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# MIDTOWN MONITOR

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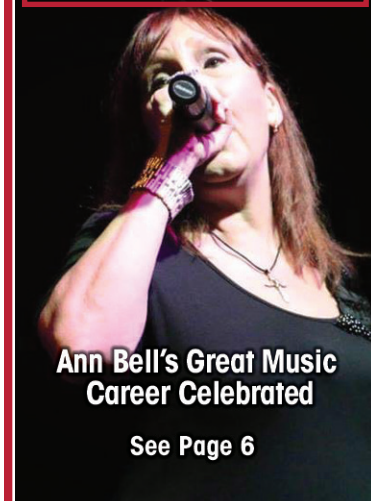
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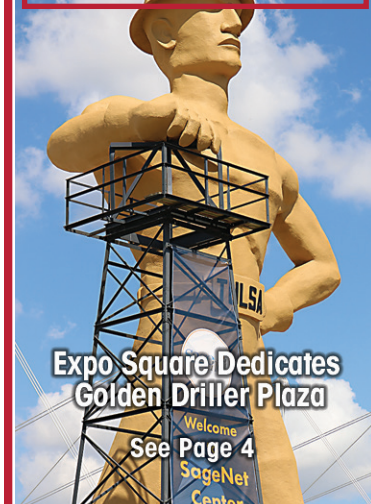
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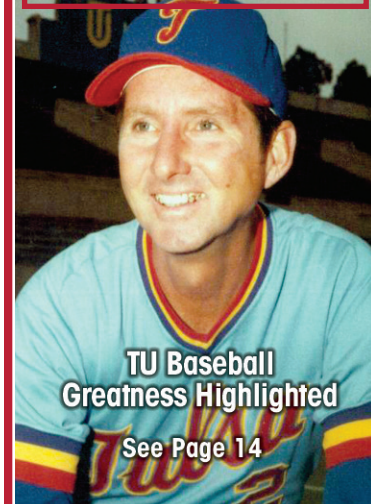
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# World's Largest Augmented Reality Mural Complete in Downtown Tulsa

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

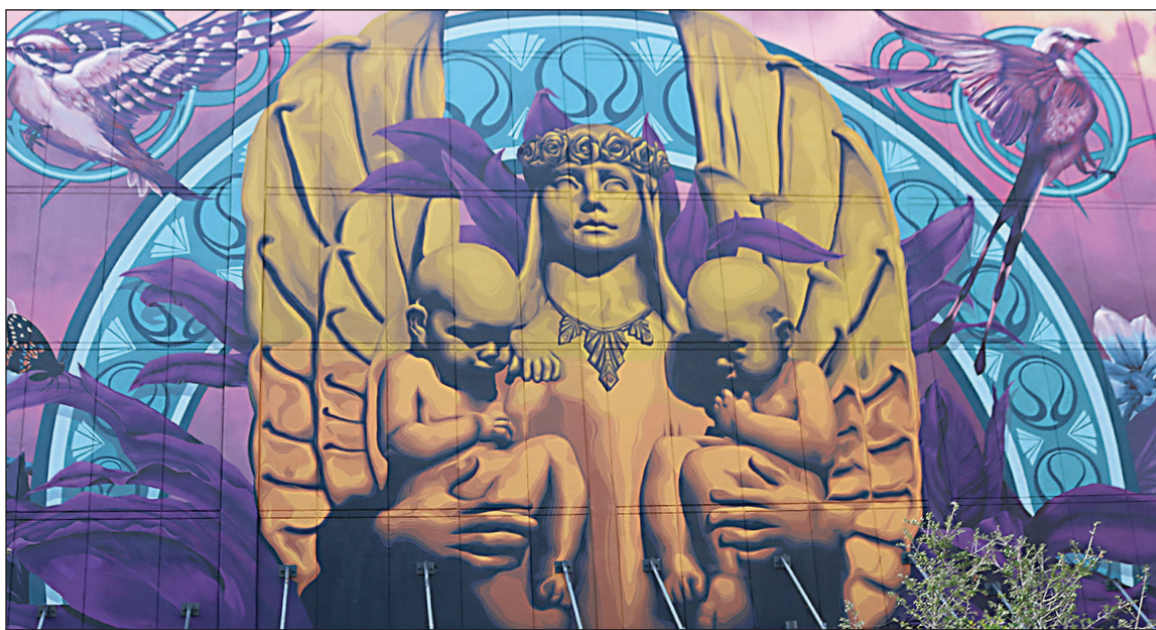
The mural, known as "The Majestic," spans approximately 15,000 square feet on the east and north sides of the building. It is the world's largest augmented reality mural.

"The work that has gone into this portion of the Main Street corridor in Downtown Tulsa is extraordinary, and to have one of the most unique pieces of art in our city at this location speaks volumes to the work that many have championed over the past several years in this area," Mayor G.T. Bynum said. "I want to thank TAEO, the Downtown Tulsa Partnership, the Arts Commission and the extremely talented artists for breathing life into this area of Downtown and giving Tulsans the opportunity to gain new, world-class experiences in our city."

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

"This transformational investment sets the standard for how we intend to leverage our assets and resources to spur revitalization throughout Tulsa - and is proof of the role arts and beautification play in economic development," TAEO Executive Director Kian Kamas said. "We look forward to seeing how The Majestic brings more people Downtown to the businesses in this building and the surrounding area."

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



GTR Media Group photo

**ARTISTIC LANDMARK:** The two children the angel holds on Main Street in downtown Tulsa personify the youth of the city and the foliage and fauna set within the art illustrate the literal and metaphorical growth of the city

Authority and Arts Commission of the City of Tulsa.

"The Majestic mural, combined with TAEO's additional public realm investments at Main Park Plaza, have reawakened Main Street," Downtown Tulsa Partnership President Brian Kurtz said. "Place enhancement investments like this are critical to continued evolution and the Downtown Tulsa Partnership congratulates and thanks TAEO for leading this transformative project."

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



GTR Media Group photo

**EXPANSIVE ARTWORK:** The Majestic mural spans approximately 15,000 square feet on the east and north sides of the Main Park Plaza parking garage.

The sculptural design element framing the mural is inspired by Tulsa's rich art deco history and serves as a window actively inviting viewers into the ethereal world.

Users can use their mobile de-

vice on site to access a 3D interactive experience via QR code where the artwork is activated to come alive with animations and audio content.

For more information on the mural, visit MajesticMural.com.

## KUDOS of the MONTH: OSUIT for 75 Years

In 1946, as World War II was coming to an end, Oklahoma was faced with an emerging need to help returning soldiers develop necessary skills to successfully reenter the civilian workforce.

Oklahoma State University purchased the former Glennan Army Hospital in Okmulgee for \$1 and transformed the campus into a trade school to provide veterans with vocational-technical training under the G.I.Bill.

Since then, the campus has adapted its academic programs to the needs of the country's infrastructure and economy in

order to provide a highly-educated and highly-skilled workforce.

As OSUIT celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, the milestone brings a level of sincere accomplishment. As technology has advanced over the spectrum of our nation's timeline, the school has kept up with industry demands.

The OSUIT campus now has 38 academic programs, including Associate in Science, Associate in Applied Science and Bachelor of Technology options. It has grown to include over 1 million square feet of educational space,

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Although many things have changed in the past 75 years, OSUIT has never wavered from its mission to provide a high-quality education that prepares students for extraordinary careers.

"Our economy depends on OSUIT graduates for the skills they bring to the job, and we are proud to be the premier institution that produces them," said Dr. Bill Path, president of OSUIT. "That is the essence of our legacy since 1946, and we'll continue to be true to our mission for the next 75 years."



# TCC Foundation Annual Vision Dinner Sets Funding Record, Honors 50 Notable Alumni

The 2021 Vision Dinner hit a historic goal, raising more than \$475,000 for the Tulsa Community College Foundation. This year's event, chaired by Michelle Hardesty, Andy Kinslow, and Russ Kirkpatrick, recognized 50 Notable Alumni and was tied to the college's 50th anniversary.

With an in-person and live streaming option, the event, held in October, followed CDC and Tulsa Health Department COVID-19 safety guidelines and asked people who attended to complete a form saying they were either fully vaccinated or tested negative for COVID-19.

"Despite the challenges of the pandemic, TCC is extremely grateful for the community support demonstrated by the generosity of our donors," said Kari Shults, Vice President for Advancement and President of the TCC Foundation. "This record-setting evening will help fund additional scholarships for students, many of which face additional challenges brought by the pandemic."

In a TCC student survey, 40% said their financial situation is worse than before the pandemic.

and they are struggling to pay for college. During Vision Dinner and a live-ask, donors pledged \$50,000 for one-time scholarships to be awarded in fall 2022.

"It is amazing to see our community respond and value a college education," said Tim Lyons, TCC Foundation chair and one of TCC's 50 Notable Alumni. "Personally, as someone who benefited from taking classes at TCC, I am proud to support an institution that provides affordable access to higher education with quality academic programs and personalized support."

For 20 years, this annual event has supported TCC's vision of offering greater access to quality higher education through scholarships, leadership development opportunities, engagement and mentoring with academic scholars and leaders, and technology and equipment necessary to prepare for today's workforce.

This year's Vision Dinner honored TCC's 50 Notable Alumni. Selected because of their professional and personal achievement, these individuals represent a diverse population and the best of TCC. The group includes educators, small

business owners, entrepreneurs, consultants, and CEOs of nonprofit organizations, local businesses, and international companies to those who have dedicated their lives to public service, influenced our health and wellbeing, and impacted future leaders of tomorrow.

Vision sponsors include Hardesty Family Foundation, TTCU Federal Credit Union, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, Sanford and Irene Burnstein Foundation, and George Kaiser Family Foundation as Pathway Leaders. Cox Communications, Cherokee Nation Businesses and ONEOK are Dream Makers. Additional sponsors are Williams Co., The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation, AAON, Ruth K. Nelson, ONE Gas, Osage Casino Hotel, Saint Francis Health System, Hon. Kathy Taylor and Bill Lobeck, and Caron and Shawn Lawhorn.

The 2021 TCC Vision Dinner: Celebrating Success Through Education committee chairs are Michelle Hardesty, Andy Kinslow, and Russ Kirkpatrick. Committee members are Montie Box, Andrew Carlson, Mike Cooper, Laura Creekmur, Curtis Dinan, John



Courtesy TCC

**APPRECIATIVE LEADERSHIP:** From left, TCC President Emeritus Dr. Tom McKeon, TCC President Dr. Leigh Goodson, TCC President Emeritus Dr. Dean VanTrease and TCC Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Greg Stone toast the college's supporters during the Vision Dinner event.

Gaberino, Sarah Hansel, John Hewitt, Molly Jarvis, Jim Langdon, Rob Martinovich, Karl Neumaier, M. Susan Savage, Jana Shoulders, Steve Turnbo and Dana Wilkes.

Past honorees include Alison Anthony; Dr. Keith Ballard; David Boren; Montie Box; Congressman Tom Cole; Early Childhood Education Advocates: Pete Churchwell, Bill Doenges, Leonard Eaton, Mar-

tin Fate, Ted Fisher, George Kaiser, Robert LaFortune, Nancy McDonald, Ron Peters; John Gaberino, Jr.; Dr. Jim and Ann Halligan; Susan Harris; former Governor Brad Henry; Jake Henry Jr.; Michael Johnson; Karen Keith; Ron King; Ken Lackey; Dr. Paula Marshall; David Page; Lynn and Stacy Schusterman; Don Walker; and John-Kelly Warren.

# Tulsa Area United Way Day of Caring Another Success

More than 2,400 volunteers from over 80 companies and organizations performed both in-person and remote community service projects throughout the area in October for Tulsa Area United Way's (TAUW) 30th Annual Day of Caring. Volunteers completed more than 225 service projects during this fall Day of Caring by painting, sanding, scrubbing, planting and

putting a new shine on nonprofit facilities all over the region.

In its 30 year history, TAUW's Day of Caring has become one of the most recognized community service days in the area.

"When we reimagined the Day of Caring last year during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we moved to multiple days scattered throughout the year and added re-

mote opportunities," said Alison Anthony, President and CEO of Tulsa Area United Way.

"We learned that people who felt helpless during the pandemic wanted a way to actively participate in meeting the needs of others, so offering multiple days increased the opportunities for participation.

"When we began planning this

year, hosting the series of days once again made sense and gave volunteers more options to serve. The fact that we've been doing this for 30 years is truly awe-inspiring and a reflection of our community's generosity and caring."

Since March, the multiple Day of Caring events have resulted in: a focus on supporting Black-owned businesses in the Tulsa area; 960

Notes of Hope written to nonprofit staff and volunteers; over 42,000 pounds of food collected; Nearly 200 pints of blood donated, providing life-saving support to approximately 575 people; and 6,122 volunteers performing community service projects

2021 Day of Caring sponsors include Bank of Oklahoma and Williams.



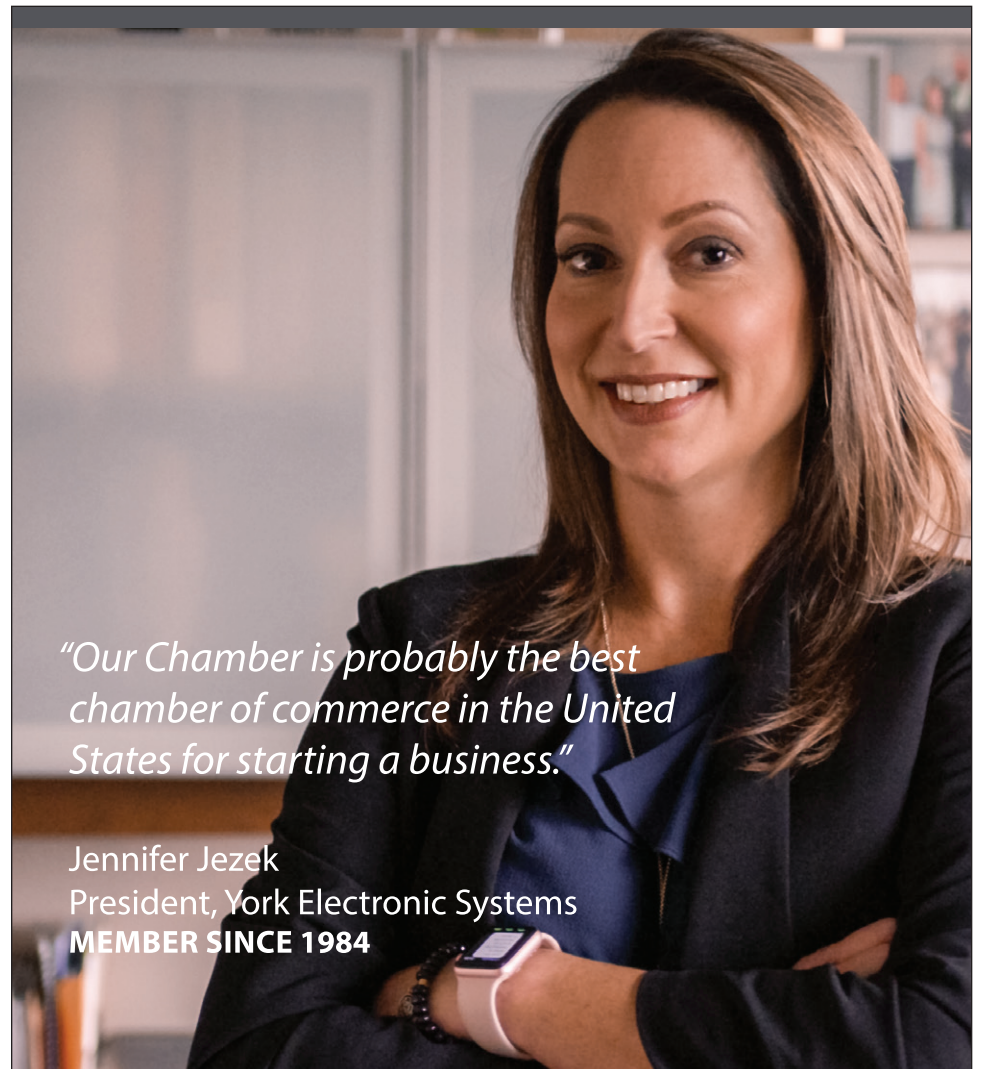
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# University of Tulsa Recognizes Distinguished Alumni During 2021 Homecoming Activities

Introduced in 1972, The University of Tulsa Alumni Association annually presents accomplished alumni with the association's highest honor: The Distinguished Alumni Award.

This award is given to recognize outstanding achievement by an alumnus or alumna in a particular discipline, organization or cause. Distinguished Alumni are a great credit to TU and all alumni share in the celebration of their collective achievements.

Recognition is open to any alumnus or alumna of The University of Tulsa who has distinguished himself or herself by rendering extraordinary service and achievement to a particular discipline, organization, or cause on an international, national, statewide, or local basis.

This year, TU Alumni Association honored alumni are Stuart R. Crum (BS '82), CEO of True Blue Car Wash and former executive at Texaco, Shell, Jiffy Lube and Bridgestone; John Harvey III (BA '85), plant manager at TPC Group Houston and former executive at



**HURRICANE LUMINARIES:** University of Tulsa President Brad Carson, far right, with TU honorees, from left, Albert Myres, Teresa Valero, Steve Turnbo, Stu Crum and John Harvey.

British Petroleum, Amoco, Ineos and Elevance; and Albert H. Myres Sr. (BS '86), president and CEO of Octcet and former executive at Shell Oil, Reliant Energy and RRI Energy

Other honorees at TU's 2021 Homecoming were J. Paschal Twyman Award winner Steve Turnbo, a co-founder of Schnake Turnbo Frank PR, and Ms. Homecoming M. Teresa Valero, former director of the TU School of Art.

The honorees were feted during

an induction ceremony at TU's Lorton Performance Center. University President Brad R. Carson congratulated the honorees on their lifetimes of success and thanked each of them for their continued support of TU and its students.

All five honorees attended the annual Bonfire and Pep Rally on Oct. 8 and were recognized during the victorious TU Homecoming game against Memphis at H.A. Chapman Stadium.

# Tulsa Regional Chamber Wraps Intercity Visit to N.W. Arkansas

The Tulsa Regional Chamber completed its 2021 Intercity Visit, the 12th in an annual series of visits to peer cities to learn best practices and hear success stories. This year's destination was the northwest Arkansas region, including Bentonville, Fayetteville, Springdale and Rogers.

More than 90 attendees from across northeast Oklahoma – including Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, Tulsa County commissioners as well as other city and county elected officials, business leaders, regional partners, educational administrators and young professionals – participated in the three-day event, which ran Oct. 11-13.

Previous intercity visits to cities such as Pittsburgh, Indianapolis and Fort Worth have featured in-depth looks at topics ranging from river development and tourism to health living initiatives and the arts. This year's trip to northwest Arkansas covered a variety of subjects, including infrastructure development, building a creative economy, workforce and talent development, and innovation and entrepreneurship. For many at-

tendees, the trip offered its most powerful lessons on the topic of regional collaboration.

"Northwest Arkansas offers textbook lessons for how neighboring communities can collaborate and coordinate efforts to the greatest benefit of all," says Kevin Gross, chair-elect of the Tulsa Regional Chamber and president and CEO of Hillcrest HealthCare System. Gross led the task force that selected northwest Arkansas as this year's destination and served as host for the trip.

"It became clear that—far from competing against one another—the northwest Arkansas communities work together to attract talent and business," Gross says. "The extensive bike trail systems are a great example of developing an asset that helps the entire region thrive."

This year's trip featured dialogues with Arvest Bank Chairman Jim Walton, Tyson Foods President and CEO Donnie King,

and University of Arkansas Walton Business School Dean Matthew Waller. Attendees also visited a number of marquee venues, including Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, TheatreSquared performing arts center, the Fayetteville Public Library, and the Don Tyson School of Innovation.



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

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CIVICS

# New Tulsa Initiative Promotes Citizenship

Tulsa is a city of immigrants founded by Muscogee Creek citizens who were driven from their homeland and founded our city at the Creek Council Oak Tree. Since that time, Tulsa has been a city that has welcomed refugees from all around the world with open arms and we are a better city because of their contributions.

In the coming days and months as Tulsa starts welcoming Afghan refugees, we want them to know how appreciative we are that they are here. In addition to the ways we are working to welcome new neighbors, there are a lot of exciting things happening in Tulsa anyone can enjoy.

One of the first steps I hope our new neighbors make is to Gathering Place, which is the greatest park ever given to an American city. Situated along the Arkansas River, the park is free, along with the many miles of trails and city

parks along the river. We also have the Mother Road, Route 66, which was founded by a Tulsan. As attractions along the road grow, there are various stores and local businesses to check out along the way.

## From Tulsa's Mayor

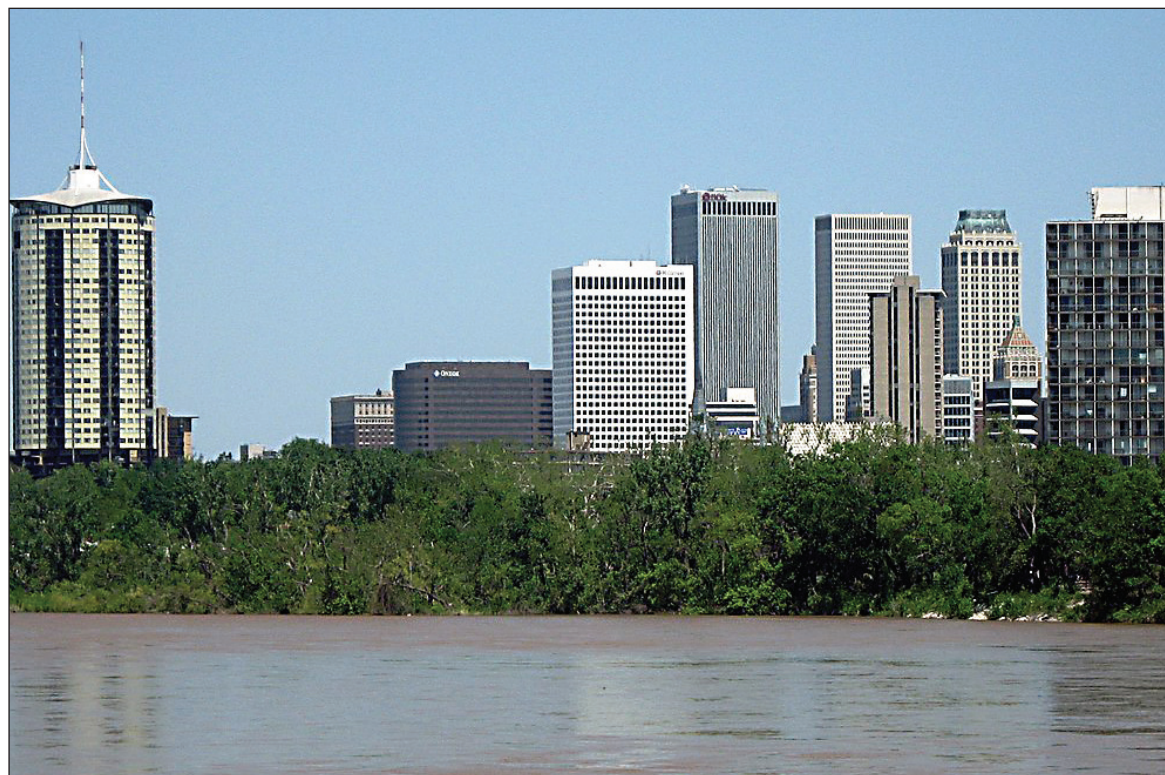


By G.T. BYNUM  
Mayor of Tulsa

But more than anything, as Tulsa opens its arms to the refugees from Afghanistan, we hope Tulsa's welcoming spirit and resources find these refugees well. While I know it can be difficult navigating a city in a new country, we have a plan in place to help make that transition easier - it's called the New Tulsans

Initiative. This program promotes citizenship here in Tulsa and has various ways to help immigrants to our city find a job in a field they have experience in.

I think I speak on behalf of my fellow 400,000 Tulsans when I say we want these Afghan refugees to have a seat at the table while they are here. City Hall and its resources are open to anyone needing



Courtesy photo

**WELCOMING NEWCOMERS:** Tulsa's history of welcoming newcomers continues as future citizens come from Afghanistan and elsewhere.

assistance or who want to get engaged in the cultural and leadership life in our city.

As we empathize with the challenges many of these families have had to face recently, we're incredibly humbled and excited to embrace the new chapters in these

people's lives and welcome them to Tulsa with open arms.

If you are a Tulsan looking to help - I want to direct you to Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma. We have partnered with them to help resettle refugees in Tulsa and they are look-

ing for volunteers and donations. To contact them, call (918) 949-4673. Additionally, YWCA Tulsa is looking to hire interpreters and translators to assist in the resettlement effort. If you are interested, please give them a call at (918) 587-2100.

# Expo Square Dedicates Golden Driller Plaza



GTR Media Group photo

**GOLDEN DRILLER WELCOME:** The Golden Driller welcomes visitors to the SageNet Center at Expo Square.

Expo Square dedicated the new Golden Driller Plaza in September. The project began in March 2021, with an overall cost of \$3.4 million, and was funded by Vision Tulsa, Tulsa County and Expo Square.

The significant modifications include moving the main drive lanes to provide a more efficient ingress and egress to the building and welcoming entrance. These improvements focus on creating a safe event environment for guests visiting the facility.

Ron Peters, TCPFA Board Chair and Tulsa County Commissioner, said, "We are very pleased with this opportunity to update the Golden Driller Plaza. One of our main goals with this project is to improve the flow of traffic around the Plaza entrance, while increasing pedestrian safety. The updates will also improve informative signage for visitors and complement the other improvements we have made with Vision Tulsa funding."

"The Historic Golden Driller is a Tulsa icon, we are so excited to finally be updating the area around him. This park-like setting will enhance the experience for all who enter our facilities, as well as the many visitors who capture their souvenir photo with the icon," said Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith.

In addition to welcoming guests to the new plaza, Expo Square will also be highlighting its new naming rights partner by unveiling the SageNet Center signage. The long-term agreement will focus on increasing brand awareness for SageNet, the Tulsa-based managed services provider specializing in connectivity, cybersecurity and digital signage solutions.

According to SageNet founder and Expo Square board member Daryl Woodard, the partnership is a win-win situation.

"The Expo Square is a remarkable facility and one of our area's

premier event centers, annually drawing high-profile events and visitors from across the nation," said Woodard. "In securing the naming rights, SageNet will be investing in this regional gem, helping to fund renovations and operations for this important cornerstone to the county's economic development and tourism initiatives. We also feel that associating the Expo Square with a locally owned, high-technology company helps further position Tulsa as a place looking toward the future, while grounded in tradition."

With a three-decade track record in managed services, SageNet boasts a long-term customer base that includes the nation's largest retail, financial, healthcare, utilities and energy organizations. Headquartered in Tulsa, SageNet also has regional offices in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Philadelphia, Chicago and Toronto.

(Continued on page 5)

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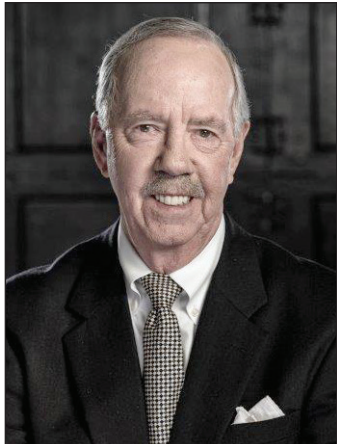


# Modernizing County Government Needed to Allow Local Officials to Address Challenges

Preliminary reports from the 2020 census confirm that Tulsa County's population will exceed 650,000. What may go overlooked in the report is that even though Tulsa County has 10 incorporated cities, over 35,000 citizens live in the unincorporated areas of Tulsa County. That means the unincorporated areas of the county have more population than 44 of the 77 Oklahoma counties and more than seven of the 10 cities in the county.

Citizens choose to live in the unincorporated areas of the county for many reasons. Even though they choose to live outside of a city doesn't mean they don't expect some of the same benefits and services as those who live within a city. For those citizens it falls to the county government to provide those services and to respond to their concerns and requests.

## From Tulsa County



By COMMISSIONER RON PETERS

In Oklahoma, since statehood, counties have been unable to provide services to the citizens in the unincorporated areas in the same manner as the services provided to those who choose to live within a city in the county. This could be in the areas of disaster response, storm water management, public safety, code enforcement, road and bridge improvements, trash and environmental issues, fire code protection, and many others.

Citizens who live in these unincorporated areas have a right to expect similar services from their county government. Many citizens are unaware that county government is very limited in its ability to address these and other issues.

The reason counties cannot respond and serve those citizens is that counties do not have the

authority to adopt regulations, codes, and ordinances like cities have. Cities, through their Councils, Mayors, or City Managers can address quality of life issues. Counties cannot.

Like cities, counties also have the responsibility to provide these services efficiently to taxpayers of Tulsa County. Doing so is a priority of the Board of County Commissioners. Unfortunately, current law prohibits counties from doing even mundane task without asking the legislature for ordinance or rule making authority. Counties have to ask the Legislature for permission to start programs, improve services, manage county personnel, or take any steps to modernize county government.

Most Legislators believe there are many legislative request from counties to make productive changes that should come from those closest to the problem which is the counties, not the states, responsibility.

Having to go through the Legislature for issues which have no impact or benefit to the state government takes a great deal of time from members of the Legislature and their staff. Time which would be better spent focusing on issues of state importance.

It is time that counties were on the same plane as cities by hav-

ing the ability to provide what is needed for a modern and responsive county government. While this will be new for Oklahoma, our neighboring states of Arkansas, Texas, Missouri, and Kansas currently allow county leaders to govern, not just manage, county affairs.

The pathway to modernizing county government is for the Legislature to allow counties the opportunity to address those areas where the elected Board of County Commissioners can fulfill the duties and responsibilities owed to the citizens they were elected to serve. This would be achieved by the Legislature passing the county modernization legislation allowing ordinance making authority.

To be clear, even with the passage of this legislation there would still be guardrails to limit the counties authority. This modernization would change the functions of county government, not the form of county government.

For example, counties could not

approve something which state law prohibits, counties would still be obligated to follow all of the requirements under the authority of the State Auditor, and counties could not attempt to regulate a business or industry which is already under the regulatory control of a state entity. These are the guard rails which cities currently operate within.

Counties would follow the same. Like cities, these are the same areas where state legislation would be required and necessary to provide continuity and uniformity across county lines. In those cases counties would continue to work with state leaders to educate them on county needs.

Modernizing county government by allowing locally elected county officials to address local challenges and opportunities with local solutions is in the best interest of both the citizens in the county and the state. It's time we provided our county leaders with the tools and opportunity to achieve the county government of the future in Oklahoma.



# SageNet Center Signage a Landmark in Tulsa

(Continued from page 4)

"At SageNet we are passionate about Trusted Connections, and this is a perfect example of how we continue seeking ways to create lasting relationships with our customers, our associates and the communities in which we live and work," added Brad Wise, SageNet's CEO.

"As an added bonus, the new SageNet Center will provide us high-profile regional exposure. We have plans to incorporate and showcase some of our advanced technologies, such as our SageVIEWTM digital signage offerings."

It is an exciting time at Expo

Square, with the collaborative team of GH2 Architects, Crossland Construction, Planning Design Group and Cytergy, working hard to finish the Plaza Project prior to the Tulsa State Fair.

Tulsa County Commissioner Stan Sallee said, "This is our front

door, and we want to showcase Expo Square by making an excellent first impression. This project does just that, while improving the safety and convenience of guests attending our events. We consistently strive to improve Expo Square, positioning the facility to attract and retain events

for Tulsa County."

Expo Square has a steady emphasis on progress and construction, catapulted by the dynamic needs of clients and events. The goal is to never have a finish line, and always position Expo Square to be an economic engine for Tulsa County.



GTR Media Group photo

**OPENING CEREMONY:** Expo Square Chief Operating Officer Amanda Blair welcomes everyone to the dedication of the new Golden Driller Plaza in September. From left are Expo Square CEO Mark Andrus, SageNet Chairman and Founder Daryl Woodard, Tulsa County Commissioners Stan Sallee and Ron Peters, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, and Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith.

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## VARIETY

# Ann Bell's Great Music Career Celebrated With Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame Induction

By **TERRELL LESTER**  
Editor at Large

She is hailed as the High Priestess of Soul.

Celebrated as the Epochal Doyenne of Funk.

She is the Voice for the Ages. Ann Bell, First Lady of the Tulsa Sound.

Ann Bell, dynamic, animated, passionate, tears into the blues with an authenticity and a palpability unmatched and unapproached for more than a half-century.

She was a night-club headliner as a Tulsa teen, embraced by rock 'n' roll royalty.

She was recruited and mentored by Leon Russell, toured with J.J. Cale, with Joe Cocker.

And in September, she was inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame.

She accepted her august salute as only Ann Bell could. She sang. She rocked. She wailed. She dazzled.

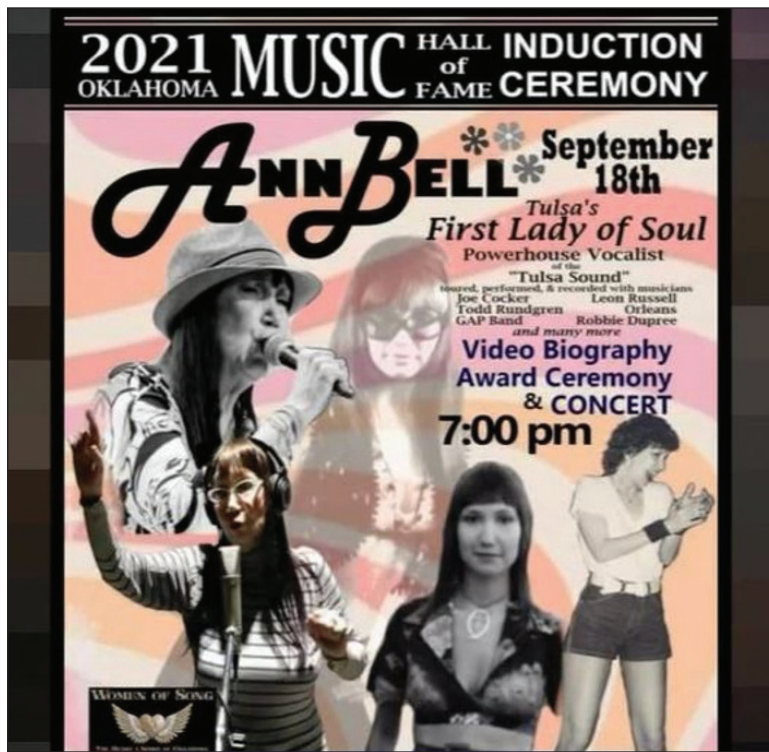
On a stage adjacent to the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame Museum in downtown Muskogee, 70-year-old Ann Bell commanded a dynamic seven-piece band through an hour-plus performance that soared and showcased the vocal emotion and personality of a musical force of nature.

Her soulful voice, her innate rhythm, are part and parcel of the culture, the sensation, that defines the Tulsa Sound.

Her spirited vocals added a textured layer to the shuffle-infused blues and down-home rock born in tiny Tulsa clubs and exported to the world.

Popular supposition surrounding the origins of Ann Bell, Tulsa musical treasure, focuses on the late-1960s and her days at Thomas Edison High School.

Tulsa's music scene was a potpourri of sound. Rock was beginning its second decade. Sammy Pagna was a big-band institution.



**TULSA'S FIRST LADY OF SOUL:** Ann Bell of Tulsa was inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in Muskogee September 18. The event included a video biography Award ceremony and Concert, where she dazzled the audience with her great talent.

Sonny Gray and Suzan Gray were forces in jazz. Leon McAuliffe and Johnnie Lee Wills were in the autumn of their country legacies.

Leon Russell and J.J. Cale had set up shop on the West Coast. Many of the Tulsa sidemen who had followed them had begun to drift back home to their musical roots.

Tulsa night clubs, the Fondalite for adults, The Machine for teens, were beginning to feature the bands of local musicians.

Ann Bishop felt the attraction of that spotlight. Felt moved by the music of the day.

Her brother, Eddie Bishop, played guitar in early bands. Ann

was not far behind.

She joined with friends and Edison classmates to form the band The Rubbery Cargo.

Seemingly overnight, the band with Dick Gordon Jr., Wayne Evans, Max Wisely and Bill Phillips, featuring the vibrant brunette vocalist, was headlining The Machine, operated by Skilly Forsman, the woman who taught Tulsa to dance.

Within a year, Ann Bishop was introduced to local keyboard wizard Larry Bell. After a triumphant West Coast turn with Leon Russell and countless studio sessions, Bell was heading up a local band, the Sunday Servants - Tommy Tripplehorn, Carl Day, John Rigney, Gary Sanders. They brought aboard the effervescent Ann Bishop to expand the vocal offerings.

By 1968, Ann Bishop had become Mrs. Larry Bell, and the legend was taking shape.

Much of the rock sound from females up to that point, she said, was created by white vocalists. Leslie Gore and Sandra Dee giving way to Grace Slick and Janis Joplin.

"I was listening to the (rhythm and blues) artists of the day, Pat-



**VOICE FOR THE AGES:** Ann Bell entertains with her soulful voice and innate rhythm that are part and parcel of the culture and sensation that define the Tulsa Sound.

ti LaBelle and Aretha Franklin, Dionne Warwick and Gladys Knight," Ann Bell said.

"Those girls were the ones that were really moving me. I was more into the costuming of the Black girl singers. And the soul that they sang with. That pain of heartbreak. That's what drew me in."

With The Rubbery Cargo, Ann was most likely to rock a Grace Slick number or two along with a few Beatles covers.

Her life changed in 1968 with a single Larry Bell intervention.

Prior to joining the Sunday Servants, she said that Larry Bell gave her two albums, one by Tina Turner, one by Aretha Franklin.

"Pick six songs between those two albums and learn them," Larry told his future bride.

She did. "That's when I locked into the R&B," she said. "I moved away from some of the white singers like Grace Slick over to the Black singers like Aretha.

"I loved it. I stayed there for the rest of my life.

"I think about the only other white thing I ever did after that was maybe a Carole King song every now and then."

The Bells, married in 1968, and their band quickly became a local favorite. They were regularly booked for gigs at Tulsa landmarks like PJs, Jose's, The Stables, Blue Moon.

Through Larry and his

wide-ranging contacts, Ann was introduced to Leon Russell, to Joe Cocker, to J.J. Cale.

Their influences on the young singer were affecting and enduring.

In 1973, two years after her divorce from Bell, Ann went out on tour with Russell. Four years later, she joined the Cocker entourage for a five-year run.

"I had quite a colorful early upbringing with Leon and those guys," she said. "It was overwhelming, to be like 17 when Larry and I started dating and got married.

"At that point, Leon brought me into what is being called, now Leon didn't label it, but people did, the Tulsa Sound. Now I'm singing with people like Cale, (drummers) Chuck Blackwell, Jimmy Karstein. I was almost speechless.

"Leon mentored me. He would affirm me, validate my singing. He'd tell me: 'Girl, just go out there and sing what you feel. Don't worry about what (others) think.'

"That's when I started getting my boldness. That's when I said, OK, that's what I'm going to do."

There is an infectious spontaneity that envelops and defines Ann Bell when she speaks.

Any conversation with her at the center is at once a colorful portrait of Tulsa's euphonious musical history.

Before her parents moved into the Edison district in the '60s, Ann said the family lived near Archer  
(Continued on page 7)

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# Ann Bell Hailed as the Voice for the Ages

(continued from page 6)  
Street and Denver Avenue.  
“There was a Black church in the neighborhood,” she said. “I could hear the gospel sounds in the summer when the doors and windows were open.”

The sounds, she said, “just drove me, even as a little kid.”  
“The freedom that they sang with just inspired me. I felt the emotion.”

She continues to sing with that same emotion, that same freedom.  
“For me, it was always about how I really felt in the depth of my own soul,” she said.

Russell’s piano work also leaned heavily toward what Ann called “the Black gospel-rooted R&B.”

The Tulsa Sound, though never definitively spelled out, can be broken down into that gospel-rooted R&B with a shuffle beat.

“When they brought me in, really, as the first woman,” she said of the Tulsa musicians of the late ‘60s, “I was the first woman in the Tulsa Sound.”

“I had found my place. When I sang my songs, I meant them. I

didn’t just do them because they were in the Top 10. The songs I picked were songs that I related to from the story lines.

“I owe Leon everything,” she said.

Russell and Cale were at the forefront of the Tulsa Sound, taking their music, their beat, their influence, to the West Coast studios in the early-’60s.

Among the other pacesetters and bellwethers were drummers Jamie Oldaker, David Teegarden, Jimmy Karstein, Chuck Blackwell, Jim Keltner. In addition to Larry Bell, recognized members of the Tulsa Sound included Jimmy Markham (harmonica), Carl Radle (bass), Tommy Tripplehorn (guitar), Dick Sims (keyboard), John Rigney (keyboard), Jimmy Byfield (vocals, guitar).

“It was such a magical time in musical history,” Ann said of the decade of the ‘60s when the Tulsa Sound was impacting audiences and musicians across the country, and beyond.

“When Eric Clapton came to



**TULSA SOUND:** Ann Bell was at the heart of the Tulsa Sound with greats such as Leon Russell, J.J. Cale, Jamie Oldaker, David Teegarden, Carl Radle, Tommy Tripplehorn, Dick Sims, John Rigney, Jimmy Karstein, Chuck Blackwell, Jim Keltner and Jimmy Byfield.

Tulsa, it was to hire players,” she said. “Why? Because they were the greatest players in the world.”

“When Ringo (Starr), when Elton (John), when Peter Frampton, when any artist came to Tulsa, they wanted Tulsa players.”

“The Tulsa players played blues better than anybody. But we had our own approach to the blues. When (outsiders) needed that feel, you came to Tulsa to get those players.”

“And those were the best people you could learn from. We were all learning. It was an education. It was wonderful. It was family.”

“That’s one of the things that sets the Tulsa Sound players apart from other musicians in the country, in the world. They did not crave the spotlight. They did not crave it for their own self gain. What they craved was the music. It was always about the music.”

“It’s why, I think, they endured where other players have come and gone. They didn’t get intoxicated with their own celebrity. They actually had their priorities

right,” she said.

Today, Ann lives in Cleveland, Tennessee with her husband, keyboardist Tom Nicholson, who was in her backing band for the hall of fame performance.

She said that plans are being made to relocate to Tulsa within a year or two.

“I want to continue to contribute to the music that’s in Tulsa and in Oklahoma,” she said.

“I want to be used however I need to be used. To do that, I want to be available. I’m wanting to mother this (musical) generation that’s coming up however I can.”

But Ann Bell cautions the new generation of local musicians: “Don’t use the term Tulsa Sound.”

The name applies, she said with feeling, only to the originals.

“You had to have lived in that time,” she said.

And Ann Bell did live in that time.

Now, it is Ann Bell’s time to bask in the glow of membership in the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame. As the First Lady of the Tulsa Sound.

## Oklahoma Music Legacy Preserved At the Hall of Fame in Muskogee

Oklahoma’s musical legacy, from jazz and country to opera and rock, is being preserved, nurtured and celebrated, thanks to those Okies from Muskogee.

The Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame, from its beginnings in 1996, has honored more than 100 of the state’s most famous musicians, artists and songwriters who have shaped the international music scene.

No doubt energized by the 1969 mega-hit “Okie from Muskogee” by Merle Haggard, State Senator Benn Robinson and State Representative Barbara Staggs, both of Muskogee, co-authored in 1996 a concurrent resolution designating Muskogee as the site of the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame. Another Muskogee representative, Bill Settle, secured legislative appropriations for the hall.

In 1997, the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame inducted its first class



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of headliners during a ceremony and concert in Muskogee. Haggard led the inaugural class that included Woody Guthrie, Patti Page and Claude Williams.

The hall has added to the honor roll every year since. The 2021 class honored Ann Bell, Tommy Collins, Jerry Lynn Williams and three of the founding members of the group The Call: Scott Musick, Steve Huddleston and Michael Been.

Since 2003, the hall of fame moved into its home in downtown Muskogee, the renovated Frisco Freight Depot. The Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame Museum in that facility houses a dazzling collection of memorabilia celebrating the careers of such members as Bob Wills, Leon Russell, Leona Mitchell, Hank Thompson, Kristin Chenoweth, Wanda Jackson, Carrie Underwood, Wayman Tisdale, Gene Autry, Roy Clark and more.



**B.A. SPOTLIGHT SERIES:** The B.A. Spotlight Series is “Back To Business” with the 2021-2022 season at the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center. The six-show season, presented by the Conventions and Visitors Bureau of

Broken Arrow, ARTSOK and AVB Bank, features amazing touring productions, returning favorites and a few new delights, beginning Nov. 18 with MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET featuring the music of Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis,

Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley. Above, members of the “Waitress” cast will entertain in a fun presentation May 7.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

# ArchWell Health Opens Tulsa Center for Primary Care for Underserved Seniors

Senior adults in Tulsa now have access to an innovative primary care health center focused on meeting the needs of the medically underserved.

ArchWell Health is a new healthcare company providing an advanced model of holistic primary healthcare services to Medicare-eligible seniors with the Tulsa location among the first in a planned national rollout.

The Tulsa center, which held a ribbon cutting and grand opening in Oct. 22, is located at 3138 S. Garnett Road.

The Tulsa center is among the first in the United States to be opened by ArchWell Health. The company will be opening centers in several states this fall.

The centers establish state-of-the-art neighborhood healthcare centers featuring an advanced, senior-focused care model.

The company's goal is to provide seniors access to excellent healthcare and healthy living options, irrespective of their economic situation. ArchWell Health centers will focus on providing comprehensive primary care for seniors enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans, with



**EXECUTIVE WELCOME:** Dr. Michael Lipp, Chief Medical Officer of ArchWell Health, welcomes guests to the ribbon cutting and opening of the facility.



**RIBBON CUTTING:** ArchWell Health welcomed VIPs for a ribbon cutting event and tours before opening doors to the public at the grand opening of its first Tulsa center.

the goal of enabling members to live healthier lives by offering them a higher level of care and a more positive experience.

Dr. Michael Lipp, Chief Medical Officer, said ArchWell Health's Tulsa center will provide a more comprehensive level of care than the traditional primary care model, including transportation to and from the center, 24-hour service, access to same-day appointments, specialty and ancillary services, social workers, nutritionists, and more.

Each center's doctors will have significantly fewer patients than the current national average, ensuring they have more time with each patient to solve their individual health challenges. The doctors and their care teams are specifically trained to care for seniors, who have more challenging health conditions than the general population, and a higher rate of chronic conditions. Patients at ArchWell Health will receive care that is well coordinated, as compared to the fragmented care

that many seniors experience today.

"Seniors often have complex medical and social needs, and our approach to care addresses each patient individually and holistically," Dr. Lipp said. "The centers will be a safe place for seniors to connect socially and participate in activities such as exercise classes. We know how important social connection and staying active can be to leading a healthy life. We conducted extensive research in markets nationally, and we found a real need for these holistic services in the Tulsa area."

ArchWell Health's plan has been developed by a highly skilled management team with deep and broad healthcare experience in both provider and payor services.

Carl Whitmer, Co-Founder and CEO said seniors experience better outcomes through greater continuity of care and a more thorough assessment of acute, chronic, and social determinant health needs.

"The healthcare needs of the senior population are often multi-fac-

eted, so our goal is to establish long-term relationships to monitor and respond to physical and emotional needs for achieving the best quality of life," Whitmer said. "ArchWell Health's primary care doctors caring for our patients will be supported by social, nutritional, and behavioral health services in each center."

ArchWell Health will add hundreds of employees by year end 2021, increasing to more than 1,400 by end of 2023 as additional centers open.

Whitmer noted that with the growing senior population Medicare expenditures continue to strain federal spending, and there is a growing need for focused and cost-effective care of aging Americans.

"There are approximately 70 million Medicare beneficiaries today, and about 10,000 Baby Boomers join the ranks of Medicare eligibility every day," Whitmer said. "Medicare beneficiaries account for approximately 20 percent of national

healthcare spending today, and this percentage is expected to increase."

He said the Company's strategy of locating in underserved communities will help to deliver care where it is needed most. ArchWell Health intends to engage seniors in the communities where they live. Outreach teams will be active at community events and work with community groups, senior organizations, religious organizations like churches, and other organizations to reach seniors in need. In addition, ArchWell Health advisory boards will work together with local community members, including church leaders, aldermen, business leaders and community groups to identify the challenges common to seniors in a local area. Dr. Lipp closed with, "We are thrilled to be bringing together a team of excellent, caring primary care providers to begin serving our patients in our communities."

For more information, visit [archwellhealth.com](http://archwellhealth.com)

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## OSU-CHS Center Receives Grants

The Center for Indigenous Health Research and Policy (CIHRP) at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa has been awarded two grants totaling about \$5.5 million to study and improve indigenous food systems and health outcomes.

In August, CIHRP was awarded a five-year \$3.5 million Tribal Community Supported Agriculture Grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. CIHRP is partnering with the

Osage Nation and the National Congress of American Indians to implement and study new community supported agriculture (CSA) programs in the Osage Nation, document findings and if successful, compile a web-based toolkit for other indigenous communities to use to improve Native food systems.

The program would provide Osage citizens with a weekly share of freshly grown farm produce for six months, said CIHRP Director Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan, DrPH, MPH.

OSU-CHS President Dr. Johnny Stephens said the grants' focus on nutrition and overall health of Native populations coincides with the institution's mission to meet the health care needs of rural and underserved Oklahoma.

"CSAs have improved diet and health in non-American Indian populations and are evidence-based strategies recommended by the CDC and the Institute of Medicine to reduce health disparities," said Jernigan. "We will test the efficacy of a CSA program combined with culturally-tailored nutrition and cooking education on diet and health outcomes among Osage citizens, evaluate its cost-effectiveness and develop a multimedia toolkit for disseminating findings."

Most recently, CIHRP was awarded a two-year \$2 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services that focuses on American Indian and Alaska Natives.

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# Recently Opened Ascension St. John Mary K. Chapman Comprehensive Breast Center Helps Preventative Care

The Ascension St. John Mary K. Chapman Comprehensive Breast Center marked October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month by announcing that more than 5,000 patients have received preventative and life-saving care since the opening of the facility in July of 2021.

"Our team has provided over 2,200 mammograms at the new facility which allowed us to identify almost 100 cancer diagnoses," said Phil Ames, System Director, Imaging for Ascension St. John. "Early detection and screening play a critical role in ensuring the best outcomes for our patients."

Ascension St. John and Oklahoma Cancer Specialists and Research Institute offer breast health and wellness from screening through survivorship at the facility where all services are housed side-by-side on the fifth floor of Mary K. Chapman Health Plaza at 21st and Utica. The center integrates cancer prevention, early detection, rapid diagnosis, leading therapies, clinical navigation, education and community support programs.

"This facility represents our commitment to accessible, compassionate and personalized care to the communities we serve,"

said Jeff Nowlin, FACHE, Ascension St. John CEO and Oklahoma Ministry Market Executive. "Our team is delighted to honor our patients' perseverance and strength in a symbolic way by illuminating our campuses in pink lights during Breast Cancer Awareness Month."

The center also partners with local nonprofits to provide patient-centered, breast health and wellness care to those in need. Through partnerships with Project Woman, the Tulsa Health Department and other local charities, approximately 45 patients per month have received care.

"The community of Northeast Oklahoma is served like never before by the Mary K. Chapman Comprehensive Breast Center," said Laurie Flynn, MD, OCSRI Breast Surgeon. "As we commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we reflect on this unique partnership that allows us to provide all aspects of breast health side-by-side with other specialists."

The Ascension St. John breast program provides care through the entire continuum of breast health and wellness, from screening through survivorship, with a unified multi-disciplinary approach delivering the highest quality care and patient experience.

The center is accredited as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology. The Ascension St. John Medical Center Cancer Program is accredited by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons.

To schedule a screening today, call 918-744-3511.

About Ascension St. John Ascension St. John operates six hospitals and more than 90 healthcare clinics and facilities in eastern Oklahoma and southeastern Kansas. Ascension St. John employs approximately 8,000 associates. Across the region, Ascension St. John provided more than \$119 million in community benefit and care of persons living in poverty in fiscal year 2021. Serving Oklahoma for 95 years, Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. Ascension is one of the leading non-profit and Catholic health systems in the U.S., operating 2,600 sites of care – including 150 hospitals and more than 50 senior living facilities – in 20 states and the District of Columbia. Visit [www.ascension.org](http://www.ascension.org).



Courtesy photo  
**ST. JOHN ASCENSION BREAST CENTER:** The facility is located in the Mary K. Chapman Health Plaza at 21st Street and Utica Avenue in Tulsa.

# Ascension St. John Expands in B.A. and Owasso

To support two of the fastest-growing communities in northeastern Oklahoma, Ascension announces bed expansions at both Ascension St. John Broken Arrow and Ascension St. John Owasso hospitals.

The investment will allow the healthcare ministry to meet the continued needs of these growing communities through access to timely, quality care. In addition, this expansion will help relieve the demand for care at Ascension Medical Center in Tulsa.

"This investment Ascension St. John is making to increase the number of beds is a big win for Broken Arrow," said Mayor Debra Wimpee. "The health and safety of our citizens is of paramount significance, and this expansion will provide our citizens greater access to high-quality health care services right here at home."

"We highly value our partnership with Ascension St. John in Owasso. Their continued investment and expansion of healthcare services and ministry to northeast Oklahoma is great news for our community," said Warren Lehr, City Manager, City of Owasso. "More beds to provide better services to patients is positively supportive of the caring and thriving community we aspire to be in Owasso."

The expansion includes the addition of 24 acuity-adaptable beds at each hospital cam-

pus. Acuity-adaptable beds are designed to support a care model that allows a patient to stay in the same room, regardless of the level of care, until discharged from the hospital. Initially the 48 new beds will allow for up to intermediate levels of care.

"This move solidifies our commitment to providing the high quality, compassionate care that our patients have come to expect and experience in our 95 years of service," said Jeff Nowlin, FACHE, Ascension St. John CEO and Oklahoma Ministry Market Executive. "By investing in our Owasso and Broken Arrow communities, we are building the capacity to meet the needs of our patients close to home."

The build out will occur within the shell floors of each hospital. This design was incorporated into the master facility plan when the hospitals were opened more than a decade ago. Construction is expected to be complete in early 2023.

### About Ascension St. John

Ascension St. John operates six hospitals and more than 90 healthcare clinics and facilities in eastern Oklahoma and southeastern Kansas. Ascension St. John employs approximately 8,000 associates. Across the region, Ascension St. John provided more than \$119 million in community benefit and care of persons living in poverty in

fiscal year 2021. Serving Oklahoma for 95 years, Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. Ascen-

sion is one of the leading non-profit and Catholic health systems in the U.S., operating 2,600 sites of care – including 150 hospitals and more than 50 senior living facilities – in 20 states and the District of Columbia.

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# EDUCATION

## Hardesty Student Success Center at TCC West Campus Improves Learning Experience

The new Hardesty Student Success Center on the Tulsa Community College West Campus is celebrating its opening and formal dedication. Funded with a \$1 million gift from the Hardesty Family Foundation, the new facility revolutionizes the student experience and removes barriers.

Students are already seeing the benefit with a clearly identified starting point and check in area instead of rows of counters and offices for multiple departments, each with its own line. Opened in the middle of the pandemic, the College made the strategic decision to delay the formal dedication until now, due to public health considerations.

“It is critical TCC provide services to our students in a way that isn’t confusing or intimidating. Every effort to remove a barrier, either physical or financial, increases student success and the number of graduates,” said Dr. Leigh Goodson, TCC president & CEO.

“TCC is so grateful to the Hardesty Family Foundation for the generous gift and their investment today in our students to produce tomorrow’s work ready graduates.”

On a recent visit to the Hardesty Student Success Center, Goodson provided a guided tour to Michelle Hardesty, executive director of the Hardesty Family Foundation and showed how the facility transforms the student experience. It creates a centralized location where students can get their needs met – whether it’s determining a major, securing scholarships and financial aid to establishing a class schedule that works for the student’s busy life.

“We are leveraging what we have in place to improve our community and to ensure we are able to meet the demands of industries and employers with a properly educated workforce,” said Hardesty. “This brick-and-mortar project is an essential element to the student support ser-

VICES TCC provides and ensures everyone, especially first-generation college students, can navigate college successfully.”

Construction on the Hardesty Student Success Center started with a January 2020 groundbreaking. As construction wrapped in Fall 2020, the College provided limited in-person student services along with expanded virtual services to serve students and resumed normal operations for Fall 2021.

The Hardesty Student Success Center is part of the TCC Foundation’s \$20 million Clearing the Pathway: The Campaign for Completion. Plans are to create two more Student Success Centers at the Metro and Northeast campuses. The College opened the first Student Success Center at the Southeast Campus in August 2019 with the help of the Vision Tulsa package approved by voters.

“These Student Success Centers represent community investment



Courtesy TCC

**APPRECIATIVE THANK YOU:** Leigh Goodson, TCC president and CEO, right, offers a gift of flowers in appreciation to Michelle Hardesty, executive director of the Hardesty Family Foundation, for new Hardesty Student Success Center.

in our students in ways that will have a transformative effect,” said Goodson. “This is about getting our students into the workforce or transferring to a four-year univer-

sity at a higher rate, and it is work we can’t do alone. It takes leaders such as the Hardesty family and their generous support to reimagine higher education.



Courtesy TCC

**STATELY FACILITY:** The Hardesty Student Success Center is funded from a \$1 million gift from the Hardest family Foundation.



**LEARNING ROOM:** The Hardesty Student Success Center houses the learning facilities where students can get their needs met such as determining majors, securing scholarships and financial aid to establishing class schedules.



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# Student Finds His Passion in a Course Catalog

Soft-spoken but confident, that is what will strike you first talking to Tijay Vargas. The Union High School and Tulsa Tech graduate is now in his first year of pharmacy school.

His determination is not what will surprise you the most it is how he wound up in pharmacy school. Vargas moved to Oklahoma in high school and took a unique path top picking his Tulsa Tech course.

"I put my finger on a program in the Tulsa Tech book and picked pharmacy technician," Vargas said with a grin. "At the time, it was something to do and an extracurricular to get out of school early."

Vargas's choice turned into a lifelong career path after a few months in the classroom with Kari Gibson, Pharmacy Technician instructor.

"Tulsa Tech helped me get excited about school," Vargas said with a smile. "When I started at Tech, I wanted something to get me out of the classroom."

The year-long high school or nine-month adult program gives students the skills to work in a pharmacy. Students learn to fill prescriptions and maintain inventory controls. The need for pharmacy workers is critical to public health. The U.S. Bureau of Labor

Statistics predicts this field will grow four percent over the next decade.

Vargas made the bus ride to Tulsa Tech's Owasso Campus each day but said it was among the best parts of high school.

"I would think 'finally' we are out of the school, now time to do something fun," Vargas said. "I got excited about the pharmacy coursework, and that is what drove me through college."

He also says Tulsa Tech taught him the skills he needed to go further in his educational career. Skills like relationship building, good study habits, and a desire to continue learning well into adulthood. These professional

skills translate to the workforce and prepare students for life.

Before his first day of pharmacy school, Vargas wrote, "I would definitely not be here if it wasn't for Kari Gibson! She was the amazing soul who introduced me into the world of pharmacy! She has been such an instrumental tool in my life, as far as encouragement and support."

Vargas says his time at Tulsa Tech gave him more than skills. It helped him develop life-long connections with classmates and instructors.

"I would say your Tulsa Tech instructor is not only there for your career training," Vargas said. "They become a life coach, a friend and a mentor that is there for the rest of your life."

As he pursues his doctorate of pharmacy degree, he has this advice for those considering Tulsa Tech.

"Choose a program that interests you," Vargas said. "I knew I wanted to get into the medical field, so pharmacy tech opened the doors into the medical field for me. Don't miss out on the opportunity in front of you with Tulsa Tech."

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**TIJAY VARGAS:** Tulsa Tech has helped this student find his path to the future.

## News From Tulsa Tech



By **DR. STEVE TIGER**  
Superintendent

## Spartan College Celebrates History

Officials at Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology, with a campus in Tulsa, honor their 93-year history with 93 days of celebration titled "Our Past, Your Future." Over 93 days Spartan is celebrating with events, announcements, rollouts, and take-offs to attract a new generation of students to train for pilot and technician careers.

"Now, more than ever, the aviation industry is relying on schools to train pilots and maintenance technicians needed to meet the demand in today's market, and for decades to come," said Spartan College CEO Rob

Polston. "For 93 years, Spartan College has trained each generation of workers with safety, technology, and practical skills. Our students are training to be future aviation professionals and our goal is to provide each student an opportunity for a long and sustainable aviation career."

According to the recent release of Boeing Co.'s updated 2021 Pilot and Technician Outlook, the aerospace company projects 130,000 new pilots and 132,000 new maintenance technicians are needed to fly and maintain the North American commercial aviation fleet

during the next 20 years. The disparity grows even more broad when business aviation, such as cargo carriers, and helicopter pilot demand is included.

"The aviation workforce gap was already apparent pre-pandemic when the industry experienced a personnel shortage due to changes in the mandatory retirement age of 65 years old," Polston said. "In response, Spartan College is focused on introducing aviation career training to members of a new generation that will continue to keep future air travel safe and a vital part of our transportation network."

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## EDUCATION

# Tulsa Public Schools Names Jen Sanders Deputy Director of Activities and Athletics

Tulsa Public Schools has announced Jen Sanders as the district's deputy director of activities and athletics. Sanders previously served as the district's assistant athletic director of secondary schools athletics and activities and the district's physical education coordinator.

In her new role, Sanders will oversee all aspects of student athlete eligibility, OSSAA district compliance, and district coaches' certification. In addition to those duties, she will also manage operations for the district's golf, middle school and junior high football, soccer, and softball programs; and will continue supervising 19 secondary schools' athletics programs.

"I am looking forward to serving as the next deputy director of activities and athletics for Tulsa Pub-

lic Schools," said Sanders. "I am extremely excited to move into this new role supporting students, athletes, coaches, and administrators. We have an amazing team here at Tulsa Public Schools and I am thankful to work with so many great colleagues who strive daily to make sure our students and athletes have exactly what they need to be successful."

In her previous role, Sanders assisted in supervising the district's wellness program, 19 secondary schools' athletics programs, 81 schools' K-12 physical education programs and teachers, 20 site athletics directors, and 400 coaching team members. She also worked collaboratively with Safety Patrol sponsors, Bike Cub, and JROTC.

Sanders has 19 years of experience in teaching, coaching, and

athletic administration, including serving in roles such as head girls basketball coach, head girls softball coach, Hale High School's athletic director for five years, and Will Rogers College High Schools athletic director for two years. Sanders graduated from Muldrow High School in 1999 and holds a bachelor's degree in physical education from Northeastern State University and a master's degree in education administration from the University of Oklahoma.

"I am pleased that Jen will be assuming a new role on our team as she becomes the deputy director," said Mick Wilson, executive director of secondary schools student activities and athletics. "Jen is a great person, hard worker, and is extremely loyal and dedicated to the district. She and I have worked



JEN SANDERS

Courtesy photo

together for more than 10 years and have developed a strong bond. She has a great heart for the students of Tulsa Public Schools."

For more information on the Tulsa Public Schools Athletics program, visit [www.tulsaschools.org/athletics](http://www.tulsaschools.org/athletics).

# OSU-Tulsa Hosts Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame Induction, Campus Veterans Day Recognition Event

Two Booker T. Washington High School alumni will be inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame in a ceremony at the Ellis Walker Woods Memorial on the Oklahoma State University-Tulsa campus at 4 p.m. on Nov. 11, 2021. The ceremony will follow an OSU-Tulsa Veterans Day Recognition event presented by the campus.

Brigadier General Roscoe C. Cartwright and Specialist Fourth Class Joe Thomas will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in the ceremony.

The OKMHF is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to honoring individual Oklahoma military personnel or organizations who have demonstrated heroic gallantry in action, uncommon valor, sacrifice above and beyond the call of duty, or extraordinary leadership. Since its founding in 1998, only 212 individuals and eight groups have been selected for induction.

Thomas was a combat medic for the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He was killed in action in Vietnam in September 1967 while

saving members of his platoon during an attack. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest honor for combat valor. He is Tulsa's most highly decorated soldier since World War II. Thomas graduated from BTW High School in 1965.

Cartwright was the second African American officer to be promoted to Brigadier General in the integrated U.S. Army. His pioneering 33-year career included war time service in World War II, Korea and

Vietnam. His leadership legacy is the ROCKS Foundation, a service wide officer mentoring group named for him in 1974. He graduated from BTW High School in 1936.

OSU-Tulsa's Veterans Day Recognition event will take place in the OSU-Tulsa Auditorium at 3 p.m. Community veterans and their families are invited to be recognized and honored. The program will include music and remarks from members of the Booker T. Washington High School Class of 1965. There will be a reception in

the North Hall Lobby at 3:30 p.m. for attendees of both the Veterans Day event and Hall of Fame ceremony.

To learn more about the induction ceremony, contact Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame ambassador Mike Lapolla at [lapolla@swbell.net](mailto:lapolla@swbell.net) or 918-693-8608.

For more information on OSU-Tulsa's Veterans Day Recognition event, contact community engagement specialist Alnetta Morris at [alnetta@okstate.edu](mailto:alnetta@okstate.edu) or at 918-594-8305.

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# MIDTOWN SPORTS

## BTW's Gentry Williams Being Heavily Recruited

By **MIKE MOGUIN**  
GTR Sports Writer

Gentry Williams is considered the top recruit in the state and among the top in the nation. The Booker T. Washington star recently made a visit to Oklahoma. The defensive back also has plans this fall to visit LSU. Williams also took three official visits in the summer to Florida, USC and Arkansas.

According to a social media post he made on Twitter on Sept. 20, Williams announced in a visit to Norman that OU was "everything he wanted in an official (visit)." The post followed the Sooners' Sept. 18 game against Nebraska.

But the other programs continue to make a push to get him. Eventually, he'll announce his decision for his destination.

What is he looking for in a school?

"Just the right fit," he said. "I look forward to seeing myself

being successful and pursuing everything I want to pursue in college."

Williams missed most of last season due to an ACL injury. It was hard standing on the sidelines.

"I've really been building the muscles around my injuries a lot," the Hornets' defender said. "With my ACL, I've been building up my quads to make sure my legs are strong enough to obtain hits. With my hamstrings, I've been rolling out stretching, taking the proper techniques of making sure this stuff never happens again."

"It has definitely pushed me to another level to work hard and make sure I never have these types of injuries again. It does get frustrating from time to time," Williams added.

Williams, who also runs track, describes himself as a quick twitchy player and thinks his IQ is pretty smart. "I'd say those are my strong suits," he said.

As for Williams' current team,

the Hornets are out for one thing.

"I think we have some great things planned for us this year," he said in a preseason interview back in August "We have talent coming back and in the spots that we lost people, we have some young guys that can fill in the spots. So, we're trying to peak at the right time. We want to advance and be a state championship team in December."

The Hornets are backing it up. As of publication of this article, BTW was 4-1 overall and 1-1 in District 6AII-2.

The remaining toughest foe on the schedule is Bixby, the defending 6AII state champion, who will play the Hornets on Nov. 5 at S.E. Williams Stadium in what will be the regular season finale.

The Hornets had already played Choctaw, the 2020 runner-up, and lost 29-20 to the Yellowjackets on Sept. 24. They responded the next week with a 66-0 romp over Bartlesville.



**TOP DEFENSIVE PROSPECT:** Booker T. Washington defensive back Gentry Williams carries the ball in a recent game. The senior is being heavily recruited by D-I schools, including Oklahoma.

## ORU's Abmas is Preseason All-American Choice

After leading the nation in scoring a season ago, Oral Roberts guard Max Abmas was named to the 2021-22 Preseason All-America Second Team by College Hoops Today as he returns for his third season with the Golden Eagles.

Abmas closed the 2020-21 campaign as a Third Team All-America selection by CBS Sports and Associated Press All-America Honorable Mention as well as the

Lou Henson National Player of the Year scoring 24.5 points per game. The Summit League Player of the Year finished with the seventh-most points in a single season in ORU history totaling 686, which included 100 3-pointers.

The Rockwall, Texas, native posted seven games scoring at least 30 points and was the only NCAA player to tally multiple games of more than 40 points. He also became

the first player since Davidson's Steph Curry (2008) to score 25 or more points in his first three NCAA Tournament games, earning NCAA All-South Region Team honors while leading the Golden Eagles to the NCAA Sweet 16.

In the classroom, Abmas was the first ORU men's basketball player in program history to earn CoSIDA Academic All-America honors when he was selected to the first team in May.



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**SPORTS**

# TU Baseball Greatness Highlighted in Former Player Roger Whitaker's Classic

**BY TERRELL LESTER**  
Editor at Large

*Editor's Note: Terrell Lester covered the University of Tulsa baseball team as a sports writer for the Tulsa World and filed daily reports from Omaha, Nebraska, during the 1969 College World Series.*

His plan was to create an unobtrusive scrapbook.

It became, instead, a panoramic treatise.

Roger Whitaker has compiled and published an insider's view of the University of Tulsa baseball program, some four decades after its demise.

Whitaker was the leftfielder for TU in 1969 when a mostly home-grown roster of talent put together a surprising and memorable run to the College World Series championship game.

No other men's athletics program at TU has come so close to a national championship than that team in the spring of 1969.

Then, at the dawning of the decade of the '80s, the program was dead. Abruptly and determinately disbanded in 1981.

Now, the captain of that 1969 team has brushed aside the ashes and the dust that have since dulled the sheen of the once-proud, once-incandescent outfit.

Not only has Whitaker reawakened the memories of TU's 1969 success, but also he has brought to life the long-forgotten past of a pro-



**GENE SHELL:** The TU baseball coach was excellent in recruiting and leading his team to national prominence during his 15-year tenure.



**NATIONAL POWERHOUSE:** The 1969 Hurricane team was loaded with championship talent. Top row, from left: Steve Rogers, Phil Honeycutt, Steve Caves, Pat Carleton, Tim Rector, Bob Murphy, Vince Shawver, John Klahr, Ken Petruck and Roger Adams. Bottom row from left: Steve Chrisman, Reg Rowe, Larry Byrd, Les Rogers, Roger Whitaker, Jay Weinheimer, Jim Blackburn, Cliff Butcher, Tom Jenkins and Jim Silvey.

gram that traces its roots to 1900.

"A View From the Dugout: The History of University of Tulsa Baseball," is available at Amazon.com in addition to eBay and Barnes & Noble. The 206-page hardcover book is \$39.99. Whitaker says that proceeds will be donated to TU athletics.

Whitaker arranged to have books for sale at two events during the Oct. 8-9 TU Homecoming schedule, at LaFortune Golf Course during the TU Letterwinners golf tournament and at H.A. Chapman Stadium, prior to TU-Memphis

football game.

"I'm not doing this book for me," Whitaker said recently as he spread a few volumes across a table inside his home workspace.

"I wrote this book for them, the players.

"Somehow, I was put in a position where I can represent the guys that played baseball all those years at TU.

"I want to give back to the university a little of what I got out of it," he said. "They gave me a great education. I got a good job out of it. And, the wonderful experience

with baseball and all the friends I made during the years.

"I have a passion for the University of Tulsa."

Whitaker, who turns 74 in October, graduated from McLain High School in 1966 and earned All-American honors during two years as a consistently fine hitter at Northeastern A&M College.

In 1968, he rejoined many of his schoolboy contemporaries at TU as Coach Gene Shell was crafting the blueprint for what would become an elite college program.

Shell was hired away from Ed-

ison High School in 1965 to join the football staff of Coach Glenn Dobbs. A state-championship baseball coach at Webster earlier, Shell was handed the reins to TU's undistinguished program for the spring of 1966.

Part of his recruiting spiel to Whitaker, to all the others, was qualifying for the College World Series.

It was an audacious dream for a program that had no on-campus baseball field.

Practices were held on neighbor-

*(Continued on page 15)*

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# TU Faced Arizona State in the 1969 Finals

(Continued from page 14)  
hood peewee fields, on open fields at the Tulsa fairgrounds. Even in the football stadium, Skelly Stadium. Players drove their own cars to practices.

Home games were played at city parks, at LaFortune and O'Brien. In Sand Springs, too.

Shell's first three teams produced records of 15-9, 19-5 and 24-4. Not exactly headline-makers.

Then came 1969. Whitaker was a senior. A dozen of the 20 players on the roster came from the ranks of Tulsa high schools.

Shell's recruiting dream suddenly became a record-breaking reality. His audacious recruiting pitches were hitting their marks.

The season included a 21-game winning streak. TU roared into the Top 5 of the national rankings. There was the school's first Missouri Valley Conference championship.

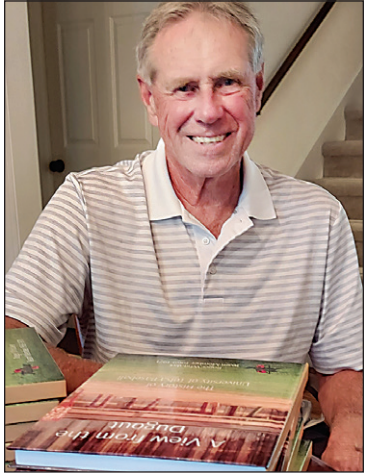
Fan interest peaked. Crowds demanded that TU schedule games at Oiler Park, home of the Triple-A pro team. All-American laurels awaited third baseman Les Rogers (from McLain) and pitcher Cliff Butcher (from Hale). Whitaker was one of four Golden Hurricane on the all-Missouri Valley Conference team.

TU polished off Oklahoma State, reigning Oklahoma baseball power under Coach Chet Bryan, in two games in the NCAA district play-offs at Oiler Park.

That put TU into the College World Series for the first time in school history.

In Omaha, TU handled traditional powers UCLA and Texas and shut out New York University en route to the championship showdown with Arizona State.

Despite dropping the last game of the season, 10-1, TU had accom-



**BASEBALL AUTHOR:** Former TU player Roger Whitaker with copies of his book, "A View From the Dugout: The History of University of Tulsa Baseball," which is available at Amazon.com in addition to eBay and Barnes & Noble.



**BASEBALL REUNION:** Members of the University of Tulsa baseball alumni gathered during a recent golf outing at LaFortune Park in Tulsa. Joining the event are, from left, Steve Rogers, Jerry Tabb, Phil Honeycutt, Steve Bowling, Roger Whitaker, Les Rogers, Cliff Butcher and TU Athletic Director Rick Dickson. Steve and Les Rogers, Tabb, Honeycutt, Bowling and Butcher were All Americans.

plished something no other Golden Hurricane team had: compete for a NCAA national championship.

That is the memory Whitaker wanted to revive when in 2019 he envisioned a modest scrapbook for his teammates. Something of a 50-year memento.

Retired after a 37-year American Airlines career in Information Technology management, Whitaker had become quite proficient at self-publishing keepsake books for his family. Nice little volumes to spotlight grandchildren and a comfortable life.

While planning a reunion of the 1969 team, Whitaker was encouraged by teammates to work up a similar keepsake book for his baseball family.

It was a suggestion that Whitaker fully embraced. He had a scrapbook from his playing days. He gathered

scrapbooks from others.

Suddenly, as word spread among TU ballplayers from earlier years, Whitaker's flicker became a flame. Then a wildfire.

He had planned a book of some 50 pages. Concentrate on 1969. Maybe include his junior season of 1968.

But there was so much more to TU baseball. Shell took the Golden Hurricane back to the College World Series in 1971. Finished third. Won a school record 44 games in 1972.

Players from those teams offered their stories, their scrapbooks, their memories.

Whitaker sought, and received, help from the TU athletics department. Local sports historian Wayne McCombs contributed insights. Francis Shell served up her husband's scrapbooks, notebooks and

memorabilia following his death in October 2020.

As 2021 turned to spring, Whitaker had collected a library of information, flashbacks and numbers. He was able to track TU baseball from its origins in 1900 through to its dissolution in 1980-81.

His book plans took a major turn. In the beginning, he was looking just to reach base.

Today, he has cleared the bases, hitting a home run with a treasure trove of anecdotes, photographs, newspaper clippings and, the lifeblood of baseball, statistics.

Whitaker has pulled together an endearing and enduring portrait of a coach and his players.

Shell, a veteran of the Korean War, was a feisty, give-no-quarter coaching mystic. Players respected him. Opponents feared him. No one out-worked him.

He was a one-man coaching staff. No assistant. No staff. The buck stopped at his feet.

He took TU from also-ran status to the No. 1 ranking in the baseball world.

As Whitaker writes: "He was our mentor and kind of a second dad to all of us. To say we played for coach Shell is quite an honor.

"He may push you hard, cuss you out, threaten you, and live a lifestyle that was just as tough. But, beneath all that was a man with a big caring heart."

Shell, with his 450 wins over 15 years at TU, gave Whitaker a solid foundation from which to launch this tour de force.

The players, the teammates, the brotherhood provided the finishing touches.

From Whitaker's perspective in the TU dugout, it is a splendid View.

# New Oklahoma Sports Scene Underway on Cox

The new Oklahoma Sports Scene weekly, a one-hour state-wide TV show on Cox Cable debuted in September on YurView Ch. 3 in Tulsa and YurView Ch. 93 in Oklahoma City with replays on Friday's (10:30 p.m.) and Saturday's (11p.m.) to almost 300,000 subscriber homes.

Hall of Fame sportscaster Chris Lincoln teams with Grant Merrill, the producer, and host of the state-wide radio Prep Sports Postgame show from 10 p.m. to midnight on Sports Animal 97.1FM Tulsa and The Franchise 107.7 FM in Oklahoma City and 18 other radio affiliates across the state.

Oklahoma Sports Scene features in-depth interviews and features with local, regional, state and even national sports personalities. Shows are taped each Monday

evening at the Cherokee Nation's Hard Rock Casino's popular Replay Sports Bar. The public (over 21) is invited to the Monday tapings at 5 p.m. in front of the Replay Sports Bar on the main floor of the Hard Rock Casino.

Sports Scene's first show on Sept. 15 featured legendary OU football coach Barry Switzer as he talked football and reflected on the OU vs Nebraska "Game of the Century" on its 50th anniversary season. Joining him on this exclusive Zoom video call was Nebraska Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers as they talked about the 1971 "Game of the Century." Also featured was Mick Wilson, the new Tulsa Public Schools Executive Director of Athletics and co-host Grant gave a special segment featuring Okla-

homa high school sports as well as the Remington Report with Dale Day recaps and previews the main horse racing events.

"We're excited about our new Oklahoma Sports Scene sports TV show," Lincoln said. "We look forward to bringing sports fans something they can't get anywhere else, lengthy, in-depth interviews and features."

Grant Merrill added, "I'm looking forward to being part of Oklahoma Sport Scene with Chris and featuring our inside coverage of the Oklahoma prep sports scene."

Sports fans can also enjoy the weekly show anytime on demand at Gameday Oklahoma.com and on YouTube and social media pages.

Oklahoma Sports Scene co-hosted by Chris Lincoln and J.V. Haney, first debuted in August



**CO-HOSTS:** Oklahoma Sports Scene co-hosts Grant Merrill, left, and Chris Lincoln are tops in giving area sports fans updated information about sports action throughout the region.

of 2017 but had to be shut down at the end of February 2020 by the COVID-19 Virus. Haney, a

popular Tulsa sports coaching and broadcasting personality, has since retired.

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# Mike Moguin's Gym Namesake Remembered

*Editor's Note: Mike Moguin was the father of GTR Media Group sports writer Mike Moguin. This article, written by his son, is in tribute to a great Tulsa sportsman.*

By **MIKE MOGUIN**  
GTR Sports Writer

If you've seen my name attached to many sports stories here for the past six years, you've possibly wondered if I am or if I'm kin to Mike Moguin who once owned a gym, or coached wrestling, was a weightlifter, bodybuilder and a fireman. I am not him but we're related. He is my father and I was named after him.

Tragically, we lost him to COVID-19 on Aug. 29. He was 79 years old and we celebrated what would be his last birthday over one month earlier. He caught the deadly disease in August, the same time my mother and I also came down with it. While my mom and I recovered, my dad was not as fortunate. While he was mostly healthy from staying active athletically, through lifting weights and coaching, his weakness was he had asthma which he developed during his time with the fire department in the 1970s and 80s. Further, smoke inhalation from fighting fires weakened his lungs. COVID worsened the situation by further inflaming his lungs.

Moguin Sr. grew up a sports fan and was active in several sports. He took up wrestling and got hooked while having success with the sport at Will Rogers High School, where he graduated in 1960. At Rogers, he also apprenticed under legendary coach Morey Villareal. Around the same time, he began lifting weights. After a year in college, he served a three-year stint in the Army overseas in Germany.

He returned to the states in 1964 and married my mother, Sharon Young-Moguin, on Christmas Day of that year. They would have two children, including yours truly.

He began coaching wrestling in the late '60s at Skelly Junior High School and led the program to a city championship. In 1969, he converted his garage into a fully equipped gym for his wrestlers to come in and train. That opened the door for local athletes at all levels to come in as well. Interest in the home gym then expanded to weightlifters, bodybuilders, baseball players, football players and basketball players, both amateur and pro. His expertise in bodybuilding resulted in him being crowned Mr. Oklahoma at the bodybuilding meet in 1972. Under his coaching, athletes developed respect and appreciation for my father. Many friendships were developed as well.

Eventually, as membership of the gym grew, he and a life-long friend and business partner, bought a building at 11th and Harvard and moved the gym there in 1976. With the gym's location in the neighborhood of the University of Tulsa, it attracted young men from all over the city. Many standout athletes worked out there from every school – public and private – from around the region.

My father made ties with many coaches at the high school and college levels, especially at TU. Among those my dad trained were Mike Fanning, a standout at Edison, who went on to play college football at Notre Dame and in a Super Bowl for the Los Angeles Rams; David Alexander, a Broken Arrow and TU standout who played in the NFL for the Philadelphia Eagles; Other TU standouts such as Steve August, Steve Nich-



**MIDTOWN LOCATION:** Mike Moguin's Gym was located at on Harvard Avenue just south of 11th Street near the University of Tulsa.

olson, Sid Abromowitz, as well as Steve Largent, who was an NFL All-Pro and record setter for the Seattle Seahawks, and Steve Cox, who went on to a stellar career in professional wrestling, also trained there and loved my dad. He also trained local athletes who played at OU such as Spencer Tillman, now a college football analyst, and brothers, Jon and Anthony Phillips and Bob Latham. Mickey Collins, a former Booker T. Washington standout, who played collegiately at Wichita State, also worked out there. Collins was the older brother of Patrick Collins, also a BTW star who had a successful career at OU. Oklahoma State players who trained there in the summer were Butch Crites, Calvin Miller, and Doug Freeman. Another athlete was Trey Boyer, a bodybuilder raised here in Tulsa with whom I attended high school. Boyer won contests in Oklahoma and Virginia, where his parents would eventually relocate. Boyer, who attended OU, also had success with his own gym in Norman and was inspired by my dad's work ethic. He



Courtesy the Moguin Family

**ATHLETIC LEADER:** Mike Moguin at his business, Mike Moguin's Gym during its heyday in the 1980s. The former Tulsa gym owner died of COVID-19 on Aug. 29.

now resides in Florida. On the day after my dad's passing, Boyer said that he had been to weightlifting gyms all across the country and that he never saw a gym like my dad's.

The athletes and coaches were not the only people who came into the gym to train. People from all walks of life also came in to workout and gained respect for and cultivated friendships with my dad. He was truly an icon. He was known all over town and you could not go anywhere without him running into someone he knew. And he would spend quality time speaking and reminiscing with them. Some people have told me that Moguin's Gym, the title of his business, is just as iconic as Bell's Amusement Park.

My father eventually sold the gym in 1996 and spent his retire-

ment years coaching wrestling as the head coach at Bishop Kelley (2002-07) and as an assistant at Cascia Hall (2007-11) to the legendary Ernie Jones, the drove buses for several years at the University of Tulsa.

Of course, he impacted my life growing up by coaching me through workouts when I was involved in sports. He also gave me advice on how to diet properly. His knowledge in those areas also laid the groundwork that inspired my career in sports journalism. My father inspired the lives of many people and helped some overcome their personal problems. He was an icon and a legend. He was appreciated, liked and loved by many people. He will be missed but his legacy will live on.

Rest in Peace, Dad. I am proud to be your son.

Courtesy photo

**NEW OILERS OWNER:** The Tulsa Oilers, affiliate of the NHL's Anaheim Ducks and the AHL's San Diego Gulls, enter the 2021-22 season under new ownership. After eight years under the leadership of Steven Brothers Sports Management, the team has been purchased by California-based NL Sports, LLC, owned by Andy Scurto. From left at the announcement at the BOK Center are, from left, Head Coach Rob Murray, Scurto and General Manager Taylor Hall.

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# Revitalized Tulsa Speedway Moves Forward

By GLENN HIBDON  
GTR Sports Writer

Co-owner Todd Martin said the new Tulsa Speedway is on track to succeed. The Oklahoma City businessman has big plans for the facility which is experiencing its second rebirth in a span of 36 years.

From the Tulsa fairgrounds to 66th Street North in 1985 and now to Osage Casino Tulsa Raceway Park, Martin and partner Keith Haney appear to have the deep pockets necessary to make the new dirt track move forward.

"We didn't get into this to lose money," said Martin, the operations manager who opened the track in June, next to the drag strip both Martin and Haney also co-own. "We've had a good response considering we had no full season points race. It's really surprising how the community and racers have supported us and wanted the track back.

"I've seen a lot of people here that used to go the old fairgrounds and they've been waiting years for this. I've been surprised at the number of spectators we've had that went to the old track. There's been a lot of them."

Tulsa Speedway was a cornerstone of the Tulsa State Fairgrounds until 1985 when it moved to 66th Street North and U.S. highway 75 north of town. The facility closed in 2005 and dirt car racing fans and drivers suffered. Until now.

Martin and Haney came to the rescue. After promoter Stanley Durrett sold the facility in the 1990s, there were a string of those who tried to carry on, but not have the finances or expertise.

"They didn't know the Tulsa market and didn't have the money

behind them," said Tulsa Speedway historian John Rittenoure. "The last owners got foreclosed on. No one ever thought this would happen in Tulsa. We had such a strong track and we had to walk away from it."

That shouldn't happen with Martin and Haney. They saw the need for a dirt track and forged ahead, adding the Speedway to their growing racing resume. Martin said Raceway Park is designed to be a multi-sport facility and dirt track racing is the second most popular sport in Oklahoma. However, he's still discovering the right formula to cash in.

"There is a learning curve, the right amount of clay and the right amount of water," Martin said. "It takes a while for a new track to move in. In Oklahoma it's difficult because of the temperature and wind and humidity. It may rain one day and the next be 102 degrees."

With a background primarily in drag racing, that's a new concern for Martin. He's a former pro modified champion and SCCA driver. In the meantime, Martin has learned about the right way to build a dirt surface.

"Our track is different than most," he said. "It's 66 feet wide with 12 to 15 degrees banking in the turns and six degrees in the straightaways. Most tracks in Oklahoma are pretty flat, but on ours you can run high or low with a wider groove."

Martin said he and Haney funded the facility out of their own pockets with no outside sponsorship and they've had a positive response from racers. But there are improvements planned, including more grandstands and better restrooms and concession stands. Also on tap is an expanded schedule.

"When we opened we had be-



tween 2,500 and 3,000 fans come out and we averaged about 900," said Martin of his Friday night show that includes champ 305 sprint cars, A and B modifieds, factory stocks, mini stocks and dwarf cars. "If we could get between 1,500 and 2,500 weekly that would be good."

Martin discovered Tulsa Speedway as a kid when he attended races at the fairgrounds track. Perhaps it taught him how to improve attendance. Under the promotion of old circus performer Dick Colvin, the facility average 8,000 fans a week in the 1960s and rarely dipped below 2,000 in the later years.

"There is a lot of competition for the entertainment dollar," said Martin. "We plan on bringing in more classes and national event like the World of Outlaws and winged and mini sprints. Competition is a lot better today than it was for the old timers because of technology and track layout.

"We've had people who have called and wanted to be sponsors, people who want to see us succeed. In 2022 we will have a new sponsor who wants naming rights to the dirt track. Next year we may have flat track motorcycles coming in and we've had several racing organizations call us who want to race. We will do advertising through television and social media.

I would say right now we're pleased with our start, but we're not satisfied."



GTR Media Group photo  
**READY TO RUN:** Tulsa Speedway General Manager Barry Grabel is all smiles at the revitalized Tulsa Speedway.



Courtesy University of Tulsa  
**NATIONAL POWERHOUSE:** The Tulsa Golden Hurricane this season is highly ranked by Top Drawer Soccer, College Soccer News and in the United Soccer Coaches poll. Tulsa has a top record nationally and in American Athletic Conference play. Earlier this season, TU's Alex Meinhard goes for a goal against SMU.

## == 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 19	Bishop Kelley 0	Oct. 8	Norman 21	Jenks 49	Oct. 29	Bishop Kelley 14	Coweta 28
	Mans. Timberview 14	Bixby 69		Bixby 71	Bartlesville 0		Ft. Gibson 60	McLain 8		Bixby 66	Ponca City 13
	BT Washington 51	Southmoore 7		BT Washington 20	Choctaw 29		Glenpool 40	Memorial 0		Muskogee 21	BT Washington 54
	Broken Arrow 42	Mansfield Legacy 13		Broken Arrow 19	Westmore 12		Beggs 24	Metro Christian 22		Broken Arrow 28	Norman 13
	Victory Christian 13	Cascia Hall 28		Heavner 0	Cascia Hall 47		Owasso 41	Edmond North 3		Cascia Hall 41	Rowland 20
	McLain 12	Central 36		Rejoice 56	Salina 14		Mustang 10	Union 48		Central 32	Inola 28
	Western Heights 0	East Central 54		Rogers 42	East Central 6		Victory Christian 50	Haskell 6		Durant 13	East Central 35
	F.W. All Saints 17	Holland Hall 36		Coweta 56	Edison 7		Texas 48	OU 55		Durant 35	Rogers 28
	Jenks 20	Mansfield Summit 14		Hale 0	Collinsville 71		Memphis 29	Tulsa 35		Hale 14	Glenpool 44
	Checota 21	Metro Christian 41		Holland Hall 41	Mannford 0		Arkansas 51	Ole Miss 52		Holland Hall 7	Vertigris 12
	Owasso 45	Edmond Santa Fe 22		Enid 6	Jenks 49		NEO	Tyler JC		Edmond Memorial 0	Jenks 44
Sept. 2	UC Davis 19	TU 17		McLain 12	Salisaw 34		Bishop Kelley 55	Rogers 34		McLain 12	Hildale 45
Sept. 3	Sand Springs 34	Bishop Kelley 13		Memorial 8	Sapulpa 47		Sand Springs 14	Bixby 58		Tahlequah 55	Memorial 0
	Bixby 23	Jenks 15		Okmulgee 14	Metro Christian 50		PC West 6	BT Washington 61		Kiefer 12	Metro Christian 38
	BT Washington 39	Dell City 26		Union 10	Owasso 7 OT		Yukon 14	Broken Arrow 45		Owasso 49	Moore 28
	Broken Arrow 28	Union 38		Victory Christian 58	Morris 7		Panama 7	Cascia Hall 49		Southmoore 0	Union 42
	Cascia Hall 7	Holland Hall 45	Sept. 25	Kansas State 20	OSU 31		Central 6	Vertigris 48		Victory Christian 59	Henryetta 8
	Central 50	Memorial 7		West Virginia 13	OU 16		Shawnee 43	East Central 10		Navy 20	TU 17
	East Central 30	Hale 0		Arkansas State 34	TU 41		Durant 42	Edison 32	Oct. 29	Kansas 3	OSU 55
	Edison 13	Sapulpa 61		Texas A&M 10	Arkansas 20		Holland Hall 37	Berryhill 13	Oct. 30	Texas Tech 21	OU 52
	Tahlequah 49	McLain 0		Navarro	NEO		Jenks 35	Edmond Santa Fe 14		NM Military Institute	NEO
	NOAH 17	Metro Christian 46		NSU 49	Lincoln 48 OT		Broken Bow 44	McLain 0		NSU 0	Washburn 34
	Fayetteville 42	Owasso 48	Oct. 1	Bishop Kelley 55	Durant 7		Pryor 38	Memorial 0		Shawnee	Bishop Kelley
	Pawhuska 33	Victory Christian 39		PC West 6	Bixby 81		Metro Christian 7	Victory Christian 62	Nov. 5	Bixby	BT Washington
Sept. 4	OU 40	Tulane 35		Bartlesville 0	BT Washington 63		Southmoore 8	Owasso 52		Enid	Broken Arrow
	Missouri State 16	OSU 23		Jenks 31	Broken Arrow 14		Union 56	Moore 14		Keys	Cascia Hall
	Rice 17	Arkansas 38		Cascia Hall 49	Spiro 14		OSU 32	Texas 24		Jay	Central
	Emporia State 38	NSU 7		East Central 6	McAlester 62		TCU 31	OU 52		East Central	Edison
Sept. 10	Bishop Kelley 6	Bishop McGuinness 49		Shawnee 34	Edison 7		TU 32	South Florida 31		Memorial	Hale
	Broken Arrow 3	Owasso 35		Tahlequah 61	Hale 6		Auburn 28	Arkansas 23		Holland Hall	Inola
	Berryhill 35	Cascia Hall 7		Central 14	Holland Hall 50		NEO	Cisco		Westmoore	Jenks
	Memorial 0	Edison 35		McLain 6	Poteau 51		NSU 24	Missouri Western 57		Muldrow	McLain
	Tulsa NOAH 48	Oklahoma Union 28		Memorial 0	Claremore 26		East Central 12	Bishop 48		Metro Christian	Haskell
	Jenks 22	Union 0		Metro Christian 44	Henryetta 0		Muskogee 14	Bixby 56		Owasso	Punam City North
	McLain 0	Ponca City 37		Norman North 28	Owasso 70		Ponca City 10	BT Washington 41		Edmond North	Union
Sept. 11	TU 23	OSU 28		Union 35	Putnam City 7		Edmond Santa Fe 42	Broken Arrow 47		Beggs	Victory Christian
	Western Carolina 0	OU 76		Kiefer 42	Victory Christian 58		Cascia Hall 40	Pocola 8	Nov. 6	OSU	West Virginia
	Texas 21	Arkansas 40		Houston 45	TU 10		Berryhill 33	Central 18		TU	Cincinnati
	NEO	Trinity Valley		Baylor 14	OSU 24		Edison 17	McAlester 52		Mississippi State	Arkansas
	Missouri Southern 17	NSU 21		OU 37	Kansas State 31		Claremore 55	Hale 12		NEO	Blinn College
Sept. 17	Stillwater 14	Bixby 42		Arkansas 0	Georgia 37		Jay 8	Holland Hall 42		Fort Hayes State	NSU
	Edison 0	BT Washington 2		Ellsworth	NEO		Jenks 48	Yukon 14		TCU	OSU
	Summit Christian 48	Barnsdall 0		Central Missouri 41	NSU 10		McLain 16	Stilwell 46	Nov. 13	OU	Baylor
	Memorial 6	East Central 20		Central Oklahoma 49	NSU 9		Memorial 7	Collinsville 71		TU	Tulsane
	Lincoln Christian 58	Trinity Christian 13		Edison 0	Bishop Kelley 41		Metro Christian 35	Morris 0		Arkansas	LSU
	Holland Hall 37	Metro Christian 7		Bixby 70	Choctaw 7		Mustang 14	Owasso 43		NSU	Nebraska-Kearney
	Vertigris 24	Victory Christian 21		BT Washington 37	Sand Springs 31		Union 30	Norman North 14	Nov. 20	OSU	Texas Tech
Sept. 18	OSU 21	Boise State 20		Broken Arrow 47	Edmond Memorial 14		Okmulgee 12	Victory Christian 77		Iowa State	OU
	OU 23	Nebraska 16		Cascia Hall 28	Vian 35		OSU 21	Iowa State 24		Temple	TU
	TU 20	Ohio State 41		Central 46	Mannford 7		OU 35	Kansas 23		Arkansas	Alabama
	Georgia Southern 10	Arkansas 45		East Central 0	Coweta 57		UAPB 3	Arkansas 45	Nov. 27	OU	OSU
	NEO	Kilgore		Hale 14	Pryor 66		Gordon's Prep	NEO		TU	SMU
	Pittsburgh State 48	NSU 13		Holland Hall 48	Vinita 12		NW Missouri 59	NSU 7		Missouri	Arkansas



THE ECONOMY

# Tulsa Regional Chamber CEO Mike Neal Awarded by International Economic Group

Mike Neal, president and CEO of the Tulsa Regional Chamber, was awarded Fellow Member status from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). The honor was presented at a recognition dinner on Monday, Oct. 4, during the IEDC Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

"On behalf of the IEDC board of directors and Honorary Awards Committee, congratulations to Mike Neal," said 2021 IEDC Board Chair and President and CEO of Invest Buffalo Niagara Tom Kucharski. "His outstanding achievements, hard work and dedicated service to the profession goes above and beyond to improve the quality of life for others."

Fellow Member (FM) status is conferred upon active IEDC members who have attained unusual stature in the field of economic development and closely related disciplines. Unusual stature is defined as significant contributions to the profession through service to the council and/or academic endeavors directly related to the practice of economic development. A fellow holds the classification as long as membership in the council is maintained.

"I am beyond honored to be named a Fellow Member by IEDC," said Neal in accepting the award. "I have been so fortunate to work alongside many excellent economic development professionals during the past three decades, and I have learned from each and every one of them. Recognition like this from IEDC is

more than I could have dreamt of as a young man, and I want to say thank you to my colleagues and mentors through the years for their support and encouragement."

Neal is in his 16th year as president and chief executive officer of the Tulsa Regional Chamber. The American Chamber of Commerce Executives named the then Tulsa Metro Chamber as the Nation's Best Chamber for a record three consecutive years of eligibility, being named the National Chamber of the Year in 2010, 2008 and 2005. In 2018, the Chamber was again a finalist for the award, and in 2020 was named the nation's best chamber for a record fourth time.

Tulsa People magazine named Neal the 2011 Tulsan of the Year, calling him "Mr. Tulsa" for his limitless energy, can-do optimism and tireless efforts toward making Tulsa a better place. Southern Business and Development in 2011 recognized Neal as one of the Top 10 Economic Developers in the South. The Southern Economic Development Council named Neal an Honorary Life Member (HLM) in 2012. In 2010 he was named the Chamber Executive of the Year by the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Executives, and the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Executives named him their Chamber Executive of the Year in 1998 and 2000.

Under his leadership, the Tulsa Regional Chamber is the only chamber in America to earn four accreditations, including the U.S.

Chamber of Commerce's highest recognition, five-star accreditation; IEDC's prestigious Accredited Economic Development Organization distinction; Destination International's Destination Marketing Accreditation; and an Accredited Film Commission by the Association of Film Commissioners International.

In 2019, the Chamber achieved the third of five increasingly rigorous levels within the Oklahoma Quality Foundation (OQF) framework, which is based on Malcolm Baldrige criteria. The Chamber previously achieved level one within the OQF framework in 2013, and level two in 2015. In 2015, the Chamber also received the American Society of Association Executives' Summit Award.

Neal leads the Chamber's full-time professional staff of 50 in the areas of regional economic development, convention and visitor development, government affairs, education, workforce development, small business, sports, young professionals, downtown and river development, political action, and membership services, while managing a \$15.5 million budget. Neal led the creation of the Tulsa Regional Chamber Coalition and their OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda, which are celebrating their 14th anniversaries this year.

An active member of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), Neal has earned several professional designations, including Certified Chamber Ex-



Courtesy photo

**DESERVING LEADER:** Tulsa Regional Chamber President and CEO Mike Neal, center, holds his Fellow Member status award from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). The honor was presented at a recognition dinner in October during the IEDC Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. At left and right are executives with the IEDC.

ecutive (CCE) and Certified Community Developer (CCD). He received the prestigious Chairman's Award, the highest national award given by ACCE. Neal was a long-time member of the ACCE Board of Directors and is a past chairman of the ACCE Benefits Trust Retirement

Program, a member of the Metro Cities Council, Economic & Community Development Committee and past chairman of the CCE Certification Commission. He is a graduate of the Center for Creative Leadership and Aspen Institute.

## Maverick Wind Farm now Serving PSO Customers

The second of three new wind facilities serving Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) customers has begun commercial operation.

Located southwest of Enid, the 287-megawatt (MW) Maverick facility is part of the 1,485-MW North Central Energy Facilities (NCEF) project. "PSO customers expect clean, renewable energy to be a growing part of our energy portfolio, and we are listening," said Peggy Simmons, PSO president and chief operating officer. "Wind generation has zero fuel costs. That savings and federal incentives offset the cost of the facilities. That means an anticipated net long-term savings of more than \$1 billion for our customers over the expected 30-year life of the facilities."

In addition to Maverick, the NCEF project includes the 199-MW Sundance wind farm, which began commercial operation on April 14, 2021, and the 999-MW Traverse

wind farm, which is under construction with planned commercial operation in early 2022. In total, the facilities will generate enough energy to power 440,000 homes.



"Wind energy is clean and sustainable. These projects will help Oklahoma's economic development future and save our customers' money," Simmons said.

PSO will receive 675 MW from the NCEF project. PSO's sister company, Southwestern Electric Power Company, will receive 810 MW from the project.

The facilities are being developed by Invenery and purchased by PSO and SWEPCO at completion. PSO and SWEPCO are American Electric Power (Nasdaq: AEP) companies.

The Maverick facility includes 103 GE Renewable Energy wind turbines. It is connected directly to the transmission grid that serves PSO customers.

### Edward Jones

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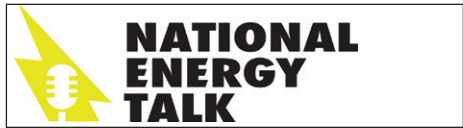
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# Corporate Energy Leadership is Essential



By MARK STANSBERRY

The effectiveness and efficiency of an energy corporation depend strongly on the board, officers, and ultimately on a team

effort, from all levels. In 2018, I spoke at several events with the presentation being entitled The Digital Transformation: From the Whiteboard to the Boardroom.

It seems so simple that there would be open dialogue and discussions among corporate leaders and with all levels. However, there is nearly always a degree of improvement necessary when it comes to corporate communications from the leadership. Sev-

eral from the “whiteboard” have expressed their concerns that board members in some cases are not responsive to many suggestions, ideas, and solutions in the corporation’s future.

There are so many issues and concerns confronting the energy industry, from climate change to methane emissions, cyber security, digital transformation, work force development, proper funding, and infrastructure, and the list goes on, in regard to the evolving energy transition. Whether a corporation is working in the Gulf of Mexico, offshore, onshore, domestically and/or internationally, the challenges are daily present for corporate energy leaders.

Technologies and innovations are essential in the progress of a corporation’s success. Whether it be future use of clean coal technology, electric vehicles, hydrogen, or other forms of energy, strong leadership will be necessary in navigating the corporation’s roadmap.

One concern that I have is with preparing leaders of the future, for the challenges they will face. Along with the leadership, having a strong workforce will be an even greater challenge. Therefore, I believe that “STEM” (Science Technology Engineering Math) programs from the grade schools to the college levels and technical schools will be so important.

Firsthand, I was involved as Chairman and Board Member of the Board of Regents of the Regional University System of Oklahoma, RUSO, with the development of a major STEM project in Oklahoma. The Donald Betz STEM Research and Learning Center was opened November 14th, 2018, at the University of Central Oklahoma. The center is the interdisciplinary hub for the university’s various science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs, including biology, chemistry, engineering, forensic science and nursing. The building adds 56,000 square feet of learning space for the campus for the highly-sought STEM majors.

There are so many STEM and similar projects throughout the nation. But, I can’t emphasize enough, the importance of such commitments by energy companies, com-

munities and universities.

While communication and workforce development are vital to success at the corporation, many energy companies struggle with defining their true mission and vision. The input from all levels have to be addressed in order to reach full potential.

Strategy of the corporation starts at the top, but includes meetings and retreats, which are held to embrace all avenues of input. Many energy companies have been successful as well as many have been unsuccessful, due to their strategic planning or lack thereof. The focus upon a concise strategic plan is key. The energy corporations normally are confronting continuing changes that make it difficult to incorporate the strategic planning processes.

The corporation must be comprised of the right people at the top. For the shareholders to get full value out of their investment, they must have leaders who stay up to date on energy issues, technology, and other key components. The board needs to be comprised of cross-sections of disciplines.

America needs America’s energy, and America needs strong energy leadership!

Mark A. Stansberry is chairman of the GTD Group, an award-winning author and energy advocate. For more information, go to [www.MarkStansberry.com](http://www.MarkStansberry.com) and go to Facebook: National Energy Talk.

## TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER HONORS SMALL BUSINESSES AT SUMMIT & AWARDS EVENT



Courtesy Tulsa Regional Chamber

**SMALL BUSINESS LEADERS:** Back row: From left, Justin McLaughlin, executive vice president and COO of Tulsa Regional Chamber; Jacob Johnson, principal and co-founder of Gitwit; David Chen, owner and operator of Chick-fil-A at Southroads Shopping Center; Dave Hembree, president of Sawyer Manufacturing Company; Frauke Petersen, CEO and owner of Luxa Enterprises. Front row: From left, Allison Dickens, owner of Ludger’s Bavarian Cakery and chair of the Tulsa Small Business Connection; Pete Patel, president and CEO of Promise Hotels; Tina Patel, CFO of Promise Hotels; May Yang, owner of Flash Flood Print Studios; Barbara Thornton, wife of the late Don Thornton; Lindsay Jordan, owner of Write On Fundraising; Rose Washington-Jones, CEO of TEDC Creative Capital and Chair of the Tulsa Regional Chamber. Not pictured: Dana Weber, president and CEO of Webco Industries

The Tulsa Regional Chamber honored eight area small businesses at its Tulsa Small Business Summit & Awards recently. The Tulsa Small Business Connection, a program of the Tulsa Regional Chamber that educates and empowers northeast Oklahoma’s small businesses, hosts the annual event to celebrate the impact small businesses have on the regional economy.

“Providing resources and opportunities to elevate small businesses is critical to northeast Oklahoma’s success,” says Rose Washington-Jones, CEO of TEDC Creative Capital and chair of the Tulsa Regional Chamber. “Small businesses bring vibrancy, innovation and growth to the community, and it’s an honor to recognize these remarkable organizations for their contributions.”

The 2021 Small Business Award winners are Small Business Person of the Year: Lindsay Jordan, Write On Fundraising; Rising Star (Entrepreneur of the Year): Flash Flood Print Studios; Entrepreneurial Success: Webco Industries; Family Owned Small Business of the Year: Promise Hotels; Manufacturer of the Year: Sawyer Manufacturing Company; Diverse Small Business Champion: Chick-fil-A at Southroads Shopping Center; Small Business Pioneer: Gitwit; and Lifetime Achievement Award: Don Thornton, Don

Thornton Automotive Group. “In addition to honoring Tulsa-area small businesses, the summit is an opportunity to learn and grow from your peers,” says Allison Dickens, owner of Ludger’s Bavarian Cakery and chair of the Tulsa Small Business Connection.

Small Business Person of the Year Lindsay Jordan founded Write On Fundraising to provide fundraising resources and solutions to nonprofits across the region. Jordan credits the Tulsa community for Write On Fundraising’s rapid growth and expansion into new markets in just over three years.

In addition to the awards presentation, the event featured remarks from Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and a keynote presentation from Coach JC, a Tulsa-area entrepreneur, business coach and nationally recognized speaker.

“Small businesses represent the overwhelming majority of employers in northeast Oklahoma, bringing new jobs and new ideas to the region,” says Justin McLaughlin, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Tulsa Regional Chamber. “Supporting the small business community is critical to the Tulsa region’s long-term prosperity, and we’re grateful to recognize their far-reaching impact.”

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**NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF DRAFT TIER II PERMIT POLLUTANT DISCHARGE APPLICATION NO. OK0043869**

Notice is hereby given that the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), at the address listed below, has processed and issued a draft permit to Green Country Energy, LLC based on a Tier II application filed on March 12, 2021, for a renewed permit with DEQ. A final permit, if issued, would allow Green Country Energy, LLC to discharge industrial wastewater from their facility located in the SE¼, of the NW¼, of Section 4, Township 17N, Range 13E, in Tulsa county or at 12307 South Florence Avenue. Green Country Energy operates a 795 megawatt natural gas-fired steam electric generating station located on the west bank of the Arkansas River, approximately 3 miles south-southeast of the City of Jenks, Oklahoma. The discharge will be to the Arkansas River located in stream segment 120420 of the Middle Arkansas River Basin at Latitude 35° 59' 0.737" N, Longitude 95° 55' 57.450" W (GPS: NAD83) in the NE¼, SE¼, NW¼, Section 4, Township 17N, Range 13EIM, Tulsa County.

A copy of the draft permit, fact sheet, application, and other relevant documents may be reviewed at the Offices of DEQ, Water Quality Division, 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, OK 73102, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday. A copy of the draft permit, fact sheet, and application may be reviewed at the Tulsa City/County Library, 400 Civic Center, Tulsa, OK 74103 during normal business hours. A copy of the draft permit may be reviewed on DEQ website at: [www.deq.ok.gov/permits-for-public-review/](http://www.deq.ok.gov/permits-for-public-review/).

Pursuant to 27A O.S. Sec. 2-14-302, persons wishing to make comments concerning the draft permit may do so by sending the comments in writing to the Contact Person for DEQ, at the address listed below, within 30 days after the date of publication or mailing. Comments should include: (1) name and address of the interested person, (2) the application name to which the request relates, (3) the nature and basis of the interest of the person affected, and (4) a statement of the objection or comment, the basis of the objection or comment, and any requested action by DEQ.

The contact person for DEQ, to schedule a date and time to review the application at the offices of DEQ is:

**Tammi L. Johnson**  
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 1677 707 N. Robinson, 8th Floor  
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677  
(405) 702-8170 or [tammi.l.johnson@deq.ok.gov](mailto:tammi.l.johnson@deq.ok.gov)

The contact person for Green Country Energy, LLC is:

**Daniel Parish, Plant Manager**  
Green Country Energy, LLC  
12307 South Florence Avenue Jenks, OK 74037  
(918) 296-6480

Pursuant to 27A O.S. Sec. 2-14-302, persons wishing to request a public meeting concerning the draft permit may do so by filing the request in writing to the Contact Person for DEQ, at the address listed above, within thirty (30) days after the date of publication or mailing. Requests for the public meeting should include: (1) name and address of the interested person, (2) the application name to which the request relates, (3) the nature and basis of the interest of the person affected, and (4) a statement of the objection or comment, the basis of the objection or comment, and any requested action by DEQ. A copy of the request must also be sent to the applicant, through the contact person listed above. A formal public meeting may be scheduled if there is a significant degree of public interest. Notice of the date, time and place of the public meeting will be given to all parties of record. A request for a public meeting may be combined with a submission of written comments.

If a public meeting is held, oral or written comments will be accepted at the meeting. DEQ shall, within ninety (90) days of the date the public comment period closes (or longer if extended by the Executive Director of DEQ), issue responses to all public comments received.

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# Arvest Bank Named a 'Most Loved Workplace'

Newsweek magazine has named Arvest Bank as one of America's "Most Loved Workplaces."

The recognition for employee happiness and satisfaction at work was determined by surveying more than 800,000 employees nationwide from businesses with workforces varying in size from 50 to more than 10,000.

"The best way to determine the strength of a company's culture is by measuring the degree of love employees feel for their workplace," said Louis Carter, CEO and founder of Best Practice Institute and Most Loved Workplace. The Best Practice Institute is a leadership development and benchmark research company and collaborated with Newsweek to produce the list of 100 "Most Loved Workplaces."

The full "Most Loved Workplaces" list currently is available online at newsweek.com and is featured in the Oct. 29 issue of Newsweek.

"This kind of recognition, based significantly on associate feedback, is especially rewarding," Arvest Chief People Officer Laura Andress said. "Arvest has a strong culture, focused on people, fostered by our commitment to providing an inclusive workplace where all associates are valued and respected. Authenticity, collaboration, open communication, career-pathing and world-class benefits are equally important tools when the goal is to build a happy workplace focused on our long-term commitment to associates, customers and communities."

"We believe an inclusive and supportive workplace translates to better performance and more satisfied customers. This nurturing workplace allows Arvest to remain an industry leader and deliver services and solutions that make our customers and communities stronger."

To identify the top 100 companies for the Newsweek ranking, companies were evaluated and scored as follows: 35 percent of the initial score was based on employee survey responses; 25 percent was derived from analysis of external public ratings; and 40 percent came from direct interviews with – and written responses from – company officials. Newsweek then conducted additional research into every company on the list, as well as the top runners-up, to determine the final list of 100 companies and their ranking. The list includes both U.S. firms and companies with a strong U.S. presence that are based overseas.

"In the wake of the pandemic, business hit hurdles in terms of retaining and attracting employees – but the companies that made this list are delivering the respect, care and appreciation that it takes to create a positive workplace that nurtures talent," Newsweek global editor in chief Nancy Cooper said.

### About Arvest

Arvest Bank operates more than 230 bank branches in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas through a group of 14 locally managed banks, each with its own board and management team. These banks serve customers in more than 130 communities, with extended weekday banking hours at many locations. Arvest provides a wide range of banking services including loans, deposits, treasury management, credit cards, mortgage loans and mortgage servicing. Arvest also is one of a select few banks in the nation to have its mobile app – Arvest Go – certified by J.D. Power for providing an outstanding mobile banking experience. Arvest is an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC.

# BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

**Tulsa's 2 News Oklahoma** announces **Brittany Burtscher** returning to KJRH as news director.



BURTSCHER

Burtscher previously worked at KJRH as the assistant news director. She has over a decade of broadcast news experience, serving most recently as a prime-time news executive producer in Arizona.

"I am looking forward to returning to Tulsa and 2 News Oklahoma, where I first started my family," said Burtscher. "I am committed to making sure the team at KJRH serves our amazing community with stories that impact the people of Oklahoma."

"I am thrilled to welcome Brittany Burtscher back to 2 News Oklahoma as our news director," said Amy Calvert, vice president and general manager at KJRH. "Brittany has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to delivering news that our viewers need and want, but more importantly she has a genuine love for Oklahomans. It's why she's coming home to Tulsa and KJRH. Her passion for the community and dedication to deliver in-depth reporting will make an immediate positive impact."

**Charlene Scoles**, a longtime employee of Tulsa wealth management firm AmeriTrust, has been promoted to senior compliance officer for **Argent Fiduciary Consulting Services (AFCS)**. Both AmeriTrust and AFCS are subsidiaries of Ruston, Louisiana-based Argent Financial Group.



SCOLES

In this role, Scoles is responsible for all aspects of compliance for the Argent Trust Company. She will continue to be based in Tulsa, reporting directly to Chief Compliance Officer Amy Rhodes.

Scoles had served as a securities analyst since joining AmeriTrust in 2006. In that role, she managed financial portfolios and accounts, providing client support, as well as regulatory research and compliance guidance.

"Charlene has been a valued and indispensable member of the AmeriTrust team for many years, and we're honored that she's accepted this key position," Rhodes said. "We know she'll bring a high level of commitment and dedication to this important work for Argent."

Before joining AmeriTrust, Scoles was an agency supervisory officer at McCaskill Financial Group in Tulsa from 2004 to 2006. In 2006, her peers at the company nominated her to receive the Robert W. Llewellyn Memorial Award, given annually to a person who consistently provided exceptional help and support to members of the agency during the year.

"I feel lucky to work for such an outstanding, team-oriented organization where I've been able to bloom professionally," Scoles said. "Compliance is my professional 'happy place' and I can't wait to get started in this new role."

Scoles earned her bachelor of science in business administration from Montana State University in 1987, with additional emphasis in accounting, psychology, marketing and computer programming.

Reed Architecture and Interiors principal **David Reed** has been named president of **AIA Oklahoma**. The announcement was made during the organization's annual conference, Sept. 30-Oct. 1 in Edmond.



REED

"David will actually serve as president from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2022, but current President Mark Gandy will hand the gavel over to David at the close of this conference," said AIA Central Oklahoma Executive Director Melissa Hunt, who serves in a similar capacity with the statewide chapter.

Elected vice president in 2019, Reed was scheduled to assume the AIA Oklahoma presidency last year. But the COVID disruptions led this American Institute of Architects chapter to delay the transition.

As president, Reed serves as the AIA's primary spokesperson to the Oklahoma Legislature. He will lead AIA Oklahoma board meetings and the organization's 2022 annual conference in Tulsa.

"I'm very excited to have David as president," said Hunt. "David has a lot of contacts at the Legislature. I think he's going to be a good advocate for our profession."

"It is a great privilege to serve the architects of Oklahoma," said Reed, "and I am honored to be entrusted by my peers to carry the banner of our profession in 2022. As we are a service profession, I look forward to serving alongside my fellow architects as we work to build relationships with the public. Architects are charged with designing environments that protect the public health, safety, and welfare. In today's world, that seems more important than ever."

This marks the second time Reed has led an AIA chapter. In 2018, Reed served as president of AIA Eastern Oklahoma.

"David was a wonderful president at AIA Eastern Oklahoma," said Executive Director Lindsey Ellerbach. "He led efforts to build relationships with state, local, and national elected officials. During David's tenure at AIA Eastern Oklahoma, we expanded outreach to K-12 students to teach them about architecture, hosted the Central States Design Awards for the first time in 10 years, and had the largest single-year increase in members since 2008."

AIA Oklahoma membership includes 746 architects and intern architects from across the state. Its 2021 annual conference will gather at the Edmond Conference Center, Hilton Garden Inn.

"We're putting in great precautions for the conference, which will meet in person," said Hunt. "Preparations are moving forward and people are still registering."

Reed Architecture and Interiors is a full-service architecture and interior design firm with extensive experience in athletic, education, civic, commercial, and religious projects. To learn more about this Oklahoma-born company located in Historic Downtown Sapulpa, check out reed-architects.com or call David Reed at 918.884.6007.

Oklahoma law firm **Hall Estill**, with offices in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Denver and Northwest Arkansas, announces the addition of **Iceiss Tillis**, associate, to the Tulsa office.



TILLIS

"Iceiss will make a great addition to our Tulsa team," said Mike Cooke, managing partner for Hall Estill. "Her unique experiences will allow her to provide excellent counsel for our clients."

Iceiss practices primarily in the labor and employment arenas. Within her practice, she focuses on representing employers in workplace matters, and she has experience in alternative dispute resolution, including proceedings before the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA).

A former professional basketball player for the WNBA, she also served as a legal intern for the National Basketball Association. She earned her undergraduate degree in Economics from Duke University, where she was a member of the women's basketball team, and her J.D. from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. In addition, Iceiss earned both her M.S. in Sports Management and her L.L.M. in Global Sports Law from Columbia University.

**Dewberry**, a privately held professional services firm, has announced that **Pam Taylor, CPSM**, has been promoted to director of marketing for the firm's architecture practice. Based in the firm's Tulsa office she will oversee marketing initiatives nationwide.



TAYLOR

Taylor brings nearly 30 years of experience to her role. She is responsible for developing marketing strategies, overseeing the marketing group for the architecture practice, coordinating with business unit and market segment leaders on pursuits across the enterprise, and executing marketing efforts related to community facilities, education, federal, health and wellness, justice, and real estate and commercial development.

"Pam has been instrumental in helping set strategy for our marketing efforts in Dewberry's architecture practice," says Dewberry President Dave Huey, AIA, LEED AP. "She has strong leadership skills and a commitment to our clients and community that will serve her well in this new role."

Taylor earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Louisiana Tech University (1991). She is a Certified Professional Services Marketer and member of the Society for Marketing Professional Services, as well as a board member for Sustainable Tulsa.

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# Vernon AME Church a Greenwood Survivor

There are few surviving buildings of the tragic 1921 Race Massacre that covered 35 blocks in north Tulsa. The most iconic survivor is the Vernon African Methodist Episcopal Church at 311 N. Greenwood Ave.

Construction of the Vernon AME Church began shortly after the end of World War I in 1918. The building was in use by its congregation but not yet complete when the fire of the massacre burned everything around it and part of the church itself. With pride and tenacity, the membership continued to worship in the church basement and slowly repaired the damage. Construction was completed in 1928. Although the original architect is unknown, the building was named after W.T. Vernon, registrar of the U.S. Treasury under presidents Teddy Roosevelt and William Taft.

During the Civil Rights era of the 1960's, Vernon AME served as a symbol of racial equality in Tulsa. It became a staging ground for a massive freedom march through downtown while Congress was debating the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The planned location of

the nearby interstate expressway gave the congregation a chance to sell the property which was emphatically declined. In 2001, the City of Tulsa made an offer to buy the building to convert it into a memorial to the 1921 Massacre. This offer was rejected. In 2018 Vernon AME was listed on the National Register. Its robust congregation continues to worship and find enjoyment in the building.

In addition to its important and colorful history, what makes this church significant is the architecture. The building is a massive two-story rectangular block with a full basement located just below the surrounding ground. The west (front) elevation includes two, three story towers which terminate in steeply hipped roofs, almost dome shaped in appearance. The towers occur at the northwest and southwest corners balancing a modestly projecting main element.

Cast stone Corinthian columns frame a pair of glass storefront doors. These terminate at an architrave with intaglio letters spelling Vernon AME Church.

## On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA



GTR Media Group photo

**HISTORICAL STRUCTURE:** Construction of the Vernon AME Church at 311 N. Greenwood Ave. began in 1918 and survived the 1921 Race Massacre. It was completed in 1928. The church congregation continues to be strong today. The reverend of the church is Pastor Dr. Robert Turner.

Above this signage is a low balustrade in front of four stained glass windows. Immediately above these are four-pointed arch stained-glass windows which terminate at a low pediment.

At either side of these entrance elements is a two-story brick pilaster capped with a Corinthian Capital which supports a low-pitched pediment with dentil molding on its rakes. The dentil molding occurs at the roof line of

the south and west elevations as well. These elevations are each punctuated with three tall arched stained-glass windows. The dark red brick building exterior is accented with white window frame moldings and various pieces of trim.

Upon entering the church from its front doors, one can descend to the basement, which is a finished space. From the foyer (narthex), visitors also can progress into the

main worship space which has a choir loft behind a central pulpit at the east end. On the west end is a generous balcony for overflow seating.

Both the exterior and the interior of the Vernon AME Church have been meticulously maintained. Fundraising is in progress as with most historic buildings. This current campaign is for stained glass window repairs and other maintenance concerns.

## Community Food Bank Announces Build Hope Campaign for Expansion

The Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma has announced the Build Hope Capital Campaign to expand its current facilities and campus. Well before the recent pandemic exposed food vulnerabilities in the community, the work of the Food Bank had pushed the extremes of its current resources. The expansion will serve eastern Oklahoma communities for many years to come.

"After 40 years fighting hunger in eastern Oklahoma, our Food Bank is set to embark on a transformational journey as we enlarge our campus and broaden our purpose," said Mercedes Millberry Fowler, board president for the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. "An expanded facility means we will have the capacity to feed more people in our area who need assistance reaching their potential. The expansion will increase overall square footage by 75% and double the distribution capacity."



**NEW LOOK:** The Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, located in Tulsa at 1304 N. Kenosha Ave., will have a new look with its expanded facility by GH2 Architects.

The expansion will improve the Food Bank on four main fronts: culinary center, warehouse, volunteer center, and agency relations. The culinary center will nearly quadruple in size and receive commercial-grade kitchen equipment needed to increase capacity from 11,000 to 40,000 meals per week. This culinary growth will transform the pre-

pared food programs. The Food Bank started as an offshoot of Neighbor for Neighbor in 1981, providing 90,000 pounds of shelf-stable product to 25 partners. The current Donald W. Reynolds Food Distribution Center was constructed in 2006 with the ability to distribute 20 million pounds annually.



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<p><b>24 October</b></p> <p><b>LINDE TULSA OKTOBERFEST</b> River West Festival Park 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Visit tulsaoctoberfest.org for more information.</p> <p><b>PAUL BENJAMAN</b> The Colony 9 p.m. Visit colonytulsa.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>FITNESS ON THE GREEN: ZUMBA</b> Guthrie Green 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p> <p><b>SPOOKY STORY CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST</b> Tulsa Library – Virtual 6 – 7 p.m. Open to Ages 8-18. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>WRITE ON! WITH AUTHOR CLARIBELA ORTEGA</b> Tulsa Library – Virtual 6 – 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p><b>MORNING BOOTCAMP</b> Guthrie Green 6 – 7 a.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p> <p><b>HIGHLY SUSPECT</b> Cains Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p> <p><b>FITNESS ON THE GREEN: YOGA</b> Guthrie Green 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for info.</p> <p><b>We Offer Health Savings Accounts</b> <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b> Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>BREAKIN' BRICKS</b> Tulsa Ballet 7 p.m. Oct. 28-29 myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>GHOSTLAND OBSERVATORY</b> Cains Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p> <p><b>THE FIRST JASON W/ SHELTER IN PLACE</b> The Shrine 8:30 p.m. Visit tulsashrine.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Navy</b> • 6:30 p.m. Football tulsahurricane.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL</b> Cains Ballroom 6:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p> <p><b>ELEVATION NIGHTS</b> BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>TULSA OILERS vs. Kansas City</b> BOK Center • 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information.</p> <p><b>BREAKIN' BRICKS</b> Tulsa Ballet 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>ROCK ANTHEM / THE DOWN TIMES</b> The Shrine 8:30 p.m. Visit tulsashrine.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>BREAKIN' BRICKS</b> Tulsa Ballet 2:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>YUNG GRAVY</b> Cains Ballroom 6:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p> <p><b>LANY</b> BOK Center 7:30 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.</p>	<p><b>1 November</b></p> <p><b>NATIVE CULTURE ARTS: COOKING TRADITIONAL FOODS</b> Tulsa Library – Virtual 9 – 9:45 a.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p> <p><b>ANCIENT WINE DINNER AT POLO GRILL</b> Gilcrease Museum 6:30 p.m. Visit gilcrease.org for more information.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY</b> Tulsa Ballet 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.</p> <p><b>NEW Name. Same Bank.</b> <b>Central Bank of Oklahoma</b> Strong roots. 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# AT&T Foundation Grant Enables More Tulsa-Area Students to Visit Greenwood Rising History Center

The Greenwood Rising History Center has received a \$25,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation to enable thousands of Tulsa-area students to experience the center through immersive on-site field trips.

“Thanks to AT&T, more Tulsa Public School students than ever – at no cost to the schools or the students – will be able to explore Greenwood Rising,” said Phil Armstrong, interim executive director of the center. “We appreciate this grant and the company’s continued commitment to diversity and inclusion in our community.”

Greenwood Rising is an educational experience that tells the

story of Tulsa’s racial history, with the goal to educate in a way that creates intimacy, builds relationships, and develops trust. It offers education that transcends racial divisions throughout Oklahoma and beyond, and it inspires citizens to be the change they want to see in their own community.

“The Greenwood Rising History Center is doing important work to educate students and the public about Tulsa’s history,” said, Steve Hahn, president of AT&T Oklahoma. “AT&T is honored to be a part of helping Greenwood Rising fulfill its mission to educate our children in such a powerful and inspiring way.”

Greenwood Rising works close-

ly with the Tulsa Public School District to provide curriculum, field trips and other resources. With the help of AT&T and other supporters, Greenwood Rising plans to provide field trips for students, from 8th grade through high school, from various area schools.

AT&T Philanthropy and Social Innovation is committed to advancing education, creating opportunities, strengthening communities and improving lives. AT&T Connected Learning is a multi-year commitment to bridge the digital divide and narrow the homework gap, so today’s learners are connected with skills, resources, and opportunities for success

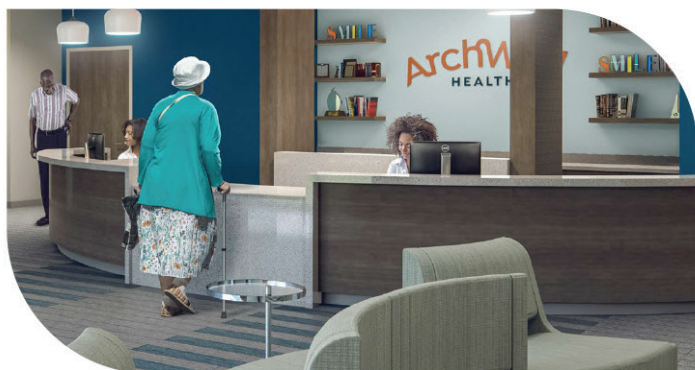


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in school and in life. Since 2008, it has committed \$600 million to programs that help millions of students across all 50 states and around the world, particularly those in underserved communities.

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