

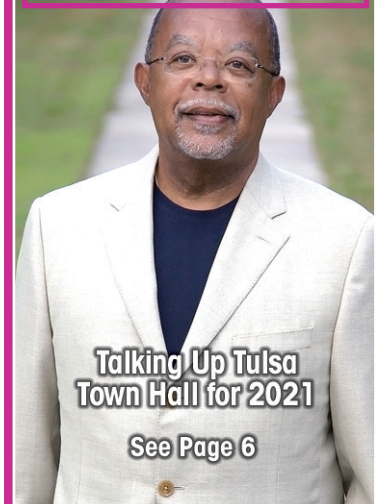


# OWASSO RAMBLER

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Volume 22 Mid-April to Mid-May 2020 www.gtrnews.com

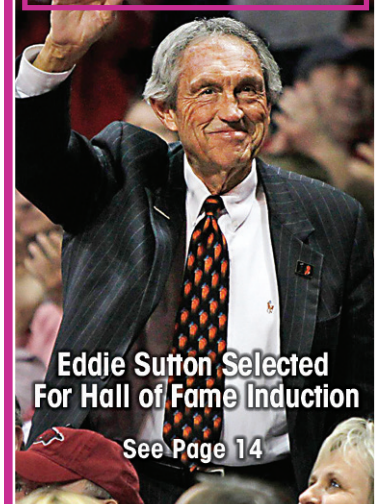
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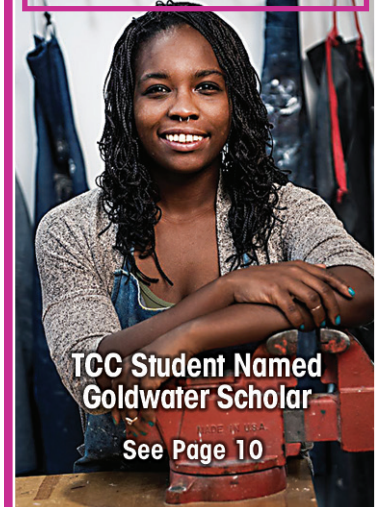
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## Tulsa County Officials Respond to the Historic COVID-19 Virus Health Crisis

By RON PETERS  
Tulsa County Commissioner

Never before in Tulsa County history has the entire community been faced with a public health crisis like the COVID-19 virus. As the virus has swept across our state, elected officials of Tulsa County have been responding to ensure that we can continue to serve and protect our county citizens.

County government is an essential service and the Board of County Commissioners and our employees as well as other elected officials have taken decisive action along with the governor, private sector and nonprofits to respond to the crisis.

### Board of County Commissioners

Before the state legislature recessed, a bill was passed providing flexibility to the county when public meetings are held. Under the new law, county meetings can now be streamed live to avoid large attendance at the meetings while allowing elected officials to attend remotely. County public meetings, including those of the Board of County Commissioners, can now be accessed through social media (look for posts the day before highlighting the audio streaming link).

Agendas and meeting minutes can be found at [www.tulsacounty.org/Tulsacounty/agenda.aspx](http://www.tulsacounty.org/Tulsacounty/agenda.aspx)

### Sheriff

The Tulsa County Sheriffs Foundation, Inc. partnered with several local restaurants to pay for meals for those who have lost their jobs and/or had their income reduced and are struggling to feed their families. The Sheriffs Foundation funded six area restaurants which provided meals each day for two weeks.

### Parks Department

The Parks Department re-



**SURVEYING THE SITUATION:** Tulsa County Parks Director Vince Trinidad, left, and Tulsa County Commissioner Ron Peters survey the situation in the playground area of LaFortune Park recently during the Coronavirus epidemic.

duced office hours, allowing employees to work remotely from home where possible. Essential Parks and Golf Course staff, before being forced to close, rotated to ensure that they were able to provide a safe outdoor environment for the citizens of Tulsa County. Based upon the recommendations from the Tulsa City County Health Department and the Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency the recreation centers closed to the public when the Center for Disease Control guidelines reduced gatherings to 10 or less.

### Court Services

The Court Services Department provides vital services for the court system. Though many of the court's dockets have been suspended, the Court Services staff is still responsible for supervising and monitoring court ordered conditions to be followed by defendants who have been released from jail on any type of bond. Court Services also continues to support the

work of the Drug, Mental Health, and Veterans courts and the Women in Recovery program.

### Social Services

During this crisis, the Tulsa County Social Services Department has stepped up in a big way to collaborate with community partners to provide safety and shelter for those who have no place to turn for help.

Since the county shelter facility is at capacity, the Board of County Commissioners approved using large tents as a day shelter and night shelter. These tents will be set up near the new Family Justice Center downtown. This can help relieve the overpopulation at the Day Center and Salvation Army. For the homeless that have set up their own encampments, food and supplies are being delivered to them. A medical alert system has been set up so those who need medical attention can be helped. Director Linda Johnston serves on the Community Testing Task Force led by St Johns/Ascension to have a plan in place to be pre-

pared if community wide testing becomes necessary.

### Juvenile Bureau

Daily detention hearings for youth arrested are being accomplished by phone with only the judge and recording staff in the courtroom.

The arrest reports of detained youth are reviewed daily to identify those who do not pose a public threat and can be released.

### Property Taxes

For many property owners, March 31 marked the deadline for having their property taxes paid. Because the virus has affected so many property owners in Tulsa County, payments received after March 31 will have the penalty and interest waived for late payments.

As we have seen in the past, during stressful times the employees of Tulsa County are second to none when it comes to showing leadership, compassion, and kindness for our fellow Tulsans in times of crisis.

## KUDOS of the MONTH: Health Care Providers

GTR salutes health care providers from area hospitals, clinics, doctor offices and elsewhere who are risking their lives for the treatment of others during this COVID-19 pandemic. Tulsa area health care workers, doctors, nurses, emergency responders, aides, transport specialists, and more risk their lives every day to care for those with the potentially deadly infection.

As David Blumenthal writes in STAT Reports, "Personal courage is part of the explanation. But there's more to it than that. What we are seeing is

the professionalism of people like Anthony Fauci and thousands of health care workers at work. The essence of their professionalism is that they put the interests of patients and the public before their own."

Blumenthal adds, "Professionalism is ingrained during medical training, role-modeled by the senior clinicians who teach, and reinforced by powerful aphorisms inherited from legendary practitioners going back to Hippocrates. One was the eminent Boston physician Francis W. Peabody who, in 1927, famously wrote: 'One

of the essential qualities of the clinician is interest in humanity, for the secret of the care of the patient is in caring for the patient.'"

He continues, "Professionalism also instills a commitment to peers who join together on the frontlines of medicine. In this way, health professionals resemble soldiers who sacrifice for their comrades in the trenches. And like the military, they accept collective responsibility for their behavior."

Thank you, health care providers for getting us through this pandemic.

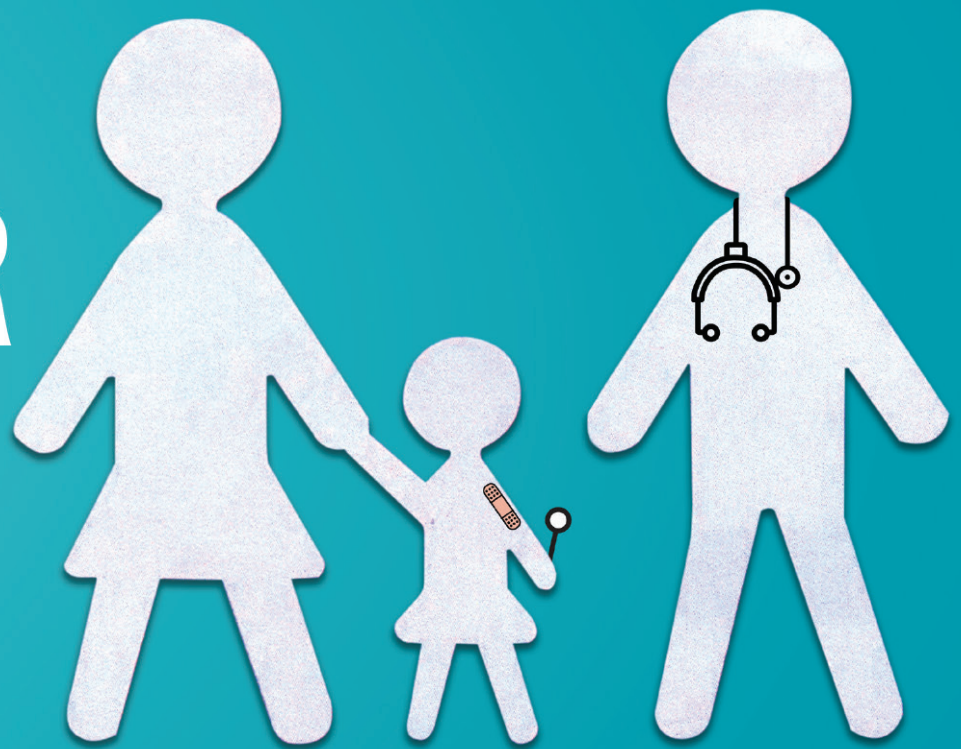


**WORKING FOR OTHERS:** Health care workers are saluted for risking their lives for others during this COVID-19 pandemic.



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# Tulsa Area United Way Honors Recent Supporters

The Tulsa Area United Way announced the winners of its annual awards program, recognizing the fundraising efforts of its corporate partners and community organizations, including QuikTrip, Bank of Oklahoma, Arvest Bank, George Kaiser Family Foundation and more. The Live United Awards celebration was held in February at the Cox Business Convention Center.

Alison Anthony, President and CEO of Tulsa Area United Way, said "At Tulsa Area United Way, we love the month of February because it gives us all the opportunity to come together and thank our donors and volunteers for a remarkable community effort." We hear so much about division in our country, but this event unites us to lift each other up and celebrate working together to do something amazing for our neighbors, friends and family members."

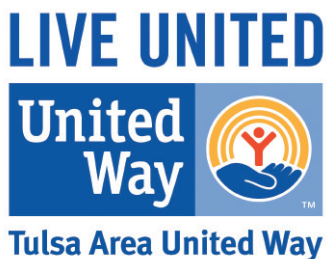
More than 30,000 individuals and 1,000 companies and organizations raised \$26,028,910 during the annual fall campaign, surpassing the 2019 campaign goal. Those funds are reinvested in the community through the Tulsa Area United Way's 59 partner agencies in the areas of education, health and safety, and financial stability, as well as several community collaborative projects and social innovation grants that address complex challenges.

Leading companies and organizations and the amounts raised include QuikTrip, over \$2 million; Bank of Oklahoma over \$1.5 million; ONEOK and Williams, each over \$1 million and George Kaiser Family Foundation, Magellan Midstream Partners and ONE Gas, each over \$500,000.

Among the honorees this were former Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor and Josh Starks, Commander of VFW Post 577.

Other major award winners include First Oklahoma Bank, Nordam, Ramsey Industries, Frederic Dorwart Lawyers, Hughes-Anderson Heat Exchangers, Sapulpa Public Schools, T.D. Williamson, Life Senior Services, Gateway First Bank, Laredo Petroleum, Arvest Bank and Tulsa County.

### About the Tulsa Area United Way



The Tulsa Area United Way (TAUW) is a nonprofit organization in the six-county area funding 59 partner agencies whose critical services deliver the three building blocks to a better life: education, financial stability and health/safety.

Since 1924, it has raised and invested more than \$825 million to assist people in need in Creek, Okmulgee, Osage, Rogers, Wagoner and Tulsa counties.

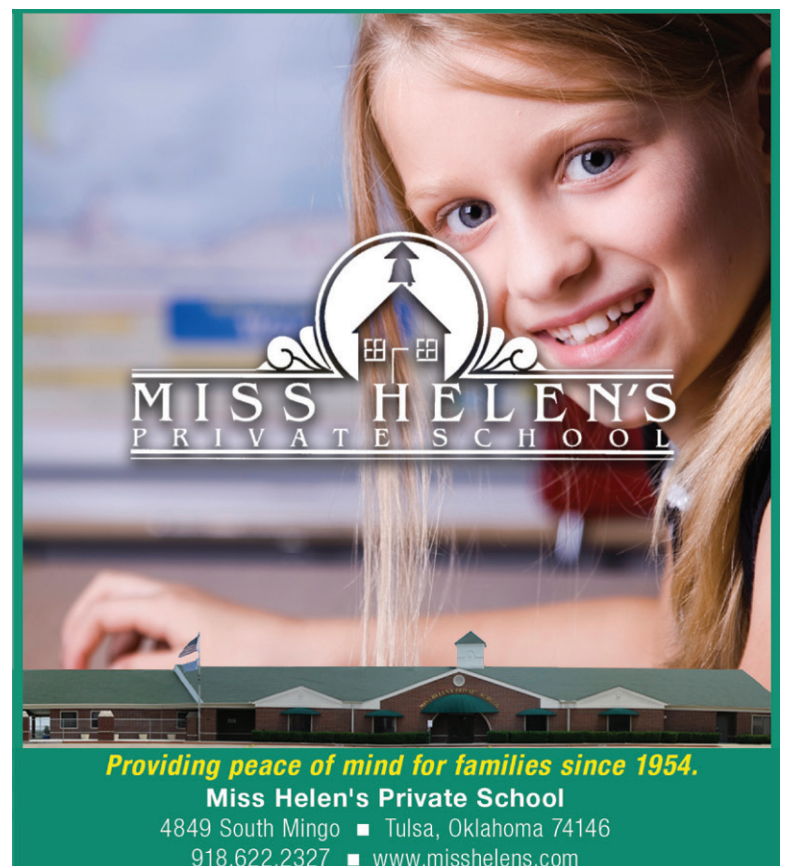
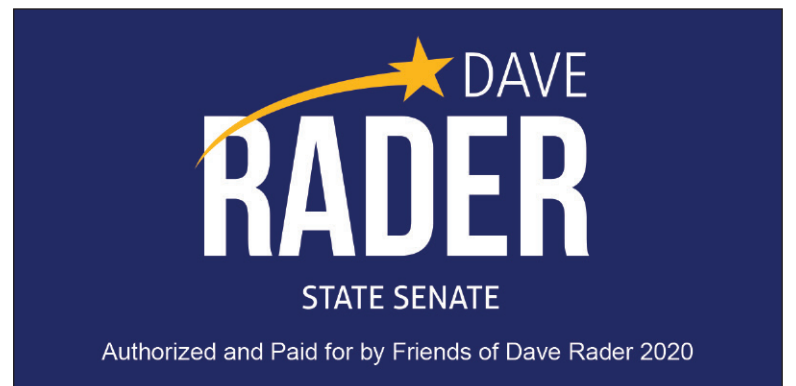
All contributions to the TAUW are invested locally, and governance is maintained by a highly dedicated Board of Directors. The 2020 Board Chair is Kirk Hays, President and CEO of Arvest Bank, Tulsa. For more information, visit [www.tauw.org](http://www.tauw.org)



**WILLIAMS SUMMIT LEADERSHIP AWARD:** First Oklahoma Bank was presented with the Williams Summit Leadership Award. From left are 2020 United Way Board Chair Kirk Hays, President and Chief Executive Officer of Arvest Bank, and First Oklahoma Bank representatives Brook Hostetler, Tom Bennett III and Tom Bennett II.



**CLYDELLA HENTSCHEL AWARD:** Dave Hentschel presented the Clydella Hentschel Award to former Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor.



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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.

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





## CIVICS

# It's Time for Tulsans to Fill Out 2020 Census

## This Year's Count Very Important As World Deals with COVID-19

The last time Tulsans got the chance to fill out the United States Census was in 2010. Though 2010 followed the economic downturn in 2008, I don't think anyone could have predicted the trying times that lay ahead for the 2020 Census.

The 2020 Census is more important now than we might have ever imagined as the world deals with the COVID-19 Pandemic. When the Census goes out, it is sent to every residence in the United States, and its goal is to count everyone and inform the federal government of how to allocate important funding for things like education, roads, bridges, transportation systems, and more.

Every 10 years, Tulsans get the chance to fill out the Census. Though it seems like lightyears ago, the 2020 Census was mailed to all area residences on March 12. Because of the abrupt actions we've taken to combat COVID-19, many Tulsans and individuals are being affected in some way.

That's why this year, if Tulsans don't get counted, Tulsa stands to lose more money that could hurt us for years to come. For every Tulsan who does not respond to the 2020 Census, the State of Oklahoma loses \$1,675 per person. That's a lot of money we simply can't afford to miss out on.

The only way we can get the adequate funding we need to support local initiatives and critical infrastructure projects is if everyone in Tulsa gets counted.

For some areas in Tulsa, getting everyone to fill out the Census hasn't always been easy. That's why in 2020, we've created a host of platforms to reach as many people as possible. Before the 2020 Census was mailed and the COVID-19 Pandemic reared its head in Tulsa, the Tulsa Regional Complete Count Committee started working hard to get the word out, especially in undercounted areas of Tulsa.

### From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM  
Mayor of Tulsa

On March 12, I challenged Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt to see which city could get the highest response rate before April 30. We're in a tight race, and I'm encouraging my fellow Tulsans to help Tulsa beat OKC.

For these reasons, I'm sincerely asking all Tulsans to do their part to fill out the 2020 Census and help make Tulsa Count while we're in these trying times. For more information on the 2020 Census and to see our local efforts, visit [www.TulsaCounts.com](http://www.TulsaCounts.com).

To fill out the 2020 Census online while you stay home to prevent the spread of COVID-19, please visit [www.2020Census.gov](http://www.2020Census.gov).



Courtesy photo

**NEW CITIZENS:** Congratulations to the newest U.S. citizens in the Tulsa area. Whether you're a brand-new U.S. citizen, on the path, or undocumented, if you are here, you should be counted in 2020.

### GUBERNATORIAL RESPONSE:

Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt held a press conference to discuss local ramifications of the COVID-19 crisis April 19 at Founders Hall at the OSU Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa. He was joined by the Governor's Solution Task Force update Oklahomans on the comprehensive hospital surge plan, latest modeling information and other updates in the State's comprehensive response to COVID-19. Also on the agenda were Secretary of Health and Mental Health Jerome Loughridge, Oklahoma Hospital Association President Patti Davis, and Oklahoma Army National Guard Lt. Col. Yolanda Murray.



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## GREATER TULSA PERSONALITIES

# Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year Named at Rotary Club of Tulsa's Above and Beyond Awards

By MARGARET BUTLER  
Contributing Editor

The Rotary Club of Tulsa held its 13<sup>th</sup> annual Above and Beyond Awards in March several days prior to Mayor Bynum cancelling gatherings of 50 people or more.

This event honors Tulsa's Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year, acknowledging their outstanding acts of character, commitment and compassion to both their profession and our community.

Fire Chief Ray Driskell and Rotary Club President Becky Fields presented the E. Stanley Hawkins Firefighter of the Year award to Xavier McNac who has served as a firefighter for the Tulsa Fire Department for over 13 years. He serves at Station No. 5 at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Boston Avenue, Tulsa's oldest fire station that's still in use.

As a young man, he took up boxing and later mixed martial arts which taught him self-confidence, focus and discipline. He and another firefighter co-founded 918 Fully Involved, a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the community.

They created Smoke & Guns, a fight event that in just six years has donated over \$200,000 to Oklahoma Firefighters Burn Camp and Special Olympics of OK. McNac also volunteers at Ready to Fight, an after school boxing program for at-risk sixth graders through the Tulsa Police Activities League, teaches firefighters and police officers

self-defense tactics and trains fighters for Smoke & Guns.

Police Chief Wendell Franklin and Fields presented the Police Officer of the Year award to Lieutenant Jennifer Murphy. She has been an officer for 12 years and served seven years as a volunteer reserve police officer who leads patrol functions from TPD's north Tulsa Gilcrease Division.

Murphy overcame a chaotic childhood that caused her to miss a lot of school and struggle to graduate. Encouragement from an inspiring teacher gave her determination to change her course in life and become an example for others.

She graduated from the University of Tulsa with a Psychology degree and Certificate in Legal Studies and started her law enforcement career. She established several children's reading programs in high crime neighborhoods where police officers' interactions are bridging gaps between the community and police.

In cooperation with Tulsa Crime Stoppers, she helped create Book Nooks which are donated refurbished newspaper stands filled with children's books and placed in low income apartment complexes. She also helped establish a youth mentorship program, TPAL FIT at Parkview Terrace and Apache Manor and volunteers with Joy in the Cause Kids in Crisis backpack program helping TPD provide children's backpacks filled with toys and snacks.

In addition to an Above and Beyond



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**AWARDED FOR SERVICE:** Front and center at the Rotary Club of Tulsa's annual Above and Beyond Awards event are, from left, Tulsa Mayor GT Bynum, Police Chief Wendell Franklin, Police Officer of the Year Lieutenant Jennifer Murphy, Firefighter of the Year Xavier McNac, Rotary Club of Tulsa President Becky Fields, and recently retired Fire Chief Ray Driskell.

yond pin, ribbon and trophy, each recipient received \$3,000 donated to their favorite charity, plus dinner and an overnight stay at the Osage Hotel & Casino.

Mayor Bynum spoke at the event saying it's important that people know the stories of in-

dividuals in our fire and police departments who are committed to helping our community. He thanked the Rotary Club of Tulsa for annually honoring outstanding public servants. Several city and county government officials, Rotarians, former recipients and

other representatives from the Tulsa Fire Department and Tulsa Police Departments were in attendance. Presenting sponsors were AAON, Inc. and the Rotary Club of Tulsa Foundation. More information is available online at [tulsarotary.com](http://tulsarotary.com).

## TULSA PRESS CLUB REUNION



GTR Media Group photo

**PAST PRESIDENTS:** Past presidents of the Tulsa Press Club gathered earlier this year for a reunion at the club, located in the lobby of the Atlas Life Building. From left, front row with years of service, Claire Johnson, 2019; Nicole Burgin, 2014; Mike Miller, 2012; and Tom Gilbert, 2015. Back row from left, Jarrel Wade, 2020; Val Fimbres, 2002; Andrea Chancellor, 2004; Melani Hamilton, 2001; Nicole Amend, 2018; and Michael Overall, 2017. The Tulsa Press Club was established in 1906 and opened its first permanent home in 1950 at the Adams Hotel and moved to the current location in 1990. A benevolent association, the Press Club hosts annual events such as the Headliners Award and the Great Plains Journalism Awards.

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## VARIETY

## Talking Up Tulsa Town Hall for 2020-21 Season

There's a buzz that comes with spectacular entertainment. I'm talking about a dance performance that leaves you breathless, or a concert that rouses your soul. I love a play with a message I have to dig for and dissect. When one's synapses fire at will, it's a rush.

If you seek out mind-expanding experiences, or don't mind a bit of world-shaking, I hope you are aware of Tulsa Town Hall. Over the three decades I have attended TTH lectures, I have been shaken and stirred, and left breathless with admiration.

For 85 years, Town Hall has presented authorities in every imaginable field to "open minds and stir curiosities," as its mission states. The upcoming 86th season brims with big-time rousers and shakers who will do just that.

"Tulsa Town Hall works very hard to bring a speaker lineup that is diverse, compelling and within our current budget and schedule," says Program Committee Chair Carol Spears. "The TTH Program Committee is a select group of Board members chosen by the president who spend hours re-

searching and deliberating those speakers who will address current issues, and who challenge our thinking or help us gain new insights."

As currently scheduled, opening the series in September is political and cultural commentator David Brooks. Says Spears, "Who would have imagined a year ago, when we began to curate our 2020-21 season that we would be dealing with the worldwide crisis of COVID-19? As we re-evaluate our personal and societal priorities in light of this event, "New

York Times" columnist and author David Brooks will visit us on Sept. 11 to discuss his new book, "The Second Mountain," and what matters most in our lives."

A precursor to the November election, Tulsa Town Hall hosts political cartoonist Kevin Kallaugh on Oct. 16. Kallaugh has created witty, insightful cartoons for "The Observer," "The Sunday Telegraph" and "The Mail on Sunday," along with being the editorial cartoonist for "The Baltimore Sun." He was the first resident cartoonist for Britain's "The Economist" in its 145-year history. His cartoons have appeared in more than 100 publications worldwide and in exhibitions at London's Tate Gallery and the Library of Congress. Kallaugh will comment on current events with pen in hand during a fun and interactive presentation.

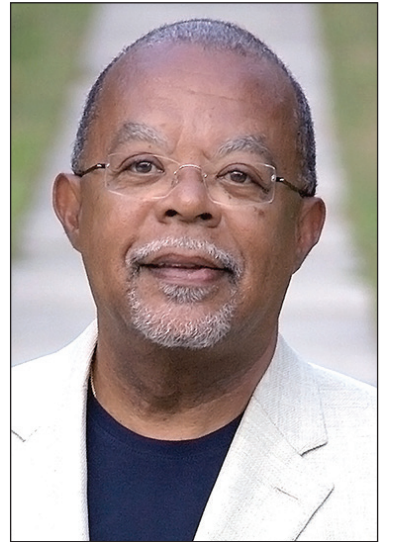
Over the years, Town Hall has presented a range of speakers who are thought-provoking. Mexico's former president Vicente Fox and political consultant James Carville, for instance, pulled no punches. Someone who has been a Washington insider for decades with ties to President George Herbert Walker Bush and his son, among many others, is Republican political strategist Karl Rove. Dubbed "the Architect," by President George W. Bush, Rove served as Bush's Senior Advisor and Deputy Chief of Staff. Following retirement, he became a Fox News contributor, "Wall Street Journal" columnist and "New York Times" best-sell-



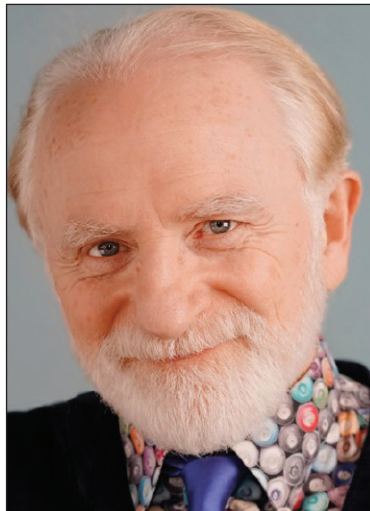
DAVID BROOKS



KARL ROVE



HENRY LOUIS GATES JR.



KEVIN KALLAUGH.



NICK BEUETTNER

ing author. The title of his Jan. 15, 2021 lecture is "Election 2020 and America's Challenges."

I've often found that the TTH speakers I knew least about were the ones who impressed me the most. That could be the case with Nick Buettner. During the course of his career, he has traveled to 17 locales around the world where people live to be 100 years old or more. He calls these "Blue Zones." With the visual aid of "National Geographic" photography, Buettner will take audiences to those zones. Among them are Karia, Greece; Nicoya, Costa Rica; Okinawa, Japan, and other places that might surprise you. Buettner speaks on "Blue Zones: The Making of a Healthy City" on Mar. 12.

Wrapping the series on April 9 is Henry Louis Gates, Jr. You might know him as the host of PBS' "Finding Your Roots," or as one of the principal participants in President Obama's "Beer Summit" in 2009. He's a MacArthur

Genius who taught at Yale. Adding to his many plaudits and more than 50 honorary degrees, Gates was recognized by the "Chicago Tribune" in 2019 with a Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement. The Emmy Award-winning filmmaker is the author of 21 books and 15 documentaries. Gates teaches English and Literature and serves as department chair for Harvard's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research.

Due to the global pandemic, Town Hall's final speaker of the 2019-20 season, Steve Forbes, has been rescheduled. Tulsa Town Hall After Dark featuring Forbes at Cascia Hall will take place on the evening of June 25 (tickets still available, \$20) and his lecture at the PAC is slated for June 26.

"After three successful years of TTH After Dark, Tulsa Town Hall will continue to pursue special evening events in collaboration with other great Tulsa organi-

zations in order to expose more community members to the world of Tulsa Town Hall," assures Board President Beth Bovaird.

Executive Director Kathy Collins adds, "As Tulsa Town Hall concludes its 85th Anniversary season, one of its many sold-out seasons in our rich history, we celebrate the effort of all those who make TTH possible. The time and talents of our volunteer working Board, along with the generosity of sponsors and loyal subscribers are the essence of Town Hall."

Tulsa Town Hall talks take place at the Tulsa PAC on Friday mornings. Subscription price for the 86th season is \$100 for all five speakers. Subscriptions can be purchased at TulsaTownHall.com.

At this time of global peril, I close with words from upcoming speaker David Brooks. "This is a moment that calls for deeper conversation and emotional accompaniment. We're all going through something together."

## Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN

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# Supporting Local Music, Missing Live Music

"I hope all this effort is worth it."  
— Joe Schicke

The struggle is real.

As we enter the second month of shelter in place ordinances in Tulsa, the service industry is reeling. Musicians are among the hardest hit, as most rely heavily on live gigs for their income. While we can still get food from our favorite restaurants by picking up curbside, there's no curbside pickup option for live music to keep our musicians afloat.

Each month I do my best to tell you about the vibrant local music scene in Tulsa. I'm motivated to do this, well, because I have a deadline, but also because I want to introduce the reader to the beauty of our music scene and all the joy it can bring to your life. In other words, what music can do for you. This month, I'm going to take a cue from JFK and write not about what local music can do for you, but what you can do for local music.

## Buy an Album

I had to remind myself this month that Searching for the Sound is about local music, not necessarily live music. There are several outstanding albums available from local artists that will provide you with far better entertainment than whatever is left on your Netflix watch list.

The opening quote of this month's column is from the song, Effort, which I'm naming the official anthem of 2020. You heard it here first. Written by former Tulsa-based musician Joe Schicke who currently is in Colorado, it's one of many great songs on the album, **Brad James Band at Fellowship Hall**, released last August and available at [hortonrecords.org](http://hortonrecords.org). I've been a fan of Brad James since his Medicine Show days, so this album was a must have for me the day it came out. If you're a fan of bands like The Grateful Dead, The Band, The Allman Brothers Band and Little Feat, it's a must have for you, too.

Also from Horton Records is the latest Tulsa-area compilation album, **Vibrations from Tulsa**, available May 1. Including a range of genres like garage, psych, rock and metal, this two-LP vinyl features 17 local artists, both established and up and coming, providing a great snapshot of the current local music scene, and an opportunity to discover new artists to go see live once the social distancing restrictions have lifted.

My favorite shred dirt rockers **BC and the Big Rig** recently released a live album, **Tour De Dive Bar**, available on all digital platforms and at [bcandthebigrig.com](http://bcandthebigrig.com). The album features 26 songs recorded at four different shows, including three previously unreleased originals, as well as songs from the band's three studio albums, and covers of the Beastie Boys "Sabotage," and the blues standard, "Spoonful." The highlight of the album for me is Randy's Song, an ode to the great Randy Crouch, who also has al-

bums for sale on CDbaby.com. Do yourself a favor and order a Crouch CD or two as well. You can't go wrong with any of them.

## Live Stream

Facebook. I've avoided it like the plague since its inception, so I can appreciate the irony that it has literally taken a plague to open my eyes to the value of the 800-pound social media gorilla.

There's no denying that Facebook Live has been an invaluable resource for musicians in the age of COVID-19 restrictions, offering the ability to perform virtual live concerts and add a payment donation button. This is the easiest way for musicians to stay in touch with fans, as it requires very little in terms of equipment or investment. Find your favorite local musicians on Facebook Live and click the donate button. And be generous. There's no cover charge, and you're getting cheap drinks thanks to the fact that you're at home and liquor stores are considered essential businesses.

## Gypsy Café

Facebook Live is by no means the only vehicle for live, streaming concerts. YouTube Live offers more complex productions with multiple cameras and locations. Instagram Live, Vimeo, Twitch, and more words that make me wonder if my researcher is playing a prank on me, also offer live platforms suitable for virtual concerts.

Stillwater-based streaming service O'Colly TV is bringing us The Bob Childers Gypsy Café Festival, reimagined, on April 26 at 6 p.m. The annual fundraiser for Red Dirt Relief Fund needs our support more than ever this year. The nonprofit has given out \$100,000 in the last month alone to help musicians who have been unable to play live gigs since February.

While it's objectively sad that we can't be together in person for Oklahoma's largest homegrown songwriter festival, the "reimagined" event is a loaded roster of Red Dirt icons that has me pretty excited about the virtual festival. The lineup includes Cody Canada, Jason Boland, Kaitlin Butts, Mike McClure, John Fullbright & Jacob Tovar, Red Dirt Rangers, The Damn Quails, Ragland, Mike Hosty, and more.

The broadcast will also feature the presentation of the Restless Spirit Award to Charlene Ripley on behalf of her husband, Steve Ripley, who passed away in January, 2019. The annual Award is given by the Red Dirt Relief Fund in recognition of a musician who has impacted the Oklahoma music community in a spirit akin to Bob Childers, the godfather of Red Dirt music. It was Ripley's record label, Red Dirt Records, that gave us the term Red Dirt music. He joins previous honorees Jimmy LaFave (2017), Brandon Jenkins (2018) and Randy Crouch (2019).

## Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL



BRYAN CANTRELL for GTR Media Group

**GYPSY CAFÉ:** Brandon Clark of BC and the Big Rig at the 2019 Gypsy Café Festival in Stillwater performs Randy's Song, an ode to fellow Red Dirt musician Randy Crouch, who was presented with the 2019 Restless Spirit Award for songwriting at the festival. This year, the Restless Spirit Award will be virtually presented to Charlene Ripley on behalf of her husband, the late, great Steve Ripley, as part of a reimagined Gypsy Café Festival that will broadcast live on streaming platforms through O'Colly TV April 26 at 6 p.m.

You can watch the 2020 Bob Childers Gypsy Café Festival free on Apple TV, ROKU, AmazonPrime, social media, or by downloading the O'Colly TV app. For much-needed donations, go to [reddirtrelief-fund.org/donate](http://reddirtrelief-fund.org/donate), [PayPal.me/RDRF](http://PayPal.me/RDRF) or text "relief" to 202-858-1233.

"We're committed to giving the fans a unique musical experience," said Red Dirt Relief Fund Executive Director Katie Dale. "We trust in the healing power of music."

I trust in that power as well and I appreciate the efforts of all those who are working to bring music to us in unconventional ways. I also trust that we'll be together again soon, sharing live music experiences and catching up with friends. And when that day comes when our loved ones are safe and healthy and all the quiet venues and empty streets are in the rear view mirror, then yes, the effort will have been worth it.

So hang in there a little longer. Tune in to some live broadcasts, support Red Dirt Relief Fund, order an album or two, wash your hands, and keep searching, keep listening.



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## HEALTH & WELLNESS

# Ascension Added to St. John Hospital Name

St. John Health System has added Ascension to its name as part of a national effort to make it clearer and easier for patients to access the care they need and to navigate their health. In moving toward a unified name, St. John is now Ascension St. John.

By creating more consistent names for its facilities and services across the country, Ascension will better connect every aspect of care and innovation across its hospitals and other sites of care.

Since 2013, St. John has been affiliated with Ascension, the nation's leading nonprofit health system, with 2,600 sites of care and 34,000 providers in 21 states and Washington, D.C.

"St. John is working together with Ascension to shape the national health landscape," said Michael L. Mullins, CEO of St. John Health System and Ministry Market Executive. "We're bringing together the knowledge and resources of thousands of medical professionals across the country and combining it with our local medical expertise for an even greater benefit to the communities we have the honor of serving. Adding the Ascension name to our own reflects the strength of being part of this national network."

Patients will continue to see the doctor they know and trust, but that physician is connected to other experts and specialists across the state and across the country, all dedicated to providing care specific to their individual needs.

Innovations made possible

through St. John's work as part of Ascension enable patients and their families to connect with their caregivers when, where and how they need it, such as virtual care and telemedicine options. Reciprocally, St. John brings numerous nationally-recognized specialty services and teams including northeast Oklahoma's only Level II trauma center verified by the American College of Surgeons, the state's only transplant center rated five-stars by the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients and St. John Heyman Stroke Center, the first Joint Commission-certified comprehensive stroke center (CSC) in eastern Oklahoma, recognized as the top stroke care provider in eastern Oklahoma.

"The patients and families we serve have high expectations for excellent, personalized care delivered easily and conveniently. By creating consistent names across Ascension facilities and services nationwide, we're making it easier for patients to access the care they need and expanding our efforts to deliver high-quality, affordable care for everyone with special attention to those most in need," said Nick Ragone, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer for Ascension.

St. John joins Ascension systems in three other states in beginning the move to a unified name, which will take place within the next year. Last October, Ascension's sites of care in Kansas, Texas, Alabama, Florida and New York adopted the Ascension name. St. John Health



GTR Media Group photo

**ASCENSION ST. JOHN:** Owasso's St. John Hospital became Ascension St. John in February, as did the Ascension St. John locations in Jenks, Broken Arrow and Bixby, as well as the midtown Tulsa location at 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Utica Avenue, where a \$25-million renovation and re-brand is underway, funded by Ascension capital and significant community donations.

System opened in 1926 by the Catholic Congregation Sisters of a Sorrowful Mother as a 50-bed hospital at 21st Street and Utica Avenue. Today, it includes six hospitals in northeast Oklahoma including Tulsa, Owasso, Broken Arrow, Sapulpa, Bartlesville and Nowata.

### About Ascension

Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care.

As the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system, Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable.

Ascension includes approximately 156,000 associates and 34,000 aligned providers. Ascension's healthcare division operates more than 2,600 sites of care – including 151 hospitals and more

than 50 senior living facilities – in 21 states and the District of Columbia, while its solutions division provides a variety of services and solutions including physician practice management, venture capital investing, investment management, biomedical engineering, facilities management, clinical care management, information services, risk management, and contracting through Ascension's own group purchasing organization.

## Tulsa ER & Hospital Works to Keep Patients Safe During Virus

Tulsa ER & Hospital is prepared as the number of individuals with COVID-19 continues. The micro-hospital, which is open around-the-clock 24/7 and located at 717 W. 71<sup>st</sup> St., reallocated space and now has two lobbies to minimize the risk of cross-contamination.

The facility, known for its wait time of less than five minutes, will keep the main lobby open for patients who are not concerned about having the novel coronavirus. Masks will still be available at the main lobby as an added precaution. These patients will then be taken to the main ER wing.

Individuals who are concerned they may have COVID-19 should call the hospital's main number, 918-517-6300, from the parking lot. They will then be taken to the north side of the hospital to a separate lobby area. Five to six more individual ER rooms have been created in the north wing specifically to treat patients with COVID-19.

Medical Director Dr. Mark Blubaugh said, "Our facility is 100 percent physician-owned and that

means that not only can we provide amazing care to our patients, but it also allows us to make decisions fast. Agility is critical in times like these. We put the plan for a north lobby in place last week to best serve our entire patient population because nobody should have to worry about coming to the ER."

Tulsa ER & Hospital is also able to test patients for coronavirus using an antibody test when they come in for an ER visit. The test yields results in about 20 minutes. That test is then confirmed with a nasal swab test.

Tulsa ER & Hospital offers emergency care for all ages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For more information, contact the facility at 918-517-6300, or visit [www.tulsaer.com](http://www.tulsaer.com).

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# OSU Medicine Launches COVID-19 ECHO Line for Oklahoma Health Providers

In an effort to rapidly disseminate as much information as possible on best practices for hospitals and health care providers, Dr. Kayse Shrum, president of Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, directed the creation of a Project ECHO COVID-19 service line that can address the resources needed for Oklahoma's rural health systems.

"As a publicly supported academic health center, it's our obligation at OSU Medicine to step up to meet the challenges presented by the COVID-19 health crisis. As Governor Stitt's Secretary of Science and Innovation and a member of his Solution Task Force on COVID-19, we are charged with deploying as quickly as possible all available resources across the state to help abate the disease in light of its rapid onset," said Shrum. "Project ECHO COVID-19 service line allows us to share our knowledge and health care best practices with rural health providers so that they can be better equipped to diagnose, test, and treat patients with COVID-19."

The goal of the service line is to assist rural practitioners, hospitals, nursing homes, and even state and local stakeholders in policy and appropriations in meeting the challenges the disease is placing on rural communities and health systems.

The Project ECHO COVID-19 service line launched March 20 with more than 150 participating organizations, representing physicians' groups, critical access hospitals and nursing and extended care facilities," said Dr. Joseph Johnson, associate dean for Project ECHO at OSU Center for Health Sciences.

"The goal with this program is to address the changes in health practice and provide information necessary to flatten the curve of spread in our communities," Johnson said.

The growing COVID-19 pandemic is affecting Americans of all ages, with, according to the CDC, older adults and those with serious underlying medical conditions considered most at risk, said Tara M. Jackson, DrPH, executive director of OSU-CHS Project ECHO.

"This is a rapidly evolving situation and

our expert COVID-19 Oklahoma Update ECHO team closely monitors the prevalence and transmission rates of the virus and shares knowledge with healthcare providers across Oklahoma of best-practices in the diagnosis, treatment and containment of this disease. That's how Project ECHO is responding to meet needs of COVID-19, or the coronavirus disease as it is commonly referred to, is a contagious respiratory disease that was first detected in China in December of 2019 and now has impacted the world.

While considered a "novel" coronavirus, meaning it is a new form of a virus, it is currently being tracked as a life-threatening disease with an expanding nature to counties throughout Oklahoma.

"Although, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) expects widespread transmission of COVID-19 in our country, being prepared in our rural communities will decrease the mortality rates," said Dr. Gitanjali Pai, an infectious disease specialist at Stilwell Memorial Hospital.

To register for the OSU-CHS COVID-19 Project ECHO visit [health.okstate.edu/echo](http://health.okstate.edu/echo).

## About Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences and OSU Medicine

Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences is a nationally recognized academic health center focused on teaching, research and patient care. OSU Center for Health Sciences offers graduate and professional degrees through its College of Osteopathic Medicine, the School of Allied Health, the School of Health Care Administration, the School of Biomedical Sciences, and the School of Forensic Sciences.

OSU Medicine also operates a network of clinics in the Tulsa area offering a multitude of specialty services including addiction medicine, cardiology, family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, surgery and women's health.

For more information, visit [health.okstate.edu](http://health.okstate.edu).

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**KEEPING FIT:** This family found time during the Coronavirus epidemic to take a walk around the track at LaFortune Park in Tulsa. The three-mile track is a popular walking and running path for many health-conscious greater Tulsans. The bicyclist in the background is riding south on Hudson Avenue.

GTR Media Group photo



## EDUCATION

# TCC Student Named 2020 Goldwater Scholar

*Biology Major Justice Robinson Receives Most Prestigious Undergraduate Scholarship for Natural Sciences, Math & Engineering in U.S.*

Justice Robinson, a Tulsa Community College student, has been named a 2020 Goldwater Scholar by the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. Robinson, a biology major, is the first TCC student to receive this prestigious scholarship that is up to \$15,000 split between two years of study.

"I am still really shocked and proud to represent Tulsa Community College. I am a non-traditional student who had a six-year gap from high school to college, so I am older than most of my peers," said Robinson.

At 26, she will graduate in May with her associate degree and plans to continue her education in Neuroscience. Her ultimate plan is to earn a Ph.D. and conduct research in neurobiology, to understand changes in the brain.

"It was my own experiences and challenges in making the transition from high school to adulthood that sparked my interest in understanding what happens to your brain. Despite my family situation being a bit of a mess, I am focused on my goal and school has kept me grounded giving me control of my own future. It is a motivator for me instead of a deterrent," said Robinson.

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship is the most prestigious undergraduate scholarship for the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering in America and is awarded to sophomores and juniors who show exceptional promise of becoming our nation's next generation of research leaders in these fields.

"From the first day in my Introductory to Biology course and her first semester in col-

lege, Robinson knew she wanted to study neuroscience. Even then, she was so specific and so articulate. She has faced many challenges and, while others might have been held back, she is not. She is propelled forward by it and her success is inspiring to others," said Melissa Masse, TCC Associate Professor of Biology.

Robinson credits Masse, Neil Enis, and Diana Spencer with her success. She believes the mentorship she received at TCC along with the ability to work in the Biotechnology program doing undergraduate research and presenting her research has helped her academic success.

"I am super grateful for TCC and the encouragement and acceptance from Honors faculty and mentors. They made sure I knew it was okay to be myself and when I faced self-doubt, they were there to encourage me," she said.

Robinson is one of five Goldwater Scholars selected from Oklahoma and one of 396 selected from across the country.

The Scholarship Program honoring Senator Barry Goldwater was designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue research careers in the fields of the natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics. In partnership with the Department of Defense National Defense Education Programs, the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation Goldwater Scholarship increased number of scholarships this year.

"As it is vitally important that the Nation ensures that it has the scientific talent it needs to maintain its global competitive-

ness and security, we saw partnering with the Goldwater Foundation as a way to help ensure the U.S. is developing this talent," said Dr. Jagadeesh Pamulapati, Director of the NDEP program, as he explained the partnership.

To date, the Goldwater Foundation, since 1989, has awarded 9,047 scholarships and more than \$71M.



Courtesy TCC

JUSTICE ROBINSON

## Holland Hall Senior Serves As Page for OK State Senate

Holland Hall senior Abie Koch has completed a week of service as a page for the State Senate, Sen. Dave Rader, R-Tulsa, announced at the Capitol recently.

Koch plays softball and is a member of student council and Kindness Club. She serves as the community service coordinator for her school. After high school, Koch will attend Oklahoma State University studying nutritional science. Koch is the daughter of Brent and Lara Koch.

Pages serve vital functions during busy legislative sessions, attending a variety of Senate committee meetings and daily sessions of the full Senate. They also assist members and staff as directed.

One of their primary duties is to shuttle messages to and from senators in the Senate Chamber, which is off limits to the executive assistants and other senate staff.

Koch served at the Capitol from Feb. 10 – 13.



Courtesy photo

**SENATOR AND STUDENT:** Sen. Dave Rader, R-Tulsa, with Holland Hall senior Abie Koch, who served as a page for the Senate during the second week of session in February.





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# Find Your Passion and Purpose With Tulsa Tech's Veterinary Assistant Class

*Adjunct Instructor Jeanette Reed Finds Both in New Program*

What is your passion? It seems like a simple question, but the answers can be endless. New advice from counselors says instead of looking for a job you are passionate about, find one that gives you a purpose.

Tulsa Tech Adjunct Instructor Jeanette Reed found a job that checks both boxes. As a Veterinary Technician, she gets to fulfill her passion for animals by taking care of them when they are sick, and now she is teaching a class to help more people break into the veterinary field as a veterinary assistant.

"It is a very beginner crash course," Reed said. "It tells you how a veterinary hospital is run, the different kinds of staff members, and what you need to do if you want to move on."

The evening Veterinary Assistant class started last fall and is expanding this spring and summer to two classes. Reed says the class is

set up to help people find their path inside veterinary medicine.

"People see this in the catalog and say 'hey what's this all about,'" Reed quipped. "This can introduce them to all sorts of careers in veterinary medicine and open up doors to what is available in a vet hospital."

The class offers students hands-on learning. Reed says this is the perfect class for people who love animals, and the best way to check out what it is like to be a veterinarian before starting college.

"Our time is short, only about six weeks," Reed stated. "It'll help

you examine what you really want to do in a vet hospital without wasting any of your time or money."

It is also different from other veterinary classes because of who is teaching it.

"As a veterinary technician, I can teach them in ways doctors don't

always pick up," Reed commented. "The class gives students some good skills and can help them decide on their future."

The class includes a 10-hour internship in a vet office. That experience combined with classroom material provides the opportunity for students to enter the field as a veterinary assistant or continue their education to become a veterinary doctor.

Veterinary assistants are needed nationwide. The most recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows the career will grow 19 percent before the end of the decade. That is nearly five times the national average of four percent.

For Reed, going on to become a veterinarian was never in the cards. She finds her career as a veterinary technician the most rewarding, simply because of the time, she can spend with the patient.

"I have always loved animals," Reed said with a smile. "I found being a vet tech, we get to do the fun stuff, we get to interact with the animals and share the love with the animals and form a bond with each animal."

So if you are just getting started in your career or looking for a way to keep working while getting something positive out of it, Reed suggests considering taking this veterinary assistant class.

## News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER  
Superintendent



TULSA TECH'S JEANETTE REED

Vanessa Aziere/Tulsa Tech

"This is a good introduction to what to expect," Reed said. "I can't cover everything, but I think it will help people make the decision on what they want to do going forward."

If you are 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](http://tulsatech.edu).



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MAKE YOUR OWN PATH



## GRADUATE DEGREES CHANGE LIVES

Tulsa Police Officer Jesse Guardiola wanted to improve the relationship between Tulsa's Hispanic community and law enforcement. Through his master's degree program at OSU-Tulsa, Jesse refined his vision and conducted research to create a community policing plan that became a national model and recently earned him the **Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Policing**.

When we provide opportunities for advanced education and research, we empower our citizens to make an impact in our community. And that creates a better Tulsa.

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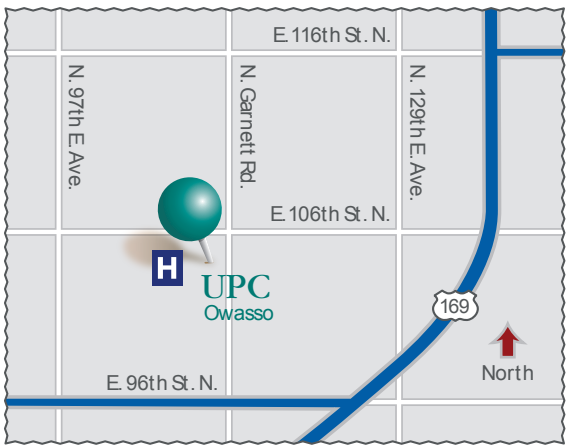


Same-Day Appointments  
in Owasso

TERESA DOLLAR, APRN-CNP  
Internal Medicine

When caring for people, Ms. Dollar’s philosophy is to establish and foster an ongoing, trusting and empathetic relationship with them. “My goal is for every patient to know that they are important to me,” she said.

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Leading School Districts



Owasso Public Schools is the one of the largest school districts in the State of Oklahoma. The OPS School System incorporates seventy-two square miles including territory in Tulsa and Rogers Counties. OPS is located just north of Tulsa, Oklahoma, divided north to south by Highway 169.

Enrollment has grown to 9,800, served by 15 instructional sites, including nine elementary schools, 6th Grade Center, 7th Grade Center, 8th Grade Center, Owasso High School and the Owasso Ram Academy. With continuing improvements at the school sites, Owasso Public Schools is working to meet the needs and provide for the safety of the growing student population.

The Owasso School District provides excellent physical facilities and equipment to support a quality program that meets the educational requirements of the students. School buildings and auxiliary facilities afford maximum safety, protection of health, and accommodations to the physical conditions of those who use them.

In addition to an excellent teaching staff, every school has a qualified counselor and a media specialist. Owasso Public Schools also has seven, full-time registered nurses to provide health services and accommodate the needs of the students in the system.

Owasso’s proximity to Tulsa provides its citizens with employment in a major metropolitan area, yet retains the benefits of small town living. The community has experienced tremendous growth in the last 10 years. Owasso continues to grow towards the north and east with many new subdivisions being developed.

Owasso residents believe that education is the key to their children’s future. The schools and community are working together to provide the children with quality educational opportunities that will prepare them for a prosperous future.

#Essential4Kids

Kids Need All Adults to Report Abuse During COVID-19 Crisis

A resource for all adults describing signs of child abuse and where to report.

Reporting child abuse and neglect is everyone’s responsibility.

Kids are Counting on All Adults to Protect Them

This means YOU! This resource is for any adult who interacts with a child. It outlines signs of abuse and neglect and where to report.

In times of crisis and economic instability, child abuse and neglect rates increase. However, reports of child abuse and neglect in Oklahoma have declined dramatically.

Children are not going to school, activities, places of worship and other public places where adults look out for their safety and well-being.

Trust your Gut

If something does not look safe, sound safe or feel safe – report.

Making a Report is Asking for Help and Services

When you report, you are asking for a professional to help a child and their family. You do not need proof. You are not making an accusation.

You May Be the Only Person to Act

If you reasonably suspect a child is unsafe – report.

Anonymous reports are accepted from anyone. Anyone making a report in good faith is protected against civil/criminal penalty or adverse employment action. Your identity is held confidential and will not be revealed.

Some Signs a Child is Not Safe

Physical abuse

• Child appears frightened of the caregiver.

• Child has burns, bites, broken bones, bruising, black eyes or complaints of pain.

• Caregiver offers no explanation of a child’s injury, the parent “blames” the child’s behavior or personality for the injury. Ask yourself “Does the story match the injury?”

Sexual abuse

• Child attaches very quickly to strangers or new adults in their environment.

• Demonstrates unusual sexual knowledge or behavior for their age.

• Difficulty walking or sitting.

• Witnessing an adult inappropriately touching a child, watching pornography with a child or saying sexual things to a child.

Emotional Abuse

• Child shows extremes in behavior: overly aggressive or compliant.

• Appears emotionally unattached to caregiver and others.

• Caregiver constantly blames, belittles or berates the child and refuses to help the child when needed.

Neglect

• Child begs or steals food, has severe poor hygiene or states that no one at home provides care.

• Witnessing a child using alcohol or other drugs.

• Highly stressful family situations and/or adults in home abusing alcohol or other drugs.

• Unlocked weapons or guns in the home.

Where To Report

24-hour/7 days a week

Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline

1-800-522-3511

If a child is in immediate danger, call 911.

Free child abuse prevention and reporting training for children and adults available at [carecenter-okc.org](http://carecenter-okc.org). For more information, go to [cacok.com](http://cacok.com).





## OWASSO SPORTS

# Head Coach Bill Blankenship Quickly Built Rams Football Into a Powerhouse

By **MIKE MOGUIN**  
GTR Sports Writer

When I interviewed Josh Proctor in the summer of 2017, the defensive back said Owasso football would have a breakout year and he spoke it with confidence and assurance.

How right he was.

Proctor, now at Ohio State, was already a standout football player for the Rams at his position.

Other D-I players included in that lineup were Wayne Jones, now at Kansas State, and junior quarterback Will Kuehne, now at North Texas.

With Bill Blankenship having taken over the program, a new chemistry was building.

The Rams had been average in the years prior to his arrival as head coach. They were often competitive, making the playoffs in some years and struggled in others. And like other Class 6A programs across the state, they could not get past Jenks or Union when it came to postseason.

In 2016, the year before Blankenship was hired, the Rams finished 3-7. The standout coach was what the program needed.

As everyone knows, Blankenship built Union into the powerhouse it is. During his tenure with the Redskins (1992-2005), they won three state championships (2002, 2004, 2005).

He spent eight years – four as an assistant (2007-10) and four as head coach (2011-14) at his alma mater, the University of Tulsa.

As an assistant, TU had high-octane offenses and won three bowl games. As the head coach, he led the program to a Conference USA Championship and Liberty Bowl victory in 2012.

Blankenship went back into high school coaching in 2016, leading Fayetteville (Ark.) to the Arkansas Class 7A state title that year.

One month later, he was lured back into Oklahoma to coach the Rams. The rest is history.

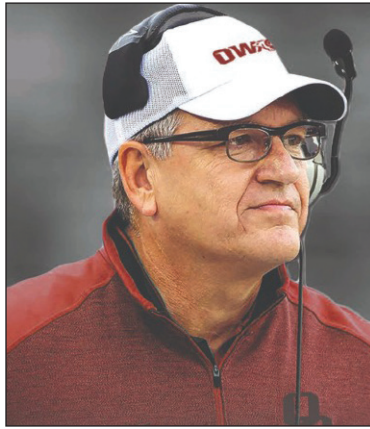
The Rams were expected to improve in 2017, but exceeded expectations by grabbing the bull by the horns from the start.

Owasso began the season with a stunning 48-10 rout of Jenks in its season opener. People were expecting Jenks to win that game, while the Rams were projected to improve in Blankenship's first season as coach.

One month later, Owasso played Union, who won state the year before. After the Rams took an early 20-6 advantage, Union came back to win, 47-44, in overtime, giving the Rams their only loss of the season.

But Owasso would avenge that defeat in the game that mattered most – the Class 6A state championship – winning 21-14 for its first state title in 33 years. It also broke a 21-year Jenks-Union championship stranglehold on the state's highest classification.

With the loss of key players to graduation, Owasso had a struggling 1-3 start the following season, but bounced back nicely



**BILL BLANKENSHIP**

en route to a 7-4 finish, capped by a close loss to eventual 2018 champion Broken Arrow in the semifinals.

Fast-forward to 2019 when a new crop of D-I players in the likes of Deuce Mayberry (Kansas), Isaiah Jacobs (Maryland), Haydon Grant (Tulsa), Payton Lusk (Missouri State) and others loading the Ram roster.

When interviewing one of those players at the campus football facility last summer, I overheard Blankenship talking to the other players in the next room about what they needed to do if they wanted to have the year 2019 stenciled into the press box, indicating a year of another state title.

The Rams delivered by going through the season unscathed, winning state back in December. They opened up the season



Courtesy Photo

**CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM:** Owasso storms the field before kick-off of a game. The Rams have emerged as a powerhouse after winning two of the last three Class 6A state football championships.

with a 47-34 win over Bentonville (Ark.) in an offensive battle late in August. Owasso set the tone with dominating wins over Fayetteville (Ark.) (51-19), Broken Arrow (42-19) and Union (34-10) in three of their first four games.

In the game against BA, the Tigers scored first and was on its way to a two-TD lead before fumbling the ball away to the Rams in the red zone. A second BA fumble at its three-yard line, set up a tying TD by Jacob on the next play.

Owasso scored again to take the lead before being in a 14-14 deadlock at halftime. After allowing a Tiger field goal to start the second half, the Rams

outscored BA 28-2 in the second half. They would dominate in all but one of their remaining regular season games.

In the playoffs, Owasso routed Norman (52-14), then played a closer battle with BA before winning 42-27.

It then overcame a struggling start to beat Jenks 14-6 in the 6A championship game. Owasso had to overcome stalled drives in the red zone as well as a third quarter deficit to win. Grant made some key sacks in the game.

With two state championships in a three-year period and the production of several D-I players, it is clear Blankenship has turned the Rams into a powerhouse with a bright future ahead.

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## SPORTS

# Legendary Coach Eddie Sutton Selected For Induction to Naismith Hall of Fame

Courtesy STEPHEN HOWARD  
Oklahoma State University

The author of 806 wins and three Final Four appearances, the legendary Eddie Sutton has been selected for enshrinement in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Sutton, 84, earned his place in Springfield, Massachusetts after being named a finalist for the seventh time in February. The enshrinement ceremony is currently slated for August 29, 2020.

The first coach in history to lead four different schools to the NCAA tournament, Sutton ranks 11th all-time with 806 career victories. He is an eight-time conference coach of the year and a two-time recipient of the Associated Press National Coach of the Year award (1978, 1986).

Sutton entered the College Basketball Hall of Fame in 2011 having led Creighton, Arkansas, Kentucky and his alma mater, Oklahoma State, to a combined 26 NCAA Tournament appearances. In 37 seasons of Division I coaching, Sutton won 17 conference regular season and tournament championships.

He took Arkansas to the Final Four in 1978 and returned with Oklahoma State in 1995 and 2004. Sutton's three Final Four appearances are tied with notable names like Phog Allen, Nolan Richardson, Bill Self and John Thompson for the 21st most in college basketball history.

Sutton becomes the fifth OSU representative in the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame, joining Bob Kurland (1961), Mr. Henry Iba (1969), Don Haskins (1997) and Bill Self (2017).

When Sutton arrived in Stillwater on April 11, 1990, he inherited an Oklahoma State program that had made just one appearance in the NCAA Tournament in 25 years and had only seven winning seasons during that same period.

Over the next 16 seasons, Sutton guided Oklahoma State to 13 NCAA Tournaments, 13 20-win seasons and seven first or second place finishes in conference play. OSU's NCAA Tournament appearance in 2005 marked its eighth-consecutive postseason appearance, the longest streak in school history.

At Oklahoma State, Sutton coached seven All-Americans, 52 all-conference Cowboys, five Big Eight/Big 12 Players of the Year and nine NBA Draft picks. Bryant "Big Country" Reeves, Desmond Mason, John Lucas III and Joey Graham all became All-Americans and OSU legends under Sutton.

Sutton began his college coaching career by taking over a Creighton team in 1969 that had not produced a winning record in three seasons. He led them to five consecutive winning marks, culminating in a 23-7 record and a trip to the NCAA Tournament in 1974.

He was hired at Arkansas in 1974 and is credited with leading the Razorbacks back to national

prominence. Sutton coached the famed Arkansas Triplets – Sidney Moncrief, Ron Brewer and Marvin Delph – as well as Joe Kleine, Scott Hastings, Alvin Robertson and numerous other Razorback greats. In fact, his Arkansas winning percentage of .776 was the highest in the history of the Southwest Conference.

At Kentucky, Sutton won two Southeastern Conference championships, advanced to three NCAA Tournaments and was the National Coach of the Year (AP, NABC) after the 1985-86 season.

Born in Bucklin, Kansas on March 12, 1936, Sutton was a standout at Bucklin High School before attending Oklahoma A&M, where he played for the legendary Mr. Iba from 1956-58. Sutton averaged 8.1 points in 1957 and helped take down star center Wilt Chamberlain and No. 2 Kansas, 56-54. As a senior in 1958, Sutton poured in 8.3 points on 47.4 percent shooting and helped OSU win 21 games and advance to the NCAA Tournament.

Sutton earned his bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State in 1958 and a master's degree from OSU in 1959.

Along with his late wife, Patsy, the Suttons have three sons – Steve, Sean and Scott – two of which carried on the family coaching tradition. Sean was the head coach at Oklahoma State from 2006-08 and is currently on staff at Texas Tech, while Scott spent 18 seasons as the head coach at



Courtesy photo

**COACHING GREAT EDDIE SUTTON:** The Hall of Famer led Oklahoma State, Creighton, Arkansas and Kentucky to a combined 26 NCAA Tournament appearances.

Oral Roberts before joining Mike Boynton's staff at OSU in 2017.

This is just the latest hall of fame honor for Sutton. On top of his induction into the College Basketball Hall of Fame in 2011, Sutton has gone into the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame (1983), the University of Arkansas Sports Hall of Honor (1995), the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame (1996), the Oklahoma State University Hall of Hon-

or (1997), the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame (2009), the Creighton University Hall of Fame and the College of Southern Idaho Hall of Fame.

The Oklahoma State and Arkansas basketball programs continue to honor Sutton to this day, with the Cowboys playing on Eddie Sutton Court and the Razorbacks practicing at the Eddie Sutton Basketball Practice Gym.

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**PISTOLS FIRING:** Oklahoma State University Athletic Director Mike Holder, left, was the guest speaker at a recent Rotary Club of Tulsa luncheon meeting. His host was Dr. Tom Allen, right, a clinical professor who also serves as the OSU wrestling team's physician. Holder, who has held his position since 2005, has led the OSU athletic department during the greatest growth in its history.

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# Cowgirl Equestrian Finishes the Season Ranked No. 2

## Team Also Collects Academic All-Big 12 Honors

The Oklahoma State Cowgirl equestrian team finished the 2019-2020 season ranked No. 2 in the NCEA Farnam Poll. The Cowgirls went 9-3 on the season and were on a three-meet winning streak before the season was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The team wrapped up the season with the best winning percentage in program history at .750.

In individual event rankings, the Cowgirls finished No. 6 in Fences, No. 3 in Flat and No. 4 in Horsemanship and Reining.

Cowgirls Harley Huff and Emma Verplank were named first-team All-Americans for Horsemanship.

Huff earned a spot on the All-America team for the third-straight season. During her junior campaign, she tallied a 9-2-1 record with four MOP's as one of OSU's most consistent riders.

Huff was also named the Big 12 Horsemanship Rider of the Year for the third-straight season, becoming just the third rider in Big

12 history to record three individual yearly awards in the same event and only the second to do so in consecutive years.

Verplank, a senior captain for the Cowgirls, finished her final season 9-1-2 and was named to the All-Big 12 Horsemanship team.

Fellow team captain Abigail Brayman was an honorable mention selection on the All-America Flat team. A junior, Brayman went 8-3-1 on the year and ended the season with three-straight victories to earn All-Big 12 Flat team accolades.

Freshman Sydney North earned honorable mention All-America status in Fences after going 7-3-1 on the year and closing out the season with three consecutive wins.

Team captain Hannah Mitchell earned a spot on the All-Big 12 team in Reining. Mitchell was 7-4-1 on the year and earned MOP honors in five meets. She capped her career as a four-time All-Big 12 rider in Reining.

The Big 12 Conference announced 18 Oklahoma State Equestrian riders have earned 2020 Academic All-Big 12 accolades, including Sydnee Gamar, Caitlyn Sanchez and Katie Schell who all were nominated with 4.00-grade point averages.

Katie Schell earns her spot on the Academic All-Big 12 Team for the second consecutive year with a 4.0. Hannah Janson earns first-team honors for the third time, while Stephanie Helsen, Kristi Wiggins and Emma Verplank receive honors for the second-straight season.

To qualify, student-athletes must maintain a 3.00 GPA or higher either cumulative or the two previous semesters and must have participated in 20 percent of their team's scheduled contests.

First-team members consist of those who have maintained a 3.20 or better GPA.

The Cowgirls had 15 student-athletes named to the Academic All-Big 12 First Team with Sarah



**RIDE 'EM COWGIRLS:** Freshman Gentry Cherry competes in Reining Feb. 22 against Texas A&M.

Clymer, Hannah Coleman, Ava Drysch, Sydnee Gamar, Stephanie Helsen, Hannah Janson, Hannah Lovrien, Hallie McClintock, Emily Morris, Katie Pelzel, Caitlyn Sanchez, Katie Schell, Emma Verplank, Kristi Wiggins and Sydnie

Ziegler all making the list.

The second-team selections must hold a 3.00 to 3.19 GPA.

Abigail Brayman, Harley Huff and Cassidy Watters earned Academic All-Big 12 Second Team honors for the Cowgirls.

# Cascia Hall's Eli Griffin Wins Third Straight Wrestling Championship at State Tournament in Oklahoma City

By **MIKE MOGUIN**  
GTR Sports Writer

Another state wrestling championship now sits on the trophy shelf of Eli Griffin.

The Cascia Hall junior gained a gold medal for the third straight year in late February when he won the Class 4A 113-pound weight class in the state tournament in Oklahoma City.

Griffin beat Ashton Grounds of Tuttle in a 9-3 decision.

Staying calm, wrestling smart and giving credit to the Creator was the key to winning, he said.

"I didn't want to make any bad decisions," Griffin said. "I just relaxed and didn't allow any stress going into the match. Just knowing that I'm doing everything for God. Whether or not it goes my way or whether or not I win my third, all that hard work and all my success goes to God. It's not about me."

Griffin now looks to next year where he will be going for a fourth title in his senior campaign. If successful, he would be Cascia Hall's first four-time state champion since Mike Bizzell accomplished the feat from 2002-05 and the 41st in Oklahoma.

Griffin moved up to 113 pounds from 106, where he had wrestled his freshman and sophomore years. The adjustment worked out well, he said.

"It was great," Griffin said. "I didn't have to cut as much weight as I did my sophomore year, but I felt strong and was cutting enough weight where I was bigger than a lot of guys. I felt a lot stronger, more quick and able to wrestle more my style at 113."

Wrestling requires maintaining the weight in which wrestlers prefer to compete. That often means dieting or avoiding certain foods or both, which is not easy.

"For me, it's all about mental toughness because you're going to want to break and you're going to want to eat something that you shouldn't," Griffin said. "I just maintain a healthy diet and workout super hard. If my weight is not where it is supposed to be, I don't starve myself, I just go and workout more. It is really just making sure you're not starving yourself and actually have the nutrients you need to have a great practice and not waste a day in practice because you haven't eaten anything."

There are times when Griffin is faced with temptation.

"I just think of the bigger picture," he said. "A cookie or a piece of cake at 17 is not how it's going to pay off, and by the time I'm out of college and done wrestling, I'll be able to have as much of that as I want, so I just think of the bigger picture."

As for college, Griffin has visited as many as nine schools and has committed to California Baptist, located in Riverside, Calif.

"The coaches are strong Christian guys and the wrestlers are very strong Christian guys and I just love the atmosphere," he said.

In the meantime, Griffin will be doing freestyle wrestling through the offseason. The key to preparing for that fourth title will be staying focused and staying sharp.

"I will be focusing on the little things to make my technique as perfect as I can be," he said.

"It is just a matter of getting better and going through the opportunities that the sport gives every year. I don't really compare seasons too much. It's a matter of getting better, giving Glory to God and having fun throughout the season."



**GOLD MEDALIST:** Eli Griffin of Cascia Hall stands at the top of the podium with a gold medal and bracket after winning his third state wrestling championship in February.



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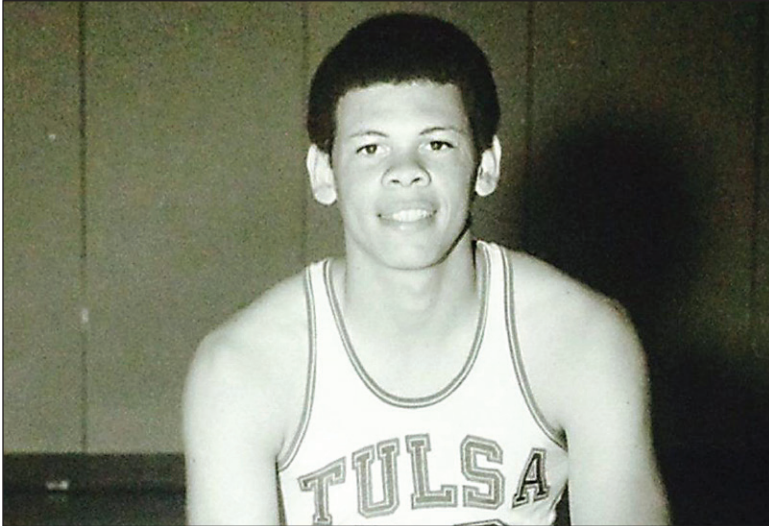
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# BINGO!!! Tulsa Basketball All-American Bobby 'Bingo' Smith's Jersey is Retired

*The Event Was Held at Legends Night in February*



BOBBY 'BINGO' SMITH

## SPORTS

Courtesy of The University of Tulsa Sports Information

One of the most decorated players in the history of the University of Tulsa basketball program, Bobby "Bingo" Smith

(1965-69), had his Golden Hurricane jersey "No. 32" retired. Smith was honored as a part of "Legends Weekend," when Tulsa hosted the SMU Mustangs Feb. 22, at the Donald W. Reynolds Center.

Smith is the seventh Tulsa basketball student-athlete to have his jersey retired. He joins #12 Willie Biles, #20 Steve Harris, #21 Shea



Harry Lentz for GTR Media Group

**HONORING A GREAT:** University of Tulsa Athletic Director Dr. Derrick Gragg presents the retired jersey to Bobby Bingo Smith during Legends Night in February at the Reynolds Center before the basketball game with SMU. At right of Smith is his coach at TU, Ken Hayes, and standing behind him is his son, Andre.

Seals, #24 Jim King, #25 Paul Pressey and #30 Bob Patterson. "Bobby was a great outside shooter. He was a very humble guy and was very much a team player," said Ken Hayes, who recruited and coached Smith at Tulsa. Hayes was an assistant coach at Tulsa and became the head coach for Smith's senior season (1968-69).

"Over the years, I've been asked who's the greatest player that I've ever coached. My response is that I can't tell you because they all did different things, but I can say this – the greatest athlete that I've ever been associated with was Bobby 'Bingo' Smith," said Hayes. In his first year at Tulsa, Smith averaged 17.3 points and 14.5 rebounds on the freshman team during the 1965-66 season. He scored at a 15.0 clip and pulled down 10.4 rebounds in his first season on the varsity squad, while averaging 13.1 points and 7.3 rebounds his junior campaign.

As a senior, Smith averaged a team-leading and Missouri Valley Conference high 24.5 points, while adding 10.3 rebounds per game. He earned second-team Associated Press and Converse Yearbook All-America honors his senior season of 1968-69. Smith was also recognized with

first-team all-league honors and was named the MVC Player of the Year that season. Smith completed his collegiate career with 1,368 points for a 17.8 scoring average and had a career .472 field goal percentage. In 77 career games, Smith also totaled 729 rebounds for a 9.5 average per game. "Bobby was a very-gifted athlete all-around," said Hayes. "Bobby's stats would have been even more remarkable had we had the 3-point shot back in his era. That was his strength. He was a tremendous outside shooter and he took that talent to the NBA."

Smith was nicknamed 'Bingo' by legendary Tulsa radio announcer Len Morton. "When Bobby would shoot, Len would say 'Bingo' and that stuck with Bobby throughout his college and NBA career. "Our fans would know that he hit a long-range shot when they heard Len exclaim 'Bingo!' over the radio," Hayes added.

Smith went on to an 11-year career in the NBA. He was the sixth pick in the first round of the 1969 NBA draft by the San Diego Rockets, and a year later he was drafted by the Cleveland Cavaliers in the 1970 Expansion Draft. In his first game with the Cavs, he scored 21 points. He helped con-

tribute to the Cavaliers winning the NBA Central Division title in 1975 and was part of the Miracle in Richfield winning Game 2 of the Semifinals vs. the Washington Bullets.

In 11 professional seasons, Smith played in 865 games, logged 22,407 minutes and scored 10,882 career points. Smith was especially noted for his ability to hit jump shots from long range. His outside jump shots often were taken from today's 3-point range. For his career, he recorded a .449 field goal percentage (4,776 FGs made out of 10,642 attempts), had a .798 free throw percentage (1,307-of-1,637) and accounted for 3,630 total rebounds and 1,734 assists. Smith was inducted into The University of Tulsa Athletics Hall of Fame in 1984. He is also a member of the 2016 class of the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame. His number 7 was retired by the Cleveland Cavaliers on December 4, 1979. A native of Memphis, Tenn., Smith was an outstanding prep athlete at Melrose High School, where he earned first-team All-America honors in basketball and was a third-team All-American in football.

Smith was drafted out of high school by the Pittsburgh Pirates as a pitcher and also had scholarship offers to play college football.

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# Coronavirus and Sports: Why the Wait Will be Worth it Until the Games Return

By DOUG EATON  
Contributing Sports Writer

The sports world has certainly been turned upside down by the COVID-19 pandemic. So many games and events that were the hallmark at this time of year have been cancelled and some lost forever. While some may be rescheduled at some point in the future, any degree of certainty of when, where and how is still up in the air. College conference basketball tournaments, the NBA regular season and playoffs, the NHL regular season and playoffs, the Masters, the opening of major league and minor league baseball seasons, the Kentucky Derby, the College Baseball World Series, and many, many others have all been impacted.

The tipping point came on the evening of Wednesday, March 11 when an NBA game between our Oklahoma City Thunder and the Memphis Grizzlies was suddenly stopped just minutes before tip-off. One of the Grizzlies had tested positive for the coronavirus. Little did we know at the time that this would ignite an explosion of events that would rock the sports world.

My wife and I were at a spring training game in Mesa, Arizona that evening watching the Chicago Cubs and Milwaukee Brewers on a cool desert evening when suddenly fans' phones all over the stadium, like those all over America, started buzzing with the incredible news that an NBA game in Oklahoma City had been stopped. It was not until later that we would learn why. And little did we know at the



GTR Media Group photo

**WAITING FOR FANS:** ONEOK Field, home of the Tulsa Drillers, stands empty as fans wait for baseball's return. The Drillers were set to open the season April 9.

time that we were at the last spring training game of the year before all the remaining Cactus and Grapefruit League spring training games had been cancelled.

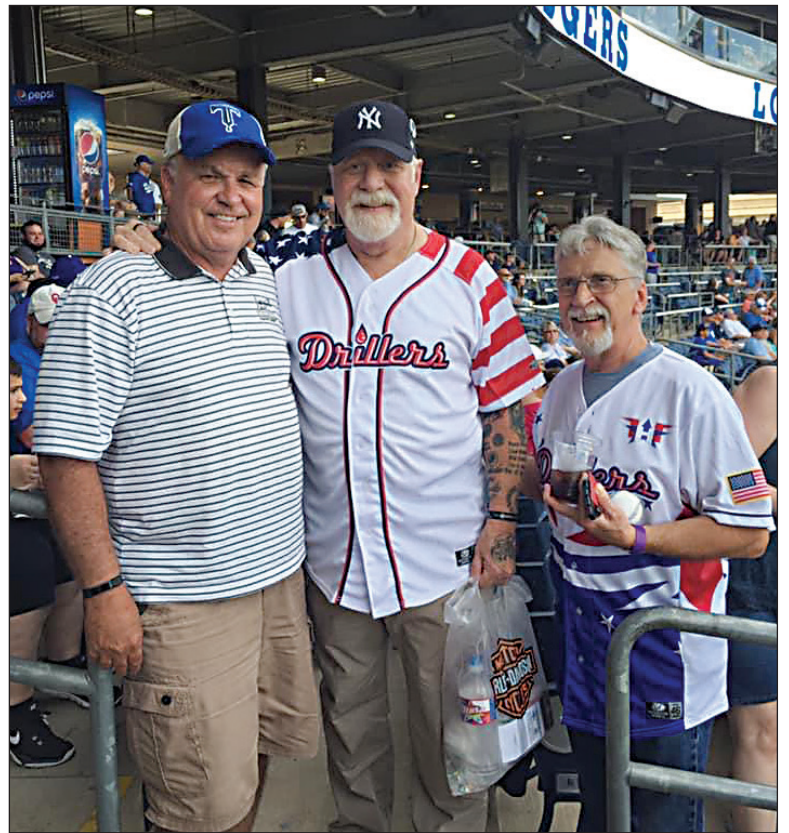
Oklahoma State was the last local team to play this season as they managed to play Iowa State in the first round of the Big 12 tournament before it was shut down. Amazingly, even a Big East Tournament game was called at half-time in fear of the effects of the coronavirus.

Returning to Tulsa the next day, March 13, there was an anxiousness in anticipation of the OS-SAA State Basketball Championships for Classes 5A and 6A being played at the Mabee Center and three other venues in the Tul-

sa area. We soon learned that the high school state tournaments had been postponed, the Big 12 men's and women's tournaments were cancelled and the NBA season had been suspended. The University of Tulsa men's basketball team, on the bubble of a NCAA tourney berth, had traveled to Fort Worth, Texas, for the American Athletic Conference tournament only to be told of that tourney's cancellation and immediately made a u-turn and headed back to Tulsa.

The sports dominos were falling fast and suddenly, in what was anticipated to be a great sports weekend, was no more. The coronavirus was here and making its ugly presence known.

For the last month or so, our way



Courtesy photo

**GOOD OL' DAYS:** Author Doug Eaton, left, with Mickey Mantle's sons, David and Danny, at ONEOK Field on Mickey Mantle Night.

of life has drastically changed. Social distancing, self-isolation, mask-wearing and frequent hand washing have entered all of our lives whether we wanted them or not. Businesses have been shuttered, jobs have been lost, budgets and economies have been wrecked but most importantly of all, innocent lives have been lost.

If we all can comply with the guidelines being presented by fed-

eral, state and local officials, we will get through this nightmare. Patience, diligence and cooperation will be required and for how long, nobody knows at this time. But when the coronavirus is conquered, and no doubt it will be, life will return to a sense of normalcy. Sports and games will return. Athletes and fans will return. Life will be normal again.

It will be worth the wait.

## JOHN JOSLIN, ORU's DIRECTOR OF SPORTS MEDICINE, TO BE INDUCTED INTO OATA HALL OF FAME



Courtesy ORU

**TOP TRAINER:** John Joslin, left, Director of Sports Medicine at Oral Roberts University, is set to be inducted into the Oklahoma Athletic Trainers' Association (OATA) Hall of Fame at the group's annual meeting in May.

Joslin has spent the last 12 years with the Golden Eagles supervising athletic training and sports medicine efforts for each of ORU's 16 intercollegiate teams. He came to ORU after spending the previous three years as Head Athletic Trainer for the Tulsa 66ers of the NBA Developmental League.

A 1988 graduate of the University of Tulsa, Joslin worked at EOC for 23 years and assisted athletic training students during clinical rotations. He served as the OATA chairman from 1997-2005 and remains a member of the National Athletic Trainers Association and Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision.

He is joined by Roger Ploeger and Dr. Brock Schnebel in the Class of 2020 and

the 30 previous recipients dating back to 1997.

Joslin is the second member of the ORU community to earn the distinguished honor as Glenn "Smitty" Smith was inducted in the OATA Hall of Fame in 2013.

The highest honor a member of the OATA can receive is induction into the OATA Hall of Fame and be recognized for their contributions to the profession of Athletic Training. Candidates are reviewed and then voted on by the Hall of Fame Committee. The candidates who receive a majority vote are then submitted for final approval by the OATA Executive Committee.

For the latest information on ORU Athletics, follow the Golden Eagles on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, or go to [www.ORAthletics.com](http://www.ORAthletics.com). Fans can also receive updates on the team by downloading two mobile apps, ORU Golden Eagles Live and ORU Front Row, available on the App Store and Google Play.

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## THE ECONOMY

# Tulsa-Based AAON Provides HVAC Equipment For Temporary Hospitals, Health Infrastructure

AAON, Inc. (NASDAQ-AAON) announced in early April that the first truckload of AAON HVAC equipment was shipped out for the Stony Brook Temporary Hospital under construction in Stony Brook, NY. As an essential manufacturer of HVAC systems, AAON is doing all that is possible for customers that have AAON equipment on critical infrastructure, and those customers that need new equipment or parts for critical infrastructure.

"On Sunday, March 29, I received a call from Joe Sbarra, the president of the AAON sales representative office in New York City, Gil-Bar Industries, inquiring about the ability of AAON to build 2,200 tons of HVAC equipment for a temporary hospital. By Tuesday, an order was placed for forty-four 50-ton customized AAON units. We went into immediate 24-hour production of this equipment in

order to ensure delivery of all equipment by Tuesday, April 7. The assembly line building these units in Tulsa is nearly full," said Gary Fields, President of AAON.

This project is part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers efforts to support the FEMA-led response to the pandemic in New York. JB&B Consulting Engineers designed the mechanical systems for the project.

A second order has already been placed for another temporary hospital at SUNY Old Westbury, in Old Westbury, NY. The 4,000 tons of HVAC equipment on these two orders equates to the air conditioning for more than 1,300 single-family homes.

Fields added, "AAON is pleased to participate in emergency efforts such as this one, without any premium pricing for expedited manufacturing and shipment. Multiple other critical

projects are also underway at all of our manufacturing facilities. We have the manufacturing capacity, and we are committed to being a part of the solution to these urgent needs."

### About AAON

AAON, Inc. is engaged in the engineering, manufacturing, marketing and sale of air conditioning and heating equipment consisting of standard, semi-custom and custom rooftop units, chillers, packaged outdoor mechanical rooms, air handling units, makeup air units, energy recovery units, condensing units, geothermal/water-source heat pumps, coils and controls. Since the founding of AAON in 1988, it has maintained a commitment to design, develop, manufacture and deliver heating and cooling products.

For more information, visit [www.AAON.com](http://www.AAON.com).



Courtesy photo

**HEADED TO HOSPITALS:** AAON HVAC units being transported from Tulsa for installation in temporary hospitals in New York and New Jersey.

# Public Service Company of Oklahoma Named A 2020 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year

Efforts to protect the environment through energy efficiency have earned Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) the U.S. Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year designation.

Each year, the DOE's ENERGY STAR program honors a group of businesses and organizations that

have made outstanding contributions to protecting the environment through superior energy achievements. Award winners are selected from a network of thousands of ENERGY STAR partners.

PSO's Partner of the Year award specifically recognizes the company for the delivery of energy efficiency programs, which

includes PSO's Energy Saving Products, Home Rebates/Multiple Upgrades, and New Homes programs.

"Having first earned Partner of the Year recognition in 2008, PSO has demonstrated year after year our commitment to helping our customers save both energy and money," said Jeff Brown, Energy

Efficiency and Consumer Programs Manager for PSO. "We are proud to be recognized among industry leaders influencing the adoption of energy-efficient products and services, and in the development and adoption of strategies that provide substantial savings in the buildings where we work, and in our homes. These efforts help

reduce the cost of doing business, while also reducing emissions and promoting a healthy environment."

For a complete list of 2020 winners and more information about ENERGY STAR's awards program, visit [www.energystar.gov/about/awards/2020\\_energy\\_star\\_award\\_winners](http://www.energystar.gov/about/awards/2020_energy_star_award_winners)

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# Mixed Use Development Planned for Tulsa's Pearl District

Tulsa-based entities Noria Corporation Inc. and Noria Properties LLC have announced plans to construct Pearl Ridge, a new mixed-use development in the Pearl District at 10th Street and Peoria Avenue in Tulsa. Pearl Ridge will consist of 80,000 square feet of mixed-use Class-A office space and ground-floor retail space in two phases: Pearl Ridge South and Pearl Ridge North. Currently, Pearl Ridge South, the first phase of the development, is 50 percent pre-leased, leaving approximately 20,000 square feet of available office, retail and restaurant space.

"We are excited to bring Class-A office space and retail to this wonderful location just outside the IDL yet so close to all the amenities that downtown Tulsa, the Pearl District, Route 66 and Cherry Street offer," said Jim Fitch, Noria's CEO. "The opportunity to construct a mixed-use development in the Pearl that showcases Tulsa's beautiful skyline is extraordinary and most exciting."

Along with 60,000 square feet of Class-A office space, Pearl Ridge will include 20,000 square feet of ground-floor retail and restaurant space to be called the Shops at Pearl Ridge. Located along the new Peoria Aero BRT, the Shops at Pearl Ridge will aid in the revitalization and redevelopment of the Pearl District by providing walkable restau-

rants and retail to local residents and businesses.

Noria Corp, an award-winning, Tulsa-based engineering firm co-founded by Fitch, is thrilled to move its headquarters from 43rd and Peoria to the Pearl District. The company will occupy two floors, approximately 20,000 square feet, of Pearl Ridge South. Additional office space is available along with ground-level retail and restaurant space.

"Staying in Tulsa was important to us and we felt the Pearl District was the perfect place to relocate," Mike Ramsey, President of Noria Corp. "We're excited to take advantage of everything the area has to offer."

The architectural design of Pearl Ridge is contracted to Tulsa-based CJC Architects Inc. Tim Boeckman and CJC Architects boasts a successful portfolio of projects across Oklahoma, including One Place Denver Building, OBU Stavros Hall College of Nursing, ClimbTulsa and Oklahoma Army National Guard Readiness Centers. Bart Boatright and Red Dog Construction of Jenks, Oklahoma, will handle construction of Pearl Ridge. Red Dog's extensive portfolio includes Latham Steele and Lehman Law Office, Honeywell, CCK Accounting Offices, Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, Otoe Missouri Event & Call



Courtesy

**PEARL RIDGE:** The mixed use property will be located at 10th Street and Peoria Avenue.

Center and several Texas Roadhouse Restaurants.

CBRE's Leslie Kirkpatrick Cornell has been selected as the commercial office leasing agent, and Fox+Allen Realty's Patrick Fox has been chosen as the retail and restaurant leasing agent for Pearl Ridge.

Pearl Ridge offers an exciting and unique opportunity for tenants wishing to be part of one of Tulsa's most transformational neighborhoods.

Sitting in the heart of the vibrant Pearl District, Pearl Ridge will be within walking distance of the neighborhood's popular restaurants, coffee shops and breweries, as well as the Midland Valley Trail, Centennial Park, East Village and Route 66.

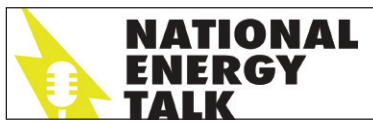
## About Noria Corp

Founded in 1997, Noria Corporation has established itself as the global authority in machinery reli-

ability, lubrication and oil analysis. Noria is a multi-faceted, consulting powerhouse for the manufacturing and process industries, providing world-class training, technical consulting, lubrication program development, reliability software and failure investigation services.

Noria was named a "Top Workplace" by The Oklahoman for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. For more information, visit [noria.com](http://noria.com).

## Certainty In Uncertain Times During COVID-19



As I write this column, the word that keeps coming to the forefront of my mind is "uncertainty." Uncertainty is on all of our minds when it comes to the COVID-19 virus, stock market, and the future of oil and natural gas prices.

It's definitely certain that America needs America's energy now, more than ever.

US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt stated in 1933, during the Great Depression, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself," which is a very historical and memorable quote. He went on to say however, "it is not a time to retreat, but to

advance."

Are you overwhelmed? Are you stressed, have fear? Are you uncertain about the future? You are not alone! In writing America Needs America's Energy, the subtitle I inserted was Creating Together the People's Energy Plan. Now more than ever, we need each other to make it through these times of crisis!

This moment in history mirrors that of the 1990-1991 time-frame. During that time frame, the oil and gas industry experienced consolidation, mergers and acquisitions.

In 1991, I co-wrote a book entitled The Acquisition Process and Due Diligence: Minimize Risk, Maximize Return! Just years before, I had

been in the oil and gas exploration side of the industry. I had to adapt from buying oil and gas leases in

the exploration side to providing consulting services to companies throughout the United States, in regard to acquisitions and mergers. The reason I give that example is that I had to move forward from fear and reaction to being proactive. The challenge is to be able to look at things realistically. It is easy to get captured by the news of the day. It is important to gather facts and information that will provide a pathway to recovery, whether it is individually and/or as a corporation.

Decisiveness and discipline are essential to one's success in this environment. It is certain that the oil and gas industry and energy sector will be vital to the economic revitalization of our country and for that matter, globally. It is certain that America needs America's energy! Energy education is the centerpiece. As quoted in my book, "future generations are depending on us to keep the American dream alive."

America's energy industry is very complex. We are all reliant on the energy industry. Whether it is transportation, power generation, national security, petroleum products, economic development... For example, among the thousands of petroleum-based consumer

products, listed on pages 167-169 of my book, there are several being used even during this health crisis, including aspirin, rubbing alcohol, antiseptics and safety glasses.

Because of this crisis, we are all becoming more familiar with the virtual world. Over the last couple of years, speaking at conferences, one of my key subjects has been The Digital Transformation From the Whiteboard to the Boardroom. I highly recommend those that haven't embraced digital transformation to definitely consider it.

Again, together we will make it through this time of crisis. We will be stronger in the process. America needs America's energy.

Mark A. Stansberry is Chairman of the GTD Group, an award-winning author and Energy Advocate. Visit Facebook: National Energy Talk/America Needs America's Energy.



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

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# DR. DAVID BLATT JOINS OU-TULSA MPA PROGRAM



DR. DAVID BLATT

David Blatt, PhD, has joined the OU-Tulsa faculty as the George Kaiser Family Foundation Endowed Professor of Practice in the Master of Public Administration program.

Dr. Blatt will teach courses in health policy, legislative process and behavior, and poverty and inequality.

The MPA is the preferred graduate degree for a career in public service, enabling the graduates to pursue a multitude of career paths in federal, tribal, state, and local government; and the non-profit, education and private sectors. The mission of OU's Master of Public Administration (MPA) program is to equip students with knowledge and skills to adapt to changing public service environments and to work collaboratively to solve problems in the public and nonprofit sectors.

"The MPA program gives students the education they need to transform the world around them," says Dr. John H. Schumann, OU-Tulsa president. "With Dr. Blatt as a member of faculty, OU-Tulsa students will gain valuable insight into the ways government and policy impact society. His students will benefit from his extensive experience in seeking to address and solve our community's most intrinsic problems."

Dr. Blatt comes to OU-Tulsa with more than two decades working in the public policy field. He helped found and served 10 years as executive director of Oklahoma Policy Institute, a state policy think-tank that aims to expand opportunity for all Oklahomans through non-partisan research, analysis, and

advocacy. He has conducted extensive research on a wide range of state policy issues, including:

- The state budget and taxes
- Health care
- Poverty
- Consumer finance
- Education

Dr. Blatt was named Political Scientist of the Year by the Oklahoma Political Science Association, Local Social Justice Champion by the Dan Allen Center for Social Justice, and Public Citizen of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers. Dr. Blatt previously served as Director of Public Policy for Community Action Project of Tulsa County, as a budget analyst for the Oklahoma State Senate, and as a Parliamentary Intern for the Canadian House of Commons. He has a Ph.D. in political science from Cornell University (1996), an M.A. from McGill University (1989) and a B.A. from the University of Alberta (1986).

OU-Tulsa offers a wide range of 30+ undergraduate, Master's, and Doctorate level degrees, as well as graduate certificates. Programs include architecture, engineering, education, nursing, sonography, public health, occupational and physical therapy, human relations, library and information studies, organizational dynamics, public administration, social work, as well as medicine through the OU-TU School of Community Medicine. Since 1957, OU-Tulsa has provided higher education to NE Oklahoma and moved to the 60-acre Schusterman Campus in 1999. For more information, visit [www.ou.edu/tulsa](http://www.ou.edu/tulsa).

# BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

**Children's Advocacy Centers of Oklahoma (CACO)** welcomes **Carrie Little** as executive director. She assumed duties in March 2020.



LITTLE

Little brings with her more than 19 years of experience in the social work field including leadership roles in child welfare and domestic violence prevention in the states of Oklahoma, California, and Colorado. She has experience in non-profit leadership, and left her role as Vice President of Administrative Affairs for The Parent Child Center of Tulsa to join CACO. Little has lived in Tulsa for over 10 years, and served as the Executive Director of the Child Advocacy Center in Canadian County before moving to Tulsa in 2009.

There are 20 accredited Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) in the Oklahoma. CACO serves as the CACs' State Chapter, providing the Centers with training and technical support in their efforts to provide services to suspected or confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect.

**Arvest Bank** has announced **James White** has been promoted to mortgage production center sales manager in Tulsa.



WHITE

White joined Arvest in 2003 and has served in a variety of roles, and has been part of its mortgage division since 2006. In his new role, White manages the production center's sales team and is responsible for advising on an array of products for residential loans, among other duties.

"James brings a wealth of experience, expertise and leadership skills to this new role," Arvest mortgage sales manager Shawn Karnes said. "His passion for helping customers and finding solutions for their individual needs is evident, and we believe this new position will be great not just for our mortgage division, but more importantly, those customers."

White earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Central Oklahoma. Among numerous civic endeavors, he volunteers on behalf of the American Heart Association, The City Lights Foundation of Oklahoma, Habitat for Humanity and BattleCreek Church. White and his wife, Melissa, have three children.

**CareATC**, a leading health management company providing innovative primary care services for self-insured employers, announces managerial appointments. **Scott Strickland** has been named president and chief operating officer. Strickland most recently served as COO for a healthcare technology business in the physical therapy sector, and prior to that, as senior vice president of therapy services for U.S. HealthWorks. Earlier in his career, Strickland held leadership roles at Select Medical Corporation and Outreach Senior Healthcare and also served in private practice as a masters-degreed physical therapist.



STRICKLAND



NESS

**Lisa Ness** joins CareATC as chief revenue officer, bringing 30 years of sales experience in healthcare including directing sales efforts for companies such as Proactive MD, Premise Health and Pfizer. She is also a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator.

"Our industry-leading organic growth is a testament to the talented and dedicated team at CareATC and our commitment to offering leading edge population health solutions to employers," states CareATC's CEO, Greg Belomy.

Additionally, **Ann Stoeppelwerth**, who has been part of the executive team at CareATC since 2015, takes on the new mantle of Chief Engagement Solutions Officer. Stoeppelwerth will focus on narrowing emerging risk and improving outcomes for clients through population health communications, patient activation and member engagement. Paul Keeling, the company's Chief Business Development Officer with more than 15 years of experience at CareATC, will now lead the company's commitment to client retention and continued growth and scalability of existing customers.

**Palmer Continuum of Care** has named **Liz Neas** as its new executive director. Neas will succeed Greg Sneed, longtime executive director for Palmer.



NEAS

The change in leadership comes after Sneed, who served children, women and their families at Palmer for nearly 20 years, announced plans to retire. Sneed will continue to support Neas and the nonprofit's mission as an advisor to the organization's board of directors until his retirement later this year.

"The board is very excited to have found Liz. We're confident that her strong leadership and passion for our mission will help take Palmer to the next level," said Tiffany Hatcher, president of the board of directors for Palmer Continuum of Care.

Neas, a nonprofit professional who most recently served as a director for Tulsa Educare, is now leading Palmer's efforts to provide trauma-informed, gender sensitive, age appropriate and culturally competent substance abuse treatment.

Through serving the Tulsa community for nearly 30 years, the newly named executive director brings experience from several local nonprofit organizations including the YMCA of Greater Tulsa, Emergency Infant Services and Big Brothers Big Sisters, as well as Youth Services of Tulsa.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to lead Palmer and its dedicated team of staff," said Neas. "I look forward to being a part of such an important effort to make a positive difference for even more women and children who struggle with substance abuse and chemical dependency."

Neas holds a master's degree in human relations from University of Oklahoma, as well as a bachelor's degree in business administration from Southern Nazarene University. She also obtained an associate's degree in Early Childhood Development from Northeastern Oklahoma A & M Jr. College.

She is also a 2016 graduate of the Tulsa Area United Way's neX-tulsa Leadership Program.

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# Carr Family Still Making a Big Splash

*After 40 Years of Service, Carr Pool & Spa Supplies Remains Focused on Making Outdoor Fun Trouble-Free*

By **BOB LEWIS**  
Contributing Editor

Summer swimming season is right around the corner.

That means water-loving families across the region will soon be counting on the products and tender loving care provided by the folks at Carr Pool & Spa Supplies.

The family-owned business was founded by Tom Carr in 1979 shortly after he and his wife, Lana, decided to have a swimming pool built in their backyard. After digging down about four feet, the contractor they had hired for this project hit water – and much to the Carr's dismay, he hit the road at the same time.

Lana says she pumped out that hole every day for a month waiting for the man to return. Things looked especially grim when he could never be found in his office and refused to return phone calls.

Finally, after considerable looking, Tom was able to track down

the contractor who admitted he had no idea how to fix the problem. "Well, I do," Carr replied. "Get that backhoe operator back out there and I'll take care of it."

Take care of it, he did. And after months of frustration, the family was finally able to enjoy their beautiful new pool for the first time on Labor Day.

After seeing how well that project turned out, Lana's brother asked Tom to help him build a pool in his backyard. A number of friends and neighbors saw what was going on and followed suit. And from there, she said, things kind of snowballed.

After building a sizeable customer base, Carr was asked why he hadn't opened a retail store to sell needed chemicals and supplies. "Why not?" he asked himself before recruiting his wife away from Broken Arrow Public Schools to join him in this adventure.

While he no longer builds pools, Carr remains the company's "Mr.

Outside" handling tasks such as openings, closings, vinyl liner replacements and equipment repair and replacement. She is "Mrs. Inside" managing the company's 2,500 square-foot store at 301 N Aspen, overseeing its popular water analysis operation and helping customers get the best results from the wide variety of chemicals the outlet stocks.

Daughter Melissa and her husband John Korzelius are central figures in the operation, and their children, Dominic and Ben Korzelius and Hannah Neely, continue to play important part-time and summer months roles.

While their immediate plan is to "keep on keeping on," when the time comes for the company founders to retire, the Carr family heritage will continue under the management of John and Melissa.

Today, Lana estimates well over 80 percent of the company's business comes from repeat customers. This loyalty has been won in a variety of ways. Number-one is



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**CLEAR CUSTOMER FOCUS:** From left, Tom and Lana Carr; Melissa and John Korzelius and Samantha Sorrels remain committed to making this the best swimming season ever for customers of Carr Pool & Spa Supplies, something the company has been doing for the past four decades.

the friendliness and expertise of the Carr staff.

Their willingness to take the time, even during rush periods, to fully answer questions is frequently mentioned. One customer echoed the feelings of many when he noted, "I am a fish out of water (pun intended) when it comes to keeping my pool in top working shape."

Maybe it was because of the unpleasant experience Tom and

Lana had early on, but Carr Pool & Spa Supplies continues to focus on one central goal: help patrons enjoy their pool or spa with as little fuss as possible. While that sounds simple, it often means relying on a depth of experience and going well above and beyond expectations.

That is a hallmark of this business that has remained solid for more than four decades.

## Remembering Robert Robson, the Mayor of 11<sup>th</sup> Street

By **TERRELL LESTER**  
Editor at Large

While kowtowing to the quarantine suggestions, and commands, of recent days, the mind was free of such physical restraints, allowed to roam at will.

Take for instance the animated journey the mind was taking while revisiting the people and places that once inserted the bustle and the hustle into 11th Street.

In the 1950s, the street was a multihued river of neon, heralding the discovery of motels and motor inns, car lots and barrooms.

It was, after all, a vibrant section of Route 66, carrying dreamers and schemers right up to the doorstep of a wondrous and exhilarating downtown Tulsa.

One of those dreamers, a character of enormous imagination with a personality to match, was Robert Robson, a one-time public relations master who lived, appropriately enough, along 11th Street.

When I first encountered Robson, I was column-writing for the Tulsa World, back in 1990.

He became a constant source for material, for smiles, for fellowship.



He never met a hand he wouldn't shake.

That's one of the many reasons his image and his memory remain so vivid today. How would Robert Robson exist during this siege of virus, when handshakes are discouraged, commingling is taboo?

Robson was outgoing and gregarious, part artist, part gadabout.

He created, and mailed, "Genuine Robson Originals," oversized and chromatic postcards and envelopes, each a work of art.

They were posted and forwarded to politicians and entrepreneurs, editors and educators. There were words of praise, illustrations of indignation.

Many of his missives landed on

my desk, either at work or at home. They constitute half a scrapbook.

His flair and penmanship were matched only by his passion and his perception.

He was hailed by many as the Mayor of 11th Street, an appellation once reserved for used-car salesman Gomer Evans.

But Robson was no street vendor. He held unique sway over his street, over his city.

If anything, he was a merchant of mirth.

He was observant, keenly aware, always attentive, downright discerning.

He trained his talents toward local needy family funds, never shied from pointing out shortcomings of



presidents, addressing envelopes to the resident within "The white house with the white columns."

He could be whimsical and poignant, waggish and rational.

He spent hours over drafting tables and copiers, producing mailbox masterpieces.

Once completed, the letters reflected the man. One of a kind.

Robson died in 1993.

Among the personal treasure trove of artistic articulations from

Robert Robson is an essay from politician-culturist Dean Alfange. In his own inimitable style, Robson handprinted Alfange's "An American's Creed" and had it framed.

For more than two decades, the treatise that begins "I do not choose to be a common man" has maintained a special place in my tranquil realm, uninterrupted by virus or fever.

It is a place the mind visits in times of chaos and fear.

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# Early SW Bell Building Housed Tech Advances

Sometimes buildings reflect growth and change in technology. So it is with the Southwestern Bell Main Dial Building at 424 S. Detroit Ave., the southeast corner of 5th Street and Detroit Avenue.

The original building was a modest two stories and was built in 1924 in the conservative mainstream Gothic style of the time. The growth in telephone communication was rapid. Tulsa was a small cattle town in 1898 when telephone service there first began. By 1930, Tulsa's population was 141,000 and dial telephones were becoming common. Telephone company officials decided to add four additional floors that year and the currently popular zig zag Art Deco style was utilized.

Although the first two floors held telephone equipment, the upper floors accommodated division offices and toll terminal equipment for the Oklahoma City - Tulsa underground cable. The building was heavily used until the South Cincinnati facility was built in the early 1950's and ex-

panded in the 1970's. Eventually the Southwestern Bell Main Dial building became almost a warehouse for telephone equipment.

In 1984 the SW Bell Dial Building was listed on the National Register. Recently the building was purchased by First Baptist Church which owns buildings directly adjacent to the north.

It is interesting that the two architectural styles used on the façade do not appear to clash. Perhaps this is because the same materials were used on all six floors (North West Terra Cotta

Tile Co of Chicago provided all the Terra Cotta) or maybe time has tempered our perception of the exterior.

The exterior skin of this building is a medium brown brick with cream-colored terra cotta embellishments. The first floor is treated as a piano noble (principal floor) with Tudor arches framed in terra cotta seated on a light gray granite base. Narrow terra cotta quoins match the trim around the arches. The second-floor windows occur in pairs, one pair for each arch

## On Architecture

By ROGER COFFEY, AIA



**GOTHIC ENTRANCE:** The 424 S. Detroit Ave. entrance featured the Gothic style of the time.



**TERRA COTTA STYLE:** Above the sixth-floor windows, high terra cotta panels are heavily ornamental in an art deco design.

separated by brick panels. The panels are decorated with terra cotta torches below a terra cotta shield. The rectangular footprint accommodates four arches (one is an entrance) on Detroit and 8 arches on 5th street. Steel window frames for these two floors are painted a soft green.

Above the second floor the façade is articulated with stair-stepped brick pilasters which create a strong sense of verticality. Spandrel panels between floors

are terra cotta in an art deco design. Windows are narrower and spaced separately. Steel window frames are painted in a pale gray green color.

Above the sixth-floor windows, high terra cotta panels are heavily ornamental in an art deco design. The brick pilasters rise above this parapet and are capped with additional terra cotta trim.

A lacy white equipment tower originally rose three or four stories above this building from its center and has been removed.

The future use of the SW Bell Dial Building is in the hands of its new owner, First Baptist Church. The logical assumption is that the building will provide the church with needed classroom and meeting space.



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**STAYING POSITIVE:** This young resident of the Minshall Park neighborhood in south Tulsa reaches out to passersby asking them to be happy during these difficult times of the Corona Virus.

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# Owasso Possesses an Interesting History

Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society

David J. McDonough and Marcia Boutwell

Located in Tulsa County on U.S. Highway 169 (the Mingo Valley Expressway), six miles north of Tulsa's city limits, Owasso began as a settlement in 1881 in the Cooweescoowee District of the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory. The community became known as Elm Creek settlement because it was located along Elm Creek, a tributary of Bird Creek. The first settler was H. T. (Tole) Richardson. By 1893 Elm Creek comprised several residences, a blacksmith shop, and Preston Ballard's general store. He received a postal designation for Elm Creek on February 10, 1898, with himself as postmaster. The Joseph T. Barnes family moved to the community in 1897; Barnes purchased the blacksmith shop in 1898.

In 1897 the Kansas, Oklahoma Central and Southwestern Railway acquired right-of-way near the fledgling town. They dammed a natural spring to form a lake as a water supply and built a depot about a mile south of the lake. The depot was razed in 1942.

Because the rail line missed Elm Creek, its residents and businesses began moving their buildings to the area around the depot. Late in 1898 Joseph and Luther Barnes moved their blacksmith shop to the new community. The shop became the Joseph Barnes family's temporary home and was the first residence officially moved to the new town site. Preston Ballard moved his general store and post office at about the same time. The new place kept the name Elm Creek, as did the post office. The postal designa-

tion was changed to Owasso on January 24, 1900.

There is some confusion as to whether Owasso is an Osage or a Cherokee word. However, it has been interpreted to mean "the end" or "the turn around" because the rail line ended there. The steam locomotives obtained their water at the lake and were turned around near the depot, returning north. The tracks were extended into Tulsa in 1905.

On March 26, 1904, the secretary of the interior approved a plat for the town of Owasso, and the town soon incorporated. Originally the streets were named for Civil War-era Union and Confederate generals but were renamed in 1960. By 1907 statehood Owasso supported a population of 379 but more than three times that number lived in the surrounding area. The residents patronized hardware, drug, grocery, and general merchandise stores, three hotels, a bank, lumber companies, and numerous professionals. Two grain elevators, a cotton gin, a stockyards and live-stock auction, and grain and feed stores served farmers. The 1910 population stood at 373, and the 1930 census counted 416 residents. The Owasso Ledger printed the news in the early 20th century, and later news media included the Owasson and the Owasso Reporter, which continues in publication.

Owasso's business district and the community continued to grow. On February 6, 1905, the town council granted a franchise to the Pioneer Telephone and Telegraph Company for the first telephone exchange. At about the same time, oil was discovered in the area, and the community experienced an oil and natural gas boom. Prosperity continued until about 1929, the

beginning of the Great Depression. As roads were built and the railway improved, people began going to Tulsa, just twelve miles away, for their business needs. The town's population decreased, and business establishments were abandoned, torn down, or burned and were not replaced. In the 1940s only a dozen enterprises operated, and by 1950 the population stood at 431.

Then in 1952 rapid growth began as transportation access allowed industry to develop in the nearby area and residents to commute to jobs. The first new tract addition (Raywood) of sixty-eight homes was established in 1952. Owasso quickly became a "bedroom" community for Tulsa, which was rapidly growing northward. By 1955 the number of retail outlets doubled. The downtown buildings were connected to a new sewer line on July 1, 1953. The Port of Catoosa, the nation's most inland water port, was completed southeast of town in 1971, and the Tulsa International Airport, to the south, grew larger as well, adding to the available amenities and employment opportunities. The 1960 census registered 2,032 residents.

Due in part to proximity to Tulsa and to small-town atmosphere, Owasso has sustained a pattern of steady growth. In June 1973 the city annexed 555 acres, doubling its size. The 1970 population of 3,491 expanded to 6,487 in 1980 and 11,151 in 1990. Industrial development proceeded through the 1980s and 1990s, and factories included American Airlines, with 9,000 employees, Nordam Group, with 1,700, and Whirlpool, with 1,200. Telecommunications provider MCI WorldCom employed 2,200. The Owasso School Dis-



Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society, Heye Foundation Collection  
**OWASSO, CIRCA 1900**

trict operates 13 schools and is also a major employer. On September 28, 1972, the Town of Owasso became the City of Owasso. It maintains a council-manager form of government. In 2000 the population stood at

18,502 and in 2010 at 28,915. An annual festival, Progress Days, was created in 1953 and continued into the 21st century as Trail Days.

For more information, visit the Owasso Historical Museum.



GTR Media Group photo

**GRADUATION CEREMONY:** Due to COVID-19 area high school graduations have been postponed or cancelled. Above, students at Tulsa's Union High School drove to the school recently to receive their caps and gowns. The official Union ceremony is scheduled to be held July 23 at Tulsa's BOK Center.

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