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**ST. FRANCIS SOUTH ANNOUNCES MAJOR EXPANSION** See Page 8

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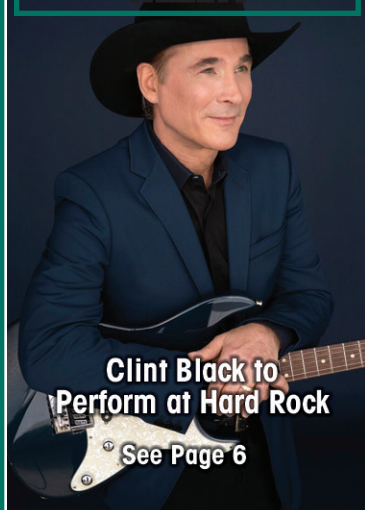
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## BA Tops Out Brown-Kimbrough Arts Center

*Center for Arts, Innovation & Creativity to be a Regional Attraction*

Officials from the City of Broken Arrow held a topping out ceremony for the Brown-Kimbrough Center for Creative Arts June 17 at the 302 S. Main St. site in the award-winning Rose District.

"The Brown-Kimbrough Center for the Arts will be a wonderful addition to Broken Arrow and the Rose District," said City Manager Michael Spurgeon. "The public-private partnership that created this project is adding another highlight to our city and, this, as well as the recently completed mural at the Museum a block away, further shows that Broken Arrow is a city that supports the arts."

The future creative arts center will be a 15,500-square-foot facility on the former site of AVB Bank. The two-story building will feature multiple classrooms, flex space, gallery space, and indoor/outdoor areas to host events. The Brown-Kimbrough family, owners of AVB Bank, donated the property to the City in 2020.

Non-profit ArtsOK, Inc., the Regional Arts Alliance of Broken Arrow, will occupy the facility and arrange programming. This innovative space will be a unique destination in the Rose District and will serve to the enjoyment and education of the citizens in the entire metro area.

Manhattan Construction Company is constructing the new facility at a cost of \$4.7 million, paid for by voter-approved 2014 General Obligation Bonds, Vision 2025 funds, and Sales Tax Capital Improvement (STCI) funds. The facility is expected to open in January 2022.



**SUPPORTING THE ARTS:** Members of the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce, the Brown-Kimbrough family and other civics leaders were present to celebrate the topping out ceremony for the Brown-Kimbrough Center for the Arts in downtown Broken Arrow.



**GOING UP:** Members of the Manhattan Construction team top out the Brown-Kimbrough Arts Center for Creative Arts after the topping-out ceremony June 17.

## KUDOS of the MONTH: Tulsa Community College

Tulsa Community College has been recognized with the 2021 Awards of Excellence for Student Success and the 2021 Awards of Excellence for Leadership Safety and Planning by the American Association of Community Colleges. The prestigious award in each category recognizes exceptional work among the nation's two-year colleges.

The award winners were recently announced at the Awards of Excellence Virtual Gala during the national organization's virtual conference. The association represents nearly 1,200 two-year, associate degree-granting institutions and more than 12 million students.



The award for Student Success recognizes TCC's remarkable journey to improve the graduation rate resulting in dramatic increases in student success outcomes. The College intentionally redesigned the student experience with its selection into the Guided Pathways Project in 2015, meaning the way

students navigate college changed as advising was embedded in the academic schools and a multi-year project focused on achieving equitable outcomes.

The second award in the Leadership Safety and Planning category highlights the institution's strategic efforts in safety preparedness and planning, prior to and in response to the 2020 pandemic. The strategic planning, beginning in 2015, as well as safety-related investments in the areas of risk management, public health, and emergency preparedness provided the existing supports and enabled the College to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please see page 10 for more information.



GTR Media Group photo

**PATHWAY TO HOPE:** In June, Tulsa business and civic leaders participated in the ribbon cutting for the Pathway to Hope which provides a more direct walking route between John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park and other sites in the core of the Greenwood District. The 10-foot pathway is located between Elgin and Greenwood Avenues in the area between ONEOK Field and I-244.



GTR Media Group photo

**GREENWOOD RISING:** The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission dedicated the Greenwood Rising History Center in June with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The \$18.2 million museum, funded by local and state dollars as well as private donations, is located at Greenwood and Archer. Greenwood Rising tells the story of the Greenwood District and the Race Massacre. The survivors, descendants, their families, and Greenwood community members received a VIP preview of the facility.



GTR Media Group photo

**GREENWOOD ART PROJECT:** In May, the Greenwood Art Project Initiative held an arts event ahead of the Tulsa Race Massacre centennial. Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum spoke at the event that featured the unveiling of several art pieces, live music, and prominent speakers.



GTR Media Group photo

**PRESIDENT BIDEN EVENT:** The Reverend Jesse Jackson leaves the meeting featuring President Joe Biden at the Greenwood Cultural Center June 1. President Biden held a remembrance of the 100th anniversary of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, meeting with survivors and bringing positive messages.

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# Trove Offers Affordable Clothing at Tulsa's Mother Road Market

Limited Time Only Market in the Shops at Mother Road Market at 11th Street and Lewis Avenue in Tulsa has partnered with local female entrepreneur Kara Moseby to feature fair trade apparel and goods. Tulsa-based Trove is an ethical, fun and stylish clothing and home goods company for people on-the-go. The shop, which will be open to July 31, features stylish dresses, sandals and wardrobe basics, as well as fun accessories, pillows and baskets.

"We are so thrilled to be doing a pop-up at Mother Road Market. While this is a great opportunity for our small, family-owned business, we are most excited to bring ethical fashion to Tulsa," said Kara Moseby, owner of Trove. "The Tulsa community is so mindful of how their habits affect people and we are overjoyed to have a brick-and-mortar space for them to see, touch and try on ethical pieces that will match their values."

"As our team finds small businesses to pop up in LTO | MKT, we want to make sure the brands are more than just sales-focused, but also have a connection to important social causes. Trove's dedication to ethically sourcing apparel and home goods was inspiring to us," said Elizabeth Frame Ellison, President and CEO of Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation (LTFF). "Trove's partnerships with artisans and ethical factories worldwide, commitment to sustainability, and ensuring liveable wages and safe working conditions for the people making the products, lines up with our core values."

According to the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation, "LTFF is committed to removing the barriers many women entrepreneurs face through its mission of empowering Tulsans to achieve their goals associated with big ideas. Shops at Mother Road Market builds equity through entrepreneurship by providing access to affordable brick-and-mortar retail locations, marketing and communications support, and other resources for small businesses."

The Shops at Mother Road Market, located at the corner of 11th and Lewis, next door to Mother Road Market, was created to help lower barriers for retail entrepreneurs by providing access to affordable brick-and-mortar retail locations, marketing and communications support, and more. Four of the five businesses chosen (Eleanor's Bookshop, Felizsta, Gambill's Wine + Coffee, Graham Collective) participated in a competition for local entrepreneurs to submit their retail ideas and host pop-ups inside Mother Road Market to demonstrate proof of concept. The fifth shop (LTO | MKT),



GTR Media Group photo

**OFFERING FASHION:** Kara Moseby features affordable fashion at the Limited Time Only Market through July at Mother Road Market.

where Trove is located in July, was reserved as a pop-up space to rotate artists and entrepreneurs. Shops at Mother Road Market is a program of the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation.

Visitors can shop the collection

Tuesday - Sunday from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. until July 31, 2021. Please visit [www.motherroadmarket.com](http://www.motherroadmarket.com) or shops or Follow Mother Road Market on Facebook and Instagram. Follow Trove on Facebook, Instagram, and [www.shop-trove.com](http://www.shop-trove.com).



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

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CIVICS

# Tulsa Enters Fiscal Year with Balanced Budget

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act earlier this year, we've seen city governments around the country announce plans to use these funds to fill existing budget deficits. Not here in Tulsa.

Thanks to prudent budgeting over the last four years and the sacrifices made by our team at the city early in the COVID-19 pandemic, we do not have a deficit and do not need to use these funds to bail-out regular operations. This is truly a remarkable endeavor that we've made in the midst of a global pandemic, a national recession, a historic winter storm

— and most recently — a ransomware attack.

In April, I made my FY21-22 budget presentation to the Tulsa City Council, and on June 16, the Council approved the \$799.4 million budget.

Starting in July, and thanks to the citizens of Tulsa, we will become one of America's first cities to receive funds into our Rainy Day Fund from a voter-approved, dedicated funding source. The budget approved in June moves us one step closer to our goal of a 10% emergency operating reserve, which will pro-

vide us with a much-needed funding source after seeing the types of challenges we've had to face, the frequency of which has been unmatched in the last 18 months.

The hiring freeze, halt on employee travel, and furloughs that were implemented in the pandemic's early days did what we intended them to do: they saved us money and prevented us from entering into the place we were in after the last national recession where 130 police officers were laid off. Those will all go away this upcoming fiscal year.

This new budget is balanced and provides for satisfactory performance increases for eligible employees. The budget allows us to maintain our existing public safety manpower and expand our Community Response Teams' mobile health crisis response unit to five days a week, along with the addition of a new civilian Clinical Services Coordinator to help that unit. This budget also establishes the funding of a Municipal Court Liaison and a text message



alert system to remind people of upcoming court dates - a process that is improving the rate of court appearances.

With this budget, we're updating our police records management system, rehabilitating our streets, and making economic development investments through our newly launched Tulsa Authority for Economic Opportuni-

ty. The budget also funds multiple Tulsa Parks services that were hampered because of the pandemic, helping us open pools, splash pads and expand our day camps.

This budget represents our shared priorities in Tulsa. I want to thank the Tulsa City Council and the citizens of Tulsa for making this a reality as we look ahead in the year to come.

## From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM  
Mayor of Tulsa

# Main Park Plaza Large-Scale Mural Painting Underway; Augmented Reality Website to Launch Later This Year

Following a competitive selection process, a new large-scale mural is being painted at the Main Park Plaza parking garage, 410 S. Main St. in Tulsa.

The mural, known as "The Majestic," will span approximately 15,000 square feet on the east and north side of the building. Mural completion is expected by mid-July.

The art was commissioned by the Tulsa Parking Authority, which merges with the Tulsa Authority for Economic Opportunity (TAEO) in July, and is supported by the Arts Commission and Tulsa Planning Office.

"This new mural will continue the revitalization of a key area of downtown and redefine the role public art plays in economic recovery, as well as the power of investing in our public assets," said Kian Kamas, executive director of TAEO. "We are excited to see how this mural and investments in Main Park Plaza are complemented by recently completed and soon to be initiated development projects that will further add to activity in Downtown Tulsa."

Los Angeles-based artists Ryan "Yanoe" Sarfati and Eric "Zoueh" Skotnes collaborated to design and paint the mural. A community engagement committee of area stakeholders provided input on the final design, which was approved by the Tulsa Parking Authority and Arts Commission of the City of Tulsa.

"We visited Tulsa earlier this year to explore downtown and draw design inspiration from the city," Sarfati said. "It was important to us for the art to reflect the area and for Tulsans to provide input in the design. We are excited to create something the community can be proud of and will hopefully inspire even more large-scale public art throughout the region."

The Majestic includes art deco



**THE MAJESTIC:** The Majestic is being painted at the Main Park Plaza parking garage, 410 S. Main St. in Tulsa. Los Angeles-based artists Ryan "Yanoe" Sarfati and Eric "Zoueh" Skotnes collaborated to design and paint the mural that is inspired by Tulsa's rich art deco history.

signs and symbols, including the angel at the center representing guidance, protection and love. The two children the angel holds personify the youth of Tulsa and the foliage and fauna set within the art illustrate the literal and metaphorical growth of the city. The art includes plants and animals native to Oklahoma, including the scissortail flycatcher, flat-head catfish, paddlefish, eastern

redbud flowers, swallowtail butterflies, roses and magnolia trees. The sculptural design element framing the mural is inspired by Tulsa's rich art deco history and serves as a window actively inviting viewers into the ethereal world.

Later this year, a website will launch featuring an augmented reality art experience. Users can use their mobile device on site to

access a 3D interactive experience where the artwork is activated to come alive with animations and audio content. Once completed, the mural will be the world's largest augmented reality mural.

Summer camps and school groups interested in viewing the artwork in progress and meeting the artists can arrange a visit at [www.downtowntulsaok.com/the-majestic](http://www.downtowntulsaok.com/the-majestic).

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# American Rescue Plan Funding to Support Long-Term Needed Changes for Tulsa County

In May, the county received the first of two American Rescue Plan (ARP) payments in the amount of \$63 million. The second payment will be received in May of 2022. The county has until December 2026 to spend all of the ARP funds received.

With the pandemic now in its second year and after spending over \$100 million of CARES funding in 2020, it's important to understand the differences between what the CARES funds were targeted to accomplish and how the purposes of the ARP funds are different.

In the early months of 2020 the entire country was in a public health emergency with the rapid spread of COVID 19

and no vaccine in the foreseeable future. For this reason, it was clear from the Department of Treasury that the county was to use the CARES funds to protect the citizens and suppress the spread of COVID 19. It was also a priority to help small businesses, non-profits, and renters from the economic impact that was growing more serious as unemployment had jumped from 3% in March to 15% in April.

By December, Tulsa County has funded 1,012 small business forgivable loans totaling over \$45 million, saving over 10,000 jobs. We had also approved 129 non-profit applications for assistance totaling over \$12 million. In addition, we

funded over \$24 million to support our public health, public safety, courts, food insecurity, childcare, election board, emergency management, and the cities in the county.

Since the introduction of the vaccine, the President signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) in March. One of the biggest difference between the CARES funding which went directly to states, counties, and cities, the ARP funding has been distributed across dozens of federal agencies in addition to states, counties, and cities.

The funding provided to these federal agencies is to target specific businesses, industries, and non-profits in the community. Rather than look to the county for aid, these groups are encouraged to make application directly with the federal agency. For example, the Small Business Administration has the Shuttered Venue program for places of entertainment and the Restaurant Revitalization program for restaurants and bars to find financial help. The National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities can provide assistance to museums and libraries. The Federal Aviation Administration provides assistance

## From Tulsa County



By COMMISSIONER RON PETERS



Courtesy photo

to airport concessions and airport operations.

As the vaccine and the steps taken with the CARES funding have addressed the suppression and protection from the virus, the focus of ARP is to restore, recover, and rebuild the communities. As we continue to return to life as we knew it before the pandemic, there are still areas of the county and certain populations that have not recovered as well as others. For this reason, the ARP funds are to be targeted to those who are disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Generally this would be in those areas of the county that have a high level of poverty.

There are five key areas where

the ARP funding is to be directed: (1) support public and behavioral health response; (2) address negative economic impacts to small businesses, non-profits, and households; (3) replacing lost public revenue; (4) water, sewer, and storm water infrastructure to improve public health; and (5) broadband infrastructure improvements to support working remotely, distance learning, and telemedicine.

The ARP funding is to support long term changes in the county. More than just responding to the current public health emergency, ARP is to help the county prepare for the challenges in the future and to make changes that have been needed for some time.

# Diverse Commemoration Fund Awards \$1 Million

The Commemoration Fund announced its first ever grant recipients recently totaling \$1 million in funds. One of the first organizations of its kind, a fund run entirely for and by people of color, selected 20 diverse organizations.

"It has been an honor and privilege to lead the Commemoration Fund," said Glenda Love Williams, advisory board chair and retired president/CEO., Ronald McDonald House and non-profit consultant, "We took our grant-making role with optimism but also respecting the impact we could make: our board members were intentional and strategic in selecting initiatives that truly meet our mission to correct social, political and economic injustices impacting people of color."

In the first grant cycle, more than 75 applications were received with approximately \$6.5 million in grant requests. More than 65% of the applications were from organizations with executives of color. The requests ranged from \$5,000 to \$500,000, showing a significant demand in the community for this assistance. Over the course of two months, the board and staff created an innovative process to vet applicants and provide due diligence for this

competitive process.

"It has been a joy serving on the board of the Commemoration Fund board and working collaboratively with my BIPOC colleagues on targeted grant-making. Our example and our investments will make a long-term positive difference in Tulsa," said Hannibal Johnson, board member and author, attorney and consultant.

The Commemoration Fund board, including Black, indigenous, and Latino board members, aimed to mobilize funding for sustainable solutions to systemic race issues. In addition, they wanted to create better understanding, acceptance – and ultimately respect – of different cultures. The Board aimed to be unafraid to take chances, viewing their work with a different lens to make the most impact, and to be a transparent model for sharing authority and trust.

"It was especially rewarding to identify powerful initiatives to invest in, which will have a profound impact to BIPOC communities in our region," said Moises Echeverria, president of Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice, "It was a difficult process as there were so many worthy projects. I am eager to see the completion of the initiatives the Commemoration Fund support-

ed on its first grant cycle and the lives changed for the better because of them. This is truly a visionary and innovative structure which I hope inspires national and global philanthropic efforts."

Grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$160,000. To maximize the impact of these awards on social, political and economic injustices, the funds were balanced among entities focusing on community building (30%), informal education (25%), health equity (20%), and wealth-building (20%).

"Working for the Commemoration Fund has been an enriching experience. We have had the ability to make a positive impact on our local communities, not just through grants, but also listening to and sharing the stories of perseverance in our communities," said Frank Haith, board member and Head Basketball Coach at The University of Tulsa, "The board has been very forward thinking and it has been an extremely rewarding process giving back to those making great change in and around the City of Tulsa through the Commemoration Fund. I am proud of what we have accomplished and cannot wait to see what is achieved next."

Learn more at [zarrow.org/commemorationfund](http://zarrow.org/commemorationfund).



Courtesy photo

**ADVISORY BOARD AND STAFF:** The Commission Fund Advisory Board and Staff includes, from left back row, Wilson Pipestem, Partner at Pipestem Law; Hannibal B. Johnson, Author, Attorney and Consultant; Moises Echeverria, President of Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice; Frank Haith, Head Basketball Coach at The University of Tulsa and Commemoration Fund program officer Clarence Boyd. Seated from left are Ashley Philippsen, Senior Director of Engagement and Advocacy at ImpactTulsa; Advisory Board Chair Glenda Love Williams, Ret. President/CEO., Ronald McDonald House and Nonprofit Consultant; and Eunice Tarver, Provost of Tulsa Community College Northeast Campus.





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VARIETY

# Summer Fun Returns as Events Come Alive

How to sum up the last several months? Challenging. For some, devastating. Now that folks are partying like it was 2019 — offering full-body hugs and showing off their smiles — the dark days of the pandemic seem unreal. It is strange at first to resume life as you knew it, but I feel confident it will become more comfortable as the months progress. Venues are gradually opening and expanding their programming. There's more to buzz about than I could have imagined last year at this time. I'm grateful for the scientific and other preventive COVID measures that have brought us to this hopeful place.

Concerts are coming back to the BOK Center! Country music fans may already have tickets for the rescheduled Alan Jackson con-

cert, Aug. 27; for Blake Shelton, Sept. 24; and for multi-Grammy Award-winning singer Chris Stapleton, Nov. 5. I just purchased my ticket for The Weeknd, Feb. 20, 2022. Yes, I'm ready to "rock the BOK," and optimistic about the months ahead.

Tulsa's Cain Ballroom has been open and active through much of last year. I was happy to see our hometown friends, Hanson, booking gigs there. Cain's is famous as the home to Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys, who are credited with creating Western Swing. They played at the Cain's beginning in the 1930s, broadcasting from there on Tulsa's KVOO radio. Now, Bob Wills' Texas Playboys, incorporating members who have been added throughout the decades, perform at the Cain's on July 24. The concert will be general admis-

## Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN



CLINT BLACK: Country crooner Clint Black appears at the Hard Rock, Aug. 18.



THREE DOG NIGHT: The group has performed for over five decades. Catch them at the River Spirit Casino and Resort, Aug. 6.



VIEWS OF GREENWOOD: The artwork is displayed at the Philbrook Museum of Art through Sept. 5.



Photo by Josh New

MATILDA: Theatre Tulsa presents "Matilda: The Musical," July 13 - Aug. 29 in the Williams Theatre of the Tulsa PAC. Matilda is played by Gigi Jenkins.

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sion, first-come, first-served, with a limited capacity.

The Cain's is a fantastic venue. Careful renovations have preserved the look and feel of this icon. Consider that the OKPOP Museum is just across the street from it. The Woody Guthrie Museum and the Bob Dylan Archives are a few blocks away in the Tulsa Arts District, along with a jazz listening room at Duet. Tulsa has come into its own as a music-lovers' destination.

I attended a series of contemporary dance performances in Chapman Music Hall at the Tulsa PAC recently. Distanced seating was thoughtfully orchestrated and comfortable. "1964 The Tribute" returns to the Chapman stage on July 24. I have seen this performance several times and always have a blast. Who can resist dancing in their seat to "I Saw Her Standing There"? Celebrity Attractions presents.

Theatre Tulsa has been busy teaching and cultivating young performers. The musical theatre-loving young people in your life will enjoy several Theatre Tulsa events. "Junie P. Jones, The Musical, Jr." features Theatre Tulsa students, ages 5-8 for shows July 16-18. Junie P. Jones is a popular children's book character. "Grease: School Edition" showcases the talents of budding Broadway stars, ages 14-18, July 23-25, in this classic. Capping the summer, "Matilda, The Musical," July 13-Aug. 29, includes the full-range of Theatre Tulsa talent.

Comedy would be the perfect

light summer entertainment. The River Spirit Casino and Resort hosts comic Leanne Morgan on July 10 and her "Big Panty Tour." Morgan is a stay-at-home mom of three kids who has stories to share. Local comedy shows also provide entertainment options around town, like the Looney Bin Comedy Club on South Memorial.

Returning to the River Spirit Casino is the evergreen group Three Dog Night ("Mama Told me Not to Come"), Aug. 6. Country crooner Clint Black brings his swagger to the Hard Rock, Aug. 18. Tickets purchased for Black's previously scheduled concert are valid for this new date.

During 2020, "Show Buzz" highlighted events taking place at a range of venues around the Tulsa area. The days I wandered for hours at Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa Botanic Gardens and the Tulsa Zoo over the last few months helped the year fly by. You may know that Gilcrease closed on July 5 for a major rebuild. The structure is a cluster of several buildings cobbled together, with the oldest being more than a 100 years old.

No one can tell yet how long it will take to complete the tear-down and rebuild. We're hoping that more of the collection can be on permanent display in the new space.

At Philbrook Museum of Art, see Salvador Dali's surrealist illustrations of "Alice in Wonderland," created in 1969, through Oct. 17. And, there's still time to take in "Views of Greenwood," on display through Sept. 5. I enjoyed spending head-time with the poignant and beautifully imagined photography of Don Thompson, Gaylord Oscar Herron and Eyakem Gulilat. There is much to see and ponder in these photographs. "From the Limitations of Now," featuring local artists and national artists, also will be on display in several Philbrook galleries until Sept. 5. The exhibition includes tapestries, painting, beadwork, photos, videos and more, addressing violence in American history, along with an uplifting message about the legacy of ancestors and their power to inspire.

Welcome back to the fray. It feels good to have options. Enjoy every opportunity.

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# Jim Edwards' Life Has Become An Expression of Hidden Artistic Talent

By **BOB LEWIS**  
Contributing Editor

Perhaps nobody is more surprised with the quality and quantity of illustrations being created by Jim Edwards than Jim Edwards.

It is not that the Broken Arrow resident is lacking in creative ability. In fact, quite the opposite is true. But it took "one of the worse experiences" in his life to open the door to a new opportunity that may prove to be one of the best.

Edwards' first fling with artistic acclaim came when he joined the Ambassadors, a regional group widely recognized for the excellence of its gospel music programs. As a lead singer, his skill led to an opportunity to join the world-famous Oak Ridge Boys. Heady stuff, for sure. But after considerable thinking and praying about the amount of time away from friends and family that would be involved in going on the road with the "Boys," he respectfully declined the offer.

Taking its place is another expression of creativity, one that has allowed him to build a thriving hair styling business at the Style 101 Salon, 3333 So. Elm Place. But here is where this story takes a dramatic and thoroughly unexpected change of direction.

Even as a youngster, Edwards showed a deep love for horses and developed quite a reputation as a trainer. It was this passion that brought an end, at least for a while, to his career with a comb

and scissors and opened the door to one with pencils and paper.

During a training session with a pure blood Arabian, the horse became spooked going over a jump and began bucking, depositing Edwards on the ground. Before he could be calmed, the steed came down on his trainer's right leg and ankle causing extensive damage.

Following a series of medical procedures, including the insertion of a titanium rod in his lower leg, Edwards was confined to an easy chair where his days could be filled with an endless stream of television game shows, soaps, seriously unfunny sit coms and reruns of 1950's and 1960's programs.

Seeing the frustration in her brother's eyes, his sister and volunteer caregiver, Carol Luster, handed him an art instruction book along with a pencil and drawing pad and said, "why don't you do something productive with your time?"

Since this type of undertaking was totally new to him, it is easy to understand his amazement with the pieces he began churning out and the rave reviews he began receiving from friends and family on Facebook.

So far, Edwards' 100-plus collection includes precious pets, sea dwellers and fearsome creatures of the wild, Native Americans, horses and cartoons – and there appears to be no end in sight.

As to the future, Edwards says when his physical strength al-



Photo courtesy of Carol Luster

**ARTIST AT WORK:** While recovering from a serious horse-training accident, Broken Arrow's Jim Edwards discovered an artistic talent he never knew he had. To date he has completed more than 100 illustrations and new ones are still coming.

lows, he fully intends to return to his hair styling and horse training businesses, but he has no intention of retiring his pencils and drawing pads.

An artist friend, who Edwards is helping understand the physical

structure of horses, is providing counsel on how to improve his pieces. Friends and family members are offering subject suggestions and are urging him to find ways to display and sell his work. The writing and illustration of

a children's book has also been mentioned.

While all these ideas are within the realm of possibility, Edwards has yet to make a firm decision on his artistic future saying simply, "you never know."

## Tuesday in the Park a Musical Fun Time in B.A.

Tuesdays in The Park was another successful event again this year in Broken Arrow, drawing fans from all over Northeastern Oklahoma. Each Tuesday evening in June, a musical performance is presented on an outdoor stage in Central Park at 1500 S. Main. The grassy slope of the park provides an excellent amphitheater for the crowds who enjoy relaxing and listening—and often dancing! Tuesdays in the Park is free to attend and appropriate for all ages. Recorded music began at 6:30 p.m. for family dining time, with live bands beginning at 7 p.m. and continuing until 9 p.m. with one break for activities and drawings. The 2021 dates featured Mary Cogan, The Usual Suspects, Grady Nichols and Zodiac.



**GRADY NICHOLS:** Popular saxophonist Grady Nichols and his band entertained hundreds of fans at Tuesdays in the Park on June 22.



**FUN TIMES:** Spectators enjoyed the music of Grady Nichols and his band at Tuesdays in the Park. This view is of a portion of the audience in the bowl-shaped setting.

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## HEALTH & WELLNESS

# Saint Francis South Announces Major Expansion

Saint Francis Health System has announced plans for the expansion of its Saint Francis Hospital South campus. Located east of Highway 169 on 91<sup>st</sup> Street in Tulsa, the 104-bed hospital originally opened in 2008. And while facility renovations have occurred at that site, this is the first major campus expansion project.

The expansion project is a \$250 million plan slated to begin this year with construction occurring over the next several years. Features of the plan include: a new patient bed tower adding 120 new beds; renovation of surgery services expanding to eight operating rooms; consolidation of the pre and post-anesthesia units; expansion of inpatient physical medicine and rehabilitation services; a new main hospital lobby; a linear corridor connecting the main lobby, the patient bed tower, the emergency department and the parking garage.

"We're growing our campus to essentially double its present size," said Todd Schuster, vice president and administrator of Saint Francis Hospital South and

Saint Francis Hospital Vinita. "We will be adding approximately 200,000 square feet to this hospital, and our staff and providers are very excited about what we have planned."

Since the hospital opened, the population in south Tulsa, Bixby, Broken Arrow and the surrounding areas has grown, and the facility has grown as well, providing suburban and rural patients with the care they need closer to home.

"We'll go where we're needed. We don't expand for our benefit; we do it for our patients and the community," said Jake Henry Jr., Saint Francis Health System president and chief executive officer.

The goal of this expansion is to not only add more space to the facility, but to continually improve on the patient experience. Key to that goal is lowering the number of patient transfers out of Saint Francis Hospital South to Saint Francis Yale campus, as well as expanding Saint Francis Hospital South's ability to serve patients from outlying areas.

The expansion project is currently slated for completion in 2025.



Courtesy photo

**HEALTHFUL PROGRESS:** The Saint Francis Hospital expansion at the Highway 169 on 91<sup>st</sup> Street location in Tulsa is a \$250 million effort to give the best in medical care to patients in the region.

# OSU Center for Pet Therapy Opening in Fall

Pete's Pet Posse has a new home. Oklahoma State University has announced the opening of the nation's largest university-based pet therapy center on the Stillwater campus to care for the emotional well-being of students, staff, faculty and guests.

The OSU Center for Pet Therapy is the evolution of the extremely successful Pete's Pet Posse pet therapy program established eight years ago as an experimental pilot program with eight dogs. Since that time, the nearly 60 Pete's Pet Posse dog/owner/handler teams

have touched more than 263,000 lives, participated in over 4,400 special event appearances and have reached thousands more via social media. The program expanded to the OSU Center for Health Sciences and OSU Tulsa in 2015. In 2021, the first pet therapy team began serving at the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, the nation's first tribally-affiliated medical school.

"These dogs and their owner/handlers have a proven track record of reaching places of the heart

we humans can't do alone," said OSU First Lady Ann Hargis and co-founder of Pete's Pet Posse. "The incredible generosity of donors who believe in our program is making this new center a reality and keeping a very popular pet therapy program thriving at OSU. The OSU Center for Pet Therapy is positioned to take the work of these teams to a whole new level and my dog Scuff and I are thrilled to keep serving the OSU community in this way."

Pet therapy is proven in its ability to stimulate an automatic relaxation response in people, improve cardiovascular health, lower blood pressure, reduce anxiety and increase the release of endorphins for a calming effect. OSU pet therapy team owner/handlers are not counselors but do support University Counseling as needed in times when the dogs can help diffuse a stressful and difficult situation.

"The dogs of Pete's Pet Posse amaze me every time I see them at work," noted Trevor Richardson, Director of Sport Psychology, OSU Athletics. "The unconditional love and non-judgmental temperament of the animals can reach and heal emotional places



Courtesy photo

**PISTOL PETE'S PET POSSE:** Pistol Pete and friends are excited about the opening of Oklahoma State University's Center for Pet Therapy, the nation's largest university-based pet therapy center which is based on the Stillwater campus to care for the emotional well-being of students, staff, faculty and guests.

no human therapist can master. We are thrilled this program is continuing to serve the OSU community."

The OSU Center for Pet Therapy will be based out of the OSU Student Union but actual pet therapy activity will continue to go where

needed across our various campus locations. The new center will be the hub for Pete's Pet Posse administration, the student auxiliary called Ruff Riders, office space for other OSU campus teams, the pet therapy research and Pete's Pet Posse advisory board. Pete's Pet Posse co-founder Kendria Cost will serve as director.

Pete's Pet Posse is self-funded and relies on donations to operate. The Ann Hargis OSU Center for Pet Therapy Endowment has been created to sustain the program. A surprise gift from the Women for OSU Council, the endowment will secure the long-term future of the Center, once fully funded, and provide a solid financial base going forward. More information regarding the endowment and how to contribute can be found at [osugiving.com](http://osugiving.com)

The Pete's Pet Posse mission is to enhance the wellbeing of the Cowboy family through professionally trained and nationally certified pet therapy teams in collaboration with campus resources and generous supporters.

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# Dr. J. Scott Reid of Tulsa Bone & Joint Performs Region's First Augmented Reality-Guided Hip Replacement Surgery

J. Scott Reid, M.D., performed the first augmented reality (AR)-guided total hip replacement in the region at Union Pines Surgery Center on the campus of Tulsa Bone & Joint recently. The system, which received FDA clearance in January, is the first intraoperative AR guidance platform for joint replacement to display 3D models of the patient's anatomy, implants, and instruments inside the body in real time.

Union Pines is the third site globally to have the augmented reality-guided hip replacement surgery performed. Previous surgeries have been performed at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston and Duke University Hospital in Durham, North Carolina.

Traditional hip replacement technology gives the surgeon access to two-dimensional X-rays. However, the augmented reality guidance Dr. Reid employed projects holograms on AR glasses that give him 'X-ray vision' into the patient's body.

"Hip replacement surgery has a long history of improving the quality of life of patients suffering from diseases affecting the hip joint," said Dr. Reid. "Despite the excellent track record, complications

still occur. HipInsight is a platform that gives the surgeon more information about the patient than we've ever had before. The ability to anticipate any challenges before the surgery and then visualize the anatomy in real time is beyond any currently available technology."

The AR-guided system is the first FDA-cleared surgical platform for joints to be contained entirely within a head-mounted device. Unlike robotic and traditional navigation systems, there aren't any large external workstations, cameras or screens.

More than 400,000 hip surgeries are performed each year in the U.S., making them one of the most common and highest total spend elective operations, according to a 2020 study by researchers at Johns Hopkins. With the aging population, hip surgeries are expected to grow by 71% by 2030, according to a 2018 study by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania. Technologies like the one employed by Dr. Reid aim to help surgeons improve outcomes with minimal complications.

Dr. Reid has been using the Hip Xpert system, the precursor to



DR. J. SCOTT REID



DR. ELIZABETH WELDIN

HipInsight, for several years. "Hip Xpert is innovative in that it is not tied to one implant system, technique, approach or company," Reid says. "It provides immense detail, but we are still applying data from the software without being able to actively visualize implant data in real time. HipInsight changes that. We still get all of the information we need to best position implants, but we get to see all of that as it happens. I am very excited to be on the front end of the HipInsight rollout."

## Dr. Elizabeth Weldin Joins Tulsa Bone & Joint

Tulsa Bone & Joint Associates welcomes Elizabeth Weldin, M.D. as a surgeon specializing in hand, wrist and elbow repairs, including pediatric hand conditions.

Dr. Weldin completed a fellowship in hand surgery and a residency in orthopaedic surgery from the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She earned a medical degree from the University of California San Diego School of Med-

icine. Her practice was previously located in Reno, Nev. at Reno Orthopedic Center.

Dr. Weldin's clinic is located at the main Tulsa Bone & Joint campus at 4800 E. 109th E. Ave. She began seeing patients June 1.

Dr. Weldin performs outpatient hand and upper extremity surgeries at Union Pines Surgery Center, located on the campus of Tulsa Bone & Joint at 4808 S. 109th E. Ave. She also has privileges at Ascension St. John and performs surgeries at Ascension St. John Main as well as Ascension St. John Broken Arrow.

She is currently accepting new patients. She joins a team of two existing hand surgeons at Tulsa Bone & Joint, Dr. Jessica Childe and Dr. David Mokhtee, and a hand specialty nurse practitioner, Jeri Townsend.

Tulsa Bone & Joint Associates is comprised of board certified and fellowship-trained physicians in the Tulsa area with the mission of offering the finest orthopedic care available, while exceeding patient expectations. For more information, visit [tulsaboneand-joint.com](http://tulsaboneand-joint.com).

# BioLife Plasma Services Center Opens New Tulsa Location

The BioLife Plasma Services Center opened a new location in Tulsa in June. The new center in Tulsa – the third to open in the state – is part of BioLife's overall national expansion to support

an urgent patient need for plasma. The new center also expects to bring more than 30 new jobs to the community.

Plasma donations received at all BioLife centers are used by Take-

da to make medicines that help treat people who are immunocompromised and who often don't have alternative treatments. Raising awareness of the importance of plasma and how donating can be a

life-changing act is more important than ever as the demand for medicines made from plasma continues to grow across the nation, including right here in Tulsa. Plasma is a lifeline for thousands of

people with rare, chronic and complex diseases.

Prospective donors can make online appointments to visit the Tulsa center located at 5130 S. Harvard Ave.

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# EDUCATION

## TCC Named Nation's Top Community College for Student Success, Leadership Safety and Planning

Tulsa Community College has been recognized with the 2021 Award of Excellence for Student Success and 2021 Award of Excellence for Leadership Safety and Planning by the American Association of Community Colleges. The prestigious awards in each category recognizes exceptional work among the nation's two-year colleges.

The award winners were recently announced at the Awards of Excellence Virtual Gala during the national organization's virtual conference. The association represents nearly 1,200 two-year, associate degree-granting institutions and more than 12 million students.

The award for student success recognizes TCC's remarkable journey to improve the graduation rate resulting in dramatic increases in student success outcomes. The college intentionally redesigned the student experience with its selection into the Guided Pathways Project in 2015, meaning the way students navigate college changed as advising was

embedded in the academic schools and a multi-year project focused on achieving equitable outcomes.

"TCC has worked diligently to design a student experience that represents success for ALL students. While this has been challenging work, we have worked to increase degree completion and close achievement gaps. We are particularly proud TCC saw a nearly 22% increase in degree or certificate completion from 2016 to 2020," said Dr. Leigh B. Goodson, TCC president and CEO.

The second award in the leadership, safety and planning category highlights the institution's strategic efforts in safety preparedness and planning, prior to and in response to the 2020 pandemic. The strategic planning, beginning in 2015, as well as safety-related investments in the areas of risk management, public health, and emergency preparedness provided the existing supports and enabled the college to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Setting the priority for safety, planning and leadership has been a long-term, multi-year planning effort. This national recognition represents thousands of hours by dedicated employees to support more than 25,000 students, faculty and staff across four main campuses, an aviation center and several community campuses throughout Tulsa County," said Goodson.

This foundational work in recent years including personnel, multiple facility improvements, technology upgrades, and ongoing training helped reinforce a culture of safety. This focus allowed the college to develop innovative solutions to support employees and students in a remote, or virtual environment while having a highly coordinated and integrated approach to response planning and shared leadership.

Goodson added, "It is unusual for an institution to win in two Awards of Excellence categories in the same year, and we know this recognition would not have been possible without great teamwork and a supportive board."



Courtesy photo

**EDUCATIONAL CELEBRATION:** TCC Regent Wes Mitchell and President and CEO Leigh B. Goodson celebrate after TCC was recognized with two prestigious awards. The American Association of Community Colleges named TCC the 2021 Award of Excellence for Student Success and the 2021 Award of Excellence for Leadership Safety and Planning.

The AACC Awards of Excellence are presented annually in

seven categories. Tulsa Community College is the first institution to win two categories in the same calendar year.

## Leadership Changes Named at OSU Center for Health Sciences

Oklahoma State University President Burns Hargis has announced that Dr. Johnny Stephens, Pharm.D., will be interim president of OSU Center for Health Sciences.

Stephens has served as vice president for research, chief operating officer and most recently the senior vice president.

He has been a valued member of the OSU-CHS leadership team for

seven years, Hargis said.

Also effective in July, Dr. Dennis Blankenship will become interim dean of the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. He has been active in the college's administration as senior associate dean and previously served as chair of emergency medicine. He formerly served as chief of staff at OSU Medical Center.

"I am extremely proud of the

progress and accomplishments of CHS under the leadership of Kayse Shrum and her entire team," Hargis said. "The academic health care center has been stabilized and will soon grow to include a veterans' hospital and mental health hospital, which will expand the care for veterans and our most vulnerable populations while increasing the number of resident physicians in Oklahoma."

OSU Center for Health Sciences has experienced tremendous growth with campus expansion and expanding enrollment under the leadership of Shrum, Hargis said.

Shrum, the current president of OSU-CHS and dean of the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, will become the new president of OSU in July.

Oklahoma State University is

a modern land-grant university that prepares students for success. OSU has more than 34,000 students across its five-campus system and more than 24,000 on its combined Stillwater and Tulsa campuses, with students from all 50 states and around 100 nations. Established in 1890, OSU has graduated more than 275,000 students to serve the state of Oklahoma, the nation and the world.

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# Tenacity and Perseverance Help Tulsa Tech Graduate Robert Randolph Excel in I.T. Career

From the lumber yard to the server room, Robert Randolph has made his own path to success. The California transplant moved to Tulsa shortly before the pandemic. As he tells it, he found a good job that paid the bills but it was not a career, and that is what he wanted.

"I started looking at my options for going back to school," Randolph said with a grin. "I toured one school and didn't like it, but then I found Tulsa Tech."

With his first preference of information technology training programs already full, Randolph knew that he had to pivot and is so glad that he did.

"I met with Mr. (David) Morris, and he sold me on the Windows Server program," Randolph said. "Looking back now, that is where I should have been looking all along."

The self-proclaimed "90's kid" says he did not know much about computers going into the program.

"I know how to use computers," Randolph said. "As far as networking and all that, I had almost zero knowledge."

His lack of knowledge at the beginning of class was a concern for his instructor. Yet, with hard work and asking the right questions, Randolph was able to excel in the program.

"He earned all five certifications. He is the only person who has done that in two years in my class," David Morris, Windows Server Administrator instructor said.

The program, now called IT System Administration, is ideal for both high school and adult students. High school or adult students that attend half-days can complete the program in two school years, while adults who attend all day can complete the program in as little as nine months. Students master the skills to de-

sign and install complex systems, as well as how to diagnose, maintain and repair those systems. For Randolph, the program tied into where he saw himself.

"My instructor was amazing. The curriculum tied into the certification that I was able to achieve," Randolph said, smiling. "Everything about Tulsa Tech is wonderful. Being able to get hands-on with the equipment and not read about it was a difference-maker."

Tulsa Tech offers many programs in the growing, and ever-changing I.T. industry. Enterprise Network programs focus on Cisco technologies. While others like Cybersecurity/Forensics and Computer Repair are broader.

Over the next decade, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects jobs in the I.T. sector will grow 11 percent. The field also has a median income almost double that for all other occupations.

While Randolph might not strike you as a typical I.T. employee, he says it comes down to his passion for helping people.

"I enjoy fixing things and making things work for people," Randolph added. "I have a lot of experience working on cars and fixing things. It is what I enjoy doing."

Randolph says this kind of training, at an affordable price, is something he could have never imagined before moving to Tulsa.



Courtesy Tulsa Tech

**PATH TO SUCCESS:** Tulsa Tech I.T. graduate Robert Randolph tackled the career of his dreams after just nine months in the classroom. Tulsa Tech helps students Make Your Own Path to dream careers with training in state-of-the-art classrooms and lab spaces.

"Being from California, my high school barely offered a shop class," Randolph said. "The fact Tulsa Tech offers all these essential trades and skills; I think this is important for this community to take advantage of this training."

Now, back in the workforce nine months after he left for a new career, Randolph is ready to tackle whatever comes next.

"With where I am now, this is

every dream realized," Randolph said with a smile. "I could not be happier with the position that I am in right now."

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## Tulsa Tech Student Finds Big Way to Say Thank You

### Talented Hannah Brown Wins Hillcrest Mural Design Contest

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, employers have been looking for ways to say "thank you" in a big way. Tulsa Tech Foundation of Web Design and Jenks High School student Hannah Brown entered a contest by Hillcrest to do just that. The winner would have a large mural displayed at 11th and Utica downtown.

"I created a mural that shows strength and pulling through the pandemic," Brown said. "I wanted a feeling of how health care workers have been breaking down walls."

The Jenks High School freshman already has an impressive design resume. Her other credits include a tumbler and t-shirt to benefit Special Olympics, both sold at the high

school. Brown says her time in the foundations class gave her the skills to enter this contest.

"Without my Foundations of Web Design class, I would not know how to make my design stand out," Brown said with a smile. "I incorporated a lot of the design skills that I learned in class into this mural."

She also credits her instructor, Amanda Morton, for encouraging her.

"She has been amazing," Brown said. "Without her, I don't know if I would have even entered the contest."

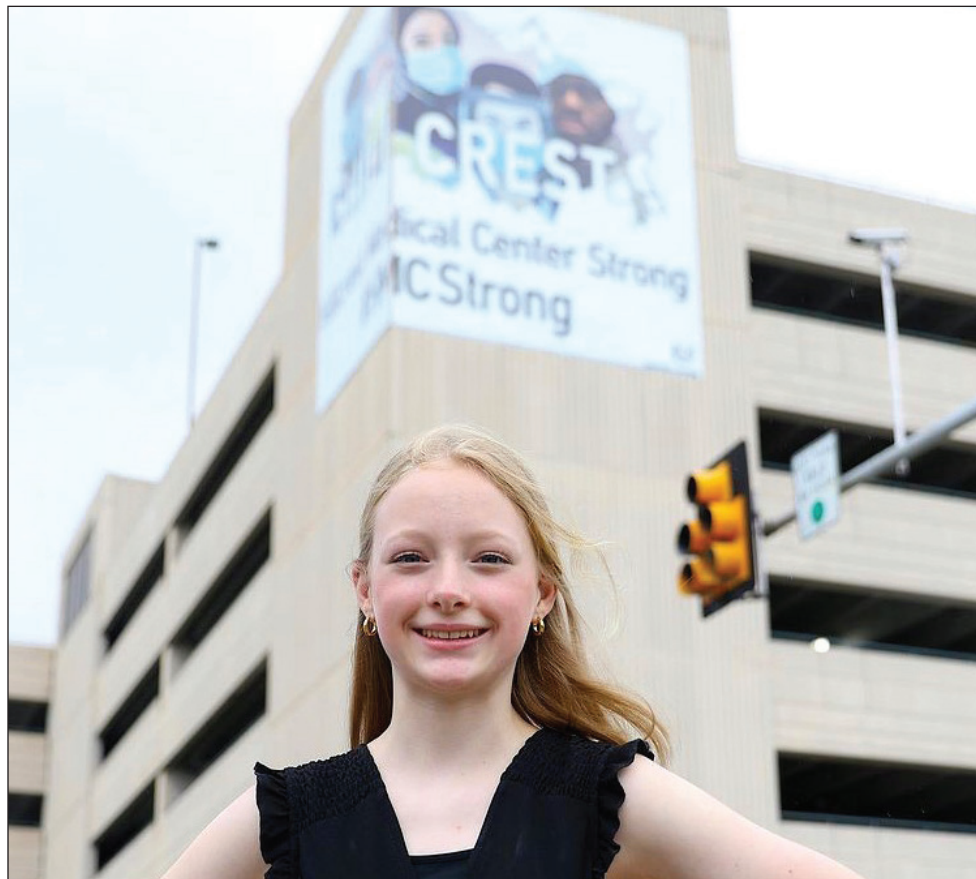
These classes are part of an initiative that recognizes not all students can devote a half-day to career training. Instead, Tulsa

Tech offers foundational classes in many disciplines as electives within specific partner high schools throughout the region.

"This class is great for me because it allows me to explore careers," Brown said.

"Being only an hour in the school day, I can still fit this option in with my other classes."

Besides the mural, Brown also won \$200 in the contest. She says she plans to enter a design-related field after she graduates.



Courtesy photo

**WINNING ARTIST:** Tulsa Tech and Jenks High School student Hannah Brown stands in front of her mural at Hillcrest Medical Center at 11th Street and Utica Avenue in Tulsa.

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## UNION EDUCATION

# Botifeni Bajela, Joseph Ye Named Union High School Seniors of the Month for April

Botifeni Bajela and Joseph Ye have been named Seniors of the Month for April for Union High School. She is the daughter of Kayode and Labake Bajela and he is the son of Qi Yun and Jin Feng Ye, all of Tulsa.

Botifeni Bajela is active in band, Theatre of Professionals, Repertory Theatre, UHS Today newspaper staff, Sustainable U, Black Scholars, co-president of College and Career Crew, secretary for Interact Club, Global Garden, Youth Leadership Council and the audio-visual team for Love Church. She is a distinguished graduate, a valedictorian, and a member of National Honor Society.

"I am passionate about my involvement in UHS Today because it has opened me up to my love of journalism that I intend to pursue at university because of its impact on society," she said. I would describe myself as a leader because I tend to lose myself in a crowd. It is important in who I am because as I grow and understand more about who I am, I want to forge my own path, however unconventional it may be."

During her time at Union, she said, "AP Government and Politics has impacted my education the most because it was a crucial step in my understanding of the impact that I have the potential to make. It allowed me to admit my desire to pursue all of my diverse goals."

Bajela plans to attend Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., where she will study international relations and economics, later pursuing a law degree so she can work in international and domestic public policy.

Joseph Ye is active in Interact Club as

president, Key Club as Lt. Governor, Union's eSports team as captain and publicist, Union Ubotics #3507, Technology Student Association as president, and Mu Alpha Theta as publicist. He volunteers with Medical Supplies Network, Inc., Asbury Church's 2nd Saturdays, Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, Jenks Flycatcher Trail and Meals On Wheels. He is a National Merit Finalist, Distinguished Graduate, Valedictorian, Community Service graduate, and a member of Oklahoma All-State Orchestra. He won a second place eSports award, is a Quartz Mountain attendee and participated in the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program.

"One thing that I'm involved in is Interact Club," Ye said "I am extremely passionate about this club particularly because of one event we do every month – Medical Supplies Network, Inc. We help pack medical supplies, distribute and ship them to developing countries like Venezuela, the Philippines and so on. We've shipped more than 1,000 pounds, equivalent to \$10,000."

Ye said, "Although I'm in many office positions in different clubs at Union, I still don't like to describe myself as a 100 percent leader. I also like to lay back and relax and not have to manage everything all the time, which is what a team player benefits from I guess. ... I try not to be deterred from setbacks. I always try to look for areas I can improve upon – rinse and repeat – until I eventually get a success."

Ye plans to attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology next year. "I hope to pursue a degree in electrical engineering with a minor in computer science," he said.



**BOTIFENI BAJELA:** She plans to attend Washington University in St. Louis and major in international relations and economics.



**JOSEPH YE:** He plans to attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology and major in engineering.

## NSU Congratulates H.S. Graduation Class of 2021

From all of us at Northeastern State University, we could not be more excited about your recent graduation! Parents and guardians, I know that you have worked just as hard to see your high school student make it to this milestone.

As a result of the pandemic, many of your recent graduates are still deciding your next steps and I personally wanted to let you know that there is still time to apply to NSU for the Fall 2021 semester at [apply.nsuok.edu](http://apply.nsuok.edu). Additionally, there are some scholarships still available by visiting [scholarships.nsuok.edu](http://scholarships.nsuok.edu).

NSU's application process is simple and easy, allowing you to apply without submitting essays or letters of recommendation. We also make submitting test scores optional; you only need to submit your test scores to be considered for scholarships. Following your acceptance, we look forward to seeing you at SOAR, your Student Orientation, Advising and Registration appointment. Here you will meet classmates, collaborate with your advisor to enroll in classes, and determine next steps needed for financial aid and housing. You will also gain the tools necessary to make your high school to college

transition successful. To our future RiverHawks who have already been admitted, congratulations! Don't forget to schedule your SOAR appointment soon at [www.nsuok.edu/soar](http://www.nsuok.edu/soar).

As Green Country's affordable university with an average class size below 30, NSU offers the perfect balance of both a quality and affordable education that is close to home. With smaller class sizes, your professors are able to get to know who you are, care about what you want to accomplish. Your goals will become our goals. Whether you are eager to turn your passion into a career or would like to explore different degree options, we have a path for you. NSU offers over 55 bachelor's degree programs, opportunities to study abroad, immersive-learning experiences, as well as advisors ready to guide you through each step along the way. We even have accelerated degree programs that help fast-track your degree attainment.

Beyond the classroom, NSU is proud to have over 100 student organizations and clubs for you to choose from. There are also numerous on-campus events and activities which is where many of your best



college memories will be made. I want to encourage you to follow @Go2NSU on your favorite social media platforms to see and experience life on campus. Adjoining the south end of NSU's campus is Tahlequah's thriving downtown which is home to restaurants, music venues, unique boutiques, salons and Norris Park which is home to several annual festivals ([www.tahlequahmainstreet.com](http://www.tahlequahmainstreet.com)). I invite you to experience for yourself the reasons why Tahlequah is rated one of America's Top Small Towns.

Our Tahlequah campus was established in 1889 in the heart of the Cherokee Nation. We enjoy the scenic and recreational beauty of being situated in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains, as well as alongside the Illinois River and Lake Tenkiller, providing you with a multitude of outdoor activities.

We invite you to tour our beautiful campus which predates Oklahoma statehood; explore historic buildings as well as state of the art labs, clinics and classrooms; get a feel for life on campus; and meet your new RiverHawk family ([www.nsuok.edu/AboutUs/CampusTours.aspx](http://www.nsuok.edu/AboutUs/CampusTours.aspx)).

Again, I would like to offer my congratulations on your recent high school graduation and I look forward to seeing you on campus soon for a campus tour. If you would like to speak with an NSU University Representative, please call 918.444.4675 or email us at [nsuinfo@nsuok.com](mailto:nsuinfo@nsuok.com).

Go RiverHawks!  
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Brandon Miller, Ed. D.  
Director, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Recruitment and Scholarships



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**UNION SPORTS**

# Union Seeks New Mascot and Asks Students Parents, Teachers and Alumni for Best Ideas

Union Public Schools seeks a new mascot and is asking students, parents, teachers, alumni and the public to send in their best ideas. An online application process at [www.unionps.org/mascot](http://www.unionps.org/mascot) is available through Friday, July 16, at 5 p.m. Applicants are required to explain why their mascots have qualities that are a perfect fit for Union. They may also submit an image for the proposed mascot.

“Union supporters recently shared their thoughts on the characteristics and attributes that are critical in a new mascot,” said Chris Payne, Chief Communications Officer for the district. “Using a new crowdsourcing tool called Thought Exchange, more than 1,100 people shared feedback that we hope everyone will consider when suggesting a new mascot,” he said.

Among the most highly rated mascot attributes were the following:

- Strength of character, standing up for Union’s beliefs
- A mascot that represents the entire district (and not just athletics)
- Proud and mighty
- Resiliency/grit
- Positivity, perseverance, excellence, Oklahoma history, pioneer spirit, high achievement, cooperation, fierce fighting spirit and sportsmanship
- Wisdom, agility, and capability
- Something that connects us to Oklahoma or our history

- Tenacity and honor; and
- Strong, courageous, and empowering for all students, faculty, and the community.

There was broad representation among Union stakeholders, with 41% being students, 24% parents, 26% teachers, staff, or administrators, 6% alumni and 3% community/other. For a summary of the results and a presentation, visit [www.unionps.org/mascot](http://www.unionps.org/mascot).

“Another thing we heard consistently was that Union supporters want to retain our signature red and black color scheme, which is the plan,” said Payne. “We want to use this feedback – along with the district’s Core Values – to inspire Union supporters to come up with the best new mascot for our district. We want a new mascot will represent Union well for the next 100 years.”

All applications should be consistent with the following guidelines:

1. Union’s Board of Education supports the use of school mascots and school colors to build school spirit and to promote a sense of community. The term “mascot” refers to any character and the related name, logo, image, symbol, and/or costuming, used to represent Union High School, school-sponsored teams, and the district. Mascots should represent Union in a positive manner and benefit school unity and pride.

2. Union will continue to use RED and BLACK as primary colors. (It will also continue to use



WHITE and SILVER as supplementary colors). Please submit your mascot with that in mind.

3. Mascots must meet the following requirements:

A. Mascots will NOT be derogatory or offensive toward a person or class of persons. Mascots will be culturally and racially sensitive and appropriate.

B. Mascots will depict individuals with fairness, dignity, and respect.

C. Mascots should be consistent with the Core Values of Union Public Schools.

By submitting their idea, applicants acknowledge that all

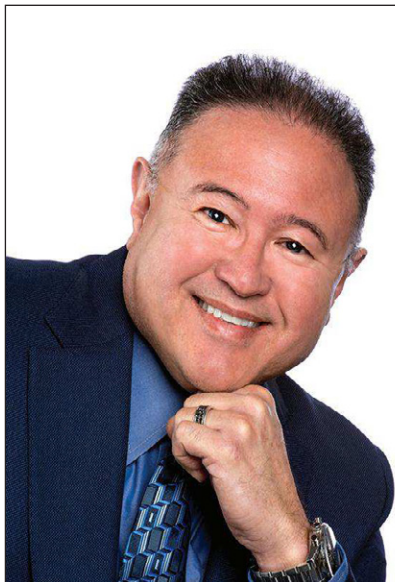
mascot names, ideas and images become the property of Union Public Schools, at no cost to the district. All applications consistent with the guidelines above will be considered. Union reserves the right to make modifications to the mascot name or

image submitted.

On November 9, 2020, the Union Board of Education voted unanimously to discontinue the use of the Union Redskins mascot that had been in place for over 75 years.

See page 24 for additional Union sports coverage.

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**SPORTS**

# Tulsa Golfers Celebrate Conference Title

The University of Tulsa women golfers won the American Athletic Conference Championship in May at Pinehurst No. 6. in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

Tulsa led from start to finish, tied on the first two days, and ending the 54-hole event with a three-stroke victory over two-time defending champion Houston. The Golden Hurricane shot a final round 294 and finished with an 888 total, as Tulsa received the epitome of a team effort with all five golfers placing among the top-30.

Lorena Tseng paced the Hurricane and finished as the tournament runner-up with an even-par score of 216.

The championship is Tulsa's first American title in seven years as a league member, and overall it's the school's 13th league championship in 27 years as a member of a conference and the first conference crown since the 2011-12 season.

The win was the third tournament championship in five events this year for the Hurricane.

"We've had just these five girls the entire season. They're a pretty tough group. It was a challenge this year, but they're such a great group of girls. I'm just so impressed and proud of them," said Tulsa's Third-Year Head Coach Annie Young. "It was a gutty performance by our girls."

"They let me push them this year.

They're tough every day. They come ready to work. Last week we got our butts kicked by some really good teams, and they evaluated really, really well that our short game needed to get better and they worked their butts off. I think that was the difference this week, especially today.

"We've punched the ticket — going to regionals. We're going to enjoy this and then we'll get back to work."

The victory gave Tulsa The American's automatic bid to the NCAA Championship. It was Tulsa's first NCAA Regional appearance since the 2011-12 season.

With Houston already in the clubhouse at 292 and 891 for the three days, East Carolina and Tulsa continued to battle. ECU faltered on the final few holes to drop to third place at 300 on the day, while the Hurricane was able to close-out strong for the win. The Pirates finished six strokes back with an 894 total.

For Tseng, the second-place finish was her 11th career top-five performance and her 16th top-10 finish in 24 career tournaments. It gave her a top-15 finish in all five events this year.

After totaling 4-over par after four holes in the first two rounds, Tseng began today 3-under par after those same four holes — shooting par on the first and birdying



**LORENA TSENG:** She paced the Hurricane and finished as the tournament runner-up with an even-par score of 216. *Courtesy photo*

holes 2, 3 and 4. The rest of the way Tseng bogeyed two holes and had one more birdie to end as the tournament runner-up, one stroke behind individual medalist Dorthea Forbrigid of East Carolina.

Tulsa freshman Tita Loudtragulngam had her second straight day of 2-over par 74 for her first career top-20 finish as she placed 19th overall with a 228 score. The

Hurricane had three 75s on the final day, coming from Lily Thomas, Taylor Dobson and Haley Greb.

Thomas finished in 13th place with a 224 total, Taylor Dobson in 16th with a score of 225 and Haley Greb finished with a score of 232 for 28th place.

Down the back stretch, Loudtragulngam and Greb each birdied hole 16, while Thomas

shot 1-under par on the final five holes.

ECU's Karen Fredgaard held off Tseng on the final hole for a one stroke win with a 1-under par 215.

Tseng's second-place performance was the best individual finish for a Tulsa golfer in a conference tournament since Sarah Elliot's second-place finish at the 2009 Conference USA Championship.

# OSU, Alabama To Play Football Home-and-Home Series

Oklahoma State and Alabama have agreed to a home-and-home football series, with the Crimson Tide visiting Stillwater on Sept. 23, 2028 and the Cowboys traveling to Tuscaloosa on Sept. 15, 2029.

The two schools have met only once before, with Oklahoma State a 34-31 winner over Alabama at the 2006 Independence Bowl.

The upcoming series with Ala-

bama is the latest in home-and-home Power-Five scheduling from Oklahoma State, that already has lined up future dates with Arizona State (2022 and 2023), Arkansas (2024 and 2027 and again in 2032

and 2033), Oregon (2025 and 2026) and Nebraska (2034 and 2035).

Looking back and not counting a number of Power Five oppo-

nents in recent years, headlined by a home-and-home series with Georgia (2007 and 2009) and neutral site openers against Mississippi State (2013) and Florida State (2014).

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**NEW SCOREBOARDS AT LAFORTUNE:** The baseball fields at LaFortune Park in Tulsa have new scoreboards and video boards thanks to OU football coach Barry Switzer, who has helped put up more than 100 boards in Oklahoma. From left at the dedication are a representative of the Little League World Series, Hornsby of the Tulsa Drillers, Coach Barry Switzer and Tulsa County Commissioners Karen Keith and Stan Sallee.

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# Holland Hall Baseball Celebrates State Championship With Win Over Adair

By **MIKE MOGUIN**  
GTR Sports Writer

Holland Hall made another athletic accomplishment this spring when the baseball team won state.

The Dutchmen (36-6) captured the Class 3A final in an 11-0 win against Adair on May 15 in Shawnee.

"It was awesome," said Wallace Clark, who got the pitching victory. "Obviously we never won a state championship in baseball, but having done it in football (back in fall), it was still the same feeling, just greatness and gratitude, and finally, this whole season was worth it and the culmination of it at the end was we achieved the goal we were striving for the entire time. It was just relieving."

Clark was instrumental as quarterback in the Dutchmen's state title on the gridiron last December.

"It's definitely something that doesn't happen a lot," Clark said. "So I think that it's really cool, especially being the first each for football and baseball school history, it definitely means a lot to me and it's something I'll always cherish."

Clark (6'1"), who usually played shortstop, pitched a seven-inning shutout, throwing five strikeouts and yielding no walks in the process.

"It was awesome," Clark said. "Going into the semifinals game, we knew if we advanced to the finals that I was going to be pitching. I was prepared after that game and I just knew I had to go out there and do my job. I also trusted my teammates to go out there and score runs and play defense behind me. I was very excited because I knew I had confidence in myself to throw strikes and just compete out there and ended up working pretty well."

Clark is a University of Oklahoma baseball signee, which will be beneficial as he heads down to Norman.

"It's definitely good momentum," he said. "It gives me confidence to do some great

things as well, and hopefully, continue the winning history (at OU)."

Before an explosion of 11 runs, Holland Hall had to endure four innings of a scoreless game.

"It was a little bit stressful at times," Clark said. "But I knew eventually we'd crack them. I just had to keep pitching, throwing strikes and put zeroes up on my end and offensively, we'd figure out a way to score some runs."

And that they did. Holland Hall was up 3-0 after the fifth inning. The first score came when Marc Gouldsby drove in B.T. Terry.

"I think what really did it was B.T. (Terry)'s leadoff double that really got the emotions going, got everybody hyped up, then obviously, Marc came up and got the RBI, then once we scored one, we knew we could just keep it up," Clark said. "They had a couple of pitching changes, which was also pretty key to our surge because we were confident they were kind of worried about us and couldn't really keep it in the zone as well as we could, and we just did some damage with it."

Holland Hall, in the role as visiting team, would add eight more runs in the sixth, eventually ending the game on a run-rule. The Dutchman ended the game with six hits.

#### Private School Quick Hits

Other private schools in the Tulsa area captured state championships at both the team and individual ranks.

#### Team Champions

Holland Hall – Class 4A Girls Tennis.

Bishop Kelley – Class 6A Girls Tennis, Class 5A Boys Golf, Class 5A Girls Soccer, Class 5A Boys Soccer.

Cascia Hall – Class 5A Girls Tennis, Class 4A Boys Golf; Class 4A Boys Tennis.

Lincoln Christian – Class 4A Boys Track and Field.

Rejoice Christian – Class 2A Boys Track and Field.

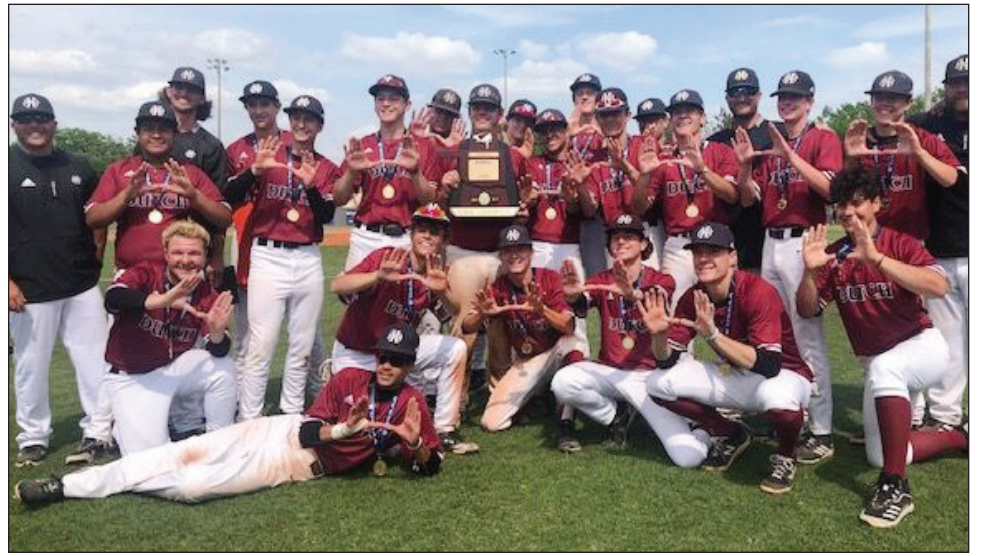


Photo Courtesy of Wallace Clark

**DIAMOND DUTCHMEN:** The Holland Hall baseball team celebrates winning the Class 3A state championship on May 15.

#### Individual Champions

Regent Prep – Jenni Roller, Class 2A Girls Golf; Ellie Hoemann (800-Meter Run), Natalie Cleveland (1,600-Meter Run), Class 2A Girls Track and Field; Samuel Fantoni (1,600-Meter Run), Class 2A Boys Track and Field.

Holland Hall – Libby Rowland (3,200 Meter Run), Class 4A Girls Track and Field; Natalie Gillett, (No. 2 Singles), (No. 1 Doubles), (No. 2 Doubles), Class 4A Girls Track and Field.

Bishop Kelley – Kate Miley (No. 1 Singles), Audrey Brown (No. 2 Singles), Aubrey Bailey/Maddie Wong (No. 2 Doubles); Class 6A Girls Tennis; Alex Owens/James Owens (No. 2 Doubles), Class 6A Boys Tennis.

Cascia Hall – (No. 2 Doubles), Class 5A Girls Tennis; Aiden Robinson (No. 1 Singles) Brock Hannagan/Joey Kacere (No. 2 Doubles).

Victory Christian – Kallista Frye (100-Meter Run), Class 3A Girls Track and Field.

Metro Christian – Caroline Sutton, Caroline Stewart, Lila Graham, Darcy Ball, (3,200-Meter Relay), Class 3A Girls Track and Field; Levi Korner (100-Meter Run), Class 3A Boys Track and Field; Lauren Michalcik (No. 2 Singles), Class 5A Girls Tennis.

Lincoln Christian – Addison Brooks (800-Meter Run), Class 4A Girls Track and Field; Kolbe Katsis (100-Meter Run), Jaxson Brooks, Ethan Martin, Benjamin Himaya, Josiah Antis (3,200-Meter Relay), Josiah Antis (400 and 800-Meter Run), Class 4A Boys Track and Field.

Rejoice Christian – Hunter Jennings (110 and 300-Meter Hurdles), Brady Thomas, Luke Callery, Paul Griffin, Chance Wilson (3,200-Meter Relay); Class 2A Boys Track and Field.

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# Rodney Carrington Personal Property Estate Sale is Announced by Estate Sales by Allen

## Three-Day Event To Be Held In Mid-July

By MARGARET BUTLER  
Contributing Writer

Good news for Rodney Carrington fans is that he selected Estate Sales by Allen to sell all the contents of his 7,526-square-foot south Tulsa mansion. This three-day event scheduled in mid-July celebrates this multi-talented stand-up comedian, actor, country music artist, author and screenwriter's lifestyle and career as one of the top 10 highest-grossing touring comedians for the past two decades.

Carrington is a platinum-recording artist. He's recorded several major record label studio albums followed by albums on his own record label. His discography also includes a greatest hits album, holiday album, live album, several singles and several music videos.

Carrington starred in his own TV sitcom, "Rodney," set in Tulsa, which ran for two seasons on ABC. He co-wrote and co-starred with Toby Keith in the 2008 comedy-action feature film, "Beer for My Horses" and starred in his own Netflix special, "Here Comes the Truth."

When Carrington isn't on the road, he resides in Tulsa which he has called home since 1993. His

decision to downsize, simplify his life and move to Nashville created this unique opportunity for his fans to own some of his belongings. Everything in his estate is included in this sale from his cowboy hats to furniture. His collectibles include movie memorabilia, a pair of Frank Sinatra's shoes purchased in Las Vegas, original movie posters, his piano, books, home décor and more.

According to Allen Hynes, owner of Estate Sales by Allen, "Working with Carrington has been an entertaining experience and he is certainly a good person to chat with. We are busy preparing and looking forward to displaying and offering his personal collection of unique items."

Estate Sales by Allen has been in business for over 35 years. Hynes, along with his wife, Diane and daughter, Natalie who is an ISA certified appraiser, are the backbone of the company and known for providing personalized service to their clients. Hynes takes pride in knowing his customers by name and being there from start to finish. He is backed by a hand-picked team of trustworthy and reliable employees with a vast experience in fair pricing and knowledge of antiques. The company has



GTR Media Group photo

**LIFETIME TREASURES:** Allen Hynes of Estate Sales by Allen displays some of the Rodney Carrington items that will be available in mid-July.

built a stellar reputation and is an award-winning member of the Better Business Bureau. Hynes' passion for antiques, love of interacting with people and honest nature have helped him build a well-respected and successful company, providing excellent customer service and client satisfaction.

According to Hynes, "Our e-mail list is comprised of over 20,000 of our treasured customers. This list helps notify our buyers of current sales. Because of our targeted

advertising and word-of-mouth praise, our sales always have a high buyer turn out."

To learn more about Estate Sales by Allen, visit the website, [estate-salesbyallen.com](http://estate-salesbyallen.com). Sign up online to join the e-mail list to be notified of events and sales. More information on the Rodney Carrington estate sale will be featured on the Estate Sales by Allen website and Facebook page including numerous photographs of items for sale.

Estate Sales by Allen conducts research and uses its staff's com-

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**FIGHTING HUNGER:** The Tulsa Area United Way hosted a Day of Caring Regional Food and Blood Drive in June to address critical food needs and blood shortages. Participating in the event are, from left, Greg Raskin, communications manager, Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma; Tim Lyons, TFCU Federal Credit Union president & CEO and 2021 United Way Campaign co-chair; Cynthia Gruber, Donation Center manager, American Red Cross and Alison Anthony, Tulsa Area United Way president & CEO.

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# Dress for Success Celebrates Empowerment of Women

Dress for Success Tulsa has reached a major milestone in its mission to empower local women. On May 4, the charity celebrated 20 years of providing professional attire and a network of support and career services to help women achieve economic independence. Dress for Success Tulsa will commemorate and forward its impact on the community through the remainder of the year. In addition to hosting a variety of fundraisers, it will also re-open and expand its development programs, including Beyond the Suit, which was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are extremely proud to have served more than 16,000 beautiful women in our community with business attire," said Katherine Skorvaga, executive director of Dress for Success Tulsa. "The most beautiful thing a woman can wear is confidence. My reward is seeing women leave the boutique with confidence gained by a new wardrobe." We owe our existence to the generosity of the community, and we fund our programs through sponsorships, donors and fundraisers.

Dress for Success Tulsa is one of 145 affiliates located in 24 countries throughout the world. Women come from all walks of life, and are referred by a continu-

ally expanding array of more than 148 nonprofit, agencies, shelters, colleges and technical institutes and there is no cost for the services provided.

Since first opening its doors in Tulsa in 2001, it has evolved and expanded to meet the growing need of local women. In 2016, it opened a larger facility with additional on-site resources at 3103 South Harvard Ave. in Midtown. The nearly 5000-square-foot facility is open Monday through Friday and houses a boutique area full of clothing and accessories for client suiting, a large career center with computers for program participants to utilize in classes or for job searching efforts.

Dress for Success Tulsa launched the Beyond the Suit program in 2019, which helps to inspire women and provide career development tools to succeed and thrive in the workplace and in life. The educational four-day program includes cover letter and resume writing, skills training on the art of the interview and mock interviews. Other topics covered are personal goals, professional dress, workplace harmony, budgeting and credit card finance. The program concludes with a Professional Women's Group Speaker, makeover by Clary Sage



GTR Media Group photo

**IN SERVICE:** Celebrating 20 successful years at Dress for Success are, from left, Board Vice President Katrina Shaw, board member Nancy Ruth, Executive Director Katherine Skorvaga and volunteer Martha West.

and a Graduation ceremony. With in-person classes limited by the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization plans to offer virtual tips on its website to all of its clients, with hopes to resume classes this Fall.

Last year, the group met its greatest challenge, reduced resources coupled with extreme need. The pandemic stalled both operations and fundraising events. In response, Dress for

Success Tulsa initiated a Go Fund Me program to raise \$50,000 (which has raised \$8,380 so far). The link for the GoFundMe is: <http://bit.ly/DFSTulsaFund>. We have two upcoming fundraisers our "Sizzling Summer Savings" Sale on July 22, 23 and 24 at the Dress for Success Tulsa office. The second fundraiser is a five-course dinner with pairings with a Casino Royale 007 theme in-

cluding a Live & Silent auction at Bluestone Steakhouse & Seafood on Monday, Aug. 30 at 6:30 pm, at 10032 South Sheridan Rd. in Tulsa. To make a reservation for the dinner fundraiser call Bluestone Steakhouse & Seafood at 918-296-9889.

For more information on Dress for Success Tulsa, including how you can help, visit [tulsa.dressforsuccess.org](http://tulsa.dressforsuccess.org).

# Bold new 'Oklahoma' Mural Makes First Impression at Tulsa International Airport

Tulsa artist Alexander Tamahn was elated by the recent news that his mural design was selected through the Oklahoma Arts Council's Art in Public Places program to serve as the first impression of Oklahoma for visitors from across the world arriving at the Tulsa International Airport.

"I am honored and absolutely thrilled to have my work make one of the first impressions travelers to the State of Oklahoma will experience," Tamahn said. "I hope they will appreciate the beauty here and will take from it the joy and good energy that went into creating this new work of art."

Beginning May 12, Tamahn spent about a week painting his 23-foot-wide "Oklahoma Welcomes You" mural in concourse B at the airport. Tamahn was one of 29 Oklahoma artists who submitted ideas for the project, which is being led by the Oklahoma Arts Council in collaboration with the Office of Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, and the Tulsa Airports Improvement Trust. The project is tied to the new state brand and logo, which were unveiled by Pinnell in 2020.

"Oklahoma is a creative and innovative state, and through this mural project we are ensuring visitors have that impression of us from the moment they step off an airplane," said Pinnell, who serves as Secretary of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage. "Our new state brand and logo were designed to reflect Oklahoma's enterprising spirit and its vibrant culture. Alexander's interpretation of the new state brand does a marvelous job of conveying this."

"Oklahoma artists play a crucial role in creating a positive and lasting impression for visitors to our state," said Oklahoma Arts Council Executive Director Amber Sharples. "Leveraging the Oklahoma Art in Public Places program ensured a community-centered process and resulted in an exciting and dynamic design. Alexander brought a thoughtful approach to his concept, where the

state logo as the sun is a powerful metaphor for renaissance and renewal, welcoming visitors while reminding Oklahomans of the home they love."

In addition to emphasizing Oklahoma's diverse ecological regions in his design, Tamahn said he incorporated an aesthetic similar to traditional quilt patterns, an aesthetic in which he sees similarities to the military-inspired star at the center of the new state logo.

"I wanted the composition to include vivid, complementary colors that spoke the beauty and diversity of the land here in Oklahoma," said Tamahn, citing his research for the project into the nuance of quilts.

With a bold color palette and the phrase "Oklahoma Welcomes You," the mural's message will be impossible to miss for the nearly 2,500 travelers who pass through concourse B at the airport every day.

Alexis Higgins, CEO of Tulsa Airports Improvement Trust, said, "We believe by providing the space to highlight a local Tulsa artist and showcasing their talent is a wonderful asset to our airport, our community, and the state as a whole. The mural itself will be able to provide our travelers with a quick glimpse into what they can expect to see in Oklahoma when they arrive: beautiful terrains, diverse landscapes, and most importantly, Oklahoma hospitality that you can only understand once you have visited."

"This is such a significant moment in time, with the centennial of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre," said Tamahn. "There will be a tremendous influx of travelers to Tulsa because of this, and it's almost overwhelming to know my work will potentially impact their experience shortly after their landing."



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**BEAUTIFUL FINISH:** Alexander Tamahn with his assistant from Tulsa's Black Moon Collective is all smiles as he finishes his painting in May at the Tulsa International Airport.

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THE ECONOMY

# From Barbados to Tulsa, Cumberbatch Family Pursues Passion for Outdoors Through Their Vibrant Green Hibiscus Gardening Business

By KYLIE HAMMOCK  
GTR Feature Writer

Charles and Monica Cumberbatch are now the owners of the thriving Green Hibiscus gardening and landscaping company but, just nine years ago, the Cumberbatch family was new to Tulsa having just immigrated from the tropical island nation of Barbados. Many are usually surprised to hear that the Charles and Monica chose to move with their daughters Destiny and Azaria to Oklahoma from the stunningly beautiful beaches of Barbados. However, Charles and Monica say they felt called to Tulsa so they could be trained as ministers of the Gospel by Apostle Dr. Joel Laurore who they met in Toronto, Canada and see as a spiritual father. The Cumberbatchs' faith is a large part of their identity, and they hope to use their business to serve others.

Although the Cumberbatch family started a new business in Tulsa, they did not come to pursue the American Dream as is common with immigrant families. In fact, Charles and Monica left behind thriving careers in Barbados to come to Tulsa and pursue their calling. Monica holds a Master's in Business Administration from The University of Leicester as well as a Computer Science degree from Barbados Community College and, at heart, is an entrepreneur and educator. In Barbados, Monica started many small business ventures such as the Daystars Early Learning Academy which she directed for 26 years until she migrated to the U.S. Charles holds a Bachelor's in Business Administration from John Brown University where he received a scholarship to play soccer. Charles worked as a youth worker with a Christian Fellowship organization in Barbados, but he also held

positions in office and solar energy solutions companies.

Throughout his family's many ventures, Charles has always had a passion for the outdoors due to his involvement in his father's plant nursery as a child and teenager. Despite being involved in many other businesses, Charles continued to work with lawns and gardens in Barbados and has accumulated over 40 years of experience in lawn care and landscaping. After moving to Tulsa, Charles knew he wanted to continue his passion and he became a member of the Tulsa Master Gardener Program to add to his numerous other certifications in horticulture and landscape design. After completing this program, Charles launched Green Hibiscus in 2014 and spearheaded the lawn and landscaping sides of the business while Monica handled the administrative duties on top of her job as a college professor.

Seven years after the founding of Green Hibiscus, Charles is still satisfied with his day-to-day business responsibilities and Monica has quit her job to help with the business full-time. Although many lawn care workers do not want to take on garden work and design because the tedious tasks required cut down on productivity, the Cumberbatchs relish in transforming their customers' yards. The services provided by Green Hibiscus can include anything from simply weeding flowerbeds to bringing overgrown gardens back to life. Ultimately, Charles and Monica say, "our mission is simply to bring a smile to our customers' faces and warmth to their hearts by providing a service where we are intentional about doing it right the first time."

As their business has grown, the Cumberbatch family has maintained high standards in their family owned and operated business



**GROWING THEIR BUSINESS:** Charles and Monica Cumberbatch at their home in Tulsa. As a member of the Tulsa Master Gardener program, Charles is well versed on what does and does not work in Oklahoma's climate.

and are no strangers to getting their hands dirty. Charles and Monica love connecting with their clients and still facilitate much of the services their business provides on their own. For this reason, Green Hibiscus was hit particularly hard earlier this year when both Charles and Monica contracted COVID-19 and were forced to put a halt to operations.

However, both have now recovered and are back to doing what they love. From having conversations, prayers, or even singalongs that include Charles's booming voice, the Cumberbatch family is dedicated to connecting with their customers and providing quality lawn care, landscaping, and gardening services.

## Arvest Bank Continues Million Meals Initiative

Arvest Bank launched its annual Million Meals initiative to fight hunger in the four-state region the bank serves two months ago. Today, the bank announced that with the help of customers and community members, it has exceeded the campaign goal by raising more than 1.68 million meals.

Launched in 2011, Arvest's Million Meals campaigns have raised an 11-year total of 18,749,881 meals, which includes more than \$3.3 million in funds given directly to the bank's dozens of local food partners.

This year's campaign total of 1,680,910 meals was made possible through donations from the bank, Arvest associates, customers and community members from April 5-May 29. The success of the campaign is especially meaningful as summer approaches because many children will be without the meals they ordinarily receive at school.

"It is humbling each year to see how our customers, community members and associates rally around this cause," Kirk

Hays, president of Arvest Bank said. "We could not fight hunger on this scale without all these groups and we thank them for their hard work, dedication and generosity. Helping our neighbors in need is part of Arvest's commitment to our communities."

In Tulsa, Arvest partnered with Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, Harvest House and Meals on Wheels for the campaign. The organizations received all local donations, and this year 107,648 total meals were provided in Tulsa. All money raised through this campaign directly benefitted 90-plus organizations feeding local communities in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.


The bank's decision to provide one million meals was based on the fact hunger is an issue in every community it serves. In 2019, the most recent year statistics are available, 10.5 percent of American households were food-insecure, meaning they had difficulty at some time during the year providing enough food for all their members due to a lack of resource.

# Edward Jones

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# WPX Topping Out Ceremony Marks Major Milestone in Downtown Tulsa Development

Mayor G.T. Bynum participated in a topping out ceremony in June at the new 11-story WPX Energy Headquarters building located at 222 N. Detroit Ave.

The building, which was originally intended to be the home of WPX Energy, is scheduled for completion near year-end, with office and commercial space expected to be ready for prospective third-party tenants during the first quarter of 2022.

"This project will be a tremendous asset for Downtown Tulsa, and specifically in Greenwood and in the Tulsa Arts District," Bynum said. "It is a first-class facility, and I am grateful for the team at Devon and their commitment to building a structure that will attract economic growth to Tulsa."

The site includes 245,000 square feet of office space, 15,000 square feet of commercial space, nearly 700 parking spaces and 24/7 security.

The project is being developed on the former Spaghetti Ware-

house site on the city block bounded by Detroit Ave. and M.L.K. Jr. Blvd. to the east and west, and East Cameron St. and Reconciliation Way to the north and south.

Jared Andresen with Commercial Oklahoma, an Alliance Firm of Cushman & Wakefield, is leading the effort to lease space. Prospective tenants can reach Andresen at (918) 359-3522 or jandresen@commercialoklahoma.com.

The building's aesthetics pay homage to the area's use of materials and detailing, with a facade comprised of brick, steel and glass to compliment the rugged character of early warehouses. The project also incorporates green space, trees, lighting, benches, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, and street-scaping consistent with Tulsa's Downtown Area Master Plan.

Most prominently, the development includes a public plaza and pathway through the middle of the property connecting Guthrie Green and John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park.



**GOING UP:** The final beam for the WPX building flies high during the topping out ceremony.



**MAYORAL SIGNING:** Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum adds his signature to the topping steel beam at the WPX topping out ceremony.

Major contractors include Flintco (Construction Manager, Tulsa), BB+M Architecture (Charlotte) and Wallace Engineering (Structural and Civil Engineering, Tulsa).

**About WPX**  
Tulsa's WPX Energy announced

their headquarters project in the summer of 2019 before agreeing to merge with Oklahoma City-based Devon Energy during the COVID-19 pandemic. The merger closed earlier this year, with 150 of WPX's Tulsa employees agreeing to relocate to Oklahoma City to

work for the combined company at Devon's headquarters. Devon Energy continues to acknowledge the importance of the building and is working with the City and its community partners to identify tenants for the new, 11-story office building.

## America Faces Critical Energy Policy Decisions



Oil and gas pipelines are essential to our energy reliability, energy security, and economic prosperity. When the Colonial Pipeline was shut down recently, America experienced the need for accessibility and security.

We are faced with important decisions concerning strategic energy policy and development for years ahead.

The digital transformation in the energy industry is an integral part of energy planning. In early spring of 2018, I began speaking on behalf of my company and as an advisory board chair of IngenuityE, Inc., an Oklahoma City based IT company on the subject of the "digital transformation: from the white board to the boardroom." As a speaker at The Pipeline and Energy Expo in Tulsa, I expressed my concern of the importance of oil and gas pipelines and the need for a strong and viable digital transformation, which would emphasize cyber security.

In addition, the theme of my presentations in Houston, Lake Charles, Denver, Oklahoma City, and other locations in the US, has been "National Energy Talk: America's Energy Dreams and Global Economic Realities." The

sub-theme has been "Achieving Operational Excellence Through Digital Transformation."

At each of these conferences, I have been confronted by some energy industry participants that believe they are not being totally funded or equipped for the digital transformation that lies ahead.

The leaders of energy companies are faced with important decisions to make, regarding infrastructure. It is so challenging to be faced with the uncertainty of whether pipeline infrastructure and oil and gas development will be in a position to have the proper investment to maintain an energy secure and affordable energy industry.

As America strives to develop its energy strategy, it is important that we maintain our energy reliability and security, but not lose sight of the fact that billions of people throughout the world do not have access currently, and will not have access without the energy exper-

tise, such as LNG and the natural gas industry.

Technology and innovation within the oil and gas industry is at the forefront. The oil and gas industry is leading the way, regarding ESG (Environmental Social Governance), by implementing strategies and plans. Several oil and gas companies are studying ways to address methane emissions and carbon-capture sequestration.

I chaired the 2014 IEPC Energy and The Environment Roundtable and Event/Summit in Washington, DC. Three key areas became

the focus of discussion:

1. Abundance=Export: With proper/not excessive regulations and best practices in place, the abundance of natural gas and oil we have in the US can lead to economic growth, and provide jobs. Proper management of the US oil and natural gas assets can greatly benefit US manufacturers and

lead our country to self-reliance. Public/Private partnerships are vital. All forms of energy should be considered.

2. Security: Federal land access is needed for US oil and gas development. PR China, Russia and OPEC are among the interests aggressively pursuing global energy development. Therefore, the US must aggressively position and maintain itself as the global energy leader. Concerns were expressed about the price volatility especially in the midstream market. Also, energy efficiency and environmental preservation issues were addressed regarding maintaining a necessary balance.

3. Education: The public and decision makers should be provided

the necessary information about energy and environmental issues. Takeaways: Research and Development should be such as seismicity, water usage, natural gas and oil development, water injection wells, renewables along with the cost of development and materials. Agencies should work together in order to properly set a direction for our US energy industry.

America needs America's oil and gas pipelines. America needs America's energy! All forms. All American. Future generations are depending on us to keep the American dream alive!

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



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

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# Hall Estill Elects New Board and Executive Committee Members



BETSY G. JACKSON



STEPHEN W. RAY

Oklahoma law firm Hall Estill, with offices in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Denver and Northwest Arkansas, announces that Betsy G. Jackson has been elected to the Board of Directors and Stephen W. Ray to the Executive Committee.

"We congratulate our new board member and executive committee member," said Mike Cooke, managing partner for Hall Estill. "These elections are a testament to their hard work and dedication to their clients and the firm and they will make great additions to our board of directors and executive committee."

Jackson is an experienced attorney who primarily focuses her practice in the corporate/commercial arena, specifically dealing in securities, business transactions, commercial finance, real estate, and mergers and acquisitions. She was selected as a 2018 attorney recipient of the Oklahoma Bar Association Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher Diversity Awards. Further, she has been named a past Best

Lawyers Tulsa Corporate Governance "Lawyer of the Year." She earned her J.D. from the University of Tulsa College of Law.

Ray, who previously served on the Executive Committee from 2012 to 2015, focuses his practice in the corporate/commercial arena, specifically dealing in securities, business transactions, commercial finance, healthcare, tax/estate planning, and mergers and acquisitions. He was named the 2021 Best Lawyers Tulsa Corporate Governance Law "Lawyer of the Year." Additionally, he received the Silver Beaver Award from Indian Nations Council, Boys Scouts of America in 2019. He earned his J.D. from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

### About Hall Estill

Founded in 1966 in Tulsa, Hall Estill is a full-service law firm with clients ranging from Fortune 500 corporations and medium-sized companies to nonprofit organizations, emerging businesses and individuals.

## BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc., (AJLI) recognizes Tulsa member Amy Brown, deputy mayor and chief administrative officer to the City of Tulsa, who has been chosen as the 2021 Rising Star Award recipient by AJLI. To be honored with this award one must demonstrate significant promise consistent with the vision and values of The Junior League Mission as well as being an inspiring community leader. In her honor, AJLI will be making a \$15,000 donation to JLT.



BROWN

Brown has made a difference by her contributions to JLT and impacted the local community for the better on their behalf. Since 2016, Brown has been an active member of JLT. She has held a variety of roles from being the Chair of a large fundraiser to serving on the Finance Committee, and beyond.

No matter how big or small her role, she has always been dependable, went the extra mile, and been supportive. Additionally, she has impacted her community as the and among other involvement opportunities.

She recently facilitated the introduction of JLT's 100th Anniversary Committee Chair with the City of Tulsa's Chief Resilience Officer to explore community project opportunities for JLT that align with the City's Resilient Tulsa Strategy, which endeavors to build a more resilient Tulsa. Connecting the trained volunteers of JLT with crucial data and the community leaders working to eradicate inequity in the community is one of the many ways Brown leads Tulsa, according to the Junior League.

The Junior League of Tulsa is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. The Junior League of Tulsa's focus is 'women and children in transition.' To learn more about the Junior League of Tulsa, contact Ashley Pettingell at 918-663-6100.

Tulsa Zoo Management, Inc. announced Carissa Hon joined the company as director of marketing, public relations and design services.



HON

Hon has more than 10 years of experience in communications and public relations. She most recently served as the chief communications officer for Domestic Violence Intervention Services. Hon is accredited in public relations and received her MBA, as well as a B.A. in Public Relations and Advertising from Oral Roberts University.

The Tulsa Zoo is owned by the City of Tulsa and managed by Tulsa Zoo Management, Inc. TZMI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, governed by a volunteer board of directors.

The Tulsa Zoo celebrates more than 90 years of providing family friendly recreation, natural sciences education and conservation of wildlife. John Stava is chairman of Tulsa Zoo Management and Lindsay Hutchison is president and CEO.

Palmer Continuum of Care has announced that its Chief Executive Officer and Board Chair Tiffany Hatcher has accepted a lead position in the local banking industry.



HATCHER

She will now serve as the market president of CrossFirst Bank in Tulsa.

As a longtime volunteer and passionate advocate for local women and children, Hatcher has served on Palmer's board of directors since 2014 and will continue leading the nonprofit organization.

"We are extremely proud to congratulate Tiffany on such a well-deserved accomplishment," said Liz Neas, executive director for Palmer. "Tiffany's example of leadership is a tremendous asset to Palmer and CrossFirst Bank. Her dedication to both her work and the local community is truly inspiring."

In her new role, Hatcher will lead a team of highly experienced and respected banking professionals who specialize in business, real estate, private client, and relationship banking.

The newly named market president has served in the nonprofit community for more than 15 years and is a member of the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits and Tulsa Regional Chamber. She continues to bring her vital leadership skills such as fundraising and donor support, as well as financial and personnel management, board governance and much more to her long standing role at Palmer.

"It is an honor to continue leading Palmer and to help offer our community such an invaluable resource for women and children," said Hatcher. "I'm proud to serve alongside such an outstanding team of experienced bankers at CrossFirst Bank who provide extraordinary service to our clients and volunteer diligently to support our local community."

Palmer is dedicated to helping adolescents and women with their children, who struggle with substance abuse and chemical dependency. Through its Tulsa Women and Children's Center and Outpatient Treatment Programs, Palmer offers an array of treatment services specifically designed to address each client's needs through trauma-informed, gender sensitive, age appropriate and culturally competent substance abuse treatment.

The Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation welcomes Vincent Snelling to the organization as Economic Development Manager responsible



SNELLING

for marketing, research, and small business development, as well as economic development projects.

Senior Vice President of Economic Development for the BAEDC, Darla Heller, said, "Vince is a great addition to our team. He has so many connections in the community and is very passionate about seeing the community move forward."

Snelling has a background in the hospitality industry with his education being focused on entrepreneurship and economics. He said, "The BAEDC is an amazing team that plays a pivotal role in Broken Arrow's development. It is an exciting time to come on board and be a part of our community's continued growth."

He will replace Michelle Ondak as she moves on to another role in the state of Oklahoma, helping businesses grow and expand. "Michelle has done great work for our community and has set her successor up for success in the position," said BAEDC President & CEO, Jennifer Conway.

Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) has named Jennifer Leber as the company's new vice president of distribution operations.



LEBER

Leber will be based in PSO's Tulsa office and will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the electric distribution system for approximately 562,000 customers throughout Oklahoma.

Previously, Leber served as PSO's director of reliability and grid modernization, where she led PSO's Forestry team and Reliability Engineering team. She joined PSO in 1998 as a Distribution Design Engineer and has held various leadership roles within PSO over the course of her career.

Leber earned her Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Arkansas in 1995 and completed the AEP Leadership program at Ohio State University in 2008.



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# Early Tulsa Movie Theaters Remembered

In Tulsa during the mid-1950s, a much-anticipated activity for pre-teen kids and a relief for their parents was a Saturday afternoon at the local movie house. When I was 11 years old, a special treat, only occasionally provided, was

in 1908 was the Lyric Theatre at 103 S Main. Soon dozens of movie houses were located in downtown Tulsa, the majority clustered on or near Main Street. These culminated in what was known as the big four: The Majestic, The Orpheum, The

## On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

this movie experience. My dad would drop me off at the theatre filled with very active children yelling, running, and leaping over rows of seats. The decibel noise level must have been extreme along with a sugar high provided by candy, popcorn and soft drinks. The entertainment program which cost all of 20 cents began with live yoyo contests or short magic acts. These were followed by a serial like "Flash Gordon" cartoons, a news reel and a coming attraction preview. The grand finale was the main feature, usually a western or a Tarzan type adventure movie. By then, the audience was subdued or even asleep.

The Orpheum, The Rialto, and The Ritz (the last to be built in 1926 and the first to be demolished in 1960). By the mid 1930's vaudeville was gone and in 1928 talkies arrived when the Majestic presented "The Jazz Singer." At only 900 seats, the Majestic was the smallest of the four.

Theatre technology advanced rapidly with improvements in lighting and dimming controls, acoustics, and sound systems. In 1924 the Rialto became the first theatre to be air conditioned. Duct work was placed upon the roof to preserve the interior designs. Soon, movie theatres were the places to get cool and escape Oklahoma's summer heat.

The scene of all this mayhem was the Brook Theatre at 3401 S Peoria. Today it is a bar/restaurant, a remnant of over 40 such movie facilities that provided entertainment in Tulsa for almost 50 years.

In this era, a day in downtown Tulsa could mean a visit to a dentist or doctor in the morning followed by lunch and an afternoon of retail shopping. An early dinner would be next followed by a movie and after reentering a sidewalk filled with shoppers and sometimes a late-night dessert.

Tulsa's first movie theatre was the Grand Opera House at 113 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St. which opened in 1906. The Grand was really a multipurpose theatre which was used for vaudeville as well as silent movies and an occasional classic performance. It was an ancestor or our current PAC facility. Our second movie house built

Our four main theatres were inviting with ornate interiors reminiscent of renaissance courtyards and palaces. The most elaborate was the Ritz which had a ceiling of twinkling stars and clouds that magical-



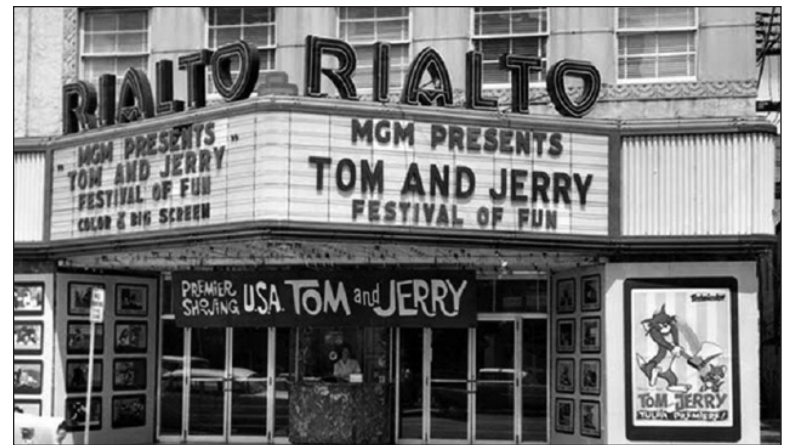
Courtesy Tulsa Historical Society

**MAJESTIC THEATER:** The Majestic Theater, located at 406 S. Main St., was one of the "Big Four" theaters in downtown Tulsa along with The Orpheum, The Rialto, and The Ritz (the last to be built in 1926 and the first to be demolished in 1960). At only 900 seats, the Majestic was the smallest of the four.

ly floated by. Each of the four had performance stages, pipe organs, proscenium openings faced with electrified multi-curtain assemblies and uniformed ushers equipped with small flashlights to guide the audience to cushioned seats. Today these are called theatre seating.

By 1973 the big four buildings had been demolished. Almost all of our other downtown movie theatres have been torn down or repurposed and remodeled. But as least one theatre building's exterior façade remains.

Called Two Main Plaza, this two-story building is one of a pair (its neighbor is called One Main Plaza) owned by the Price Family Real Estate Investors. Although similar in size and building material (terra cotta), each is different in its neo classical detail. Two Main Plaza's address is 616 S Main and is believed to have begun its life as the Gem, a mov-



Courtesy Cinema Treasures

**RIALTO THEATER:** In 1924, the Rialto became the first theatre to be air conditioned. Located at 15 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. in Tulsa, it closed in the 1970s.

ie theatre. Its twin at 610 S Main could also have once been a theatre. The building at 616 S Main with bowstring roof trusses (typically used to achieve a column free theatre auditorium) at some

point received an internal 2<sup>nd</sup> floor structure within the two-story auditorium space. today, these two buildings have been repurposed for office use but they remind us of a long-gone entertainment era.

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<p><b>27 June</b></p> <p><b>PRIDE IN THE PARK</b> Guthrie Green All Day Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p>  <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. Springfield</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for info.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>REAL MADRID SOCCER CAMP TULSA</b> Titan Sports and Performance Center June 28 - July 2 Visit titansportscomplex.com for more information.</p> <p><b>TOMMY TERRIFIC'S MAGIC: SATCHEL PAIGE - SATCHEL PAIGE AND THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUE</b> Tulsa Library (Virtual) All Day Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> 	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>TULSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S AUCTION</b> County HQ Building 11 a.m. Visit tcsa.org for more info.</p> <p><b>PLAY LIKE A GIRL MEET + MENTOR TULSA</b> Zebco - 6101 E. Apache St. 11 a.m. Visit playlikeagirl.org for more information.</p> <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for info.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for info.</p> <p><b>STORY TIME AT GUTHRIE GREEN</b> Guthrie Green 10:30 - 11 a.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p> <p><b>More Bank for Your Buck</b> <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b> Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p>	<p><b>1 July</b></p> <p><b>CELTIC THRONE: THE ROYAL JOURNEY OF IRISH DANCE</b> Herbert W. Armstrong College and Armstrong Dance 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for info.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>FAMILY NATURE WALK</b> Philbrook Museum 10 - 10:30 a.m. Visit philbrook.org for more information.</p> <p><b>IT'S ELECTRIC! AN ENERGY INVESTIGATION</b> Gathering Place 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Visit gatheringplace.org for more information.</p>  <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for info.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>STEAM SATURDAY</b> Gathering Place 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Visit gatheringplace.org for more information.</p> <p><b>MEDITATION AT THE MUSEUM WITH AT EASE MEDITATION</b> Philbrook Museum 10 - 11 a.m. Visit philbrook.org for info.</p> <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for info.</p>
<p><b>4th of July</b></p> <p><b>FOLDS OF HONOR FREEDOMFEST 2021: FIREWORKS WATCH PARTY</b> Gathering Place 5:30 - 10:30 p.m. Visit gatheringplace.org for more information.</p> <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for info.</p> 	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>FITNESS ON THE GREEN: ZUMBA</b> Guthrie Green 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p> <p><b>OPEN MIC HOSTED BY ZAC WENZEL</b> Blackbird on Pearl 8 p.m. Visit blackbirdon-pearl.com for more information.</p> 	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>JEANNE B. GOODWIN STORYTELLING FESTIVAL</b> Tulsa Library (Virtual) 2 - 3 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p><b>New Name. Same Bank.</b> <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b> Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p> 	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>LITTLE GARDEN EXPLORERS</b> Philbrook Museum 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Visit philbrook.org for more information.</p> <p><b>FITNESS ON THE GREEN: YOGA</b> Guthrie Green 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>G.R.O.W. MOBILE LIBRARY (GATHER AND READ ON WHEELS)</b> Gathering Place 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Visit gatheringplace.org for more info.</p> <p><b>BOUNCE 'N BEE-THOVENS: THE GREAT OUTDOORS - PRESENTED BY MIDTOWN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS</b> Tulsa Library (Virtual) All Day Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> 	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS BROKEN ARROW ALL SEASON SALE</b> Rhema Rec Center July 9 - 11 Visit ba.jbfsale.com for more information.</p> <p><b>WIRLIG</b> The Shrine 9 p.m. Visit tulsashrine.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>SUPERFUN SATURDAY: DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE</b> Philbrook Museum 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Visit philbrook.org for more information.</p> <p><b>G.R.O.W. SECOND SATURDAY</b> Gathering Place 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Visit gatheringplace.org for more information.</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>THE MARVIN BLADES SR. FACES OF GREENWOOD TIMELINE EXPERIENCE</b> Greenwood Centre LTD. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Visit bwsaokla.org for more information.</p> <p><b>PAUL BENJAMIN'S SUNDAY NIGHT THING</b> The Colony 10 p.m. Visit colonytulsa.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>CRAFT CLUB: PAPER QUILLING ANIMALS</b> Tulsa Library (Virtual) 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p><b>BROOKSIDE BOOK DISCUSSION</b> Tulsa Library (Virtual) 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> 	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>BUBBLES! PRESENTED BY DUSTIN REUDELHUBER OF TULSA BALLOONS</b> Owasso Library (Outdoor) 10 - 11 a.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p><b>YOGA FOR EVERY BODY</b> Tulsa Library (Virtual) 6 - 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>MORNING BOOTCAMP</b> Guthrie Green 6 - 7 a.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p> <p><b>DOG PLAY WEDNESDAY</b> Gathering Place All Day Visit gatheringplace.org for more information.</p> <p><b>Ask About Fraud ID Protection</b> <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b> Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP</b> Philbrook Museum 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Visit philbrook.org for more information.</p> <p><b>STORY TIME</b> Gathering Place 4 p.m. Visit gatheringplace.org for more information.</p> <p><b>INDIGENOUS</b> The Shrine 8 p.m. Visit tulsashrine.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>CURATOR-LED TOUR: VIEWS OF GREENWOOD</b> Philbrook Museum 6 - 7 p.m. Visit philbrook.org for more information.</p> <p><b>JUNIE B. JONES JR.</b> Theatre Tulsa 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>AMERICAN AQUARIUM</b> Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>JUNIE B. JONES JR.</b> Theatre Tulsa 2 &amp; 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>ILIZA SHLESINGER</b> Tulsa Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.</p> <p><b>CONGRESS OF A CROW, ALL'S FAIR, THE STYLEES</b> The Shrine 9 p.m. Visit tulsashrine.com for more information.</p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>INTRO TO SOURDOUGH BREAD MAGIC</b> Mother Road Market 12 p.m. Visit mother-roadmarket.com for more information.</p> <p><b>JUNIE B. JONES JR.</b> Theatre Tulsa 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> 	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>MUSIC SANDWICHED IN: PIANISTS MARIBETH AND BRADFORD GOWEN</b> Tulsa Library (Virtual) 12 - 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p><b>YUCHI LANGUAGE CLASS</b> Tulsa Library (Virtual) 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for info.</p> <p><b>CHRIS COMBS TRIO</b> The Colony 8 p.m. Visit colonytulsa.com for more information.</p> <p><b>Free Small Business Checking</b> <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b> Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>TINY TERRAFORMING WITH ARTIST AND ANIMATOR SARAH BOWEN</b> Tulsa Library (Virtual) All Day Visit tulsalibrary.org for info.</p> <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for info.</p> <p><b>TOM SKINNER'S SCIENCE PROJECT</b> The Colony 8 p.m. Visit colonytulsa.com for info.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>FISH FEEDING</b> Philbrook Museum 10:30 a.m. Visit philbrook.org for more information.</p> <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for info.</p> <p><b>PAUL BENJAMIN TRIO</b> Mercury Lounge 8:30 p.m. Visit mercuryloungetulsa.com for more information.</p> 	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas</b> 7:05 p.m. • July 23-24 Visit tulsadrillers.com for info.</p> <p><b>GREASE: SCHOOL EDITION</b> John H. Williams Theatre 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>FILMS ON THE LAWN: HONEY I SHRUNK THE KIDS</b> Philbrook Museum 8:30 p.m. Visit philbrook.org for more information.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>GREASE: SCHOOL EDITION</b> John H. Williams Theatre 2 &amp; 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>BOB WILLS' TEXAS PLAYBOYS</b> Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p> <p><b>LA FIESTA DE TULSA</b> Gathering Place Time TBA Visit gatheringplace.org for more information.</p>

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## UNION SPORTS

# Union Swimmers Capture Gold Medals

By MIKE MOGUIN  
GTR Sports Writer

Three Union swimmers captured gold medals at the Class 6A state swim meet Feb. 27 in Edmond.

Senior and New York University signee Courtney Posey won the girls' 200-yard freestyle event with a time of 1:56.36. Another senior, Washington University of St. Louis signee Danny Sibley and junior Trenton vonHartzsch each won two events on the boys' side. Sibley took first in the 200 and 500-yard freestyle events with respective times of 1:41.46 and 4:37.02. vonHartzsch was the victor in the 200-yard intermediate and 100-yard breaststroke with respective times of 1:54.92 and 57:23.

The Union girls finished runner-up as a team with 263 points. Jenks won the team championship with 326 points.

"We were so happy," Posey said. "We have a very small girls' team compared to Jenks and the team that got third (Edmond North, 233). It meant a lot to us to get that close or even get second."

On the boys' side, Union finished fifth with 163 points. Jenks won that team title as well with 398 points.

It was the second consecutive year Posey won the 200-freestyle. Recalling her training is what she believes was the key to victory.

"We trained the best we could and I had to keep a positive attitude the whole time," she said. "It meant a lot to me (to win again) because we've had a lot of rough times this year and it meant a lot to know that everything paid off."

Sibley and vonHartzsch each repeated (500 freestyle and 100 breaststroke, respectively) in one event and won another (200 freestyle, 200 Intermediate) for the first time.

"I expected to win (the 500) after winning it last year," Sibley said. "I don't want to sound cocky, but the 500 is just my event in high school."

"With the 200, I won it mainly because we've been training with a lot of strength and power this year, so I've gotten a lot better with mid-distance as opposed to distance. It's a lot more meaningful," Sibley added.

For vonHartzsch, it was just a



Courtesy Tracey Posey

**GOLD CHAMPION:** Union swimmer Courtney Posey celebrates winning another gold medal at the state swim meet.



Courtesy Noelle vonHartzsch

**GREAT IN STATE:** Union swimmers Trenton vonHartzsch and Danny Sibley celebrate winning their gold medals at the state swim meet.

matter of knowing what he needed to do.

"I just push myself super hard," he said. "Winning it back-to-back means a lot because I wasn't supposed to win, but whenever I got back and touched the wall first, I felt really good to come out on top," he said.

Posey and Sibley have different views about taking their wins with them to continue their swimming careers in college.

"I think it will be really beneficial. I feel like the experience is very useful," Posey said.

"It might boost my swimming a little bit," Sibley said. "I think

Washington cares more about the time, not the placement. It will be cool to have, but I don't think it's going to affect me a whole lot."

Both are excited about the future of Union swimming.

"I think our program is growing," Posey said. "It grows every year and we had a lot of powerful freshmen this year and we should be getting more talent coming up next year. I think they'll do real good."

"I think next year will be the last year where this generation of really good swimmers is still here," Sibley said of the boys. "The girls team has a few more years of good

swimmers that I know of, and they'll probably get more as we keep growing. But the next two years, where I think the boys will really be strong. I think we have a couple of boys who are coming up through the grades to join the high school team the next year or two, but I think Union is definitely going to need a step up in the swimming aspect of sports."

With vonHartzsch returning next year, he plans to shoot for All-American times and also hopes to swim in college. He has yet to decide where he will attend.

He sees next season to be more challenging for the team.

"We're losing a lot of good seniors, but whatever we're given, we're going to make the best and try to work together as a team, lift everyone up and make everyone do their best," vonHartzsch said.

#### Union Quick Hits

Girls' basketball finished as state semifinalist: The third-ranked Union girls came close to a spot in the 2021 Class 6A state final, but came up one game shy. It lost 53-50 to top-ranked Norman in the semifinals on in Sapulpa. Old Dominion signee Kaylen Nelson led Union with 18 points. Junior Sydni Smith scored 11.

## Watchfire Signs Video Board Selected for \$34 Million Stadium Renovation Project

By ASHLEY BRAY

When administrators at Union Public Schools embarked on a massive renovation of its Union Stadium, they envisioned a facility that reached beyond sports by including a fine arts building and a striking 31-foot-by-55-foot 10mm video display manufactured by Watchfire Signs.

Union Public Schools' new digital scoreboard is 35% larger than the facility's previous video board.

The \$34 million complex, expected to be completed in 2022, will seat nearly 10,000 spectators, and will include a 5,800-square-foot press box, multiple concession areas, more than 20,000 square feet of indoor training facilities, and a new 17,000 sq. ft. band building. The new Watchfire video board will be installed on

the facade of the band building by A-Max Sign Company of Tulsa.

"We felt it was important to serve all 16,000 students and the community with this stadium, not just football players and student athletes," said Lee Snodgrass, executive director of special projects for Union Public Schools. "The Renegade Regiment, the district's marching band, will actually enter the field from the fine arts building at the north end of the field."

The stadium will be home to varsity, junior varsity and youth football leagues, as well as the high school's marching band. In addition, the district is excited about the ability to use the stadium for non-sports events, including hosting movie nights and concerts, such as Tulsa's Reggae-fest. The HD quality video board and upgraded sound system from

Watchfire make these events possible.

The new video scoreboard gives the school greater flexibility in how it displays content. The virtual scoreboard can be programmed to show scores, player photos and statistics, animated graphics to fire up the crowd, and live video. Advertising zones will allow the school to generate ad revenue.

Union High School has received nationwide coverage for its programs that make students college- and job-ready, and the operation of the new video board will contribute to this. Students will be responsible for producing the content and player interviews, operating cameras, and programming the board.

Watchfire was awarded the project after a competitive RFP process that sought the highest quality product. "We were especially



interested in purchasing a video board from a company with substantial operations in the United States so parts and support would be readily available," said Snodgrass. "We visited the Watchfire

facility, saw where boards were assembled and tested, and walked through the company's 100,000 square-foot parts building that had a shelf for each customer. We were sold."