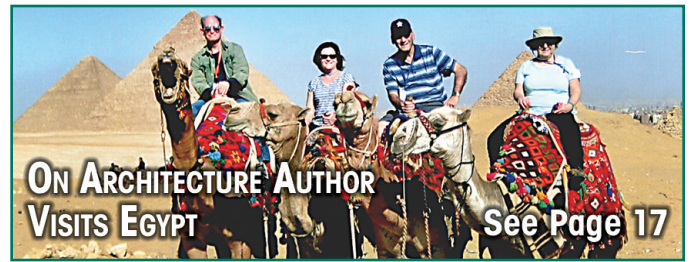




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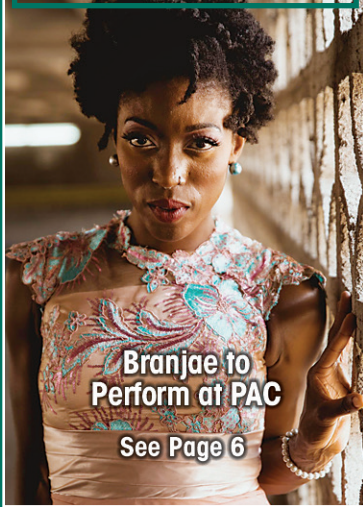
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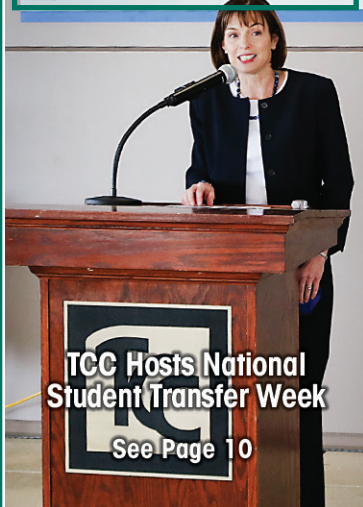
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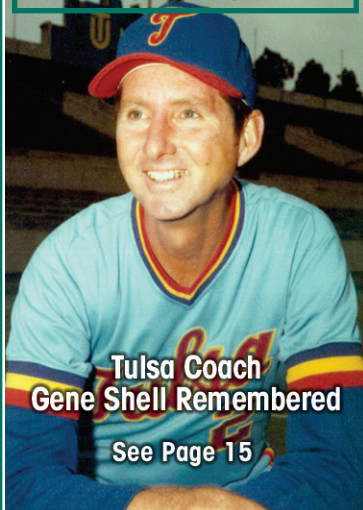
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Union Senior Reflects on the Pandemic

By KYLIE HAMMACK
Union High School Senior

The effects of COVID-19 are so wide-reaching, I think it's safe to assume few on the planet remain unimpacted.

As a Union High School student who was entering the last quarter of her junior year when the pandemic hit, the influence of COVID-19 has been especially drastic. Classes were hurriedly canceled, and what was supposed to be spring break did not end until August.

Although Union's extended school break is over, business has not exactly resumed as usual. With 35% of students enrolled in the district's virtual learning program and a mask mandate for attending in-person, it's hard to label this school year as anything close to normal.

When the Union Board of Education voted in July to return to in-person classes for the semester, it was hard for me to imagine going back to school during a pandemic. With the district superintendent, the Union Classroom Teachers Association and the Tulsa Health Department advising against an in-person return, the decision felt temporary and the school year uncertain.

Reflecting on these sentiments in October during my fall break, I cannot say I feel any different about this semester.

Though school has remained in session since August, the variability of living and attending school during a pandemic prevents me from having much confidence in one vision of the future.

Yet, the peculiarity of this year has made returning to school special in some ways. The events of spring and summer have made the importance of school even more apparent to me than before. Now, I rarely take an in-person lesson from my teachers for granted because I remember last spring when I was teaching myself chapter after chapter of material to prepare for Advanced Placement testing. I remember what it was like sitting at home for months, not seeing my friends or teachers, and yearning to be back at school.

Attending high school looks a lot different now than before COVID-19, with many school events canceled and classmates quarantined, but I have learned to be grateful for what little normalcy this semester has provided.

The challenges of the pandemic have also forced my friends and me to get creative with ways to stay safe and have fun.

Every day during our lunch hour, my friends and I take our lunches out to the parking lot, pull out the lawn chairs stored in the back of my car, and set up our version of a spread-out tailgate. By avoiding being in the building when every-



TAKING TIME FOR FRESH AIR: Union High School seniors, from left, Addison Darby, Shrea Tyagi, Kylie Hammack, Ream Ghanem and Evan Xiao spend their lunch time outside in the Union High School parking lot.

one takes their masks off for lunch, we have found a unique way to stay safe and get some fresh air.

When school events such as back to school bash were canceled, my classmates in leadership organized "Senior Sunrise" so Union High School class of 2021 would have an outdoor event to make memories and mark the beginning of senior year.

Ideas like these have allowed me to create fond memories of my senior year despite the trials brought on by the virus.

Through the many ordeals of 2020, I have learned an import-

ant lesson: take each day one at a time. With the process of applying to college disrupted by delayed standardized tests, canceled extracurricular activities, and an incomplete junior year, my future is more uncertain than ever before.

Even so, I would not change anything about this year. My experiences – good and bad – have taught me a lot about being grateful, flexible and content. The challenges posed to my graduating class are immense, but they have ultimately brought us closer than ever before and provided for the most memorable senior year yet.

Union Seniors Sign I-Beam for New Stadium

Members of the Union High School Senior Class of 2021 signed a steel I-beam that was placed in the Tuttle Stadium's west side.

The beam was visible with flags flown from both ends at the Oct. 23 varsity football game on when Union played Norman North.

"Given all of the disruption this year, we wanted to give Union seniors something fun to look forward to," said Superintendent Dr. Kirt Hartzler. "Their names will have a permanent place of honor in the new stadium."

The new stadium complex will include redesigned concessions



POSTERITY: Union seniors sign the I-beam for the new stadium.



SIGNIFICANT PLACEMENT: The signed beam is placed at Tuttle Stadium. Additional improvements include a fine arts addition for the band program, new wrestling facilities and a new press box. The stadium is expected to open in 2021, followed by the fine arts addition in 2022.

KUDOS of the MONTH: Tulsa Day Center

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



TULSA HALL OF FAME

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



FRONT-LINE WORKERS

spect." In addition, all Day Center staff were included among frontline

workers into the 2020 Tulsa Hall of Fame by the Tulsa Historical Society & Museum.

Tulsa Area United Way Announces Campaign Leadership Through 2023

Tulsa Area United Way CEO Alison 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 lead-

ing fundraising campaigns. This 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, PSO)
 - **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

November 2020, has a long history 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



GTR Media Group photo

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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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 well," said Roger Ramsey, 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 partnerships 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 northeast Oklahoma's principal 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



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: five-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; accredited

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).

Beyond accreditations, the 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.



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

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CIVICS

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

Ninety-nine years after the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, we found a mass grave in Oaklawn Cemetery.

From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM
Mayor of Tulsa

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 known as a mass grave.

The area where remains were found has been 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 home records 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 one.

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 to air without a sound plan.



Courtesy City of Tulsa

DISCUSSING EXCAVATION WORK: Mayor G.T. Bynum and Archaeologist 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 answers continues. There are still sites with anomalies to be exam-

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 happened in 1921.

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 drive-in 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

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 the spread of this virus."



GTR Media Group photo

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 Initiative,

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.

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County Dedicates a Portion of CARES Funding to Parks

One of the areas hit hard by the pandemic has been the closure of 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 of Commissioners (BOCC) decided to dedicate a portion of the county's CARES funding to the county's

Park and Recreation Department to design a program using park facilities where the 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 LaFortune Park Community Center.

At each of these centers, students age 6-13 have access to virtual or distance learning. Like traditional school, School of

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

The 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.



By COMMISSIONER RON PETERS

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 holidays.

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 the area.

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.

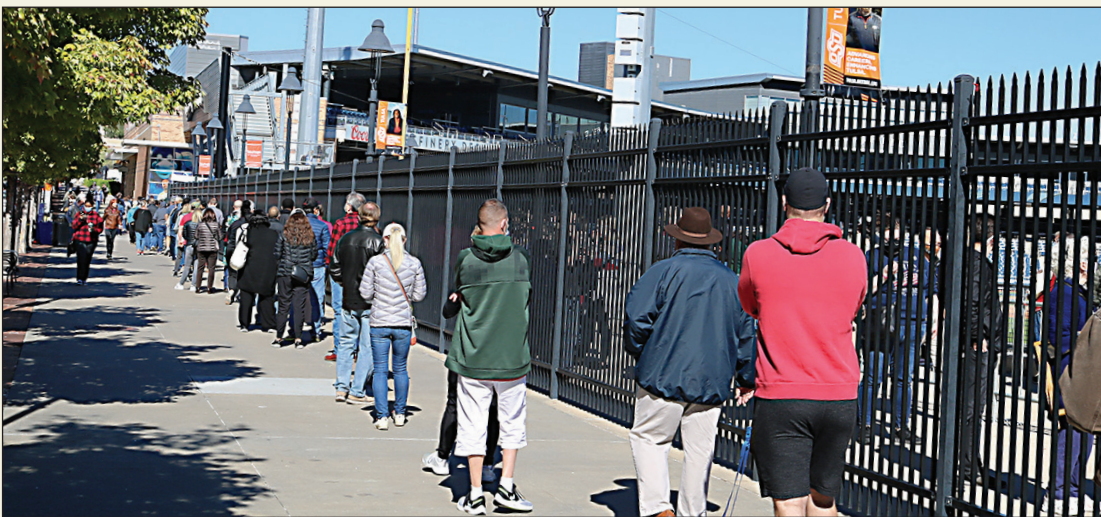
Tulsa County CARES previously provided \$1.2 million to area food pantries. Including Monday's approval, Tulsa County pantries have received \$4.4 million.

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

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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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VARIETY

Creative Planning Keeps Audiences Engaged

As we pull into the home stretch of 2020, and given that it's almost Thanksgiving, I am grateful that we live in a resilient and 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.

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN

ing a show so we could continue producing theatre that builds up and strengthens our community.” Audiences will rotate through 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.

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-

ing a show so we could continue producing theatre that builds up and strengthens our community.” Audiences will rotate through 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.

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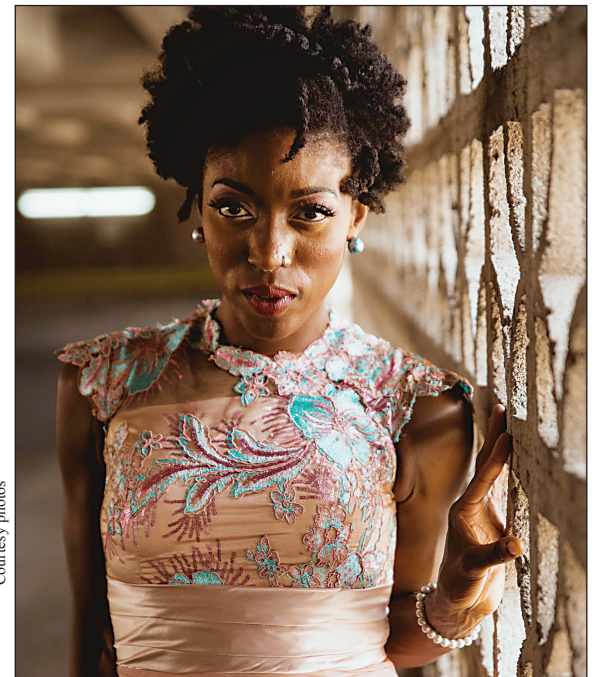
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RETURN TO REHEARSAL: Tulsa Ballet dancers returned from hiatus in late September to rehearse for “Creations Re-Imagined,” presented at Studio K through Nov. 22.



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 Demeritt, left, on Nov. 13, and the sultry, theatrical singer Branjae (Nov. 14).



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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 gather 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 Lambusco's. 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 Benjamin'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 there, they're protected, and you're protected... that part of it is what we really felt like was the success."

Happy Hour

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 mercuryloounggetulsa.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.

Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL



mercuryloounggetulsa.com

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

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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.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

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-in-class 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 Tul-

sans 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 wellness."

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," MedWise 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 weekends.



Courtesy photo

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 Oklahoma (BCBSOK) has announced it will take further action to support

its members, customers, and communities during the COVID-19 public health emergency by pro-

viding approximately \$20 million in relief to fully insured employer customers 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 savings.

Extending the waivers of cost sharing for telehealth services as well as COVID-19 testing and treatment — delivering approximately \$34 million in savings for

members 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 process under the Affordable Care

Act relating to their 2019 coverage.

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

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

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

"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

By Pat Basu, M.D.
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

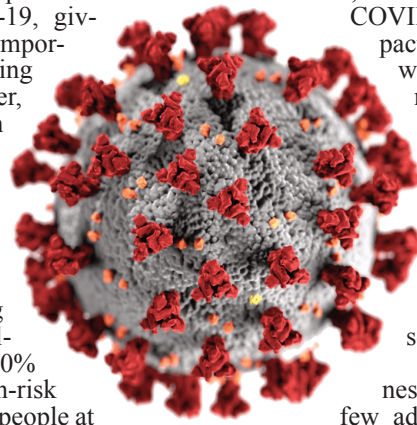
in the country and the five-year survival rates is also one of the worst in the nation. Even more concerning is that only 1.4% of people at high risk are screened in Oklahoma. That number needs to change immediately.

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 men.

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 high-risk 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 high-risk 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, given the critical importance of screening for lung cancer, those at high risk should not delay this conversation with their doctor. A low-dose CT screening can decrease lung cancer mortality by up to 20% among high-risk adults, but since people at high risk don't get screened 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.

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



First, even though COVID-19 has impacted the normal workflow of 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

risk for a diagnosis of lung cancer, yet ten state Medicaid programs do not cover lung cancer screenings. That must change.

What can be done to help reverse this trend?

Know your risk. If you don't know your lung cancer risk, visit SavedByTheScan.org to take a simple eligibility quiz. If you are at risk, make sure you speak with your doctor about getting screened.

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

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

Tulsa Health Dept. Starts Online COVID-19 Testing

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 di-

rector 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

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.

Tulsa Transfer Collaborative, made up of seven higher education institutions, is working to improve the transfer student process.

"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 & CEO.

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-Tulsa.

"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 president.

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 for TCC students who seek the



TCC PRESIDENT DR. LEIGH GOODSON



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 Schumann and RSU President Dr. Larry Rice.

full college experience at a small university with meaningful opportunities both inside and beyond the classroom. As the Tulsa metro's four-year regional university, we welcome the opportunity to participate in this historic partnership aimed at improving student success for transfer students," said Dr. Larry Rice, RSU president.

TCC and NSU will recognize the upcoming renewal of a bachelor's degree pathway for Social Work at the NSU-Broken 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 queue. Of these, 38 are available

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

"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 president.

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

"OSU is committed, through our Linked Degree initiative with

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 life."

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 more visible.



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Tulsa Tech Graduate Rian Page Driven to Succeed

It has been a year unlike any other for Rian Page. Not only did he and the rest of us navigate the start of a pandemic, but he also started 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 opened up for me were incredible,”

Page said. “Finishing in months and not years made it possible for me to make the switch. Now I get to cash in by being closer to home each day.”

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

“The Class 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 so many doors,” Page said with a

News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent



Courtesy Tulsa Tech

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 918-828-5000.

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 footprint.

The Arvest initiative to honor educators was launched on Oct. 5. And nominations were accept-

ed 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 Schools.

“Arvest celebrates these teachers and is so happy to recognize them in this way,” Arvest Marketing 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 play.”

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MAKE YOUR OWN PATH

UNION EDUCATION

Union Names Seniors of the Month for October

Sloan French and Abigail Ren were named Seniors of the Month for October at Union High School.

French is the son of April French of Tulsa, and Abigail is the daughter of Hua Tang and Xiaoming Ren of Broken Arrow.

French is active in The Crew as 'czar,' Leadership as publicist and secretary, tennis, National Honor Society and the South Tulsa Baptist Youth Group. He has been recognized as a member of the Junior Court for Mr. Union and a member of this year's Homecoming Court. "TeePee Crew, now called The Crew, is what I am most passionate about," he said. "The brotherhood and relationships that are formed within our group keep me looking forward to Friday nights. Playing an integral role in hyping up the crowd is another added bonus."

French sees no difference between being a leader or a team player. "Why does there have to be distinction between the two? The best and most effective leaders are servants as well as team players."

I will do whatever is necessary to achieve the common goal."

Looking back on his education, he cites his sixth grade teacher, Tina Fridrich, for making an impression on him and his choices going forward. "My sixth grade STEM class with Mrs. Fridrich sparked my passion for engineering and set me on the path upon which I am about to embark at Oklahoma State University." He hopes to pursue a degree at OSU in engineering technology and eventually secure a job for a company like Microsoft or Apple.

Ren is active in Key Club as president, Mu Alpha Theta as co-president, Academic Team, National Honor Society, Tulsa Union Medical Society as a former secretary, Club Scrubs and Tulsa Youth Symphony. She has been recognized as an All-State student and is a National Merit Semifinalist.

Ren said, "I'm passionate about the Key Club and the volunteerism because I like feeling like part of something bigger than myself."

Community service helps our community grow but I also feel like it helps me to grow as a person."

Ren thinks of herself as a team player. "I am 100 percent more of a team player than a leader. My primary concern in my leadership roles is to ensure that everyone's voice is heard. I take charge and delegate when necessary, but I want to make sure that everyone involved is good with it all."

In terms of academic growth, Ren said, "My eighth grade Medical Detectives and 9th grade Principles of Biomedical Sciences classes fostered my passion for the health science. In terms of personal growth, my 10th grade English and AP Physics 1 class caused a lot of introspection that made me better understand my interest and goals - who I am and who I want to be."

Ren's goal after graduation is to attend the University of Oklahoma and explore careers in community/public health.



ABIGAIL REN



SLOAN FRENCH

Two Union Seniors Named Commended Students

Seniors Ethan Sen and Kendra VonHartzsch have been recognized as Commended Students as part of the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. Ethan is the son of Kenneth Sen and Linda Ting, and Kendra is the daughter of Noelle and Stefin VonHartzsch, all of Tulsa.

Union High School Class Principal Marla Robinson presented the seniors with certificates, congratulating them on their achievement.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2021 competition for National Merit Scholarship (NMSC) awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition

by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

"Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated potential for academic success," commented a spokesman for the NMSC. "These students represent a valuable resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of education excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

The honors follow the announcement earlier in September of 12 other Union students who were named National Merit Semifinalists.



Courtesy photo

Union Receives Donations for Construction Academy

The Hardesty Family Foundation, Inc., and the Home Builders Association (HBA) Charitable Foundation recently donated \$7,500 to the new construction class at the Union High School Freshman Academy.

Pictured in the photo are teacher Aaron Patton, Michelle Hardesty of the Hardesty Family Foundation, Mark Lee of the HBA Tulsa Charitable Foundation, Jeffrey Smith, CEO of Home Builders Association of Tulsa, and Assistant Principal Beau Bannon.

The class also received a dona-

tion of tools, including table saws, from Hilti, to aid in the creation of this new program.

The Building and Construction Academy is a brand-new program for the district, and serves as an introduction to the commercial and residential construction industry and associated trades.

Under the direction of teacher Aaron Patton, ninth-grade students will explore opportunities in the field of construction through a blended learning approach including hands-on experiences, field trips, presentations by indus-

try professionals, and classroom work, according to Associate Superintendent Charlie Bushyhead.

Freshmen will learn the fundamentals of building design, construction trends, materials of the industry, and the various systems employing these materials to build structures.

"For students considering a career in construction, architecture, M.E.P. (mechanical, electrical and plumbing), civil engineering, or are interested in exploring possible career options, this course is for them," Bushyhead said.



Courtesy photo

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UNION SPORTS

Union Graduates Leading Razorback Soccer

By MIKE MOGUIN
GTR Sports Writer

Parker Goins, Taylor Malham and Haley VanFossen dominated 6A girls soccer while leading Union to three straight state championships from 2015-17. Today, the trio is making the best of their senior year two hours east at the University of Arkansas.

As of mid-October, the Razorbacks are 4-0 and ranked No. 3 in the country by the United Soccer Coaches poll. Goins has scored two goals on the year, coming in games against LSU and Texas A&M. The latter got her SEC Offensive Player of the Week honors.

Malham got a goal against Kentucky and VanFossen was credited with an assist against LSU.

Suddenly Seniors

The star Union alums are surprised their senior year has come so fast.

"It's insane," said VanFossen, a 5-10, defender. "It has totally flown by in a blink of an eye. I've had a really great time here."

"It's crazy," said Malham, a 5-10 forward. "These years have flown by. I wish we could go back honestly. It's going to be bittersweet when it's over, but the ride has been incredible."

"It doesn't seem real," said Goins, a 5-10 forward who overcame an ACL injury her sophomore year. "Each year goes by faster and faster. This year has been cut short (by COVID-19) and even it is going by faster. So it's crazy."

The trio have been best friends for a long time through playing club soccer and their time together at Union. Being at Arkansas has brought them even closer. They were in the same dorm room as freshmen and are now living together.

er at Union. Being at Arkansas has brought them even closer. They were in the same dorm room as freshmen and are now living together.

Goins, Malham and VanFossen enjoy having other Tulsa talent for teammates as well. There is fellow signee and Jenks product Nayoli Perez, another longtime friend through playing club soccer together and as opponents in high school. There is also sophomore 5-11 midfielder Ashton Gordon of Booker T. Washington.

Loss of a Mentor

The trio were dealt heavy hearts last winter when they heard the news of their high school coach, Brian Elliott, passing away as a result of suffering a heart attack.

"I remember the day I found out. It was really something that we couldn't believe," Malham said.

"It's something you never want to hear," VanFossen said. "We didn't believe it was true. It was kind of like a rumor at first. When it was confirmed, it was just devastating for us."

"I actually texted him the day before and I was asking for some stats," Goins said. "We had a nice conversation. Then the next day, I texted him, just wondering and following up. He didn't respond. Then I got a call like 10 minutes later being told he passed away. It just didn't seem real. So that made it even harder to hear the news."

Elliott was an inspirational coach, the former Union standouts said.

"He was always someone you could count on to be reassuring," VanFossen said. "I'll never forget coach Elliott for sure."

"It was really nice getting to go back home for the funeral and get to see everyone whom he impacted, because he impacted a lot of people in this life," Malham said. "He was very influential and a very Godly person who left his mark here."

"I think he was a great mentor for me and for many others," Goins said. "He was someone you could always go to and talk to about anything."

Persevering Through The Pandemic

The season has been shortened by COVID-19. They've had to deal with adjustments from having campus closed last spring, taking classes online, to facing questions if there would be a season.

"At first, it was a little stressful because we didn't know if we were going to even get to play any games," Goins said. "It was definitely hard because sometimes it felt like we were practicing for nothing."

The SEC, as well as other conferences, eventually settled for a schedule with league games.

"Getting a chance to play, even if it is only eight conference games, is really exciting," Goins said. "There is only one game per week, so we are able to save our legs a little bit and prepare for each game each week."

The Razorbacks are playing a schedule against all six teams within their division, the SEC West and two from the SEC East.

"It's been crazy," Malham said. "It's been everything but normal. But I think our team has done a really good job of handling the entire situation, as well as our coaching staff."



Courtesy University of Arkansas Sports Information Department

CHAMPIONS: From left, Parker Goins, Taylor Malham, Nayoli Perez and Haley VanFossen celebrate winning the SEC Women's Soccer Championship for Arkansas last year. Goins, Malham and VanFossen led Union to three Class 6A state championships in girls soccer from 2015-17. Perez, a Jenks product, was a signee from the same recruiting class.

Masks are required of the players when on the sidelines, but not when playing on the pitch.

"If you were to ask me a year ago if this would be where we're at now, I would say you are crazy," VanFossen said. "I'm thankful we're getting this opportunity to play though, I feel like we've done pretty well given the circumstances."

As of mid-October, Arkansas was leading the SEC West with wins over LSU (2-0), at Kentucky (4-1), Texas A&M (2-1) and at Alabama (2-1 [OT]). It was prepping for a key game at home against SEC East leading South Carolina on Oct. 16. Through the remainder of the month, the Razorbacks played at Ole' Miss (Oct. 25), and

at home vs. Auburn (Oct. 30). They are scheduled to play at Mississippi State (Nov. 6) before starting SEC Tournament play Nov. 13 in Orange Beach, Ala.

If there is a chance to play professional soccer, Goins, Malham and VanFossen plan to take advantage. If not, they have post-college career plans set. Goins plans to go into nursing or physical therapy, Malham and VanFossen will be graduating with degrees respectively in kinesiology and journalism.

Beating No. 1 North Carolina and winning the SEC regular season title last year are their favorite moments so far. They would like nothing better than to do it again and more before their Arkansas careers come to a close.

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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," McCaw-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 making.

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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.

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Eddie Chamat, owner of 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 now.

The look in Chamat's eyes 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

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 delicious."

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 organizations, townspeople 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.



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

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TAUW Announces Future Chairs

(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 Hilti North America, Karl Neu-

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.

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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 archeological sites. To explain my fascination with ancient Egypt, travel back with me over sixty years ago to a writing assignment 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.

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

My senior year in high school, in 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 of architectural history taught by a professor with a flat Arkansas monotone voice. He would speak in our darkened lecture hall accompanying a 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 exhibit. Soon after I attended a lecture at the University of Tulsa about the New Egyptian Antiquities Museum 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 collections 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 signed 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) and predated them? The massive scale of Egyptian monuments, staggering in their permanence, 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.



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.



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 pharaoh 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

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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 ourselves 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

"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



Courtesy photo

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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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 Mofett, 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 year, 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 new way.

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.

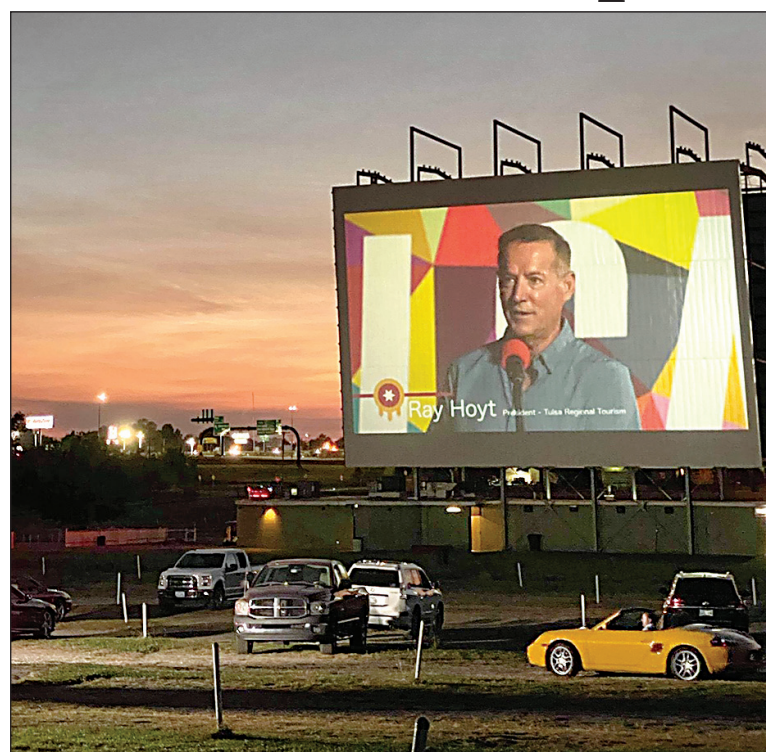
As the presentation concluded, the film tape started spinning. To close out the evening, Tulsa Regional Tourism invited attendees to remain in their cars for the screening of "The Adventure of A.R.I.: My Robot Friend," a family-friendly movie shot on location in Tulsa.

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

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



Courtesy photo
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.

Civic Engagement and The Oil and Gas Industry



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 Center.

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 community.

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, however, 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 so 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 land-

scape 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 E. 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-



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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.

BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

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 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-Hypolite, 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 Construction.

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



WILLIS-WALLACE

Law firm Conner & Winters LLP has announced 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 science.



HUCKABEE

Explorer Pipeline, a common carrier pipeline company headquartered in Tulsa, announced that its board of directors has appointed Mark Hurley as president 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 University.

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.



HURLEY

Cray Buaxmont-Flynn Heads Architecture Firm

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

Cray Buaxmont-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 ancestors.

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

By KYLIE HAMMACK
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 once again.



READY TO SHOW: Contestant Elisa Allen exhibits MJ, one of the three goats she showed at this year's Junior Livestock Show.

Rotary Club of B.A. Sponsors Cool Grilles Car Show

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/Duesenberg, a local company which repairs and rebuilds these from all over the world.

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 items.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Broken Arrow Rotary Club's benevolent projects, including scholarships for BAPS seniors, Happy Hands Education Center families, YMCA and donations to Broken Arrow

Neighbors and other local causes. The Arrow Group was the Presenting Sponsor, ASI, AVB, A-1 Autobody 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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<p>1 November</p> <p>FESTIVAL DE ARTES DEL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS (VIRTUAL Y EN PERSONA) / DIA DE LOS MUERTOS ARTS FESTIVAL Living Arts of Tulsa (Virtual) 7 - 8 p.m. Visit livingarts.org for more information.</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>BOOKS SANDWICHED IN Tulsa Library (Virtual) 12:10 - 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p>PILGRIM The Colony 9 p.m. Visit colonytulsa.com for more information.</p> <p>Ask about fraud ID protection Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.™</p>	<p>3</p> <p>CHRIS COMBS TRIO The Colony 9 p.m. Visit colonytulsa.com for more information.</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>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 information.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>BUILD A READER PHONE-IN STORYTIME Tulsa Library (Virtual) All day Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p>SETH LEE JONES The Colony 9 p.m. Visit colonytulsa.com for more information.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY ART CRAW: IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL Living Arts of Tulsa 6 - 9 p.m. Visit livingarts.org for more information.</p> <p>TULSA YOUTH OPERA & TULSA CABARET PERFORMERS Williams Green 7 p.m. Visit tulsapac.com for more information.</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>CLARK YOUTH THEATRE Williams Green 7 p.m. Visit tulsapac.com for more information.</p> <p>7TH ANNUAL ROCK-N-FOLK NO CHILI COOK OFF Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>CREATIONS REIMAGINED Tulsa Ballet (Virtual) 6 p.m. Visit tulsaballet.com for more information.</p> <p>TONY BENNETT Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa 6 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>INTRODUCTION TO PROPOSAL WRITING Tulsa Library (Virtual) 10 - 11 a.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p>CHRIS BLEVINS Mercury Lounge 8 p.m. Visit mercurylounge.com for more information.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>INDIE LENS POP-UP: JONATHAN SCOTT'S POWER TRIP Circle Cinema (Virtual) 6 - 7:45 p.m. Visit circlecinema.com for more information.</p> <p>MEET AUTHOR BEN GUTERSON Tulsa Library (Virtual) 6 - 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>PILGRIM Mercury Lounge 8 p.m. Visit mercurylounge.com for more information.</p> <p>DANE & THE SOUP The Colony 9 p.m. Visit colonytulsa.com for more information.</p> <p>More Bank for Your Buck Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.™</p>	<p>12</p> <p>HOMESCHOOL DAY Oklahoma Aquarium 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for info.</p> <p>THE HUMANS BY STEPHEN KARAM VanTrease PACE (Virtual) 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more information.</p> <p>CLAY WALKER Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa 8 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>DEAN DEMERRITT JAZZ TRIBE Williams Green 7 p.m. Visit tulsapac.com for more information.</p> <p>YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND The Shrine 9 p.m. Visit tulsashrine.com for more information.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>DRIVE UP FOR A CAUSE BTC Broadband 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Visit btcbroadband.com for more information.</p> <p>BRANJAE Williams Green 7 p.m. Visit tulsapac.com for more information.</p> <p>THOMAS MARTINEZ W/ MIKAYLA LANE IDL Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit idballroom.com for more information.</p>
<p>15</p> <p>SUNDAY FAMILY NATURE WALK Tulsa's Gathering Place (Virtual) 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Visit gatheringplace.org for more information.</p> <p>Free Small Business Checking Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.™</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>BOOKS SANDWICHED IN: "INHERITANCE" Tulsa Library (Virtual) 12:10 - 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p>FREE YOGA CLASS Oklahomans for Equality 12:10 - 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>SIT & SKETCH: DRAW-ALONG Tulsa Library (Virtual) 4 - 4:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p>HONKYTONK TUESDAYS WITH JACOB TOVAR Mercury Lounge 8 p.m. Visit mercurylounge.com for more information.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>EQUALITY BUSINESS ALLIANCE NETWORK MIXER Oklahomans for Equality 6 - 7:30 p.m. Visit okeq.org for more information.</p> <p>SHAWNEE LANGUAGE CLASS Tulsa Library (Virtual) 7 - 8:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>JENKS LIBRARY VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB Tulsa Library (Virtual) 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p>TRIVIA NIGHT Mother Road Market 6 p.m. Visit motherroadmarket.com for more information.</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>KRIS KRISTOFFERSON & THE STRANGERS Mabee Center 7 - 9:30 p.m. Visit mabeecenter.com for more information.</p> <p>DANTE AND THE HAWKS The Hunt Club 8 p.m. Visit thehuntclubtulsa.com for more information.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>2020 ROUTE 66 VIRTUAL 5K RUN/WALK/FUN RUN Guthrie Green 8 - 10:30 a.m. Visit route66marathon.com for more information.</p> <p>VIRTUAL WILLIAMS ROUTE 66 MARATHON & HALF MARATHON Online/Virtual 8 a.m. Visit route66marathon.com for more information.</p> 
<p>22</p> <p>SMART RECOVERY Oklahomans for Equality 3 - 4 p.m. Visit okeq.org for more information.</p> <p>New Name. Same Bank. Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.™</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>WOMEN SELF-DEFENSE CLASS Oklahomans for Equality 7 - 8 p.m. Visit okeq.org for more information.</p> <p>BOOKS SANDWICHED IN: "SAVE ME THE PLUMS" Tulsa Library (Virtual) 12:10 - 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>BUILD A READER STORYTIME: PRESCHOOL Tulsa Library (Virtual) 10:30 - 11 a.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p>YOGA FOR EVERY BODY Tulsa Library (Virtual) 6 - 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>WHAT TO READ NEXT Tulsa Library (Virtual) 2 - 3 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p>OPEN MIC COMEDY NIGHT The Hunt Club 8 p.m. Visit thehuntclubtulsa.com for more information.</p>	<p>HAPPY Thanksgiving</p>		<p>27</p> <p>PAUL BENJAMIN BAND Mercury Lounge 8 p.m. Visit mercurylounge.com for more information.</p> <p>DUSTIN AND JESSE HIGHER EDUCATION Blackbird on Pearl 9 p.m. Visit blackbirdonpearl.com for more information.</p>
<p>29</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>TO-GO ACTIVITY KIT: PORCUPINE, YOUR POKY FRIEND Tulsa Library (Virtual) 12 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p>VIRTUAL BOOK DISCUSSION: "GET OVER IT!" Tulsa Library (Virtual) 6 - 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p>  <p>We Offer Health Savings Accounts Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.™</p>	<p>1 December</p> <p>ELL CONVERSATION CIRCLES Tulsa Library (Virtual) 3 - 4:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>OPEN AUDITIONS FOR CAST Spotlight Theatre 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Visit spotlighttheatre.org for more information.</p> <p>LIVE FROM CAIN'S FEATURING PAUL THORN Cain's Ballroom 7 - 9:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>FIRST THURSDAY ART SHOW Oklahomans for Equality 6 - 9 p.m. Visit okeq.org for more information.</p> <p>SUBURBAN SURVIVAL WITH SIMON HAN Magic City Books 7 - 8 p.m. Visit magiccitybooks.com for more information.</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY ART CRAW: IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL Living Arts of Tulsa 6 - 9 p.m. Visit livingarts.org for more information.</p> <p>PLEASE WAIT The Shrine 7:30 p.m. Visit tulsashrine.com for more information.</p> <p>KEVIN PRICE BAND Blackbird on Pearl 9 p.m. Visit blackbirdonpearl.com for more information.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>LA FORTUNE PARK CRAFTS BAZAAR Online/Virtual 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Visit facebook.com/lafortunecommunitycenter for more information.</p> <p>THE WATT FESTIVAL 2020 VanTrease PACE (Virtual) 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more information.</p>

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UNION SCHOOL NEWS

Union High School Honors September's Top Seniors

*Addison Darby, Braxton Tempest
Receive Honor for September*

Addison Darby and Braxton Tempest have been named Seniors of the Month for September at Union High School. Addison is the daughter of Robert and Marie Darby, and Braxton is the son of Tony and Jennifer Tempest, all of Broken Arrow.

Darby is active in Symphony Orchestra, Environmental Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Interact Club as co-president, MESH Club, National Honor Society, Tulsa Youth Symphony, Teen Team, New Covenant Orchestra at Asbury United Methodist Church, and volunteers for the Food Bank and the Rotary Medical Supplies Network. She has received a distinguished service citation from Interact, an Outstanding Academic Award in World Languages and serves as first chair cellist in Union Orchestra. She also is involved in the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute, All-State Orchestra; and she has received several Superior ratings at state solo and ensemble music competitions.

Darby said she considers herself to be a leader because she likes to put others at ease and make sure things run smoothly.

"I am considering a double major in chemistry and music performance for cello," Darby said. "I hope to use a background in science to research climate change and play in a professional orchestra. Since I began playing cello in sixth grade, orchestra has been a constant in my life. Every symphony I've played in has pushed me to become a better performer and person. It's hard to describe the thrill of playing a concert everyone has worked hard for, and I will always cherish the friendships and memories I've made."

Darby said she believes AP Chemistry has made a big impact on her education "because it opened a whole new world of science to me that is absolutely fascinating. It has encouraged me to pursue science as a career and to never stop asking questions."

Tempest is active in Union

Leadership and Student Council, the Superintendent's Advisory Board, the Committee to Reconsider Union's Mascot, Broken Arrow Youth Council, and the Tulsa Mayor's Youth Council. He is an AP Scholar with Distinction and has been on the AP Honor Roll for the past four years. He has been Class President for the past three terms and is the Class of 2021 president.

"I plan on attending college to pursue a degree in architecture, as well as political science," Tempest said. "I also plan to get a graduate degree in urban studies and design. I am leaning towards attending Oklahoma State University."

Tempest said he has learned a lot from his AP classes in Calculus, Chemistry and Language. "They have taught me the power of hard work, the importance of connection and relationships, and most of all, they've showed me that anything is possible," he explained, adding, "encouragement



ADDISON DARBY



BRAXTON TEMPEST

is just about the most valuable thing one can give."

Tempest is well known at the High School for his involvement in Student Council.

"I can positively say (Student Leadership) is the most beneficial

thing I have ever been a part of," Tempest said. "It is a microcosm for real world situations in which perception, reason, efficiency and empathy are all needed. I am passionate about growing as a leader, serving others and helping teams grow."

Community Health Connection and Partners Celebrate Clinic Opening at Ochoa Elementary

Representatives of Community Health Connection (CHC), City of Tulsa and Union Public Schools Celebrated the completion of a new clinic on the campus of Ellen Ochoa Elementary with a ribbon cutting October 29. This new clinic – funded by the Vision Tulsa campaign – provides much-needed medical, dental, behavioral health and pharmacy services to the Northeast Oklahoma community. The Community Health Connection is located 12020 E. 31st Street in Tulsa.

The participants included Chief Executive Officer for Community Health Connection Jim McCarthy, City of Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, Superintendent of Union Public Schools Kirt Hartzler, and Tulsa City Councillor Connie Dodson.

With the completion of the new clinic, CHC and Union Public Schools are improving services to students and the local community by including a health clinic on the school grounds of Ellen Ochoa Elementary. In April 2016, voters overwhelmingly approved the passage of the Vision Tulsa package,



OPENING DAY: Tulsa City Councillor Connie Dodson readies to cut the ribbon for the Community Health Connection. Holding the ribbon are, from left, Superintendent of Union Public Schools Kirt Hartzler; Chief Executive Officer for Community Health Connection Jim McCarthy and City of Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum.

which included \$9.975 million toward the funding of CHC's new eastside clinic.

Community Health Connection is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) committed to meeting

the lifelong healthcare needs of the northeast Oklahoma community. CHC provides the highest quality, affordable and accessible primary healthcare services in a culturally respectful and compassionate



NEW HEALTH FACILITY: The Community Health Connection facility is located on the Ochoa Elementary campus at 12020 E. 31st Street in Tulsa

manner. CHC offers a broad array of services, including dental, prenatal/post-partum, pediatrics, family medicine, integrated behavioral healthcare and discounted prescriptions to our patients. Private in-

surance, Medicaid and Medicare are accepted. CHC also serves individuals who are uninsured or under-insured by offering services on a sliding fee scale to those who meet certain requirements.

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