



MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET
COMING TO TULSA PAC

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STRONG DRAFT CHOICES
To BOOST SHOCK

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BIXBY BREEZE

GREATER TULSA REPORTER

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May 2015

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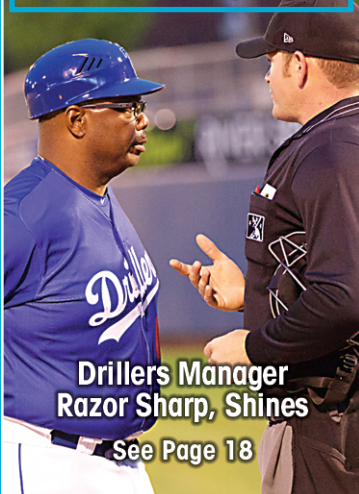
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BASKETBALL CHAMPS



Courtesy photo

BIXBY GIRLS: The Bixby 3rd grade girls White basketball team won the Indian Nations Basketball Conference Championship this season. More than 50 area schools participate. Three teams of third graders from Bixby schools participated, teams Red, White and Blue. Back row, from left, are Samantha McKimney, Camden Henson and Kindal Biggs. From row, from left, are Cameron Fox, Brynn Daniel, Halle Dotson and Emery Theinhart.

DOWNTOWN PLANS



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

SPURRING DEVELOPMENT: Above is the eastern view of downtown Bixby on Dawes Avenue. In conjunction with the city of Bixby's low water dam project, city officials have begun to devise plans in an effort to spur revitalization throughout its downtown river corridor district. The goal is to capitalize on both a planned low water dam to be sited on the north end of the downtown river corridor district and the

city's existing investment in Bentley Youth Sports Complex. "We hope to have preliminary designs for our revitalization initiative in hand by this fall," says City Manager Doug Enevoldsen.

The plan is to focus on improvements to public properties and create infrastructure that fosters redevelopment downtown and along the riverfront, says City Engineer Jared Cottle.

HOMETOWN VOICE



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

LOCAL TALENT: Bixby High School graduate and contestant of NBC's *The Voice* Corey Kent White, center, stands with 106.1 *The Twister* radio personalities Bud and Broadway during the March 31 watch party for White.

BANK CHANGES NAME



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

MABREY BANK: Bixby-based Citizens Security Bank, owned by the Mabrey family, has changed its name to Mabrey Bank. The Mabrey family will continue to own and operate the banks. One reason for the name change is to set the bank apart from other similarly-named banks, says bank President Carlisle Mabrey III.

KUDOS OF THE MONTH: TTCU The Credit Union

TTCU The Credit Union is hosting its sixth annual Kids' Fishing Day June 6, 8-11 a.m. at Bass Pro Pond. Open to the public, this is a fun, free family event that is sure to be a great time for all who attend. The first 500 kids 12 and under will receive a free fishing pole.

"We know there are kids whose circumstances might not allow them to purchase a rod and reel, or get to experience the fun of fishing," says Kelly Barrow, TTCU Broken Arrow branch manager. "We hope that, over the years, we've given them memories they might not have had otherwise."

In 2010, Barrow wanted to partner with a TTCU Select Employee Group (an organization that has affiliated itself with the credit union) to throw a community event that would serve as a "thank you" to the community, and TTCU Kids' Fishing Day was born. one hundred free poles were given away the first year, and unbeknownst to TTCU, this would produce the highest attendance record for any event in TTCU history at that time.

Years later, thanks to its partnership with Bass Pro Shops, TTCU is hosting its sixth annual Kids' Fishing Day and is now giving out five times the amount of poles that were given its inaugural year. Families



Courtesy TTCU

GONE FISHIN': TTCU The Credit Union Hosts Sixth Annual Kids' Fishing Day June 6.

travel from all over northeast Oklahoma to attend this fun, free event. For more information, visit ttcu.com.

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Ground Broken for Children's Garden

Botanic Garden to Host DIG May 9

By KATHERINE HASKELL
Contributing Writer



FUN TIMES: Stephanie and Riley Jones enjoy the festivities at the groundbreaking of Tulsa Botanic Garden's Children's Discovery Garden.



BOTANIC SOIL: Ground was broken for the Tulsa Botanic Garden's Children's Garden on April 18. From left are Mayor Dewey Bartlett, Jr. with grandson, Chairman of the Board Greg Gray, Terry and Pam Carter with granddaughter, Garden CEO Dr. Todd Lasseigne, Judy Zarrow and Bill Major of The Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation, Elizabeth Hagans, Shirley Martin of Hille Foundation, Marianna Vesely, Bonnie Klein and Tres Fromme, garden designer.



CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY GARDEN AND THE ROUND BARN

The Tulsa Botanic Garden is growing in unexpected ways. Flowering perennials budding along gravel walks are naturally found in this season of rebirth. Now, this spring, Tulsa Botanic Garden has expanded its themed gardens with the groundbreaking of its Children's Discovery Garden on April 18.

With two acres planned to open next spring, funding such a large enterprise will not be easy. DIG: Day In the Garden, is an annual fundraising event that supports Botanic Garden initiatives. This year, proceeds will go towards the Children's Discovery Garden. All of Green Country is invited to attend this third annual DIG, to be held Saturday, May 9, from 4-7 p.m. at Tulsa Botanic Garden.

A family-friendly outdoor picnic, DIG will offer attendees a chance to tour the Botanic Garden while enjoying live music by Klondike 5 String Band and Paul Benjamin Band. Guests of all ages are encouraged to join a rousing, entertaining game of Lawn Twister or decorate and plant a pot for Mother's Day. Children will enjoy face painting and pony rides.

Event co-chair Brooke Sturdivant is bringing four generations of family members to the event. "Everyone in my family loves Tulsa Botanic Garden. It's wonderful to see the excitement on children's faces as they play on the lawn or take walks around the lake. We're planning our DIG: Day In the Garden to be an enjoyable and relaxing picnic that will entertain everyone in one of the most idyllic settings in Tulsa."

Catered, traditional picnic fare of grilled hot dogs and a variety of sides will satisfy active attendees who hike the Lake Trail or dance the afternoon away to live music. Cool drinks, including beer and wine, will be served under shading tents set up around the Visitor Center and seven-acre lake. The Garden recently completed extensive infrastructure projects that brought electricity and city water to the Visitor Center, which will be air-conditioned.

At the April 18 event, over 200 people participated in day-long festivities, highlighted by the ceremonial groundbreaking. Morning rain threatened to cast wet shadows upon the proceedings, but sunlight broke through the clouds in time to shine on the official ceremony. Mayor Dewey Bartlett joined other dignitaries in turning over the garden's first soil. With his children and grandchildren in attendance, he emphasized how much Tulsa Botanic Garden adds to the variety of outdoor activities offered in Tulsa.

Bartlett elaborated, "The Children's Discovery Garden is an important

addition to environmental education in our city and will allow Green Country students opportunities for hands-on learning about the rich ecological diversity of Green Country. I

know my own grandchildren will enjoy exploring hidden pathways among colorful flowers and climbing the Tree Fort."

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1-10 - Plaza Suite <i>Tulsa Project Theatre</i>	9 - Simply Cinematic: Music of John Williams <i>Tulsa Symphony</i>	
2 - Wendy Whelan: Restless Creature <i>Choregus Productions</i>	9-16 - Red <i>American Theatre Company</i>	
2 - The Melodious Percussion Trio <i>South Asian Performing Arts Foundation</i>	23-30 - Gee's Bend <i>Theatre North</i>	
	26-31 - Million Dollar Quartet <i>Celebrity Attractions</i>	

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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

City Year Tulsa Features Joy Hofmeister

State School Superintendent Speaks At Women's Leadership Event

City Year Tulsa, an education-focused organization that unites young adults for a year of service in high-need urban public schools, hosted its inaugural Women's Leadership Luncheon on April 21 at the Tulsa Garden Center. The event is a celebration of City Year Tulsa AmeriCorps members who serve on a daily basis as tutors, mentors and role models for students in Tulsa's highest need public schools.

State School Superintendent Joy Hofmeister delivered the event's keynote address to a distinguished list of over 150 attendees, including area business and community leaders. The Women's Leadership Luncheon was co-chaired by notable education champions Kathy Taylor (CEO of Impact

Tulsa and former Mayor of Tulsa) and Dr. Kayse Shrum (president and provost of OSU Center for Health Sciences).

"We couldn't be more grateful to our City Year Tulsa champions, like Joy Hofmeister, who make this important work possible," said Dr. Thomas K. McKeon, City Year Tulsa executive director. "Our Women's Leadership Luncheon provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our supporters, as well as our City Year AmeriCorps members who bring energy, talent and dedication to the students they serve every day."

This year, 50 City Year Tulsa AmeriCorps members serve in six Tulsa Public Schools to provide support to students who face the greatest risk of dropping out.

Working side-by-side with teachers, corps members use research-based tools to improve students' attendance, behavior and course performance in math and English. Corps members also lead after-school programs and school-wide initiatives to improve school culture.

Long-time supporter and partner, Bain Capital, is City Year's National Event Sponsor. Since City Year's inception, Bain Capital and its employees have supported City Year with more than \$25 million in donations and hundreds of volunteer hours by the firm's employees. The national event sponsorship includes a donation of \$50,000 to each of City Year's 25 sites nation-wide.

"The support of Bain Capital is



SHARON CAMERON for GTR Newspapers

FOCUSING ON EDUCATION: State School Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, second from left, spoke about her vision for education at City Year Tulsa's Women's Leadership Luncheon on April 21. The event was co-chaired by Kathy Taylor, left, and Dr. Kayse Shrum, right. Also pictured is Dr. Tom McKeon, vice president and executive director of City Year Tulsa.

making a tremendous impact on our work in Tulsa," said Dr. McKeon. "We're honored to partner with an organization that has demonstrated a lasting commit-

ment to helping students in high poverty public schools succeed." For more information about City Year Tulsa, visit www.cityyear.org/tulsa.

TAUW Campaign Volunteers Meet for 1st Time

Community leaders from a broad spectrum of business and industry sectors recently assembled for the first time to begin preparations for the 2015 Tulsa Area United Way campaign.

Nearly 50 members of the Campaign Cabinet, which leads the annual United Way campaign for the community, gathered to begin planning this year's campaign.

"Each of you has stepped up to take a major leadership role in your community," said Ted

Haynes, president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, who is serving as the chair of the 2015 United Way campaign.

The campaign officially begins in August and concludes on Nov. 12, although several Trailblazer companies will conduct their campaigns early this summer.

The team leaders of this year's campaign are Steve and Marla Bradshaw, Bank of Oklahoma and community volunteers; Aaron Fulkerson, Schnake Turnbo Frank; Curtis Dinan, ONE Gas, Inc.; Matt

Pivarnik, Tulsa Regional Chamber; Anita Holloway, Ernst and Young, LLP; and Lee Eslicker, D&L Oil Tools.

"These dedicated individuals have already begun to prepare for the campaign," said Mark R. Graham, president and CEO of the Tulsa Area United Way. "Each member of the cabinet is committed to developing the resources necessary to building a better community and improving the lives of our friends and neighbors."



Courtesy Tulsa Area United Way

TEAM LEADERS: The team leaders of this year's Tulsa Area United Way campaign are, from left, Anita Holloway, Curtis Dinan, Matt Pivarnik, Lee Eslicker and Aaron Fulkerson.

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Kylee Kinney

Health Education and Promotion major

LIFELONG CONNECTIONS

Oklahoma State University-Tulsa is helping Kylee Kinney make connections that will last a lifetime. During classes and service activities, she is meeting professionals working in community health while gaining professional experience. Kylee is also developing close relationships with professors and classmates that will help her find a job after graduation. OSU-Tulsa can help you make lifelong connections, too. Whether your goal is increased earning power, more opportunities or a better quality of life, OSU-Tulsa can help you get there from here.

Learn more about Kylee's story at OSUinTulsa.com.

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Maximizing and Advancing Performance in Tulsa

COMMENTARY

By **DEWEY F. BARTLETT, JR.**
Mayor, City of Tulsa

At the City of Tulsa, our goal is to deliver high-quality, dependable services to citizens using our available financial resources in the most responsible manner. In 2010, the city received an efficiency report from consulting firm KPMG, and I created a new department called the Management Review Office to take action concerning this report.

After the initial KPMG-led study, it was determined that the 1,100 considerations made by KPMG could be consolidated into 553 recommendations. Of the 553 recommendations, 96 KPMG projects have been completed; 56 projects were deferred; 179 projects are pending additional research or are in process; and 222 recommendations have been closed. Our progress in these areas has resulted in \$24 million in budget savings since 2010.

Just as important as the progress toward the KPMG recommendations are the results the report spawned within our organ-

ization. We received many more ideas from our own employees. The report actually became a catalyst for renewed ideas and a new way of thinking about our business. We're taking the KPMG initiative to another level, one that engages employees to a higher degree and creates more opportunities for all employees to work with various levels of management to address issues, research improvements and recommend solutions.

The Management Review Office is embarking on a new journey and has been renamed the Office of Maximizing and

Advancing Performance, or MAAP. Reflective of its name, the MAAP will be responsible for charting a course for the organization, enlisting employees to explore innovative ideas, following best business practices, finding cost savings, and implementing effective processes and methods for better management and operations, as well as furthering tried and true successes.

MAAP will continue to emphasize performance – operational, organizational and individual; however, the new ideas and recommendations will come from our employees. MAAP will be

taking over the previous High Performance Government Champion program from our Human Resources Department. MAAP Champions are city employees who are trained in lean process improvement and efficiency techniques to help departments streamline processes and locate efficiencies.

The MAAP office will be a resource available to all employees regardless of where they work – in the field, at a satellite office or in City Hall. We have developed the MAAP office to improve our service to the citizens of Tulsa.

Ken Busby Honored by Leadership Oklahoma

Leadership Oklahoma presented three awards for leadership at its board of directors meeting at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa on March 27.

The Distinguished Graduate Award honors a Leadership Oklahoma graduate whose recent leadership activities have exemplified the highest standards of Leadership Oklahoma and whose activities achieved results or set an example of statewide significance. The Distinguished Graduate Award belongs to Ken Busby, the former executive director and chief executive officer of the Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa. Under his leadership for the past 12 and a half years, the Council, a service organization for more than 60 cultural organizations, has become one of the top 50 local arts councils in the nation. Busby is a visionary and has been instrumental in the revival of downtown Tulsa. He was previously the director of development for Tulsa Zoo Friends. Prior to that, Busby was with Gilcrease Museum for eight years, serving as membership director and director of communication. Busby is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma Class XVII.

Busby serves as president of Tulsa International Mayfest and chairman of the Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust. He is on the executive committee of the Tulsa Regional Chamber's Visit Tulsa Committee. In 2010, he was elected to the Arts Education Advisory Council of Americans for the Arts and is immediate past

chairman of that committee. Busby is an adjunct professor at the University of Tulsa and serves as a consultant in the areas of fundraising, grant writing, strategic planning and board development for nonprofits across the state. In 2008, Busby received the Governor's Arts Award for Community Service and the Global Vision Award from Tulsa Global Alliance. In 2010, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Paseo Arts Association. The Association of Fundraising Professionals named him its Outstanding Fundraising Executive in 2013.

Also honored was Wymer Brownlee, a benevolent Enid company, with the Business Leadership Award. It consists of a team of tax and accounting specialists, financial advisors, and business consultants who provide personalized assistance and other resources.

In addition, the Statewide Community Award acknowledges the Gaylord-Pickens Museum, Home of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. Founded in 1927 and headquartered in Oklahoma City, the OHF preserves Oklahoma's unique history while promoting pride in the great state.

Leadership Oklahoma is a statewide organization with over 1,381 graduates from 166 Oklahoma communities whose mission is to create, inspire and support a dynamic network of leaders whose increased awareness and commitment to service will energize Oklahomans to shape the Oklahoma's future.



Courtesy Leadership Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA LEADERS: Enjoying the Leadership Oklahoma meeting at Gilcrease Museum are, from left, Oklahoma Heritage Association President and CEO Shannon Rich, Oklahoma Heritage Association Chairman of the Board Joe Moran, and honorees Aaron Brownlee and Ken Busby.



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June 7 – A Musical Tour of Italy with Amici New York Orchestra, violin virtuoso Chad Hoopes, and OK Mozart's All-State Orchestra.

June 9 – Spencer Prentiss/Becky Wallace Chamber Concert with Aeolus Quartet, pianist Jon Kimura Parker and Amici New York Orchestra wind principals.

June 10 – Mozart's "Don Giovanni" with Amici New York Orchestra, Bartlesville Choral Society and an all-Oklahoma cast of soloists.

June 11 – World renowned Canadian Brass with Baroque, Dixieland, classical and brass standards served up with genre-bending versatility.

June 12 – Woolaroc Outdoor Concert featuring music under the stars by Amici New York Orchestra with the music of Italy, patriotic favorites and the thrill of fireworks.

June 13 – The Grand Finale with Amici New York Orchestra, pianist Jon Kimura Parker, Bartlesville Choral Society and Tulsa Oratorio Chorus presenting Rossini's "L'italiana in Algeri", Rachmaninoff's "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini" and Mozart's "Requiem".

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MONUMENTAL MOMENTS IN TULSA HISTORY

Spavinaw Waterline Part IV

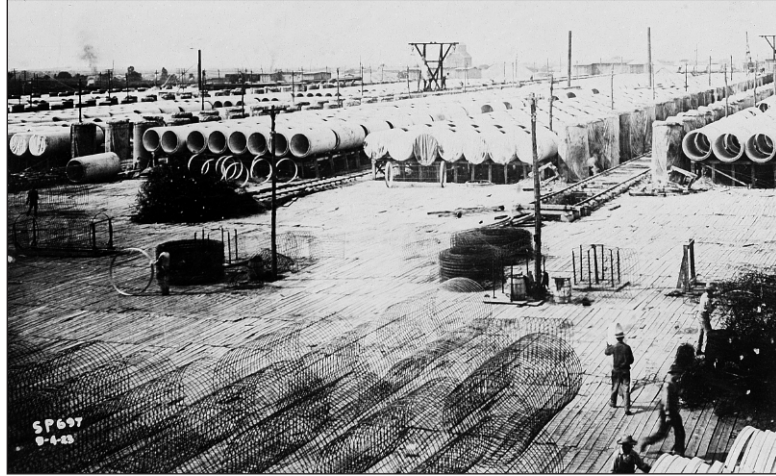
Spavinaw Waterline – Concrete Conduit to Tulsa's Future

By CHARLES CANTRELL
Associate Editor

Editor's Note: This is the fourth article in a multi-part series focusing on monumental moments and events in the history of Tulsa and the many unique individuals making up the city's illustrious legacy. The editors of GTR Newspapers wish to thank Tulsa Historical Society & Museum for research assistance, help in factual verification and the use of many of the marvelous photos accompanying these articles.

It is important to keep in mind the historical context of the United States in the 1920s to understand how a city the size of Tulsa (approximately 100,000) was willing on Nov. 28, 1921, to levy a tax burden on itself totaling \$6,800,000. Tulsans approved the measure by a whopping 70-percent majority. The passage of the bond issue provided funding for a huge, often contentiously debated project, the Spavinaw waterline. It was the largest, most expensive and sophisticated municipally-funded undertaking in the nation, designed to bring potable water to Tulsa.

Like the rest of the United States, Tulsa was evolving from primarily an agrarian community made up of small towns scattered across a landscape of family-owned farms to an urban one with all the challenges that accompany increasing population density and a growing industrial economy. But unlike other cities, Tulsa's growth was vastly accelerated by the discovery of oil on the outskirts of the city.



PIPE YARD: Shown here is the pipe yard where an estimated 24,000-plus, 12-foot long, 60 and 54-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipes were manufactured from scratch using materials purchased in-state except for the steel rod used to create the reinforcing mesh.

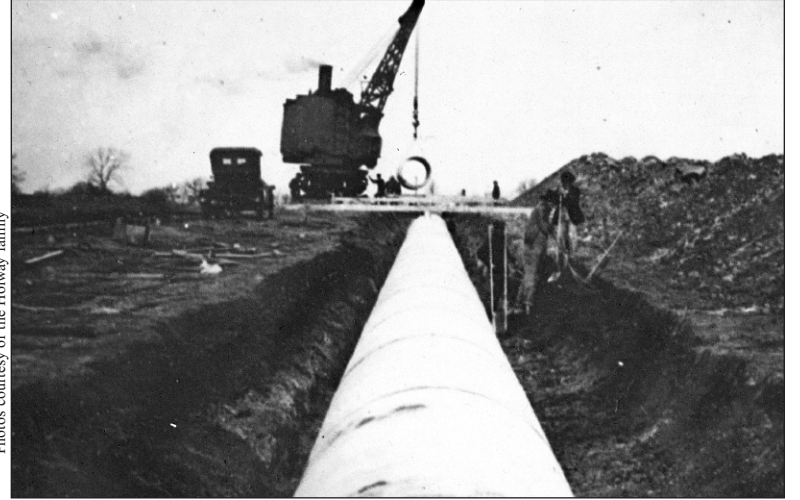
The nationwide growth, particularly in the Midwest that characterized the 1920s created high demand for civil engineers. It spawned a decade of innovators, inventors, risk takers, and entrepreneurs along with con men, rubes, and charlatans never before seen or likely never after equaled. Civil engineering firms sprung up like wild flowers across the Midwest in the 1920s vying to tap into the publicly funded cash flow of numerous civic projects. There was much to do in the way of publicly funded projects and plenty of money available to do it.

The prospects of securing a contract to engineer and oversee a project worth nearly \$7 million was what brought J. D. Trammell, a vet-

eran civil engineer from Fort Worth, Texas, to Tulsa sometime in the spring of 1921. He brought with him a resume showing his main accomplishment, engineering the Lake Worth water supply serving the city of Fort Worth. He also brought an entourage of family, friends and a few sycophants mixed in for good measure.

Trammell apparently came to Tulsa not only to secure the contract to build the Spavinaw waterline; he also came to sell Tulsa leaders on using a new kind of concrete pipe with locking joints, one he had invented, patented and branded Lock-Pipe. He touted his invention as superior and less costly than the pipe joint systems commonly used

(Continued on page 7)



DOWN SHE GOES: It took a 24-ton locomotive crane to carefully lower the ten ton pipe sections into the trench or "cut" as it was called, to join the growing conduit string.



THE CUT: The trench, or cut, sometimes went as deep as 40 feet. Pictured here is a more common cut of approximately 25 feet. The top half being prairie soil, the bottom half pesky shale presented challenging excavation.



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Historic Spavinaw Waterline Project: A Cornerstone of Tulsa's Infrastructure

(Continued from page 6)

across the country for similar projects. He later renamed his invention "Tulsa Pipe," apparently in hopes of convincing and possibly obligating the Water Board to secure his "revolutionary" pipe in the annals of engineering history by using it exclusively on the project. It was so revolutionary in fact it had never been used on any project, let alone one the size and scope of the Spavinaw waterline.

It should be noted, the project specifications, soon to be drafted by Holway, would call for 55 miles of 60 and 54-inch reinforced concrete pipe comprised of 12-foot sections weighing in the neighborhood of ten tons each. The manufacturing, distribution, excavation and laying of the pipe was by far the most expensive element of the overall project. The remaining funds would cover the construction of the damming of the Spavinaw creek, the Mohawk reservoir and pump house, and the high-pressure steel pipe to the city's reservoir on Reservoir Hill and other essential requirements. (Estimates of the cost of the Spavinaw waterline in today's dollars exceed \$300,000,000.)

It is also important to understand the structural integrity of the pipe joints was of paramount importance to the longevity of the pipeline, or as it was called by engineers, the "conduit" for the water. Understandably, leaks in the pipe joints of the conduit were of major concern to Holway. A significant portion of the conduit would be laid through marshy bogs where settling and shifting presented a challenge to the structural integrity of joining pipes. Joints not designed to meet this challenge would likely become costly leaks over time.

Upon arriving in Tulsa, Trammell immediately went about the task of befriending as many city leaders as he could, including then Mayor T. D. Evans. His success in this effort became apparent when the Water Board hired Trammell as a consultant for \$5,000.

Trammell understood from his newly formed friends in City Hall that Holway had earned the trust of the Water Board, the mayor and other prominent Tulsans, and obviously this young, local engineer was to play a major roll in the Spavinaw waterline project. The older Trammell befriended Holway and took him under wing.

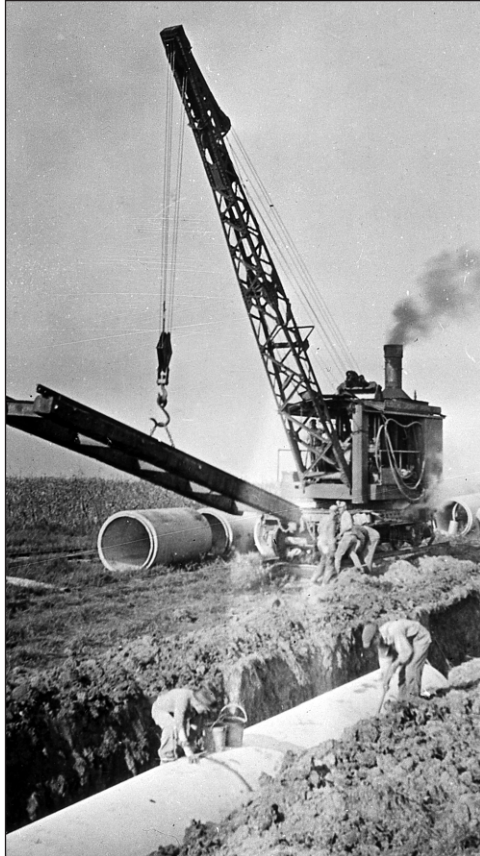
According to his journal, Holway and Trammell not only became friends and colleagues, but over time Holway came to consider the Texas engineer his mentor.

The two formed a partnership, Holway providing his well-earned trust with all the major players and his expertise in understanding all of the pertinent factors involved in the project, not only his years of battling for Spavinaw water; but also because he had supervised and completed the initial geological survey of the route from Spavinaw to Tulsa. Trammell brought to the partnership his resume, a propensity for glad-handling city leaders and of course the generous offer of "free usage" of his patented, superior pipe joint product.

On March 22, 1922, the team of Holway and Trammell made a joint proposal to the Water Board to do the engineering and oversee the construction of the waterline. They were awarded the contract on April 18, 1922.

In the meantime, construction companies across the country specializing in urban infrastructure projects had received word of the project and had begun requesting specifications for the project in order to submit bids. The race was on.

Holway took over the task of generating and distributing what turned out to be a 59-page document covering all necessary specifications to bid on 11 separate contracts necessary to complete the project. Contract titles included: Telephone Lines, Clearing Spavinaw Lake Site, Spavinaw Dam, 60-inch (later changed to 54-inch) Conduit east of tunnel (later called the Tiawah Tunnel), Tunnel and Approaches, 54-inch Conduit west of tunnel, Mohawk Reservoir, Furnishing Cast Iron or Steel Pipe, Furnishing Valves and Valve Boxes, Laying Cast Iron or Steel Pipe, High Pressure Reservoir. He completed this task on schedule without assistance from Trammell who was preoccupied with building his new house in Tulsa.



Courtesy of the Holway family

MAKING ITS OWN WAY: *When the railroad line and the waterline route separated, the big locomotive crane simply made its own route. Using prefabricated rail sections, the crane picked up the section behind and placed it in front moving forward and repeating the process. This kept the crane parallel with the cut and able to lower in the large concrete pipe sections. What could be more ingenious?*

When the time came to decide which bid the engineering team would recommend to the Water Board for approval, a conflict arose between Holway and Trammell involving the two stretches of pipe east and west of the Tiawah Tunnel – in other words, the entire concrete conduit. Trammell favored the three companies submitting bids using his Tulsa Pipe, while Holway opted for one company's bid using the proven, conventional pipe system.

Excerpts from a memo dated Sept. 27, 1922, dictated by Holway to his secretary the morning following a meeting between the two partners to discuss the submitted bids, indicates a clash of wills over the issue of pipe joints. Holway stood his ground declaring the so-called Tulsa Pipe was untested and suspect as to its ability to withstand the demanding subterranean conditions of the pipeline route. Trammell argued he had treated Holway like a son adding, "You know I would not ask my son to do anything that I considered wrong. To which Holway replied, "Neither, Mr. Trammell, should you ask your son to do anything which he considers wrong."

Holway won out. The trust he had garnered over the years with city leaders far outweighed Trammell's glad-handed reputation and winning smile. Trammell apparently knew this and gave into reality. He did, however, following Holway's presentation accepted unanimously by the Board, present a "minority report," the gist of which was to ask the Board to reconsider their decision to not use his wonderful, albeit unproven, pipe. If nothing else, Trammell was a persistent man.

As construction of the Spavinaw waterline began in earnest, Trammell stayed on in Tulsa for a while, hiring members of his Texas entourage to work on the project because he still had the authority to do so as joint owner of the contract. According to Holway, some of Trammell's hires were competent and helpful; others were simply barnacles along for the ride. Eventually Holway figured out a way to buy Trammell out of his share of the contract, wherein the Texas engineer and his folks returned home, leaving Holway at long last in charge of the project he, more than any other single Tulsan, made happen.

Next Month: The building and completion of the Spavinaw waterline, the logistical demands and engineering challenges involved, and how they were addressed.

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VARIETY

Performance Season Turns on the Heat

I would tell you that this year's performance season is winding down, but if you saw our May and June calendars, you'd know differently. May leads off with "A Devil Inside," April 30 and May 1. It's a dark comedy by David Lindsey-Abaire, performed by Riverside Country Day School's older students, and is recommended for mature audiences. I really like that the PAC is affordable for schools and that aspiring, young actors can have an opportunity to try out their talents on our stages.

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN

The South Asian Performing Arts Foundation works to create a deeper understanding of South Asian culture by presenting a

variety of dance, drama and music. This month, they host two performances: The Melodious Percussion Trio and "Pancham: The Immortal Note." Three different instruments from India, the jalta-rang (ceramic bowls filled with water), the djembe and the tabla will be played by



THE MELODIOUS PERCUSSION TRIO: Pandit Milind Tulankar, the foremost player in India of the jalta-rang (pictured), performs in concert with djembe player Taufiq Qureshi and tabla percussionist Pandit Ramdas Pasule for the South Asian Performing Arts Foundation May 2.

Also on May 1, the PAC Trust presents "The Gruffalo's Child," for children, which will be performed by London's Tall Stories theatre company. Puppetry is incorporated along with humor and magic to tell a fun story, based on the popular picture book.

Tulsa Project Theatre, which staged "Godspell" in April and will produce "West Side Story" in June, presents "Plaza Suite" May 1-10. You may recall the play's story line about three couples that, in turn, occupy the same suite at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. Each couple's scenario is a setup for laughs in Neil Simon's fast-paced, clever comedy.

On Saturday, May 2, in our Chapman Music Hall, Choregus Productions hosts Wendy Whelan's "Restless Creature." The New York Times called Whelan "America's greatest contemporary ballerina." Over many years of working at the PAC, I've interviewed numerous choreographers, many of whom sought out Whelan to premiere their work. She truly is dance royalty. After retiring from the New York City Ballet last fall, she asked four young choreographers if she could work with each of them to create a contemporary dance piece, and then dance it with her on tour. Alejandro Cerrudo, Joshua Beamish, Brian Brooks and Kyle Abraham will be here with Whelan to perform the four pieces that make up "Restless Creature."

some of India's foremost percussionists on May 2. Then on May 29, there will be a musical tribute concert to recognize the contributions of R. D Burman, whose nickname is Pancham. He was a highly respected composer in the Hindi film industry, scoring music for 331 movies.

Tulsa Symphony devotes the entire evening May 9 to the music of composer John Williams. His work, including scores from Jaws, E.T. and Raider's of the Lost Ark, has been nominated for 49 Academy Awards. Fans of Star Wars will enjoy the second half of the concert, totally devoted to the music of those beloved films.

There's more theatre this month with American Theatre Company's "Red" May 9-16, replacing the previously scheduled "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." Playwright John Logan's play delves into the world of abstract expressionist Mark Rothko. It won six Tony Awards in 2010, including Best Drama and a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play.

Theatre Tulsa seals its main stage season with "9 to 5: The Musical" May 8-17. This is playwright Patricia Resnick's romp, with music by Dolly Parton, about three office workers (Kelsey Kemper, Kelly McEver and Karlena Riggs) who get the upper hand with their chauvinistic boss, played by John Orsulak.

Another award-winning play, showcasing Gospel music, closes out the 2014-15 season May 23-30. Theatre North returns to the PAC with Elizabeth Gregory Wilder's heartfelt "Gee's Bend,"

about a 20th-century African-American family who live in Gee's Bend, Alabama, and how they cope with uncertain times.

If you've attended many of Ragtime for Tulsa's concerts, you will have heard one of the world's finest ragtime soloists Morten Gunnar Larsen and Tulsa's own pianist extraordinaire Donald Ryan. They are back together for an evening of keyboard fireworks on May 31.

I've been hearing about "Million Dollar Quartet" for a couple of years from friends who have been longing for it come to Tulsa. It's in town, courtesy of Celebrity Attractions, May 26-31, capping another successful and satisfying Broadway year. This show is about a jam session with Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis. Rock on! Our audiences are going to love it.

As you know, "The Phantom of the Opera" was ensconced at PAC for a couple of weeks in April, and more than 30,000 people came to see it. The economic impact to the City of Tulsa from this one event alone was more than \$8 million. Thank you, Celebrity Attractions, for bringing the best of Broadway to Tulsa and making that impact, and that entertainment, possible.

Nancy Hermann is the Director of Marketing at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.



MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET: Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis in a jam session is the basis for "Million Dollar Quartet," presented by Celebrity Attractions May 26-31.



9 TO 5: Actors Kelsey Kemper, Karlena Riggs and Kelly McEver know how to handle their boss, John Orsulak, in Theatre Tulsa's "9 to 5: The Musical" May 8-17.



RESTLESS CREATURE: Recently retired star of the New York City Ballet Wendy Whelan asked four star choreographers to create a work for her, and then perform it with her. Choregus Productions presents "Wendy Whelan: Restless Creature" on May 2 at the PAC.



PLAZA SUITE: Seth Paden, Becca Hyvonen, Timothy Hunter and Lisa Porter star in Neil Simon's comedy, "Plaza Suite," presented by Tulsa Project Theatre.

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Tulsa Opera Director Focuses on Community

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

In October, Tulsa Opera welcomed Greg Weber as its new managing director.

Weber brings to Tulsa 30 years experience working with theater and opera companies throughout the world, most recently serving as San Francisco Opera's director of production since 2011.

Quite the resume for a small-town boy from Indiana.

Weber's first contact with theater happened in high school when he was asked by a fellow student to try out for a role in the school's production of Arsenic and Old Lace.

He won a leading role, as Mortimer Brewster.

"I had never seen a play before that," he says. Weber grew up in the country in a family of 12 children.

That introduction to theater left him craving more. From "the ability of the theater to affect our imagination and open up so many fantastic worlds" to its focus on people and relationships: "I would research time frames that characters lived in and consider their backgrounds, which helped me to gain greater comprehension of who people are as individuals and how people approach problems, failures, successes," he says.

No matter the type of production — theater, opera, dance — those elements remain.

In college at Ball State, Weber moved away from performing and focused on production and design, earning a degree in theater design.

He, later, earned his master's of fine arts in theater technology from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and it was during that time that he made a valuable connection.

At a seminar, he had a chance encounter with Viacheslav Yefimov, technical director of the Moscow Art Theatre. Their conversation led to an invitation from Yefimov for Weber to work with him in Moscow for a year but under the stipulation that Weber learn Russian.

Weber went about working toward that goal and, in the meantime, earned a scholarship to help him make the trip. While he was only able to stay with Yefimov and his family for four months, that was all the time Weber needed to be set on a new course.

"My time there totally changed my concept of theater and how to produce it," he comments.

As opposed to American theater where directors and designers are often more focused on their vision, "Arts leaders should be focused on what the community wants from its cultural institution," he says.

"It's about focusing on the audience. It doesn't have to move me; it has to move them."

One example Weber references is the Houston Grand Opera, where he served as technical director from 1993 to 2006.

"In Houston, that community always wanted the best productions," he says, "so we focused on producing world premiere operas, and that was something the community could be proud of. That is what the community came out to see."



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers
OF MICE AND MEN: Tulsa Opera's Managing Director Greg Weber, left, after the April 10 performance of *Of Mice and Men*, with Corey Bix, who played Lennie Small, Ava Pine, as Curley's Wife, Craig Verm, as George Milton, and Tulsa Opera's Artistic Director Kostis Protopoulos.

In contrast, at the San Francisco Opera, "that community was willing to take a risk on a show if they knew there would be a great voice," says Weber, "which allowed us to open up new dialogues and topics because we had a good singer."

That same interest in strong operatic voices Weber has already recognized in Tulsans.

"Here in Tulsa, the audience knows a good voice."

Weber has spent much of his seven months since joining Tulsa Opera observing the local community to find what resonates with the audience. He cites the company's recent production of *Romeo and Juliet* with Sarah Coburn as Juliet.

"I would turn around and watch the audience during the show. At the beginning of a song, people would be sitting back in their seat and by the middle and end they were either leaning forward or leaning over to the person next to them, which shows the emotional reaction they were experiencing because of a good voice."

As the San Francisco Opera's director of production, he directed a budget of \$20 million, led a team of 13 managers and 175 personnel, and helped to produce more than 70 performances annually. Weber also spent four years as managing director of Geva Theatre Center in Rochester, New York.

His greatest accomplishment, he says, occurred during his time in New York, where he founded TheatreROCS, an alliance of 28 Rochester metro arts organizations.

Why is it his proudest accomplishment?

Because it speaks to the essence of what he believes should be the goal of the arts: "The arts will be successful when the community speaks through them," he says.

Therefore, that is the goal that Weber holds in coming to the Tulsa Opera.

"I want to create an arts community that is in dialogue with the local community. If I can do that in Tulsa, then I will call it a success."

Renaissance Fest: May 2-31

The Oklahoma Renaissance Festival is back for its 20th year, May 2-31 at the Castle of Muskogee.

The annual festival will feature more than 600 costumed stage and street performers, merchants and artisans who all have the goal of transporting patrons back to the 16th century.

Daytime events include the Queen's Tea, the Royal Luncheon and the King's Smoker. Tickets must be purchased to attend after-hours entertainment at the Masqued Ball, the Pirate's Feaste and the Ceilidh.

New performers for 2015 are Chris Ivanovich, who will be performing up-close magic tricks at the Crown Inn; the Maguire Brothers, providing vocals on the Chessboard Stage, and celtic rock group Cleghorn will grace the festival during the event's third weekend.

Performing in the Cave will be The Late Mountebank & Wonder Elixir of Life Company.

The festival will feature additional acts on a total of 15 stages placed throughout the festival grounds.

Patrons can shop upwards of 134 Renaissance merchant shops, with various artisan creations. New merchants to the festival include GraysLand Acres, with goat milk products; embroidery creations at a Tailor of Two Cities; Handmade by Waite will offer unique jewelry items; and craft pieces at Rabbit Hero Creations.

Another not-to-be-missed stop is the new Masque Shoppe, adjacent to the Italian Quarter. Inside the Italian Quarter is the Hookah Bar and Silk Road experience Absalom's Dreams.

As for additional entertainment choices, full-contact jousting by the Heroic Knights of Old will take place in the Tournament Arena where additional seating has been added. Knight Wings Birds of Prey will present conservation education with raptors, and chess lovers can watch the Living Chess Match.

Dates and Hours:

Weekends: May 2 - May 31, plus Memorial Day: May 25, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Student Day: May 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Crawfest

On May 16, Cajun Ed's Hebert's Specialty Meats, on 71st Street just west of Lewis, will host CrawFest 2015, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. The event will include Cajun food favorites like Crawfish Etouffee, Crawfish Boudin, Boiled Crawfish and Boiled Shrimp. Also on the grill will be Beef and Pork Sausage, Pork Boudin and hot dogs for the little ones.

The festival will also feature live Cajun music from The Jambalaya Jazz Band and a variety of crawfish games.

A portion of the proceeds from CrawFest 2015 will go to Planted Ministries, Inc, founded and operated by Tulsan Rachel Richard Chaves. Planted Ministries is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization that offers education programs in Nicaragua that are designed to help break the cycle of poverty. For more information about Planted Ministries, visit plantedministries.org.

JANA JAE TO PERFORM



GTR Newspapers Photo
FANTASTIC FIDDLER: Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith stands with the "First Lady of Country Fiddle" Jana Jae at the recent Rotary Club of Tulsa Centennial Gala, held April 1. Jae will perform May 28 at the National Fiddler Hall of Fame 2015 Induction Ceremony and Concert, to be held at the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center.

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Warren Theatre: More Than Just Movies

LOCAL DINING

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Writer

As was expected, since opening in December, the Broken Arrow Warren Theatre, 1700 W. Aspen Creek Drive, is holding its own against its competition. This comes as no surprise, considering the movie-watching experiences and amenities offered there stand alone in quality and distinctiveness.

However, with so many movie-viewing options and amenities to choose from, Warren Theatre must work to combat customer confusion.

For instance, which theater rooms allow patrons to bring in meals to eat during the movie; which allow alcoholic beverages; which allow guests to order at their seat in the theater; and how does the Warren's Diner fit into all of this?

These are all questions that I aimed to address when I visited recently.

I started out visiting the Diner, a 1940s-style soda fountain, located near the front doors. The menu is a condensed version of a more extensive menu that is offered at the theater's second-floor restaurant and bar. No one under 21 years old is permitted upstairs to watch a movie or otherwise.

The Diner's menu offers a large selection of appetizers, salads, sandwiches, burgers, flatbread pizzas, desserts and a kids' menu, with nothing priced over \$10.99. The menu is available to view online at warrentheater.com.

My party ordered the half-pound USDA Choice Gourmet Cheeseburger with a side of fries. All sandwiches and burgers come with one side order. The burger was a good size with a flavorful patty, and the fries were the thick, traditional style, with a decent amount of crispiness.

For our other dish, we chose the Chicken Basil Pesto Flatbread, which featured a nicely prominent pesto flavor. The flat-

bread itself was a good size for sharing, with eight slices.

As a coleslaw lover, I opted to try a side of coleslaw just because I was curious.

Because this is a nostalgic '40s-style soda fountain, we had to try a vanilla milkshake, which did not disappoint. It even looked the part, being served in the traditional soda fountain glass with the extra portion of the shake served in the nostalgic steel milkshake cup. My mother, who is always on the hunt for old-time soda shops, was thrilled.

The Diner allows any food or drinks to be taken out of the Diner and into any of the movie theaters: the Balcony, Auditoriums, Screening Rooms and Director's Suites. Since the movie theaters on the first floor do not offer food service at your seat, the Diner is a welcome option for food choices other than the traditional concession offerings.

When placing food orders at the diner counter, the waitress asks if guests would like to eat their meal in the Diner or if they want it packaged to be eaten in the movie theater. Boxes are also available if guests decide later to take a portion of their meal with them.

For guests watching a movie on the second floor, they have access to a full bar and the larger food menu, which includes entrée items between \$10 and \$20.

After my dinner in the Diner, I was pretty stuffed, but I still wanted something to munch during my movie. I opted for the Mozzarella Bites, which come with a side of marinara sauce (Is there any other way?). It's hard to do mozzarella sticks wrong. The order comes with about 12 sticks, and, true to their name, they are just about bite-sized, maybe a smidge larger.

In the Balcony theaters, seats are roomy and plush with large armrests, a movable food tray, seat warmers, a call button to notify a server and a small flashlight for reading the menu after the movie has begun.

Guests are told before the movie begins when food and drink service will end. For



BLAKE AUSTYN for GTR Newspapers
1940s SODA FOUNTAIN: Visitors to the Broken Arrow Warren Theatre look at a menu at the Diner. The menu offers appetizers, salads, sandwiches, burgers, flatbread pizzas, desserts and a kids' menu, with all food items and drinks able to be taken into the movie theater.

me, it was about 20 minutes before the movie ended.

After the movie ends, upon leaving the theater, guests receive a parting mint from one of the theater's smiling employees. Another special quality of Warren Theatre: the friendliness of the employees – not something often

found today at movie theaters or elsewhere. Clearly, Warren Theatre is successful for a reason. Anyone who has visited the theater understands why. For those who have yet to make the trip, even though it is, admittedly, not a cheap date, you surely won't regret it.

PRESS CLUB LEADERSHIP



GTR Newspapers Photo
PRESIDENTIAL NIGHT: Past presidents of the Tulsa Press Club met on President's Day at the club's location in the Atlas Life Building in downtown Tulsa. From left are Mercedes Millberry-Fowler (2013), Richard Evans (2003), Dennis Smiley (1993-94) and Tom Gilbert (2015).

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Phantom of the Opera Makes Grand Entrance

Tulsa reaped many rewards for two weeks in April when a tall, dark, masked and slightly crazed man came to town. A show that has been running since 1986, Phantom of the Opera continues its unchallenged reign of enduring popularity.

Chris Mann became a well-recognized face (and voice) during his time as a member of Team Christina (Aguilera) on NBC's The Voice in 2012. Mann plays the Phantom, with University of Oklahoma graduate Storm Lineberger as Raoul and Katie Travis as Christine Daae, the object of both men's affection.

Even with some noticeable changes to the production, which started the second year of its North American tour in November, the show maintains many of its beloved elements, including, of course, the music. Some of the changes involve choreography, lighting and chandelier acrobatics.

My first time seeing Phantom was in its New York City home at the Majestic Theatre. While my seat was nothing to covet, the sheer energy felt in the theatre was enough to make the show worth it. Add to it, the voices of the performers, particularly I remember marveling at the singing voice

belonging to the Phantom, which was less operatic than Mann's rendition and cut through the theatre just a bit more.

In that production, I remember the Phantom's voice standing out among the rest as all-around magnificent. On the other hand, in this production, the voices of all of the performers are nearly equal in skill and strength, and they blend well together.

Mann, who has for the past few years been singing in the pop genre, says that he has enjoyed coming back to his opera roots, being a classically-trained opera singer.

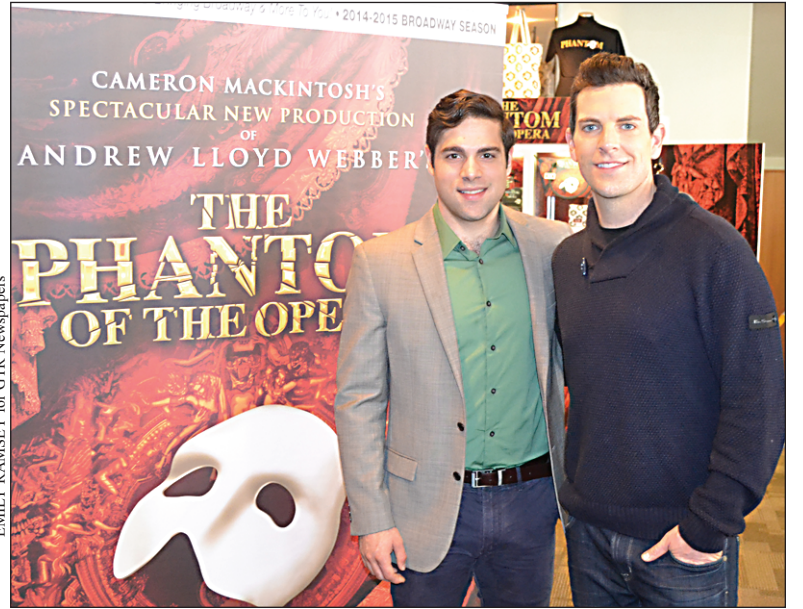
"Singing classically and operatically resonates through your entire body," he says. "My character is so aggressive, you use your whole voice and body to communicate anger and other emotions."

Lineberger, just freshly out of college, brings a deep voice, a big range and an air of manliness to the role of Raoul, and Travis hits her high notes beautifully.

While Lineberger initially thought he already knew the character of Raoul ("I always thought of him as the safe loverboy choice"), he made a thorough study of the character to truly understand his emotions: "Here's a guy who has no expectations, and then suddenly he's put in this crazy



CHANDELIER PREPARATION: Technicians work on Phantom of the Opera's famous chandelier, which has seen some changes for the production's two-year North American tour.



STARRING ROLES: Phantom of the Opera's Chris Mann, right, who plays the Phantom, and Storm Lineberger, as Raoul, pose before a performance during the show's two-week run at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center in April.

situation with Christine and this crazy man."

Mann and Lineberger, who are both new to performing with a touring show, have been learning many things together, one of those being the importance of pacing themselves.

"We do over 400 shows per year," Mann says.

"The schedule has been a whirlwind," says Lineberger. "You have to take care of your voice and know what you're capable of."

Nancy Hermann, marketing director for the Tulsa Performing Arts Center, is no stranger to Phantom of the Opera. She has seen the show numerous times in both New York and Tulsa.

"This production is more focused

on the relationships between the three characters; there's a lot at stake for everyone," she says.

It's hard not to feel for the Phantom when Christine and Raoul are singing "All I Ask of You," as he watches from a distance.

Phantom loyalists surely recognized the various changes in the new show. Two noticeable things that both Hermann and I admit to missing from the original version: the beautiful scene when the Phantom and Christine cross the underground lake in a boat going to his lair, with fog rising from the stage floor and candles emerging through the fog; and, of course, the shimmering chandelier and its two grand moments: first, as it sits on the stage until the show begins and

then is lifted to the ceiling, and second, at the end of the first act when it crashes to the stage. Yet, I will say, the acrobatics of the current chandelier are a close second.

For many, though, this was their first ever viewing of Phantom, and they had no complaints, says Hermann. "I heard from a number of people who absolutely loved the show, both new viewers and ones who had seen previous productions."

Yet, regardless of personal opinions, with an almost sold-out two-week run locally and the show's two-year national tour, it's clear that admirers of the beloved production can rest assured. Phantom of the Opera is here to stay for many more years to come.

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— Oly M., TTCU Member

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CTCA Volunteer of the Year Spreads Joy

Loretta Brunetti Inspires with Energy, Love and Enthusiasm

By MELINDA CUBBAGE
Guest Writer

The saying goes, “We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.” That saying embodies the words and actions of Loretta Brunetti.

In 2013, while her younger sister was battling cancer, Brunetti had a call on her heart to volunteer at Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA). She started with making appointment reminder calls, and before long she was leading a group walk and participating in sing-a-longs. She currently visits the hospital two times per week, dons her purple volunteer jacket and gets to work, averaging 10-plus hours each week.

Early on, it became clear that this spunky lady was up for just about any activity, but it was her love of dance and enthusiastic nature that quickly drew her into the liveliest of CTCA festivities: flash mobs. Every Thursday, CTCA plans a themed dance for anyone who wants to participate. From superheroes to biker babes to Elvis, participants turn out in their craziest home-grown costumes.

These much-anticipated lunchtime dance-a-thons lift the energy of everyone in the hospital and generate a lot of laughs. They are a favorite activity for Brunetti, who, at 74-years-young, nimbly dances and truly inspires.

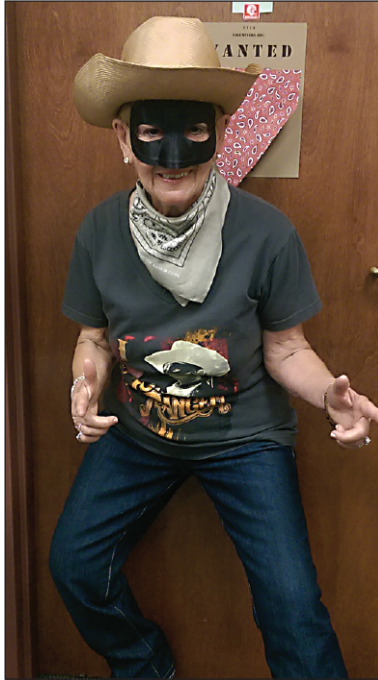
“Loretta is a true definition of a volunteer,” says Megan McLeod, CTCA talent acquisition partner. “She gives her life to serve other people. She is really special. I have never met anyone like her before.”

Where did her well-spring of energy and love come, you might ask. Maybe it is the deeply rooted spiritual and giving nature of the Italian-American community in which she was raised, in Tontitown, Arkansas. Settled by immigrants in the late 1800s, Tontitown is known for families and friendships forged during hard times and good, drawing from their faith, pooling resources and helping their neighbors.

Brunetti could have retired from a 21-year career at General Electric and 27 years of tenure at Fadler Foods to take life easy and pursue her love of writing poetry. But idle is not a speed in Brunetti’s gearbox.

She says, “Volunteering at CTCA makes my heart get bigger. Love, courage, strength and hope surround me each day I volunteer. God sent me here.”

April is National Volunteer Month. Because of her copious hours spent at the hospital dancing, assisting with administrative duties, talking with individual patients, participating in Karaoke Night and giving of her purely infectious spirit, Brunetti was named the CTCA Volunteer of the Year at the end of 2014.



SPUNKY LADY: CTCA volunteer Loretta Brunetti lifts the spirits of everyone at the hospital with her fun antics.



DESERVING AWARD: Loretta Brunetti received the CTCA Volunteer of the Year Award at the hospital’s holiday party in 2014. With Brunetti is CTCA Talent Coordinator Lauren Bartlett.

“If she can bring a little laughter and a little fun and joy, it helps our patients forget what is going on at that moment,” explains Susan Magill, CTCA director of guest services.

Tulsa is fortunate to have Brunetti. CTCA patients are blessed by her gifts of talents. The staff is rejuvenated by her energy. And she is a shining example of the rewards of sharing the time and talents we each have through lending a hand or, in her case, tapping our toes. She is a great example of the poetry of life.

HOSPITAL PREVIEWS FILM



CANCER HISTORY: On March 26, Cancer Treatment Centers of America and OETA The Oklahoma Network presented a preview of the film *Cancer: The Emperor of all Maladies*, which documents cancer’s history. The event took place at Circle Cinema, 10 S. Lewis Ave., and included a panel discussion with the film’s producer and director Barak Goodman, pictured at left. Also at the event were Angee Jenkins, second from left, vice president of marketing and communications for Stand Up to Cancer; Daphne Dowdy, OETA Foundation president and CEO; and Rich Haldeman, CTCA president.

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Sustainable Yards and Gardens Beautify While Saving Time, Money and the Environment

Flowers are blooming, the sun is warm and the grass is getting tall. After mowing for the first time this season, I realized just how many ways our personal patches of green can either help or hurt our environment, as well as either suck up our time or give it back to us so we can enjoy our outdoor oasis. What if you never had to mow or weed-eat again? Now that sounds like my kind of eco-friendliness!

When I started researching what else to do with my front yard that wouldn't embarrass the neighborhood, I came across AmericanLawns.com. Our fascination with the green carpet concept began around the industrial age. "Lawns were seen as a luxury expense for only the wealthy who could afford grounds keepers to maintain the fine bladed plants using scythes." So here we are, years later stuck trying to keep up with Joneses who are long gone.

Apparently, I am not alone. My Pinterest page is now full of gorgeous ideas and plant suggestions that are drought resistant, beautiful to walk on and low to no maintenance required.

While it will take a while for my

yard to turn into a no-mow zone, there are many things that can still save time, money and the environment, all of which might sound lazy or neglectful to the traditional home owner, but in truth these are actually environmentally-sound practices. Gaining time and money

is just an added bonus.

When you mow, did you know you can leave the trimmings behind? This is actually beneficial to your lawn. A study by Oregon State University reports that, "... fertilizer application rate can be cut almost in half when clippings are returned to the lawn."

What you've thought of as pesky weeds can also benefit your soil and your pocketbook. Here is just one example: After spending \$5 for four bags of Dandelion Tea, it dawned on me that this is the plant we grew up thinking ruined our lawns. I now cultivate them to an area of my yard and harvest them appropriately for a coffee substitute, liver detoxifier and to reduce inflammation in my knees after a run. (Okay, it's really a slow jog or maybe a fast walk, but you get the point). Learn more at www.LiveStrong.com.

Once I began seeing how much food is growing naturally in my yard, it led me to learning more about the benefits of utilizing compost tea as an all-natural fertilizer, nutrient supplement and weed controller. (www.HomeCompostMadeEasy.com) This eliminates the need for purchasing pesticides or commercial fertilizers, saving you money and a trip to the store. Also, many commercial products are synthesized, toxic and chemically based, which I do not want around my family, family pets and the food we grow, especially in our garden beds.

While following directions closely isn't usually my strong point, it's a must when using any outside supplements such as compost tea or synthetic fertilizers. Too much of even a good thing is still, well, too much! Remember Grand Lake shutting down due to Blue-Green Algae? (Trash Talk, August 2011) According to the U.S. EPA's New England Regional Laboratory, 40 to 60 percent of the nitrogen that people put on their lawns through fertilizer winds up in surface and groundwater. Besides polluting our lakes, rivers and water supplies, it's an expense that only causes your grass to grow more quickly, forcing you to mow more often. No, thanks!

Since I mention composting, the city of Tulsa's website is a great place to go for learning more about this simple process. (www.cityoftulsa.org)

There are some beautiful bins you can purchase, but being a country gal I like the more rustic. We started a vermicomposting (using worms to break down kitchen scraps) bin by piling food scraps



Courtesy Oklahoma Landscape

ECO LANDSCAPING: Utilizing plants native to Oklahoma and rethinking what a front yard should look like can lead to saving time and money, all while helping protect the environment.

and leaves inside a circle of chicken wire, adding worms purchased from Grogg's Green Barn. Two years later, our bin kicks out so much rich soil we were able to start a new garden bed at no new expense.

It's such a treat to watch our delicious veggies and coffee grounds become a new use for our household. I like to think about how the dollars spent on dinner pull double duty; table scraps upcycled into nutrient rich soil also means less waste curbside. Through active recycling and composting, you can reduce your bin size curbside saving you even more money!

Last but not least, my research led me to find that my unoriginal concept on lawn care is called xeriscaping: landscapes that are low-maintenance, drought resistant and sustainable over a long

period of time. I know that my lawn is just now recovering from the dry summer of 2012. A great place to familiarize yourself with the plethora of plants and ground covers native to our great state that require minimal watering can be found at www.KeepOklahomaBeautiful.com. Add just one rain barrel to your system and you've reduced your water costs as well.

I hope this has inspired you as it has me to rediscover our outdoor areas, let ourselves relax a little and find ways to build an easier future so that our backyard weekends are more full of friends and fun than chores and to-do lists.

Keep in touch at bturner@gtrnews.com or follow along @TrashTalkTulsa.

Trash Talk



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EDUCATION

School, City Officials Announce Aerospace Academy

In April, Mayor Dewey Bartlett along with Tulsa Tech Superintendent Dr. Steve Tiger and Tulsa Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Keith Ballard announced the launch of the Tulsa Tech Aerospace Academy for area high school students that will begin this fall at the Tulsa Tech Riverside Campus.

The program will be available to area juniors and seniors and was created in direct response to the workforce needs of the aerospace and technology job sectors. The first class will have 40 students and last a full school year or, potentially, two years.

All state-mandated curriculum will be required of students participating in the Aerospace Academy for the full-day program at Tulsa Tech. Program offerings include Private Pilot Ground School, Aviation Maintenance Generals, Cisco Network Technician, Computer

Network Technology, Cyber Security and Network Systems Administration.

The Aerospace Academy is a pilot project that will support the call of business and industry demands for training and educational platforms that support science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Students will have technical classes for half of the school day, with the remainder of the day to include core high school courses, as well as life skills, financial literacy and career counseling support. Bus transportation will be provided from the student's home high school to and from Tulsa Tech, and students will graduate from their home high school.

Plans also call for aerospace industry leaders to arrange internship opportunities for students who choose to participate in the program. This provides Aerospace Academy

students with firsthand experience in the field, which would help students transition into the workplace.

"I talk to business owners weekly and hear consistently that Tulsa does not have enough trained and qualified workers to fill jobs," Mayor Dewey Bartlett says. "As a city, we must be vigilant to the needs of the business community and create a pathway to prosperity for students who would benefit from training and learning a skill that places them in a well-paying career in Tulsa."

"Tulsa Tech is focused on being the region's leader of career and technical education resulting in a quality job for every Tulsa Tech student and a skilled workforce for every company. In order to accomplish this vision, we must collaborate and partner with business and educational institutions to best meet workforce needs," says Dr. Steve Tiger.



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

WORKFORCE NEEDS: Mayor Dewey Bartlett speaks during the April 15 press conference where the launch of the Aerospace Academy was announced. The academy will be for area high school students and will begin this fall at the Tulsa Tech Riverside Campus. Also pictured are Tulsa Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Keith Ballard, second from left, Tulsa Tech Superintendent Dr. Steve Tiger, Mark Easton, with American Airlines, and Colonel Davis Burgoyne of the Oklahoma National Guard.

Area Leaders Speak at College Commencements

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Chancellor **Glen D. Johnson** spoke to Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology graduates at the school's 200th commencement ceremony in April.

Prior to his career in higher education, Johnson served in the Oklahoma House of Representatives from 1982 to 1996 and was speaker of the House from 1990 to 1996. At the time of his election as speaker, he was the youngest-sitting speaker in the United States.

Isaac Rocha, a graduate of Tulsa Community College and the 2014 Tulsa's Young Professionals' chair, will deliver the keynote address at the 45th annual Tulsa Community College Commencement Ceremony. The event begins at 7 p.m. on May 8

at the Mabee Center at Oral Roberts University.

Rocha is community relations and development officer with Bama Companies, Inc.

Dr. Leigh Goodson, TCC president, will present the keynote address at Oklahoma State University-Tulsa's graduation ceremony on May 11 in The Pavilion at Expo Square.

Prior to being named TCC president in May 2014, Goodson was vice president for research and institutional advancement at OSU in Tulsa. She was associate dean for graduate studies for three years and was named associate professor of medical education at OSU Center for Health Sciences in 2001. Goodson served as head of the School of Health Care Administration from 2010 to 2013.



GLEN JOHNSON AT OSUIT



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LEIGH GOODSON AT OSU-TULSA

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Photography Teacher Has Industry Experience

Each day the students at Tulsa Tech have an opportunity to learn career skills from talented, award-winning instructors who are eager to share their valuable years of industry experience with those willing to learn. Joey Johnson, Photography II instructor and recent Master

Photographer Degree recipient, feels that the exact moment when a student learns a new concept is the biggest award an instructor receives. "I really like to see that moment, when the light bulb comes on, and a student 'gets it'", Johnson says. "It's very rewarding to know that you've taught someone a new concept, and from now on they'll have that knowledge to use."

News from Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent

Recently, Johnson received his Master of Photography degree from the Professional Photographers of America (PPA), which is awarded for demonstrating superior photographic skills in PPA International Photographic Competitions and completing advanced education merits and service merits to the industry.

The proud Vinita native is one of only a handful of photographers in the state to have earned this distinguished award and says his interest in photography began with his father and growing up in northeastern Oklahoma.

"I grew up in a photography darkroom with my dad," he says. "He was a photographer for Northeast Oklahoma Electric Co-op. We had a darkroom right there in our home. I had always dabbled in photography, but I didn't really start professionally until about 2002."

In 2005, Johnson began taking freelance assignments from the Tulsa World, and to date his portfolio includes NCAA sports, local news, weddings, senior portraits, baby photos, and wildlife, to name a few. "I really enjoy covering local news, but my favorite subject would definitely be sports," says Johnson. "I think my past coaching experience helps me see the play, or possibly predict where both the play and the ball are going to be. Shooting sports is challenging, and being able to think ahead of the play helps me get some good shots."

Johnson credits much of his professional growth to Photography I instructor and PPA Master Craftsman Photographer Clay Allen.

"Mr. Allen encouraged me to take the PPA Certified Professional Photographer Exam and to investigate entering print competitions to earn merits toward my master photographer degree," Johnson says. "I really

enjoy competing, being judged by my peers, and these type of credentials ultimately separate professional photographers from anyone who just happens to own a camera."

Allen feels that the recent PPA Award not only recognizes Johnson's talent as a photographer but also greatly benefits the students in his classroom.

"Joey has worked very hard to learn and perfect the complex skills necessary to score high in international competition," says Allen. "I am sure his competition in international print judging has made him a better teacher to our second-year students. After they learn the basic skills in our first-year program, he is able to raise their talents to a level ready in many cases to compete in the professional world of photography."

At first glance, a visitor to Johnson's classroom might notice his informal, light-hearted interaction with each of his students. It's also apparent, however, that every student has the utmost respect for this former police officer. A husband and father, Johnson moved from a career in law enforcement to the classroom in order to spend more time with his own family and seems to have adopted a few hundred students along the way.

"I really enjoy my kids; they're top-notch students," Johnson says. "I'm lucky because they want to be here. Nobody said you have to take photography, like math or history, so I know they are here because they really want to be here."

Johnson feels fortunate to have the opportunity to work with his students each day and share just a small portion of his award-winning talent.



SUPERIOR RECOGNITION: Pictured from left are Tulsa Tech Photography I instructor Clay Allen, Master Photographer Degree Recipient and Tulsa Tech Photography II instructor Joey Johnson, and Professional Photographers of America (PPA) President Susan Michael at the Gaylord Resort in Nashville on Feb. 3. Johnson recently received his Master of Photography degree from PPA.

"There's no better course to be teaching than photography. It's really something I love," he says. "I enjoy having a classroom full of students who want to become better photographers."

If you're currently looking for

exciting classes for high school and adult students, quality business and industry training, or a challenging new career, Tulsa Tech invites you to visit today. For more information, call 918-828-5000 or visit us online at tulsatech.edu.

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SPORTS

Drillers Manager Shines, Is Razor Sharp

By **GLENN HIBDON**
GTR Sports Writer

What's in a name? Everything and nothing if you listen to new Tulsa Drillers manager Anthony "Razor" Shines.

Said to have the "most bad-ass name of all time in baseball" by Maxim Magazine in 2009, Shines wears his middle name proudly while also trying to downplay its unique status in the American pastime. He's both proud and modest about the family moniker that has given him a claim to fame in the sport he loves.

"My grandfather had the middle name Razor," says Shines, a 58-year-old native of Durham, N.C. "My father's middle name is Razor and so is my son's. I don't know where it comes from and I have not tried to find out, but it's going to be that way unless my son decides to change it."

In his younger days, Shines may have indeed pondered his father's decision to pass the name along. It was sometimes problematic for an aspiring major league prospect, and he decided to disguise it at times for simplicity's sake.

"Growing up, I went by the name Ray," Shines says. "There were always some disagreements about the name Razor. It wasn't easy introducing yourself as Razor to somebody. They look at you differently, but I dealt with it and I'm OK with it. I love the name Razor. When I tell people it's a family name, they don't believe it. They assume it's a nickname."

People who met Shines over the years soon discovered there is nothing phony about his life in baseball. Calling himself "a Tar Heel, not a Blue Devil," Shines played at St. Augustine College in Raleigh and was drafted after his junior season by the Montreal Expos. He played parts of four seasons with the Expos prior to launching his managerial career in 1995.

Shines is in his second season managing the Los Angeles Dodgers' Class AA affiliate. Last year he led Chattanooga of the Southern League from last to first in the season's second half,

losing to Jacksonville in the title series. He had compiled a 700-695 record in 10 years as a manager heading into the 2015 season with the Drillers.

"Baseball has been really good to me. It's been a long and wonderful career and I wouldn't trade it for anything," says Shines, who was a base coach for the White Sox in 2007 and the Mets in 2009-10. "I'd like to think it had to do with something other than my name. I've busted my butt in this game. You have to do something to be memorable and make people remember you."

What Shines does is win through developing big league talent. His dream is that a major league franchise will soon take notice.

"I absolutely want to manage in the major leagues," Shines confirms. "The ultimate goal for any guy who manages at high levels is proving what they can do. This is an opportunity. If you keep teaching kids and developing their games, that opportunity will come. I don't care when it comes, my goal is to reach it. I don't know how to spell the word quit."

Shines says the primary difference between minor leagues and the majors is speed. He says baseball is meant to be played at the big league level, featuring the best players in the world. And some of those athletes have been produced through Shines' tutelage. He insisted the list will grow in his time with the Drillers.

"We have some players in that locker room who will play in major league baseball. I'm 100 percent certain of that," Shines said. "It will take time because they have to develop and polish their skills. Once they become a finished product, I know they will move on and I'm honored to be a part of their careers."

With the Drillers in its first season of operation as the Dodgers AA affiliate, Shines wants to win, and he plans on doing it. Immediately.

"Winning (at the AA level) is all about developing players," he says. "Once you reach the major league level, it's all about winning games. I own 13 championship rings (as a player and coach), and I've been fortunate to be around some good players."

"We (the Drillers) are a very good baseball team. I feel like we have two up and coming young coaches in Matt (Herges) and Shawn (Wooten). They are



MAJOR LEAGUER: Razor Shines spent part of four seasons in the major leagues playing with the Montreal Expos.



RAZOR SHINES: The Tulsa Drillers' manager discusses a call at a recent game at ONEOK Field. This is Shines' first year with the Drillers and his second year managing the Los Angeles Dodgers AA affiliate (previously Chattanooga of the Southern League). In his 10 years as a manager prior to the 2015 season, the former big leaguer has compiled a record of 700-695.

really great at their craft, and it's a pleasure to watch them work and the way they interact with the kids is beautiful."

Through his travels along the professional baseball landscape, Shines has discovered managing is more about the mental approach than honing physical abilities. He has to serve as a father figure and a counselor off the field along with his many duties on it.

"All I want to do is develop players to play major league baseball for the Los Angeles

Dodgers," he insists. "On a baseball team you have 25 players with 25 different personalities and it takes your people skills to succeed."

"You have to mold the team into one successful unit, and I enjoy that. It's challenging and a lot of fun. You have to be a psychologist, and if you do what you're supposed to do, you will

put the kids into position to be successful."

It seems that so far, Shines has accomplished his mission. This Razor is one of the sharpest minds in baseball. You can call him Anthony, you can call him Ray, you can call him Razor or you can simply call him a winner. The new Drillers manager will answer to all of them.

Roughnecks Open to Sellout

Professional, outdoor soccer made a resounding return to the city of Tulsa March 28. A sellout crowd of 8,335 filled downtown Tulsa and ONEOK Field as Tulsa Roughnecks FC played its first-ever regular season game in USL, taking on the Oklahoma City Energy. The Roughnecks got a second-half goal from Brady Ballew and battled to a 1-1 draw with the Energy.

The large crowd arrived early to downtown Tulsa, filling Guthrie Green two hours before kickoff. The atmosphere seemed to produce nerves for both squads, resulting in a close game that featured defense and an exciting tie game.



SOCCER EXCITEMENT: A sellout crowd enjoyed the great atmosphere at the opener of the Tulsa Roughnecks at ONEOK Field.

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STRONG DRAFT CHOICES TO BOOST TULSA SHOCK



GTR Newspapers photo

HAPPY COACH: Tulsa Shock Head Coach Fred Williams is happy with the 2015 draft choices of his team. From left are Amanda Zahui B. from Minnesota, Brianna Kiesel from Pittsburgh and Mimi Mungedi from Nevada.

The WNBA Tulsa Shock has become much stronger due to its choices in the recent draft. The Shock has strengthened its inside game with the additions of Amanda Zahui B., a 6'5" center from Minnesota, and Mimi Mungedi, a 6'8" center from Nevada. Brianna Kiesel, a 5'7" guard from Pittsburgh, will help in the shooting and assist game.

Amanda Zahui B. (ZOW-ee) was drafted second overall in the Shock's first-round selection. She became eligible for the draft by virtue of turning 22 this calendar year and deciding to forego her remaining collegiate eligibility. In just two active seasons with the Golden Gophers, the Sweden native set a team record for career blocks at 240. In the 2014-15 season, Zahui B. became the first player in the university's history to be named to the AP All-America First Team after ranking fourth in Division 1 in both rebounds (12.9) and blocks (4.09) per game. She averaged 16.9 points per game and 12.2 rebounds per game in her two seasons at Minnesota.

Brianna Kiesel (bree-ANN-uh KEY-sull) was drafted 13th overall in the Shock's second-round selection. She was a three-time team captain for the Panthers in her career. Kiesel ranks fifth on Pitt's all-time scoring list with 1,938 points, fifth on the all-time assists list (433), eighth all-time in steals (198) and third all-time in career free-throw percentage (.795). The Utica, New York, native started all 122 games of her college career and was the first player in program history to have over 1,500 career points, 500 career rebounds, and 400 career assists. In her senior year, she averaged 18.4 points, 5.0 rebounds and 4.5 assists and was named a First Team All-ACC as selected by the coaches and the media. At Pittsburgh, she played for assis-

tant coach Kathy McConnell-Miller, who coached at both the University of Tulsa and the Tulsa Shock.

Mimi Mungedi (mun-GED-ee) was drafted 25th overall and was a third-round selection. She played in all 30 games during her final season with the Wolf Pack. In her senior campaign, she was named the Mountain West Defensive Player of the Year and was named to the Mountain West All-Defensive Team. She became Nevada's all-time leader in blocked shots with 162 and set the Nevada single-season record for blocked shots with 74, including a school and Mountain West single-game record 29 boards in a game against San Jose State. Her hometown is Libreville, Gabon on the western central coast of Africa. She led the Mountain West in the 2014-15 season for rebounds per game (9.5), field goal percentage (55.4) and double-doubles (12) and was ranked 12th in the nation in field goal percentage (55.4).

The Shock opening game is Saturday, June 6 against Chicago. Tulsa is in the Western Conference with the Los Angeles Sparks, Minnesota Lynx, Phoenix Mercury, San Antonio Stars and Seattle Storm. The Eastern Conference includes the Atlanta Dream, Chicago Sky, Connecticut Sun, Indiana Fever, New York Liberty and Washington Mystics.

Every spring, the WNBA Draft is held at ESPN headquarters in Bristol, Connecticut. For the top four picks, a selection process similar to the NBA Draft Lottery is conducted for the four teams that did not qualify for the playoffs. The draft is currently three rounds long with each of the 12 teams in the league getting three picks each. Draft order for teams that made the playoffs the previous year are based on team records.



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Polo Classic Benefits the Nonprofit Center

By K.J. WEBB
Contributing Writer

The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges (The Center) is a nonprofit organization that provides opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities to enhance their quality of life. The Center operates three main services areas: Fitness, Recreation and Community Reintegration.

The Center receives major support from the annual Polo Classic which will be held this year on Saturday, May 16 at Arrowhead Polo Club, Mohawk Park. Erin Jacobs, director of community relations for The Center, says, "The Center Polo Classic is our biggest fundraising effort every year. This will be our third year and we are adding a silent auction, gift card pull and some well-known polo players to the mix!" The Center started the event because it wanted a unique event to match its unique mission. The event is inclusive allowing the general community to participate in a one-of-a-kind afternoon experience for the whole family.

Jacobs encourages area residents to attend the event. "We want the community to come out to the Polo Classic because it is a fun and affordable way to support a nonprofit. Sponsorships start at just \$300, which would get you a seat under the air-conditioned VIP tent." Tailgating is a popular event offering which allows guests to reserve their own 10-by-10 tent and have a party of their own. General admission is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. In addition, there is a kids' play area, a Lambrusco's To Go Mini Market as well as compli-

mentary water and champagne. At halftime the traditional divot stomping will take place as well as a kid's competition.

When asked about other ways the community could support The Center, in addition to attending The Center Polo Classic, Jacobs says, "Volunteer with us. Offer assistance to those in the community with a disability, but always ask first. Donations to The Center are always welcome so we can provide more services to serve more people."

When asked about The Center's client focus, Jacobs replies, "We serve individuals with a wide-range of disabilities like stroke survivors, traumatic brain injuries, those who suffer from degenerative diseases and even those with arthritis or hypertension."

The Center's programs benefit people with physical challenges through encouraging skill development for individual success. According to Jacobs, The Center also serves as a resource center for members and their families. Another important service offered by The Center is support through the challenges of a life-changing event. "After a life-changing accident or illness," Jacobs says, "people can become depressed. The Center serves as a safe place for members to adjust to their new body and get support from others going through similar struggles. Our members say that The Center feeds mind, body and soul."

When asked about any challenges facing The Center, Jacobs says, "Obviously, as a nonprofit, money is always a challenge, but since the beginning in 1957, the Tulsa community has come



FIRST MATCH: Polo players from the first annual The Center Polo Classic race at Tulsa's Mohawk Park.

through to support us in a big way. We are also a United Way agency." Another challenge, Jacobs says, is transportation for The Center's membership. Restrictions and cost of public transit can reduce how many days a week members can access The Center. Jacobs adds, "This is why events such as the Center Polo Classic are so important for The Center and our mission."

Event Information: The Center Polo Classic will be held Saturday, May 16 at Arrowhead Polo Club at Mohawk Park. Champagne Bruch starts at 11:00 a.m., Polo Match starts at 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children under 12.

For more information about The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges visit tulsa-center.org.



TOUGH SEASON: The Oklahoma City Thunder fell one game shy of the NBA playoffs after an injury-plagued season. This is the first time the Thunder have missed the playoffs since the 2008-09 season. The season wasn't without its bright spots, however, as newcomer Enes Kantar, left, who was acquired in a mid-season trade, established himself as the low-post offensive presence the team has been lacking, while Russell Westbrook, right, won the NBA scoring title, averaging 28.1 points.

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THE ECONOMY

Jackie Cooper Continues Success in Tulsa

By TRACEY NORVELL
Contributing Writer

Go with a name you know. That was the 1991 ad slogan when Tulsa's auto retailer Jackie Cooper Imports first opened its doors in August 1991.

"The ads were a bust. Back then people knew the name Jackie Cooper in Oklahoma City, but not in Tulsa," remembers Jackie Cooper Imports & Nissan Managing Partner Greg Kach.

A lot has certainly changed. Jackie Cooper is now undeniably a very well known name in Tulsa and enjoys a reputation for success and community support.

Jackie Cooper Imports was one of the first to stake a claim on Tulsa's South Memorial "Auto Row." In late April 1999, it opened a 72,000-square-foot building on eight acres north of the Creek Turnpike. Prior to that, the dealership was located on historic Route 66 at 11th Street and Xanthus Avenue. Acquired from Siggie Grimm, it was as a Mercedes-Benz, Nissan and Volvo dealership. The original facility had but one small showroom with room for three cars on display, five maximum. There were only 22 repair bays and repairs parts were stored on site and in several nearby buildings.

From the beginning, Kach envisioned something bigger when he took the reins the day after his 35th birthday. He and his family came to Tulsa from San Diego. His wife, Connie, is a native Oklahoman and worked previous-



MASERATI-GHIBLI AT JACKIE COOPER IMPORTS



1999 OPENING: Celebrating the 1999 opening of Jackie Cooper Imports at 9393 S. Memorial Dr. in Tulsa were, from left, Greg and Connie Kach and Barbara and Jackie Cooper. The company had moved from their 11th Street location.

ly at the original Jackie Cooper dealership in Yukon.

The Tulsa Cooper operation now represents Infiniti, Maserati, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Porsche and smart cars. At two locations within five blocks of each other, Jackie Cooper Imports & Nissan employ more than 250 employees, nearly four times the staff of early days.

Change remains a constant. This year the dealership undertakes another extensive remodeling of its 93rd Street and Memorial Drive facility.

What drives the dealership to keep growing? Perhaps not what some might expect. The answer is people.

"We continue to expand what we offer with the idea of giving our customers more choices and serving each customer's continued automotive needs, as well as providing premier, efficient service and repairs. Our number one goal is long-term relationships with our customers and our dealership team of professionals. Expanding our operation also gives our staff more career opportunities. It never has been just about cars, it's about people," says Kach.

The ability to provide career advancement is a priority for Kach. Jackie Cooper Imports & Nissan bucks the automotive retail industry average turnover ratio and is proud

of it. Over 500 employees and family members attend the annual holiday brunch. Nearly as many gather for regular events on the dealership service drive and often with students from Celia Clinton Elementary, a school Cooper has long supported and at which Kach personally mentors each week.

At Cooper, there is a culture, a sense of community.

"You must like the people you work with, feel passionate about what you do and always put the customer first," says Jackie Cooper Imports General Manager Steve Lujan.

Both Kach and Jack Cooper began their careers in the auto

retail business at a young age because each had a father in the industry. Neither ever expected to make it a career but got the bug, different as their personalities are. Both were aces at selling because they liked matching up a person and the right car, and both viewed a successful business as the means to make a difference in the community.

"We put forth our best effort every day and think in terms of the next 25 years of service and success. Our dealership is dedicated to the Tulsa community because it is our community," says Jackie Cooper Nissan General Manager Tim Hensley.

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Key Personnel Finds Jobs for Applicants

By **TED KING**
Contributing Writer

Key Personnel has been finding positions for over 100,000 employees in the Tulsa area since 1978. Founded by Tulsan Patti Oertle Phaneuf, Key has grown with the demands of the marketplace.

Staffing agencies were fairly new in the business world back in the 1970s. Key Personnel's Managing Partner Stan McCabe says, "When we started business, there were three staffing agencies in Tulsa. Today, there are over 50."

Key's staffing positions are in the administrative, industrial, financial, legal, medical and technical fields. Half of Key Personnel's applicants find work in the industrial sector. McCabe says Key Personnel has 30 recruiters who work to find applicants for each category. Key Personnel employees makes sure applicants have the right background for the position for which they are applying. This year, Key Personnel will have found positions for about 3,500 people.

Some of the jobs that applicants will find are as assemblers, bank tellers, billing clerks, bookkeepers, chefs, courthouse runners, data entry

personnel, designers, drafters, dispatchers, drivers, file clerks, forklift operators, human resources personnel, industrial painters, legal secretaries, machinists, mail clerks, medical billing clerks, radiologists, receptionists, paralegals, payroll clerks, pharmacy technicians, quality control operators, software engineers, surgical technicians, certified public accountants, warehouse workers, welders and X-ray technicians.

These are just some of the positions that Key Personnel offers. Given the wide array of positions, Key Personnel provides the right position for the right career. Not all of these positions are temporary; some become permanent.

The advantage for employers in having Key Personnel find the right applicant is in saved time and expense. There are no want ads to place, no testing of employees, scanning through resumes, etc. Key Personnel allows a client the option of contract, contract-to-hire, direct hire, on-site staff management and seasonal positions.

Key handles the payroll so that employers can focus on getting their work done.

McCabe says Key Personnel has a new offering called DirectConnect,



PLACEMENT TEAM: Members of the Key Personnel office team include, from left, Charles Secret, Lisa Kepford, Laura Taylor, Joy Clere, Casey Becca, Trisha Thompson, Trish Richey, Alyse Galarza and Stan McCabe.

which provides professional placements, especially for oil and gas companies. He says there is a great demand for accountants in those companies. But it isn't just accountants that are needed. Key Personnel finds positions for engineering through DirectConnect as well. Someone applying to DirectConnect does not need specific credentials to apply. "It really depends on the position," he says.

For years, Key Personnel had

offices on Lewis Avenue in Tulsa just south of 51st Street. Two years ago, they moved to their new location at 9717 E. 42nd Street, just east of Mingo Road. One advantage Key Personnel has is being local. "Tulsa has always been Key's backyard, and we like the fact that if clients have an issue, we can help them locally. This allows a better response to our customers," says McCabe. Key Personnel also has a branch office in Bartlesville located at 2311 S.E.

Washington Blvd.

Applicants should visit Key Personnel online at www.keyjobs.com to find a position that is right for them. Employers looking for the right employees should contact Key Personnel at 918-747-0000 or visit them on the web or in person. Their offices are located in the Rogers Building at 9717 E. 42nd St., Suite 200 in Tulsa. The Bartlesville office is at 2311 S.E. Washington Blvd. 918-333-8033.

Construction Underway at River Spirit Hotel

As construction continues for the River Spirit Casino Phase II expansion project, a 283-foot crane, has been assembled to prepare for construction of the hotel tower. The crane will eventually reach 420 feet as the project progresses of building the 316-foot hotel tower. The construction of the hotel tower will run through December 2016. The tower crane will remain in place for the next 12 months, then will be removed for the remainder of the construction timeline. The construction timeline is 24 months with the projected opening date in early 2017

This is the next milestone in the construction phase of the River Spirit Phase II resort, which includes a 27-story hotel and a Margaritaville Casino at River Spirit on the banks of the Arkansas River.

Development Include:

- Luxury hotel tower: 27 stories, 483 rooms and suites, fitness center, retail stores, and gift shop.
- Large pool deck and riverfront entertainment area including poolside cabanas and beach bar venue.
- The Margaritaville Complex which includes: themed casino with latest gaming machines and table games, Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville restaurant, bar and retail outlet with two decks overlooking the Arkansas River, seating over 250.
- Convention/Meeting Venue: 30,000 square feet of meeting space and state-of-the-art audio and video capabilities.
- Entertainment Venue: Showroom to offer theater-style seating for 2,500 plus VIP suites, which expands to 3,000 seats for sporting events.
- Additional food and beverage locations will include Mickey Mantle's, the "5 o'Clock

Amenities

Somewhere Bar" and several other dining options.

- New attached parking structure for additional (1,500) automobiles.
- New entrance to existing facility and enhancements to existing facility exterior to complement and integrate with the expansion areas.

Costs:

- \$329 million construction costs
- \$365 million (total costs including design, soft costs and owner FF&E)

Economic Impact:

- Two-year construction phase will bring \$303.5 million to region
- 1800 construction workers over course of construction period
- 800 full-time jobs plus 1,000 indirect jobs created in the area
- Ongoing annual economic impact of \$135 million

Project partners:

- Architect: Dallas-based HKS
- Construction: Manhattan Construction and Redstone Construction
- Project Manager: Program Management Group Native



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

PROJECT DIRECTOR: Ryan Haynie oversees the placement of the nearly 300-foot crane marking the next milestone of the River Spirit Casino's expansion project.

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GTR's Best of Greater Tulsa 2014 WINNER

Bixby Strong in Quality of Life Features

Editor's Note: The Greater Tulsa Economic Report is a periodic column written by various area Chamber of Commerce and other business representatives. The most recent report was written by Gary Akin of the Owasso Chamber of Commerce. Additional columns will feature reports from the Broken Arrow, Bixby, Glenpool, Sand Springs, Jenks, Tulsa, Greenwood and Hispanic Chambers as well as from other entities in the region.

Greater Tulsa Economic Report



By **KRYSTAL CROCKETT**
President, Bixby Chamber of Commerce

programs are consistent contenders for state and national honors.

One of Bixby's top attractions is the 115-acre Bentley Youth Sports Complex, one of the finest in the Midwest, which has been recognized for top design in the state by the Oklahoma Recreation Sports Society and for best splash pad design by Aquatic Magazine. It frequently hosts regional baseball, softball, and soccer tournaments and is home to national baseball tournaments. Newly completed sets of multi-sports courts will be used to host basketball tournaments.



Courtesy photos

KID-FRIENDLY FUN: Bixby's range of offerings includes its many family-friendly community festivals, such as the Bixby BBQ 'n Blues Festival, pictured at left, and its 115-acre Bentley Youth Sports Complex, which has been recognized for top design in the state by the Oklahoma Recreation Sports Society and for best splash pad design by Aquatic Magazine. The complex regularly hosts regional baseball, softball, soccer, and baseball tournaments and includes park areas with water features and playground equipment.



The future is bright for Bixby. As a rapidly growing community, we continue to be able to offer a high quality of life, excelling school system, and an ever growing list of amenities and conveniences to our residents and visitors alike. It is easy to see why businesses and home-builders both are choosing Bixby for their new developments and locations.

An overwhelming portion of Bixby's new residents in recent years have moved here for our Grade A school system. Bixby Public Schools is a progressive school system dedicated to providing an excellent education in a safe environment. With more than 5,600 students across a 100-square-mile district, Bixby Schools is consistently delivering a quality education to each student it serves. Courses in art, music, business, agriculture, technology, foreign language and vocational/technical skills are available at multiple grade levels. Bixby athletic, academic and performance

Commercial developers have praised the City of Bixby for being business friendly and easy to work with, citing the personal attention and access to city staff. For example, construction of the 25,000 square foot Sprouts Farmers Market specialty grocery store set the record for this rapidly expanding national chain, with store officials crediting the city's efficient permitting processes for shaving six months off typical construction timeframes. Bixby's reputation for retaining its small-town, friendly feel while promoting an open attitude toward development is exactly what has caught the attention of major companies like IHOP, Freddy's Steakhouses and Oklahoma favorite QuikTrip, all of whom have moved forward with plans to expand into the Bixby area in just the last year.

However, Bixby is fundamentally

community driven, and its support of its local economy extends much farther than chains and franchises. 2015 will see the construction of a senior living center Covenant Place of Tulsa, a third luxury apartment complex the Chateau Villas, and new medical offices in Bixby proper.

A river city, Bixby's city limits are divided roughly in half by the Arkansas River. The city is working with regional partners to explore feasibility of constructing one of a series of low-water dams in this prairie river to achieve water in the river on a year-round basis and help stimulate river development. The Arkansas River Corridor Development Plan captures the public's desire for water in the Arkansas River through said low-water dams, preservation of the natural beauty of the corridor with trails, parks and open space, and river-oriented development at strategic locations.

Along with the river initiatives, Bixby city officials plan to focus much of their attention in 2015 on

the beautification and revitalization of the downtown area and river corridor. Plans call for an increase in landscaping and signage, as well as bringing in additional activities to downtown with the hope that people and businesses will follow.

As we look to the future of Bixby there are endless possibilities for economic development, job creation and residential living expansion. Simply driving down Memorial it is abundantly clear

that Bixby is emerging and more is just below the surface. Bixby represents the best of what the Tulsa area has to offer, from access to all of the metro's benefits to its own unique downtown, community festivals and more. Blooming residential neighborhoods, excellent schools, vibrant community life and available land for development all make Bixby the natural choice for both families and businesses to grow.

1st National of B.A. Remodeling

The First National Bank & Trust Co. of Broken Arrow is starting a seven-month interior and exterior renovation of its downtown facilities at 121 S. Main St.

Included in the construction plan is a 31-foot glass tower and gallery space to display artwork and historical items, but the distinctive exterior clock and arrow-head door handles which have become downtown icons will remain in place.

Board Chairman and CEO Gregory Graham says the bank will remain open during the construction period.

"It will definitely be a construction zone," Graham says of the structure that was last remodeled in 1992. "We will expand teller presence at our drive-thru, but customers may find it more convenient to utilize one of our other three community locations or take advantage of online banking services during this time."

"We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this remodeling may cause," Graham says, "but I'm sure our customers will enjoy seeing what we have planned and the experience of banking in our upgraded facilities in the heart of downtown's Rose District."

First National opened its doors in 1902 in what is now downtown Broken Arrow. In more than 112 years of providing trusted banking services to the community, only four chairmen have headed the institution. First National has



four full-service locations in Broken Arrow, employs 55 people and is the oldest home-owned bank originated in Tulsa County.

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SHARON CAMERON for GTR Newspapers

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MAY 17

Family Resale Shops Provide Selection, Affordability

Local Stores Offer On-Trend Fashions For All Ages

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

While secondhand clothing shops are a fairly common sight in the greater Tulsa area, only a handful of those shops offer items for the entire family.

In 1988, when Phil and Cathie Meeker took ownership of **Hartly New Resale**, 385 E. Main St., in Jenks, the trend of buying used clothing had not yet gone main stream.

However, the Meekers, who were raising their son at the time, were already well familiar with the expense involved in clothing a growing child.

"We had so many of our son's clothing piled up in the house," says Phil. "We saw the high cost of retail clothing, and oftentimes we were just giving them away as he grew out of them."

When the Meekers first took over the shop, they sold only children's clothing, but Cathie recognized the importance of expanding the store's offerings, says Phil.

The shop carries men's and women's clothing for all ages as well as maternity and plus sizes.

Instead of offering consignment, where sellers receive payment after their item sells, the Meekers pay sellers up front for used clothing that is less than two years old, in good condition without stains, rips or odors, and is a name brand, from stores such as Chico's, Ann Taylor, White House Black Market, American Eagle and Hollister, says Cathie.

The Meekers recognize that buying used clothing allows young ones to wear name brands



HARTLY NEW: Phil and Cathie Meeker stand in Hartly New Resale, 385 E. Main St., in Jenks. The Meekers have owned the resale shop, which carries clothing items for men and women of all ages, since 1988.

without the high price tag that usually comes with it.

There's so much pressure families face, who need to clothe all of their children each season with name-brand clothing, says Cathie. And sometimes a child's self image is wrapped up in what they're wearing.

Kaye Hatley, owner of **Growing Kids and Adults Consignment Shop**, 5433 S. Mingo Rd., offers individual sellers the choice of consignment or outright purchase of their clothes. If individuals choose consignment, they receive 50 percent of the item's selling price after its sale.

Hatley's offerings include a large selection of maternity clothing, she says, "because there aren't a lot of options out there, and the styles are so cute."

Hatley and her husband opened Growing Kids 20 years ago and have continued expanding the store's offerings over the years, which has led to the need for expansion of the store's square footage. Over the years, the store has moved locations as it increased from 900 square feet to 3,000 to 5,000 square feet at its current location.

A large portion of Growing Kids features children's and juniors clothing, including brands like Hollister and Justice. Shoppers will also find plus sizes, dance wear, formal wear and wedding dresses.

"People appreciate being able to stop here and do everything, whether that's shopping for the family or reselling items," says Hatley, who, like the Meekers, have customers who she has watched grow up and now have their own families.

"I have seen women bring in their children and now those kids have grown up and gone to college. I've even gone to their weddings," Hatley says.

"One little girl who used to come into the store to buy pageant dresses now shops here with her two little kids," says Phil.

Hatley accepts clothing no more than two years old. For adults, she looks for high end brands; whereas, with kids, it's more about being in good condition and cute," says Hatley.

Brad and Tracy Beers own **Bearlee New Resale** consignment shop, 2300 S. Aspen Ave., in Broken Arrow.

The Beers bought the business in 2007, though the shop has been open since 1987.

Tracy began working at Bearlee New in 2000 and continued there through high school and college graduation.

She earned her business degree from Northeastern State University Broken Arrow, with the intention of one day owning her own business.

Therefore, when the owner of Bearlee New was thinking about selling, he knew who to talk to first. "He knew Tracy had what it



BEARLEE NEW: Brad and Tracy Beers took ownership of Bearlee New Resale consignment shop, 2300 S. Aspen Ave., in Broken Arrow, in 2007. The shop offers consignment selling with a 50 percent return to sellers.



GROWING KIDS: Kaye Hatley opened Growing Kids and Adults Consignment Shop, 5433 S. Mingo Rd., 20 years ago, with her husband. The 5,000-square-foot store offers a broad range of clothing items and offers sellers the option of consignment or outright purchase.

took to keep the shop going," says Brad.

Since taking over the business, the Beers have put the shop through various interior remodeling projects to match the trendiness of the clothing the store carries.

"We are able to remain competitive with other stores because we keep up with what's fashionable and popular," Tracy says.

"Sometimes people are frustrated with how selective we are in accepting clothing from sellers, but it's for both our customers' and our sellers' benefit because we keep up with the trends, and then we earn that reputation and people keep coming back for that," says Brad.

Bearlee New carries men's and women's clothing of all ages, dance wear, plus sizes, maternity items and some unused, new items. They accept items to sell from all seasons, regardless of the time of year, and sellers receive 50 percent after their item sells.

"We get new items in every day," says Brad.

With the quick buying and selling of clothing items, "We hear a lot of times people say, 'I should have bought that when I had the chance because now it's gone,'" he continues. "It's not like a department store where that same jacket you saw three weeks ago is still there."

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at the Hyatt Regency Tulsa Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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NARO, a non-profit organization, is the ONLY national organization representing, solely and without compromise, oil & gas royalty owners interests!

B.A. CHAMBER BREAKFAST



NETWORKERS: Enjoying the April 2 Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast at the Tulsa Tech B.A. campus are, from left, Alex Johnson, BioLife Plasma Services; Ronda Butler, McGraw Realtors/ Rondo Properties; Lori Lewis, Broken Arrow Historical Society Museum; Leah Taber, Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce; Andrew Fiedler, Air Assurance; and Karina Garner, DASON Fire and Water Restoration. For more information about the B.A. Chamber, see www.brokenarrowchamber.com.

BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

John M. Silva, CEO for Morton Comprehensive Health Services, has been elected president of the Oklahoma Primary Care Association. He will serve a two-year term.



SILVA

"I look forward to working with all of Oklahoma's community health centers to develop an agenda that will strengthen our ability to provide quality primary care throughout the State," says Silva.

"My first priority will be a continued focus on ensuring access to health care for our uninsured and poor residents through legislative budget appropriation as well as convincing the administration to accept available federal resources." Prior to being elected to president of the organization, Silva served as chair of the public policy committee of OKPCA.

He has more than 34 years of experience in operations and in providing consulting services to community health centers throughout the country.

He has more than 34 years of experience in leading and building Community Health Centers throughout the United States. He served as the president of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) in 1993-94. Silva currently serves as a member of the NACHC Board of Directors representing Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and New Mexico.

SMG - Tulsa Executive Chef **Devin Levine**, CEC was voted president of the American Culinary Federation-Tulsa Chapter for a two-year term. This is Levine's second presidential appointment in the organization. Levine has been a member of the organization for 40 years and has served as a board member of the Tulsa Chapter for 22 years. Levine has been the executive chef for SAVOR, the food and beverage division of SMG, at the Cox Business Center and BOK Center since 2010.



LEVINE

The American Culinary Federation (ACF), started nationally in 1929 and in Tulsa in 1968, is a professional organization for chefs and cooks focused on worldwide professional education of culinarians at all levels. For presidential consideration in the organization, a member must have Certified Executive Chef (CEC) certification. The ACF-Tulsa Chapter currently has more than 300 members.

Two members of the Allegra Print, Marketing, Signs sales team in Tulsa have recently been recognized by Alliance Franchise Brands network as top international sales performers. **Tonya Solomon** and **Dustin Holder** were named among the top ten sales performers in North America. Both also earned a Gold Milestone Sales Achievement Award for the fourth consecutive year.

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Chris Schroeder recently joined BancOklahoma Investment Center as a financial advisor in Owasso. In his new role, he will provide objective financial advice and guidance to local families and individuals.



SCHROEDER

Schroeder has many years of financial experience and served most recently as a private client advisor for J.P. Morgan Chase. Prior to that, he served the nation in Iraq and was honorably discharged as a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps. Schroeder graduated from Northeastern State University with a B.S. in business administration. He currently resides in Owasso with his wife and two children. He will be based out of the Bank of Oklahoma banking center in Owasso.

Veteran energy and financial services industry executive **Larry D. Sweet** has been named a director of the First National Bank & Trust Co. of Broken Arrow.



SWEET

A native Broken Arrowan, Sweet attended Broken Arrow High School where he played football and graduated in 1967. He earned a Bachelor of Science in petroleum engineering from the University of Tulsa in 1971.

First National of Broken Arrow Board Chairman Gregory S. Graham says he is especially pleased to welcome Sweet to the bank's governing body "because he is a native of Broken Arrow with a keen insight into this community and because he brings to the table a vast amount of experience and expertise in financial services and oil and gas operations."

First National opened its doors in 1902 in what is now downtown Broken Arrow. In more than 112 years of providing trusted banking services to the community, only four chairmen have headed the institution.

GlobalHealth Chief Executive Officer **Scott Vaughn** has announced the selection of long-time government affairs leader **John Wiscaver** to serve as chief strategy officer and senior vice president of external affairs.



WISCAVER

Wiscaver brings more than 20 years of experience in leading successful public affairs efforts in Oklahoma and is considered an expert among peers in the insurance industry. He most recently served as the chief marketing officer and vice president of external affairs/marketing for Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Companies since 2011. Prior to Farm Bureau, Wiscaver oversaw legislative affairs, media relations and community affairs operations for State Farm Insurance for the Midwest region including Oklahoma, Louisiana, Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and Illinois from 2000 to 2011. His noted media relations experience includes serving as the lead director during disaster recoveries, including Hurricane Katrina, the Joplin, Mo., tornado, and the Moore, Okla., tornado, and appearing before several national media outlets

Mayor **Dewey F. Bartlett Jr.** announced that **Terry Ball, P.E.**, will serve as the streets and stormwater department director for the City of Tulsa, effective May 4.



BALL

Ball has worked at the City of Tulsa for 21 years in Engineering Services. In 1994, he started as a water design staff engineer. While in that position he was assigned as city project engineer for the renovation of the Mohawk Water Treatment Plant, completed in 1999.

Ball will lead 300 employees in the streets and stormwater department, which is responsible for stormwater and land management, street maintenance and right-of-way inspections, traffic control, building operations and maintenance, and refuse and recycling service through the Tulsa Authority for the Recovery of Energy (TARE). Additionally, the department provides street sweeping and maintenance services to the Stadium Improvement District Trust within the Inner Dispersal Loop.

Ball holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Oklahoma and a Professional Engineer certification in the state of Oklahoma.

Dermatology Associates of Oklahoma announces the appointment of **Raymond L. Cornelison, M.D.** as medical director. A native of Oklahoma,



CORNELISON

Cornelison comes to Dermatology Associates of Oklahoma with a distinguished record of accomplishment in the field of dermatology. Before entering private practice, Cornelison served as a professor and chair of the department of dermatology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Cornelison received his M.D. from the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine and served his internship in medicine at the Ben Traub General Veterans Administration Hospital in Houston, Tex.

Cornelison is a clinician, academician and a clinical researcher. He has been the principal investigator of numerous clinical trials and is actively involved in clinical research. He is past president of the American Academy of Dermatology, has lectured extensively and is well published.

Jill Thompson has accepted the position of manager, special events and fundraising for the **American Diabetes Association**. Thompson comes most recently from the Tulsa Ballet where she was the senior development manager. She has served in fundraising roles with Meals on Wheels, the National MS Society and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Thompson brings a wealth of knowledge in fundraising, event planning, online fundraising and logistics. She will be the lead staff on Step Out and will manage logistics and fundraising for Tour de Cure and Concours for the Cure.

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Dinner Series Features Local Chefs, Winery

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

All summer long in downtown Tulsa's East Village, the Local Chef Dinner Series is offering Tulsans the opportunity to take widely diverse culinary journeys with well-known local chefs in a Tulsa-based winery.

The dinners will be held monthly through August at downtown Tulsa winery Girouard Vines, 817 E. 3rd St.

Each dinner will be unique, and each menu will vary according to that month's chosen chef, says Owner of Girouard Vines Chris Girouard.

The dinner series, hosted by Girouard Vines and tulsafod.com, held its inaugural dinner April 8 with Chef Justin Thompson, who prepared a five-course dinner with five wine pairings from Girouard Vines' Tulsa Deco series.



GIROUARD VINES



CHARITABLE EVENING: On April 8, the inaugural Local Chef Dinner Series was held at Girouard Vines, 817 E. 3rd St., in downtown Tulsa. From left are Chef Justin Thompson; Jan Girouard, co-owner of Girouard Vines; Tim Slavin, executive chef at Juniper Restaurant and Martini Lounge; Chris Girouard, co-owner of Girouard Vines; Mitch Dees, founder of tulsafod.com; and Barbara Findeiss, executive director of Child Abuse Network.

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4:30-8:30 p.m. or Fri, May 1st 4:30-7:30 p.m.

The idea for the dinner series began with Girouard's desire to create partnership opportunities with Tulsa's culinary community. He solicited Mitch Dees, former owner of Smoke on Cherry Street and founder of online food publication tulsafod.com, for help. After Dees received input from Thompson, the idea was born for a wine dinner series to center around Girouard Vines' Tulsa Deco wine series and to be paired with dishes prepared by local chefs.

What makes the evening truly unique, however, is the event's purpose, says Dees. Each chef chooses a charity that receives a portion of the night's proceeds. Dees credits that element ("The chef gets to choose a cause that he/she wants to

champion.") as a large reason for the first dinner's quick sell-out.

In addition, Girouard Vines also gives to the charity 10 percent of its take-home bottle sales from each dinner.

At the inaugural dinner, Thompson chose as his charity the Child Abuse Network. "As a father, protecting children is a cause close to my heart," Thompson said at the dinner.

Dees and Girouard have been encouraged by the public's response since the announcement of the dinner series. "I had people telling me at the dinner to sign them up for all of the other dinners," says Dees.

Dees also credits that positive response to the event's local theme. "It takes place at a winery based in Tulsa, it benefits a Tulsa-based charity, and the meal is made by a Tulsa chef," he says.

For the next dinner, to be held May 20, Michelle Donaldson of Tallgrass Prairie Table and The Bramble will be the featured chef, with Meals on Wheels as her chosen charity. Also included in the series will be Jeremy New of East Village Bohemian pizzeria and his chosen charity Acts of Kindness. Other participating chefs will soon be announced.

The cost for the dinner is \$100 per person, with tax and gratuity included. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with free winery tours available. Dinner begins at 6:30. Additional information can be found at tulsafod.com.

After the last dinner of the series in August, a grand finale dinner is planned for Sept. 11, which will include dishes from all five featured chefs and with proceeds benefiting

a local military organization. The plan, says Dees, is to make the final event much larger and to close a portion of 3rd Street and Lansing Avenue to allow for outside seating.

The location of the Local Chef Dinner Series serves the purpose of shining a light also on the burgeoning East Village District.

"So many people in the Tulsa area don't know the jewel that is at 3rd Street and Lansing Avenue," says Dees. This area includes Hodges Bend, East Village Bohemian pizzeria and, of course, Girouard Vines, which serves as an event center and is open for public tastings on Thursday evenings.

"The fact that there's a vineyard and winery in downtown Tulsa, where they do all of the blending on site is very special," Dees says. "I would say the winery is one of the best kept secrets in Tulsa."

Girouard Vines was opened by Girouard in 2007.

In the mid-1960s, Girouard's father, George, a native Tulsan and University of Tulsa graduate, began to create a hybrid grape varietal through cross pollination of European varietals and wild vines.

Girouard remembers growing up, watching his father experiment with and grow the hybrid grapes in the backyard of their Oklahoma City house. George spent 40 years experimenting with and growing the hybrids in the family's backyard.

While his father's efforts to create a hybrid were always meant as a hobby, Girouard began efforts in 2003 to grow the hybrids on a vineyard in Wagoner County with the hope of creating a commercial wine. After seven years, Girouard

transferred the vines to a Bixby vineyard and also expanded his growing efforts, sending some hybrid vines to a California vineyard.

During this time, Girouard opened Girouard Vines in the East Village with plans of remaining a small operation, only creating a few wine labels for local restaurants, he says. "I didn't plan for us to become a full-time commercial winery."

Yet, that is precisely what Girouard Vines has become.

In April 2009, Girouard Vines released Fire Alarm Red, the first of eight Tulsa Deco label wines that are made with California-grown grapes.

The wine, after being initially blended in California, is shipped in barrels to Girouard Vines and is either stored in-house to continue to age or is blended immediately. The winery also handles the bottling and packaging.

This summer, after two successful California growing seasons of the hybrid vines, five commercial wines will be released made from George's hybrid grapes. The wines will be part of the Girouard Vines label and will be two rosés and three reds, says Girouard. "These hybrid grape varietals were completely conceived, born and bred in Oklahoma."

In addition to the growth of the hybrid vines in California, Girouard continues to grow the hybrid vines at the Bixby vineyard with hopes of producing the first harvest of those vines later this year.

"I want to bring my dad's work to full fruition with the hybrid being grown in Oklahoma; that was his dream," he says.

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Residential Development to Honor Barnard School

In 2012, a major fire destroyed historic Barnard Elementary School at 2324 E. 17th Street. Built in 1929 and named for educator Henry Barnard, at least three generations of Tulsans attended grade school there. Barnard was being converted into a much-anticipated science and technology learning center when the fire occurred. Opting not to rebuild, the Tulsa Public School Board put the property up for sale. In the second round of bidding in 2013, at least five sealed bids were received. The highest, a design for an onsite nursing home, was rejected.

The middle bid, made by two longtime Tulsa real estate developers Lindsay Perkins and Phil Marshall, was a concept to subdivide the property into single family lots, and it was accepted. One of the developers, who is now a grandfather, attended grade school at Barnard.

The development now under construction is an effort not only of Perkins and Marshall but also of two adjacent homeowners associations (Gillette and Yorktown) and the Tulsa Preservation Commission. The final design appears to be a winning solution. This is a good thing because the project is in a Historic Preservation District. Input from all concerned was received and basic concepts carefully scrutinized. Such wide-spread collaboration is not easy to achieve.

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

A key goal of this project is to create infill housing of a size, density and character that complements and blends with the 1920s-to-1930s bungalows that border the almost four-acre property on three sides. Fortunately, restrictive covenants establish the size of individual residences at 1,800 square feet minimum to 4,000 square feet maximum. Roof pitches, exterior wall materials and window types are stipulated. A minimum of two trees on each lot are required. Finally, in a neighborhood where garages are commonly detached and located to the rear of properties, no garages with doors and driveways on the front of individual residences will be permitted.

This last requirement will be achieved by employing what is sometimes called the "Dallas concept." Two alleys will be incorporated between rows of lots to allow rear-yard garage access and trash services. Almost unique for Tulsa in modern subdivision planning and given the dimensions of the property, this practical feature is very logical.

Eighteen lots will comprise the complex, each sized approximately 50 to 60 feet wide by 150 feet deep. They match lot sizes of the adjacent neighborhoods. Nine lots



HISTORIC SCHOOL: Built in 1929, Barnard Elementary School educated at least three generations of Tulsans before it was destroyed in a 2012 fire. To the right is a class photo from 1933.



will face north on 17th Street and nine will face south on 17th Place. Because of the slope of the property from west to east, land will be terraced in two sections. The expected sales price will be \$165,000 to \$195,000 per lot.

A legacy of 1939 WPA efforts, the prominent native limestone retaining wall on Lewis Avenue to the east and 17th Place to the south will remain. To minimize alterations to this historic wall on the south, shared lighted pedestrian staircases for groups of lots are planned. This is a subtle but clever access solution that allows several lots to be served by one staircase.

Grading and utility work for this development, to be called Barnard

Trace, is underway. Electrical service will be below grade. The concrete name plaque identifying Henry Barnard School in intaglio letters had been salvaged from its original front door location and will be incorporated into the project.

Lots are expected to be available for purchase this summer. For fur-

ther information contact Lindsay@newlots.com or pemarkshall2@cox.net.

This development is a very positive reflection of Tulsa's midtown growth. Kudos to these developers. We hope to see similar projects that are sensitive to adjacent surroundings in the future.

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Saturday, May 9	10:00am to 11:00pm	10:00am to 10:00pm

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HAPPENINGS IN GREATER TULSA



SUPPORTING YOUNG MOTHERS: Michelle Sutton, left, president of the board of directors for the Margaret Hudson Program (MHP), stands with Wanda Pratt, mother of Oklahoma City Thunder basketball player Kevin Durant, at the program's Sweet Cravings Gala fundraising event in March. Pratt served as the keynote speaker at the gala and, on April 17, spoke with MHP students. Pratt had her first child at 18 years old and raised her two sons as a single parent.



TEA AND HATS: Attendees of the Tea and Hat Show, held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 419 N. Elgin Ave., on April 18, pose together at the event. From left are Beverly Washington, Bobbye Littlejohn, Hazel J. Jones and Fayette Williams. Proceeds from the event go to the Violet Patterson Scholarship, which is awarded to deserving area high school students.



TOP OF THE TOWN: The 7th annual Top of the Town event will be held June 11. The evening grants attendees access to 14 downtown Tulsa venues where there will be live music and food and beverages supplied by top downtown restaurants and bars. Each participant will receive three drink tickets. Tickets to the event are \$50 up to May 1, when they increase to \$60. Proceeds benefit the Child Care Resource Center. Pictured from left are Amber Howard Cornelius, committee member and event sponsor; Larry Pinkerton, of Pinkerton Law; Donna Davis, of BAM, LLC; and Heather Hope-Hernandez, event chair.



HEART WALK: The rain stopped in time for a successful American Heart Association Tulsa Heart Walk, held April 18 at ONEOK Field in downtown Tulsa. The 5k walk is an annual event, benefitting the American Heart Association.



JUST PLANE FUN: Participants compete in the ultimate tug-of-war contest with a 100,000-pound plane at Camp Fire Green Country's Just Plane Fun annual fundraiser. On June 6, Camp Fire will host the 16th annual event at Tulsa Tech's Riverside Campus, 801 East 91st St. Proceeds from the event support Camp Fire's year-round youth development programs that benefit children in low-income areas throughout northeastern Oklahoma. The event's two presenting sponsors will be AAON and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation.



FOOD FEST: The Metro Tulsa Hotel and Lodging Association (MTH&LA) held Food Fest: A Taste of Hospitality at the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks in March. From left at the event are Food Fest committee members James Ernst, POSTOAK Lodge & Retreat; Jay Bidwell, Supplyworks; event chair Michelle Hartman, SJS Hospitality; Linda Wall, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino; Michelle Koskey, Ambassador Hotel; MTH&LA Executive Director Brittany Sawyer; Deirdre Foster, Firetrol Protection Systems; and Travis Taylor, Promise Hotels.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>26 April</p> <p>TREASURE ISLAND Theatre Tulsa Family 2 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas 7:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information.</p> <p>23RD ANNUAL KEYBOARD CONCERT Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame 7 p.m. Visit okjazz.org for more information.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>I CAN'T IMPROV Thomas K. McKeon Center for Creativity, TCC 12 - 12:45 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more information.</p> <p>FALLING IN REVERSE Cain's Ballroom 7:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p> <p>DIE LAUGHING IMPROV COMEDY TCC Southeast 8 p.m. Visit tcc.edu for more info.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>TULSA LEAD EXCHANGE (A BUSINESS NETWORKING GROUP) Marley's 12 - 1 p.m. Call 918-794-4000 for more information.</p> <p>SERVICE DOG EDUCATION CLASSES Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges 2:15 - 3 p.m. Contact tkennedy@ou.edu for more information.</p> <p>ONB Bank Member Central Bancompany Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>MARILYN MANSON Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.</p> <p>IRON & WINE Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p> <p>Ask us about ID Fraud Protection</p> <p>ONB Bank Member Central Bancompany Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>A DEVIL INSIDE Riverfield Country Day School 7:30 p.m. Apr. 30-May 1 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>JASON FULBRIGHT Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p> <p>MINI MAKER FAIR Librarium 4-5 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.</p>	<p>1 May</p> <p>THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD PAC Trust 7 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>PLAZA SUITE Tulsa Project Theatre 7:30 p.m. • May 1-2 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>BEDLAM BASEBALL: OU SOONERS VS. OSU COWBOYS ONEOK Field 7 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>THE MELODIOUS PERCUSSION TRIO South Asian Performing Arts Foundation 7:30 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>WENDY WHELAN: RESTLESS CREATURE Choregus Productions 7:30 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>PLAZA SUITE Tulsa Project Theatre 2 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>"INTERTWINED" PANEL DISCUSSION AHHA 2 - 3:30 p.m. Visit ahhatulsa.org for more information.</p> <p>GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS Tulsa Garden Center 7 p.m. Visit ahhatulsa.org for more information.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>DIANE SALAMON ART EXHIBIT PAC Gallery May 2-31 FREE exhibit.</p> <p>TULSA YOUTH SYMPHONY Union PAC 7:30 p.m. Visit tyso.org for more information.</p> <p>Free Mobile Banking at onbbank.com</p> <p>ONB Bank Member Central Bancompany Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>GOODWILL INDUSTRIES AWARDS LUNCHEON Southern Hills Marriott 7 p.m. Visit goodwilltulsa.org for more information.</p> <p>TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas 7:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information.</p> <p>GARRISON KEILLOR Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>AWC NEWSMAKERS LUNCHEON Southern Hills Country Club 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Visit awctulsa.org for more information.</p> <p>TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas 11:05 a.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information.</p> <p>KIDS STORY TIME Guthrie Green 10:30-11:30 a.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>PLAZA SUITE Tulsa Project Theatre 7:30 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas 7:05 p.m. • May 7-8 Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information.</p> <p>TONY BENNETT Hard Rock Hotel and Casino 8 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>PLAZA SUITE Tulsa Project Theatre 8 p.m. May 8-9 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. May 8-9 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>RUSH BOK Center 7:30 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>TULSA DRILLERS vs. Springfield 7:05 p.m. • May 8-9 Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information.</p> <p>SIMPLY CINEMATIC Tulsa Symphony 7:30 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>BOB DYLAN Hard Rock Hotel and Casino 8 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.</p>
<p>HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY</p> <p>PLAZA SUITE Tulsa Project Theatre 2 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL Theatre Tulsa 2 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>RED American Theatre Co. 2 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>TULSA DRILLERS vs. Springfield 11:05 a.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information.</p> <p>BIKE TO WORK WEEK Tulsa Transportation Resource Center May 11-15 Visit tulsatrc.org for more information.</p> <p>Free small business checking</p> <p>ONB Bank Member Central Bancompany Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>TULSA DRILLERS vs. Springfield 4:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information.</p> <p>HOME RUN FOR THE HOMELESS ONEOK Field 4:05 p.m. Visit homerunforthehomeless.org for more information.</p> <p>Free small business checking</p> <p>ONB Bank Member Central Bancompany Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAY Guthrie Green 11:30 a.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p> <p>CHICAGO Hard Rock Hotel and Casino 8 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.</p> <p>PINK MARTINI WITH STORM LARGE Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>RED American Theatre Co. 8 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>MOVIE IN THE PARK: A HARD DAY'S NIGHT Guthrie Green 8:30 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p> <p>MOVIES in the PARK</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>RED American Theatre Co. 8 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>KATHLEEN MADIGAN Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>RED American Theatre Co. 8 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>ROSE FESTIVAL Farmers Market on Main, B.A. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Visit keepbrokenarrowbeautiful.org for more information.</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL Theatre Tulsa 2 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>PALMER'S SAND SPRINGS CRITERION Triangle Park - Sand Springs All Day Visit palmer-tulsa.org for more information.</p> <p>BABYPALOOZA Guthrie Green 2 - 6 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>We offer Health Savings Accounts</p> <p>ONB Bank Member Central Bancompany Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>"WEIRD AL" YANKOVIC Brady Theater 6:30 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.</p> <p>TULSA AUDUBON SOCIETY MEETING Tulsa Garden Center 7 p.m. Visit tulsagardencentre.com for more information.</p> <p>MAT KEARNEY Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>ONEOK FAN FEST Guthrie Green May 20-24 Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p> <p>PHILLIPS 66 BIG 12 BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP ONEOK Field May 20-24 Visit big12intulsa.com for more information.</p> <p>PURITY RING Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>THE MARKET @ GUTHRIE GREEN Guthrie Green 4 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p> <p>NITRO CIRCUS BOK Center 6:30 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.</p> <p>PURITY RING Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>TULSA SHOCK vs. San Antonio 7 p.m. Visit wnba.com/shock for more information.</p> <p>TULSA COMIC EXPO Cox Convention Center May 22-24 Visit tulsacomicexpo.com for more information.</p> <p>BONE THUGS-N-HARMONY Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>GEE'S BEND Theatre North 8 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>SHAN GOSHORN LECTURE Philbrook Downtown 2 - 3 p.m. Visit ahhatulsa.org for more information.</p> <p>VOLITION AMERICA HALF MARATHON AND 5K Veteran Park 7 a.m. Visit volitionamerica.com for more information.</p>
<p>24</p> <p>GEE'S BEND Theatre North 3 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>SUNDAY CONCERT: HORTON RECORDS AT GUTHRIE GREEN Guthrie Green 2:30 - 6:30 Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas 6:05 p.m. Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information.</p> <p>BEHIND-THE-SCENES SHARK FEED TOUR Oklahoma Aquarium 1:15 - 2:15 p.m. Visit okaquarium.org for more information.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>BRUCE HORNSBY & THE NOISEMAKERS Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>JASON BONHAM'S LED ZEPPELIN EXPERIENCE Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.</p> <p>More Bank for your Buck.</p> <p>ONB Bank Member Central Bancompany Strong roots. Endless possibilities.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>2015 JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN CENTER SYMPOSIUM ON RECONCILIATION Hyatt Regency Hotel 6:30 - 11:59 p.m. Visit jhfcenter.org for more information.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>GEE'S BEND Theatre North 8 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET Celebrity Attractions 8 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>PANCHAM: THE IMMORTAL NOTE South Asian Performing Arts Foundation 7:30 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>GEE'S BEND Theatre North 8 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET Celebrity Attractions 2 p.m. 918-596-7111 for tickets.</p> <p>TULSA ROUGHNECKS vs. Portland 7 p.m. For more information, visit tulsaroughnecksfsc.com</p>

Tulsa

91st & Yale | 21st & Lewis
2420 Southwest Blvd | 9004 E. 61st St. S.

Owasso

12502 E. 96th St. N

Sapulpa

615 S. Mission

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623 S. Main St.

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LOCAL NEWS

Chamber Announces Taste of Bixby: June 11

The annual Taste of Bixby networking event, hosted by the Bixby Metro Chamber, will be held June 11, 5:30 p.m.-8 at the SpiritBank Event Center.

The event had its beginnings being held in Washington Irving Park before moving to the SpiritBank Event Center.

Taste of Bixby will feature live music and food and drinks from area restaurants and wineries. The event provides opportunity for networkers to meet with prospective

clients in a casual, relaxed atmosphere.

The event is open to the public. For individuals looking for more information, including booth information for food and beverage vendors, email events@bixbychamber.com or call 918-366-9445.

Tickets to the event go on sale May 4 and cost \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 10 years old. Children under five years old are free. Tickets will also be available at the door.

STUDENTS VISIT OKC



Courtesy Photo

BIXBY PAGES: Bixby High School senior Kristen Hopkins and junior Peter Anthony stand with Rep. Mike Ritze of Broken Arrow. The two students spent a week at the Oklahoma State Capitol while serving as pages at the Oklahoma House of Representatives March 30-April 2.

Hopkins and Anthony ran messages to state lawmakers during session hours and helped with office tasks when session was out. The two pages also participated in a mock session, where they learned legislative procedure.

During their service at the Capitol, Gov. Mary Fallin signed the first bills of the 2015 session on March 31.

"Kristen and Peter were helpful and eager participants in the legislative process for a week," Ritze says. "They did a good job of representing their high school here at the Capitol and showing us all what Bixby has to offer in the way of young people."

BIXBY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECEIVES DAR GOOD CITIZEN AWARD



Courtesy Photo

OUTSTANDING SENIOR: The Wealaka Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently presented its 2015 DAR Good Citizen Award to Bixby High School senior Katie Kramer. Pictured are, from left, regent Carolyn Thornton, Kramer, DAR Good Citizen Award Chairman Marion Richardson and Jane Gibson. The DAR Good Citizen program is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship. The chosen high school senior must demonstrate qualities of honesty, dependability, truthfulness, leadership, loyalty, service to others and patriotism. Kramer received a DAR Good Citizen pin, certificate and scholarship money. DAR is a non-political, lineage-based women's service organization that promotes historic preservation, education and patriotism. The organization invites individuals wishing to trace their lineage and become a DAR member to call Carolyn Thornton, 918-970-4461.

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www.goodwilltulsa.org



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