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One of Six Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers

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Volume 16

July 2015

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Military Museum Now History Center

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Changes are coming to the Military History Museum, 112 N. Main St., in Broken Arrow in the form of a name change and a broadening of its scope.

The museum will now be known as the Military History Center.

"The new name reflects the expansion of ideas and where we want to take the center," says General Tom Mancino, who was recently named interim president. "A museum is oftentimes a place people visit once and never return. We want to be a facility that draws people back and educates them."

That educational effort includes taking the center's programs into schools, VA hospitals and assisted living facilities. Mancino would also like to begin offering a location in the center where veterans and their family members can inquire regarding their benefits.

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, Broken Arrow Public Schools students in grades 10-12 can enroll in the Air Force National Defense Cadet Corps program, an elective course that promotes leadership, personal responsibility, service to the community and nation, and air and space instruction.

The program will be led by a commissioned officer and non-commissioned officer and resembles the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) but is fully funded by Broken Arrow Public Schools.

The curriculum will be comprised of 40 percent aerospace science, 40 percent leadership education and 20 percent physical fitness. In addition to classroom instruction, students are able to participate in field trips to military bases, aerospace facilities and aviation museums. Other aspects of the cadet experience include community service, drill competitions, honorary academic groups and more.

Also for the upcoming school year, the Freshman Academy will offer a new military history class and at the High School a course on the history of war.

Mancino hopes to see the center provide resources and speakers to these two new offerings.

"The military history that is found in textbooks and that comes out of the mouth of veterans can be quite different from each other," says Mancino. "Bringing veterans into the classroom gives students the opportunity to access their stories."

The 6,400-square-foot military history museum features more than 2,000 artifacts starting with the American Revolution. The museum was founded in 1989 by retired Air Force Colonel Robert Powell, who passed away in April.

Powell, who spent 27 years in the military, used his museum to honor veterans and to help individuals understand the high price of freedom. Powell collected military artifacts for more than 60 years. Those artifacts and ones that have been donated are what's currently on display.

The museum's first display was in 2000 when Powell was approached by Memorial High School's principal at the time, John McGinnis.

When the museum left the school in 2006, Powell moved to 6953 S. 66th E. Ave., in Tulsa, before its move to Broken Arrow in 2013.

Clarence Oliver, long-time superintendent of Broken Arrow schools, first got Mancino involved in helping with the museum when Powell needed help moving the museum to Broken Arrow.

Mancino spent 39 years in the National Guard including three years in active duty in Afghanistan before retiring.

"I love to see the guests and especially the veterans come to visit the museum and see and hear the memories they have as they look over old newspaper articles, uniforms and other items," Mancino says.



REMEMBERING THE FOUNDING MEMBER: Colonel Robert Powell, founder of the Military History Museum, and his granddaughter Helen Patton pose together during a party recognizing Powell's retirement from the museum in December 2014. Powell passed away in April.



NEW PRESIDENT: General Tom Mancino, interim president of the Military History Museum, stands with World War I and II artifacts in one of the exhibit rooms at the museum, which has been renamed the Military History Center.

KUDOS OF THE MONTH: 2-1-1 Helpline

In 2005, 2-1-1 Helpline began as a free, 24-hour, multi-lingual phone service that provides around-the-clock information to Oklahomans about health and human services. By dialing 2-1-1, individuals are, without charge, connected to trained and certified call specialists who provide callers with an in-depth assessment, referral plan and one or more options to meet their needs.

An average of 1 in 5 households in Oklahoma utilizes 2-1-1 for access to basic human needs such as food, clothes, shelter, health care and mental health care.

The call service operates two

statewide call centers through two nonprofit organizations: HeartLine in Oklahoma City and the Community Service

2-1-1
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Council/2-1-1 Helpline in Tulsa.

The 2-1-1 call centers serve a 37-county area and receives approximately 15,000 calls per month and 150,000 calls per year.

Individuals in need of assistance with clean-up due to the recent storms can dial 2-1-1 to register

their needs on a statewide wait list.

The call service will be serving as the clearinghouse for work orders for Oklahoma Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. Calls will be taken between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, and 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Saturday.

Additional information can also be found at 211oklahoma.org.

2-1-1 Helpline statistics to date:

- Has received 143,463 phone calls and 21,028 website contacts
- 112,637 (78 percent) calls come from a Tulsa Area United Way service area

- 237,325 referrals have been made to community agencies
- 70 percent of callers report receipt of services from referrals they have received from 2-1-1 Helpline
- 2-1-1 Helpline has more than 12,000 service resources in its database
- 45 percent of callers are aged 18-44 and 7 percent over 60
- 5 percent (6,000) of households that contact 2-1-1 Helpline have a veteran in the home, 27 percent lack adequate health insurance and 22 percent are experiencing a housing crisis

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Various Tulsa Area Organizations Working Toward a Collective Impact

An example of a new collaborative initiative for the betterment of society is IMPACT! Tulsa, an alliance seeking to improve local educational outcomes from "cradle to career."

IMPACT! Tulsa is based on the national Strive initiative, which has moved the needle in schools in Cincinnati, Ohio, significantly increasing high school graduation rates, fourth grade reading and math scores, and the number of preschool children prepared for kindergarten. Impact Tulsa is being led by former Tulsa Mayor and Oklahoma Education Secretary Kathy Taylor and involves a wide variety of community organizations, including public schools, social service agencies and the Tulsa Area United Way.

"Making a meaningful impact on our community - in education, health or economic opportunity - will require all of us coming together and working toward the same goal," says Mark R. Graham, President and CEO of the Tulsa Area United Way.

"To make large-scale social change, all of us - funders, service agencies and community leaders - must work together, sharing the same goals, data and measures of success," Graham says.

That's why the Tulsa Area United Way is placing increased focus on a new social change model known as collective impact - multiple organizations working closely together to make a difference.

To that end, the local United Way recently began investing in collaborative initiatives and innovative venture projects, in addition to annual investments in its 60 partner agencies and emergency funding.

"Annual investments will always be part of our model, to sustain our partner agencies and their expert work," Graham says. "But collaborating with other organizations and encouraging our partner agencies to do so will increasingly become part of our mode of operation."

The Tulsa Area United Way has invested in several collaborative initiatives in recent years, including projects to reduce the homeless population, prevent teen pregnancy, and promote the study of math and science in public schools. In addition, a variety of venture grants have been awarded to area organizations. "In many ways, our partner agencies have been working together for years to address social problems," says Kathy Seibold, vice president for Community Investments. "We're encouraging our agencies to form even closer alliances focused both on achieving quicker results as well as making lasting long-term change."

To help, the local United Way is strengthening data collection, scanning the local environment and determining areas in which multiple agencies can work together.

Five conditions of collective success include: adopting a common agenda, sharing the same measurement systems, coordinating responses to make progress, engaging in continuous communication and forming a backbone organization to drive the entire initiative, according to John Kania and Mark Kramer in the Stanford Social Innovation Review.

"I believe the United Way is ideally situated to serve as a community convener, if you will, determining the greatest needs in our community and mobilizing alliances to respond in a collective manner," Graham says.

For successful examples of collective impact nationwide, see the Stanford Social Innovation Review.

For more information about IMPACT! Tulsa, visit www.impact-tulsa.com.



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

ENCOURAGING LITERACY: Working to encourage literacy among Tulsa-area youth are, from left, Dave Shirley, chair, Tulsa Area United Way's Emerging Leaders Society; Kathy Taylor, CEO, Impact Tulsa; and Paula Huck, chair, Tulsa Area United Way's Women's Leadership Council.



Courtesy Tulsa Area United Way

FRIENDSHIP EVENT: The Dialogue Institute of the Southwest, located in Broken Arrow, recently donated the proceeds of its annual Friendship Dinner and Awards Ceremony to the Tulsa Area United Way for its upcoming 2015 campaign for the community. Pictured from left are Mark Graham, president and CEO of the Tulsa Area United Way; Nancy Day, 2015 Friendship Dinner chairperson; and Yusuf G. Dunder, executive director of the Dialogue Institute of the Southwest.

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The *Union Boundary*, the *Jenks District Gazette*, the *Owasso Rambler*, the *Bixby Breeze*, and the *Broken Arrow Express* are distributed monthly to nearly every home in the Union, Jenks, Owasso, Bixby and Broken Arrow school districts. The *Midtown Monitor* is distributed to selected neighborhoods in the Tulsa school district. All six papers are distributed to newsstands and other outlets in over 700 locations throughout the greater Tulsa area.

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CIVICS

Warren Foundation, Saint Francis Health System To Endow \$10 Million for OU-TU Med Students

University of Oklahoma President David L. Boren and University of Tulsa President Steadman Upham have announced the establishment of a \$10 million endowed scholarship fund made possible through the generosity of the William K. Warren Foundation and Saint Francis Health System.

"We at the William K. Warren Foundation and Saint Francis Health System are extremely proud to partner with The University of Tulsa and the University of Oklahoma's newest endeavor of providing a four-year medical degree within our community," says William K. Warren Foundation Chief Executive Officer John-Kelly Warren. "According to the United Health Foundation, Oklahoma ranks 48th in the number of primary care physicians per 100,000 population, and this is unacceptable. It is our hope that through our innovative public and private partnership, the state of Oklahoma will reverse this trend, whereby the locally educated physicians will desire to practice locally."

The new endowment will provide scholarships to assist and support the higher education needs of medical students attending or preparing to attend the OU-TU School of Community Medicine in Tulsa. The goal is to encourage and increase the number of doctors - specifically primary care physicians - practicing medicine in Tulsa and throughout Oklahoma.

"Through this gift, Saint Francis is hopeful that those called to the

healing ministry will be better able to navigate the accompanying financial barriers. Saint Francis Health System has long been a supporter of advancement in, and access to, education in Oklahoma - education of all kinds," says Jake Henry, Jr., president and chief executive officer for the Saint Francis Health System. "Our support of the OU-TU School of Community Medicine is a natural partnership. Ensuring a future of well-prepared physicians is vital to not only the health of Saint Francis Health System but to that of the entire region."

Upham says he appreciates the commitment by both the Warren Foundation and Saint Francis to the health and wellbeing of Tulsans. "The benefits of these transformational gifts extend far beyond the individual scholars; they will positively impact our community for generations," he says.

"These scholarships made possible through the generosity of the William K. Warren Foundation and the Saint Francis Health System will help us recruit and retain outstanding students to the OU-TU School of Community Medicine," Boren says. "These students will make a real difference in improving health care of Tulsans and those in eastern Oklahoma. We are extremely grateful to the William K. Warren Foundation and the Saint Francis Health System for their generosity."

The scholarships will be available beginning in fall 2015, which coincides with the opening of TU's new



GTR Newspapers photo

ORIGINAL ALLIANCE: This photo appeared in the Mid-June 2007 GTR Newspapers at the original announcement of the OU-Tulsa, University of Tulsa medical education alliance. The caption read, "University of Oklahoma President David L. Boren, left, and University of Tulsa President Steadman Upham are in unity over the new OU-Tulsa Master of Health Science for Physician Assistant Studies in the Department of Family Medicine at the OU-Tulsa Schusterman Center. The first students are expected to begin the physician assistant program at OU-Tulsa in fall 2008." At right is Ken Levit, who served as president of OU-Tulsa from 2001-2006. President of OU-Tulsa at the time was Dr. Gerry Clancy, now the TU vice president for health affairs and dean of the College of Health Sciences.

College of Health Sciences. TU College of Health Sciences faculty will be teaching components of the first- and second year-curriculum in the OU-TU School of Community Medicine.

"The William K. Warren Foundation and Saint Francis Health System scholarships will be offered at both universities and will advance our existing partnership with OU," says Dr. Gerry Clancy,

TU vice president for health affairs and dean of the College of Health Sciences. "We can utilize this gift to leverage the talents of our students and faculties and become the premier resource for health professionals that are well prepared for a rapidly changing healthcare landscape."

Dr. John Schumann, interim president of OU-Tulsa, echoed Clancy's praise. "This significant

gift from The William K. Warren Foundation and Saint Francis Health System will provide valuable support to many students, making it possible for them to receive medical training that ultimately benefits Oklahomans for years to come," Schumann said. "We're most grateful for this generous endowment and its potential for creating far-reaching, positive results."

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Updated Zoning Code Needed for the Future

Tulsa has come quite a ways since the '70s. Our city is more sophisticated and complex than it was 45 years ago and along with that comes new challenges.

In 2010, thousands of Tulsans recommended new directions for future growth in the city's Comprehensive Plan update, PLANITULSA. This included recommended policies to promote a more livable, pedestrian-friendly and cost-efficient city. An updated zoning code will further position Tulsa to compete with other cities.

The proposed zoning code update includes strategies for mixed-use development, parking and transitions from commercial to residential corridors with a keen focus on preserving unique or desirable neighborhood characteristics.



COMMENTARY BY MAYOR DEWEY F. BARTLETT, JR

Our zoning code update will not affect the zoning designations of existing properties in Tulsa. It will allow property owners to have more options for their properties and the tools they need to make it easier to do so.

It's also important to know, if a property is zoned currently for single-family, it will remain so after the update. Property development regulations won't change in fundamental ways. However, nearby changes could be substantial over time. For example, a strip mall owner may want to redevelop and request a rezoning-to-mixed-use development. Upon notification, nearby property owners can weigh in before a decision is made.

We also must take into account that Tulsa's future growth will occur more often on previously developed land. This type of infill development presents challenges that don't occur in new suburbs: land can be expensive with smaller parcels, and neighbors' concerns must be considered. We need to ensure infill growth is a feasible, compatible and competitive option for Tulsa.

Our city planners and the Citizens Advisory Team have drafted a new ordinance for zoning updates. It's been a work in progress with opportunities for citizens to submit questions and ideas - both online and in group meetings. We've received more than 1,700 citizen interactions that will help us grow and prosper.

Duncan Associates of Austin, Texas, has worked more than two years on the zoning code update with city officials. They've also helped to update the city's subdivision regulation, which is how a property's shape is carved. Once our zoning code update is finalized, it will go to the Tulsa Metropolitan Area Planning Commission and the Tulsa City Council for adoption. Both bodies will hold public hearings to provide more opportunities

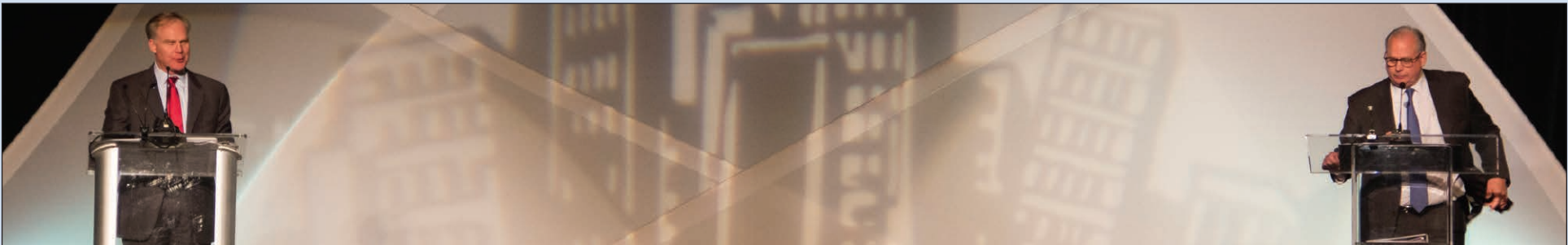


Courtesy City of Tulsa

PLANNING FOR DEVELOPMENT: The City of Tulsa is currently working on an updated zoning code that includes strategies for mixed-use development, such as the Greenwood Arch development in the Greenwood District, pictured above, parking, and transitions from commercial to residential corridors with a focus on preserving unique neighborhood characteristics.

for comment and consideration before calling for a vote.

This is an exciting time for Tulsa. I'm looking forward to seeing our new zoning plan implemented to bring us up to modern times and positively impact our city's future growth. For a look at our Zoning Code Update, please visit planitulsa.org.



Courtesy Junior Achievement

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT EXCELLENCE DINNER: The annual Junior Achievement Excellence Dinner was held at the Cox Business Center May 14 and was hosted by Alan Armstrong, CEO, Williams (left) and Steve Bradshaw, president & CEO, BOK Financial. The Junior Achievement Business Excellence Award is designed to honor an individual who has demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit, achievement, and contributed to the quality of life in his/her community. This year's dinner honored past honorees. The award symbolizes the "Spirit of Achievement" that Junior Achievement will instill in over 55,000 Oklahoma students this year. The event is supported entirely by business and industry.





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TYPros Hosts Street CReD at Johnson Park

Tulsa's Young Professionals hosted its fifth Street CReD (Community Re-Development) event May 30 at Fred Johnson Park to celebrate the positive change happening at 61st Street and Peoria Avenue and in the surrounding neighborhood.

Even with the threat of rainy weather, more than 1,000 people attended one of TYPros largest and arguably most impactful events. With the motto "When no area of Tulsa is neglected, the entire city benefits," this year's Street CReD focused on changing perceptions.

The event featured live music, food trucks and numerous other activities.



KEEPING HOPE: Visitors listed their dreams of hope for South Peoria on this sign at the Johnson Park Street CReD.



TYPROS LEADERSHIP: TYPros Chair Evan Tipton talks to the participants at this year's Street CReD while Hornsby of the Tulsa Drillers listens. Lining up for a photo in the background are, from left, TYPros Executive Director Shagah Zakerion, Tulsa City Councilor Jeannie Cue and Executive Director of the South Tulsa Community House Gerri Inman.

Environmental Roundup: Eco-Happenings Across the State

What a proud feeling to be surrounded by so many go-getter, no-excuses powerhouses that make our community a thriving, vibrant, healthy place to live, work and play. What better time to do just that than summertime?! Our state has a lot going on. Here are just a few of those activities and organizations providing outlets for all of us who desire to live with less trash.

Trash Talk



By **BETH TURNER**
Tulsa Master Recyclers Association

Get Wet

The Shawnee Tribe is hosting a free, one-day WET workshop

(Water Education for Teachers) on Thursday, July 23. This event will be held at the Shawnee Tribe Community Building in Miami, Okla. It will focus on service learning environmental education. Those who might enjoy this include educators, parents and community leaders. For more information contact Rosanna Sheppard at rosanna@shawnee-tribe.com.

Get a Tour

If you would like to learn more about how Tulsa's current trash system works, request a tour! You will be amazed to watch nanotechnology in action

as it decides what a piece of trash is in nanoseconds, and where it should go by shooting jets of air in the right direction. For more information, log on to feedmrmurph.com/schedule-a-tour.

Get in the Know

Oklahoma Policy Institute (OK Policy) is a non-partisan independent policy think-tank launched in 2008, growing out of work that had previously been conducted by the public policy department of Community Action Project of Tulsa County. Their mission is to promote adequate, fair, and fiscally responsible funding of public services and expanded opportunity for all Oklahomans by providing timely and credible information, analysis, and ideas. Sign up for a newsletter, email a question or get some help understanding a policy at OKPolicy.org.

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LOCAL CHANGE-MAKERS: TCC President Leigh Goodson and former Mayor Kathy Taylor present Nourish Drink Café founders Amy Murray, Piper Kacere and Rich Kacere with the \$30,000 prize for first place in TCC's Start-Up Cup competition in 2014.

food? Pollinator Partnership can help! This nonprofit organization is dedicated to the protection and promotion of pollinators and their ecosystems. Learn what plants are best for our area, or what can harm those little bugs that give us our

food. Just visit the website at pollinator.org.

The Porter Peach Festival will run this year from July 16-18. Many go for the free peaches and ice cream, others go for the cobbler. I go for (Continued on page 7)

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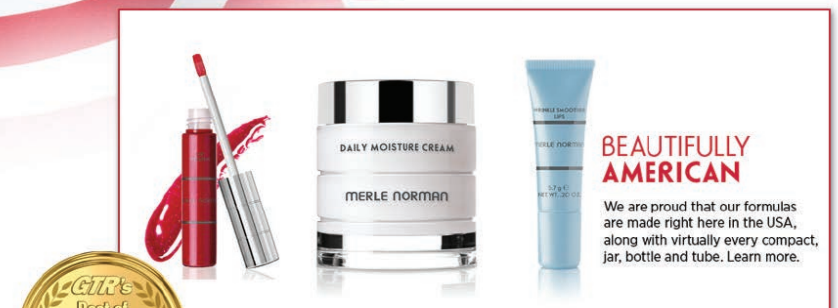
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AROUND GREATER TULSA



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LEE ELEMENTARY OUTDOOR CLASSROOM: Students play at Lee Elementary, 1920 S. Cincinnati Ave., during the grand opening of its Discover Lee Outdoor Discovery Classroom, which took place in May. The outdoor classroom was started by the Lee Elementary School Foundation. The project broke ground in July 2014.



GTR Newspapers photo

CREEK RISING ON THE ARKANSAS: Recent rain has kept the Arkansas River filled to a noticeably high level. The Arkansas River Infrastructure Task Force is currently drafting a proposal to bring water permanently to the river through construction and re-construction of low-water dams, which will be brought to voters later this year. In the distance is the continuing construction of Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville casino and restaurant at the Creek Nation's River Spirit Casino in Tulsa. The \$365-million project includes a casino, 480-room hotel with a convention center, pool and the Jimmy Buffet It's 5 O'Clock Somewhere Bar.



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

RECONCILIATION SYMPOSIUM: Symposium speakers interact with attendees during the John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation's 2015 annual symposium, where this year's theme was The Media and Reconciliation. During the May event, scholars, practitioners, and community leaders shared research and experiential perspectives on traditional media versus new media and how they shape today's culture and language.



Courtesy Junior Achievement

FUTURE TEACHERS: Future Education Association students from Will Rogers College High School help bridge the learning gap with Ms. Jennifer Lawrence's kindergarten students at Sequoyah Elementary and gain hands-on experience for their future teaching careers. The partnership between Junior Achievement of Oklahoma and Tulsa Public Schools helps high school students aspiring to be teachers gain real-world experience in the classroom.



Photo by JERRY L. CORNELIUS

PRESIDENTIAL EVENT: The 37th President of the United States, Richard M. Nixon, was photographed by Tulsan Jerry L. Cornelius when Nixon visited Tulsa for the dedication of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigational System held at the Tulsa Port at Catoosa in June 1971. System construction began in 1958 with the first barge arrived in Tulsa in January 1971. At the time it was the largest civil works project by the Corps of Engineers.

Upcoming Oklahoma Environmental Activities

(Continued from page 6)
the bushel of peaches since the squirrels run away with most of mine.

Don't forget about our area farmer's markets offering fresh, locally-grown foods. I would like to mention that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is offered at both Tulsa's Brookside and Cherry Street locations, as well as Norman, Okmulgee, OSU-OKC, Owasso, Pottawatomie, Stilwell, Tahlequah and Uptown 23rd. Thank you to all the markets choosing to be a part of these programs.

Get Inventive

I believe we all have great ideas on how a product or business could better our environment. What better way to test yours out than to submit it to TCC's Start-Up Cup? Even if your idea is not selected, you can still receive great feedback as you get started on something that might make your future and all of ours just a little

better. Learn more at TCC.Startupcup.com.

Get Involved

Once you've decided to do it, getting involved on a level that best suits your lifestyle can be simple. You can sign up online to volunteer with the racing events around town such as the Tulsa Run. Or just have lunch surrounded by fellow Oklahomans interested in eco-living. Sustainable Tulsa hosts lunch and networking events the first Thursday of each month at Foolish Things Coffee Company. Learn more at sustainabletulsa.org.

These are just a few of the goings on around our great state. Please send in your events, advice and activities. One reader recently sent in an idea for metal recycling that I am interested in learning more about. So, with your input I can offer a readers' write very soon. Send in your words of wisdom to bturmer@gtrnews.com.

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VARIETY

OK Mozart Celebrates Youth, Italy and Opera

Putting Oklahoma and Mozart back into the 2015 OK Mozart (OKM) Festival (June 6 - 13) with Italian flair proved to be an exhilarating venture for artistic director and conductor Constantine Kitsopoulos and the Amici New York Orchestra.

"Italy is where young Mozart cut his teeth when it comes to opera," says maestro Kitsopoulos, "...and opera is what I love most." Oklahoma is becoming well-known for the number of top-rated university programs that are currently producing rising opera luminaries.

The June week-full of OKM festivities included: "L'Amore d'Italia Masked Ball" on June 8 and "A Musical Tour of Italy," featuring the OK Mozart All-State Orchestra in a June 7 performance with their mentors, the Amici New York Orchestra members, and guest artist, virtuoso violinist Chad Hoopes, performing in Antonio Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" on his 21st birthday at the Bartlesville Community Center.

The combined orchestras excelled in Respighi's memorable "Pini di Roma" (Pines of Rome) finale.

Champions of the festival, Charlie and Julie Daniels were honored during the masked-ball gala at the Hilton Garden Inn ballroom, along with acclaimed broadcast journalist, documentary host and producer Bill Kurtis and his daughter Mary Kristin Kurtis.

Canadian Brass Celebrates 4th OKM Return

Back June 11 for its fourth appearance during some 31 OKM festivals, Canadian Brass once again dazzled with diversity and innovation, including its blazing

fast "Turkish Rondo," a Mozart showpiece for trombone, and its amusing choreography for the opera "Carmen," music as present-

ed complete with "the bull" in "ten minutes max."

Ongoing during the week were some 70 OKM showcase events; and Daytime Chamber Concerts featuring the youthful inspirations and contemplative interpretations of the Aeolus Quartet and the exceedingly virtuosic talents of

Canadian pianist Jon Kimura Parker, a global veteran of distinguished concert halls and an Officer of the Order of Canada, his country's highest civilian honor.

A master of the pianistic technical requirements and the emotional nuances of heart and soul, Parker drew a lengthy ovation from his rapt audience following the demanding "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op.43" during the Grand Finale concert program. His encore, "Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata," performed with fast-paced brilliance and mature authority, left his audience further "wowed." Bravo!

Tulsa Performers Featured during OKM; Mozart's "Requiem" Triumphs as Finale

Tulsa and state-wide performers were well represented in OKM concerts ranging from the music of Joseph Rivers' symphony "Buffalo Run," performed by Tulsa Youth Symphony opening day, to a partially-staged production of Mozart's "Don Giovanni" opera mid-week, in which University of Tulsa alumna Sarah Elizabeth

The Arts



By GLENDA RICE COLLINS



Courtesy Mark Blumer for OKM

FINALE PERFORMANCE: On June 13, Bartlesville Choral Society and Tulsa Oratorio Chorus under the direction of Susan Mueller joined the Amici New York Orchestra and Artistic Director Constantine Kitsopoulos in presenting Mozart's final work, his inspirational "Requiem," with guest artist, pianist Jon Kimura Parker who performed Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini."

Williams was featured as "Donna Elvira."

The Australian baritone Leslie John Flanagan, cast as "Masetto," is a faculty member at the University of Oklahoma, where twice each year the globally iconic mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne conducts master classes for selected students at the invitation of OU president David Boren.

Coached by Horne at OU and cast as "Zerlina" in "Don Giovanni," Patricia Westley is a master of vocal performance major at OU, having earned her undergraduate degree at Carnegie Mellon on full scholarship, with honors.

Saturday night's Grand Finale Concert (as presented by the Oklahoma Arts Council, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts) drew a lengthy standing ovation from concert-goers with a "state of the art" production of Mozart's final work, his celebrated, sumptuous and spiritual 1791 "Requiem, K 626," as surmounted by the Amici New York Orchestra, with Tulsa Oratorio Chorus and Bartlesville Choral Society.

Guest artists included Oklahoma City tenor Teyvyn Hill and New York City bass Nathan Baer along with soprano Emily Dyer and mezzo-soprano Margaret Potter. The multi-talented Hill, said to be equally at ease with pop/rock theatre and dance, is a master of music in opera performance major at Oklahoma City University.

Dyer and Potter have ties to the



Courtesy Mark Blumer for OKM

SARAH ELIZABETH WILLIAMS: University of Tulsa alumna Sarah Elizabeth Williams is shown in performance with the Amici New York Orchestra during the 2015 OKM "L'Amore d'Italia Masked Ball" June 8 in Bartlesville, as Champions of OK Mozart honorees Bill Kurtis and his daughter Mary Kristin Kurtis enjoy the festivities. Williams was also featured as "Donna Elvira" in the OKM production of Mozart's "Don Giovanni" June 10 at the Bartlesville Community Center.

Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University with advanced studies there and honors ongoing.

The Brooklyn-based bass Nathan Baer triumphed as "Il Commendatore" in "Don Giovanni" and again as featured bass in "Requiem" with his outstanding bass resonance and tall stage presence.

As a "nature boy" who loves the woods, cycling and hiking trails, Baer said of the unfortunately rained-out Wooloroc Outdoor Concert June 12, "Nature often brings us something even more beautiful," as he stood on a rock at the edge of Clyde Lake getting drenched from the untimely downpour.



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Hardesty Foundation Donates to Tulsa Ballet

Funds Will Support Satellite School in Broken Arrow

The Hardesty Family Foundation has donated 13.72 acres of land to support the development of a Tulsa Ballet satellite school in Broken Arrow. The future site of the Hardesty Center for Dance Education (CDE) is located just east of the intersection of Aspen Ave. (145th) and New Orleans (101st). The lead gift for the project, valued at \$4.185 million, is one of the largest gifts ever awarded by the foundation and its founders, Roger and Donna Hardesty.

Since its inception in 2003, the Tulsa Ballet Center for Dance Education (CDE) has quickly become recognized as the region's leading ballet training facility with an annual enrollment approaching 400 students and serving more than 5,000 students through its educational outreach programs for school children every year. Tulsa Ballet added three additional studios and administrative offices to its Brookside headquarters in 2007 to accommodate the rapid growth

of the academy and to fulfill the requests for its educational programs. In the years following, the CDE has continued to see tremendous growth, and Tulsa Ballet Artistic Director Marcello Angelini identified the need to open a satellite school to better serve the community.

Tulsa Ballet CDE creates a seamless path through the art of dance for local area students, a journey that can potentially take them from their first class, at age three, to a professional career with one of the top ballet companies in the country.

To identify the ideal site for Tulsa Ballet's satellite school, the organization conducted extensive research, which revealed Broken Arrow to be the ideal location.

"Broken Arrow is one of the fastest growing communities in the country; it has an ambitious vision for its future, a vibrant Chamber of Commerce, and a progressive city government," says Angelini. "It's a community growing by leaps and bounds,

one that compels us to be a part of this evolution and participate in shaping the cultural future of the city and the partnership with the city of Tulsa.

"I believe in providing our students with the tools to succeed in their professional life, whether in the dance field or not. Most students won't choose a career in dance, but in our school they will grow their self-discipline, team spirit, self-confidence and work ethic.

"We are both honored and humbled by the trust bestowed upon us by the Hardesty family and by their commitment to make the entire area a better place for those who choose to live in Oklahoma," Angelini continues. "Mr. Hardesty is among the leaders in Tulsa with a clear vision for the future of our community. He has a strong will to make Tulsa and the surrounding areas a great place for families to live and an appealing location for businesses to thrive. Here at Tulsa Ballet, we are all extreme-



DANCE EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT: The Hardesty Family Foundation has donated 13.72 acres of land to support the development of a Tulsa Ballet satellite school in Broken Arrow. The foundation's gift, valued at \$4.185 million, is one of the largest gifts the foundation has ever awarded. From left are Michelle Hardesty, Hardesty Family Foundation executive director; Roger Hardesty, foundation co-founder; and Tulsa Ballet Artistic Director Marcello Angelini.

ly thankful for his investment in our organization."

Michelle Hardesty, executive director for the Hardesty Family Foundation, says, "We are extremely excited to be a part of this project. The work that has

come out of the Tulsa Ballet is world class. It is a dream of ours for the Tulsa area to be a place that people want to live, relocate and call home. By having a superior arts and education culture, we can accomplish that."

BOK Recognized for Garth PR Campaign

The SMG-managed BOK Center was honored for its 2015 Garth Brooks PR campaign during the recent 2015 SMG Marketing Summit held at the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center in Long Beach, California.

In January, when Garth Brooks returned home to play seven sold-out shows at the BOK Center, BOK Center staff worked with the City of Tulsa to temporarily rename all four streets that surround the venue to names of Brooks' most iconic songs. The street names were: Thunder Rolls Road, Low Places Lane, Shameless Boulevard and Rodeo Drive. The street signs gained national media attention and were even featured on CMT, Fox News, and Garth himself talked about them on The Today Show. In addition, Tulsa-based creative agency AcrobatAnt designed a wrap for the iconic grand lobby staircase that featured lyrics to "Friends in Low Places." The staircase turned into a photo opportunity for fans attending the shows. The campaign was voted 2015 Best Public Relations Idea by more than 70 SMG marketing professionals from venues across the United States and Puerto Rico.

The renaming of the street signs was also recently covered in a marketing article in the June 13 issue of Billboard, a premier music publication.



DECORATED VENUE: The SMG-managed BOK Center was honored for its 2015 Garth Brooks PR campaign during the recent 2015 SMG Marketing Summit. SMG's promotion included the renaming of the four streets that surround the venue and a staircase wrap, designed by local company AcrobatAnt, with the lyrics to "Friends in Low Places."

"Garth Brooks was a milestone event in Tulsa and we wanted to commemorate it appropriately. We had no idea the renaming of the street signs would gain so much attention, but it means so much knowing that both Garth himself and the Tulsa community appreciated it so much," says Meghan Doyle, BOK Center director of marketing.

IN HARMONY



MUSIC PROGRAM: The Community Food Bank's "Empty Bowls" fundraiser was held recently, where Harmony Project Tulsa students performed for more than 900 people. Harmony Project Tulsa is a music-based mentoring program that provides instruments and music lessons to local students. In May, the program celebrated its one-year anniversary. Harmony Project proponent Kathy Lafortune arranged for the children to perform at the event, saying, "This program will help keep our children from going down destructive paths of influence and, instead, help strengthen families and lift up children to be all that they can be through the universal language of music."

Starlight Opens Season

In June, Starlight Concerts began its 69th season and its second summer season at Guthrie Green in downtown Tulsa's Brady Arts District. Starlight's professional groups are made up of a concert band and a jazz orchestra.

As always, the concerts are free and open to the public. Those attending are invited to bring blankets, lawn chairs, and picnic dinners while they enjoy live music played under the stars.

The opening performance of the 2015 season was on Tuesday, June 16.

On June 30, Starlight will present "Things That Go Bump in the Night."

Selections will include music from "Psycho" and "The Phantom of the Opera," as well as a tune called "The Monster Under the Bed."

Other things that "go bump in the night" are the beats of big band music. The second half of the program will feature vocalist Kelly Ford and selections such as "They Can't Take That Away from Me" and "Glenn Miller in Concert." Ford, a home-grown singer, competed on "Star Search" and was a featured singer at Disney World's Epcot Center. Currently, he performs and travels across the United States.

Other guests for the evening are the Gypsy Fire Belly Dancing Troupe and Spotlight Brass. The members of Gypsy Fire will provide pre-concert entertainment

beginning at 7:30 pm. During intermission, Spotlight Brass will perform.

On July 7, the band will perform "Way Out West," with special guests fiddler Jeff Smith and Tulsa Metro Sound. July 14, "Night at the Movies" will feature popular movie themes, followed by Laurel & Hardy in "Liberty." On July 21, the theme will be "Jazz Standards" and on July 28, the Starlight Jazz Orchestra will perform a tribute to Billy Strayhorn, Duke's right-hand man.

Starlight's concerts are ideal entertainment for the entire family.

Guthrie Green offers free parking and is accessible to those with disabilities. Concessions will be available.

Guarantors for the 2015 season are the Oklahoma Arts Council and the Treeman Family Foundation in honor of Jeff Treeman. Other major sponsors include: Cedar Creek, Circle Cinema, Creative State, First Fidelity Bank, Guthrie Green, Liberty Press, National Endowment for the Arts, Public Radio Tulsa: KWGS/KWTU, Saied Music Company and The Jimmie & Helen Saied Foundation, Universal Combustion Corporation, The Charles & Marion Weber Foundation in memory of Dr. Charles E. and Marion L. Weber, and Will Rogers Rotary Club.

For more information, visit starlightbands.net.

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Students Create Quality Dishes at Foundations

LOCAL DINING

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Writer

Foundations Restaurant at Platt College, 3801 S. Sheridan Rd., is using its student-run kitchen to prepare culinary students for real-world restaurants, and the public gets to reap the rewards.

The restaurant, which opened in June 2010, recently held a grand re-opening celebration.

After a change in school ownership in August 2014, the school underwent various facelift projects, including interior improvements to the restaurant and student areas in the school, and Foundations received new lunch and dinner menu items.

Almost half of the items found on its menus are completely new dishes, says Jeff Howard, director of culinary arts at Platt College.

For the spring and summer months, lighter dishes were added to the menu, for example, the Chicken Salad Plate and Chicken Salad Sandwich; Turkey, Avocado & Sprouts Sandwich; and the Fettuccine Czarina, "a lighter pasta for springtime," says Howard.

Some of the popular mainstay menu items include the Hot and Crunchy Shrimp, Platt Greens salad, and the Ribeye.

In the restaurant, students serve as both servers and chefs.

Students working in the restaurant are in the last stage of their education before they go out for an internship, so they are experienced with what they're doing, says Howard, and there are instructors watching every step of the way.

My party of three all decided to loosen our belts and order the five-course option.

Chalmer, our waiter, admitted to us that he was new as a server, but he was very accommodating and knowledgeable; he told us that he had already made everything on the menu, so he offered a lot of guidance when it came to choosing dishes.

After everyone at the table ordered all five



SPLENDED SALAD: Foundations' Turned Daikon & Beet salad, with chickpeas and blue cheese and a tomato stuffed with daikon and beets.

of our courses, Chalmer brought out a complimentary plate of small appetizers from the kitchen: nine total, three for each of us. Three were made with pureed mushrooms, three with leeks and the remaining with mackerel. All three kinds were distinctly unique and a nice surprise before our meal began. Bread and butter were also brought to the table.

First to arrive was our appetizers, I chose the Brochette of Cuban Pork, while my tablemates both opted for the Gratin of Colossal Shrimp on the recommendation of our server.

My pork came on one skewer with pickles and mustard swiss cheese cream. I loved the flavor of the meat and the sauce but the one



PLATT COLLEGE: Foundations Restaurant, 3801 S. Sheridan Rd., is Platt College's student-run kitchen, where students serve as servers and chefs in preparation for their entrance into real-world restaurants. Foundations offers lunch and dinner Wednesday through Friday.

skewer of pork paled in comparison to the size of the shrimp dish, which came in a bowl. About six shrimp covered in fontina were laid over a piece of bread.

For our second course, salad, I tried the Turned Daikon & Beet, with chickpeas and blue cheese and a tomato stuffed with daikon and beets. The flavors were delicious, the blue cheese adding a nice tartness to the sweet flavors of the tomato and beets and the balsamic dressing.

One person in our group ordered the Platt Greens, which offered a more acidic flavor in comparison to the Daikon & Beet and left me hard-pressed to choose which salad was my favorite.

For soups, our table ordered both options on the menu: the Roasted Pepper Coulis and the Ajo Blanco. The red pepper soup was warm with bits of red pepper in the broth, a nice, easy soup to drink. However, my

favorite was the cold Ajo Blanco, with Spanish ham and topped with toasted almonds. It was surprisingly creamy for a cold soup, the texture reminding me of coconut milk, and the flavors, while hard to pinpoint, were soothing and complex.

Before our entrees, Chalmer brought a palate cleanser, a pink-colored sorbet that I expected to taste fruity but instead gave off a floral flavor.

For entrees, I chose the Ribeye; the remainder of my party chose the Lobster Tortellini and the "Navarin" of Lamb.

I found some fat around the edges of my ribeye, but overall, the cut was tender and well seasoned.

The lobster, which is normally stuffed in the tortellini, this evening, we were told, came, instead, on a bed of fettuccine because they ran out of tortellini. The dish was amply covered in sauce with large lobster pieces throughout the dish. For pasta and lobster lovers, it's not disappointing.

The lamb came as a stew, with artichokes, peas, oven-dried tomatoes and potatoes, but without all of the stew broth.

For dessert, my table again chose both menu options: the Fresh Berry Panna Cotta, which had a light pudding texture with Greek yogurt sauce and a lot of summer berries, and the Chocolate Flourless torte, which wasn't overly sweet but had a fudgy richness and also came with a nice amount of fruit – as a chocolate lover, my favorite by far.

Foundations also keeps its menu prices reasonable. Lunch items include sandwiches starting at \$6 up to \$12 for an entree. For dinner, Foundations offers a prix fixe menu of three, four or five courses ranging from \$20 for a three-course meal to \$28 for five courses.

Foundations is open for lunch W-F 11 a.m.-2 p.m. with a Friday all-you-can-eat buffet and for dinner W-F 7 p.m.-9. Dinner reservations are encouraged.

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Florida Beaches: A Natural Destress-er

With the dog days of summer and the summertime travel season upon us, I am taking Out & About on a detour from its Tulsa-centric theme, to highlight why, even if you love where you live, we all need to get away once in a while, even if we may not realize it at the time.

I read recently that being near a body of water “can induce a mildly meditative state of calm focus and gentle awareness.”

I didn’t find that information particularly ground breaking when I read it. That makes sense, I remember thinking.

What I did find surprising, though, was my realization of just how much I needed to reintroduce myself to that “mildly meditative state of calm.”

I spent a week in Sarasota, Florida, earlier this month, and while I was certainly looking forward to those famed white sandy beaches, I also partly wondered how I would fare with five days of imposed relaxation time.

On the other hand, my mother, who joined me on the trip, I had no doubt would quickly and all too easily slip into that tranquil, leave-your-worries-behind vacation mindset the moment we

checked our bags at the airport.

I have a harder time letting go of the daily tasks and schedules I’ve left behind.

When we finally arrived at our hotel after so many months of anticipation, I remember sitting outside at the hotel restaurant, having our first of many dinners, overlooking a picturesque undisturbed marina leading out to the endless western blue of the Gulf of Mexico, and thinking, OK, Emily, relax.

But the body and the mind can’t be forced.

So, I had to do the thing I hate to

do, wait.

Fortunately, it didn’t take too long for the peaceful waters to work their magic. The cotton candy pink sunsets, the comfort of the swaying palm trees, the warmth of the sun, the peace of the lapping waters, all reminding me that we all need to slow down more often than we admit.

When I reached the point a few days into the trip that I was no longer forcing myself to ignore my emails and my thoughts of the tasks that would greet me when I returned home, that’s the ultimate moment of carefree bliss when you know vacation has taken you over.

By the time we headed home, I

Out & About in Greater Tulsa



By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

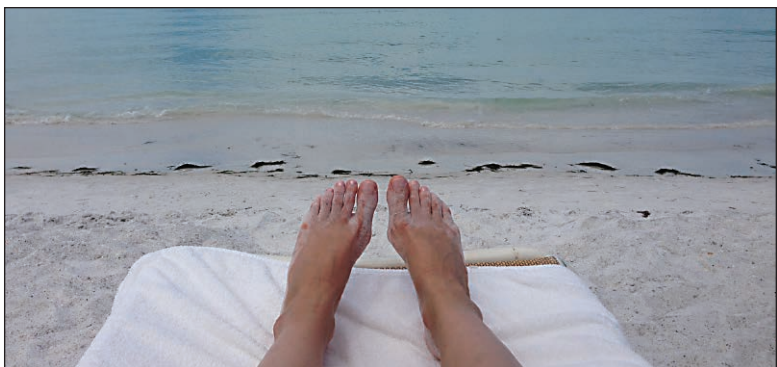
COLORFUL SUNSET: A sunset view during the author’s recent trip to Sarasota, Florida.

was fully aware of the stress I hold myself under in my daily life, and I made a conscious decision to work on that. As hard as that is at times.

So many deadlines, frantic drivers, grocery store lines and alarm clocks make life rush by too quickly. With no nearby oceans to calm me.

Only my memories and my newfound recognition that all of life should be enjoyed.

And, of course, I have my daydreams of endless white beaches in my future.



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

WATER THERAPY: Research shows that bodies of water “can induce a mildly meditative state of calm focus and gentle awareness.”

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==HEALTH & WELLNESS==

CANCER TREATMENT CENTERS OF AMERICA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

TWO TULSA ANNIVERSARIES: *Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA), in May, celebrated the hospital's 25th anniversary in Tulsa. Also present at the event were Karl and Pattie Berens, Bixby residents who first met as CTCA employees. In December 2015, they will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. From left are Steve Mackin, CTCA COO; Shawn Stephenson, CTCA-Tulsa board member and Rising Tide Foundation chairman; his wife, Morgan Stephenson; Karl Berens, CTCA-Tulsa assistant vice president, Administration; Pattie Berens, CTCA-Tulsa senior oncology specialist; Richard J Stephenson, CTCA founder and chairman of the Board; Gerard van Grinsven, CTCA president and CEO; Robert W. Mayo, CTCA vice chairman of the Board; and Richard Haldeman, CTCA-Tulsa president and CEO.*



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Wilbanks Chiropractic Emphasizes Prevention

By KIM SHOEMAKE
Contributing Writer

Becoming a chiropractor seemed a natural choice for Dr. Brandon Wilbanks. Even at an early age, he knew he wanted a career that allowed him the opportunity to help others.

Raised in Tulsa, Wilbanks has been active his entire life. While playing basketball at Union High School, he discovered the benefits of chiropractic care for injuries as well as other ailments. After entering Oklahoma State University, where he studied nutritional science, he continued to educate himself on a holistic approach to health, while avoiding traditional medications when possible. After finishing his undergraduate work, he went on to complete his doctorate at Parker University College of Chiropractic in Dallas. A year ago, Wilbanks and his wife, Dr. Kendra Wilbanks, also a chiropractor and graduate of Parker, opened Wilbanks Chiropractic at 8205 South Regal Blvd. in South Tulsa.

Wilbanks Chiropractic emphasizes the benefits of early intervention when it comes to chiropractic care. "By the time individuals are coming to us, they've tried everything and are looking for something outside of the box," Wilbanks notes.

He believes it's important for people to recognize chiropractic as a first line of defense. The brain and spinal cord form the central nervous system, which coordinates everything that occurs within the body, from the beating of the heart to the solving of a crossword puzzle, he says.

Wilbanks educates his patients on the importance of maintaining good alignment within the spine in order to alleviate any issues within the central nervous system. "If there is pressure or inflammation within the spine, it can result in pain or numbness, as well as a host of other problems," he says.

While many individuals associate chiropractic care with injuries or pain, Wilbanks insists there are a host of other areas effectively treated through this approach.

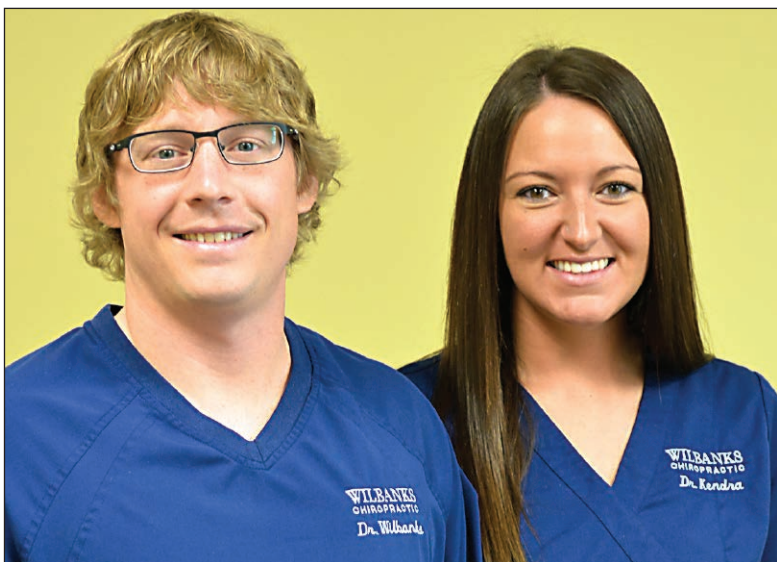
Kendra Wilbanks has a particular interest in working with children. "Because kids are constantly moving and growing, this activity can put stress on their spine. Spinal stress can come while in utero as well," she states.

Chiropractic is based on removing these stresses through adjustment, allowing the nervous system to function properly.

Brandon Wilbanks notes that many childhood ailments, from colic to ear infections, could be alleviated through spinal adjustment.

While it is the belief of those who practice chiropractic care that all can benefit from the holistic approach that it offers, Wilbanks feels it is especially necessary for those who are active: "We believe in keeping our patients moving while focusing on strengthening the areas that are restricted in order to provide full range of motion."

"Our goal for patients is quality versus quantity," he says when describing his and his wife's approach to providing personal treatment for all of their patients, many of



Courtesy Wilbanks Chiropractic

FAMILY TEAM: Drs. Brandon and Kendra Wilbanks are a husband and wife chiropractic team and both graduates of Parker University College of Chiropractic in Dallas. A year ago, they opened Wilbanks Chiropractic at 8205 S. Regal Blvd. in south Tulsa.

whom end up referring family members for that same level of care.

Wilbanks Chiropractic offers con-

sultations to share the wide-ranging benefits of chiropractic. To make an appointment, call 918-970-6616.

OU Researchers Target Heart Health with Grant

To improve cardiovascular health in Oklahoma, a \$15 million grant will advance work by researchers at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and the School of Community Medicine in Tulsa in collaboration with health professionals statewide.

Awarded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the grant funds Healthy Hearts for Oklahoma, a comprehensive project aimed at creating an effective, sustainable system to help primary care practices across Oklahoma improve cardiovascular disease management and prevention.

"This grant provides a critical infrastructure to help ensure better health for all Oklahomans, especially those in remote and rural areas of the state" says OU President David L. Boren. "It is a tribute to the talent and dedication of OU researchers, who are dedicated to improved health care."

OU is one of seven grantees awarded as part of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality initiative, EvidenceNOW - Advancing Heart Health in Primary Care, which supports the broad U.S. Department of Health and Human Services effort for Better Care, Smarter Spending, and Healthier People, and is aligned with the Department's Million Hearts® national initiative to prevent heart attacks and strokes.

"The goal of the EvidenceNOW initiative is to give primary care practices the support they need to help patients live healthier and longer," says Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell.

"By targeting smaller practices, we have a unique opportunity to reduce cardiovascular risk factors for hundreds of thousands of patients and learn what kind of support results in better patient outcomes."

Dr. Steven Crawford of the OU College of Medicine's Department of Family and Preventive Medicine and Dr. Dan Duffy at the School of Community Medicine in Tulsa will head the Oklahoma research effort.

"This project brings together investigators with a broad base of expertise to help ensure that these practices receive the information, support and feedback needed to improve management of four cardiovascular disease risk factors. These include smoking, blood pressure, cholesterol and the use of low-dose aspirin," Crawford says.

"Through this project, we will provide technical support to 300 primary care practices, helping them implement methods based upon patient-centered care outcomes research. Our ultimate goal, of course, is to positively impact the care of patients at risk for cardiovascular disease events like heart attacks and stroke," Duffy says.

The work will involve critical collaboration with the Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality, the Public Health Institute of Oklahoma, the Community Service Council, Oklahoma Center for Healthcare Improvement, Oklahoma Primary Care Association, Oklahoma Area Health Education Centers, MyHealth Access Network and Coordinated Care Oklahoma, as well as Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

"This important project provides the opportunity to enhance the health of Oklahomans all across the state by building a collaborative network of primary care physicians, practices and organizations," says Timothy VanWagoner, Ph.D., administrative director of the Oklahoma Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute at Harold Hamm Diabetes Center at OU.

He pointed out that the grant brings together individuals, like Crawford and Duffy,

with decades of experience in disseminating and implementing the findings of patient-based outcomes research.

"Participating practices will be provided initial and monthly performance feedback in an effort to establish and share 'best practices' in the management and prevention of what we know to be critical cardiovascular risk factors. Of course, the ultimate goal is better health for patients across Oklahoma, especially those in traditionally underserved parts of the state," VanWagoner adds.

Project evaluation will be handled by a team of collaborating researchers from the OU College of Public Health, including Ann Chou, Ph.D., an associate professor of Health Administration, and Julie Stoner,

Ph.D., chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology.

OU's grant will run for three years. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality also awarded a four-year grant to the Oregon Health and Science University to conduct an independent national evaluation of the overall EvidenceNOW initiative. Together, these grants represent one of the largest research investments to date by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. For more information about the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's EvidenceNOW initiative, including details on each of the grantees and cooperatives, visit www.ahrq.gov/evidenceNOW.html.

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EDUCATION

Former TPS Superintendent Appointed OU-Tulsa Prof

Keith Ballard, Ed.D., former superintendent of Tulsa Public Schools, joins the faculty of the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa on July 1. Ballard will serve as director of the Professional Development and Leadership Academy and professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in the OU Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education.

Gregg Garn, Ph.D., dean of the college, says, "We're excited that Dr. Ballard will be joining our faculty. Students will benefit tremendously from his vast and varied experience. He offers the unique compliment of not only

his academic prowess, but his firsthand, practical knowledge of the field."

"I look forward to making the transition to OU-Tulsa, so I can continue to make an impact on public education in Oklahoma," says Ballard. "Having served at Tulsa Public Schools during a period of intense change, there is much I can do to assist in the development of educational leadership in K-12, particularly in cultivating new school superintendents. It's a joy being able to leave a job that I love and moving to a place where I can be a difference-maker. I'm looking forward to my time at the University of Oklahoma."

"OU-Tulsa students will learn a great deal from the significant knowledge and experience Dr. Ballard has gained during his distinguished career," says John Schumann, M.D., interim president of OU-Tulsa. "We're happy to welcome him to the outstanding education faculty at OU-Tulsa."

Ballard retired from Tulsa Public Schools after seven years with the district. During his tenure, Ballard worked to pass two of the largest school bonds in the history of the state totaling \$415 million (2015) and \$354 million (2010). He led the way for the district to work with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on Teacher & Leader Effectiveness, one of only 10 school districts selected in the U.S. Ballard also spearheaded

Project Schoolhouse, an ongoing efficiency program that addresses changing student populations and school building utilization. He is the recipient of numerous awards



DR. KEITH BALLARD

and honors, including the Oklahoma Association of School Administrators (OASA) Lifetime Achievement Award; the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame (2011); Oklahoma Superintendent of the Year in 2012; the Vision in Education Leadership Award from Tulsa Community College Foundation (2012); the Don Newby/Ben Hill award from the Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry for Compassion and Concern for all Human Beings (2011); the 2015 Foundation for Tulsa Schools Henry Zarrow Award; the 2015 Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award recipient from the Indian

Nations Council of the Boy Scouts of America; 2015 Oklahoma Music Educators Association (OMEA) Administrator of the Year; and has been inducted into both the TPS Athletics Hall of Fame and the Fine Arts Hall of Fame in 2015.

The University of Oklahoma Schusterman Center is home to all OU programs in Tulsa. Located on a 60 acre campus at 41st Street and Yale Avenue, it strengthens OU's presence in northeast Oklahoma and expands educational, research and patient care programs in the Tulsa area. OU-Tulsa offers six bachelor's degree completion programs; 14

master's degree programs, including the physician assistant program and nurse practitioner program; doctoral programs in medicine, physical therapy, education, early childhood education, engineering, pharmacy and nursing, as well as nine residency programs in medicine. It is also home to the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine School of Community Medicine, Tulsa. The first of its kind in the nation, it was created with the explicit purpose of improving the health of all Oklahoma communities. For more information about OU-Tulsa, call 918-660-3318 or visit tulsa.ou.edu.



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Dedication Helps Student Build His Future

Although Tulsa Tech offers many different programs and opportunities for all types of students to succeed, students must be dedicated to learning new skills in order to truly make their own path. Carpentry student Jordan Dunkin demonstrates his dedication each morning by waiting for the 6:50 a.m. bus that takes him to downtown Tulsa, then catching a second bus that stops near Tulsa Tech's Lemley Memorial Campus for class.

This daily routine, this type of dedication, are both admired and greatly respected by Tulsa Tech's carpentry instructor John Antonelli. "Jordan's dedication to being here every day is just great," Antonelli says. "And once he's here, he learns quickly and works hard to complete the jobs he is given."

Originally from Iowa, the tall 27-year old Hawkeye moved to Oklahoma while still in grade school and grew up and attended Charles Page High School in Sand Springs.

"I wish I had taken classes at Tech while I was still in high school," Dunkin says. "But I really didn't know as much about the classes back then."

The former Sandite discovered Tulsa Tech with the help of his friend, and mentor, Robert Franklin, who is currently Tulsa Tech's Associate Superintendent for Outreach & Advancement.

"Jordan was a former high school student at Charles Page High School where I served as his principal," Franklin explains. "He was upbeat, friendly and fully engaged in the high school experience, yet he did not have a solid career training opportunity."

Last year, Dunkin called his former high school principal to ask for advice on how Tulsa Tech might help him find a training program. The carpentry program proved to be the right fit with the right instructor and at the right time in his life.

"I chose carpentry because I like to work with my hands, and I like to see how things are put together," says Dunkin, "to see things planned out, with drawings, and then getting to build it."

The carpentry program often presents unique challenges, even for this dedicated student, and Dunkin is thankful his instructor seems to always know the correct answer.

"Math can be difficult for me, and Mr. Antonelli can just break it down to help me understand it," Dunkin says. "I consider him a bit of a math genius."

Challenges are nothing new to Dunkin. A Special Olympian for the last 15 years, he often has to work a little harder to accomplish his goals, but his desire and dedication are always accompanied by his optimism and trademark smile.

"I began competing in the Special Olympics in 2001 when I was in 7th

grade, and I've participated in every event since then," Dunkin says proudly. "This year there was a lot of rain, so I thought, 'well this should help keep me cool,' and I just kept on running."

The future carpenter says his favorite part of the event is just being there, taking in the whole experience, getting to see old friends, and of course being able to compete.

"This year I competed in the pentathlon, the 4x4 relay, and basketball," Dunkin explains. "The pentathlon consists of five events: the 100-meter run, 400-meter run, shot put, running long-jump and the high-jump."

Tulsa Tech is changing this athletes' life by providing him meaningful and relevant career training that he may have never been able to secure on his own. The outreach services of Tulsa Tech's Career Advisors and Disability Services Coordinators have made his friend, and former high school principal, extremely proud.

"These individuals have helped one of my personal friends move to a higher and more noble place on the way to economic stability," Franklin says. "I am proud for Jordan, and I am proud of my colleagues at Tulsa Tech."

Like many Olympic athletes, Jordan Dunkin is no stranger to dedication, and he has resolved to make his own path toward success.

"Some people will criticize people with mental disabilities, or just think some things are just too complicated, and they think people won't be able to get through this," Dunkin says. "Don't listen to that negativity, don't let other people plan your life. Just remember, if I can succeed, so can you."

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CARPENTRY TRAINING: Dedication is nothing new to Tulsa Tech carpentry student Jordan Dunkin, a Special Olympian for the last 15 years, who says that he often has to work a little harder to accomplish his goals.

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News from Tulsa Tech



By **DR. STEVE TIGER**
Superintendent

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LOCAL NEWS

Gatesway Grows While Facing Budget Cuts

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Judi Myers took over as CEO of Gatesway in 2004. Since then, she has seen the need for services and residential support grow, yet funding remain stagnant.

Even so, Gatesway's management team is looking to add two new buildings in the next year.

Myers and her team recently sat down to discuss their plans.

Broken Arrow Express: What is currently being planned for Gatesway?

Judi Myers: We will be constructing two new buildings on Gatesway's more than 40-acre campus. The first building, which we expect to be completed by early 2016, will be a multi-purpose building with a large kitchen, art rooms, a music room and much-needed storage space. The building will be 30,000 square feet and constructed by Fleming Construction. The second building will be constructed after the completion of the multi-purpose building and will be a 16-bed residential home for males only.

BAE: What led you to decide to move forward with these projects?

JM: We have a great need for both of these buildings. Currently, we are paying to rent a 12,000-square-foot storage unit in midtown Tulsa. Having on-site storage in the multi-purpose facility will save money on fuel and will allow us to buy supplies in larger amounts. We will also be able to put the money we would be spending on rent back into the organization.

The commercial kitchen that will be in the multi-purpose facility will

be used for cooking classes that will teach individuals at Gatesway how to shop for heart-healthy foods, why it's important to eat balanced meals and how to cook healthy dishes.

Regarding construction of a new residential building, Gatesway's campus currently houses 62 individuals in five Intermediate Care Facilities and two six-bed community group homes on our 40-acre campus. We already have a waiting list for the future 16-bed facility.

BAE: What other services does Gatesway provide?

JM: In addition to on-site living, Gatesway offers individuals the opportunity to receive on-site vocational training and off-site job placement. The organization also has about 400 individuals throughout the community, and we provide up to four staff members who go into the homes and provide whatever services the individuals need or to assist them in the area of employment.

BAE: How is Gatesway funded?

JM: We receive money through the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority with a federal match. However, we were recently informed that our funding for the 2016 fiscal year has been cut by 3.5 percent, which is a substantial cut since we have been operating on the same amount of funding since 2006. We also accept community donations and sponsorships, which we are always in need of, especially now with this looming funding cut. Also, over the years, through grants from the Department of Aging, we have been able to purchase vehicles for a very low cost which has really helped our aging vehicles.

BAE: With such a cut in funding, how is the organization able to afford to build these two buildings?

JM: Since 2004, Gatesway has only done projects from donations that we have raised for that specific project. Our management team made the decision that if we need something, we have to raise the money for it through donations. Nothing is taken out of our operations budget to fund anything, because we know what we receive from state and federal government has to go into everyday operations.

BAE: Moving forward, how do you expect Gatesway to cope with the funding decrease?

JM: We hope to continue to receive local support and volunteers, such as with the Gatesway Balloon Festival in September. We are also hoping to find people in the community who will volunteer to teach a cooking class in our kitchen in the soon-to-be-built multi-purpose building.

Gatesway's individuals here love that interaction with community members, and when the class is taught by someone who really enjoys cooking, that comes across to the students.

Gatesway COO Maurice Cooks: In the future, we also want to build more awareness with the community, in understanding the services that we provide. Many times, we are families' last hope. The parents may be getting up in years and want to know that their child will be taken care of. Gatesway is there to provide services and assure the family that we are good at what we do.

That gives them peace of mind that when they're gone, their loved one will be taken care of.



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

EXPANSION NEEDS: Judi Myers, center, CEO of Gatesway, stands with, from left, Maurice Cooks, COO; Amanda Olden, job coach; Gatesway residents Janice Bond, Bill Mienrick and Sarah Dudley; and Chris Douglas, executive director of facilities.

JM: And it's our mission to make them as independent as they can be. We do that by training them to hold a job and teaching them how to live independently. We encourage all of our individuals at

Gatesway to work, and when they get to that place where they have a job and some-one other than Gatesway is providing them a paycheck, that's the biggest accomplishment for them.

B.A. PRIDE: Keep Broken Arrow Beautiful's board members Lori Lewis, left, Janet Skates and Dawn Seing, right, present Broken Arrow City Horticulturalist Chris Ohler with a \$2,500 check to help launch the new entrance to downtown at Elm Place and Broadway Avenue. The money comes from a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. The funds will go toward flowers and an enhanced irrigation system.



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SPORTS

TU News: Shea Seals Promoted, Kim English Joins Staff

*Former TU Star Now Assistant Coach;
Mizzou Standout Hired as Team Manager*

University of Tulsa Head Basketball Coach Frank Haith recently announced the promotion of former TU All-American Shea Seals to assistant basketball coach and the addition of former Missouri standout Kim English as director of player development for the Golden Hurricane.

Seals has served as director of player development/team manager for the last three seasons. The Tulsa native was an All-America selection while playing at TU from 1993-97.

English played at Missouri from 2008-12, including his senior season for Haith. He has spent the last three years playing professional basketball – one with the Detroit Pistons and two overseas.

“Shea was such a valuable part of our program last season, and he is the perfect addition to our on-court coaching staff,” Haith says. “Needless to say, Shea is a Tulsa basketball legend and is someone that has worked tremendously hard to get where he is today. He is a great example of what hard work and a Tulsa education can help you accomplish, and I am so proud that his first assistant coaching job is here at his alma mater. I know everyone around our program and our community will join me in congratulating Shea and Rosa, as well as their children Jeval, Shea Ari, Shemar and Viola.”

Seals is Tulsa’s all-time leading scorer with 2,288 points; he also

completed his career among the school’s all-time leaders for rebounds with 777, assists with 388 and steals with 222.

During his TU career, Seals was on Tulsa teams that compiled an overall 93-34 record, made four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances, including two trips to the “Sweet Sixteen,” and won two Missouri Valley Conference regular season championships and one MVC Tournament title.

Seals earned first-team all-conference honors in his final three seasons, twice in the MVC and as a senior in the Western Athletic Conference. He went on to receive third-team Associated Press All-America merits as a senior and had his No. 21 jersey retired in his final home game of the 1996-97 campaign.

“This is a very exciting opportunity for my family and me. I appreciate Coach Haith having the faith in me to allow me to be an assistant coach at my alma mater,” Seals says.

Before returning to Tulsa in 2012, Seals spent the previous seven years coaching high school basketball in Tulsa, compiling an overall 130-45 record. He was the head basketball coach for five seasons at Booker T. Washington High School and before that spent three seasons at his alma mater McLain High School.

In his tenure at BTW, Seals’ teams posted a 102-22 record, won state championships in 2010



Courtesy photos

KIM ENGLISH: *Once a player for Frank Haith, the former Missouri guard is now director of player development at TU.*



SHEA SEALS: *The former director of player development/team manager for the Golden Hurricane was recently promoted to assistant basketball coach.*

and 2011 and finished as the state runner-up in 2008 and a state semifinalist in 2009. In 2011, the Hornets compiled a 21-0 record en route to their second consecutive state championship, while earning a Rivals.com final high school national ranking of No. 22.

At McLain, Seals spent the 2004-05 season as an assistant coach and took over as head coach a year later. Seals proceeded to lead McLain High School to a two-year mark of 28-23 and a state quarterfinals appearance in 2006. As a prep senior at McLain in 1993, Seals averaged 24.4 points, 8.0 rebounds and was named the 1993 Oklahoma High School Player of the Year as a

prep senior at McLain High School.

Before entering the coaching profession, Seals spent seven years in professional basketball. He began his career with the Los Angeles Lakers in 1997-98 before suffering an ACL injury in the summer after his rookie season. He played six years in Europe and Asia and one season in the NBDL.

English was drafted with the 44th overall pick in the 2012 NBA Draft by the Detroit Pistons. He played in 41 games during the 2012-13 season, and spent most of the last two years playing basketball overseas.

“I am so excited to be welcoming Kim English to our staff,”

Haith says. “Kim was a tremendous player for me at Missouri and was someone Michael Schwarz and I heavily recruited while we were at Miami. Kim made himself into an NBA Draft pick his senior season because of his relentless work ethic and mind for our game and that’s why he will be so successful in the coaching profession. Kim has been preparing himself to become a coach over the past several years, including our time together at Missouri, on through his time with the Detroit Pistons. He was a highly-coveted young coach this spring and I cannot wait for our team, our administration and our community to get to know Kim and his future wife, Jessica.”

Tommy Dial of Jenks Makes National Stage

By DOUG EATON
GTR Sports Writer

Tommy Dial is always looking to improve his impressive pole vaulting credentials. Competing at the highest levels on a national basis has made the Jenks High School senior’s name well-known in track and field circles.

Dial’s 2015 season has gotten off to an impressive start as he placed near the top in three national meets and dominated regular high school meets. He is currently ranked fifth among all high school pole vaulters by MileSplit, USA.

Dial, who was the Class 6A state champion last year as a junior, started his season off by traveling to the Reno National Pole Vault Summit at Reno, Nevada.

The Reno Summit is an annual congregation of high school, collegiate, elite and masters pole vaulters from around the country.

Dial tied for third place in the high school division with a vault of 16 feet, 8 inches, and was only four inches under the winning height.

Dial joined his Trojan teammates for the Oklahoma High School Indoor Meet at the University of Oklahoma at Norman. Dial captured first place easily as he cleared 16 feet, 3 inches to out-jump the second place finisher by over a foot and a half.

Dial then received a special invitation to travel to New York City to compete at the prestigious Millrose Games, the hallmark meet of the indoor track season held at the Armory in Manhattan.

Dial cleared 16 feet, 4.75 inches to claim a tie for second place.

“It was awesome to participate at

such a big meet and compete with some of the best high school vaulters in the country,” Dial says.

Dial followed that up with a third place finish at the Texas Relays by clearing 17 feet, 1 inch. The first and second place vaulters also cleared 17-1, so Dial actually tied for first but placed third based on the number of misses.

At the Owasso Ram Relays, Dial easily captured first place as he cleared 17 feet, beating his nearest competitor by nearly three feet.

At the 88th annual Kansas Relays in Lawrence, Kansas, Dial captured the meet championship as he cleared 17 meet. He narrowly missed at 17 feet, 5.5 inches, which would have broken the Relays record of 17-5 set by his father, Joe Dial, back in 1980.

Dial then topped his 2015 high school season with sweeping conference, regional and state championships/

His 17 feet, 2 inch vault at the Class 6A state meet broke the state meet record that he had set just at last year’s state meet.

Dial has his future plans firmly in place as he is already committed to compete at Oral Roberts University next year.

The ORU head track coach is Joe Dial, Dial’s father. Joe Dial was a world class pole vaulter who set many age-group records, was the first high school vaulter to clear 18 feet and at one time was the world record holder in the vault as well as the American record holder for nine years. He spent several years pole vaulting around the world, competing many times throughout Europe and Asia.



Courtesy photo

TOMMY DIAL

SPORTS

Tulsa Shock Coach Makes Sweet Music

Shock's Fred Williams Also Known as Freddy Bass Williams

By **GLENN HIBDON**
GTR Sports Writer

Most WNBA fans don't know it, but Fred Williams is a renaissance man. When not rebuilding the Tulsa Shock's on court fortunes, the multi-faceted coach is making sweet music in his very own recording studio in Atlanta.

Performing as Freddy Bass Williams after a couple of Utah Jazz coaches gave him the name, Williams lays down smooth jazz sounds by playing the keyboard, saxophone, bass guitar and piano. The beat of the drums comes from an 18-second loop.

"You've got to know how to cut and splice," says Williams, who has produced three albums, *My Gift to You*, *Game Time* and *Mixtape Jazz*. "I have all the equipment I need to do it at home to mix and master it. Everything I do myself other than have duplicate copies made."

Williams' musical career began 20 years ago when a family member gave him a keyboard. He began playing with it and got intrigued. His interest spread to other instruments.

"In high school, one of my best friends' dad was a good bass player," he says. "I bought a bass and then five or six guitars and recording equipment. After about two years, I had all the equipment I needed to make an album. There is

a lot of bass in my music and that's how I got my name."

However, Williams is most well known as a WNBA coach. Now in his second season with the Shock, he is matching his success off the court with victories on it. Williams led Tulsa to its first above .500 mark in six years since relocating to the BOK Center.

A native of Inglewood, Calif., and a graduate of Boise State, Williams spent six seasons with the Atlanta Dream before coming to Tulsa. He helped the Dream reach three WNBA championship series and in his career coached legends such as Cheryl Miller, Cynthia Cooper, Pamela McGee, Lisa Leslie and Tina Thompson.

Williams' experience has transformed into soulful music for the Shock, and he spends the off season in Atlanta producing another kind. He calls it "jazz fusion and alternative jazz with a little hip hop." No matter the name, people seem to enjoy it. Williams has distributed almost 6,000 albums without publicizing his endeavor.

One little item that the coach does not do is sing.

"There are only a few words at the beginning of some tracks like Barry White did," Williams says. "I can write a (instrumental) song in 12 minutes, but I can't sing. My wife has a voice for singing and I do the hard part. I don't do lyrics because I can't rhyme, but I can make a song flow."

Williams has received a little help from his friends. Wayman Tisdale exposed the coach to what the ideal bass should sound like.

"He taught me some tricks on it and helped me a great deal to hear the crisp sound of bass," said Williams. "Nathan East is part of a



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers
COACH FRED WILLIAMS

group called Four Play, and I met him last year after a game. He helped me in the knowledge of the music industry."

After all of his travels through the music world, Williams insists that his interest is only as a "hobby." He has more philanthropic goals in mind.

"Young people just starting out want to do demos, and I help them out a lot," says Williams. "Some people like to play golf, and I like music. I don't charge for my albums. Some people send me donations, and I give them to the Lupus Foundation or the Heart Association."

"I know I could be signed (to a recording contract), but this is a God-given talent and I want to give back. This is from my heart."

Williams says his fame is spreading by word of mouth among coaches and fans in the WNBA, but he remains modest over his achievements. Only twice has he performed in public (once in Los Angeles and another in Irvine, Calif.) doing so with other groups before hotel cocktail hours.

"I focus 99 percent on coaching and one percent on music," Williams notes. "Have you ever heard a quiet basketball game? Sometimes we play my songs in warmups (at practice). It fires up the young ladies and helps them get focused and used to the noise."

Williams says his future in music centers around his production company. He's considering venturing into the business side of the industry once his coaching days are over.



FREDDY BASS WILLIAMS

"I know I surprise a lot of people because they didn't know a coach could play music. I think every coach in the league is intrigued about how I write music and apply it to basketball," said Williams. "But coaching is my first love. I want to help players become some of the best in the world. Music is for the off season."

TULSA FOOTBALL HELMET IN COLLEGE HALL OF FAME



LUCKY T: The Tulsa football helmet is on display with more than 50 helmets at The College Football Hall of Fame and Chick-fil-A Fan Experience in Atlanta, Georgia.

It is patterned after a 1940's helmet, worn in the photo by former TU great Glenn Dobbs, that had a black 'T' on the front of a white helmet. The throw-back 'T' helmet on display was

worn on Nov. 12, 2011, as the Tulsa Golden Hurricane defeated Marshall, 59-17, at Tulsa's H.A. Chapman Stadium. For that game Tulsa also wore throwback red jerseys that went back to the 1950s. The 'T' helmet was worn for just that one game in 2011.

For more information about the exhibit, visit www.cfb-hall.com.

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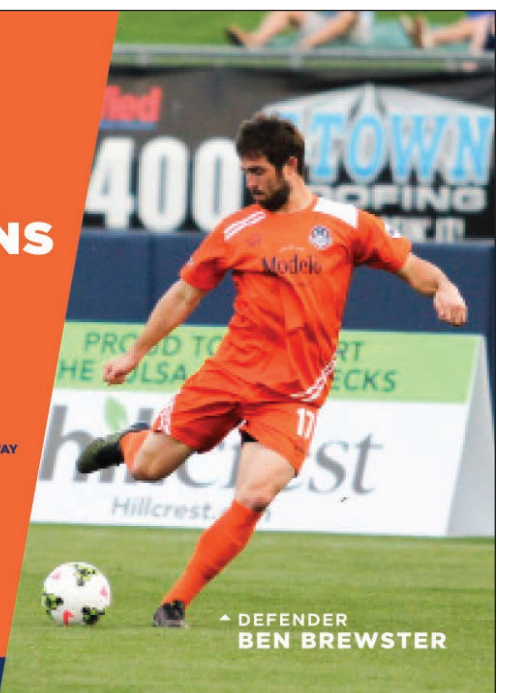


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DRIVING FOR 2: *Tulsa Shock's Odyssey Sims drives past Seattle's Ramu Tokashiki for two points in the Shock's 68-45 win over the Storm June 9 at the BOK Center.*

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Photo by RICH CRIMI

TOP PROSPECT: Jose De Leon, one of the Los Angeles Dodgers' top pitching prospects, is now in the starting rotation for the Tulsa Drillers.



Photo by CHARIS WILSON

SECOND GOAL: Tulsa Roughnecks midfielder and Oklahoma City University product Adam Black, left, was recently named to the USL Team of the Week for his two-goal performance against Seattle Sounders 2.

St. Louis Cardinals Draft NSU Pitcher

By KHARA PERSAD
Northeastern State University

Playing T-ball as a 5-year-old with his father and twin brother, Ryan Helsley always knew he wanted to play baseball as an adult. "Growing up, on those little sheets we would get, I remember putting the answer 'major league baseball player' to the question what I wanted to be when I grow up."

Now at 20 years old, Helsley's dreams have come true; the St. Louis Cardinals picked him in the 2015 Major League Baseball (MLB) Draft. "It's definitely awesome to say I finally did it. It's always a great feeling to get to continue playing the sport that you love," Helsley says.

With the 161st pick in the fifth round, the Cardinals selected the right-handed, 6-foot-1-inch pitcher, via a phone call on Tuesday, June 9. "My mom was pulling up (in the driveway) when I got the call and I told her they (Cardinals)

took me. It was a great moment to share with my parents."

Helsley said he was speechless for a few seconds during the congratulatory phone call. "There was a lot going through my mind: my career, college, moving on."

He has lived in Tahlequah all his life but feels ready to go off to play away from home. "I definitely have to work harder now. Even though I got drafted, it's not over. The hard work continues."

This credo sets Helsley apart and makes him the perfect ambassador for Northeastern State University, says baseball coach Travis Janssen. "Ryan is too good to be true. He works hard in everything he does, both baseball and schoolwork. There is a balance," he explains, adding Helsley has a 3.5 GPA. He said when Helsley joined the team as a freshman, he put in the work needed to develop his talent. "We were the ones who were lucky enough to see him and recruit him. He blossomed in two years. He worked very hard, and it paid off," Janssen says.

Helsley flew to the Cardinals' spring training site in Florida four days after being selected, where he completed a physical and signed his contract. His next stop will be Johnson City, Tenn., where he will begin his career in the minor leagues.

While baseball is his passion, Helsley said he was prepared to return to NSU to complete his degree in health and human performance. "I want to have my



RYAN HELSLEY

degree," he says emphatically, adding that radiology was another possible field, following in the footsteps of his mother.

Helsley says it was a comfort to get to train and play in his hometown. "NSU is like a town in a town. It has its own community. I've had a lot of fun playing and training here." He has been attending NSU baseball camps since childhood and has seen the program develop and go "in the

right direction. I think it's a good spot for kids out of high school to come. It's a good town; baseball means a lot to them (coaches) and if student athletes are serious about it, I think it's the perfect program to be a part of."

While he is excited to start playing ball again, he reflects on NSU being like a second home. "It's really a fun place to be. I like it a lot. It's not too big of a college; it's the right size. It's like a family."

He also credits his coaches and teammates for seeing in him, what he could not see in himself. "When I got here, I wasn't really much of a pitcher at all. I wanted to play third and hit, but they saw my potential for pitching."

News of Helsley's draft selection swept campus, with students, staff and faculty showering him with words of encouragement and congratulations on all social media platforms. "My phone was going off all day yesterday. Phone calls, texts, Twitter – it was a pretty crazy day."

He says while almost everyone was happy for him, Janssen's daughter, Avery, probably reacted the strongest. "She loves the Cardinals. When she found out, she jumped up and down," he says smiling. Avery, 10, is hopeful her connection to the future star athlete will score her tickets to upcoming Cardinal games.

When asked about his fledgling celebrity status, Helsley quickly laughs off the notion, saying he has a lot more work to put in before even thinking about fame. "Word definitely got around. I saw it in the newspaper. I think I'd have to make it a little bit farther in baseball to become famous," he says earnestly.

Helsley has welcomed his new journey with humility and grace; expecting only to do the best he can. "I want to give it a chance. If it doesn't work, it doesn't work. It's just what's meant to be, you know? No hard feelings. I'm just excited to see where it goes."

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TOUGH RIDER: Nathan Tew of Dallas celebrates as he crosses the finish line first during the Tulsa Tough Brady Arts District Criterium on June 13.



IBA AWARDS TEAM: The Henry P. Iba Citizens Athlete Awards banquet was held June 22 at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel. From left are master of ceremonies Seth Davis, mountain climber Melissa Arnot, Denver Broncos quarterback and Bixby native Chris Harris, and keynote speaker Coach Barry Hinson. The event helps to raise funds for projects of the Rotary Club of Tulsa.

Engine Room Boxing Packing a Pearl Punch

By JULIE WENGER WATSON
Contributing Writer

Aaron Sloan has always been a fighter. As a kid, Sloan liked nothing better than to pull on some old gloves and box in the yard with his friends. Decades later, Sloan is still at it, but now he has his own gym. The Engine Room, near Sixth Street and Peoria Avenue in the heart of Tulsa's burgeoning Pearl District, is a dream come true for this 41-year old business owner. Like most dreams, it's taken a good deal of hard work, a lot of passion and a little bit of luck to make it a reality.

"I just liked fighting," Sloan recalls of his childhood. "I didn't have any aspirations of going to the Olympics or being a national champion. I didn't even know about that. All I wanted to do was fight. It was as simple as that."

While the path from scrappy kid to USA Boxing certified coach, judge and referee was not exactly a straight one, Sloan never lost his love for the sport. After training with Tulsa's (now deceased) legendary boxing coach Ed Duncan, life, as it often does, got in the way. Sloan quit the sport to juggle the demands of work and parenthood.

Years passed and Sloan realized how much he missed the sport. Four speed bags, a couple of heavy bags and one floor ring later, the Owasso Boxing Club was born. In the fall of 2009, Sloan found himself operating a gym in his spare time out of a converted storage space.

"I trained three of my guys for three months, and I took all of them to the regional Golden Gloves tournament, and all three of them won," Sloan says with a smile.

The gym took off, eventually moving to a bigger space several years later. Unfortunately, the new facility burned down just one month after it opened. Throughout it all, Sloan kept his day job as a registered cardiac nurse at Tulsa's Hillcrest Hospital.

When Sloan decided to reopen the gym,

he wanted to find just the right location. This time, he had a business plan, something he hoped would allow him to pursue his passion full time.

"I came to Tulsa because I wanted something close to downtown," Sloan comments. "I wanted to be somewhere where I knew there was a dense population of people interested in fitness classes and personal training." The Pearl District, with its proximity to downtown, two hospitals and a university, was just the right fit.

"I saw this building for lease, and as soon as I looked inside the window, I knew it was the right spot. But it was more than the look. I wanted something that had the right feel. I wanted something with an old school boxing appeal that I could still make nice enough for fitness classes and personal training," Sloan explained.

On a recent weekday, the gym is packed. Women and men seeking to improve their health and learn a new sport share space with professional boxers and amateur hopefuls of all ages. The room rings with the sound of jump ropes scraping the floor and fists pounding the bags. The Engine Room has grown exponentially since it opened nine months ago, and Sloan has almost traded in his scrubs for 80 hours a week at his new job.

"I wouldn't say I'm surprised by it or that I anticipated it," Sloan commented. "This has to happen or it fails. There's no in between. There's no big budget behind me backing me to keep me going for a long time. There's a certain window of time within which I knew it had to work. If I couldn't do it in a year, I knew I couldn't do it at all. I knew that if it's not where it needed to be in a year, I'm done and it's back to the hospital."

Sloan looks around the room and grins like a young kid duking it out with his friends in the backyard. "So far, so good."

For more information on The Engine Room and upcoming boxing matches at Greenwood Cultural Center Aug. 14, visit engineroomboxing.com.



AARON SLOAN: In Colorado Springs at Olympic Boxing Trials.



DEMARCO MCCOY: At The Engine Room Boxing Gym.

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THE ECONOMY

TTCU Breaks Ground on New Headquarters

On June 25, TTCU The Credit Union officially broke ground on its new corporate headquarters. Located at 9815 E. 81st St. in Tulsa, next to the TTCU Southeast branch, the six-story, 90,000-square-foot facility will complement existing facilities, provide strategic options for the continued growth of the credit union as well as provide an ideal work environment for hardworking employees who serve the membership daily. As the "central nervous system" of the institution, the new headquarters will enable the TTCU team to provide even greater levels of service to the existing membership and to expand membership in years to come.

"TTCU has been serving northeast Oklahoma for more than 80 years, and we are committed to carrying that level of service into the next 80 years," says Tim Lyons, TTCU President/CEO. "With this facility, we are setting the stage for TTCU to continue delivering extraordinary



IMPRESSIVE BUILDING: TTCU's corporate headquarters has an expected completion date of late 2016. The new facility will be located next to TTCU's Southeast branch location near 81st Street and Highway 169.

service and value by offering state of the art services and technologies that are relevant to the financial needs of our members."

To make this vision a reality, TTCU

has chosen NewGround to head up the architectural design of the facility, which will represent a significant new fixture on the Tulsa landscape. The exterior elements of brick, steel and glass will speak to tradition, yet be very modern in appearance. The goal of being a transparent business will be manifested in the selection of materials and placement of elements to align with TTCU's mission to be "the trusted source for financial solutions."

Expected completion is late 2016.

TTCU History

A cigar box in the right-hand desk drawer in Miss Wilson's room is the story of how Tulsa Teachers Credit Union, with its handful of school teacher founders and assets of \$1,600, grew to become TTCU The Credit Union, with 115,000 members and assets over \$1.5 billion.

Established in 1934 as Tulsa Teachers Credit Union, TTCU was founded in the midst of the Great Depression. Little money was to be had, and the few banks that had money weren't lending it out. Despite hard times and little money, education did not grind to a halt. Earning



FIRST DIG: Tim Lyons, TTCU president and chief executive officer, along with TTCU executives and board members joined community dignitaries to break ground for the new facility June 25. From left are Shelby Beil, chief financial officer; Doug Aldrich, executive vice president/chief operations officer; Dan Bowling, chief information officer; Lyons; Laura Miller, chief human resources officer; Stephanie Jones, chief risk officer; and Charles Chastain, sr. vice president of lending.

salaries as little as \$100 a month, while still expected to dress in suits and ties and proper dresses, no group of professionals needed financial services more than teachers.

Thus, the creation of Tulsa Teachers Credit Union - a new financial cooperative that was different than a bank, because it was not-for-profit and owned by its members.

The credit union had a very humble beginning - in a cigar box in the right-hand desk drawer in bookkeeping teacher, Miss Linnie B. Wilson's room, to be exact. But, within only three years, it had grown to over 400 members, and Miss Wilson was forced to relocate the credit union

from her cigar box to a new office building in the (then) Masonic Temple building downtown. The concept of "not for profit, but for service" guided the small credit union as loans were made to help new teachers buy suits to wear in the classroom, as well as to help teachers make ends meet in the summer months when school was out - and that concept still guides the credit union today.

In the 80 years since its establishment, TTCU has far outgrown that cigar box - serving more than 115,000 members in 16 locations, but hasn't strayed from its underlying principle of serving members.



FLEET FEET EXPANSION: Fleet Feet has expanded to the Broken Arrow Rose District store at 303 South Main. Pictured are Fleet Feet owners Tim and Lori Dreiling with their son, Drew, at the recent grand opening. Other Fleet Feet Sport locations include the Kingspointe store at 61st & Yale and in the Blue Dome District. For more information, visit www.fleetfeettulsa.com.

GTR Now Greater Tulsa's Only Locally-Owned Newspaper Group

With the BH Media Group purchase of the Tulsa World newspaper from the Lorton family and the additional BH purchase of Neighbor Newspapers, the Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspaper group becomes the sole locally-owned newspaper group in the greater Tulsa area. BH Media Group is a division of multinational Berkshire Hathaway, headquartered in Omaha, Neb.

Investor Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, says he believes in the

ability of newspapers to deliver news, information and advertising that people can't find anywhere else, according to reports.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for GTR," says GTR Editor and Publisher Forrest Cameron, speaking of the Tulsa World sale. "There is strong value in the local news and advertising offered by locally-owned newspapers, and GTR News naturally fills this important niche," he says. "We live in Tulsa, work in Tulsa and bank in Tulsa. Tulsa is our home."

The international and Oklahoma award-winning GTR Newspapers publishes six monthly community newspapers including the Midtown Monitor, Bixby Breeze, Union Boundary, Owasso Rambler, Broken Arrow Express and Jenks District Gazette. In addition, GTR has a strong web presence with gtrnews.com, plus the GTR eEditions.

This year, GTR is celebrating its 22nd year of publishing. The GTR website, gtrnews.com, was started in 1996.

Fine Expands to Colorado

Longtime Tulsa business owner Mike Fine, founder and CEO of Fine Airport Parking, has broken ground on Fine Point Development, a new 156-acre mixed-use development project in Aurora, Colo., near the Denver International Airport. Aurora mayor Steve Hogan, Aurora chamber and tourism leaders, and area elected officials gathered for the event.

Phase I of the development will include the \$25 million construction of Fine Airport Parking DIA, which will include 2,000 valet and covered spaces, and up to an additional 1,000 open lot spaces. Phase II of Fine Point Development will include a potential expansion of the parking facility as well as various retail, commercial and industrial users, including hotels, restaurants and office space.

Since he opened Fine Airport Parking in 1983, Fine has grown the Tulsa operation from 450 parking spaces and 15



MIKE FINE: Announcing his project near the Denver Airport.

employees to more than 2,200 spaces and 90 employees. His vision for the Aurora parking facility will also focus on growth, but he says his No. 1 priority is offering unsurpassed customer service.

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Greater Tulsa Hispanic Chamber Creates Opportunities

In the fall of 1998, a group of dedicated Hispanic business owners and community leaders realized the enormous economic impact and potential of the growing Hispanic community in the Tulsa region. Early in 1999, the Greater Tulsa Hispanic Chamber (GTHCC) was incorporated in the State of Oklahoma, creating Oklahoma's first Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Since its inception, the GTHCC has worked toward bringing the issues and concerns of the Tulsa region's Hispanic-owned businesses to the forefront of the local, regional and state economic agenda.

Greater Tulsa Economic Report



By FRANCISCO TREVIÑO
President & CEO,
Greater Tulsa Hispanic
Chamber of Commerce

large part of the spectrum of cultures that collectively in the United States are referred to as Hispanic, increasingly look to the Chamber to take the lead on issues such as minority contracting opportunities, immigration reform, education, health care costs, tax relief, and a host of other factors affecting small business.

The Chamber has worked hard to improve its ability to respond to these needs. With the steadfast support of key corporate partners, we have made real strides.

Also, the Hispanic Chamber established a charitable arm, the Oklahoma

Hispanic Chamber Foundation, which will focus on youth, workforce development and education.

Major events each year include the Excelencia Awards Gala scheduled for Oct. 2 of this year, the monthly Hispanic Luncheons, The Business Expo and Career Fair Aug. 15 and the Cinco de Mayo Festival.

Through all of these efforts, the Hispanic Chamber attempts to strengthen Hispanic enterprise and small and minority business integration to promote a sustainable socioeconomic development and a better quality of life in the Tulsa region. The Hispanic Chamber serves as facilitator in strengthening Hispanic



SUPPORTING HERITAGE: Traditional dancers perform at a Greater Tulsa Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GTHCC) event. The GTHCC holds a number of annual and monthly events, including the annual Excelencia Awards Gala (scheduled for Oct. 2 this year), monthly Hispanic luncheons, the Business Expo and Career Fair (to be held Aug. 15) and the Cinco de Mayo Festival.

enterprise; it anticipates new challenges and opportunities, encourages innovation, and promotes the development of the Hispanic entrepreneurial sector.

The Hispanic Chamber is a vigorous and vibrant arm of the economic community whose membership is not limited to Hispanic organizations or professionals. Currently, the Hispanic Chamber has about 300 members. Membership in the Hispanic Chamber is voluntary for all business owners and professionals. After joining, the members agree to abide by the principles, rules of conduct and regulations established by this institution for the benefit of its membership and the business community at large. The Hispanic Chamber is open to those that share its goals of fostering progress to all sectors of the econo-

my, particularly to the Hispanic business community, for a better and stronger Tulsa region.

Facts on Hispanics in Oklahoma: The 2014 purchasing power of Latinos in Oklahoma totaled \$7.8 billion – an increase of 992 percent since 1990.

Oklahoma's 7,663 Latino-owned businesses had sales and receipts of \$1.7 billion and employed 8,940 people in 2007, the last year for which data is available.

From 2006 to 2010, there were 11,983 new immigrant business owners in Oklahoma, and new immigrant business owners had a total net business income of \$477 million (which is 5.3 percent of all net business income in the state), according to Robert Fairlie of the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Unauthorized immigrants comprised roughly 3.7 percent of the state's workforce (or 65,000 workers) in 2012, according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center.

If one half of all the state's immigrant labor force (roughly 50,000 people) was removed, Oklahoma's economy would be reduced by 1.32 percent in the short run – a reduction of nearly \$1.8 billion, relative to 2006 production levels, according to a 2008 study by the Economic Impact Group.

If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Oklahoma, the state would lose \$580.3 million in economic activity, \$257.8 million in gross state product and approximately 4,680 jobs, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time, according to a report by the Perryman Group.

Radford Companies Recognized for Health and Safety

Tulsa-based The Radford Company hosted the Oklahoma State Labor Commissioner and other dignitaries as its subsidiary companies, OCV Control Valves/AMS and Precision Coatings, LLC, were recognized for achieving SHARP certification at an event June 1 at the company headquarters.

Only 10 other companies in Oklahoma have achieved this recognition, which exempts a company with a proven health and safety commitment and program from regularly scheduled Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) inspections for the length of the certification period. Achieving the certification was a three-year, cooperative process with state and federal authorities. Officials from local government, the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance, the Oklahoma Department of Labor and OSHA were in attendance and spoke regarding the achievement and its importance to Oklahoma manufacturing and to The Radford Company's future.

The On-site Consultation

Program's Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) recognizes small business employers who operate an exemplary injury and illness prevention program. Acceptance of a worksite into SHARP from OSHA is an achievement of status that singles businesses out among their peers as a model for worksite safety and health. Upon receiving SHARP recognition, OSHA exempts the worksite from OSHA programmed inspections during the period that SHARP certification is valid. By achieving SHARP status, businesses place themselves in an elite group of small businesses that

maintain exemplary injury and illness prevention programs.

The Radford Company is an employee-owned, managed and operated company which wholly owns the subsidiary companies of OCV Control Valves, AMS Machining Specialists, and Precision Coatings, LLC. The Radford Company is based in Tulsa and sells to national and international markets. Serving markets as diverse as fire suppression, aviation fueling, municipal wastewater management, oil and gas, chemical and automotive, The Radford Company employs approximately 80 people and is a Made in America manufacturer.



SHARP EVENT: From left, Mark Costello, Oklahoma labor commissioner; Britt Radford, CEO of The Radford Company; Craig Cox, plant manager for The Radford Company; and Robert Tipton, president and COO of The Radford Company, display the SHARP flag presented June 1 by Commissioner Costello to The Radford Company subsidiaries OCV Control Valves/AMS Machining Specialists and Precision Coatings, LLC.



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Business, Civic Leader Larry Mocha Remembered

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

On June 1, Larry Mocha, president and CEO of APSCO, Inc., at 68 years old, passed away.

Mocha took over as CEO of APSCO in 1984, upon his father's death. APSCO was started in 1964 by Mocha's father in the family's garage. At the time, Mocha, a Nathan Hale graduate, was still in high school. Mocha soon became the company's first and only employee but, when the company could no longer afford to employ him, he sold insurance. Mocha watched and waited as his father worked to build the business, and, when his father was ready, Mocha rejoined APSCO. By the time the company reached its 50th year, APSCO had established a global presence, expanded its manufacturing capability through innovative product development and acquisitions, obtained ISO certification and created a number of job opportunities in the Tulsa community, all of this largely thanks to Mocha's leadership.

In addition to being a successful businessman, Mocha was also known for his constant support of small business and entrepreneurs. Over the years, Mocha has been named SBA's 2014 Oklahoma Small Business Person of the Year, Tulsa Regional Chamber's 2014 Small Business Pioneer and Broken Arrow Chamber's 2014 Manufacturer of the Year. He also served on the 2004 White House Conference Panel on "Securing Our Economic Future, Tax and Regulatory Burdens" and testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee of Investigations and Oversight Committee on "The Impact of Energy Policy on Small Business."

In 2011, he co-founded OK2Grow with businessman Jerry Holder and Lynda Wingo, director of Miss Helen's Private School. OK2Grow is a nonprofit organization focused on increasing high school retention rates, promoting entrepreneurship and improving Tulsa's workforce pipeline. OK2Grow provides scholarships, has formed a coalition to increase career awareness and has launched an effort to transform the perception of manufacturing careers.

Mocha will without a doubt be missed by many.

Below are a few thoughts from

some of the ones who knew him best:

Stephanie Cameron, executive director of OK2Grow:

"Larry invested so heavily into other people without expecting anything in return. Larry was always looking to lift others up. He empowered the people around him and claimed to work to 'surround himself with people smarter than him.' Larry motivated people like no other – he charged people to 'do something' about the problems we saw.

He did things simply because it was the right thing to do, not because it would have any immediate impact on his business or him personally.

Larry always closed a meeting with the question 'What can I do for you?' Even when I visited with him in the hospital, he asked me, 'What can I do for you?'

Like a father, he could take one look at me and tell if something was wrong or I wasn't feeling well. I will always remember when he drove me for minor surgery, and in dropping me off at my house, he asked me if I needed any money."

Lynda Wingo:

"I met Larry in 1996 at a Tulsa Regional Chamber meeting. He went out of his way to make me feel comfortable.

Every day I will miss him: his guidance and his cheerleading and encouragement. He made everyone feel like his special friend. He was always extending his hand to me, checking on me.

OK2Grow was his passion: to get kids aware of opportunities and to educate them and get them into the workforce. He was the engine to our train."

Jerry Holder, graduated with Mocha from high school:

"We were mentors for each other.



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

FOCUSED ON OTHERS: Larry Mocha, former president and CEO of APSCO, Inc., hugs an APSCO employee in November 2014 after receiving an appreciation award from APSCO employees. Mocha, also a strong supporter of small business and entrepreneurship, passed away on June 1.

We both had down times in our businesses and helped each other. We supported and gave positive feedback to each other.

Larry was a great visionary and inclusive of so many people in sharing his vision. With OK2Grow, we hope to continue that in a way he would approve, always asking 'What would Larry do?'

APSCO Employees:

"This is a family. I enjoy being here. I feel valued and that I am able to do my best work. Larry listened and was interested in what I had to say. We are not numbers or just employees. Larry knew my name; he knew all of our names. His enthusiasm for growth and improvement was infectious."

ONB Bank Becomes Central Bank of Oklahoma

ONB Bank became Central Bank of Oklahoma effective June 12, 2015.

The bank continues to have the same ownership and the same management team with local decision making. With eight locations in Oklahoma, this change allows for a larger branch network with 140 locations across the region.

Central Bank of Oklahoma is one of 13 full-service community banks in the Central

Bancompany family, with 140 branch locations across Missouri, Illinois, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Customers of Central Bank of Oklahoma may now utilize most banking services at any one of the family of banks.

"The new name better reflects the growth of our brand and expansion of banking services across the Midwest," says John Allan, CEO and president, Central Bank of Oklahoma.



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Tulsa Regional Chamber's Thorstenberg Receives International Econ Designation

Brien Thorstenberg, senior vice president of economic development for the Tulsa Regional Chamber, recently earned the designation of Certified Economic Developer (CEd), a national recognition that denotes a mastery of the principal skills in economic development, professional attainment and a commitment to personal growth.

The CEd exam was administered by the International Development Council (IEDC) on June 6 and 7 in Madison at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. Thorstenberg has vast experience in leading economic development initiatives and has worked to positively impact communities in which he has served.

He has served as president of Oklahoma Southeast (a regional economic development organization) and is the chair-elect of the Tulsa Area Partnership. Thorstenberg is also a member of a number of professional economic development and business organizations, including serving as the 2014 chair of the Oklahoma Economic Development Council; member of the Oklahoma Governor's Economic Development Marketing Team; member of the International

Economic Development Council; and a member of the Southern Economic Development Council.

The CEd designation recognizes qualified and dedicated practitioners in the economic development field and sets the standard of excellence within the profession. Candidates must pass a rigorous and comprehensive three-part, two-day examination, which tests a practitioner's knowledge, proficiency and judgement in the key areas of economic development, including business retention and expansion, marketing, finance, workforce development, community development, real estate, strategic planning, tech-led economic development, and management.

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BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES



VINE AND DINE: Ginny Schulte, right, co-owner of Southwood Landscape and Garden Center, hosted the annual Ladies Night June 11. This year's theme was "Vine and Dine." Six stations were situated where guests could look at the plants while sampling various wines. For more information about Southwood, see southwoodgardencenter.com.

Nancy Phelps has joined the **Gatesway Foundation** as director of development and grants.

In that role, she will be the chief fundraising officer for the Broken Arrow-based nonprofit agency that serves individuals with intellectual disabilities and will report directly to Gatesway CEO Judi Myers.

Phelps brings more than 17 years of experience to her new post, including time as development director for Safenet Services, a Claremore-based domestic violence intervention organization, and executive director of Kendall Whittier Main Street, a Tulsa-based historical preservation group. Most recently she was on the management team at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, focusing on administration of special events held at that facility.

Amy Freiburger, executive director of Alumni Relations for the **University of Tulsa**, has announced **Leslie Blanchet** as the new associate director of alumni relations. Blanchet (formerly Leslie Steinbeck) is a 2006 management alumna with a communication minor from The University of Tulsa. Blanchet comes to TU from Talmadge Powell Creative, where she served as the account services manager, and has previously worked as an account executive in the advertising industry. She is very involved in the community and has served on the TU Uncorked committee.

Hall Estill, an Oklahoma law firm, has announced the addition of **Megan Beck** as special counsel in the firm's Tulsa office.

Beck will practice in the family services arena, with an emphasis on custody, divorce and guardianship matters.

Throughout her career, Beck has assisted clients in many types of family law litigation matters, including high conflict divorce cases, high net worth and complex financial matters in divorce cases, child custody and support, spousal support and alimony, paternity actions, and child guardianship cases.

Beck's law practice has included work at firms in both Oklahoma and Illinois, including time in the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Illinois.

A graduate of the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law, Beck received her J.D. in 2005. She also holds a bachelor's in journalism from the University of Kansas. Beck is admitted to the Tulsa County and Illinois Bar Associations.

Goodwill Industries of Tulsa announces newly elected Officers for their 2015 -2016 Board of Directors. Chairman of the Board: **Page Bachman**, St. John Health System; Vice Chairman: **Terry Blain**, CrossFirst Bank; Secretary/Treasurer: **Steve Berlin**. Newly elected Directors to the Board: **Pam Friggel**, QuikTrip and **Craig Sutton**, Roto Hammer Industries, Inc. **David E. Oliver** was re-elected at President of Goodwill Industries of Tulsa.



PHELPS

The **Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa** announces the selection of **Holly Becker** as its new executive director.

As executive director, Becker will work to lead the Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa and the Hardesty Arts Center. She will use her business skills and collaborate with the board, donors, staff and the community to realize the organization's strategic goals and mission.

Becker begins with the Council in July upon leaving her position as vice president of business operations at the Tulsa Zoo. Her tenure at the zoo included the transition in management operations as well as a period as interim executive director.

Becker says she is eager to grow the Hardesty Arts Center to its full potential, noting, "the facility is amazing and a real gem in the heart of the Brady Arts District. I am excited to get to brainstorm with staff and board leadership about the opportunities for growth of our programs and local impact. Being located in the Brady Arts District could not be better for potential collaboration."

The **Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa's Board of Directors** announces a new slate of executive officers for the organization's next fiscal year. The new leadership includes professionals from the business, non-profit, and legal communities, and their terms begin this July.

Leading the volunteer board of directors as the new resident is **Wendy Thomas**, executive director of Leadership Tulsa. Thomas replaces Sharon King Davis and brings a unique perspective to the post as a former executive director of the Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa.

Elected officers include: president, **Wendy Thomas**, Leadership Tulsa; vice president for resource development: **Michael Whelan**, Whelan Law; vice president for program: **Joan Seay**, community volunteer; vice president for buildings and grounds: **Chris Fling**, Bear Peak Resources; vice president for membership: **Christopher Payne**, Tulsa Public Schools; secretary: **Tim Gilpin**, Gilpin Law; and treasurer: **Jana Mahoney**, Cherokee Measurement & Control.

More information about the Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa and the Hardesty Arts Center is available at ahhatulsa.org

Rebecca Sherwood announces the opening of **Bluestem Escrow & Title, LLC**, a Tulsa-based escrow and title insurance company providing services throughout Oklahoma. Bluestem focuses on commercial real estate transactions and is an agent for several of the largest national title insurers.

The new firm, formerly called Firsttitle Commercial Services, is located at 1924 S. Utica Ave., Suite 802.

Sherwood is an attorney with more than 30 years experience in business and commercial real estate transactions. Connie L. Smoot serves as commercial escrow officer and has worked in the title insurance industry for more than 20 years.

For more information, visit bluestemok.com.



BECKER

Kerry Painter, assistant general manager of the Cox Business Center, has been named a 2015 recipient for the **Women of Influence Award**

by industry trade magazine *Venues Today*. The award honors women who have made a difference in the sports, music and convention industry and will be announced in the July issue of the publication.

Painter joined the SMG Tulsa team in February 2014. Prior to coming to Tulsa, she served as president of the Niagara Convention and Civic Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario, for six years.

Venues Today is a monthly trade magazine reporting on live entertainment and events, serving management, owners and suppliers to music, sports and meeting venues internationally. To see the full list of nominees for the Women of Influence award, visit venuestoday.com.

Zemanek Architecture + Design, established in 2012, has recently relocated from Tulsa to Jenks. **Christopher Zemanek A.I.A.** is the founding principal of Zemanek Architecture + Design, L.L.C. He is a 1994 Jenks graduate and received a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Oklahoma. Zemanek A + D is experienced in all phases of design and construction supervision in both residential and commercial architecture. Zemanek holds licenses in Oklahoma, Texas, Nevada, Colorado and Pennsylvania. The firm is currently working on a LEED certified convenience store and a Mobile 1 lube center in Springwood Village near Houston as well as several custom homes in the Tulsa/Jenks area.

Selser Schaefer Architects has promoted **Andrew McCready, AIA** to principal and firm partner. McCready joined Selser Schaefer Architects in 2003 and was integral in opening the Dubuque, Iowa office in 2013 where he has served as managing associate. McCready will join Selser Schaefer Architects' partners Janet Selser, Robert Schaefer, Hank Spieker and Bret Pfeifer in the leadership of the growing architectural firm.

"Andrew was key to our expansion into the Midwest," says Janet Selser, principal and owner of Selser Schaefer Architects. "His leadership, talent and work ethic have made tremendous impact on our firm and for the communities in which we serve."

McCready is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and a registered architect in Oklahoma and Iowa. Since joining the firm, he has worked on firm projects including the Tulsa Community College Thomas K. McKeon Center for Creativity, Owasso Family YMCA, Cherokee Nation Jack Brown Center and HEB Grocery Stores.



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Tulsa's Union Depot Remains Art Deco Jewel

For many years, a large watercolor painting hung in a small conference room in my office. Painted by an architect, the painting's subject was a pair of entrance doors with an arched transom. The glass in the rusted red doors and transom was shattered, conveying a mood of neglect and abandonment. This public building's as-built use ended after 36 years. It stood empty for 13 years and then was successfully restored and repurposed. The building is Tulsa's Union Depot Train Station.

One of Tulsa's earliest "streamline" Art Deco buildings, the Union Depot opened to great fanfare in 1931, the early days of the Great Depression. Sometimes called "WPA Moderne," half the building's cost was funded by the Katy, the Santa Fe and the Frisco Railroads which had previously maintained separate Tulsa train stations. The other half was

financed by the City of Tulsa which provided the land and grade separation turning Cincinnati and Boston avenues into viaducts spanning the railroad tracks below.

The Depot was originally planned to be four stories in height with an estimated cost of over \$1,000,000. As built, it had a service floor at the track level, a mezzanine for redcaps and porters, and a main floor for passengers at the street level. The cost was \$3,500,000. The architect was R. C. Stephens from the Frisco Railroad.

The 27,000-square-foot building is a masonry and steel structure, clad in variegated Bedford Limestone. The look of an exterior cornice is created by a carved Greek Key motif with interspersed accent shield designs of eagles and winged wheels in bas-relief. These are a nod to a transportation motif for a railroad hub building. Other

ornamental details include various Native American Indian art symbols.

Interior finishes are no less high quality. Marble floors with terrazzo inlays and marble clad walls with substantial ceiling moldings occur in the passenger waiting rooms. Ceilings with heights exceeding 30 feet originally included triple-tiered glass chandeliers and a pastel color scheme. Every convenience for travelers was provided, including a drugstore, barber shop, telephone room with desks and chairs for VIP calls, coffee shop, and men's and women's lounges adjacent to public restrooms. Large clocks above the east and west entrances and lighted neon directional signs in bronze frames were provided throughout.

Tulsa's Union Depot was one of the last "Jim Crow" planned public buildings built in our city. The Municipal Airport, which opened in 1932, had a fully integrated floor plan layout. The 1935 bus terminal would be Tulsa's last segregated public building.

The Union Depot had a "white" entrance on the west and a "black" entrance on the east. Separate waiting rooms were divided by central ticketing and baggage handling facilities. Restrooms were separated as well.

As many as 36 passenger trains serviced Tulsa daily at the Depot's peak use. Trains were the fastest way to travel. In 1967, after 36 years, the Depot closed its doors (overtaken by air travel), a relic of another age. The building sat forlorn and frequently vandalized until the 1980s. In stepped the Williams Companies, which was



DEPRESSION-ERA BUILDING: Tulsa's Union Depot Train Station, currently home to the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, opened in downtown Tulsa in 1931 and was one of Tulsa's earliest "streamline" Art Deco buildings. The building's cost was funded by the Katy, the Santa Fe and the Frisco Railroads and the City of Tulsa. The building cost \$3,500,000 to construct.

in the midst of developing the Williams Center. With all of the urban renewal happening, many feared the Depot would receive a wrecking ball. Several preservation groups lobbied to save it. T-shirts displaying the words "Save the Depot" were sold. The Williams Companies, aided by a Community Development Block Grant, arrived to the rescue.

The Depot was repurposed into commercial office space, including a local architect's office/studio. This use continued for almost 20 years. Ownership eventually passed to the Tulsa County Industrial Authority.

In 2004, a 99-year lease on the building was executed with the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame. The mission of the organization is to preserve and promote education and performances for Jazz, Blues

and Gospel music. The OJHOF sponsors after-school programs for youth, concerts and special performances, the Jambassadors (an all-city band), university festivals and clinics, a syndicated TV program, as well as dozens of other efforts in the music world. Housed in the Depot is an archival music library with over 1,000 records from early wax cylinders to vinyl disks. The acoustics of this grand building work extremely well for music. The two waiting rooms serve admirably as performance halls. The smaller spaces function as offices and individual rehearsal studios.

The saga of Tulsa's Union Depot is a story of a building's resurrection with a happy ending. We hope it provides an example for the future utilization of historic buildings in our city.

On Architecture



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TU Alumni Hold Fundraiser

TU Uncorked welcomed more than 500 guests to the Donald W. Reynolds Center on June 5 for the 11th annual University of Tulsa Alumni Association wine festival. Since its inception, the event has raised more than \$700,000 for the TU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Scholarships are awarded to Tulsa-area students based on financial need and academic qualifications.

Since 2007, the scholarship has been awarded seven times to five different recipients. Most recently, Curtis French received the scholarship for three consecutive years. He completed his master of accountancy degree this year and accepted a full-time position with Phillips 66 in Bartlesville.



UNCORKED: From left, Matthew and Hillary Hauth, TU Uncorked co-chairs; Maria Gaw, TU Uncorked chair; and Cathy and Bob Laird, TU Uncorked honorary chairs, pose at the 11th annual University of Tulsa Alumni Association wine festival.

This was the first year Uncorked was held on the TU campus. The

event included a wine pull and silent and live auctions, featuring items such as a TU football game package; dinner with TU men's basketball coach Frank Haith; an Oklahoma winery tour; and custom bracelets from Rustic Cuff, a line of popular jewelry owned and operated by TU alumna Jill Donovan. Kendra Scott Jewelry sponsored a popular jewelry pull, donating 50 pieces to the event. The jewelry pull sold out in nine minutes.

Attendees were invited to sample food and drinks from local restaurants and wineries that donated their offerings. Restaurant sponsors included Calavera's Mexican Grill, In the Raw Sushi Bar, La Villa Restaurant at Philbrook and The Restaurant at Gilcrease. Beverage sponsors included Eos Estate Winery, Lost Angel Wines, McManis Family Vineyards, Route 66 Beer and a chocolate martini bar by Sobieski Vodka. TU alumnus Eric Marshall, founder of Marshall Brewing, also offered locally brewed beer.

The event was led by 2007 graduate Maria Gaw along with co-chairs Matthew and Hilary Hauth, 2010 and 2013 graduates, respectively. Honorary chairs of the event were Bob and Cathy Laird, both 1980 graduates.



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5 TULSA DRILLERS vs. San Antonio 7:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information. SARAH MAUD IN CONCERT Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame 5 p.m. Visit okjazz.org for more information.	6 TULSA DRILLERS vs. San Antonio 7:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information. JASON ISBELL Cain's Ballroom 8 – 10 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. MUSIC SANDWICHED IN: SUSAN HERNDON Oklahoma Methodist Manor 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	7 TULSA DRILLERS vs. San Antonio 7:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information. TUESDAY STORYTIME Barnes & Noble Southroads 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. More Bank for your Buck. Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	8 IMPROV-U Thomas K. McKeon Center for Creativity, TCC 12 – 1 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more information. LUCKY 7 COMEDY WEDNESDAY The Loony Bin 7:30 – 9 p.m. Visit loonybincomedy.com/tulsa for more information.	9 TULSA ROUGHNECKS vs. Orange County 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaroughnecksfsc.com for more information. ROB BELL Brady Theater 7:30 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information. MOVIE IN THE PARK: ELF Guthrie Green 8:30 – 10 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.	10 ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL Cain's Ballroom 6:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. SPELLBOUND (1945) Philbrook Museum 7:30 p.m. Visit philbrook.org for more information. QU CLUB OF TULSA SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT Battle Creek Golf Club 8 a.m. Call 918-960-4007 for info.	11 TULSA SHOCK vs. Los Angeles 7 p.m. Visit wnba.com/shock for more information. TULSA ROUGHNECKS vs. Colorado Springs 7:30 p.m. Visit tulsaroughnecksfsc.com for more information. COLORDASH 2015 5K Tulsa Promenade Mall 8 a.m. Call 918-808-6581 for more information.
12 SENIOR STAR ROUND-UP Cain's Ballroom 1:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. SUNDAY MATINEE FILMS - "ANTHEM: THE STORY BEHIND THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER" Gilcrease Museum 1:30 – 3:35 p.m. Visit gilcrease.utulsa.edu for more information.	13 ROB THOMAS Brady Theater 6 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information. BROOKSIDE BOOK DISCUSSION Brookside Library 6 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. Free small business checking Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	14 WOGA GIRLS' JUNIOR STATE GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP Southern Hills Country Club All day Visit bradytheater.com for more information. SHINEDOWN Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.	15 TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas 7:05 p.m. • July 15-16 Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information. MINECRAFT NIGHT Martin Regional Library 6 – 8 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. SAINT MOTEL Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	16 3 DOORS DOWN AND SEETHER Brady Theater 6:30 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information. THE BEACH BOYS Creek Nation River Spirit Casino 7 p.m. July 16 & 17 Visit riverspirittulsa.com for more information. CATS Theatre Tulsa Family 8 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.	17 TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas 7:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information. CATS Theatre Tulsa Family 8 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets. 8TH ANNUAL TOKYO IN TULSA Tulsa Convention Center 7 p.m. • July 16 & 17 Visit coxcentertulsa.com for more information.	18 TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas 7:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information. CATS Theatre Tulsa Family 2 & 7:30 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets. DODGEBRAWL BOK Center 10 a.m. Visit tulsadodgebrawl.com for more information.
19 CATS Theatre Tulsa Family 2 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets. TULSA SHOCK vs. Minnesota 3:30 p.m. Visit wnba.com/shock for more information. SANDY AND CHUCK GARDNER Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame 5 p.m. Visit okjazz.org for more information.	20 KAMP OUT! SUMMER DAY KAMP Kirk of the Hills July 20-24 Visit kanakuk.com for info. MUSIC SANDWICHED IN: BRATKOVICH MUSIC Oklahoma Methodist Manor 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. Ask us about ID Fraud Protection Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	21 TULSA SHOCK vs. Washington 10:30 a.m. Visit wnba.com/shock for more information. STEPHEN STILLS Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information. PAWS FOR READING Jenks Library 4 – 5 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	22 FALL OUT BOY AND WIZ KHALIFA BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. NIMROD POETRY READING: CIRCULATORY SYSTEMS: CURRENT AND CONNECTION The University of Tulsa's Tyrrell Hall Auditorium 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Visit utulsa.edu/nimrod.html for more information.	23 TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas 7:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information. SOCIAL MEDIA FOR SENIORS Hardesty Regional Library 6 – 8 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	24 TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas 7:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information. PROSTATE HEALTH Bailey Medical Center 7 – 10:30 p.m. Visit silverelite.org for more information. RUMBLE ON THE RIVER VIII - USA VS. JAPAN Creek Nation River Spirit Casino 7 – 10:30 p.m. Visit riverspirittulsa.com for more information.	25 TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas 7:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information. RON WHITE Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 8 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information. 46TH ANNUAL KIKEKAH STEH POWWOW Kikekah Steh Dance Grounds July 24 – 26 Call 918-637-4241 for more information.
26 TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas 7:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information. FITNESS ON THE GREEN: ZUMBA Guthrie Green 10 a.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.	27 TULSA DRILLERS vs. Springfield 7:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information. THE ROOTS OF MUSCOGEE (CREEK) HYMNS: A CULTURAL BLENDING Tulsa Historical Society and Museum 7 – 8:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	28 TULSA DRILLERS vs. Springfield 7:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information. WWE SMACKDOWN TV BOK Center 7:30 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. INTRODUCTION TO 3-D PRINTING AND CARVING Librarium 4 – 5 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	29 TULSA DRILLERS vs. Springfield 7:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information. BOOK DISCUSSION: "THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS" Librarium 2 – 3 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for info. We offer Health Savings Accounts Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	30 TULSA SHOCK vs. Phoenix 7:05 p.m. Visit wnba.com/shock for more information. BRET MICHAELS Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 8 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information. MOVIE IN THE PARK: JAWS Guthrie Green 8:30 – 10 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.	31 ALICE IN CHAINS Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for info. REMEMBERING MUKESH: NITIN MUKESH LIVE IN CONCERT Theatre Tulsa Family 7:30 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets. TULSA ROUGHNECKS vs. Vancouver 7:30 p.m. Visit tulsaroughnecksfsc.com for more information.	1 August JENKS SATURDAY MARKET 2nd & Main in Jenks 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Visit jenks.com for more information. TULSA SHOCK vs. Minnesota 6 p.m. Visit wnba.com/shock for more information. ALVIN CROW & THE PLEASANT VALLEY BOYS Cain's Ballroom 6:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.

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REGIONAL HAPPENINGS

Folds of Honor Maintains National, Local Presence

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

With the 4th of July holiday upon us, Major Dan Rooney, founder of Folds of Honor based in Owasso, sat down with the Greater Tulsa Reporter to discuss the foundation's current activities and the organization's impact since it began in 2007, with the mission of providing scholarships and assistance to spouses and children of those killed or wounded in active duty.

Greater Tulsa Reporter: Patriot Boating Days and Patriot Fishing Days both take place during the summer months. When and how did these events begin, and what has been the public's response?

Major Dan Rooney: Both events came out of the success and enthusiasm we saw from Patriot Golf Day, which is our flagship event. As Patriot Golf Day grew, we heard from many people who asked us how they could contribute and take part in something similar through the activities they loved. Boating and fishing are two of the most patriotic and supportive communities in sports.

Patriot Boating Day kicks off every 4th of July, encouraging marinas and corporations in the industry to get involved by either helping to host a Patriot Boating Day event or partnering with us corporately. The idea for Patriot Boating Day came about after a group of patriots at Suntex Marinas wanted to find a way to get involved. The first year it started out, Suntex encouraged their different marinas to host a Patriot Boating Day event to benefit the Folds of Honor. This will be our third year to do Patriot Boating Day. The marinas involved love being a part of something "bigger than themselves," and by hosting a Patriot Boating Day event, it serves as a reminder that freedom isn't free and there are people that pay large sacrifices so that they can enjoy their time on the water. Not only have they completely bought into the mission, but hosting such events has also been key in helping their business grow on

an individual basis by getting the community involved in their events and driving foot traffic to their particular locations.

Patriot Fishing Days has also seen great growth. We have B.A.S.S. Nations across the country hosting fishing events or taking collections. We had three participate last year and this year we have nine hosting events. We have created many partnerships, and we were invited to have a booth at the Bassmaster Classic, and we began creating a space which would promote the fishing space.

GTR: When you started Folds of Honor in 2007, what did you see the organization becoming? Was it your goal to grow it to its current size?

MDR: I started Folds of Honor with the dream that we could make a difference in the lives of our military families but didn't know where this vision would take us. We have been blessed by amazing support from our partners and donors who have helped Folds of Honor grow so quickly.

GTR: To date, how many scholarships have been awarded, and how many lives would you say have been touched?

MDR: We just awarded our 10,000th scholarship, which is incredibly humbling. It's impossible to put a number on the lives we've impacted because Folds of Honor has so many wingmen sharing our story.

GTR: How do you feel about your decision to headquarter Folds of Honor in Owasso? What would you say Folds has brought to Owasso, and how has the community reciprocated?

MDR: Folds of Honor actually started in Broken Arrow, in an office above my garage. I had no expectations on where it would lead, but I knew in my heart I had to take on this mission. When the opportunity presented itself to have an office for staff, Owasso was an easy choice. The land and space is beautiful, but it always comes down to people.



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT: Major Dan Rooney, founder of Folds of Honor, stands with Dakota Peterson, a Folds of Honor scholarship recipient, in October 2013 at the organization's Owasso headquarters. Peterson's father was killed in Afghanistan.

This community is indicative of what we hope we are building throughout the nation: a community that honors God, country, family and those who serve for all of us. Folds of Honor can't be a national presence unless it

has strong local support. Many of our biggest supporters, not just financial but also talent and time offered are from Owasso. It is an honor to represent this community as we work around the nation.

DISTRICT DRAWS CREATIVES



NEW BUSINESS: Taylor Fowler, left, and Katie Carpenter, owners of floral arrangement and event planning shop Ever Something, gave a sneak peek of their shop's new space at 2306 E. Admiral Blvd. on June 20 at the Kendall Whittier Art Festival. Ever Something will officially open in July.

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Artists, photographers, screenwriters, filmmakers, crafters, vintage collectors make up just some of the ever-expanding list of tenants in Tulsa's Kendall Whittier neighborhood.

While a portion of that appeal may be the lower rent costs in the area, as much of the draw, if not more, is to join the area's thriving creative community.

That was part of the incentive for Katie Carpenter and Taylor Fowler, who will open their floral arrangement and event planning shop Ever Something in July, at 2306 E. Admiral Blvd.

Ever Something was one of the many local businesses that opened its doors on June 20 for the Kendall Whittier Art Festival, which featured 20 Oklahoma artists and helped to bring further attention to the district and its area businesses.

In June, Jo & June opened across the street at 2313 E. Admiral Blvd. The shop sells eclectic vintage home decor items and jewelry.

"This area is so cool," says Co-Owner Danielle Fausset-Holmes. "I hear a lot of people say that this will be the next big district to come up in Tulsa."

Fausset-Holmes was also excited to open her business in the neighborhood thanks to the childhood memories she holds. She remembers visiting Circle Cinema and Sweeney's Hardware with her dad when it occupied the building at Lewis Avenue and 1st Street.

Among the first creatives to put down roots in the area were a group of photographers, an architect and a filmmaker who moved their collective workspace Loose Leaf Co. from the Blue Dome District in 2012.

Fashion photographer Tony Li was among the original creatives who moved with Loose Leaf into Kendall Whittier. Over the past few years, Li has watched the growth of a younger generation of creatives, which helps Tulsa beyond measure, he says.

"The neighborhood is an incubator of

young talent and helps to keep them in Tulsa, when we would otherwise lose them to other cities," he says.

This renewed and welcome interest in the district, however, did not come without much time and effort.

One of the steps taken by neighborhood stakeholders was to make Kendall Whittier a part of the national Main Street program in 2010.

Then, "In 2014, we looked at what was already here, and we saw there was already the start of creative businesses in the neighborhood," says Ed Sharrer, who became executive director of Kendall Whittier Main Street in 2013. "We wanted to expand that and protect that."

Since 2013, Kendall Whittier has welcomed more than 20 new businesses in its commercial area, which lies between Independence and 11th streets and Delaware and Utica avenues.

Those new businesses, including Calaveras Mexican Grill (opened October 2014) and Hoot Owl Coffee Company (opened in March), have brought \$11.5 million of private investment and 120 jobs to the district, says Sharrer.

Urban Furnishings, 2312 E. Admiral Blvd., which came to the district in 2013 from Brookside, recently relocated two doors down from its previous location for a larger space.

Also to open in July is Flash Flood Print Studios, 2407 E. Admiral Blvd., a custom printmaking shop and studio that is relocating from its previous location in the Pearl District.

As for upcoming activity in the neighborhood, construction will soon begin on the two buildings that line Lewis Avenue, south of Circle Cinema, the former location of Sweeney's Hardware.

In July 2014, Ross Group bought the two buildings, which are a total of 29,000 square feet and on the National Register of Historic Places.

The company plans to turn the buildings back into individual storefronts, Sharrer says.

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