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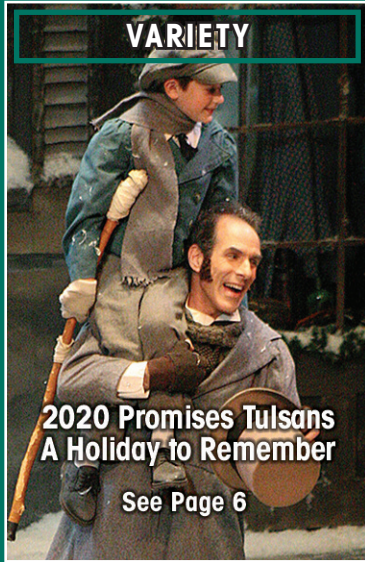
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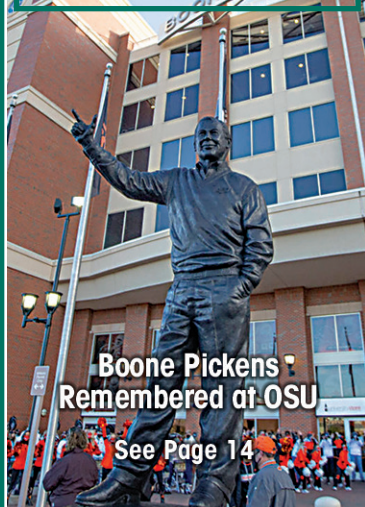
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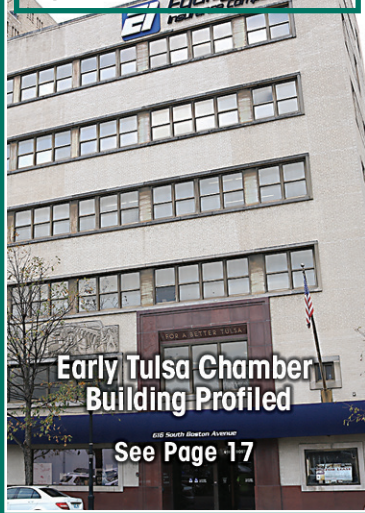
THE ECONOMY



SPORTS



ON ARCHITECTURE



Lights Shine Bright at Botanic Garden

Garden of Lights Returns with Safety Precautions

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Editor

Tulsa Botanic Garden's Garden of Lights has returned for its third year, opening on Friday, Nov. 27 and running through Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021. The outdoor lighting event features over 200,000 lights and design elements plus safety precautions instituted to ensure guest enjoyment and peace of mind.

The event takes place weekly, Thursday through Sunday, 5-9 p.m., with the exception of Christmas week. Garden of Lights will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, but will be open Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 21-23.

Visitors will enjoy enhanced and returning design elements, including added lights, an expansion of the Frost Bison and Ice Giant families and the return of the shimmering light curtains in the A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Floral Terraces garden.

The display takes guests on an immersive journey through the Children's Discovery Garden, filled with purple and blue colors, roaming Frost Bison and festive Ice Giants. Soft white, red and green hues fill the A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Floral Terraces, including the elegant light curtains, which offer a popular photo backdrop, and 18-foot tree at the top of the garden.

Guests can also visit the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Grange event building, which will offer physically-distanced seating and fire pits. Hot cocoa, spiced cider, adult beverages and s'mores kits will be on sale. Food trucks will also be on hand each night, 5:30-8:30 p.m. (Food truck cancellations are possible due to COVID-19. If this occurs, the Garden's website and Facebook page will be updated with that information.)

Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 28-



Courtesy photos

GARDEN OF LIGHTS AT TULSA BOTANIC GARDEN

Dec. 13, in the Mabee Grange, will feature live piano music by local musician David Horne. A large scale model train holiday exhibit, presented by the Tulsa Garden Railroad Club, will be on display in the building Dec. 17-27, with the exception of Dec. 24 and 25 when Garden of Lights will be closed.

Another returning favorite is the open-air Holiday Express train, which will run weekly every night except Sunday. It will also run Monday through Wednesday on Christmas week. The train's route will look slightly different this year, as it will be located on the Garden's peninsula, which offers greater physical distancing opportunities and a picture-worthy panoramic view of the display in the A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Floral Terraces.

Garden of Lights will include a number of COVID-19 precautions, including the requirement of advance ticket purchase (no tickets sold at the door), timed entry and four entrance times available per evening (guests must arrive no later than 30 minutes from the beginning of their chosen time slot). A per-hour maximum capacity number has been set for each event



CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY GARDEN

night, and a strict mask policy will be enforced. Garden of Lights guests ages five and up are required to wear masks at all times unless actively eating or drinking.

An additional exit has also been added as well hand sanitizing stations and additional outdoor seating areas to allow for further physical distancing.

Tickets for Garden of Lights are \$15 for ages 13+ and \$5 for ages 3-12. Children 2 and under are free. Members of the Botanic Garden receive discounted pricing of \$10

for ages 13 and older. Visit www.tulsabotanic.org to purchase tickets and to find more information.

Tulsa Botanic Garden is a non-profit year-round botanic garden located in the Osage Hills, eight miles northwest of downtown Tulsa at 3900 Tulsa Botanic Drive. It opened its first garden in 2015 and currently features two completed gardens, a seven-acre lake, a one-mile nature trail and 20,000 of plants on display. In early 2021, construction will begin on two new gardens.

KUDOS of the MONTH: Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is marching into battle against all types of needs this year, and at the forefront in fundraising efforts are volunteer bell ringers throughout Greater Tulsa.

Each year increasingly, The Salvation Army serves more than 25 million people across America, including many in Greater Tulsa. That means more than 55 million meals for the hungry, more than 10 million nights of shelter for the homeless, and countless Christmas gifts for children who may otherwise go without.

Funds raised by a Salvation Army Bell Ringer make a year-round impact in the community

through social services assistance, homeless shelters, disaster relief, children's programs, rehabilitation services, anti-human trafficking and more.

There are few things more rewarding than giving of one's time to help others. Often referred to as "the Army behind the Army," volunteers play a crucial role in our ability to help those in need in our communities. Salvation Army volunteers change lives and in the process, enrich their own lives. Opportunities are available for individuals, corporations, schools, civic groups and other organizations. For information, call 918-587-7801



GTR Media Group photo

RINGING FOR OTHERS: Volunteer bell ringers from the Broken Arrow 4-H Club ring their bells at the Bass Pro Shop in Broken Arrow.

Arvest Winterfest Presented with CommunityCare Again a Highlight of Greater Tulsa's Holiday Season

The time is here to bundle up and enjoy the magical spirit of the holidays. Tulsa's favorite winter festival, Oklahoma Arvest Winterfest presented with CommunityCare, runs in downtown Tulsa until Sunday, January 3.

The event, in its 13th year, began on Nov. 30. It has been named by the national People Magazine as the top holiday destination in Oklahoma.

This year, ice skating will take place on the ice rink inside of BOK Center instead of outside on Third Street. While this might seem counter-intuitive, event organizers have placed a heavy focus on the health and safety of guests so they'll be able to safely experience the magic of the holiday season. In fact, the venue's ice capacity will be over 8,000 square feet larger than the ice capacity on Third Street. This social distancing advantage is just one of many that event organizers deemed imperative to keep Winterfest guests safe.

Additionally, Winterfest will feature a multitude of preventative measures as advised by the Tulsa Health Department and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). ASM Global's "VenueShield" is an advanced environmental hygiene and operational protocol that has been developed for more than 325 ASM facilities around the world, and has been effectively implemented for multiple indoor events. All protocols are aligned with public health authorities, medical and industry experts. VenueShield reduces physical touch points, increases venue sanitation and cleanliness, and provides health monitoring guidelines and ser-



FESTIVE SCENE: Winterfest offers bright colors and lots of fun.

vices. BOK Center's public capacity will be drastically capped at a socially responsible percentage in line with Tulsa Health Department and Center for Disease Control's recommendations.

Guests can walk through color-changing LED lights as they approach Oklahoma's tallest Christmas tree. The Arvest Winterfest tree soars 44-feet into the air, features 36,700 glowing lights, 109,534 individual tips and a base diameter of nearly 30 feet. Guests can also take rides in horse-drawn carriages for an additional fee every Friday and Saturday from 7-10 p.m.

Skating Guides are available to help participants glide in style. The lightweight helpers, courtesy of Chick-fil-A Tulsa Hills, can assist skaters of all ages to be more confident on the ice and off of the rails.

Guests can enjoy free entertainment every Saturday until Christmas Eve directly inside BOK Center from 4-7 p.m. listening to the joyful music performed by chil-

dren from area churches, schools, nonprofit organizations and choral groups.

The Winterfest Express train fueled by Fox 23 has rolled in once again from the North Pole. It is free and open to all ages. Hop on the train every Saturday from 12-3 p.m. The big man himself returns during Sundays with Santa and socially distanced photos can be taken with Santa Claus every Sunday in December before Christmas from 2 to 4 p.m.

A variety of weekly discounts will be offered at the festival. Courtesy of Arvest, patrons receive half-price admission for skating on Mondays with the donation of a non-perishable can of food benefiting the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. Visitors receive half-price skating on Warmth Wednesdays with the donation of a new or gently used coat, blanket, scarf or pair of gloves benefiting Night Light Tulsa. Arvest customers will receive half-price general admission any day of the festival by showing their Arvest card or



WELCOMING VISITORS: Arvest Winterfest is an excellent home to ice skaters and others who enjoy the spirit of the holiday season.

checkbook. Advance online tickets are required and skaters must show proof of discount at the Winterfest check-in desk when they arrive to skate.

Over the last 12 years, attendance for this event has soared from 35,000 visitors in 2008 to more than 150,000. And while the event's allowable capacity may be reduced this year, the annual holiday celebration will be open for 38 days, giving as many Tulsans as possible a chance to enjoy skating inside BOK Center while watching free entertainment from the indoor stage and taking in beautiful, gleaming holiday lights.

Winterfest 2020 is presented by

ARVEST Bank along with CommunityCare. Additional sponsors include PSO, River Spirit Casino, Ascension St. John, T-Mobile and Quantus Creative. The official radio partner is Cox Radio, Inc. and TV partner is Fox 23.

A full Arvest Winterfest calendar with prices, a list of safety precautions and daily hours of operation is available online at www.tulsawinterfest.com.

For more information, contact specialevents@asmtulsa.com.

For group ice skating rates or information on private rink rentals, contact Connie Lytle, Group Sales Coordinator at 918-894-4264 or cllytle@asmtulsa.com.



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RANDY MCDANIEL

Oklahoma State Treasurer
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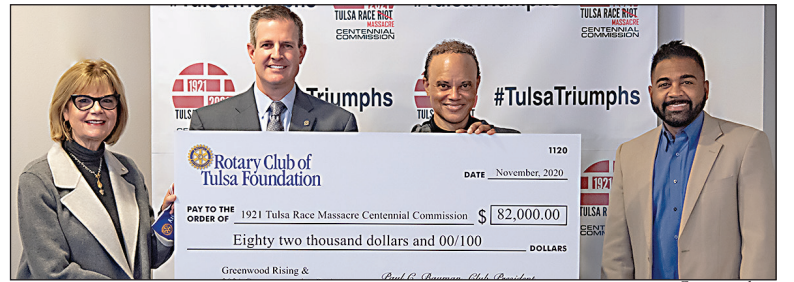


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Rotary Club of Tulsa Foundation Makes Significant Donation to Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial

On Nov. 17, the Rotary Club of Tulsa, led by President Paul Bauman, presented a check in the amount of \$82,000 to the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission, to be used as follows:



TRIUMPHAL GIFT: Displaying the Rotary Club of Tulsa Foundation gift to the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission are, from left, past Rotary Club of Tulsa President Karen Keith, current Rotary President Paul Bauman, Rotarian Hannibal B. Johnson and Centennial Commission Project Director Phil Armstrong, also a member of the Rotary Club of Tulsa.

- A \$70,000 contribution to the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission from the Rotary Club of Tulsa Foundation for the Greenwood Rising Museum to be located at the southeast corner of Greenwood and Archer; and
- Two benches at \$6,000 each, purchased through the Toni Morrison Society "Bench by the Road Project," a memorial history and community outreach initiative launched in 2006. "Bench by the Road" comes from Ms. Morrison's remarks in a 1989 interview. The Project places benches and plaques at sites commemorating significant moments, individuals, and locations within the history of the African Diaspora. Tulsa's Historic Greenwood District is one such site. The Rotary Club of Tulsa benches will be placed at: the southeast corner of Greenwood Avenue and Archer Street in front of Greenwood Rising: The Black Wall Street History Center; and in front of

the Mabel B. Little Heritage House located at 322 North Greenwood Avenue. The proposed date for bench installation March 1, 2021.

Centennial Commission Project Director Phil Armstrong, himself a member of the Rotary Club of Tulsa, accepted the check. On hand were Past Presidents Karen Keith and Hannibal B. Johnson, together with Community Service Director Karen MacCannell and Executive Director Tina Miller.

The Rotary Plaza reflects a gift to Tulsa of the Rotary Club of Tulsa's past 100 years. The gift to the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial

Commission reflects a gift to our future, according to club officers.

Rotary is dedicated to six areas of focus to build international relationships, improve lives, and create a better world to support our peace efforts and end polio forever. The six areas are: promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies

The vision of Rotary International is: "Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe in our communities, and in ourselves."

Tulsa Zoo Tightens Attendance

The Tulsa Zoo has announced plans to reduce the number of guests allowed per hour, to 300 from 500, as a way to help mitigate against the spread of COVID-19.

"Our zoo is fortunate to offer nearly five miles of outdoor, walkable pathways in addition to our indoor facilities. With the increase in local coronavirus cases, however, we feel this is the right time to do more to keep all within our gates safe. We can best achieve this by reducing the number of people on grounds at a time," said Tulsa Zoo President and CEO Lindsay Hutchison.

may result in more sold-out days so the zoo encourages guests to check other dates when sellouts occur.

"I know our changes add complexity to what should be a spontaneous, fun way to unplug with family and connect with wildlife. I understand the frustrations and can

say this is the right thing to do for our community, guests, staff and animals in our care," Hutchison said.

For more information about zoo ticketing and efforts to safeguard against the spread of COVID-19, visit tulzazoo.org/tickets.

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"We will continue to monitor the trend in local cases and, as we have since reopening to the public in May, adjust our operations as needed. I am so appreciative of our zoo fans who have supported mask requirements and ticketing changes to comply with local ordinances so we can create a safe, fun experience."

The zoo continues to require advance ticket reservations through tulzazoo.org. Face masks are required by the City of Tulsa for anyone age 10 and older while in public buildings and in public settings when social distancing is not possible. Examples of outdoor required mask zones at the zoo are the new Helmerich Behaving Like Animals Playground and underwater viewing at Helmerich Sea Lion Cove.

The change in attendance limits

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THE GREATER TULSA REPORTER NEWSPAPERS
The Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers consist of the Union Boundary, the Jenks District Gazette, the Midtown Monitor, the Owasso Rambler, the Broken Arrow Express and the Bixby Breeze. The papers target news coverage to school district areas. The papers also have common pages of information of interest to all readers in the Greater Tulsa area.

The Union Boundary, the Jenks District Gazette, the Owasso Rambler, the Broken Arrow Express and the Bixby Breeze are distributed monthly to select homes in the Union, Jenks, Owasso, Broken Arrow and Bixby school districts. The Midtown Monitor is distributed to 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

State of the City: Tulsa Stays Strong and Resilient

From Tulsa's Mayor

By G.T. BYNUM
Mayor of Tulsa

When you think about everything Tulsa has been through this year and everything our families have been through, it would be easy to write this year off. Yet, here we stand, still moving forward and thinking about how we can continue to build a globally competitive, world-class city.

In the face of monumental challenges, a budget crises and a national recession we haven't seen in our lifetimes, the resilience of every Tulsan continues to shine through.

In November, I gave my annual State of the City address, albeit virtually due to the pandemic. I focused on our challenges, our resilience and our continued effort to create the kind of city we want to leave to the next generation of Tulsans.

Out of all the things that have stood out to me in 2020, below are a few that come to mind:

We've grown more resilient in our fight against COVID-19 and the loss of one of our own. I'm humbled by the togetherness I've seen from so many people this year. From the loss of TPD's Sgt. Johnson, to the incredible story of Officer Zarkeshan who survived that same shooting, Tulsans have banded together in the face of tragedy. As we seek to make Tulsa a more resilient city for everyone through our Resilient Tulsa Strategy, the resilience Tulsans are showing this year has been nothing short of extraordinary.

We've focused on bridging the life expectancy gap, bringing City resources together to provide better access to transportation, jobs, fresh groceries and more. Throughout my time as mayor, we've attracted over \$1 billion in private investment into North Tulsa, at the same time partnering with job training experts across Tulsa to make sure people living in these areas benefit from the jobs created there.

We continue to work to right wrongs from nearly 100 years ago from the Tulsa Race Massacre. This year, we've dug twice

at Oaklawn Cemetery, the second time in October when we found a grave shaft consistent with a mass grave with at least 11 coffins located inside. Our work to uncover what happened in 1921 continues, no matter where the truth may lead us.

We've proved we're a global contender. Over the summer, our economic development team worked to bring Tesla's new Cybertruck Gigafactory to our city. Out of all the cities Tesla could have picked as their final choices for a factory, they picked Tulsa. Though Tesla ultimately chose Austin, Tulsa was put in the national spotlight and proved once again we deserve a look and have the talent pool to fill quality jobs – a testament to our vision and skilled workforce!

And though this small snapshot of 2020 doesn't touch the surface of what we've been able to accomplish this year against all odds, it paints a very well-defined picture. Great challenges and hard days lie ahead, but our resilience continues to propel us in the right direction. The state of our city is strong, and will continue to remain strong.



MAYORAL ADDRESS: Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum delivers his State of the City address on Nov. 19

Tulsa Area Senators Take Oath of Office

Sen. Nathan Dahm, Sen. Joe Newhouse, Sen. Dave Rader and newly-elected Sen. Cody Rogers are officially on the job for the next four years after taking the official oath of office at the Capitol in November administered by Oklahoma Supreme Court Chief Justice Noma Gurich.

The oath was administered to the Tulsa area senators in small groups on the Senate floor to accommodate for COVID-19 health safety protocols and ongoing Capitol construction.

Dahm, R-Broken Arrow, is beginning his third and final term representing Senate District 33 due to Oklahoma's 12-year term limit. In the previous four years, he served on the Select Agencies, General Government, Judiciary and Public Safety committees. Dahm has been a champion for Second Amendment rights during his time in office, authoring and passing the legislation that enacted constitutional carry in Oklahoma. He also carried and passed Oklahoma's anti-red flag law that protects gun rights for citizens – the first anti-red flag law in the nation.

Newhouse is beginning his second term in office representing Senate District 25. The Tulsa Republican served as the vice-chairman of the Senate Education com-



STATE SENATOR JOE NEWHOUSE



STATE SENATOR NATHAN DAHM



STATE SENATOR DAVE RADER: The Tulsa Republican takes the official oath of office to begin his second term with his wife Janet at his side.

mittee during his first term and also sat on the Select Agencies; Business, Commerce and Tourism; and Public Safety committees. During his first term, Newhouse authored legislation to increase the cap on Oklahoma's Rainy Day Fund and modernize the state constitution.

Rader, R-Tulsa, is representing Senate District 39 for a second term. He's served as the Majority Caucus Chair and vice-chair of the Senate Appropriations committee. He also sat on the Health and Hu-

man Services, Energy, Finance and Public Safety committees. During his first term, Rader authored and passed legislation allowing outpatient hospice patients to have greater access to their medications by exempting their doctors from Oklahoma's electronic prescription law.

"I'm humbled to have been re-elected by the voters of Senate District 39 and to represent our Republican values at the Capitol," Rader said. "The next session will

be challenging as we deal with low oil and gas prices and a health crisis caused by COVID-19, so it will be more important than ever that we take a hard look at how our government is functioning and how we can maximize services while minimizing cost. However, I'm ready to confront these issues and face them directly."

Rogers will be serving his first four-year term in the Oklahoma Senate. The newly elected Tulsa Republican started a paving

construction company in 2015 and has since grown it into a successful business. Rogers plans to advocate for reduced regulations on small businesses and Second Amendment issues at the Capitol. He also supports investing in Oklahoma's educational systems and lowering prescription drug costs for seniors.

The Senate will hold a one-day organizational meeting on Jan. 5 and will begin the 2021 legislative session on Feb. 1.

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CARES Funding Important for Tulsa County During COVID

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Tulsa County last spring no one was prepared for what is the most serious public health crisis in the history of Tulsa County. Our citizens, businesses, non-profits, schools, health facilities, housing, city governments, law enforcement, restaurants and hotels are confronting the most serious life changing challenges they have ever faced.

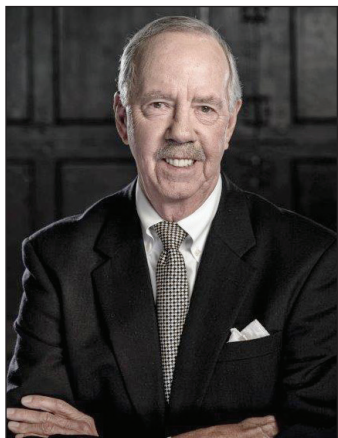
The federal government quickly responded and sent trillions of dollars to local governments. On April 23, Tulsa County received \$113,690,799 in Coronavirus Aid, Recovery & Economic Security (CARES) funds. We have until Dec. 30 to use these funds to provide relief and recovery to the entire county.

Under the leadership of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) we quickly put together a strategic plan to deploy the funds to bring aid and relief to our citizens and to mitigate the impact caused by the pandemic in every area of our lives.

Now seven months later as 2020 draws to a close I am pleased to report the following areas where Tulsa County was able help our county as of Nov.30:

- Small Business Relief - \$30,038,929 to 779 small businesses

From Tulsa County



By COMMISSIONER RON PETERS

- Non Profit Support - \$11,678,699 to 84 non-profit agencies

- Childcare Opportunities - \$1,356,274 to childcare centers

- Emergency Management - \$3,367,792 for PPE supplies

- Election Protection - \$934,872 for election costs & PPE supplies

- Food Insecurity - \$4,200,000 to non-profit food distributors

- Eviction Housing Relief - \$5,563,767 to 3,861 tenants

- and 1,131 landlords

- Public Health Support - \$3,555,072 for testing, tracing, and part time employees

- Support for Cities - \$1,103,240 to reimburse for COVID costs

- Economic / Jobs Development - \$2,440,450 for hospitality industry and jobs development/retention

- Public Safety - \$3,640,091 for law enforcement and fire services safety improvements

- County Facilities and Services - \$12,970,906 for public health safety improvements to county facilities and remote working capabilities

While it is certain that we will

still be living with COVID-19 as we enter 2021, it is uncertain if the federal government will provide more funding. In the event this occurs, Tulsa County has already identified where our next responsibilities will be.

These will include supporting the logistical plan to distribute the vaccine, continuing to provide personal protection equipment where needed, supporting the Health Department manpower needs with the vaccine distribution process, and continuing to provide safe county facilities for citizens and employees.

What leaders across Tulsa County are saying about the Tulsa County CARES Project:

“Tulsa County did a great job prioritizing the highest needs in the community and working with partners that are deeply trusted and highly effective in their work. I think the leaders and the team at Tulsa County served the public in an exemplary manner during this extremely difficult time and serve as a model for the entire country.”

Ken Levit, executive director of the George Kaiser Family Foundation.

“The County Commissioners and their teams demonstrated a strong commitment to learning about the needs and determining the best solutions to bridge funding for the greatest good. They also brought together experts in Housing and Food Insecurity for summits to drive towards a collaborative community response and most effective use of funds”

Alison Anthony, president & CEO Tulsa Area United Way.

“We often talk about the importance of small businesses as the

backbone of our economy, but seldom do words materialize into measurable support.

“The Tulsa Board of County Commissioners recognized the value of the 22,000+ small employer firms and non-profits in Tulsa County and chose to provide a lifeline to those who suffered unprecedented economic interruption due to COVID-19.

“A survey conducted by Tulsa Economic Development Corporation reflected that most businesses would not have been able to manage the blunt force of the pandemic without help from Tulsa County.

“Small businesses will be forever grateful to Commissioners Peters, Keith, and Sallee for their unwavering commitment”

Rose Washington, president & CEO Tulsa Economic Development Corporation.

“The county’s diligent work has been a lifeboat for so many businesses struggling to stay afloat during the pandemic.

“The Tulsa Regional Chamber represents more than 2,200 businesses across the region and we applaud the county for quickly establishing an equitable, transparent application process for the CARES Act funds it received.

“We at the Chamber were especially proud to partner with the county and the Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency on the “Safer Tulsa County” program which used CARES funds to distribute personal protective equipment kits at no cost to qualified small businesses and non-profits. We distributed a total of 2,550 kits to 1,980 organizations during June and July to help them reopen as safely and smoothly as possible.

“From that program to the Tul-

sa County RESET program, the community has benefited in so many ways from the county’s response efforts”

Mike Neal, president & CEO Tulsa Metro Chamber.

“Many Broken Arrow businesses, just like others throughout Tulsa County, have struggled to adapt and innovate during this crisis, and many have seen dramatic decline in revenues. Thankfully CARES funding from Tulsa County has helped businesses throughout the county to stay open and retain employees. We are very grateful for the help from Tulsa County”

Jennifer Conway, president & CEO of the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce

“The City of Collinsville was very pleased with the funding received from the Tulsa County CARES and RESET program. The funding has not only helped the city recoup unexpected expenditures for COVID-19 but also many of our local businesses as well. Thank you, County Commissioners, for this program and your continued support of all cities in Tulsa County.”

Pam Polk, Collinsville city manager.

“Since the pandemic began we have seen about 2000 households that we’ve never seen before. These are people who have lost their jobs and families have moved in together.


“The thing that Iron Gate prides itself on is never having to turn anyone away who is hungry. We are very grateful for our CARES Act money because we just couldn’t have done it without it”

Carrie Vesley Henderson, Iron Gate executive director.



TINA MILLER, Rotary Club of Tulsa

SHOPPING WITH A COP: Officers from Tulsa FOP Lodge 93 partnered with the Rotary Club of Tulsa in early December for the annual “Shop with a Cop” held at the Target store at 1701 S. Yale Ave. During the event, 21 Tulsa police officers were paired with a Celia Clinton Elementary School student and a Rotary Club member to shop for Christmas presents for their families. While presents were being wrapped, the officer then secretly shopped for each child - making sure their whole family has a present under the tree on Christmas morning. This year \$14,000 was raised, making it the biggest “Shop with a Cop” in Tulsa’s history. Also donating were Mark Allen Chevrolet, Simmons Bank and Griffin Communication.



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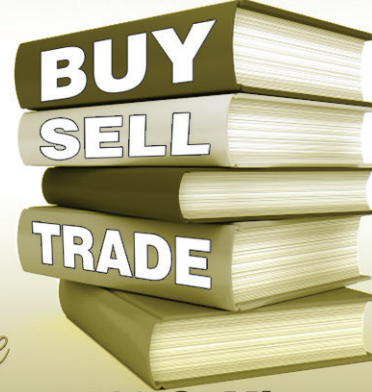
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VARIETY

2020 Promises Tulsans a Holiday to Remember

This holiday season is likely to resonate in everyone's memory for the rest of our lives, along with numerous special occasions from the last few months that we have celebrated alone, or not at all. It is painful to be apart when togetherness is what we need most. The Grinch would love 2020.

Each person has a comfort zone when it comes to social distancing. To accommodate all, here's a roster of activities, virtual and otherwise, you might enjoy in relative safety.

Two hallowed Tulsa holiday traditions that I love writing about and attending are Tulsa Ballet's "The Nutcracker" and American Theatre Company's "A Christmas Carol." I'm happy to share that neither Scrooge nor the Sugar Plum Fairy will be AWOL this December. A collaboration between the Admiral Twin Drive-In and American Theatre Company will bring a multi-camera, high-definition filming of ATC's 2019 staged production of "A Christmas Carol" to the big outdoor screen. Showings are Dec. 18, 19, 22 and 23. Gates are open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m. It is suggested that attendees bring an FM radio to hear the performance without draining car batteries.

It is not possible to safely stage a full "Nutcracker" production that includes a huge cast of dancers and children. But, instead of scrapping December performances entirely, Tulsa Ballet will present "The Lost Nutcracker" in the Grand Ballroom at the Cox Business Convention Center, December 17-20. The program comprises a trio of holiday-inspired works from three illustrious choreographers: "Holiday

Boogie" created by Tulsa Ballet's Resident Choreographer Ma Cong; Joshua Peugh's "Little Story;" and world-renowned Italian choreographer Luciano Cannito's "The Lost Nutcracker." Seats will be positioned in twos, with six feet separating every pair.

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN

Live orchestral music adds immensely to any kind of theatre or dance performance. I will miss Tulsa Symphony Orchestra's always-excellent performance of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" score this season. There is an option to watch a festive TV presentation showcasing TSO on Dec. 19. "A Hometown Holiday" on Tulsa CW from 7 to 8 p.m. will feature the Orchestra and internationally renowned soprano (Tulsan) Sarah Coburn, along with her daughter Ruby. They will be joined by other special guests, including News On Six's LeAnne Taylor. She really can sing! TSO's Executive Director Keith Elder says, "Families and friends will have an opportunity to gather safely in their homes and enjoy the music that exudes all the warmth of the holiday season."

More holiday music comes your way with Tulsa Signature Symphony on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. "Christmas in Tulsa" includes the Signature Chamber Orchestra, the 2020 Tulsa Sings winner Chiara Miller, and a bevy of entertainers. The show is available to view with a \$10 fee; \$5 for students. Check the Tulsa Signature Symphony website for details.

Tulsa Opera wants you to join the conversation this holiday season. Renowned composer Tobias Pickler will chat with Oklahoma-born opera star Leona Mitchell on Dec.



THE LOST NUTCRACKER: A trio of holiday-themed ballets comes to the Cox Business Convention Center Dec. 17-20, produced by Tulsa Ballet.

15 at 7:30 p.m. This is a Zoom event with a limit of 50 people. Register early at TulsaOpera.com.

My husband and I rejoined the Tulsa Botanic Garden as patrons this year, and became members of the Tulsa Zoo for the first time. We enjoyed walking through the gardens during late summer. Now, with the holidays here, Tulsa Botanic Garden is presenting "Garden of Lights." The decorated Garden will be open 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. through Jan. 3, Thursdays through Sundays, plus Dec. 21-23. Activities include a hay maze, live piano music and a train ride. An array of holiday-inspired refreshments will be available. Be sure to purchase tickets in advance. There is so much land to explore at the Garden that I doubt you would be crowded, but the organization is taking extra precautions by spacing entrance times and controlling numbers.

Observing animals at the zoo combines a good walkabout with a chance to check up on some fascinating creatures. The rhinos at the Tulsa Zoo are very impressive, and the big cats are always a thrill. I encourage you to purchase a membership to some of Tulsa's cultural gems, like the Zoo, the Botanic Garden, ahaa and the Oklahoma Aquarium. Memberships provide an extra boost for their operating budgets. With a membership, you are likely to go more often and not feel that you have to make a long visit on any one day.

Another Tulsa entertainment icon is the Circle Cinema. The building is an architectural treasure, and the programming is inspired. In January 2021, the Circle Cinema and local partners will screen the Sundance Film Festival—a real honor for Tulsa and Circle Cinema. Happy New Year to us!

Take a Winterfest spin around the ice rink at the BOK Center through Jan. 3 for some holiday cheer. Philbrook, too, is gorgeous in December as it is all year long. With thoughtful distancing and mask-wearing, we can all look forward to a time in 2021 when once again we can gather to enjoy live entertainment and each other's precious company.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL: American Theatre Company will present a filmed version of the holiday classic Dec. 18, 19, 22 and 23, at the Admiral Twin Drive-In.



GARDEN OF LIGHTS: Tulsa Botanic Garden welcomes the holiday season in a blaze of the lights. The "Garden of Lights" event includes a myriad of festive activities through Jan. 3.

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Save Our Stages So We'll Have Some Place to Boogie

In the wake of the November elections, many of us are ready for a break from politics. It's certainly understandable after a never-ending news cycle of poll analysis, battleground predictions, chaotic debates and hyper punditry. So, what better time to submit a politically charged column?

Okay, politically charged is a bit of a stretch. Let's call it civic minded; a call to action to do your part as a citizen and, I assume since you're reading this column, a fan of live music.

Currently under consideration by the 116th Congress of the United States is S. 4258, the Save our Stages, or SOS Act.

The bipartisan bill, introduced in the Senate by Texas Republican John Cornyn and Minnesota Democrat Amy Klobuchar, "authorizes the Small Business Administration to make grants to eligible live venue operators, producers, promoters, or talent representatives to address the economic effects of the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic on certain live venues."

As Tulsans, we have many reasons to contact our representatives to congress and urge them to pass this legislation. From the smaller, more intimate stages like The Colony and Mercury Lounge,

to the legendary Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa's robust music scene has been able to flourish amid a landscape of top-quality venues.

I typically stay away from politics in this column, but the idea that any of my favorite venues could be in existential danger is enough to turn me into a veritable Bob Woodward.

Rather than unveiling the Watergate papers, however, my foray into political writing will conclude after this simple call to action: tell Congress to act now to save independent music venues. Visit saveourstages.com for information and help contacting legislators, or to support the cause through a financial donation or by purchasing shirts, hats and other merch.

I will now step off my soap box and make a case for the SOS Act by highlighting one of the many world-class venues that could benefit from the bill.

The Old Lady

I applaud the Tulsa City Council for its decision to discontinue honoring Tate Brady in downtown Tulsa, but I have to admit, the Old Lady on Reconciliation Way doesn't have the same ring to it.

The Tulsa Theater, 105 W. Reconciliation Way, formerly the Brady Theater, was known as the Old Lady on Brady long before it



1950s: The Tulsa Municipal Theater in the 1950s. It would become the Brady Theater in 1979 before being renamed The Tulsa Theater earlier this year.



THE TULSA THEATER: The stainless steel sign that adorned the theater from 1952-1979 was resurrected after four decades and recently reinstalled on the buildings north side.

was called the Brady Theater. Completed in 1914, the barn-like structure was originally known as Convention Hall. In its early years, it served as a municipal auditorium and convention hall, billed as the largest between Kansas City and Houston.

That size distinction was significant, as Convention Hall was one of the few venues in the region large enough to host a full Metropolitan Opera production, and therefore brought some of the best opera singers of the day to Tulsa.

Legend has it, one of them never left. Italian Tenor Enrico Caruso performed at the Convention Hall in 1920, reportedly contracting an illness and dying shortly after only to return in supernatural form to haunt the Old Lady to this day. It remains to be seen if the ghost of Hermann Cain haunts the BOK Center.

A 1930 interior renovation by world-renowned architect Bruce Goff brought about the elegant art deco style, seating and superior acoustics we enjoy today.

In 1952, lobbies were added to both the upper and lower levels and it became the Tulsa Municipal Theater.

It wasn't until 1979 when the building was purchased by Tulsa Peter Mayo that the name was changed to the Brady Theater. The name change was logical, since Tulsans had been referring to it as the Old Lady on Brady for years.

In January 2020, the Brady Theater became the Tulsa Theater as the city continues to cut ties with Tate Brady due to his involvement with the KKK.

The sign that adorned the building from 1952-1979, a stainless steel script that spells out Tulsa, has been resurrected after 40 years in a storage unit and now

embellishes the face of the Old Lady once again.

The list of acts that have graced that stage is far too long to list. It has seen some of the biggest names in pop culture, from George Carlin to Bob Dylan to Stevie Ray Vaughn, and for that, we owe a debt to the Old Lady.

You can settle that debt easily by contacting Congress in support of the SOS Act. Sorry, I got on my political soap box again, but I had to make one last pitch to save our stages so that when this pandemic is over, we'll still have a multitude of venues in which to keep searching, keep listening.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Cancer Treatment Centers of America Tulsa Receives 2020 Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award For Outstanding Performance in Patient Experience

Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) Tulsa has been named a 2020 Guardian of Excellence Award winner by Press Ganey. The award recognizes top-performing health care organizations that have consistently achieved the 95th percentile or above for performance in Patient Experience.

"True to our mission, vision, values and commitment to provide high quality care to our patients, the Guardian of Excellence Award symbolizes the unyielding service excellence that our employees provide to our patients and caregivers every day," says CTCA Tulsa President, Dana Haynie. "I am extremely proud of all of our team members for this demonstration of excellence."

The Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award is a nationally-recognized symbol of achievement in health care. Presented annually, the award honors clients who consistently sustained performance in the top 5% of all Press Ganey clients for each reporting period during the course of one year.

According to Haynie, the award represents an important recognition from the industry's leader in measuring, understanding and improving patient experience.

"The caregivers and staff of CTCA Tulsa touch the lives of patients and their families in profound ways," said Patrick T. Ryan, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Press Ganey. "This award reflects their deep commitment to listening to the voices of their patients and our shared mission to reduce suffering and improve the safety, quality, and experience of patient-centered care."

About Cancer Treatment Centers of America

Cancer Treatment Centers of America® (CTCA) is a national oncology network of hospitals and outpatient care centers offering an integrated approach that combines surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, immunotherapy and advancements in precision medicine with supportive therapies to manage side effects and enhance quality of life during treatment and into sur-



GTR Media Group photo

AWARD WINNING HOSPITAL: The CTCA hospital in Tulsa is located at 10109 E. 79th Street.

ivorship. CTCA publishes treatment results bi-annually including patient experience, length of life, quality of life, patient safety and quality of care. CTCA also offers qualified patients a range of clinical trials that may reveal new treatment options supported by scientific and investigational research. CTCA patient satisfaction scores consistently rank among the highest for all cancer

care providers in the country. Visit cancercenter.com for more information.

About Press Ganey

Press Ganey pioneered the health care performance improvement movement 35 years ago. Today Press Ganey offers an integrated suite of solutions that enable enterprise transformation across the patient journey. Delivered through

a cutting-edge digital platform built on a foundation of data security, Press Ganey solutions address safety, clinical excellence, patient experience, and workforce engagement. The company works with more than 41,000 health care facilities in its mission to reduce patient suffering and enhance caregiver resilience to improve the overall safety, quality, and experience of care.

New Oklahoma Resource Guide Developed For Health Professionals Treating Children

The OSU Center for Health Sciences has partnered with Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Oklahoma Department of Human Services and the OU Health Sciences Center to develop a new resource guide for health professionals treating children.

The use of medications like antidepressants, anti-anxiety agents, mood stabilizers and antipsychotics—also known as psychotropic medications—to treat children and teens with emotional and behavioral issues has dramatically increased in recent years.

"Oftentimes youth with the most significant emotional and behavioral needs are prescribed the most medications, and yet are less likely to have seen a child and adolescent psychiatrist," said Dr. Sara Coffey, assistant clinical professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at OSU Center for Health Sciences.

According to a 2015 study in the New England Journal of Medicine, there has been a 600 percent increase in use of atypical antipsychotic medications in the last 25 years compared to just a 70 percent increase in psychotherapy during that same time.

And in another study of Medicaid claims, up to 67 percent of youth prescribed atypical antipsychotic medications also reported quality of care concerns.

"With this overprescribing and at times imprudent use of medications, we put youth at risk for

serious side effects and miss the opportunity to employ more evidence-based care," Coffey said.

The majority of youth who do receive treatment get it from their primary care physician. In fact, the American Academy of Pediatrics estimates that in the next 10 years, 40 percent of patient visits to pediatricians will involve long-term chronic disease management of physical and psychological or behavioral conditions.

"With the severe shortage in child and adolescent psychiatrists and limited access to evidence-based therapy, clinicians are doing what they can with the information they know to treat the symptoms of often devastating and destructive mental health symptoms in our youth," Coffey said. "It's imperative that up-to-date, evidence-based resources and collaboration is available to our clinicians on the front line of what at times can feel like a mental illness epidemic."

In order to meet this growing need, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority and the Department of Human Services' Division of Child Welfare assembled a task force to develop the Oklahoma Pediatric Psychotropic Medication Resource Guide, a collection of resources for Oklahoma physicians and health care professionals caring for youth with mental illness. Telligen Community Initiative also provided additional funding to aid in the creation and distribution of the guide.

Dr. Deborah Shropshire, director of Child Welfare Services in the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, said children who have experienced high rates of trauma are much more likely than other children to be treated at some point with psychotropic medications.

"Unfortunately, Oklahoma has a high rate of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), the kinds of trauma that can result in behavioral health symptoms that often prompt families to seek health

care solutions," Shropshire said. "While reducing trauma is and should be a priority, it's also critical that there is clear, evidence-informed guidance for providers on how to safely and effectively treat children with behavioral health needs. And that is what prompted the creation of the guide."

Clinicians from the University of Oklahoma Center for Health Sciences and the OSU Center for Health Sciences, including Coffey, lead the core team that invited child and adolescent psychiatrists, pediatricians and pharmacists to join the task force in drafting the guide. The task force reviewed and compiled up-to-date information on best prescribing practices.

"I want to thank our amazing task force members who came together voluntarily to work on this important project, and Telligen Community Initiative that helped support this endeavor," Coffey said.

The comprehensive document is for any clinician managing psychiatric medications in children and adolescents such as pediatricians, family physicians, psychiatrists, physician assistants and nurse practitioners. In the future, revisions to the guide will be made to ensure treatment recommendations are evidence based and current.

"Although this resource is meant to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of children and adolescents, it is important to note that ultimately the care of patients is a partnership with the patient, their family and the treating clinician," Coffey said. "Our goal was to provide evidence-based information to support youth with psychiatric illness and the judicious use of medication to support psychiatric care."

View the digital Oklahoma Pediatric Psychotropic Medication Guide at okla.st/okpedpsycho or order a copy of the guide by calling 1-877-283-4113 and reference publication number 20-27.

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Tulsa Health Department to Enforce Additional COVID-19 Ordinances Passed by City Council

The Tulsa City Council passed additional COVID-19 measures in late November, which:

Require a COVID-19 Safety Plan for events of 150 people or more (previously 500) – which must be submitted to the Tulsa Health Department (THD) 14 calendar days before the event;

Give THD authority to enforce the City's COVID-19 ordinances in places of public accommodation, public settings, restaurants and bars. City code enforcement will assist;

Require separation or distance provisions in use at restaurants, bars and other places of public accommodation and public settings;

Require entities to consistently make adequate efforts to have patrons and attendees comply with face covering requirements and to implement a sanitation protocol to protect employees and customers.

THD will work with entities of public accommodation to ensure compliance with City ordinances.

Businesses that do not take measures to comply with face covering, social distance, separation, or event requirements can be declared a public nuisance and will be subject to abatement and penalties.

The mask ordinance in the City remains the same. These newly passed ordinances build upon the City's existing mask mandate, which requires a mask for all persons 10 years old and older in public settings and in places of public accommodation.

To report non-compliance with existing City ordinances regarding COVID-19 measures, visit www.tulsa-health.org/COVIDcomplaint. Residents should only call

911 for life-threatening emergencies.

Updated ordinances will be made available at www.cityoftulsa.org/COVID19. Additionally, a detailed list of FAQs and background on places of public accommodation will also be made available on that webpage.

"I want to thank leadership from so many of our surrounding communities and especially my colleagues on the Tulsa City Council for stepping up to help save lives and assist our strained healthcare system," Mayor G.T. Bynum said. "I fully support these increased mitigation efforts for Tulsa and strongly encourage Tulsans to stay vigilant as we navigate through one of the most testing times of this pandemic. I will sign these measures into law at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow, and am grateful for all the businesses and individuals who are doing their part to help mitigate the spread of this disease."

"Many thanks to my colleagues on the Council, the mayor and City/Health Department staff for their efforts in crafting regulations to protect our community," Council Chair Ben Kimbro said. "Local government is responsible for ensuring public safety. These ordinances were passed in the interest of saving lives; period. I ask the community to partner with the City and the Health Department to help stop the spread of this virus. We all need to work together to preserve the health of our fellow citizens, especially our most vulnerable."

"I appreciate the City of Tulsa's efforts to strengthen existing ordinances to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect our com-

munity, particularly our most vulnerable," THD Executive Director Dr. Bruce Dart said. "The Tulsa Health Department remains committed to protecting the health and well-being of Tulsa County residents as well. Just as THD staff inspect local food establishments to ensure they are operating safely to prevent foodborne illnesses, our staff will now also help local businesses keep their employees and customers safe."

The healthcare system is experiencing a significant strain. To better encourage countywide mitigation efforts, the Tulsa Health Department has launched a new graphics campaign to encourage Tulsans to practice enhanced vigilance. between now and the end of the month.

The Tulsa Health Department asks Tulsa area residents to:

- Avoid gatherings
- Take precautions at Christmas (celebrate only with those in your household or do a videoconference Christmas)

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COVID-19 UPDATE



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- Stay safe while shopping (shop online, if possible)
- Wash your hands
- Wear your mask
- Watch your distance
- Order take-out
- Work from home, if possible

Situation Update
As of the end of November,

the Tulsa Health Department had confirmed 30,917 positive COVID-19 cases in Tulsa County. 25,651 residents have recovered and 258 have died. Test results are updated daily at www.tulsa-health.org/COVID19. For the most up-to-date news, information and business resources in Tulsa, visit www.cityoftulsa.org/COVID19.

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EDUCATION

Tulsa Area Students Honored at TU Homecoming

The University of Tulsa honored its 2020-21 Jess Chouteau Outstanding Seniors and Top 10 Freshmen during Homecoming week, Oct. 13-18. Ten Seniors and 10 Freshmen are selected each year by a panel of judges from the Alumni Association for their exceptional achievement in academics and community engagement.

This year's Outstanding Seniors from the Tulsa area are Ritvik Ganguly of Tulsa, Megan Losoncy of Owasso, James Smith Williams of Tulsa, Emily Tran of Broken Arrow and Morgan Wilson of Tulsa.

Among this year's Top Ten freshman are Ha Huynh of Broken Arrow and Iyan Smith Williams of Tulsa.

Jess Chouteau Outstanding Seniors

Ritvik Ganguly is a biochemistry major and an aspiring physician with an emphasis on integrative medicine, leadership, and patient advocacy. Through his time at TU, Ganguly has been a part of the Tulsa Undergraduate Research Challenge, Global Scholars Program, American Committee on Foreign Relations, Mortar Board, Honors Program, Presidential Leadership Fellowship, and is a co-founder of the Happy Hippocampus social franchise.

Megan Losoncy is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design. Through her work as a freelance graphic designer with MLDesigns, Losoncy has developed and implemented logo designs and advertising strategies for companies in Tulsa and beyond. She is also the co-owner of T&M Studios, a mobile art studio, event

photo booth and art boutique.

James Smith Williams is a finance major who is active in many campus groups. Smith Williams has served the University in several capacities including vice president of the Student Association, two-term president of Sigma Nu fraternity, treasurer of the Student Investment Fund, vice president of alumni engagement for the Future Alumni Council, treasurer of the Interfraternity Council, Peer Mentor for new students, and more. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Gamma Sigma, Order of Omega, and Phi Eta Sigma honor societies.

Morgan Wilson will graduate with a double major in finance and computer information systems. In addition to being a Presidential Scholar, Wilson is a member of Mortar Board, Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Gamma Sigma, Order of Omega and Phi Eta Sigma honor societies. She serves as CEO of the Kappa Alpha Theta fraternity, President of the Future Alumni Council and is also a Global Scholar and a TU University Ambassador. As president of the Future Alumni Council, Wilson oversees 5 officers and 45 organization members as they plan events, including alumni networking, commencement ceremonies and Homecoming activities. During her time at TU, Wilson availed herself of the opportunity to study abroad at the Université Catholique de Lille, where she pushed herself to explore outside her comfort zone while pursuing her ambitions, goals, and dreams.

Top Ten Freshmen

Ha Huynh is a biology major who is involved with many



RITVIK GANGULY



MORGAN WILSON



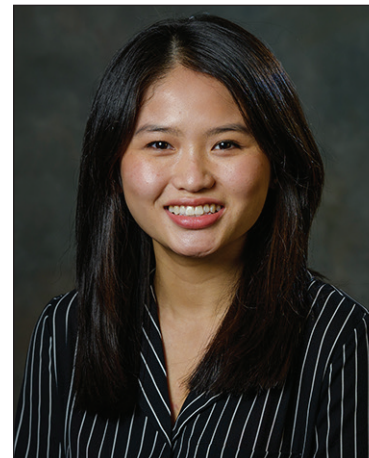
IYAN SMITH WILLIAMS



MEGAN LOSONCY



JAMES SMITH WILLIAMS



HA HUYNH

extracurricular activities at TU. She is not only the treasurer of the Student Nurses' Association, but Huynh is also treasurer of the Asian American Student Association and involved with the Vietnamese Student Association and Future Alumni Council. As a first-generation college student,

one of Huynh's primary goals was to increase opportunities for other first-generation students.

Iyan Smith Williams is double majoring in mathematics and Spanish in the International Science and Language Program. Not only is he an Honors Scholar and a Global Scholar, but Smith Wil-

liams is also a Peer Mentor for the Office of New Student Programs, where he works alongside the Student Success Team to engage incoming students and help facilitate a smooth transition to college life.

For a detailed overview of the success of the students, see www.gtnews.com.

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Tulsa Tech Helps Student Build Foundation for Success

Brick by brick, computer by computer, Tulsa Tech trains students for success in the workplace. For Julie Orellana, that time on campus was short. Orellana spent just one school year in the Mobile App Development program, but the program had a huge impact.

“When I was a junior in high school, I mentioned my interest to my parents in computers and programming,” Orellana said. “My mom pushed me to take the class to get a feel for how programming worked.”

From a young age, Orellana said she had a passion for programming. Something she shared with her mother who, majored in computer programming in college.

“When I was a kid, I was introduced to Scratch,” Orellana recalled with a smile. “It is a program for kids to create animated greeting cards.”

However, as she got older, her mother pushed her to explore more of the world of computers. An online search led her to Tulsa Tech and the Mobile App program. Now a sophomore at OSU-IT in Okmulgee, Orellana says her time at Tulsa Tech made an enormous difference.

“I liked the class, I enjoyed it. That made me realize I enjoyed programming,” Orellana said with a grin. “Now that I am in college, I realize how much Tulsa Tech really helped me. The class laid a foundation for me. As a freshman, I was not lost because I had learned so much at Tulsa Tech.”

More than just a foundation, Orellana credits Tulsa Tech for helping her grow as a leader. She was part of Business Professionals of America (BPA), a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) she joined through Tulsa Tech, which helped her earn a scholarship.

“Earning two awards at the BPA conference last year gave my application some extra weight,” Orellana said. “I won the best in show for the virtual conference and third place for Mobile App.”

This fall, Orellana won the Millman Opportunity Scholarship for a second straight year. She was one of 17 recipients from colleges and universities worldwide who have demonstrated academic excellence and plan to pursue a career in actuarial science or related fields.

Currently, Orellana is completing an associate’s degree in applied science, and from there, go into software development or cybersecurity.

The Information Technology career field is growing at a rapid pace. By the end of the decade, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the IT career field will add more than half a million jobs across the country. These in-demand jobs are high paying too, with a median of nearly \$90,000 a year.

For Orellana, the difference Tulsa Tech made is in the foundation it built for her as she works down her career path.

“If you go into something you are interested in, you can learn if that



JULIE ORELLANA: An online search led Julie Orellana to Tulsa Tech where she developed the knowledge in computers and programming to successfully continue her education and to become involved in valuable leadership organizations.

career is for you and something you want to spend the rest of your life doing,” Orellana said with a smile. “You not only learn skills, but you lay a foundation to build upon.”

The passion for student success is evident to the students.

“They love what they do, and you can tell they enjoy it,” Orellana said. “Seeing their passion makes you want to do better, and it makes learning fun.”

If you are currently looking for exciting classes for high school and adult students, quality corporate training, or a challenging new career, Tulsa Tech invites you to visit

today. For more information, please call 918-828-5000 or visit us online at tulsatech.edu.

TU Named a Top 10 Engineering School

The influential website Money.com has ranked The University of Tulsa No. 7 in its list of Top 10 colleges for engineering majors for 2020. In addition to “overall value,” schools were evaluated according to the share of students earning engineering degrees and average salaries reported by undergraduate engineering students.

Two of the most impressive findings were that the average debt

for TU graduates is only \$23,250, while engineering majors from TU enjoy an early career salary of \$81,400 – the third highest among the Top 10 schools.

“I am incredibly proud that our College of Engineering and Natural Sciences has received this recognition from Money.com,” said Janet K. Levit, interim president of TU. “Our dedicated faculty and staff strive to ensure that every student receives an education that equips them with the technical skills to land meaningful jobs; the well-rounded knowledge to become leaders in industry and research; and the appreciation for innovation and curiosity to continue learning throughout their lives.”

Money.com also reported that TU students benefit from the university’s robust financial aid program. According to the latest statistics, 96 percent of TU students who have a financial need receive assistance. This support significantly increases the accessibility of TU’s high-quality education.

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MAKE YOUR OWN PATH

UNION EDUCATION

Bryan Flores and Grace Lam are Named Union Seniors of the Month for November

Bryan Flores and Grace Lam have been named Seniors of the Month for November for Union High School. Flores is the son of Maria Ruiz and Alejandro Flores of Tulsa. Lam is the daughter of Nancy Le and Thanh Lam of Tulsa.

Flores, a participant in Union's Early College High School program, has been active in band, Tribe Takeover, Student Leadership Guide program, and National Junior Honor Society, as well as holding part-time jobs outside of school. He has been on the President's Honor Roll at Tulsa Community College every semester since 2018 and was a National College Match 2020 finalist. He was a Mr. Union 2020 junior court nominee.

"I am involved in the Early College High School program, and I am very passionate about it," declared Flores, stating, "As a first-generation college student, my parents have always encouraged me to chase my dreams with tenacity, and for this reason, I took on the challenge. With the Early College program, I am being given the opportunity to get on a level playing field with those who may have more opportunities or connections as I am completing an associate degree as well as my high school degree. I also find pride in the Early College program be-

cause I know that there are underclassmen who are looking up to us.

"I think it is my responsibility to do my part and show that although the road may be difficult, everything is possible with enough dedication. Another reason I am very passionate about the ECHS program is because of the relationships I have formed over the years. I have become close with people I know will be around for a lifetime, and I have also formed a wonderful connection with a mentor in Mrs. Lisa Witcher (principal of the ECHS program.) She is always readily available to us and no matter how stressed or busy she is, she is always someone we can count on. On behalf of the entire Early College Program, we love our Momma Witcher!"

Flores said match classes have made a great impact on his education and credited his teachers for bringing out the best in him, in particular, Sandra Bybee and Rebeckah Peterson. "They are both amazing teachers that bring out the best in all of their students. I have flourished as an individual in their classes, and I have been able to help my peers as I have grown more confident in my own abilities. If it weren't for their consistent reassurances, I wouldn't be the person I am today. With their

incredible instruction and caring personalities, I have no doubt that the math classes/teachers during my high school career have been the most impactful.

Flores has been accepted into a number of colleges including the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University and the University of Tulsa.

"Right now, I am waiting to hear back from Yale University because of the National College Match," Flores said. "I want to complete my undergraduate studies in biology and then apply for medical school. After medical school, I hope to match into a pediatric residency as this has always been my dream. Sometime down the road, I would like to open my own private practice in Tulsa, so that I can give back to the community that has given me so much."

Lam is involved in Asian American Club as co-president, Key Club as vice president, National Honor Society as community liaison, Sustainable U, and served in leadership roles for the Youth Philanthropy Initiative, as well as playing in symphony orchestra. Her honors include being named an AP Scholar with Honors, Superior Ratings Honors at State for Ensemble and Quartet in orchestra.

"Being involved in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative has been the highlight of my high school career," Lam said. "Through YPI, I was able to develop a philanthropic



GRACE LAM



BRYAN FLORES

Courtesy Union Public Schools

project called Culture Bridge Tulsa, a real-life simulation that aims to instill more empathy towards immigrants. Being the daughter of two Vietnam War refugees, I've witnessed first-hand those struggles they encounter daily and the sacrifices they've made to survive in America. My experiences have ignited my passion to help others better understand the immigrant experience through Culture Bridge Tulsa."

During her time at the High School, Lam said, "Mr. (Darin) Cousens' AP Chemistry class has made a big impact on my educa-

tion. The rigor of the class and Mr. Cousens' relentless pushing of his students resulted in lots of late-night studying and the shedding of many tears, but in hindsight, I'm incredibly grateful for that class has taught me, both academically and about life. Being in his classroom for the past three years has not only shaped me into a better student, but has also helped develop my love of chemistry."

As for college plans, Lam said, "I don't know where I want to go yet, but my plan is to either major in finance or chemistry and pursue a pharmacy degree."

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GTR Media Group photo

PRIDE OF UNION: Members of the Union High School JROTC Program marched proudly in this year's Veterans Day Parade in downtown Tulsa.

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UNION SPORTS

Union Rebuilds, Reloads for Basketball Season

By MIKE MOGUIN
GTR Sports Writer

When all starters are lost to graduation, a coach will say their team is either rebuilding or reloading. For Union boys basketball coach Rudy Garcia, it's both.

"I'd say we're in the middle of a total rebuild and reload. We got guys that started a few games that weren't full time starters," Garcia said.

Union often continues its winning ways with new talent following the graduation of a solid class. This year is expected to be no different.

"We lost the bulk of (the lineup) and we lost a lot of leadership. The biggest thing right now is finding some guys who want to be leaders," said Garcia, who enters his 26th season as the head coach. "Once we can get some of that and get more consistent, we'll have a chance to be okay."

Of course, like other programs, regardless of the sport, Union basketball is having to take safety measures for obvious reasons.

After missing the state tournament in 2019, Union returned to it last season. Unfortunately, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, the tourney was called off the day it was scheduled to start. Two weeks later, the OSSAA officially canceled the event and Union was not able to flex its muscle. It finished the year with a 21-5 record.

"It was difficult. It was hard, especially for your seniors that didn't get a chance to play in the state tournament after not getting there as juniors," Garcia said. "It was hard for the younger guys as well. You never know if you're



A.J. REED

going to get back there again. It was a disappointment. We felt like we were playing well. Once you get there, you never know what could happen and we really liked our chances. I felt terrible for our senior class."

Players returning with experience are incoming seniors A.J. Reed, Jediah Jones and Da'Van Aromaye and sophomore Trent Pierce.

"Those four guys played last year. They were in our rotation," Garcia said. "Everybody else will be new as far as experience. We have eight seniors, but a lot of them are inexperienced as far as



HOOP DREAMERS: Front row from left are Neal Kinney, Jediah Jones and Aaron Davie. Back row from left are Mo Rentie III, Cody Nagy, Trae Morris and Da'Van Aromaye.

varsity playing time goes."

Juniors Demond Sanders and Matthias Roberson are expected to join the team after the football team completes their season.

"We think those two can bring some physicalness to the team that we need," Garcia said. "We think they have a chance to come in and help us."

Other players on the Union roster are seniors Trae Morris, Mo Rentie III, Aaron Davie, Cody Nagy and Neal Kinney; sophomores Javion Mims, who stands 6-7, and Malachi McElwie, along with freshmen Dalen Fuller and Eric Madrid, who stands 6-8.

As for the pandemic in practice and games, Garcia said it is

going to be a challenge. "We've had some kids that have had to be quarantined due to contact," he said. "But you just have to keep plugging with the ones you have at practice, and hopefully, nobody comes down with it where they could be seriously ill."

"There's been a lot of cancellations of scrimmages with teams being quarantined," Garcia added. "We've been fortunate so far trying to follow all of our protocols with the school district with masking, washing hands and social distancing. Trying to do our best to control what we can control."

Union opened the season at home against Broken Arrow on Dec. 8. It hosts Booker T. Wash-

ington one week later on Dec. 15. Garcia expects those teams, along with Jenks, Owasso, Sapulpa, Bixby and Sand Springs to be the strongest foes on the schedule. There will be talented squads from the west side of the state as well.

"Obviously for us, we have a lot of new guys. We have no returning starters. It's always a challenge when that happens," Garcia said.

"But we like the guys we have coming back and it's just a matter of them filling and playing roles and I think doing those things will allow us to have a chance to have some success this year. We're probably going to be playing at a little bit faster pace than what we've played before."



Amy Meisner was diagnosed with MS in 1997. For someone who has always danced, MS would seem like the end. But for Amy, it means the start of a new chapter. She'll never leave the floor, still dances from her wheelchair, and is a great choreographer. Embracing Amy's undying passion, the National MS Society teamed up with LaTonya Swann to create an entirely new and inspired dance experience through virtual reality. See their experience and find out how you can share yours at WeAreStrongerThanMS.org.

Together We Are Stronger.



SPORTS

Boone Pickens Remembered at OSU

Statue Unveiling Held in November

Courtesy GAVIN LANG, OSU

A catalyst for the rise of Oklahoma State football and a presence at every Cowboy home game for years, the legendary Boone Pickens is permanently honored with the statue unveiled at the stadium in November that bears his name.

Sculpted out of bronze by Enid-based artist Harold Holden, the nine-foot-tall statue is located immediately west of Boone Pickens Stadium and was unveiled before OSU's Nov. 28 game against Texas Tech. At that time, Pickens became the third person memorialized with a statue on the Oklahoma State campus, joining former president Henry Bennett and OSU's first African-American student, Nancy Randolph Davis.

During the span of his long career, Pickens created thousands of jobs and made billions of dol-

lars— for others as well as himself — and he wasn't timid about spreading it around. "I like making money. I like giving it away.... not as much as I like making it, but it's a close second," he often said.

The breadth of his philanthropy — which approached \$1 billion — included health and medical research, treatment and services; entrepreneurship; kids at risk; education and athletics, with a particular focus on his alma mater, Oklahoma State; corporate health and fitness; and conservation and wildlife management.

In many ways, Pickens was a record-setting philanthropist. His \$165 million gift to OSU in 2005 was the single largest gift for athletics in NCAA history, and the \$7 million donation to the American Red Cross in 2005 was the largest individual contribution in the 150-year history of that organization.

His unprecedented giving to OSU athletics triggered a renaissance in the Cowboy football program and was a key factor in its first Big 12 championship in 2011 and its first BCS Bowl win in the Fiesta Bowl matchup with Stanford in 2012.

On May 21, 2008, Pickens gave \$100 million for the endowment of major faculty chairs and professorships at Oklahoma State. The OSU School of Geology already bears his name from previous gifts to OSU.

Over the years, Pickens donated close to \$600 million to Oklahoma State, split virtually equally between athletics and academics. Backed by the record donation in 2005, Pickens and OSU athletic director Mike Holder set into motion the acquisition of land that has produced OSU's sparkling Athletic Village, which now includes the Sherman Smith Training Center, the Michael and Anne Greenwood Tennis Center, O'Brate Stadium and OSU's track and field facility.



Courtesy Bruce Waterfield, OSU

COWBOY PHILANTHROPIST: Boone Pickens stands tall immediately west of Boone Pickens Stadium thanks to the sculpture by Enid-based artist Harold Holden.

"We could never thank him enough for all that he did for our university," Holder said. "He gave us everything he had and all that he asked in return was that we play by the rules and dream big."

In 2010, OSU launched its campus-wide "Branding Success" campaign and T. Boone Pickens again led the charge with yet another \$120 million gift to his alma mater.

A hall-of-famer in both Oklahoma and Texas, Pickens was a world leader on the energy front with the launching of the Pickens Plan, a unique private sector initiative formed to address the economic and national security threats posed by America's reliance on OPEC oil.

"He was just an old country boy from Holdenville, Oklahoma, but he could think his way around any Noble Prize winner," OSU President Burns Hargis said. "Boone was a legend, a change agent, a life force that rarely comes along."

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GTR 2020 COMPOSITE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Table with columns DATE, VISITOR, HOME. Lists football games for August, September, and October.

Table with columns DATE, VISITOR, HOME. Lists football games for September, October, and November.

Table with columns DATE, VISITOR, HOME. Lists football games for October, November, and December.

Table with columns DATE, VISITOR, HOME. Lists football games for October, November, and December.

Tulsa's Zaven Collins One of Five Finalists for Bronko Nagurski Trophy



The University of Tulsa linebacker Zaven Collins was named one of five finalists for the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, an award honoring college football's national defensive player...

One of the most dynamic linebackers in the nation, Collins is the first Tulsa player to be named a finalist for the Bronko Nagurski Trophy. The other finalists include: Coastal Carolina defensive end Tarron Jackson...

A 6'4" junior from Hominy, Okla., Collins has totaled 51 tackles, 11.5 TFLs for -49 yards, 4 sacks for -25 yards, 4 interceptions, 2 TDs off INTs, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery...

Collins was named the Bronko Nagurski National Defensive Player of the Week after his performance in Tulsa's comeback win

over SMU. He totaled 6 tackles, 2 TFLs for -10 yards, one sack for -9 yards and one QB hurry to go along with his game-sealing interception.

Collins has also earned National Defensive Player of the Week honors once each from the Chuck Bednarik Award and the Walter Camp Foundation. He has been named the American Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Week four times this season.

The FWAA has chosen a National Defensive Player of the Year since 1993. In 1995, the FWAA named the award in honor of the legendary two-way player from the University of Minnesota. Nagurski dominated college football then became a star for professional football's Chicago Bears in the 1930s.

The Bronko Nagurski Trophy is a member of the National College Football Awards Association (NCFAA), which encompasses the most prestigious awards in college football. Founded in 1997, the NCFAA and its 25 awards now boast over 800 recipients, dating to 1935.

Advertisement for the Golden Hurricane Club. Features the text 'MAKE AN IMPACT' and 'GOLDEN HURRICANE CLUB THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA'. Includes a photo of a team and contact information: 'TO JOIN CALL (918) 631-2342 OR VISIT US ONLINE AT GOLDENHURRICANECLUB.COM'.

DINING OUT IN GREATER TULSA

Casa Tequila Provides Quality, Authentic Mexican Fare

Mexican Restaurant Now Offers Locations in Tulsa and Broken Arrow

LOCAL DINING

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Writer

The building at 5001 S. Harvard Ave., in Midtown Tulsa, has been a popular Mexican restaurant spot for many years. While a name change from El Tequila to Casa Tequila and some interior aesthetic changes took place recently, that is the extent of the noticeable changes.

Choosing to dine on a Sunday evening, even in the midst of the Coronavirus, it was clear that the restaurant's popularity, regardless of a name change, is holding strong.

With no outdoor seating choices, my party chose to sit apart from the crowded dining room in the small, somewhat secluded bar area, a small space that juts off from the main dining room. We appreciated that all serving staff were wearing masks.

I chose to start with a Top Shelf Margarita on the rocks. The easy flavor and generous pour by our bartender made

it a pleasurable drink to nurse while waiting for our food.

The menu offers a wide selection of meat and vegetable choices: chicken, shrimp, steak and fish, as well as entrees, burritos, fajitas, tacos, all traditional Mexican fare.

Our party chose the Combo Fajitas of chicken and steak. The dish comes with the traditional sides of beans and rice, sour cream, guacamole, pico de gallo, and tortillas. The steak and chicken were both tender; although, there were a few pieces of steak grizzle. The fajitas were a generous size - more than enough to take home for leftovers or for two to share.

A nice offering for those who love fajitas but are looking for a meatless option, Vegetable Fajitas are available - a mix of mushrooms, onions, cauliflower and bell peppers.

The Filete de Pescado entree features three large white fish filets - grilled or breaded - covered with veggies and cheese plus a side of beans and rice. The cheese can be requested on the side. This dish offers a healthy dining-out choice, though, with the fish having such a mild flavor, it was slight-

ly bland; adding the queso and some salt and pepper helped with that.

Casa Tequila offers a reasonably priced authentic Mexican experience in a pleasing environment. Add to that its excellent food quality and generous portions, it's no wonder that this restaurant and the family that owns it has maintained a long and successful history in the local restaurant scene. I also appreciate being reminded of the authenticity of the restaurant staff and owners, with Spanish being spoken by the majority of the waitstaff.

Currently, there are two Casa Tequila restaurants in Greater Tulsa. The second location opened in Broken Arrow in September at 1311 Hillside Dr.

The Midtown location features an elegant but subdued dining area, including a blue chandelier and the bar set off privately in the corner, in comparison to its Broken Arrow location, which features a much more open, grand dining room with high ceilings and a large, round bar that sits near the back of the dining room.

To view the menu or find more information, visit casatequila.com.



TULSA LOCATION: The Tulsa Casa Tequila is located at 5001 S. Harvard Ave.



BROKEN ARROW LOCATION RIBBON CUTTING: The one with the cutter is Patty Aguirre of Casa Tequila in Broken Arrow gets ready to cut the ribbon for the Broken Arrow location with her and her husband Carlos Aguirre and their daughters. To Patty Aguirre's left in the photo is Broken Arrow Mayor Craig Thurmond.



HAPPY DINERS: Guests at the Tulsa Casa Tequila have a great time while enjoying the Mexican cuisine.



FAJITAS: The combo fajitas is plenty for two to share and pair nicely with the Top Shelf Margarita.

B.A. Casa Tequila Opened in September

Casa Tequila Mexican Kitchen, part of a locally and Hispanic-owned restaurant chain of Mexican food restaurants, open its doors in September and held its official ribbon cutting ceremony on the start of Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15. Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce, as well as City of Broken Arrow representatives have expressed their excitement at the prospect of their local business economy continuing to make progress despite the Covind-19 Pandemic.

Casa Tequila Mexican Kitchen is well known its Harvard location in Tulsa for its margaritas, amazing service and superior Mexican food. Aside from the Casa Tequila restaurants in Tulsa and Broken Arrow, the

locally owned company owns Mr. Mambo Mexican Grill in Broken Arrow. During the Pandemic, the company has made strenuous efforts to take health precautions, which they plan to continue doing at their new location.

"We've seen firsthand the impact that the pandemic has had on our local economy and we are pleased to see the growth in the community. Casa Tequila has invested in BA by beautifully renovating and transforming their building. We look forward to seeing their business thrive and will be here in any capacity we can to assist them," said Lori Lewis, Membership and Community Development Director, with the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce.

"We are excited that the Hispanic business community continues to grow and expand, even during these difficult times," Said Francisco J. Trevino, spokesperson for the restaurant chain. "Casa Tequila will employ around 30 people, once we normalize from COVID-19, but for now, we will start with about 18 to 20 people which makes up over 100 people between all three of their restaurants."

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony and small reception which followed, was led by City of Broken Arrow and Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce officials, who presented a special proclamation for their economic contribution. The Broken Arrow Casa Tequila is located at 1311 E. Hillside Dr.

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Early Tulsa Chamber of Commerce Building Profiled

Building Designed by Architect Joe Koberling

Built in 1951, the Chamber Moved in 2003

In 1972, I was newly licensed by the State of Oklahoma, which meant I could call myself an architect (a legal term). My architectural firm employer assigned me the completion of the Chamber of Commerce Briefing Room in the lower level of the Chamber Building at 616 S. Boston Avenue. This was a 1970s high tech room with full wall concealed rear screen projection, sound proofing, and every AV item current technology could provide. The room was to be used for selling Tulsa to out of state companies interested in locating here.

The Chamber staff was headed by Clyde Cole and included Marvin Winn, manager of economic development, and Larry Silvey, communications manager. Along with these experienced veterans was a young female MBA research manager who happened to be my wife, Cookie, of two years at that time. It was an exciting, hectic time for my wife and for me.

My memories of these chamber offices 48 years later included images of a rather dated space with

numerous large photo murals of scenes of Tulsa in heavy stained wood frames. In the main hallway was a large bronze plaque listing all of the founders of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce. Among them was my grandfather, C.C. Cole.

The Chamber of Commerce Building was designed by architect Joseph Koberling in 1951. The Chamber outgrew its offices in the 1927 Tulsa Club Building. It had taken the end of the great depression of the 1930s, World War II of the 1940s and the economic resurgence of the post war years of the late 1940s to create a demand for a new Chamber facility. The building was originally planned to be two stories but when fund raising reached \$1.6 million, the plan was revised to include a six-story building with a full basement. The Chamber occupied the lower floors and basement while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, needing larger quarters, took over the upper floors.

Joe Koberling used buff-colored brick on the exterior with a rich brown granite surround at the

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA



HISTORIC HEADQUARTERS: The building at 616 S. Boston Ave., built in 1951 and designed by Architect Joe Koberling, was the home of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce until 2003. The Chamber is now known as the Tulsa Regional Chamber.



ART DECO COLLAGE: This close-up shows part of the 55-foot long Bas-relief, designed by local artist Laurence Tenney Stevens on the front of the building. This work is an Art Deco collage of Oklahoma history depicting local wildlife, Native Americans, pioneers, oil field workers, and other laborers.

main entrance on Boston (well off-center towards the north side of the building). Strong horizontal window fenestration (with aluminum trim) for the top two floors reflect a mid-century modern look. A special feature of the main east facade is a 55-foot long bas-relief limestone frieze designed by local artist Laurence Tenney Stevens. This work is an Art Deco collage of Oklahoma history depicting lo-

cal wildlife, Native Americans, pioneers, oil field workers, and other laborers.

The Corps of Engineers moved in 1965 and the building sold to private interests in 1970. In 2003, the Chamber moved to larger offices at Third Street and Boulder Avenue. Readers can track the history of the Chamber by its name changes: Commercial Club, early 1900s; Tulsa Chamber of Commerce,

1915; Metropolitan Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, 1969; Tulsa Metro Chamber, 2000; and finally Tulsa Regional Chamber, 2012. But today the Boston Avenue Chamber of Commerce Building remains as a reminder and a key element in Tulsa's growth and history and houses various entities, including Equity Insurance Company and the administrative offices of the Rotary Club of Tulsa.



SCARING AWAY HUNGER: Iron Gate Development Director Ashli Sims, left, with supporters of Tulsa's largest stand-alone soup kitchen and grocery pantry, were working during Halloween to raise funds to enhance the organization's mission to feed the hungry and homeless of Tulsa. Iron Gate asked Tulsans to skip the candy and bring the canned goods this Halloween.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS: Tulsa's Blue Star Mothers proudly marched during this year's Veterans Day Parade in downtown Tulsa. Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., is a private nonprofit organization in the United States that provides support for mothers who have sons or daughters in active service in the U.S. Armed Forces. It was originally formed during World War II.

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THE ECONOMY

Broken Arrow-Based CymSTAR Announces Additional Positions for Expanded Operations

Company to Add More Than 80 Aerospace Positions Over the Next Three Years

By **BOB LEWIS**
Contributing Editor

Northeast Oklahoma received an early Christmas present with Broken Arrow-based CymSTAR LLC announcing it is adding 80-plus new aerospace jobs over the next three years.

This bit of good news was presented by the aerospace company at a Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation (BAEDC) - hosted media event on Nov. 23.

President and CEO Dan Marticello, who assumed his position in 2018 after retiring as a colonel in the United States Air Force with more than 26 years of service, said CymSTAR has recently been awarded multiple training system contracts in support of C-5M, E-4B and A-10 aircraft weapon systems. With them comes the need for the new positions.

He said the immediate priority is to add 7-10 software and electrical engineers, in both entry level and senior grades. Pay scales range from \$60,000 to \$110,000 a year.

Headquartered in Broken Arrow with production facilities in Tulsa, CymSTAR specializes in the engineering design, manufacture, delivery and certification of new and upgraded training devices for the

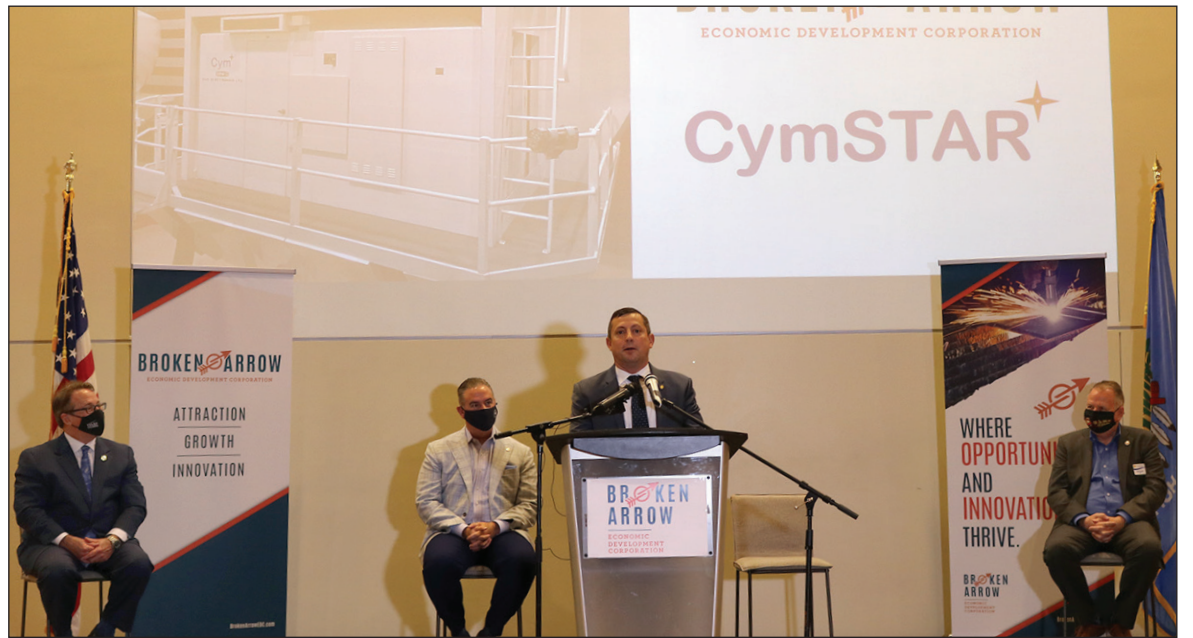
U.S. armed forces. According to its website, the firm is a HUBZone certified and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business established in 2003.

Sister company CymSTAR Services LLC is a SDVOSB established in 2007 to provide a wide range of training systems management and support services to the military. CymSTAR LLC provides engineering reach-back and surge capability support. The two operations share the same management, finances, accounting, human resources, and internal processes.

BA Economic Development Corporation Vice President Darla Heller noted, "The trying times now being faced make this announcement even more important for Broken Arrow and our region. We are excited to assist CymSTAR in identifying the necessary talent to continue the upward trajectory of this company and our community."

The role of the BAEDC is to connect businesses and organizations with guides and resources for success. Partnerships with local organizations and businesses have resulted in thousands of new jobs, capital investments that have expanded and improved the community's business climate, she said.

According to the State Cham-



GTR Media Group photo

PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Daniel Marticello, president and CEO of CymSTAR LLC, addresses his firm's plans for the future at a news conference in Broken Arrow Nov. 23. Also participating in the event are, from left, Mike Neal, president and CEO, Tulsa Regional Chamber; Sean Kouplan, Oklahoma secretary of commerce and workforce development; and Craig Thurmond, the mayor of Broken Arrow. Also on the agenda but not pictured was Darla Heller, vice president of economic development for the Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation.

ber of Oklahoma, the aerospace industry has more than 120,000 employees statewide putting Oklahoma in the top 20 in the country. It accounts for \$27 billion a year in sales and an additional \$19 billion annually in exports and ranks just below petroleum in terms of economic impact in the state.

About Daniel Marticello: Daniel Marticello, the President and CEO of CymSTAR LLC, served

more than 26 years in the U.S. Air Force and retired in the grade of colonel in 2018. Prior to his retirement, he served as the Air Force's Program Manager for the new \$39 billion Air Force One (VC-25B) procurement and modification program. Prior to his final assignment, Marticello led the Air Force Material Command's Simulators Division for three years where he led a team of 430 personnel executing a

\$1.9 billion budget across 52 training system programs.

Marticello is a graduate of the US Air Force Academy, the US Air Force Test Pilot School and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He served in Afghanistan as part of the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A). His military decorations include the Legion of Merit (1st Oak Leaf Cluster) and the Bronze Star.

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AAON Receives Sustainable Tulsa Bellmon Award

Tulsa-based AAON, Inc., a leading manufacturer of heating and cooling products, has received the 2020 Henry Bellmon Award in the Large Business category, from Sustainable Tulsa. The Bellmon nominees were selected from the top-ranking Scor3card verified organizations during the 2019-2020 year. Winners were then chosen from the nomination list by the Henry Bellmon family and members of the Henry Bellmon Judges Panel based on the number of verified items and quality of answers within the Scor3card sustainability assessment and a tracking tool. AAON achieved Platinum level, the highest attainment level, in the 2020 Sustainable Tulsa Scor3card verification program.

“AAON is honored to receive a 2020 Henry Bellmon Award in

recognition of our sustainability efforts. AAON designs and manufactures HVAC equipment with energy efficiency in mind, with premium features and options available for sustainable building applications. In addition to our high standard of product performance is a commitment to sustainability for our employees, our shareholders and our customers,” said Gary Fields, President and CEO of AAON.

About Sustainable Tulsa: Sustainable Tulsa provides education, tools, and resources to inform and engage businesses and individuals in the three areas of sustainability: social responsibility, economic vitality, and environmental stewardship — people, profit, planet. Sustainable Tulsa launched Scor3card in 2016 as an online sustainability tracking and assessment tool for

organizations to track and improve their sustainability efforts. This holistic approach to sustainability allows organizations to engage their employees, bolster their economic growth, and become better environmental stewards. In 2010, Sustainable Tulsa and Southside Rotary of Tulsa collaborated to form the Henry Bellmon Awards, named after one of Oklahoma’s most respected statesmen and an early champion of sustainability in Oklahoma. In 2018, Southside Rotary of Tulsa graciously passed the baton in order for Sustainable Tulsa to continue the awards through their Scor3card program.

About AAON: AAON is engaged in the engineering, manufacturing, marketing, and sale of air conditioning and heating equipment consisting of standard,



Courtesy Stephanie Cameron

AWARD WINNER: AAON President and CEO Gary Fields receives the Sustainable Tulsa Henry Bellmon award in the large business category.

semi-custom, and custom rooftop units, chillers, packaged outdoor mechanical rooms, air handling units, condensing units, makeup air units, energy recovery units, geothermal/water-source heat pumps, coils, and controls. Since the founding of AAON in 1988,

AAON has maintained a commitment to design, develop, manufacture and deliver heating and cooling products to perform beyond all expectations and demonstrate the value of AAON to our customers. For more information, visit www.aaon.com.

America’s Energy: 2021 and Beyond



2020 has truly been a year of uncertainty and challenges, to say the least. This column is being written on November 23, 2020.

As of this writing, the U.S. presidential electoral election has not been certified. The two U.S. Senate races in Georgia are still ahead of us. The future of regulations, executive orders, tax issues, fiscal and monetary policies, international trade issues, COVID-19 vaccination outcomes, demand and supply of energy, and private/public education challenges are some of the numerous issues before us.

Energy education is needed more than ever. Nothing moves without energy. We need to work together to provide energy efficiency and environmental preservation. The oil and gas industry is strongly needed for necessary energy usage and petrochemical products.

As stated in my book, *America Needs America’s Energy: Creating Together the People’s Energy Plan*, “Future generations are depending on us to keep the American dream alive. For too long we in America have been wasting time blaming

the energy industry or the government for failure to adopt a national energy strategy, when we should be responsible for creating the plan. As consumers of energy, we must drive the process, evaluating how we can best leverage our natural resources here at home to ensure long-term energy independence and security. American citizens must take individual responsibility for the state of this great nation, striving to protect the land we call home.”



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

The 24th Annual/Anniversary of IEPC (Energy Policy Conference) Roundtable/Summit was held Aug. 11, 2016, at the Renaissance Hotel in Tulsa. The roundtable was hosted by IEPC, The Energy Advocates and the Master of Energy Program, University of Tulsa.

Roundtable participants included representatives of state and federal government, chamber of commerce, public relations firm, concerned citizens, various areas of the energy sector, professors, think-tanks, energy management students from across the U.S., and the media.

Several issues were discussed regarding energy issues and views. Since that time, we have seen continued dialogue regarding the ever-changing landscape of energy and other economic areas of interest. The energy sector will need to form alliances with other economic

sectors in 2021 and beyond. For example, one company, IngenuitE, is looking at ways to assist energy companies and businesses entering and maintaining digital transformation. They are able to provide consulting to energy companies and businesses.

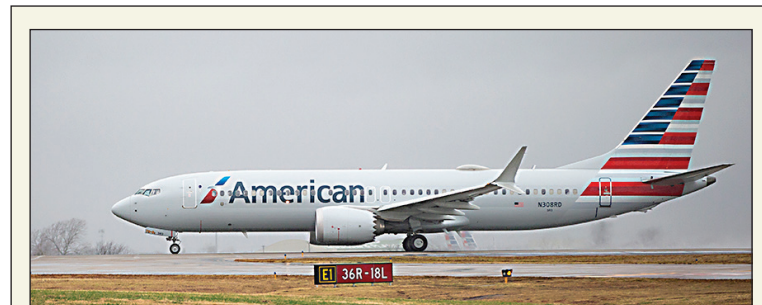
Former President Eisenhower was the founder in 1956 of PTPI (People to People International). His great grandson, Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, is the current CEO of PTPI. He stated at an event at the University of Central Oklahoma, “We can all make a difference and together work toward solutions.” Energy is the future of America, and America Needs America’s Energy.

U.S. energy security is vital. It is important that we have the proper infrastructure maintained and developed.

There are many countries and regions of the world that we have added to our watchlist for 2021, including: China and the Philippines, Armenia and Azerbaijan, and Syria and Iran. Of course, PR China, Russia, India and OPEC continue to be on the watchlist.

America needs America’s energy now, more than ever! Join our effort by visiting Facebook: National Energy Talk.

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



Courtesy photo

AIRBORN AGAIN: American Airlines is again flying the Boeing 737 MAX now that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has recertified the aircraft. American has put in place rigorous processes to ensure that every plane in the air is safe. The company notes that and the pilots, flight attendants, team members and customers are confident in the return of the 737 MAX, with safety being the number one priority.

36 Degrees North Secures Relief Funds

Tulsa-based 36 Degrees North (36°N) is receiving \$1.25 million in COVID-19 Relief funding from the City of Tulsa to transform the vacant fifth floor of City Hall into a state-certified business incubator. The incubator will strengthen Tulsa’s economy as it recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic by growing new businesses that diversify the economic portfolio and create a more resilient community. 36 Degrees North is Tulsa’s basecamp for entrepreneurs, innovators and startups, providing the high-quality workspace, helpful resources and diverse community needed to build growing companies and drive economic impact in Tulsa.

The funds secured from the COVID-19 Relief funding will go directly towards outfitting a new high-growth, state-certified

incubation facility. 36°N currently has two locations in the Tulsa Arts District that facilitate its 700-plus members in a combined 20,000 square feet of space. The third location in City Hall will be designated exclusively for high-growth, tech-enabled companies enrolled in their incubation program.

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Tulsa Public Schools Recruiting Team Members For Transportation, Child Nutrition and Custodial Services

Tulsa Public Schools is recruiting team members for critical operations team positions in transportation, child nutrition, and custodial services. The district is encouraging all interested community members to fill out the interest form at www.tulsaschools.org/hiring.

Eligible applicants for bus driver, child nutrition, and custodial positions must hold a minimum high school diploma or GED equivalent. Tulsa Public Schools offers flexible schedules, on-the-job training, and competitive health benefits including vision and dental. Successful applicants for bus driver positions have the opportunity to earn a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) while they work; a CDL is not required to apply.

"Our support professionals are the backbone of our district," said Jorge Robles, chief operations officer. "Even in distance learning, we are in need of bus drivers, custodians, and cafeteria assistants, managers, and cooks. If you're looking for flexible hours and incredible colleagues, we welcome you to join Team Tulsa!"

Interested community members can visit www.tulsaschools.org/hiring to fill out the district's interest form. All po-

tential employees are required to pass fingerprint and background checks as well as drug screening before starting work with Tulsa Public Schools.

Tulsa Public Schools has COVID-19 safety protocols in place at all school buildings and district sites. The district's practices include a self-administered health questionnaire, temperature screening for all adults, and requiring face coverings in all common areas and/or when in the presence of other people.

Tulsa Public Schools provides personal protective equipment (PPE) free of charge to all employees if needed. In addition to the district's efforts to manage and monitor positive cases and exposures, Tulsa Public Schools is working closely with the Tulsa Health Department to launch a pilot COVID-19 rapid testing program this month for staff.

By leveraging rapid testing the district will be able to preemptively identify possible exposures and take action, reduce infection rates, keep educators in the classroom, and guide the district's decisions to manage in-person instruction in the healthiest and safest way possible. Visit www.tulsaschools.org/safety to learn more.

BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

Mayor Bynum Adds Key Positions to Administration in Preparation for Second Term

Mayor G.T. Bynum has announced that Kathryn Junk and Anna America have joined the Mayor's Office in key roles to help serve the residents of Tulsa. Junk began serving as the Chief of Staff to Mayor Bynum beginning Nov. 16 and America is serving as the Chief of Culture and Recreation.

Junk is responsible for providing strategy and project management for Mayor Bynum's Office, which includes guiding the comprehensive strategic direction of the City of Tulsa.

Jack Blair, who served as Chief of Staff for the past four years in the Bynum Administration, is now serving as the Chief Operating Officer. Amy Brown is Chief Administrative Officer and Deputy Mayor.

"As we strive to make Tulsa a place of opportunity for all Tulsans, I can't think of a better person than Kathryn to serve the city in this capacity," Mayor Bynum said. "She will be critical in harnessing the full talent of our extraordinary team of public servants at the City of Tulsa as we move this city forward during the next four years."

"Mayor Bynum has assembled a tremendous team and I'm honored to join them," Junk said. "I look forward to working with Tulsans and departmental leadership as we advance programs that grow Tulsa and unite our community."

Prior to joining the City of Tulsa, Junk held various roles at a Tulsa-based pipe distributor and from 2007 to 2010, worked for U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe in both a press and policy capacity. Junk is a Tulsa native and holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Tulsa and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma.

As the new Chief of Culture and Recreation, America will remain the City's Park and Recreation Director, but will also be responsible for the coordination and collaboration between the various culture and recreation partnerships the City of Tulsa has with the BOK Center, Cox Convention Center, Gilcrease Museum, Greenwood Cultural Center, Performing Arts Center and River Parks.



KATHERINE JUNK



ASHELY PHILIPPSEN

"Anna is a gifted public servant and I am thankful for the knowledge and leadership she will bring to this new role as so many transformative projects are on the horizon," Bynum said. "With the construction of the Arkansas River Pedestrian Bridge, the creation of the Tulsa Parks and River Parks-Turkey Mountain Master Plans and the start of one of the largest Vision Tulsa projects, the Gilcrease Museum Renovations, it is important to have such a trusted Tulsan to help the City carry out these many projects."

"I already got to have the most 'fun' job in the city with parks and recreation," America said. "It will be great to expand that to work on even more of the most fun and enriching things in Tulsa - our incredible public culture and arts entities. But it's more than just fun and games - having vibrant culture and recreation opportunities is an essential part of making Tulsa a livable and healthy world-class city, and I am excited to be able to be part of that work."

America has served as Tulsa Park and Recreation Director since Aug. 2018. Prior to her Tulsa Parks role, she served as the District 7 Tulsa City Councilor for four years while serving as the Chair for the City Council for a year. During her time as councilor and during her entire career, she has been a strong advocate for Tulsa's park system and building a better life for children. America holds a Bachelor of



ANNA AMERICA

Arts in Communications from the University of Tulsa and is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma and Leadership Tulsa.

Bynum also announced Ashely Philippsen, who previously served as the Deputy Chief of Community Development and Policy will continue her work as the Deputy Chief for Inclusive Economic Growth with the Mayor's Office of Economic Development.

As Deputy Chief for Inclusive Economic Growth, Philippsen will lead and support economic development strategy to ensure the City advances equitable economic growth, with the ultimate goal of ensuring economic development efforts increase economic opportunity and mobility for Tulsa residents.



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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Castle Christmas at The Castle of Muskogee and The Garden of Lights at Honor Heights Park Brighten the Season Through New Year's Eve

A great place to celebrate the best of family holiday traditions is at The Castle of Muskogee where families can take a leisurely drive through the Castleton Village which is filled with thousands of holiday lights and displays. The drive-through is free, and donations are gratefully accepted.

Outside of The Castle, guests may enjoy an old-fashioned hayride or a ride on the festive Castle Train, both of which provide visitors with a unique experience through the Castle displays. Also in the Village area, the little ones may ride the cutest holiday ponies anywhere. For a taller vantage point, Cletus the Camel will attend to provide rides around the Village area. The venue is excellent for taking memorable photos.

Once inside The Castle, guests may warm up and enjoy a variety of family holiday activities including crafting ornaments in the workshop. Handmade creations for the special people on the holiday list will be available. Visitors can also purchase items from The Christmas Shoppe or the Castle Gift Shop for holiday displays or holiday keepsakes. Rudolph's Cafe is a great place for a light supper or snack, hot chocolate, and treats. Guests can sit and enjoy complimentary holiday movies for the entire family. Visit okcastle.com for a complete schedule of nightly activities.

In nearby Honor Heights Park, the "Garden of Lights" attracts thousands of visitors. The celebration includes a drive-through

display of over a million shimmering lights exhibited throughout the park. Christmas lights are placed on trees, bushes, and structures throughout the park to enhance the natural beauty of the gardens, waterfalls, and ponds. Gates open at 5:30 pm nightly, and the event is free on Monday's and \$5 per vehicle, \$10 per bus/ 10-plus passenger vans Tuesday through Sunday.

Visitors can drive through the lights at both locations. The Castle drive-through is complimentary, however, donations are appreciated. Honor Heights has a fee of \$5 with both cards and cash accepted. If visitors would like information on a season pass, contact the Parks Department. Both drive-through events are open nightly through New Year's Eve, 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Holiday Activities outside in The Castle's Village

Tractor-drawn Hayrides - This ride starts in the parking lot of The Castle and travels through the village on a different route from the car drive-through. Departs every half hour. Cost is \$5.00 per person, children under 1-year-old are free. Fri, Sat, Sun.

Castle Train - Enjoy the lights with a tour from the conductor himself for \$10 per passenger. Kids under one are free. Thanksgiving - Nov. 29, Dec. 4-6, 11-13, Nightly Dec.13 - Dec. 25, Dec. 27-29. To book the train throughout the week, please call 918-687-3625 or email info@okcastle.com to reserve. Group rates available.



Courtesy The Castle of Muskogee

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Pony rides - A holiday favorite! \$5 per child. Fri, Sat, Sun. The cutest Christmas ponies in town.

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Holiday Activities inside The Castle

The Castle's additional events

are open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday - Dec. 4 - 6, 10 - 13, Nightly Dec. 18-27, Please check the Calendar at okcastle.com for a detailed schedule of each night's activities.

Gift Shops - A wide assortment of holiday merchandise, inflatables, and much more.

Rudolph's Cafe - Treat yourself to soups, sandwiches, cookies, hot

chocolate, and more.

Chalice Hall - Enjoy watching holiday movies for the whole family or sit and warm up by the fire.

Christmas Merchants - Find unique and handcrafted items from a variety of craftspeople.

Fireworks - Stock up for New Year's in the Christmas Shoppe - Dec. 18 - New Year's Eve.

Gathering Place Partners with Tulsa Police Dept. and TPD Foundation to Host This Year's Holiday Toy Drive

Gathering Place has partnered with the Tulsa Police Department and the Tulsa Police Department Foundation to host a Drive-Thru Holiday Toy Drive to support TPD's Random Acts of Kindness this holiday season. The TPD

Holiday Toy Drive runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning Monday, Nov. 30 through Friday, Dec. 11.

Tulsans are welcome to drop off new, unwrapped toys from the safety of their vehicle by driving through the Williams Lodge Loop at Gathering Place. Toy donations will also be accepted at the Guest Services desk located inside the Williams Lodge during normal Park hours.

All toy donations collected during the two-week TPD Holi-

day Toy Drive will benefit TPD's Random Acts of Kindness and provide officers the opportunity to surprise Tulsa kids with toy gifts during the holiday season.

"This toy drive won't just impact the kids who receive these toys for Christmas but it will also impact our officers as they go out and find those in our community with the greatest needs," says Roger Chasteen, TPD Foundation Chairman. "None of this could be possible if it wasn't for the generosity of citizens in Tul-

sa. It is an honor to support our officers and citizens alike during the holiday season."

The TPD Holiday Toy Drive will be carried out with special attention to ensure everyone's safety. Gathering place asks that when dropping off new, unwrapped toy gifts, please observe health and safety guidelines, like wearing a mask, maintaining social distance, and remaining in the vehicle.

"2020 has indeed been a challenging year on so many fronts,"

says Tony Moore, Executive Director of Gathering Place. "Thank you Tulsa Police Department for still finding a way to bring holiday joy to Tulsa kids who need it most."

If you cannot make it to the Holiday Toy Drive but would still like to support TPD's Random Acts of Kindness, please consider a tax-deductible monetary donation to the TPD Foundation. For more information on the TPD Holiday Toy Drive, visit www.tpdfoundation.org.

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Union Public Schools Discontinues Redskins Mascot

Union's Board of Education voted unanimously Nov. 9 to discontinue use of the Redskins mascot and logo, in response to a recommendation made by a 35-member board-appointed committee that was tasked with studying the issue.

"After two months of study, the committee recommended a change, with 88.9 percent voting in favor of dropping the Redskins mascot," said Superintendent Kirt Hartzler. "Without question, this name is one that has become increasingly divisive. For many, it has been a symbol of pride, honor and tradition. For others, it has caused pain. We received an overwhelming number of requests from Union insiders calling for change. With a name like Union, we can't hang on to things that cause division."

A 35-member committee was appointed by the board on Aug. 10 and included student leaders, teachers, support personnel, administrators, parents, members of the district's Native American committee, alumni and representatives from each board district. Four members of the committee were non-voting, including two tribal representatives and two board members.

"Our committee spent a significant amount of time in discussion and research relating to Union's mascot," said Chris Payne, chairman of the committee and Chief Communications Officer for the district. "This decision is not one that was made easily or lightly. Outside of Union circles, the name is widely considered an offensive term. Inside Union, there has also been a significant shift in thinking among alumni, parents and students, and the call for change grew considerably in volume. We knew it was time to revisit this name."

Union's board last considered the mascot issue 17 years ago during the 2002-03 school year. At that time, it made the unanimous decision to retain the mascot name. The main reason cited for keeping it was that it was "outside forces" (people outside the district) seeking the change.

"That is no longer the case," said Payne. "Over the last year, 70 percent of emails we've received asking us to drop the mascot have come from inside the Union family. More than 1,200 people – Union alums, parents, teachers and students – joined a group called Union United for

Change and signed an online petition. It's clear that opinions have changed dramatically since the last time this issue was considered."

Other reasons cited by the committee for dropping the name:

- By dictionary definition, the mascot name is a derogatory term. The word's origins refer to the scalping of Native Americans and the payment of bounties;
- Union students are frequently put in awkward situations where they are called upon to defend a mascot they personally find offensive;
- Given the diversity of its student population, Union is a "minority majority" district. This mascot no longer aligns with Union's Core Value of inclusiveness;
- Lost donations/sponsorships from prospective donors who find the name offensive; and
- Many national organizations have been seeking to eliminate Native American mascots for decades, including more than 100 Native American organiza-

tions across the U.S.

Payne said, "We took a serious look at research related to Native American mascots and the effect on students, both Native and non-Native, and none of it is positive."

Research reviewed by the committee showed harmful effects of Native American mascots on Native American students that included:

- Increased levels of stress, depression, anxiety and anger, as well as lower self-esteem, community worth and academic aspirations;
 - Trauma associated with the name and seeing it celebrated at school, leading to feelings of marginalization, powerlessness and being mocked;
 - Harming native students unfamiliar with their cultural identity by giving them stereotypical images to honor instead of helping them find their true ethnic identity; and
 - Creating a climate of division at a place where young people should feel they are in a safe and welcoming environment.
- "We have been having conver-

sations internally for quite some time about the possibility of making a change," said Superintendent Hartzler. "I am pleased we have made that decision. I encourage our students, staff, alumni and supporters to get behind it, as it embodies the values Union has always held dear."

Hartzler said the district will likely take a "pause" before considering another mascot. "I suspect we will just be comfortable being Union for a while. Later, we may consider potential mascots." He said the district will need time to fully implement the change, as there are uniforms and related imagery associated with the mascot that need to be evaluated. Hartzler expects this would happen by Aug. 1, 2021.

Union Public Schools first used the Redskins mascot during the 1924-25 school year. At the time, it was the same team name used by Oklahoma A&M (today's Oklahoma State University). Interviews with alumni revealed that students selected the name to honor the football team's star players Clarence Drew and Clarence Haikey, both Creek Native Americans.



UNION STADIUM UPDATE: Construction of the west side of Union Tuttle Stadium, which began in the summer of 2019, is progressing. The stadium should be ready to re-open in the 2021 season. Updates will be published in the Union Boundary.



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