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# MIDTOWN MONITOR

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Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group

Volume 24

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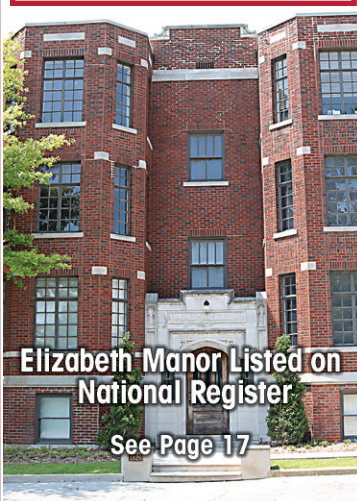
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# Autumn in the Garden Fall Festival Coming to Tulsa's Botanic Garden

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**  
Contributing Editor

As the weather begins to cool and Tulsans continue to seek wide open spaces, Tulsa Botanic Garden will offer a number of outdoor activities beginning in mid-September that will allow for safe social distancing across 70 acres.

The Autumn in the Garden fall festival, entering its fifth year, will kick off more than a month of activities on Thursday, Sept. 24, 6-8 p.m., with live music and a food truck set among a festive display of more than 5,000 pumpkins, a dozen uniquely-designed scarecrows and a hay bale maze.

Live music and food trucks will continue every Thursday evening through the end of October.

The festival's scarecrow display will be created by entrants in the Garden's annual scarecrow-making contest, which offers cash prizes for "best in show" and "people's choice." Registration to enter ends Sept. 13. Participants must drop off their scarecrows one week after the registration deadline.

"In the past, the Garden has seen a range of participants, including artists, businesses, school groups, and families looking for a fun, creative project that they can do together," says Lori Hutson, director of communications and outreach.

Included in this year's Autumn in the Garden activities is DIG (Day In the Garden), to be held on Saturday, Sept. 26. The annual kid-focused event was rescheduled from its usual springtime date due to COVID-19.

DIG is an annual flagship family event for the Garden and is one of its longest-running events, featuring an all-inclusive ticket price that includes food and drink (beer and wine available for adults) and children's entertainment and crafts, all taking place in the Garden.

"Additional precautions will be taken this year due to obvious health concerns brought on by COVID-19," Hutson notes.

"For those who have attended DIG in the past, the format will have a greater focus on distancing; families will be able to spread out on the lawn overlooking the seven-acre lake and enjoy lunch and entertainment," she continues.

Entertainment will include an interactive science show from BAM Entertainment plus live music by Hot Toast Music Company. Do-it-yourself craft boxes will also be available for children to enjoy during the event or to take home.

DIG ticket purchasers will be asked to choose one of two time slots: 10 a.m.-noon or 1-3 p.m. The Garden will be closed to the public on the day of DIG. Visit tulsabotanic.org to purchase advance tickets.

In order to offer local artists a venue to display their works, the Garden is holding an art fair on the weekend of Oct. 3-4. Garden members will be able to enter the Garden for free to view the art fair; otherwise, the cost to enter the fair will be the cost of Garden admission.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, tethered hot air balloon rides will be featured as part of a special ticketed afternoon event.

A string quartet and brass quintet from the TCC Signature Symphony will perform at the Garden on the evening of Saturday, Oct. 24. Food, beer and wine will be available for purchase. Ticketholders are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs to spread out throughout the Garden, Hutson says.

On Thursday, Oct. 29, 5-7 p.m., the Garden will hold its final Autumn in the Garden activity, Boo-tanical, a special evening geared to the youngest of the holiday's trick-or-treaters.

Other activities running throughout October include a kids' craft day every Friday, 10-5 p.m., where craft kits will be available with Garden admission. (A materials fee may apply.)

Additionally, each Sunday in October will feature a Garden Walk and Talk at 2 p.m. with a



Courtesy Tulsa Botanic Garden

**FAMILY FUN:** A family enjoys the outdoors during Tulsa Botanic Garden's 2019 DIG (Day In the Garden). DIG is an annual flagship family event for the Garden, featuring an all-inclusive ticket price that includes food and drink and children's entertainment and crafts. This year, DIG will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26 with advance ticket purchase required and timed ticketing.



Courtesy Tulsa Botanic Garden

**FALL DISPLAY:** Tulsa Botanic Garden's Autumn in the Garden fall festival will kick off more than a month of outdoor activities on Thursday, Sept. 24, 6-8 p.m., with live music and a food truck set among a festive display of more than 5,000 pumpkins, a dozen uniquely-designed scarecrows and a hay bale maze.

horticulturist. The walk is free with admission.

The Garden employs a staff of approximately 15 horticulturists who care for the Garden's 10 acres of current gardens and planting beds, over 20,000 displayed plants, one-mile nature trail, and greenhouse.

Incorporated in 2002, the Garden sits eight miles northwest of down-

town Tulsa in the Osage Hills.

Currently, it is nearing completion of the first phase of its master plan.

"Keep an eye out in late September for an exciting announcement pertaining to the Garden's future developments," says Hutson.

For additional information on all Autumn in the Garden events and more, visit tulsabotanic.org.

## KUDOS of the MONTH: Tulsa Health Department

The Tulsa Health Department, under the leadership of Dr. Bruce Dart, has been working diligently during the coronavirus situation to keep residents of Tulsa County healthy.

According to the Tulsa Health Department: "Since its establishment in 1950, the Tulsa Health Department serves as the primary public health agency to more than 600,000 Tulsa County residents, including 13 municipalities and four unincorporated areas.

"The agency is one of two autonomous local health departments in Oklahoma, with statutory public health jurisdiction throughout Tulsa County and the City of Tulsa.

"THD's mission is to improve the health and well-being of all Tulsa County residents,



in order to make it the healthiest county in the country. THD was among the first health departments in the U.S. to receive national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board.

The Tulsa Health Department has set an audacious goal to make Tulsa the healthiest county in the country. And we want to be no. 1 in 10 years. This bold vision is the driving force behind our daily efforts to improve health and well-being."

Concerning COVID-19 and education, Dr. Dart says, "The more people a student or staff member interacts with, and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk for COVID-19 to spread. Everyone in Tulsa County can do their part to slow the spread and keep students safe. Wear your mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance. This will go a long way to lessen the spread of illness and viruses."

To find locations and other information, visit [www.tulsa-health.org](http://www.tulsa-health.org).

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# Cox Business Convention Center Hosts Ribbon Cutting for Venue's East Side Re-Opening

After a two-year Vision Tulsa renovation, Cox Business Convention Center (CBCC) hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony August 11 to celebrate the grand re-opening of the venue's east side with members of the Vision Tulsa team, Tulsa City Council, Tulsa Regional Chamber, and Mayor G.T. Bynum in attendance.

The 2018-2020 renovation complements the existing convention center constructed in 1962, and the renovation of the venue's northwest side as part of Vision 2025. The building's unique architectural design is preserved and even highlighted by the new three-story glass atrium entrance and the creation of CBCC's official "front door." A renovated South Plaza and valet and ride share drop-off area have already been completed outside (with a public art install still to come), and inside there's a new security and staff entrance area and over 8,000-square-foot of natural-light filled space in Grand Gallery. The former 9,000-seat arena was converted into Grand Hall – a 41,470-square-foot multi-use event space with 36" waving wood ceilings. The project also includes a new kitchen, box office, restrooms, sensory room, and escalators.

"Thank you, Tulsa voters, for supporting this improvement to Cox Business Convention Center," said Mayor G.T. Bynum. "This Vision Tulsa renovation brings our 20th century convention center into the 21st century, with updated design and functionality. This improved and expanded facility will help Tulsa attract top quality events and conventions to our world-class city."

The \$55 million project was funded by Vision Tulsa with a development team including MATRIX Architects Engineers Planners, Inc., Forest for the Trees, and Tulsa Vision Builders.

"I am grateful for the support Tulsa voters have given to important Vision Tulsa projects like this," City Council Chairman Ben Kimbro said. "Their forward-thinking investment in Cox Business Convention Center will allow Tulsa to compete for conventions and other events previously unavailable to us."

CBCC provides over \$30 million in economic impact to Tulsa annually and hosts visitors from around the country. The venue has been recognized as an EXHIBITOR "2020 Center of Excellence" and deemed a top 20 convention center in North America, as well as just winning Tulsa People's 2020 Reader's Choice Award for "Best Event Venue." With the renovation, the venue now offers over 275,000 square foot of event space and provides conference attendees with a seamless flow while allowing CBCC to host large events, sport events, and social galas concurrently.



GTR Media Group photo

**NEW LOOK:** The renovation of the Cox Business Convention Center preserves the building's unique architectural design while highlighting the facility by the new three-story glass atrium entrance and the creation of CBCC's official "front door." The renovation of the venue's northwest side is part of Vision 2025.



GTR Media Group photo

**OFFICIAL OPENING:** Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, accompanied by area business and civic leaders, including members of the Vision Tulsa team, Tulsa City Council and Tulsa Regional Chamber, cuts the ribbon for the venue's east side re-opening.

"We're grateful for all of the city partners and supporters who have brought this idea to life and provided Cox Business Convention Center with a greater connectivity to our downtown neighbors and spaces to better accommodate our clients, guests,

and staff," said CBCC Assistant General Manager Angie Teel, CMP.

The ribbon-cutting event included a program with guest speakers in Grand Hall and was followed with the ribbon cutting ceremony outside the new east entrance.



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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**

# Financial Navigator Program Comes to Tulsa

The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has touched every sector and every community in Tulsa. We are doing everything we can to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic and this includes supporting Tulsans as some experience financial instability and crisis.

## From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM  
Mayor of Tulsa

For this reason, in August, the City of Tulsa, in partnership with Goodwill Industries of Tulsa, launched a Financial Navigator program to help triage residents needing financial advice to services available to them. In partnership with the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, our navigators now provide one-on-one assistance to residents over the phone at no cost. When residents setup an appointment, a navigator will help them identify immediate action steps needed to

manage expenses, maximize income and realize other services available to them.

Tulsa residents can now access and prioritize their financial concerns and get connected with the right resources because of this partnership. Financial navigators are trained facilitators that know of resources Tulsans can use to get assistance.

Since the program's launch, many residents have called with questions on housing, such as evictions, rental assistance, mortgage assistance and utility assistance. Some are even calling to see where their next meal will come from, which oftentimes, navigators are able to help them find the nearest food pantry.

We are grateful we were able to leverage our partnership with the

No-cost support in **managing your money and connecting to resources** is available over the phone.

Schedule a session today: <https://finnav.org/interest-tulsa> or call 211



Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund to bring the Financial Navigator program to Tulsa. This program is a key part of our emergency response and aligns with our citywide goal to improve the overall financial health and resilience of our residents.

Additionally, the fund has already partnered with the city and Goodwill Industries of Tulsa to launch the city's first Financial Empowerment Center in late 2020. This center, though not directly tied to the pandemic, will also help

provide no cost, one-on-one financial counseling to residents who need it.

As we look forward, the only way our city can continue to grow and foster healthy financial households is to help stabilize and empower our residents with financial services. Household financial stability and financial resilience is a key driver in closing the life expectancy gap in Tulsa. When Tulsans have access to programs like these, it most certainly provides needed support

for those in some of the most uncertain times in our recent history.

To learn more and to request a virtual appointment with a financial navigator, search "Financial Empowerment" in the search bar at [www.cityoftulsa.org](http://www.cityoftulsa.org). If you don't have internet access, you can call 211 who can help you fill out the request form over the phone. Once the forms are received, a local Financial Navigator will call you within 48 hours to begin your personal session.

# Groundbreaking Held for Vision Tulsa Zink Dam

Mayor G.T. Bynum, City Councilor Phil Lakin and Tulsa County District 2 Commissioner Karen Keith held a groundbreaking August 13 for the Vision Tulsa Project – Zink Dam Modifications. Also speaking at the event was Gordy Guest, Tulsa Regional Chamber Vice Chair of Community Development. The event was held on the river bank trail at the Gathering Place, with a view of the old Zink Dam.

"After talking about it since 1964, Tulsans are finally moving

forward with this project which will create a lake in the Arkansas River," Bynum said. "This will transform the way Tulsans use and enjoy our greatest natural feature, and it will be located right next to the Gathering Place – the greatest park gift to any city in American history. The design will also make our river corridor safer than it is today. I am incredibly grateful for the citizens of Tulsa making this investment in our city."

The \$48 million project will make structural changes to the dam by adding gates and a stairstep design to improve safety and remove the dangerous undertow. Gates will be replaced, and the number of gates will increase from three to 15. The gates, measuring between 3 feet and 10 feet in height, will be made of stainless steel to guard against corrosion. The pool depth will be increased to 10 feet at the dam, providing improved fish habitat, increased depth capacity for rowing events, and a larger Zink Lake – raising the depth 3 feet and lengthening the lake to just over 2 miles, reaching to upstream of the I-244 bridge.

The project also will include



GTR Media Group photo

**DISCUSSING PLANS:** Tulsa City Councilor Phil Lakin discusses plans for the upgraded Zinc Dam before the groundbreaking. Behind Lakin from left are Tulsa Regional Chamber Vice Chair of Community Development Gordy Guest, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and Tulsa County District 2 Commissioner Karen Keith. The event was held on the river bank trail at the Gathering Place, with a view of the old Zink Dam in the background.

a 1,050-foot-long recreational flume along the east bank of the river south of the pedestrian bridge. The flume will have seven drops or pools, and potential users will include kayakers, tubers and surfers. Another important part of this project is stabilization of the east bank of the Arkansas River near the Gathering Place and the flumes on the east side of the river.

The engineering design consultant for the project is CH2MHill, and the contractor is Crossland Construction. Construction began in August, and the project will take 28 months to complete.

The existing Zink Dam was constructed in 1982, measuring 7 feet high and 1,030 feet long. The gates on the old dam have become inoperable and have needed to be replaced.

### About Vision Tulsa

An \$884 million sales tax renewal package approved by voters in 2016, is making substantial investments in economic development, education, public safety, streets and transportation needs citywide. With citizen priorities providing the driving force behind the creation of Vision Tulsa, transformative projects and enhancements are setting the stage for a bright future for Tulsa.

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# Non-Profits Benefit from Tulsa County CARES Program

In the past three editions of GTR, I have had the privilege of sharing with you how Tulsa County has been directing the estimated \$114,000,000 of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) funding which the county received towards helping the citizens of our county hit hard by the coronavirus.

## From Tulsa County



By COMMISSIONER RON PETERS

To date, our priorities have been to bring aid and relief to some of the 550 small businesses and their employees, who due to no fault of their own have been adversely impacted

by the pandemic, to support the

efforts of the Tulsa City County Health Department, to mitigate the large number of residents who may be evicted from their homes, and to provide protection and safety for all who enter into a county facility.

The latest areas of our efforts have been to support the tremendously important work of many of our non-profit agencies as they strive to meet the individual needs of our citizens. To gauge where the need is the greatest and how Tulsa County's CARES funds can be most beneficial, we

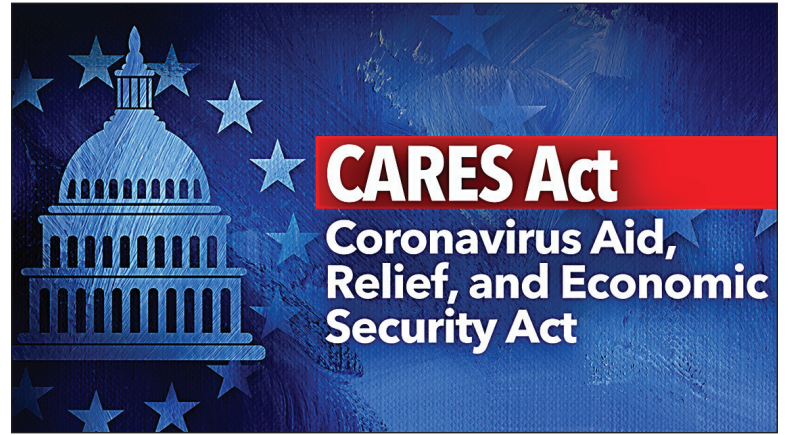
have relied on those in the community most familiar with the non-profit sector as well as the information collected by the Community Service Council's 211 call center.

The 211 call center is the number citizens can call when they need to be connected with vital services. Through 211, citizens are put in touch with professionally trained resource officers who can ascertain what is needed and where to refer the caller for the help they need.

By looking at the data collected through the 211 calls received between March 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>, it was clear where we needed to direct our disbursement of CARES funding.

During this four-month span, 211 received over 10,000 calls from citizens looking for food and meals for themselves and their families. Twenty five percent (25%) of the 41,115 calls received during this time were from citizens who were struggling with the basic need for food.

Tulsa County is fortunate that we have several well-run nonprof-



it organizations whose primary mission is to collect and distribute meals and food. This includes Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Tulsa, Meals on Wheels, Iron Gate, and The Tulsa Dream Center. Collectively, these organizations provided food and meals to over 100,000.

Through the Tulsa County CARES program, the Board of County Commissioners awarded each of these agencies \$250,000

to go towards their mission of distributing fresh food and meals to those most in need throughout Tulsa County.

These awards are just the first of many for non-profit agencies which the Board of County Commissioners will be considering in the weeks ahead. We will continue to support agencies on the front lines that are helping those who are struggling with coronavirus issues.

# Centennial of Women's Right to Vote Celebrated at Tulsa Historical Society

On the 100th anniversary of ratification of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution that gave women the right to vote, a coalition of local groups and individuals held an event at the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum to urge all eligible voters to register and vote. The August 18 event celebrated the centennial of the 19th Amendment and also discussed the state of voting and offered local resources available to make voting as easy as possible to encourage voting.

The event was organized by Sharon King Davis with assistance

from Chelsea McGuire Kester, chair, TYPROS; Lynn Staggs, president, League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa; and Tommy Yap, co-founder, Tulsa Voter Van.

One hundred years ago in Tennessee, on August 18, 1920, one male legislator cast the deciding vote that gave women across the country the right to vote. Tennessee was the necessary 36th ratifying state required to secure adoption of the constitutional amendment. The amendment was officially certified a week later on Aug. 26, 1920, enshrining into the

U.S. Constitution a woman's right to vote.

It was a 72-year struggle to get the amendment passed. The amendment was first introduced in 1878. And, it was introduced every year after, word for word, until it was ratified. The struggle for voting rights didn't end in 1920 though. It would be another 45 years before all women of color, and men, were guaranteed the right to vote through the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Tulsa Historical Society and Museum is located at 2445 S. Peoria Ave.



Courtesy Heather Hope Hernandez

**VOTING CHAMPIONS:** Celebrating the Women's Right to Vote at the Tulsa Historical Society are, front row from left, Sharon King Davis as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Penny Painter as Susan B. Anthony. Standing in the back row from left, Rebecca Marks Jimerson as Ida B Wells and Megan Cruz as Alice Paul.

# Tulsa State Fair Cancelled

The Tulsa State Fair was cancelled during the Aug. 11 meeting of the Tulsa County Public Facilities Authority.

The panel, comprised of County Commissioners Karen Keith, Ron Peters and Stan Sallee along with private citizens Daryl Woodward and Mike Spradling, voted 5-0 to cancel this year's Tulsa State Fair but kept in place plans for its youth livestock show.

Spurred by coronavirus concerns, Tulsa County Fairgrounds officials developed a plan to help keep fairgoers safe. While applauding these initiatives, TCPFA members felt enforcement of the proposed rules would have been virtually impossible and the potential danger was simply too great to keep the event on the agenda for this year.

The vote took away approximately 40 percent of the \$25 million in annual revenue to run the fairgrounds. Lost also is the economic benefits received by about a million people who were expected to attend this year's fair.

The authority's vote came approximately six weeks after the Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City was canceled and took its place among a growing list of public events either delayed or shelved because of COVID 19 fears.

The youth livestock show was allowed to go on, because it can space out participants even more than usual without the fair.

An "appropriate level of vendors" will also be allowed to set up booths inside the livestock barn.



GTR Media Group photo

**CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND:** Gov. Kevin Stitt, right, recently announced the City of Tulsa would receive more than \$30 million from the State of Oklahoma in CARES funding to support a multitude of community driven programs for Tulsans impacted by COVID-19. "I am excited to present the City of Tulsa with over \$30 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund," he said, adding, "Mayor Bynum and his team at the City of Tulsa have done a great job coming up with innovative ways to use this money to continue to fight COVID-19, support local businesses and help educate our children." Accepting the check are, from left, Mayor Bynum, Senator John Haste and Rep. Ross Ford. With the State allocation, the City of Tulsa will roll out programming in the coming months in five major areas, including: Addressing unbudgeted costs incurred due to the public health emergency; making safety modifications to community facilities; supporting vulnerable Tulsans; providing job training, facilitating remote work, and supporting entrepreneurial ventures for COVID-19 displaced workers; increasing access to capital and helping small businesses establish an online presence.

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VARIETY

# Getting Creative During the Time of COVID

How many of us guessed way back in March that we'd still be reorganizing our lives around COVID-19 come September? Our experience with the virus has been a guessing game all along. How do you safely (and reliably) plan anything when so many variables are in flux? Here are some updates from some of our city's major arts and entertainment providers, and also a few suggestions for "wandering about" entertainment that you can enjoy with your peeps or on your own.

## Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN

Like theatre groups across the country, Theatre Tulsa has found creative solutions to the current challenges. Among many other planned activities, the company is rolling out a season of interactive virtual programs that begin in September and run through February 2021. "These shows are a new type of live entertainment that actually benefits from being digital," says Theatre Tulsa Executive Director Jarrod Kopp. "Remote Control with Max Major" will be introduced on Sept. 10-12. The world-renowned

mentalists will lead at-home audiences through a fully interactive journey that incorporates long-distance hypnosis and mentalism. A week before each show, a "mystery box" will be delivered by mail to subscribed households. Each kit will contain props and other surprises that lend themselves to the involving and personal nature of the performances. More information about the programs and ticket packages is available at [theatretulsa.org/inabox](http://theatretulsa.org/inabox).

Book now to gain insight from Broadway stars Brittney Johnson (Oct. 10) and Brennin Hunt (Oct. 24) during two-hour virtual masterclasses, held online by Theatre Tulsa through Zoom. Johnson will provide interactive training focusing on song interpretation and auditions. Hunt will offer counsel to performers seeking a career in theatre. Each actor has impressive Broadway credentials. Apply online on Theatre Tulsa's website.

Theatre Tulsa also plans a series of "Tell Me A Story" productions.



SARAH COBURN: The soprano will perform in a baseball-themed version of Verdi's "Rigoletto" for Tulsa Opera at ONEOK Field Oct. 9.



NEW SET: American Theatre Company won't present its annual "A Christmas Carol" this December, but will use the time to create a new set for the beloved musical.



BRITNEY JOHNSON: The first person of color to play Glinda in "Wicked" on Broadway will provide training during a Theatre Tulsa virtual masterclass Oct. 10.

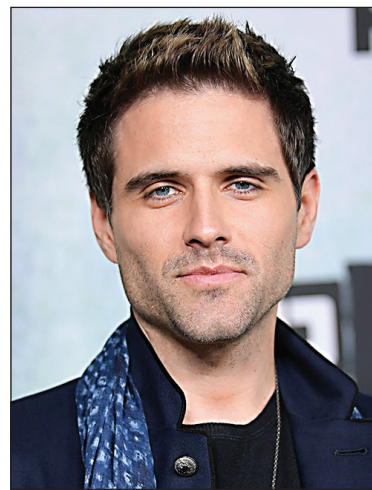
The company is actively seeking people who have a personal story they are willing to share, and is looking for writers who can shape those stories into theatrical scenes or monologues. Performances begin in November with audiences rotating to different locations in socially distanced groups of 10 to view the produced stories.

Tulsa Opera presents Verdi's "Rigoletto" in a "semi-staged" production on Oct. 9 at ONEOK Field. The story has been re-imagined, incorporating a baseball theme. Opera superstar Sarah Coburn will be featured along with an outstanding cast. Tickets are \$25, or \$50 for a family of five. Admission for children under the age of six is free. This would be a great way to introduce young ones to opera. Expect vocal fireworks along with an actual fireworks show following the performance.

Tulsa Symphony opens its full season at ONEOK Field on Sept. 5 with a powerful all-Beethoven program featuring acclaimed pianist Yefim Bronfman, and continues its season Oct. 18, 3 p.m. at the Field with a program of Mozart, Bruch and Brahms. Rain date for the latter is Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. Executive Director Keith Elder has plenty of experience with outdoor concerts. He worked extensively with Boston Pops. Elder shared with GTR that an immense amount of thought, planning, and coordination with Tulsa City/Country Health Dept. Director Dr. Bruce Dart have gone into organizing the outdoor concerts. Acousticians, whom Elder knows, and who are accustomed to designing orchestra events in open-air settings, have been recruited to ensure a quality experience. Elder reports that TSO is finalizing plans



TSO: ONEOK Field won't look and sound quite the same when Tulsa Symphony Orchestra relocates to the ballpark's infield for its Sept. 5 and Oct. 18 concerts.



BRENNIN HUNT: The Broadway and television actor offers artistic counsel to performers seeking a career in theatre, Oct. 24, hosted in a two-hour virtual masterclass by Theatre Tulsa.



RACHEL BARTON PINE: The world-renowned violinist will be featured in a virtual sold recital, hosted by Chamber Music Tulsa, Sept. 13.

for the remainder of the season at a location where social distancing in large numbers can be safely accom-

plished. TSO ballpark concerts will be followed by fireworks.

(Continued on page 7)

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# Same Space, Another Time: Tulsa Artists Go Back to Paradise, Pay Tribute to Okie Music

*"Can't tell the bad from the good, I'm out in the woods."*  
— Leon Russell

According to legend, a combination of psychedelic mushrooms and a lightning storm on Grand Lake convinced the late great Leon Russell that he had stumbled across a significant place in space and time.

As the master of space and time, Russell knew how to recognize such noteworthy outcrops in the spatio-temporal continuum.

This particular space and time, Pappy Reeves' Floating Motel and Fishing Dock in 1972, marked the beginning of what is now widely known as Leon Russell's Cove on Grand Lake.

Russell's career was soaring in 1972. After several years of establishing himself as one of the

elite studio musicians while working in Los Angeles' famed Wrecking Crew, the Tulsa Sound icon was fresh off the hugely successful Mad Dogs and Englishmen tour with Joe Cocker, and was making a name for

himself as more than a session pro with the release of his fourth album, Carney, featuring the hit single Tightrope, which reached #11 on the Billboard charts.

That success gave Russell the opportunity to return to northeast Oklahoma, where he eventually found himself on Grand Lake in a lightning storm, which brings us back to Paradise.

After purchasing the property, Russell, to the surprise of nobody, immediately

constructed a recording studio on the seven and a half acres of secluded waterfront property, and gave it a name worthy of its surroundings: Paradise Studio.

From 1973-78, Paradise Studio hosted recording sessions for some big names in the music industry, like Bob Seger and Freddie King, in addition to Russell.

In addition to the studio, Russell built apartments on the property so artists could come to record and stay for a few days, creating a musicians' retreat out in the woods.

In 1979, Russell returned to Los Angeles and would later sell the Grand Lake property, ending an era that had seen Pappy Reeves' Floating Motel and Fishing Dock transform into what became known affectionately as, "the hippie place."

Tulsa Rick Husky has owned the property for the last 30 years, going to great lengths to restore and maintain this gem of Rock & Roll history. That effort has led to the first album being recorded at Paradise Studio since 1978.

Return to Paradise dropped on Aug. 28 and is available at hortonrecords.org. The collaboration features 17 tracks written by Oklahoma songwriters and performed by

## Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL



**OKLAHOMA SONGS:** The newly released album, *Back to Paradise*, features 17 tracks written by Oklahoma songwriters and performed by local musicians. It's available on vinyl, compact disc and digital download at [hortonrecords.org](http://hortonrecords.org).

20 Tulsa-area musicians, including one of the last bands to record at Paradise in 1978, The Gap Band. The R&B Funk ensemble named after three streets in the Greenwood district (Greenwood, Archer and Pine), bridges the generation gap (pun intended) with the track "I Yike It," by Charlie Redd and Briana Wright, which is absolutely on fire!

The album runs the gamut, from more obscure songs associated with the Tulsa Sound like the Gap Band's contribution, to the more widely known hits like JJ Cale's Ride Me High, performed by Paul Benjamin and Hoyt Axton's Jealous Guy by John Fullbright.

Also featuring Branjae, Dustin Pittsley, Sarah Frick, Jesse Aycock, Jacob Tovar and more names than I have room to list, this might be the best collection of Tulsa talent to date, with all due respect to the New Tulsa Sound, Vols. 1 & 2 (also available at [hortonrecords.org](http://hortonrecords.org)).

But there's more going on here than just talented individuals playing music. There is a connection to history and a vibe to Paradise Studio that resonates with today's artists.

"Walking into the studio for the first time was like walking into a time capsule," said Jesse Aycock, who has two tracks on Return to Paradise. "The good energy that once filled the room was left floating in the air. All that we had to do was breathe it in. Historically, players from this part of Oklahoma

seem to have a different approach to music, the same way that Muscle Shoals, Memphis Chicago, Detroit, Austin and Nashville are known for having a sound. I think Leon and J.J. tapped into a unique pulse in this area and I would like to think that it's still vibrating today."

The entire two-LP album was recorded over the course of four days — mostly live, with very few overdubs, and produced by Jason Weinheimer & Them Tulsa Boys.

"This is a project that we've all wanted to do for more than a decade," said Executive Producer Brian Horton. "We think we've captured some of the spirit and energy that happens around town when you go to a live show. These musicians love our regional history so much. This is a document of them paying tribute. We want people to check out today's musicians, but we also want them to appreciate the Oklahoma musicians that have made it possible to have a relevant music scene today."

Well said, Brian. That could be the mission statement of Searching for the Sound as well.

I give this album my highest rating and encourage every one of you to buy it immediately. If I sound overly enthusiastic, it's because 2020 has left me starved for good news and things to look forward to. This album satisfies my hunger for both, and allows me, from the comfort of my COVID-safe home, to keep searching, keep listening.

## The Great Outdoors Take Center Stage

(Continued from page 6)

Chamber Music Tulsa will feature a virtual solo recital with renowned violinist Rachel Barton Pine on Sept. 13. This ticketed event costs \$20 per household and will be offered free to current CMT subscribers. Unrenewed subscribers can enjoy the music with a discounted \$10/per household ticket. The program is titled "American Traditions." Check out [chambermusictulsa.org](http://chambermusictulsa.org) for tickets and additional info.

It won't feel like Christmas this year without American Theatre Company's "A Christmas Carol." The company has cancelled performances at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center until Spring 2021. However, there will be pop-up performances of the show by "A Christmas Carol" cast members at various outdoor venues. The holiday favorite will return in 2021 with a new set!

I've spent much of the COVID lockdown months binging on TV and doing puzzles. But there's a limit! Do you know that the brains of scientists who live in Antarctica were shown to have shrunk due to a dearth of variety in their surroundings? You can only look at the same scenery for so long. As ardent world travel-

ers, my husband and I have visited all seven continents, but never before set foot in Gilcrease Museum's backyard. I have looked out on the Osage Hills from Gilcrease's Vista Room, but not imagined the paths, pond and picnic spot that are easily accessible from the Museum's parking lot. If you go, take a lunch or just a blanket and a book. Four deer were rollicking in a field there during the late afternoon of our visit.

You may have spent time at The Gathering Place, which itself is impressively landscaped, but have you been to Tulsa Botanic Garden? There was hardly a soul at the Garden when we toured, so social distancing was not an issue. To ensure that, book ahead on the Garden's website. We took a leisurely walk around the lake, stopped to watch butterflies and admired the immense variety of plants.

For a full day away, consider a trip to Pawhuska. Its downtown is quaint and interesting, particularly if you have read David Grann's "Killers of the Flower Moon." His tale of the "Reign of Terror," targeting the Osage people, is soon to be a major motion picture. One side trip to consider

if you are up Pawhuska way is the Gray Horse Cemetery near Fairfax, where many of the victims from the "Reign of Terror" (1921-25) are buried. I thought it was fascinating.

Not far from where "Pioneer Woman" Rhea Drummond has built her tourist-drawing Mercantile Restaurant, you will find a well-marked entrance to the Tall Grass Prairie. I won't guarantee that you will see bison close up and personal. The herd we spotted were grazing on a distant hill. We brought a lunch and enjoyed peace and quiet in the picnic area near the visitor's center.

Day trips we are planning include excursions to Guthrie, Bartlesville and Okmulgee to look at architecture. Did you know that Okmulgee has awesome Art Deco to explore? Crystal Bridges in Arkansas is an easy up and back, and there's still more in Tulsa to consider. We haven't been to the Oxley Nature Center in years.

Stay tuned for updates on re-openings and show plans. Productions won't be the same for a time, but we can support presenters and venues by being open to alternatives and following guidelines that keep everyone safe.

## HEALTH &amp; WELLNESS

## Covenant Living at Inverness 'A Dream Come True'

*Editor's note: Greater Tulsa is fortunate to have a number of outstanding facilities for retirees and people in need of physical assistance. Additional facilities will be highlighted in future issues.*

Clyde McMasters, one of the community founders, wrote in his book, *A Dream Come True: A History of Inverness Village*, "The one intangible factor which causes Covenant Living at Inverness to stand out over all in its peer group is the friendliness that permeates the total environment."

Covenant Living at Inverness, located at 3800 W. 71st St. in Tulsa, offers an engaging maintenance-free lifestyle situated on 192 acres of rolling hills in the Tulsa Hills district. This community was founded 20 years ago when a group of dedicated church members from the First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa recognized a need for a senior living community in the area. They wanted an offering that would offer older adults all levels of living—from independent living, along with assisted living, skilled nursing and memory care, if ever needed. Their hard work and determination paid off, and in 2003, the community, originally named Inverness Village, became a reality when it opened its doors to its first residents.

Another differentiator for the new senior living community included the safety net of a Benevolent Care Program. Through this program, residents, would be assured they could continue to live in the community for their life if, through no fault of their own, they exhausted their financial resources.

Inverness became the first true CCRC in Tulsa and to this day has maintained its unparalleled services to the Tulsa community.

In addition to residences, there is a fully equipped fitness center with a variety of workout equipment and a large indoor swimming pool. It has three full-time fitness instructors with multiple certifications and the expertise to provide healthy aging opportunities. Also, a mile-long Life Trail with 10 wheelchair accessible exercise station loops throughout the campus. Residents can take advantage of a community garden and a dog park—both conveniently situated within walking distance. Inverness also offers an array of amenities, including a library, beauty salon, business center, pub and a branch bank with an ATM machine. Plus, dining services are provided in several venues and the bistro, which is a favorite gathering spot for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

There are various recreational and social activities for residents. Founders Hall provides room for meetings, concerts, movies and other entertainment as well as for worship and memorial services. An inter-denominational chapel and a full-time chaplain welcome residents of all faiths and denominations.

Healthcare services are a great fit for residents who are living with challenges in managing daily activities, and who require special assistance on a routine basis. Also, residents who require a higher level of assistance and full-time nursing care are accommodated. Finally, the staff can assist residents who may need some



**HAPPY RESIDENTS:** Enjoying the lifestyle at Inverness Village are residents, from left, John Cockrum, Betty Lee Hill and Bob Bristow.

help with daily activities, but who also wish to preserve their independence as much as possible. There is a team of fully licensed physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists who work to restore and maintain each person's independence.

Betty Lee Hill, who with her husband Dr. Bob Hill, moved to Inverness in 2019 explained, "There was just something about what I saw that touched me and I just felt at home here and that this is where I want to be. The

grounds are gorgeous. The people are amazing and friendly."

John Cockrum, retired principal and assistant superintendent of Sapulpa Public Schools and a decorated World War II veteran said, "We just feel safe here. It's not retirement, it is living!"

To quote Bob Bristow, former program manager at N.A.S.A., "The staff is fantastic. I think that they choose them on their personality and then they train them in what they need to do!"

In November of 2019, Inverness Village became part of Covenant

Living Communities and Services. Covenant Living is the fifth largest nonprofit senior service provider in America. It has 17 communities in nine states across the country and was founded nearly 135 years ago. Now named Covenant Living at Inverness, this senior living community in Tulsa has been recognized and awarded with many honors over its 17 years.

For more information about Covenant Living at Inverness, call (877) 216-8068 or visit [CovLivingInverness.org](http://CovLivingInverness.org).

## Cancer During COVID-19: The Ticking Time Bomb

By Pat Basu, MD  
President, Cancer Treatment Centers of America

COVID-19's impact goes far beyond the illness itself. Our lives have changed drastically in an effort to get the virus under control and ultimately "flatten the curve". However, there is yet another curve that needs our urgent attention - a ticking time bomb that is currently flying under the radar: the cancer "Shadow Curve."

The pandemic has caused far too

many people to skip treatments and miss routine cancer screenings. And while delaying scans or treatments may have felt like the most prudent action three months ago, evidence predicts that a few years from now, we may look back and wish we had taken a different approach.

The National Cancer Institute states that annual cancer screening is one of the most effective ways to detect and beat this dreaded disease and "when abnormal tissue or cancer is found early, it may be easier to treat or cure." If our society continues to delay cancer screenings and treatments, the result will be disastrous for both the individual patients and the health system as a whole.

In fact, an April IQVIA Institute for Human Data Science report estimated that the delay in 22 million cancer screening tests will result in increased risk of delayed or missed diagnoses for 80,000 patients. More recently, Anthony S. Fauci, MD, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, reported that COVID-19-related reductions in cancer screening and treatment over the next decade could po-

tentially result in 10,000 excess deaths from breast and colorectal cancer alone.

To put it another way, since March, the U.S. has witnessed a 37 percent drop in cancer care diagnosis compared to this same time period last year, and massive drops in cancer screening including mammography (down 87 percent), colonoscopy (down 90 percent) and Pap Smear (down 83 percent). As COVID-19 hot spots continue to rise across the country and the fear of second waves emerges, the problem is only exacerbated with COVID-19 cases monopolizing hospital resources and patients continuing to delay necessary screenings and treatments. Now is the time to course correct.

## A Three-Part Solution to Bending the Cancer Shadow Curve

There are three key actions we must do, and encourage our loved ones to do, to regain control of cancer care in our own communities and ultimately bend the Shadow Curve:

- Schedule your treatment or screening immediately. Most health care facilities have rigorous protocols in place to mini-

mize COVID-19 exposure. The best way to eliminate cancer's exposure is to detect and treat it as soon as possible, especially if there is a family history or if you have recently turned 50.

- If the first treatment center you call says no, don't give up. With current spikes of COVID-19, some facilities are overwhelmed with cases. However, there are other facilities, such as specialty cancer centers, that can see patients within a normal timeframe. Make that second or third phone call to schedule the screening or treatment you need.

- Know your insurance benefits. In some cases, treatment centers may not be available in your network and this could qualify you to go "out of network" due to a network deficiency within your insurance plan. That means another center could be recognized as temporarily in-network, allowing you to get the care you need. Check with your insurance provider to see if this is the case. Many providers - including our cancer centers - will help patients navigate insurance complexities.

Together, we can stop the cancer Shadow Curve and save lives. By taking immediate, proactive steps in disease detection and treatment, we can reduce the possibility that illness and deaths from undiagnosed conditions such as cancer become more pervasive than those from COVID-19 itself.

Pat A. Basu, MD, is president and CEO of Cancer Treatment Centers of America Global Inc. Previously, Basu served as a White House fellow and senior adviser and played a key role in helping execute portions of then-President Barack Obama's economic and health agenda.

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# White House Coronavirus Task Force Coordinator Meets with State Leaders

Gov. Kevin Stitt along with state and local leaders met with White House Coronavirus Task Force Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx Aug. 16 for a roundtable discussion at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences.

The conversation centered around Oklahoma's COVID-19 response, testing strategies regarding college and K-12 school settings, and data trends from other states.

Dr. Birx discussed the need for mitigation actions specifically tailored to conditions in local communities and praised Oklahoma's push to use saliva testing.

"She was very complimentary of our testing plan and what we're doing with our universities," said Stitt. "I had Secretary of Science and Innovation Elizabeth Pollard discussing our strategy, and Dr. Birx said she's going to take that back with her and share some of it with the other states she is visiting."

Oklahoma's seven-day average of new positive cases has declined 38 percent since its highest level a few weeks ago. Dr. Birx told Gov. Stitt that while trends were moving in the right direction, it is important to remain vigilant and continue to have a plan if things change.

"There are a lot of levers we can pull, but at this point we are in really good shape," continued Stitt. "We have to be very cautious as kids are going back to school. That's why Oklahomans need



Courtesy photo

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:** Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt looks on as White House Coronavirus Task Force Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx leads a roundtable discussion August 16 at the OSU Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa.

to continue to social distance, and wear masks when they cannot maintain their distance so we can keep up this positive trend that we're on right now."

Meeting attendees included U.S. Rep. Kevin Hern (OK-1); Interim Commissioner of Health Lance Frye, MD; Secretary of Health and Mental Health Kevin Corbett; Secretary of Science and Innovation Elizabeth Pollard; Secretary of Agency Accountability and State COO John Budd; Dr. Kayse Shrum, OSU Center for Health Sciences President; Dr. Mousumi Som, OSU Center for Health Sciences Chief of Staff;

G.T. Bynum, Mayor of Tulsa; Joy Hofmeister, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Dr. Mike Woods, Hennessey Public Schools Superintendent; Senate Pro Tem Greg Treat, R-Oklahoma City; Rep. Marcus McIntyre, R-Duncan; Bond Payne, Chief of Staff to Gov. Stitt; and Brian Bingman, Chief Policy Advisor to Gov. Stitt.




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EDUCATION

# MLK, Jr. Commemoration Society Awards Scholarships

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Society awarded \$11,000 in scholarships to six Tulsa-area students enrolled in post-secondary educational institutions for the 2020-21 academic year.

"This year's applicants were extraordinary, and we received the highest number of applications ever in our organization's history," said Society President Pleas Thompson. "We are extremely proud of the six young people who have been singled out for recognition with a scholarship this year. All have big dreams for the future, and showed great maturity in interpreting the rel-



AJA JACKSON



ANIKA JALLIPALLI



JENNIFER FIERO



JEREMIAH IVEY

evance of Dr. King's legacy for today."

Six scholarships were awarded as follows:

**\$3,500 – Servant Leader:** Jeremiah Ivey, a graduate of Union High School, attending the University of Missouri – St. Louis and majoring in finance. He has attended every MLK Parade in Tulsa since he was five years old.

**\$2,500 – Change Maker:** Anika Jallipalli, Union High School graduate, attending the University of Oklahoma, majoring in Biology/Biochemistry. Her ultimate goal is to enter the medical field.

**\$1,500 – Mountain of Hope:** Kaela Cherie Verner, Cascia Hall Preparatory School, attending Stanford University, Pre-Medicine with Biochemistry major/Marine Biology minor.

**\$1,500 – Drum Major of Justice:** Jennifer Fiero, Union High School, attending The University of Tulsa, Pre-Medicine/Biology.

**\$1,000 – Beloved Community (TIE – two scholarships awarded):** Niara Kwanza, Owasso High School, attending Berklee College of Music (Boston), majoring in Professional Music; and Aja Jackson, Broken Arrow High School, attending Tennessee State University, Biology.

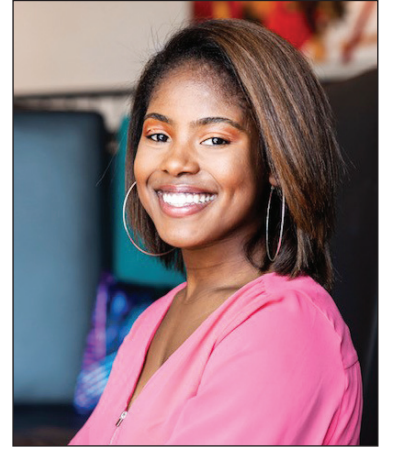
Applicants were evaluated and selected by an independent panel based on the following criteria:

- Academic Achievement: based on the student's official transcript and grade point average;
- Leadership & Accomplishments: participation in extra-curricular activities, honors and awards;
- Work/Volunteer experience;
- Community Involvement; and
- Essay (350-750 words) related to the student's perceptions of Dr. King's legacy.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Society, Inc. is a



NIARA KWANZA



KAELA VERNER

Tulsa based 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization focused on honoring and preserving the works and ideals that Dr. King practiced. The society has provided programming, leadership development, civic engagement and opportunities for artistic expression involving more than 20,000 boys and girls in Tulsa County and

the surrounding area since it was founded in 1978. The Society has awarded \$91,000 in scholarships over the past three decades to local high school graduates aspiring to achieve Dr. King's dream.

For more information, visit [www.mlktulsa.com](http://www.mlktulsa.com), call 918-492-9495 or email at [mlktulsa@gmail.com](mailto:mlktulsa@gmail.com).

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## New Construction Begins for OSU's Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa

Dewberry, a privately held professional services firm, announced that the new North Academic Building at Oklahoma State University's (OSU) Center for Health Sciences campus is now under construction and is expected to open in Fall 2022.

Dewberry completed initial programming and conceptual design for the new North Academic Building and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (ME) in 2018. By relocating and upgrading services from multiple buildings currently in the center of campus, this new building is the first phase of a master plan focused on health and advancement in research and education. Once complete, the ME office will be one of just a few nationally that is directly and physically connected with an academic health center.

The design of the ME autopsy laboratory is unique to Oklahoma, and has raised the bar internationally for safety, workflow efficiency, and evidence preservation. When completed, this office will be among the most technologically advanced in the world specific to advanced post-mortem diagnostic imaging. This new building will also house the



Courtesy

**EDUCATIONAL ADDITION:** The North Academic Building and Office of Chief Medical Examiner is underway on the OSU Center for Health Sciences campus in southwest Tulsa.

Center for Rural Health, Center for Health Systems Innovation and dedicated anatomy and neuro-anatomy laboratories. Additional amenities will include classroom, conference, study, and administration areas. The firm's designs incorporate a similar material palette in the interior and exterior as the A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Medical Academic Building, completed in 2017, and expand the aesthetic connecting the new and

older parts of the campus. "As OSU continues to provide top-tier education and training for students across a variety of subjects, the Center for Health Sciences has an opportunity to set the university apart as a nationally ranked health care training institution," says Dewberry Principal and Project Manager Bruce Henley, AIA. The campus is located in southwest Tulsa at West 17th Street and Southwest Blvd.

**About Dewberry**  
Dewberry is a leading, market-facing firm with a proven history of providing professional services to a wide variety of public- and private-sector clients. Established in 1956, Dewberry is headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia, with more than 50 locations and 2,000+ professionals nationwide. To learn more, visit [www.dewberry.com](http://www.dewberry.com).

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# Tulsa Tech Helps Graduate Continue a Family Legacy

## EMT Program Gave Firefighter a Headstart in High School

“What do you want to do when you grow up?” It is a question many of us struggle with. Some people know what they want to do at a young age, yet others find it more difficult to discover a passion that leads to a rewarding career. Tulsa Tech is here to help students figure out that next step.

For Tulsa firefighter and Tulsa Tech graduate Colin Ward, that question had a logical answer.

“For me, it’s just what I have always known. I grew up around firefighters all my life,” Ward said. “My great-grandpa, grandpa and dad were all firefighters. I went to stations all the time when I was a kid.”

The soft-spoken Ward is a fourth-generation Tulsa firefighter and hopes when his career is over he can say his family served the city for more than 100 years. His humble nature and self-awareness speaks volumes, as a high school senior, he enrolled at Tulsa Tech in the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program.

“I lucked out in that Tulsa Tech came by my high school junior year,” Ward said. “The advisor told me about the programs I could do and my dad worked there part-

time so he explained it more to me.”

More than luck, Tulsa Tech spends hours telling thousands of students at our partner schools about all of the programs available. The goal is simple, help students realize their passion and create a competitive advantage. An advantage Ward capitalized on by talking to his instructors, and he remembers one call that made him realize being a first responder was for him.

“I was doing a ride-along in Broken Arrow and a woman was in a car accident,” Ward remembered. “She was scared but seeing how the medic was able to calm her down and get her to relax made a difference. Knowing that I could do that for someone in the future was a big deal for me.”

It is that passion for helping others that is the hallmark of first responders. Ward, who is a licensed Paramedic, earned his credentials after completing his training at Tulsa Tech. He says it is how Tulsa Tech instructors teach that worked for him.

“Getting a mixture of reading and then doing hands-on work helped me comprehend a lot of what I was

### News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER  
Superintendent



Photo Credit: Vanessa Aziere/ Tulsa Tech

**FOURTH GENERATION FIREFIGHTER:** Tulsa Tech graduate Colin Ward continues his family’s legacy of service as a member of the Tulsa Fire Department. Ward, a fourth-generation firefighter, took his first steps toward the academy in high school by attending Tulsa Tech’s Emergency Medical Technician program.

reading,” Ward said with a smile. “I learn a lot by reading and I read the textbook a lot, but I have never been a lecture person.”

While many are eager to get out of the classroom, Ward is already back, this time helping to train the next generation. Ward serves as an adjunct-instructor, leading CPR and heart saver training across the District. He also is back in the EMT classroom at Tulsa Tech’s Peoria campus. The state-of-the-art lab features simulators, a real ambulance and a control center allowing instructors to simulate any type of incident.

“I haven’t been really doing this

long enough to say I have a bunch of experience,” Ward said with shyness. “But it feels fantastic to pass that experience onto somebody else. My story could make them fall in love with this career or could make them an even better provider.”

Ward now hopes more people will follow his path and use their senior year of high school to get EMT training. The Tulsa Fire Department requires all firefighter cadets to have their EMT license and Ward says there is no better way to get that training that at Tulsa Tech.

“As soon as I left high school,

I found a good job making really good money for someone my age because I got that EMT training,” Ward said. “The fact that it was free and I didn’t have to worry about making a payment on the class, I could focus more time on my studies and being the best EMT I could be. I would recommend letting more kids know.”

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

# University of Tulsa National Presidential Search is Underway

The University of Tulsa Board of Trustees recently announced the start of a national search for the 21st president of the institution.

“The University of Tulsa is the highest-ranked university in Oklahoma and a transformative force for our students, the community, the culture and the economy of the City of Tulsa and for the region more broadly,” said Board Chair Dana Weber. “The world of higher education is changing rapidly, and TU must be agile and adapt as well. Launching a national search for our next president is an important part of this process to ensure our continued success.”

The board has formed a Presidential Search Committee with Trustee Marcia MacLeod serving as chair and Trustee Scott Dickman as vice chair. As the elected president of the Faculty Senate, Jennifer Airey has been asked to represent faculty perspectives on the committee. The rest of the search committee will include other trustees and yet-to-be-finalized student and staff representatives.

“Selecting a new president is a significant step in the history of an institution,” MacLeod said. “It is important for this process to include a variety of perspectives and broader understanding of the concerns of our students, faculty and staff. All search committee members will play an important role in helping the committee identify the qualities, skills, attributes and experiences desired in a candidate.”

The first order of business for the committee is the selection of an executive

search firm to guide the national search. “We believe it is important to leverage the expertise of a firm experienced in recruiting exceptional and diverse leaders for universities and other organizations that advance the public good,” MacLeod said. The firm will help the committee define the steps and timeline for the search process.

Interim President Janet Levit will continue to lead the crucial efforts of the administration as this search process is underway. “I personally believe it important for the ongoing vitality and excellence of this institution that a national search is conducted to identify the next president. I fully support this decision,” said Levit. “Just as I have every day since I was unexpectedly named interim president, I will continue to focus on the success of our students, the quality of our academics and putting TU back on a sustainable financial path.”

“TU is now on a sounder path, despite the additional headwinds created by the coronavirus pandemic, in large part due to the hard work and dedication of Interim President Levit and her team,” Weber said. “I want to extend my gratitude for Interim President Levit’s work and her continued focus on moving the university forward this summer and fall to balance the budget. There is still a lot of hard work to be done, however. These efforts need to continue unabated, and our strategy needs to continue to adapt and evolve as we meet the changing demands and expectations in higher education.”

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# Historic Neon Signs Installed At Avery Plaza Southwest for Vision 2025 Route 66 Project

Neon signs advertising businesses that travelers on U.S. Route 66 in decades gone by would have seen on the Mother Road – Will Rogers Motor Court, Tulsa Auto Court and Oil Capital Motel – are reappearing as historic replicas on Route 66. This time-traveling magic appears at the Avery Plaza Southwest, a new Route 66 attraction on Southwest Boulevard near West 17th Street. The signs were installed in August.

Like several other Route 66 attractions in Tulsa, Avery Plaza Southwest is named after Cyrus Avery, the Father of Route 66 who lived in Tulsa. The Avery Plaza Southwest consists of the west approach to the historic Cyrus Avery Route 66 Memorial Bridge. It corresponds to the Cyrus Avery Route 66 Centennial Plaza on the opposite bank of the Arkansas River, where the East Meets West bronze sculpture is located.

The plazas are on each end of the Route 66 Memorial Bridge, which was the original 11th Street Bridge that in 1926 was instrumental in Cyrus Avery's successful attempt to bring the alignment of U.S. Route 66 through Oklahoma and Tulsa.

The 20-foot-tall historic replica neon signs stand in a decorative plaza designed by Howell & Vancuren landscape architects and Wallace Engineering and constructed by Crossland Heavy Contractors. The neon signs were designed by David Hoffer and fabricated by A-max Sign Co.



**REMEMBERING THE ROAD:** Historic Route 66 motel signs have been placed at the Avery Plaza Southwest.



**MEMORIAL BRIDGE:** Cyrus Avery, the Father of Route 66 who lived in Tulsa, is remembered at the Memorial Bridge at Avery Plaza Southwest, a new Route 66 attraction on Southwest Boulevard near West 17th Street.

This \$500,000 (includes design and construction) project is one of the final ones from the Vision 2025 Route 66 Enhancements and Promotion, the original Vision package approved by Tulsa County voters in 2003. Remaining Vision 2025 Route 66 items are a Kendall Whittier pedestrian lighting project at Admiral Place and Lewis Avenue, the Route 66 Experience and a preservation fund.

ty voters in 2003. Remaining Vision 2025 Route 66 items are a Kendall Whittier pedestrian lighting project at Admiral Place and Lewis Avenue, the Route 66 Experience and a preservation fund.

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MIDTOWN SPORTS

# Jonathon Brown Enters First Year as Head Football Coach of BTW Hornets

By MIKE MOGUIN  
GTR Sports Writer

As Booker T. Washington takes the field this season, Jonathan Brown will be manning the sidelines in his first year as head coach.

Brown had previously been an assistant for seven seasons – three under Marvin Dantzler and four under Brad Calip, who left to become an assistant at Owasso in January. Brown had been coaching the defense and became the unit’s coordinator in 2015.

“I was extremely happy and humbled in one instance. It was very gratifying to become the head coach of my alma mater. I’m so happy I was able to get this position and am ready to move forward,” Brown said.

“I want to be a mentor to these kids and help them be students first and graduate,” he added.

On the athletic side, Brown hopes for his student-athletes to get a free education, whether it’s D-I, D-II, NAIA or any level in college football.

“My job is to make these kids men and help them grow in life,” the first-year head coach said.

Brown, a 1994 BTW graduate, has quite a gridiron resume.

After making All-State for the Hornets, he was All-SEC at Tennessee, played in the NFL, NFL Europe and the CFL.

“I tell the kids this, as you move up each level, the game gets fast-

er,” Brown said. “Going from middle school to high school, or from Friday nights to Saturdays and going from Saturdays to Sundays, the thing I had to deal with was the speed of the game.”

Brown becomes the first BTW alum in 40 years to be the school’s head football coach.

“I think he’ll do a great job,” Calip said of Brown. “He’s an alum there and that’s his dream job. That is something he has always wanted. I think he’ll do a fantastic job.”

“He knows the kids. It’s not a new coach coming in with some philosophy. They’ll keep it going. I think that was a great hire. He’s young. He’ll figure things out. He’s a smart coach and I think he’ll do very well. So I’m proud of him.”

Preparing for the season came with adversity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I think it’s (COVID-19) been tough,” Brown said. “We usually do two groups -- a big group and a small group. We had to break it down to groups of 10-12 people. We had athletes rotate between lifting and working out on the field.”

Brown said he tries not to complain.

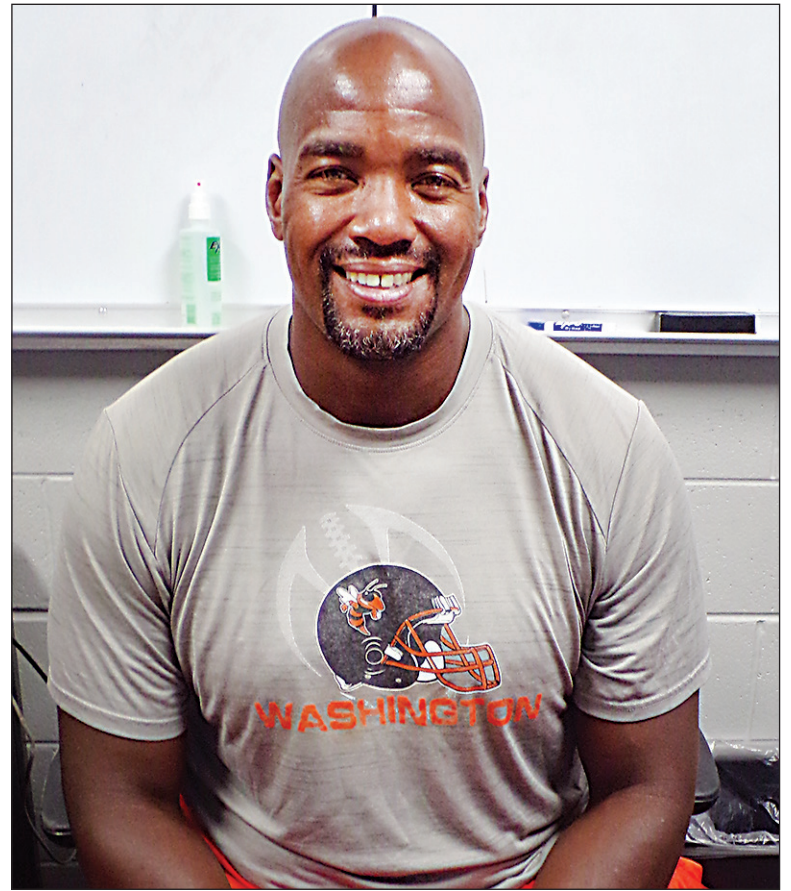
“One thing my daddy told me, and it has always stuck. He said don’t worry about anything you can’t control. Worry about what you can control. I try not to worry about a lot of things. I just try to handle the things I can control.

“We’ve had a great turnout. I’ve told the boys this is just some adversity that you have to work through. I think the one thing that sports and football in particular helps you deal with, it gives you life skills, communication skills and adversity. You also deal with how to get knocked down and get back up. Right now, we’re going through some things that’s going to help these kids out when they get older. And it will help us put this year through the season. You can control what you can control and let the chips fall where they’re going to fall.”

As always, there is a lot of talent in the Hornets’ ranks with defensive back Keuan Parker (5’11”, 165 pounds), wide receiver Jalen Teague (6’3”, 195 pounds, senior) and nose guard Jaden Brown (6’1”, 250 pounds, senior), who is Brown’s son. All three are seniors. Parker is a Baylor commit.

“I think we’re going to have a fast team and a physical team,” Brown said. “I like the makeup of this team, I really do. I think we’ve got a good mix of leadership and guys that are hungry, that haven’t tasted success on this level yet but want to be successful. They want to work hard, want to grind. I think it’s really going to help this team out moving forward.”

When asked who will be the toughest opponent, Brown said “All of them. We don’t take anybody lightly around here.”



READY FOR ACTION: Jonathan Brown looks forward to his first season as head football coach at Booker T. Washington.

Booker T. Washington opened the season at home Aug. 28 against Southmoore. Through September, they will host Del

City (Sept. 4), travel to Edison (Sept. 11), an open date the following week and meet Choctaw at home (Sept. 25).

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The 2020 Best of Greater Tulsa Reader’s Picks gives readers of GTR Newspapers a chance to vote for their favorite places to shop, dine and find the best services throughout Greater Tulsa.

Please Fill in the blank space in each category to vote for your favorite in Greater Tulsa. Readers can mail picks to GTR Newspapers, P.O. Box 470645, Tulsa, OK 74147-0645, bring them to the office at 5401 S. Sheridan Rd, Suite 302 in Tulsa, or email them to best@gtrnews.com.

Votes must be received by Sept. 20, 2020. Results will be printed in the October 2020 issues. One vote per reader, per category. Voters must fill in at least 20 choices. Thank you for your participation.

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**SPORTS**

# Tulsa Athletes Make Their Mark on History

By **DOUG EATON**  
Contributing Writer

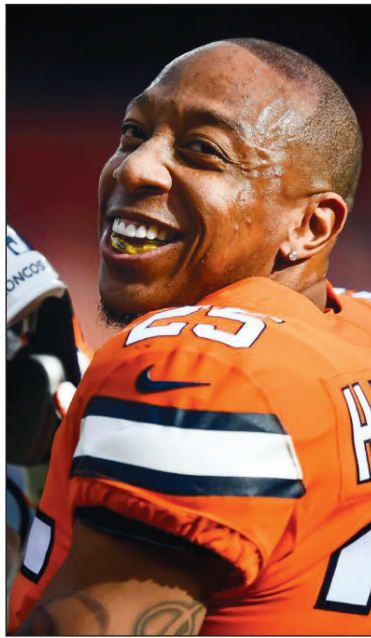
*Editor's note: This is the second article in a series about Tulsa's rich history of athletes and sports personalities who have made significant marks on their respective sports. In the August issue of GTR the personalities profiled were Steve Bowling, Bobby Cox, Joe Dial and Charlie Dumas.*

**NFL All-Pro player**

Chris Harris was a three-sport (football, basketball and track) standout for Bixby High School and went on to play football at the University of Kansas. Despite recording an outstanding collegiate career, Harris went undrafted by any NFL team. He later signed as an undrafted free agent with the Denver Broncos for a paltry signing bonus of \$2,000. Hard work, determination and talent paid off as Chris soon cracked the starting Bronco defensive lineup as a cornerback. In his first nine NFL seasons, he was named to the Pro Bowl four times and First Team All-Pro once in addition to being a Super Bowl Champion. This off-season, he signed a two-year, \$20 million contract with the San Diego Chargers.

**Olympic bronze medal winner**

Earl Jones was born in Chicago, but is currently a Tulsa resident. He was a virtual unknown beginning the 1984 Olympic year, but soon made his presence known by winning U.S. Olympic Trials in an American record of 1:43.74 and then went on to win the bronze medal at the 1984 Los Angeles



**CHRIS HARRIS**



**EARL JONES**



**BOBBY KLINCK**



**JASON STAUROVSKY**

Olympic Games, less than a second from claiming the gold despite starting from lane one. He ran for Eastern Michigan University, and later won the 1985 NCAA title in the 800, after placing second in 1984. Sadly, a serious automobile accident resulted in the end of a short, but brilliant athletic career. He was in the world top 10 in the 800 meters for three years from 1984-86, ranking as high as number 3 in 1984.

**Won two bowl games with two different teams - OU and Tulsa**

Bobby Klinck is one of the most highly regarded high school football players in Oklahoma history. Klinck was a three-year starter

and three-year (1998-2000) State Champion for the dominant Jenks Trojans, a perennial power program that claims a total of 16 football state championships.

In Klinck's senior season (2000) for the Trojans, he rushed for over 2,500 yards and 33 touchdowns and recorded 73 tackles.

As the No. 14 ranked safety in the nation, Klinck was heavily recruited by dozens of NCAA Division I schools. He decided on the University of Oklahoma where he was part of the nation's No. 1 ranked recruiting class in 2001. He spent a redshirt year and then saw limited action when he decided to transfer to the University of Tulsa for more playing time.

While at OU, Klinck was part of the Sooners' 34-14 victory over Washington State for the 2003 Rose Bowl championship.

At Tulsa, Klinck helped the Golden Hurricane return to football prominence and its first Conference USA Championship since 1985. His efforts helped the Golden Hurricane to a 31-24 victory over Fresno State in the 2005 Liberty Bowl.

Thus, Klinck becomes one of only a handful of collegiate football players in history to claim two bowl victories with two different programs.

Klinck is currently head football coach at Charles Page High School in Sand Springs.

**From Tulsa football team manager to NFL kicker**

Jason Staurovsky was born in Tulsa March 23, 1963 and was a kicker in the NFL for six seasons, 1987-1992.

He played in a total of 46 games for the St. Louis Cardinals, New England Patriots and New York Jets. He played college football at the University of Tulsa.

Originally, the Golden Hurricane football team manager, Staurovsky, who had kicked for Bishop Kelley High School, worked himself onto the Golden Hurricane football team as a kicker and still holds the school record for most career field goals.

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# Tulsa Oilers Look Forward to Upcoming Season

## 2020-21 Opener Scheduled Dec. 4

By **GLENN HIBDON**  
GTR Sports Writer

There will be hockey in Tulsa for Christmas. The ECHL (the Oilers hockey league) and Oilers coach Rob Murray are banking on it.

After a promising finish for the Oilers to the 2019-20 season was wiped out by Covid-19, Murray said his team will take up where it left off when the 20-21 campaign is scheduled to open on Dec. 4.

"We were definitely playing our best hockey of the season. We had found our rhythm," said Murray. "I liked our team. We had consistency. Our team was as strong as it had been all season. I think we would have advanced (over Allen) in the playoffs.

"You never know what could have been. I was excited for sure. There will be a season coming up and we have to get ready. The time between now and Dec. 4 is like our normal time in the summer (between seasons). We've got our affiliations in place and we will be ready to go in December."

The Oilers are starting a three-year affiliation with Anaheim of the NHL and San Diego of the AHL when the 69th season of pro hockey in Tulsa begins with the 20-21 slate.

ECHL commissioner Ryan Crelin is optimistic all pieces will be in place to open a new 72-game season.

"Our board of governors, along the Professional Hockey Players Association, have approved

a start date and we are eager to return to hockey," said Crelin. "We believe this (the starting date) is prudent for the safety of our players, employees and fans. The ECHL is focused on the 20-21 season and optimistic about reopening our venues all across the country."

Murray said the delay in play for the Oilers hurt the franchise less financially than others. He said Tulsa lost just three home games after the ECHL suspended play while Toledo lost nine. There is a rumor that some already cash-strapped teams will not return at all. Coronavirus simply exacerbated existing problems.

"When the NBA shutdown and then the NHL, it was the right thing to do," said Murray. "I don't know how we would have kept going. Some leagues were wanting to play without fans, but our league wouldn't have survived. The NHL can get by with sponsorships and TV revenue. We don't have that. We could not put fans in the seats so there was no option but to shut down."

"Starting in December this season won't hurt hockey. If anything it will make fans and players more excited. It's a different world now and we've got to make the best of it," he said.

The pandemic has had unforeseen problems for some players. Murray said there have been cases where states closed ice rinks and players, just to get ice time, have actually moved to other states where rinks are open. The



Photo by Teejay Crawford

**READY TO PLAY:** The Tulsa Oilers are ready for action in the upcoming season.

coach spent much of the summer on the ice with his son's team in Virginia. Recruiting was done by phone and through players.

"We've signed a lot of guys we haven't announced. We've almost got a full roster," Murray said, adding that as of mid-August, seven or eight players from last season will be there when camp opens on Nov. 20. "The protocols are in place, so it's just a matter of filling out the roster and getting this team together. I'm very confident with the guys we've got coming back."

Anaheim and San Diego are expected to provide help and Murray is looking favorably at an-

nounced signees Devin Williams, Joey Colatarci and Dino Balsamo. Williams, 24, will enter his fourth season in goal for the Oilers with a 52-32-11 career record in 105 games, a 2.46 GAA and a .914 save percentage. Williams led the ECHL with a 2.12 GAA in the 2018-19 season. He played in two AHL games in 18-19 with San Antonio.

Colatarci and Balsamo are rookie from Adrian College and both are Division III All-Americans. A 6-2, 170-pound defenseman, Colatarci had 15 goals and 45 assists in 106 games at Adrian. Balsamo, a forward, collected 46 goals and 62 assists in 101 games.

Murray is also high on 6-foot, 205-pound defenseman Miles Liberati who played in 56 games for Tulsa last season, netting 11 goals and 46 assists. Cory Ward is expected to show up on the Oilers roster along with D-man Nolan Gluchowski. Cord played 34 games for Murray last year and managed seven goals and eight assists. In two seasons at Idaho, Gluchowski piled up 49 points in 79 games.

"As of right now, I know we're playing and that's good news," said Murray. "I'm sure there will be mandates on how this will work, but I don't know of any players (who have Covid-19)."



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# Groundbreaking Held for Greenwood Rising

The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission held a groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 21 for Greenwood Rising, a history center honoring the Greenwood District before and after the Tulsa Race Massacre. The facility will be built on land located at the southeast corner of Greenwood Avenue and Archer Street.

Greenwood Rising is anticipated to feature exhibits and interactive experiences tailored to a range of ages, learning styles and knowledge levels. All components will be designed to tell the story of Tulsa's Greenwood Historical District and the national context in which it "emerged, thrived and survived," according to the Centennial Commission.

This prime site is: (1) situated just north of the Frisco Tracks, an important symbolic marker in the Greenwood District; (2) positioned so as to allow for walkability from a bustling point near "Deep Greenwood"; and (3) located at the single most iconic entrance into the Greenwood District. Construction of Greenwood Rising and 21 North Greenwood is expected to be completed in the late spring of 2021.

Among those attending the groundbreaking were Matt Pinnell, Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor; Kevin Mathews, Oklahoma State Senator; G.T. Bynum, Tulsa mayor; Phil Armstrong, Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission project director; Peggy Simmons, Public Service Company of Oklahoma president; Maggie Hille Yar, Hille Foundation; Ray Hoyt, Tulsa Regional Tourism; descendant Tracy Gibbs; Tulsa singer Alisha Jones, and Whitney Stauffer, partner, Selser Schaefer Architects.



GTR Media Group photo

**MOVING FORWARD:** Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum is joined by civic and business leaders at the groundbreaking for the Greenwood Rising project.

The project was enhanced by gifts from the Tulsa business community. Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) announced grants from the AEP Foundation totaling half a million dollars to help ensure world-class facilities and programming for the Greenwood Rising project. The AEP Foundation is the charitable arm of PSO's parent company, American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP).

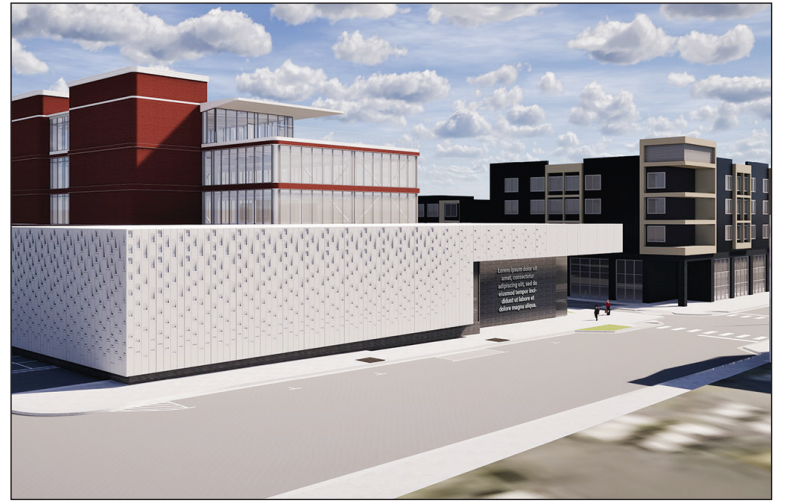
Speaking on behalf of the AEP Foundation, Simmons pointed to PSO's longstanding involvement in Tulsa, and noted that cultural vitality is essential to a strong community. "Valuing diversity and promoting equity are part of our culture and central to our success," said Simmons. "Building a strong sense of community in our headquarters city is an extension of our core value - service. We're excited to be part of this historic project that reflects the priorities

of PSO and the AEP Foundation."

Students in the Tulsa area will benefit from a \$40,000 gift from the Arvest Foundation to the Tulsa Community Foundation for the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission. The gift will support field trips to Greenwood Rising, the multimillion-dollar history center planned for the corner of Greenwood Avenue and Archer Street. The field trips also may include tours of other landmarks and establishments.

According to the Arvest Foundation, "This \$40,000 investment advances the educational mission of the Centennial Commission and is an example to other potential funders seeking to make a significant difference at a critical time.

"We are pleased to present this donation on behalf of the Arvest Foundation to support the efforts of the Centennial Commission to



Courtesy photo

**HISTORY CENTER HONORING GREENWOOD:** The Greenwood Rising history center will be located at the southeast corner of Greenwood Avenue and Archer Street.



GTR Media Group photo

**OFFICIAL OVERVIEW:** Oklahoma Lt. Governor Matt Pinnell gives an overview of the Greenwood Rising project before the groundbreaking.

promote critical thinking from our students in terms of our local history and how it relates to the challenges we all face today," said Kirk Hays, president of

Arvest Bank in Tulsa. "We trust this donation demonstrates the foundation's ongoing commitment to education and to the children in the region."

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# Elizabeth Manor Listed on National Register

In the decade of the 1920's, Tulsa's population more than doubled, fueled by the booming oil industry. Housing needed for this growth surge resulted in the addition of a number of four to eight-unit small apartment buildings located throughout the city. Those in the most desirable areas were built with quality materials. Others were very utilitarian, built on the cheap. Typically, these buildings were symmetrical with a center hall plan and an equal number of units on both sides. The apartment sizes varied; most were either one or two bedrooms with corner units being the largest. In an era before air conditioning, ground floor covered porches and upper level covered balconies were considered to be special features. One apartment building has special design appeal, Elizabeth Manor at 1820 S. Boulder Avenue.

## On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

Built in 1925 and designed by architect Arthur M. Atkinson, it received National Register of Historic Places designation in 2015. Design emphasis for Elizabeth Manor focuses on its front. Build of brick with limestone trim and accents, it has a late Gothic Revival look intended to simulate the collegiate Gothic style popular at the time. It would fit respectfully into many Gothic styled universities around the country. By 1929, it was estimated there were 333 similar apartment buildings in the city.

A divided lite oak main entrance door is centered in a small projecting vestibule element. The doorway is a tudor arch. It and the surrounding vestibule are faced with smooth faced limestone. The first floor is half a flight up from the vestibule; the basement is half a flight down to the basement. Above the doorway arch are intaglio letters spelling Elizabeth Manor. The single-story roof terminates with a crenulated parapet.

Elizabeth Manor nestles into a hillside with the result that its basement is below ground at the rear and partially above grade at the front. Six units on three levels overlooking what was originally a sloping lawn (now bisected by streets) to a large city park (Veterans Park).

The rest of the building is faced in dark red brick with horizontal limestone bands beginning with a distinctive limestone water table trim. Corners are emphasized with limestone quoins. Window sills at the front are limestone, but are replaced with brick at the rear. The main roof is flat with a very simple



GTR Media group photo

1920s SPECIAL: Elizabeth Manor was opened in the 1920s to help house Tulsa's growing population, which was fueled by the booming oil economy of the time.

parapet. Above the main entrance the center element becomes limestone with right and left matching parapet scrolls.

But what really is distinctive about the front are the half octagon room elements which project from the building on either side of the entry vestibule. These begin at

grade and continue to the top of the building. They are highlighted with a series of tall casement steel windows four lights high with a two light transom fixed glass section above each. Inset limestone blocks further accent the octagon corners. The remaining windows at the main building sides and rear

are double hung, divided light. At the rear of the property, there is evidence that a tenant garage structure originally existed. Now only a single car garage is still standing, though it is in rough shape. However, the apartment building itself appears to be in good condition.

# Development Proposed at 31st and Peoria in Tulsa

## Site Is Former Home Of TU Legend

Planning Design Group of Tulsa has proposed "Brookside 31 Development," a seven-acre project at the southeast section of 31st Street and Peoria Avenue in Tulsa, which is immediately north of the Brookside section of the city and near to the Gathering Place to the west.

The property is the former home of University of Tulsa basketball great and Tulsa business leader Robert Patterson.

According to official records, "Brookside 31 Development is seeking rezoning under the Master Plan Development (MPD) zoning designation in order to construct a variety of retail, restaurant, entertainment, office, and housing typologies.

The standards contained with-



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in this MPD reflect urban lot and setbacks standards, propose more pedestrian friendly thoroughfare

cross sections, and help to ensure higher density development is appropriately scaled and located on

the site in order to minimize impacts on the surrounding existing residential areas."

The project will offer retail establishments, restaurants, entertainment, and office and residential uses.

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THE ECONOMY

# Amazon Fulfillment Center Opens in Tulsa

Amazon's new fulfillment center in Tulsa is officially open for business along with two new delivery stations in Oklahoma City. Amazon welcomed new employees inside the 600,000-square-foot Tulsa fulfillment center at 4040 N. 125th E Ave. for the first time in August to celebrate its Day One of operation.

The state-of-the-art fulfillment center will employ more than 1,500 full-time associates who will work alongside innovative technology created by Amazon Robotics. Employees at the fulfillment center pick, pack and ship small items to customers such as books, household items and toys.

Amazon also announces two new delivery stations in Oklahoma City have officially opened for business. Amazon welcomed new associates inside its 100,000-square-foot building at 6101 S.W. 44th St., and its 300,000-square-foot building at 6801 S. Air Depot Blvd. in Oklahoma City for the first time recently to celebrate Day One of operations.

Delivery stations power the last mile of Amazon's order fulfillment process. Packages are transported to delivery stations from Amazon fulfillment and sortation centers, and then loaded into vehicles for delivery to customers. The delivery stations will create hundreds of permanent, full-time and part-time jobs, in addition to offering entrepreneurs the opportunity to build their own small businesses delivering Amazon packages, and independent contractors the flexibility to be their own boss and create their own schedule delivering for Amazon Flex.

To learn more, visit [www.logistics.amazon.com](http://www.logistics.amazon.com) and <https://flex.amazon.com/>.

Amazon also announced that, on top of the company's \$15 minimum wage, the company offers full-time employees industry-leading benefits, which include comprehensive healthcare from day one, 401(k) with 50 percent match, up to 20 weeks paid parental leave and Amazon's innovative Career Choice program, which pre-pays 95 percent of tuition for courses in high-demand fields.

In addition, Amazon has pledged to invest over \$700 million to provide upskilling training for 100,000 U.S. employees for in-demand jobs. Programs will help Amazonians from all backgrounds access training to move into highly-skilled roles across the company's corporate offices, tech hubs, fulfillment centers, retail stores, and transportation network, or pursue career paths outside of Amazon.

The company also invested approximately \$4 billion from April through June on COVID-related initiatives to ensure its associates across the globe, including the associates who work across Amazon's Oklahoma facilities, are safe.

This includes spending more than \$800 million in the first half of the year on safety supplies such as masks, hand sanitizer, thermal cameras, sanitizing wipes, gloves, adding disinfectant spraying in buildings and procuring COVID testing supplies.

Additionally, Amazon has redeployed team members from their typical roles to perform safety-related tasks and audits at sites



**IMPRESSIVE FACILITY:** The Amazon 600,000 square-foot Tulsa fulfillment center at 4040 N. 125th E Ave. is a positive economic bonus for greater Tulsa.

around the world from "social distancing ambassadors" to team members helping with temperature checks. Additional information on Amazon's more than 150 new safety-related process updates can be found here.

Amazon also reports that the Tulsa fulfillment center and Oklahoma City delivery stations will continue hiring over the next few weeks. Hiring events and interviews are by appointment only and open positions will be posted every Friday until all positions have been filled. Interested candidates can visit [amazon.force.com/](http://amazon.force.com/) to learn more and apply online. Applicants may also text "TULSANOW" or "OKCNOW" to 77088 to receive text alerts about local job postings.



**READY TO SEND:** This Amazon associate displays a packaged book which is among the very first order to be shipped from the new Tulsa fulfillment center.

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# C&J School Uniforms Fills Back-to-School Needs

C&J School Uniforms has been Tulsa's premier one-stop shop for school uniforms for more than 24 years. The owners, Chari Edwards and Joyce Fuller, met when their children were in need of school uniforms. Edwards and Fuller soon discovered a shared desire to provide quality brand, affordable school uniforms and accessories to area families. The rest is history, and this year's back-to-school rush has certainly been "one for the books."

At C&J, customers can shop locally for new and consigned slacks and shirts, skirts and jump-

ers, jackets, sweaters, and blazers. This year, school-specific masks have been added to the accessories in the store such as socks, backpacks, headbands and bows. In addition to merchandise, C&J provides convenient and professional alterations and monogramming services, and the shop is currently offering curbside pickup on phone orders. Call 918-610-7470 for assistance.

"Even those students who will be learning remotely may prefer to go back to school in uniform to set a more serious tone for studies," suggested Fuller. "We are

grateful to our customers who have continued to shop with us through these difficult times, and we look forward to serving them for many years to come," said Edwards.

C&J School Uniforms is located in the Fontana Shopping Center, 4984 S. Memorial Dr. The new fall hours (Beginning Sept. 8) are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The store is closed Wednesday and Sunday.

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



**WELCOMING FAMILIES:** Chari Edwards, left, and Joyce Fuller welcome families to their C&J School Uniforms location at 4984 S. Memorial Dr. in the Fontana Shopping Center.

# Natural Gas: Recovery Beyond the Pandemic



A recent report by the International Energy Agency (IEA) entitled "Gas 2020: Analysing the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Global Natural Gas Markets" was published June 2020. The lengthy report emphasises supply, demand and trade. The report states:

"After a four percent drop in 2020, natural gas demand is expected to progressively recover in 2021 as consumption returns close to its pre-crisis level in mature markets, while emerging markets benefit from economic rebound and lower natural gas prices. The impact of the 2020 crisis is, however, expected to have repercussions on the medium-term growth potential, resulting in about 75 bcm of lost growth over the forecast period, 2019 to 2025. This forecast

expects an average growth rate of 1.5 percent per year during this period.

The Asia Pacific region accounts for over half of incremental global gas consumption in the coming years, driven principally by the development of gas in China and India. While the prospects of natural gas remain strong for these two markets, the outlook is highly dependent on China's and India's future policy direction and recovery path in the post-crisis en-



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

vironment. In spite of the current economic headwinds and uncertainty, natural gas still benefits from strong policy support in both countries, with ongoing reforms to increase the role of gas in the energy mix. Future growth in the industry sector, which constitutes the main driver of incremental gas demand in both countries, will however highly depend on the pace of economic recovery, both for domestic and export markets for industrial goods."

In a time of uncertainty, it is certain that natural gas will be of utmost importance in the near future. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) will be key in the global energy recovery. However, geopolitics, infrastructure development, regulatory policies and investment will be very challenging.

The documentary film The Grand Energy Transition (The GET), released in 2012, is based on the book of the same name by Robert A. Hefner III, founder and owner of GHK Exploration, who pioneered deep and ultra-deep natural gas exploration, primarily in western Oklahoma. In the book, which Ted Turner deemed important enough to buy for members of Congress and Fortune CEOs, Hefner forecasts the continuing decline of coal and oil, and predicts the coming "age of energy gases."

America's abundant natural gas will serve as the major bridge to

this new energy age, along with wind and solar power, to create a new, hydrogen-based economy. Academy award-winning producer Gray Frederickson, Mei Li Hefner and I served as producers.

Natural gas is an energy answer that is available today. We should definitely be putting it to use now. For years I have voiced my belief that natural gas reserves are critical to a strong U.S. economy and extremely important for America's energy security. Natural gas is an abundant, clean fuel that has many domestic uses: from heating our homes to serving as an alternative to gasoline. It is the bridge fuel to our country's energy sustainability. Future generations are depending on us to keep the American dream alive.

Mark A. Stansberry is chairman of the GTD Group, an award-winning author and Energy Advocate. Visit Facebook: National Energy Talk

# Tulsa Launches County Film Recovery Program

The Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Arts & Culture (Tulsa FMAC) announces the Tulsa County Film Recovery Program, a program dedicated to driving an economic boost through film production, mitigating COVID-19 risk on-set, and providing education opportunities for film crew to return to work safely. The \$90,000 recovery program is made possible through Tulsa County CARES Act funding.

"Prior to the pandemic, the Tulsa film industry was skyrocketing. It grew from 11 film productions in 2017 to 32 in 2019 - a whopping 190% increase over a two-year period! These 32 productions pumped money into the Tulsa economy and resulted in more than 3,000 hotel room nights," said Wendy Drummond, chair of Tulsa FMAC. "We're extremely grateful Tulsa County Commissioners granted use of

these funds focused on the film industry."

The Tulsa County Film Recovery Program is available to production companies on a first-come, first-served basis. Each production that applies is eligible for up to \$20,000 based on the percentage of local crew hired, booked lodging at a Tulsa County area hotel, direct spend in Tulsa County, and other qualified expenditures. All funds must be used to offset production costs related to COVID-19 spending in Tulsa County, must be incurred and spent between August 2020 through December 30, 2020.

"One of the main priorities of the Tulsa County CARES program, from the very beginning, has been to help industries survive the pandemic," said Tulsa County Commissioner Ron Peters. "Small business support is at the heart of our mission, and

Tulsa's film industry represents local small businesses while simultaneously attracting significant investment from outside our state. We're proud to partner with the Tulsa FMAC to provide funding to nurture this growing industry."

Abby Kurin, executive director of Tulsa FMAC, said "We identified immediate needs for our industry by working with members of the local film industry through the Tulsa Film Task Force, which resulted in the Tulsa County Film Recovery Program. We must sustain our film crew during this time, and start to again cycle those dollars back into our local economy. The direct result of this will be positive economic impact and direct spend in Tulsa County."

"Tulsa Regional Tourism is dedicated to the recovery efforts of all the industries we work with. It's

imperative that we support our film industry, which has gained so much traction in recent years," said Ray Hoyt, president of Tulsa Regional Tourism. "This unique program will highlight Tulsa as a safe film destination, and helps tell Tulsa's story on an international stage."

To submit via the Tulsa County Film Recovery Program Application, visit: [Click Here](http://Click Here)

For more information on Tulsa County CARES Act Funding and Programs, visit <https://tulsacountycare.org>

### About the Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Arts & Culture (FMAC)

Tulsa FMAC is the only city film commission accredited through the Association of Film Commissioners International. The mission of Tulsa FMAC is to develop and connect resources to further grow and enhance northeast Oklahoma's

creative industries, including film, music and the arts, all while promoting Tulsa as a creative hub and cultural destination. Tulsa FMAC is housed at the Tulsa Regional Chamber under Tulsa Regional Tourism, which also includes the Tulsa Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Tulsa Sports Commission. [www.tulsafmac.com](http://www.tulsafmac.com).

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# BA City Manager Michael Spurgeon Honored with Award

Broken Arrow City Manager Michael Spurgeon was named the 2020 Gerald Wilkins Award winner by the City Management Association of Oklahoma (CMAO). The announcement came during CMAO's virtual Annual Summer Conference on Aug. 19. Spurgeon, who has served as Broken Arrow's city manager since September 2015, was surprised with the award at City Hall a week prior to the formal announcement.

"It's hard to believe that I've been in this profession for over 30 years. For me it's always been about something more important than myself," Spurgeon said tearfully when accepting the award. "It's been about trying to give back to those communities that I serve and realizing that I can't do it by myself. It takes a governing body that has the same desire to make the community that they represent better and secondly, building a strong leadership team and support staff. If you don't surround yourself with great people, you're not going to be successful."

Informally known as the City Manager of the Year Award, the Gerald Wilkins Award honors city managers in Oklahoma who strengthen the city management form of government through their stable length of service to cities, dedication to civic activities and participation in and contribution to CMAO and the International City/County Management Association.

"Michael is a terrific leader in our community," said Broken Arrow Mayor Craig Thurmond, who nominated Spurgeon for the award. "He actively pushes Broken Arrow forward and



**GERALD WILKINS AWARD WINNER:** Dave Slezieky, right, vice president of the CMAO Board and city manager of Kingfisher, presents the 2020 Gerald Wilkins Award to B.A. City Manager Michael Spurgeon.

helps the city maintain a positive image within the state, region and across the country. He embraces a high level of standards that has contributed to a positive atmosphere around the community."

"This award is nominated by peers and colleagues. It is also selected by peers and colleagues, so just to be nominated for this award is a humbling honor," said Dave Slezieky, vice president of the CMAO board and city manager of Kingfisher, who presented the award. "You've been recognized by others for your achievements, and you've made achievements with others. When someone calls you and wants to know what's going on in the City of Broken Arrow, you don't hesitate to go sell your community and tell them how much you love it."

Spurgeon has been involved in city administration for over 33 years, with 12 of those years in Oklahoma (Broken Arrow and Miami). He is currently a board member for the Oklahoma Municipal League and the Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation.

The four others who were nominated for this year's award are: Warren Lehr, city manager of Owasso; Tim Lyon, city manager of Midwest City; Joan Riley, city manager of Sapulpa; and Jim Thomas, former city manager of Claremore.

## BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

**James H. (Jim) Beavers**, a Broken Arrow businessman, has been appointed to the **Tulsa Community College Board of Regents** by Oklahoma Governor J. Kevin Stitt and approved by the Oklahoma Legislature. "Jim has been active in economic development in Broken Arrow, one of the state's largest communities, for several decades. I know he will lend his extensive experience to the ongoing and dynamic work of helping prepare people for their careers through access to a higher education," said Governor Stitt.



BEAVERS

A resident of Broken Arrow for more than 40 years, Beavers is an insurance broker and risk management consultant and former partner/owner of The Arrow Group, an independent insurance agency. He started as an insurance agent in 1975 before joining the Broken Arrow Insurance Agency, now known as The Arrow Group, a few years later.

"I am very honored to have been appointed by Governor Stitt and thank State Senator John Haste and the Senate Education Committee for my confirmation. After having met the other TCC Regents, as well as, President Leigh Goodson, I am very excited to have this opportunity and believe TCC is a high-quality community college that adapts to meet the ever-changing workforce needs," said Beavers.

Beavers will serve a seven-year term and be sworn in at the August 13 meeting of the TCC Board of Regents. He will join TCC Board of Regents Chair Wesley G. Mitchell, Vice Chair Caron Lawhorn, Secretary William R. McKamey, as well as Samuel Combs III, Paul H. Cornell, and Ronald S. Looney.

Beavers has served on numerous boards including the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce, Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Independent Insurance Agents of Oklahoma and the Mental Health Association of Tulsa, now known as the Mental Health Association of Oklahoma. He continues to be active in the Broken Arrow Chamber, Broken Arrow EDC, Broken Arrow Public Schools Education Foundation, and Broken Arrow Rotary.

He has received numerous community awards, including Citizen of the Year and the Broken Arrow Legacy Award from the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce.

Beavers graduated from the University of Tulsa with a Bachelor of Science degree. He and his wife, Sharon, are members of New Heart Church and have one son.

Two Oklahoma State University interns brightened the **ERA Design and Architecture** office this summer: **Maddie Bachlor** and **Lauren Norwood**.



BACHLOR



NORWOOD

"I am so glad to have this internship," said Bachlor, who like Norwood is an interior design student at OSU's College of Human Sciences. "Due to COVID-19, many firms are either not having interns or are working from home until they have this all worked out. That's really not a good learning experience for an intern, working from home."

Bachlor, a 2015 graduate from Sapulpa High School, was introduced to ERA by Norwood, who enjoyed her ERA summer internship last year. Norwood encouraged Bachlor to accept the position. "I really enjoyed the experience," said Norwood, a 2016 Owasso High School graduate.

Norwood worked on many aspects of client work in her 2019 internship, from renderings to pricing out materials. She also accompanied ERA executives as they visited client worksites like the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tulsa.

"Interns often don't get that type of experience," said Bachlor, who has worked on a mix of commercial and residential projects.

"This year I am working on renderings again," said Norwood, who appreciates ERA's state-of-the-art software. "I am drawing some plans. And I am working on proposals, which I haven't experienced before. It is all very helpful."

A long infatuation with hospitality design led Bachlor into this career choice. Norwood's interest developed organically.

"I grew up watching my dad and my grandpa doing construction on my house," she said. "That got me interested in it. And I have always been fascinated by how things are built. That led me into how buildings are built."

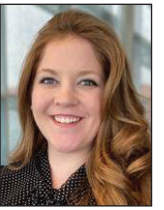
These two students have proved a blessing for ERA Design and Architecture.

"I am continuously in awe of the amount of foresight and natural talent that these young design professionals have," said Cray Bauxmont-Flynn, chief operating officer and principal for this Tulsa-based firm. "Instinct is something that definitely needs to be nurtured, and I am ecstatic to be a part of it."

"Being a mentor is a joy for me," he said. "It also educates me of where the industry is going and how we can be better equipped to provide insightful designs to our clients, with individuals on our team that are on the cutting edge of technology, design philosophy, and methodology."

To learn more about ERA Design and Architecture, check out the firm's website, [www.edmondsonreed.com](http://www.edmondsonreed.com), or call Cray Bauxmont-Flynn at 918-576-6700.

**Dewberry**, a privately held professional services firm, announced that **Nicole Hopkins** has joined the firm as a business development manager located in the Tulsa office.



HOPKINS

Hopkins joins the firm to work primarily with the architecture practice, specializing in healthcare, education, justice, and community projects in the federal, state, and local markets. Prior to joining Dewberry, she worked as a business developer for a large tax resolution law firm.

Hopkins was named a National Emerging Leader in 2019 by the Accounting & Finance Women's Alliance, where she also serves as the national council chair for young professionals across the country. Locally, she is the president of the Tulsa Accounting & Finance Women's Alliance; a director and board governance committee member at the Tulsa Ballet; an active member of the Society for Marketing Professional Services; a long-term volunteer at The Zone Academy; and an executive committee board member at the Greater Tulsa Home Builder's Association.

"We are thrilled to welcome Nicole to our team," says Dewberry Principal and Business Unit Manager Bruce Henley, AIA, LEED AP, RID, NCARB. "Her background in community and business development is a wonderful asset to our organization, and we're excited to have her expertise and knowledge of Tulsa to assist us in better serving our community."

Hopkins earned a bachelor's degree in international community development from Oral Roberts University (2015). In 2019, she was selected as one of Oklahoma's NextGen Under 30 award recipients.

Dewberry is a leading, market-facing firm with a proven history of providing professional services to a wide variety of public and private-sector clients. To learn more, visit [www.dewberry.com](http://www.dewberry.com).

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# Tulsa Zoo Names Lindsay Hutchison President & CEO

*Current VP Joined The Staff in 2005*

Tulsa Zoo Management, Inc. has announced Lindsay Hutchison, the zoo's vice president of philanthropy and community engagement, has been selected to succeed retiring President and CEO Terrie Correll. Correll announced her retirement plans in November 2019 with a commitment to continue to lead the zoo until a successor had been named through a national search process.

John Stava, TZMI Board Chairman, made the announcement to the zoo team. "Our world was much different when our zoo embarked on the executive search process late last year. Since that time, we've seen the zoo industry, in fact all destinations, struggle

with challenges we could not have foreseen back then. What hasn't changed is our zoo's commitment to delivering the best in animal care, to being a leader in wildlife education and conservation, and to contributing to the vibrancy that makes our community the finest in which to live, work and visit. For these reasons, Lindsay is the right person to continue the momentum created by Terrie during her impressive tenure," Stava said. "I join the entire TZMI board in thanking Terrie for her leadership and commitment to our zoo. The board is grateful for the progress she made and excited about the zoo's future under Lindsay's leadership."

Ken Klein, who led the executive search committee for TZMI's board, shared Stava's appreciation for Terrie's leadership and commented on the process that led to Hutchison's hiring. "Our committee was charged to conduct a national search for the best available CEO candidate. With the aid of an excellent team from executive search firm Isaacson, Miller, we met the charge. Through the interview process, we met wonderfully qualified candidates and learned about the success other zoos around the country enjoy. In the end, we concluded that not only is the Tulsa Zoo highly respected by its peers, but also that the best CEO candidate has been at our zoo for almost 15 years. We enthusiastically recommended Lindsay Hutchison's hiring to our board."

Hutchison has served as vice president of philanthropy and community engagement since 2015. She joined the zoo in 2005 as development coordinator for the former Tulsa Zoo Friends, Inc. She established herself as a leader in fundraising, guest relations and external engagement along the way. Because of her dedication to zoo industry leadership, Hutchison was selected for the Executive Leadership



**LEADER AND FRIEND:** Tulsa Zoo's new President and CEO Lindsay Hutchison poses with one of her friends from the zoo. Hutchison gives accolades to immediate past-President and CEO Terrie Correll.

Training Program created by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the Tulsa Zoo's accrediting body. Through this elite program, Hutchison honed her zoo management expertise and deepened relationships among industry leaders nationwide.

Her passion for zoos began in Tulsa, as a four-year-old who met an elephant named Gunda.

"My personal experience proves that zoos can shape lives when we are able to build connections with the natural world. When I was fortunate to get a job at the Tulsa Zoo more than 15 years ago, it became even more clear to me that I could directly impact the ways our guests experience our zoo and our amazing animals through a more meaningful and educational zoo visit," Hutchison says.

"I am so appreciative of Terrie, for the foundation she built and the opportunities she has given me

through the years to make a difference. Zoos matter because animals matter. I am thrilled for this new chapter of building connections that will sustain wild species and wild places into the future."

Correll joined the Tulsa Zoo in 2009 as Zoo Director and was named President and CEO in October 2011. Her zoo career spanned more than four decades, fueling her passion for the critical role zoos play in a community as well as in the wider world of education and conservation. She credits her drive to save species to childhood trips to the San Diego Zoo. It was a behind the scenes tour of the Oklahoma City Zoo during her senior year of college at Oklahoma State University that led Correll to pursue a career as part of the zoo field.

"I am grateful to have had the opportunity to start the transformation of the Tulsa Zoo, including completion of Phase I of the master plan," Correll says. "I can proudly say despite the current pandemic-raised economic challenges, today's Tulsa Zoo remains a mission-based organization with a staff dedicated to providing the best in animal care and welfare, and guest experiences. And despite changes since I made my initial announcement to retire, I remain confident in our zoo and know Lindsay will continue to build the zoo our community and animals deserve."

Previously, Correll served as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for The Living Desert, a zoological and botanical garden in Palm Desert, Calif., that focused on desert conservation. Correll began her zoo career as a zookeeper at the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, Kansas. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Ecology from OSU.

She has served on numerous AZA committees, including Ethics, Field Conservation, Taxon Advisory Groups and Species Survival Plans. She currently she serves as an AZA institutional accreditation inspector. Additionally, she has served as a member of the IUCN's Antelope Specialist Group, Conservation Planning Specialist Group, and is a founding board member for the Sahara Conservation Fund. She has also coordinated addax antelope reintroduction from AZA zoos to Tunisia.

The Tulsa Zoo is Green Country's largest paid daily attraction, welcoming 700,000 guests each year. The zoo is owned by the City of Tulsa and managed by Tulsa Zoo Management, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information about the Tulsa Zoo, visit [www.tulsazoo.org](http://www.tulsazoo.org) or call 918-669-6600.

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**TPS NEWS**

# Laura Grisham Named TPS Teacher of the Year

*Monroe Academy Instructor Receives Recognition, \$1,000*



LAURA GRISHAM

Courtesy photo

Monroe Demonstration Academy teacher Laura Grisham is the Tulsa Public Schools 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year. Superintendent Deborah A. Gist surprised her at her school with the announcement.

TCTA President Shawna Mott-Wright, Monroe Principal Rob Kaiser, 2019 Teacher of the Year Nicole Powell, and Grisham's parents attended the surprise announcement.

"Although this is not our traditional way to celebrate our Teacher of the Year, we are thrilled for Laura to represent our district as the 2020-2021 Teacher of the Year," said Gist. "Being a teacher is an extraordinarily challenging job, especially in a pandemic, but it is also profoundly rewarding. Great teachers are not only the heart of excellent schools; they are the foundation from which our communities are able to grow and thrive."

Four Teacher of the Year finalists were surprised at their homes by their school leader, board member, or other team members.

- The five finalists were:
- Veronica Diaz-Rodriguez, Dual Language Academy;
  - Laura Grisham, Monroe Demonstration Academy;
  - Sarah Ivie, Eliot Elementary;
  - Akela Leach, Lanier Elementary; and
  - Ashley Powell, Owen Elementary.

Gist said: "These five educators have demonstrated exemplary instructional practice, the ability to form meaningful and life-changing relationships with their students, and a relentless focus on ensuring that every child has the tools and supports that he or she needs to be successful. They will go above and beyond to serve our students as we begin the new school year in

distance learning."

"My heroes have always been teachers," said Mott-Wright. "When you teach a child, you change the world. We have the most amazing teachers who are making such a difference in the lives of our children. This is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate those dedicated educators, and we are so proud of Laura and all of the finalists."

After a community-wide nomination process in the fall, schools throughout the district named site-level Teachers of the Year in the winter of 2019. These site-level winners each created a portfolio of work to be reviewed by a committee that included Tulsa Classroom Teachers Association President Shawna Mott-Wright, as well as school and district leaders. The five finalists were selected following a portfolio review and an interview with the committee.

The district presented Grisham with a \$1,000 award and each finalist with a \$500 award sponsored by the Foundation for Tulsa Schools. Learn more about the district by visiting [www.tulsaschools.org](http://www.tulsaschools.org).

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