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MIDTOWN MONITOR

One of Six Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers

Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group

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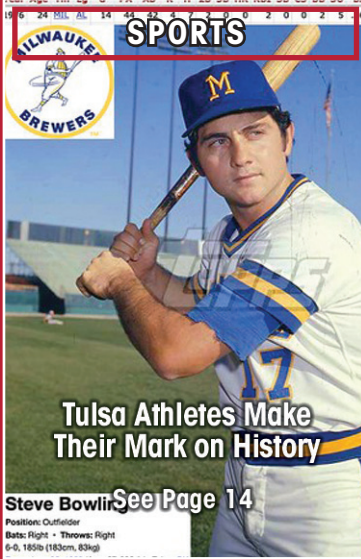
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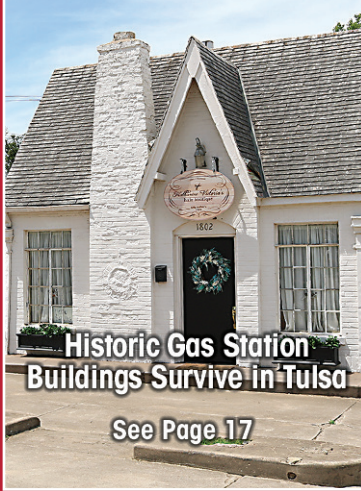
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South Tulsa Neighbors Entertained with Live Music While Keeping Social Distance

Fun Times for All While Listening to Talented Duo

By **JOSH TRIMMER**
Contributing Writer

The year 2020 will certainly have its unavoidable memories. If history repeats one fact, it's that people have found their way through the COVID situation and, in the process, they have strived for normalcy when and where it is available.

With restricted capacities or completely shut-down venues, live music shows as we knew and loved them came to an abrupt stop. But leave that to many creative and talented souls to ponder alternative ideas and the music started finding ways to get out like it has during so many other worldwide crises of the past.

Television has accomplished acceptable methods to safely continue to broadcast with help from the latest technology and much is being learned that will reshape future productions. Live music has done what it can to find possible safe methods to perform, though very scaled down. One such example are driveway or yard concerts utilizing small groups and audiences all socially distanced and outdoors.

This summer a certain driveway show occurred in Tulsa's Minshall Park neighborhood that was done barely above the secrecy level. Only close-by neighbors on the street on which it occurred were informed about the event along with guidelines for social distancing. As it went into the night, others in the area came and joined in fun, complying with the guidelines as well.

The generating purpose of the show started as a "Farewell to Tulsa" show for lifetime Tulsan Tina Terry, who left the next morning

to move to Los Angeles to pursue new career adventures there. Terry, who attended Union High School and The University of Tulsa, had grown up in the family entertainment business before working within the Hilton Hospitality group, most recently as director of events and catering at the Tulsa Club Hotel.

Terry was joined for the show by her duo partner Michael Bluestein. Together they perform as the duo Tina Blue. Bluestein has been the keyboardist for the band Foreigner for more than 12 years and, if not for the pandemic, would have been in Europe on tour.

Europe's loss was the neighborhood's gain. Bluestein flew in that evening from L.A. and immediately took "the stage" with Terry to deliver both original and cover tunes.

Rendering beautiful vocal harmonies and Bluestein on guitar, the show was on. Having an artist who has performed on the grandest stages of the world and before tens of thousands of people provided extra excitement to this almost surreal setting.

The attendees prepared themselves well with food and drink, much in the spirit of a good tailgate. They then settled back to watch the show.

The weather provided a "Chamber of Commerce" style night for a wonderful celebration and great escape for people from their homes and cares. All it took was willing artists, audience and a small sound system.

Similar events like this have popped up in many places and that should encourage citizens to go outside each night and listen to see if entertainment is happening near their neighborhoods. Although



GTR Media Group photos

TINA BLUE DUO: Michael Bluestein of the nationally known band Foreigner and Union High School graduate Tina Terry entertained Minshall Park neighborhood residents in Tulsa this summer. The two have joined to form the Tina Blue Duo.



MUSICALDISTANCING: Residents in this Minshall Park neighborhood keep their distance as they listen to the cool sounds of Michael Bluestein and Tina Terry. The event was held before the Tulsa mask requirement.

this particular show didn't include tipping, for many musicians this is providing a way to make a little money while all their standard work has been canceled. The small audiences have shown their appreciation with a number of artists reporting making more money doing shows like this than at clubs and casinos.

Above all, players want to play and people want to be entertained – a winning combination for any neighborhood.

The Tina Blue Duo left the next morning. They arrived L.A. in the midst of street protests and a soon to be surging virus issue. They are adjusting and using the time to record in Bluestein's home studio and also producing music videos.

For information on how to see live on-line shows and their soon to be released music video, follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/tinabluelua and on Instagram at tinabluelua.

KUDOS of the MONTH: Happy Hands Education Center

The Happy Hands Education Center has reached out for many years to families with children who have hearing loss, impairments and communication disorders. The goal of the center is to empower children through education, confidence and the ability to achieve anything imaginable.

It is the only resource in the state for a full time and year-round specialized education for children six and under.

Happy Hands was founded by Al Proo in 1994. Proo has served the deaf community for over 30 years as a pastor and interpreter. He says, "The Happy Hands story has grown from one borrowed room in 1994 serving



HAPPY HANDS
EDUCATION CENTER

five children to achieving accreditation, awards, and accomplishments."

He adds, "We have served over 500 children who are being successful in life, with many students successful in higher education and advanced training."

Happy Hands is located at 8801 S. Garnett Rd. in Broken Arrow. It is a fully accredited, licensed, audited and award-winning



program. Happy Hands partners with many institutions of higher education, therapy agencies and research institutions to intern future professionals and integrate the most current scientific methods into its programs.

For more information about Happy Hands, visit www.happyhands.org.

John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park Named An African American Civil Rights Network Site

Memorial to Lives Lost in 1921 Massacre Is 29th Addition to AACRN

At the direction of President Donald J. Trump, U.S. Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt has designated the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park as an official member of the African American Civil Rights Network (AACRN), formally recognizing the historical and national significance of the tragic Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921 and Dr. John Hope Franklin's work to advance the African American civil rights movement.

The African American Civil Rights Network Act, signed into law by President Trump in January 2018, authorizes the National Park Service to coordinate and facilitate federal and non-federal activities to commemorate, honor, and interpret the history of the African American Civil Rights movement; the significance of the civil rights movement as a crucial element in the evolution of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and the relevance of the African American Civil Rights movement in fostering the spirit of social justice and national reconciliation.

"At the direction of President Trump, it is my honor to designate the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park as the 29th addition to the African American Civil Rights Network," said Secretary Bernhardt.

"My father, historian John Hope Franklin, Chairman of the National Park Service Advisory Board from 1999-2001, would be pleased that the National Park Service is adding Greenwood's story to the African American Civil Rights Network," said Dr. John W. Franklin. "His father, my grandfather, Attorney Buck Colbert Franklin, survived the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and assisted his neighbors in rebuilding their devastated community."

"John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park is much more than a quiet place to visit and reflect. It serves as a challenge to people of all places and races to come together in the spirit of dialogue, understanding, and reconciliation," said U.S. Senator James



TOWER OF RECONCILIATION: The Tower of Reconciliation is highlighted in the center of the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park, which is located at 321 N. Detroit Ave. in downtown Tulsa.



HOPE PLAZA: The John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park houses Hope Plaza, which features statues of Hope, Humiliation and Hostility.

Lankford. "Tulsa has seen the worst of racial hatred, but as we approach the 100th anniversary of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, this park will help us show America the best of humanity by helping people overcome division and move forward in racial harmony. President Trump has ensured national recognition of this important part of Tulsa's history, and we are grateful that he has designated this site as part of the African American Civil Rights Network."

"By recognizing the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park, President Trump is shining a light on one of the most moving, unique memorials in the United States," said U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe. "As is in its name, the park emphasizes the importance of reconciliation to promote healing in our community. It is a living monument in the spirit of John Hope Franklin, regularly hosting events, conversations and educational opportunities to promote engagement and a positive, bright future for Tulsa, Oklahoma and the Nation."

"I am very thankful to see the Trump Administration recognize the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park in Tulsa for what it is,

a bastion of history that needs to be preserved and supported," said U.S. Representative Kevin Hern (OK). "I appreciate Senator Lankford's leadership on this issue, and I was glad to support the President's decision to designate this park as a valuable contribution to the African American Civil Rights Network. Now is a time for unity, a time for hope, a time for reconciliation in our country. This designation is a significant step forward for not only my community, but for the Nation at large as we strive together for a more perfect union."

"Designating this site as an official African American Civil Rights Network will help ensure Americans are and remain aware of the tragic violence that occurred 99 years ago in Tulsa," said Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt. "This is a great step forward as we move toward a place of reconciliation and inspire generations to work together to fight injustice."

"Tulsa's John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park will serve as the first Oklahoma site to join the federal register as an official African American Civil Rights Network (AACRN), joining other historic sites in the country such as

the Selma Highway and the birthplace of Martin Luther King Jr., which leave a significant and historic legacy in our country's history," said Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum. "As we approach the centennial of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, this site will continue to serve as a national platform for Tulsans and others to learn from our past as we work toward healing and justice for the Tulsa community."

The Tulsa Massacre began May 31, 1921 and culminated in two consecutive days of widespread violence and devastation against the Black community in Tulsa's Greenwood neighborhood, one of the wealthiest Black communities in the nation at the time, leaving many residents dead or imprisoned, and homes, churches, and businesses destroyed.

Distinguished historian, educator, and civil rights advocate Dr. John Hope Franklin, the son of a Tulsa Massacre survivor, irrevocably transformed our understanding of American history through his scholarship and activism, while advancing the cause of the African American civil rights movement during the twentieth century. Dr. Franklin served as the chairman of the National Park

Service Advisory Board from 1999-2001.

The park features Hope Plaza and the Tower of Reconciliation, memorializing the history of African Americans in Oklahoma, including the lives lost at the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, with the goal of transforming years of racial division into a hopeful future of reconciliation and cooperation for Tulsa and the Nation. John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park is a public-private partnership, owned by The City of Tulsa and managed by the John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation, Inc.

The African American Civil Rights Network includes sites, facilities, and programs that commemorate, honor, and interpret the significant struggle for civil rights in the United States. With the Tulsa addition, there are currently 29 resources in the AACRN, 18 of which are administered by the National Park Service, including Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park, Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, Pullman National Monument, and Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail.

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The Parent and Child Center of Tulsa Builds Pathways of Hope for Families

The Parent Child Center of Tulsa is considered a leader among Tulsa area nonprofits in the areas of best practice, quality improvement and outcome evaluation.

Its vision is that every parent has the knowledge and skills to protect, nurture and provide for their own child.

The work of The Parent Child Center of Tulsa began in 1972. The current agency structure was officially incorporated on May 1, 1990, merging two smaller United Way agencies: Child Abuse Prevention Services and At Risk Parent Child Program.

When Colorado pediatrician C. Henry Kempe, M.D., first coined the phrase "battered child syndrome" in the mid-1960's, medical professionals across the country and around the world took notice.

In 1972, nurses and physicians at Tulsa's Saint Francis Hospital responded to needs in the community surrounding child maltreatment by founding a Tulsa chapter of Parents Anonymous, a self-help group for parents. In May 1981, that organization was granted 501(c)(3) status and operated under the auspices of the Alliance to the Tulsa County Medical Society. In 1984, the organization received United Way funding. It was renamed Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS) in 1987.

In 1974, the At Risk Parent Child Program began at Hillcrest Medical Center when medical personnel noticed the need for programming surrounding child maltreatment. Pediatrician Donald Pfeiffer, M.D., and Cathy Ayoub, R.N., established one of the nation's first "SCAN teams" to screen families of newborns for risk of abuse and neglect. They designed a home visiting program called "At Risk Parent Child Program" to offer parenting education.

To better serve clients and meet the needs of the community by offering similar child abuse and neglect prevention services under one roof, the boards of directors of Child Abuse Prevention Services and At Risk Parent Child Program worked for two years, at the urging of the United Way, toward a merger which became final in 1990.

In 1997, The Parent Child Center of Tulsa completed a \$3.2 million capital/endowment drive and moved into its current location at 1421 S. Boston Ave. in Tulsa.

In 2006, Desiree Doherty was named executive director, succeeding Claudette Selph who was the founding director from 1990 to 2006.

From 2006 to 2016, the agency grew in size and scope. The agency provides state of the art child abuse prevention programming, and has become known for innovation in the area of infant mental health. The agency has become a leader working to change local court and child welfare systems



INFLUENTIAL VISITORS: The Parent and Child Center of Tulsa recently hosted Congressman Kevin Hern and his wife Tammy for a tour of the agency located at 1421 S. Boston Ave. in Tulsa. From left are PCCT board of directors member Fred Perry and board Chair Melonie Lawless.

to improve outcomes and prevent future court involvement in the lives of very young children through the community collaborative effort of the Safe Babies Court Team.

In February 2008, the agency received national accreditation through the Council on Accreditation, and was re-accredited in February 2012.

On January 2, 2018, The Parent Child Center of Tulsa's Board of Directors and its staff welcomed Regina Moon as the agency's new President and CEO. Moon's resume includes more than 20 years of executive-level experience in strategic planning, operations, administration, revenue-generation, communications and marketing

experience in the media and nonprofit sectors.

According to PCCT, "We build Pathways of Hope for our clients so that they may meet their goals. We understand that families struggle with a variety of obstacles and unexpected life events and we are here to help!"

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Children: All children are individuals who deserve to be loved, nurtured, and protected.
Family: Children belong with their family whenever safely possible.
Humanity: People can change for the better when given the opportunity.
Compassion: Compassion is key to understanding the struggles families face.



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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

Masks Now Required in the City of Tulsa

Mandatory Ordinance Applies to Indoor Facilities and Situations Which Don't Allow for Physical Distancing

On June 8, Tulsa County had 15 COVID-19 patients in area hospitals. By July 8, Tulsa County had more than 100.

For that reason, Dr. Bruce Dart of the Tulsa Health Department made the recommendation to me that masks be mandatory to help combat the spread of COVID-19 in Tulsa. So on July 10, the city legal and health departments and I started working on a mandatory ordinance to send to the Tulsa City Council. On July 16, the council passed an amended version of that ordinance, which I signed the next day.

Masks are now required for anyone entering places of business, other indoor facilities, and in situations where a physical distance of six feet cannot be followed.

As we have said from the beginning of this pandemic, masks aren't meant to protect the wearer, rather to protect others from

the wearer's respiratory droplets from when they talk, cough and sneeze. We did this because we

want to make sure our health-care system can handle the potential influx of COVID-19 patients. No one in Tulsa should have to forego care because we simply don't have enough beds for them.

With that said, there are exemptions to the mask ordinance. For one, those under the age of 18 aren't legally required to wear a mask when they are out in public.

Other exemptions include: Those who fall into the CDC's guidance for

those who should not wear face coverings due to a medical or mental health condition or developmental disability.

Those who are eating or drinking.

Those who are exercising in communal outdoor spaces, or

From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM
Mayor of Tulsa



LEADING THE WAY: The Golden Driller at Expo Square displays his support of the mask ordinance in Tulsa.

persons walking or exercising with other persons from the same household in communal outdoor spaces, as long as physical dis-

tancing is maintained – those who are congregating in communal outdoor spaces with other persons not in their same household are

required to wear face coverings when physical distancing is not maintained.

Those in settings where it is not practical or feasible to wear a face covering, such as dental services, medical treatments or while swimming.

Occupants in a personal vehicle, personal office, or similarly private space while other persons outside of the person's household are not present.

Those in their private homes. Those in offices and workplaces that are not public service areas where physical distancing between employees and other occupants can be consistently maintained during hours of operation.

The ordinance will expire on Nov. 30, when the expiration of all of my Civil Emergency Orders related to COVID-19 expire, or when City Council repeals, modifies or extends this ordinance, whichever comes sooner.

Please continue to wash your hands, keep your distance and mind the Serious Seven, which is guidance related to hotspots where the virus can transmit more easily. These places, which you should either avoid or ensure masks are being worn, include restaurants, bars, gyms, faith-based venues, daycares, weddings and funerals.

For more information about masks in Tulsa and to find a few posters and flyers that your business can use to put in your windows and on your doors if you choose, visit cityoftulsa.org/masks.

1921 Graves Test Excavation at Oaklawn Complete

The test excavation to uncover potential mass graves from the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre within the Sexton area at Oaklawn Cemetery concluded July 22.

Following eight days of searching, findings indicate no evidence of human remains are present in the excavation area.

"I want to thank the research

team for their expertise and work the past eight days as they exhausted all options to reach their conclusive assessment for this particular anomaly found in Oaklawn Cemetery," Mayor G.T. Bynum said. "This initial test excavation was the first of many efforts to find Tulsa Race Massacre victims and this is just the beginning of our work to bring healing and justice to the families. We remain committed to find out what happened to our fellow Tulsans in 1921."

Multiple sites of interest remain and are still candidates for possible mass graves related to the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. For the most up-to-date information on the search for possible mass graves, visit www.cityoftulsa.org/1921graves and follow 1921 Graves on Facebook, @1921Graves.



MEDIA BRIEFING: A media briefing was held at the Tulsa Fire Museum before the excavation at Oaklawn Cemetery. From left are Scott Ellsworth, historian and professor of African American and African Studies at the University of Michigan, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, and Kary Stackelbeck, state archeologist for the State of Oklahoma.

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TULSA CITY COUNCIL

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Tulsa County Stays Committed to Helping Residents During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The effects of the COVID 19 public health emergency have touched

everyone's lives in one way or another. Much of the attention has been on how the pandemic has impacted our economy, government services, schools and health care systems. But one of the most devastating impacts as been on housing.

When the local unemployment rate jumped from 3 percent to nearly 15 percent in a very short time, many who live paycheck to paycheck suddenly found themselves out of work and unable to make rent and utility payments. This occurred for tenants in both public housing as well as with private owners of apart-

ment complexes.

In a typical year, the Tulsa District Court will see 1,000 eviction cases filed per month. That alone gives Tulsa County the 11th highest eviction rate in the country. Unfortunately, with the COVID 19 pandemic those numbers are expected to skyrocket very soon.

To address the expected rise of evictions due to the increase in unemployment, Congress mandated an eviction moratorium from March until August. While this temporarily stopped the number of evictions, community lead-

ers foresee a tsunami of evictions beginning in August for those who will be several months behind on

their rent payments and may still be unemployed or if working, unable to catch up.

To give governments time to provide temporary relief, several philanthropic leaders and the United Way stepped up to help with rent payments for those in arrears through May.

To address the rental assistance/eviction crisis expected over the next six months, the Tulsa Housing Authority (THA) applied to Tulsa County for a grant of \$15 million of CARES funding. THA proposes working in concert with other community and philanthropic organizations to identify those renters that are on the verge of eviction and possibly homelessness.

In an attempt to be proactive and to keep the current system from being overwhelmed, Tulsa County convened a group of community leaders experienced in dealing with this issue to design a rental assistance plan that will do the most good for the most renters.

This group included representatives from the landlord/property owner sector, philanthropic foundations, THA, United Way, the City of Tulsa and Restore

Hope. After thoroughly examining the issue, it was the group's recommendation that Tulsa County move quickly to provide the funds necessary for the THA to put in place the administrative and operational structure for what is expected to be thousands of requests for housing assistance by Labor Day.

In addition to rental assistance, there are also many renters and homeowners who, due to COVID 19 impacts on their income, have

fallen behind with their water, electric and gas utility bills. Tulsa County will continue to work with this leadership team to determine how we might help in this area as well.

As with our previously announced program to help small businesses and non-profit agencies through this pandemic, Tulsa County is committed to helping those individuals and families basic need for housing is being threatened by the pandemic.

From Tulsa County



By COMMISSIONER RON PETERS

Tulsa Police Officers Saluted By Greater Tulsa Community

Members of the greater Tulsa community showed their support at LaFortune Park July 8 for two Tulsa police officers who were shot while on duty at an early morning traffic stop. The shooting victims were Sgt. Craig Johnson and Officer Aurash Zarkeshan. Sgt. Johnson was killed at the scene, while Officer Zarkeshan is recovering.

The show of support at LaFortune Park reportedly raised over \$515,000 for the families of the officers.



REMEMBERING HEROES: This banner hangs at LaFortune Park in honor of the Tulsa policemen who were shot in the line of duty. Appreciative citizens drove into the parking lot in the background to donate funds for the families of the officers.



SUPPORTING THE POLICE: These supporters of the Tulsa Police Department display their signs at LaFortune Park along Yale Avenue.



RENTAL ASSISTANCE: Governor Kevin Stitt announced a rental assistance program and a grant program for Oklahoma small businesses in June at Restore Hope Ministries, located in Tulsa at 2960 Charles Page Blvd.

The Rental Assistance Reimbursement Fund will partner with community organizations to provide up to \$3,600 in assistance to individuals or families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Oklahoma Business Relief Program will be Oklahoma's version of the federal government's Paycheck Protection Program

with several different features. \$100 million in grant funding will be available through the CARES FORWARD Coronavirus Relief Fund in two separate \$50 million phases, with \$10 million set aside in each phase for minority-owned businesses.

Speakers at the event in addition to Governor Stitt were Secretary of Commerce and Workforce Development Sean Kouplen; David Castillo, Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce CEO and chair of the Governor's Minority Business Council; and Rev. Jeff Jaynes, Restore Hope Ministries executive director.

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VARIETY

When Will Local Live Entertainment Return?

I've been singing the praises of live entertainment in this column for a while now. What happens to that live experience when venues are shuttered, and audience gatherings are aligned with COVID-19's "Serious Seven?" What do the months ahead offer to quell our doomscrolling and bring us back to life?

New York theaters have dimmed their lights until Jan. 2021. Theatrical unions, government officials and health experts all have to concur on the health-safety behind and in front of the curtain before a show can open. When Broadway was suspended in March 2020, 31 Broadway productions were running, including eight shows in previews. Another eight were planning to open last spring. Think of all the lives currently on hold in the entertainment sector and in all the feeder industries. Japan and Korea have successfully restarted Broadway performances with "Mama Mia" in Yokohama and "The Phantom of the Opera" in Seoul. London's West End will raise its curtains beginning Sept. 7. American theaters will be watching and learning.

Touring Broadway is especially

difficult to postpone and reintegrate when you consider the many moving parts that have to mesh to make a production possible during a lockdown. To remount its season of shows, Tulsa's family-owned Celebrity Attractions worked with a myriad of Broadway presenters who had to shuffle schedules, tour routing and dates that would coincide with open slots at the PAC.

Keep in mind that not every show tours every year. The good news is that Disney's "Frozen," Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "Come From Away" and "Anastasia" will be rescheduled for 2021. Added shows for Celebrity's 2021-22 season are "Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville" and the Tony Award-winning "Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of The Temptations." The latter will

replace the previously scheduled "Mean Girls," which will appear on Celebrity's 2021-22 Broadway season. Disney's "The Lion King" will be moved to a future season. The first Celebrity Attractions' show on tap will be Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," March 2-7, 2021. Detailed information is available at celebrityattractions.com.

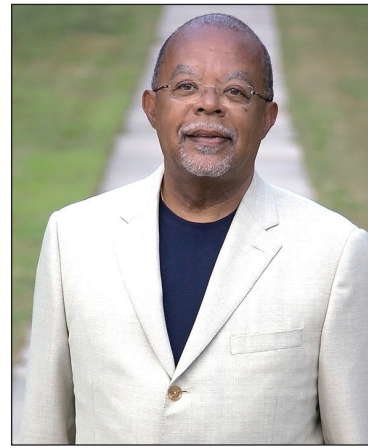
Tulsa Town Hall announced that it plans to "take an intermission" in 2020-21. Town Hall will move its current lineup of speakers to the following season. Subscribers have the option to roll their subscription over to 2021-22, receive a refund, or have their current subscription become a donation.

Town Hall is one of several organizations that have offered virtual engagement through their website, Facebook or YouTube. Tulsa Symphony is currently presenting "Musician Moment" featuring its players on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10 a.m. TSO's "Symphony in the Park" will take place Sept. 4 on the Guthrie Green.

"Tulsa Opera at Home — Staying Alive" is an online series featuring performers who sing opera, popular music, musical theatre and more. You can be entertained by their performances at tulsopera.com. Tobias Picker's "Emmeline," that would have played at the PAC in May 2020, will be rescheduled



TULSA OPERA: Sarah Coburn stars in Tulsa Opera's production of "Rigoletto," slated for October.



TOWN HALL: The 2020-21 Tulsa Town Hall season, featuring Henry Louis Gates, Jr. in the lineup, will be moved in its entirety to 2021-22.



TULSA BALLET: The American premiere of Tulsa Ballet's "Vendetta" has been rescheduled to Oct. 29 - Nov. 1 at the Tulsa PAC.

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN



Photo by Matthew Murphy

THE TEMPTATIONS: "Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of The Temptations" will replace "Mean Girls" on Celebrity Attractions' 2020-21 season.



Courtesy photo

CHAMBER MUSIC: The illustrious Brentano String Quartet is set to open Chamber Music Tulsa's upcoming season.

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The Heart of the Tulsa Sound Stops Beating

Jamie Oldaker 1951 – 2020

It was just over a year ago that we celebrated the news that Jamie Oldaker was cancer free and preparing to reunite with his friend and former band mate Eric Clapton, with whom he recorded 11 studio albums in the 1970s and 80s. That reunion took place last September at the Crossroads Festival in Dallas, as Clapton's favorite drummer provided the mellow grooves that first appeared on the 1974 album 461 Ocean Boulevard.

A critic in 1974 referred to those mellow grooves, a departure from Clapton's guitar-heavy hits of the 1960s, as "laid back with Leon music." Today, we call it the Tulsa Sound.

To say Oldaker lost his battle with cancer is an injustice. The term battle implies a fair fight, a faceoff. Cancer doesn't face its victims and it certainly doesn't fight fairly. Cancer is a cowardly sniper that hides and ambushes.

To say he fought courageously is an understatement. He under-

went four rounds of chemotherapy and 25 rounds of radiation, losing his hair and 10 pounds as he fought off the lung cancer.

He was declared cancer free in 2019 and became both an inspiration to those undergoing cancer treatment, and an advocate for screening and early detection. American Airlines featured his name on the side of an Airbus A320, along with the names and inspirational stories of other cancer survivors as part of a promotion for Stand Up To Cancer Awareness.

No, the 68-year-old Tulsa Sound pioneer didn't lose a battle. On the contrary, Oldaker stood up to cancer, stared it down and forced it into remission. But cancer did what cancer does: it retreated back into the shadows, waiting for its next chance to blindside its victim. Jamie Oldaker passed away on July 16.

The next day, Clapton said of his friend in a Facebook post, "He was a great teacher with the best snare

Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL



BAND MATES: Eric Clapton, right, posted this photo with his friend and drummer Jamie Oldaker to his Facebook account.



JAMIE OLDAKER

drum sound on the planet."

I was in attendance on Dec. 28, 2019 when Oldaker joined a local ensemble of musicians for a few songs at a concert honoring the late Steve Pryor. After thrilling the audience with Blind Faith's Can't Find My Way Home, Oldaker made his way off the stage and through the crowd. As a journalist, I do my best to maintain a level of professionalism, but I admit to being a bit star struck as I happened to be in his path and soon found myself face to face with the legend.

Believe it or not, I don't relish

these moments. I don't want to come face to face with my heroes. It's an awkward dynamic: it means everything to me and nothing to them. It's not that I think my heroes are arrogant or snobbish, but there's always the possibility that they're having a bad day, just got some bad news, aren't feeling well... any number of reasons why meeting and/or chatting with a total stranger might not excite them. I get it.

At the same time, I couldn't ignore the fact that one of, and arguably the most influential musician to come out of Tulsa was standing right in front of me.

I wish I could tell you that I introduced myself and engaged him in conversation, efficiently articulating how much he means to me as both a music lover and a civic-minded Tulsa. I wish I had expressed my appreciation for MOJO Fest and the tens of thousands of dollars he and his wife Mary have donated to the Day Center for the Homeless in Tulsa. I wish I had thanked him for reviving Eric Clapton's career, the Mad Dogs and Okies album, and for being a founding member of the Tractors. It would have been nice to offer him congratulations on his induction into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame or his recent reunion with Clapton.

I didn't do any of that. Instead, all I could muster was to put my hand on his shoulder (remember when we could touch people?) and utter a simple, "thank you."

He turned and looked me in the eyes and responded with an incredibly warm smile that assured me he was hearing all the things I wanted to say. He put his hand on

my shoulder, gave me a nod and continued smiling as he turned and disappeared into the crowd.

That was the last time I saw Jamie Oldaker.

Randy Crouch recently told me, "Jamie Oldaker is the nicest famous person I ever met." I don't know if the humble Oldaker considers himself famous or not, but his career is certainly one to be celebrated. He's played with the likes of Leon Russell, Bob Seger, Stephen Stills, Peter Frampton, Asleep at the Wheel, Ace Frehley, Freddie King, the Bee Gees and many others in addition to his long-time relationship with Clapton. He won two Grammys for the Tractors' debut album that sold more than three million copies. But there's more to Oldaker than a star-filled career. His commitment to community involvement and charitable stewardship made him a pillar of the Tulsa community. As we celebrate the career of a great musician, we mourn the loss of a great Tulsa. We miss you Jamie, and since you seemed to understand everything I was trying to convey last time, let me again say, thank you.

Oldaker is survived by his wife, Mary, and their children, Andrew and Olivia.

Oldaker's passing is an immeasurable loss to the world of music. It also gives us reason to reflect on and be thankful for our vibrant musical community in Tulsa. With all due respect to Leon Russell and J.J. Cale, if not for Jamie Oldaker, there would be no Tulsa Sound. Fortunately, there was a Jamie Oldaker, there is a Tulsa Sound, and it's still going strong. Because of that, I will continue, albeit with a heavy heart, to keep searching, keep listening.



GTR Media Group photo

PRESS CLUB GATHERING: Enjoying a recent happy hour at the Tulsa Press Club are, from left, Jessica Suszczynski, Joe Holeman, Kathryn Anderson, Cris Banks, John Quillian and Chris Ransdell. The Tulsa Press Club is located in the Atlas Life Building at 415 S. Boston Ave. in Tulsa. For information about this popular gathering spot, see www.tulsapressclub.org

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Monterea Mask Makers are Making a Difference

Courtesy NANCY MOORE
Monterea Retirement Community

Even before Tulsa passed the requirement for face coverings in public, the Monterea Retirement Community made this habit an everyday practice – in large part thanks to a group of impactful residents, dubbed the “Monterea Mask Makers,” who are working to ensure that everyone at Monterea does their part to stop the spread of this virus.

Pivoting in times of Covid has been an essential practice for businesses as well as organizations. One group that has pivoted during this time are the Knocker Knitters. This group typically knits breast forms for cancer patients. However, during quarantine and in the months following, the group has taken on a new focus – making masks.

The idea to make masks was born when Monterea resident, Nancy Steiner, learned about a need her niece’s friend had for masks. That friend is a nurse at Hillcrest Medical Center. Immediately, Steiner went to work filling that need. She initially made 25 and donated them to Hillcrest, which was able to give them to other first responders. Since then, the mask making has continued and grown.

To date, the Monterea Mask Makers have created 1,900 masks for Monterea residents, employees and beyond.

Stainer’s heart for service was developed at a young age and has continued throughout her life. She is always looking to better the lives of others saying, “We are all in this together. The more we can do to keep everyone safe, the better.”

Call to Action: The Monterea Mask Makers are accepting donations of cotton fabric and interfacing. Persons interested in donating can contact Nancy Moore at nmoore@monterea.net.

About Monterea

Founded in 2003 by The William K. Warren Foundation, Monterea, located at 6800 S. Granite Ave. in Tulsa, was designed for Tulsa seniors to continue to live an active lifestyle that represents their values, spirit and style. The community has earned a reputation for raising the bar for Life Plan communities, formerly Continuing Care Retirement Communities. Monterea is a warm, welcoming community that takes pride in providing its residents a plan for the future, in a secure environment, along with a worry-free lifestyle.



ARTFUL DESIGNERS: Enjoying their designing of masks at Monterea are, from left, Nancy Steiner, Diana Hepner and Marlys Dow.

Virtual Zarrow Mental Health Symposium Focuses on Healing from Historical Trauma

The premier mental health conference in the region, the 2020 Zarrow Mental Health Symposium — Healing From Historical Trauma is set for three days, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, on-line-only at zarrow Symposium.org.

Keynotes and all 54 breakout sessions will be offered virtually to maintain safety during COVID-19. This is the 26th year for the symposium which consistently draws some 800 participants and has been held at the COX Business Center in Tulsa since 2012.

To register for the virtual symposium, visit zarrow Symposium.org. Group rates and discounts for early registration are available.

About the Symposium

As Tulsa prepares to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the 1921 Race Massacre, Mental Health Association Oklahoma’s virtual Zarrow Mental Health Symposium

will bring together state, regional and national experts to focus on the trauma associated with events such as the Race Massacre, the Trail of Tears, slavery, the Holocaust, and the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

Mark Davis, Chief Programs Officer of Mental Health Association Oklahoma, said, “This year’s symposium will truly be like no other in its long history. Offering it as a 100-percent virtual conference gives us the unique opportunity to reach a statewide, national and potentially even global audience determined to learn about and address the trauma associated with these tragedies.

“We must also acknowledge,” added Davis, “this global pandemic, along with the events and social unrest our nation is currently experiencing, are traumas that will have long-term implications and impact each of us and our communities in

different ways as things continue to unfold. Poverty, hatred, discrimination and stigma contribute to inequities that will influence lives for generations.

Davis continued, “We invite everyone to join us on this journey of understanding and restoration as we examine and acknowledge our own implicit biases and how we can promote healing. In doing so, we must be willing to have difficult and sensitive conversations that transcend beyond blame, inequities and shame. We must, instead, focus on humanity, community, justice and building a resilient future, together.”

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Tim Wise

Tim Wise is among the most prominent anti-racist writers and educators in the United States. He is the author of seven books,

including his latest, “Under the Affluence: Shaming the Poor, Praising the Rich and Sacrificing the Future of America.”

Darryl Tonemah, PhD

Dr. Darryl Tonemah (Kiowa/Comanche/Tuscarora) has sat on numerous state and national boards addressing disparities in education and health care among the Native community. He owns the Tonemah Consulting Group, an organization dedicated to increasing wellness in Native communities.

Hannibal B. Johnson, Esq.

Hannibal B. Johnson is a Tulsa attorney, author, and independent consultant specializing in diversity & inclusion/cultural competence issues and nonprofit governance. He is the author of “Black Wall Street: From Riot to Renaissance in Tulsa’s Historic Greenwood District.”

Joy DeGruy, PhD

Dr. Joy DeGruy is a nationally and internationally renowned researcher, educator, author and presenter. She is the acclaimed author of “Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome — America’s Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing.”

VIRTUAL EXHIBIT

Each year, a variety of exhibitors bring helpful information to distribute to people attending the event. Visitors can learn helpful resources in the community and find new ways to collaborate with other organizations.

The virtual exhibit hall will feature exhibitors who can share information about their organization and host live video conferences for visitors to learn more about their services. They will also be able to host promotions and giveaways.

OSU Medicine Launches Online Scheduling Site for COVID-19 Testing on Tulsa Campus

OSU Medicine has launched a dedicated web page where individuals can schedule an appointment online for a COVID-19 test.

OSU Medicine’s drive-thru testing site went from testing between 50 to 60 people a day to more than 200, causing a strain on the call center, said Barrett Hunter, director of Risk Management and Com-

pliance at OSU Center for Health Sciences.

“Our call center was receiving less than 75 calls a day which soared to well over 1,200 calls a day starting in mid-June,” Hunter said. “The online registration will alleviate patients waiting on hold with our call center. Our goal is to speed up the process of scheduling testing appointments. While our call center will still be available, we encourage individuals to take advantage of scheduling online.”

OSU Medicine is offering COVID-19 testing at a drive-thru location in Tulsa on the OSU Center for Health Sciences campus at 1111 W. 17th St., Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To schedule a COVID-19 test online, go to okla.st/schedule-covid19test. While the online scheduling system is the preferred way to make a COVID-19 test appointment, those without an internet connection can call our new hotline number at 918-

281-2750 to make an appointment.

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 specialty services including addiction medicine, cardiology, family medicine, internal medicine, pain management, pediatrics, psychiatry and women’s health. Learn more at health.okstate.edu.

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Mental Health Association Names Terri White as Chief Executive Officer

The board of Mental Health Association Oklahoma announced that Terri White is the new Association CEO, effective in August. From 2007–2020, White served as the Commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS).

White said of the announcement, “I am deeply honored and excited to join this incredible organization that has meant so much to so many Oklahomans. The work done here has saved countless lives throughout our state, and brought healing to hundreds of thousands of Oklahoma families.”

The CEO announcement comes at the end of a national search to find the best possible candidate to continue the organization’s work throughout the state and nationally as an advocacy leader.

“The board could not be happier Terri will be the new CEO,” said Scott Hamilton, association board member and chair of the search committee. “She is the ideal person to continue the organization’s mission to promote mental health, prevent suicide, end homelessness and transform the criminal justice system.”

White will assume her new role at the end of August as the successor to longtime CEO Mike Brose, who previously announced his planned departure earlier this year leading to the commencement of the national search.

Michael Madsen, board of directors president, said, “The association has built an incredible legacy in the service of vulnerable Oklahomans. We believe that Terri is the perfect choice to build upon that legacy and achieve even more. She has brilliantly elevated the status of brain health in Oklahoma, and is one of the most respected national experts in prevention, treatment and recovery.”

White’s reputation is that of an innovator, recognized for both her passionate advocacy and ability to create lasting solutions to some of the state’s toughest problems. Her efforts have resulted in Oklahoma becoming a leader in children’s behavioral health services, criminal justice diversion initiatives, veterans’ services, communi-



TERRI WHITE

ty-based treatment programs for adults; the use of technology to advance treatment and recovery, the integration of behavioral health care into primary healthcare settings and more.

White helped to create many of the policy changes that have improved access to care for vulnerable Oklahomans and was a leading figure in the state’s landmark opioid trial.

In 2011, White was inducted into the University of Oklahoma’s Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work Hall of Fame. In 2014, White received the “Kate Barnard Award” from the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women, created to honor outstanding women who have made a difference in Oklahoma through public service.

In 2017, she was named “Compassionate Citizen of the Year” by the Oklahoma Foundation for the Disabled. Also in 2017, the University of Oklahoma College of Arts and Sciences awarded her its Distinguished Alumnus honor.

A native of Edmond, White received both her Master of Social Work and her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Oklahoma.

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EDUCATION

TCC Prioritizes Health and Safety in Return to Campus for Fall Semester

Tulsa Community College offers more access to resources to help returning and prospective students leading up to the start of the fall semester. At the same time, the college is prioritizing the health and safety of employees and students as it continues to monitor and follow guidance from federal, state and local health officials.

TCC expanded student enrollment resources at the Southeast Campus Student Success and Career Center and the Northeast Campus Student Union on July 20 as part of its Return-to-Campus plan. Set to begin the first week in August, the college will expand resources to include Metro Campus, West Campus and the Owasso Community Campus leading to the fall semester including in-person classes beginning August 17.

“We understand a college education is important. We want people to reach their dreams or goals so having resources available to students means everything to this college and to us as professionals,” said Greg Hope, Northeast Campus director of academic advising.

Students are highly encouraged to continue using virtual services, which can be found at www.tul-sacc.edu. However, if a student needs assistance with accessing services, help is available for Financial Aid, Enrollment, Advising, and Bursar. When individuals come to campus, we prefer them to come alone and every person on



Photos courtesy TCC

AMANDA BAILEY: *From her home office, Amanda Bailey taught summer courses online and will teach fall online and blended courses. She is a TCC assistant professor of biology and a faculty development fellow who helped her colleagues adapt and design online courses.*

campus is required to wear a face mask, Hope said.

TCC plans to offer four options this fall including in-person, online, online live, and blended formats. For online live, students meet online in a web-conference style at a designated time, and blended, combines in-person and online.

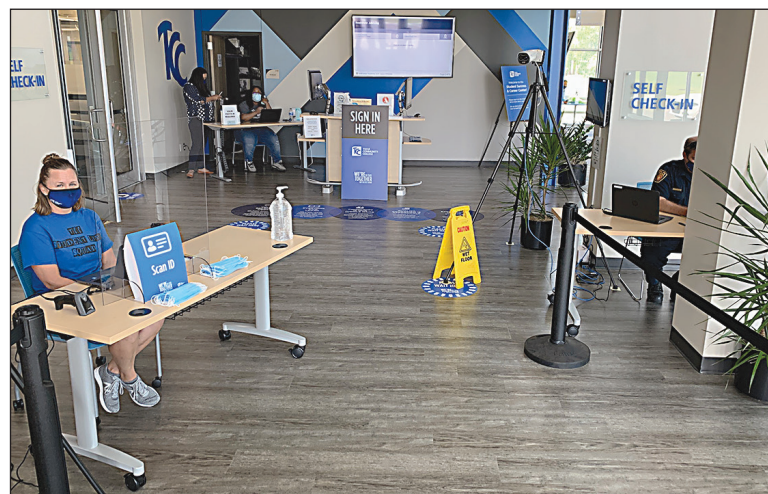
Faculty, like Amanda Bailey and Aaron Inlow, have invested countless hours designing their courses



AARON INLOW: *Aaron Inlow is teaching Human Anatomy this fall in an online live format, where students are required to meet online in a web-conference style at a designated time. He's been an adjunct faculty member at TCC for 20 years.*

for the best academic experience for students. Altogether, more than 350 of full-time faculty and adjunct instructors have participated in a weeklong specialized training workshop for online teaching.

Baily, as assistant professor of biology, said, “During the workshop, we had the chance to reevaluate what works for our students as part of the process and design for the online format. As a result, I deliver more meaningful content.



CHECK-IN AREA: *Visitors to a Tulsa Community College campus will check in and have their temperature checked by a thermal scan. If individuals want to come to campus for enrollment resources, TCC prefers they come alone. In addition, every visitor is required to wear a face mask. If visitors do not have one, disposable masks will be available.*

It is more about students evaluating and being engaged in the process of learning, and less about sitting and listening.”

Inlow redesigned the course he teaches, Human Anatomy, for an online live format. “I want students to know TCC faculty and staff are here to guide them through the learning process. We are working hard to prepare for the different fall formats so our students have a good quality education even though they may not be coming to a traditional classroom,” he said.

While some might be fearful of

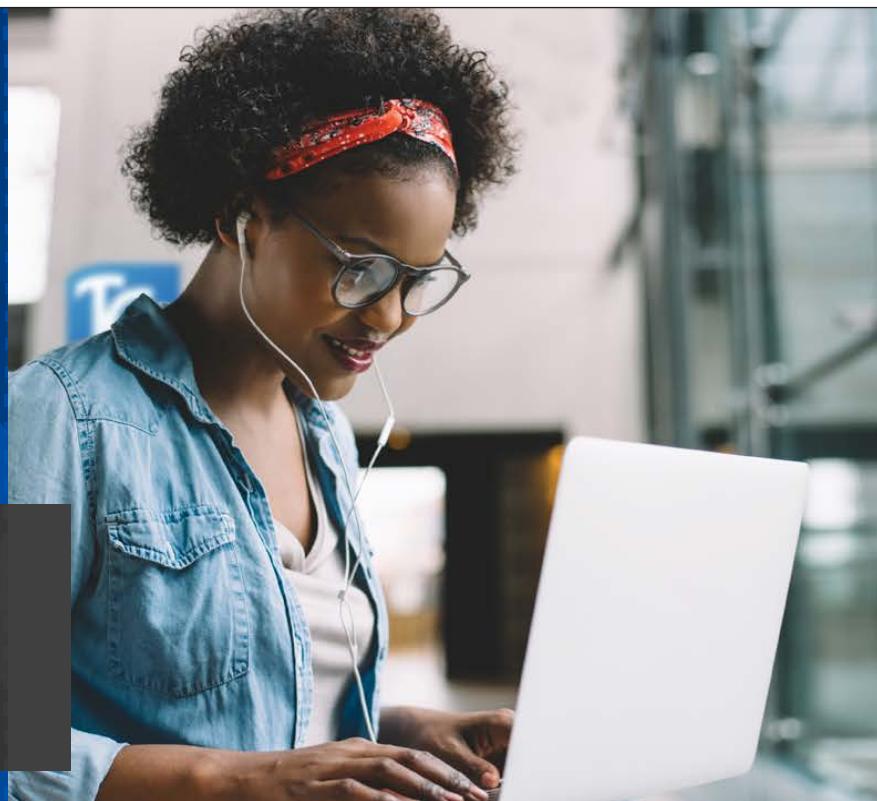
online courses. Bailey cautions, this isn't about taking the same course and lecture and putting it online; rather, it is intentionally creating the content for the online “world.”

“Every single faculty member is putting the full weight of creativity and experience across the college to make it a good experience and finding something that works,” said Bailey.

She added, faculty are here for students and ready to help them even when the course it taught outside the traditional classroom.

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A New School Year, A New Opportunity at Tulsa Tech

Classrooms, Labs Reimagined For Physical Distancing

As we prepare to welcome students back to school, things look a little different this year. Recent spikes in COVID-19 cases across the nation have a renewed emphasis on physical distancing, wearing masks and thinking twice before gathering in large groups. It has also changed how we layout our classrooms, lab space and even how we teach. However, what is not changing is the impact Tulsa Tech has on the students that walk through our doors.

News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent

A blog post about the impact of career and technical education (CTE) by Applied Educational Systems, an education services company in Pennsylvania, proverbially “hit the nail on the head” for hands-on learning. It listed out many things we proclaim at many internal staff gatherings.

Each year we get to see firsthand the impact on students’ lives, including individual achievement, higher graduation rates, better attendance and a true confidence in their career path. Not to mention the economic impact Tulsa Tech, along with the

statewide CareerTech system, has on the overall economy.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging, our instructors are excited to welcome students back to campus. Tulsa Tech has worked to make our classrooms and labs as safe as possible, including new signage, reimagined lab space and classrooms with desks separated to accommodate CDC recommendations. But while the world we live in might be different, it cannot dampen our instructors’ excitement or the need for skilled workers. They are committed to helping students shape their lives to a new career full of potential.

“I am excited to reach students and help make a difference in their future,” Dawna Jones, Surgical Technology Instructor, said. “It is so exciting to learn about my students, share in their dreams and impact their lives.”

The impact Jones is speaking about is enormous. A 2017 report by the Brookings Institute shows that nationwide CTE can motivate students to attend school more frequently and improve their grades.

are committed to helping students shape their lives to a new career full of potential.



Vanessa Azire, Tulsa Tech

WELCOMING STUDENTS: Tulsa Tech instructors are ready to welcome all students safely back to campus this fall to receive hands-on, real world training in more than 80 different career fields.

“The new school year provides a chance for us all – students and teachers – to reflect on the hurdles of the past six months and to move forward together,” Stephanie Aitken, Aerospace Academy Instructor said. “This new school year means we can return to our school community and the growth and healing that the group provides.”

That community feeling also develops highly-satisfied students. The group, Advance CTE, shows 95 percent of CTE students grad-

uate high school, and nearly 80 percent of those students then go onto college. Tulsa Tech and the CareerTech system also open the door to millions of jobs. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labors Statistics, over the past decade CTE graduates filled 50 million jobs nationwide, with an estimated 30 percent of those being newly-created jobs.

“Our world and our students’ lives are constantly changing,” Aitken said. “We know how to navigate teaching amidst fear and doubt.”

While millions of Americans search for new jobs after the pandemic shutdown, now could be the best time to invest in yourself. Tulsa Tech offers more than 80 career training options so students can find the perfect option, from aerospace to welding and everything in between, our team is here to get you back on track.

If you are struggling to find work or want to make a change, we’re here to help. Visit tulsatech.edu to start the application process today.

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TPS NEWS

Tulsa Public Schools Announces Board Member Additions and Board President

Tulsa Public Schools Board of Education welcomed two new board members at a recent Board of Education meeting.

John Croisant is the new representative for District 5 and Jerry Griffin is the new representative for District 6.

The district also welcomed District 1 representative Stacey Woolley as the board president, and District 2 representative Jania Wester as the board vice president.

"I would like to express my gratitude to the board for putting their confidence in me moving forward as president," said Woolley. "I'd also like to thank both Shawna Keller and Suzanne Schreiber for their dedication to leadership. Finally, I would like to thank Ruth Ann Fate for her quarter century of service to the community and Brian Hosmer for his time on the board. Both will be greatly missed."



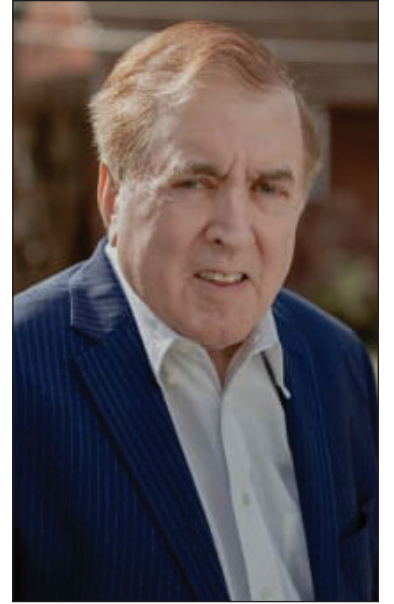
STACEY WOOLLEY



JANIA WESTER



JOHN CROISANT



JERRY GRIFFIN

Woolley added, "The Board of Education looks forward to working with our new members, John Croisant and Jerry Griffin in our

efforts to ensure that every student meets their greatest potential. We will all be working together to prepare for a successful school year in a time that is vastly different from anything we have experienced before."

The Tulsa Public Schools Board of Education is an elected board of seven community leaders who serve as the governing body for Tulsa Public Schools. Board members serve four-year terms.

"I am excited to welcome our new board members and grateful for their willingness to be

part of the important work happening in Tulsa Public Schools," said Superintendent Deborah A. Gist. "We are also excited to welcome Board President Woolley and Board Vice President Jania Wester into their new leadership roles."

The board is responsible for establishing policies under which the district operates while acting within the framework of state and federal laws, while meeting the unique needs and concerns of the communities they serve.

For more information, visit www.tulsaschools.org/board.



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MIDTOWN SPORTS

Will Rogers Stadium Opening and Hall of Fame Ceremonies Postponed Until the Spring of 2021

By **MIKE MOGUIN**
GTR Sports Writer

There was once a time a football fan could go to the field circled by a running track at Will Rogers High School and imagine making plays.

No one can do that nowadays since the facility is surrounded by a chain-linked fence, but the idea will eventually become a reality for Roper players. That's because a section of stands and an additional facility are being built on the east side of the field, and it's making progress.

According to the Will Rogers High School Community Foundation, while the construction is on schedule, for completion, due to COVID-19, plans are being put on hold until 2021.

As of mid-July, the bleachers are up, the electricity has been installed and slabs are being poured on the inside. "So they're getting close," Athletics Director Krystal Markwardt said.

The new facility connected to the bleachers will have a press box, a hospitality room, alumni suites, a team workout room and locker rooms for track, soccer and football.

"It's (art deco) going to be matching the looks of the field house on the backside of the campus," Markwardt said. "The art deco will be similar to the entrance (of the gym) and what is on our historical school building."

As far as the COVID-19 pandem-

ic, whether there will be a gridiron season or not is in question.

"They haven't done anything yet as far as the season is concerned, in regards to cancelling it," Markwardt said. "OSSAA released a statement on July 16 saying that everything is on schedule. But all the states around us are starting to do things like push the season to the spring or shorten the season and not do the non-district games."

New Mexico announced in early July that it was cancelling its high school football season with reports that it may open in the spring. Texas was to announce its plans later in the month.

The coronavirus health crisis caused the cancellation of the state basketball tournament last March, in which the Rogers girls made the Class 5A field. The pandemic also wiped out spring sports.

Before the Ropers meet Hale in their debut of their new stadium, they are scheduled to play road games against Okmulgee (Aug. 28) and Hilldale (Sept. 4).

Plans to build the stadium had been discussed for a long time, said Markwardt, who is entering her seventh year as the Rogers AD.

"When I got here in 2014, the kids were talking about a new stadium. It's been talked about every year since," she said. "It actually made the bond issue in 2015 and it's just now getting built. It's been a long time coming. Our alumni are very excited. We haven't had a home game since we opened the school."



Midtown Monitor photo

NEW LOOK: Stadium bleachers, press box and locker room facilities are being added to the football field and track at Will Rogers High School.

Will Rogers High School was built and opened in 1939. It has a notable alumni base, including former University of Tulsa quarterback and coach Dave Radar, now a state senator, recording artists David Gates and the late Leon Russell, S.E. Hinton, author of the novel *The Outsiders*, which later became a movie filmed in Tulsa, former Arkansas and NBA star Lee Mayberry and the late Don Chandler, who was the kicker for

the Green Bay Packers in the first two Super Bowls.

In its history, the Ropers football team has played games at the University of Tulsa's Skelly Stadium (now known as Chapman Stadium), and the stadiums at Webster and Booker T. Washington.

"For several years we've had to load up for every game," Markwardt said. "It's going to be an awesome experience for those kids not to have to travel every Friday."

"The excitement right now is they finally see something being built," Markwardt added. "Our attendance in football has already changed. Usually about this time, TPS football, we struggled in summer for multiple reasons, but transportation was the biggest one because we had to get kids to the summer workouts. We have now had 60 kids show up to work out for summer football, which is huge. That has not happened since I've been at Rogers."

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SPORTS

Tulsa Athletes Make Their Mark on History

By **DOUG EATON**
Contributing Writer

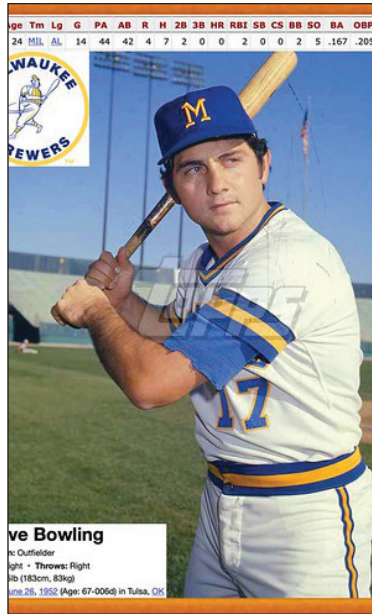
Tulsa has a rich history of athletes and sports personalities who have made significant marks on their respective sports. Here are examples of four Tulsans' contributions to sports. Four more Tulsa-area super athletes will be profiled in the September GTR Media Group newspapers and on-line.

Opening Day Major League Lineup

Steve Bowling from Tulsa was an All-State athlete from Webster High School. He went on to the University of Tulsa where he played in three sports, football, basketball and baseball, with baseball being his best (back when TU was a collegiate baseball powerhouse). He went on to play in the major leagues for two years - 1976 with the Milwaukee Brewers, where he was a teammate with the great Henry Aaron who was in his last year as a player, and with the Toronto Blue Jays in 1977, which was the expansion team's inaugural season. On April 7, 1977, he was in the Blue Jay's opening day lineup in right field. Possessing a powerful right arm, Bowling finished second in the American League in outfield assists with 14 in 1977.

4th Best Managerial Record in Major League History

Bobby Cox, who was born in Tulsa on May 21, 1941, played



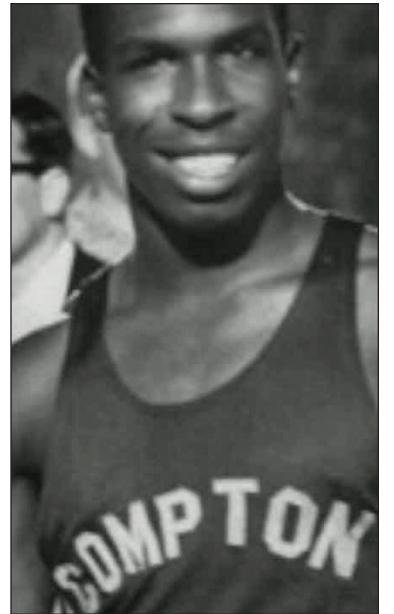
STEVE BOWLING



BOBBY COX



JOE DIAL



CHARLIE DUMAS

two seasons in the major leagues as a third baseman for the New York Yankees but he is more known for his managerial successes. He managed the Atlanta Braves 1978-1981; the Toronto Blue Jays 1982-1985; and the Atlanta Braves 1990-2010. He led the Braves to the World Series championship in 1995. He currently ranks No. 4 on the all-time managerial wins list with a record of 2,504-2,001 during the regular season and 67-69 in post-season play, for a total of 2,571 wins. He was named Manager of the Year four times - 1985, 1991, 2004 and 2005 and is one of only four managers to have won the award in both the American and National Leagues. He also holds the all-time record for ejections in Major League Baseball with 158 (plus an additional three post-season ejections).

He was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2014.

ORU Coach Was a World Record Holder

Joe Dial of Tulsa was arguably one of the best pole vaulters in track and field history as he held the American record for pole vault for nine years (1985-1994) as he broke the American record some nine times during that stretch. Dial also held the world record for a time in 1985.

Dial's superiority as a vaulter goes back a long time as he

captured four state titles and set numerous high school records during his years at Marlow High School, including setting the national high school record. Continuing his winning ways at Oklahoma State University, Dial won four NCAA titles (two indoor and two outdoor). He was the first high school vaulter to clear 18 feet and the first collegiate vaulter to clear 19 feet. Dial later competed internationally as he competed on five continents and won a bronze medal in the 1989 World Championships at Budapest, Hungary. His accomplishments have been recognized as he has been inducted into six different Halls of Fame.

Dial will enter his 28th year as head track and field coach at Oral Roberts University. His Golden Eagle teams have claimed 18 conference championships and he has been honored as Conference Coach of the Year 14 times during his tenure.

Olympic Gold Medal Winner in High Jump

Charlie Dumas was born in Tul-

sa on February 12, 1937, but his family moved to Los Angeles when he was four. He was an Olympic high jumper and competed in the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games (Gold Medal) and the 1960 Rome Olympic Games (6th place). On June 29, 1956 at the U.S. Olympic Trials at Los Angeles, he became the first high jumper to clear 7 feet. At the 1956 Olympics, he cleared 6 feet, 11 1/2 inches, an Olympic record.

He later worked as a high school teacher and coach. He was inducted into the U.S. Track & Field Hall of Fame in 1990. Dumas died in 2004 at age 66 of cancer.



READY FOR ACTION: The Engine Room Boxing Gym held its ribbon cutting with members of the Tulsa Regional Chamber and many other guests July 6. Tamara Wagman is all smiles as Engine Room owner and Head Coach Aaron Sloan, center, and Tulsa Regional Chamber President and CEO Mike Neal pose for an action shot. The facility is located at 316 E. 11th St. in Tulsa.

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FC Tulsa: All is New in Tulsa Pro Soccer

By **GLENN HIBDON**
GTR Sports Writer

A new name, new owners, new colors, new players and a new office. The same old desire to succeed.

While the Roughnecks are gone, professional soccer in Green Country is experiencing a rebirth, facing a new beginning as FC Tulsa begins play this summer at ONEOK Field.

A soccer renaissance is planned under the direction of the Craft Brothers, J.W., Ryan and Kyle, native Tulsan business executives who purchased the Roughnecks from the Tulsa Drillers ownership group a year ago. Michael Nsien has been retained as head coach for the United Soccer League season.

The coronavirus epidemic forced the USL to suspend operations on March 12.

"All along it's been about figuring out a method that would be able for us to put fans and players in a safe position to do this," said franchise president James Cannon. "As a group of players, coaches and staff, we're ready to do whatever it takes to put the team back on the field. Our guys want to play and compete. They're very adamant about that."

For FC Tulsa, team goals are simple.

"No. 1, we're back on the field," said Austin Gwin, team director of communications. "We want to put a winning product on the field, something fans have not had a lot of lately. We want to get fans back into the stadium and give them something they can be proud of, something they can come out and support. We want to build support back again."

Under the Roughnecks banner, the franchise compiled a 41-81-36 record in its tenure in the USL, averaging just 2,031 fans a game last

season. Despite COVID-19 curtailing the 2020 season, Gwin believes good times are here again.

"We're starting over from scratch and the fans won't see much of the Roughnecks. Everything is new," said Gwin, a graduate of David Lipscomb University and former employee of the Nashville USL club. "Our team is strong from front to back, forwards, midfielders, defenders and goalkeepers. We don't have many holes."

"The Western Conference is traditionally high-scoring and we do have enough high scorers to play with those teams. We've also got to be fortunate and keep away from injuries. We need to win our home games and draw on the road. If we do that, we'll be sitting pretty."

USL executives recently announced the franchise will play in the five-team D Group, consisting of the Rio Grande Valley FC Toros, Austin Bold FC, Oklahoma City Energy FC and San Antonio FC. The letters 'FC' stand for 'football club,' a traditional term for international professional soccer teams. FC Tulsa is scheduled to play each team in its group three times with a 16-game schedule comprising the season.

Chief among the "fresh faces" dotting the FC Tulsa roster are midfielder Lebo Moloto, striker Dario Suarez, Bradley Bourgeois, who played for the Roughnecks in 2017, and midfielder Ciaran Winters.

"The Craft brothers made an investment on the field and brought the payroll up to the most competitive payrolls in the league," Gwin said. "They understand what it takes to be successful and they've brought in a lot of talent."

Moloto is a former all-league player who is said to be one of the USL's best at his position. Suarez is



a former Cuban international player and is expected to be a top scorer for FC Tulsa. Bourgeois played college soccer at TU and Winters is a product of the Tulsa youth soccer program.

"We've brought in players with high credentials," said Gwin. "The Craft brothers have a passion for soccer and they want a quality team that will represent the community and give back to the city. Tulsa has a great music scene, but not one for a professional sports franchise that the city can rally behind."

Toward that end, FC Tulsa sports a new logo, featuring a bird soaring upward. Gwin said it was created by famed designer Matthew Wolff who has produced logos for soccer teams around world. The Art Deco design features a Scissor Tail Flycatcher, Oklahoma's state bird, and represents a look to Tulsa's up-

turned soccer future.

The franchise plans on literally giving back to Oklahoma and Tulsa. A \$500,000 donation has already been given to the Philbrook Museum and funds have been donated to the COVID-19 fund in the city. The plan is to remain committed to the community, especially in a time of crisis, playing the national anthem before each game.

FC Tulsa did play one game before the coronavirus shutdown the season. The team tied Sacramento 1-1 on the road on March 7.

"We were on hiatus for two months and then the entire league did training in small groups," Gwin said. "We will have a safety seating protocol in place when we turn to play. Fan safety in our major concern."

Gwin called the remainder of the 2020 season a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to

win back fans from last year. The opportunity is to impress them enough to stay. He said season ticket purchases and inquiries have been encouraging.

"A successful season I think will be for us to make the playoffs," said Gwin. "We've seen a lot of buy-in (from fans) during the pandemic and we won't be satisfied until we're selling out 5,000 seats a game. Winning breeds sellouts and so does scoring goals and having fun doing it. We will play with a lot of flair because our head coach and staff were able to bring in a lot of talent in the offseason that play well together."

FC Tulsa has a promotion going for fan club season ticket holders. They can attend games for \$5, \$10 or \$15 and lock in the rate for as long as the team plays at ONEOK Field.

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Owasso's Bailey Ranch Golf Course Stays on Par

*Golf Director
Corey Burd
Implements
Distancing*

SPORTS

By **MIKE MOGUIN**
GTR Sports Writer

Despite the COVID-19 situation, Owasso's Bailey Ranch Golf Course has managed to stay open during the pandemic through the summer with strict rules.

Bailey Ranch is a par-72, 6,726-yard course best known for its holes winding their way through creeks, lakes, trees, thickets and native grassland. It has hosted the National Golf Association's Hooters Pro Tour in the past and is ranked among the top 10 golf courses in Oklahoma by Golf Digest. It has hosted high school regional tournaments, baseball fundraisers, golf fundraisers and other local benefit tournaments.

"We host quite a few benefit tournaments, along with some public tournaments as well as state golf association tournaments," Bailey Ranch Director of Golf Corey Burd said. "Last week we had the Oklahoma Golf Association qualifier for their match play. We typically do a lot of events. This year has been a little bit different; because of the COVID situation, events haven't been taking place. We didn't have a high school golf season, so it's been challenging."



BAILEY RANCH CLUBHOUSE: The Bailey Ranch Clubhouse is located at 10105 Larken Bailey Blvd. in Owasso. For information, see www.baileyranchgolf.com



GOLF PRO COREY BURD: Bailey Ranch Director of Golf Corey Burd also serves as the head boys' golf coach at Owasso High School, where he has led the Rams to two Class 6A state championships.

Burd is also the head coach of the boys' golf team at Owasso High School. Although people could still tee off when the lockdowns occurred, social distance policies had to be enforced.

"We never closed," Burd said. "We went through stages. The first stage, when it got really serious, we moved our tee times to 15-minute intervals. We were limited on carts, only sending out 16-20 people per hour to limit interaction. Then there were a lot of things we were doing as far as sanitizing. We removed a bunch of touchpoints from the golf course that would encourage people to leave the (flagpoles at the holes) alone. Then we sanitized carts every time they came in."

Only one person was allowed per cart. People were still allowed to

play in groups of four.

Thankfully, nobody who plays there has tested positive for the coronavirus.

As for prep golf, Burd has led the Rams to two Class 6A state championships, the last coming in 2019. Because the 2020 season was canceled by the pandemic, the team could not defend its title. "It was frustrating," Burd said. "I had all my starters back. I'm not going to say we were going to be the favorites, but we were definitely going to be in contention. We had a lot of experience with an entire championship team back."

"But again, we're talking about people's lives. At that time, we didn't really know what's going on. We had to be extra careful. That was the decision made and my kids just have to learn to deal

with it," Burd added. "It's very similar to golf. You get bad breaks and you get good breaks and we just got a bad break this year."

Despite there not being a season, players continued to practice, whether it be the driving range or the course.

"Some are going on to play college golf and they got tournaments that they were preparing for and getting ready for outside of OS-SAA," Burd said. "But, yes they continued to practice but I couldn't coach them because I'm their coach and the school had a policy against coaching kids during those time frames. We were somewhat limited in what they could do. But, they were still working on their games for sure."

Some players practiced at Bailey Ranch, some practiced at the Patri-

ot, some practiced at Owasso Golf and Athletic

"Golf is one of those sports where you have your own equipment," Burd said. "You don't touch anyone else's equipment. It's a solitary sport. You're out there by yourself, so social distancing is pretty easy. Frankly, that's one of the reasons why we've remained pretty busy for sure."

Needless to say, people are happy to have the privilege to still play.

Bailey Ranch has since taken steps to have golfers resume play in normal routines.

"On June 1, we went to 12-minute intervals, still allowing people to ride by themselves if they chose," Burd said. "Then July, we went back to 10-minute intervals."

Two people can also ride a cart if they wish.

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Historic Gasoline Station Buildings Survive in Tulsa

In the early years of my architectural practice, my partner and I (as many young architects do) looked for a

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

small building to remodel and convert for our offices. There was an old service station at the southwest corner of 18th Street and Cincinnati Avenue that was for sale and had, we felt, potential. As with many early 20th Century gas stations, it included a two-car garage that was totally separate from a small service office structure. (It appears in the lower left photo.) Our idea was to connect those two to create one large building. It never happened. We bought another property instead. But this story is a pertinent lead in for discussion about these first service stations scattered around Tulsa.

They were built by major oil companies as a way to sell and promote their oil and gas supplies. Operators were required to sell only products produced by the company that owned the facility. In Tulsa, architectural building styles varied. There were Spanish eclectic stucco models with clay tile roofs, streamlined art-deco metal panel flat roofed models, and those with a residential cottage character favored by Phillips 66. These cottage models are the ones we'll review here.

For over 40 years, most major

street intersections in Tulsa included one or more service stations. Competition was fierce.

Gas wars were frequent as the prices of oil fluctuated. Sometimes special promotional items such as carnival glassware were offered. When a customer arrived for a fill-up, a team of uniform-clad attendants would check the tire pressure, the oil level and clean the windshield in addition to filling the gas tank. It was service that was expected and taken for granted.

Early on, Phillips 66 made the decision to blend its gas stations with adjacent neighborhoods by giving them a residential appearance. Usually, these gasoline emporiums were located on a corner for better vehicular access. Frequently, but not always, there was a two-car service garage, located separately from a small office structure. Why the garage building was detached may have been due to concerns with early car exhaust fumes and fire safety or maybe because most residential garages were built separately from their respective houses. Fronting these buildings were the gas pumps which appeared to be tall, slender robotic people with long exposed hose arms and illuminated flat glass disk heads.

The structures were painted brick with steep gabled painted shingle roofs. Phillips' color scheme was dark green for the



GTR Media Group photo

PHILLIPS 66 STATION #473: Located at 2224 E. Admiral Blvd. in the Kendall Whittier area, this former Phillips 66 station now houses a restaurant and bar facility. It is listed on the National Register.

brick with orange and blue for the shingled roofs. The Cotswold Cottage design included a brick chimney on the front of the office structure, divided lite steel windows and a small grassy lawn at the front of the property.

At least three of these gas stations survive in Tulsa. Few still function with their original intended purpose. The Phillips 66 station at 2224 E. Admiral Blvd. was listed on the National Register in 2004. It has been enlarged to connect the garage space to the office structure. The Vickery Phillips 66 Station at 602 S. Elgin was listed on the National Register in

2004 and is now used as a car rental property. Finally, there is a station at the southwest corner of 18th Street and Cincinnati Avenue which is used for commercial business purposes.

The first of these types of Phil-

lips Service Stations opened in Wichita, Kansas in 1930. Eventually, the company had 6,750 such stations in 12 states, products of a different era. It would be interesting to find out how many survive today.



PHILLIPS 66 STATION AT 18th STREET AND CINCINNATI: The garage facilities still stand at this location, which opened in 1930. Today it houses Katharine Victoria's Hair Boutique.



VICKERY PHILLIPS 66 STATION: Located at 602 South Elgin in Tulsa, this former station is listed on the National Register is the home for an Avis Rent-a-Car facility.

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Muncie Power Products Breaks Ground at Peoria-Mohawk Business Park for Facility

Courtesy Vision Tulsa

Muncie Power Products and Tulsa Officials broke ground on Muncie's new facility at the Peoria-Mohawk Business Park on July 23. Located at Peoria and 36th Street North, the business park is comprised of 120-plus acres of land that represents a cornerstone of planned redevelopment efforts in North Tulsa.

Muncie's new facility is the first to break ground there. The new facility will be 250,000 square feet and provide additional capacity for new manufacturing machinery, assembly equipment and warehousing. This will be the primary manufacturing facility for Muncie Power Products where it manufactures and assembles power take-offs and other hydraulic components for work trucks.

"Today marks an exciting new chapter for Muncie Power Products as we break ground on a new manufacturing facility. This new facility will allow us to better serve our customers and support market demand, while also providing the best possible working conditions for all of our employees at this location," said Ray Chambers, chairman, CEO and president of Muncie Power Products.

Muncie Power Products is currently located in Tulsa, but its growing operation led to the decision to build a new facility and expand their manufacturing capabilities in North Tulsa.

"This is a great day for Tulsa with Muncie serving as the first of many businesses that will choose to build in the Peoria Mohawk Business Park," Mayor G.T. Bynum said. "Economic mobility was the driving force that launched this proj-



TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER WELCOME: Justin McLaughlin of the Tulsa Regional Chamber welcomes the Muncie Power Products team. At right is Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce and Workforce Development Sean Kouplan.



RIBBON CUTTING TEAM: The ribbon cutting team for the Muncie Power Products facility at the Peoria-Mohawk Business Park included, from left, Program Officer of the George Kaiser Family Foundation Josh Miller; Senior Vice President for Economic Development at the Tulsa Regional Chamber Justin McLaughlin, CEO, Chairman and President of Muncie Power Products Ray Chambers, Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce and Workforce Development and Tulsa District One City Counselor Vanessa Hall-Harper, and Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum.

ect forward with the combination of local housing and community development occurring in nearby neighborhoods and with a Bus Rapid Transit system that is fully operational and in place for residents. We are here today thanks to the leadership of Muncie, the persistent efforts by Tulsans who care about their community and for collaborative partners that have invested in creating more economic opportunity for North Tulsa."

"The State of Oklahoma is excited to see the significant investment Muncie is making in the city of Tulsa and the Peoria Mohawk Business Park," said Gov. Kevin Stitt. "The addition of a new building, automated machinery and new equipment will move the company closer to its mission of becoming a world-class manufacturer of power take-offs and fluid power components for the work

truck industry. Helping Oklahoma companies expand in our state is a key initiative of my administration and I am excited to see how this project will spur economic development throughout North Tulsa. Muncie's investment is another testament that Oklahoma remains open for business."

Made possible through a unique partnership between the City of Tulsa and George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF), the Peoria-Mohawk Business Park is a first-of-its-kind effort to partner with businesses investing in the Tulsa community. Public investment dollars approved through Vision Tulsa were used to prepare and enhance the Business Park, positioning it to be the top industrial location in the Tulsa city limits. GKFF provided free land for the Peoria-Mohawk Business Park.

"The goal of Peoria-Mohawk is to increase economic opportunity in and for the North Tulsa community by providing skilled, living wage jobs. We are grateful for Muncie's commitment to that goal by being the first company to locate here," Josh Miller, Program Officer for the George Kaiser Family Foundation said. "The building of this facility will not only attract future employers to the site, but also act as a catalyst for further economic development in the surrounding neighborhoods."

"As the District 1 City Councilor, I am excited about the economic development that Muncie Power is bringing to District 1," District 1 City Councilor Vanessa Hall-Harper said. "I'm even more excited about the opportunities

that District 1 residents will have to earn a livable wage right here in our own community and I look forward to sharing and advocating for these employment opportunities for District 1 residents."

"The Chamber congratulates Muncie Power Products on its new facility and for being the first company to break ground in Tulsa's Peoria-Mohawk Business Park," Mike Neal, president and CEO of the Tulsa Regional Chamber said. "Muncie is a valued corporate citizen, and we're grateful for their investment in the north Tulsa community. We look forward to future development and jobs created at the park, and we thank the George Kaiser Family Foundation and the City of Tulsa for their continued commitment to north Tulsa's economic growth."

Muncie Power Products has partnered with Merak Group for the construction of their new facility. Construction of the first phase is scheduled to be completed in the Spring of 2021.

Site development of the Peoria-Mohawk Business Park was supported by a \$10 million incentive funded through Vision Tulsa; a portion of this has supported the Muncie site. Remaining funds have been reserved to facilitate development of the remainder of the site.

Partners on this project include: GKFF, City of Tulsa, Tulsa Community WorkAdvance, Tulsa Tech and all North Tulsa community organizations as their continued support ensured the success of the Peoria-Mohawk site.

The business park will build upon the work already in progress by the Tulsa Housing Authority with Envision Comanche, which reimagines and rebuilds existing public housing located just to the north of this site. Last year, the City of Tulsa and Tulsa Transit also launched the Aero - Peoria Bus Rapid Transit line, becoming one of only a few cities in the U.S. with this type of service.

About Muncie Power Products

Muncie Power Products, Inc. is a leading manufacturer of power take-offs and fluid power components for vocational trucks. A member of the multinational Interpump Group, Muncie Power Products' manufacturing operations are held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with eight additional facilities across the country. Since 1935, we have been committed to the constant improvement of our people, products, and services to deliver unmatched customer support and quality products. Our core values include understanding, and believing, in our company legacy of care for the communities where we live and conduct business.

About Vision Tulsa

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The Digital Transformation is Impacting the Energy Sector



The digital transformation is ahead of schedule as we have all been confronted with COVID-19 and economic issues. Since 2018, I have spoken especially on the theme “National Energy Talk: America’s Energy Dreams and Global Economic Realities.” The sub-theme has been “Achieving Operational Excellence Through Digital Transformation.”

We are all being faced with the transition to the digital world. Since 2018, I have spoken to The Pipeline & Energy Expo in Tulsa, the 25th annual meeting of the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association in Lake Charles, Louisiana, the Digital Transformation in the oil and gas industry conference in Houston, the Pre-Conference of the National Council of Undergraduate Research at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, the OK-Nation-

al Association of Royalty Owners Annual Convention in Oklahoma City, The Oklahoma Academy, and other events. At each of these events, I was confronted by many individuals and company officials who believed they were not prepared and running behind on implementing and embracing the digital transformation.

On July 31, 2017, National Energy Talk was launched in Elk City, Oklahoma. With the launch of National Energy Talk, what once was an annual conference has expanded into a media-driven platform with year-round engagement. Today it is

helping lead a national dialogue on energy issues, views and solutions through events, publications, video, audio and online content. The focus on digital transformation remains a major topic.

As an advisor to IngenuitE, Oklahoma City, a leading provider, an Oracle Gold Partner, of end-to-end e-business application solutions, offering complete application implementation services, outsourcing, support and training for enterprise systems, I was

excited about the opportunity to learn more and to see that it is applied to the oil and gas industry.



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

As I stated in my presentations, “In order to maximize potential and attract a new, younger workforce, companies of all sizes are going to have to focus on content, analytics, and digital transformation. Large amounts of data from many sources can be collected, and analyzed quickly...leading to more informed, better decisions.”

The U.S. will be in need of the oil and gas industry for many years ahead. Analytics will play an important role in monitoring and analyzing the anticipated demand for energy and decision making about the cost effectiveness.

We must learn from the past and embrace the future. I believe that the American energy industry is up to the challenges ahead!

As I stated from the book, “The Anticipatory Organization” by Daniel Burrus in one of my columns, “technology-driven change is accelerating at an exponential rate, but moving fast in the wrong direction will only get you into trouble faster.” This opportunity

and challenge of the digital transformation not only applies to the energy industry, but to our whole economic system.

The challenges of transformation include the potential areas of robotics, 5G, artificial intelligence, and cyber security... which need to be possibly incorporated into operations. The technology and innovation are at the forefront of a company’s and an individual’s business success. With the most up-to-date tools and advisors, success is inevitable. America can meet the challenges.

Future generations are depending on us to keep the American dream alive. We must have a strong energy industry! America Needs America’s energy!!

Your comments and questions are welcomed. Join our efforts on Facebook: National Energy Talk/ America Needs America’s Energy Mark A. Stansberry is chairman of the GTD Group, an award-winning author and Energy Advocate. Facebook: National Energy Talk

Tulsa Regional Chamber Comments on Tesla Selection

Courtesy MIKE NEAL
President and CEO
Tulsa Regional Chamber

“While it’s certainly disappointing Tulsa was not selected as the new home for Tesla, we congratulate our fellow-finalist, Austin. We thank Elon Musk and all of the Tesla leadership for their consideration of Tulsa, and we are optimistic we might still have the chance to partner with them in the future.

“A big part of what made us so competitive in this process was the extraordinary collaboration among our state, local, regional and tribal partners. We especially thank Gov. Kevin Stitt and Secre-

tary of Commerce and Workforce Development Sean Kouplen for their tremendous work throughout this process. We also thank Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and the George Kaiser Family Foundation – especially Jeff Stava – for their commitment to showcasing our city and region.

“The publicity surrounding this project has been absolutely astonishing. Tulsa’s profile has been elevated substantially, and individuals and organizations that previously might not have given us a serious look now see our advantages – including a low cost of living and short commute times, as well as an eager, well-trained workforce, access to top



MIKE NEAL

engineering talent and a centralized location. Those advantages

will no doubt resonate with other companies looking to expand or relocate.

“Tesla also saw an overwhelming outpouring of support from thousands and thousands of local citizens via social media and other means. Ours is a welcoming region, and though we might not have gotten Tesla, without a doubt other great new projects are still ahead. Northeast Oklahoma has seen big increases in economic development activity the past several years, and we’re optimistic that will continue. Tulsa beat out a host of other significantly larger, world-class cities to be a finalist for the Tesla project, and that has to mean great things for

our future.”
For more information about the Tulsa Regional Chamber, visit tulsachamber.com.

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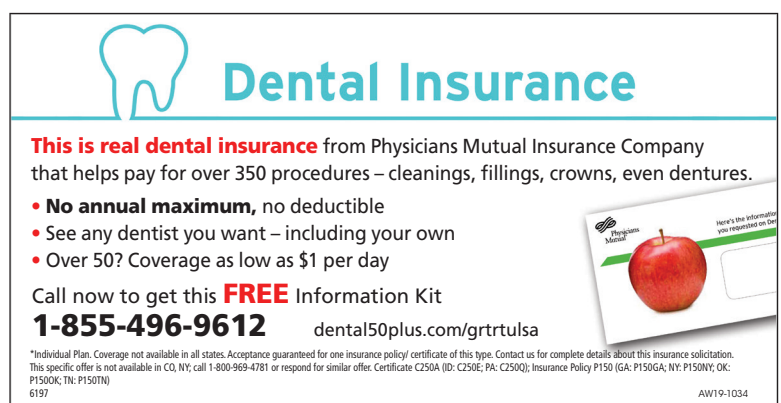
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City of Tulsa Selects Monica Hamilton to be Customer Care Director

Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum has announced that Monica Hamilton will serve as the city's Customer Care Director. She began her position on July 6.



MONICA HAMILTON

"I'm thrilled Monica chose to join our team at the city and come back home to Tulsa to fill this critical role," Mayor Bynum said. "With her vast experience in government and customer support alike, Monica was the best choice to lead our 311 Customer Care Department. Monica will be an invaluable member of our team and will bring strong leadership to the 311 Customer Care Center."

Hamilton previously worked for the City of Tulsa prior to moving to Texas.

"I am very excited to return to Tulsa," she said. "The customer care team is among the best in the industry and I am honored to have been selected to lead this dynamic group. I look forward to working with the team in the advancement of uses in technology and best practices and to ensure that our Tulsa citizens receive nothing less than world class customer service."

After starting her career at the City of Tulsa as a mayoral aide, Hamilton moved her way up to director of the mayor's office for neighborhoods, then to director of the mayor's Action Center and interim director for the Customer Care Center.

She left Tulsa for Texas in 2012 after serving as director of constituent services for the City of Tulsa.

In Fort Worth, Texas, Hamilton served as deputy chief of staff for the mayor and city council office, and then moved to executive general manager for the City of Fort Worth.

Hamilton is widely recognized for her customer service skills and her ability to manage and motivate her colleagues and employees to meet high standards.

She'll be taking over for recently retired Customer Care Director Michael Radoff, who was instrumental in developing and implementing the city's award-winning Tulsa 311 Customer Service Network. In 2017, the city's 311 network took the top call center honors at the Engage 311 Annual Conference in Fort Worth.

Hamilton will look to build upon the success 311 has seen over the last few years. 311 includes an IVR system with a Spanish line, an easy-to-use mobile app, and a web self-service portal and email. Since its inception in 2016, 311 has been able to lower the call abandonment rate, considerably raise service levels, and save money by eliminating third party vendor costs that provided Spanish-speaking assistance.

For more information on 311, visit www.tulsa311.com.

BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

Oral Roberts University President Dr. William M. Wilson has announced the appointment of two new vice presidents in the area of University Advancement. **Natalie Adams** has been named vice president of development and alumni relations while **Dr. Charles Scott** will serve as the vice president of external affairs.



ADAMS



SCOTT

"Both Natalie and Charles bring a wealth of experience in advancement, development, community relations, leadership, and partnerships," said Wilson. "ORU is growing, and with the recent launch of the Whole Leaders for the Whole World campaign, the need for world-class leadership at the President's Cabinet level continues to increase. Natalie and Charles are both exceptional leaders and will serve all of ORU's constituencies well."

Adams most recently served as senior director of development for the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences at The University of Tulsa and before that worked as foundation manager for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Adams also served as ORU's director of alumni relations from 2006 to 2010. She earned her Bachelor and Master degrees in Business Administration at ORU and is currently earning her Doctorate in Education at ORU.

"ORU has had a profound impact on my life," said Adams. "The opportunity to serve God at my alma mater is an honor for me."

For the past two years, Scott has served as Executive Director of Church and Educational Partnerships at ORU. Before that he was Vice President of Business Administration & University Relations at The King's University and for eight years served as General Bishop and CEO of the Pentecostal Church of God, Incorporated. Scott earned his Doctor of Education at ORU, his MBA at Missouri State University, and his Bachelor of Science degree in General Business at Missouri Southern State University.

"There is no University that prepares leaders with the whole person education model of ORU," said Scott. "It is an honor to steward ORU's message of hearing God's voice, carrying God's light, and extending God's healing power that attracts leaders from across the globe. We will continue to 'make no little plans' here and pursue a broader global reach of preparing whole leaders for the whole world."

Scott will oversee ORU's church and educational partnerships, media, public relations, branding (marketing), GEB, and Empowered21, while Adams will guide the University's fundraising and development efforts as she continues building relationships with ORU's 50,000+ alumni. Scott and Adams begin their new roles in August.

David Groves who has been serving as acting VP of Advancement, will continue as General Manager of ORU's television network GEB. Wilson said of Groves: "David did an amazing job over the last two months and kept things moving forward wonderfully during this interim season as acting VP. He is an outstanding manager and we are proud to have David on the ORU team."

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program announced that **Dr. Scott Newman**, vice president of academic affairs at **OSU Institute of Technology**, is one of 40 leaders selected for the 2020-21 class of the **Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship**.



NEWMAN

"We're proud to have Dr. Newman represent OSUIT in such a prestigious fellowship," said Dr. Bill Path, president of OSUIT. "This investment in personal growth will aid in his continued commitment to our students' success and the industry's evolving needs."

The fellowship is a highly selected leadership program preparing the next generation of community college presidents to transform institutions to achieve higher and more equitable levels of student success.

"The nominations from President Path and others to participate in the Aspen Institute program, and the George Kaiser Family Foundation's support of my engagement in it, are incredibly humbling," said Dr. Newman. "For me, the program represents an opportunity to grow as a leader and serve OSUIT and its stakeholders in new and better ways."

The Rising Presidents Fellows will embark on a 10-month fellowship beginning in July 2020. Delivered in collaboration with the Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative, the fellows will be mentored by esteemed current and former community college presidents who have achieved exceptional outcomes for students throughout their careers. They will learn strategies to improve student outcomes in and after college, lead internal change and create strong external partnerships with K-12 schools, four-year colleges, employers and other partners.

"GKFF was pleased to support Dr. Newman's nomination for the Rising Presidents Program," said Josh Miller, of GKFF. "Dr. Newman has been instrumental in spearheading innovative OSUIT programs that respond and adapt to both industry and student needs. The Rising Presidents Program felt like a perfect fit to support his professional growth as a progressive leader for the future."

Together, the 2020-21 fellows are leaders at colleges that collectively serve more than 500,000 students. As well, 42 Rising Presidents Fellowship alumni have become presidents of community colleges that collectively serve an additional 500,000 students nationwide.

OSU Institute of Technology is Oklahoma's only university of applied technology, offering accelerated bachelor of technology and associate degree programs that meet global workforce demands. OSUIT is known for its high academic standards, world-class laboratory environments, reciprocal partnerships with business and industry, and top career placement rates in the region. For more information about OSUIT, call 918.293.4680 or 1.800.722.4471, or visit the web at www.osuit.edu.

The Aspen Institute is a global nonprofit organization committed to realizing a free, just and equitable society. Founded in 1949, the Institute drives change through dialogue, leadership, and action to help solve the most important challenges facing the United States and the world. Headquartered in Washington, DC, the Institute has a campus in Aspen, Colorado, and an international network of partners.

Rogers State University named **Brandon Irby** director of marketing. He develops and executes marketing strategies to increase awareness and reach university audiences.



IRBY

An RSU alumnus, Irby was appointed interim director of public relations in October 2019. Previously, he served as associate director for the Claremore Industrial and Economic Development Authority (CIEDA) and on staff at the RSU Innovation Center.

"Brandon combines significant experience from his previous roles with first-hand knowledge of RSU and the communities we serve," said Dr. Larry Rice, RSU president.

At CIEDA, Irby was responsible for the direction and development of a comprehensive communications plan including award-winning marketing recognized by the Southern Economic Development Council. Communities across 17 states compete to be recognized for excellence in message, medium and reach in the annual competition. His focus was the redevelopment of vacant properties throughout the city and returning key properties to tax rolls.

Irby earned a Bachelor of Arts in Corporate Communication at RSU and holds certificates in economic development through the University of Northern Iowa and new media strategy through the National Center for Economic Gardening. He is a member of the Leadership Rogers County Class of 2013 and was named to the Rogers County 40 under 40 in 2017. He has served on the Claremore Main Street board of directors, on the RSU Alumni Association advisory board, and as the 2016 chair of the young professionals association Claremore Collective.

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Rotary Club Names Paul Bauman President

New Leader is Club's 107th President, Will Serve 2020-21 Year

Rotary Club of Tulsa, one of the largest Rotary Clubs in membership in the nation, has introduced new incoming leadership for the 2020-2021 year. On July 1, Paul Bauman became the 107th president of the Rotary Club of Tulsa.

"This has already proven to be a year unlike any before in the club's 100-plus year history, and the motto of 'service above self' is more relevant now than ever," said Bauman, who also serves as senior vice

president at BancFirst. "I see this next year as a tremendous opportunity to bring new, diverse membership into the fold that values our focus on giving back to the community."

Bauman has served on various club committees over the years and most recently served as Membership Service Director.

"Some of my favorite Rotary memories and highlights stem from being able to serve others, especial-



PAUL BAUMAN

ly in the Tulsa community along with so many other great community and business leaders in the Rotary Club of Tulsa," Bauman said.

Just this year, the Rotary Club of Tulsa Foundation donated \$31,000 to the Tulsa Area COVID-19 Response Fund in addition to \$67,900 in grants given to Meals on Wheels

of Metro Tulsa, Good Samaritan Health Services, A New Leaf and Iron Gate.

Bauman says the club will also continue to provide virtual meeting options until regular in-person meetings resume, offering greater flexibility to its members. Meetings are currently held virtually on the first and third Wednesday of the month.

"We are lucky to have Paul and his undeniable dedication to serving our community," said Becky Fields, past president. "I can't wait to see where he takes our club this year!"

The following is the 2020-2021

Rotary Club of Tulsa board of directors: Paul Bauman, president; David Wagner, vice president; Becky Fields, past president; Linda Bradshaw, chairman of the board; Tiffany Egdorf, treasurer; Tom Byers, long range planning; John DesBarres, Matthew Bristow and Forrest Cameron, directors-at-large; Carl Vincent, sergeant-at-arms; Daniel Gomez, club service director; Karen MacCannell, community service director; Jack McGlumphy, international service director; Chuck Wilson, membership service director; Matthew Redmond, youth service director; and Trisha Kerkstra, vocational service director.

Tulsa Area United Way, Mythic Press Unveil T-shirt

Tulsa Area United Way organizes Days of Caring, one of the nation's largest community service events every year, mobilizing thousands

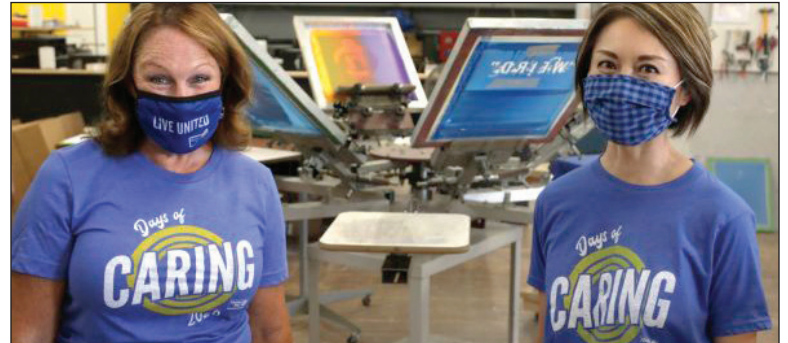
of volunteers to complete hands-on improvement projects for local nonprofit organizations. Day of Caring is a much-loved volunteer-

ing tradition that builds teamwork and expresses the philanthropic spirit of our community.

This year, in order to meet the community's most pressing needs and prioritize volunteer safety, the usually one-day event will offer both in-person, remote and virtual volunteer opportunities in August, September and October.

The first Days of Caring will be a community-wide food drive that will be held in multiple locations on August 28 in Broken Arrow, Jenks, Okmulgee, Owasso, Tulsa, Sand Springs, Sapulpa and Wagoner.

Learn more about the three Days of Caring at www.tauw.org/dayofcaring.



RIP STELL for GTR Media Group

DAYS OF CARING T-SHIRTS: Days of Caring T-shirts, courtesy of Tulsa's Mythic Press, are designed every year as a fundraiser to help cover costs related to organizing the event. Modeling the T-shirts at Mythic Press are, from left, the Tulsa Area United Way's President and CEO Alison Anthony and Vice President of Marketing and Communications Krista Hemme. To order shirts, visit daysofcaring.itemorder.com/sale.

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Salvation Army Benefits from Fan Drive

Westlake Hardware Sponsors the Program

Green Country showed its generosity during the 7th annual Westlake Ace Hardware Fan Drive. The local community helped raise \$6,500 in June to go toward the purchase of 475 box fans for individuals and families in need. That is 217 more fans than last year. The Salvation Army recently loaded up 10 pallets of box fans to bring to its participating service units.

The fans will be available for low-income seniors, qualifying families with children and adults with disabilities. Those interested can contact Center of Hope or a local Salvation Army Service Unit in Broken Arrow, Claremore or Sapulpa to request a fan.

Nationally, around 100 Westlake Ace Hardware stores participate in the June fan drive and fans are distributed to Salvation Army sites within each store's respective market. This year, \$130,000



GTR Media group photo

RECORD YEAR: Nearly \$6,500 was raised this year during the Westlake Hardware Fan Drive. In the photo fans are loaded into a Salvation Army truck for distribution to families in need.

was raised nationally, resulting in 9,100 fans total.

"It's truly an honor to sponsor this program every year, and it's heartening to see such generosity during uncertain times as these," said Joe Jeffries, president and CEO of Westlake Ace Hardware.

"It's great knowing The Salvation Army can impact thousands of lives with the money raised from the fan drive."

To learn more about The Salvation Army's utility assistance programs locally, visit www.salarmy-tulsa.org.

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CENTRAL BANK OF OKLAHOMA CALENDAR



Cancellations, Postponements Create a Quiet August in Tulsa

Area Venues Announce COVID-19 Policy

Editor's note: With the abundance of cancellations and postponements of events in the Tulsa area, GTR Media Group is providing information from various venues on their COVID-19 policy, and rescheduling in lieu of the Central Bank of Oklahoma Community Calendar.

BOK Center

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 situation and out of an abundance of caution, the following events at BOK Center have been postponed or cancelled:

- KISS – Postponed to Oct. 4
- Harlem Globetrotters – Postponed, date TBA
- Dan + Shay – Postponed, date TBA
- Toby Mac – Postponed to Jan. 14, 2021
- Alan Jackson – Postponed to Feb. 6, 2021
- Monster Jam – Cancelled
- Smoke & Guns – Cancelled
- Sturgill Simpson – Cancelled
- Niall Horan – Cancelled
- Tulsa Oilers – Remainder of season is cancelled
- Justin Bieber – Postponed to June 17, 2021
- Bon Jovi – Cancelled
- Tame Impala – Postponed, date TBA
- The Weeknd – Postponed to Aug. 21, 2021
- The Black Crowes – Cancelled
- Chris Stapleton – Postponed to Aug. 20, 2021
- Poison – Postponed, date TBA
- Vampire Weekend – Cancelled
- Marco Antonio Solis – Cancelled

If an event is postponed, tickets will be honored for the rescheduled date. If an event is cancelled, tickets will be automatically refunded.

Tulsa (formerly Brady) Theater

As the nation continues to deal with the health threats that COVID-19 poses, we want to keep you abreast of what we currently know about our hopes for live music at our venues in the future.

Tickets are now available for all rescheduled concert dates. Many March, April and May 2020 events have already announced a future date which means:

- All tickets from the previously scheduled date are valid – no need to exchange, and
- You can now secure your GA or seated tickets to that rescheduled event

If you've purchased tickets to an event through our official venue or promoter websites and the Etix URL you'll be informed of all postponements and cancellations.

Postponements: An email is sent to every ticket purchaser as soon as we have been notified by the artist – you will be asked to “hold all tickets” until the new date is announced. You'll be sent a second email about your event with the new date and information – no need to exchange. All tickets will be honored.

Cancellations: An email is sent to every ticket purchaser as soon as we have been notified by the artist that the event is canceling. There will be no action required on your part as your refund will show up on your credit card statement typically within 48 hours of the cancellation.

For the events that are happening, note we will have protocol in place based on the CDC guidelines for prevention. Those guidelines are available at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

We will continue to follow the recommendations of our government and health officials to keep you, the artists and all staff safe and healthy.

For more on scheduled events, visit www.tulsatheater.com.

Tulsa PAC

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines, the Performing Arts Center is currently closed. We are working with our presenting organizations to find new dates for any performances that are impacted by this closure. Updates will be provided to ticket buyers as soon as alternative dates are secured. Please check the website often for updates.

For more on future shows at the PAC, see Show Buzz on page 6.

Hard Rock Casino Tulsa

We are working to bring back our iconic live music and entertainment performances, and look forward to announcements about bookings and safety measures soon. Entertainment will be offered with the following changes:

- Limited, live entertainment will continue without dancing
- Dance floors will provide more space for recommended physical distancing

Seating will be reduced to allow for proper physical distancing

View the entertainment schedule for each property by visiting hardrockcasinotulsa.com, or in the One Star Rewards mobile app.

Tulsa Library

Throughout the pandemic, the Tulsa City-County Library has relied on data from the Tulsa Health Department to make decisions that are in the best interest of our staff, our customers, and our communities. We've learned over these four months that the virus spreads more easily indoors. To not contribute to the spread of COVID-19, the library's indoor services were moved outdoors, to curbside. These services include: materials and holds pickup, printing, faxing, 3D printing capabilities, and Summer Reading Program registration.

In light of the increasing COVID cases, we're delaying our indoor services until further notice. Please check tulsalibrary.org for updates.

TCCL is taking extra precautions to keep customers and staff safe during this pandemic as we work to reopen our buildings. All materials returned to our libraries are placed in a 72-hour quarantine before being checked in and made available for other customers. Hand sanitizer stations are available at all locations along with alcohol wipes for computer areas. High touch surfaces will also be cleaned frequently throughout the day.

The library's digital and virtual resources continue to be an option for those more comfortable staying home. We will continue to provide the many digital services, such as e-books and e-audiobooks; streaming movies, TV and music services; free access to magazines and newspapers and more. Our Ask Us telephone service is also still actively taking calls and providing information for our customers including enhanced support for accessing our digital services.

This is an unprecedented time and we are grateful for your continued support and patience. Please continue to monitor our website and social media pages for further information including digital programming and activities.

Curbside holds pickup is now offered at all TCCL locations during regular business hours. (However, curbside services at Central Library, Hardesty Regional Library, Martin Regional Library, Rudisill Regional Library and Zarrow Regional Library will close at 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday.) To use curbside pickup, simply place an item on hold online and you will receive a notification when your hold is ready. You can then go to the TCCL location you have selected to pick up your item and follow instructions on the signage to call and notify staff of your arrival. Materials will



be brought out to you. For more information on this service or about returning your items, you can contact us at 918-549-7323.

Extended curbside services are available. Copy, print and fax services will be offered at all locations and 3D printing pickup service will be offered at select locations.

3D printing pickup service is available at Central Library, Hardesty Regional Library, Martin Regional Library, Rudisill Regional Library and Zarrow Regional Library. Cost for all extended curbside services will be applied to your library account. Contact AskUs for more details.

Starbucks at Central Library is currently open for walk-in service. Starbucks will open daily from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Central Library will remain closed.

ONEOK Field

FC Tulsa, Tulsa's professional soccer team, has three home games scheduled for August: Aug. 12 vs. San Antonio, Aug. 19 vs. Austin and Aug. 29 vs. Kansas City. Those games will be played at ONEOK Field, and tickets are available for limited-capacity seating. Masks are required when entering the park and walking through the concourse, but patrons are free to enjoy the game without a mask once seated.

Statement from the United Soccer League: This situation with the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve daily. We remain in close contact with local health officials and our league to make sure we are keeping our players, coaches, staff and fans as safe as possible. This is an unprecedented time in our world and the safety of our community is

at the forefront of our minds in any decision we make.

Gathering Place

Gathering Place is currently in our next phase of reopening. This phase includes the reopening of all remaining attractions and buildings with limited numbers of guests allowed in each area. Boat rentals, Vista at the Boathouse Restaurant and the Water Maze at Mist Mountain will remain temporarily closed.

The health and safety of Gathering Place guests and staff is our top priority and we will continue to closely follow the recommendations from the CDC and The City of Tulsa. Thank you for wearing a mask while visiting the Park and for exercising social distancing.

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any community space where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and guests with medical conditions are especially vulnerable.

By visiting Gathering Place, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure of COVID-19.

Gathering Place has secured the necessary PPE, sanitizing tools and stations needed for safe operation and will follow the health and safety guidelines recommended by the CDC, as well as continue to enforce our rigorous sanitization standards across the entire park.

Face Coverings are now required inside ONEOK Boathouse and Williams Lodge.

The recovery of Tulsa is a continuous effort and Gathering Place encourages guests to do their part in helping to keep the Park and other guests safe and healthy.

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Member FDIC

Mayor Bynum Names Michael Baker Tulsa Fire Chief

Michael Baker, former Chief of Emergency Medical Services for the Tulsa Fire Department, has been chosen to serve as Tulsa's 12th Fire Chief. He took his post June 16.

"Out of several exceptional public servants who put forth their names to serve as Tulsa's next Fire Chief, I have decided Michael Baker is the best person to lead the Tulsa Fire Department moving forward," Mayor Bynum said. "Michael has served the department for many years and has done an outstanding job turning our EMS system into one of the best in the nation. I want to thank all of the applicants who put forth their names for consideration, issuing me a stark reminder of the extraordinary talent that exists in the Tulsa Fire Department. Chief Baker will represent the Tulsa Fire Department at the highest level and will continue to lay the groundwork for one of the best fire departments in the nation."

Baker has served more than 30 years in public safety, 25 of those with the Tulsa Fire Department. He's played a key role in the development of TFD's Community Assistance, Referral, and Education Services (CARES) program, which helps triage those who have specific care needs to programs and resources that can help change their lives for the better.

"It is my honor to be selected as the 12th Fire Chief for the City of Tulsa," he said. "I am excited

to be a part of a great leadership team and work with a world class group of firefighters. Great plans are on the horizon that not only address the life and fire safety of all Tulsa residents, but also work to improve the quality of life in our community. Through an informed, collaborative, and equitable team of firefighters, Tulsa will continue emerging as an energetic and resilient community."

The Tulsa Fire Department has more than 700 firefighters, all of whom helped TFD earn a Class 1 Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating in 2019 – the highest rating a department can get in the country.

"Chief Baker is an excellent selection for Fire Chief," former Chief Ray Driskell said. "He has been preparing himself for several years and has a diverse background within the Tulsa Fire Department as well as the fire and medical service. Chief Baker's talents and experience will continue to be an asset to the department and the City of Tulsa."

Throughout his career, Baker has become an innovative fire service operations officer, emergency manager and administrator. In his capacity as the Director of Emergency Medical Services, which he has held since 2009, he has helped improve Fire and EMS response reporting times, while saving TFD money through improved processes and systems.

"I look forward to seeing the Tulsa Fire Department flourish



CITY LEADERS: Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum introduces Michael Baker as the City's 12th Fire Chief in June. Courtesy photo

under the leadership of Chief Baker," Tulsa City Council Chairman Ben Kimbro said. "I believe in his capability, expertise and competency with organizational science to shape Tulsa Fire into the organization that all of Tulsa desires and deserves."

Baker, who first served Tulsa as a firefighter at Fire Station 4, has more than 10 years' experience with the International Association of Firefighters as a field instructor,

helping provide him a better perspective of the skills required to maintain a positive interaction between labor and management with an emphasis on maintaining a quality working relationship.

"IAFF Local 176 welcomes a new chapter of leadership in the Tulsa Fire Department," IAFF President Jim Nance said. "We want to congratulate Fire Chief Michael Baker and look forward to working together with him in

productive partnership on behalf of our firefighters and the citizens of Tulsa."

After Baker took his post, Interim Chief Scott Clark returned to his regular job duties.

"I think that Michael will be an outstanding Fire Chief and I look forward to the accomplishments he and the department will achieve together," Clark said. "I appreciate his dedicated and innovative service to the department."

TTCU Announces Donations to Oklahoma Schools

TTCU Federal Credit Union donated \$119,500 to Oklahoma schools in August through their School Pride program, with \$18,500 going to Tulsa Public School District.

"At a time when Oklahoma schools and teachers are facing unprecedented challenges, we want to reaffirm our support,"

President and CEO Tim Lyons said. "We're in awe of the way teachers and school districts have stepped up to educate our children. TTCU has been here for teachers since the Great Depression, and it's an honor to continue that tradition."

Numerous other Tulsa-area school districts benefitted as well.

Broken Arrow received \$14,500, while Union Public Schools received \$6,500 and Jenks Public Schools received \$6,000. Over the past 13 years, TTCU's School Pride program has distributed over \$1 million to area schools.

The School Pride program began in 2007 as a way for TTCU to give back to area schools. TTCU members select from among over 60 School Pride designs honoring area schools, and every time they use their debit card, TTCU makes a financial donation to the school.

A TTCU checking account with a School Pride Visa® debit card can be opened online or at any branch. Visit ttcu.com for more information.

About TTCU Federal Credit Union

TTCU is the second-largest credit union in Oklahoma with eighteen branches; six in Tulsa, two in Broken Arrow, one in Oklahoma City, Bixby, Claremore, Jenks, Miami, Muskogee, Owasso, Sapulpa, Sand Springs and Tahlequah.



TTCU MIDTOWN LOCATION: TTCU Midtown is located at 3709 E. 31st St. across from the Charles C. Mason Education Service Center. Courtesy TTCU

Established in 1934, TTCU Federal Credit Union is a \$2.2 billion credit union serving more than 135,000 members who are educationally affiliated, including students and their families as well

as hundreds of Select Employee Groups in NE Oklahoma with a full complement of depository, lending and financial advisory services. TTCU is federally insured by the NCUA.

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