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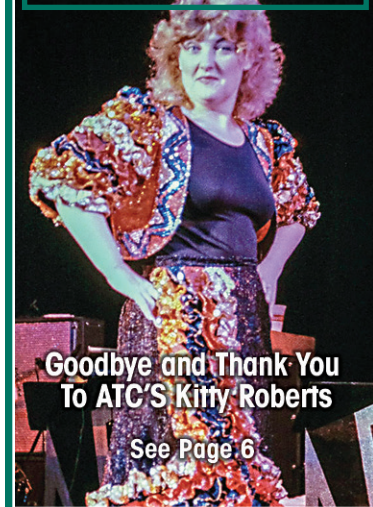
Volume 28

Mid-May to Mid-June 2020

www.gtrnews.com

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VARIETY



ON ARCHITECTURE



THE ECONOMY



SPORTS



Tulsa Unveils Golden Campaign for Tesla

Courtesy RODRIGO ROJAS
Tulsa's Gathering Place

On Wednesday, May 20, the Tulsa For Tesla committee unveiled the new temporary look for the Golden Driller as part of a city-wide campaign to promote Tulsa as a potential site to build Tesla's newest U.S. Gigafactory.

The Golden Driller is temporarily sporting a Tesla branded belt and t-shirt, as well as a new but familiar face: Elon Musk. The Golden Driller represents the pioneering ingenuity that founded Tulsa.

The economic significance of bringing Tesla to our city would positively impact not only Tulsa but the entire state of Oklahoma. In just 12 short years, the Greater Tulsa region has invested more than \$3 billion in entertainment, education, arts, sports, downtown housing, parks, river development, and a 100 mile trail system connecting it all.

"It is clear that Tesla and Tulsa were forged in the same spirit. Both founded by pioneers who dreamt big and made it happen. Both trying to change the world with a new kind of energy. Both investing big in what matters most: people," said Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum. "Tulsa is a city that doesn't stifle entrepreneurs - we revere them. And as Tesla continues to rapidly change transportation all around the world, I can't imagine a better place for them to further that important work than Green Country."

Sandy Truong, president of the Tesla Owners Club of Oklahoma said, "Oklahoma already has a strong affinity for the Tesla brand with hundreds of Oklahoma Tesla owners who are very excited and passionate about the possibility of a Tesla plant being in our home state."

Tulsa and Austin, Texas appear to be the two finalists in the running for Tesla's newest U.S. Gigafactory that will build Cybertrucks and Model Y small SUVs. Show your support for the city-wide campaign by using #Tulsa4Tesla on social media.



MAYORAL MARKETING: Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum talks with members of the media after the unveiling of the Tesla logo and the new look on the Golden Driller at Tulsa Expo Square. GTR Media Group photo

KUDOS of the MONTH: Community Food Bank

Founded in 1981, the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma is one of the largest, private hunger-relief organizations in Oklahoma. With branches in Tulsa and McAlester, it distributes food to people in need through 730 programs and partner agencies in 24 counties of eastern Oklahoma. Feeding programs include emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, child feeding programs, senior feeding programs and veteran's initiatives. In addition, the Food Bank helps raise public awareness about hunger and the role of food banking in alleviating hunger.

A major corporate contributor to the Community Food Bank is Reasor's, which ended its first annual Spring for Meals food drive with a success, raising an astounding

\$88,887.96. That's the equivalent of 355,000 meals for people in eastern Oklahoma. The donations were accumulated from \$15 bag sales and the donation cards located at the registers and online.

"Oklahomans have really come together to help those in need during the COVID-19 crisis. In the midst of the outbreak, and the increased need for hunger relief, our customers saw a need and were willing to jump right in and help," said Amanda Russell, marketing and advertising director for Reasor's.

All proceeds from the food drive will benefit the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma and its network of 350 partner agencies in eastern Oklahoma. For more information, visit okfoodbank.org and www.reasors.com.



SIGNIFICANT DONATION: Proudly displaying the major donation from Reasor's to the Community Food Bank are, from left, Wendy Voss of the Community Food Bank and from Reasor's Amanda Russell, Kirti Bhakta and Mike Griffith. GTR Media Group photo

Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa Partners with Tulsa's Dream Center to Deliver 6,000 Meals

Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa, a Tulsa-based, community funded nonprofit serving homebound individuals with nutritious meals and essential services, partnered with Tulsa Dream Center to deliver 6,000 meals to 1,500 families in North Tulsa during the pandemic.

In May, Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa delivered 6,000 meals to Tulsa Dream Center to support its weekly drive-through grocery giveaways and meals deliveries. Families were able to receive nutritious meals along with a box of groceries for the week.

"We are appreciative for this partnership with Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa to help us provide meals to North Tulsans," said Aaron Johnson, executive director at Tulsa Dream Center. "I believe that each of us can bring something unique to the solution, but that together we can do amazing things. We may not ever know how a meal can be so meaningful and give hope throughout this time."

Tulsa Dream Center has been serving families in North Tulsa throughout COVID-19 and the



Courtesy photo

ALL AGES: Youthful Volunteers took part in the effort to deliver food.



Courtesy photo

VOLUNTEER HELP: Volunteers help load boxes of food for delivery to those in need.



GTR Media Group photo

LOADING UP: Executive Director of the Tulsa Dream Center Aaron Johnson, lower left, and President and Chief Executive Officer at Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa Calvin Moore, lower right, work to get meals read for delivery to those in need.

need keeps growing. To maintain a consistent supply of meals and groceries, Tulsa Dream Center partners with local food organizations to stay stocked.

Through the generous support from The Helmerich Family Trust, Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa was able to expand its operations and delivery of 6,000 meals to Tulsa Dream Center during this crisis. The delivery was the larg-

est distribution of meals in one location, at one time, for Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa during COVID-19.

"I'm grateful to have the opportunity to support our partners, like Tulsa Dream Center, to fill the nutrition gap in North Tulsa during this crisis," said Calvin Moore, president and chief executive officer at Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa. "With support from generous donors, like The Helmerich Family Trust, our kitchen is able to produce a high quantity of nutritious meals for our community partners to support families in need."

Through partners like Meals on Wheels of Metro Tulsa, Tulsa Dream Center has provided 152,834 meals to families in North Tulsa since the start of COVID-19.

Additionally, Tulsa Transit is partnering with Meals on Wheels to deliver food.

Tulsa Transit's Lift service oper-

ators, First Transit, are transitioning multiple paratransit vehicles to operate as a delivery service for Meals on Wheels. Drivers are running four-hour shifts Monday through Friday based on a schedule provided by the organization.

"First Transit is excited to partner with Meals on Wheels and assist with the amazing service they provide each day," said Scott Marr, First Transit general manager.

Tara Harris, director of volunteer service for Meals on Wheels, gave First Transit management staff a tour of the facilities before the kick-off and explained how the two organizations would work together to provide the service.

The Tulsa Transit Call Center will also partake in Wellness Check training to further help quarantined seniors by connecting with clients and provide support remotely.

"Local organizational partnerships, especially during this time,

are crucial for the community. Meals on Wheels provides an essential service and we are happy to help further their mission in any way we can," said Ted Rieck, Tulsa Transit general manager.

About Tulsa Dream Center

The Tulsa Dream Center is providing relief in response to COVID-19 through weekly drive-thru grocery giveaways and meal deliveries to those in need in the heart of North Tulsa and the surrounding area. In addition, Tulsa Dream Center is serving as the primary North Tulsa food hub for Tulsa Public Schools to assemble and distribute breakfast and lunch for students every day of the week through the end of May. They are coordinating with other community organizations in order to further our reach and also utilizing volunteers to execute these services. Learn more at tulsadreamcenter.org.

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Oklahoma Jeweler Gives Back To Area Healthcare Workers

'Angel Wings' Created from 3D Printers

Joy in the Cause a Beneficiary

By **BRANDON LUNSFORD**
Contributing Writer

On March 22, J. David Jewelry did what other businesses across the state were told to do. Both showrooms closed, which meant their 3D printers used for making stunning custom design pieces would not be creating jewelry.

Owners Joel and Kendra Wiland made the decision that their 3D printing capability would be put to good use, benefiting the community and frontline heroes. They began creating what are now known as "Angel Wings."

"Our Angel Wings have been shipped all across the country," said Joel Wiland, "to those on the front lines, first responders, and to those in need, and the demand continues to grow."

One of the biggest complaints people have of face masks is how they rest on people's ears. The Angel Wings take the masks off of their ears, making them much more comfortable for constant, everyday wear.

"We are trying to make healthcare workers around the country a little more comfortable," said Kendra Wiland. "For every Angel Wing we have sold to the public, J. David Jewelry gifts another to Joy in the Cause, to distribute them to frontline healthcare workers and first responders."

Joy in the Cause is a local-to-Oklahoma non-profit whose mission is to provide care, compassion, and joy, one personal act of kindness at a time.

"Our partnership with Lisa Bain and Joy in the Cause is special to me," Joel Wiland added. "Lisa and her team truly are the warriors in all of this. Their volunteers have hand-sewn over 6,000 face masks and given them to healthcare workers and first responders. Angel Wings was a natural partnership that has affected so many."

The "Angel Wings" drastically increase the comfort of face masks for those who need to wear them for extended periods of time on a regular basis. The reusable face mask straps allow the elastic on face masks to be off of the wearer's ears which



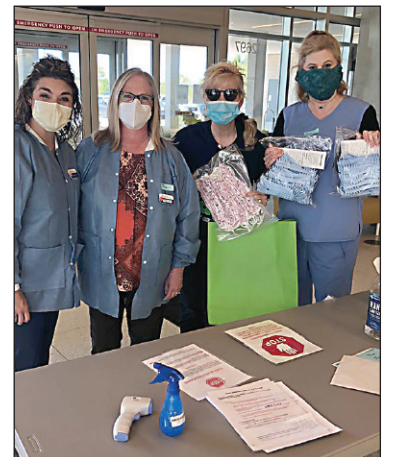
Photo Courtesy LISA BAIN

THUMBS UP FOR ANGEL WINGS: Healthcare workers at Oklahoma Cancer Specialists and Research Institute after delivery of Angel Wings by Joy in the Cause.



Photo courtesy LANDON WILAND

CELEBRATION: From left, Kendra Wiland of J. David Jewelry, Lisa Bain of Joy in the Cause and Joel Wiland of J. David Jewelry celebrate during one of the deliveries of Angel Wings for Joy in the Cause.



Courtesy photo

FRONT LINE BENEFICIARIES: Lisa Bain of Joy in the Cause (third from left) and healthcare workers at Oklahoma Cancer Specialists and Research Institute after delivery of Angel Wings by Joy in the Cause.

relieves pressure, tension, and irritability.

The "Angel Wings" are universal, one size fits all, and now are made out of Thermoplastic Elastomer, which will last for years and can be

cleaned and disinfected as often as needed.

For every one "Angel Wing" purchased, one will be donated to Joy In The Cause. Angel Wings can be purchased at angelwings.life.

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MID-MAY TO MID-JUNE 2020

Vol. 28, No. 5 (Union Boundary);
Vol. 24, No. 5 (Jenks District Gazette, Midtown Monitor);
Vol. 22, No. 5 (Owasso Rambler, Broken Arrow Express);
Vol. 17, No. 5 (Bixby Breeze)

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

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CIVICS

Combatting COVID-19 Business Impacts: City, Chamber Unite to Form Mayor's Economic Recovery Advisory Committee

As COVID-19 sends ripples through our daily lives, one of our biggest strengths in Tulsa has always been our ability to go about our business and respect our neighbors.

Respect in this difficult time has come in the form of sacrifice for many of my fellow Tulsans. Businesses and organizations across this city have selflessly ceased or reduced operations to protect our most vulnerable neighbors while working to help relieve the strain on our healthcare system.

As restrictions are rolled back in the coming weeks and months as we see a downward trend in cases, it's ever daunting to see how we can rebuild our economy safely, quickly and in a manner that positions Tulsa for years of economic success down the road.

How do we start doing that now? That's the question we started asking as soon as many Tulsa busi-

nesses were making sacrifices in the name of public health.

Our current solution - The Mayor's Economic Recovery Advisory Committee. It's a partnership between the City of Tulsa, the Tulsa Regional Chamber and other relevant institutions. The committee will focus on analysis and recommendations to support quality job growth and the expansion of our regional economy.

This data-driven approach will drive the committee, which will meet weekly. Separately, the committee has formed three subcommittees to evaluate three key areas: Public Health and Economic Recovery, Existing Business and Industry, and Economy and Economic Growth.

After the committee receives COVID-19 data and reviews its impact on the regional economy, each subcommittee will conduct

From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM
Mayor of Tulsa



RECOVERY COMMITTEE VIRTUAL NEWS CONFERENCE: Tulsa Regional Chamber CEO Mike Neal (top right), Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith (top middle), American Sign Language Interpreter Glenda Cooper (top left), Tulsa Health Department Director Dr. Bruce Dart (bottom left), and Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum (bottom right) give a virtual COVID-19 Update on April 20.

relevant analyses to identify national and global best recovery practices. Each subcommittee will provide draft recommendations to the committee, the Tulsa Regional Chamber and myself.

We'll analyze that information and conduct public outreach to determine the relevance and impact of these new recommendations.

What are the top threats leaders should consider? What are the top three policy recommendations for recovery? These are just two of multiple subcommittee outcomes

we aim to accomplish. By June 1, subcommittees will report out a set of draft recommendations to the full committee.

Any policy recommendations the committee develops will be made publicly available with the expectation the city, chamber, and other relevant institutions will conduct further analysis and outreach as we consider the recommendations.

I want to remind Tulsans these are unprecedented times. Aside from the death of a family member, one of the hardest days of my life was

when I asked Tulsa business owners to either close or limit operations to protect the lives of our neighbors. So many of these folks have poured their lives into their business, and sadly some of our lives will never be the same.

But as we cross this uncharted territory, I'm proud to be Tulsa's mayor and optimistic for continued economic growth as we safely reopen and develop strategies to ensure Tulsans have the resources and stability needed to withstand anything this virus throws at them.

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CARES Act Funding Distribution Undergoing County Study

On March 27, the president signed the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Stabilization (CARES) Act. The CARES Act appropriated funds to all cities

and counties in the United States based on population. All cities and counties with a population of more than 500,000 received funding. In Oklahoma, that meant that direct funding would only be received by Oklahoma City and Oklahoma and Tulsa counties. Tulsa County's appropriation amounted to \$113,667,000 and it was received on April 23. The funds can only be used to reimburse entities for increased expenses that are directly related to the COVID 19 public health emergency and incurred between March 1 and Dec. 30.

From Tulsa County



By COMMISSIONER RON PETERS

According to the guidance provided by the Department of Treasury, the county can use these funds to: (1) cover the county's cost related to COVID 19; (2) assist cities in Tulsa County recover their out-of-pocket costs; (3) support community non-profit agencies which are responding to COVID 19, and (4) support small businesses which have seen operational interruptions as a result of COVID 19.

Once it was determined that Tulsa County would be receiving these funds directly, we began to put into place a process to address each of the four areas. For inter-

nal county departments, the process for making an application to receive funding has been posted on the county's intranet, which includes a project application, resource materials which provide recommendations on actions to take to address COVID 19 in public buildings, and a FAQ link covering general information about the CARES Act.

Simultaneously the board of county commissioners appointed a review committee of county officials to accept applications, review the request to make sure it is in compliance with the federal requirements and to make funding recommendations to the board for final approval.

The county has a lot of divisions and elected officials that have direct contact with the public. Some of the largest are the Election Board, the Sheriff, Court Clerk, County Clerk, Treasurer, and Assessor Offices. There is also the jail, the courts, parks, Expo Square, Social Services, and the building operations which is responsible for the courthouse. Each of these has presented proposals on how they would improve the safety and security of the public's health when they have to come to the County offices to conduct their business.

For all of the cities in Oklahoma that didn't receive direct funding, which is EVERY city except



UNITED WAY SUPPORT: To address the needs of nonprofit agencies, the county has reached out to the United Way to get its support and counsel to assess where the greatest needs countywide exist and which agencies are best prepared to address these needs.

Oklahoma City, the CARES Act anticipated they would be funded by receiving a portion of the state's allocation of \$1.3 billion. As of this writing, the governor's office is developing a process for cities to apply for both reimbursements as well as the cost of future projects. It is expected the governor's office will be ready to accept the applications from the cities soon after this article is published. In the interim, before the state is ready to provide some funding, each of the cities in Tulsa County has been contacted to see if they have some more immediate needs that we can address through the funds received by the county.

To address the needs of the non-profit agencies, the county has reached out to the United Way to get its support and counsel to assess where the greatest needs countywide are and which agencies are best prepared to address these needs. United Way will as-

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TULSA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TEDC): The county has reached out to the TEDC to see if it can partner with them to assist the county with a needs assessment, eligibility criteria, etc. to identify those small businesses with the greatest need.

sist the county with the screening and eligibility criteria before a funding request is presented to the review committee.

There are many small businesses in Tulsa County with fewer than 100 employees, which did not receive federal aid directly to address the impact upon their business. The county has reached out to the Tulsa Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) to see if we can partner with them to assist the county with a needs assessment, eligibility criteria, etc. to identify those small business-

es with the greatest need. Once the applications are reviewed and recommended for funding, they will be presented to the review committee and then the board of county commissioners for final approval.

This has certainly been a stressful time for all Tulsa County citizens. The county's objective in distribution of these CARES funds, in each of the four areas discussed above, is to identify the most critical unmet needs and to assist by funding those areas in a responsible and timely manner.



Courtesy photo

AHHA AND MAYFEST JOIN TOGETHER: Mayfest Festival Director Heather Pingry, left, and ahha Executive Director Holly Becker announced that after 47 years of partnership, the two organizations will operate under one umbrella. "This is an existing, natural partnership we are formalizing," said Becker. This year's Mayfest was cancelled due to COVID-19 with plans to return next year. For more information, see www.ahhatulsa.org and www.tulsamayfest.org.

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VARIETY

Goodbye and Thank You, Kitty Roberts

Actress Melanie Fry articulated what many in Tulsa's theatre world felt about the recent passing of American Theatre Company's Kitty Roberts. "We all thought Kitty was immortal," Fry shared with me. "She changed our lives. All of us."

Through my decades working at the Tulsa PAC, I witnessed the rise and demise of many theatre companies. The ones that endured, with few exceptions, experienced tumult and frequent leadership turnover. Running a theatre company takes guts without

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN

much glory, a stand-your-ground determination and laser-focused vision. Kitty had what it took, and then some. For 50 years she dedicated her life to American Theatre Company. Already a legend in Tulsa entertainment history, Kitty passed away after an extended illness on April 17, 2020.

"She was a strong advocate not only for ATC but the arts in general," said longtime friend and ATC's managing director, Richard Ellis. "She was always pushing the arts community as a whole." He noted that Roberts' love for and dedication to theatre also led her to assume active posts on the Oklahoma Arts Council Advisory Panel and the Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust.

"Kitty created a professional-grade theatre company in a city that didn't have one," offered ATC general manager Laurie Carlson. "In doing so, she fostered amazingly talented people, brought friends together to create one of Tulsa's enduring holiday traditions ("A Christmas Carol") and promoted theatre and freedom of

performance throughout the entire state of Oklahoma."

ATC performer Becky Nebstitt Bones added, "She took a bunch of children, big and small, and helped cultivate them into performers and teachers. Kitty never pulled any punches when it came to respecting your craft."

My own connection to Kitty and ATC goes back to my soon-to-be husband, Bill, in the 1970s. He told me then about the riveting theatre he'd seen at the Aaronson Auditorium. Living Arts Theatre was staging evocative new work: John Guare's "The House of Blue Leaves" and Terrence McNally's "Morning, Noon and Night." I would later learn that Living Arts Theatre was the forerunner of ATC. Kitty Roberts was the founder.

"I pulled together a group of fellow University of Tulsa graduates to lead the company," Kitty explained to me during our first interview for INTERMISSION Magazine in 1995. Those in the original group with her were Richard Ellis, Bob Odle, Jerry Pope and Marilyn Neal. Living Arts Theatre morphed into American Theatre in 1974.

"The purpose of ATC has always been the same," Kitty said, "to make live professional theatre available to everyone; to educate and expose the youth of Oklahoma to the excitement, culture and power that is professional theatre."

The first opportunity for many young people to be on stage at a venue like the PAC was to act in ATC's annual "A Christmas Carol." My son, Greg, a budding thespian, was one of the Cratchit children. Years later, when he was enrolled in New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, he came back home during the summer to perform in ATC's "Hamlet" at Philbrook, and then, on Philbrook's lawn, in the title role of "Romeo and Juliet." Both Greg and his Juliet that year, Clea Alsip, benefited from the onstage experience afforded by ATC. They currently live in New York and work in theatre.



FIRST PERFORMANCE: Kitty Roberts had the title role of "Ms. Raccoon's Profession," the first play performed at the Tulsa PAC on the day the venue opened in 1977



KITTY RODRIGUEZ: "The Joyce Martel Show" was a Tulsa favorite. Kitty Roberts enjoyed her role as Kitty Rodriguez.

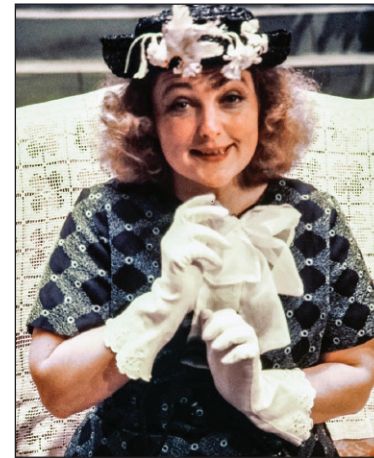
Marilyn Neal's first association with Kitty was through Living Arts Theatre as Stage Manager for "The Boys in the Band" in 1970. "Kitty never gave up. She truly believed in the positive influence of theatre on a community. Her mission was to produce and present the finest theatre had to offer, even if it was not the popular choice," said Neal.

A graduate from the University of Tulsa in Journalism and Theatre, Kitty also was recognized as a Tulsa radio newswoman. She became a female pioneer in the field of broadcast management as News and Operations Director for KMOD and KXXO Radio. Along with her day job, she pursued theatre, both in forging a theatre company and as an actor.

"I remember the zeal with which she would approach the roles she played onstage," recalled Ellis. He noted her "striking" portrayal as Hedda in "Hedda Gabler," her "wonderfully charming" Ms. Rac-



TEXAS TRILOGY: Kitty Roberts in "Lu Ann Hampton Laverty Oberlander."



THE RULING CLASS: The British play offered American Theatre Company Founder Kitty Roberts one of her many acting roles.



GOOD WITCH: Besides helping the company, Kitty Roberts acted in ATC plays such as "The Wizard of Oz."

coon and her turn as Kitty Rodriguez in "The Joyce Martel Show."

The last time I interviewed Kitty, in 2006, she reminded me that "Ms. Raccoon's Profession," was the very first play performed at the Tulsa PAC on the day the venue opened in 1977. She loved playing its title role, along with being Kitty Rodriguez in "Joyce Martel." "They were both fanciful and on the lighter side and, therefore, just plain fun," she said.

Longtime theatre lovers may remember that ATC performed for a time at the Brook Theatre in Brookside. The troupe's presence there is credited for helping to develop the commercial success of the area. For the last several years, ATC has split performances between the Tulsa PAC and their Studio 308 in the East Village. Although the uncertainly presented by the continuing COVID crisis hangs like a heavy curtain over future theatre gatherings, ATC's 2020-21 season includes "RUR,"

Oct. 23-31; "A Christmas Carol," Dec. 10-23; "The Humans," Mar. 12-20; "An Enemy of the People," Apr. 9-17; and "The Elephant Man," May 21-29. Dates are subject to change.

Kitty's words from our last interview seem especially relevant in view of our current global challenge. "When it works — when all the artistic and financial considerations are met and the connection is made, theatre is exhilarating. Storytelling is the oldest art form. Human beings will always feel the need to draw together around the campfire to tell their tales. Theatre lifts the spirit, cleanses the mind, energizes the body and elevates the soul. Live theatre, again, when it works, brings people together in a sense of community. It gives voice to their joys and their fears and their hopes. In the increasing isolation of modern society, live theatre lets people know they are not alone."

We will miss you, Kitty.



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As Restrictions Ease, Live Music Is Slowly Returning

*"If it's torture for me,
Fire and brimstone it won't be,
Hell would be where
There ain't no rock & roll"*
— Randy Crouch

I've missed you. I'm not just talking to the Paul Benjamins and Branjaes out there, I'm talking to the strangers that I've harmonized off key with, hugged or high fived after a particularly smokin' jam; people with whom I've shared a drink, a laugh, a shared experience that I took for granted for too long. I call you strangers because I don't know your names, but you're not strangers. You're family.

Those kind of shared experiences are essential to the human experience, and missing them for the last two plus months has only added to the stress and anxiety brought on by the uncertainty of life during a pandemic. I applaud the efforts of many musicians and venues to stream live music through various On-line platforms, but no matter how good the performance is, it will always be missing a key ingredient: family.

Obviously, the absence of live music is not the tragedy here. People have lost their lives and those of loved ones to this virus. Hard working people with successful businesses suddenly find themselves without a source of income, their once thriving businesses shuddered.

But it cannot be overstated how important getting back to the things we love can be to our overall well being. And while the pandemic situation is still fluid and nothing is written in stone at this point, it looks as though we are now embarking on the next phase of post-COVID-19 life. In other words, it's time to get the family back together.

It's unclear when it will be safe to return to the days of packed houses and crowded dance floors, but venues once again have live music on the books. Tickets are limited to allow for social distancing, so plan ahead because so far, shows are selling out fast.

Mercury Lounge

One of the many venues that went above and beyond to keep the local music scene on live-streaming life support for the past few months is Mercury Lounge. A long-time champion of live, original music, it's no surprise that the 18th Street and Boston Avenue venue was one of the first in town to fill up its events calendar with limited-capacity shows, including sold-out performances from Beau Roberson & Friends and Paul Benjamin Band, respectively. Check out mercurylounge.com for a list of upcoming shows, which include BC & The Big Rig May 23, and Rhett Miller of Old 97s June 3.

Blackbird on Pearl

Dustin Pittsley Band will reopen the Blackbird on June 5 at 8 p.m. Subsequent shows include Jack Waters & The Unemployed w/

Kevin Price June 13, The Spud Boys Reunion June 26, and Harley Hamm & Friends July 11. Tuesday Bluesday looks to be back as well, with no cover charge and great drink specials. Remember buying drinks in bars? It's a vague recollection, but I remember it being a good thing, and something I'd like to do again some day. Visit blackbirdonpearl.com for tickets and other upcoming shows.

Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL

The Great Outdoors

Hunt Club, The Colony, Shrine, and other venues are also booking live shows for June. But the reopening phase will move at a different pace for different people and age groups. Some people are simply not ready to return to a bar or an indoor venue just yet, even at limited capacity. That is certainly understandable. If you're ready to get out for live music but have safety concerns or if you're at an increased risk of serious infection, outdoor concerts offer the best opportunity to hear live music while still maintaining proper social distancing.

Many of the larger Summer festivals like WoodyFest in Okema have made the necessary decision to go virtual,

as multi-day camping events with thousands of people in close proximity sharing facilities is clearly a bad idea at this stage. But smaller gatherings that last hours instead of days are starting to fill up calendars.

Diamondhead Resort on the Illinois River, which has hosted the Medicine Stone Festival for the past seven years, features a spacious live music venue on its campground, and there are a few upcoming shows that will be well worth the short drive to Tahlequah, most notably Randy Crouch with his band Flying Horse on May 30 and July 4. Check out diamondheadresort.us for a complete schedule.

Closer to home, The Broken Arrow Arts and Humanities Council's Tuesdays in the Park concert series returns June 9 at Broken Arrow's Central Park from 6:30 – 9 p.m., and Tulsa's Gathering Place will begin hosting live outdoor music again with Caribbean Vibes – A Reggae Carnival on June 26 on the QuikTrip Great Lawn. Bring your own chair and your own drinks (no glass) and enjoy the music without putting yourself at risk.

Still Streaming

I mentioned early in this column that virtual concerts were missing a vital element, but that doesn't mean that the platform is without value. It might not be the best way to enjoy our favorite musicians, but it is a good way to survey the musical landscape and discover artists with whom you may not have crossed paths with otherwise. It's also still the safest way to hear live, local music.

One of the silver linings to emerge from 2020's shelter-in-place spring is Coffee with Cassi, a weekly live stream featuring the immensely talented Cassi Stephan performing original songs as well as covers, and welcoming special guests to her 9:30 a.m. Saturday show. Take a break from the morning



Photo by BETH TURNER

OUTDOOR JAM: Randy Crouch, left, is joined by David Teegarden, drums, and Paul Benjamin at the outdoor stage at Diamondhead Resort on the Illinois River last Fourth of July. Not pictured is Anna Payne on bass. Crouch and his band return to Diamondhead May 30 and again on July 4, providing an opportunity to enjoy live music while social distancing.

news and go to facebook.com/casiistephan to start your Saturday with some great local music. Your soul will thank you.

be different to be sure: an elbow or fist bump instead of a hug, no arm-in-arm singing at the tops of our lungs, but as God is my witness, we will keep searching, keep listening.

I look forward to seeing you again. It'll

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OSU-CHS Professor, ACE's Researcher Co-Write Scientific Childhood Book

Publication a Result of Studies of Families with Health and Money Issues

Courtesy SARA PLUMMER
Oklahoma State University

Jennifer Hays-Grudo, Ph.D., Regents professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at OSU Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa and director of the Center for Integrative Research on Childhood Adversity (CIRCA), co-authored the recently released book "Adverse and Protective Childhood Experiences: A Developmental Perspective."

Her co-author is Amanda Sheffield Morris, Ph.D., a Regents professor and George Kaiser Foundation Endowed Chair in Child Development at OSU-Tulsa and an adjunct professor in psychiatry and behavioral sciences.

The book came about following more than a decade of research in Tulsa with children and families struggling with health and economic problems. Before coming to OSU-CHS, Hays-Grudo was at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa working with the George Kaiser Family Foundation and Tulsa Educare when she began observing patterns among children and parents that led her to understand the importance of ACEs, adverse childhood experiences.

"Not only were ACEs causing the parents to have health problems, which other researchers had found, but ACEs were also causing them to find it difficult to learn new information and solve problems. No one had really looked at the psychological effects and the emotional effects of ACEs," she said.

"When we started looking at all the research on adverse childhood experiences, we saw how powerfully predictive ACEs are. There isn't another 10-item questionnaire that can predict with this much accuracy a population's risk for cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, teen pregnancy, school dropout rates and smok-

ing," Hays-Grudo said. "I thought to myself, if this one thing has so many downstream consequences—and I can identify the protective factors that help buffer children from those devastating effects, then that's what I want to spend my time studying."

The literature and research available at the time was primarily focused on health, but Hays-Grudo, Morris, and others working in childhood development found that ACEs didn't just affect health, but also development, ultimately influencing many ways that people function.

After moving to Oklahoma State University in 2013, she and Morris began working together and the pair began looking at the research related to resilience and the conditions that help protect children from the harmful effects of ACEs. They focused on those qualities found in the child's home, school and community environments. These protective experiences they called PACEs, Protective and Compensatory Experiences.

About three years ago Hays-Grudo and Morris began working on a scientific, academic book that would pull all this information about ACEs and PACEs together.

"We focused on the whole picture—how both adverse experiences and protective experiences balance the scales for children and promote better long-term health and development," Hays-Grudo said. "We feel like this is a whole new way of understanding early life experiences and it provides a template for the way your body and mind respond to stress and to trauma in the future. And how we can protect all those children that are out there going through ACEs right now and how we can help adults recover from ACEs."

The book "Adverse and Protective Childhood Experiences: A Developmental Perspective," which was released in March,



AMANDA SHEFFIELD MORRIS, Ph.D



JENNIFER HAYES-GRUDO, Ph.D

is aimed at professionals such as psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, pediatricians and those studying mental health, but Hays-Grudo and Morris are already at work on a second book, which will cover the same topic but will be written for parents.

"Everyone wants to live their best life. People say 'Isn't that depressing to think about how your childhood can have these long tendrils that reach into your adulthood?' Well it can be depressing, but at the same time, knowledge is powerful," she said. "Once we identify what the source of our struggles are, whether that's mental health or physical health, we've already gone a long way toward solving our problem."

ACEs is a hot topic right now among mental health and childhood development professionals, and it gets media attention, but Hays-Grudo said what people need to understand is that ACEs isn't a completely bad thing.

"People think that ACEs is some kind of death sentence or it means you're irreparably damaged and what we see is ACEs leaves its mark, but ACEs can actually

make you more empathic, more attuned to yourself when you have to learn what causes you to react. It makes you more conscious and self-aware. When you work on excavating the sources of your problems, you're stronger for it," she said. "There are so many resources that are now available, we hope this movement continues where we become more aware of the effects of ACEs around us. We become more accepting and kinder toward ourselves and others."

About Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences

Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences is a nationally recognized academic health center focused on teaching, research and patient care through its OSU Medicine clinics located throughout the Tulsa metro area. OSU Center for Health Sciences offers graduate and professional degrees through the 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 operates

a network of clinics offering a multitude of specialty services including addiction medicine, cardiology, family medicine, internal medicine, pain management, pediatrics, psychiatry and women's health. Learn more at health.ok-state.edu.

About the Center for Integrative Research on Childhood Adversity

We believe that interdisciplinary and integrative research on the mechanisms involved in the effects of childhood adversity on health and development is urgently needed to prevent current and future health disparities as well as the intergenerational transmission of poverty. CIRCA is the nation's first interdisciplinary center focused on understanding the mitigating negative effects of childhood adversity on health, developmental and economic consequences. The long-term goal of the center is the development of more effective and sustainable prevention and intervention strategies to interrupt the cycle of generational trauma and toxic stress. Learn more at circaok.com

Tulsa Tech Donates Medical Supplies to Local Hospitals

In this time of unprecedented need, Tulsa Tech is donating personal protective equipment normally utilized to train the next generation of health care professionals to St. Francis Health Systems and Hillcrest Medical. The equipment is used to help medical

staff stay safe during the global Covid-19 pandemic.

Tulsa Tech students in health science careers learn the proper way to protect themselves every day in class. Many of these students join the frontlines of our health care system as nurses, surgical tech-

nicians, medical assistants, and many more. Each of the donated items were collected from Tulsa Tech's six campuses.

The donation to Hillcrest and St. Francis included surgical gowns, more than 5,000 surgical and protective masks and 100 personal protective equipment kits. In total, the donations included nearly 100,000 life-saving items.

"We as an organization, as community members, as people care about our fellow citizens during this challenging time. This is one way that we can help. We are proud to join our partners at St. Francis in protecting health care professionals and patients across our region," said Dr. Steve Tiger, superintendent and CEO of Tulsa Tech.

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OSU Addiction Medicine Clinic Offering Help During COVID-19 Era

Amidst the current COVID-19 pandemic, many people continue to struggle with substance use disorders and the stress of isolation due to stay-at-home orders, financial burdens and uncertain futures may only make it worse.

Dr. Kelly Dunn, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and physician at the OSU Addiction Medicine Clinic in Tulsa, said the current pandemic has limited access to care in a variety of ways. Initially treatment centers stopped receiving new patients in order to protect the health of current patients and staff. Peer support groups such as AA, NA and Celebrate Recovery also stopped meeting.

Fortunately, most treatment facilities and peer support groups have found ways to meet online. However, for those with limited access to technology, this has been an obstacle to receiving the support they need.

"The stress of the pandemic can lead to increased use in substances to help cope, especially alcohol. Alcohol sales have skyrocketed during these stay-at-home orders. In addition, those suffering from substance use disorders might be at increased risk for complications from COVID-19," Dunn said.

The OSU Addiction Medicine Clinic is still operating, primarily remotely, and available to accept new patients.

"We are currently seeing new patients virtually and working on a plan to start seeing new patients safely in the clinic. Substance use disorders kill people, and although COVID-19 is a clear threat as well, we do not want anyone who wants help to have any delays in care," she said.

The addiction medicine clinic offers evi-

dence-based treatment to help people with their individual goals for their substance use, including FDA-approved treatments such as buprenorphine formulations for opioid use disorder and naltrexone for alcohol use disorder. Clinic physicians and staff also help connect patients with additional support services such as counseling and peer support groups.

"OSU Medicine has been on the frontlines monitoring the status of COVID-19 in our state. With consultation from our colleagues we are working on a phased plan to start opening up our clinic doors. Seeing patients virtually has been going well, but we acknowledge it's better for some, especially new patients, to come into the building," she said. "We will continue using CDC guidelines such as cleaning policies, mask wearing and physical distancing."

Being part of an addiction medicine treatment program can actually make stressors like the COVID-19 pandemic easier to manage, Dunn said.

"Many patients in recovery are doing really well and have built resilience with their hard work that has given them a skill set to do well in times of stress. Some appear to be handling it better than those who never had to work through recovery and build those skills," she said. "Our patients frequently say they wish they had come sooner. They feel known and cared for in a non-judgmental environment."

Potential patients and family members can call the OSU Addiction Medicine Clinic at 918-561-1890 to get information on scheduling new appointments with one of the clinic's addiction medicine trained physicians.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield Invests to Fight COVID-19

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma (BCBSOK) has announced it will invest \$1 million in statewide community organizations offering support services for the COVID-19 pandemic.

A portion of the the money was given to four organizations covering Oklahomans across the state in metro and rural areas, including Community Service Council of Tulsa and Heartline OKC, who operate the 2-1-1 statewide COVID-19 hotline, and the Tulsa Area United Way and United Way of Central Oklahoma for its statewide COVID-19 response funds.

"We are grateful for this donation from BCBSOK and other businesses that have stepped up to help Oklahomans who need immediate support," said Alison Anthony, president and chief executive officer of Tulsa Area United Way. "We are committed to providing services for individuals who are experiencing COVID-19 related hardship, primarily due to temporary unemployment, lost income, or unexpected food and child-care expenses."

Additional discussions are taking place

regarding ways to provide direct support to doctors, nurses and health care professionals working on the frontlines of COVID-19 response. For the latest information on BCBSOK's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other information, visit bcbsok.com/covid-19.

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EDUCATION

TCC Student Awarded Prestigious Scholarship

Justin West, a Tulsa Community College Computer Science major and Honors Scholar, has been awarded a prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. This scholarship is worth up to \$40,000 a year to complete his bachelor's degree at the university of his choice.

"I think about the dozens of Tulsa Community College faculty and staff who have helped me on my journey, whose time and dedication enabled me to be successful," said West. "TCC is a dream factory. The opportunities this scholarship opens have completely altered the trajectory of my life."

West is one of 50 recipients of the highly competitive scholarship for the nation's top community college students. In addition, Cooke scholars are eligible to apply for up to

\$75,000 of funding toward graduate school.

"I plan to utilize this scholarship to pursue research into Artificial Intelligence towards sustainability efforts. I will not waste this gift," said West, who is considering the University of Tulsa, Yale, Cornell, and Brown. His summer plans include a position as the NASA Cyber Security Intern at the Langley Research Center.

"I would be excited for any TCC student chosen for such a significant honor," said Dr. Allen Culpepper, TCC's Jack Kent Cooke Foundation representative. "I'm even more ecstatic because Justin is such a dedicated student, and one whom I have had the pleasure of teaching personally."

West is also this year's TCC recipient of the Kontogianes Hon-



Courtesy photo

JUSTIN WEST

ors Award, sponsored by the TCC Foundation, and given each year to the Honors Scholar who best exemplifies the qualities of its namesake: intelligence, integrity, love of

learning, service to others, and concern for others. He led the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society for two years, increased student organization funding by 30 percent when he served as finance director for the Student Government Association, made the TRIO Student Association the most active at TCC, founded the Active Minds mental health organization and planned a Stomp Out Stigma mental health and suicide awareness program that was the largest student-led event in the college's history.

West is also a TRIO Student Support Services participant helping fellow student. In addition, he served as a True Blue Lead, a student ambassador, and chair of the Cyber Security Committee. West also served as managing editor for the 2019 issues of Tulsa

Review, TCC's online magazine of the literary and visual arts.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need.

Nearly 1,500 students from 311 community colleges applied for the 2020 Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. This year's semi-finalists included four TCC students. In addition to West, they were Justice Robinson, Alyssa Whan and Bethany Niman. The Foundation evaluated each submission based on students' academic ability and achievement, financial need, persistence, leadership, and service to others. The recipients selected represent 17 different states and plan to enroll at the nation's most selective colleges.

TCC Releases Its Plan for Fall 2020 Classes

Tulsa Community College will resume in-person classes for fall 2020 across all four main campuses, two community campuses and Education Outreach Center. At the same time, TCC is creating a comprehensive course schedule that prioritizes the health and safety of students and employees in the learning environment.

"As TCC makes plans for the fall semester, we are faced with a new reality," said Dr. Leigh Goodson, TCC president and CEO. "In developing our schedule, we acknowledge that the new 'norm' looks different than past years. Offering small high-quality classes, TCC provides you one of the most affordable tuition rates in the state as well as flexibility."

The Fall 2020 course schedule required TCC to alter 80 percent of its class sections to provide options in online, online live, blended and face-to-face classes. The plan allows for a combination of delivery methods to provide options to meet students how and where they want to take courses.

"We are committed to providing an excellent learning experience where the student can choose the preferred mode of instruction and have the opportunity for greater engagement with our talented faculty," said Dr. Cindy Hess, senior vice president and chief academic officer. "Our faculty are squarely focused on teaching and learning in all modes and will have additional support resources and profes-

sional development for online delivery including faculty mentors."

Online: Content is delivered through the internet with no scheduled class times.

Online Live: Online "web-conference style" courses meet at designated times and students are required to be present online, live at that time.

Blended: Part online, part scheduled face-to-face following physical space guidelines on campus.

Face-to-Face: Held at specific times following physical space guidelines on campus.

TCC is currently redesigning the Fall schedule to reflect these four options, and will finalize changes by Monday, May 18. Students who have already enrolled

for fall 2020, will need to check after May 18 to review their schedule and modes of course delivery.

TCC will prioritize courses with a lab component or programs that require specific equipment for teaching and learning such as Allied Health, Aviation, Nursing, Performing Arts, and Science for face-to-face scheduling. Plus, students will have limited access to learning spaces on campus for study, technology use, and testing.

The college is currently evaluating all rooms to determine the number of students allowed based on square footage and sanitizing protocols. In some cases, spaces not previously designated as a classroom such as large meeting rooms are being considered to al-

low for greater space. In addition, assigned spaces for face-to-face classes will not be used for back-to-back scheduling to allow sanitizing protocols.

"While we cannot predict what will happen, we are ready and have multiple plans to help our students succeed," said Goodson. "Our mission of building success through education has not wavered and, in fact, our resolve has been strengthened by these challenges."

Enrollment is now open for the fall and summer semesters. TCC Summer classes will remain online with increased computer lab support on campus for students who don't have access to technology. Students may apply at tulsa.cc.edu.

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STEM Students Launch into New Opportunity

Tulsa Tech Team Competes in StellarXplorers Competition

A new group is taking flight inside Tulsa Tech's STEM Academy. This group of six students is competing on a first-of-its-kind team in the StellarXplorers competition. The program designed by the United States Air Force puts students to the test, in a space design competition. "Tulsa Tech is very cool because it gives us opportunities," Alex Buckner, a senior at the STEM Academy, said. "I have always known I wanted to go into engineering but here I can explore the field and find out where I want to specialize."

The StellarXplorers program launched in 2015. The U.S. Air Force's goal was to develop a program focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Now in its sixth year, this is the first year for Tulsa Tech to field a team. STEM Academy instructor Mark Rodriguez is leading the team of six students from all across the Tulsa Tech district.

This year the team has taken part in three competition rounds and multiple practice rounds. Each putting a new challenge before the team.

"They give us a scenario, the latest involved launching two satellites," Buckner said with a smile. "We had to figure out what each rocket could hold which satellite and use the variables to decide which was the most cost-effective."

The Tulsa Tech team is one of eight in Oklahoma, and more than 100 competing worldwide. Despite being its first year, they earned a spot in the national semifinals last March.

"We made it further than we could have ever dreamed," Kegan Firey, a team member, said with a smile. "We came into this knowing nothing and with the amazing support, we made it to the semifinals."

"I did not expect us to get this far but it has been really cool," Buckner added.

The team spends many Saturday's working on different practice scenarios, time together that has formed a bond between team members. Buckner spends his mornings at the STEM Academy while his other team members are in the afternoon group.

News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent



Photo courtesy Vanessa Aziere of Tulsa Tech

TULSA TECH STEM ACADEMY STUDENTS: Back row from left, Jack Smith, Connor Meyer and Joel DuBose. Front Row from left, Mia Roberts and Kegan Firey. Not pictured is Alexander Buckner. The students claimed the 11th place finish in StellarXplorers competitions.

"It has given me a chance to meet new people," Buckner said. "More than likely, if they were in my class I would not end up talking to them. We were thrown together and I like working with them, it's fun."

Not only is this competition setting students up for success, but it also gives them a leg up once they get to college. Careers in STEM are in high demand, expected to grow nearly nine percent over the next decade, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This is the emphasis on STEM education in our elementary and high schools grows.

Tulsa Tech's STEM Academy uses the nationally-recognized Pre-Engineering Program from "Project Lead The Way" to help give students a leg up. Each year, the program graduates about 100

students, and of those nearly 90 percent go on to pursue an engineering degree.

Programs like StellarXplorers teach students more than just STEM skills, they improve professional skills our industry partners crave, such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving.

"It is really a collaboration exercise more than anything," Joel DuBose, an Owasso senior said. "It's about collaborating ideas in an efficient way because we do have a time limit."

"The biggest part of it is the teamwork," said Connor Meyer, another team member. "This program really shows how important it is to work together because you can't always do it alone."

For some, the program has made them re-think their career path and turn toward aerospace, but for

Buckner, it has sharpened his desire to reach his goals.

"I would like to go get a degree in either mechanical or aerospace engineering," Buckner said with a wry smile. "My dream is to work for NASA or SpaceX. StellarXplorers and Tulsa Tech are helping me reach that goal."

Tulsa Tech's StellarXplorers team ended up finishing eleventh in the competition. The team missed out on a top ten finish by just a tenth of a point. They also were able to claim the honor of the top finisher in Oklahoma.

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, call 918-828-5000 or visit us online at tulsaotech.edu.

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(Continued on page 24)



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SPORTS

Basketball Ranchers Were Among the Lost Tulsa Sports Franchises Through the Years

The Pro Basketball Team Played in the 1940s at The Fairgrounds Pavilion

By **TERRELL LESTER**
Editor at Large

Author's note: Much of the background and information on the Tulsa Ranchers and the PBLA came from research compiled by the late Lou Wilkie of Bartlesville. His father, Louis Wilkie, had coached the AAU Phillips 66ers and served seven terms as chairman of the AAU Basketball Committee. He was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1983.

Folks will be bemoaning the Great Sports Interruption of 2020 for years to come.

Games put on hold.
Dreams delayed.
Leisurely pastimes upended.
Life altered.

The realm of sports has been diminished, dismantled.
But it has happened before.

Professional sports have endured work stoppages.

Franchises have packed up and moved.

Tulsa has had its share of sports breakups.

The baseball Oilers split for New Orleans in 1977.

The hockey Oilers endured a series of stops and starts.

The WNBA Shock headed for Dallas in 2015.

The Fast Breakers morphed into the Zone in 1991 before disappearing a year later.

The Oklahoma Outlaws called Tulsa its football home in 1984 and one year later they were in Arizona.

And then there were the Roughnecks, arguably Tulsa's most successful pro franchise. The Roughnecks competed at soccer's major-league level and even won the 1983 Soccer Bowl.

But the city's honeymoon with the team was short-lived and the North American Soccer League dissolved the following year.

(In 2013, the Roughnecks name returned with the formation of a new soccer league. "Roughnecks" received nearly 50 percent of the votes in a "name the team" contest

in February 2014. Under the ownership of brothers J.W., Ryan and Kyle Craft, the FC Tulsa franchise is a member of USL Championship, a pro league that began in 2011.)

Pro sports and Tulsa have long had a tenuous, fragile relationship. One of the shortest tenures in local pro sports history had to be the 1947 Tulsa Ranchers.

Amidst the euphoria that enveloped the country following the conclusion of World War II, sports was entering its most auspicious era.

Pro baseball was king. Pro football was emerging. College football, college basketball were thriving.

And professional basketball was seeking its share of the revenue pie, its share of the sports fan's attention.

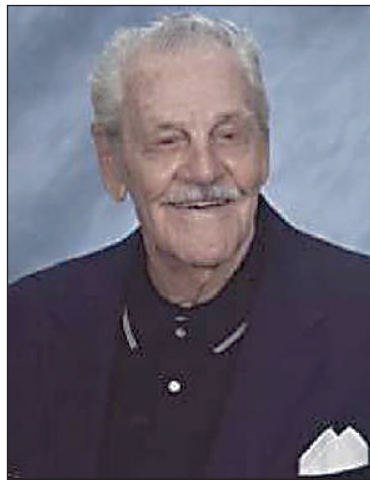
Leagues formed seemingly overnight. In 1946, there were three professional basketball associations spread across the United States.

The Professional Basketball League of America joined in the fun in 1947.

Tulsa landed one of 16 franchises in the new league that stretched from Atlanta and Birmingham to Chicago and Grand Rapids, Mich.

The league was created by a Chicago businessman and owner of the National Basketball League 1946-47 championship team.

Forrest DeBernardi was installed as the general manager of the Tulsa Ranchers operation. He had been an outstanding collegiate and AAU player and would be en-



Courtesy photo

HEAD COACH: Jim Gibbs was head coach of the Ranchers, and he also served as a player.

shrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1961.

The league, which included the Oklahoma City Drillers, planned a 60-game schedule for 1947 and signed players to two-year contracts.

Jim Gibbs was hired in a dual capacity as player-coach of the Ranchers. At 6-5, he had been a star player at Central Missouri State Teachers College and in the National Basketball League.

The Ranchers played their home games at Tulsa's Fairgrounds Pavilion, wearing the colors of red and royal blue.

One of the name players on the team, maybe not a star-quality player but an individual who would later make his mark as a coach, was Chet Bryan.

Bryan was an all-around athlete at Oklahoma City Capitol Hill and a basketball standout at Oklahoma City University. He later became a high school hall of fame basketball coach at Norman and head baseball coach at Oklahoma State University.

In 1947, Bryan played six games for the Ranchers and two games

for the Oklahoma City Drillers.

Other notable members of the Ranchers were former University of Tulsa player Ken Scott, former University of Oklahoma all-star Jack Landon, and John Gibbs, brother of Coach Jim Gibbs, who began his college career at Oklahoma A&M.

Oklahoma City's Drillers boasted a roster with several familiar names. Head coach was Glen Rose, in the middle of two stints at the University of Arkansas.

Among his players were University of Oklahoma All-American Allie Paine and Oklahoma A&M All-American Lonnie Eggleston.

The league's marquee player was George Mikan, fresh off an All-American career at DePaul University.

He carried the Chicago Gears to the league's best record, 10-0, averaging 24.1 points, with a single-game high of 31.

A front-office leader of one of the franchises later became the leader of the free world.

The Grand Rapids, Mich., Rangers tapped a home-town product and former University of Michigan footballer Gerald R. Ford Jr., as general manager.

One year later, in 1948, Ford took his first steps on a political journey that would take him to the White House, winning the first of 13 elections to the U.S. House of Representatives.

With 16 teams, the league was divided into two divisions. Tulsa was slotted into the Southern Division along with the Houston Mavericks, the Atlanta Crackers, New Orleans Hurricanes and Chattanooga Majors, among others.

Travel was an issue, players had two-year contracts, expenses ballooned and attendance was not up to expectations.

After just three weeks, 10 games for the Ranchers, the league disbanded on Nov. 13, 1947.

Four days later, officials from the

Tulsa office joined with representatives of five other teams to work out a two-week series of exhibition games and a plan for a new league foundation for December.

By Nov. 27, all plans were scratched and the professional basketball dream came to an end.

Two of the three remaining pro basketball leagues continued play, and in 1949 the National Basketball League and the Basketball Association of America joined forces to create the National Basketball Association.

Mikan became the first superstar of the NBA. He joined the Minneapolis Lakers after the PBLA collapsed and led his team to the first NBA championship following the 1949-50 season.

Tulsa completed its run in the PBLA with a 7-3 record and the league's best defensive numbers, yielding an average of 41.2 points.

Tulsa's largest attendance was recorded on Nov. 9 when Mikan and Chicago visited the Pavilion. A crowd of 1,500 reportedly witnessed Mikan (with 18 points) and the Gears defeat the Ranchers, 51-48.

The only meeting between Tulsa and Oklahoma City occurred the next night. Playing in Oklahoma City's Municipal Auditorium, the Drillers defeated the Ranchers, 41-30, before a crowd of 479.

Player-coach Jim Gibbs led Tulsa's 10-game scoring with a 12.5 average.

About the time the Ranchers and the pro league were disbanding, the University of Tulsa was preparing for a new season. John Garrison was installed as the Golden Hurricane head coach earlier in the year and TU would go on to a 7-16 record in his debut.

Basketball in the city of Tulsa was far from its peak in 1947.

But the city of Tulsa did get a peek at what professional basketball was all about. It just was not a long look.

FORMER TULSA PROFESSIONAL TEAMS REMEMBERED



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Whetting the Sports Appetite Before the Games Begin

Area Sports Museums Offer an Alternative

By DOUG EATON
Contributing Writer

While the easing of quarantine requirements and travel restrictions may be getting us closer to returning to a sense of normalcy, there are still many questions as to when, where and how sports fans will be able to attend a game in person. Will Tulsa Drillers fans be able to watch a game live at ONE-OK Field this season? Will there be high school football this fall? Can TU, OU and OSU football fans attend games in person once the season starts?

Since it appears there will be additional time before games are available to attend, there are a number of alternatives in the area to satisfy sports fans' appetites in the meantime. All these suggestions below are within a 60 to 90-minute drive from Tulsa:

Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame - Oklahoma City. The museum's main goal is to promote Oklahoma, while honoring and recognizing nearly 200 great Oklahomans who have represented the state positively at not only the state level, but also the national and international levels. The museum is located at the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark, home of the Oklahoma City Dodgers.

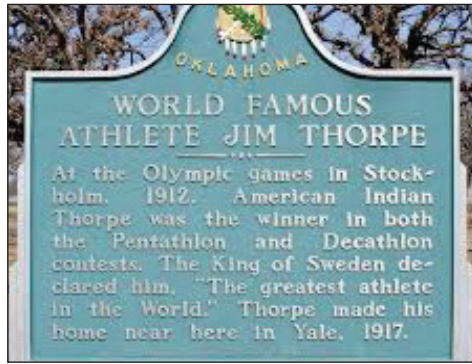
Jim Thorpe Home - Yale, Oklahoma. Take a tour of the former home of 1912 Olympian Jim Thorpe, often referred to as the "world's greatest athlete." Explore artifacts and displays of Thorpe's track and field awards, as well as many family items. This two-bedroom house is the only home Jim Thorpe ever owned and includes a log cabin that sits beside it.

Mickey Mantle's boyhood home - Commerce. Located at 319 South Quincy, the home appears pretty much unchanged since his youth. Baseball's greatest power hitting switch-hitter learned to hit in the side yard as his father and grandfather would take turns pitching to him. You can still see the dents in the side of the tin shed that was used as a backstop.

National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum - Oklahoma City. The Hall of Fame, with over 400 inductees, honors those men and women who have played a major role in the growth and development of softball, one of the great sports of the United States.

Territorial Capital Sports Museum - Guthrie. Famous sports names and their artifacts inhabit every room of the museum. Baseball, basketball, football, Olympics, golf and rodeo are represented with comprehensive gallery exhibits. Oklahoma Heisman Trophy Award winners, Final Four teams and Native American athletes are lauded along with tributes to women in Oklahoma Sports. A gallery devoted to the Oklahoma High School Baseball Coaches Association's Hall of Fame is one of the highlights of the Museum.

Shulthis Stadium in Riverside Park - Independence, Kansas. The site of the first night game in the history of organized baseball (April 28, 1930). It is also where Mickey Mantle played his first professional game and



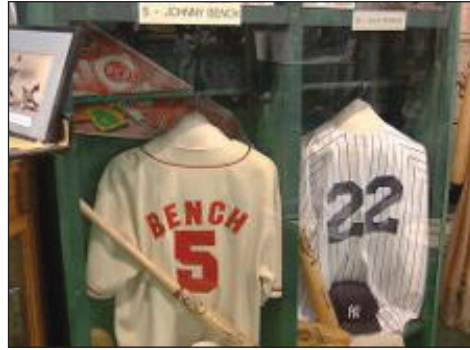
JIM THORPE HOME



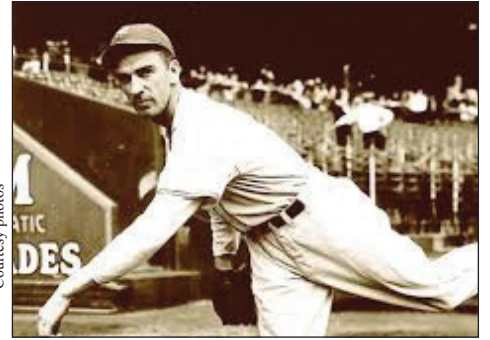
NATIONAL SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME



JIM THORPE HOME



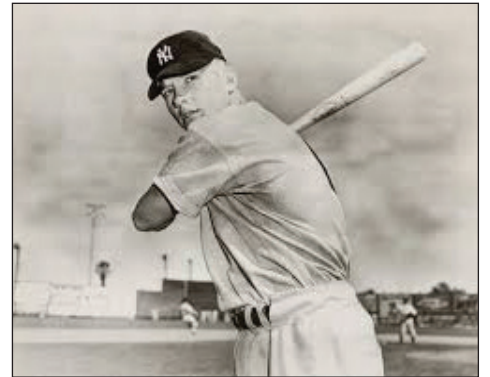
TERRITORIAL CAPITAL SPORTS MUSEUM



CARL HUBBELL MUSEUM



MICKEY MANTLE BOYHOOD HOME



MICKEY MANTLE



OKLAHOMA SPORTS HALL OF FAME



GYMNASTICS HALL OF FAME

hit his first professional home as a member of the Independence Yankees. Just 90 miles north of Tulsa, the stadium is open with displays commemorating these events and is still in use for high school football games.

Carl Hubbell Museum - Meeker. Carl Hubbell grew up in Meeker and the Meeker City Hall has a museum dedicated to Hubbell, one of the greatest pitchers ever and a Hall of Famer. Hubbell is still remembered for striking out Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Jimmie Foxx, Al Simmons and Joe Cronin in their consecutive at-bats in the 1934 All-Star Game.

International Gymnastics Hall of Fame - Oklahoma City. The Hall recognizes the greatest gymnasts in the world and honors their excellence and artistry that inspires so many young athletes, coaches and fans across the globe. It has become the pre-eminent showcase for Olympic and World champions in artistic gymnastics - from every era and representing more than 20 nations.

With the COVID-19 situation, it is advised to call ahead prior to your visit to confirm available visiting hours.

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Bishop Kelley Celebrates Successful Swim Season

SPORTS

By **MIKE MOGUIN**
GTR Sports Writer

Before the cancellations, closures and lockdowns took effect as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a few winter sports programs completed their state competitions. Among those was the Bishop Kelley swim program, where the boys won the team championship for the second consecutive year. Individual and relay swimmers also captured gold medals in various races.

The Comets won the Class 5A boys championship on Feb. 22 at the Jenks Aquatic Center with 403 points. Altus was the runner-up with 255.

Senior SMU signee Jack Callan won the 200 (1:40.74) and 500 (4:37.90) freestyle events for the fourth straight year, making him a four-time state champion. His older brother Patrick, now at Michigan, also was a four-time state champ from 2015-18.

"It was a special way for us to go out," Callan said. "We had made that our goal from day one and to be able to accomplish it, was the best feeling in the world."

Callan was also the fourth leg on the winning 200 (1:28.23) and 400 (3:15.18) freestyle relay units. The time set by the 200 team was a state record for the race.

"Those three guys who came before me, especially at regionals and state, would always give me massive leads because of how talented they are. The pressure was a little off me at the end," Callan said. "To break those records with them is the best moment of that meet other than getting the



STATE CHAMPIONS: The Bishop Kelley boys celebrate winning the Class 5A state team title.

trophy, of course. There's nothing like setting records with your teammates."

Paul Hunt, another senior, swam alongside Callan as the second leg in the 200 relay. He was in the same role on the 200 (1:40.05) medley relay team, that also won a gold medal. Hunt also took first in the 100 (52.64) butterfly event.

"It was huge for me because I never won anything individually before that. My key to winning was just get in your head that you're going to win before you even get into the pool," Hunt said.

On the girls' side, junior Abbey Mink won the 200 (1:56.82) and 500 (5:19.35) freestyle events. She was also the anchor leg of the gold-winning 200 (1:45.83) medley relay squad.

"It was really meaningful, especially the team," Mink said. "That was the most meaningful race I probably ever had in my career. It was a Bishop Kelley first. The

girls have never won a relay at state and it was a Bishop Kelley record too.

"Before the race, I was feeling a lot of pressure," Mink said. "I didn't know if we were going to be able to pull it off. We really hoped so, but we weren't sure yet. But by the time it got to my leg, my teammates had swum well and made it where I could relax a little bit and not be too pressured. They gave me a good lead."

SMU Bound

As mentioned earlier, Callan will be swimming in college at SMU.

"The team culture and upward track was unmatched," he said. "Looking at their conference results over the past few years, how dramatically they are improving really excited me. It was something that I knew I had to be a part of."

Callan chose the Mustangs over



Courtesy photos

FREESTYLE WINNERS: Claire Beisler, Abbey Mink, Laney Sims and Regan Hoyt celebrate their victory in the 200-meter relay in February.

Michigan, Notre Dame and Florida State.

"All four were awesome schools, which made for a really tough decision," he said.

More girls needed

As many as 25 boys load the Kelley roster. But the girls' squad is in dire need for more members. Only five swimmers competed for the Lady Comets this year.

"The fact that we will have only three swimmers next year is a little rough," Mink said.

The other two swimmers are seniors who are graduating.

"Four swimmers make a relay and we are in need of another girl."

Mink is one of the three girls to return next season as a senior and hopes to get the team count up.

"Building up a girls team would be really great. For me to be able to do it (win) again, I need more girls just as passionate about swimming as the ones I have."

Looking Back

With Callan and Hunt graduating, they have nothing but good memories to reflect on.

"Last year, which was the first time the team has ever won state. The way we finished, how we won and how elated everyone was, that was most memorable," Hunt said.

"Thank you to my teammates and coaches for giving me a great four years at BK," Callan said.

Private School Quick Hits

Victory Christian (Class 4A) girls, Bishop Kelley (5A), Holland Hall (4A) and Rejoice Christian (2A) boys all made the state basketball tournament in March. But none of them could showcase their skills due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was originally postponed shortly before it was scheduled to start on March 12. Two weeks later, the OSSAA cancelled the tournament permanently.

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Mayo Building the First for the Mayo Family

Original Structure Was Five Stories When Constructed in 1909

There is a traditional Tulsa family that is associated with a number of downtown Tulsa real estate properties. The Mayo family was responsible for building the Mayo Building, the Petroleum Building, the Mayo Hotel, and the adjacent Mayo Motor Inn parking garage.

Today, a fourth generation Mayo family member, Peter Mayo, follows this heritage in restoring and improving Tulsa's former Municipal Theatre now called the Brady Theater.

With this much real estate, I decided two articles on these Mayo properties is certainly justified. Having already written about the Mayo Hotel and the Brady Theater, I'll now focus on the first Tulsa Mayo property, the Mayo Building.

In 1904, two brothers, Cass and John Mayo arrived in the small oil town of Tulsa, Indian Territory from the nearby state of Missouri. Using their savings and a loan from their grandmother, the two opened a retail furniture store which was to last over 50 years. As Tulsa boomed, the brothers moved their original store at the 200 block of South Main Street several times as their store grew.

In 1909, the growth in their fur-

niture sales allowed them to begin building a five-story building at 420 S. Main St. Their furniture emporium was on the lower two levels while the upper stories were utilized for oil company office space.

By 1914, the Glenpool oil strike had created even more growth in Tulsa which allowed the brothers to add five more floors to their building. By 1917, they doubled its height to 10 stories.

The Mayo Building has a high ground floor with an exterior that was significantly remodeled in the 1950s utilizing maroon colored marble veneer panels. The original large windows at street level (perfect for showcasing Mayo furnishings) were framed with rounded maroon marble trim also utilized at a small square window centered above each large window below. The building's primary facing is a light tan brick.

The south facade presents eight bays with triple window spacing and projecting brick pilasters which have a corbelled brick detail at pilaster corners. The east facade has a symmetrical two, four, two horizontal window spacing to the building center. The original double hung windows have been re-

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA



GTR Media Group photo

EARLY ADDITION: The Mayo Brothers, an early Tulsa business family, built the Mayo Building in 1909 as a five-story structure.

placed with single insulated glass panels. The same face brick is expensively utilized at all building elevations (even at alley exposures). Above the lower floors the footprint splits into two towers creating a large center light well. A massive cast stone cornice on the south and east elevations caps these facades.

Due to a 1994 remodeling, today the building has a mixed-use occupancy with street level retail and office and apartment space above. It was listed on the National Register in 2008.



GTR Media Group photo

STATELY LANDMARK: The Mayo Building stands tall today in downtown Tulsa at 420 S. Main St. It houses retail space at the street level and office with apartment space above.



Read More GTR at www.gtrnews.com



GTR Media Group photo

BEST-SELLING VISITOR: Rotary Club of Tulsa President Becky Fields welcomes best-selling author C.J. Box to a meeting of the club in early March. Box is the number-one New York Times bestselling author of 27 novels, including the Joe Pickett series. Over 10 million of his books have been sold in the U.S. and abroad.

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THE ECONOMY

Gary Sparks Retires from Sparks Reed Architecture

*Industry Veteran
Co-Founded
The Firm with
David Reed and
Jill Selman*

Courtesy KIRBY LEE DAVIS

Noted Oklahoma architect Gary Sparks has retired from Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors.

Sparks, a 55-year industry veteran and graduate of Stillwater-based Oklahoma State University, is most known for architectural efforts to expand, renovate and preserve OSU's Gallagher-Iba Arena. He also led the team that designed OSU's Boone Pickens Stadium. His last major Sparks Reed project was to design a new home for the Wesley Foundation at OSU – a heartfelt effort, as Sparks lived for a year in the foundation's original building while pursuing his 1966 architectural degree.

He came out of an earlier retirement in 2011 to co-found Sparks Reed with architect David Reed and interior designer Jill Selman, his daughter. Both Reed and Selman had worked at Sparks Architecture, which Gary sold to Conway, Ark.-based Crafton Tull in 2006.

"In the last 10 years, Sparks Reed accomplished what we hoped and expected to do," said Sparks, 78. "It's been a great experience. Now I think it's time for me to step away and let them continue on and see where they want to take the firm."

This year, Sparks Reed will mark its 10th year of operation by renovating and moving into its new downtown Sapulpa home. The firm acquired a 5,000-square-foot brick and wood structure in March.

"Gary has been a great boss, mentor, and partner over the past 15+ years," said Reed, principal of Sparks Reed. "He is an amazing man, and it has truly been an honor to be his partner over the last 10 years, and moreover, to call him a friend. We wish him all the best in his retirement, and I look forward to playing golf with him soon."

Born in Murphy, N.C., in 1941, Sparks came to Oklahoma in 1960 to seek a Keystone Dam construction job in the Tulsa suburb of Sand Springs. While he didn't



DAVID REED



JILL SELMAN

land that position, his discussions with an OSU architectural student that summer led Sparks to attend Oklahoma State University, starting a lifelong love affair with the school. Under the Gallagher-Iba rafters he also met and wooed his future wife, Jerri.

"The years I spent at OSU were life-changing years for me in many ways, not just educationally, but in the people I met," said Sparks. "I had found a place that I could call home. I never really had that before. I spent six years in Stillwater, falling in love with the town, the people, the university, the culture, just everything it stands for. My wife felt the same way."

After graduation and marriage, Sparks served two years in the U.S. Army. Honorably discharged in 1968, he started his career in Tulsa. In 1986, Sparks launched his first firm, Gary Sparks Companies.

"We were a small company, but we managed to survive the downturn in the Oklahoma economy that came in the '80s and early '90s," he said. "We were doing a lot of health care work then, a lot of churches, and some sports stuff. We were able to hang on by our fingernails."

By that time, OSU's football and basketball facilities suffered from years of neglect. Shocked by discussions about replacing the once-famed Gallagher-Iba Arena, Sparks proposed a dramatic solution – to raise a new shell over that 6,318-seat arena to renovate and expand its structure. This, which he thought could be done while Gallagher-Iba continued operations, would increase its seating capacity to 13,611, provide all the state-of-the-art ca-

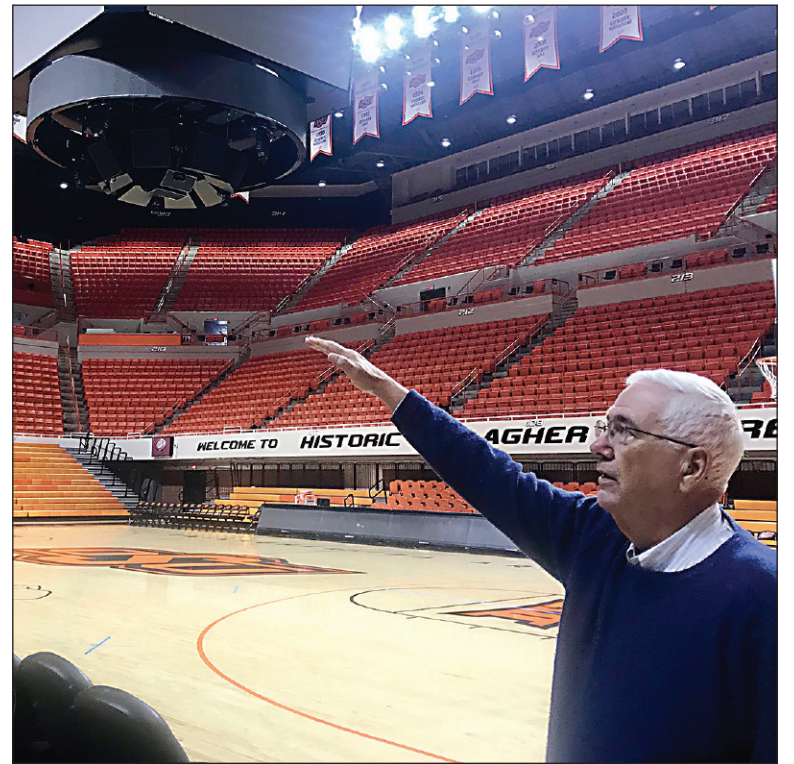
pabilities OSU desired, yet retain the arena's historic "snake-pit" attributes fans loved.

Though some naysayers wondered if Sparks could pull this off, OSU gave him the contract. Completed by Manhattan Construction in 2000, the project earned widespread praise – and another makeover for Sparks, for OSU's neighboring Lewis Field. The resulting three-phase creation of Boone Pickens Stadium opened in 2009 to national acclaim.

"I was blessed to be able to come back and work on several projects for the university," said Sparks. "People identify me with those two because of their nature and how so many people enjoy them. Knowing that I was a part of all that may make that a highlight of my career, but it doesn't diminish any of the other projects I've done, no matter what size or type of clients, because they've all been important to me. Those two are just kind of special for what they are and how they're visualized on a national scale."

During these years, Sparks restructured and expanded his firm into Sparks Architecture, designer of south Tulsa's Asbury United Methodist Church and the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks. Sparks takes great pride in that firm's accomplishments and work strategy – to study their client's operations, interview stakeholders, and analyze their answers, all to design a unique facility that best fits the client's resources, ambition, and desires.

"I often get to talk to a lot of the people who used to work for Sparks," he said. "What they appreciated as much as anything was the culture. You were free to



Courtesy photos

SURVEYING HIS MASTERPIECE: Architect Gary Sparks looks over his architectural renovation of Gallagher-Iba Arena at Oklahoma State University. Sparks also oversaw the renovation of OSU's Lewis Field football stadium, designed Tulsa's Asbury United Methodist Church and the Oklahoma Aquarium among a multitude of other notable projects.

explore, and you were free to take advantage of opportunities that came along to build your career and portfolio. I've never tried to put roadblocks on people. I've never tried to dictate to them or impose my ideas on something. I gave them a lot of freedom, a lot of rope. I wanted to have a culture where everybody respected each other."

Sparks Reed adopted many of these same strategies for its corporate culture. While its portfolio includes churches, schools, office buildings, parks, and automotive dealerships, Sparks Reed's sports efforts stand out. The firm has designed more than a dozen high school and college athletic facilities since its incorporation in 2011, with the latest two in different stages of construction and several more in the design phase.

"Gary has taught me that it is more important to listen to people than to talk, and people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care," said Reed. "This applies to everyone in my life, both professionally and personally."

"I feel very fortunate to have worked alongside my dad over the years," said Selman. "As one of his daughters, it is particularly meaningful to have observed him excel in his career and the roles

in which he is so gifted. His commitment to serve the client and go above and beyond is remarkable. I always felt confident in a client or contractor meeting with my dad present, knowing he would have a thoughtful, wise response for whatever came along. His care for people and drive to do the right thing has made a lasting difference."

This retirement should give Sparks more time for his family and photography. He also has considered writing another book to follow 2019's Game Changer: Oklahoma State University's Gallagher-Iba Arena and Boone Pickens Stadium.

"Where do I go from here? Wherever God wants me to go," said Sparks. "I don't really have a definite plan. I'm open to the next journey. I'm excited about all the possibilities and things that might come my way. I don't think I've accomplished all the things I'm supposed to yet. I just want to have the freedom to be able to do whatever that next thing is."

Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors has worked on private and public architectural and interior projects valued at more than \$500 million. To learn more about Sparks Reed and its past projects, check out sparksreed.com or call Reed at 918-884-6007.

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Tulsa Regional Chamber Named National Finalist for Chamber of the Year Award

The Tulsa Regional Chamber has been named as a finalist for the 2020 Chamber of the Year award, presented by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE).

The Tulsa Regional Chamber is a three-time former recipient of this award, having previously been named the nation's best chamber in 2005, 2008 and 2010, as well as having been a finalist for the award in 2018.

"As an organization dedicated

to excellence and continuous improvement, our chamber is honored to be in the running once again for the most prestigious award in our industry," said Mike Neal, president and CEO of the Tulsa Regional Chamber.

The Chamber of the Year award is the most competitive recognition presented annually by ACCE, an association of more than 9,000 professionals from 1,500 chambers of commerce, including 93 of the top 100 U.S. metro areas.

"We at the Tulsa Regional Chamber are proud to stand as finalists alongside our friends at the Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce in Florida and the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce in Texas," said Neal. "Because the awards process is peer-judged by fellow chamber professionals, recognition is especially meaningful for all of us."

The Chamber of the Year award recognizes the leadership role chambers have in their commu-

nities. Those honored with the Chamber of the Year designation have demonstrated organizational strength and made an impact on key community priorities, including education, transportation, economic prosperity and quality of life.

"Being considered for honors such as this is possible because of the tireless efforts of the Tulsa Regional Chamber's staff, the commitment of its volunteer leaders, and the collaboration from partners and investors," said Roger Ramseyer, vice

president and Tulsa market leader for Cox Communications, and 2020 chair for the Tulsa Regional Chamber.

To ensure the fairest competition, chambers are grouped into four categories based on annual revenue, membership, area population and other factors. The Tulsa Regional Chamber competes within the category for largest chambers.

The Chamber of the Year award winners will be announced later this year.

A Recharged Energy Sector Important for the Nation



In order to recharge America, to get America back on its feet, the stronger the oil and gas industry recharges, the quicker America recharges! When America becomes economically viable, the leader in that effort will be the energy industry: planes back in the air, cars back on the road, school buses taking children to school...

My appreciation for the energy industry has dramatically increased throughout the past

several weeks. Though I've been in this industry for more than 40 years, my reflection on the importance of the energy industry has strengthened. All the necessary electricity needed for hospital rooms and all forms of medical care, transportation for medical equipment, food, and cargo, as well as the many other American necessities, have been provided by the energy industry.

The oil and gas industry, a strong part of the energy industry, has been very essential. The industry provides power generation and transportation for all of us. According to the US Energy

Information Administration, "In 2018, total U.S. primary energy consumption per person (or per capita consumption) was about 309 million British thermal units (Btu). In 2017, U.S. per capita energy consumption was about 300 million Btu." From turning on the light switch first thing in the morning to turning off the light switch in the evening, the energy industry has provided a vital source of energy for millions of Americans in their daily lives. Petroleum based products which I use daily include my plastic toothbrush and razor, clothing, electrical devices including my iPhone and laptop, food packaging, vehicle components, and the list goes on.

The industry will provide the necessary energy for a stronger America. In 1985, I testified before the U.S. Senate Natural Resources Committee about the importance of a strong energy industry, in particular, the oil and gas industry. I believe that the testimony I provided at that time, applies to today. The energy industry then and today is our eco-

nomically driven.

Recently on CNBC, Ed Morse of Citi Global was a featured guest. Sept. 30 to Oct. 3 of 1999, I served on a 20-member task force/round table, held in San Antonio, with Morse. America was facing many of the same issues that we are facing today in the energy industry. The subject was: Managing in 2000-Where Do We Go From Here. The most important issue facing us today, as then, is having the balance of supply and demand.

In 2008, I co-wrote a book entitled The Braking Point. "Braking" was intentionally spelled that way, meaning "stopping point." The subheading was America's Energy Dreams and Global Economic Realities. America's energy dream was that we could become an energy economic stronghold. The reality was that OPEC would continue to vie for energy dominance in the global arena.

Though we are faced with tremendous challenges in the oil and gas industry today, America needs

America's energy now, more than ever! Each day Americans should reflect on how daily we are recharging our energy needs. America will soon be recharging America's economy! America needs America's energy!

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




By MARK A. STANSBERRY

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AAON ANNOUNCES RECENT EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

AAON, Inc. has announced that **Norman H. Asbjornson**, chief executive officer and founder of AAON, Inc., transitioned to the role of executive chairman, effective May 12. The company also announced today that **Gary D. Fields**, president, has assumed the role of chief executive officer (in addition to his current position of president).



NORMAN H. ASBJORNSON

According to a statement from AAON, Asbjornson will lead the board and continue to provide the full benefit of his vast experience, knowledge, leadership and guidance to support Fields as he expands his role at the company.



GARY D. FIELDS

Asbjornson said, "Our company has many accomplishments to be extremely proud of over the course of its nearly 32-year history. Of the many notable achievements, however, one that ranks near the top of my list is how we have been able to successfully create and maintain a meaningful ownership mentality among all levels of employees at our organization. This was something that I set out to accomplish from the earliest days of the Company's existence, and I firmly believe a significant amount of the success we have experienced can be traced back directly to our unwavering commitment to this philosophy."

Asbjornson molded AAON into one of the most respected, innovative and successful manufacturers in the HVAC industry through his intellect, business acumen, sheer will and determination. I welcome the opportunity to guide AAON and our tremendously talented, loyal and hard-working employees as we continue to build on the solid foundation and strategic vision set by Norm."

Asbjornson continued, "I could not be more pleased with the leadership team we have assembled at AAON. During the course of Gary's tenure as president of the company, he has demonstrated exceptional leadership talents and the unique qualifications necessary to propel the company to new heights well into the future. I have very much enjoyed working alongside Gary since he became president in November 2016, and I look forward to continuing to do so as he assumes this new role and leads AAON into its next chapter of continued success."

Ken Lackey, independent board member and chair of AAON's Governance Committee, said, "The board has been engaged in succession planning for several years and this transition is truly a win-win for the company and its stockholders. Having served on AAON's board since 2007, I have witnessed on many occasions the immense value that Norm's experience and entrepreneurial intuition provide the company."

Fields said, "It is truly an honor to assume the role of CEO of this amazing organization. As the company's founder and visionary who set the stage for the company's success, Norm

BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

Gregory Graham, chairman and chief executive officer of the **First National Bank & Trust Co. of Broken Arrow**, has announced three changes in the senior management team:



STEELEY

Derek Steeley has been promoted to executive vice president and chief lending officer. **Andrew Marshall** has been promoted to senior vice president and chief credit officer, and **Bruce Phillips** has joined the bank as senior vice president-commercial lending.



MARSHALL



PHILLIPS

Steeley previously served as senior vice president and senior lending officer. He joined the First National commercial lending team in 2012. He is a 30-year banking veteran having previously served in lending and management roles with banks in Oklahoma and Texas. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Oklahoma and is currently attending the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.

Marshall previously served as First National of Broken Arrow's vice president/commercial lender. A graduate of Oral Roberts University, he began his financial services industry career in 2006 at American Heritage Bank and has worked for Arvest Bank and Regent Bank.

Phillips has more than 30 years of experience in commercial lending and credit management. He received his BBA degree from OU and an MBA degree from Texas A&M. Before joining First National of Broken Arrow, he held credit management positions with several major companies, including McKesson Corp. and Williams. Most recently, he served as senior vice president-commercial lending at Firststar Bank in Muskogee.

Graham said these moves enhance what he considers one of the strongest bank leadership teams in Oklahoma.

"It is especially gratifying to see Derek Steeley and Andrew Marshall recognized for the contributions they continue to make and to welcome Bruce Phillips aboard. He is a proven leader and, I'm sure, will be a major asset to our organization."

First National opened its doors in 1902 in what is now downtown Broken Arrow. In 118 years of providing trusted banking services to the community, only four chairmen have headed the institution. First National has three full-service locations in Broken Arrow, employs 51 people and is the oldest family-owned bank originated in Tulsa County.

Mackenzie Dilbeck has been appointed vice president for marketing and communications and chief communications officer at the **University of Oklahoma**, pending OU board of regents' approval.



DILBECK

Prior to joining the Division of Marketing and Communications in 2019 as associate vice president of strategic communications, Dilbeck held a variety of leadership roles in university communications, from a private liberal arts college, to a flagship public research university, to the Ivy League.

"With her diverse and strong experience in higher education communications, Mackenzie is exceptionally positioned to serve as our university's chief communications officer," said OU Interim President Joseph Harroz Jr.

Dilbeck is charged with overseeing the university's brand strategy and aligning communications tactics to advance OU's global reputation for academic excellence and community impact. As vice president, she will have oversight of internal and external communications for the Norman campus, the Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City and the OU-Tulsa campus.

Dilbeck previously served as director of communications at Yale University School of Music and at the OU College of Law, overseeing the marketing and communications efforts and strategic initiatives at both institutions. Her career has also included positions at Oklahoma Baptist University and St. Anne's-Belfield School in Charlottesville, Virginia. In these roles, she developed programs designed to engage alumni and institutional constituencies.

"Mackenzie did a tremendous job outlining her commitment to an integrated approach to marketing and communications and serving key partners in important ways," said OU Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students David Surratt, who chaired the search committee.

Dilbeck earned bachelor of arts degrees in English and public relations from Oklahoma Baptist University. She also attended the George Washington University, where she earned a master of professional studies in strategic public relations, focusing her research on higher education crisis communications.

Daniel Eisman has been named assistant county engineer for **Tulsa County** by the Tulsa County Engineering and Highway Construction department.



EISMAN

Eisman was formerly the deputy director of engineering and traffic operations for the Clay County Board of County Commissioners in Green Cove Springs, Florida.

In his new position, Eisman assists in directing and coordinating the operation of the department's planning, design, construction, inspection, and maintenance of streets, bridges, sewers, structures and other physical facilities of the county.

With more than 15 years of engineering and project experience, Eisman brings a demonstrated history of working in the civil engineering industry, skilled in transportation engineering, highways, inspections, pavement engineering and construction.

"Dan is going to be a great fit for our team," County Engineer Alex Mills said. "His background and expertise will be invaluable as we continue to tackle projects large and small that are going to significantly impact the roads in Tulsa County for the better. Dan has undoubtedly stepped in at a strange time in Tulsa County given the current situation with COVID-19 and our limited emergency crew work, but I'm excited to see what he can do and where he will help lead this department when we are firing on all cylinders again."

Eisman is a Certified Public Manager and Professional Engineer with a Master of Science in Civil Engineering degree, focused on Civil-Transportation Engineering, from the University of Central Florida.

"I'm thrilled to join the Tulsa County team and can't wait to really get started," said Eisman. "We've been looking forward to becoming Oklahomans for a long time as my wife's family moved here last year. We moved here from Florida last month to join them and it's been a wonderful experience. I'm excited to serve the residents of Tulsa County and even more excited to work with everyone on the stellar Engineering and Highway Construction teams."

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FAITH

Local Pastor Moves Cautiously on Resuming Services to His Flock at Abiding Harvest Church

By CHRIS PUTMAN
Contributing Writer

While everyone is anxious to get out of their homes and back to a normal routine, one Broken Arrow pastor is wanting to move cautiously on resuming services because of concern for his flock.

Pastor Chris Buskirk of Abiding Harvest Church is moving slowly toward church as usual. He has a genuine uneasiness for his church members' health and wants to keep them safe.

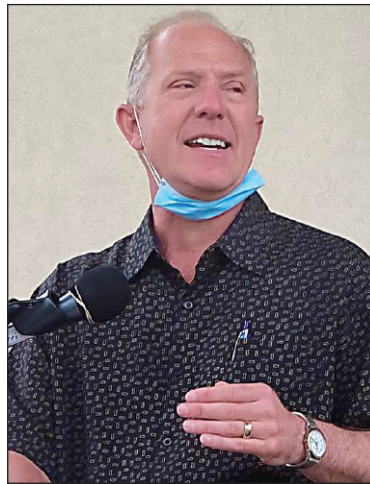
"Our people's usual habits to enthusiastically greet one another could lead to moments when social distancing is forgotten and exposure riskier," Buskirk said. "As a diabetic, I am one of those higher-risk populations myself."

While Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt is in conversation with faith leaders about a phased plan to open churches, Buskirk heard the governor's challenge to use creativity in taking precautions that guarded people's health. He feels the first phase of plans for Abiding Harvest are now taking shape.

Sunday, May 3, Buskirk held a "Park & Praise" service using a short-range FM transmitter, one of the first for the entire month of May. He spoke from an onsite platform plugged into the airwaves while church members remained safe in their vehicles in the church parking lot and tuned into the church's frequency. Parishioners were encouraged to sing along with the Worship Minister Terri Dietrich and adapt to "responsive honking" in place of their "amens" often verbalized during the regular church services.

Recently, the church has moved to live streaming during the lockdown, and since so many viewers have tuned in, that will become a permanent fixture to the Sunday morning services in addition to this Sunday's FM broadcast.

"There's a lot in play here from people's health to constitutional liberties," Buskirk said. "I like Stitt's approach. He's working with faith leaders, and while being flexible, is calling leaders to take seriously and think creatively about their personal re-



PASTOR CHRIS BUSKIRK



FAITHFUL FAMILY: This family listens to the "Park & Praise" service Sunday, May 3, held by Pastor Chris Buskirk using a short-range FM transmitter.

sponsibility for their people and reasonable health precautions in phases."

Abiding Harvest IT Service Director and Church Council Chair Dick Ready was one of the first to pick a prime spot in the Abiding Harvest parking lot.

"In these days of isolation and 'shelter-in-place,' events like our

stay-in-your-car worship service at the church facility, allow us to see each other face-to-face while still remaining safe," Ready said. "Finding ways for us all to stay connected is rooted deep in the heart of this faith community."

The church's worship center is located at 4407 S. Olive Ave. in

Broken Arrow, on South Olive between 111th and 101st streets. The public is invited to attend any of the "Park and Praise" events until the church is opened. Live streaming can be accessed on the church Facebook page at Abiding Harvest UMC. For more information, call 918-449-1970 or visit abidingharvest.org.

Catholic Charities Provides Groceries to 1,500 Families Weekly During COVID-19 Pandemic

Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma, the state's largest distributor of food to the poor,

is continuing to provide groceries through its food pantry to 1,500 families weekly during COVID-19.

In a normal week, the food pantry services around 300 families, but during this crisis, there has been a 500 percent increase in families coming for help. The organization's five other food pantry locations in outlying communities are also experiencing an exponential increase in need. To safely provide groceries during the pandemic, the organization shifted to a drive-through delivery pantry in mid-March.

A long-term partnership with the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma has played a significant role in meeting the unprecedented need for food. A current surplus at the Food Bank helps Catholic Charities keep its food pantry stocked at a decreased cost or, in some cases, at no cost.

Additionally, Catholic Charities' working relationship with the Walmart distribution center in Ramona continues to churn an abundance of fresh produce into the organization's pantries for dis-

tribution. About 85 percent of the Walmart donations are fresh produce, but sometimes meat, eggs and dry goods such as toilet paper, paper towels, snacks and cereal are included.

The generous financial support of individuals, foundations, like the George Kaiser Family Foundation, and businesses, including Bank of Oklahoma, is helping to create a much-needed cushion to help with the added expenses that are occurring during the crisis.

"I'm heartened by the support and collaboration happening in the Tulsa community," said Deacon Kevin Sartorius, CEO of Catholic Charities. "Without the support of so many in our community, we wouldn't be able to quickly fulfill the demand we have. Our partners are helping us feed families that would otherwise go hungry."

The pandemic has also impacted Catholic Charities volunteers. While the organization has implemented an enhanced safety process with social distancing, masks and gloves for all volunteers, many of Catholic Charities' 4,500 volunteers are still unable



VOLUNTEER HELP: This volunteer with Catholic Charities provides food for a local family during the COVID-19 situation.

to volunteer due to age or other health-related risk factors. Fortunately, others have stepped up and the vital work of distributing food to those in need continues.

Through collaboration and the generous support from the com-

munity at-large, Catholic Charities is adapting to the changing needs of our community. For the latest list of hours and services available and for information on how you can help, please visit ccecok.org.

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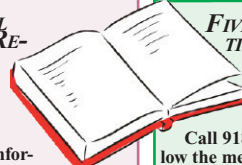














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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>24 May</p> <p>THE WORLD'S LARGEST SCAVENGER HUNT Online / Virtual Space All Day Visit letsroom.com for more information.</p> <p>25TH ANNUAL OKLAHOMA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL Castle of Muskogee All Day Visit okcastle.com for more information.</p> 	<p>MEMORIAL DAY</p> <p>MAXWELL PARK LIBRARY BOOK BATTLE: EPIC YOUNG ADULT SERIES Online / Virtual Space All Day Visit facebook.com/MaxwellParkLibrary to participate.</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>LEGO @ HOME Online / Virtual Space All Day Visit facebook.com/zarrowlibrary to participate.</p> <p>ANXIETY MANAGEMENT SUPPORT GROUP Mental Health Association Oklahoma 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit www.mhaok.org for more information.</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>RECONCILIATION AND TECHNOLOGY: NEUTRAL RESOURCES FOR SOCIAL GOOD – A NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN VIRTUAL FORMAT John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation May 27 – June 2 Register for this virtual event at jhfccenter.org.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>DAILY KIDS READ WITH MRS. CINDY Online / Virtual Space All Day Visit facebook.com/nathanhalelibrary to attend.</p> <p>THE FIRST CHAPTER Online / Virtual Space All Day Visit facebook.com/centrallibrary to attend.</p> <p>Ask about fraud ID protection</p> 	<p>29</p> <p>BROKEN ARROW ROSE FEST/CHALK IT UP ART FESTIVAL Mental Health Association Oklahoma May 29 – 31 Visit keepbebeautiful.org/rose-festival/ for more information.</p> <p>MEMBER MOVIE NIGHT: SCULPTURE & SPIELBERG Philbrook Museum 7 p.m. Virtual event. Visit philbrook.org for more information.</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>GEM FAIRE Expo Square 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Visit gemfaire.com for more information.</p> <p>THE SCHWAG Cain's Ballroom 10 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p>
<p>31</p> <p>25TH ANNUAL OKLAHOMA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL Castle of Muskogee All Day Visit okcastle.com for more information.</p> <p>GEM FAIRE Expo Square 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit gemfaire.com for more information.</p> 	<p>1 June</p> <p>FIVE MINUTE FICTION: PHONE-IN STORYTIME FOR ADULTS Virtual All Day Call 918-549-7323 and follow the menu for an engaging story you can enjoy at home.</p> <p>VIRTUAL OSU CME-EMERGENCY MEDICINE REVIEW 2020 Online / Virtual Space June 1 – 21 Visit www.osu-cme.com for more information.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>BIPOLAR MANAGEMENT SUPPORT GROUP Mental Health Association Oklahoma 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit www.mhaok.org for more information.</p> <p>BOOK TALK TUESDAY Online / Virtual Space All Day Visit facebook.com/hardestylibrary to attend.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>DRUNKARD AND OLIO AUDITIONS Spotlight Theatre 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit spotlighttheatre.org for more information.</p> <p>RHETT MILLER Mercury Lounge 8 p.m. Visit mercuryloungetulsa.com for more information.</p> <p>More Bank for Your Buck</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>DEPRESSION MANAGEMENT SUPPORT GROUP Mental Health Association Oklahoma 6 – 7 p.m. Visit www.mhaok.org for more information.</p> <p>NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP All Souls Unitarian Church 6:30 – 8 p.m. Visit namioklahoma.org for more information.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>SUMMER BARN SALE (GARAGE SALE) & PLANT EXCHANGE Shepherd's Cross June 4 – 6 Visit ShepherdsCross.com for more information.</p> <p>FOR KING & COUNTRY: BURN THE SHIPS Mabee Center 7 p.m. Visit mabeecenter.com for more information.</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>THE GREAT BACKYARD CAMPOUT Reed Park & Community Center 3:30 – overnight Visit facebook.com/ReedParkTulsa for more information.</p> <p>SLACKWAVE, PHETCH, ENDELL Blackbird on Pearl 9 p.m. Visit blackbirdonpearl.com for more information.</p> 
<p>7</p> <p>WEST COAST SWING GROUP CLASSES/LESSONS Tulsa SwingDance Club 5 – 8 p.m. Visit tulsaswingdanceclub.net for more information.</p> <p>LIVE ONLINE-CLASS WITH USA TRUCK AND PUPPY Topsy Artist 2 – 3:30 p.m. Visit Facebook.com/TopsyArtist to attend.</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>WHAT TO READ NEXT - ZARROW REGIONAL LIBRARY Online / Virtual Space 1 – 2 p.m. Visit facebook.com/zarrowlibrary to participate.</p> <p>IAAP TULSA AREA CONNECTIONS & COCKTAILS GolfSuites (formerly Flying Tee) 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit iaap-hq.org for more information.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>SPEED READING CLASS Online / Virtual Space 1 – 2 p.m. Visit www.IrisReading.com to attend.</p> <p>BOOK TALK TUESDAY Online / Virtual Space All Day Visit facebook.com/hardestylibrary to attend.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>WHAT TO READ NEXT - SUBURBAN ACRES LIBRARY Online / Virtual Space 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Visit facebook.com/suburbanacreslibrary to attend.</p> <p>HEAL YOUR BINGE EATING AND LIFELONG DIETING Online / Virtual Space 6 – 7 p.m. Visit tntnutrition.org to attend.</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>TULSA COUNTRY CLUB NETWORKING AND SALES TRAINING LUNCHEON Online / Virtual Space 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. Visit ericknam.actioncoach.com for more information.</p> <p>We Offer Health Savings Accounts</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>A.H. PIERCE AND THE ARROWS Blackbird on Pearl 9 p.m. Visit blackbirdonpearl.com for more information.</p> <p>BEGINNER STAINED GLASS CLASS - THREE DAYS Tulsa Stained Glass June 12 – 14 Visit tulsastainedglass.com for more information.</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>MONTHLY GOAL SETTING WORKSHOP Luxe Fitness 9 a.m. Visit luxefitnessstudio.com for more information.</p> <p>G.R.O.W. SECOND SATURDAY Online / Virtual Space 9 a.m. Visit gatheringplace.org for more information.</p>
<p>14</p> <p>New Name. Same Bank.</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>I CAN'T WORKSHOPS Online / Virtual Space 12 – 12:45 p.m. Visit www.tulsacc.edu for more information.</p> <p>MAXWELL PARK LIBRARY BOOK BATTLE: PRIDE MONTH BOOKS Online / Virtual Space All Day Visit facebook.com/maxwellparklibrary to attend.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>BOOK TALK TUESDAY Online / Virtual Space All Day Visit facebook.com/hardestylibrary to attend.</p> <p>FIVE MINUTE FICTION: PHONE-IN STORYTIME FOR ADULTS Virtual All Day Call 918-549-7323 and follow the menu for an engaging story you can enjoy at home.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>PARENTS SUPPORTING PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Mental Health Association Oklahoma 6 – 7 p.m. Visit www.mhaok.org for more information.</p> <p>HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR FOCUS AND LIMIT DISTRACTIONS Online / Virtual Space 1 – 1:30 p.m. Visit www.IrisReading.com to attend.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>INDIA HERITAGE CAMP South Tulsa Baptist Church 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit dillonadopt.com/heritage-events/ for more information.</p> <p>RAY WYLIE HUBBARD Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>VIETNAM HERITAGE CAMP South Tulsa Baptist Church 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit dillonadopt.com/heritage-events/ for more information.</p> <p>5TH ANNUAL TULSA JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL Historic Greenwood June 18-20 Visit tulsajuneteenth.org for more information.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>BY YOUR SIDE 5K AND 1-MILE DOG WALK/FUN RUN Mohawk Park 9 a.m. Visit runsignup.com/ByYourSideRun for more information.</p> <p>ROCKLAHANG-OVER SHOW Venue Shrine 7 p.m. Visit tulsashrine.com for more information.</p> 
<p>21</p> <p>FATHER'S DAY 1M 5K 10K 13.1 26.2 VIRTUAL RACE Online / Virtual Space 7 p.m. Visit virtualrunevents.com for more information.</p> <p>JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS JENKS SPRING/SUMMER SALE 2020 Glennpool Conference Center 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit jfbfsale.com for more information.</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>MUSICAL MONDAYS Cascia Hall Arts Center Auditorium 7 p.m. Visit LIFEseniorservices.com / MusicalMondays.com for more information.</p> <p>Free Small Business Checking</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>ANXIETY MANAGEMENT SUPPORT GROUP Mental Health Association Oklahoma 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit www.mhaok.org for more information.</p> <p>THE BLACK CROWES BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>VIRTUAL SPRING & SUMMER TOURS AT SHEPHERD'S CROSS Online / Virtual Space 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Visit shepherdcross.com for more information.</p> <p>PARENTS SUPPORTING PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Mental Health Association Oklahoma 6 – 7 p.m. Visit mhaok.org for more info.</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>GETTING STARTED WITH ESSENTIAL OILS DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Tulsa Downtown 7 – 8 p.m. Visit DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Tulsa Downtown for more information.</p> <p>ALAN JACKSON BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>STEVE FORBES Tulsa Town Hall 7 p.m. This is a virtual presentation. Visit tulsatownhall.com to tune in.</p> <p>CARIBBEAN VIBES - A REGGAE CARNIVAL Tulsa's Gathering Place June 26-27 Visit gatheringplace.org for more information.</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>VIRTUAL: SOCIAL DISTANCING 6K - WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER Online / Virtual Space 7 p.m. Visit virtualrunevents.com for more information.</p> <p>ALL CITY PROM Mike Fretz Event Center 8 p.m. Visit mikefretzeventcenter.com for more information.</p>

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