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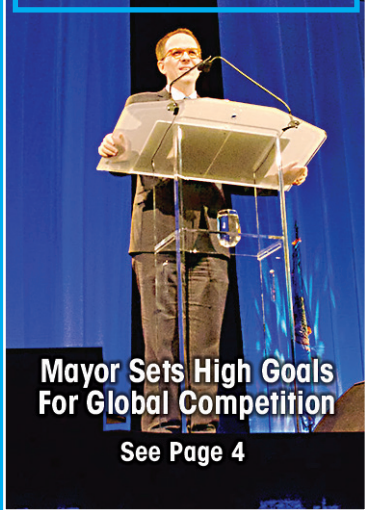
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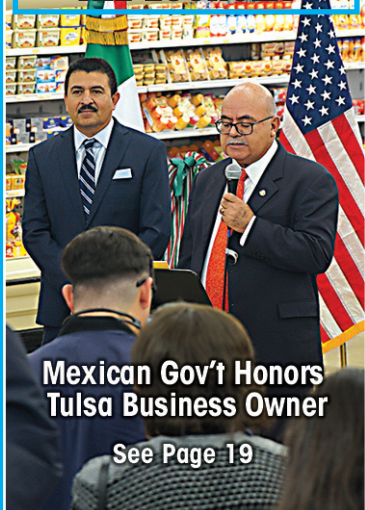
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Bixby Celebrates Another Gold Ball

Spartans Down Stillwater to Claim State Title

By RON HOLT
Bixby Sportswriter

The Drive For Five proved to be a road filled with numerous potholes as Bixby High's unbeaten and No. 1 ranked Spartans experienced Dec. 6 at the University of Central Oklahoma's Wantland Stadium.

Trailing 17-3 early and 36-33 late, Bixby overcame both deficits with several big-time plays in disappointing second-ranked Stillwater for the second straight year after a thrilling 40-36 Class 6A-II State Championship game victory in front of a large, entertained crowd.

Bixby has played in each of the six championship games since Class 6A was divided into two classifications. The Spartans capped an amazing year with a 13-0 record, their second straight championship after ending as runner-up in 2017 and extended their school-record winning streak to 25 straight games.

This was a highly-anticipated game since Bixby defeated Stillwater, 34-13, in the 2018 title game. Both teams entered with 12-0 records and 24-1 records the past two seasons. The similarities between the two teams included high-scoring offenses and hard-working defenses. The anticipation was substantiated.

The Presley brothers – senior Brennan and sophomore Braylin – provided much-needed touchdowns in the final eight minutes to allow the Spartans to withstand a charge by the Pioneers.

After SHS standout junior running back Qwontrel Walker scored from one yard out with 8:16 left, the Pioneers trimmed Bixby's lead to 26-23.

But, on the ensuing kickoff,



Photo by DAVID STACY

BEST IN STATE: The Bixby Spartan team celebrates its 40-36 Class 6A-II State Championship game victory over Stillwater.

Brennan Presley spotted a huge hole, ignited through it and out-legged the Pioneers to complete a stunning 97-yard touchdown return. Reis Vernon's point-after kick gave BHS a 33-23 lead with 8:02 remaining.

"It was like God just split the Red Sea," Brennan said of his kickoff return. "After I caught the kickoff, I saw the hole and as soon as I saw it, I knew I had to hit it and I was able to take it all the way. Being able to keep coming back shows the resiliency of our team. We didn't get too low or too high ... we just kept believing."

Stillwater turned in late long-distance scoring efforts – a 65-yard scoring pass play from senior quarterback Gunnar Gundy to senior Jack Smithton and an incredible 79-yard run by Walker – to lead 36-33 with 3:05 left in the game.

The Spartans responded with a gutty drive. A drive which ended when Braylin Presley caught a quick 12-yard touchdown pass from junior signal-caller Mason Williams with only 1:04 left and



Photo by DAVID STACY

GREAT COACHING STAFF: Bixby Spartan coaches display the 2019 Oklahoma State Championship banner after their victory in University of Central Oklahoma's Wantland Stadium.

Vernon kicked the conversion for the final score.

The drive was highlighted by a clutch, hard-nosed 37-yard pass reception from Williams to Luke Creeger to get the Spartans deep into Pioneer territory.

The defense provided the next boost when senior Mason Van

Pelt tackled Gundy, who lost the football, which was recovered by Spartan senior Bear Daniel. The Spartans ran out the clock as the celebration began.

"It was just a battle, a back-and-forth game," Bixby's 10-year head coach Loren Montgomery said. (Continued on page 24)

KUDOS of the MONTH: TU's True Blue Neighbors

The University of Tulsa's community engagement and support organization, True Blue Neighbors, is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Over the past decade, True Blue Neighbors' number of volunteer hours has significantly expanded and the group now extends its services across the greater Tulsa area to include more than 90 community partners.

In 2018-19, students, faculty, staff and alumni contributed 101,489 service hours – equivalent to \$2.1 million in financial support – to the Tulsa community. More than 600 students visit the True Blue Neighbors office at TU each semester to seek service engagement opportunities.

This year, the organization launched the civic leadership initiative, True Blue Votes, and

provided more than 100 volunteers for Tulsa's Reading Partners program. Year-round projects involve work study students serving at nonprofit and government agencies across the city as well as public service interns volunteering at organizations such as Emergency Infant Services, the Greenwood Cultural Center, Community Service Council of Tulsa, Tulsa Public Schools and Life Senior Services.

During this holiday season, TU held many activities to support the community.

Looking ahead to 2020, True Blue Neighbors is excited to introduce an alumni committee. The group also plans to open a living and learning community in TU housing for students who wish to explore community engagement learning and service opportunities.

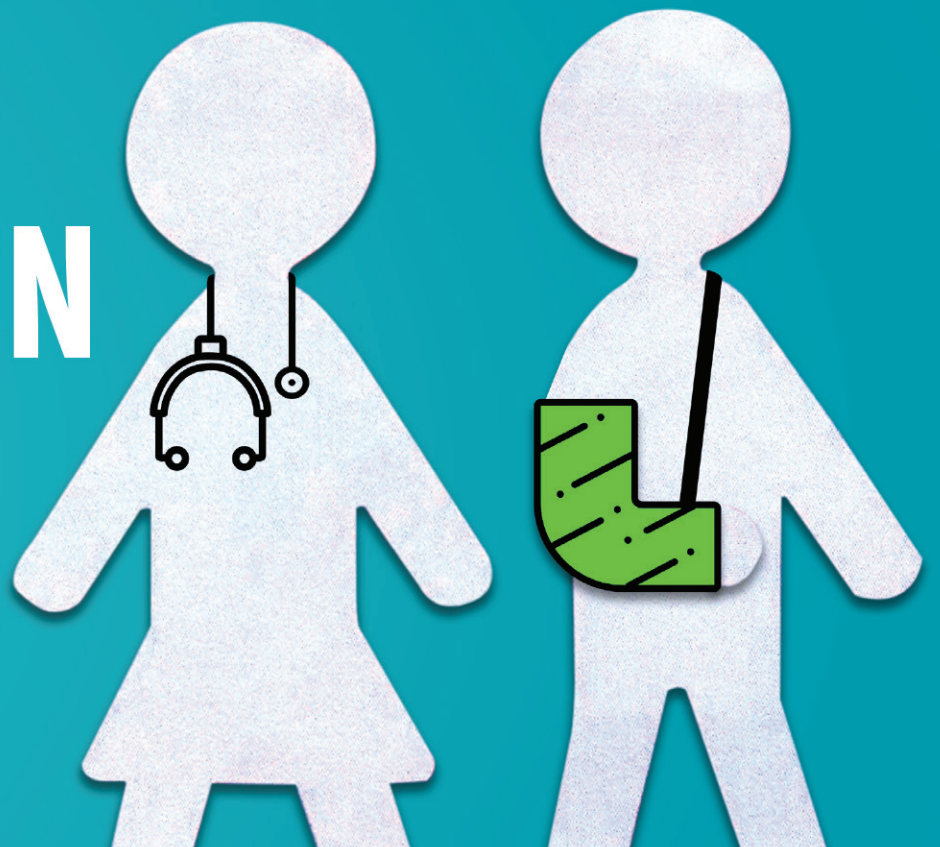


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COMMUNITY SUPPORT: True Blue Neighbors volunteers support the Tulsa Bike Club at Kendall-Whittier Elementary.

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PSO Announces \$1.25 Million Grant for Gathering Place for Student Learning Opportunities

Public Service Company of Oklahoma announced a \$1.25 million grant from the American Electric Power Foundation that will provide funding to the Gathering Place for world-class learning opportunities to an estimated 75,000 students throughout the region over the next five years.

The commitment from AEP Foundation will provide resources for transportation assistance, curriculum development and professional development for educators for field trip programs at Gathering Place as well as educational events for the community. The transportation assistance for 400 planned field trips will be primarily intended for students in low-income communities and from Title I schools.

"At PSO, we recognize the value of experiential learning in improving literacy and STEM-related skills," said, Peggy Simmons, chief operating officer and president, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, a unit of American Electric Power. "The Gathering Place is a tremendous asset to our community and we're excited to collaborate with them to provide engaging and educational field trips and curriculum to area students. Each school year, over 15,000 students will participate in the field trips funded through this grant. It's an honor for us to invest in our community's future leaders."

The field trip curriculum will be developed in alignment with learning objectives from the Oklahoma Academic Standards, creating educational experiences that are unique to Gathering Place and an additive to student development in the classroom. Through the field trip programming, students will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of experiences including grade level specific curriculum, STEAM programming, creative play, world-class performances and reading activities.

"We are proud to work together with PSO as a strong community partner to help further our mission to engage, educate and excite, and to become a true educational resource for the entire community," said Tony Moore, executive director, Gathering Place. "The grant will allow Gathering Place to remove some of the financial barriers for schools in our area allowing for all teachers and students to benefit from what Gathering Place has to offer through educational programming in a hands-on environment."

The grant will enable access for thousands of students to experience these world-class learning opportunities each year. Field trips will be available beginning spring 2020.

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. News releases and other information about PSO is at www.PSOklahoma.com. Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @PSOklahoma.



GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT TEAM: Present at the AEP Foundation gift announcement at Gathering Place in November are, from left, Dale Heydlauff, sr. vice president-AEP Corporate Communications; Peggy Simmons, PSO president and COO; George Kaiser, founder of George Kaiser Family Foundation; and Nick Akins, AEP chairman, president and CEO.

About AEP Foundation

The American Electric Power Foundation is funded by American Electric Power and its utility operating units, including Public Service Company of Oklahoma. The foundation provides a permanent, ongoing resource for charitable initiatives involving higher dollar values and multi-year commitments in the communities served by AEP and initiatives outside of AEP's 11-state service area.

The foundation focuses on improving lives through education from early childhood education through higher education in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math and by meeting basic needs for emergency shelter, affordable housing and the elimination of hunger. Other foundation support may be offered to protect the environment, support health-care and safety, and enrich life

through art, music and cultural heritage.

The AEP Foundation is based in Columbus, Ohio.

About Gathering Place

A project of George Kaiser Family Foundation, Gathering Place, with a first phase of 66.5 acres, will ultimately transform nearly 100 acres of Tulsa's waterfront along the Arkansas River into a dynamic and active space when the project is completed. A public-private partnership, GKFF and numerous corporate and community philanthropists gave ownership of the \$465 million park to River Parks Authority who in turn signed a long-term operational and management lease back to an entity of the foundation to ensure the highest quality operation, maintenance and programming for the life of the park.



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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 select homes in the Union, Jenks, Owasso, Broken Arrow and Bixby school districts. The *Midtown Monitor* is distributed to selected neighborhoods in the Tulsa school district. All six papers are distributed to news stands and other outlets in more than 700 locations throughout the Greater Tulsa area.

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CIVICS

Setting High Goals for a Globally Competitive Tulsa

From Tulsa's Mayor

By G.T. BYNUM
Mayor of Tulsa

In November, I was privileged to present the 2019 State of the City address to a record crowd in downtown Tulsa.

The excitement for our city right now is unparalleled and people from around the country are taking notice of what we are doing here in Tulsa. We are creating a globally competitive, world-class city by focusing on making Tulsa a safer city, a city of opportunity and a city of generational empowerment.

We are setting high expectations as a city while helping our neighbors.

For example, in May, when we were hit by an earthquake, tornadoes, flooding and another tornado all while it was still flooding, you saw what kind of grit, determination and compassion Tulsans have for one another.

You also saw the integrity of our city during the second annual 918

Day, a day that we take every year on Sept. 18 to celebrate our city.

I saw residents and business owners across Tulsa showcasing their business and working to make this the best city it can be. And nothing is more rewarding for me than to be able to welcome new residents.

In 2019, we hosted the city's first three naturalization ceremonies at City Hall, welcoming people of different backgrounds who decided to travel from their homeland to call Tulsa home.

Not only are our staff, first responders, non-profits and residents making Tulsa a safer and more welcoming city, I've seen multiple programs grow in their first years.

More than 1,000 people have taken part in A Better Way, a program designed to help those pan-handling connect with needed services and jobs. I'm excited to announce that more than 200 individuals have found jobs through A Better Way.

After its first year in operation, Tulsa Sobering Center, a jail diversion program for public intoxication, is saving officer time and taxpayer money by giving individuals the choice of going to the Sobering

Center, where they can connect with services for substance abuse, rather than jail.

As the policing landscape evolves, our community policing program continues to develop as we increase manpower and continue educational opportunities.

Today, we're seeing the emergence of a new economic renaissance in Tulsa, with companies choosing to extend their operations here. Earlier this year, WPX Energy announced it will build its new headquarters in downtown Tulsa.

We also broke ground on the Gilcrease Expressway, USA BMX and countless others. Just this year, American Airlines announced it will offer an additional 550 jobs at its maintenance base in Tulsa, its largest in the country.

Spirit Aerosystems announced it will invest an additional \$80 million into its Tulsa facility and add 250 jobs. And in November, Bus Rapid Transit, the first bus route of its kind in Oklahoma, started connecting Tulsa in a way never seen before.

Route 66 is also being redeveloped, thanks to the Tulsa Route 66 Commission, great businesses



Courtesy photo

STATE OF THE CITY: The Tulsa Regional Chamber hosted Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum for his third State of the City address Nov. 14 at the Cox Business Center. This event offered a chance for the northeast Oklahoma business community to hear about Mayor Bynum's successes from 2019 and his plans to make Tulsa globally competitive in 2020.

and philanthropic support. Businesses across Tulsa are beginning to see the value in historic buildings and are bringing them back to life.

I hope you share my excitement for the path Tulsa is on right now.

When we can be the kind of city that works together to achieve our highest aspirations, the state of our city is strong.

To read the complete 2019 State of the City address, visit www.cityoftulsa.org/mayor.

Tulsa County Officials to Propose Important Legislation

In Oklahoma, county governments can only do what is allowed under state law; this is true even if the law doesn't impact upon the state government or the state budget.

For more than 112 years, the state has controlled county government. If the county wants to do something not allowed under state statutes, they must go to the Oklahoma State Legislature to get approval to do so.

For this reason, every fall the county prepares an agenda of legislative requests. For the 2020 Legislative Session that begins in February, Tulsa County elected officials will propose several pieces of important legislation. For example:

Natural Disasters

The most significant bill may be

the Hazard Mitigation Assessment District Act. Each year, Oklahoma ranks in the top five states with the most federally declared disasters. This can be floods, tornadoes, wildfires, drought, earthquakes,

or winter storms. And yet, we are one of the most unprepared states when it comes to planning and executing mitigation efforts before disasters strike. Because we don't fund mitigation efforts to the level needed, the post disaster costs are seven times what the mitigation costs would be. The Act will allow voters in a county to consider a special hazard mitigation and disaster recovery property assessment.

Inmate Workers

The county jail requires hundreds of workers each day to work in the kitchen, to do routine jail maintenance, etc. Even though

there are hundreds of inmates in the jail, they can only be used for this work if they volunteer. Without any incentive for the inmates to work, they cannot be depended upon. Consequently the taxpayers have to pay to have these tasks performed. A bill will be introduced to encourage inmates to volunteer by allowing work hours to be applied towards the time for which they have been sentenced.

Police Officers as Jurors

Municipal police officers are not exempt from being summonsed to jury duty, even though sheriff deputies are. As a result, when a police officer receives a jury summons, their shift has to be covered by another officer which results in additional expense to the city and the taxpayers. Also, the county has to pay the required juror fee. The reality is, those employed as police officer are very seldom selected to serve on a jury for reasons of perceived bias.

Consequently, a great deal of taxpayer dollars is wasted. This bill would exempt municipal officers from being summonsed for jury duty.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

In the last Legislative Session,

the County's PACE bill passed by a vote of 134 to 6. The bill applied only to commercial property and brings private property owners together with private energy lenders to make energy efficient improvements to the property. Due to the widespread interest and support for the PACE concept, a bill will be introduced to expand the types of properties which could qualify for the PACE program to include industrial, agricultural, educational and nonprofit properties.

Other Miscellaneous Bills

The County will also be working on improving the continuing education opportunities for county employees, reforming purchasing procedures to cut both cost and time, and strengthening financial oversight of the county employee retirement system.

County leaders are always looking for ways to make county government and county services the best and least expensive for our County taxpayers.

From Tulsa County



By COMMISSIONER
RON PETERS



Courtesy photo

IMPORTANT OPENING: The Tulsa County Family Center for Juvenile Justice recently opened its doors with a ribbon cutting. Present at the event are Tulsa County Commissioners Ron Peters with scissors at left, Karen Keith next to Peters, and Stan Saltee at right. "The new facility affords the Court an enhanced opportunity to better serve the needs of Tulsa County's youth and families who are in crisis," said Chief Juvenile Judge Martha Rupp Carter.

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Tulsa Press Club Honors Former Cherokee Nation Chief Bill Don Baker as 2019 Headliner of the Year

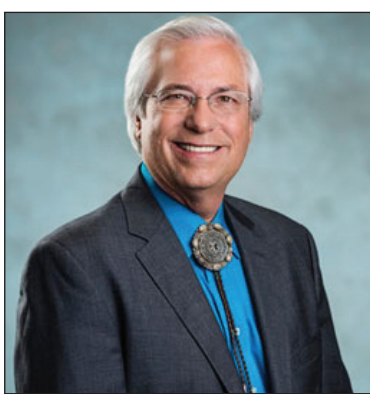
The Tulsa Press Club honored Cherokee Nation Businesses Executive Chairman and former Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker as the Tulsa Press Club's 2019 Headliner of the Year.

The Award Presentation took place in the Sky Room on the 18th floor of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa Nov. 23. The event included an honoree reception for sponsors and the dinner and program.

Tulsa Press Club & Benevolent Society annually recognizes

Tulsa-area civic, business and professional leaders who made headlines over the past year for their unselfish contributions to the growth, prosperity, people and culture of Tulsa and the surrounding areas.

In August 2019, Baker completed two successful terms in office, serving the largest tribal nation in the United States. His impact on the health and economic prosperity of the Cherokee people will be felt for generations. "We could not think of an individual who has better embodied the traits of a Head-



BILL DON BAKER

liner over the past several years than Chief Baker," said Claire Johnson, president of the Tulsa Press Club. "With his signature achievement, the new Cherokee Nation Outpatient Health Center opening this fall, it's also a timely way to honor Chief Baker's service to the Cherokee people and to all of Oklahoma."

Baker joins a prestigious list of Headliners of the Year, including W.K. Warren (1956), W.G. Skelly (1957), Dan P. Holmes (1973), John C. Leake (1983), Peggy Helmerich (1987), Henry Zarrow

(1991), Senator Maxine Horner (1995), Roxana Lorton (1997), Jack Zarrow (1999), Robert Lorton (2000), Kathy Taylor (2004), Gov. Henry Bellmon (2006), Bill and Kathy LaFortune (2017) and the Cherokee Nation's own Wilma Mankiller, who was honored in 2007, along with many other Oklahomans who've made the lives of their fellow statesmen better through civic duty and dedication to service above self.

Baker was also presented with an original caricature, drawn by Tulsa World cartoonist Bruce Plante.

Tulsa Area United Way Celebrates 2019 Goal

The Tulsa Area United Way reached the goal for its annual campaign, raising \$26,028,910 for the community. The original goal was \$26,028,494.

The local United Way announced the grand total of its annual campaign at the Unite celebration held in November at the 41st Floor at First Place Tower.

Individuals who have received life-saving services from United Way partner agencies shared their stories and helped reveal the total amount raised to 200 guests at the celebration.

"The success of this year's campaign represents this community's willingness to come together to do something amazing for their neighbors, friends and family members," said Alison Anthony, Tulsa Area United Way president and CEO. "This amount represents the real needs of our area to alleviate some of the greatest challeng-

es in our community. Just a week ago, we still needed \$800,000 to reach this goal. It's a testament to the generosity of so many that we could rally and raise the needed amount."

The campaign will fund the Tulsa Area United Way's 59 partner agencies in the areas of education, health/safety and financial stability, as well as several community collaborative projects and Social Innovation Grants that address complex challenges, beginning on Jan. 1, 2020.

"We are blessed to live in a community that will come together so generously and with such a focus on helping one another," said Kirk Hays, president and CEO of ARVEST, Tulsa and 2019 Chair of the Tulsa Area United Way campaign. "More than 31,000 individuals and 1,000 companies and organizations showed their dedication to helping others through

participation in this United Way Campaign."

Members of the United Way's Campaign Cabinet, as well as other volunteers and contributors, gathered at First Place Tower to learn about the success of this year's campaign. The fundraising teams reported their total amounts raised, which was added to a cumulative total. By evening's end, the goal of the campaign was reached before cheering supporters.

In the last 95 years, the local United Way has invested \$800 million in the community.

This year's campaign will be celebrated, and high-performing company, business and organizational campaigns will receive recognition at the Tulsa Area United Way's annual Live United Awards and Luncheon, on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020, at the Cox Business Center. For more information, visit www.tauw.org.



Courtesy photo

CAMPAIGN LEADERS: Kirk Hays, president and CEO of ARVEST Tulsa and 2019 Chair of the Tulsa Area United Way campaign, and Alison Anthony, Tulsa Area United Way president and CEO celebrate reaching this year's goal.



GTR Media Group photo

EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR: Lynda Wingo was honored as the recipient of Executive of the Year for the Tulsa Chapter of Executive Women International in November. Wingo is the owner and executive director of Miss Helen's Private School for over 45 years and the Founding Partner of OK2 Grow. From left are Jerry Holder, Gary Wingo, Lynda Wingo, Kathryn Daniel and Scott Burnett, who introduced Wingo at the event.



Courtesy photo

HARD ROCK GINGERBREAD HOUSE: The holiday season is officially underway at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa with the unveiling of the 2019 gingerbread house that pays homage to the nostalgic wonder of Toyland. Executive Pastry Chef Rebecca Foy and her team began planning and construction of a giant dollhouse in June. The house celebrates many of Hard Rock's amenities with a casino room, hotel room and music room, complete with a guitar and set of drums.



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VARIETY

Merry Entertainment for the Holidays

As the days of December draw down, I think of that proverbial hourglass — sand falling without hesitation from one chamber into the next. Looking back at 2019, I've tried to gage whether I lived my time to the fullest. What experiences did I have that made me feel engaged, enriched and alive?

If you are taking your own personal inventory of 2019, I hope a few of your high-points include live entertainment. Whether you enjoyed free summertime concerts under the stars or grooved to U2, being with others to experience real-time entertainment is rewarding on so many levels.

The grand old Brady Theatre, more than 100 years old, is a great place still for concerts, comics and a range of shows. I like to sit on the second level nearest the stage. Those are great seats, and would be perfect for Il Divo, Dec. 10. Simon Cowell formed this group in the U.K. in 2003. Four good-looking guys from four different countries — Switzerland, Spain, France and the USA — perform a combination of folk music, opera, pop and Latin American styles of music.

This is the 50th consecutive year for Tulsa Ballet to present "The Nutcracker." The current production has featured the choreography of the Ballet's Artistic Director Marcello Angelini since 2003. It's the story of a young French dancer, set against the glamorous and glittering background of 1920s Paris and Versailles. Angelini estimated that more than a million people have interacted with the Ballet's "Nutcracker" over five decades, including participants and audience. Tulsa Ballet has created The Nutcracker Alumni Association to connect all past cast members.

A Christmas Carol has been a Tulsa tradition for more than 40 years. The set is glorious, and the musical adaptation by Robert Odle and Richard Averill will keep the attention of the youngest audience member while appealing to adults. This is a precautionary tale about a man who reclaims his generosity and fun-loving spirit before the chilling revelations of the Ghost

of Christmas to Come are realized. Both "The Nutcracker" (Dec. 7-22) and "A Christmas Carol" (Dec. 12-23) are uplifting and joyous holiday fare.

A perfect date-night would be "Miss Saigon" on New Year's Eve at the Tulsa PAC.

The creators of the show are Alain Boubil and Claude-Michel Schönberg, the same team who crafted the beloved musical, "Les Misérables." "Miss Saigon" has a romantic/tragic storyline that echoes Puccini's "Madama Butterfly." An American soldier falls for a 17-year-old bargirl, Kim, in war-torn Vietnam. After the hasty departure of American troops, Kim clings to the hope that she, her American lover and their young child will be reunited and begin a new life in America.

If only. Presented by Celebrity Attractions as part of its Broadway series, "Miss Saigon" runs Dec. 31 – Jan. 5.

The River Spirit Casino has a terrific roster of shows in the weeks ahead. Check out Cirque Musica's presentation of "Holiday Wishes," Dec. 22. Acrobats, aerialists and other acts are accompanied by a full live orchestra performing seasonal tunes.

The Steve Miller Band entertains at River Spirit on Dec. 27. Miller has been active on the pop music scene for decades with hits such as "Take the Money and Run," "Fly Like an Eagle" and "Living in the USA."

Next up is John Fogerty, Dec. 29. He's racked up eight gold albums during his career as lead singer/guitarist and songwriter with Creedence Clearwater Revival, which he co-founded in 1968, and during a successful solo career. "Proud Mary," "Bad Moon Rising" and "Susie Q" are among his most well-known hits.

A fun, laid-back New Year's Eve plan could include comic Ron White's show at River Spirit's Paradise Cove. White was formerly part of the Blue Collar Comedy tour with Jeff Foxworthy, Bill Engvall and Larry the Cable Guy. "Tater Salad," as White is known, will nurse a glass of scotch or two (part of his act), and provide a hilarious dose of New Year's Eve cheer.



BAPAC: Kristin Chenoweth and Sandi Patty celebrate the holiday season Dec. 20 at the Broken Arrow PAC's Kristin Chenoweth Theatre.



Photo by NELA KOENIG

JOHN FOGERTY: The former lead singer and guitarist for Creedence Clearwater Revival visits the River Spirit Casino Dec. 29.

The BOK Center is a gathering spot during the holidays. Skate 'til you drop during the Arvest Winterfest, open through Jan. 5. Enjoy country artists Cody Johnson and Friends, Dec. 7, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Dec. 20 and, for younger kids, "Paw Patrol Live, The Great Pirate Adventure," Dec. 28-30.

At the Hard Rock, the evergreen Jackson Browne performs with his longtime seven-member band, Dec. 30. He's the songwriter behind "Doctor My Eyes," "Rock Me on the Water" and "Running on Empty," among so many other hits. An advocate for the environment, human rights and arts education, he is broadly recognized for a personal, literate artistry that incorporates social justice. Looking ahead, get tickets now for Rick Springfield at The Joint, Jan. 9.

Kristin Chenoweth and Sandi Pat-



Courtesy photo

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: American Theatre Company's musical adaptation of Dickens' tale runs Dec. 12-23 at the Tulsa PAC.



Courtesy photo

THE NUTCRACKER: Tulsa Ballet celebrates its 50th year of the holiday classic Dec. 7-22 at the Tulsa PAC.



Photo by MATTHEW MURPHY

MISS SAIGON: Emily Bautista as Kim and Anthony Festa as Chris in the romantic/tragic play Dec. 31-Jan. 5 at the Tulsa PAC.



Photo by MATTHEW MURPHY

RON WHITE: The comic also known as "Tater Salad" brings in the new year, Dec. 31 at the River Spirit Casino and Resort.



Courtesy photo

IL DIVO: Brady Theatre hosts the four-man vocal ensemble Dec. 10.

ty team up in concert at Broken Arrow Performing Art Center. These two powerhouse singers are Oklahoma treasures and consummate performers. Each has enjoyed an immensely successful career. They celebrate the holiday season with their special sparkle and style, Dec.

20 at the BAPAC's Kristin Chenoweth Theatre.

Please join me in toasting our good fortune to live in a caring community that has incredible museums, green spaces, performance venues and incredible talent. It's a rich life. Cheers!

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Horton Records and an All-Star Lineup of Local Musicians Celebrate a Tulsa Legend

"Gene Autry stepping off an UFO with a stratocaster in his hand and an Elmore James song in his heart."

I don't know to whom I attribute that quote describing the late great Steve Pryor. It's often referenced passively, as in, "it has been said of Pryor..." And while, as a writer, I disapprove of the flagrant use of passive voice, as a Steve Pryor fan, I couldn't agree more with the characterization.

Nor could I agree more with blues legend Muddy Waters, who told a 19-year-old Pryor who was his opening act at Cain's ballroom, "Don't ever put that guitar down!"

Fortunately for us, he never did put that guitar down.

His career took him all over the world, playing with heavy hitters in the music industry like John Lee Hooker, Albert King, Buddy Guy, B.B. King, Bonnie Raitt, Greg Allman, Dr. John and Johnny Winter.

After graduating from Nathan Hale High School, Pryor left Tulsa for Los Angeles where he was able to land work as a session musician in the film industry.

In the early 1980s, he moved from the West Coast to the East Coast to join up with the late Paul Butterfield's blues band, which he played with until 1984.

In 1989, Pryor and his band, consisting of songwriting partner Scott Hutchison, drummer Pride

Preston, bassist David White and keyboardist David Busey (brother of actor Gary Busey) returned to Los Angeles and, in 1991, released the album "Steve Pryor Band" on the Zoo/BMG Record label.

Reviews of the album were favorable, with Billboard magazine comparing Pryor's guitar playing with that of Stevie Ray Vaughan and announcing to its readers, "Look out fret fans, here's your new hero."

It appeared that Pryor was on his way to stardom, as the band followed up the album with a tour with The Fabulous Thunderbirds.

However, whether due to creative differences or personal demons that Pryor struggled with at the time, the relationship with Zoo/BMG never proved to be that launch pad.

Shortly after the tour with The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Pryor returned to Tulsa before heading to Ireland to work and tour with singer Andrew Strong of the Commitments.

On the eve of the tour in Dub-

lin, Ireland, Pryor was attacked by skinheads, suffering broken ribs, a broken ankle and a concussion. He did manage to gut out the first show of the tour, but was on the plane headed home before the second.

During the last two decades of his life, Pryor played multiple gigs around town on a weekly basis. Along with bassist Matthew Kohl and drummer Rick Heck, the three piece blues/rock band known as Steve Pryor and the Mighty Kingsnakes were a staple of the Tulsa music scene throughout the 1990s and 2000s.

He was a bridge from the old Tulsa Sound, playing with the likes of Jimmi Markham and Don White in the 1970s, to the new Tulsa Sound, serving as mentor and inspiration to newcomers like Paul Benjamin and Dustin Pittsley.

The life of the Tulsa-born guitarist and member of both the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame ended in a motorcycle crash on North Denver Avenue on May 6, 2016.

That life will be celebrated on Dec. 28 at Shrine on 18th Street and Boston Avenue with a tribute concert featuring many of Pryor's friends and band members.

Hosted by Horton Records and Paul Benjamin, the concert features an all-star lineup, including Damon Daniel, David "Skintight" White, LD Price, John Hoff, Scott Mariner, Brad Absher, Jesse Aycock, Dustin Pittsley, Connor Culpepper; plus a reunion of the Mighty Kingsnakes.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. show are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. To purchase tickets, visit venue-shrine.com.

Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL



Courtesy Horton Records

STEVE PRYOR: The blues guitar legend who passed away in 2016 from injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident will be celebrated by friends and band members on Dec. 28 at Shrine on 18th Street and Boston Avenue.

About Horton Records

Horton Records, LTD is a non-profit, volunteer-based music organization in Tulsa dedicated to the cultivation and development of Tulsa area artists and building on the region's great tradition, while fostering and strengthening community through musical endeavors.

Horton provides support and tools in terms of band management, promotion, booking, merchandising, and distribution in order to help local and regional musicians fulfill their artistic goals and further promote local and regional music on a broader scale.

I'm still on a cloud from Hor-

ton's last event, the Folk-n-Rock-n-Chili Cookoff, and I expect this to be every bit as good. Check out hortonrecords.org and Horton's Facebook page for more information, and for locally-sourced holiday gifts, like Brad James Band's recent album, "At Fellowship Hall."

To all my readers, Happy Holidays and thank you for supporting local music in 2019. I'll be back for more in 2020, because we have the best music scene in the country. And just as Steve Pryor never put his guitar down, I'm never putting Tulsa music down.

In other words, I'm going to keep searching, keep listening.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Eldergrow's 'Happiest and Healthiest Garden' Award Presented to Residents of Montereau's The Abbey

Residents in The Abbey, Montereau's assisted living memory care neighborhood, were presented with the "Happiest and Healthiest Garden" Award from Eldergrow in November.

This honor is given on a monthly basis to the garden that is considered the most attractive and well-maintained. Montereau was selected from among 125 gardens across the United States and is honored to receive this distinction. The award was presentation by Kayla Kamp of Eldergrow.

"Eldergrow" is a national therapy program that supplies the structure, plants, supplies and scheduled interactive educational sessions that focus on "gardening with a purpose." This evidence-based therapeutic horticulture program provides numerous benefits, including improving self-esteem, motor skills and sleep.

This indoor garden has been a popular attraction since it was donated to Montereau's memory care center, known as The Abbey, by The Meyberg family in 2018. It is one of only two such programs in the state.

Currently, it is overflowing with vibrant flowers and herbs. The addition of this therapy garden was a natural fit for caring residents and provides a way for caregivers and residents to take part in a beneficial and interactive activity.

Horticulture classes are provided every two weeks with hands-on activities that center around the garden. The awards presentation event featured an activity during which residents prepared refreshments that were served during the reception.

Montereau, nationally known as a premier retirement community, is located at 6800 S. Granite Ave. in Tulsa.



Courtesy photo

SUCCESSFUL GARDNERS: Montereau residents display part of their award-winning garden at The Abbey, Assisted Living Memory Care at Montereau.

United Healthcare, Hillcrest HealthCare System Work Together to Improve Quality and Health

UnitedHealthcare is introducing Charter, a new health benefits plan that gives Tulsa-area employers and their employees access to care provided by Hillcrest HealthCare System, a high-performance network of eight hospitals and more than 80 primary care and special-

ty clinics designed to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care.

Keeping members healthier in a proactive manner is the focus of the Charter plan, where preventive care and the treatment of chronic conditions are encouraged.

Employers that choose the Charter plan have access to Hillcrest HealthCare System's affiliated network of high-quality physicians, specialists and hospital partners. Members who are covered by the plan will select a primary care physician, who will take the lead in managing all aspects of their care, including coordinating specialty treatment.

All Hillcrest HealthCare System physicians are connected to each other and to patients through an electronic medical records system that fully integrates health care delivery across the Hillcrest network of hospitals and clinics. This platform improves patient care coordination and increases patient convenience and access to providers.

Hillcrest offers an online patient portal that enables patients to easily access their medical records, view test results and communicate with their medical providers from their smartphone or computer. Patients can also schedule appointments online.

"We look forward to working collaboratively with Hillcrest HealthCare System to provide employers and their employees access to affordable and efficient high-quality health care. Employers that currently offer UnitedHealthcare Charter plans to their

employees have saved an average of 15 to 18 percent in their health care costs," said Scott Flannery, CEO, UnitedHealthcare of North Texas and Oklahoma.

"Hillcrest HealthCare System has a long history of working with UnitedHealthcare, and the Charter plan will enable us to provide an enhanced level of coordinated care for even more patients," said CEO Kevin Gross. "The new Charter health plan will improve our patients' ability to live healthier lives while providing them exceptional care."

UnitedHealthcare began quoting the plan to employers of all sizes on Nov. 1, with the plan effective date beginning Dec. 1.

About Hillcrest HealthCare System

In 1918, Hillcrest opened its doors to provide hope, health and healing to our community in a small hospital located in the heart of the city.

Today, Hillcrest HealthCare System (HHS) is comprised of eight hospitals including Hillcrest Medical Center, Hillcrest Hospital South and Tulsa Spine & Specialty Hospital in Tulsa, as well as five regional hospitals, Hillcrest Hospital Claremore, Hillcrest Hospital Cushing, Hillcrest Hospital Henryetta, Hillcrest Hospital

Pryor and Bailey Medical Center in Owasso.

Hillcrest HealthCare System also provides comprehensive primary and specialty care services through Utica Park Clinic and Oklahoma Heart Institute. To learn more, visit hillcrest.com.

About UnitedHealthcare

UnitedHealthcare is dedicated to helping people live healthier lives and making the health system work better for everyone by simplifying the health care experience, meeting consumer health and wellness needs, and sustaining trusted relationships with care providers.

In the United States, UnitedHealthcare offers the full spectrum of health benefit programs for individuals, employers, and Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, and contracts directly with over 1.3 million physicians and care professionals, and more than 6,000 hospitals and other care facilities nationwide.

The company also provides health benefits and delivers care to people through owned and operated health care facilities in South America. UnitedHealthcare is one of the businesses of UnitedHealth Group, a diversified health care company. For more information, visit UnitedHealthcare at www.uhc.com or follow @UHC on Twitter.

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CTCA DEMONSTRATES ROBOTIC SURGICAL SYSTEM



ROBOTIC EDUCATION: Students from Union High School gather around Dr. Peter Baik of Cancer Treatment Center of America in Tulsa for a Da Vinci Xi robotic demonstration with the game operation.

The da Vinci Surgical System is a robotic system made by the American company Intuitive Surgical. Approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2000, it is designed to facilitate surgery using a minimally invasive approach, and is controlled by a surgeon from a console. The system is

used for prostatectomies, and increasingly for cardiac valve repair and gynecologic surgical procedures.

According to the manufacturer, the da Vinci System is called “da Vinci” in part because Leonardo da Vinci’s “study of human anatomy eventually led to the design of the first known robot in history.”

Da Vinci Surgical Systems were used in an estimated 200,000 surgeries in 2012, most commonly for hysterectomies and prostate removals.



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EDUCATION

Riverfield School Celebrates Its 35th Year

Riverfield Country Day School was founded in 1984 by Marty Clark and a small but dedicated group of faculty and families. Over the last 35 years, RCDS has grown in size and reputation while staying true to its core values of providing an excellent education in a caring and creative environment.

There has been amazing growth since Riverfield first opened its doors.

Its first location was an old post office building in Brookside. The campus now sits on 120 wooded acres in West Tulsa at 2433 W. 61st St.

The school began with 40 Pre-School – 2nd graders. It now serves 630 students from infants through 12th grade.

For many years, Riverfield was known as “Tulsa’s best-kept secret.” Today, its programs and educational philosophy are benchmarks for other schools locally, nationally, and internationally.

While many things have evolved, the essence of the school remains the same. Riverfield’s hallmark continues to be its commitment to a family-oriented atmosphere. The unique campus environment serves as a resource for learning at all ages. The “Birthday Song” is still sung at Friday’s Round-Up assembly. Every November,



BREAKING GROUND: Riverfield School founders Tom and Marty Clark break ground for the west campus that opened in 1991.

the strong sense of community is felt as families celebrate their students’ learning at Visiting Day. In the spring, every 8th grader gives a well-honed speech as part of Closing Exercises and the Upper School Head shares fond and often humorous individual memories of each 12th grader during Commencement.

This 35th year has started strong for the Riverfield Ravens. The Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) approved its reaccreditation, commending the school’s student-centered culture and its exceptional strategies for teaching and learning. The Run for Riverfield fall fundraiser had

its best year ever. Momentum is growing for the iNSPiRED Campaign to build a Center for Creativity and expand the Clark Gymnasium, with construction funding well underway.

Head of School Jerry Bates, who succeeded Clark in 2012, is proud to be leading RCDS during this exciting time in the school’s history. “It is a great time to be a Raven! Riverfield continues to provide quality education throughout a student’s school experience. That’s ‘The Riverfield Way.’”

For more information about Riverfield’s history, curriculum and iNSPiRED Campaign, visit www.riverfield.org.



HEAD OF SCHOOL WITH STUDENTS: Riverfield Head of School Jerry Bates with Riverfield students. Riverfield has classes for students ranging from infants to 12th grade.



BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS: This aerial view shows the beautiful setting of the Riverfield campus in the rolling hills of West Tulsa.

ORU Dedicates Two Facilities for Nursing, Education

In two recent ceremonies, Oral Roberts University officials and friends cut ribbons to open the university’s two newest educational facilities, the Nursing and Engineering Complex and the Stovall Center for Entrepreneurship.

The Nursing and Engineering Complex becomes the new, expanded home of two programs: the Anna Vaughn College of Nursing and the ORU School of Engineering.

Also dedicated was the Stovall

Center for Entrepreneurship, named in honor of Tulsa entrepreneurs and ORU alumni Jim and Crystal Stovall, who contributed \$1 million along with a \$500,000 matching grant toward the state-of-the-art innovation hub that will

allow ORU to attract and retain students with exceptional abilities to create new business concepts, start-up incubators, accelerators, and launchpads, among many other initiatives.

The Stovall Center for Entre-

preneurship resides within the ORU College of Business and is housed within the larger Nursing and Engineering Complex building.

Also housed in the new location will be an advanced facility for the ORU Golf program.

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Tulsa Tech Sports Medicine Program Graduate Makes Big League Home Run Career Path

Trading in the classroom for the training room, Amanda Lee is making her own path. The Tulsa Tech sports medicine program graduate, is now making history. Lee is the first female athletic trainer for the Seattle Mariners organization.

“When I first found out I literally had goosebumps,” Lee said “It was not something I intended on doing, making history. I literally just wanted to work in baseball so getting a fulltime position was enough for me.”

Tulsa Tech offers a complete field of study in sports medicine and therapy professions inside the Health Science Center on the Lemley Memorial Campus. The program allows students to learn how to recognize injuries, help with rehab and create exercise plans. The course is taught in the classroom along with hands-on clinicals and internships alongside professionals. Ironically, an injury in high school is what guided Lee to the field of athletic training.

“I got hurt my junior year in high school,” Lee said. “I knew I wanted to work in the health care field, I just didn’t know exactly

with what. I think my injury led to me being here.”

Lee talked with students about her path to the Everett AquaSox, the short-season Class A affiliate of the Mariners. She encouraged them to take advantage of the internship programs and clinical rotations that are a part of the training program at Tulsa Tech.

“It helped me get connections, I worked with the Tulsa 66ers, who were the D-League team for the Oklahoma City Thunder,” Lee said. “Their athletic trainer is somebody I still talk to. Now, he is the assistant trainer for the Oklahoma City Thunder.”

Living up to one of our core values at Tulsa Tech of “High Expectations”, Lee is setting even lofty goals for herself. She took time out of her schedule to talk with students in the sports medicine program and hopes to continue to inspire others in the process.

“I don’t really like the attention but if I can inspire just one person that is all I need,” Lee said. “If I can reach just one person and tell them just reach toward your goals, nothing can stop you if you are determined.”

A recent study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows inter-



Photo by Vanessa Azier/Tulsa Tech

SEATTLE MARINERS TRAINER: Tulsa Tech Graduate Amanda Lee hit a home run as the first female trainer for the Seattle Mariners Baseball team.

est in the physical therapy field has been growing steadily over the past decade. The same study also found that over the next decade the number of athletic training jobs could grow by nearly 20 percent. That alone is much faster than the anticipated demand for many other occupations. The increase in demand is directly tied to an increase in awareness of sports-related injuries and an aging population. The latest census update showed nearly 1 in 5 Oklahomans is over the age of 65. With the aging population, opportunities to help people after an injury are abundant.

“Athletic trainers work any and everywhere. There are athletic trainers that work in physical therapy clinics, in high schools... which is something that is booming these last few years,” Lee said. “Athletic trainers work everywhere, even at Disney theme parks.”

The program is open to high school seniors throughout Tulsa County, and all high school programs at Tulsa Tech are tuition-free. So if you have a passion for helping others, or are just looking for a way to stay in the game, Lee says there is no better way than becoming an athletic trainer.

“Tulsa Tech did such a good job, we learned so much,” Lee said. “My first year of college was so easy, it was just one big review. It was pretty much a big overview, leading into my sophomore and one class my junior year was all stuff I had learned here at Tulsa Tech.”

If you’re currently looking for exciting classes for high school and adult students, quality corporate training, or a challenging new career, Tulsa Tech invites you to visit today. For more information, please call 918-828-5000 or visit us online at tulsatech.edu.



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MAKE YOUR OWN PATH



BEEF Awards Grants to Bixby Teachers

Every year the Bixby Educational Endowment Foundation (BEEF) awards teacher grants to Bixby's teachers, following their mission to support innovative educational programs to stimulate thought and expand the existing curriculum. This school year, BEEF funded over \$68,000 in teacher grants to Bixby's teachers across all school campuses. Grants were awarded via BEEF's "Grant Patrol" in November with BEEF board members, Superintendent Rob Miller, and Assistant Superintendent Lydia Wilson honoring teachers in their classrooms with an oversized check, a Payday candy bar, and the money to bring their grant to life!

Since its inception, BEEF has awarded more than \$1.8 million in teacher grants and scholarships thanks to donations from Bixby's community businesses and citizens through its annual Century Club campaign.

Donations to help provide future grants to promote excellence in learning across all of Bixby's schools can be made online at tinyurl.com/bixbyBEEF, or for information on how to mail a donation and to see BEEF 2019 Teacher Grant Recipients, visit bixbyps.org/beef-foundation.



BIXBY NORTHEAST ELEMENTARY: Happy with their grant at Northeast Elementary are, from left, Pre-K teachers Lori Cole, Kayte Weinacht and Rachel Cavin with their grant "Go Go Dendrites!"



BIXBY CENTRAL ELEMENTARY: All smiles at Bixby Central Elementary are, from left, back rows, BEEF member Christy Taylor; Kindergarten teachers Wendye Coupe, Emily Long, Rhonda McCracken, Julie Lacy, Alison Beach, Katie Gallamore, and Breanne Cooper and BCE Principal Leslie Haynes. (Front row from left are BEEF member Anna Coffman, Superintendent Rob Miller and BEEF President Terri Paxton.

Wealaka Chapter Celebrates 10th Year

Wealaka Chapter of National Society Daughters of the American Revolution recently held their 10th Anniversary Celebration.

As part of the program, the ladies continued to honor local volunteers and students who demonstrate good citizenship.

The Community Service Award is given to individuals who are

outstanding volunteers in their community. This year's award went to Loyd Means who volunteers (in his Revolutionary War uniform) each month at the Naturalization Ceremonies held by the U. S. District Court.

The new citizens are anxious to have their picture taken with "George Washington," and Means poses until the last new, smiling citizen's picture is snapped. He is also a regular part of the Tulsa SAR Color Guard.

Also honored at the celebration was Kami Fryer of Bixby High School, who was named DAR Good Citizen. Fryer was chosen by her faculty and administration for her dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. Congratulations to the two award winners and congratulations to Wealaka Chapter for ten years of service to America.



Courtesy Wealaka Chapter
GOOD CITIZEN AWARD: Kami Fryer received the DAR Good Citizen Award presented by Kathy Duffy and Carolyn Thornton.



Courtesy Wealaka Chapter
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD: Loyd Means being presented the DAR Community Service Award by Carolyn Thornton.

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NOT YOUR MAMA'S CRAFT SHOW: The fifth annual "Not Your Mama's Craft Show," was hosted by the show's founder Joely Flegler to raise funds for Bixby Schools libraries, was another success. From left at the event are Karen Triska with Triska Pottery, show founder Joely Flegler and Bixby mom of three, Bixby mom Sandra Epperly, and Jenna Epperly, an eighth grade student at Bixby Middle School. It was a beautiful day raising money for Bixby libraries!



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BIXBY SPORTS

Spartan Standouts Take Their Baseball Careers To the Next Level at Top-Teir D-1 Programs

Jaxson Crull and Braden Harris Sign to Play at Oklahoma State, Wichita State

By MIKE MOGUIN
GTR Sports Writer

A pair of Bixby standouts will be taking their baseball careers to some perennial powerhouses. Centerfielder Jaxson Crull and pitcher Braden Harris signed with Oklahoma State and Wichita State, respectively, on Nov. 13. Crull knew since childhood that he would take to the diamond at Oklahoma State. He even took action at one time to make the push. "I was pretty much born an OSU Cowboy (his parents are OSU graduates)," Crull said. "It has been my dream school growing up. In the seventh grade, I

wrote on a piece of paper to play outfield for Oklahoma State University and I taped it on my door, so everyday I'd see it, and that became my goal." And he thrived on that goal, becoming a force for Bixby baseball by the time he was in high school. Now the dream has come to manifestation. Crull, who will be starting his fourth year for the Spartans next spring, said he had interests in other schools, but none were able to win him over. He had chosen Oklahoma State from the start. "It was pretty much a no-brainer," he said. "I committed on the spot." Crull believes his biggest tool is his speed and that's what coaches saw in him. "I'm one of the fastest runners, so I use that to my advantage and to style my game around that," Crull said. "I can bunt for a base hit and I can cover a lot of ground in the outfield. But I also have a little bit of sneaky power, so, I can pop one over every now and then, but I would say my speed is my biggest asset." Crull hopes to put on a few pounds and gain some muscle before he leaves for Stillwater next year. "I want to hit the weight room

hard," he said. "I want to help the defense out, I want to steal a lot of bases and be a guy that we can rely on, that can bunt in any situation, have a contact hit and just hit line drives whenever I need it." Johnson, a left-handed-pitcher who has started for the Spartans since his sophomore campaign, saw Wichita State as his best opportunity. "They put on the table that I have a really good chance of starting my freshman year and getting playing time and helping the team out," he said. "That's really what I was looking for, to help the team going in my freshman year." Harris chose Wichita State over Missouri State, Washburn and others. His potential is what he believes attracted the attention of Shocker coaches. "I'm just so undeveloped right now," Harris said. "But I'm still at a high level that they can project me to be an even better version of what I am right now." Harris is hopeful to be starting on the mound for the Kansas school as well as "toning up some mechanics and getting into the mid-90s for my fastball," he said.



Courtesy Bixby High School Athletic Department
COLLEGE BOUND: Bixby baseball players Braden Harris and Jaxson Crull celebrate after signing letters of intent with Wichita State and Oklahoma State, respectively, on Nov. 13.

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SPORTS

Amazing Phil Angieri Finishes 50th Coaching Year

*Now an Assistant at Tahlequah,
B.A. Resident Has Coached at
Bishop Kelley and Broken Arrow*

BY TERRELL LESTER
Editor at Large

Call it destiny. Call it kismet. Call it providence.

By any other name, Phil Angieri's career choice surely was preordained.

There might have been other choices. Life is full of choices.

But for Phil Angieri, there was but one choice. One singular, clear-cut choice.

He was going to be a coach.

It has turned out to be a transformative decision.

Phil Angieri is a football lifer.

More than 75 percent of his life has been spent coaching high school football.

He recently finished his 50th full season.

And before that, way back in the decade of the Sixties, there were his All-State playing days at Tulsa Nathan Hale and his foundation-defining years on the Northeastern State University football team.

Now, at the age of 72, he has been a part ... a significant part ... of some 58 football seasons.

He commands a position of rank within the coaching fraternity of eastern Oklahoma.

He has played for and studied under coaching icons.

He is respected for his immeasurable comprehension of the game of football.

He has guided All-State careers and coached in All-State Games.

He has been head coach, coordinator, position coach, always dependable, always disciplined

He is approachable, convivial, good-natured, a cornerstone of confidence, a mainspring of conviction.

For the last 13 seasons, he has been on the football staff at Sequoyah in Tahlequah, where he also teaches classroom courses in U.S. History and Criminal Justice.

From his home in Broken Arrow, Angieri makes the 60-minute drive daily, deliberately. "I'm a 65-mile-per-hour guy," he says with a smile.

Still, on the football field, Angieri is pedal-to-the-metal. He is in charge of linebackers for current head coach Shane Richardson.

He is the voice, the personification of experience. He pushes players to achieve and exceed. He coaxes and cajoles, demonstrates and dictates.

He is the extension of coaches past. A reminder of a time when discipline was valued, when probity was prized.

He continues to follow the commandments espoused by the coaches of his youth.

There is a palpable sense of passion in Angieri's voice, in Angieri's body language, as he discusses football and football coaching.

The sport has been a part of his life since childhood.

The teaching of the sport has defined his adulthood.

"I love the game," he said recently, sitting in his Broken Arrow home he shares with his wife of 42 years, Joyce.

"I just couldn't live without football," he said.

Angieri doesn't dabble in a lot of hobbies. Football is both avocation and vocation.

Regular visits to a commercial workout center and maintaining the 3½ acres surrounding his home combine to keep Angieri in splendid physical condition.

He looks to be in his prime.

He certainly does not feel the effects, he says, of 50 football seasons, nor even 72 birthdays.

He might credit football and coaching for his longevity.

He was able to live his football dreams. Able to turn those childhood aspirations into adulthood reality.

But before football there was another dream, albeit short and transient.

His father, the son of an Italian immigrant, was a professional prizefighter who called New York City home.

During a 1947 ring appearance in California, his wife, who had accompanied him on the road, gave birth to Phil. In just days after the bout, the Angieris returned to New York.

The elder Angieri, now with a family taking shape, hung up his gloves in favor of a more refined occupation, one with American Airlines.

As the decade of the Fifties dawned, the elder Angieri accepted a move with the company to its new home in Tulsa.

It was there that young Phil was introduced to football, while still being groomed to follow his father into the ring.

Phil learned the mechanics of boxing from his father and honed those skills in gyms and athletic clubs around town.

Football also was showing up on the Angieri radar at that time and the youngster was absorbing and embracing the value of discipline and hard work.

Perhaps due to his father's influence, young Phil was proving to be a pretty good fighter. He won a pair of tournament championships in his age group.

A year or so into his teens, he was feeling good about himself. Confident. Poised. His father was feeling equally confident.

His father entered him in an open tournament in Jenks. Phil was 14. His first opponent was considerably older, considerably more experienced. Perhaps even tougher.

"He hits me in the head. I lose my mouthpiece, I bite my tongue," Angieri recalled without a hint of fondness.

"I went down."

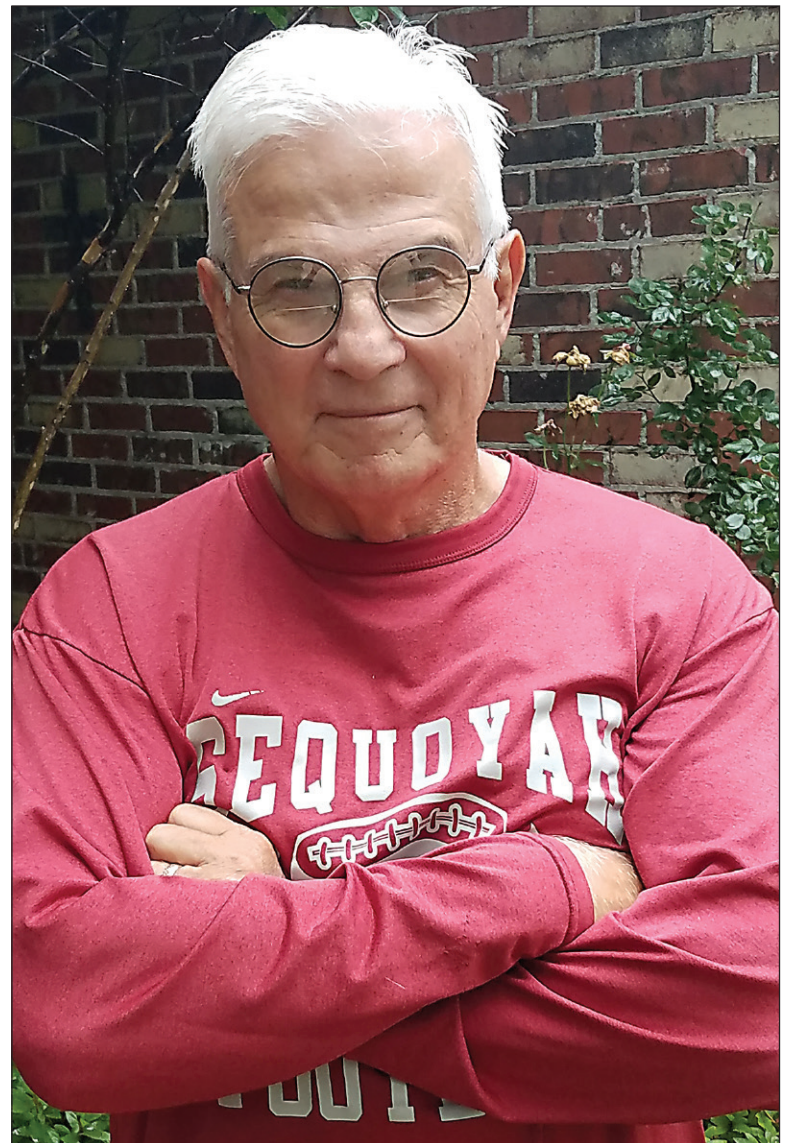
His boxing hopes went down at the same time.

"My mother cussed my dad all the way home. And we hit every stop light," Angieri said.

"I haven't pulled gloves on since then."

Angieri turned his focus toward the Bell Junior High football team.

He would be a natural. Already,



TERRELL LESTER for GTR Newspapers

FOOTBALL LIFER: Phil Angieri, who has spent the last 13 seasons on the coaching staff at Tahlequa Sequoyah, recently competed his 50th season of coaching high school football. Angieri's career began at Bishop Kelley in 1970, and includes a 22-year stint at Broken Arrow.

he was tough. He was aggressive. He did not, would not shy away from contact.

Plus, there was an additional bonus. His mother liked football.

And his father never missed a practice.

The junior high program was at its peak, producing future all-stars and undefeated seasons. Arriving at Nathan Hale in 1962, Angieri was on track to football stardom.

It began, he said, with the coaching staff, complemented by an array of gifted playing talent.

Head Coach H.J. Green had a staff that included future head coaches Larry Miller and Ron Lancaster and former University of Tulsa standout Max Letterman.

"I've never seen athletes like we had there," Angieri said.

The coaches also were memorable, he added.

"They were the toughest, the meanest coaches in my life," he said. "They all wanted to be meaner than the others."

"They were also the most disciplined coaches I've known. I'd never seen discipline like that."

Angieri soaked up the entire atmosphere. He earned a starting role as a sophomore, playing linebacker and offensive guard. He listened to his coaches, watched their every move.

"I loved those guys," he said.

"H.J. Green may have been one of the best coaches I've ever been around. He was like God. I never wanted to disappoint him. You never wanted to get in trouble."

Angieri earned All-State honors in 1964 and played in the 1965 Oil Bowl before accepting a scholarship to Northeastern State from

(Continued on page 16)

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Victory Christian Wins State Volleyball Crown

By MIKE MOGUIN
GTR Sports Writer

Togetherness and unity played a big role for Victory Christian in winning a state championship for the third straight year. This one was more special because the Lady Conquerors accomplished the feat with an outstanding senior class.

"I've known some of these girls for years," said senior middle blocker Jaxie Wakley. "So it was real cool to go through that experience with each other and watch as we grew together in the way we played."

Wakley and libero teammate Katie Pennell were two of five seniors on this year's squad.

Victory won the Class 5A finals match with a sweep of Bishop Kelley, 25-23, 25-14 and 25-13. The program also won the 5A title before winning in 4A last year. "In the first set it was pretty close," Pennell said.

"We were kind of tight," Wakley said.

"I think we realized after the first set that, 'Hey, if we're good enough to do this, we're good enough to do it again,'" Pennell said. "We didn't play well in the first set, but we finally just calmed down and played our game the way we should."

"It just felt like it was such an honor to be able to go out there and prove ourselves that we did deserve to be there and that we worked hard for it and it has shown," Wakley said. "It was really just a great experience and we were able to do it," Wakley said.

Pennell said the team felt like they had a target on their backs having state titles from the previous two seasons, "So it was really

great to prove ourselves one more time," she said.

Victory Christian finished the season at 34-2.

"Everyone did what they were supposed to," Wakley said. "They all worked hard. We all came together."

"I think there were a couple of rough patches throughout the whole season, but we really pulled it together," Pennell said.

"We didn't let our bad games continue on to the next," Wakley said.

The girls hope they have set a legacy for Victory volleyball in the years to come.

"I really think so (leaving a legacy) because our sophomore year when we won that first championship. We were not expected to win," Pennell said.

"We played the third-ranked team, then the second-ranked team and then the first ranked team," Wakley said. "So it was really special to be a part of it and through the years, seeing the girls look up to you. The underclassmen, you can really see them like watching you, admiring you, and you could see they wanted to do that, so they worked hard. It was really special to see how they grow with it and realize that their willingness to do it. It's really an incredible opportunity to set the standard for the upcoming classes."

Private School Quick Hits

Victory athletes sign with OSU and ORU

Wakley recently signed a letter of intent to take her volleyball career right across the street to Oral Roberts University, while girls basketball player Ruth Udoumoh will take her hardwood skills to Oklahoma State next year. Both



Courtesy Victory Christian athletic department

CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM: Victory Christian volleyball players celebrate their 2019 5A volleyball championship.

athletes signed with their respective schools on Nov. 13.

Bishop Kelley wins Class 5A girls team and individual cross country championships

Sophomore Ella Eureste and her teammates were champions for the second consecutive year as the Lady Comets swept the individual and team titles at the Class 5A girls state meet back on Nov. 2 in Edmond. Eureste was the top individual medalist with a time of 19:15.66. Junior teammate Abigail Hills was third with a time

of 19:33.27. Kelley won the team championship for a third straight year with 25 points. The rest of the Kelley runners also placed in the top 10. Sara Crosley took fifth (19:59.92), Katherine Bishop was sixth (20:02.06) and Alexandria Borovich (20:24.21) was 10th.

Lincoln Christian sweeps 4A cross country championships

Lincoln Christian captured the boys and girls team championships at the Class 4A state meet Oct. 26 in Shawnee. It won the girls' title with 67 points and the

boys' with 75. Nate Gibson was the highest placer on the boys' side, finishing runner-up with a time of 16:17.70. Other Eagles who ran were Andrew Smithwick (fifth, 17:02.99), Josiah Antis (13th, 17:30.11) and Jon Beirsdorfer (20th, 17:37.47). Addie Brooks placed third for the Lady Eagles, running a time of 12:18.57. Other Lincoln runners were Jaylen Riley (ninth, 12:46.41), Isabella Murphy (19th, 13:16.36), Lucy George (13:47.79) and Jaide Meerholz (14:30.15).

WATCH

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

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Great Career Continues for Phil Angieri

SPORTS

(Continued from page 14)
Coach Tracy Norwood.
While playing on four straight conference championship teams at NSU, Angieri began to see that coaching would be his future.
“We had unbelievable talent and great coaches,” he said.
Upon graduation, he landed at

Bishop Kelley in 1970 as an assistant on the staff of Coach Chuck Dreas.
Gaining that sideline experience while on Dreas’ staff at Kelley, Angieri was elevated to the top spot in 1973 when Dreas departed.
Angieri was in his mid-20s, but said he considered himself primed for the new level of responsibilities. He had been groomed by some of the best, he said. Additionally, he had been Kelley’s head

wrestling coach for two seasons.
He took Kelley to the playoffs in each of his two seasons, but in 1975, he moved on to Broken Arrow, where he had lived since graduating NSU.
“I always wanted to be at Broken Arrow,” he said. “I love Broken Arrow.”
Angieri remained for 22 seasons, the final four as head coach. He left with a record of 24-19, having reached the Class 6A playoffs three times.

His reputation quickly repositioned Angieri in Catoosa in 1998. But he never moved from his home in Broken Arrow.

He held a number of positions in Catoosa, from assistant coach to head coach to director of athletics. He posted a record of 35-25 with three Class 4A playoff trips.

Following the 2004 season, Angieri encountered a crossroads. His love of football, of coaching, was still aflame. But then came an option.

He was offered a position outside coaching. His background as a Military Police Officer in the National Guard and his classroom teachings of criminal justice caught the attention of the prison operator Corrections Corporation of America.

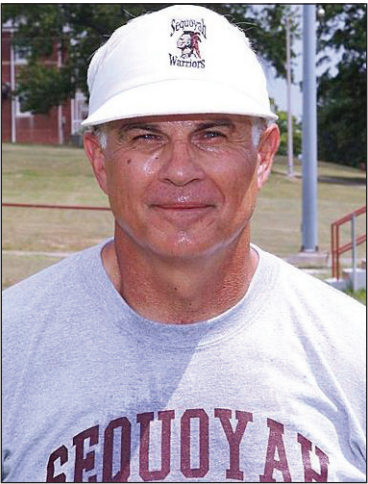
He accepted a posting within the Tulsa County Jail, teaching inmates as they sought to fulfill GED requirements.

He also was given the added assignment of SWAT Team Commander.

“The money was unbelievable. The money was rude. Twice what I ever made in schools,” he said.

Within a few weeks on the job, Angieri found out what the money was all about.

Inmates were rioting within the



PHIL ANGIERI

Courtesy photo

rienced and respected football coaches, that is not a big concern.

Within days of leaving the field of law enforcement, Angieri answered a call from a friend and mentor.

Bill Scott, Hall of Fame football coach, had just joined his son, Brent, at Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah. Brent, head coach, was filling out his staff. He and his father had Angieri at the top of their combined list.

Angieri and the elder Scott enjoyed a relationship that stretched back years. Long ago, Angieri picked up keys to Scott’s Wing-T offense and initiated several of the techniques that accompanied it.

Signing on at Sequoyah was quick and easy, Angieri said. He returned briefly to the wrestling room as head coach and has been teaching U.S. History and criminal justice while imparting his knowledge of football to a new generation of youngsters.

“Sequoyah is very fortunate to have Coach Angieri as a positive role model while he walks the halls, teaches in the classroom, and walks the sideline on game night,” Sequoyah Superintendent Leroy Qualls said.

Angieri has not lost his thirst for football knowledge. That was ingrained in him more than a half-century ago.

“I’ve been blessed with being around good coaches, good Christian coaches,” Angieri said.

“If I had it all to do over again, I’d do the same thing. I love football. I look forward to football season, every football season, and I like the things that we do to get ready for the football season.”

Football and Phil Angieri have been an unbeatable combination for a half-century.

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Former Tulsa Tribune Building is on National Register

Editor's Note: Author Roger Cole Coffey, AIA, received his architecture degree from Oklahoma State University and was a partner with Olsen Coffey Architects in Tulsa for 38 years. He is a founding member of the Tulsa Foundation for Architecture and past president of the Eastern Oklahoma chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He has been writing the On Architecture column for several years, and his past columns can be seen on the GTR website at www.gtrnews.com.

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

For 77 years, Tulsa had an evening newspaper called the Tulsa Tribune. I always had a strong affinity for the Tribune, probably because I spent my after school high school years folding and throwing Tribune papers for my 132 customers.

My delivery was by bicycle except on really cold days. Then I was allowed to use my parent's 1952 stick shift Plymouth. My customers expected and demanded front porch paper placement. I promised my dad that my carrier (newspaper boy) earnings would go to my college savings account.

As his part of the bargain, he pro-

vided me with an allowance and spending money.

The Tulsa Tribune began operation in 1920. The editor and publisher, Richard Lloyd Jones, a cousin of Frank Lloyd Wright was responsible for the only Frank Lloyd Wright project, his residence, Westhope, in Tulsa.

The Tribune built an imposing six-story building at 20 East Archer Street in 1924, which was originally the southwest corner of Boston Avenue and Archer Street. Two floors were dedicated to massive printing presses and other related equipment. The others provided space for staff bullpens and offices.

Faced in red brick, the exterior is accented with warm beige limestone trim. A series of tall brick arches with scrolled stone keystones define the first two floors.

Eight arches face Archer on the north. Four arches complete the east façade. Between arches is a brick pilaster with a stone Ionic scroll capital and base.

Centered at the north elevation is the main entrance framed with Ionic stone columns supporting a



GTR Media Group photo

HISTORIC ENTRANCE: The entrance to the Tribune building on Archer is highlighted with the TRIBUNE letters above the doors.



GTR Media Group photo

NEWSPAPER HEADQUARTERS: The Tulsa Tribune opened this building in 1924 to house Tulsa's evening newspaper headquarters. In 1941 the Tribune entered into a joint operating agreement with the morning Tulsa World and the two companies established the Newspaper Printing Corporation. With the agreement, the Tribune moved its operation to the Tulsa World headquarters in downtown Tulsa. The Tribune ceased operations in 1997.

stone architrave with intaglio letters indicating "Tribune." Above the architrave is a projecting steel canopy providing weather shelter for staff and visitors.

Glazing within the arches is accomplished with glass set in steel framing. A transition spandrel separating the floors creates handsome half-round windows for the second floor.

Above the arches is a heavy limestone band with dentil molding and round medallions. This

is surmounted with four floors of paired double hung steel windows with limestone sills.

Stone-facing beginning immediately below window pairs sets the top floor apart from the rest of the building. Above the sixth floor window heads is a very massive projecting limestone cornice with more dentil molding. A high mechanical penthouse projects above the roof in a central location.

Sadly, the Tribune published its

final edition in 1997. In the early 2000s, the American Residential Group, under the leadership of Steve Ganzkow, succeeded in getting the former Tribune Building, which was in near derelict condition, listed on the National Register. Soon afterwards the building was converted to urban lofts and dwelling spaces, one of the first historic building rehab projects in Tulsa as our city slowly began developing new downtown living spaces.



GTR Media Group photo

RHYTHM AND BREWS: Tomilyn Siegerist, left, and Tina Miller of the Rotary Club of Tulsa welcomed guests to Tulsa's Gathering Place in November for the VIP brunch called Rhythm & Brews at the ONEOK Boathouse that kicked-off the Gathering Place's Beer and Wine Festival. This event funded the Rotary Club of Tulsa Foundation which helps with numerous projects in Tulsa.



Courtesy photo

BMX GROUNDBREAKING: Mayor G.T. Bynum, Councilor Vanessa Hall-Harper and USA BMX celebrated the groundbreaking of USA BMX's national headquarters and arena in the Historic Greenwood District. Funded by voters through their approval of Vision Tulsa in 2016, the City will construct a new National Headquarters, Hall of Fame Museum and the Hardesty National Track Stadium containing both an Olympic-caliber and Amateur Track. Once complete, USA BMX – currently located in Gilbert, Arizona – will formally make Tulsa its home by relocating its headquarters and Hall of Fame museum to the former Evans Fintube site.

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THE ECONOMY

Silhouette Sneakers & Art Wins 2019 OSU Riata Center Award on Demo Day

*Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation,
OSU Riata Center Host Event*

The Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation and the OSU Riata Center for Entrepreneurship for Demo Day hosted the final live pitch event of the Tulsa Start-Up Series season. The five winners of the 2019 bi-monthly pitch categories competed for a \$15,000 prize, along with a yearlong desk membership at 36 Degrees North, additional resources to launch their business and a dedicated yearlong mentor. The event was held Nov. 20 at the Tulsa Community College Thomas K. McKeon Center for Creativity.

The winner this year was the recently-opened Silhouette Sneakers & Art, based in the Greenwood District and offering a fresh, energetic, creative hub featuring limited edition sneakers, streetwear, art and more. The company, owned by Venita Cooper, took home the top prize in the 2019 Tulsa Start-Up Series Demo Day Finals, receiving \$15,000 of startup capital. Cooper presented her business pitch at the Tulsa Community College Center for Creativity to a judging panel that included Senior Policy Advisor of Entrepreneurship, Small Business and Economic Innovation for City of Tulsa Clay Holk, 36 Degrees North CEO Devon Laney, TEDC Creative Capital Executive Director Rose Washing-

ton, and Black upStart CEO Kezia Williams.

Cooper said, "I'm filled with gratitude to win the Demo Day Finals this year. Thank you to the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation, OSU's Riata Center for Entrepreneurship, the judges, and anyone else involved with the program. It's programs like this that make Tulsa's entrepreneurship landscape stand out from other cities. The \$2,500 from the Food & Retail round this summer was instrumental to the launch of Silhouette, and this \$15,000 prize will play a pivotal role in establishing us as a retail staple in Tulsa and in the broader sneaker marketplace by funding a modern, functional website that communicates our brand effectively."

In addition to the \$15,000 cash prize, Cooper received a year-long desk membership at 36 Degrees North, additional resources to launch her business, and a dedicated mentor who will be available to meet with the organization for a year. The other Demo Day finalists included Breach Management, My Buddy Towel, Kind Human and Strides. Strides, owned by Rachel Brown, captured second place, winning \$4,000 of startup capital. Third place was awarded to Kind Human, owned by Jennifer Mayor,

who received \$2,500.

Felizsta, owned by Jason and Lizette Corcoran, captured the Crowd Favorite award, competing against Black Women Business Owners of America, Hyperclean, MAC Intergenerational Program and Tropical Origins. Felizsta received \$1,500 of startup capital. The Crowd Favorite participants were set up in the room trade-show style, and pitched to audience members one-on-one during program breaks throughout the evening. Attendees then had the opportunity to cast their vote for their favorite.

"Demo Day Finals is a great night for our community to come together and celebrate entrepreneurship in Tulsa," said LTFF COO Meredith Peebles. "Tulsa StartUp Series exists to help decrease barriers for promising entrepreneurs by giving them an easy-entry platform to pitch their business ideas, and then receive feedback and connections to resources. Seeing Silhouette capture first place is a wonderful example of an entrepreneur who is working hard to build and scale an innovative company right here in Tulsa, and we're glad to play a part in that."

"It is such an honor to sponsor the Tulsa Startup Series. It's important for the Riata Center to



Courtesy Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation

WINNING COMPANY: Venita Cooper of Silhouette Sneakers and Art, fifth from left, is all smiles as the winning \$15,000 check is presented. With Cooper from left are David LeCount, Sarah Teague, Clay Holk, Kezia Williams, Rose Washington, Devon Laney and Meredith Peebles.

help foster entrepreneurship in the Tulsa community by giving people like Venita the opportunity to not only dream big, but equip them with the proper tools in order to make their ideas become a reality. We can't wait to see what the future holds for her and the other finalists," said Sarah Teague, Tulsa Manager for the Riata Center for Entrepreneurship.

Additional Demo Day finalists pitching live for the prize package included the following 2019 Tulsa StartUp Series bi-monthly category winners: Breach Management, by Geoffrey Simpson (Cyber Security Winner); My Buddy Towel, by Angelyn Myers (Physical Product Winner); Kind Hu-

man, by Jennifer Mayo (Social Enterprise Winner) - Kind Human is a platform that facilitates kindness in action; Strides, by Rachel Brown (Wild Card Winner).

There was also an additional "Crowd Favorite" award, featuring five additional businesses set up trade show-style in the room. They included:

- Black Women Business Owners of America, by Charity Marcus
- Felizsta, by Jason and Lizette Corcoran
- Hyperclean, by Marshall Hill
- MAC Intergenerational Program, by Sha'Ron McKnight
- Tropical Origins, by Fallon Dickson



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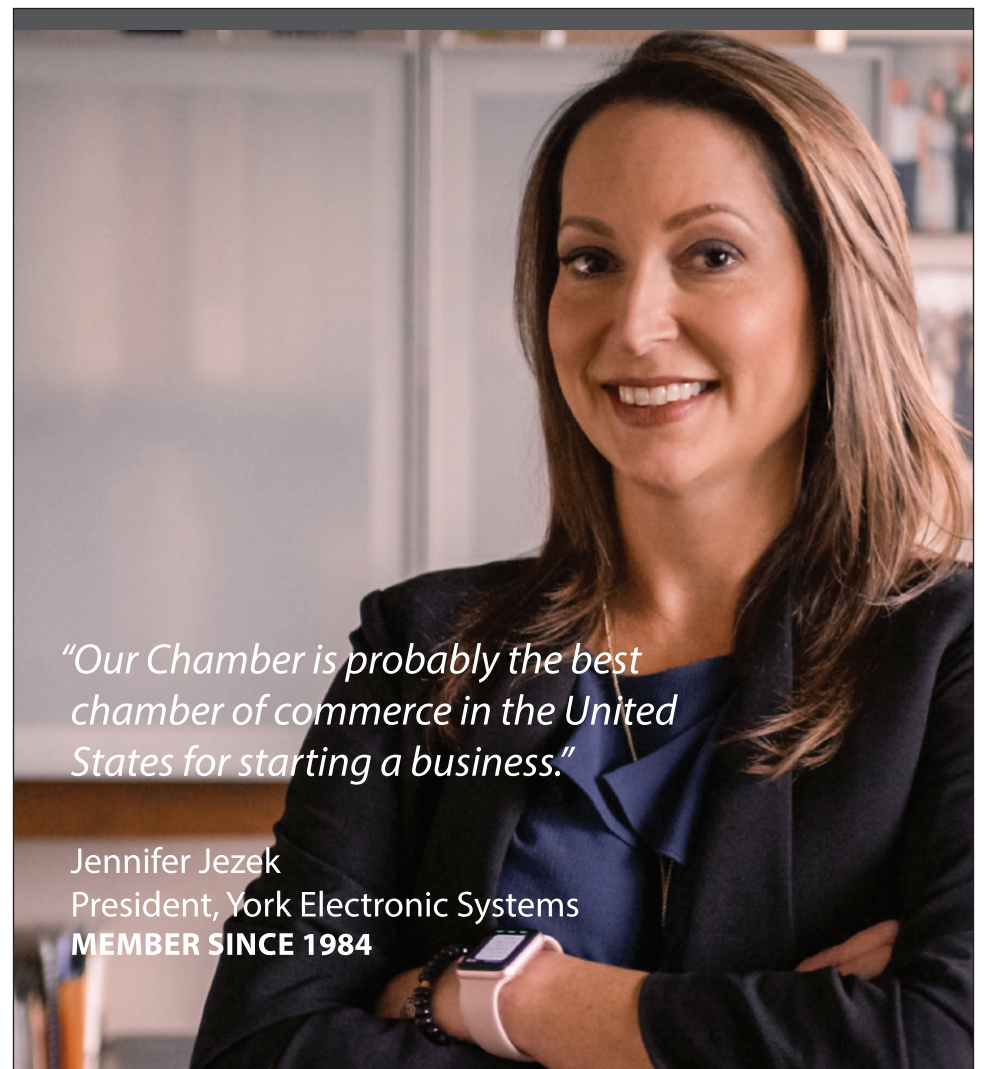
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Mexican Government Honors Tulsa Business Owner

The Mexican Consulate in Little Rock Arkansas, selected local business owner Francisco Ibarra as the recipient of the Ohtli Award.

The Ohtli Award, which derives its name from a Nahuatl word meaning "path" or "road" is the highest recognition granted by the government of Mexico to members of the Mexican community abroad who have dedicated time and resources to open doors for the Hispanic community and promote Mexican culture.

Ibarra, one of the owners of the Supermercados Morelos in Tulsa and Oklahoma City, was selected for his proven commitment to community improvement through the philanthropic initiatives and community outreach he has led.

"When one succeeds, everyone succeeds," are words spoken by Ibarra's father, that he has lived

by. His father taught him that when one tastes success, it is his responsibility to help others.

Thanks to the vision and values that Ibarra personifies, Supermercados Morelos has played a key role in supporting Mexican culture, as well as Hispanic students in Tulsa area schools, women as a family base, and as of 2019, good nutrition initiatives.

All of this underlies Ibarra's commitment to improve and contribute positively to Mexicans and other Hispanic people residing in the U.S. It is for that reason that on Nov. 20, Ibarra received the Ohtli Award.

The Ohtli Award has been presented to dignitaries, politicians, actors and community members since 1996.

Supermercados Morelos is located at S. 129th E. Ave. and E. 31st St. in Tulsa.



HIGHEST AWARD: Mexican consulate Rodolfo Quilantan, right, awards Francisco Ibarra of Supermercados Morelos with the Ohtli Award, the highest recognition granted by the Government of Mexico to members of the Mexican community abroad.

Courtesy photo

Tulsa Regional Chamber Earns Quality Honor

As part of its eighth annual Sharing of Best Practices Conference held on Nov. 6 in Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma Quality Foundation (OQF) honored the Tulsa Regional Chamber with its 2019 OQF Award for Commitment to Excellence.

The Award for Commitment to Excellence represents the third of five increasingly rigorous levels within the OQF framework, which

is based on the Malcolm Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence. The Chamber achieved level one in 2013 and level two in 2015.

"The Tulsa Regional Chamber is on a quality journey, and this honor represents the next step in that journey," said Justin McLaughlin, executive vice president and chief operating officer for the Chamber. "One of our organizational core values is

accountability, and participation in the OQF process is a primary means of holding ourselves accountable for continuous improvement."

The process began in May with submission of a 50-page application that detailed the Chamber's work in the areas of leadership, strategy, customers, information management, workforce and operations. In September, a team of

examiners visited the Chamber offices to interview staff and volunteers, and to see firsthand what was described in the application.

"The combination of the written application and the site visit allowed us to tell the story of our work in a three-dimensional way," said McLaughlin. "It also gave us numerous opportunities to really reflect on how far we've come in

terms of our processes and the results we generate."

The Baldrige framework has its roots back in the 1980s, when it was initially focused on helping manufacturers, such as automakers, improve their processes in order to be more globally competitive. Baldrige has since migrated into the health care, education, and more recently, non-profit sectors.

America's Energy: Planning for 2020 and Beyond



As stated in my book, America Needs America's Energy: Creating Together the People's Energy Plan, "Future generations are depending on us to keep the American dream alive.

For too long we in America have been wasting time blaming the energy industry or the government for failure to adopt a national energy strategy, when we should be responsible for creating the plan.

As consumers of energy, we must drive the process, evaluating how we can best leverage our natural resources here at home to ensure long-term energy independence and security. American citizens must take individual responsibility for the state of this great nation, striving to protect the land we call home."

The 24th Annual/Anniversary of Energy Policy Conference (IEPC) Roundtable/Summit was held Aug. 11, 2016, at the Renaissance Hotel in Tulsa. The roundtable was hosted by IEPC, The Energy

Advocates and the Master of Energy Program, University of Tulsa.

Roundtable participants included representatives of state and federal government, chamber of commerce, public relations firm, concerned citizens, various areas of the energy sector, professors, think-tanks, energy management students from across the U.S., and the media.

Several issues were discussed regarding energy issues and views.

Since that time, we have seen continued

dialogue regarding the ever-changing landscape of energy and other economic areas of interest.

The energy sector will need to form alliances with other economic sectors in 2020 and beyond.

One company, IngenuitE, is looking at ways to assist energy companies entering and maintaining digital transformation. They are able to provide consulting to energy companies.

Another company that is looking at changing the way things are handled in the real estate business today is KEVO Properties. KEVO, led by CEO Steve Burris, is also looking at ways to more efficiently incorporate innovation and application in the energy/real estate sectors. In 2020 he

plans to announce KEVO's plans. Stacey Huddleston, midwest sales director for Prestige Capital, has extensive national commercial finance experience throughout several industries including ener-

gy services and construction. Huddleston is looking at ways to assist energy companies.

Huddleston states, "Prestige Capital provides companies with the working capital they need to manage operations and payroll without interruption, take advantage of new sales opportunities, or simply pay obligations in a more timely manner. Businesses who don't qualify for traditional bank financing, or need quick funding, turn to Prestige Capital to support their cash flow needs by immediately turning unpaid invoices into cash. Products include: factoring, credit protection services, factors assurance program, and back office solutions."

Former President Dwight Eisenhower was the founder in 1956 of People to People International (PTPI). His great grandson, Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, is the current CEO of PTPI. He stated at a recent event at the University of Central Oklahoma, "We can all make a difference and together work toward solutions."

Energy is the future of America, and America Needs America's Energy.

Mark A. Stansberry is chairman of the GTD Group, an award-winning author and energy advocate. For more information about these companies and National Energy Talk, visit Facebook: National Energy Talk.



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

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Tulsa Zoo President and CEO Terrie Correll Sets Retirement Plans

Tulsa Zoo Management, Inc. has announced President and CEO Terrie Correll will retire next year. Correll will continue in her role while the TZMI board conducts a national search for her successor.

Correll joined the Tulsa Zoo in 2009 as zoo director and was named president and CEO in October 2011, helping to lead the zoo through its successful transition from municipal management to a public-private partnership between owner the City of Tulsa and the nonprofit TZMI.

"TZMI can boast tremendous progress under Terrie's leadership," says John Stava, TZMI board chairman. "She has taken the zoo from an underfunded city asset at risk of losing its AZA accreditation, to completion of the first phase of the master plan to completely rebuild the 90-plus-year-old facility. In only eight years, the zoo has completed Phase 1 of the master plan by delivering \$26 million in fully funded and completed improvements. Already, we have secured \$39 million toward the estimated \$62.7 million needed

to complete the second phase. The rest of the board and I are proud of her accomplishments: connecting, caring, advocating for wildlife, people and wild places."

The board has named a search committee, including long-term board members, and is in the process of selecting a national search firm. Correll has committed to remain president and CEO until the search is complete, which could continue through summer 2020.

Correll has more than four decades of zoo profession experience, fueling her passion for the critical role zoos play in a community as well as in the wider world of education and conservation. She credits her drive to save species to childhood trips to the San Diego Zoo. It was a behind the scenes tour of the Oklahoma City Zoo during her senior year of college at Oklahoma State University that led Correll to pursue a career as part of the zoo field.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to start the transformation of the zoo," Correll says.



GTR Media Group photo

TERRIE CORRELL

BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

Gateway First Bank of Jenks has announced that **Greg Wagner** is joining the company as retail banking executive. Wagner will be responsible for the strategic direction and leadership of all Retail Banking Centers as well as Gateway's Retail Consumer Banking product line, product delivery, and client experience.



WAGNER

In May of 2019, Gateway Mortgage Group merged with a 100-year-old community bank to create Gateway First Bank. For the first time in history, a mortgage company evolved to become a bank, combining the technology and service that made Gateway Mortgage successful with the strength, security and product breadth of a bank.

"Gateway is committed to a better way to bank," says Stephen Curry, chairman and CEO. "Greg is the kind of person who rolls up his sleeves to look at every aspect of the customer experience, including product design, technology utilized and quality of service provided. We are leading the way in financial services while remaining intensely focused on our founding principle that we will deliver on our commitment 'on time, every time.'"

Wagner brings with him more than 25 years of retail banking leadership with the last 10 years at BOK Financial as the senior vice president of consumer delivery. He has overseen consumer and small business results across delivery channels, including 125 banking centers in eight states, small business delivery team, and call center sales, secure message and chat. Throughout his career, Wagner has led over 200 banking centers in diverse metropolitan, suburban and rural communities. Wagner's specialty is leading high performing teams to deliver best-in-class results in employee engagement, client experience, unit profitability and operations management.

"I am delighted to be a part of Gateway First Bank," Wagner said. "There is an entrepreneurial spirit here and a culture that is focused on delivering a great experience for our employees, so they, in turn, will deliver a best-in-class experience for our clients."

Casey Tarp has served as the director of architecture for **Beck Design** since joining the firm six years ago.

In his new position as managing partner, Tarp has relocated to Central Oklahoma to lead Beck Design's Oklahoma City office. He will retain responsibility for the management of the firm's architectural projects and personnel with an emphasis on client relations.

Originally from the Oklahoma City area, Tarp is eager to renew his professional relationships and further his work there.

Tarp brings with him more than 32 years of experience in all phases of project design and delivery.

He holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Oklahoma with graduate studies at the University of Rhode Island. He is a member of the American Institute of Architects, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and is an accredited LEED professional. Casey is licensed in Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, New Jersey and New York.



TARP

Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors has hired **Elizabeth Ingraham** as a construction document supervisor.



INGRAHAM

"We are so excited to have Elizabeth join our team," said Sparks Reed co-founder and principal David Reed. "She is an amazing person with an outstanding work ethic and is very detail-oriented. I feel so blessed that she is on our team!"

Ingraham (pronounced Ingram) has worked in the architectural industry for more than two decades, usually as a developer or manager of construction documents. This graduate of Pontifical Xavierian University in Bogota, Colombia, first served alongside Reed a decade ago, when both were employees of the Sparks architectural firm.

"David was with the sports team at that time, and I was with the health care team, working on hospitals and medical facilities and such," said Ingraham. "So David and I didn't have that much interaction. But now that I'm working with him, everybody told me that he was very nice, and that's right. He's very nice to work with."

While the architecture industry has changed dramatically through computerization, the production of construction documents remains a paper-driven vocation. This pleases Ingraham, who enjoys working with her hands. When not on the job, she enjoys sewing and cooking.

"Every project is a challenge," she said of the work. "When you see a project being built and then in use, that is the reward."

Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors was founded in 2011 by principals David Reed, Gary Sparks and Jill Selman.

To learn more about Sparks Reed and its past projects, visit sparksreed.com, or call 918-884-6007.

Gateway First Bank announces that **Tony Taveekanjana** is joining the organization as executive vice president and chief production officer, subject to regulatory approval.



TAVEEKANJANA

In his new role, Taveekanjana will oversee all retail and correspondent mortgage production across the country out of Gateway's offices in Dallas.

Established in 2019, after the merger of Gateway Mortgage Group of Jenks, Gateway First Bank emerged as a diversified financial institution providing digital solutions with a local touch for consumers and commercial customers. Gateway maintains \$1.4 billion in assets, six bank branches in Oklahoma and 160 mortgage centers across America.

Taveekanjana's experience spans 20 years. He has served in national sales leadership positions with Envoy Mortgage, Movement Mortgage and Stearns Lending, as well as senior leadership positions at New Penn Financial, Fifth Third Bank and Countrywide Home Loans.

"I am honored to be a part of the Gateway family. It has a strong reputation for having a thriving culture with a heavy emphasis on the consumer experience. Gateway's platform is compelling and unique. I am thrilled to be a part of it," Taveekanjana said.

For more information, visit www.GatewayFirst.com.

Two Crowe & Dunlevy attorneys from Jenks are recognized on the 2019 Super Lawyers publication's list of Oklahoma Super Lawyers.



ANDERSON

Elliot P. Anderson and **Michael R. Pacewicz** were recognized for their work in Business Litigation.



PACEWICZ

Super Lawyers is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high-degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Super Lawyers selects attorneys using a patented multiphase selection process, combining peer nominations and evaluations with independent research. Each candidate is evaluated on 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement. Selections are made on an annual, state-by-state basis.

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Elliot Anderson is a shareholder and director at Crowe & Dunlevy's Tulsa office, where he provides litigation services and legal counsel to his clients on a wide array of business and commercial matters.

Anderson is an Adjunct Professor at The University of Tulsa College of Law, where he teaches Texas Civil Procedure. He graduated valedictorian at Pepperdine University School of Law in 2006, where he served as editor-in-chief of the Pepperdine Law Review. Before attending law school he spent two years teaching English at Chang'an University in Xi'an, China.

Michael Pacewicz is a director based in Crowe & Dunlevy's Tulsa office where he has represented many business entities, ranging from sole proprietorships to Fortune 500 companies.

Pacewicz has served as an adjunct settlement judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma. He has experience before state and tribal courts in Oklahoma and federal courts in Oklahoma, Texas, Pennsylvania and New York, as well as federal appellate courts.

Pacewicz received his undergraduate degree cum laude from Northeastern State University. He graduated from The University of Tulsa College of Law with Highest Honors. He is also a graduate of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy.



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Castle of Muskogee Christmas Open Till New Year's Eve

Celebrate the best of family holiday traditions at The Castle of Muskogee.

Take a leisurely drive through the Castleton Village, which is filled with thousands of holiday lights and displays. The drive through is free, and donations are gratefully accepted.

Outside of The Castle, guests may enjoy rides on an old-fashioned hayride or the festive Castle Train, both of which provide visitors with a unique experience through the Castle displays.

Also in the Village area, the little ones may ride the cutest holiday ponies in town.

For a taller vantage point, Cletus the Camel will be on hand to provide rides around the Village area.

Just want to hang out and snap photos? Grab a bag of Kettle Corn and enjoy the festive environment of the Castle gates before you head inside.

Once inside The Castle, guests may warm up and enjoy a variety of family holiday activities, such as crafting ornaments in Santa's workshop, wax hands and make your own candle, stuff it up – plush adoptions, face painting and much more.

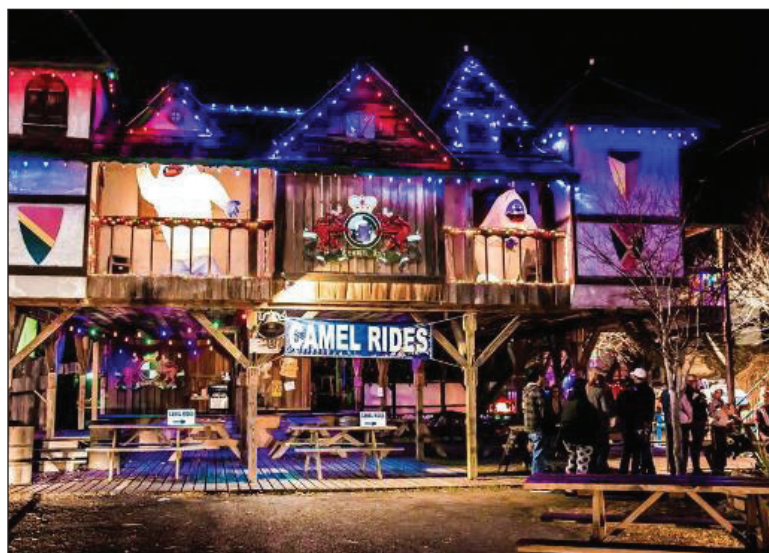
Shop local and discover handmade creations for the special people on your holiday list. Visitors can also purchase items from The Christmas Shoppe or the Castle Gift Shop for holiday displays or holiday keepsakes.

Visit Rudolph's Cafe for a light

supper or snack, hot chocolate and treats. Sit and enjoy complimentary holiday movies for the entire family.

In nearby Honor Heights Park, the "Garden of Lights" attracts thousands of visitors. The celebration includes a drive-through display of more than a million lights exhibited throughout the park. Christmas lights are placed on trees, bushes and structures to enhance the natural beauty of the gardens, waterfalls and ponds. Gates open at 5 p.m. nightly, and the event is free on Mondays and \$5 per vehicle Tuesday – Sunday.

For more information visit okcastle.com or www.cityofmuskogee.com



Courtesy Castle of Muskogee



GTR Media Group photo

SHOPPING WITH A COP: Tulsa's Shop-with-a-Cop took place Dec. 7 at Target at 1701 S. Yale. This annual event, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tulsa and the Tulsa Fraternal Order of Police, brings together more than 50 volunteers from both organizations to help certain students of Celia Clinton Elementary shop for their families-in-need for the holidays. Each student is teamed up with a police officer so the child can select gifts for his or her family. Meanwhile, a Rotarian secretly shops for the student.



GTR Media Group photo

LIGHTS ON FOR SANTA: Santa Claus made his 52nd consecutive annual appearance at Utica Square's Thanksgiving night Lights On show. Mary Cogan (center) "coaxed" the jolly one onto the stage with a rousing rendition of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" backed by Grady Nichols (sax) and celebrity backup singers Weston Horn and Denise Hoey as emcee Julie Chin and show co-producer Tina Terry look on.

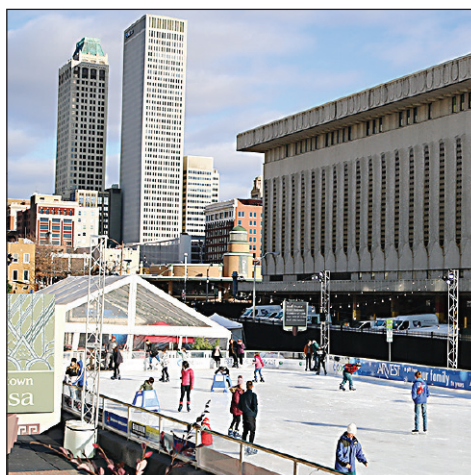


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ARVEST WINTERFEST: Arvest Winterfest is underway in downtown Tulsa for the 12th year. This photo shows a portion of the ice rink located just south of the BOK Center. In addition to ice skating, Winterfest offers events such as Sundays With Santa and other fun times.



Courtesy photo

HOLIDAY GIFT: Little Jensen deposits a Kruggerand in the Salvation Army bucket at Woodland Hills Mall as Rotarians Grandpa Tim Colwell and Ron Walker look on.

Canterbury Lane

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Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2020 from Your Friends at GTR!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8 December THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA DOG TRAINING AGILITY TRIAL Expo Square 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Visit tulsadogs.com for more information. CRISS ANGEL RAW- THE MINDFREAK UNPLUGGED Osage Casino Hotel Tulsa 7 p.m. Visit osagecasino.com for more information.	9 HEALTHCARE APPLICATION ASSISTANCE Central Library 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. BUILD A READER STORYTIME: BABIES Broken Arrow Library 11 – 11:25 a.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. 	10 STORYTIME AT THE GATHERING PLACE Tulsa's Gathering Place 10 a.m. Visit gatheringplace.org for more information. IL DIVO: A HOLIDAY SONG CELEBRATION Brady Theater 8 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.	11 BUILD A READER STORYTIME: STAY & PLAY Jenks Library 10:30 – 11 a.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Boise State • 7 p.m. Men's Basketball tulsahurricane.com for tickets. New Name. Same Bank. Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	12 TULSA FARM SHOW Expo Square Dec. 12 – 14 Visit tulsafarmshow.com for more information. A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. MATISYAHU Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	13 THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA OILERS vs. Wichita 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. • Dec. 13-14 myticketoffice.com for tickets.	14 THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA OILERS vs. Fort Wayne 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. JOSH ABBOTT BAND Cain's Ballroom 8:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.
15 A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA OILERS vs. Wichita 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. 	16 CASTLE CHRISTMAS AND THE GARDEN OF LIGHTS Castle of Muskogee Through New Years Eve Visit cackcastle.com for more information. COCKTAIL CONCERT SERIES - SPIRIT OF THE SEASON Ambassador Hotel 7 p.m. Visit cocktailconcertseries.com for more information.	17 11TH ANNUAL BARKING BASSET BASSOON BAND HOLIDAY JAM Woodland Hills Mall 6 – 8:30 p.m. Visit facebook.com/gigbassoonband/ for more information. A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	18 A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. ANGELS & AIRWAVES, PHANTOGRAM Cain's Ballroom 6:45 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. Free Small Business Checking Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	19 DECORATING THE TREE ORU Timko Barton Performance Hall 7 – 9 p.m. Visit decoratingthetree.com for more information. TULSA OILERS vs. Utah 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	20 WILLIAM CLARK GREEN Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA BOK Center 8 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.	21 BASKETBALL SHOW-DOWN DOUBLEHEADER BOK Center 1:30 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 2 & 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.
22 A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. DECORATING THE TREE ORU Timko Barton Performance Hall 7 – 9 p.m. Visit decoratingthetree.com for more information.	23 A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. GOLDEN GIRLS HOLIDAY HOEDOWN! Magic City Books 7 – 9 p.m. Visit tulsaaartistfellowship.org for more information. Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	24 ALL SOULS CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE-LIGHT SERVICES All Souls Unitarian Church 4:30, 6 & 7:30 p.m. Visit allsoulschurch.org for more information.	25 Best and warmest CHRISTMAS WISHES for you and your FAMILY	26 LET'S CELEBRATE KWANZAA! - ANNUAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN HARVEST CELEBRATION Rudisill Regional Library 6 – 8:45 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. 	27 HOLIDAY MOVIE MADNESS: MUPPETS EXTRAVAGANZA! Bixby Library 10:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. CHARLEY CROCKETT Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	28 THE TULSA FLEA MARKET Expo Square 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Visit exposquare.com for more information. PAW PATROL LIVE BOK Center 10 a.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. THE DINNER DETECTIVE The Hilton Garden Inn 6 – 9 p.m. Visit thedinnerdetective.com/tulsa/ for more information.
29 PAW PATROL LIVE BOK Center 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. CURATOR TOUR: SHADOW OF TIME Philbrook Museum 2 p.m. Visit philbrook.org for more information. JOHN FOGERTY River Spirit Casino Resort 8 p.m. Visit riverspirittulsa.com for more information.	30 LEGO FUN! Bixby Library 2 – 3 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. POKÉMON NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY Bixby Library 2 – 3 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for info. JACKSON BROWNE Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 7 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.	31 MISS SAIGON Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. MIDNIGHT AT THE MAYO PRESENTS: THE LADY TURNS 10 Mayo Hotel 8 p.m. – 2 a.m. Visit themayohotel.com for more information. 2020 HANG-OVER BALL Cain's Ballroom 7:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	1 January MISS SAIGON Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	2 LUCAS OIL TULSA SHOOTOUT Expo Square Jan. 1 – 4 Visit exposquare.com for more information. MISS SAIGON Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. More Bank for Your Buck Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	3 TULSA OILERS vs. Idaho 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. MISS SAIGON Celebrity Attractions 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Temple • 8 p.m. Men's Basketball tulsahurricane.com for tickets.	4 STUDIO SATURDAYS Philbrook Museum 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Visit philbrook.org for more information. MISS SAIGON Celebrity Attractions 2 & 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA OILERS vs. Idaho 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information.
5 MISS SAIGON Celebrity Attractions 1 & 6:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA OILERS vs. Idaho 4:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. OKLAHOMA GUN SHOWS Expo Square Jan. 4 – 5 Visit exposquare.com for more information.	6 OPIOIDS: PREVENTION AND AWARENESS Central Library 12 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. TYPESETTER The Vanguard 8 p.m. Visit thevanguardtulsa.com for more information.	7 PAWS FOR READING Bixby Library 6 – 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. COVER TO COVER BOOK CLUB Broken Arrow Library 6 – 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	8 HOME-SCHOOL ART: AGES 5-8 Philbrook Museum 1 p.m. Visit philbrook.org for more information. We Offer Health Savings Accounts Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	9 BADFISH, A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. ORU vs. North Dakota State 7 p.m. Men's Basketball mabecenter.com for tickets. RICK SPRINGFIELD Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 7 p.m. hardrockcasinotulsa.com for info.	10 TULSA OILERS vs. Kansas City 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. THE MUSIC MAN Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. • Jan. 10-11 myticketoffice.com for tickets. FRANK CALIENDO River Spirit Casino Resort 8 p.m. Visit riverspirittulsa.com for more information.	11 GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Houston • 3 p.m. Men's Basketball tulsahurricane.com for tickets. TULSA OILERS vs. Utah 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. STRAUSS AND SCHUMANN Tulsa Symphony 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

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Same-Day Appointments in Bixby

MATTHEW ELSE, D.O.

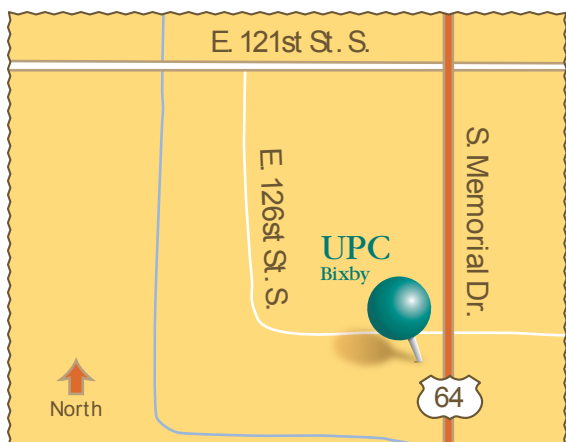
Family Medicine

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

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SPARTANS HOIST TROPHY AFTER COMEBACK WIN



Photo by DAVID STACY

BIXBY GOLD: Spartan players raise their state trophy in glee as they celebrate the 2019 championship.

(Continued from page 1)

“Both teams are super tough. I’m really proud of our guys for hanging in there. Stillwater got after us in the first quarter, but we hung in there and when they gave us a couple of breaks, we capitalized.”

“There were a lot of big plays in that game. I’m proud of our guys for battling. Brennan’s return was big but he’s electric. He’s the Gatorade Player of the Year and I think he looked it tonight,” Montgomery added. “Our offense came back after they got the lead and Luke Creeger made a big play at the end.”

“Their defense is good. I don’t think we ever did adjust to their defense. I was proud of how our defense battled, too ... it was definitely a bend-a-lot but-don’t-break defense.”

Bre. Presley appeared to have scored from three yards out on Bixby’s opening drive but a holding penalty on the Spartans nullified the play. Three plays later, Bixby took the game’s first lead after a 30-yard field goal by Vernon.

“I was pretty nervous going into the game, but I gained confidence since I had hit a few earlier in the game,” said Vernon, who punted six times for a 32.2 yard per punt average and left a trio of punts inside the Pioneers’ 20-yard line. He also hit the only field goal he attempted. “I have a really good snapper in Trevon Holt and holder in Grant Dishman, so I was confident.”

“I had so much adrenaline going into the game. We pinned them deep a few times with punts, everything was working well. I’m so proud of this team. We’ve worked so hard and I’m just glad to see it pay off,” added Vernon, a major college recruit.

Stillwater scored on its opening drive as Gundy hit Princeton-bound Anthony Bland for an eight-yard TD with 6:27 left in the first quarter, giving the Pioneers a 7-3 lead. The Pioneers blocked a Bixby punt to the Bixby 15 before settling for a 32-yard field goal by junior kicker Uriah Kirby for a 10-3 lead with 4:14 showing.

Stillwater took a 17-3 lead with 54 seconds showing in the first quarter when Gundy connected with tight end Luke McEndoo with a four-yard TD pass.

A pass interception by Bixby senior free safety Trevon Holt, who was celebrating his 18th birthday, halted the next Pioneer drive before BHS received a break on Stillwater’s next possession when a third-down center snap went over Gundy’s head into the end zone, resulting in a safety and 17-5 SHS lead.

On the ensuing kickoff, Bre. Presley returned the kick 38 yards setting up a 19-yard touchdown play from Williams to Bre. Presley to narrow the deficit to 17-12 with 6:50 left in the first half. The momentum began changing.

Bixby regained the lead at 19-17 when senior Carson Chambers ran the wildcat formation for a one-yard TD plunge and

Vernon kicked the conversion with 17 seconds left before intermission.

Chambers scored a six-yard TD from the wildcat formation with 6:23 left in the third quarter for a 26-17 Spartan lead. That drive was started after Bixby’s defense throttled a fake punt attempt by the Pioneers as McEndoo was stopped shy of the first down marker.

After struggling at the start, Bixby turned things around by finding success running against SHS’s difficult defense. Bra. Presley rushed for 125 yards on 24 carries and Bre. Presley added 49 yards on 10 carries.

“Once we started running the ball with some success, we just kept pounding the rock and that’s what worked for us,” said talented Spartan offensive lineman Kobe Williams of the offensive line’s approach. “Our attitude wasn’t very good at the start even though we played with effort but then we started rolling and had a few big plays happen and then we just played Bixby Spartan football.”

“This feels great. I’ve been wanting this ever since I was a freshman ... it feels great,” he added.

Defensively, Bixby gave up 196 yards rushing on 24 carries to Walker, 20-of-28 passing for 228 yards and three TDs by Gundy and five receptions by Smithton for 118 yards. The Spartan defenders also had their moments, making life uncomfortable for Gundy.

“I liked the way we played. Every time we had a good play it got everyone hyped. When we were behind, we just kept our heads and kept playing,” said Van Pelt. “It feels amazing to do this since it’s my senior year.”

Senior standout linebacker Brody Sartin added, “When things weren’t going well, I was going around pointing at my head, telling everyone to keep their heads. If you lose focus you’re going to get destroyed. I kept saying this was our game.”

“It doesn’t get any better than ending your season with a state championship ... there’s nothing better,” he added.

NOTABLES:

Bixby ended with 347 yards of total offense – 168 passing and 179 rushing. The Pioneers had 420 total yards. ... Bixby played a turnover-free game while Stillwater suffered a pass interception and a lost fumble. Spartan senior Trevon Holt’s interception of Gunnar Gundy was his fourth pass theft of the season. It was Gundy’s third pass interception thrown this season. ... Senior Carson Chambers, who played well at linebacker and running the wildcat formation, suffered a collarbone injury in the game’s final minutes. ... Stillwater, which blocked a Spartan punt for the second straight title game, missed extra-point kicks after its final two touchdowns. ... Bixby leads the series with the Pioneers, 5-1, defeating SHS in three straight playoff games.