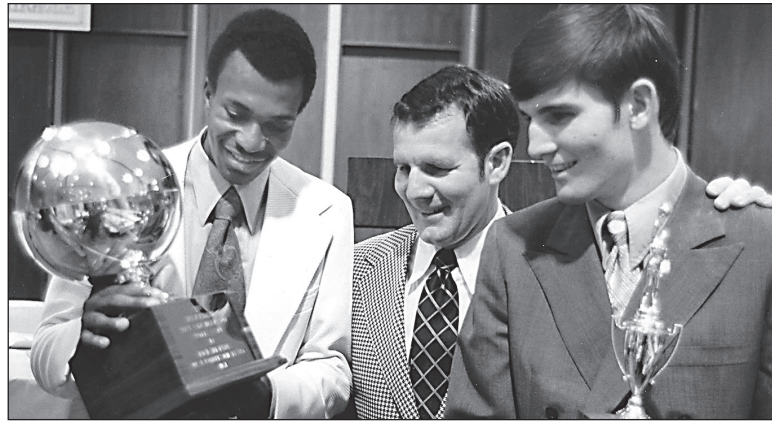
They came from California and Tennessee, from Illinois and Florida. They came to reminisce. They came to honor and to praise their coach, their alma mater, their spirituality.

Players who became instant stars in 1969-70, players like Richard Fuqua, Haywood Hill, Ingram Montgomery, Larry Baker, relived the good times from that 27-4 season with team managers and role players.

Sam McCamey and Tim Cameron, Eldon Lawyer and Greg Davis, vital operatives of those Trickey teams, shared good-time memories with assistant coaches Jack Sutter and Terry Scott.

Anecdotal reflections unraveled with the suddenness of a fast break.

They talked about unwrapping Trickey's self-proclaimed WRAG (We Run and Gun) offense in an era when Henry Iba's methodical influence saturated the Oklahoma basketball landscape, when game



TROPHY WINNERS: Coach Ken Trickey is flanked by All-American guard Richard Fuqua, left, and recruit Glenn Buntin of Sand Springs in 1970 as they display ORU trophies.

scores typically hovered in the 48-45 range.

Trickey and his band of new recruits, virtually all from out of state, many from Tennessee, quickly changed that image, scoring 90 points in their first home game and surpassing 100 in two more games before the end of his first month.

The home court for the ORU Titans at the time was a little round fieldhouse on campus that housed a swimming pool, with an accompanying and protracted aroma of chlorine.

The players were immune to such scents, breathing instead the rarefied air of instant success. They did not lose a home game in three seasons, playing 41 games in the cozy confines.

Trickey inherited a "Bible-college" program and a dubious schedule when he arrived from his alma mater Middle Tennessee State University. Immediately, he began the two-year process of applying for membership in the NCAA and upgrading the ORU schedule.

After a rollicking 27-4 debut, Trickey had his 1970-71 squad humming along to his own entertaining beat. The Titans went over the 100-point mark 14 times during a 21-5 schedule, averaging 105 points. Fuqua was leading the way. The 6-3 sharpshooter from Chattanooga averaged 32 points and Hill averaged 22.

By Trickey's third season, the Titans had become bona fide members of the NCAA. They were ready for their coming out party.

With Fuqua averaging 36 points and sophomore Eddie Woods averaging 14.5 rebounds, the Titans reeled off a resounding regular-season record of 25-1, led the nation in scoring average (105 points with 20 100-point games), earned Top

20 recognition in The Associated Press poll (peaking at No. 16) and were invited to the National Invitation Tournament in New York (at a time when the NCAA field was limited to 25).

Fuqua received All-American certification and the Titans commanded the local, state and national spotlight. They won their NIT opener before losing to local favorite St. John's.

Their schedule, dotted with games against Hiram Scott, Cameron, Fisk and Bellarmine a year or two before, now included opponents such as Harvard, Butler, Fresno State and Lamar.

In just three seasons, Trickey's teams had fashioned a record of 74-11.

And they were just hitting their stride.

The 1972-73 season opened with some heady moments, unlike any before.

Sports Illustrated spotlighted the ORU program, inserting the Titans at No. 4 in its preseason issue. The AP had ORU at No 18. And ORU was opening the doors to its glamorous new home, the Mabee Center, on Dec. 4 against a big-name opponent, the University of Wisconsin.

The Titans took out Wisconsin, 90-76, and used that as a springboard to another 21-5 regular season.

ORU now was competing against a heavyweight Division I schedule, facing teams such as Texas A&M, UNLV, San Diego State, Jacksonville and Illinois State.

The Titans spent six weeks in the Top 20, reaching No. 10. Again, they were invited to the NIT, but lost to North Carolina.

Through it all, the Titans remained committed to Trickey's



REMEMBERING COACH TRICKEY: Present at the ORU Preseason Banquet are, from left, Jesse Hollingsworth, Richard Fuqua, Kay Trickey Herring, Terry Scott, Ken Trickey Jr. and Larry Baker.

style, scoring more than 100 points 11 times. Fuqua averaged 23.5 and 7-foot sophomore David Vaughn averaged 19.2 with 14.3 rebounds. Following the season, Fuqua and Vaughn were drafted, respectively, by the Boston Celtics and the ABA Virginia Cavaliers.

In 1973-74, for the first time in Trickey's tenure, Fuqua was not in the lineup. Instead, the offense was triggered by Sam McCants (24-point average), Al Boswell (18.4) and Greg McDougald (15.3), with Woods averaging 14 rebounds.

They averaged 95 points per game, hitting 100 or more 11 times, playing a schedule that included Houston, Southern Cal, Long Beach State, Southern Illinois, Virginia Tech, and for the first time, Tulsa.

For five weeks, the Titans had a spot in The AP Top 20, cresting at No. 18.

They were so good, they were invited to the NCAA Tournament. And, ORU was designated to host the Midwest Regional. In only its third year as an NCAA member, ORU was competing in, and hosting, a tournament that would send its winner to the Final Four.

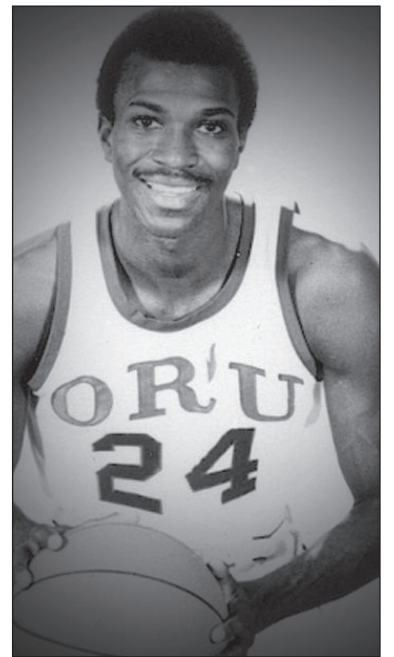
Previously, the only time the state of Oklahoma had hosted an NCAA Regional was 1954, in Stillwater.

The Titans reached the Regional finals, falling to Kansas in overtime.

The game marked the final appearance of Trickey, who resigned and took other coaching assignments before returning to ORU in 1987 when the school had dropped back to the NAIA level.

It was that initial five-year stay, and a record of 118-23, that was celebrated over an October weekend, 50 years after Trickey's arrival.

The story of his Cinderella ascent



Courtesy Jacquelyn Fuqua-House
RICHARD FUQUA

to basketball glory is the subject of a documentary film being produced by Trickey's children, Ken Trickey, Jr. and Kay Trickey Herring.

In its final stages of preparation, the documentary is expected to be released in March 2020, coinciding with March Madness, according to Trickey Jr. and Trickey Herring.

Included in the film are interviews with more than a dozen former players, many of whom were in Tulsa for the reunion, and highlights from landmark games during Trickey's halcyon days.

The documentary is expected to cement the legacy of a basketball program, driven by a visionary coach and fueled by an All-American offensive force, that fashioned a Cinderella story of ascension and accomplishment over a span of 141 games.



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Metro Christian Wins First State Volleyball Title

By MIKE MOGUIN
GTR Sports Writer

Metro Christian made history when it won its first ever state championship in girls volleyball last month in Shawnee.

The Patriots, ranked No. 1 heading into the Class 3A tournament, won the final over third-ranked Oklahoma Bible (23-25, 25-14, 26-24, 24-26, 15-10) in a five-set thriller.

Cohesiveness and unity were the foundation of the Lady Patriots' success. They were made up of a band of seniors — Lauren Gastineau, Lily Ramy, Abby Swanson, Rachel Gurley, Emily Acker, Abby Morris, Abby Fossett and Sara Thomas — who had been together since the seventh grade.

"A lot of us have known each other for a really long time," said Ramy, a setter. "We met each other in the sixth grade before we started to play together in the seventh. We all grew together as players and are now best friends and playing with your best friends makes it a lot more fun."

These athletes have a variety of factors of what they like about the game of volleyball.

"I love how fast-paced the game is. There is never a down moment really," said Gastineau, the libero. "I love how tight-knit the team is. There is, like six of you on that tiny court at one moment and you really have to be in sync all the time. It's just a great sport." (The libero is strictly a back-row player and can only be replaced by the same player it replaces. Also, a coach can only designate one libero per set. For most teams, the libero is not a starter.)

"Playing is so much fun. You get a lot of energy and support from your team and it's just like an on-going game," said Ramy.

Swanson, also a setter, gives her take on playing the role, as well as the sport.

"You can control the court and decide where the ball goes and who it goes to," Swanson said. "Volleyball is so intense, but as a team sport, you have to rely completely on your teammates and I appreciate that about all my teammates that I've played with over the years."

Winning the state title was surreal, Gastineau said.

"This team has been together since seventh grade and never in our wildest dreams did we think that this little seventh grade team would be going to state my senior year," Gastineau said. "Our freshman year (2016 season), the seniors went to state as well, but they lost in the finals. We thought that team was amazing and now we were in the same position and to be a state champion is crazy. Last year, we never thought we would be in this position."

"It feels amazing," Swanson said. "We worked toward it for so many years."

What also made it special was that the Patriots had a struggling season a year earlier.

"We lost a lot of our games and we decided we need to change our mindset," Gastineau said.

"This is like our last year, let's give everything we have. Let's put it out there. This is our senior year, let's go for it and we did," Gastineau said with excitement. "And now look how far we've come."

The girls hope their state title will give future volleyball teams at Metro something to look up to.

"I think it will set a high standard considering we're the first class of seventh graders to start the program," Swanson said. "I think it will give younger people hope for their volleyball futures if they start out rough. They can always get better throughout the years."

"I think most importantly is to just have fun," Ramy said. "I know that sounds cliché, but if you're not having fun, you're not going to have a good time. You're not going to want to play. You've got to have fun. If you're just focused on winning the entire time, it's going to take out everything you put into it. You want to work hard, but you also want to put in more energy in it in which you'll put more work into it."

Private School Quick Hits Lincoln Christian and Victory



HARRY LENTZ for GTR Media Group
TULSA TOUCHDOWN: Carlos Santana makes a leaping catch for a touchdown earlier this season against Memphis in Tulsa. Memphis went on to win the game 42-41.



Photo courtesy of Metro Christian Athletic Department.
CHAMPIONSHIP CELEBRATION: Metro Christian celebrates the Class 3A state volleyball championship after its victory Oct. 12 in Shawnee.

Christian also won state championships, respectively in Classes 4A and 5A. Each school won it after winning one class down last year. It was the third straight season Victory won state.

Regent Prep football player Jack Wright set a national record for receiving touchdowns when he made

his 96th TD against Watts on Oct. 11. He had another TD that game which brought him to 97 career TDs. A 6', 180-pound North Dakota commit, Wright finished with five catches for 127 yards in the Rams' 55-6 win that night. He stands at 99 going into November, while his team is unbeaten and ranked No. 1 in Class B.

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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 30	Cascia Hall 22	Oct. 11	Claremore 61	Rogers 6	Oct. 26	OSU 34	Iowa State 27
Aug. 23	Victory Christian 26	Unity Christian 18		Webster 12	Tulsa NOAH 61		Ponca City 3	Bixby 49		OU 41	Kansas State 48
Aug. 29	Arkansas Baptist 13	NEO 69		Edison 27	Claremore 6		Memorial 0	Skiatook 43		Missouri Southern 86	NSU 7
	Jenks 38	Mansfield Legacy 0		Holland Hall 13	Metro Christian 35		Hale 0	McAlester 55		Cisco College 30	NEO 48
	Central 41	Grant 0		Rogers 6	McLain 18		Metro Christian 55	Wyandotte 12		East Central 14	Rogers 6
Aug. 30	Tulsa 7	Michigan State 28		Summit Christian 8	Depew 40		Holland Hall 57	Westville 0		Tahlequah 54	Memorial 8
	OSU 52	Oregon State 36		San Jose State 31	Arkansas 24		Central 8	Poteau 50		Fort Gibson 44	Central 22
	Inola 19	Lincoln Christian 51	Sept. 21	OSU 30	Texas 36		Cascia Hall 28	Vinita 7		Union 57	Southwest 0
	McLain 32	Victory Christian 20		Wyoming 21	Tulsa 24		Rejoice Christian 56	Ketchum 0		Ponca City 14	BTW 34
	Broken Bow 9	Metro Christian 35		NSU 3	Pittsburg State 58		Union 28	Putnam City North 7		Kansas 0	Metro Christian 42
	Owasso 47	Bentonville West 34		Kilgore College 28	NEO 21		Lincoln Christian 69	Webster 8		Afton 8	Rejoice Christian 75
	Tulsa NOAH 54	Capitol Hill 0	Sept. 27	Union 10	Owasso 34		Norman North 13	Owasso 52		McLain 0	Wagoner 55
	Webster 0	Hale 47		Broken Arrow 17	Jenks 15		BTW 52	Shawnee 26		Durant 7	Edison 49
	Gravette 6	Cascia Hall 38		Sapulpa 10	Bixby 54		Yukon 14	Jenks 68		Bishop Kelley 41	Coweta 38
	Union 44	Lake Ridge 47		Edison 50	Glenpool 0		Arkansas 20	Kentucky 24		Ada 42	Hale 6
	Bixby 77	Mansfield 47		Bristow 38	McLain 0		OU 34	Texas 27		Edmond Memorial 8	Broken Arrow 45
	Hulbert 6	Hominy 42		Central 49	Hilldale 23		Washburn 70	NSU 13		Moore 7	Owasso 34
Aug. 31	Portland State 13	Arkansas 20		Webster 6	Checota 63		NEO 20	Tyler Junior College 26		Sequoia 7	Cascia Hall 35
	Broken Arrow 42	Mansfield 13		Metro Christian 41	Adair 20		Edmond Santa Fe 23	Broken Arrow 21		Victory Christian 14	Kiefer 38
	BTW 0	North Little Rock 19		Summit Christian 14	Prue 38		Owasso 55	Southmoore 3		Idabel 0	Lincoln Christian 55
Sept. 1	Houston 31	OU 49		Hale 0	Bishop Kelley 42		Roland 8	Lincoln Christian 56		Spiro 6	Holland Hall 43
Sept. 5	NSU 0	Emporia State 26		BTW 28	Bartlesville 42		Beggs 62	Victory Christian 21		Central 32	Empire 28
Sept. 6	Broken Arrow 14	Union 0		Memorial 14	East Central 60		Collinsville 38	East Central 6		Bixby 64	Shawnee 6
	Fayetteville 19	Owasso 51		Rogers 0	Tahlequah 57		Sapulpa 7	BTW 48		Webster 0	Seminole 61
	Bixby 57	Jenks 7		Lincoln Christian 49	Stigler 21		Hale 8	Edison 50		Edmond Santa Fe 33	Jenks 30
	Sapulpa 21	Edison 13		Cascia Hall 35	Vertigris 28		Jenks 55	Edmond Memorial 10		Tulsa 26	Tulane 38
	BTW 33	Bishop Kelley 14		Victory Christian 12	Dewey 26		Berryhill 34	Cascia Hall 7		TCU 27	OSU 34
	Hale 36	East Central 35		Tulsa NOAH 18	OCPS 0		Rogers 0	Holland Hall 49		Mississippi State 54	Arkansas 24
	Memorial 0	Central 58		Okla. Union 0	Rejoice Christian 42		Sequoia 6	Holland Hall 49		NSU 0	NWMissouri 79
	Victory Christian 34	Rogers 7	Sept. 28	Texas A&M 31	Arkansas 27		Metro Christian 42	Chelsea 0		Cascia Hall	Inola
	Cascia Hall 7	Holland Hall 28		Kansas State 13	OSU 26		Broken Bow 52	Central 14		Memorial	Pryor
	Lincoln Christian 49	Jones 14		Texas Tech 16	OU 55		Bishop Kelley 40	Glenpool 12		UCF	Tulsa
	Tulsa NOAH 73	Choteau-Mazie 21		NEO 35	Navarro College 3		Okmulgee 48	Webster 8		McAlester	Bishop Kelley
Sept. 7	South Dakota 14	OU 70		Pryor 51	Rogers 6		Claremore 56	Memorial 6		Skiatook	East Central
	McNeese 14	OSU 56		Bishop Kelley 14	Edison 33		Moore 10	Union 44		Grant	Tulsa NOAH
	Arkansas 17	Ole Miss 31		Owasso 44	Edmond North 0		Bixby 61	Bartlesville 14		Hale	Durant
	Tulsa 34	San Jose State 16		Muldrow 26	Central 34		Tulsa 13	Cincinnati 24		Edison	Ada
	NEO 0	Georgia Military 26		Collinsville 49	Memorial 0		Auburn 51	Arkansas 10		Central	Sallisaw
Sept. 12	Okmulgee 12	Rogers 8		East Central 15	Claremore 55		Baylor 45	OSU 27		Rogers	Collinsville
	McLain 0	Central 14		Glenpool 22	Hale 0		West Virginia 14	OU 52		Grove	McLain
	Central Missouri 70	NSU 7		Mustang 23	Union 21		NSU 9	Lincoln 27		Union	Edmond North
Sept. 13	Jenks 20	Union 35		Chouteau-Mazie 7	Metro Christian 59		New Mexico Military 35	NEO 21		Spiro	Holland Hall
	Owasso 42	Broken Arrow 19		Owasso 44	Edmond North 0		Jenks 49	Norman 25		Caney Valley	Victory Christian
	Beggs 56	Webster 8		Tulsa NOAH 26	Oklahoma Bible 20		Owasso 24	Mustang 10		Broken Arrow	Enid
	East Central 7	Stilwell 0		Keys 7	Holland Hall 37		Norman North 3	Union 63		BTW	Page
	Rejoice Christian 54	Kiefer 12		Rejoice Christian 48	Fairland 12		Yukon 42	Broken Arrow 43		Lincoln Christian	Checota
	Bentonville 17	BTW 6		McLain 20	Cleveland 41		East Central 10	Tahlequah 41		Muskogee	Bixby
	Memorial 0	Edison 68		Norman 13	Broken Arrow 35		Central 57	Stilwell 24		McAlester	Bishop Kelley
	Bishop Kelley 14	Webster 8		Webster 8	Idabel 55		Lincoln Christian 49	Okmulgee 0		Putnam City North	Owasso
	Metro Christian 54	Jenks 62		Jenks 62	Enid 10		Coweta 54	Hale 0		Metro Christian	Salina
	Vian 18	Seminole 8		Seminole 8	Lincoln Christian 51		Metro Christian 42	Nowata 7		Rejoice Christian	Colcord
	Verdigris 72	Jay 0		Jay 0	Cascia Hall 36		Webster 0	Roland 46		Westmoore	Jenks
	Casady 3	Bixby 31		Bixby 31	BTW 0		Holland Hall 16	Vian 49		Nov. 9	OU
	Tonkawa 20	Olive 6		Olive 6	Summit Christian 51		Edison 25	McAlester 13		Iowa State	Arkansas
Sept. 14	OSU 40	Tulsa 37	Oct. 5	Tulsa 37	SMU 43 (3OT)		Rejoice Christian 34	Commerce 0		Western Kentucky	Central Oklahoma
	Colorado State 34	OU 45		OU 45	Kansas 20		BTW 6	Muskogee 7		NSU	Baylor
	OU 48	OSU 35		OSU 35	Texas Tech 45		Catoosa 35	McLain 0		OU	OSU
	NEO 8	NSU 10		NSU 10	Nebraska-Kearney 45		Page 0	Bixby 75		Kansas	NSU
	Vian 31	Blinn College 12		Blinn College 12	Westmoore 14		Memorial 20	Rogers 6		Fort Hays State	Tulsa
Sept. 19	Bixby 72	Broken Arrow 55	Oct. 10	Broken Arrow 55	Bishop Kelley 48		Victory Christian 6	Sperry 56		Houston	LSU
Sept. 20	Sapulpa 48	Durant 21	Oct. 11	Durant 21	McLain 14		Cascia Hall 38	Lucust Grove 10		Arkansas	OU
	Bishop Kelley 62	Oologah 49		Oologah 49	Haskell 52		Ada 0	Bishop Kelley 13		TCU	West Virginia
	Haskell 6	Victory Christian 26		Victory Christian 26	East Central 21		Tulsa NOAH 41	Lighthouse Christian 46		OSU	Arkansas
	Hale 12	Pryor 47		Pryor 47			Memphis 42	Tulsa 41		Missouri	East Carolina
							Arkansas 7	Alabama 48		Nov. 29	OSU
										Nov. 30	OSU

Oilers Captain Always There for the Team

SPORTS

By **GLENN HIBDON**
GTR Sports Writer

Tulsa Oilers Captain Adam Pleskach takes pride in the fact that he's always there. The 31-year-old winger is always prepared to suit up, take the ice and battle the enemy. And he does it in a modest way. No need for glory or gaudy statistics. Those things just naturally seem to gravitate toward him.

Now in his seventh season with the ECHL Oilers, Pleskach has made his mark on the team and the league. Although Tulsa experienced a slow start to the 2019-20 campaign, Pleskach displayed his value last season by leading the Oilers to the Western Conference championship and a berth in the playoff semifinals.

"I pride myself in being durable," said Pleskach, who finished second in the ECHL with 75 points a year ago and was selected first-team all-league. "I'm taking better care of myself now. I watch what I eat and go to the gym regularly. I haven't missed a game since coach (Rob) Murray has been here. I take pride that I've been available every night."

Winner of a team Ironman Award (no games missed due to injury) in four of his five eligible seasons in Tulsa, Pleskach learned the hard way how difficult it can be watching from the sidelines. During the 2016-17 season he tore a groin muscle and missed two months on the ice. Although it was a dark moment in his career, brighter days lay ahead.

Pleskach led the league in goals (38) and power play goals (14) last

season and recently played in his 400th game with the Oilers. He holds the team ECHL records for goals in a season (41 in 2014-15) and in a game (four in 2016-17).

"Last year we had a really good mix in personalities, players who filled their roles," said Pleskach. "We had guys who put points up every night and pulled their weight. It was the best group of guys I've played with in terms of guys who wanted to do well and win games."

"I played with (Stephen) Perfetto and (Alex) Dostie and (Jared) Thomas. I was surrounded by really good guys who made it easy for me. You don't always have guys come down (from parent clubs) who have the team's interest at heart. They think they might be too good to be here. I didn't see any of that. They came down and saw we had laid the ground work for success and they bought into it."

Pleskach said the top overall season of his career was truly the result of teammates with chemistry who contributed. It all goes back to growing up in rural Beausejour, Manitoba, and playing with three older brothers.

"When you turn five and you can put on a pair of skates, you start playing hockey (in Canada)," Pleskach said. "My brothers were all good players and they taught me things. They taught me that there are bigger things in life than yourself, like being part of a team and not an individual. They were good leaders."

While young Pleskach learned from siblings on the ice, he was still the baby of the family and protected by his mother.

"She would come down on them (his brothers) if anything happened to me because they were

older," he said.

Even so, Pleskach acquired the toughness he needed to play the game and succeed, both mentally and physically. He continued to grow in the game and played collegiately at American International University, eventually earning a degree in economics. His first pro season came in 2012-13 at Evansville where he played 10 games with the Icemen.

Through Nov. 1, Pleskach had suited up for 410 games with the Oilers, collecting 154 goals and 163 assists for 317 points. No matter the future, the consistent point-producer has already fit into the franchises' pantheon of all-time greats.

Married to wife Jocelyn, a special education teacher at Jenks Elementary, Pleskach has purchased a house and plans on making Tulsa home following his retirement from hockey. He has no definite plans on a subsequent profession, but said he wouldn't mind if it was related to the sport in some way.

"I want to keep playing as long as it makes sense for my family," said Pleskach. "I knew playing at this level I didn't want to bounce around cities. I know a lot of people in Tulsa and I want to make it my home. I always wanted to make it to the next level, but I think I'm too old now. There are a lot of good players out there. I went up one time (playing a single game with Manitoba of the AHL in 2016-17), but there is no clear cut answer (as to why he didn't stick)."

As team captain and one of the Oilers' elder statesmen, Pleskach said he's set his sights on helping Tulsa's younger players advance. Almost half of them have signed NHL contracts and require just a little seasoning to make their dreams come true.



Courtesy Tulsa Oilers

ADAM PLESKACH

"I'd love to see them move on. I'd love to be a part of that," Pleskach said. "I want to see them reach their goals and I want to see guys receive a second chance. One of the biggest things slowing a lot of the young kids in being successful is learning the professional lifestyle and realizing they're not in college anymore."

Another secret Pleskach wants to teach is how to win and do it consistently. The Oilers mastered that target late last season and must relocate the formula this year.

"You can score all the goals in the world, but if you're not playing in June, what's the point?" he said. "We've got to find a way of putting a full 60 minutes together because if you don't come to play in this league, other teams will beat you. We've got to find the chemistry of how to play together."

When the Oilers do put all the ingredients together, Pleskach

wants to be there. He's hoping it comes this season and he's healthy enough to enjoy the taste of champagne.

"I really feel good physically and I feel like I'm at the top of my game," Pleskach said. "I know I still have a lot to contribute. If it's checking, I'll do it. I'll do whatever I'm needed to do to win games, to win a championship. I wouldn't be doing this now if I didn't want to win. We're not here to get rich."

"We set the bar last year by getting as far as we did in the playoffs. Anything less than getting to the finals this year would be disappointing. The key is consistency. We've got to be consistent no matter what."

For Pleskach, the most consistent Oiler of all, eating his vegetables and keeping the doctor away might be the most important item in a possible championship run.

TU Hoping for Post-Season Play This Season

By **MIKE MOGUIN**
GTR Sports Writer

The dawn of another hardwood season has come upon us and Tulsa is ready to make a run to the postseason.

"The guys are ready to play against somebody else, to compete against somebody else, I feel really good about our team," Tulsa Head Coach Frank Haith said. "They are a working group. We have really good length on this team. This team is very competitive and we've had some real competitive practices, so it's a fun group. I'm expecting a lot of good things out of this group."

Tulsa opened the season Nov. 5 at home with a win against Houston Baptist. The rest of the month has cross-city rival Oral Roberts

University (Nov. 12), Austin-Peay (Nov. 16), Southeastern La. (Nov. 20) and South Carolina State (Nov. 27) all coming to the Reynolds Center. Then comes a road game at SEC member Vanderbilt (Nov. 30).

The December slate features home games against Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Arkansas State and Boise State, another game against Colorado State at the BOK Center, and road contests at Arkansas and Kansas State.

The Golden Hurricane finished 18-14 last season and missed out on qualifying for any postseason play for the third consecutive year. They know with the likes of Memphis, Houston, Temple, Cincinnati, Wichita State and Connecticut in the American Athletic Conference,



Courtesy University of Tulsa

READY FOR ACTION: Tulsa Head Coach Frank Haith is ready for his team make a run to the NCAA Tournament.

it will be tough. ESPN even has TU picked to finish eighth in the conference.

"We have enough guys who are hungry, who have a competitive spirit and want to make the postseason. That's the goal every year," Haith said. "I think this team is more than capable of getting on a run and have a shot at playing in the postseason. I really do. A lot would depend on the chemistry and how we get this thing together because talent-wise, I feel pretty good about where we are at and being able to play in the postseason."

Seniors and third-year lettermen Martins Igbanu (6'8", 235, forward) and Lawson Korita (6'5", 205, guard) will be the most experienced on this year's squad.

"Those guys have fought hard

and they're really good leaders and their locker room presence, it will be important to convey that," Haith said.

In the guard rotation will be Korita, Elijah Joiner (6'3", 200, junior), Isaiah Hill (6', 165, freshman) and Darien Jackson (6'3", 189, junior). Brandon Rachal (6'6", 220, junior), a transfer from Pearl River Community College in Mississippi, is expected to play some small forward.

"We got a lot of guys we can rotate in there," Haith said.

"We do have some new guys we're counting on to be an intricate part of our success. So, we will need those guys to come along. I think we have good talent though. I like the ability of our kids," Haith added.

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Former Hotel Restored in 1978 is Still Occupied Today

Pierce Block Was In Use For Seventy Years

The Pierce Block at 300 E. Third St. is an unusual building for two reasons.

In an era when buildings were heavily ornamented, it has an extremely simple façade. Secondly, built in 1909, it is one of Tulsa's oldest mixed-use buildings, which combined street level retail with upper level office space.

In its long history, the Pierce housed the Mammoth Credit Company, a clothing store until 1929, followed by a long succession of paint and wallpaper shops, a vending machine company, a display sales company, a billiard parlor, a printing company and offices for a local TV station.

Three generations of the Daniels' family had previously owned the property when my architectural firm was retained in 1978 to restore and upgrade the building, which was standing empty and derelict.

We succeeded in getting a National Register listing in 1979. Register guidelines allowed an unobstructive addition on the rear to house a small lobby and elevator. The wood interior partitions

and floor structure were reinforced. The original double-hung wood windows were replaced.

The exterior brick skin was cleaned and re-pointed.

The perimeter exterior walls are masonry with red brick facing. There are three stories above street level with a full basement with exterior stairwell access on the west. Long and slender, the building is only approximately 25 to 35 feet wide.

The exterior of the Pierce Block displays three bands of brick corbelling separating each floor. The top band serves as the building cornice with four layers of corbelled brick. The window pattern is a series of tall slender individual openings in a symmetrical spacing at the west and south elevations. The second floor windows have an arched head. Those at the third floor are rectangular. All window frames are white in color. The east elevation was originally covered by an abutting building, which today no longer exists.

The main entrance is simple and striking. It is centered on

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

brick corbelling separating each floor. The top band serves as the building cornice with four layers of corbelled brick. The window pattern is a series of tall slender individual openings in a symmetrical spacing at the west and south elevations. The second floor windows have an arched head. Those at the third floor are rectangular. All window frames are white in color. The east elevation was originally covered by an abutting building, which today no longer exists.



GTR Media Group photo

HISTORIC BUILDING: According to the National Register of Historic Places, The Pierce Block was used continuously as a hotel for 70 years.

the street level south elevation on Third Street and is flanked by large glass openings on both sides. The door itself has divided glass lites and is capped by a dentil pattern light colored stone

lintel. Above this lintel is a semi-circular glass transom with spoke muntins. Completing these elements at the very top is a large rectangular light colored granite nameplate block. Large intaglio

letters state, "Pierce" and smaller letters, "1909 and Building."

The Pierce appears to be successfully occupied today. Its rebirth has prolonged the life of another Tulsa building treasure.

Watch

OKLAHOMA SPORTS SCENE

Sport Scene is hosted by, from left, Tulsa Public Schools Athletic Director Gil Cloud, local and national TV sportscaster Chris Lincoln, and Tulsa sports legend J.V. Haney.

OKLAHOMA SPORTS SCENE

Oklahoma Sports Scene on Cox-3 is seen on Wednesdays at 10 p.m.; Sundays at 2 & 9 p.m.; and Mondays at 6 p.m.

Follow Oklahoma Sports Scene on COX TV channels 1333 & 3 and: Website: oksportscene.com Instagram: [oksportscene](https://www.instagram.com/oksportscene) Twitter: [@oksportscene](https://twitter.com/oksportscene) Facebook: [Oklahoma Sports Scene](https://www.facebook.com/OklahomaSportsScene) Send Questions for Guests to: oksportscene.com

OSU DEGREES IN TULSA

Students transfer to Oklahoma State University-Tulsa for many reasons. Some want the opportunities and increased earning power that come from earning an OSU degree. Others want to make connections and create a better quality of life for themselves and their community. OSU-Tulsa offers:

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- One-on-one advising from pre-admission to graduation
- Transfer Maps that show the path from two-year school to OSU bachelor's degree to career

THE ECONOMY

Jackie Cooper Imports Celebrates Three Milestones in One Grand Night in Tulsa

It had been four years in the making for Jackie Cooper Imports, and Thursday, Oct. 17 was the date it all came to fruition as Jackie Cooper Mercedes-Benz and Porsche Tulsa celebrated their Grand Openings, and Porsche revealed its latest sportscar in one "Timeless" event.

Porsche Tulsa kicked off the evening in style with an official building dedication given by Father Gary Kastl, followed by heartfelt words by the Greg Kach family, and then an official statement by Porsche North America representatives.

The theme of the evening for Porsche Tulsa centered around their highly-anticipated 2020 Porsche 911 (992) reveal. A "Timeless Machine", the Porsche 911 made its first debut to the world in 1963. In celebration of its birth, Porsche Tulsa transformed the evening into a modern Andy Warhol's Factory art studio. With Silver Cloud balloon installations, sketch artists dressed as Andy Warhol, catering by Chef James of Palace Café, and live music by Full Flava Kings, guests were immersed in another time. A full 8-generation Porsche 911 lineup was on display, courtesy of the Cimarron Region Porsche Club, allowing fans to see firsthand the transformation of the Timeless Machine.

Jackie Cooper Mercedes-Benz followed up with an own official dedication of their building, with words by Father Kastl and Greg Kach, as well as gave an introduction to the all-new 2020 Mercedes-

Benz GLS and Mercedes-Benz GLE. The theme "Timeless" made its way throughout the showroom with multiple areas highlighting Tulsa Timeless offerings: a Saks 5th Avenue Chanel Beauty Bar, custom suits by Tom James, elegant watches by Moody's, and live-working Tulsa artist, Marjorie Atwood.

JACKIE COOPER MERCEDES-BENZ

The all-new Jackie Cooper Mercedes-Benz, while technically open for business in late winter, was the first of the two brands to undergo a major renovation at its location at 9393 S. Memorial Drive.

Taking seven months to complete in the middle of an active campus, the new Mercedes-Benz Autohaus utilized over 36,000 manhours of labor, including 1,200 manhours of labor for design services, 24 different subcontractors and suppliers. Other impressive numbers include 5,500 ceiling tiles, 1,400 ceramic floor tiles, 317 individual light fixtures—powered by over 6,200 lineal feet of electrical wiring, 180 exterior pieces of glass, 141 interior pieces of glass, 195 gallons of paint, and over 200 cubic yards of concrete to support 14 new structural steel columns, which in turn support 65 steel beams and 5,420 square feet of new roof deck and roofing. All just for one brand—Jackie Cooper Mercedes-Benz.

The new Mercedes-Benz facility boasts an open concept with a sightline that extends from one end



GTR Media Group photo

HAPPY HOSTS: Hosts at the Jackie Cooper Grand Night welcomed happy visitors and customers. From left are Greg Kach, owner/dealer principal; Steve Lujan, Jackie Cooper Imports and Porsche Tulsa general manager; Ryan Knotts, Jackie Cooper Imports Mercedes-Benz sales manager; and Gerald Lemmons, sales operations manager, southern region, Mercedes-Benz USA.

to the other of the 19,547 square foot building, not including parts and service. A modern, elegant designed interior matches the timelessness of the brand, as well as the Jackie Cooper name.

PORSCHE TULSA

Jackie Cooper Porsche, now known as Porsche Tulsa in this new phase of life for the brand, began its construction in January of this year, taking just a mere 9 and a half months to tear down the old (Jackie Cooper Mercedes-Benz Autohaus) and recreate it into the 12,010 square foot Porsche show-

place it is now. With a sleek, European feel, Porsche Tulsa offers its customers a private fitting lounge for selecting vehicle's amenities, a modern lounge and coffee bar, full Porsche Lifestyle boutique, and private delivery room with a state-of-the-art 250 sq. foot illuminated ceiling fixture, made of 3,720 individual LEDs contained within 620 light strips designed to fully elevate the Porsche delivery experience.

Both Jackie Cooper Mercedes-Benz and Porsche Tulsa received significant upgrades and amenities in the 47,034 square feet of space

of their Parts and Service departments, as well.

JACKIE COOPER IMPORTS, THE FAMILY-OWNED COMPANY.

Jackie Cooper Imports, a family owned and operated import dealership group with a culture of ethical business and family, got its start in 1991 on 11th Street near downtown Tulsa. 28 years later, Jackie Cooper Imports consists of the brands Porsche, Mercedes-Benz, Infiniti, and Nissan, and employs approximately 250 team members over three locations on South Memorial Drive.

Edward Jones

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PR Firm sixPR Celebrates Sixth Year with Open House

The Tulsa-based public relations firm known as sixPR celebrated its sixth year with an open house at its 300 E. Reconciliation Way location in October.

The company was founded in 2013 by Sheila Curley, APR and Marnie Fernandez. Curley and Fernandez have known each other since 2005 and worked together on multiple projects prior to starting the firm. Prior to sixPR, Curley served as senior vice president and director of corporate communications for BOK Financial. Prior to that, she managed communications, public relations, advertising and branding for the Tulsa Regional Chamber

for more than 10 years. Fernandez served as spokeswoman for agencies including the Tulsa Zoo, Fort Worth Zoo, Big Brothers and Sisters and Tulsa's Young Professionals. She also has provided media coaching and served as vice president of communications for a local PR firm.

The name of the firm has three meanings. First, Sheila and Marnie have been in the community for a long time which gives them a 'sixth sense' of the dynamics at play in Tulsa. Second, they have a lot of connections, so they can leverage the right person at the right time to benefit a client through 'six degrees of separa-

tion.' Finally, like on a basketball team, sixPR can be a client's 'sixth man' – either called upon during a moment of crisis or promoting the company from behind the scenes.

Curley explains that sixPR is a reputation-building firm first focused on the core of public relations and strategies to overcome the communications challenges faced by individuals and organizations. The firm offers a broad range of services, including communications, issue management, media relations, executive connections, capital campaigns, crisis communications and creative services.



GTR Media Group photo

WELCOMING GUESTS: The sixPR staff welcomes guests to their sixth anniversary at the firm's office, located at 300 E. Reconciliation Way in downtown Tulsa. From left are Lindsey Wichern, Lauren Snedden, Principal and Partners Sheila Curley and Marnie Fernandez, Chelsea Schumann, Canaan Rice and Jamie Heimann. Not pictured Laura Hyde.

The Henry Bellmon Legacy Lives at the Oklahoma Academy



On October 21, 2019, I had the honor of serving as a keynote speaker at the Oklahoma Academy's Town Hall Meeting at the WinStar Convention Center. The theme of the conference was Oklahoma Energy: Optimizing Our Resources for the Future. My topic was "The Digital Transformation: From the Whiteboard to the Boardroom."

The Oklahoma Academy is a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership organization founded by Gov. Henry Bellmon to bring public attention to policy issues, provide objective, thorough research and act as a catalyst for positive change.

After his first term as governor, Bellmon knew there was a need for open, nonpartisan dialogue in the young state. He sought to create a public policy organization that was independent, nonpartisan and inclusive. The purpose of which was to provide citizens the opportunity to participate in a truly democratic process designed to shape the future of Oklahoma. To this day, The Oklahoma Academy upholds Bellmon's vision and the organization's long-standing reputation as the state's premier citizen-based organization for nonpartisan public policy development.

The Academy identifies areas of need and problems facing Oklahoma, conducts research on identified critical issues, and develops long range goals, consensus recommendations, and agendas for action.

Through the Town Hall Conference process, citizens are given the opportunity to honestly and openly discuss the issues, determine the solutions, and collaborate to develop public policies that they

believe will achieve the greatest good. Then, the attendees are empowered to lobby their legislators and other policy makers about the proposed policies.

The Academy has covered a wide range of topics, including education, small business development and government structure.

From its inception in 1967 to its revitalization in 1985 to its adoption of the Town Hall process in 2001, The Oklahoma Academy has maintained its relevance in raising awareness and shaping public policy in Oklahoma. Thanks to Henry Bellmon for initiating the Academy. I especially thank Bellmon for inspiring me and appointing me as a university regent when he was governor in 1988.

One major challenge that the energy industry is facing and will be facing for several years ahead is the digital transformation. What will the digital transformation look like? With the ever-changing landscape of digital (block chain, internet of things, robotics, artificial intelligence, supply chain, etc.), decisions will have to be made, which means proper data, research and analysis will have to be achieved.

Other topics addressed at the conference included a short-term energy outlook, the case for LNG, wind farming, the state of the U.S. solar industry and many other subjects.

Thanks to Craig Knutson for summarizing my book, America Needs America's Energy, by stating "One of the annoying things about believing in free will and individual responsibility is the difficulty of finding someone to blame your problems on. And when you do find someone, it's remarkable how often his picture turns up on your driver's license!" Thanks, Mark, for the challenge. All Town Hall attendees should consider Mark's suggestion of striving for energy efficiency and environmental preservation."

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



By MARK A. STANSBERRY



Courtesy OKhistory.org

HENRY BELLMON

HBA GIFT: The Home Builders Association Remodelers Council and the Home Builders Association Charitable Foundation presented Revitalize T-Town, an organization that makes homes safe and secure for low-income homeowners, with a check for \$25,885. Funds were raised at the annual Evening of Giving Gala held by the HBA Charitable Foundation on September 19.

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Bar Association to Honor Local Attorney and County Commissioner State Awards

Judge Dana L. Rasure and County Commissioner Karen Keith received awards from the Oklahoma Bar Association at its 115th Annual Meeting, Nov. 6-8 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. They are among 21 recipients from across the state to be honored during the three-day event.

“Judge Rasure and Commissioner Keith are being recognized for their achievements that distinguish them as role models within the legal community because of their service,” OBA President Chuck Chesnut of Miami said. “They have made significant contributions to their community and the profession and deserve to be honored.”

Judge Rasure received the Neil E. Bogan Professionalism Award for conduct, honesty, integrity and courtesy that best represents the highest standards of the legal profession.

Before being appointed to the bankruptcy bench in January 1997, Rasure was recognized as an outstanding practicing lawyer by the banking and bankruptcy communities. She has the utmost integrity and a keen legal mind, while also being approachable and truly concerned about the human side of the legal profession. She participates in state and local bankruptcy events and always seeks ways to improve communication and understanding between the bench and bar.

Commissioner Keith was the recipient of the Liberty Bell Award for her efforts to highlight the long overdue need for a Tulsa County Family Justice Center.

As county commissioner, she was instrumental in the passing of a 15-year, 0.041 percent sales tax and locating an appropriate site and design for the new juvenile justice center. On April 20, 2018, a groundbreaking ceremony was held on the 7.5-acre lot at 410 W. Archer St. in Tulsa. The new facility has two state-of-the-art buildings – a 100,000 square-foot courthouse and administrative building and a 47,000 square-



KAREN KEITH



DANA RASURE

foot detention center with 60 beds. The Juvenile Division of the court and all Juvenile Bureau employees are expecting to call this “home” by late fall.

Oklahoma City award winners are Judge Patricia G. Parrish, Award for Judicial Excellence; William Hoch, Joe Stamper Distinguished Service Award; Ed Abel, John E. Shipp Award for Ethics; John Holden, Maurice Merrill Golden Quill Award; Kyle Rogers, Maurice Merrill Golden Quill Award; the OBA Legislative Monitoring Committee, Golden Gavel Award; the Oklahoma County Bar Association, Outstanding County Bar Association Award; and the Oklahoma County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, Outstanding Service to the Public Award.

BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

Natalia Coen of Gateway First Bank in Jenks has been named the incoming certified regulator compliance manager (CRCM) advisory board chair, effective January 1, 2020 for the American Bankers Association.



COEN

Coen is the compliance officer for Gateway First Bank and has served on the CRCM advisory board since 2014. While on the advisory board Coen has provided leadership to the CRCM Working Group in the past year as they worked to create a new exam outline.

Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors welcomes a new architect to its staff – Bryan Broaddrick.



BROADDRICK

This 32-year-old graduate of Oklahoma State University’s school of architecture received his state architect license, having completed his required 5,600 internship hours and passed the state’s six architectural registration exams.

“It’s been a very rewarding experience,” said Broaddrick. “This is something I’ve worked towards since 2005, when I started at OSU. But it’s not a culmination of things. It’s really just the beginning. Architecture is a lifelong learning process. My goal is to never stop learning and improving.”

Broaddrick worked many of his intern hours at Sparks Reed, having joined the firm in December 2017.

“Bryan is an outstanding architect,” said Reed, principal and co-founder of Sparks Reed. “It is great to be able to call him a fellow architect now that he has his license. It is a great accomplishment and further demonstrates his talents and character to follow through on his goals and his passion to continue learning and improving his skills. He is a great member of the team!”

Reed also commented he appreciates Broaddrick’s passion for athletics and sports architecture which are areas where Sparks Reed has excelled. The Tulsa firm has designed stadiums or arenas for 10 different Oklahoma high schools and universities, with more on the way.

Alice Townsend has been named the regional chief executive officer for the Region of Oklahoma of the American Red Cross.



TOWNSEND

Townsend most recently served as regional president of sales at Encompass Health, Home Health division where she had oversight of sales operations in the Western U.S. and collaboratively worked with operations to ensure financial success of over 40 locations.

Prior to Encompass Health, Townsend held the role of senior blood program consultant for the Oklahoma Blood Institute where she led blood collection efforts in five Oklahoma counties. During her time with OBI, she won the Charles’ Drew Award for increasing minority donations within the Cherokee Nation and was appointed to the National Committee for Blood Consultant Professionals.

“I am honored to have been selected to serve alongside such dedicated volunteers, generous donors and a mission-focused staff,” Townsend said. “I previously served as a board member for the Red Cross in Muskogee, so I know about the great work the organization accomplishes. I look forward to continuing to learn more about the Red Cross programs in the coming weeks as I meet with our local chapters across Oklahoma.”

Hall Estill was named named to Forbes Inaugural America’s Top Trusted Corporate Law Firms in 2019 in Real Estate Law.

Hall Estill is one of only 29 law firms recognized in the Real Estate category and received the highest number of recommendations for this area.

“It is an honor to be recognized by Forbes as a top trusted law firm and it is a testament to our expertise in the real estate field,” said Mike Cooke, managing partner for Hall Estill. “Our real estate team is committed to providing exceptional counsel for our clients and I’m proud of the work they are doing.”

To create this list, Forbes, in collaboration with market research company Statista, surveyed more than 90,000 lawyers and legal professionals. Of the 400,000 law firms in the United States (according to the American Bar Association), only 243 law firms were named America’s Top Trusted Corporate Law Firms.

Todd Borland, executive director of Information Technology for Union Public Schools, has been named the 2019 Technology Director of the Year by the Oklahoma Technology Association.



BORLAND

“Without a doubt, Todd Borland’s influence goes well beyond that of Union’s school district and even our state,” Union Superintendent Dr. Hartzler stated. “I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition than Mr. Borland.”

Borland was recognized in a surprise announcement during the OTA’s state October conference in Oklahoma City. “Since Borland began working for Union in 1999, he has taken Union to a new level,” stated Hartzler in his nomination of support. “Not only has Borland helped Union to fully realize operational efficiencies, but he’s always thinking about how to incorporate our mission of ‘100 percent Graduation, College and Career-Ready’ into programs that deeply engage our students.”

Recently, Borland launched the Oklahoma eSport League – the first high school-sponsored league of its kind in Oklahoma – in partnership with nine other school districts across the state. Borland also led Union Public Schools to become the first district in the U.S. to issue digital diplomas and transcripts using block chain technology, which enables graduating seniors to be digital owners of their diplomas and transcripts via a desktop or mobile app. Prospective colleges, universities or employers can immediately verify the authenticity of the block chain diploma by receiving it via text message or email from the student.

“Mr. Borland was instrumental in the launch of the Union Virtual Learning Academy (UVLA) about 10 years ago,” Hartzler continued. “We could not have gotten there without Todd’s guiding hand. Even more exciting is the fact that President Barack Obama publicly recognized UVLA for being one of the top programs in the nation.”

“Mr. Borland truly is the epitome of the servant leader,” Hartzler said. “He serves his department well and he is highly respected by his peers. He has grown well beyond the role of IT director to become a technology giant.”

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OUT & ABOUT IN GREATER TULSA

Smitty's Offers Burger Dining at Reasonable Prices

LOCAL DINING

By BLAKE AUSTYN
Contributing Writer

Smitty's Garage Burgers and Beer came to Tulsa in 2017 with its first location at 7104 S. Sheridan Rd. The chain also has locations in Tulsa at 9718 Riverside Pkwy., in Broken Arrow at 801 E. Hillside Dr., near Bass Pro Shop, and in Owasso at 13303 E. 96th St. N.

The restaurant concept asks customers to order at the counter, and then have their food delivered to them at their table, with the exception of individuals who sit at the bar, where they get full food and drink service.

The menu consists largely of what its name states: burgers, plus salads, appetizers, tacos and sandwiches, with prices running between \$6 and \$10 for an appetizer or entree.

Smitty's is another Hal Smith Restaurant designed to clearly be a family eatery as well as a sports lover's spot, with TV's placed throughout, including many in its bar area.

For our appetizer, we chose nachos, which are covered in queso, grilled jalapenos, tomatoes, sour cream and a side of salsa. Meat or



NACHOS GALORE: The nachos at Smitty's Garage Burgers and Beer are covered in queso, grilled jalapenos, tomatoes and sour cream with a side of salsa. Meat or other topping add-ons are available.

other topping add-ons are available. We chose grilled chicken and avocado.

The nachos, instead of being covered in toppings, had most of them sitting in the center of the pile of chips, forcing us to distribute the toppings onto all of the "naked" chips. Other than that, the flavors were enjoyable. I am a major fan of salsa so I would have liked more tomatoes and sauce.

For our entrees, we ordered the Smothered Chili and Cheese Burger and the Banh Mi Tacos.

Burgers do not come with a side, which leaves them looking lonely on a plate. We chose to add a side of fries, for \$2, which came with a nice degree of spiciness. I think that's a confusing mistake for this chain's target audience—families—who are focused on bargains. The burger, which is topped with



BLAKE AUSTYN FOR GTR NEWSPAPERS

SPORTS TV VIEWING: Smitty's Garage Burgers and Beer has four Greater Tulsa locations: two in Tulsa at 7104 S. Sheridan Rd. and 9718 Riverside Pkwy.; one in Broken Arrow at 801 E. Hillside Dr.; and one in Owasso at 13303 E. 96th St. N.

chili, cheese and red onion, tasted good, like a typical chiliburger.

Our other chosen entree was the Banh Mi Tacos, which were spicy with cilantro and large pieces of cod. The dish was very fresh and came with a side of chips and salsa. As of this visit, these tacos were available; however, I heard that at the end of September, they were taken off of the menu. A disappointing loss and perhaps the

only reason I would have returned. With the tacos I ordered a side of Herman's Slaw, which was good and very vinegar flavored; a green element, such as cilantro, would have been a nice addition.

Smitty's "radical hour" runs Monday-Friday from 3-6 p.m. and features local and domestic beers starting at \$2.

For more information, call 918-584-8484.

Family-Owned El Patrón Mexican Restaurant Opens in East Tulsa

Locally and family-owned El Patrón Mexican Restaurant, recently opened its new East Tulsa location at 41st Street and Garnett Avenue. The restaurant strategically chose its new location with the intent of bringing economic development to the area.

El Patrón boasts of an elegant meeting room for 100 guests with state-of-the-art equipment, a space that's hard to come by in the area. The full menu includes authentic Mexican and Tex Mex favorites, as well as its renowned spicy seafood boil.

Renovation of what used to

be the Delta Cafe started in June 2019, with an investment of \$800,000. The restaurant, which employs about 40 people, has capacity for 400 guests, including the patio and meeting room. With locations in Owasso and Sand Springs, this is the local chain's third restaurant in the area.

Hours of operation are Sunday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. For more information, catering or reserving the meeting room, contact Manager David Aguilera at 918-551-6425.

Philbrook's Second Saturdays Are Free. Family. Fun. Days

Philbrook is a great place to relax and connect as a family. Saturdays at Philbrook's main location are always fun days to be creative and discover new ideas together in a relaxing environment.

Visit Philbrook on the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. for free family-friendly art-making, tours, and activities for kids of all ages in the museum and in the gardens. Free museum admission is offered at both locations.

For its November Second Saturday's Big Idea, "Giving and Gratitude Here at Home," Philbrook partnered with Food On The Move, Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to explore the impacts of hunger in our community. Participants learned about



FOOD ON THE MOVE: Taylor Hanson and his wife Natalie with Food on the Move partnered with Philbrook's Second Saturday in November, which focused on giving and gratitude here at home.

hunger in Tulsa. They heard about Food on the Move, which is focused on combating food instability in Tulsa, from Taylor Hanson, life-long Tulsan who spearheaded the initiative in 2014; he is also

a member of the pop-rock trio, HANSON, as well as a songwriter, producer and entrepreneur. They harvested veggies in the Edible Teaching Garden, learned how they could get involved, and created artwork that explored gratitude and giving.

Other activities included a scavenger hunt, story time with the Tulsa City County Library and tours of the garden, Zink Rotunda, the Villa and galleries in the museum.

Philbrook's Second Saturday in December will be Dec. 14. Each Second Saturday is designed to explore one "Big Idea." December's Big Idea is "Lit from Within." Experience the wonder of our special exhibition with Anila Quayyum Agha and experiment with light, shadow and play in artmaking activities, stories and hands-on fun. Bring out the inner artist in each member of the family. Visit Philbrook.org for details.

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