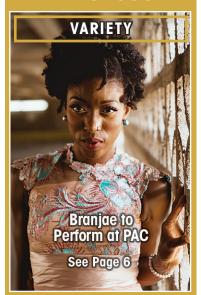


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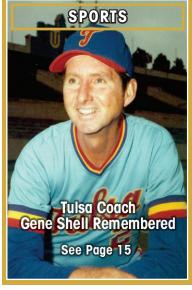
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IN THIS ISSUE:









B.A. Tops Out Fire Station 3

In Addition, Ground Broken For Fire Station 7 Replacement

By BOB LEWIS Contributing Editor

Officials from the City of Broken Arrow topped out a replacement for Broken Arrow Fire Station 3

The project site, which is on the west side of 23rd Street (County Line Road/193rd East Avenue), north of the Creek Turnpike at approximately 115th Street, will replace an older Station 3, currently located about two miles away on Elm Place north of Jasper (131st) Street.

"We use a great deal of data and research to determine the most effective location for our resources, including this and all future fire stations, in order to maintain quick response times and superior customer service to our citizens" said Fire Chief Jeremy Moore.

When finished, the new station will have three bays sized and equipped for modern firefighting apparatus. Reco Enterprises is constructing the station, which will cost about \$3.8 million. It is funded by voter-approved 2011 and 2014 General Obligation

The topping out ceremony was held in place of a traditional groundbreaking because that was not possible during the initial shelter-in-place order for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Broken Arrow is turning up the heat in its quest to provide the best possible protective services with the construction of two new fire

Earlier in October, ground was broken for a replacement for Fire Station 7. The project site is directly south of Arrowhead Park at 201 E. Washington St.

It replaces an aging Station 7, currently located about one mile away on Elm Place north of New Orleans Street. That station had been decommissioned once before when Fire Station 2 was completed, but was put back into service when the Fire Department expanded operations to include a seventh station in 2016. Among other deficiencies, it was built when firefighting apparatus were much smaller than they are today, meaning many of the department's modern fire engines do not fit in the old facility.

"A great deal of data-driven research was done to determine the most effective location for this and all future fire stations," said Fire Chief Jeremy Moore.

The new Fire Station 7 will have four bays sized and equipped for modern firefighting apparatus. Coweta-based Bravo Builders will construct the station, which will cost about \$3.6 million. The project is funded by the voter approved 2018 Build Our Future BA General Obligation Bond package.



TOPPING OUT: An impressive topping out ceremony was held at Station 3 as Reco Enterprises placed the steel beam with the American flag atop the building



Courtesy GH2 Architects READY FOR CONSTRUCTION: Broken Arrow officials along with FIRE STATION 7: Fire Station 7 will join Fire Station 3 as the city up-members of the B.A. Fire Department and the station builder Reco Enterprises participated in a topping out ceremony for Station 3.



grades its Fire Department facilities.

of the MONT

The Tulsa Day Center received two significant awards in early October, one for its medical clinic and the other for the entire staff of front-line workers

The Oklahoma Nurses Association (ONA) held its 111th Annual Nurses' Convention, virtually, honoring "The Year of the Nurse," and honored the Tulsa Day Center to recognize this year's most outstanding Oklahoma nurses and medical facilities.

"The Tulsa Day Center Medical Clinic is honored to be recognized by ONA for Excellence in the Workplace," said Leslie Petty, clinic director. "Our dedicated staff and volunteers strive

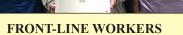




to serve Tulsa's most vulnerable population—our homeless—with professionalism, dignity and re-

In addition, all Day Center staff were included among frontline Society & Museum.

workers into the 2020 Tulsa Hall of Fame by the Tulsa Historical



Tulsa Area United Way Announces Campaign Leadership Through 2023

ison Anthony announced on Oct. 9 the campaign chairs for the next three years in the organization's effort to raise millions of dollars each year to support 59 area non-profit organizations, collaborative initiatives, and innovation grants.

Campaign Chairs give leadership and direction to the current year's campaign efforts, mobilizing more than 30,000 donors and over 1,000 companies that run workplace campaigns. The chair leads the way in building, organizing and managing a successful volunteer campaign team. The chair sets the spirit, pace and example to generate contributions and awareness so vital in funding health and human service needs in the Tulsa area. This year, under the leadership of Campaign Chair Caron Lawhorn, the Tulsa Area United Way aims to raise \$23,720,000 through individual and corporate donations, along with foundation gifts.

As COVID has shaken all parts of society, the Tulsa Area United Way seeks to create stability through leadership in community volunteerism and philanthropy. The campaign chairs will inspire the community to come back strong as key figures in helping to stabilize area social service agencies through community-wide giving. Chairs are selected based on their ability and personal passion to lead the United Way's annual campaign to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of thousands in our communities.

Tulsa Area United Way is continuing the tradition to get the best of the best when it comes to leading fundraising campaigns. This November 2020, has a long history is a big win for us and everyone who currently uses or will need social services in the future," said Kirk Hays, president and CEO of Arvest Bank Tulsa and 2020 Tulsa Area United Way Board Chair. 'We are in good hands as we navigate our way to recovering from these unprecedented challenges and strengthening Tulsa and the surrounding communities by improving lives for years to come."

The Campaign Chairs will be: • 2021 Campaign Co-Chairs: Karen Keith (Tulsa County Commissioner) and Tim Lyons (president and CEO, TTCU Federal Credit Union)

- 2022 Campaign Chair: Peggy Simmons (President and COO,
- 2023 Campaign Chair: Karl Neumaier (COO, Hilti).

"The collaborative spirit that exists in our community is what enables Tulsa Area United Way and our 59 nonprofit partner agencies to keep the social safety net strong. My heart is so full of joy when I think these leaders, Commissioner Karen Keith, Tim Lyons, Peggy Simmons and Karl Neumaier, will be guiding our campaigns for the next three years," Anthony said, adding, "Despite the uncertain times we are living in, we can be certain that their leadership will position the United Way and the entire Tulsa area community for success."

About the Chairs: Karen Keith (2021 Co-Chair) Karen Keith, re-elected as County Commissioner for District 2 in

of working to better Tulsa County. Some of her projects include: working to secure federal funding for the West Tulsa/Sand Springs levee system; lead the successful campaign for the new Family Center for Juvenile Justice; leading an effort to build a new OSU Extension building; construction is underway for the Gilcrease Expressway and bridge in a partnership with the Turnpike Authority; ensuring Tulsa County facilities are smoke-free campuses; and working to enhance the Will Rogers Memorial located in Claremore, OK.

Keith worked for 26 years in broadcasting, with 21 years at KJRH as an anchor, reporter and executive producer and host of "Oklahoma Living." In 2002, she became the Mayor's Director of Community Relations and Vision Implementation. Following her service at City Hall, Keith worked for the Tulsa Metro Chamber of Commerce as the Director of Partnership Development for the Tulsa Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Keith serves on numerous boards and authorities in her role as a County Commissioner. She has received many awards over the years for her professional and volunteer work.

Tim Lyons (2021 Co-Chair)

Tim Lyons is the president and CEO of TTCU Federal Credit Union. TTCU Federal Credit Union is the second largest credit union in Oklahoma, with \$2.3 billion in assets, 18 branches and 140,000 members.

Only the seventh president in TTCU's 86-year history, Lyons was



LOOKING FORWARD: Tulsa Area United Way CEO Alison Anthony announces the campaign leadership for the next three years at the TAUW headquarters at 1430 S. Boulder Ave. in Tulsa. Attending are 2022 Chair Peggy Simmons, president and CEO of Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO); 2023 Campaign Chair Karl Neumaier (COO, Hilti); 2021 Co-chair Tim Lyons, president and CEO of TTCU Federal Credit Union; and 2021 Co-Chair Karen Keith (2021 Co-Chair), currently Tulsa County Commissioner for District 2.

named CEO in 2011. He has overseen the credit union's rapid growth, opening seven new branches and a newly built 90,000 square foot corporate headquarters in south Tulsa under his leadership. Thanks to Lyons, TTCU has continued to be a leader in supporting education in Oklahoma. In 2016, TTCU Federal Credit Union spearheaded Support our Schools, which generated over \$2.8 million for Oklahoma school districts. He also worked to start the School Pride debit card program, where a percentage of each transaction is donated back to the schools, resulting in over \$1 million donated to local school districts since the program's inception.

Lyons is a strong believer in the credit union movement and has

served on a number of boards and committees for industry organizations. In addition, he is a strong advocate for educational and community causes, serving on the boards of the David Temple Foundation, Tulsa Community College Foundation, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa Area United Way and Tulsa Regional Chamber.

Peggy Simmons (2022 Chair)

Peggy Simmons is president and chief operating officer of Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO). She is responsible for all aspects of providing electric service for PSO's more than 550,000 customers. These include customer service, operation of the distribution (Continued on page 16)

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THE GREATER TOLSA REPORTER NEWSPAPERS
The Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers consist of the Union Boundary, the Jenks District
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pages of information of interest to all readers in the Greater Tulsa area.

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
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CIRCULATION

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Tulsa Regional Chamber Named The National Chamber of the Year

For the fourth time in 15 years, the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) has honored the Tulsa Regional Chamber as its National Chamber of the Year. The award recognizes chambers that demonstrate excellence in operations, member services and community leadership.

"This award is a testament to not only the quality of the Chamber's programs and services, but its enduring impact on our region as said Roger Ramseyer, vice president and Tulsa market leader for Cox Communications and the Chamber's 2020 board chair.

ACCE previously named the Tulsa Regional Chamber the nation's best chamber in 2005, 2008 and 2010. For the 2020 award, the Chamber presented a number of innovative programs for consideration, including part-nerships built with tribal nations in Chamber-led Tulsa's Future regional economic development projects, as well as the diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) work exemplified by the Chamber-led Mosaic coalition.

The award's multi-stage selection process includes an initial operations benchmark, a written application and a panel interview. ACCE evaluates comparable chambers based on total revenue, and the Tulsa Regional Chamber competed at the highest tier. Winners were announced September 30 as part of ACCE's annual convention, which was held virtually this year.

"The Tulsa Regional Chamber is a strong advocate for our business community in Tulsa and works hand-in-hand with the city on our economic development efforts," said Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum. "I am glad others have recognized what we already knew: that we have the best chamber of commerce in America.'

Established in 1903, the Tulsa Regional Chamber is north-Oklahoma's business-driven leadership organization improving the quality of community life through the development of regional economic prosperity. The Chamber represents more than 2,150 member organizations and more than

178,000 area employees. "We at the Tulsa Regional Chamber are thrilled by this honor," said Mike Neal, president and CEO of the Chamber. "Being named Chamber of the Year for the fourth time would not be possible without the dedication of our hard-working staff, our engaged

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board of directors and the diverse businesses that make up our membership.'

The Tulsa Regional Chamber develops and delivers a wide variety of programs and services designed to bolster and benefit Tulsa-area businesses of all shapes and sizes, from large corporations to small startups. For more than 115 years, the Chamber has served as an integral part of what makes the Tulsa region a great place to live, work and play. As epitomized by the Chamber tagline – "Your Partner in Prosperity" – every strategy, program and service of the Chamber is created specifically to increase prosperity.

In addition to providing services and programs for its member companies, the Tulsa Regional Chamber leads northeast Oklahoma's regional economic development partnership, Tulsa's Future. The Chamber also houses Tulsa Regional Tourism, the region's destination marketing organization, and leads a coalition of more than 75 entities endorsing the OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda, a shared list of pro-business state and federal policy priorities.

The Chamber holds several prestigious accreditations: fivestar accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; accred-

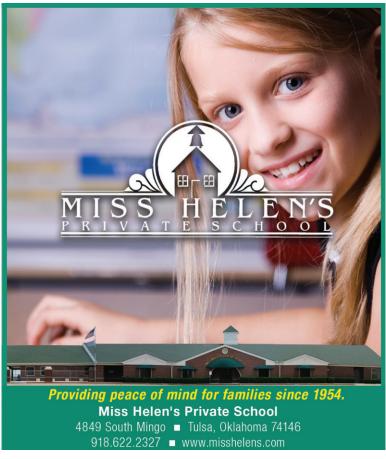
ited economic development organization through the International Economic Development Council (IEDC); and accredited destination marketing organization (VisitTulsa) through Destinations International (DI). In addition, the Chamber houses the Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Arts & Culture (Tulsa FMAC), Oklahoma's only accredited city film commission through the Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI).

accreditations, Beyond Chamber is on a journey toward a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. As steps on that journey, the Oklahoma Quality Foundation honored the Chamber in 2013, 2015 and again in 2019.

"At the Tulsa Regional Chamber, we strongly believe in continuous improvement," said Chamber Executive Vice President and COO Justin McLaughlin. "The process of re-accreditation or applying for an award is an opportunity for introspection and evaluation. We're humbled to have our efforts celebrated by fellow chambers of commerce, but the real value comes when that self-assessment propels us even further forward."

For more information about the Chamber's programs and services, visit tulsachamber.com.





Search for the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Mass Graves Continues at Oaklawn Cemetery

Tulsa Race Massacre, we found a mass grave in Oaklawn Ceme-

In

October, members from our 1921 Graves Physical Investigation Team unearthed a portion of that cemetery that now gives us a better glimpse into the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. Though we can't tie October's findings directly to the race massacre, yet, we now have a renewed hope of finding out what happened nearly 100 years ago after 12 coffins were found in October's test excavation.

The largest discovery in October's test excavation was the finding of 11 coffins, all located in a single grave shaft – this is also

Ninety-nine years after the 1921 The area where remains were found has been

Mayor

From Tulsa's

By G.T. BYNUM Mayor of Tulsa

previously referenced as the Original 18 site, located adjacent to two 1921 race massacre headstones in the historical African

American section of the Potters Field. Funeral records home and other documents for 1921 show that at least 18 identified and unidentified African American massacre victims were buried in the City-owned

cemetery. It's noted the finding of the 11 coffins represents just one-third of

the overall anomaly that was detected when we did our geophysical survey work. So though we found 11 coffins in a single grave shaft, we know there is a possibility there could be more.

Moreover, our team tells me there were even stairs built into the corner of the trench, which is consistent with a single event having happened where someone would have had to build a grave large enough to hold multiple people.

But though multiple people were buried in a single grave shaft, there are still a lot of unknowns after October's findings. We still don't know who these victims are, how they died and whether their deaths were a result of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. Further investigation and research is needed to help put these puzzle pieces together an investigation that isn't a quick

The next steps in our effort to uncover what happened nearly 100 years ago continue. The excavation site has now been covered in protective materials and filled back in until we can safely and legally exhume those remains and get them to a safe environment where they can be studied. When exposed to today's air after having been underground for so long, these remains are incredibly delicate and we can't risk their integrity by unearthing them and exposing them answers continues. There are still to air without a sound plan.



DISCUSSING EXCAVATION WORK: Mayor G.T. Bynum and Archeologist Kary Stackelbeck from the State of Oklahoma discuss excavation work at Oaklawn Cemetery on Oct. 21.

Upon a judge signing off on our exhumation request, we will then have to find an appropriate time to finish where we left off in October, weather permitting. We expect this process to take several months.

In the meantime, our search for sites with anomalies to be examhappened in 1921.

ined, and others to be scanned to see whether anomalies are present that are consistent with a mass grave. I am ever hopeful and confident the work we are doing is important and that we're on the right track to providing some sense of closure for the families and for Tulsa as we seek the truth of what

Tulsa Welcomes 50 Immigrants in Oklahoma's First Outdoor Drive-In Naturalization Ceremony

As major U.S. cities work to safely welcome new immigrants amid the pandemic, 50 people from 22 different countries became U.S. citizens on October 8 in Oklahoma's first outdoor, drive-in naturalization ceremony at Admiral Twin Drive-In; the historic theater featured in The Outsiders movie.

The ceremony is Tulsa's single-largest, yet, with nearly 400 new immigrants now having naturalized in Tulsa since the City started hosting ceremonies in April of 2019 as a part of its New Tulsans Initiative.

"In Tulsa, we recognize the risks and challenges people face when they leave their homeland to become United States citizens, and we want Tulsa to live up to that sacrifice," Mayor G.T. Bynum said. "That is why we started hosting citizenship ceremonies at City Hall, and we love the opportunity to honor our newest fellow Americans. But with the onset of the pandemic, we haven't been able to serve as many

as we would like. That is what makes this event so exciting: it is a naturalization ceremony truly unique to Tulsa at the historic Admiral Twin Drive-In, with people from more than 20 countries becoming United States citizens. I am thankful for the team at the Admiral Twin and thankful I got to share this moment with our fellow Tulsans.'

After U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) temporarily suspended naturalization ceremonies countrywide in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tulsa resumed hosting smaller ceremonies at Tulsa City Hall in July to keep participants safe, operating on a limited capacity where only 10 people could naturalize at one time indoors. With the space and ability for participants to socially distance in their cars at the drivein theater, the City found a unique and safe way to help more people naturalize at one time.

On October 8, future U.S. citizens sat in their cars and tuned the spread of this virus.

into the theater's FM radio station to hear the festivities, as they would if they were there to see a movie. As USCIS read their countries of origin, each immigrant honked their horns, stepped out with their masks on and stood next to their vehicles to take their oaths of allegiance. The 50 people who naturalized were accompanied by family and friends, all of whom sat in their vehicles as they watched Tulsa's newest citizens naturalize.

'Tulsa has always been a welcoming and resilient community - that was best shown when our theater burned down and our friends in Tulsa rallied behind us and helped us build it back better," said Blake Smith, Owner of Admiral Twin Drive-In. "We're incredibly thankful to be able to have the environment that we do that can allow this sort of thing, especially in a time where we have to put some space in between ourselves and others to help prevent



SWEARING ALLEGIANCE: These people are among the 50 from 22 different countries who became U.S. citizens in the drive-in naturalization ceremony at the Admiral Twin Drive-In on Oct. 8.

The naturalization ceremony was held just in time for Tulsa's newest citizens, ages 18 and over, to register to vote ahead of Oklahoma's October 9 voter registration deadline for the November 3 election.

Background

As part of the New Tulsans Ini-

tiative, the City of Tulsa began hosting United States Naturalization Ceremonies in 2019 with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at Tulsa City Hall. To date, the City of Tulsa has hosted 11 naturalization ceremonies and welcomed nearly 400 new immigrants to Tulsa.





County Dedicates a Portion of CARES Funding to Parks

pandemic has been the closure of to design a program using park

the public schools, leaving thousands of parents to juggle work and daycare, often doing both at home

Even though businesses have gradually begun to reopen and employees returning to work, the schools have stayed with virtual and/ or distant learning. This has left parents to wonder and worry how do they return to work when there is no place for the children to be during the day.

To address this dilemma, the Tulsa County Board Commissioners (BOCC) decided to

CARES funding to the county's Like traditional school, School of

One of the areas hit hard by the Park and Recreation Department Rec is in

From Tulsa

County

By COMMISSIONER

RON PETERS

facilities where children could safely be during the day. On Sept. 30,

we announced the "School of Rec" program. School of Rec began on Oct. 4 in four of the county parks: Chandler Park Community Center, Bixby Community Center, SoCo Recreation Center, and La-Fortune Park

Center. At each of these centers, students age 6-13 have ac-

Community

dedicate a portion of the county's cess to virtual or distance learning.

session Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

T h e cost is \$50/week and is limited to 20 students per location. Students must bring their own laptop, school supplies, sack lunch and water bottle. Park staff interact and monitor students as well as ensuring they follow CDC guideline by maintaining physical distance and ensuring learning surfaces are frequently cleaned.

School of Rec provides county parks locations that parents can turn to when their children need a trusted, safe, and clean place to distance and/or virtual learn while parents focus on their regular jobs.

The City of Tulsa Parks and Recreation Department has also started a similar program at five (5) locations. Both the City and County Parks Departments work together



COMMUNITY CENTER: The LaFortune Park Community Center and Library is one of four "School of Rec" locations, offering students age 6-13 access to virtual or distance learning Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

to make sure if one location is full that they help the parents find either a city or county facility that has openings.

The School to Rec program is just one of dozens of areas throughout the county where the BOCC has directed the use of the CARES funds to provide rescue and recovery efforts to families and businesses that have been disrupted by the COVID 19 public health emergency. To learn more about the county's CARES program, visit www.tulsacountycares.org

For more information about this program please contact the Centers directly:

Chandler Park – 918-591-6053 Bixby Center – 918-366-4841 SoCo Center – 918-746-3780 LaFortune Center – 918-496-6220

Tulsa County CARES Provides \$3.2 Million For Food Pantries Through the Holidays

Tulsa County Commissioners approved an additional \$3.2 million for nonprofit food providers to ensure stocked pantries for the

The requested funding amount came from an area food summit in October that included Tulsa County and nonprofit leaders at Tulsa Area United Way offices. The summit was the first of its kind in

Summit attendees were encour-

aged to summarize the area's food needs and work together to leverage bulk purchasing. Summit invitees included Catholic Charities, Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, Hunger Free Oklahoma, Iron Gate Tulsa, Meals on Wheels, Owasso Community Services, Sand Springs Community Services and others.

"As the largest provider of food to people in need in the state of Oklahoma, Catholic Charities is counted on by those in need to serve with love," said Deacon Kevin Sartorius, CEO of Catholic Charities of Tulsa. "During the COVID pandemic we have seen the number of families coming to our centers in Tulsa and Broken Arrow increase by 400%. We are now serving 6,500 families per month in Tulsa County, more than 30,000 souls. Every month we are providing more than 400,000 meals right here in Tulsa.

"We are very thankful to have the opportunity to work with Tulsa County and we know that the Tulsa Cares grant we have received will benefit families needing assistance during this difficult time."

Food pantries are the single highest referral from Eastern Oklahoma 211 since March with more than 17,300 from the region calling for help related to food, according to reports presented at the summit. The second highest referral, with almost 1,200, is to food stamps.

Tulsa County CARES previously provided \$1.2 million to area food pantries. Including Monday's approval, Tulsa County pantries have received \$4.4 million.

For more information about other Tulsa County CARES programs, go to tulsacountycares.org.





EARLY VOTING AT ONEOK: Early voting was interesting this year after the Tulsa County Election Board announced that ONEOK Field would be used as the early voting location for the November 3rd election. ONEOK Field is normally home to the Tulsa Drillers, but was open for three different periods for Tulsa County voters to complete ballots for the November election. Throughout the country, several stadiums and arenas were chosen as voting locations to help provide safe facilities for voters during the COVID pandemic.





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Creative Planning Keeps Audiences Engaged

As we pull into the home stretch ing a show so we could continue

Thanksgiving, I am grateful that we live in a resilient resourceful country. With the coming of the colder weather, it will be challenging to accommodate COVID-conscious in-person performances. Thankfully, behind the scenes — in Zoom meetings everywhere — there are corporate folks, board members and committees straining their brains and budgets for creative ways to bring us live entertainment.

Although I always look forward to the holiday season, spring can't come soon enough. New York's theaters are now shuttered through May 30, 2021. For many shows, those New York closings affect touring Broadway. With vaccines showing promise, there is hope for an improvement in our current situation. I welcome the day that doors will be open for shows at the BOK Center, the PAC, Tulsa Theatre (the Brady), and elsewhere. In the meantime, there are numerous opportunities for a fun time out on the town.

Theatre Tulsa has partnered with ahaa (Hardesty Arts Center) to craft a unique theatre experience with "Tell Me a Story." Over the past few months, Theatre Tulsa has been gathering real-life stories that have been shared with script writers for development. "This is our response to live theatre being shut down for so long this year," says Jarrod Kopp, executive director of Theatre Tulsa. "We've redesigned the entire experience of attend-



of 2020, and given that it's almost producing theatre that builds up

Show Buzz

By NANCY HERMANN

and strengthens our community." Audiences will through rotate six performance locations at ahaa Hardesty in socially distanced groups of 10. The space (comprising 40,000 square feet) will be closed entirely to other members of the public during that time. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online through ahaa. Performances take place in November, December and January.

Concerts at the BOK Center have been canceled or postponed, but the Center's Winterfest is back for its 13th year. You can take to the ice — 17,000 square feet of it, INSIDE the BOK Center — Nov. 21 through Jan. 3.

Across the way from the BOK, the Cox Business Convention Center (CBCC) has polished off an attractive remodeling and is embracing new types of business. It is working closely with the Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Art and Culture on several projects, including hosting crews working on the film "Ida Red." The venue offers its space for craft and catering services and prop storage. Additionally, scenes from the film were shot in CB-CC's Pepsi Exhibit Hall, among other locations. My husband and I were made aware of Tulsa filming one Saturday afternoon as we were strolling on the Williams Green between the Tulsa PAC and the Hyatt. We were alarmed to hear shots. Unmistakable gunfire. Just as were looking for cover, a bystander told us that "Ida Red" was being filmed at 4th and Boston! "Ida Red" is an American crime drama, written and directed by Tulsa native John Swab, and starring Josh Hartnett, Melissa Leo and Frank Grillo.

CBCC has hosted Tulsa Opera rehearsals and branched out to produce wine dinners. The Fall Harvest Wine Dinner with Chef Devin Levine is slated for Nov. 12. Guests will be seated in the brandnew chef-designed kitchen to enjoy a six-course meal. A duet from Tulsa Symphony Orchestra will enrich the evening of fine dining.

Dancers returned to Tulsa Ballet studios in late September. The Ballet had received a grant to in-



RETURN TO REHEARSAL: Tulsa Ballet dancers returned from hiatus in late September to rehearse for 'Creations Re-Imagined,'' presented at Studio K through Nov. 22.





ARTS IN THE AIR: The PAC Trust and Williams Companies continue the Arts in the Air program at the Williams Green in downtown Tulsa with one of Tulsa's finest jazz musicians, Dean Demerritt, left, on Nov. 13, and the sultry, theatrical singer Branjae (Nov. 14).

stall a new state-of-the-art air purification system in consideration of upcoming rehearsals, classes and performances at their facilities. With health and safety at the forefront of every decision, the Ballet will present 26 performances through Nov. 22 at Studio K. "Creations Re-Imagined" will feature works by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and Yury Yanowsky, and a world premiere by Ma Cong. Patrons will be seated 10 feet apart a total of 30 patrons per performance — hence the unprecedented number of performances needed to accommodate Tulsa

Ballet season subscribers. In addition, Tulsa Ballet will broadcast the performances virtually — \$25 per household. Check out the Tulsa Ballet website for details.

Elsewhere around town, there's music at the Cain's, including a live-stream of Hanson concerts, Nov. 5-7 (limited in-person tickets available). Although the casinos are not hosting headliners in their performance halls, there are bands playing on various stages.

Don't forget "Arts in the Air" on the Williams Green, presented by the PAC Trust and the Williams Companies. Relax to the music of

one of Tulsa's most revered jazz musicians, Dean Demerritt (Nov. 13) and the incomparable Branjae (Nov. 14). Tulsa Symphony performs a "Fridays in the Loft" concert at First Presbyterian on Nov. 20. The program will feature a string quartet and percussion en-

Be sure to bring your mask to all events and check ahead for any possible cancellations. I'm thankful for what dedicated people are doing to keep us engaged and entertained. You can express your gratitude through your support. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.





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No-Chili Cookoff and Bubble Concerts: 2020 Is So Weird

As the year of COVID winds to an end, the pandemic is threatening one of our most cherished Fall traditions. Like many, the changing of the leaves and a chill to the air each November spark in me a desire to gath-

er with loved ones for the annual autumn feast. That beloved tradition, like everything in 2020, is going to be a little different this year.

I'm referring, of course, to the annual Horton Rock & Folk & Chili Cookoff, which is temporarily changing its name to the Rock & Folk & No-Chili Cookoff in its seventh year. The absence of chili is obviously due to safety concerns, as is the limited-capacity seating for the Nov. 7 event at Cain's Ballroom.

I will certainly miss sampling chili from some of Tulsa's best restaurants, as well as those offered up by home chefs in the musician category, but if you're considering attending the event, the lack of chili is by no means a deal breaker.

First of all, it isn't exactly "no chili." Tables of four will include a boxed chili meal courtesy of Lambrusco'z. You can sample the chili and vote online for your favorite.

Secondly, the chili, as good as it is, will always play second fiddle to the music, which COVID can't take away from us. This year's lineup includes Paul Benjaman's Sunday Night Thing (on a Saturday), Jacob Tovar, Brad Apsher and the Superials, and Nightingale.

Finally, it's all for a good cause, raising funds for Horton Records, a Tulsa-based non-profit organization that provides support and tools for band management, promotion, booking, merchandising, and distribution to help local and regional musicians. Part of the fundraising effort is a silent auction, featuring a new painting by local artist Chris Mantle.

Tickets will only be sold as a reserved table of four. Tables will cost \$160 and are available online at cainsballroom.com.

As always, non-perishable food donations and coats will be collected for those in need at the box office on the day of the show.

A free live stream courtesy of Live From Cain's will be online through the Cain's Ballroom Facebook page.

For more information, or to vote in the chili cookoff, visit hortonrecords.org.

Bubble Boys

This is a column about Tulsa music, and I rarely stray from that topic, as there is always more than enough going on in our music-rich city to fill a monthly column. But this month, I have to veer off-topic by about 100 miles and give a nod to our friends in Oklahoma City, the Flaming Lips.

With the possible exception of Bigfoot, nobody has done a better job of handling the pandemic.

At a recent concert at the Criterion in downtown Oklahoma City, the veteran rock band took COVID protocol to a new level with the first-ever bubble concert. As strange as "bubble concert" sounds, for fans of the Flaming Lips, it actually makes sense. Bubbles, literal, human-sized, clear plastic bubbles have been a part of the band's show for years. I remember seeing frontman

Wayne Coyne thrilling the crowd at Wakarusa in 2006 as he crowd surfed in a giant bubble. It's been a lasting image since that day, so when I saw footage of the bubble concert, which was picked up by numerous national news and entertainment outlets, I thought, "Of course they had a bubble concert."

The 3,500-capacity Criterion was filled with 100 clear plastic bubbles, one for each audience member, so band and audience alike enjoyed the most COVID-safe concert to date.

"I like the way this looks, because you can get as excited as you want, you can scream as much as you want, you just can't infect the person next to you, no matter what you forget about, how excited you get,' Coyne told CNN. 'That barrier is still

get,' Coyne told CNN. 'That barrier is still there, they're protected, and you're protected... that part of it is what we really felt like was the success."



Searching for

The Sound

By BRYAN CANTRELL

Also showing ingenuity amid the pandemic, albeit to a slightly lesser degree, is Mercury Lounge at 18th Street and Boston Avenue. While they don't provide patrons with individual bubbles, the converted Sinclair station has taken commendable efforts to keep both its clientele and musicians safe since reopening in late May.

In addition to limiting capacity, a strict mask policy and Plexiglas dividers, the venue has gone a step further for musicians by providing a stage door for performers and separate bar access.

The garage-door windows provide excellent circulation inside, and a good view of the stage from the patio, making it a relatively safe venue if proper distancing is practiced.

Normally known as a late-night venue, the Mercury Lounge is offering, "November Afternoons," an afternoon concert series, weekdays at 4 p.m. all month. Performing on Mondays is Stephanie Oliver, Jared Tyler on Tuesdays, Kalyn Kay on Wednesdays, Jesse Aycock on Thursdays and Brianna Wright on Fridays. This daily party on the patio is free, and booth reservation is available.

Mercury was one of the first venues in town to offer live streaming shows, and they are still using the stage during the day to record sets that can be posted online or sold as ticket add-ons. Visit mercuryloungetulsa. com for more information and tickets.

We are now nine months into this pandemic, which is way too long to go without live music. We can't keep waiting. We must find a safe way, even if it means encasing ourselves in bubbles, to keep searching, keep listening.





THEN & NOW: Mercury Lounge, previously a gas station at 18th & Boston Avenue, presents November Afternoons: live music at 4 pm. Monday through Friday



LIMITED SEATING: The 7th Annual Horton Records Rock & Folk & No Chili Cookoff is set for Nov. 7



SOCIAL DISTANCING: A recent Flaming Lips concert at the Criterion in Oklahoma City took COVID safety protocols to a new level.









QuikTrip's MedWise Urgent Care to Open 15 Urgent Care Clinics in Greater Tulsa

MedWise Urgent Care is working to construct a new urgent and preventive healthcare facility at 6336 E. Admiral Pl. in Tulsa, with an expected open date of Feb. 16, 2021.

MedWise is a healthcare venture launched by QuikTrip (QT), which is widely recognized as best-inclass in its industry.

"MedWise and its vision for a network of urgent care clinics is crucial in a time when more people are seeking more convenient and accessible ways to receive care," Mayor G.T. Bynum said. "Throughout this expansion phase, our economic development team will continue to work closely with MedWise to help them identify sites that meet the needs of Tulsans from various zip codes. This expansion proves just how dedicated QuikTrip is to our area and we're incredibly thankful for their continued investment in Tulsa.'

MedWise has been established to provide an improved healthcare experience focused on human connection and accessibility. A total of 15 urgent care clinics are planned for the greater Tulsa

region.
"Modern healthcare must see the experience through the eyes of the patient," MedWise Chief Medical Officer Dr. Patrick Aguilar said. "We can all do more to meet the needs of patients while respecting the human element of health and

The MedWise Urgent Care model

is focused on providing high quality urgent and preventive healthcare needs with an empathetic and compassionate approach at consistent and convenient locations. The clinics will perform a full suite of x-ray and laboratory evaluations to address patients' urgent and preventive care needs.

"We strive to offer exceptional healthcare and compassionate service at each MedWise visit," Med-Wise Executive Director Brice Habeck said. "Patients should be able to expect us to take extra steps to promote health and provide a positive experience.'

MedWise will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on week-



FIRST FACILITY: The first QuikTrip MedWise facility is under construction at 6336 E. Admiral Pl. in Tulsa.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma to Issue \$20 Million in Premium Relief, Reaffirming Support

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Okla-

its members, customers, and comhoma (BCBSOK) has announced it munities during the COVID-19

viding approximately \$20 million in relief to fully insured employer will take further action to support public health emergency by procustomers in the form of a premium credit. The company has worked with regulators to obtain

necessary approvals.

The premium credits are the latest relief action from BCBSOK in response to the global health crisis to help lessen the financial hardships many Oklahomans may be experiencing.

These include:

Adjustments made to initial 2021 individual and group rates to provide further financial relief for group plans, individuals, and their families — delivering approximately \$52 million in sav-

Extending the waivers of cost sharing for telehealth services as well as COVID-19 testing and treatment — delivering approximembers and their families.

"Our absolute focus is on our members and the communities we serve, and providing additional support and financial relief is the right thing to do," said Joseph Cunningham, M.D., president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma. "Our members trust us to be good stewards of their premium dollars and ensure they have access to affordable, high-quality care. As part of our commitment, we are finding ways to help support both the physical and financial health of our members during this unprecedented public health emergency.

In addition to these actions in response to the COVID-19 crisis, BCBSOK recently issued rebates to individuals and small groups who were eligible under the MLR rebate consumer protection promately \$34 million in savings for cess under the Affordable Care Act relating to their 2019 cover-

There continues to be uncertainty surrounding health care spending and the impact of deferred care for the remainder of the year. BCBSOK will continue to closely monitor the evolving health pandemic and health care claim trends to evaluate and determine how best to support customers, communities, and health care delivery partners. The premium credit and other relief actions are intended to continue to assist members and businesses across Oklahoma, to help expand access to care in the state, and to offer members some relief during this difficult time.

For the latest information on BCBSOK's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other information and tips to stay healthy, visit bcbsok.com.

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Pilot Grocery Delivery Program to Assist Access for Healthy Options

AARP, a partnership between INCOG, This Machine, and Reasor's, will make healthy groceries more accessible to elderly and homebound individuals this fall.

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transporting groceries by bike to Tulsa food desert neighborhoods as part of a pilot program to improve access to healthy food. This

With generous support from This Machine Delivers will be delivery program will address the

difficulties faced by many low income, older adult, and homebound individuals who cannot access groceries due to lack of transportation and health restrictions. The program is available for qualifying individuals now through December 2020 with the hope of providing a permanent solution for individuals in the fu-

"Bicycles are an essential part of the transportation network. It makes sense to utilize this powerful mode of transportation to improve community health by providing access to healthy groceries for those who are homebound and living in food deserts." said This Machine Executive Director, Katie Sawicki.









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Eight Million Reasons to Start Talking About The Leading Cancer Killer During COVID-19

President & CEO, Cancer Treatment Centers of America and Albert Rizzo, M.D.

Chief Medical Officer, American Lung Association

As we enter the eighth month of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must not forget about other diseases, especially those that may make someone more susceptible to the most serious complications of COVID-19. Lung cancer is the #1 cancer killer in the U.S., but according to new research, only a small fraction of the public is aware of this fact.

In 2020 alone, it is estimated that more than 225,000 Americans will be diagnosed with lung cancer and 135,000 will lose their life to this deadly disease. In addition, lung cancer death rates are 23% greater among black men compared to white men, and survival rates are 12% lower among black people.

In Oklahoma, the trends are even more concerning. The rate of new lung cancer rates is the 10th worst survival rates is also one of the worst in the nation. Even more concerning is that only 1.4% of people at high risk are screened in Oklahoma. That number needs to change immediately.

If you're not aware of those statistics, you're not alone. According to the 2020 National Lung Health Barometer just released by the American Lung Association and Cancer Treatment Centers of America, only 8% of adults know lung cancer is the number one cancer killer of women in the U.S. and just 21% of adults know the disease is the leading cancer killer of

The number of people in the group at high risk for lung cancer is substantial. Approximately eight million Americans meet the screening criteria and are at highrisk for lung cancer due to smoking history. Screening of these individuals could result in 48,000 lives saved. Unfortunately, only about 5% of people in the highrisk group have been screened.

Like other cancers, early detection and treatment lead to higher survival rates. While everyone should be taking precautions against COVID-19, giv-

en the critical impor tance of screening for lung cancer, those at high risk should not delay this conversation with their doctor. A low-dose CT screening can lung decrease mortalcancer ity by up to 20% high-risk among adults, but since people at

for lung cancer as frequently as other cancers, only 17% of cases are diagnosed early, when the disease is most treatable. When detected and treated at stage I, lung cancer has a nearly 63% five-year survival rate. That rate drops to 41% at stage II; 18% at stage III; and 4% at stage IV.

high risk don't get screened

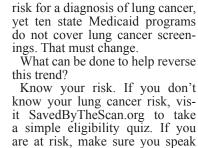
Which begs the question, why aren't more people getting screened for lung cancer?

COVID-19 has impacted the normal workflow many screening centers, adults at high risk must be diligent in working with their healthcare provider to get screened as soon as possible. Second, awareness is low. Too few adults understand that lung cancer is among the cancers most likely to affect

women (20%) and men (34%). The third and perhaps most important barrier is a lack of support for lung cancer screening within our healthcare system. More than one quarter of people within the Medicaid system (26.3%) are current smokers and thus at higher

might save their life.

One day, COVID-19 will be a distant memory. Our aim should be the same for lung cancer.



Get your routine screening: For those at high risk, screening is recommended annually. Hospitals and other screening facilities now understand COVID-19 precautions and you should ask them for information about how you will be protected during your visit. Talk to your family: If a loved

with your doctor about getting

one might be at high risk for lung cancer, tell them about the importance of talking to their doctor about screening. Your advice

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Tulsa Health **Dept. Starts Online CO**

The Tulsa Health Department (THD) has launched a new assessment, testing and contact tracing solution to streamline its COVID-19 testing process. The online platform, powered by Qualtrics, focuses on three steps: assess, test and contact trace. Individuals can now access the assessment and schedule their COVID-19 test and receive results online.

This online scheduling platform will streamline the process for individuals wanting to be tested for COVID-19 here in Tulsa County,' said Dr. Bruce Dart, executive director of THD. "Through this online assessment, individuals will be able to schedule their COVID-19 test online and receive their results through the same platform making it convenient for both the individual and our case notification team."

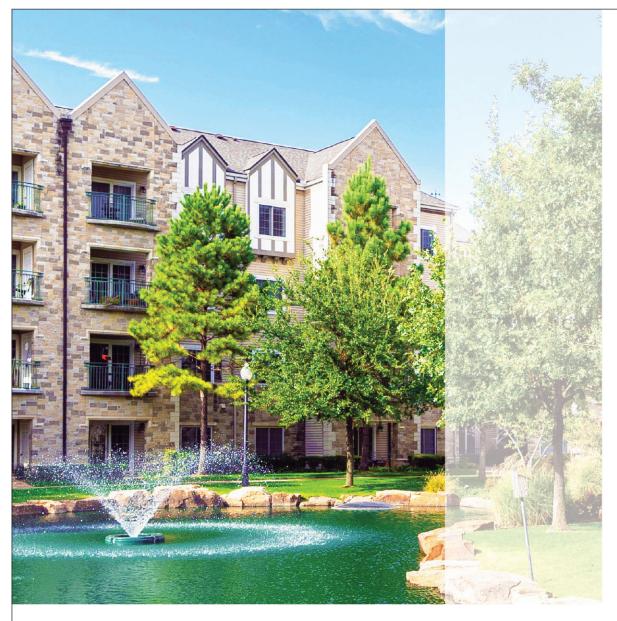
Additionally, THD will streamline its contact tracing process through the platform, where the sharing of contact and location information from confirmed positive cases will help reduce the spread of the virus. Individuals will answer questions to determine current risk factors, including their health, any

recent travel, place of employment, and possible exposure to individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19.

"We have been contact tracing positive cases in Tulsa County since the first case back in March, Dr. Dart said. "The quicker confirmed cases can begin isolating, the quicker we can slow the spread of the virus and prevent outbreaks."

Personal health information from positive cases will not be shared with contacts at any time, and the tracing portion of the online program is opt-in, however those who do not respond will still receive a phone call from a contact tracing investigator.

Anyone can visit www.tulsa-health.org/COVID19 to learn more and schedule a COVID-19 test through the Tulsa Health Department. The service will soon be available in Spanish and Zomi as well. Tulsa County residents can still call the THD COVID-19 hotline at 918-582-9355 with questions about COVID-19. To learn more about the Qualtrics COVID-19 solutions, visit qualtrics.com/HereToHelp.





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EDUCATION LEADERS: Taking part in the signing ceremony are,

from left, OSU-Tulsa President Dr. Pamela Fry, NSU President Dr. Steve

Turner, TCC President Dr. Leigh Goodson, OU-Tulsa President Dr. John

life."

EDUCATION

Signing Ceremony Marks National Transfer Student Week

TCC Hosts Event at McKeon Center for Creativity

Leaders of higher education institutions from the Tulsa metro area held a signing ceremony at the Tulsa Community College McKeon Center for Creativity Oct. 20 to mark National Transfer Student Week and show progress toward increasing the number of bachelor's degrees in the Tulsa metro area. Oklahoma has one of the top three highest rates of students who transfer but falls below the national average when it comes to those students completing a bachelor's degree.

Transfer Collaborative, made up of seven higher education institutions, is working to improve the transfer student pro-

"The transfer agreements established between Tulsa Community College and these partners spell out a student's path from an associate degree at TCC to a bachelor's degree saving the student time and money when transferring," said Dr. Leigh Goodson, TCC president & ČEO.

While there are already many existing transfer agreements on the books, today's event celebrated new and renewed agreements for this fall including two new bachelor's degree pathways to OU-Tul-

"Our new bachelor's degree completion programs in computer science and social work will open doors for students who want to stay in the Tulsa area and earn a University of Oklahoma degree. The transfer partnership with TCC creates a more seamless path for Tulsa-based students," said Dr. John H. Schumann, OU-Tulsa

Rogers State University and TCC signed three new transfer agreements in Sports Management and Pre-Physical Therapy.

"RSU is committed to creating a seamless and affordable pathway





TCC PRESIDENT DR. LEIGH GOODSON

full college experience at a small

university with meaningful oppor-

tunities both inside and beyond the

classroom. As the Tulsa metro's

four-year regional university, we welcome the opportunity to par-

ticipate in this historic partnership aimed at improving student suc-

cess for transfer students," said Dr.

TCC and NSU will recog-

nize the upcoming renewal of a bachelor's degree pathway for

Social Work at the NSU-Bro-

ken Arrow campus. Through the 'SmartChoice' program, the two

schools now have 53 agreements

for degree programs across all

colleges and campuses and have six additional agreements in the

Larry Rice, RSU president.

through face-to-face instruction at the Broken Arrow campus with another nine available online.

TCC2UNIVERSITY

"Our relationship with TCC has resulted in over 1,700 TCC students transferring to NSU for degree completion. Our most popular transfer programs include psychology, accounting, cell and molecular biology, business administration, criminal justice, elementary education and nursing," said Dr. Steve Turner, NSU pres-

also signed ten repathways to the OSU TCC newed Spears School of Business in disciplines including Accounting, Finance, and Management.

"OSU is committed, through our Linked Degree initiative with

Schumann and RSU President Dr. Larry Rice. TCC, to providing a cohesive four-year public university experience in Tulsa," said Dr. Pamela Fry, president of OSU-Tulsa. "These transfer agreements help students set their academic goals, make plans to reach those goals, graduate and succeed in career and

> These pathways and transfer agreements are just a small representation of the large number of agreements in place between TCC and the Tulsa Transfer Collaborative including Langston University and the University of Tulsa. TCC recently launched TC-C2University, which lists all transfer agreements and makes bachelor's degrees in the Tulsa region





Tulsa Tech Graduate Rian Page Driven to Succeed

er for Rian Page. Not only did he and the rest of us navigate the start

his path to a new career. Page and others walked in the newly-minted Light Diesel Truck Service Technician program last January. Less than a year later, he and other students are stepping into the workforce, ready to seize this new opportunity.

"What the program provides is amazing," Page said with a smile. "This Light Diesel Truck Service Technician program opened all kinds of doors."

To say Page was driven to succeed would be an understatement. This father drove an hour

each way to get to class at the Broken Arrow Campus. The campus is a hub for all of Tulsa Tech's automotive programs, and gathering of students with the same interests made the experience unique.

"It was cool to see the class interaction between all of the students," Page said. "Not only did our class have some really cool experiences, but we also got a new Ford F-150 diesel truck to work on in the program."

Before coming to Tulsa Tech, Page worked as a laborer for a construction company, but the chance to be closer to home was too much to pass up.

"The opportunities this program

Page said. "Finishing in months and not years made it possible for me to make the switch. Now I get of a pandemic, but he also started to cash in by being closer to home each day.

News From

Tulsa Tech

By DR. STEVE TIGER

Superintendent

The program teaches students how to diagnose and repair problems with light and medium-duty diesel engines. These vehicles include the popular oneton trucks you see on Tulsa roads every day. will Students also be able to earn their Class B driver's li-

Class "The B Commercial Drivers License (CDL) is a big part of how I got my job," Page said. "It put me in the position of driving an

oiler truck, and I have the service technician certifications, so I will be able to work on different machinery.

A recent report by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows students with these skills can start out earning near \$40,000 a year. With the growing popularity of diesel engines, the sky is the limit. The bureau also predicts the number of diesel service technicians will grow by nearly 10,000 over the next decade.

The chance to grow his skill set was a major driving force for Page and his classmates in Instructor Michael Girton's program.

"Getting my CDL has opened



LIGHT DIESEL PROGRAM: Students in the Light Diesel Truck Service Technician Program learn to diagnose and perform repairs on diesel engines ranging from everyday pickup trucks to larger box trucks. The next class starts in January.

grin. "The skills you learn at Tulsa Tech open a lot of opportunities in the workforce. I would recommend the Light Diesel Truck Service Technician program to any-

one looking to make a move to a new career.

You too can Make Your Own Path to a career in this field. Apply today to get started this January and be ready for the workforce before the summer travel season. For more information, visit us online at tulsatech.edu, or call 918-828-

Arvest Bank Announces Winners Of 'We Love Teachers' Campaign

Arvest Bank is pleased to announce four teachers from the Tulsa/Creek county area have been awarded \$500 prizes as part of its "We Love Teachers" campaign. A total of 160 awards, totaling \$80,000, are being given this year throughout Arvest's

The Arvest initiative to honor educators was launched on Oct. 5. And nominations were accepted via the Arvest Bank Facebook page. The winners in Tulsa/Creek county are:

- Amber Mayfield, Jenks Public Schools
- Kimberlee Chalakee, Kiefer Public Schools
- Pamela Vance, Broken Arrow Public Schools
- Rebecca King, Union Public

"Arvest celebrates these teachers and is so happy to recognize them in this way," Arvest Mar-keting Manager Rita Garrison said. "We hope this prize makes their jobs a little easier. We also want to salute all the hard-working teachers in all the communities we serve. We know how much teachers mean to our children and the vital roles they





BROKEN ARROW EDUCATION

Broken Arrow's Donna Gradel Inducted Into the National Teachers Hall of Fame

A longtime Broken Arrow educator has been inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame.

Donna Gradel, who completed her 33rd year in education in May, is the fourth teacher from Oklahoma to join the Hall of Fame ranks.

After concluding a highly successful career as a science teacher at Broken Arrow Public Schools, Gradel served as a consultant at Summit Christian Academy before becoming Dean of Academic Development and Innovation.

She has been recognized for her innovative instruction by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, the Henry Ford Foundation and the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. She was the 2018 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year and a finalist for the National Teacher of the Year in 2019.

A graduate of West Virginia University, she holds both a Bachelor of Science in biological sciences and physical education and a Master's degree in education.

In a statement, Gov. Kevin Stitt said Gradel "moved beyond the textbook by taking her classroom outside to partner with the City of Broken Arrow to clean public water and by taking the classroom to the world by developing a system to provide sustainable food sources for orphans in Kenya. She is a perfect candidate to be enshrined in the National Teachers Hall of Fame and show the country how Oklahoma can be Top Ten in education."

Broken Arrow Superintendent Dr. Janet Dunlop said, "It's been an incredible honor to watch Ms. Gradel dedicate her life to educating Oklahoma students. Her passion, wit and intelligence inspire students to believe in themselves and know they are capable of changing the world. There is no better person to represent public education."

Gradel's focus on innovation and solving real-world problems has led to over seven years of student-led international projects to provide clean water and protein



DONNA GRADEL

to orphans in Kenya. In 2014, her class was the first in Oklahoma to receive a \$10,000 grant from the Lemelson-MIT Program's InvenTeam initiative.

dent-led international projects to provide clean water and protein when Arrow students designed a foot floating wetland in the shape of the school district "BA" logo,

way for Kenyan orphans to produce fish food for one-twelfth the

She recently led a group of students to Machakos, Kenya, to create a sustainable means to feed chickens, providing protein for a school that rescues victims of sex trafficking.

Because of the success of Gradel's initial projects, BAHS established an innovative research class in 2017. It allows students to choose real-world problems aligned with their passions to impact their community.

"I constantly encourage them to dream big and make a difference in the world," Gradel said. "They know our classroom is a safe, caring place to imagine and not be afraid to fail. In our learning environment, innovation outweighs the final product."

Gradel's students have worked with Broken Arrow city engineers to develop an outdoor classroom, which contains an 84-foot by 45-foot floating wetland in the shape of the school district "BA" logo,

adjacent to the high school. Sustainable plants on the floating wetland actively remove nitrates from the water to combat algae growth caused by fertilizer runoff.

Realizing the initial success, Broken Arrow voters approved \$500,000 as part of a bond package to continue efforts at the site to improve ecology and water quality

Gradel has taught in Broken Arrow for over 20 years and has traveled the state to share her knowledge and expertise with educators across Oklahoma.

A former college basketball player at West Virginia University in the height of the Title IX era, Gradel is passionate about leading students to success regardless of their background.

"As teachers, we have the keys to recognize and unlock the potential of our students and propel them to success," Gradel said. "In too many cases, we may be the only positive voice in their world of negative self-talk. We must be their champion."

Lesa Dickson Named Teacher of the Year Finalist

The Oklahoma State Department of Education named Broken Arrow High School English teacher Lesa Dickson as one of 12 finalists in the search for the 2021 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year.

"Lesa is an incredibly innovative and contagiously energetic teacher," Broken Arrow High School Principal Crystal Barber said. "She engages her students with rigorous and relevant content and is intentional about building relationships with her students."

After an intensive evaluation and interview process, Dickson was named Broken Arrow Public Schools' 2020 District Teacher of the Year in April. Then, the State Department of Education's regional selection committees reviewed Teacher of the Year portfolios for those selected across the state and selected 12 finalists with two finalists from each region.

Dickson has been with Broken Arrow Public Schools for 28 years and currently teaches AP English and Comp I and Comp II for students who want to gain college credit.

"My number one goal is to educate my students, to provide them with the necessary skills

to become confident, intelligent, productive citizens and to appreciate the value of learning," Dickson said. "Enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm. I have no doubt that all students can learn, but it is the ability to motivate students that separates the mediocre teacher from the outstanding teacher."

Dickson will represent Broken Arrow Public Schools at the 2021 Oklahoma State Teacher of the Year ceremony this February.

"There is no better representative for public education in Oklahoma than our very own Ms. Dickson," Broken Arrow Superintendent Dr. Janet Vinson said. "Her intelligence and passion for teaching is contagious to those around her. She truly understands that students learn in different ways and at different rates, yet she remains successful in reaching each and every individual who walks into her classroom.

"She provides a bridge for every student to have access to college credit and really encourages those that they can and will succeed in college level courses. She supports them every step of the way, and we are incredibly lucky that she is part of our Broken Arrow family."



LESA DICKSON

Six B.A. Students Named National Merit Semifinalists

Six Broken Arrow High School students have been named as this year's National Merit Semifinalists for their prestigious academic accomplishments. Simon Blair, Noah Higgins, William Martin, Kurt Nguyen, Brady Read and Nicholas York are among approximately 16,000 students from across the nation who have qualified for this honor and are some of the highest scoring students in Oklahoma.

"Being named a National Merit Semifinalist is one of the greatest academic accomplishments a high school student can achieve," Superintendent Dr. Janet Vinson said. "The level of hard work and commitment they have shown is admirable and a source of inspiration for our younger students."

Established in 1955, the National Merit Scholarship Program is a long-standing academic competition for recognition and scholarships. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualify-

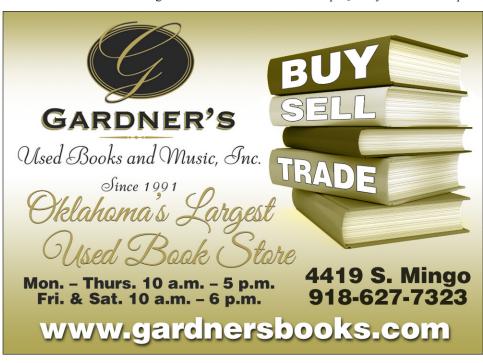
ing Test, which serves as an initial screen of nearly 1.5 million entrants each year.

From there, 16,000 semifinalists are chosen. Every year in February, 15,000 finalists are chosen based on their abilities, skills and accomplishments.

From March to mid-June, approximately 8,000 students will be selected to receive a scholarship award, which includes National Merit Scholarships as well as corporate- and college-sponsored scholarships.



TOP STUDENTS: B.A. National Merit Semifinalis are, front row from left, Kurt Nguyen, William Martin and Brady Read. Back row from left, Nicholas York, Simon Blair and Noah Higgins.





BROKEN ARROW SPORTS

B.A. Girls Ready for a Repeat Championship

Wrestling Team Wins State Crown in Ist Season Last Year

By MIKE MOGUIN

GTR Sports Writer

Broken Arrow finished a memorable year in its debut campaign in girls' wrestling last year.

Now the rewards are paying off. The turnout has increased as 50 girls have come out to wrestle, up from 40 last year.

The team now has its own wrestling room for workouts.

"We didn't anticipate last year that we were going to have the turnout we did," Broken Arrow girls wrestling coach Cassidy Jasperson said. "We thought a few girls would come on board and we would start with that. Then, when girls were flooding in, we just didn't have the space. We had a nice room, it just did not fit us."

But they managed to make things

The athletic department got the room the girls needed during the

"We are in the process right now of making that switch," Jasperson said. "Basically, the old weight room was taken down and was transformed into our wrestling room. It is at least three times the size (compared to what they worked with last year), so it will be plenty big for all of us, brand new mats, and we are over the moon excited about it."

The Lady Tigers went on to win the first girls wrestling state championship sanctioned by the OS-SAA and are in position to repeat and accomplish more.

Returning seniors Allison Hynes (118), Abby Lassiter (161), Olivia Brown (215) and junior Ki'esha Cathey (185) are the reigning state champions from their respective weight classes.

Also back is junior Ana Barnoski (147), who placed third last season, along with sophomore Aralease Callahan (112), junior Jaycee Melton (127) and senior Holly Waters (136).

Only five girls, two who were state qualifiers, graduated from last year's team.

"We have a bunch of great new girls," Jasperson said. "We have eighth-graders coming up to be freshmen and we have a bunch of new junior high girls," Jasperson said. "That's where we really saw the most of our growth this year. We have new girls we're so excited about in high school, but we have a ton of new junior high school girls who came out because they chose to wrestle. They obviously got word of what we're doing here and were interested. They are super-motivated,"

Jasperson has Gerald Harris on board as an assistant coach. Harris is also the head coach of the junior high squad with Jon Bullock being an assistant.

Like other programs and other schools, Jasperson and her troops had to deal with the shutdowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which occurred around spring break last March and two weeks after the state tournament.

"It was very difficult. We couldn't wrestle as a high school team," Jasperson said. "But the girls were really great at getting in workouts. We stayed in communication, but we weren't getting wrestling workouts. Broken Arrow girls' high school and junior high teams did not practice, so I was worried that we have taken off too much time.

'When it hit, we didn't know how long it was going to last," Jasperson said.

The second-year coach said she was apprehensive, questioning if her girls would come back a little rusty when practice started back

But when they returned, "the girls started without missing a beat," she added. The practices have been incredible for preseason.

"The older girls are holding everyone accountable. We're a team and it was like we didn't have to reinstall anything about the way we do practices or the way our team functions," Jasperson said. "They were wrestling hard and getting the rust out very quickly. I was very pleasantly surprised about that.

"I think they were hungry. They missed it. They wanted to come



LADY TIGER WRESTLING CHAMPS: Olivia Brown, left and Allison Hynes in the front row and Ki'esha Cathey, left and Abby Lassiter in the back row were state champions last year in Broken Arrow's first season with a girls' wrestling program. The team is expected to do greater things in the 2020-21 campaign.

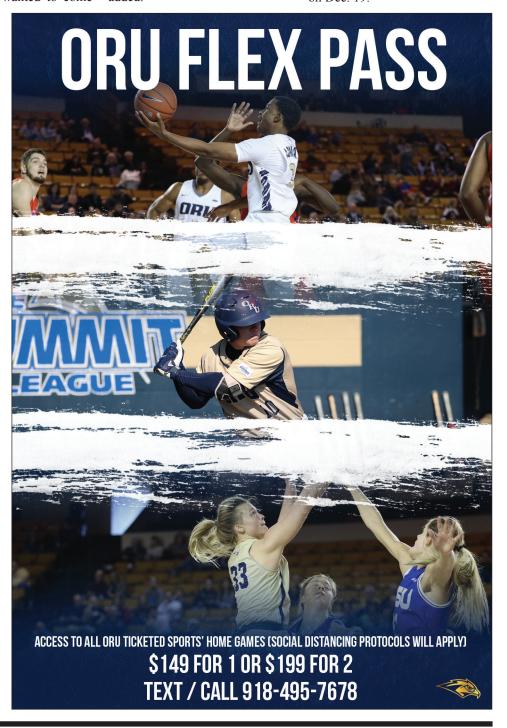
in. They didn't feel like they had to come in and wrestle. They were dying all summer to come in," Jasperson added.

"We're hitting the ground. We're picking up where we left off," she

The Tiger girls participated in the Black and Gold Dual, a fan favorite Oct. 23-34 at the Broken Arrow

They are hosting the Broken Arrow Duals, an all-girls tournament on Dec. 19.





SPORTS

Missy McCaw-Frette Leads the Tulsa-Based 20-Team Ultimate Performance Volleyball Club

Mentor Credits Her Mother, the Legendary Peggy McCaw

By GLENN HIBDON *GTR Sports Writer*

Delve into the pages of the Merriam-Webster Dictionary and you will find the word "mentor." The definition is "an experienced and trusted advisor." Missy McCaw-Frette had one and now she is one.

As the director-coach of the Tulsa-based Ultimate Performance Volleyball Club, McCaw-Frette has taken every aspect of the sport she learned from her mother, the legendary Peggy McCaw, and transformed it into a way of life. Now she teaches it to her players.

"I like watching them go out and work well together, learning to be successful in whatever they do," said McCaw-Frette. "Club volleyball also gets players noticed nationally and helps kids go to college. It keeps them out of trouble when they spend time with their friends. Their friends are club players.

"We focus on all positions, developing players and teaching them the right way to win. The younger players learn the game and how to be competitive. Someone took time to teach me and now I want to take time for them."

More than 20 clubs in the Tulsa area help McCaw-Frette pass volleyball forward. Each club

selects players in age groups 11 through 18 who compete against other clubs around the city, state and sometimes nationally. Ultimate Performance Volleyball has qualified for the last three USVBA national tournaments. The modern era started with Peggy McCaw, now 79, who still sometimes coaches and dabbles in the sport. Her son, Chip McCaw, is a former Olympian who played collegiately at Pepperdine.

"She got it going in 1984 or 85 coaching junior volleyball," Mc-Caw-Frette said of her mother. "She played in college and on the national team and coached at ORU, OU and high school. She won the state title at Edmond Memorial. She put Tulsa on the map and sent guys to college across the board. Ethan Watts played at BYU and in the 1996 Olympics, Katie Citolla went to Ole Miss and I played at USC. She liked mainly coaching boys because they were more intense."

Although both girls and boys play club volleyball in Tulsa, perhaps the females have an advantage due to their high school teams. Volleyball is almost a year round sport for some and it can prove to be either a positive or negative, depending on the individual. Mikiah Perdue, who also suits up for Jenks High School

as middle blocker during the school season, has definite ideas about the two

"I prefer club volleyball to school. I like the enthusiasm," said Perdue, who switched from soccer to volleyball to enhance her chances of earning a college scholarship. "Club is more stressful because in school you only play nine weeks and this is half a year, but club has definitely made me a better player and given me life skills. I've only been playing four years, but (coach) Danielle Parsons put me on a national team and helped me reach my potential."

Both McCaw-Frette and Perdue agreed that club volleyball is a much faster game than high school, even though prep players receive more "touches" in games. However, the coach was adamant that the club version gives players a much better opportunity to play in college.

"Coaches recruit from the club tournaments," said McCaw-Frette. "The high school game is a lot slower pace and the rest of the country is playing faster than we are. In Oklahoma there may be 10 coaches who have the background for volleyball and Texas and other states develop coaches. We don't have that in Oklahoma. That makes finding club coaches hard."

The coach said the state is making



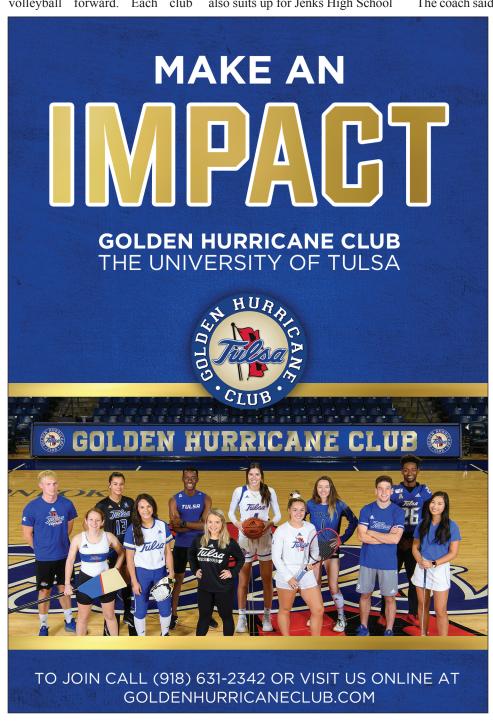
MISSY McCAW-FRETTE

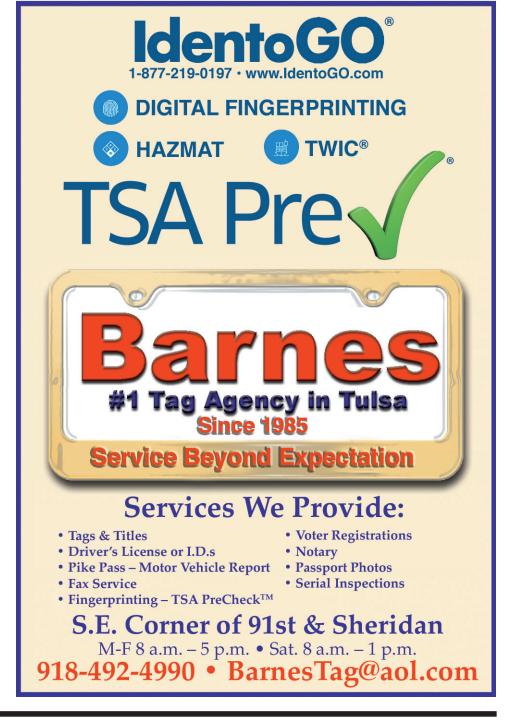
progress with catching up to California, Texas and the other hotbed volleyball states, but prospective players must be serious about the sport. Fees, equipment and other charges can range from \$1,500 to \$3,300 a year with up to six hours a week required in practice time.

With up to three tournaments a month, coaches must also be dedicated. McCaw-Frette toils from sun up to sun down, working as an agent for New York Life in addition to finding time to a wife, mother, coach and entrepreneur.

"We may play in Colorado where there are 10 courts and maybe 600 moms, dads and others watching," said the coach. "The tournaments bring in a lot of money to the community. We're trying to advance to that level here and I think we are starting to get noticed nationally."

McCaw-Frette said her club grows every year with some age groups attracting more than 100 prospects. With her son Lars a member of her team, there may yet be another volleyball mentor in the





Tulsa Mourns Loss of Hall of Fame Coach Gene Shell

Editor's Note: Oklahoma has lost two sports legends recently with the passing of Tulsa's Gene Shell and Oklahoma's Billy Tubbs. Tubbs will be profiled in the December GTR issues.

The architect of one of conege cases and dynasties in the 1960s, Tulsa baseball coach Gene Shell, died on Oct. 8 at the age

Shell posted a career record of 478 wins, 199 losses for a .706 winning percentage in his 15 seasons coaching the Golden Hurricane.

During his TU career, Shell's team made the College World Series twice, won seven Missouri Valley Conference championships, placed second in the league six times. advanced to the NCAA District 5 playoffs six times and five times to the District 5 championship game.

'We are saddened by the news of Coach Shell's passing. He will be an iconic figure in TU sports history forever," said Director of Athletics Rick Dickson. "In my time as a TU student-athlete in the 1970s, coach was legendary for not only the success he achieved at Tulsa, but on the state high school level before that. We extend our sincerest sympathies and prayers to Coach Shell's family.

After winning four state prep titles, Shell made the jump to collegiate ranks in 1966. At Tulsa, he served as an assistant football coach and freshman basketball coach, but it was the sport of baseball in which his illustrious 15-year career took off.

Shell also served as an assistant football coach for the Golden Hurricane in his early years at the school.

His first team chalked up a 15-9 record and a second-place performance in the Missouri Valley Conference. After that initial season, Tulsa's win total increased each of the following three seasons to 19, 24 and 39 victories. In the fourth year, 1969, Shell's team posted a 39-5 record and advanced to the College World Series.

On its way to the World Series, Tulsa defeated Oklahoma State twice in the NCAA District 5 Playoffs. In Omaha, the Hurricane defeated UCLA (6-5), Texas (4-2) and New



GENE SHELL

York University (2-0) in advancing to the championship series against Arizona State, and finishing as the national runners-up.

Two years later, Shell took his team back to the College World Series, posting a 35-12 record in 1971 and finishing in third place nationally. Despite losing in the 1972 District 5 playoffs, the Hurricane put together its most wins in school history with a 44-6 mark and was ranked No. 1 in the nation during the campaign.

In his career, Shell was named the Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year three times and earned District 5 Coach of the Year honors twice. His teams ranked among the country's top-10 in seven of his 15 seasons.

Shell coached 16 All-Americans, 45 all-conference selections, eight Pan American players, 73 players who signed professional contracts and 32 players made it onto major league rosters.

He also coached at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now Louisiana University) from 1985-87, where he posted a 75-43 record. Shell was inducted into The University

of Tulsa Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002. He



COLLEGE WORLD SERIES FINALISTS: Gene Shell's 1969 Golden Hurricane baseball team was the national runner-up to Arizona State in the College World Series in Omaha.

was also honored by the Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame for Distinguished Service in 2007.

Shell was a three-sport all-state athlete in football, basketball and baseball at Webster High School, and coached all three sports in a seven-year high school career that included stops at Claremore, Webster and Edison.

For an interesting profile about Gene Shell written by award-winning sports writer Terrell Lester in 2014, visit gtrnews.com and search Gene Shell.



<u>DATE</u>	<u>VISITOR</u>	<u>HOME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>VISITOR</u>	<u>HOME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>VISITOR</u>	<u>HOME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>VISITOR</u>	<u>HOME</u>
Aug. 28	Southmore 10	BTW 28	Sept. 25	Victory Christian 55	Morris 6	Oct. 10	Texas 45	OU 53 (OT)	Oct. 30	Norman	Broken Arrow
_	Har-Ber 15	Jenks 31	_	Rejoice Christian 34	Salina 24	Oct. 15	Edmond Santa Fe	Jenks		Ponca City	Bixby
	Union 0	Bixby 34		North Rock Creek 0	Tulsa NOAH 68		Moore 12	Union 62		Webster	Lincoln Christian
	Sante Fe 21	Owasso 48		Holland Hall 52	Mannford 0		Owasso 43	Southmoore 13		Henryetta	Victory Christian
	Bishop Kelley 28	Poteau 7		Cascia Hall 55	Heavener 0		Broken Arrow 27	Yukon 22		Metro Christian	Kiefer
	Cascia Hall 42	Victory Christian 20	Sept. 26	Kansas State 38	OU 35		Bixby 51	Page 20		Rogers	Edison
	Okmulgee 43	Rogers 28		West Virginia 13	OSU 27		Vertigris 56	Central 34		Coweta	Bishop Kelley
	Lincoln Christian 36	Beggs 8		TU	Ark. State (Postponed)		Sapulpa 64	Hale 0		Glenpool	Hale
	Metro Christian 14	Paris 34		Georgia 37	Arkansas 10		Memorial 13	Pryor 48		Hilldale	McLain
Aug. 29	Bentonville West 23	Broken Arrow 50	Oct. 2	Owasso 33	Norman North 22		Seminole 13	Lincoln Christian 42		Muskogee	BTW
~	Central	McLain		Bixby 56	Carl Albert 14		Victory Christian 21	Metro Christian 49		Memorial	Tahlequah
Sept. 4	Owasso 31	Fayetteville 17		Broken Arrow 30	Jenks 38		Keota 42	Summit Christian 69		Inola	Central
	Jenks 35	Bixby 42		McAlester 57	East Central 14		Berryhill 7	Holland Hall 31		Vertigris	Holland Hall
	Union 7	Broken Arrow 14		BTW 34	Bartlesville 7		BTW 49	Putnam City West 0		Rejoice Christian	Adair
	Sapulpa 61	Edison 14		Victory Christian 42	Kiefer 40		Shawnee 35	East Central 7		Roland	Cascia Hall
	Dell City 13	BTW 15		Lincoln Christian 61	Locust Grove 6		Cascia Hall 35	Panama 7	0 4 21	East Central	Durant
C4 11	Holland Hall 49 Union 0	Cascia Hall 0		Claremore 33	Memorial 0		Rogers 0	Bishop Kelley 54	Oct. 31	OU	Texas Tech OSU
Sept. 11	Owasso 32	Jenks 28 Broken Arrow 6		Hale 0 Tulsa NOAH 21	Tahlequah 72 DasCHE 0		Edison 25 McLain 6	Durant 15 Broken Bow 38		Texas Arkansas	Texas A&M
	Ponca City 23	McLain 22		Poteau 28	McLain 18		Webster 0	Locust Grove 24		Tulsa NOAH	Christ Prep
	Edison 53	Memorial 8		Edison 11	Shawnee 39	Oct. 16	Pawhuska 68	Rejoice Christian 35	Nov. 5	Jenks	Westmoore
	Bishop McGuiness 21			Spiro 20	Cascia Hall 34	Oct. 17	Cincinnati	TU (Postponed)	Nov. 6	Union	Edmond North
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	Holland Hall 48	Cassady 6		Webbers Falls 16	Summit Christian 61		Ole Miss 21	Arkansas 33		BTW	Bixby
	Summit Christian 53	Foyil 8		Holland Hall 55	Central 0	Oct. 22	Collinsville 70	Memorial 6		Broken Arrow	Enid
Sept. 12	Missouri State 0	OU 48		Kansas 14	Rejoice Christian 52	Oct. 23	TU 42	South Florida 13		Westville	Webster
Sept. 17	East Central 36	Memorial 14		Henryetta 0	Metro Christian 45		Bixby	Muskogee (Cancelled)		Lincoln Christian	Stigler
Sept. 18	BTW 17	Bishop McGuiness 28	Oct. 3	OU 30	Iowa State 37		Yukon 7	Jenks 38		Sperry	Rejoice Christian
•	Blanchard 13	Bixby 29		TU 34	Central Florida 26		Norman North 25	Union 50		Hale	Memorial
	Lincoln Christian 35	Jones 21		OSU 47	Kansas 7		Broken Arrow 28	Edmond Santa Fe 35		Cascia Hall	Keys
	Victory Christian 14	Vertigris 55		Arkansas 21	Mississippi State 14		Owasso 43	Mustang 14		Bishop Kelley	Shawnee
	Metro Christian 7	Holland Hall 42	Oct 8	Jenks 42	Norman 13		Bishop Kelley 49	East Central 7		Inola	Holland Hall
	Skiatook 60	Hale 7		Pryor 72	Hale 8		Central 20	Berryhill 62		Central	Jay
	Morris 59	Webster 19	Oct. 9	Union 66	Mustang 10		Hale 2	Claremore 50		Edison	East Central
	Tulsa NOAH 53	Okmulgee 14		Edmond Memorial 3	Broken Arrow 46		Stilwell	McLain		McAlester	Rogers
	Barnsdall 30	Summit Christian 34		Edmond North 7	Owasso 34		Dewey 0	Rejoice Christian 41		Victory Christian	Beggs
Sept. 19	Tulsa 7	OSU 16		Choctaw 13	Bixby 24		Holland Hall	Jay (Cancelled)		Haskell	Metro Christian
Sept. 24	East Central	Rogers		Bishop Kelley 55	Edison 7		Lighthouse Christian 2			Summit Christian	Watts
Sept. 25	Westmoore	B.A. (Canceled)		Central 54	Mannford 0		Victory Christian	Okmulgee (Cancelled)		Putnam City	Owasso
	Jenks	Enid (Canceled)		Westville 0	Lincoln Christian 61		BTW 34	Ponca City 7		McLain	Muldrow
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	Choctaw 26	BTW 22		Webster 7	Beggs 6 Stigler 55		Morris	Metro (Cancelled)	NOV. /	OSU	Kansas State
	Sapulpa 61	Memorial 14		McLain 6	Fort Gibson 22		Durant 34	Rogers 38		TU	Navy
	Bishop Kelley 17	McAlester 10		Rejoice Christian 49	Sequoya 56		Sequoya	Webster (Cancelled)		Tennessee	Arkansas
	Collinsville 77	Hale 7		Vian 6	Cascia Hall 7		Pocola 8	Cascia Hall 62	Nov. 14	Arkansas	Florida
	Edison 7	Coweta 56		Tulsa NOAH 49	Pawnee 54	Oct. 24	OU 33	TCU 14	1107.17	SMU	Tulsa
	Salisaw 18	McLain 12		Memorial 13	Glenpool 33	000.24	Iowa State 21	OSU 24	Nov. 21	OSU	OU
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	Webster 0	Checotah 53		Coweta 62	East Central 20		Jenks	Edmond Memorial		Tulane	TU
	Pryor 22	Lincoln Christian 61		Shawnee 34	Rogers 8		Union	Southmoore			
	Metro Christian 42	Okmulgee 0	Oct. 10	Arkansas 28	Auburn 30		Moore	Owasso			
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Virus Puts Thanksgiving Tradition on the Back Burner

Duffy's Owner Hopes Free Holiday Meals Event Can Resume in 2021

By BOB LEWIS Contributing Editor

Upwards of 1,000 people will need to make new Thanksgiving dinner plans this year.



Duffy's Restaurant in Broken Arrow, says because of the coronavirus he had no choice but to put his 32-year-old offer of free Thanksgiving meals on the back burner – at least for

The look in Chamat's eves shows clearly how painful that decision was.

"It's not the money," he said.
"I would have paid the money. But social distancing rules require us to close half our booths and tables. If you have ever been here on Thanksgiving, you know we are packed. There is no way I could make this thing work under those conditions."

The event, which has become a holiday tradition, has special meaning to Chamat above being away of saying thank you to the community for its support. Its roots date back to the time when he was 20 years old and had just left his home in Damascus, Syria to study at Oklahoma State University.

He once told Food Critic Scott Cherry, "I lost my bags in New York, and all I had was the clothes on my back when I got to Stillwater. It was freezing, sleeting and snowing when I got dropped off at the bus station. I didn't know where to go

Eddie Chamat, owner of or what to do. I noticed a guy at the bus station made a phone call and pretty soon an older lady in a big Cadillac picked me up, bought me a Big Mac and took me to her house to get warm. I'll never forget the taste of that Big Mac. It was deli-

> It was then and there that Chamat vowed to find a way to repay this act of kindness.

> Three decades ago, the majority of Duffy's holiday meals were served to people who couldn't afford to buy them. But as word spread, attendance began to grow, reaching the 800-1,000 meals level served in recent years.

> He says it takes about a month to put all of the pieces of this event together. Many of his employees volunteer to help. Also pitching in are churches, civic townspeople organizations, and regular restaurant customers who devote some of their holiday time to help serve and cleanup afterwards.

What about next year?

Chamat says he hopes this pandemic is resolved by then so he can once again serve free turkey dinners with all the trimmings to everybody wanting them

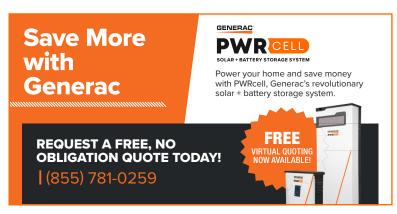
It is something, he says, he has always been thankful for the opportunity to do.



GTR Media Group photo

BENEVOLENT RESTAURATEUR: Duffy's owner Eddie Chamat hopes to resume his restaurant's free Thanksgiving meals next year.

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(Continued from page 2) system, safety, communications, external affairs and regulatory functions.

Simmons joined American Electric Power (AEP) in 1999 and has held a variety of leadership roles with responsibilities in the areas of transmission strategy and policy, regulatory, outreach, siting and rights-of-way for transmission projects, regulatory commodity sourcing, and renewables as well as energy scheduling and trading.

Community service has been a vital part of Simmons' career. She currently serves on the boards of directors for the Tulsa Area United Way, Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce, State Chamber of Oklahoma, and on the board of trustees for Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust, and Tulsa Community Foundation.

Karl Neumaier (2023 Chair) As Chief Operating Officer for maier is responsible for operational excellence throughout the region while providing executive leadership for 500-plus team members at the company's Operations Center campus in Tulsa.

Neumaier has spearheaded multiple initiatives to improve efficiency at Hilti, including the introduction of LEAN practices. His drive and ability to lead large and diverse teams has had a lasting impact, supporting and enabling three consecutive years of double-digit sales growth.

Neumaier currently serves on the board of directors for the Tulsa Regional Chamber, Northeast Oklahoma Chapter of the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities and is a member of Tulsa Area United Way's Collaborations Committee, an organization that has raised more than \$825 million for the Tulsa community over its 96-year history.







Egyptian Visit Fulfills Dream, Brings Memories

I recently fulfilled a lifelong dream and accomplished an item high on my bucket list. I went on a tour of Egypt for two weeks and visited its famous archeolog-

ical sites. To ex-plain my fascination with ancient Egypt, travel back with me over sixty years ago to a writing assign-ment I was given at age 12 in the 7th grade: I was asked to write a paper about the Egyptian pyramids. This was the same year I read my first Agatha Christie mystery book, Death on the Nile. These stimulated an interest in ancient Egypt which continued to grow year by year.

My senior year in high school, in an ancient and my

an ancient and medieval history class, I was exposed to even more information about this distinctive culture. At Oklahoma State University, the curriculum for an architectural degree included seven required semesters

quired semesters of architectural history taught by a professor with a flat Arkansas monotone voice. He would speak in our darkened lecture hall accompanying series of 35 mm slides. Each civilization was discussed in detail. Students were expected to become familiar with the main buildings and monuments of every era. Many of my classmates slept through these lectures. When Professor Chamberlain focused on ancient Egypt

I was fascinated

with every slide and every word.

I interned one summer for an architect who gave me a job because my mother played bridge with his wife. He mentored me for a few years afterwards and when he later made a trip to Egypt he shared his excellent slides of the trip with me. If I had not been hooked on this

civilization before, I was then.
As a young father, when the Ramses the Great exhibit arrived at Fair Park in Dallas, I piled my wife and sons into our station wagon and

caravanned with another couple to see those one of a kind artifacts. A few years later when my boys were off at school, my wife and I drove to Dallas again to see the King Tut

On Architecture

By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

exhibit. Soon after I attended a lecture at the University of Tulsa about the New Egyptian Antiq-Museum uities located in Alexandria, Egypt. A few years later, on a trip to London (with chills on my spine), I got to see the Rosetta Stone (which unlocked the translation of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics). I was also lucky

later to have seen

the Egyptian col-

lections at the

Smithsonian,

MOMA, and the Chicago Art Institute.

Throughout the years, friends who traveled to Egypt and family frequently gifted me with Egyptian items. My house is littered with coffee table books on ancient

announced that she had signed up for a tour of ancient Egyptian sites. A light magically switched on; I made the decision to go also. I had two weeks to prepare. My wife had passed away two years earlier. My three sons were all busy with their careers and raising their children. My bridge club friend helped me get sighed on. I made plane reservations, got some shots and updated my passport. I put a hold on my newspaper and mail. My in-town son kept my dog and I was off on the trip.

The male dominated Egyptian culture is a different world. The tour began in Cairo, at 25 million people, the third largest city in the world. My first evening was a nighttime light show at the Giza Pyramids and of course the Sphinx, my first time to actually see them. The tour was packed with travel to various sites which included the Egyptian Museum (sadly the old one) temples at Luxor and Karnak, Valleys of the Kings and Queens and Hatshepsut's terraced temple. The trip concluded with the Abu Simbel Temple and the Temple of Philae. Along the way was boat and sailboat travel on the Nile and visits to the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute, an alabaster carving work shop and a rug weaving school.

> What can I say about the ancient architecture I saw from a civilization that lasted three times as long as that of the Greeks or Romans (approximately 3,500 years) predatand ed them? The massive scale Egyptian monuments, staggering in permatheir nence, but also in their simplicity is mind blowing. The subtle craftsmanship of this post and beam construction achieved with

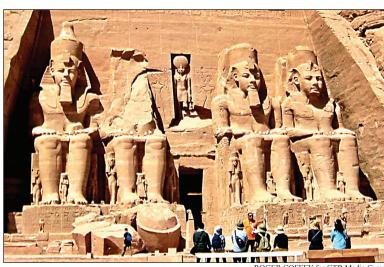
the most primitive tools leaves one with a simple engineering question. How did they do it?

I arrived home with a t-shirt embellished with a hieroglyphic graphic, a handful of small carved alabaster camels (for my grandkids) and 250 digital photographs. I had the time of my life. Sometimes I have a hard time believing I went, but when I look at the photo of me astride a braying camel (yes, I had a 10-minute camel ride) I know it really happened.



Courtesy photo

AUTHOR AND FRIENDS: On Architecture author Roger Coffey, left, poses with friends he met on the Egyptian tour with friendly camels. In the background is the Giza Pyramid Complex, also called the Giza Necropolis, the site on the Giza Plateau in Greater Cairo, Egypt that includes the Great Pyramid of Giza, the Pyramid of Khafre, and the Pyramid of Menkaure, along with their associated pyramid complexes and the Great Sphinx of Giza.



ROGER COFFEY for GTR Media Grou

RAMESES II: Ramses II, also known as Ramses the Great, was the third king of the 19th dynasty (1292–1190 B.C.) of ancient Egypt, whose reign (1279–13 B.C.) was the second longest in Egyptian history. The statue is located at the south end of Egypt while the pyramids are located at the north end.



TERRACED TEMPLE OF QUEEN HATSHEPSUT: The Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut, also known as the Djeser-Djeseru, is located in Upper Egypt. Built for the 18th Dynasty pharoah Hatshepsut, who died in 1458 B.C., the temple is located beneath the cliffs at Deir el-Bahari on the west bank of the Nile near the Valley of the Kings.



INNER COURTYARD TEMPLE AT KARNAK: The Karnak Temple Complex, commonly known as Karnak from Arabic Khurnak meaning «fortified village», comprises a vast mix of decayed temples, chapels, pylons, and other buildings near Luxor, in Egypt. Construction at the complex began during the reign of Senusret I in the Middle Kingdom(around 2000–1700 B.C.) and continued into the Ptolemaic period (305–30 B.C.), although most of the extant buildings date from the New Kingdom.

Egypt, a small blue ceramic hippo (copy of a tomb artifact), a clay votive figure (said to be ancient) and a collection of small scarabs. On my walls are two antique maps of ancient Egypt, a poster from the Ramses the Great Exhibit and numerous prints of Karnak, Abu Simbel, the pyramids, the Sphinx and Edfu.

All of the above leads me to a night in early February when I was playing bridge with a group of friends. A member of the group





THE ECONOMY =

Spartan College Expands its Fleet for Pilot Training with Purchase of 32 Piper Aircrafts

Delivery Brings 5,000th Piper Archer Aircraft

Officials at Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology announced on Oct. 28 the expansion of its aircraft fleet with the purchase of 32 new Piper Aircrafts to meet the future demand for certified pilots in the United States. State and local officials joined Spartan College and Piper Aircraft leaders for the historic delivery of the 5000th Piper Archer Aircraft at Spartan College's flight facility at Jones Riverside Airport in Tulsa.

Founded 92 years ago, Spartan College is one of the Nation's first technical training schools for pilots and aviation maintenance. Along with three facilities in Tulsa, Spartan College is also located in the following areas: Los Angeles; Inland Empire, Calif.; and Denver. Spartan students have come from across the United States and more than 62 countries.

"Since 1928, Spartan has trained and changed the lives of more than 100,000 pilots and mechanics serving in civil and military careers. With the purchase of these aircraft, we are re-committing our-selves to Tulsa and to Oklahoma," said Spartan College CEO Rob Polston. "We could have chosen many places to invest and operate, but we happen to believe in our strategic plan to make Tulsa the most sought-after destination for flight and mechanic training as well as the single-largest and

most-recognized flight school in the United States."

Based in Vero Beach, Florida, Piper Aircraft was founded 83 years ago and manufactures the Archer Aircraft, the standard plane used for new pilots and flight schools. The Piper Archer first debuted in 1975.

"Piper has achieved a significant aviation milestone today with the delivery of the 5,000th Piper Archer to Spartan College," said Simon Caldecott, president and chief executive officer for Piper. "As Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology continues to expand their aviation programs, Piper Aircraft is proud to be part of their comprehensive aviation program. As a longstanding pilot training provider, they continue to demonstrate their commitment to excellence and their students by providing multiple aviation programs and opportunities for their students. We look forward to their continued success and to providing more Piper trainers in support of their commitment to aviation education."

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. was already facing a shortage of pilots due to national and global demand. According to the 2020 Boeing Market Outlook (BMO) released in October, the company predicts that near and long-term market adjustments will still require replacement of

Edward **Jones**

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

"tens of thousands of pilots and trained technicians due to retirement age. Over the next decade, educational outreach and career pathway programs will be essential to inspiring and recruiting the next generation."

"As the world economies bounce back from the temporary set-back of COVID-19, which they inevitably will, air travel will resume, just as it has after every major external shock from the energy crisis, to the financial crisis and SARS," said Polston. "Despite what the technology giants hope, there is no substitution for the business and personal connections that come with flying from one destination to another."

Spartan College's growth in Tulsa and its ongoing capital investment is key to providing the regional aerospace and aviation industry with the pipeline of skilled, certified employees needed to maintain the city's employment base.

"Oklahoma's aviation and aerospace industries have an annual economic impact of \$11.7 billion," said Mike Neal, president and CEO of the Tulsa Regional Chamber. "Spartan College has been a critical partner in the state's aviation and aerospace growth for more than nine decades, and its world-class education and training support the 200,000 aviation and aerospace jobs in our state. Today's announcement furthers



SIGNIFICANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology President and CEO Rob Polston addresses industry guests and members of the media to announce the new fleet of Piper Aircraft. Also speaking at the event were U.S. Representative Kevin Hern, City of Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, Spartan College Tulsa campus President Kari Pahno, Piper Americas General Manager of Sales Hans Stancil and Tulsa Regional Chamber President and CEO Mike Neal.

Spartan's ability to develop highly-skilled talent in the region, ensuring Tulsa and Oklahoma remain at the forefront of aviation and aerospace excellence.'

Spartan College is proactively addressing the upcoming pilot shortage by offering students options to train for pilot certification. Training to become a pilot at Spartan College will give you skills and experience necessary to earn multiple Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) part 141 pilot certifications, in just 17 months. Due to the pandemic, Spartan College is working on reinventing its training programs into a hybrid model with online options for several of its programs, including aviation maintenance technicians.

"With the addition of the Piper Archers, Spartan students will be trained with industry-leading technology such as electronic flight bags and the latest Garmin G1000 avionics system," said Beau Schrader, Spartan College's vice president of flight operations. "By teaching Spartan students on features like the flight management system, weather, traffic, terrain, and autopilot, the students will receive professional environment experiences in a training environment to better prepare and equip them with the experiences to succeed in the aviation industry."





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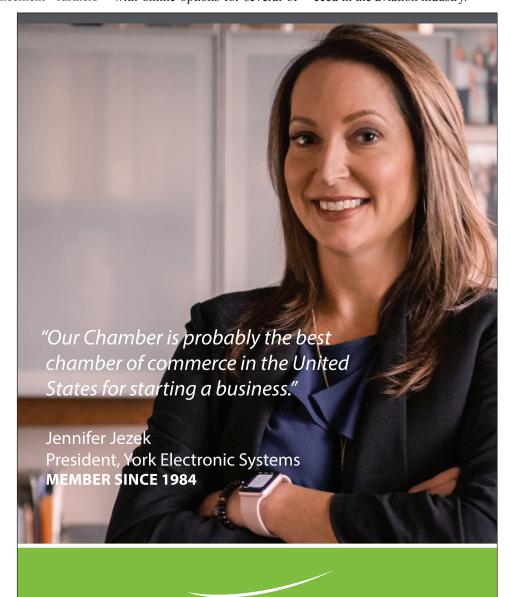
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Tulsa Regional Tourism Hosts Annual Meeting, **Announces Significant Yearly Economic Impact**

Tulsa Regional Tourism hosted its 2020 Annual Meeting 'safely' in October at the Admiral Twin Drive-In. More than 150 people from Tulsa's tourism industry attended while munching popcorn in their cars

Kicking off with a live performance from Tulsa's leading soul singer and songwriter, Faye Moffett, the presentation then began with the release of the 2019 Economic Impact of Tulsa Tourism report. Adam Sacks with Oxford Economics told attendees via pre-recorded video that in 2019, total visits grew 6 percent year over year, totaling 9.9 million visitors. Visitor spending increased 7.2 percent vs. 2018, with direct spending topping \$1.2 billion. Accounting for indirect spend, the total economic impact of visitors to Tulsa was \$1.7 billion. Oxford Economics completes this report annually on behalf of Tulsa Regional Tourism and analyzes the impact of the previous year's visitors on Tulsa's economy.

"I'm pleased to see these numbers reflect the hard work of our organization to attract visitors to Tulsa", said Ray Hoyt, president of Tulsa Regional Tourism, after initially seeing the data. "People are choosing to visit Tulsa in significantly greater numbers over the last decade. And while the pandemic has decelerated that momentum in 2020, our team won't stop selling the future of Tulsa as a major tourism destination.'

Mike Mears, CEO, president and chairman of Magellan Midstream Partners and chairman of the Tulsa Regional Tourism Executive Board, said he knew the 2019 report would be strong, but that he's been more impressed with the organization's efforts to offset the havoc the pandemic wreaked on tourism in 2020. "The team really has their work cut out for them. But I can say with confidence, I haven't seen a group with this much grit in other destination markets. Many have simply thrown in the towel. But Tulsa is making lemonade and stepping up to convert opportunities that can't be supported in other markets. And those efforts are paying off."

The total estimated impact for events booked during the fiscal year was \$248.8 million and resulted in 133,719 room nights booked. One hundred and six new events were recruited to Tulsa and 80 events were retained. The Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Arts & Culture also supported 32 productions in the Tulsa area.

Hoyt provided an overview of the three CARES Act grants Tulsa Regional Tourism received this vear, resulting in the Tulsa Safely, Play Tulsa Music and Tulsa County Film Recovery programs. The Tulsa Safely video was seen more than 2 million times in the first month of the campaign alone. The County-granted funds were directed to safely stimulate Tulsa County's drive to market visitors, as well as to aid Tulsa's film and music industry creatives in getting back to work.

To show appreciation to the Board of Tulsa County Commissioners for supporting tourism, Hoyt presented the group with one of two awards given out at the

event. The Tulsa Inspires Award was presented to County Commissioner Karen Keith, who accepted the award on behalf of the Board. This award recognizes a recipient who brings attention to Tulsa in a

The Dan Harrison Entrada Award recognizes someone who answers the call for help, and routinely offers their time and resources for the greater good of the Tulsa region, according to Tulsa Regional Tourism. Recipient Sue Bunday was awarded for her volunteerism during Tulsa's largest events in recent years. Cars honked with their applause as the awards were announced

As the presentation concluded, the film tape started spinning. To close out the evening, Tulsa Regional Tourism invited attendees to remain in their cars for the screening of "The Adventure of A.R.I.: My Robot Friend," a family-friendly movie shot on location in Tulsa.

The Annual Report highlights and video summary can be viewed VisitTulsa.com/2020Annual-

About Tulsa Regional Tourism

Tulsa Regional Tourism is northeast Oklahoma's premier accredited destination marketing organization. Housed at the Tulsa Regional Chamber, it includes the Tulsa Convention and Visitors Bureau; the Tulsa Sports Commission, an amateur sports sales and marketing organization; and the Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Arts & Culture, an accredited film commission.

Tulsa Regional Tourism assists



CINEMATIC MEETING: Ray Hoyt, president of Tulsa Regional Tourism, addresses more than 150 people from Tulsa's tourism industry in their cars at the Admiral Twin Drive-In.

in attracting 9.9 million annual visitors, creating more than \$1.7 billion in total economic impact for the community. The tourism industry supports more than 15,300 local jobs and offsets \$590 in taxes for every Tulsa household. Tulsa Regional Tourism leads the community's bidding for and hosting of signature events like the NCAA men's basketball tournament, the Big 12 Wrestling Championship, USA BMX Grand Nationals, the

Arabian Horse Association's U.S. Nationals and more.

For more information, visit VisitTulsa.com, TulsaSafely. com and PlayTulsaMusic.com.

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Civic Engagement and The Oil and Gas Industry

By MARK A. STANSBERRY



It was great to be on the campus of Oklahoma State University this past Saturday, Oct. 24, to watch Cowboy football. As I was passing by a window in Boone Pickens' stadium, I saw a building named Sherman E. Smith Training Cen-

It reminded me of Sherman, who was a good friend of mine, how he lived a life of civic engagement. He had spent all of his business life in the oil and gas industry. He and I had several conversations on how important life is to give back to society.

Sherman Smith of Tulsa, was 85 years old when he passed away in 2011. He was a quiet, soft spoken leader, who through hard work and determination, built his business called SerDrilco, as well as other businesses he led.

He and Boone Pickens had worked together building wells for many years. Sherman reminded me of where I came from in Western Oklahoma, like my parents, George and Lucy Stansberry, who were always engaged in their com-

Being raised in Western Oklahoma, I saw firsthand the civic engagement of oil and gas industry leaders in my community and region. Civic engagement is best defined as "any individual or group activity addressing issues of public concern. Citizens acting alone or together to protect public values or make a change or difference in the community are types of civic engagement."

Sherman, who I was first introduced to almost thirty years ago, was a great mentor. One of my

books, America Needs America's Energy, I dedicated to a few of my friends and family, including Sherman E. Smith.

We knew of his involvement in energy advocacy and OSU support. At his memorial service, how-

ever, it was announced of his several interests in civic engagements, of which most of us had no idea of the magnitude of his numerous contributions.

Sherman has enriched many lives, leaving a true legacy. What made Sherman especially joyful, was improving the condition of his fellow man through his contributions.

There are so many from the oil and gas industry that have truly been engaged civically, too numerous to mention. However, a couple that should be recognized are John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick.

John E. Kirkpatrick was a U.S. Navy Rear Admiral, oilman and philanthropist. John founded the Kirkpatrick Oil Company in 1950, and he and Eleanor became increasingly active in civic endeavors throughout Oklahoma City.

In 1955, the couple established the Kirkpatrick Foundation to serve as a vehicle for their personal philanthropy. Through the Kirkpatrick Foundation, the couple made a number of instrumental gifts that would shape the landscape of the community's arts and cultural scene.

John and Eleanor established the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. He gave the new community foundation more than just a vision. During those first few

years, he contributed generously, encouraged his friends and colleagues to establish funds and offered to match gifts to endowment funds for charities. I had the honor of meeting John and Eleanor in their later life. One occasion was at a book signing in recognition of their life's accomplishments

Sherman Smith. John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick and other oil and gas leaders from the past and

present have improved our society in so many ways. We are thank-



ful for their contributions through their civic engagement.

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Mark A. Stansberry, chairman of the GTD Group, an Award Winning Author and Energy Advocate. Facebook: National Energy Talk.

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United Way Worldwide Honors Tulsa Business Leader Frauke Peterson

Tulsa entrepreneur and philanthropist Frauke Petersen has received recognition for her work in promoting diversity, equity and inclusion at a United Way Worldwide event in October.

Petersen is CEO and owner of LUXA Enterprises, a Tulsa-based company that provides accounting and human resources services to small and mid-sized companies. LUXA facilitates Courageous Conversations Luncheons as part of their diversity and inclusion initiative. Through this initiative, LUXA engages people in the Tulsa area on various diversity and inclusion topics that may have a negative impact on employment practices and the workplace as a whole.

"These conversations are not easily held in an open forum, but Frauke and her team have made it possible to bring challenging topics to the table and discuss them in a safe and welcoming environment," said Alison Anthony, president and CEO of Tulsa Area United Way. "We are so grateful for business owners like Frauke who courageously take the lead in developing workplaces where everyone can succeed."



FRAUKE PETERSON

Peterson is well known for her efforts to promote diversity and inclusion. In 2017, the Tulsa Regional Chamber honored Petersen as Small Business Diversity Advocate; and in 2018, she received the Governor's Commendation as State Diversity Champion. Peterson volunteers over 10% of her time working with nonprofits to help develop sound financial strategies. She currently serves on the board of Tulsa Area United Way and is a member of the United Way's Alexis de Tocqueville Society.

Cray Buaxmont-Flynn **Heads Architecture Firm**

ERA Design and Architecture has changed its name to EFG Design and Architecture Inc.

Cray Bauxmont-Flynn is the Tulsa firm's new principal and chief operating officer. This 34-year industry veteran brings a global perspective to EFG, having worked on award-winning architectural projects across three continents.

"It's like coming full circle for me," Flynn said of his move to Tulsa. The 56-year-old architect grew up enthralled by tales of his Cherokee and Delaware tribal an-

Working alongside EFG principal Donna Edmondson, Cray intends to build EFG into a regional architectural and design firm focusing on Native American projects across the continent. The Tulsa company has already opened an office in Fort Worth, with another under development in Las Vegas.



CRAY BUAXMONT-FLYNN

Edmondson will use her extensive Native American contacts to focus on business development.

EFG has unveiled a new logo and website, www.edmondsonflynn.com. It also is expanding its Tulsa office in the Bank of America Center. That renovation project should be completed this fall.

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Jasmine Willis-Wallace, Ed.D, has joined OU-Tulsa as director of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Dr. Willis-Wallace has a background in diversity, equity and



WILLIS-WALLACE

inclusion work in higher education administration and student affairs. She has presented and has done research on the topic of diversity and inclusion within higher education. She comes to OU most recently from Tulsa Public Schools where she served as a Program Operations Manager and has also served in student affairs positions and as an educator.

"I am very happy to welcome Dr. Willis-Wallace to the OU-Tulsa campus," said Dr. John H. Schumann, OU-Tulsa president. "Diversity, equity and inclusion work is vitally important and influences every aspect of our campus environment.

"It is important that the ideals of diversity, equity and inclusion for all run throughout every effort we make at the University of Oklahoma," said Dr. Belinda Higgs-Hyppolite, OU vice president of diversity and inclusion. "And having champions for this important work on each campus is vital.

Dr. Willis-Wallace holds a Doctor of Education with a focus on higher education administration and a Master of Science degree in college student development and counseling from Northeastern University in Boston, Mass., and a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

For more information about OU-Tulsa, visit www.ou.edu/tulsa. Architect Jason Haslam has

joined the Reed Architecture and **Interiors** staff to oversee all projects with Tulsa contractor Master's Plan Church Design and Construc-

Last year, Reed Architecture entered a partnership with Master's Plan to help growing church congregations in multiple states meet their expan-



HASLAM

sion and renovation needs. This business remained strong in 2020 despite the COVID outbreak, spurring Reed's hiring of Haslam as its Master's Plan project manager.

"Jason brings a strong skillset in visualization and lots of experience in dealing with permitting municipalities and managing multiple projects," said Reed Architecture principal David Reed. "His passion for churches and attention to detail, along with his management skills, are a great fit as he leads up our Master's Plan projects.'

Haslam earned his architectural degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1994. His career path led him into modeling and 3D visualization.

Haslam marks the third new hire for Reed Architecture in what has proven to be a monumental year for the firm. It started 2020 celebrating its 10th year as Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors. In March, the firm purchased a 5,000-square-foot downtown Sapulpa building for its new home. David Reed oversaw its renovation, which his firm entered in May. Co-founder Gary Sparks retired during that effort, spurring Reed Architecture to adopt its current name.

To learn more about Reed Architecture, visit www.reed-architects. com.

Law firm Conner & Winters LLP has nounced Mary P. Huckabee as the firm's newest partner. Huckabee is a highly skilled transactional lawyer



who handles zoning and land use, real estate, and banking and business acquisition deals in industries including construction, oil and gas, healthcare, and nonprofits.

"I am so proud of the land use and zoning practice I have developed at Conner & Winters. Every day, I help my clients navigate around the many hurdles in real estate development. Whether it's a new business bringing jobs to downtown Tulsa, a nonprofit building affordable housing for seniors, or a restaurant welcoming customers to their patio, my greatest reward is to see their success reflected in the landscape of our community.

Recently, Huckabee received the Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch award that honors lawyers who have been in private practice for less than 10 years, and who have exhibited outstanding professional excellence. Her other achievements include being named as an Achiever Under 40 in 2018 by The Journal Record, serving as the editor-in-chief of the American Indian Law Review, and completing a federal judicial clerkship for Chief Judge James H. Payne with the Eastern District of Oklahoma.

"Mary's list of accolades is just one of many reasons the firm named her to partnership. We've witnessed over the past decade how dedicated she is to improving the Tulsa and Oklahoma communities through her practice, the firm committees she serves on, and the community organizations she belongs to. We are so proud of her," said Scott Hathaway, president of Conner & Winters.

Huckabee joined Conner & Winters in 2010 as a summer associate and then began her practice with the firm in 2012 after passing the bar exam. She currently serves on the firm's small marketing, business development and recruitment committees, and is involved with the firm's Connecting Women initiative.

Additionally, she maintains an active membership with the American Bar Association, Oklahoma Bar Association and Tulsa County Bar Association.

In her spare time, Huckabee serves on the OU Law Young Alumni Board and as a board member of the Tulsa Debate League. She also enjoys fixing up her 1924 Craftsman Bungalow and working in the garden.

Huckabee earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 2012 and her Bachelor of Arts in 2008 from Columbia University where she studied environmental

Explorer Pipeline, a common pipeline carrier company headquartered in Tulannounced that its board of directors has appointed Mark Hurley as presi-



HURLEY

dent and chief executive officer.

Hurley formerly served as CEO for Blueknight Energy Partners, LP, located in Tulsa, for a period of seven and a half years. Prior to Blueknight, he spent three years at Enterprise Products Partners in Houston, Texas where he led the newly formed Crude Oil and Offshore business segment.

Hurley started his career with Shell Oil Company in 1981 as a process engineer at the Norco Manufacturing Complex located outside of New Orleans. He spent 29 years at Shell gaining experience in refining, lubricants, chemicals and midstream. His last role at Shell was president of Shell Pipeline Company. In this capacity, he sat on the Explorer Pipeline board of directors for approximately two years.

Originally from Maryland, he received his BS in chemical engineering from North Carolina State

On Sept. 1, Tom Jensen, retired after serving as president and chief executive officer for the past five years. Jensen joined Explorer in 1977 and worked in all areas of pipeline operations. He had served as president and chief executive officer since 2015.

Explorer Pipeline has more than 200 employees. It transports refined petroleum products through an 1,830-mile pipeline system extending from Port Arthur, Texas to the upper Midwest and serving major markets, including Houston, Dallas, Tulsa, St. Louis and Chicago. The southern system currently has a capacity of 660,000 barrels per day and the northern system currently has a capacity of 450,000 barrels per day. For more information, visit expl.com.





Expo Square Tradition Stays Alive with Junior Livestock Show and Food Court

GTR Student Intern

Unfortunately, the Tulsa State Fair is one of the many events that had to be cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Fair Grounds and Expo Square were not entirely empty this October. Both the Junior Livestock Show and Ford Family Food Court brought visitors from all over Oklahoma to the midway.

At their August meeting, the Tulsa County Public Facilities Authority (TPCA) Board voted to cancel this year's Tulsa State Fair. However, one Konawa teenager was relieved to hear that The Tulsa Junior Livestock Show would continue

Elisa Allen has been showing goats at livestock shows for about seven years and said that this year has been especially hard. While her preparations for showing have not changed with the pandemic, many of the competitions that she had planned to go to last spring were cancelled. Elisa showed three goats at this year's competition and says, "each require daily feeding, exercise, clipping, and fitting." Every goat is purchased



GOATS ON DISPLAY: Contestants show their prize possessions at this year's Junior Livestock Show.

well before competitions begin, so news of spring cancellations meant that the financial and time commitments from Elisa and her family went un-rewarded. "We are just really thankful to be in Tulsa this weekend" Allen said.

In addition to the Junior Livestock Show, the TPCA found another way to make sure that Tulsans could still get a taste of the fair: The Ford Family Food Court. With around ten vendors, the food court ensured that classic favorites such as steak sandwiches, corn on the cob, turkey legs, lemonade, funnel cakes and corndogs were available.

Just five dollars granted those from all over Green Country access to these flavorful fair classics, a D.J., and the livestock show. Turns out, this offer was just too tempting to pass up because outdoor benches were packed with visitors enjoying what fair atmosphere was provided. All guidelines set out by the CDC and Tulsa



A TASTE OF THE FAIR: Despite no rides and other events at this year's fair, crowds enjoyed their time on the midway with the usual fair food favorites while new precautions were in place.

Health Department were followed and safety measures such as a mask requirement and hand washing stations were implemented.

The result was an enjoyable taste of a longstanding Tulsa tradition that allowed exhibitors like Elisa to actualize all their hard work. Despite this, many are wondering when they can see rides on the midway again. The dates for the 2021 Tulsa State Fair are set for September 30 through October 10, which means there are approximately 11 months left until Tulsans will be able to enjoy the ever-exciting 11 days of awesome

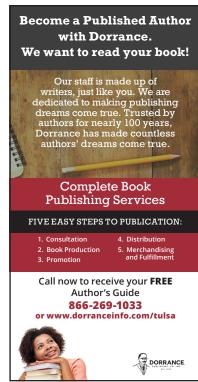


READY TO SHOW: Contestant Elisa Allen exhibits MJ, one of the three goats she showed at this

Rotary Club of B.A. ool Grilles Car Sho

By JANIE THOMAS GREEN Contributing Writer

The third annual Cool Grilles Car Show was held in perfect weather on October 17.



The Rotary Club of Broken Arrow sponsored the classic car show filling five blocks of Main Street in Broken Arrow. 243 competition cars and specialty classic vehicles filled The Rose District, which USA Today crowned as the small city "Most Charming Main Street" in Oklahoma.

Rose District restaurants and unique shops were open plus several food trucks and a number of vendors. Classic rock music played throughout the venue to set the mood for the show and contest. Entry was free to the public and the event was suitable for the entire family. The Museum Broken Arrow and The Military History Museum had free sponsored admission all day. The Museum Broken Arrow had an Auburn car inside from Auburn/Cord/Duesenburg, a local company which repairs and rebuilds these from all over the

The 2020 Cool Grilles Car Show featured radio-controlled drag cars and rock crawlers that they could pay to try. During the car show a No Prep CASH DAY drag racing competition was held. No Prep RC Drag Racing is all about having fun. RC Club members from across the state brought out their



BEST OF SHOW: Lisa Engel, co-chair of the Cool Grilles Car Show, awards the Best of Show trophy to Donny Johnson for his 1960 Quicksand Chevrolet C-10 Pickup

beautiful and CRAZY FAST cars for people to watch and try. The silent auction added to the fun with some great values on donated

Proceeds from the event benefit the Broken Arrow Rotary Club's benevolent projects, including scholarships for BAPS seniors, Happy Hands Educa-Center families, YMCA and donations to Broken Arrow Neighbors and other local causes. The Arrow Group was the Presenting Sponsor, ASİ, AVB, A-1 Auto-

body and other generous donors.
Lisa and Galen Engel chaired the Rotary Club event. Their business is TigerTownTees, and they created and provided the show shirts and led the committee that created a public event which filled the Rose District for the first time since March. (TigerTownTees@

yahoo.com or 918-408-4282 for more information.)

The top two in 34 classes were awarded plaques with tall trophies awarded for: Best Paint- Andy Hillenburg- 1956 Red Chevy Nomad; Best Engine- Tony Ponds-1960 Black Chevy Impala; Best Interior- Paul Laymon- 1958 Grey Chevy Corvette; and Best of Show-Donny Johnson- 1960 Quicksand Chevrolet C-10 Pickup.







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Some Events May Be Canceled or Postponed. Please Check With the Venue for Event Status.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

November

FESTIVAL DE AR-TES DEL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS (VIRTUAL Y PERSONA) / DIA DE LOS MUERTOS ARTS FESTIVAL Living Arts of Tulsa 7 – 8 p.m. Visit livingarts.org for more information.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN Tulsa Library (Virtual) 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.

PILGRIM 9 p.m. Visit colonytulsa.com for more

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CHRIS COMBS TRIO 9 p.m. Visit colonytulsa.com for

FIVE-MINUTE FICTION: PHONE-IN STORYTIME FOR ADULTS Tulsa Library (Virtual) All day Call 918-549-7323 and

follow the menu for an engaging story you can enjoy at home. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more nformation.

BUILD A READER PHONE-IN PHONE-IN TORYTIME

Tulsa Library (Virtual) All day Visit tulsalibrary.org for SETH LEE JONES

9 p.m. Visit colonytulsa.com for more

FIRST FRIDAY ART CRAW: IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL

DEAN **D**EMER-RITT **J**AZZ **T**RIBE Williams Green

7 p.m. Visit tulsapac.com for more informa-

Living Arts of 6 - 9 p.m.Visit livingarts.org for more

information.
TULSA YOUTH OPERA &
TULSA CABARET PERFORMERS Williams Green 7 p.m. Visit tulsapac.com for more

tion.

YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND

The Shrine

13

CLARK YOUTH THEATRE 7 p.m. Visit tulsapac.com for more

information. 7TH ANNUAL ROCK-N-FOLK NO CHILI COOK OFF Cain's Ballroom

7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.

8

CREATIONS REIMAGINED Tulsa Ballet (Virtual) 6 p.m. Visit tulsaballet.com for more information. TONY BENNETT Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 6 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com INTRODUCTION TO PROPOSAL WRITING Tulsa Library (Virtual) 10 - 11 a.m.Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. CHRIS BLEVINS

Visit mercurylounge.com for

10

Indie Lens Pop-Up: Jonathan Scott's Power Trip Circle Cinema (Virtual)

*** V(0)||E

6 – 7:45 p.m. Visit circlecinema.com for more information.

MEET AUTHOR BEN GUTERSON Tulsa Library (Virtual) 6-7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more

PILGRIM Mercury Lounge 8 p.m. Visit mercurylounge.com for more information.

DANE & THE SOUP The Colony 9 p.m. Visit colonytulsa.com for more

information. More Bank for Your Buck **Central Bank** of Oklahoma

12

HOMESCHOOL DAY Oklahoma Aquarium 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotul-sa.com for info. THE HUMANS BY Stephen Karam Van Trease PACE (Virtual)

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more information.

CLAY WALKER Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa

9 p.m. Visit tulsashrine.com for more 8 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information

14

DRIVE UP FOR A CAUSE BTC Broadband 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. p.m. Visit btcbroadband.com for more information. BRANJAE Williams Green

7 p.m. Visit tulsapac.com for more information THOMAS MARTINEZ W/ MIKAYLA LANE

8 p.m. Visit idlballroom.com for more information

15

Sunday Family Nature Walk Tulsa's Gath-ering Place (Virtual) 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Visit gatheringplace. org for more information.

Free Small Business Checking **Central Bank** of Oklahoma

16

Books Sand-wiched In: "Inheritance" Tulsa Library (Virtual) 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary. org for more information.

FREE YOGA CLASS Oklahomans for Equality 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more

SIT & SKETCH: DRAW-Tulsa Library (Virtual) 4 – 4:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.

HONKYTONK TUESDAYS WITH JACOB TOVAR 8 p.m. Visit mercurylounge.com for 18

EQUALITY BUSINESS ALLIANCE NETWORK MIXER
Oklahomans for Equality
6-7:30 p.m.
Visit okeq.org for more information.

Shawnee Language Class

Tulsa Library (Virtual)
7 – 8:30 p.m.
Visit tulsalibrary.org for more

19

JENKS LIBRARY VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB Tulsa Library (Virtual) 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information

Trivia Night Mother Road Market 6 p.m. Visit motherroadmarket.com Kris Kristofferson & The Strangers

20

Mabee Center
7 – 9:30 p.m.
Visit mabeecenter.com for more information DANTE AND THE HAWKS The Hunt Club 8 p.m. Visit thehuntclub-

21

2020 ROUTE 66 VIR-TUAL 5K RUN/WALK, FUN RUN Guthrie Green 8 - 10:30 a.m.
Visit route66marathon.
com for more information.
WILLIAMS

VIRTUAL WILLIAMS ROUTE 66 MARATHON & HALF MARATHON Online/Virtual Visit route66marathon.com

for more information.

22 SMART RECOVERY Oklahomans for Equality $3 - 4 \, \text{p.m.}$ Visit okeq.



23

Women Self-Defense Class

Oklahomans for Equality 7 – 8 p.m. Visit okeq.org for more information.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN: "SAVE ME THE PLUMS" Tulsa Library (Virtual) 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more

BUILD A READER STORY-TIME: PRESCHOOL Tulsa Library (Virtual) 10:30 – 11 a.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org information. Yoga for Every Body Tulsa Library (Virtual) 6 - 7 p.m.Visit tulsalibrary.org for

What to Read Next 2 – 3 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. 5 OPEN MIC COMEDY NIGHT The Hunt Club

8 p.m. Visit hehuntclubtulsa. com for more inforChanksgiving 27 PAUL BENJAMAN BAND

Mercury Lounge 8 p.m. Visit mercurylounge.com for DUSTIN AND JESSE HIGH-ER EDUCATION

Blackbird on Pearl 9 p.m. Visit blackbirdonpearl.com

tulsa.com for more

information

MISTAKES TO MASTER-PIECES: FAMILY PAINT-ALONG
Tulsa Library (Virtual) 5 – o p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more nformation.

BC AND THE **B**IG **R**IG The Hunt Club 8 p.m. Visit hehuntclubtulsa.com for

more information.

28

Move, Groove, & GATHER! STORY TIME & DROP-IN PLAY Tulsa's Gathering Place (Virtual) 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Visit gatheringplace.org for more information. THE PLUMBERS 9 p.m. Visit tulsashrine.com for more



To-Go ACTIVITY KIT: PORCUPINE, YOUR POKY FRIEND Tulsa Library (Virtual)

12 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. VIRTUAL BOOK DISCUSSION: "GET OVER IT!" Tulsa Library (Virtual)

6 – 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more

December

ELL CONVERSA-TION CIRCLES Tulsa Library (Virtual) 3 – 4:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more informa

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OPEN AUDITIONS FOR CAST Spotlight Theatre 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit spotlighttheatre.org for more information.

LIVE FROM CAIN'S FEA-TURING PAUL THORN

9:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for 3

FIRST THURSDAY ART SHOW for Equality 6 – 9 p.m. Visit okeq. org for more information.

SUBURBAN SURVIVAL WITH SIMON HAN Magic City Books – 8 p.m. Visit magiccitybooks.com for more information.

First Friday Art Craw: In-Person & Virtual Living Arts of Tulsa
6 – 9 p.m.
Visit livingarts.org for more information.
PLEASE WAIT

7:30 p.m. Visit tulsashrine.com for more information KEVIN PRICE BAND

Blackbird on Pearl 9 p.m. Visit blackbirdonpearl.com 5

LAFORTUNE PARK CRAFTS BAZAAR Online/Virtual 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Visit facebook.com/lafortunecommunitycenter for more information. THE WATT FESTIVAL 2020

VanTrease PACE (Virtual) 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Visit tulsacc.edu for more



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BAHS Tradition Continues for Great Graduates

Contributing Editor

Broken Arrow High School has bestowed on five former Tigers the honor of being a called a Great Graduate.

A long-standing tradition of the school's alumni association, this program is intended to showcase former BA students who have distinguished themselves since moving on from high school.

Dr. William L. Baker

Class of 1952

During a long and distinguished career, the late William Leroy Baker gained considerable recognition as an outstanding "people doctor." But that wasn't his goal following graduation from Broken Arrow High School in 1952.

This Great Graduate entered Oklahoma State University with every intention of becoming a veterinarian. The lure of serving people, however, won his heart and led him to the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. After graduating, he specialized in helping veterans deal with an assortment of mental health issues. The importance of his work gained widespread news media recognition following the Oklahoma City bombing.

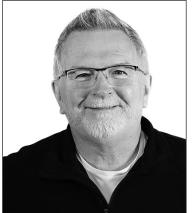
After retiring, Dr. Baker devoted a great deal of time working with young people, teaching art and sharing with them his nationally acclaimed passion for designing and building model airplanes. An active birdwatcher, he was especially proud of the rare falconer's certificate he received. During this same time, he also learned how to whittle and look pride in the skill

Rev. A. Leroy Gerner Class of 1975



DARRIN DAVIS

spreading the word of God any-



REV. A. LEROY GERNER

international reliability consulting

company, and is sole proprietor of

State Line Group headquartered in

Kansas City. In addition, he is a se-

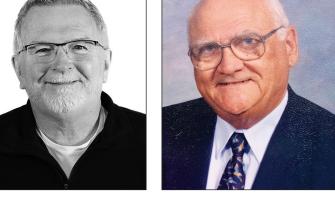
nior Consultant with the renowned

Marshall Institute, an asset man-

agement consulting and training

company dedicated to helping organizations on a global basis.

and plant experience.



DR. WILLIAM L. BAKER



JOHN L. ROSS, JR.

men and women with disabilities and a seasoned practitioner of maintenance and reliability with face physical and sexual abuse at more than three decades of field higher rates than most people know. A tireless worker, Meadours has A published author and internaserved as president of People First tionally recognized public speaker, of Oklahoma and as a VISTA volhe currently serves as president of unteer. He was Chairman of the na-Maintenance Innovators, Inc., an tional organization Self Advocates

Becoming Empowered and was recently appointed president of Texas Advocates, a statewide self-advocacy group.

Darrin Davis

Class of 1987

At first, it seems like a joke when an honored musician says he hates tooting his own horn. But the reality is this Great Graduate from the Class of 1987 would much rather have the spotlight shine on the district's award-winning 1,500 band students and 15 instructors.

Since Darrin Davis began teaching band at his alma mater in 1993, national acclaim for the school's music department has never been greater. Among its accomplishments are three Bands of America Grand National championships, 15 regional championships and 21 state titles, including the last 18 in

Davis has also led his students as they performed during the inaugu-



JAMES MEADOURS

ration of President George W. Bush in 2005, marched in the Parade of Roses in 2009, 2013 and 2017 and staged a rare single-school concert in New York's fabled Carnegie Hall in 2015.

In recognition of his accomplishments he has been inducted into the Bands of America Hall of Fame and is one of only about 300 people to become a member of the American Bandmasters Association. Here at home, he has been named Broken Arrow Citizen of the Year and the Tulsa Signature Symphony's Signature Champion of Education.

level he achieved.

Rev. Leroy Gerner, this year's Great Graduate from the Class of 1975, has devoted himself to

where and everywhere his calling takes him. Today, that is Omaha, Nebraska,

where he is Care Pastor and Director of Care Ministries at King of Kings Church, Director of Core-Omaha, a counseling and spiritual formation agency, and Chaplain of the Omaha Fire Department.

In his career, this former Tiger has served churches in Oklahoma, Mississippi, Tennessee and Nebraska and has undertaken a number of mission trips to locations as varied as Germany, South Africa, Sudan and Ethiopia.

At the start his career, he played a key role in organizing Broken Arrow's Camp Bandage, a safety awareness program that has gained national acclaim. Also on his resume is Camp Lutherhoma, which he served first as a Youth Counselor and later as Director.

John L. Ross, Jr. Class of 1980

The story of this year's Great Graduate from the Class of 1980 is filled with accomplishments at home and around the world.

Now a Ph.D., John Ross is a former Captain and Gulf War veteran with the United States Air Force

James Meadours *Class of 1986*

Friends and classmates say James Meadours is an inspiration. It is a distinction richly deserved.

This year's Great Graduate from the Class of 1986 has devoted his adult life to advocating for the rights of individuals, like himself, who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

One of his most powerful and influential campaigns came in 2018 with the National Public Radio series "Abused and Betrayed." In it, he shared his own experience to help shed light on the fact that both

Manufacturing Month More than 300 manufacturers "We are extremely grateful on a "Brok glilled and state represent Celebrated in October in B.A.

call Broken Arrow home, accounting for more than 7,000 employees in the community. This makes Broken Arrow the third largest manufacturing hub in the state and in recognition the City of Broken Arrow officially put out a proclamation naming October of 2020 Manufacturing Month. This celebration highlights the economic impact manufacturing has on the local and state economy while also promoting the industry by hosting career awareness events with Broken Arrow Public Schools. The Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation closed out the month-long celebration by helping Tulsa Tech unveil its new manufacturing facility at the Broken Arrow Campus.

daily basis that we get to represent, advocate for and assist with Broken Arrow manufacturers as they grow and provide quality jobs for so many of our regional citizens," stated Jennifer Conway, the president and CEO of the Broken Arrow Chamber and EDC.

Tulsa Tech's Broken Arrow Campus is the hub of manufacturing training programs. The campus is home to high school and adult programs offering industry certifications for CNC machining, drafting and mechatronics. The newly remodeled machining lab is part of a more than 125 thousand square foot renovation of the original Broken Arrow campus built in 1983. In total, the machining lab's size is more than 18,000 square feet.

"Broken Arrow employers need skilled employees who have work experience and who can demonstrate their training. Programs at Tulsa Tech's BA campus are answering the need for our city and our region," said Broken Arrow Mayor Craig Thurmond.

'The newly-renovated classrooms and labs for these programs are critical to our mission of educating people for success in the workplace," Dr. Steve Tiger, Tulsa Tech Superintendent and CEO said. "Once completed, a worldclass advanced manufacturing facility will create a hub for training, ensuring quality employees for industry partners throughout the

Broken Arrow manufactures pay nearly \$375 million (collectively) in wages/salaries and their average annual wage is \$61,297 (not including benefits). The aviation and energy industries are the city of Broken Arrow's two largest manufacturing sectors.

Aerospace manufacturing companies in Broken Arrow include FlightSafety International that employs more than 600 people who engineer and manufacture hightech flight simulators. L3Harris – AMI Instruments, Cymstar, and CSI Aerospace all call Broken Arrow home.

Within the energy sector, Zeeco has found success and a home in Broken Arrow. Zeeco, an employer of over 700, is a world leader in the design and manufacture of industrial combustion and pollution control technologies for the petroleum and chemical industries. Exterran, also based in Broken Arrow, specializes in oil and natural gas production, processing, transportation, and other related applications among many others.

The products made in Broken Arrow range from OSECO's pressure relief disc and explosion vents that are custom engineered to protect lives around the globe to precision micro-optics and medical devices designed and produced at Access Optics.

Tulsa Tech's facility unveiling will be a private event in order to ensure visitors are safely able to follow all social distancing measures while they get a firsthand look into how Tulsa Tech continues to develop quality employees for the manufacturing industry.

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