



# MIDTOWN MONITOR

One of Six Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers

Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group

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## IN THIS ISSUE:



# Tulsa State Fair Set to Return to a Full Action-Packed Venue This Fall

*Event to be Held  
Sept. 30 Through Oct. 10*

By GRANT ROWL  
GTR Feature Writer

In 2020, the Tulsa State Fair focused solely on the Junior Livestock Events, and in 2021 the livestock shows will continue to highlight the root of agriculture fairs across America. The Tulsa State Fair staff is poised to have some of the most prestigious livestock in the state competing for scholarship funds during the 11 days and illustrating their passion to make tomorrow better. Being in Tulsa and making the stage is a lifelong goal for many.

The Tulsa State Fair, presented by Ford and Oklahoma Ford Dealers, is coming back and is ready to welcome the community in a safe, clean and fun environment. This year's event will be held from September 30 through October 10 and is expected to be an action-packed and exciting event.

Last year left a void for many fair goers from Tulsa and throughout northeastern Oklahoma, who last year missed out on their favorite fair foods, rides and live music. The personnel of the Tulsa State Fair are now ready to welcome visitors to enjoy quality family entertainment, with new shows that include the Jet Pack Flying Circus, Aussie Kingdom Kangaroo Show and Paul Bunyan's Lumberjack Show to pique your interest. Also, a crowd favorite returns with the Perondi's Stunt Dog Show, which will feature a new attraction with dock dives and water.

Every night the Pepsi Fall Concert Series, at the Oklahoma Stage, will be booming with national touring acts, including P.O.D., Dru Hill, Zach Williams, Josh Turner, Vanilla Ice & the Ying Yang Twins, Dirty Honey,

Eli Young Band and Chris Jansen. Along with these artists, both Sundays will feature a Hispanic celebration featuring Alicia Villareal and La Energia Norteña. The lineup is jam packed with a genre for everyone. A limited number of VIP tickets are available.

In 2020, the Tulsa State Fair focused solely on the Junior Livestock events, and in 2021 the livestock shows will continue to highlight the root of agriculture fairs across America. Some of the most prestigious livestock in the state will be competing for scholarship funds. Making the stage is a lifelong goal for many youth, showcasing their hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence. For these participants, this is their championship, and the Tulsa State Fair staff is honored to host the youth of Oklahoma and provide a platform to succeed in the future.

The Arvest Action Alley will be full of twists, turns and exhilarating excitement on the rides and carnival games. The Tulsa State Fair partner, North American Midway Entertainment, is enthused to be coming to Tulsa, which is one of their favorite events due to Tulsa's welcoming community. One of the new rides will be a double decker Merry Go Round, which will provide spinning fun for children, and of course the children at heart.

Safety is always the Tulsa State Fair's top priority, and the Tulsa State Fair staff will be taking protective measures to provide a safe and clean environment. The Fair team is working hard to prepare for the arrival of visitors, and the Tulsa State Fair looks forward to celebrating the return of fun to Tulsa, for 11 Days of Awesome.

To attend the Fair, be sure to



**READY FOR FUN:** Visitors from a previous Tulsa State Fair are looking forward to this year's event which will see a return to the midway and many more traditional fun Fair events.



**RETURN OF THE MIDWAY:** The midway is expected to return to this year's Tulsa State Fair to give fair goers a fun and thrilling time.

check out the entertainment schedules and don't miss out on savings by purchasing tickets early. Tickets on sale now include Advance

Gate Admission, Mega Ride Pass and Disney on Ice. For additional information and to purchase tickets, visit TulsaStateFair.com.

## KUDOS of the MONTH: TU's KWGS & KWTU Radio

Public Radio Tulsa is a listener-supported service of the University of Tulsa. Public Radio 89.5 KWGS and Classical 88.7 KWTU are non-commercial FM stations broadcasting from Kendall Hall on the TU campus.

KWGS hosts National Public Radio, which is celebrating its 50th year of broadcasting.

From a tower located near Coweta, KWGS covers northeastern Oklahoma with a power of 50,000 watts; KWTU serves Tulsa with 5,000 watts. The stations of Public Radio Tulsa are affiliates of National Public Radio, American Public Media, Minnesota



Public Radio, and the British Broadcasting System.

Public Radio Tulsa is funded, in part, by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

**The History:**

KWGS began broadcasting on October 19, 1947 and was the first FM station in Oklahoma and one of the first education-

al stations in the country. The call letters reflect the generosity of oilman William Grove Skelly. KWTU's sign-on of Oct. 15, 2004 celebrated the return of classical music to the Tulsa airwaves and owes a debt of gratitude to John K. Major, owner of Tulsa's first commercial classical music station. KWTU is the first station in Oklahoma to broadcast in digital HD Radio.

Rich Fisher is the general manager of Public Radio Tulsa.

# City of Tulsa and Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation Unveil Improvement Plans for Tulsa Market District

The City of Tulsa and Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation (LTFF) unveiled plans recently to make significant infrastructure and beautification improvements to the Tulsa Market District to restore the historic stretch of Route 66.

Planned infrastructure improvements include updates to traffic lights, waterlines, the sewer system and roadways. Beautification projects include the addition of iconic Route 66 signage and lighting, ADA compliant sidewalks and ramps and more than 77 trees and benches.

The project began in July and construction is estimated to take roughly one year to complete.

“One of the greatest investments we’ve made over the past several years has been in Route 66,” Mayor G.T. Bynum said. “I’m thankful to the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation for its help in accelerating improvements in this area, and I’m eager to see the increased opportunities this project will bring to our beloved Mother Road.”

LTFF is providing advance funding to the City of Tulsa through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to renovate the stretch of Route 66 from just north of East 12th Street to East 10th Street off of Lewis and from South Yorktown Avenue to South Atlanta Avenue off of 11th Street. Funding will be provided at no interest to the city, and LTFF will be paid back up to the amount spent on the project over time by sales taxes generated within the district. The City and LTFF will coordinate infrastructure and beautification projects to enable



GTR Media Group photo

**BEAUTIFICATION TEAM:** Leading off the beautification program for the Tulsa Market District after the ribbon cutting are, from left, Terrace Drive Neighborhood Association President and Tulsa Market District Steering Committee member Burlinda Radney; Tulsa City Councilor Kara Joy McKee; Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and LTFF CEO Elizabeth Frame Ellison.



GTR Media Group photo

**TREES AND MORE:** In addition to the planting of 77 trees in the Tulsa Market District, infrastructure improvements include updates to traffic lights, waterlines, the sewer system and roadways.

the full impact of the work to be realized as soon as possible and minimize the interruptions caused by construction.

“We built Mother Road Market to complement a district full of locally-owned businesses,” said Elizabeth Frame Ellison, president and CEO of the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation. “We are proud to support Tulsa Market District’s goal to be a hub for artisans, artists and makers, while maintaining our vision for the equitable growth of our neighborhood.”

“I’m thankful for the dedicated effort from the City of Tulsa and the private sector to further promote the most famous road in the entire world - Route 66,” Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor. Matt Pinnell said. “The time is now to recapture the popularity of the great American road trip, and the economic impact it will deliver.”

In 2020, LTFF helped launch the

Tulsa Market District Business Association to improve the organization and promotion of local businesses. The business association will provide resources and updates to members during road construction.

### About LTFF:

Founded in 1997 by Bill Lobeck and Kathy Taylor, the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation (LTFF) has grown into a second-generation investment in making Tulsa an innovative, collaborative and thriving city. Under the leadership of CEO Elizabeth Frame Ellison, LTFF aims to decrease the barriers associated with Tulsans achieving their goals. To fulfill this mission, LTFF acts as a Grantmaker, innovator, and convener. LTFF supports the entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems in Tulsa through its owned-and-operated programs including Kitchen 66, Mother Road



Courtesy

**LIGHTING UP:** New lighting fixtures, signage, ADA compliant sidewalks and ramps will make the Tulsa Market District an evening fun spot.

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9 TULSA AREA LOCATIONS



Photo by Kayte Anton

**UP WITH TREES AT THE AQUARIUM:** Up With Trees Director of Operations, Mike Perkins, leads a group on a Tree Walk at the Oklahoma Aquarium this summer. Planted by Up With Trees volunteers, participants learned about the many beautiful trees throughout the property, along with a quick guided tour inside the Oklahoma Aquarium.

Market, Shops at Mother Road Market and Tulsa StartUp Series, as well as through grants to organizations. For more information about LTFF, visit [www.lobecktaylor.com](http://www.lobecktaylor.com).

as people traveled the highway, they would stop to experience local foods, shops and people. The Tulsa Market District continues this legacy as a hub for artisans, artists and makers. It is a wildly diverse area known for its distinctly Tulsa food, shopping and entrepreneurs.

### About Tulsa Market District:

Back in the heyday of Route 66,



Courtesy photo

**DELIVERING HOPE:** Meals on Wheels of Greater Tulsa celebrated its groundbreaking in July for the Hardesty Service Center at 5151 S. Darlington Ave., adjacent to the Tandy YMCA. Speakers included Senator Kevin Matthews, Mayor G.T. Bynum, Executive Director of the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation Bill Major and Jono Helmerich of the Helmerich Family Trust. Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith emceed the event.

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# Tulsa Press Club Hosts Local Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame Members at a Recent Reception

Members of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame met for a special reception in July at the Tulsa Press Club. Those who couldn't attend the 50th anniversary gala in May at the Oklahoma History Center also received their commemorative membership medals at the reception.

The following profiles the Hall of Fame journalists who attended the Tulsa Press Club reception by their year of induction.

**JIM LANGDON, 2006:** Career started at The Tonkawa News, managed the Oklahoma Press Association's Oklahoma Newspapers Advertising Bureau, president of the American Newspaper Representatives, founder of Langdon Publishing Company, established Tulsa People Magazine, recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Oklahoma School of Journalism.

**NEAL KENNEDY, 2011:** Worked with KCSC-FM, WKY, KVOO, KRMG News and the Oklahoma Journal, recipient of the Edward R. Murrow Award, president of the Associated Press and United Press International broadcasting associations, president of Oklahoma Sigma Delta Chi, broadcasting professor, announcer at the Hallett Motor Racing Circuit.

**JOE HIGHT, 2013:** Former managing editor/director of the Oklahoman, co-founder of the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, chairman of the Mid-America Press Institute, board member of the Associated Press Media Editors, "Oklahoma Joe" columnist for The Journal Record, University of Central Oklahoma endowed journalism ethics chair, director of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, Oklahoma Watch board chairman, Freedom of Information Oklahoma president, recipient of at least 20 national awards, including being editor of The Gazette in Colorado Springs when it won the Pulitzer Prize in 2014, author and bookstore owner.

**JOHN DURKEE, 2016:** News Director for KRMG, communications director for the City of Tulsa, news director for the University of Tulsa's KWGS radio station, regu-



**AMONG THE BEST IN JOURNALISM:** Members of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame who attended the reception hosted by the Tulsa Press Club in the Atlas Life Building in downtown Tulsa in July are, standing from left, Ralph Schaefer, Wayne Greene, John Durkee, Randy Krehbiel and Joe Hight. Sitting are, from left, Neal Kennedy and Jim Langdon.

lar guest on RSU-TV public affairs programs, named 2016 media icon by the Tulsa Press Club, worked with KTOK, KAKC and KFSB, two-time winner Radio television Digital News Association's Edward R. Murrow Award.

**RANDY KREHBIEL, 2017:** Worked with the Oklahoma City Times and the Marion Chronicle-Tribune, sports and news writer for the Tulsa World, covering everything from college football and boxing to higher education and politics; covered the Tulsa Race Riot Commission and the John Hope Franklin Commission, author.

**RALPH SCHAEFER, 2017:** Associate editor for Southeast

News, Tulsa County News, and the Owasso Reporter, worked on all papers in the Retherford Publications group, senior editor for the combined Tulsa Daily Business Journal and the Tulsa Daily Commerce and Legal News, recipient of the Liberty Bell Award, Executive Committee member for Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

**WAYNE GREENE, 2019:** City editor, then editorial pages editor at the Tulsa World, worked with the Enid Morning News and Enid News Eagle, recipient of the University of Oklahoma Distinguished Alumni Award (2017), named "The Conscience of the Community" by the Tulsa Regional Chamber of commerce (2016).



**WELCOME BACK AT STOKELY:** The Rotary Club of Tulsa held a "Welcome Back" event at the Stokely Event Center in Tulsa recently. Enjoying the fun are, from left, Stokely employee Patrick Garcia, Stokely owner Sarah Stokely, Rotary Club of Tulsa President David Wagner and Rachel Wagner, Lisa Merrill and Rotary 6110 District Governor Kevin Merrill, and Rotary Club of Tulsa President-elect Brenda Melancon.



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CIVICS

# THD Encourages COVID-19 Vaccinations

As we have done since the start of the pandemic, we rely heavily on the guidance from our local healthcare leaders to make informed decisions to protect our neighbors.

Tulsa's data and data from across the United States verifies that vaccination is key in helping prevent serious illness and death from COVID-19.

The expression I've heard time and time again from our local healthcare leaders is that COVID-19 has become a pandemic of the unvaccinated.

## From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM  
Mayor of Tulsa

Unfortunately, we have had a variety of challenges thrown our way throughout this pandemic and a lot of misinformation has been circulated, but the Tulsa Health Department has been the steady voice for data-driven advice. The Tulsa Health Department is independent from city government and does not play partisan politics, rather they look at the data and use their expertise when making recommendations.

Our local health care leaders have been clear that the only way to end this pandemic



is to increase our vaccination rate.

As kids get back to the classroom, I can't help but think of the sacrifices they have made throughout the last year, and the sacrifices their parents, teachers and loved ones have made.

If each of us did this one thing – getting vaccinated – the health outcomes in Tulsa could be much better.

In the last several weeks as cas-

es have increased, more and more people are seeing the reasons why so many of us have made the decision to get the vaccine. We're not just getting vaccinated to protect ourselves, but we're getting vaccinated so that others can receive timely care in hospitals for things that aren't related to COVID-19.

If you're on the fence about getting vaccinated and have questions, don't listen to me. Go talk

to your doctor. Your doctor knows your health background better than anyone and can give you the best advice.

In short, I am incredibly grateful for our local healthcare leaders who have put their health and safety on the line for all those who they serve, and the best thing we can do right now to show our gratitude for their service is by getting vaccinated.

# Cassia Carr to Serve as Tulsa's Next Deputy Mayor

Mayor G.T. Bynum recently announced that Cassia Carr is Tulsa's Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor serves as the acting mayor in the mayor's absence and coordinates policy matters on behalf of the City.

As Deputy Mayor, Carr oversees the Administrative Division of City departments - including Municipal Courts, Human Resources, Information Technology and Customer Care – as well as ongoing public safety support initiatives and collective bargaining. She will also work with Deputy Chief of Staff Rodrigo Rojas in coordinating the ongoing 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Graves Investigation.

"Cassia is brilliant, hard-working, and passionate about Tulsa," Mayor G.T. Bynum said. "As the

President of the Tulsa Economic Development Corporation board and as the Vice Chair of the Tulsa Authority for Economic Opportunity, she has been closely engaged in our efforts to grow Tulsa's economy. She brings strong private sector experience to our leadership team at the City of Tulsa, and I am excited for the great things I know she will achieve for our community in this new role."

Prior to the role as Deputy Mayor, Carr served as an attorney for Williams Companies focusing on contracts, real estate and supply chain. Prior to Williams Companies, she worked at Winters&King, Inc. and Hall Estill law firms in Tulsa and as a district sales leader at FritoLay.

"I love Tulsa, and it has been my dream to serve our City in this capacity," Carr said. "I am honored to come alongside Mayor Bynum and the rest of the team at City Hall to both meet the immediate needs of the Tulsa residents and help make their long-term goals and visions for our city a reality."

Carr holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Tulsa, a Bachelor of Science in International Business and Spanish from Oral Roberts University, and achieved 60 credit hours of basic courses from Tulsa Community College. Carr is also fluent in Spanish, an opera singer and a member and trustee at Southminster Presbyterian Church. She loves spending time with her husband, Joel Carr who



DEPUTY MAYOR CASSIA CARR

works in business development for commercial construction, their daughters Georgia and Charlotte, and their goldendoodle, Peaches.

# NFL Flag Football Youth League Coming to Tulsa

Courtesy KAREN GILBERT  
Tulsa Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers, Tulsa Police, Tulsa Fire Department, Bank of Oklahoma and former wide receiver of the Green Bay Packers Donald Driver are bringing the NFL Flag Football experience to Tulsa.

The purpose of this partnership is to inspire, educate and inspire Tulsa youth through a positive community relationship. The Driven NFL Flag Football experience is based on the principal that all

kids, regardless of their zip code or skill, deserve to have access to high quality youth sports engagement.

The resulting interaction with Tulsa Police and Firefighter volunteer coaches allows area youth to participate in sport and get to know these members of the community. NFL Flag Football targets youth who face significant barriers to opportunities like these today. Whether it be transportation or funding, Driven strives to provide an equal opportunity to all children in the Tulsa community. Bank of

Oklahoma is working with Driven to make a reality by providing scholarship funding to sponsor youth participants over the next three years.

Team sports like those created through this project improve interpersonal relationships within a community by teaching youth valuable lessons about teamwork. In many instances, coaches can also take on valuable roles as mentors to young people lacking role models at home.

For information on enrolling, visit nflflag.com.



GTR Media Group Photo

TEAMWORK: Volunteers in the Driven NFL Flag Football experience for youth are, from left, Lynn Casey, Robert Scott, Brian Dedeke, Donald Driver, Karen Gilbert, Reggie Osborn, Steve Anderson and Neetin Sen. In front is an up-and-coming football star Baylen Sen.

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# Tulsa County Commissioners Placing Priority on American Rescue Plan Funding for Broadband

As the pandemic spread across the country there was a major shift in the way people performed their jobs, got their education, saw their doctor, visited with the family, or went to church. With social and personal distancing separating us from our normal routines and relationships, we had to rely upon the internet, sometimes referred to as broadband, in order to continue many aspects of our daily lives.

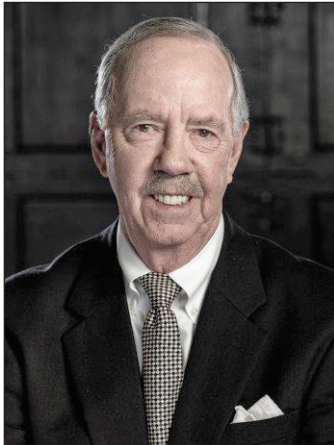
For many this was very difficult or impossible to do because the broadband connection didn't exist where they were, the connections were poor, or the speed was very slow. Along with so many other things, the pandemic made us realize how disconnected people were when they had to depend upon broadband for their livelihood, family connections, education, and mental health.

A recent report shows 42 million Americans lack high speed internet service, 22 million Americans 65 and older lack service, and the average monthly cost was about \$60 for basic broadband. In Tulsa County about 13% of households are without internet access and about 10% of households do not have a computer, smartphone or tablet. These numbers are much higher in the rural areas of our state and county.

Having reliable, fast, and affordable high-speed internet is as fundamental as acquiring electricity in the first half of the 20th century. In many cases we will not return to the ways we connected with others before the pandemic. Broadband expansion is here to stay and in our future.

Broadband connection is the equity issue of our times. If you can't connect, you can't compete. Beyond being a basic necessity, high speed broadband is also an accel-

## From Tulsa County



By COMMISSIONER RON PETERS



erator of opportunity in today's connected world.

Tulsa County officials play a crucial role as policy makers in pursuing sustainable solutions to broadband access, affordability, and reliability. That is why the Tulsa Board of County Commissioners is placing a priority on how and where the American Rescue Plan funds received by the county are

spent on broadband infrastructure in Tulsa County.

To begin the development of an expanded broadband plan, the City of Tulsa and Tulsa County Information Technology staffs have been working for many weeks to look at where current broadband infrastructure is and what will it take to complete the middle mile and last mile into areas which are either unserved or underserved.

This expansion and development of new and faster broadband could be to businesses, public facilities, non-profit agencies, congregate living facilities, or medical facilities which serve those who don't have access to broadband.

The guidance provided by the Treasury Department on the use of the American Rescue Plan funds for broadband is very clear that any new broadband service has to provide very fast service with both sending and receiving information. Funding can also be used to help those who have little experience with broadband to learn how to use it.

Bridging the digital divide is one of the many important opportunities to come out of the effects of the pandemic. With the American Rescue Plan funds, Tulsa County will do its part of investing in a future that is equitable to all of the citizens in Tulsa County.

# Greenwood Rising Black Wall Street History Center Celebrates Historic Opening to the General Public

## Museum Utilizes Multimedia, Artifacts to Tell the Story of Resilient Greenwood District

Greenwood Rising, the world-class history center located near the heart of the Greenwood District in Downtown Tulsa, celebrated its grand opening August 4. The center honors the icons of Black Wall Street, memorializes the victims of the massacre and examines the lessons of the past to inspire meaningful, sustainable action in the present.

The museum utilizes multimedia experiences and carefully curated artifacts to tell the remarkable, resilient story of Greenwood and the community. Visitors are invited to reflect and engage in conversation throughout the experience to spur action in their own lives.

"It has been exciting to watch the reservations come in for tours of Greenwood Rising over the coming weeks and months and we are so grateful to our funders for allowing the first year to be free for all visitors," said Phil Armstrong, interim executive director of Greenwood Rising.

Through truth-telling and edu-

cation for all, Greenwood Rising aims to repair lingering historical racial trauma while working towards restoration as well as chart a new, vibrant and inclusive course for the future. The efforts will create a container for visitors to reflect, commit to racial justice and reconciliation and promote enhanced race relations.

Under the leadership of Senator Kevin Matthews, founder and chair of the Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission, the commission leadership team invited active commissioners, community influencers and leaders within the diversity, equity and inclusion space to build Greenwood Rising's foundation, strategy and governance as an independent entity. The nine-person, inaugural board reflects diverse skill offerings, knowledge and representation from the community.

"I am honored to be the inaugural board chair for Greenwood Rising," said Jessica Lowe-Betts, diversity and inclusion consultant for ONEOK. "I believe this center,

experience and programming will elevate the conversation about the massacre to move toward healing, reconciliation and reparations."

Joining Lowe-Betts on the board are Sam Combs, Maggie Hille-Yar, Cingy McGhee, Brenda Alford, Alecia Brown, Dr. Deborah Gist, Hannibal B. Johnson and Sandra Quince.

The center hosted a dedication ceremony on June 2 of this year and hosted tours during a short, limited preview offering. 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre descendants were the first to visit the history center after the dedication. During the preview, North Tulsa residents, descendants and community groups were prioritized before the history center closed to finalize construction.

Greenwood rising is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily with the last tour beginning at 7 p.m. The museum is closed on Tuesdays. Admission is free for the first year, but registration is required. Visitors are asked to reserve times online at [greenwoodrising.org/visit](http://greenwoodrising.org/visit).



OPEN HOUSE WELCOME: Greenwood Rising Interim Executive Director Phil Armstrong welcomes visitors to the new Tulsa historic site.



NEW TULSA DESTINATION: The world-class Greenwood Rising History Center is located at 23 North Greenwood Avenue in Tulsa.

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## VARIETY

# TCC's Signature Symphony Announces a Season with Beatles, Harry Potter, Gershwin

*'Journey Together' Theme Includes Seven Concerts*

*Search Continues for Next Artistic Director, Conductor*

Signature Symphony at Tulsa Community College announces the professional orchestra will return to in-person performances at the VanTrease Performing Arts Center for Education for the 2021-2022 season. With the theme Journey Together, the schedule includes seven concerts and continues the nationwide search to name Signature Symphony's next artistic director and conductor.

The new season, sponsored by TCCU Federal Credit Union, begins with three chamber music performances in the Fall followed by Christmas in Tulsa, a long-standing holiday tradition. Then, each of the three artistic director finalists will conduct a concert in Spring 2022.

"Despite a year of changes and interruptions, Signature Symphony played through the challenges to deliver artistic opportunities to our community members. We are looking forward to welcoming audience members back to our performance home," said Kelly Clark, School of Visual and Performing Arts Dean at TCC.

The season begins with "Cool and Classical: Jazz à la Light-house," on Saturday, September 18 with a musical journey to the 1950s and "The Light-house Café," a jazz club featured in the Hollywood movie musical

"La La Land." Then, Saturday, October 16, Oklahoma-based composer and member of the Chickasaw Nation, Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, takes the stage with "American Indian Expressions," to discuss his composition style and present several of his pieces followed by "An Oklahoma Journey" with Signature Quartet and Signature Chorale on Saturday, Nov. 6.

Signature Symphony will resume traditional, full orchestra performances with "Christmas in Tulsa," featuring long-time collaborator Scott Coulter and showcasing Tulsa Sings! performers and finish the season with three concerts developed by the artistic director finalists Scott Seaton, Alejandro Gómez Guillén, and Robert Franz.

"These finalists represent the top candidates from our national search, and each brings their own style and personality to the Signature Symphony stage. As the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in 2020, we extended the search for our new artistic director until we could welcome them to Tulsa and allow our audiences to get to know the finalists and be part of the selection process," said Clark.

On Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, Seaton explores a common theme between a famous rock band and the 19th century French compos-

er Hector Berlioz. In "Love and Obsession: The Beatles to Berlioz," the program highlights the music written passionately about love with the Beatles compiling millions of obsessed fans and Berlioz using his obsession with a stage actress to inspire "Symphonie Fantastique."

In "Fantastical: Firebird meets Harry Potter," Guillén presents a symphonic journey of myth, magic and folklore on Saturday, February 26, 2022. The evening pairs John Williams' iconic movie score and Stravinsky's timeless masterpiece with music by the Brazilian-American powerhouse Clarice Assad and Argentina's versatile Osvaldo Golijov.

The season ends with "Trailblazers in American Music," as Robert Franz conducts a concert featuring American composers Florence Price and George Gershwin on April 9, 2022. Groundbreaking in their own ways, Price was the first African American woman to have an orchestral piece played by a major U.S. orchestra in 1933 and Gershwin's insistence that his opera, "Porgy and Bess," be performed only by African American singers was revolutionary in 1935 when first performed.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission and on sale now for the first three chamber music concerts. Attendance will be limited to allow for physical distancing. Tickets for the full-orchestra concerts will go on sale later in the fall with packages and individual tickets available. Due to public health guidelines or TCC policy, the season schedule is subject to change.

For past season ticket holders, Signature Symphony staff will make every effort to accommodate seating preferences as the orchestra resumes normal ticketing and concert operations. Additional



Courtesy photo

**SIGNATURE QUARTET WITH WOODY:** Pictured are members of the Signature Quartet at the Woody Guthrie Center in Tulsa. Woody Guthrie's music will be part of the "An Oklahoma Journey" chamber music concert on Saturday, November 6 with the Signature Quartet and Signature Chorale. Signature Quartet members in the photo are Corbin Bodley, violin; Sarah Thomas, violin; Erica D. Parker, cello; and Jeffrey A. Smith, viola.

information is available at [www.signaturesymphony.org](http://www.signaturesymphony.org) or you can email [signature@tulsacc.edu](mailto:signature@tulsacc.edu) or call 918-595-7777 if you have questions.

This project is supported in part by the Oklahoma Arts Council, which receives support from the State of Oklahoma and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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**MOVIE NIGHT AT GATHERING PLACE:** Cox Movie Nights on the QuikTrip Great Lawn at Gathering Place began this year in the summer and will continue with *The Princess & The Frog* Sept. 17, *Hocus Pocus* Oct. 22, and the live-action version of *The Lion King* Nov. 12. All Cox Movie Nights are free to the public, and guests are welcome to bring lawn chairs and picnic blankets to watch the film. Visit [www.gatheringplace.org](http://www.gatheringplace.org) for more information.

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DINING OUT IN GREATER TULSA

# Brazilian Native Luciane Teles Bakes Up Success With Her Business Cupcakes by Lu

By KYLIE HAMMACK  
Contributing Writer

For many, baking is a hobby or fun activity but for local business owner Luciane Teles it is a lifelong passion. Teles was born and raised in a coastal town in Brazil and fell in love with baking at a young age while helping in the kitchen. This childhood dream grew when Teles moved to Tulsa in 2009 so that a family member could study at Oral Roberts University. After seeing the wide variety of flavors and designs in American bakeries, Teles was inspired to begin experimenting with recipes of her own. However, out of all the unfamiliar American baked goods that Teles saw, one stood out the most: the cupcake.

Although very popular in Brazil now, cupcakes were not a widely known Brazilian dessert when Teles immigrated to Green Country. The Brazilian native took a liking to cupcakes because their single-serving approach allowed for a variety of flavors to be served at one event. Always trying to bring

flavor to the forefront, Teles got to work adapting American recipes and aimed to create a frosting that was much less sweet than traditional American buttercream. Teles's frosting recipe along with others became instant successes within the Oral Roberts community and soon her online business Cupcakes by Lu was born.

Cupcakes by Lu was a hit and Teles was flooded with positive reviews and suggestions to open a physical bakery. Teles operated a brick-and-mortar location for a short time but unfortunately was not able to keep it open permanently. However, she has always dreamed of owning a bakery and hopes to find a permanent home for her business in the future. Until then, Teles sells all her products online through her website [cupcakesbylu.com](http://cupcakesbylu.com).

Teles may be known for her cupcakes, but by the popular demand of her customers, she now offers cupcakes, cakes, sugar cookies, cake pops, chocolate-dipped strawberries, and a variety of Bra-

zilian treats such as brigadeiro. Her most popular cupcake flavor fuses a Latin classic with an American sensation and includes a vanilla cupcake filled with dulce de leche, topped with vanilla frosting, drizzled with caramel, and sprinkled with salt. Teles is committed to working with clients to bring their vision to life and loves innovating with many different themes, shapes, and designs.

Ultimately, Teles says she "likes to focus on all the little details" and strives to make sure her clients are happy with every aspect of their order from the flavors to the packaging. Always thankful for her loyal customers, Teles notes that the Latino community of Tulsa has played a large role in her success. Despite the uncertainty of the last year, Teles has managed to grow her business and makes many sacrifices to keep up with the constant stream of orders. Through many hours of hard work and determination, Teles has been able to accomplish many of her childhood dreams and has turned a passion into a way of life.



KYLIE HAMMACK for GTR Media Group

**DELICIOUS OFFERING:** Luciane Teles makes almost all aspects of her baked goods by hand and is constantly experimenting with new concepts for delicious sweets. She offers many different flavors of cupcakes and cakes including lemon, dulce de leche, red velvet, chocolate bomb, and vanilla bean

# Capriotti's Underway in Broken Arrow

## Long-Time Friends Open Sandwich Shop

Capriotti's Sandwich Shop, known for its award-winning, hand crafted cheese steaks, turkey subs and more, debuted a new location in Broken Arrow at 915 East Kenosha St. in August. Capriotti's brings the Broken Arrow community its 40-year tradition of slow-roasting whole, all-natural turkeys in-house and hand-pulling them every morning and other favorites like the made-from-scratch meatballs using premium, fresh ingredients.

Capriotti's is known for its wide array of sandwiches including The Bobbie, made with our fresh oven-roasted turkey, cranberry sauce, stuffing and mayo, the Capatrami, made with hot pastrami, Swiss cheese, Russian dressing and homemade coleslaw and the cheesesteak is made with premium steak, chicken or Impossible plant-based meat and melted cheese plus hot or sweet peppers. The Broken Arrow Capriotti's will offer a convenient order-ahead option, in addition to third-party delivery services.

Capriotti's new location is owned and operated by Stan Swyden and Glen Bawcum. These two Oklahoma natives first met during their freshman year at East Central University while playing on the varsity tennis team. Sharing a love for both sports and food, Stan and



**BEST FRIENDS:** Stan Swyden and Glen Bawcum, long-time best friends, recently opened the popular Capriotti's in Broken Arrow. Both share a love for sports and food and have been best friends for more than 35 years.

Glen have now been close friends for over 35 years. Following their dream of always wanting to be business partners, this duo is eager to bring a new Capriotti's Sandwich Shop to the Broken Arrow community.

"Broken Arrow is a consistently growing and thriving community and we are excited to give back by partnering with local programs, public schools, and sports teams," said Swyden. "Capriotti's hand-crafted sandwiches and bold flavors are completely head and shoulders above any sandwich we have ever tried, and we're looking forward to bringing this experience to our neighbors and enhance

the local food scene in Broken Arrow."

Broken Arrow Capriotti's fans can download the CAPAddicts Rewards app on iOS and Android to earn and redeem rewards and score free food. The restaurant also features online ordering. Capriotti's in Broken Arrow offers catering for any event from corporate events to birthday parties with items such as party trays with cold subs, box lunches or a hot homemade meatball bar.

"Our new Capriotti's will offer quality, gourmet sandwiches that taste amazing," said Bawcum. "The first time I tried Capriotti's, I was blown away by the great fla-



**POPULAR DESTINATION:** Capriotti's new location in Broken Arrow is in Tiger Hill Plaza at 915 East Kenosha St. Capriotti's brings the Broken Arrow community delicious menu items.

avors and the signature sandwich, The Bobbie." Capriotti's is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Sunday. For additional information, visit [www.capriottis.com](http://www.capriottis.com) or call the location at 918-893-3826. About Capriotti's Sandwich Shop Founded in 1976, Capriotti's Sandwich Shop is an award-winning national franchised restaurant chain that remains true to its 40-year tradition of slow-roasting whole, all-natural turkeys in-house every day. Capriotti's fresh ingredients, homemade subs and unique menu items have won numerous accolades including being named one of the "10 Great Places for a Surprising Sandwich" by USA Today and many "Best of" awards across the country. Capriotti's cold, grilled and vegetarian subs, cheese steaks and salads are available at more than 100 locations across the U.S. Capriotti's signature sub, The Bobbie®, was voted "The Greatest Sandwich in America" by thousands of readers across the country and reported by AOL.com. Capriotti's fans can also download the CAPAddicts Rewards app for iOS and Android, where they can earn and redeem rewards. For more information, visit [capriottis.com](http://capriottis.com). Like Capriotti's on Facebook and follow on Instagram.

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## HEALTH & WELLNESS

# OSU Medicine Celebrates Opening of Hardesty Center for Clinical Research and Neuroscience

OSU Center for Health Sciences and the National Center for Wellness and Recovery held a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 14 for the Hardesty Center for Clinical Research and Neuroscience.

The Hardesty Family Foundation donated \$2 million for the establishment of the center to aid in research and clinical trials related to NCWR's mission of addiction research and treatment.

Several members of the Hardesty family attended the ribbon-cutting event along with Interim OSU-CHS President Johnny Stephens, OSU President Kayse Shrum, U.S. Rep. Kevin Hern, Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell and Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum.

"Oklahoma State University is committed to solving our society's most pressing issues," said Shrum, who previously served as OSU-CHS president and dean of the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. "In fact, the opioid crisis was the first pandemic OSU endeavored to find solutions to."

OSU Medicine opened its Addiction Medicine Clinic in 2018 and then established the National Center for Wellness and Recovery in 2019.

The 49,000-square-foot Hardesty Center, 1013 E. 66th Place in Tul-

sa, is another tool in responding and finding answers to addiction and substance use disorders across the state and country.

"This is such an important facility because of the research and innovation that will be done inside these four walls. It's important not just for the city and the region, but the state of Oklahoma," Pinnell said. "What OSU is doing right here is the beginning of something special for Tulsa and for Oklahoma that when people begin thinking about Oklahoma they think about the world-class unmatched research that will be done right here."

The center also houses the OSU Medicine Biomedical Imaging Center that utilizes an advanced MRI to support clinical studies of brain structure and function as well as other advanced technology to measure brain activity in infants, children and adults.

"The Hardesty Center for Clinical Research and Neuroscience is equipped with space for clinical trials and is home to the most advanced MRI system in the state," Shrum said. "The generous gift from the Hardesty Family Foundation will allow OSU and NCWR to find personalized, evidence-based therapies for those struggling with addiction."



Courtesy OSU

**IN SERVICE TO OTHERS:** Present at the ribbon cutting at the Hardesty Center for Wellness and Recovery are, from left, from left, Dr. Kayse Shrum, Debbie Cristo, Alex Cristo, Michelle Hardesty, Connor Hardesty, Roger Hardesty, Jessie Cristo, Paul Cristo and Dr. Johnny Stephens.

## City Salutes Hospitality House Of Tulsa

Hospitality House of Tulsa, a local nonprofit ministry that serves patient families from all Tulsa hospitals, is celebrating their 15th year of service in the Tulsa community. To help celebrate this significant milestone, Mayor G.T. Bynum officially proclaimed Aug. 24, 2021 as "Hospitality House of Tulsa Day."

The Hospitality House of Tulsa is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, providing lodging, meals and support services to families of inpatients and outpatients in the Tulsa area hospitals, traveling at least 30 miles to Tulsa to care for their loved one during a medical crisis. Since opening their first home away from home in 2006, Hospitality House of Tulsa has served over 7,400 families of hospitalized patients as well as outpatients receiving treatment in our Tulsa hospitals. With over 25,000 patients traveling to Tulsa for medical care each year, Hospitality House continues to be a significant resource, providing lodging, meals, prayer support, transportation assistance and more for about 460 families each year. Since opening, Hospitality House has served families from all 77 counties in Oklahoma, 48 states in the U.S. and eight foreign countries.

"We are so grateful for our



Courtesy photo

**HELPING OTHERS:** Displaying Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum's proclamation of Aug. 24, as "Hospitality House of Tulsa Day" are, from left, Elise Moore, Director of Guest Experience; Wes Pebsworth, Chairman of the Board; Toni Moore, Founder and CEO; and Kelsey Jones and Kaylee Vincent, Guest Experience Ambassadors.

Tulsa community that continues to support families traveling to Tulsa for critical medical care," says Toni Moore, Founder and CEO of Hospitality House of Tulsa. "For the majority of our families, unexpected medical crises like heart attacks, strokes, premature births, cancer, accidents and now COVID-19 require life-saving hospitalizations in our Tulsa hospitals. Unfortunately, a medical crisis also brings significant out-of-pocket expenses which can financially devastate a family. Tulsans have continued to provide genuine hospitality for these hurting families."

While many medical lodging facilities had to close during the pandemic, Hospitality House of Tulsa has remained open and

continues to serve families. In order to keep hospitalized patients safe, visitation hours in most hospitals have been reduced, and family members of patients are no longer allowed to sleep in waiting rooms. Hospitality House provides a safe and supportive environment for these family caregivers to stay close to their hospitalized loved one.

To help Hospitality House of Tulsa celebrate its 15th anniversary, they are looking for individuals, churches and corporations to help the families by volunteering, providing a meal or making a donation of \$15 or more. For more information on how to help families at Hospitality through donations or volunteering, visit HHTulsa.org or call 918-794-0088.

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# New Ernest Childers VA Outpatient Clinic Opens in Tulsa Near Hillcrest Hospital South

In July, the new 180,000-square-foot Ernest Childers VA Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa opened its doors for Veterans in Eastern Oklahoma.

The new clinic, located across the street from Hillcrest Hospital South at 8801 South 101st East Avenue, will serve approximately 36,000 Veterans and offer new services such as chemotherapy and infusion, endoscopy and mammography. The new facility replaces the Tulsa clinic at 9322 East 41st Street, which closed in August 2021.

"I would like to welcome all Veterans in Eastern Oklahoma to the new Ernest Childers VA Outpatient Clinic," said Mark Morgan, director, Eastern Oklahoma VA Health Care System.

Before the opening, Morgan said, "Over the next few weeks, we'll be opening a greatly expand-

ed clinic that offers more imaging services, increased women's health care, primary care and behavioral health. You'll find that access to the clinic is much easier than the current clinic on 41st with expanded parking for Veterans, family, and staff. It's an honor for me and my entire staff to offer this new health care clinic to our Veterans."

The clinic provides primary care, radiology, prosthetics, specialty clinics, nutrition & food service and social work services. Additional services include audiology, mental health, rehab, chemotherapy and infusion, dental, optometry and endoscopy.

A full list of services offered at the clinic includes,

From A-H: Audiology, Blind and low vision rehabilitation, COVID-19 testing and vaccines, Cancer care, Cardiol-

gy, Dental, Dietary care, Dermatology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, General Surgery, Hand Surgery, Hematology.

From I-P: Lab, Mental Health, MOVE! Program, Nephrology, Neurology, Optometry, Orthopedics, Otolaryngology, Pain Management, Palliative Care, Patient Advocates, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Primary Care, Podiatry, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids, Pulmonary.

From R-Z: Radiology, Rheumatology, Social Work, Telehealth, Urology, Veteran Service Officers, Women's Clinic, Wound Care

To enroll for VA health care, visit Register For Care | VA Eastern Oklahoma Health Care | Veterans Affairs.

Appointments: To schedule an appointment with the Eastern Oklahoma VA Health Care Sys-



**HONORABLE VETERAN:** Allan Lamont, Korean War Veteran, and Doris Lamont at the new Tulsa clinic in July.

tem, please call 888-397-8387.

Volunteering: To volunteer at the new Tulsa clinic, email O'lei

Pettit at olei.pettit@va.gov or call

Voluntary Service at 918-577-3622.

# Gathering Place Hosts Family Wellness Days

Gathering Place Family Wellness Days 2021 presented by OU Health Physicians Tulsa are designed to raise awareness and draw attention to different demographics and health categories in the greater Tulsa area. These risks are Kids Health, Womens' Health, and Mental Health.

In collaboration with community groups and local health providers, each of the 2021 Family Wellness Days provide access to free screening services, resources, demonstrations, and a wide range of group health amenities designed for early detection and prevention through proactive testing and education.

"At Gathering Place, our mission is to offer programming that ed-

ucates, engages and excites, and Family Wellness Days does all three by bringing value through awareness to our Tulsa community, said Jonathon Townsend, Community Relations Manager at Gathering Place. "We are thankful for our continued partnership with OU Health Physicians Tulsa which allows us to bring these free services and resources to our Park."

The first event focusing on Kids Health was held in August, and the next Family Wellness days will include Women's Health on Saturday, Oct. 2 and mental health on Saturday, Nov. 13. All Wellness Days are free for the public to attend.

The August event presented by OU Health Physicians offered fun, kids focused activities including free fitness classes, resources, giveaways and a very special

"Rumble Doll Clinic" in partnership with the Oklahoma Thunder. Children were encouraged to bring their stuffed animals to receive a "wellness check" during the Rumble Doll Classic. Rumble, the Thunder mascot, assisted OU Health Physicians medical residents in "examining" the stuffed animals and led an exercise class.

"OU Physicians is proud to partner with The Gathering Place to help make Tulsa a healthier community, said James. M. Herman, M.D., Dean, OU-TU School of Community Medicine. "Families from Tulsa and beyond look to Gathering Place to provide a healthy environment for all ages to enjoy activities and entertainment. We want to be part of that by offering wellness events targeted to this community."



**RUMBLE FOR HEALTH:** Rumble, the Oklahoma City Thunder mascot, entertained youngsters at Gathering Place during Family Health Day in August.

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## Saint Francis Health System Remains in BCBS Network

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma (BCBSOK) and Saint Francis Health System have reached a new contract agreement.

The three-year agreement means BCBSOK members using the Blue Preferred, Blue Advantage PPO, BlueLincs HMO, Blue Choice PPO, Blue Traditional and NativeBlue networks will continue to have in-network

access to services at all Saint Francis hospitals and facilities, including Laureate Psychiatric Clinic and Hospital, and Warren Clinic doctors and health care professionals.

"We are pleased to reach a new agreement that allows our members to continue receiving in-network care at Saint Francis," said Joseph R. Cunningham, M.D., president of BCBSOK.

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# EDUCATION

## TCC, Senator Inhofe Address Nursing Shortage

Tulsa Community College and the staff of U.S. Senator James M. Inhofe recently held a joint announcement regarding federal money from the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations and help for Oklahoma's nursing shortage. Over the past five years, the demand for qualified nurses in the Tulsa area has increased – and the coronavirus pandemic has made the need even greater. Accordingly, Senator Inhofe's announced a congressional funding request to help meet the needs of local healthcare pro-

viders and hospitals. TCC ranks in the top five percent of public, two-year institutions in granting health profession and related program degrees and certificates and the Nursing program is consistently one of the top five academic programs by the number of graduates. To date, the college has produced roughly 5,000 nursing graduates ready to enter the workforce as Registered Nurses upon successfully passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-

RN) through the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

Tulsa Community College's Nursing Program has provided Tulsa and northeastern Oklahoma with thousands of excellent nursing professionals. The Nursing Program faculty have diverse backgrounds in both their professional and academic experiences. The faculty is focused on student success, providing students with optimum learning experiences in the classroom, lab, and clinical environments.



Courtesy photo

**SENATORIAL SUPPORT:** TCC Nursing students with U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe and TCC President Leigh Goodson following an announcement that Inhofe is seeking \$866,000 in the federal budget to address the nursing shortage and expand TCC's nursing program.

## University of Tulsa Establishes School of Cyber Studies

As it advances its new strategic plan, The University of Tulsa is building on its long history of excellence in computer science and cyber security by establishing a School of Cyber Studies to house undergraduate and graduate programs in this rapidly evolving field. The School of Cyber Studies is housed in TU's College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

"I am honored to serve as the inaugural chair of the new School of Cyber Studies that will engage faculty from across the university to prepare the next generation of cyber professionals at all degree levels," said Tyler Moore, Tandy Professor of Cyber Security. "The School of Cyber Studies is unique in that it will be primarily composed of faculty from multiple disciplines jointly appointed to the school."

The school administers the undergraduate minor in cyber security, as well as a master's in cyber security. The school also offers two new degrees: a bachelor's in cyber security and doctorate in cyber studies.

Courses in the new bachelor's program are designed to be hands-on and project-based, emphasizing experiential learning and partnerships with employers. In addition to computer science, the program draws on faculty expertise from engineering, business, law and the social sciences to cultivate broader perspectives that match how cyber pervades modern life. As such, the curriculum emphasizes both technical and nontechnical skills required for today's cyber workforce.

"The School of Cyber Studies comprises the best of what TU has to offer: remarkable faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, novel research and campus-wide collaboration. It will support our students and alumni as they seek to provide creative and sustainable solutions to cyber challenges facing governments, industries and organizations around the globe," said TU President Brad Carson.

TU's cyber program is certified by the National Security Agency and U.S. Department of Homeland

Security as a Center of Excellence in Information Assurance Education, Research and Cyber Operations.

The university will seek accreditation for the B.S. in cyber security from ABET, the accreditor who certifies TU's bachelor's degrees in engineering and computer science. The B.S. in cyber security also aligns with NIST's National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education, which articulates cyber workforce competencies.

What encompasses cyber studies? The word cyber has its origins in the word cybernetics, a term used to describe the study of control systems and communications between humans and machines. We now use the word cyber as an adjective associated with activities that involve computers and computer networks. In that sense, "cyber studies" refers to the broader study of the internet and its impact on society in many different fields: health care, science, engineering, business, law, public policy, technology, privacy, computer secu-



Courtesy photo

**INAUGURAL CHAIR:** Dr. Tyler Moore, Tandy Professor of Cyber Security and Information Assurance in the Tandy School of Computer Science, is serving as the Inaugural Chair.

ity, cyber-physical systems and many others.

The interdisciplinary Ph.D. in cyber studies will draw on faculty expertise across TU to conduct cutting-edge research at the interface between cyber and many disciplines. "With the new doctoral program, the School of Cyber Studies will advance and mature the existing research strengths of the uni-

versity, significantly contributing to the goals of the cyber initiative in the university's strategic plan," said Rose Gamble, senior associate dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the Tandy Professor of Computer Science and Engineering.

For more information on the school, visit [engineering.utulsa.edu/cyber-studies](http://engineering.utulsa.edu/cyber-studies)

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# Hands-On Training for the Changing World

The world has changed dramatically in the last year and a half. While society is slowly moving back to normal, other discoveries have come to the forefront. One of those discoveries is a serious shortage of qualified health care professionals entering the workforce, namely nurses. Tulsa Tech works to help fill that gap with four different nursing pathways.

A crucial part of any health care training is the hands-on clinical experience. The pandemic has made it difficult for students to get the clinical hours they need to graduate and move into the industry. To help meet that need, Tulsa Tech invested in three state-of-the-art simulation labs.

"Students can perfect their skills and provide care to the patient without the threat of positive or negative consequences," Candace Shoopman, Tulsa Tech's Simulation and Clinical Coordinator, said. "Instructors can then provide critical feedback and help them analyze their thinking to help provide the best care."

This high-tech learning center is

housed within the Health Science Center on the Lemley Memorial Campus. These life-like simulators allow students to interact with patients like they would in a clinical setting.

"We can make the simulator respond to any situation, just like a live patient," Shoopman said.

The goal behind utilizing the simulation is simple, allow students to transfer the theory and skills gained in the classroom to a real-world setting. However, simply practicing the skills is not the only benefit.

"It increases the students' confidence," Dana Chandler, Coordinator of Practical Nursing Programs, said. "Once they get into the simulation, they see for themselves that they can perform the skills without an instructor or another nurse with them. They are doing it and making the decision, which promotes the critical thinking they need to flourish."

The simulations also provide students with an opportunity for needed feedback. Cameras record

## News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER  
Superintendent



Courtesy Tulsa Tech

**NURSING PATHWAYS:** Tulsa Tech Practical Nursing students practice caring for patients using state-of-the-art manikins to train to meet the growing demand for skilled nurses in Oklahoma.

each session, and students can go back and watch their performance and give a self-critique before meeting with an instructor.

"The debriefing is a huge help for students," Chandler said with a smile.

"This is likely one of the most significant components other than the actual simulation," Shoopman added. "It allows students to link theory to the actual response."

The need for nurses is expected to grow over the next decade, with a peak around 2030. The most recent report, from 2014, by the United States Bureau of Health Workers shows Oklahoma will be

short nearly 2,400 Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) by 2030. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated these numbers.

Tulsa Tech is helping meet this growing need with our 15-month, all-day and 18-month, evening practical nursing program. These students leave with the ability to test for their LPN certificate.

The simulations also help alleviate the need for clinical hours, as they count toward certification. Students taking part in each simulation receive a nursing report just like they would in a hospital setting and can study that before taking part.

Both Chandler and Shoopman say they have seen benefits for the students

"I have seen a lot of a-ha moments," Shoopman said.

"Students improve in areas of weakness and can do self-reflection that is not always available in the clinical setting," Chandler said. "It will help when clinical space is not available."

If you are ready to step into a rewarding and in-demand career, then look no further than the nursing career options Tulsa Tech provides. To find a complete list of career training options, log onto [tulsaitech.edu](http://tulsaitech.edu) today.

# Tulsa Tech Inducts Alfred L. Gibbs into Hall of Fame

Tulsa Tech's Superintendent/CEO Dr. Steve Tiger has announced former campus director and CareerTech pioneer Alfred "Al" Gibbs has been inducted in the Tulsa Tech Hall of Fame.

"Gibbs championed career and technical education, making the training we now provide a reality for the Tulsa area," said Tiger. "His passion for education, career training and visionary leadership make him a perfect choice to be recommended and recognized as a member of the Tulsa Tech Hall of Fame."

Gibbs was instrumental in recruiting the first 321 students to the new Tulsa Vo-Tech, in 1965. He would become the first campus director of the Memorial campus when Tulsa Tech became an independent school district in 1973. An innovative educator and administrator, Gibbs was a tireless advocate for expanded student opportunities.

More information can be found at [tulsaitech.edu/about-the-district/leadership/hall-of-fame/](http://tulsaitech.edu/about-the-district/leadership/hall-of-fame/).



ALFRED L. GIBBS

### About Tulsa Technology Center

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## EDUCATION

# OSU-Tulsa's President Pamela Fry Announces Retirement After 20 Years

Courtesy Oklahoma State University

Oklahoma State University-Tulsa President Pamela Fry has announced plans to retire on Jan. 3 after 20 years of service to OSU, with the last five at OSU-Tulsa.

The decision is related to a family member's illness and her last day in office will be in September. OSU President Kayse Shrum is expected to announce plans for OSU-Tulsa's leadership transition soon.

Fry became OSU-Tulsa's third president on July 1, 2019, after serving as provost since 2017. Her tenure at OSU-Tulsa has resulted in strengthened academic ties between the Tulsa and Stillwater campuses, new programs focused on meeting the needs of Tulsa's economy and an emphasis on serving the north Tulsa community where the OSU-Tulsa campus is located.

"I consider my time at OSU-Tulsa to be the highlight of my career," said Fry. "We have created a new vision for OSU-Tulsa to serve as a premier research university for Tulsa, increased enrollments, added new degree programs, generated

a record amount of fundraising for scholarships, established new centers to better serve the community and created groundbreaking initiatives. None of this would have been possible without the support and enthusiasm of the OSU-Tulsa community, our neighbors in the Greenwood District, the City of Tulsa and the OSU System. I know our work will continue with these dedicated and passionate partners."

Initiatives during Fry's tenure have focused on increasing the number of adults with bachelor's degrees in the Tulsa area. College Park, a four-year university experience in partnership with Tulsa Community College, provides access to bachelor's degrees for students who do not have access to a traditional four-year university. The newly established OSU College of Professional Studies will offer degree programs specifically designed for adults who have some college credit and want to complete a bachelor's degree.

Fry has also been vocal about OSU-Tulsa's responsibility to its neighbors in the Greenwood District, creating a Campus-Neighborhood Collaborative to facilitate

communication with community representatives and investing in community engagement staff and initiatives. Under Fry, OSU-Tulsa also organized 100 Points of Truth and Transformation, in partnership with OSU-Stillwater and OSU Center for Health Sciences, to commemorate the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. The initiative has offered conferences, film screenings, author talks, book clubs, classes, podcasts, writing workshops, art exhibitions and community healing rituals designed to educate and inspire.

"For more than 20 years Dr. Fry has been a key member of our academic leadership team at OSU," said Shrum. "Her leadership both on the Stillwater campus and in particular our Tulsa campus these last few years has been vital to our success. I wish her all the best in her much-deserved retirement."

Before joining OSU in 2001, Fry served 12 years as a faculty member and administrator at the University of Oklahoma. She has held higher-education leadership positions at OSU and OU, serving at the levels of program chair, school head, associate dean, dean, asso-



GTR Media Group photo

**EDUCATION LEADERS:** OSU-Tulsa's Dr. Pamela Fry, right, was a featured speaker at the Tulsa Regional Chamber's State of Education conference in July at the Tulsa Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center. With her on the panel were Rogers State University President Dr. Larry Rice and Tulsa Regional Chamber Vice President of Workforce and Talent Strategies Rue Ramsey.

ciate vice president, vice provost, interim provost, vice president and provost. During most of her term as provost and vice president for academic affairs she split her time between Stillwater and Tulsa while also serving as vice provost for the Stillwater campus.

She served six years as dean of the OSU College of Education

and three years as the head of the School of Teaching and Curriculum Leadership. She also served as OSU's interim provost from 2013-2014.

She holds a bachelor's degree with highest honors from OU, a master's degree from OSU in applied behavioral studies and a doctorate in curriculum and supervision.

## New Regent Appointed to TCC Board in 2021

P. Mitchell (Mitch) Adwon, a Tulsa businessman, is the newest Tulsa Community College Regent following his appointment to the TCC Board of Regents by Oklahoma Governor J. Kevin Stitt and approval by the Oklahoma Legislature.

Adwon took the oath of office during the TCC Board of Regents meeting on August 19 and will serve a seven-year term.

"Mitch Adwon's years of experience as a businessman and heart for public service make him a strong addition to the TCC Board of Regents," said Stitt. "I look forward to his continued success as he serves Oklahomans as an advocate for higher education in our state."

Adwon is President of Adwon Properties, Inc. as well as managing member of Polly Properties, LLC, a commercial real estate investment holding company, and managing member of other related real estate investment entities with a multi-state focus.

He joins TCC Board of Regents Chair Caron Lawhorn, Vice Chair William R. McKamey, and Secretary James H. Beavers, as well as Samuel Combs III, Paul H. Cornell, and Wesley Mitchell. In his first year, Adwon is already using his extensive experience to lead in the facilities and operation area for TCC as chair of the Facilities and Safety Committee.

"I am grateful to have been appointed by Governor Stitt and look



P. MITCHELL ADWON

forward to continuing to serve my community. As a life-long Tulsan, I am excited to be part of a cause as foundational as education and believe community colleges are the most important venue for an individual and community's advancement," said Adwon.

A graduate of Holland Hall School and the University of Tulsa, Adwon is a board member and past board chair of the Salvation Army. He is a member of the board of governors for Rogers State University Constitution Day. He also serves on the Arts and Sciences Visiting Committee at the University of Tulsa. A member of the Cherokee Nation, Regent Adwon has served on the board of directors for the

Cherokee Nation Business. His other board memberships include Holland Hall School; Leadership Oklahoma; Leadership Tulsa; Oklahoma Film Commission; Oklahoma State University Foundation; Tulsa Authority for the Recovery of Energy; Tulsa Metropolitan Utility Authority; University Center of Tulsa Foundation/Rogers University Chair; Tulsa Historical Society; and Tulsa City-County Library Commission.

In addition, Regent Adwon and his wife Melinda have co-chaired the Domestic Violence Intervention Services Monarch Ball and the Salvation Army, William Booth Society among other community events.

## TPS Students to Receive Free Meals in 2021-22

Following the United States Department of Agriculture's extension of several waivers related to student meals, Tulsa Public Schools students will continue to receive meals free of charge in 2021-2022 school year. Every student can receive any of the meals

offered in their school's cafeteria even if they do not have a meal application.

"We are pleased that the USDA made the decision to extend the meal waivers through the end of the school year so that all students can continue to eat free of charge,"

said Chief Finance and Operations Officer Jorge Robles. "We look forward to serving your child healthy and nutritious meals to energize them for a year of learning!"

As the district begins the new school year, Tulsa Public Schools is reminding families to complete

their 2021-2022 Back to School Information Form. Families can visit [enroll.tulsaschools.org](http://enroll.tulsaschools.org) to log into SmartChoice and complete their form.

Robles says: "By completing this form, families can help our schools have access to Title I and

state funding dollars that help teachers and school leaders service and support all children and families. Families may also be eligible to receive reduced or waived college application fees and free registration for the SAT or ACT."



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**EDUCATION**

# French Ministry of Foreign Affairs Awards Eisenhower International School for Program

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in July awarded Eisenhower International School the “LabelFrancÉducation” for its successful French language program.

Launched in 2012, the “LabelFrancÉducation” seal is granted to schools promoting French language and culture as part of their specific curriculum. “LabelFrancÉducation” recognizes and rewards public or private schools that offer students enhanced instruction in the French language while also teaching other subjects in French.

The presentation included special guests such as Consul General of France Alexis Andres, Tulsa Public Schools Superintendent Deborah Gist, State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, Eisenhower International School Principal Connie Horner, and Oklahoma State Department of Education Director of World Languages Cathleen Skinner.

“We are so proud of our team at Eisenhower International School,” said Superintendent Deborah Gist. “Student access to multilingual education correlates with higher academic achievement and expanded college and career opportunities, and we are thrilled that Eisenhower’s program is, once again, being put on the map globally for their outstanding program.”

In Eisenhower’s program, students are immersed in Spanish or French 90% of their instructional time from kindergarten through 2nd grade. Over time, instruction in English is gradually added, and students learn 50% of the time in English and 50% of the time in Spanish or French by 5th grade. Eisenhower began their French dual language in 1993. This is the second time Eisenhower has received the “LabelFrancÉducation” for its successful French language program.

“Language is power, and bi-

lingualism is an experience that shapes our children’s global cultural competence for a lifetime,” said Principal Connie Horner. “LabelFrancÉducation promotes outstanding education in French among students and parents, and we are so excited to continue enhancing our immersion programming at Eisenhower International School for years to come.”

The “LabelFrancÉducation” is granted by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs based on the advice of an interministerial advisory committee composed of representatives from the French Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education, the Agency for French Education Abroad, the French Institute, and Mission Laïque Française, a non-profit organization. Since November 2020, approximately 450 schools from across the world have received the “LabelFrancÉducation” seal.

To learn more about Tulsa Pub-



GTR Media Group photo

**PROMOTING FRENCH CULTURE:** Eisenhower International School is located at 3111 E. 56th Street in Tulsa.

lic Schools multilingual language programs, visit [www.tulsaschools.org/duallanguage](http://www.tulsaschools.org/duallanguage). Visit [www.labelfranceducation.fr/en](http://www.labelfranceducation.fr/en) to learn more about the LabelFrancÉducation.

# NSU Offers Jazz Studies and Music Program

## New Program Prepares Students for Modern Music Industry

The Northeastern State University Department of Music in Tahlequah debuted its new jazz studies and commercial music degree program in the fall 2021 semester.

The new degree plan was created to update the existing jazz studies degree and provide a program that prepares students for careers in the modern music industry.

“Any university needs to continually revise the curriculum to stay current with the needs of the modern world. This program introduces students to working in the modern-day music industry by incorporating classes that teach recording technologies, music business and a study of American popular music,” Dr. Clark Gibson, director of Jazz Studies at NSU, said.

Music production, composition and pop music theory and improv are some of the courses that will be offered in the new program.

“I’m particularly excited about the music production classes that start in the fall. These classes are available for music majors and non-majors,” Gibson said. “I really look forward to teaching this skill to non-music students and seeing people get excited about

being involved with music in a new way.”

All classes in the jazz studies and commercial music program are designed with hands-on projects to provide students with the skills needed for entering the workforce after graduation. These projects include a variety of music industry practices such as performing a concert, recording other artists and composing music.

The new program not only prepares students for performance careers, but also offers a foundation for jobs like sound engineering, film scoring, booking agency operations and many other music industry roles.

Gibson is looking forward to this degree plan starting a positive new chapter in fall 2021 for performers and creatives coming in on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The original NSU jazz studies program has been providing students with a jazz education for the last several decades. In 1993 the NSU Jazz Lab was opened, providing a space for students to perform their craft. The program also produces the annual Green Country Jazz Festival, one of the



**JAZZ ENSEMBLE:** Dr. Clark Gibson, director of Jazz Studies at NSU directs the NSU Jazz Ensemble in March 2021. Gibson developed the jazz studies and commercial music degree program that will debut in the fall 2021 semester.

longest running jazz festivals in Oklahoma.

For more information on the jazz studies and commercial music program, visit [nsumusic.com](http://nsumusic.com) or call 918-444-2700.

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## SPORTS

# Rick Dickson's Second Tenure as TU's Director of Athletics Well Underway

Courtesy The University of Tulsa

Rick Dickson is staying busy after his recent agreement to a three-year contract to serve as The University of Tulsa's Vice President and Director of Athletics.

Dickson, a native Tulsan and TU graduate, returned to his alma mater last September to lead the athletics department, serving as interim director. In February, the interim tag was removed from Dickson's title. He previously served as the school's Athletic Director from 1990 to 1994.

"Everyone knew Rick would be an outstanding athletic director when we welcomed him back to Tulsa in 2020," said TU President Brad Carson. "He has exceeded our expectations on every level and is an important part of the leadership team that is creating a renewed culture of excellence across campus. I appreciate all of Rick's hard work and am pleased he has agreed to stay on and lift our sports programs to even greater heights in the coming years."

Dickson's prolific career has also included leading athletic programs at Washington State University (1994-2000) and Tulane University (2000-2015). Programs under

Dickson's guidance has seen dozens of conference championships and scores well above the national average in the NCAA's Academic Performance Rates.

Dickson's leadership, business acumen, energy and fundraising ability has resulted in a career that has covered 28 years as a collegiate athletic director. His drive to provide student-athletes the tools and support they need to grow academically, athletically and socially is at the forefront of his commitment as an administrator.

Upon his TU return, Dickson was immediately dealt with handling the COVID-19 crisis and positioning the athletic department for success on the field, the classroom and in the community. He has made positive strides in re-energizing alumni and the community in his first 11 months. Tulsa's fundraising total increased by 24-percent from a year earlier and 31-percent above the stated goal. He oversaw the complete renovation of the strength & conditioning facility, now the F.A. Dry Sports Performance Center, and has instituted the Hurricane Academy for Sport. On the field, Tulsa teams won three conference championships

and played for three more league titles last season.

Dickson has become entrenched in the community. He currently serves on the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce Advisory Board and Tulsa Regional Tourism Board of Directors. Dickson has continued his membership on the USTA Collegiate Tennis Committee and Team Gleason Board of Directors, an organization to improve life for people living with ALS.

Dickson, who attended Tulsa's Bishop Kelley High School, played football for the Golden Hurricane before graduating from TU in 1977. His wife, Brenda, graduated from TU in 1979.

"Brenda and I are humbled and pleased to have returned to Tulsa working at our alma mater. Always proud to call Tulsa home, we have never been prouder than this past year when the Tulsa community joined us in supporting and sustaining the university and the athletic department through a remarkable year for TU Athletics. Contributing to campus and community life are core values we all share," said Dickson. "We look forward to this continued engagement with TU student-athletes and staff, the student body, alumni, fans and the City of Tulsa."

During his first tour of duty at TU, Dickson galvanized the city of Tulsa in support of Golden Hurricane athletics. Season attendance spiked for football and surpassed an all-time high attendance average of 31,000 fans for seven home games in 1991, while fans returned to the Tulsa Convention Center Arena after Dickson's hiring of basketball coach Tubby Smith. Basketball attendance grew more than 2,000 fans and reached a season average high of 7,300 in his final year at Tulsa.

Dickson lobbied bowl committees in 1991 for Tulsa's opportunity to participate in a post-season game, landing the Hurricane an appearance in the Freedom Bowl. He also was successful in getting Tulsa voted onto the College Football Association's Active Member list in 1991 as a major college independent. Dickson established the school's first statewide radio network, also in 1991, with the debut of the Golden Hurricane Radio Network.

He instituted several new fund-raising initiatives as well



Courtesy The University of Tulsa

**LEADING THE HURRICANE:** Rick Dickson is continuing his prolific college athletic career at his alma mater.

programs to improve the academic performance of student-athletes. Dickson coordinated the development of an academic advisor program for athletics while establishing "Operation Golden Hurricane," a community outreach program for TU student-athletes.

Before leaving Tulsa for Washington State in 1994, Dickson was instrumental in the university securing membership in the Western Athletic Conference, thus giving the football program conference stability. At Washington State, Dickson oversaw an athletics program that was recognized nationally for its success in dealing with gender equity issues. He raised funds for a capital campaign that funded scholarships and endowments, an indoor practice facility, and the renovation of Bohler Gymnasium. Washington State enjoyed its highest ever Sears Cup Ranking during his tenure, highlighted in 1998 by the football team's first Rose Bowl appearance in 67 years.

While at Tulane, Dickson is credited with helping the athletic program and community rebound after the destruction of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Teams under his tenure won 41 conference titles and advanced to NCAA postseason play 36 times.

Following a 2003 Board Review that resulted in a unanimous resolution reaffirming the institution's Div-1A status, Dickson assumed the task of building a permanent foundation of support for Tulane

Athletics through the Perpetual Wave Campaign. During the review, Dickson guided the department through an intense campaign that saw football season ticket sales more than triple, as well as secure funding for the new Greer Baseball Field, Yulman Football Stadium, Devlin Fieldhouse, The Hertz Center and numerous other facilities and program updates.

Following his retirement from Tulane in 2016, Dickson formed R.P. Dickson Consulting LLC, which has assisted many universities with multiple projects including Title IX reviews, departmental organization, fundraising and marketing campaigns, and facility development.

In 2019, Dickson accepted a year-long role as the CFP New Orleans ambassador, serving the Extra Yards for Teachers Campaign that supports public school teachers of New Orleans.

The Dicksons have four grown children and six grandchildren.

The University of Tulsa sponsors 17 sports, including 10 women's (basketball, cross country, golf, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, rowing, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball) and seven men's (basketball, cross country, football, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, soccer and tennis). The university has been a member of the American Athletic Conference since July 2014 and has won 22 AAC championships for the league's second-most titles during that time span.

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# Weiberg Takes Reins as OSU Athletic Director

## Former Deputy Director Replaces Mike Holder, Now AD Emeritus

After spending the last four years as Deputy Athletic Director at Oklahoma State, Chad Weiberg officially recently moved into the role of Athletic Director.

He replaces Mike Holder, who after 16 years at the helm of OSU Athletics, transitions into the role of Athletic Director Emeritus.

As OSU's Deputy Athletic Director, Weiberg was the chief operating officer, second-in-command and responsible for the day-to-day operations of the athletics department. He served as Holder's administrative liaison for football and men's basketball and was responsible for football scheduling.

During his time as Deputy AD, he played a significant role in successfully navigating OSU Athletics through the COVID pandemic. Notably, he developed a partnership with the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences that helped produce the planning and resources to keep Cowboy and Cowgirl student-athletes healthy, safe and ready for competition.

Weiberg was a key figure in several important initiatives that benefitted student-athletes and fans alike. A little more than one year after Weiberg's arrival, OSU added a director of counseling and sport psychology position within the athletic department to better serve the mental health of student-athletes. In 2020, Weiberg played a role in launching - and continues to serve as a member of - the Oklahoma State Athletics Council for Diversity and Inclusion.

He also played a key part in improving OSU's gameday experience. Highlights include the addition of one of the largest video boards at a college-only football stadium and the addition of alcohol sales at OSU athletic venues.

Weiberg is a 1994 graduate of Oklahoma State University, with a bachelor of business administration degree, and earned a master's in business administration from OSU in 2002. After earning his undergraduate degree, he served as the director of corporate sales and donor relations for OSU Athletics until 1999. He served as senior director of field operations for the OSU Alumni Association from 1999-2002 before becoming the director of development for the OSU Foundation/College of Business Administration from 2002-03. He held a similar role for OSU Athletics from 2003-04 before moving to Kansas State.

At K-State, Weiberg served the KSU Foundation as Director of Corporate Relations for a year before becoming the Director of Major Gifts for K-State Athletics in 2005. Weiberg assumed the lead role for K-State Athletics' Ahearn Fund in 2009 and, for his team's efforts, was recognized as the National Fundraiser of the Year by the National Association of Athletic Development Directors in 2014. Weiberg was the Senior Associate Athletic Director for Development when he left K-State in 2015 to become Deputy Director of Athletics at Texas Tech University, a role in which he served for two years before returning to his alma mater in 2017.

College athletics have played a large role in Weiberg's life from an early age. His father, Mick, and brother, Brett were both college basketball head coaches and his brother, Jared, played basketball at OSU under Eddie Sutton for a year before moving into the role of team manager. Weiberg's uncle, Kevin, served as commissioner of the Big 12.

Weiberg and his wife, Jodi, have two children, Ella and Grant.



PRESIDENTIAL CONGRATULATIONS: OSU President Dr. Kayse Shrum congratulates Chad Weiberg on his appointment as OSU's Athletic Director.



REMEMBERING HURRICANE BASEBALL: Tulsa sports personalities gathered at an editing session for former University of Tulsa 1969 team member Roger Whitaker's recently published book "A View from the Dugout" which details the team's national runner-up season to Arizona State. From left are Bruce Howard, director of sports broadcasting for TU; Steve Bowling, 1969 team member and former major league player; Wayne McCombs, baseball author and historian; Roger Whitaker; and Terrell Lester, award winning journalist. The book will be featured with a Terrell Lester article in an upcoming GTR edition.

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# Tim Johnson Era Underway at ORU After Being Named Athletic Director for the Golden Eagles

Tim Johnson became athletic director on Aug. 1, and joined the ORU staff prior to the 2015-16 school year after spending five years at Clemson University.

In his role, Johnson oversees all ORU Athletic external departments and directs capital fundraising, major gifts, and other sources of revenue generation and strategic initiatives for the Golden Eagles athletic department. Johnson also oversees the baseball program, program evaluation, coaching professional development, and serves on ORU's executive staff.

In his time at ORU, the Golden Eagle Club has increased its membership by 215%, achieved its highest fundraising totals, and premium seating sales. He has guided campaigns to renovate the baseball stadium, men's basketball locker room, men's and women's soccer locker rooms, volleyball locker room, install infield baseball turf and construct ORU's first track and tennis complex on campus.

Johnson negotiated a department-wide Nike contract in 2018 that more than tripled the value received by the department and also led the charge to update ORU's athletic logo and brand in association with Hampton Creative.

In 2016, ORU's athletics donor guidebook won the "Grand Award" for best sport publication in Oklahoma and also took home the "Achievement Award" for "Before and After."

Prior to ORU, as both an Assistant A.D. and Development Officer at Clemson, Johnson was

responsible for development/stewardship, annual giving, letter-winner interaction, and development and fundraising. He served on Athletic Director Terry Don Phillips' senior staff and acted as a sport supervisor – where he was heavily involved in building Clemson Football under Coach Dabo Swinney.

The Clemson Football program won its first ACC Title in 20 years in 2011 and went on to win a National Championship in 2017. Johnson assisted in preparation for multiple bowl games, including the Meineke Car Care Bowl, Orange Bowl, and Chick-fil-a Bowl.

He also supervised aspects of compliance, marketing, and all departmental contracts for the Tigers. Johnson helped develop the Clemson Athletics strategic plan and developed Safety and Security plans for Clemson Athletic Venues as part of Clemson's Risk Management Committee.

In addition, he aided in Clemson's Billion Dollar Campaign "Will to Lead/Will to Win" in association with Clemson's Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, Brian O'Rourke. Through his involvement with IPTAY, Johnson promoted membership, helped with fundraising strategies, and was active on capital campaign committees.

Prior to Clemson, Johnson graduated from the University of Arkansas with both a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (2005) and a Juris Doctor (2008) and practiced law in Fayetteville. During his time at Arkansas, Johnson worked on

Coach Houston Nutt's football staff from 2002 to 2007. He received his MBA from Clemson University in 2014.

Johnson is a member of the Arkansas Bar, Arkansas Bar Association, American Bar Association, and The University of Arkansas Letterwinners Association (A Club). He is also a member of NACDA, NAADD, and is a College Athletics Leadership Symposium (CALs) alum.

Johnson married the former Brittany Arnold of Fayetteville, Arkansas. They live in Tulsa and have two daughters, Emelia and Eleanor.



GTR Media group photo

**CHANGING OF THE GUARD:** ORU Athletic Director Tim Johnson, left, with previous long-time Athletic Director Mike Carter, who retired after nearly 27 years of service to ORU. Johnson served as Carter's Deputy Athletic Director the past five years.



GTR Media Group photo

**SALUTING GIL CLOUD:** Retired athletic director Gil Cloud, center, was saluted recently during a reception hosted by career colleagues. From left are Holland Hall's Fred Utter, University of Tulsa's Dave Rader, Cloud, Booker T. Washington's Mike Mims, and Tulsa athletic icon J.V. Haney. Cloud's career has been amazing, having served as director of athletics at Tulsa Public Schools, Upper Iowa University, Arkansas Tech University, Northeastern State University, Guthrie Public Schools and Union Public Schools. Cloud attended Kansas State University and Will Rogers High School.

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# NuNu Campbell Adds to Holland Hall's Defense

## Two-Way Starter is a Difference Maker

By **MIKE MOGUIN**  
GTR Sports Writer

A key moment in Holland Hall's victory in the Class 3A state championship last year was when defensive back NuNu Campbell intercepted a pass early in the game. The Dutchmen would go on to rout Lincoln Christian 35-7 in the final. "It was huge. It was so early in the game, it just really set the

tone for us as a defense and kind of gave Lincoln (Christian) the idea that it's not going to be easy," Campbell said. "They had a good receiver, Kolbe Katsis, and we shut him down. We had to let them know that we can play good football just as much as they can."

In the 2020 season, Campbell (6-0, 175) made 47 tackles, including 22 solos and 5.5 for losses, four interceptions and eight pass break-ups. As a wide receiver, he had six receptions for 138 yards and one touchdown. Another pick came in the semifinals against Stigler.

"Offensively, we had a really good quarterback (Wallace Clark, now with OU baseball) and a good receiver (Marc Gouldsby) and the connection between the two was surreal. On top of that we had two other receivers who were just as good. With three good receivers, the team as a whole had the goal to win it all, it was easy to put up numbers. We all want the same goal, vice versa for defense. When you put it all together and make sure everybody has the same goal, the same mentality, the same mindset, it's easy to go out on the field and do what you want to do on Friday night."

Campbell reflects on how the moments felt when the last second ticked off the clock in the last year's state championship game and the gold ball became theirs.

"When you're out there on the field, it is 11 guys on both sides. Plus, you have more players on the sideline cheering for you," Campbell said. "So at the last second of the game, you don't want to do anything but think about what it took to get here, thinking about the

hours spent at practice, watching film, studying, perfecting the craft, it's a brotherhood. You want to let your guys know that we did it and we got what we came for, and we're not looking back regretting being here."

Last year, Campbell started on defense and substituted for Gouldsby as a wide receiver. However, with Gouldsby having graduated, Campbell is in the role as a two-way starter this season.

"It just lets you know that the team needs you more and now you have work to do," Campbell said. "You have to step up to the table and do what you have to do."

As for the college level, Campbell has offers from Tulsa, Kansas, Utah State and Washington State. He is also looking at UTSA and Ball State.

"It is definitely exciting. It can get overwhelming, depending on how you handle things," Campbell said. "It is a process you have to do a lot of thinking about because the decisions you make in this process in picking schools are for the next four years."

Can the Dutchmen repeat as Class 3A champions in December? Campbell believes so.

"It's a challenge every year trying to build a team and get back to the mindset to what we were last year," he said. "We have a young quarterback ready for the challenge whom I trust in and whom this team trusts in. We'll figure out the way to get it done and that's what the offseason and practice is for, to prepare. I'm ready to see our team take on another challenge and see about doing this thing again."



Mike Moguin for GTR Newspapers

**LOOKING TO REPEAT:** Holland Hall senior DB/WR NuNu Campbell is expected to be a two-way starter and impact the Dutchmen as they play for another Class 3A state championship.

## == GTR 2021 COMPOSITE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE ==

DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME
Aug. 27	Bishop Kelley 28	Poteau 35	Sept. 24	McAlester	Bishop Kelley	Oct. 8	Norman	Jenks	Oct. 29	Bishop Kelley	Coweta
	Mans. Timberview 14	Bixby 69		Bixby	Bartlesville		Ft. Gibson	McLain		Bixby	Ponca City
	BT Washington 51	Southmoore 7		BT Washington	Choctaw		Glenpool	Memorial		Muskogee	BT Washington
	Broken Arrow 42	Mansfield Legacy13		Broken Arrow	Westmore		Beggs	Metro Christian		Broken Arrow	Norman
	Victory Christian 13	Cascia Hall 28		Heavner	Cascia Hall		Owasso	Edmond North		Cascia Hall	Rowland
	McLain 12	Central 36		Vinita	Central		Mustang	Union		Central	Inola
	Western Heights 0	East Central 54		Rogers	East Central		Victory Christian	Haskell		Durant	East Central
	F.W. All Saints 17	Holland Hall 36		Coweta	Edison		Texas	OU		Edison	Rogers
	Jenks 20	Mansfield Summit 14		Hale	Collinsville		Memphis	Tulsa		Hale	Glenpool
	Checota 21	Metro Christian 41		Holland Hall	TBA		Arkansas	Ole Miss		Holland Hall	Vertigris
	Owasso 45	Edmond Santa Fe 22		Enid	Jenks		NEO	Tyler JC		Edmond Memorial	Jenks
Sept.2	UC Davis 19	TU 17		McLain	Salisaw	Oct. 14	Bishop Kelley	Rogers		McLain	Hildale
Sept. 3	Sand Springs 34	Bishop Kelley 13		Memorial	Sapulpa		Sand Springs	Bixby		Tahlequah	Memorial
	Bixby 23	Jenks 15		Okmulgee	Metro Christian		PC West	BT Washington		Kiefer	Metro Christian
	BT Washington 39	Dell City 26		Union	Owasso		Yukon	Broken Arrow		Owasso	Moore
	Broken Arrow 28	Union 38		Victory Christian	Morris		Panama	Cascia Hall		Southmoore	Union
	Cascia Hall 7	Holland Hall 45	Sept. 25	Kansas State	OSU		Central	Vertigris		Victory Christian	Henryetta
	Central 50	Memorial 7		West Virginia	OU		Shawnee	East Central	Oct. 29	Navy	TU
	East Central 30	Hale 0		Arkansas State	TU		Durant	Edison	Oct. 30	Kansas	OSU
	Edison 13	Sapulpa 61		Texas A&M	Arkansas		Holland Hall	TBA		Texas Tech	OU
	Tahlequah 49	McLain 0		Navaro	NEO		Jenks	Edmond Santa Fe		NM Military Institute	NEO
	NOAH 17	Metro Christian 46		NSU	Lincoln		Broken Bow	McLain		NSU	Washburn
	Fayetteville 42	Owasso 48	Oct. 1	Bishop Kelley	Durant		Pryor	Memorial	Nov. 5	Shawnee	Bishop Kelley
	Pawhuska 33	Victory Christian 39		PC West	Bixby		Metro Christian	Victory Christian		Bixby	BT Washington
Sept. 4	OU 40	Tulane 35		Bartlesville	BT Washington		Southmoore	Owasso		Enid	Broken Arrow
	Missouri State 16	OSU 23		Jenks	Broken Arrow		Union	Moore		Keys	Cascia Hall
	Rice 17	Arkansas 38		Cascia Hall	Spiro	Oct. 16	OSU	Texas		Jay	Central
	Emporia State 38	NSU 7		East Central	McAlester		TCU	OU		East Central	Edison
Sept. 10	Bishop Kelley	Bishop McGuinness		Shawnee	Edison		TU	South Florida		Memorial	Hale
	Broken Arrow	Owasso		Tahlequah	Hale		Auburn	Arkansas		Holland Hall	Inola
	Berryhill	Cascia Hall		Central	Holland Hall		NEO	Cisco		Westmoore	Jenks
	Memorial	Edison		McLain	Poteau		NSU	Missouri Western		Muldrow	McLain
	Hale	Rogers		Memorial	Claremore	Oct. 22	East Central	Bishop		Metro Christian	Haskell
	Jenks	Union		Metro Christian	Henryetta		Muskogee	Bixby		Owasso	Punam City North
	McLain	Ponca City		Norman North	Owasso		Ponca City	BT Washington		Edmond North	Union
Sept. 11	TU	OSU		Union	Putnam City		Edmond Santa Fe	Broken Arrow		Beggs	Victory Christian
	Western Carolina	OU		Kiefer	Victory Christian		Cascia Hall	Pocola	Nov. 6	OSU	West Virginia
	Texas	Arkansas		Houston	TU		Berryhill	Central		TU	Cincinnati
	NEO	Trinity Valley		OU	OSU		Edison	McAlester		Mississippi State	Arkansas
	Missouri Southern	NSU		Arkansas	Kansas State		Claremore	Hale		NEO	Blinn College
Sept. 17	Stillwater	Bixby		Ellsworth	Georgia		Jay	Holland Hall		Fort Hayes State	NSU
	Edison	BT Washington		Central Missouri	NEO		Jenks	Yukon	Nov. 13	TCU	OSU
	Central	Weewoka		Central Oklahoma	NSU		McLain	Stilwell		OU	Baylor
	Memorial	East Central		Edison	Bishop Kelley		Memorial	Collinsville		TU	Tulsane
	Hale	Skiatook		Oct. 7	Choctaw		Metro Christian	Morris		Arkansas	LSU
	Holland Hall	Metro Christian		Oct. 8	Sand Springs		Mustang	Owasso		NSU	Nebraska-Kearney
	Vertigris	Victory Christian		BT Washington	Edmond Memorial		Union	Norman North	Nov. 20	OSU	Texas Tech
Sept. 18	OSU	Boise State		Broken Arrow	Edmond Memorial		Okmulgee	Victory Christian		Iowa State	OU
	OU	Nebraska		Cascia Hall	Vian		OSU	Iowa State		Temple	TU
	TU	Ohio State		Central	Mannford		OU	Kansas		Arkansas	Alabama
	Georgia Southern	Arkansas		East Central	Coweta		UAPB	Arkansas	Nov. 27	OU	OSU
	NEO	Kilgore		Hale	Pryor		Gordon's Prep	NEO		TU	SMU
	Pittsburgh State	NSU		Holland Hall	Vinita		NW Missouri	NSU		Missouri	Arkansas

**THE ECONOMY**

# Tulsa Rig Iron Hosts Rep. Hern at 'I Make America' at Keifer Facility

Tulsa Rig Iron (TRI), designer and manufacturer of mud pumps, mud recycling systems and more, recently welcomed U.S. Rep. Kevin Hern (R-Okla.) to its manufacturing facility in Kiefer, Oklahoma for an "I Make America" event, a grassroots campaign of The Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) which advocates for policies that support manufacturing jobs and help America's equipment manufacturers compete globally.

The purpose of Hern's visit was to hear the concerns of workers and business owners and address some of the regulatory issues affecting U.S. manufacturing companies.

"The mission of this event is to highlight equipment manufacturing both small and large in the U.S.," said Terry Flynn, vice president of sales and marketing for TRI and emcee for the round-table discussion and town hall style Q&A. "It's encouraging to have the involvement of a representative to congress to hear the struggles we deal with in this industry."

Hern, a member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee in Washington, D.C., toured TRI's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility before addressing those in attendance.

"My whole advocacy is making sure I can do everything that I possibly can as a member of congress to get government out of the way and put Americans to work," said Hern as he addressed members of AEM as well as representatives from TRI's partners in Tulsa Pipeline Equipment Manufacturers (TPLEM), Midwest-



**TULSA RIG TOUR:** TRI President Trevor Young leads Rep. Kevin Hern and other attendees of a recent "I Make America" event on a tour of the company's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility.



**EXECUTIVE TEAM:** The Tulsa Rig Iron executive team joins Rep. Kevin Hern for a photo at a recent "I Make America" event at TRI's manufacturing facility in Kiefer, Okla. From left are TRI Vice President of Operations John Donohue, TRI President Trevor Young, TRI Vice President Troy Young, Rep. Hern, TRI Vice President of Sales and Marketing Terry Flynn and TRI Chief Financial Officer Karen Gibbons.



**TOWN HALL:** Rep. Kevin Hern addresses the crowd at a recent "I Make America" event at Tulsa Rig Iron's manufacturing facility in Kiefer, Okla. before taking questions in the town hall portion of the event.



**A CLOSER LOOK:** U.S. Rep. Kevin Hern, left, and The Association of Equipment Manufacturers Senior Vice President of Government and Industry Relations, Kip Eideberg, right, get an up-close look at some of Tulsa Rig Iron's equipment with TRI President Trevor Young.

ern Manufacturing and Darby Equipment Company. "You guys have a tough job," Hern continued. "I just want to say thank you. It takes folks like you to move America forward."

**About TRI**

Founded in 1987 by J.D. Young, Tulsa Rig Iron was the premier designer and manufacturer of horizontal directional drilling rigs, along with mud pumps and mud

recycling systems.

In 2004, sons Trevor and Troy took the company helm and made the decision to concentrate the company efforts on building the best mud pumps and recycling

systems available. Since that time, Tulsa Rig Iron has continued to set the industry standards for mud pump and recycling systems and is the manufacturer of choice for contractors around the globe.

# Breeze Airways Launches Nonstop Service From Tulsa to New Orleans and San Antonio

Breeze Airways has launched nonstop service from Tulsa to New Orleans and San Antonio. Both routes operate year-round, four times per week. New Orleans and San Antonio are the second and third nonstop routes served by Breeze from Tulsa International Airport, joining nonstops to Tampa which began at the beginning of June.

Tulsa was the fifth of the initial 16 cities to launch service in the Breeze route network. Breeze is

the fifth airline founded by aviation pioneer, David Neeleman, who previously started JetBlue Airways, WestJet, Azul, and Morris Air. The airline will be the seventh currently serving the Tulsa market.

"We are excited to welcome New Orleans and San Antonio to the nonstop route network from Tulsa International Airport, and even more thrilled that they are on Breeze Airways," said Andrew Pierini, Director of Air Service De-

velopment and Marketing at Tulsa International Airport. "Breeze is bringing nonstop service to some of the most desired destinations our passengers want to travel to, and we thank them for their expansion here in Tulsa."

Branded as the new "Seriously Nice" U.S. carrier, Breeze Airways will operate 13 single-class Embraer aircraft this summer, flying routes with an average flight length under two hours. The 10 E190 jets will be configured to

seat 108 Guests while the three E195 aircraft will have 118 seats. Guests may choose from fares that include 'Nice' seats, or 'Nicer' seats with extra legroom. All Embraer aircraft will be a two-by-two seat configuration, so there are no middle seats. Breeze will start taking delivery of 60 brand new Airbus A220 aircraft, beginning in October, expanding the network nationwide. The A220s will include a premium cabin, called 'Nicest' seating, in a two-by-two

configuration at the front of the plane. The remainder of the aircraft will feature a two-by-three seat configuration.

David Neeleman, Founder and CEO of Breeze Airways, said, "There are a significant number of unserved markets from Tulsa that will provide us with many years of growth opportunities. And we're thrilled to be able to give Tulsa residents nonstop service so they can get where they want to go twice as fast for half the cost."



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# America's Energy Reliability is Essential



America's energy reliability is essential for both the power generation and transportation needed for our country. As the last two articles on America's energy reliability have stated, accessibility, affordability and reliability are vital for a strong U.S. economy and security.

As noted in a column I wrote in 2014, after being asked, what is the US electric grid?, "There are three systems that provide electricity throughout the country. There is not a U.S. power grid. (A power grid is defined as an interconnected network for the delivery of electricity from suppliers to consumers).

The three grids are in the contiguous 48 states. These are the following grids: 1) Texas system, 2) the Western system which goes from the Pacific Ocean to the Rockies, and 3) the Eastern system.

As the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) states, "Transmission and distribution lines owned by an individual utility are no longer resources to be used only by that utility. Electrical systems have been expanded and interlinked. The systems now provide the associated transport of electricity on the transmission lines where buyers and sellers may be geographically spread apart."

According to the EIA, "originally, each generating company was responsible for maintaining its own electrical system safely and planning for the future needs of its customers. Later, voluntary standards were developed by the electric utility industry to coordinate for linked inter-connection operations. These voluntary standards were instituted after a major blackout in 1965 that impacted New York, a large portion of the East Coast, and parts of Canada...the inter-linked systems now include over 3200 electric distribution utilities, over 10,000 generating units, tens of thousands of miles and distribution lines, and millions of customers."



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

Our national security has long been one of the most important assets we cherish. For that reason, we cannot afford to become addicted to energy at any cost. Today, nothing in America moves without energy, but the definition of energy security also extends to power generation.

We don't have a good balance of sources that can get us to our goal of total independence. We are still using many forms of energy. Although certain energy sectors are more predominant than others, there is definitely room for natural gas to grow.

Natural gas holds promise for power generation. The share of U.S. natural gas-fired electricity generating capacity increased from 17% in 1990 to 43% in 2020. Given the enormous finds here, we should establish a more efficient, accessible natural gas transportation and distribution system.

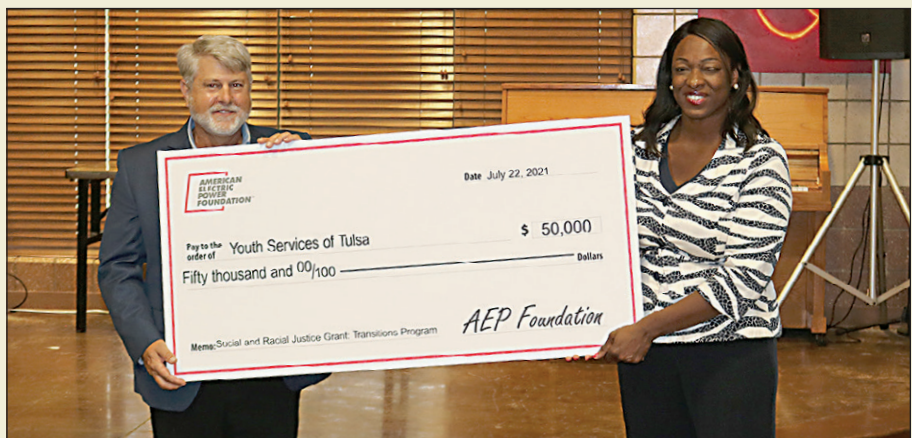
In January of 2014, a warning went out that it was important that reduction of electric usage was needed in Texas (the Texas Grid).

The risk of power outages was strongly possible. According to an article by Loren Steffy, in January, power plants unexpectedly went offline when the state needed them most. This time blackouts were averted, but barely. He goes on to state, "as the threat of rolling blackouts in winter and summer demonstrates, Texas isn't producing enough electricity to meet our needs."

It is time we come together! The U.S. has the immediate challenge of striving for energy independence. It is extremely important that the U.S. be in a strong position of securing energy reserves within its own boundaries and maintaining a dependable energy infrastructure.

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.



**PSO/AEP DONATION:** Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO), a subsidiary of American Electric Power (Nasdaq: AEP) has announced a \$50,000 social and racial justice grant from the AEP Foundation to Youth Services of Tulsa (YST) to support the organization's Transitions Program: Putting Youth on the Path to Self-Sufficiency. The program addresses the issue of homelessness for those 17 to 24 years old by providing housing and skills needed to transition to self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

The announcement was made at a press conference that included PSO President and Chief Operating Officer, Peggy Simmons and David C. Grewe, Executive Director of Youth Services of Tulsa, shown above.

The AEP Foundation is the charitable arm of AEP and is partially funded by PSO. The gift is part of the foundation's Delivering on the Dream: Social and Racial Justice grant program, which is a five-year commitment to fund organizations with programs dedicated to advancing social and racial justice in communities served by AEP.

"Through our long association with, and support for, Youth Services of Tulsa, we at PSO and AEP are keenly aware of the many social issues that lead to youth homelessness," said Simmons. "On behalf of the AEP Foundation, we are pleased to announce this grant to help promote equity and opportunity so young people may achieve self-sufficiency and find their path forward to a successful life."

In 2020, the AEP Foundation began the Delivering on the Dream program to award social and racial justice grants to organizations that play pivotal roles in working to eliminate systemic racism. The grant to YST is the AEP Foundation's first Delivering on the Dream grant awarded in Oklahoma.

"Youth homelessness is a significant challenge here in Tulsa and across the country," said Youth Services of Tulsa Executive Director David C. Grewe. "YST will house more than 100 youth this year, equipping them with the skills and supports they need to gain independence, achieve their educational and employment goals, and realize their full potential."

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# Gathering Place Names New Executive Director



**JULIO BADIN**

After an extensive search, Gathering Place has announced the hiring of Julio Badin as its new Executive Director.

Badin's 22 years in the hospitality and entertainment industries, combined with a passion for community programming and guest experiences, will help to further advance the mission of Tulsa's award-winning riverfront park.

"My entire professional career has been in the hospitality and entertainment industry, and I've loved every minute of it," said Badin. "However, after coming to understand Gathering Place's mission and meeting the Park's outstanding team, this presented such a compelling opportunity. I'm excited to fully engage with and serve an entire community in a way that I haven't been able to do in the past."

Prior to joining the Gathering Place team, Badin served as the Senior Vice President of Customer Experience at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport where he oversaw experience strategy and execution at all five

terminals, including operations, project management, and the DFW Airport Pandemic Preparedness Plan. Additionally, Badin spent 18 years with The Walt Disney Company where he held key leadership roles managing customer experience, attractions, retail, culinary and financial performance.

"Julio clearly possesses the skills to continue to deliver and improve upon the high-quality experience that all Tulsans have come to expect from Gathering Place," said Jeff Stava, Construction Director and Trustee of Tulsa's Gathering Place, LLC. "Julio's previous work at Disney and DFW demonstrated over and over again his ability and dedication to creating and implementing family-friendly, inclusive and engaging experiences for all visitors. We look forward to him continuing that great work here."

In addition to Gathering Place, Badin will also be responsible for overseeing the operations and programming for Guthrie Green and Duet Jazz Club.



**JENKS CHAMBER EVENT:** Kevin Burr of Barracuda Staffing was the guest speaker at the Aug. 25 Jenks Chamber of Commerce Small Business Success Series luncheon event. From left are Barracuda Staffing owner Kevin Burr, Sandy Burr and Jenks Chamber President Josh Driskell. Kevin Burr presented "Championship Teams: How to Find and Build the Talent That is Needed to Win."

Burr has built his companies on the principles of building relationships on every level. In addition to Barracuda Staffing, he is the owner of Barracuda Consulting and a partner in Red River Payroll.

He says his main objective,

whether it is with his clients, applicants or staff, is to put people in the right position to succeed. He prides himself on developing custom hiring and recruiting solutions for every client.

Under Burr's direction, Barracuda Staffing has maintained substantial growth year over year and continues to get noticed as a strong growing staffing company. They have twice been recognized for their growth by making the Inc. 5000 list in 2017 and 2019, and were also voted as one of America's Best Places to Work in 2018.

The Small Business Success Series was sponsored by Tedford Insurance.

# BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

**Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) announces Wayne Greene** as its new region communications manager. He will transition into that role currently held by Stan Whiteford, who is retiring later this fall.



**GREENE**

A highly respected journalist with more than 30 years of experience, Greene joins PSO from the Tulsa World, where he started in 1987 and served as editorial pages editor since 2014.

Prior to his latest role, Greene served 13 years as the World's city editor and four at the World's state Capitol Bureau in Oklahoma City.

Among his many awards and accolades, in 2016 Greene was named "the conscience of the community" by the Tulsa Regional Chamber, and in 2019 he was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

In his role at PSO, Greene will be primarily responsible for public and news media communications.

"Wayne's extensive involvement with our community and his knowledge base of how energy intersects with our customers every day makes him an excellent addition to our team," said Tiffini Jackson, vice president of external affairs.

Greene is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Oklahoma and was a National Merit Scholar.

**RCB Bank** is pleased to announce that **Richard Willhour III** is now the market president of the Broken Arrow and Union locations.



**WILLHOUR**

Willhour has been the market president in Catoosa, Inola and Coweta for eight years and will retain his position in Coweta moving forward.

"I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the Broken Arrow and Union team," said Willhour. "The staff at both locations are highly effective bankers and have proven they can get the job done."

Willhour is currently a school board member of Inola public schools and a board member for the Inola Education Foundation. He was also past president of the Inola Chamber of Commerce and the Oklahoma Banker's Association.

"I'm looking forward to getting involved in the Broken Arrow community," he said.

Willhour, his wife and two sons also manage a commercial cowherd. When he is not at the Bank, you will likely find him working cattle, fixing fence, hauling hay and fishing with his sons.

**Hall Estill**, Oklahoma's leading law firm, with offices in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Denver and Northwest Arkansas, announces the addition of **Terence "Terry" Brennan** to the Tulsa office in an Of Counsel position.



**BRENNAN**

"Terry makes a great addition to the team," said Mike Cooke, Managing Partner for Hall Estill. "His experience and depth of knowledge will allow him to provide excellent counsel to our clients across our practice areas."

Brennan practices in the areas of complex business and personal litigation, focusing on compliance and risk issues where he assists clients in a variety of areas, including oil and gas, business and personal torts, and environmental law. Licensed to practice in both Oklahoma and Wisconsin, he earned his undergraduate degree, with honors, from the University of Wisconsin and his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

**The City of Broken Arrow** has announced the hiring of **Aaron McColloch** as its new Communications and Media Relations Manager.



**MCOLLOCH**

"The Communications and Media Relations Manager is the primary spokesperson for the City of Broken Arrow while managing the City's Communications Divisions, which includes the City's website, social media channels, newsletters, press events, media relations, and Cox Cable Channel 24" said City Manager Michael Spurgeon.

McColloch is an award-winning communications professional having spent more than 20 years in local news in the Tulsa TV market holding various positions including chief photographer, assistant news director, and digital director. He has won numerous awards from the Associated Press, Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters, National Press Photographers Association, a Heartland Regional Emmy, three Regional Edward R. Murrow awards, and two National Edward R. Murrow awards.

McColloch is a life-long Oklahoman, born and raised in Tulsa. He has lived in Broken Arrow for the better part of the last 10 years.

**The Tulsa Police Foundation** has hired **Tiffany Egdorf** as its new CEO.



**EGDORF**

The foundation is a locally based 501 C-3 that serves to raise awareness and

funds for the needs of the Tulsa Police Department that will benefit officers and citizens in the City of Tulsa. It is a joint effort between law enforcement and the citizens of Tulsa to enhance the safety and security of each.

Current TPD Foundation Chairman and TPD Foundation Founder Roger Chasteen will be resigning from the board effective July 8, 2021.

Egdorf most recently served as president & CEO of Lindsey House. During her 10 years with the organization, she started and directed multiple programs, expanded the organization and empowered families to flourish.

She was responsible for overall agency direction at Lindsey House, including a capital campaign, new building construction, fundraising, advocacy and managing external relationships and collaborations.

She has a Bachelor of Science from Oklahoma City University, a Master of Arts from Phillips Theological Seminary, and a Masters' Certification from the University of Tulsa.

Egdorf is a graduate of Leadership Tulsa Class 53, Thrive Class 1, and the Rotary District 6110 Leadership Academy. She is on the board of directors for the Rotary Club of Tulsa and Leadership Tulsa. Most importantly, Egdorf is a life-long Tulsan and loves being a part of the Tulsa community.

Regarding the new position, Egdorf said, "It is my honor to serve in this role and expand the reach of the Tulsa Police Foundation for the betterment of our community. I embrace our mission to raise funds and awareness for the Tulsa Police Department, while working to create stronger relationships between our law enforcement personnel and the citizens of Tulsa."

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# Page Family Contributes to Tulsa Architecture

In 1907, my newlywed grandparents, the C.C. Coles moved into the Robinson Hotel while they were waiting for construction on their first house, a small bungalow, to be finished. Months later, my grandfather hired two men and a horse drawn wagon to move furnishings and belongings into their new home. A year later, the baby grand piano my grandfather had bought his bride (on the installment plan) arrived by train and was delivered to their new house by horse and wagon.

As Tulsa started to boom with help from the Glenn Pool and other oil strikes, moving people and their goods became an important business. In 1910, Page Storage and Van Lines was established as one of Tulsa's first moving companies. Today, 111 years later, four generations of the Page family have owned and worked in this business. The iconic graphics on Page trucks are a part of Tulsa history.

In 1927, 17 years later, Roy Page, with an optimism common in the 1920's, decided to build a headquarters/storage building. He went to one of Tulsa's leading architectural firms, Rush Endicott and Rush whose Tulsa Club/Chamber of Commerce Building was currently under construction. His instructions to them were to design an eye catching cutting edge building. With the help of their staff designer, Bruce Goff, they delivered the site selected was the south side of 13th Street at 1301 S. El-

gin. This allowed furniture to be loaded directly from the adjacent railroad tracks to a dock and from there to a freight elevator at the rear of the structure. The building was five stories and fitted out with art deco bronze and glass light fixtures and operable steel awning windows for natural ventilation. The interior included specialized storage for valuables: a large cold storage room for furs (said to be the largest in the Southwest), a silver vault, a large rug vault and safes for jewelry. Part of the ground floor was reserved for pianos. The entire concrete frame structure was designed for heavy loads. Flaring interior column capitals in a mushroom shape eliminated the need for intermediate beams by shortening spans.

The outer edge of the floor slabs and perimeter columns were exposed to view emphasizing the structure and providing a decorative effect. The exterior pinkish bricks were wire cut and hung on the structural frame with no attempt to hide what held the brick.

At the exterior, two vertical pylons of Bedford Limestone framed and emphasized the main entrance. Although initially resented by the adjacent residents, many came to admire the building and later became good customers.

During World War II, Tulsa was considered a significant enemy target by many because of the location of the war plane manufacturer, McDonald-Douglas, and its

## On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA



Courtesy photo

**BRUCE GOFF DESIGN:** Roy Page hired world-famous architect Bruce Goff in 1928 to design the five-story Art Deco furniture inspired depository located at 1301 S. Elgin Ave. in Tulsa. The building was demolished in 1977 to make room for the Broken Arrow Expressway.

related pilot training school and because of oil production centered in Tulsa. Thomas Gilcrease moved his western art collection to the Page Building for safe keeping. The collection remained there until the end of the war in 1945. One wonders where the new temporary storage place will be when the collection is moved again due to the museum rebuilding project.

In 1977, the historic Page Building was demolished to make way for the Broken Arrow Expressway. Despite the efforts and resistance of the Page family, imminent domain prevailed. What government wants; it gets.

An amazing coincidence followed. The Pages found a suitable replacement building which was also designed by Bruce Goff. Located at 2036 E. 11th Street, it was a 1928 product of Rush Endicott and Rush Architecture who were involved in the building of the Boston Avenue Church at the same time.

In the 1920s, 30s, and early 40s,



GTR Media Group photo

**REPLACEMENT BUILDING:** The Page family found a suitable replacement building which was also designed by Bruce Goff. Located at 2036 E. 11th Street, it was a 1928 product of Rush Endicott and Rush Architecture who were involved in the building of the Boston Avenue Church at the same time.

residential washing appliances were very primitive. Many chose to have their laundry picked up and delivered by a commercial company. The Guaranty Laundry Building worked well for adaptive reuse as a Page Building replacement. This five-story building, which

when built, was considered a low-cost industrial structure, has an exterior which is organized horizontally with long bands of steel awning windows with projecting sills and lintels between strips of buff brick. Streamlining of the northwest corner was lost when an art deco cornice was deleted during construction. Originally the main entrance became a focal point by interrupting the exterior patterning. The doorway was set off by diagonal mullions and flanking vertical bands of diamonds which extended to the top strip of windows. Sadly, the entrance has been remodeled in years since and the diagonals eliminated. A good picture of the original entrance can be found on page 77 of the Tulsa Art Deco book published by the Junior League of Tulsa.



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# Local Father and Daughter Turn Their Maple Liqueur Hobby into a Business

## Meredith Maple Liqueur An Innovative Success

By GRANT ROWL  
Contributing Writer

Have you ever looked back on your life and wondered “what if?” What if you pursued that dream, created your own future, tried to do something no one else tried to do? Have you ever wondered what if you succeeded? Michael Meredith, Jr. and his daughter AJ Meredith, did just that by turning Michael’s hobby of making liqueurs into a successful local business.

Michael started mixing liqueurs while attending Duke University in the late 1970s. “I had a friend at Duke who gave me a recipe for a coffee liqueur and that’s what sparked my interest.” He experimented making coffee liqueurs throughout college and continued the hobby after becoming an Aerospace Engineer.

Finally, in the early 2000’s, Michael perfected an amaretto liqueur recipe. The recipe was used with and without amaretto flavoring. The version without the amaretto flavoring became a favorite and was nicknamed “Meredith Maple” by a family friend.

With confident determination, daughter AJ Meredith encouraged her father to turn his hobby into more than just a dream. The idea took off and resulted in what is



now a Broken Arrow company, Meredith Maple LLC.

“It was kind of a strange coincidence of events,” said AJ, now Vice President of Sales and Marketing when asked how Meredith Maple Liqueurs started. “I thought, if I don’t do this now I never will, so I kind of risked it.” With AJ’s Master’s Degree in Business Management and her father’s engineering and analytical approach to the creation process, Meredith Maple has a very sophisticated partnership and unique product formula.

Meredith Maple is a 67-proof



Chad Mills photo

**IMPRESSIVE TEAM:** AJ Meredith and Michael Meredith, Jr. display their innovative Meredith Maple Liqueur at the Succulent Shop in Broken Arrow. Meredith Maple can be found in liquor stores throughout greater Tulsa.

sweet maple liqueur, aged on oak and manufactured in Bend, Oregon. It has been described in the press as “one of the most unique flavors on the market.” Local fans enjoy drinking it in coffee, with lemonade for summer holidays, adding it to beer or dry wine as a kicker, or sipping it straight or on ice as an after-dinner drink. A liqueur made for celebration; Meredith Maple is meant to be savored during life’s greatest moments.

AJ not only hopes people will try out the family’s smooth and sweet liqueur, she also wants to encour-

age others to never give up on their dreams. “We need more leaders to take risks and try new businesses,” she added, emphasizing the importance of more local female entrepreneurs. “As with any dream, there have been challenges and obstacles along the way, but the good far outweighs the bad.” She hopes to inspire others to find what they’re called to do and find their life’s purpose. “We have so many opportunities and I just want more people to feel that passion to be excited and live their dreams like I’m doing out here every day,” said AJ.

Meredith Maple’s goal is to bring the best and most sophisticated maple liqueurs to the market, and we think they achieved just that. Meredith Maple Liqueurs can be found in 85 Liquor Stores, bars, restaurants, and specialty shops across Oklahoma, including Biergarten and Out South in Jenks, Liquids and Kwenchers in Owasso, Parkhill’s Warehouse and PJ’s Bar and Grill Tulsa, and BA Wine and Spirits, B&B Liquor Warehouse, and The Succulent Shop in Broken Arrow. For a full list of locations and recipes, visit meredithmaple.com.



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