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Volume 16 | April 2015 | www.gtrnews.com

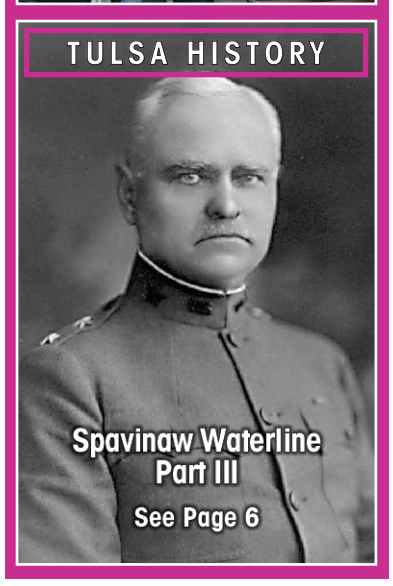
IN THIS ISSUE:

THE ECONOMY

VARIETY

LOCAL DINING

TULSA HISTORY



Owasso Market to Open 10th Season

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

HEALTHY EATING: *The Owasso Farmers Market kicks off its 10th season at the end of April. The market will run through the spring and summer months, 8 a.m. – noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays, located in the parking lot of the Owasso Family YMCA, 8300 N. Owasso Expwy.*

The Owasso Farmers Market will kick off its 10th season at the end of April/early May. The market will run through the spring and summer months, 8 a.m. – noon on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

"Besides Tulsa's Cherry Street Farmers' Market, we are the oldest market in greater Tulsa," says Lee Ann Boyer, board member and vice president of operations for the Owasso Farmers Market.

Seventy percent of the market's vendors are produce vendors, Boyer says. Other vendors, such as Blakley Family Farm Meats, will sell hormone-free meats, plants, honey and handcrafted soaps.

For nine of the market's 10 years, it has been located in the parking lot of the Owasso Family YMCA, 8300 N. Owasso Expwy.

Boyer credits the consistency of the market's location, the growth of the city of Owasso and the national trend toward healthier eating as reasons for the market's continued success and growth.

"People have become more interested in avoiding antibiotics, hormones, GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms)," she says.

In addition, the market offers a more inexpensive alternative to organic produce.

"If you can buy from local farmers, even though they're not certified organic, you can feel confident in what you are buying and get near-organic produce," she says.

Boyer hopes to further help shoppers with a grant she expects the market to obtain through the U.S. Department of Agriculture that would allow the market to match the dollar amount that SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) users spend on produce, up to $20 per visit.

Two years ago, the market offered a similar program with funds it received from the Cherokee Indian Nation. "That caused our SNAP business to go through the roof," Boyer says. She hopes with this new grant, if approved, the market will experience a similar increase in SNAP patrons.

Another offering to keep costs down is the Oklahoma Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program offered through the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. The program provides financial assistance to older citizens, allowing them to purchase fresh, locally-grown fruits, vegetables and herbs from certified farmers.

Two Kid's Days will be held during the market season, usually during the summer months, says Boyer, with family-friendly attractions and craft activities.

Tulsa's Cherry Street Farmers' Market begins its 18th season on April 4 with a name change to Tulsa Farmers' Market. The new name allows the market to encompass more than just Cherry Street, says Market Administrator Penni Shelton; this includes on Brookside, where the winter market (open November-March) and the Wednesday summer market (open May-October) operate in the Whole Foods Market parking lot, 1401 E. 41st St.

The Tulsa Farmers' Market will be open every Saturday 7 a.m.-11 through October.

Among its new vendors is the Justin Thompson Restaurant Group. Thompson, a well-known local chef, owns and operates four area restaurants: Juniper, Tavolo Italian Bistro, Prhyme Downtown Steakhouse, and 624 Kitchen and Catering. Thompson's prepared food tent will offer fresh and frozen food items that are specifically created for the farmers market crowd, says Shelton.

Other newcomers include Mod's Coffee and Crepes food truck; Brian Thurmon with Grassfed Jerky, selling beef jerky made from Koehn's Grassfed meats; and a Sapulpa-based microgreens farm.

Additionally, starting April 23, The Market at Guthrie Green in downtown Tulsa will offer produce and other food vendors every Thursday through Oct. 29, 4-7 p.m.

This market will replace Guthrie Green's Sunday Market that operated in previous years.

"We saw the need for a downtown grocery store and wanted to provide more opportunity to downtown dwellers for fresh produce," says Guthrie Green Program Administrator and Market Manager Julia White.

However, there are plans to offer special bazaars on various Saturdays throughout the upcoming season for crafters and other local artists.

Other area farmers markets include the Rose District Farmers Market in downtown Broken Arrow, opens April 18, Saturdays 8 a.m. – noon, and Jenks Main Street Farmers Market in the parking lot of Tedford Insurance, 121 E. Main St., opens April 4, Saturdays 8 a.m. – noon.

KUDOS of the MONTH: Oral Roberts University

The 2014-15 school year marks the start of Oral Roberts University's 50th anniversary celebration and the 50th season for ORU's men's basketball and baseball programs.

Over the past half century, ORU has not only impacted the greater Tulsa area but also made a difference internationally. ORU has produced All-American basketball players like Richard Fuqua, Anthony Roberts and Caleb Green, the first overall pick in the 1981 MLB Draft Mike Moore, and NCAA National Track and Field champions Andretti Bain and Jack Whitt, who have both gone on to win Olympic medals.

With 142 regular season and tournament championships since 1997, ORU has won 346 individual conference titles, produced 85 All-Americans and made 79 NCAA Tournament appearances during that time. Its athletic success goes back much longer, though, and during the 1970s, the ORU men's basketball team went to the 1974 Elite Eight, was the ninth winningest program in America and won more games during a five-year period than any NCAA team other than John Wooden's UCLA dynasty. The ORU men's golf team finished third in the nation in 1980 and was the NCAA runner up in 1981.

ORU's athletic facilities have not only propelled ORU to national prominence but also been staples in the Oklahoma High School athletic scene. J.L. Johnson Stadium, which was home to ORU's 1978 College World Series team, and the Mabee Center, which has hosted multiple NCAA Tournament games, have both hosted OSSAA State Championships throughout the years.

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106.1 The Twister, Oklahoma's Best New Country, is proud to present Craig Wayne Boyd in concert Saturday, April 11 at 2 p.m., during Okmulgee's OrangeFest on the campus of OSU Institute of Technology.

106.1 The Twister Oklahoma's Best New Country · 92.1 The Beat Tulsa's Party Station · 97.5 KMOD Tulsa's Rock Station · AM 1430 The Buzz

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Contents
April 2015

CIVICS
Stronger, Safer Tulsa: Addressing Domestic Violence 4
By Mayor Dewey F. Bartlett Jr.
B.A. Chamber Honors Dr. Clarence G. Oliver 4

VARIETY
An Eclectic Mix of Shows Due at PAC for April 8
Show Buzz by Nancy Hermann
Guthrie Green Hosts Tulsa Roots Music Bash 9
Signature Symphony at TCC Names New Maestro 10
OSUIT Orangefest Welcomes Craig Wayne Boyd 11
G.T. Bynum Named 'Champion of the Arts' 12

FEATURES
Spavinaw Waterline: Science and Leadership Trump Greed 6
Monumental Moments in Tulsa History by Charles Cantrell
Center of Universe Adds to Local Buzz 9
Out & About by Emily Ramsey
Twenty Years of Quality for The Wild Fork 12
Local Dining by Blake Austyn
Webster High School a WPA Art Deco Project 13
On Architecture by Roger Coffey
Tulsa County's Eco Focus Blossoms in Spring 26
Trash Talk by Beth Turner
Girls' Home Offers Guidance to Adulthood 29

EDUCATION
ORU Offers Digital Media Degree Program 14
Tulsa Tech Student Makes Her Own Path 15
News from Tulsa Tech by Dr. Steve Tiger
Local Education/News 16

SPORTS
Local Sports 17
ONEOK Presents Phillips 66 Big 12 Championship 18
New Season Awaits Dodgers as Drillers Affiliate 19
Barry Hinson to Keynote Iba Awards Dinner 20

ECONOMY
TTCU Gets 'Wild About Savings' 22
Grogg's Green Barn Offers Unique Twist 23
TYPros Celebrates Trader Joe's Announcement 23
Attorney's Work Led by Love of Children 26
Business and People Notes 27

GTR CLASSIFIED ADS 24-26
COMMUNITY CALENDAR 31

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Linda Miller, Ed Short, Eddie Paez

April 2015
Vol. 23, No. 4 (*Union Boundary*);
Vol. 21, No. 4 (*Jenks District Gazette, Midtown Monitor*);
Vol. 19, No. 4 (*Owasso Rambler, Broken Arrow Express*);
Vol. 14, No. 4 (*Bixby Breeze*)
COPY DROP-OFF: 7116 S. Mingo • Suite 103 • Tulsa, OK 74133

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Tulsa Shock Open New Offices

The Tulsa Shock, a member of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), has moved its business office and operations into a new location in downtown Tulsa.

To commemorate the occasion, the Shock invited the Tulsa community to celebrate the unveiling of the new space at an open house event March 17. The new office address is Williams Center Tower Two, Two West Second Street, Suite 150, Tulsa, OK 74103, and is located on the corner of 2nd Street and Boulder Avenue.

During the event visitors were able to tour the offices, see the new merchandise store, take photographs, and meet Shock staff. Refreshments were provided. Visitors received a 10-percent discount on purchases of Shock merchandise while at the event.

Individaul and group tickets are on sale now for the Shock's opening night. The Shock's first home game of the 2015 season is June 6 versus the Chicago Sky at 7 p.m. at the BOK Center. Fans may purchase tickets to both the Shock's pre-season game and regular season home opener as a package starting at $24. By purchasing the ticket package, seats are reserved for the same seat location at both games. Tickets may be purchased by visiting tulsashock.net or by calling 918-949-9700.

The WNBA will begin its 19th season in the summer of 2015 with 12 teams. The Shock is in the Western Conference along with the Seattle Storm, Los Angeles Sparks, Minnesota Lynx, San Antonio Stars and Phoenix Mercury (the defending WNBA champions). The Eastern conference consists of the Atlanta Dream, Washington Mystics, New York Liberty, Chicago Sky, Connecticut Sun and Indiana Fever. The Shock is sponsored by Osage Casino.

GTR Newspapers photo

HAPPY STAFF: *Members of the Tulsa Shock staff, including coaches, players, executives, office personnel and mascot Volt were all smiles as they introduced their new offices at Williams Center Tower Two, Two West Second Street, Suite 150, Tulsa, OK 74103 to their fans.*

GTR Newspapers photo

TULSA TALENT: *Tulsa Shock star player Skylar Diggins, left, with Tulsa Regional Chamber Senior Vice President for Communications LToya Knighten during the open house for the new offices. Diggins, a Notre Dame graduate, is one of the most popular and exciting basketball players in the nation.*

Group Creating Downtown Tulsa Multisport Project

B.A.M. (Boston Avenue Multisport) is an environmentally responsible project created by a group of local leaders in sustainable design and construction. Team B.A.M., the project creators, includes James Parker of TriArch Architecture, Kenton Grant of Kenton Grant Consulting, Terrell Hoagland of Jones Design Studio, and Scott Pardee of Pardee Construction.

The idea for the project began several years ago when the group realized that Tulsa would benefit from a premier quality multi-sport facility for year round use by local and regional community sports teams.

In 2013, Tulsa won the Golden Crater award from Streetsblog USA: a dubious distinction recognizing the massive gaps in downtown Tulsa's urban fabric which are filled with surface parking lots.

The Golden Crater Award became the impetus for Tulsa's Young Professionals to host a design competition to help imagine potential ways to restore vitality to the area. The multisport field was a natural fit, so Team BAM designed a sustainable project composed of a multisport field and 60,000-square-foot structure concealing an integral parking structure, cascading into a park. Tenants will include retail, educational, restaurant, and office spaces. The net-positive project produces excess energy through solar panels and geothermal system to fuel future developments and neighboring buildings.

Team B.A.M. believes that low operating costs, revenue generation, and the number of users will spur development and have a strong economic impact on the area.

CIVICS

Stronger, Safer Tulsa: Addressing Domestic Violence

Home is a haven for us to relax and spend time with our families. However, it's not always a safe place when domestic violence occurs. What is domestic violence? It's a pattern of coerced behavior used by one person in a relationship to gain and maintain power and control of the other person.

In February, my office led our second in a series of Public Safety Summits focusing on domestic violence.

I was pleased to host this summit along with our partners: Domestic Violence Intervention Services, The Family Safety Center and the Tulsa Police Department. Our generous sponsors for this important summit included: The Ann and Henry Zarrow Foundation, OU-Tulsa, The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation, and BlueCross BlueShield of Oklahoma.

COMMENTARY BY MAYOR DEWEY F. BARTLETT, JR

Domestic violence is an issue that must be confronted to make our community safer and stronger. In 2014, TPD reported that 23 percent of homicides were related to domestic violence. Last year in Tulsa alone, domestic violence accounted for 12 homicides and close to 1,200 arrests.

We must work together to address domestic violence in order to promote a safer, stronger community.

At our summit, we called upon community leaders, the business sector, healthcare providers, the faith-based community, parents, and schools to lead successful efforts to help confront this serious issue.

Our key objective for the day was to develop a communitywide plan for implementation that will help address and raise awareness about this issue. In our breakout sessions, individuals were tasked to help us think critically to develop a community plan.

With more than 200 individuals in attendance representing various organizations, the results from the breakout sessions and the summit in general were unprecedented. I want to thank my staff for their help in collecting dozens of pages of notes, ideas and comments: They continue to meet with our partners to form action steps and a coalition in order to make the plan work. I look forward to sharing more with you when it becomes available.

It will be a long road, but through the dedication of my office and our partners, we are now taking the next step in providing the safety and peace these families need. I'm proud to call Tulsa my home and to serve as your mayor for that very reason.

If you know of or are involved in a domestic violence situation, please do not hesitate to contact:

- Domestic Violence Intervention Services: www.dvis.org or (918) 743.5763
- Family Safety Center: www.fsctulsa.org or (918) 742.7480
- 2-1-1: www.211tulsa.org

B.A. Chamber Honors Dr. Clarence G. Oliver

The Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce honored a Greater Tulsa legend at its recent Annual Awards Banquet. For the first time ever, the chamber handed out a Lifetime Achievement Award. At the same time they named that award after its first recipient, Dr. Clarence G. Oliver, Jr.

"Dr. Oliver is worthy of amazing honors. This award only skims the surface on showing him just how much we respect the work he has done and continues to do in our community," states Wes Smithwick, president and CEO of the Broken Arrow Chamber. "To borrow the words of Chuck Palahniuk, 'The goal is not to live forever. The goal is to create something that will.' Dr. Oliver embodies this statement completely."

Dr. Christee Jenlink, B. A. Chamber board chair for 2013 and 2014, introduced and handed the award to Dr. Oliver. "Dr. Oliver inspires me; he inspires everyone who has the opportunity to meet him. I am beyond proud to be a part of giving him this award and naming this award after him," she said.

More about Dr. Oliver:

In 1955, Dr. Oliver moved to Broken Arrow from Ada, sight unseen, to teach at Broken Arrow Public Schools. In his tenure at BAPS, he rose to the rank of superintendent. He served in that role from 1974-1992, leading BAPS through its significant growth years.

CLARENCE G. OLIVER, JR.

He went on to serve as the dean of education for Oral Roberts University from 1993-1999. Though he retired as the Dean of Education at Oral Roberts University in 1999, he continues with the university in a volunteer capacity, serving as emeritus professor and former dean and as an adjunct professor in the ORU Graduate School of Education.

Although he is perhaps best known in Broken Arrow for his contributions as the superintendent, Dr. Oliver has enjoyed stints as a teacher, journalist, Army officer, newspaper editor, publisher, author and community leader.

He is also active in his church and engages in civic work in the community; is a member of boards of directors of several civic, business and professional organizations, including the Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Southwestern Regional Medical Center, Junior Achievement of Oklahoma, Inc., the Broken Arrow Community Foundation, Broken Arrow Historical Society, Thunderbird Youth Academy Foundation, Inc., advisory council of Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow and the advisory council for the College of Education and Psychology of East Central University, Ada.

He was selected as the Broken Arrow Chamber's "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" in 1975 and 1992, and he was awarded the "Legacy Award" in 2011.

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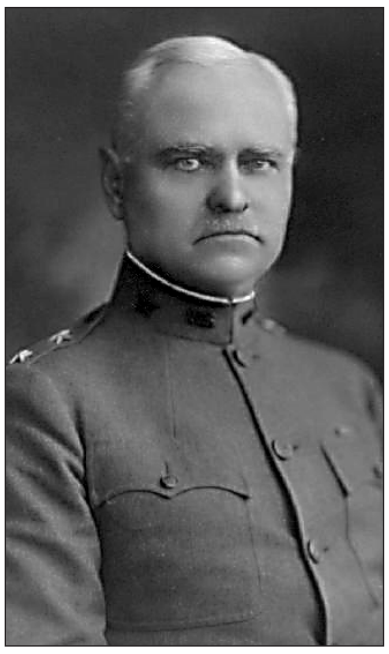
MONUMENTAL MOMENTS IN TULSA HISTORY

Spavinaw Waterline Part III

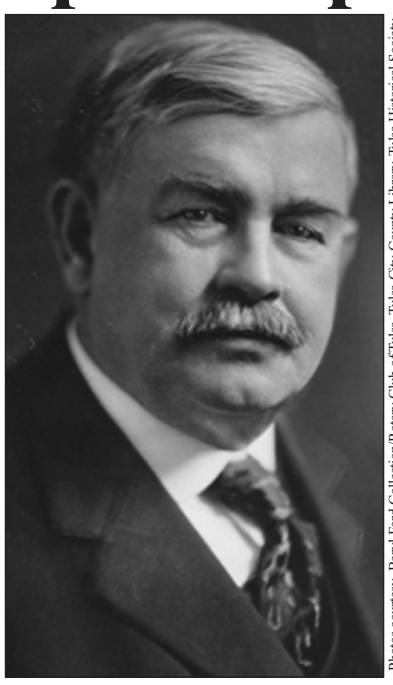
Science And Leadership Trumped Politics And Greed

By CHARLES CANTRELL
Associate Editor

Editor's Note: This is the third 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.

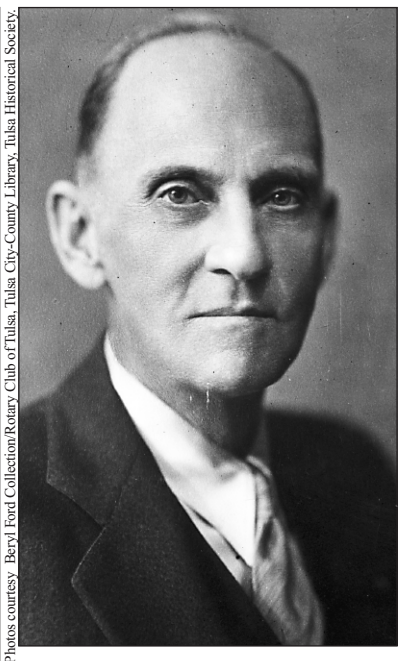


GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON GOETHALS: *Goethals was a famous United States Army officer and civil engineer revered for his exemplary service supervising the building of the Panama Canal. Tulsa has Goethals to thank in large part for finally resolving the water resource issue in 1921.*



CHARLES PAGE: *Founder of Sand Springs and owner of the Tulsa Democrat newspaper fought long and hard advocating for Shell Creek as Tulsa's source of water only to loose in the end to rival newspaper owner Eugene Lorton of the Tulsa World.*

Photos courtesy Beryl Ford Collection/Rotary Club of Tulsa, Tulsa City-County Library, Tulsa Historical Society.



HERMAN FREDRICK NEWBLOCK: *Newblock Park, west of downtown was named after this prominent early Tulsan. Newblock became Mayor of Tulsa in 1922 and served until 1928, making him one of the longest serving mayors in the city's history. He was reelected in 1932 for an additional term.*

TATE BRADY: *Brady and other prominent businessmen signed the charter to incorporate Tulsa on Jan. 18, 1898. For the next 27 years Brady was a political force to be reckoned with in Tulsa until he became despondent over the sudden death of his son and committed suicide.*

In 1919, a great war was well underway in Tulsa over where the city would draw its future water supply. On one side was the Shell Creek forces headed by Charles Page, founder of the town of Sand Springs and owner of the evening daily newspaper, the Tulsa Democrat. He marshaled all his forces promoting the building of a dam on Shell Creek, a modestly consistent stream of relatively good water, at least when compared to the brackish, hard, silt laden water of the Arkansas River. A prominent city of Tulsa founder, Tate Brady, sided with Page on this issue.

Both Page and Brady were formidable opponents to the Spavinaw Creek forces headed primarily by Eugene Lorton, owner and editor of the Tulsa World morning newspaper. Two powerful advocates in their own right, Harry F. Sinclair and Herman Frederick Newblock sided with Lorton. The Spavinaw Creek proponents had long since given up on the Arkansas River as the city's water source and had embraced the idea of bringing down soft, clear water from the Ozark Hills to the north.

The Shell Creek camp also had come to grips with the folly of potable water coming from the Arkansas but were convinced the winding little creek to the west of Tulsa (which, by the way, happened to run through Mr. Pages property) was the perfect solution to the city's water dilemma. They proposed constructing a dam on the creek to create a reservoir.

Between the years 1912 and 1922, the Tulsa mayor's office changed from Democrat to Republican five times. Although there were many issues at play during this period of rapid urban growth, it can be assumed in that span of years securing an adequate water supply to accommodate the city's growth was a prominent issue.

(Continued on page 7)

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Spavinaw Creek Prevails as Water Source for Tulsa's Growing Population

(Continued from page 6)

It's difficult to image the level of frustration Tulsans felt in 1919 when they were once again being asked to approve a bond issue to bring soft, clear water down from Spavinaw Creek to replace the hard, salty water of the Arkansas River. Barely over a year before, a bond issue was passed funding completion of a "modern" treatment plant that had proven to be no match for the big, muddy Arkansas. But it's easy to see how the desire for good water trumped voter frustration, because the bond issue passed five to one in favor of a plan proposed by Henry A Pressey of Ambursen Dam Company out of New York. Influential members of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce had recommended Pressey to Tulsa Mayor Hubbard, a Democrat.

After a few weeks studying typographic maps with city commissioners in the lobby of the Tulsa Hotel, Pressey proposed the city build a hydroelectric dam on Spavinaw Creek and install five pumping stations capable of bringing 10 million gallons of water daily directly into the water mains of Tulsa. Total cost of the project was $5 million.

At the request of Mayor Hubbard, Tulsa's Water Works engineer, W.R. Holway assessed Pressey's plan. Although agreeing with Pressey that Spavinaw Creek was an excellent water source, Holway calculated the creek would not produce enough hydroelectric power to run the large pumps the plan called for, adding it was possible gravity alone could bring the water down to a low point just outside of Tulsa.

But alas, Holway's report apparently fell on deaf ears or at least an ear held to the ground of local politics. Also, he had yet to establish the gravitas sufficient to influence high-level decision making at City Hall, and he refused to play the backroom games of partisan politics, kickbacks and bribery commonplace at the time when awarding contracts for public works projects. As a city employee, Holway had already observed the introduction of political shenanigans in the decision-making process and how that invariably brought disastrous results. For this reason he became skillful at avoiding the petty frays and on-going battles of City Hall. This steadfast commitment to professionalism, objectivity and integrity eventually became instrumental in not only Holway's success but also that of the city in securing water for its rapidly growing population.

A little bit of fate and a whole lot of city politics became a blessing in disguise for Holway when two prominent Tulsans, Tate Brady and Buck Lewis, opponents of the Spavinaw water plan, obtained an injunction preventing the City Commission from issuing the newly approved bonds. The lawsuit cited a city charter restriction forbidding water sourcing beyond five miles of the city limits. The Brady and Lewis effort forced a subsequent election to amend the city charter.

The amendment was approved on Oct. 21, 1920, releasing Tulsa from the water sourcing restriction. It also created a water board consisting of the water commissioner and four citizen members. This had the effect of providing more citizen oversight to the decision-making process, thus moving decisions made regarding city water away from the political arena. Most importantly, it delayed the final awarding of the contract on the Spavinaw project. This bought Holway time to better position himself for the battle ahead.

Holway resigned from his position with the city at the ripe old age of 27 and opened his own engineering consulting firm in November 1920 with offices in the Lynch Building at 3rd Street and Cincinnati Avenue. In his journal he noted there was not an engineering consulting firm in the region, and he wanted to fill that void. However, before giving up a steady paycheck, Holway secured a two-year consulting contract with the city for $300 a month.

Three events secured the contract for the Spavinaw waterline for Holway. The first being the election of T. D. Evans as mayor in November 1920, the same month Holway started his consulting business. The fact that Evans, a Republican represented a changing of the guard was not as important as his support of the Spavinaw plan and his open-minded, analytical approach to the issue. The election also gave the new mayor a mandate to pursue the Spavinaw Creek solution.

Next came the authorization by the Water Board for a hydrological study of Shell Creek to be conducted by Holway to determine if the creek's dependable yield of water would be adequate for the city's demand. It wasn't even close. Holway calculated five million gallons per day (GPD) contradicting Page's estimate of 15 million GPD. In so doing Holway had made a significant point and a powerful new enemy in Page.

But the real tipping point came in March 1921 when General George Washington Goethals, world famous civil engineer who oversaw the building of the mighty Panama Canal, came to Tulsa at the request and expense of the Water Board to assess the two plans for city water. Goethals spent four days visiting both Shell Creek and Spavinaw Creek and assessing data provided him by Holway, who accompanied Goethals throughout his stay providing answers to what must have been a multitude of questions. Holway was there at his side when the pre-eminent civil engineer of the era told the Tulsa Water Board unequivocally that water from Spavinaw Creek was the answer to the city's future.

As the meeting concluded Goethals was asked by a member of the board who he would recommend as an engineer to oversee the project. He pointed straight at Holway and said, "There's your engineer."

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

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VARIETY

An Eclectic Mix of Shows Due at PAC for April

Show Buzz

By NANCY HERMANN

New York Times crossword puzzle master Will Shortz will be Tulsa Town Hall's next speaker, so with that in mind, I'm suggesting that our PAC April roster of events could be described with an eight-letter word and the clue "all-embracing."

The PAC is the performance home to 14 arts organizations. Because of that, each month is ECLECTIC to some extent, and April is no exception. We have tango, opera, The Phantom of the Opera, chamber music, theatre for children and for adults. And a puzzle master.

Diversity is another word that is important to a center for the arts, as well as education. The group Soledad Barrio & Noche Flamenca embodies both. Martín Santagelo and his wife, the extraordinary flamenco dancer Soledad Barrio, head up a troupe of dancers, singers and musicians from Spain to recreate a theatric, authentic tango experience. Choregus Productions presents, Mar. 31 and April 1.

Tulsa Project Theatre returns to the PAC stage, this time with the musical Godspell, Apr. 3-11. The most well-known song from the show is "Day by Day," but you will recognize many more. Godspell was one of Stephen Schwartz' earliest musicals. He's best known for Pippin and Wicked. Tulsa Project Theatre has engaged a group of fresh-faced actors whose characters employ music, games and comedy to help Jesus tell parables.

Each year, Tulsa Opera presents an American or English-language piece as part of its season. Thank you, Tulsa Opera, for introducing us to new work. American composer Carlisle Floyd wrote the critically acclaimed operas Susannah and Cold Sassy Tree. His Of Mice and Men, based on John Steinbeck's novel and starring Craig Verm as George and Corey Bix as Lenny, plays Apr. 10 and 12 at the PAC.

You'd think that the Modigliani String Quartet would be from Italy, but they are actually French musicians, and close friends, who play Italian instruments. The oldest instrument is a 1660 viola. This award-winning ensemble has been called one of the world's top string quartets. Its Sunday afternoon concert for Chamber Music Tulsa on Apr. 12 will feature music by Shostakovich, Saint-Saens and Ravel.

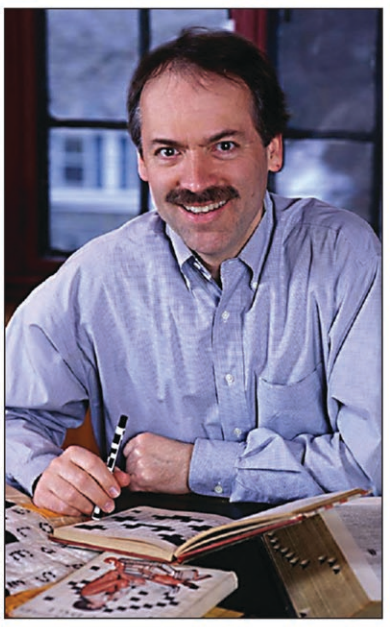
I can't think of another Broadway show that can stir as much excitement from the public as The Phantom of the Opera. The first time the PAC hosted Phantom was in 1996 when nearly 100,000 people saw it during 40 performances. This new production features Chris Mann as the reclusive Phantom. In 2012 Mann was the first opera singer ever to be featured on The Voice. He was on Christina Aguilera's team and finished fourth overall. Do you have a favorite song from Phantom? Mine are "Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again" and "All I Ask of You." Celebrity Attractions brings The Phantom of the Opera to Tulsa Apr. 15-25.

Photos courtesy Tulsa PAC

FLAMENCO: *Noche Flamenca is recognized as the most authentic flamenco touring company in the field today. Choregus Productions hosts Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca March 31 and April 1.*

MODIGLIANI QUARTET: *The acclaimed French string ensemble performs Shostakovich, Saint-Saëns and Ravel for Chamber Music Tulsa on Apr. 12.*

BARD FICTION: *Shakespeare gives his version of Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction" in Theatre Pops' "Bard Fiction," Apr. 16-19.*



WILL SHORTZ: *The New York Times Crossword editor is Tulsa Town Hall's final 2014-15 season speaker Apil. 17.*

Theatre Pops' next production, Bard Fiction, Apr. 16-19, was originally part of the 2009 Minnesota Fringe Festival. In this playful reimagined Pulp Fiction, retold by Shakespeare, Quentin Tarantino's offbeat characters become denizens of London's underworld. This sound like a hoot and also something best suited for a mature audience. Fun night out? You bet.

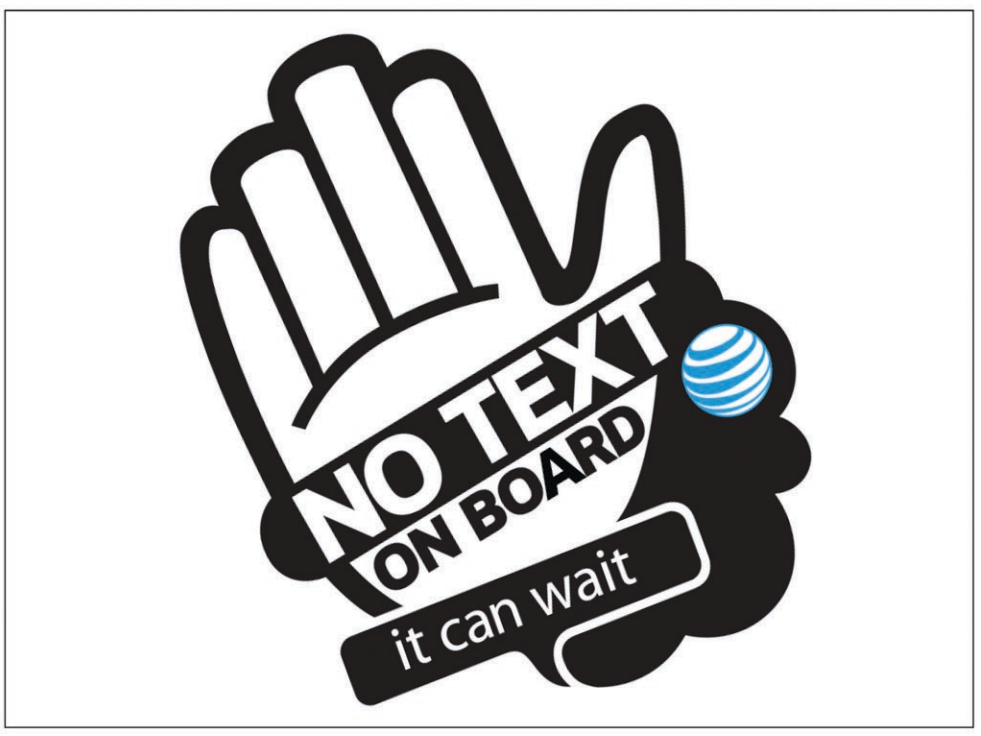
As mentioned, New York Times crossword puzzle guru Will Shortz will be in Tulsa for Town Hall on Apr. 17. I didn't realize that he was a major table tennis enthusiast. He rarely misses a day of playing, so he'll be checking out the Bixby table tennis club during his Tulsa appearance. It will be interesting to hear how crossword puzzles are put together and selected. Shortz will be the last Tulsa Town Hall speaker of their current season. Bravo, Town Hall! What a year. We'll be watching for the announcement of next year's speaker lineup.

Wrapping the month are three family productions. People have been asking about Charlotte's Web for months. It's finally here. I recommend you get tickets early for this Apr. 17-19 run, produced by Playhouse Tulsa. And also for our other family shows, Treasure Island, staged by Theatre Tulsa, April 24-26, and A Devil Inside, presented by Riverfield Country Day School, April 30 and May 1. Children's programming often sells out quickly.

Free Brown Bag It concerts this month are Dean Demerritt's Jazz Tribe, Apr. 1, Strings & Pearls, Apr. 8 and Tulsa Camerata, Apr. 15. While you are at the PAC, stop by our Gallery, located off of the Third Street Lobby to view "Colors of the Day," an exhibit by photographer Michael McRuiz.

What's a three-letter acronym representing great entertainment during April? You got it!

Nancy Hermann is Director of Marketing at the Tulsa PAC.



Guthrie Green Hosts Tulsa Roots Music Bash

By JULIE WENGER WATSON
Guest Writer

The 2nd annual Tulsa Roots Music Bash returns to Guthrie Green in downtown Tulsa April 18. The lineup for this free, all-ages festival includes Austin's Latin blues-rock band Los Lonely Boys, the ska revival sounds of The English Beat with Dave Wakeling, Afropop star Rocky Dawuni and rapper Joe Driscoll with Sekou Kouyate. The Calliope Youth Circus opens the day at 2:30 p.m., performing acrobatics on the lawn. Children's activities, belly dancing and hula-hoops are also part of the mix.

Grammy award-winning Los Lonely Boys (brothers Henry, Jojo and Ringo Garza) headlines the Bash. The band's self-titled debut album was a big hit, with lead single "Heaven" reaching the number-one spot on Billboard's Adult Contemporary chart. The band has remained in the spotlight since, releasing its sixth album Revelation in 2014.

The English Beat, featuring Dave Wakeling, takes the stage at 6 p.m. At the forefront of the British ska revival movement in the late 1970s, the band took its musical cues from the Jamaican ska music of the 1950s and fused it with an infectious mix of reggae, pop, soul and punk. English Beat songs like "Save It For Later," "Doors of Your Heart" and "Tears of a Clown" were the soundtrack of the early 1980s and continue to receive regular radio play decades after their release.

Thirty years after the band's last record, Wakeling and his fellow musicians are back in the studio working on a new album. "It's exciting times," Wakeling says. "We've done 13 songs with the full intention that 12 of them will see the light of day and one of them might get used as a bonus track for the tour." Fans will get a live preview of the new tunes in Tulsa prior to the album's planned release in August.

For Wakeling, the fact that his earlier songs continue to resonate with fans is very rewarding. "It's really satisfying. I mean the rest of it is all well and good - the fast cars and the even faster women and even faster money come and gone and all of that; it's very interesting and a bit dangerous at times," he laughs. "But to also write a song and have someone 20 or 30 years later tell you that your words meant something to them for ages and that it helped them in a certain circumstance or situation...I think probably (that's) about as good as it can get."

Courtesy photo

LOS LONELY BOYS: *The popular Austin-based band will be joined by sounds of The English Beat with Dave Wakeling, Afropop star Rocky Dawuni and rapper Joe Driscoll with Sekou Kouyate at the Second Annual Tulsa Roots Music Bash, which returns to Guthrie Green in downtown Tulsa April 18.*

Ghana-born Rocky Dawuni wraps his uplifting message of hope and unity in beautiful melodies and danceable grooves. His latest release, Branches of the Same Tree, highlights his diverse musical influences. "My foundations as a musician are extremely eclectic. I grew up with really traditional African music, Highlife, drums, the real ethnic instruments…and then also influences by everything from African pop to Afrobeat to funk to hip hop to jazz," Dawuni explains. While Dawuni doesn't preach with his music, he does see it as a way to impact people's lives. "I'm always trying to make sure that the music is always inspiring people to do better or is pointing to certain issues in a way that is not too judgmental but allows everybody to come to the table and find solutions…My music has political undertones and social undertones because its ultimate intention is to push towards change and push towards empowerment." Dawuni is hoping to bring that message to Oklahoma. "I'm looking forward to meeting all of the good people of Tulsa and bringing the music and sharing it with them."

For more information on this event, visit www.tulsarootsmusic.org.

Center of Universe Adds to Local Buzz

Out & About in Greater Tulsa

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

It warms my heart to see all that is happening in Tulsa.

I certainly hold no ill will toward Oklahoma City, but I must say it is thrilling, and has been a long time coming, to see the renewed interest of companies in our fair city over our nearby capital: notably, Costco opening in South Tulsa, possibly by the end of the year, and, boosting Brookside's appeal, the February opening of Urban Outfitters and Trader Joe's setting up shop by the end of the year.

Then, there's the buzz of new local businesses choosing Tulsa's up-and-coming Kendall-Whittier neighborhood and along Route 66. And recently, we heard talks of a sports complex in south downtown (more about that on page 3).

We can add to that the list of current downtown residential construction projects that will only spur additional projects of all kinds, including, surely at some point, a downtown grocery store.

And then there's that little festival that has helped to put Tulsa and the Brady Arts District on the map: the Center of the Universe Festival, which is returning for its third year, July 24-25.

The 2014 festival brought 38,000 local and out-of-state attendees and resulted in $8.7 million in business sales for the Tulsa economy.

The show's Main Stage music acts were recently announced:

On July 24, indie pop band MisterWives and alternative rockers American Authors will lead up to that night's headliner, the high-energy rock act Panic! At the Disco.

July 25, South African alternative rock band Kongos will open the night followed by headliner Canadian rock band Three Days Grace. One final Main Stage artist for that night has yet to be named.

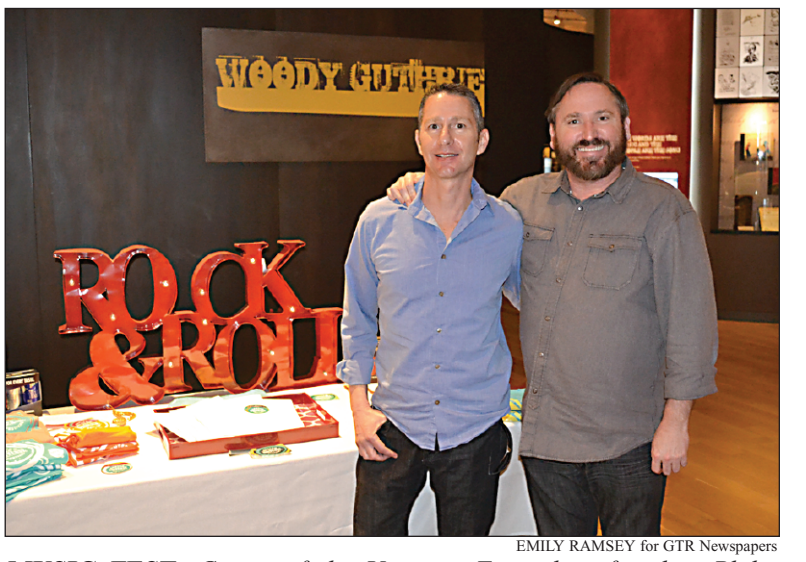
Three Days Grace has had two number one hits off its new album Human, which will be released March 31.

"There's lots of anticipation for their (Three Days Grace) album," says festival co-founder Chris Lieberman. "And MisterWives is expected to be the next huge pop act."

The festival in its entirety will feature 111 bands on three outdoor stages and in 10 club venues. The names of those artists will be announced in the coming months.

When determining which acts to bring to this year's fest, Lieberman and co-founder Philip Kaiser were strategic in their choices.

"We don't want people to hang at the Main Stage all night long; we want them to walk around and explore the area," says Kaiser.



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

MUSIC FEST: *Center of the Universe Festival co-founders Philip Kaiser, left, and Chris Lieberman recently announced five music acts coming to the festival's Main Stage. The festival, held in the Brady Arts District, returns for its third year July 24-25.*

This year's event will put a larger emphasis on featuring all types of art including art vendors, street artists and large-scale art installations, says Kaiser, "in order to deliver a quality, fun-filled arts experience for music lovers and art fanatics alike."

Area food trucks will also be on hand, and the district's numerous restaurants and bars will be open.

A portion of festival proceeds go to support Oklahoma artists through the Red Dirt Relief Fund and music education through direct grants to Tulsa Public Schools.

Tickets can be purchased at centeroftheuniversefestival.com.

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Signature Symphony at TCC Names New Maestro

Andrés Franco has been named the new artistic director and conductor of the Signature Symphony at Tulsa Community College. The TCC Board of Regents approved the hiring at the March 12 meeting. The vote capped off an intensive national search and selection process following the announcement that Dr. Barry Epperley, founder of the orchestra would retire.

"The search for our new artistic director and conductor has been a collaborative journey that engaged our musicians and our patrons as well as the Signature Symphony advisory board, community members and artistic leadership in Tulsa," says Conductor Search Committee Chair and TCC Southeast Campus Provost Dr. Brett Campbell. "The 11 members of the search committee dedicated numerous hours to this process over the past two years. I want to thank them for their commitment as well as the support and guidance from TCC's performing arts leaders during this process."

The Signature Symphony Conductor Search Committee narrowed the applicants to three highly qualified conductors who headlined the 2014-2015 season. This year-long selection process had an added benefit of allowing Signature Symphony musicians to play under the baton of three different individuals with unique styles and approaches to music.

"It has been an amazing experience to hear the technical and artistic growth of the orchestra throughout this season," says Signature Symphony Concertmaster Maureen O'Boyle. "The musicians rose to the occasion for each of the diverse conductors and programs, bringing the orchestra to a whole new level. The rigorous search process brought out the best in the orchestra, and we look forward to continuing this exciting progress as we begin a new chapter in the life of the Signature Symphony."

Franco established himself as the conductor to watch during his two trips to Tulsa by getting rave reviews and building relationships with the Signature Symphony patrons and musicians. He created two strong and crowd pleasing performances with the orchestra. In February, he mesmerized the audience with "The Music of John Williams" and captivated the crowd during the October Classics concert featuring guest artist and classical guitarist Jason Vieaux. Not long after performing with the Signature Symphony, Vieaux won the Grammy for Best Classical Instrumental Solo.

"Franco impressed me with his musicality, his respect for the orchestra players and their time, his ability to relate to people and musicians of all ages, his international background, and his desire for the job," says Hannah Robson, member of the search committee. "As a community representative of the committee, I wanted the best candidate for TCC and someone who would be great for the Tulsa community. We, in Tulsa, are fortunate to have him, and I am looking forward to next season."

A native of Colombia, Franco has served three seasons as the artistic director of the Concerts in the Garden Summer Festival with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and five seasons as principal conductor of Caminos del Inka, a highly successful multimedia project. Highlights of his 2014-2015 season are subscription debuts with the Columbus Symphony and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, as well as return engagements with the Houston and St. Louis Symphonies.

"From the moment I arrived in Tulsa, I felt an immediate connection with the entire Signature Symphony family, from the audience to the musicians," says Franco. "The two concerts I conducted this season were very special because of the incredible reaction from the audience and the artistic quality achieved by the orchestra. I look forward to working with this outstanding group of musicians and building on the excitement created this past year as well as continuing the incredible tradition started by Dr. Barry Epperley."

Franco assumes the helm as only the second music director in the 36-year history of the orchestra. Signature Symphony at TCC includes 70 professional musicians who not only perform with the orchestra but also teach and coach music students at TCC, other colleges and universities, and various public and private schools and studios through the area.

Courtesy Tulsa Community College

ANDRES FRANCO

"TCC is proud to have a professional orchestra in-residence, and the Signature Symphony is an integral partner with TCC's Performing Arts and Music Education programs," says TCC President and CEO Leigh B. Goodson. "Signature Symphony adds a great deal to the learning environment and artistic achievement at TCC as well as to the greater Tulsa community."

Signature Symphony at TCC is made possible in part by a grant from the Oklahoma Arts Council.

You can reserve your 2015-2016 season tickets by calling the TCC Southeast Campus VanTrease Performing Arts Center for Education ticket office at 918-595-7777 or find more information at www.signaturesymphony.org

Tulsa Ballet Announces Season

Tulsa Ballet Artistic Director Marcello Angelini announces the 2015/16 Season. This monumental lineup aims to strike a unique balance between audience favorites and World Premieres by some of the world's most in-demand choreographers. Tulsa Ballet performances will take place at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center, Studio K located in the Tulsa Ballet headquarters, as well as a spring series in The Lorton Performance Center on the campus of The University of Tulsa.

"To be perfectly honest, this is really my dream season," says Angelini, as he enters his 21st season at Tulsa Ballet. "If I could have planned 10 programs during the same season, instead of our usual five, we would have done these ballets this year for the anniversary." From romantic love stories to uproarious comedies to electrifying contemporary works, there is truly something for everyone in the 2015/16 Season.

Quick Facts
Tulsa Ballet 2015/16 Season

Creations in Studio K, Three World Premiere pieces from Jorma Elo, Dwight Rhoden and Resident Choreographer Ma Cong in the intimate 300-seat Studio K Theater. *September 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, and 20, 2015*

Taming of the Shrew, Choreography by John Cranko. *October 23, 24, and 25, 2015*

The Nutcracker, Choreography by Marcello Angelini, Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. *December 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20, 2015*

J. Shelton Photography

ROMEO AND JULIET: *Youhee Son and Hyonjun Rhee in Romeo and Juliet.*

Romeo and Juliet, Choreography by Edwaard Liang. *February 12, 13, and 14, 2016*

Masters of Dance Fearful Symmetries, Choreography by Ashley Page – *Petit Mort*, Choreography by Jiri Kylian – *Rooster*, Choreography by Christopher Bruce. *March 18, 19, and 20, 2016*

Signature Series Classical Symphony, Choreography by Yuri Possokhov – *Remansos*, Choreography by Nacho Duato – *INFRA*, Choreography by Wayne McGregor. *May 6, 7, 8 and 13, 14, and 15, 2016*

Ticket Information: Call 918-749-6006 or visit www.tulsaballet.org.

Season tickets are on sale now. Single tickets start at $25 and will go on sale Aug. 10, 2015.

For more information on the Tulsa Ballet season, visit www.tulsaballet.org.

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OSUIT Orangefest Welcomes Craig Wayne Boyd

Winner of NBC's 'The Voice' Headlines Free Two-Day Concert

Courtesy MICHAEL OLIVER

CRAIG WAYNE BOYD

OrangeFest, an Okmulgee festival formerly known as Super Saturday, is set for April 10-11, expanding into a two-day event with activities in downtown Okmulgee and on the OSU Institute of Technology campus. Admission and parking are free.

Headlining this year's festival is rising country star and last year's winner of NBC's The Voice, Craig Wayne Boyd. The free concert presented by Tulsa radio station 106.1 The Twister is at 2 p.m. on the OSUIT campus.

Friday evening events include an OSUIT alumni reunion, the OrangeFest Glo Run 5K, a Chalk Walk created by local artists, live music from local bands, and food offerings from downtown eateries as well as area food trucks.

Heather Sumner, Okmulgee Main Street director, says in order for OrangeFest to be truly successful, it will take the entire community supporting the event.

"We at Main Street are very excited and honored to be partnering, for the first time, with OSUIT in this event. We have worked very hard to include activities that will appeal to everyone throughout the two day festival," Sumner says. "Having an event like OrangeFest allows people to see the partnership and collaborative efforts between OSUIT and the community. It will continue to grow and spark even more excitement in our Okmulgee Rising efforts."

Saturday, the action moves to the OSUIT campus with interactive stops and live demonstrations from the university's academic programs. Kid Zones will feature kid-friendly activities with robotics, Lego mindsets, and video games. Other activities the whole family can enjoy include a culinary tailgate party, muscle car expo, KiteFest and live music.

Boyd will headline the free outdoor concert that wraps up OrangeFest on the OSUIT campus Saturday at 2 p.m.

Boyd grew up near Dallas and sang in his church choir before becoming its director. He eventually moved to Nashville hoping to start his country music career, but after 10 years was on the verge of calling it quits when he auditioned for NBC's "The Voice" in 2014. He took the top prize on the show's seventh season and is now touring the country.

Okmulgee Main Street is hosting its own version of the vocal competition show "Voices of Okmulgee" Saturday, March 28. Local bands and singers will compete for the judges' attention, and the winners will perform during OrangeFest and enjoy an exclusive meet and greet opportunity with Boyd.

"Main Street jumped at the opportunity to partner with OSUIT on its yearly festival, with the hopes of teaming up to make it one of the most successful downtown events of the year," Sumner says. "We felt like it would be a great way to show the community that OSUIT and Main Street have goals that align as we are working together for the betterment of all Okmulgee, not just the downtown core."

Anita Gordy-Watkins, OSUIT's executive vice president, says the outpouring of support and collaboration from the community is amazing.

"The partnership with the community of Okmulgee has really taken this event to a whole new level. Main Street's involvement has changed the dynamic, I believe for the better," Gordy-Watkins says. "There's an excitement and eagerness surrounding this year's OrangeFest that's unprecedented."

For a complete schedule of events and more information on OrangeFest, visit osuit.edu/orangefest.

Dinosaurs Return to Tulsa Zoo

It's going to be another year of prehistoric proportions as Zoorassic Park returns to the Tulsa Zoo. Zoorassic Park 2 will take guests back in time with 26 life-like creatures. The temporary exhibit, which lasts through August, will showcase 11 dinosaur species, nine of which are making their first stop at the Tulsa Zoo. The exhibit will also feature two bug displays, including a grasshopper and ladybug. These displays will feature magnified creatures of the natural world, showcasing their hidden beauty while changing the way you look at insects.

A few featured dinosaur species include the 40-foot long Tyrannosaurus Rex, a top-level predator with serrated teeth. Other dinosaur species include the Baryonyx, a carnivore that preyed on fish. Guests may also recognize the Triceratops, an herbivore with three horns on its head.

These giant displays were designed by Billings Productions of McKinney, Texas. Each display is built on a steel frame and its exterior is covered with intricate rubber skin, giving the displays a lifelike appearance. Each dinosaur display is animatronic, allowing for realistic movements, including the ability to gnash its teeth and roar.

Zoorassic Park 2 will be open daily through Aug. 31. Admission to the special exhibit is $5 per person with regular zoo admission or $4 per person for members.

ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

INTERESTING EXHIBIT: *Sara Floyd of the Tulsa Zoo is enthralled with Zoorassic Park 2.*

G.T. Bynum Named 'Champion of the Arts'

Tulsa City Councilor G.T. Bynum was honored as Theatre Tulsa's 2015 "Champion of the Arts" at the theatre company's recent Broadway Bash.

The award highlights one individual from the Tulsa area who has been a strong advocate for local arts over the previous year. Bynum was selected this year because of his defense of public arts programs during the most recent city budget negotiations.

"Throughout my life I've seen how the arts change lives, both my own and those of others. I am thankful my city council colleagues and I were able to save arts programs that positively impact the lives of Tulsans, young and old. Coming from an organization like Theatre Tulsa, which is doing so much to advance the performing arts in our community, this means a great deal," Bynum says.

Broadway Bash is Theatre Tulsa's annual spring fundraiser. The event featured live performances of Broadway showtunes by local performers, a sing-along cabaret, a mixologist competition and the first public announcement of Theatre Tulsa 93rd season.

The 2015-16 season features five productions in Theatre Tulsa's mainstage "Broadway Series." The shows include: "Miss Saigon," "The Great Gatsby," "A Chorus Line," "Don't Dress for Dinner" and "Fiddler on the Roof."

The season also features three youth productions by Theatre Tulsa Family, "Cats," "Bye Bye Birdie" and a holiday show to be announced in the future.

Theatre Tulsa's New Stage series will feature "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" and the most-recent winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, "The Flick."

For questions or more information about Theatre Tulsa and its upcoming shows and programs, visit theatretulsa.org, call 918-587-8402 or email info@theatretulsa.org

Theatre Tulsa's Broadway Bash was made possible by a generous grant from the Gelvin Foundation and sponsorship by American Airlines.

About Theatre Tulsa

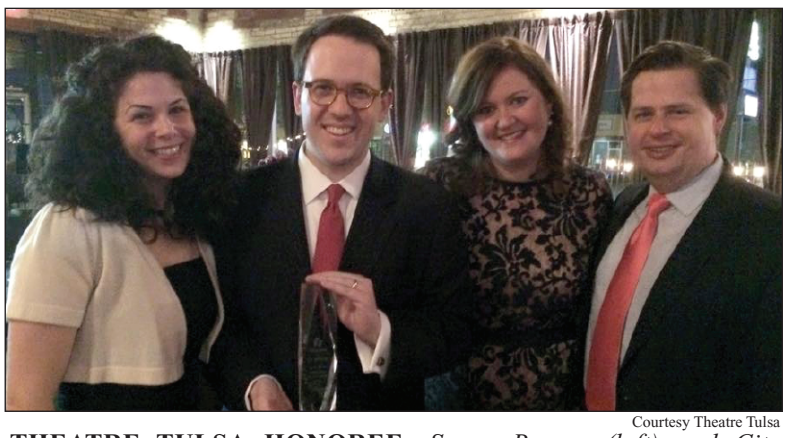
Theatre Tulsa is the Tulsa area's leading nonprofit civic theatre, providing professional-level productions and artistic experience to local audiences and performers.

Theatre Tulsa has been responsible for bringing hundreds of productions to Tulsans. It premiered the first-ever community theatre productions of "Our Town" (1939), "All My Sons" (1947), the musical "Brownstone" (1985), "Miracle on 34th Street: A Musical Adaptation" (1993 - an original musical written for Theatre Tulsa), "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" (2003) and the first American production of "Pitmen Painters" (2011).

Theatre Tulsa received the city's first Tulsa Award for Theatre Excellence (TATE) for its production of "Up the Down Staircase" in 2009. The company received additional TATE awards in 2013 for its production of "Boeing-Boeing" and its collaborative youth production of "Hamlet," plus its 2014 production of "Clybourne Park."

Theatre Tulsa was named "Oklahoma's Community Theatre of the Year" by the Oklahoma Community Theatre Association in 2011 and received its OCTAVision award in 2013. Theatre Tulsa received the national Twink Lynch Organizational Achievement Award by the American Association of Community Theatres in 2015.

Theatre Tulsa's season is sponsored by a grant from Mix 96 and the George Kaiser Family Foundation.Theatre Tulsa is the longest continuously-operating community theatre west of the Mississippi River and the seventh oldest in the United States.



Courtesy Theatre Tulsa

THEATRE TULSA HONOREE: *Susan Bynum (left) and City Councilor G.T. Bynum hold the Champion of the Arts award with Theatre Tulsa Artistic Director Sara Phoenix (second from right) and her husband Jay Phoenix (right) at the Theatre Tulsa 2015 Broadway Bash.*

Twenty Years of Quality for The Wild Fork

LOCAL DINING

By BLAKE AUSTYN
Contributing Writer

As The Wild Fork in Utica Square enters its 20th year of business, the eclectic restaurant continues to serve consistent, quality dishes.

Variety was at the top of the priority list for co-owners Kim Michie and Julie Woolman, when they were preparing to open their restaurant in the summer of 1995.

Michie and Woolman met at Oklahoma State University, where they were both pursuing degrees in restaurant management. "We both wanted to eventually own our own restaurant," says Michie.

After college, Michie gained experience working at the 15th Street Grill, on Cherry Street. She also took occasional courses through the Culinary Institute of America.

Woolman, after graduating from OSU, worked at a restaurant in New Orleans before moving back to Tulsa and opening Whittier Café near 4th Street and Lewis Avenue in 1991.

However, when Walter Helmerich III approached Michie about taking over the Utica Square space, where The Garden restaurant had been located, Michie accepted and asked Woolman to be her partner.

The Wild Fork opened in July 1995 with an eye toward diverse food offerings and a décor that could translate to both casual and fine dining outings.

Regarding the menu, "We wanted anyone to be able to find something they liked," says Woolman; this includes vegetarian dishes, down-home stand-bys like chicken fried steak and high-end items such as filet mignon.

Because the restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner and

(Continued on page 30)

BLAKE AUSYT for GTR Newspapers

CONSISTENT REPUTATION: *Kim Michie, left, and Julie Woolman, co-owners of Utica Square's The Wild Fork, stand outside the restaurant. This year, the restaurant enters its 20th year of business.*

Webster High School a WPA Art Deco Project

On Architecture

By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

On the main corridor wall, leading to the administrative offices of Daniel Webster High School, one passes a row of photographs of past principals, my father among them. The office has changed very little from my days home from college when I would stop in to see my dad, except for the security check-in computer, the elaborate work stations manned by two administrative assistants, and the relatively new plastic laminate work countertop. Our built environment sometimes changes slowly, and Webster High School was built to last.

In the 1930s, the Tulsa School Board with Works Progress Administration (WPA) funding, decided to relieve the over-crowded Central High School building with two new schools, Will Rogers High School and Daniel Webster High School. Three architects were selected to plan Webster: William H. Wolaver, Raymond Kerr and John Duncan Forsyth. The distinctive design of Webster is due to the efforts of Forsyth, a talented designer in that era. Construction began in 1937 and finished in 1938. It was one of the last WPA art deco projects built in Tulsa in the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Webster opened with the usual new building hoop-la. Seven hundred and sixty seven students were enrolled and were treated to individually-heated classrooms, an indoor swimming pool and an air-conditioned auditorium. A separate gymnasium building and a shop building completed the campus, which covered 19 acres. A football stadium was completed a few years later due to lack of immediate funding. In recent years, among various additions, a new athletic building and agriculture/shop facility have been added. The original cafeteria has become a spacious library and the old library converted into classrooms. A new cafeteria wing was added.

All rooms had unusually high ceilings, which easily accommodated overhead duct work when air conditioning was added in the 1990s. In the typical planning approach of the day, corridors are double loaded, and every classroom has natural light. Lockers are recessed into thick corridor walls. Where lockers are not present, walls are faced with a light gold colored glazed tile wainscoat. Stair treads and risers are terrazzo.

But it is the building's siting and exterior appearance that make a significant design statement. Webster gracefully nestles on the edge of a natural valley. It overlooks a wooded dry stream bed that borders the athletic facilities beyond. A single row of parking allows access to a monumental, wide stair broken by three landings and ending at three pairs of main extrance doors. The buff brick interior is broken by a vertical pattern of two-story windows with burnt umber rowlock brick spandrels. A strong rhythm is set by these columns of windows separated by brick panels. A large clock is mounted on the brick wall above the entrance doors.

ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

DANIEL WEBSTER HIGH SCHOOL

A subtle Regency influence, not apparent on the rest of the exterior, is expressed at the entrance. Classic Greek fenestration panels occur above the vertical column created by the doors. The center panel features an octagonal plaque containing a classic column surrounded by a laurel wreath. A plaque above the doors to one side portrays a female figure, the other side a male figure; both with torches symbolically lighting the way to learning. A Greek key pattern borders the top of the panels. Below, spandrel panels between doors and windows are cast of aluminum (an expensive material in the 1930s), while the windows contain a fan and volute silver ironwork design. Two huge silver metal torch lanterns in the WPA-style flank the front entrance. Smaller versions of these torch fixtures occur at other minor entrances.

Originally, the school was to be named George Washington High School. A much repeated reason for the change during construction was to avoid confusion with another existing high school, which had Washington in its name, Booker T. Washington. But a new name with a W was needed due to the initial already incorporated in the building. School and alumni historians are still searching for the original W. Meanwhile, students there continue to thrive.

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EDUCATION

ORU Offers New Cinema, Television And Digital Media Degree Program

The Oral Roberts University College of Arts and Cultural Studies is offering a new Cinema, Television and Digital Media (CTD) degree program. The degree examines mass media in popular culture with an intense focus on the production of film, television and interactive media.

"We specifically designed the CTD degree program to incorporate a mixture of professional experience and technical knowledge that will ensure students are prepared to enter the entertainment industry," says Mark Hall, dean of the ORU College of Arts and Cultural studies.

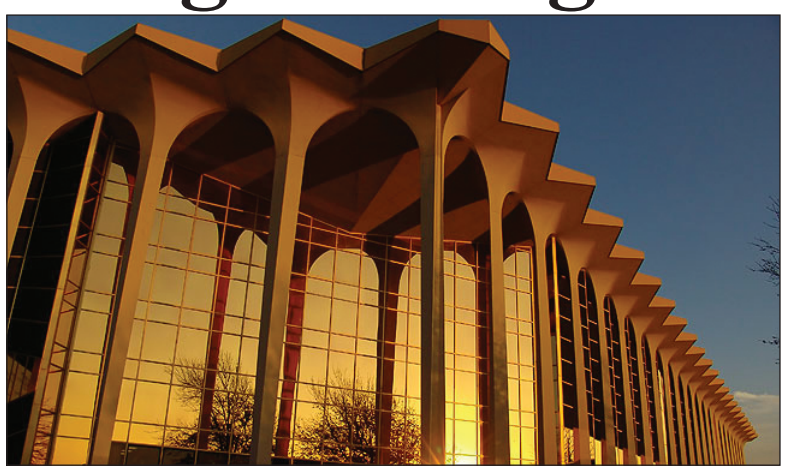
The ORU CTD degree program offers students the opportunity to gain experience conceptualizing, writing, producing, directing, and editing films and television programs. Students are given the opportunity to learn about live television production and audio capturing in million-dollar HDTV studios. The degree program also incorporates an interactive media lab that features iMac media production stations equipped with Adobe's Creative Suite. Individual editing stations, an audio lab with multi-track ProTools-based recording and 24-track mixing, as well as electronic newsgathering and field production equipment are also available to students.

Students entering their junior year join a yearlong immersive production program. Concentrated courses in cinematography, advanced TV production and advanced audio prepare students to be competitive in the industry, and numerous projects put concepts into practice. In the capstone course, students from a variety of majors work in teams to manage media campaigns for real-world clients across the globe.

Additionally, internships with local, regional or national companies allow students to learn through real world experience.

Students graduating from this degree program can go on to become filmmakers, scriptwriters, television producers, editors, church media directors and audio visual specialists.

For more information about ORU's CTD degree program, visit www.oru.edu.



ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY

Tulsa Achieves Provides Free Tuition

Tulsa Community College launched Tulsa Achieves in 2007 as a program designed to provide all Tulsa County high school seniors the opportunity to attend college at no cost to their families - to achieve in life regardless of their ability to pay. Within a few months TCC's first-time attending students from Tulsa County nearly doubled. The recent national recommendation to make community college free for all citizens proposes to take a public program that has worked well in Tulsa to the national level.

"We are pleased to see the Tulsa Achieves concept recognized as a model that would benefit individuals, families and communities across the country," says TCC President Leigh B. Goodson. "Our proven success in making college accessible for all high school students with Tulsa Achieves has the same potential for all community college students and has proven to support our economy by increasing college graduates."

TCC's Tulsa Achieves program has been a leader in helping to strengthen Tulsa's workforce by providing access to higher education to all students who maintain good academic standing. More than 1,500 students enter TCC each year as Tulsa Achieves students. Since 2007, more than 12,000 high school seniors have realized their education and career dreams by participating in the Tulsa Achieves program.

AT&T at OU-Tulsa

RANDALL STEPHENSON

AT&T Chairman and CEO Randall Stephenson, above, a University of Oklahoma alumnus, was the featured speaker at the 15th anniversary celebration of the OU-Tulsa Telecommunications Engineering Program March 6-7 at the OU-Tulsa Schusterman Learning Center.

More than 100 alumni, students and guests attended the two- day event showcasing the research of current OU graduate students in engineering. Areas of research included telecommunications networking; cryptography, including quantum cryptography; and wireless networking, including self-organizing wireless networks, wireless interference testing of medical devices, signal processing, privacy, and imaging.

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	Kellyville
	Mannford
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April 24	Catoosa
	Wright Christian
	Lincoln Christian
April 25	Owasso
	Metro Christian
	Bishop Kelley
	Nathan Hale
	Edison
May 2	Jenks
	Bixby
	Charles Page
May 9	Memorial
May 10	Holland Hall
May 16	Central

Tulsa Tech Student Makes Her Own Path

Haley George always did well in school. An instinctive and creative problem-solver, with a smile that lights up any room, she had no difficulty keeping up, successfully passing her classes, or facing the unique challenges high school students often encounter. However, halfway through high school, things began to change, and the challenges, along with the amount of overdue coursework, grew quickly.

"I always enjoyed school but suddenly found myself dealing with some personal issues," George says. "Before I knew it, I was too far behind to catch up."

Although this dedicated student tried to re-apply herself and make up her assignments, the deficit was too large and the odds were against her.

"Trying to catch up was difficult," she said. "Especially in a larger class with just one teacher. I wanted to graduate and even continue my education beyond high school, I just needed something different."

At Tulsa Tech we encourage each student to 'Make Your Own Path', and discover the unique journey that will lead to their success. George followed her path to Tulsa Tech's Career Academy, a unique program which helps students reconnect with their educational goals.

News from Tulsa Tech

By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent

"Certainly there are many students who are able to excel in a regular or traditional classroom, I did for a long time," George says. "But once I found myself needing a little more attention and a different type of classroom, I'm very thankful I found the Career Academy."

Dr. Richard Palazzo, Tulsa Tech's director for alternative education, feels the program represents an opportunity for other students seeking a different educational path.

"This program attracts disenfranchised youth that feel disconnected, often alienated from the social and academic life that other students seem to thrive in," Palazzo says. "The small size of the program, and engaging nature of the staff, allow students to enjoy a positive connection, and a supportive relationship."

George could not agree more.

"The relationship with my instructors here is different," George says. "It's like, 'we are in this together', and 'we are going to succeed.' I just love how much the academy feels like family, with such a warm and friendly environment."

Kori Orr, Career Academy Instructor, feels the family environment is a critical component of the program's success.

Courtesy Tulsa Tech

CAREER FOCUSED: *Tulsa Tech Career Academy student Hayley George is set to graduate in May with the class of 2015 and has been accepted to Northeastern State University (NSU) at Tahlequah, to begin classes next fall.*

"The Career Academy works because we are a family," Orr says. "We provide an innovative approach to education, serving the whole student with individualized instruction, small class sizes, in a blended learning environment. This not only provides an opportunity for credit recovery but also accrual credit, with the end result being a high school diploma."

Students like George are proof that the program works, and given the right tools, in the right setting, students can and will move forward.

"I started in the academy this past summer, in August 2014," she says. "Since I began, I've recovered a full math credit and completed all of my credits for senior English."

Once too far behind to catch up, George has completed her coursework, finished her assignments and is now set to graduate in May with the class of 2015. Another small note, she's been accepted to Northeastern State University (NSU) at Tahlequah, and will begin her college classes next autumn. Something George says would never have been possible without her instructors.

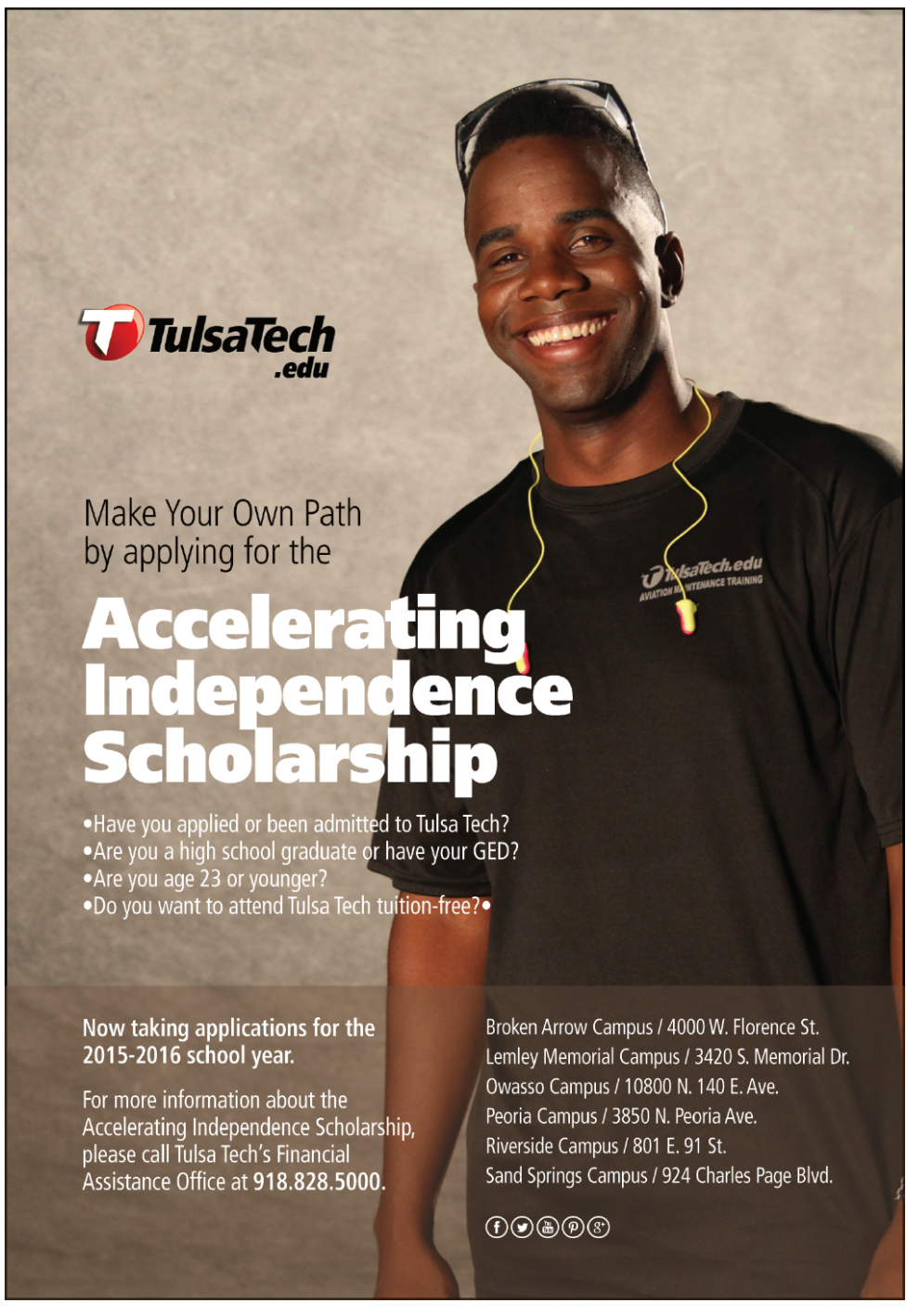
"Mr. Farrar, my math instructor, has a great sense of humor and can make the most difficult math problems fun," George says. "I needed to recover a full year of pre-calculus, so we spent a lot of time working together, and thanks to him we did it. There's no way I could have done that by myself."

Of course, if you'd like to see the smile that lights up any room, simply ask this soon-to-be college freshman about another instructor, a.k.a. Ms. Orr.

"Miss Kori is like a second mom to me, that may sound a little corny, but it's very true," George says. "I would like to thank her for always dropping everything to help me and being there to really listen every time I needed her. She is amazing."

The faculty and staff at Tulsa Tech want George to know something; we think you are amazing too.

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.



OWASSO NEWS

Owasso Mock Trial Team Places Second in Oklahoma

In March, at the Oklahoma High School Mock Trial Competition Owasso High School's Team Darrow placed second and its Team Williams placed eighth.

Team Darrow was defeated by Moore High School to finish as runner up in the finals of the Oklahoma High School Mock Trial Championship. The two teams argued a case that focused on an individual accused of aggravated robbery with a dangerous weapon.

"I am proud of all of the hard work these students did to prepare for this competition," says Oklahoma Bar Association President David Poarch. "No matter the outcome, the students are able to take away useful skills and a better understanding of our legal system."

This year's winners of the best attorney awards were Cymber St. Gemme of Owasso High School and Randi Mattox of Moore High School. Nick Hazelrigg of Owasso High School and Jackey Ortiz of Moore High School were chosen as the best witnesses.

The judges evaluated students based on their familiarity of the case and the formulation of their arguments. Students received points for each phase of the trial: opening, direct and cross examination, closing argument, and how well their witnesses responded. Teams were paired with volunteer attorney coaches. Both Owasso teams were coached by Judge Daman Cantrell, attorneys Deidre Dexter, Rob Ridenhour, Ken Underwood, and teachers Kathy Rutherford and Ronda Hatton.

Owasso High School Team Darrow members are Ashley Bender, Bailey Cavannah, Nick Hazelrigg, Marina Hatton, Aubrey McLendon, Emma Ridenhour, Cymber St. Gemme, Alex Springer and Tim Wise. Owasso High School Team Williams members are Tiffany Aguliar, Mariano Avila, Morghan Cyr, Ariel Grimes, Jenna Randall, Christian Sletten, Presley Stephens, Cassandra Strybel, Caitlyn Thoumire, Devon Willey and Victor Anthony Zavala.

Other top team finishers were, in third place, Jenks High School Team Black; fourth place, Southmoore High School; fifth place, Ada High School; sixth place, McAlester High School; and seventh place, Broken Arrow High School.

Courtesy Oklahoma Bar Association

LEGAL EDUCATION: *Owasso High School's Team Darrow pose at the Oklahoma High School Mock Trial Competition finals in March after placing second.*

Suicide Prevention Event to be Held

The Brandon Magalassi Memorial Scholarship Foundation will be hosting a symposium for the prevention of suicide at Owasso High School, April 21 at 7 p.m.

This year's theme is Suicide Prevention through a Message of Hope: "An Insight into the Positive Psychology of Hope," presented by Ricky T. Munoz JD, MSW, and Raymond Tucker, doctoral candidate. Also present will be a panel of suicide survivors that presenters will integrate via discussion as part of the program. The event's MC will be the Honorable Judge Sheila Condren from the Rogers County District Court.

"It promises to be a great program, and the intent is to educate and make a positive impact on the community regarding suicide prevention," says Michele Magalassi of the Magalassi Foundation.

The event is free to the community. Refreshments and door prizes will also be offered.

More information about the symposium can be found at magalassifoundation.org and on Facebook and Twitter @WeMatter2015.

Law Day Contest

In conjunction with Law Day, held on May 1, the Tulsa County Bar Foundation/Association is sponsoring a Student Art and Writing Contest for Tulsa county students grades pre-K through 12. The theme is "Foundations of the Law: The Magna Carta and Beyond." Students in grades 1-12 can enter both the writing and free form art contests; pre-K and kindergarten students can enter the coloring and drawing contest. Cash prizes range from $35 to $100. For information and rules, visit tulsabar.com. The deadline for entry is April 11. Entries can be delivered or mailed to Student Contest Committee, Tulsa County Bar Association, 1446 S. Boston, Tulsa, OK 74119.

Law Day was conceived by Hicks Epton, a Wewoka attorney and past president of the Oklahoma Bar Association. In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day nationally by presidential proclamation. On this occasion, he said, "It is fitting that the American people should remember with pride and vigilantly guard the great heritage of liberty, justice and quality under law. It is our moral and civil obligation as free men and as Americans to preserve and strengthen that great heritage."

Since the first observance, the American Bar Association, the national voluntary organization of the legal profession, has acted as the national sponsor of Law Day.

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TULSA ACHIEVES

The **Tulsa Achieves Program** gives eligible graduating Tulsa County seniors the opportunity to attend College without the cost of tuition and fees. This program began in 2007 and has broken the college barrier for thousands of students.

Important deadlines are approaching for seniors who are graduating in spring 2015, with the first priority date on **April 30, 2015**.

Stay on track with college planning
by checking **tulsacc.edu/TulsaAchieves**
Questions? 918-595-7834

OWASSO SPORTS

Bassmaster Classic Returning to Tulsa, Northeast Oklahoma

The world championship of bass fishing – the GEICO Bassmaster Classic presented by GoPro – will return to one of its most popular destinations in 2016, B.A.S.S. and the event's Oklahoma hosts announced recently. And for the first time, the "Super Bowl of Bass Fishing" will be conducted in early March instead of February.

"The 2013 Classic was such a tremendous success, we couldn't wait to return to Tulsa and Grand Lake O' the Cherokees with our premier event," says Bruce Akin, B.A.S.S. CEO. "With the support we've received from our hosts and our bass fishing fans throughout the region, we're expecting an even better turnout next year."

Hosts of the 2016 Classic will be Tulsa Regional Chamber, VisitTulsa, Grand Lake Association and Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa.

"We're so excited to finally say the Bassmaster Classic is coming back to Tulsa," says Ray Hoyt, president of VisitTulsa. "We worked our tails off in 2013 to ensure this event was a huge success because we wanted to show our partners at B.A.S.S., and other major league events, what a great place the Tulsa region is. We wanted another classic the minute the 2013 event was over, and today we can finally say it out loud: The classic comes back in 2016. A huge thanks to our regional partners, especially Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, for their support in making this a reality."

"To land the Bassmaster Classic for the second time truly speaks to the staff at the City of Tulsa, Tulsa Regional Chamber and the BOK Center," Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett says. "Thanks to the hard work by many, the 2013 Bassmaster Classic was an astounding success and speaks volumes to why Bassmaster selected Tulsa for the championship in 2016. We hope the region will embrace the championship when it heads back to Tulsa as it is sure to bring more excitement and visitors from around the country and give an economic boost to our community."

Since 2006, Bassmaster Classics have all been held the third or fourth weekend in February, but the 46th championship has been moved to March 4-6, 2016, to better accommodate anglers' and sponsors' preseason schedules and other industry events.

"If moving the event improves odds of good fishing weather, that's a bonus," Akin adds. "But we proved in 2013 as well as the recent classic in Lake Hartwell, S.C., that freezing temperatures don't hamper the anglers' fishing success, nor do they hurt attendance."

The Tulsa Classic in 2013 recorded the second highest attendance in history, with more than 106,850 fans visiting one or more of the venues. The attendance record of 137,700 was set at another February classic, the 2009 event in Shreveport-Bossier City, La.

Hoyt said the economic impact of the first Tulsa Classic was $22.7 million.

"We're proud that we could help bring the Bassmaster Classic back to Oklahoma and to beautiful Grand Lake," says Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker. "Everything between Tulsa and Grand Lake is part of the Cherokee Nation, and we are delighted to showcase our magnificent scenery to the thousands of visitors that this event will bring. Most importantly, this partnership and the out-of-town dollars spent in northeast Oklahoma will be an economic boon to many small Cherokee-owned businesses in our area."

As in the first Tulsa Classic, the BOK Center will house daily weigh-ins, and the Cox Business Center will hold the Classic Outdoors Expo. Takeoffs each day will be from Wolf Creek Ramp in Grove, Okla. As many as 5,000 fans braved freezing temperatures to watch the Classic anglers set out on competition days in 2013.

Cliff Pace of Petal, Miss., won the classic championship title that year with 54 pounds, 12 ounces of bass for three days of fishing. A total of 55 anglers will qualify for next year's event through the Bassmaster Elite Series and other Bassmaster circuits during the coming 10 months.

Eleven Oklahoma anglers - 10 percent of th e Elite Series field - will be gunning for berths in the event, including Scott Ashmore of Broken Arrow, Tommy Biffle of Wagoner, Jason Christie of Park Hill, James Elam of Tulsa, Edwin Evers of Talala, Kenyon Hill of Norman, Jeff Kriet of Ardmore, Kevin Ledoux of Choctaw, Jared Miller of Norman, Fred Roumbanis of Bixby and Dave Smith of Del City.

Total purse will be more than $1 million, with the winner receiving $300,000.

Grand Lake O' the Cherokees was completed in 1940, when Pensacola Dam on the Grand River impounded 46,500 acres. Previous Elite Series events there have been won by Mike McClelland and Kevin VanDam in 2006 and 2007, respectively.

Akin said moving the event to March will minimize scheduling conflicts with boat and sports shows typically scheduled in January and February, yet it will still be early enough in the year to serve as a kick-off of the fishing season. Manufacturers in recent years have been using the Classic Outdoors Expo as the venue to introduce exciting new products to the bass fishing world.

Ram Standout is College Bound

SHARON CAMERON for GTR Newspapers

SOFTBALL SIGNING: *Alexis Atwell has signed to play softball for Eastern Oklahoma State in Wilburton. Standing is her coach, Shane Eicher. Flanking Alexis are her mother and father, Debbie and Brian Atwell. Not pictured is Alexis' soon to be softball coach at Eastern Oklahoma State, Coach Andy Mace.*

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– Mark S., TTCU Member

Mark and his wife are longtime TTCU members. They recently refinanced to take advantage of current low rates.

"We have the house, three college apartments and tuition," he said. "We asked, how can we make this happen? And TTCU said, we've got an idea, and we can start it today! They're just so responsive and helpful.

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

SPORTS

ONEOK Presents Phillips 66 Big 12 Baseball Championship at ONEOK Field May 20-24

Tulsa Sports Commission announced ONEOK has agreed to the title sponsorship for the community-oriented Fan Fest, which is scheduled in conjunction with the Phillips 66 Big 12 Conference Baseball Championship.

The conference tournament takes place at ONEOK Field on May 20-24. ONEOK Field is located in downtown Tulsa and is home to the Tulsa Drillers and Tulsa Roughnecks. The top eight baseball teams from the Big 12 Conference will compete in the tournament. The championship game will be played on May 24 at noon.

"Putting on events like this is not possible without great community partners," says VisitTulsa President Ray Hoyt. "ONEOK continues to lead by example with its generosity and passion for making Tulsa a world class community."

The ONEOK Fan Fest will take place at Guthrie Green in downtown Tulsa, May 20-24. Activities will appeal to a variety of individuals and families and will begin daily at 11 a.m. and close at 11:30 p.m. The ONEOK Fan Fest is open to the public, and admission is free of charge. The complete ONEOK Fan Fest schedule of events will be announced at a later date.

"We're excited to be the presenting sponsor of the ONEOK Fan Fest," says ONEOK President and Chief Executive Officer Terry K. Spencer. "The Big 12 baseball tournament at ONEOK Field will bring a lot of people to downtown Tulsa, and we believe the ONEOK Fan Fest will highlight the great things Tulsa has to offer to visitors and current and future residents – directly benefitting our economy."

Tulsa Sports Commission estimates the tournament will have a $5.6 million dollar economic impact for the Tulsa region. The event is expected to bring an estimated 60,000 attendees.

"The economic impact is just one benefit. Like other companies in our industry, our organization is facing significant retirements over the next five years," says Spencer. "A vibrant Tulsa is key to our ability to attract and retain the talent we need today and in the future."

"Tulsa is going to have a wonderful time at this tournament and will be proud to have hosted an event that is such a great boost to our entire region," says Tulsa Sports Commission Executive Director Vince Trinidad. "We are fortunate to have so many community partners who step up with their time and resources to make this happen. From corporations and foundations to our local organizing committee and individual volunteers, we have a very talented and committed team representing Tulsa."

About ONEOK

ONEOK, Inc. (NYSE: OKE) owns 37.8 percent of ONEOK Partners, L.P. (NYSE: OKS), one of the largest publicly traded master limited partnerships, which is a leader in the gathering, processing, storage and transportation of natural gas in the U.S. and owns one of the nation's premier natural gas liquids (NGL) systems, connecting NGL supply in the Mid-Continent and Rocky Mountain regions with key market centers. ONEOK is a FORTUNE 500 company and is included in Standard & Poor's (S&P) 500 Stock Index. For information about ONEOK, Inc., visit the website: www.oneok.com. For the latest news about ONEOK, follow it on Twitter @ONEOKNews.

About ONEOK Field

ONEOK Field is located in the historic Greenwood district in downtown Tulsa. The art deco style architecture of the ballpark pays tribute to Tulsa's professional baseball past, the Greenwood district and the city of Tulsa. With its grand opening in April 2010, it is the home of the Tulsa Drillers, a Double-A affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers and regularly hosts more than 200 events per year. For more information about ONEOK Field, visit the website: www.tulsadrillers.com.

GTR Newspapers photo

FAN FRIENDLY: *Tulsa Drillers general manager Mike Melega, left, and Tulsa Sports Commission Executive Director Vince Trinidad welcome fans to the ONEOK Fan Fest to be held at Guthrie Green during the Big 12 Baseball Tournament in Tulsa at ONEOK Field May 20-24.*

Abour Tulsa Sports Commission

The Tulsa Sports Commission, a founding member of the National Association of Sports Commissions, is a division of the Tulsa Regional Chamber and supports the Chamber's mission to improve the quality of community life through the development of economic prosperity by attracting and developing sporting events and competitions in the region. In 2015 the Tulsa Sports Commission will host the Phillips 66 Big 12 Baseball Championships, USA Wrestling Junior National Duels, USGA Junior Girls Championships, US Youth Soccer National Championships, and USA BMX Grand Nationals. For more information about Tulsa Sports Commission, visit the website: www.tulsasports.org.

About the Big 12 Conference

The Big 12 Conference is comprised of 10 Universities - Baylor, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, TCU, Texas, Texas Tech and West Virginia. The Big 12 is an NCAA Division I intercollegiate athletics conference that encompasses five states with over 38 million people within its geographic footprint. In its 19th year, the Conference has produced nearly 600 Academic All-America selections and claimed national championship team titles in 17 of its 23 sponsored sports. Its student-athletes and teams have combined for 552 individual NCAA titles and 53 team national championships. Nearly 5,000 student-athletes from across the United States and around the World compete annually under the Big 12 banner. For more information about Big 12 Conference, visit the website: www.big12sports.com.

ONEOK Fan Fest

The ONEOK Fan Fest will take place at Guthrie Green in downtown Tulsa. Guthrie Green is an urban park and entertainment space in the heart of Tulsa's Brady Arts District. The park resides on the square block between M.B. Brady and Cameron Streets and Boston Avenue and MLK Boulevard. It is located two blocks from ONEOK Field, home of the Tulsa Drillers and Tulsa Roughnecks. The ONEOK Fan Fest will be open from Wednesday, May 20 through Sunday, May 24. Activities will begin daily at 11 a.m. and close at 11:30 p.m. The ONEOK Fan Fest is open to the public and admission is free of charge.

The ONEOK Fan Fest is a family-friendly celebration featuring Food Trucks, Kid Zone and numerous planned activities to engage a crowd of all ages. The tentative schedule is listed below.

- Wednesday, May 20 - Opening Night Concert
- Thursday, May 21 - Double Header Movie Night
- Friday, May 22 - Outdoor Dance Party
- Saturday, May 23 - Family Fun Day
- Sunday, May 24 - Championship Concert

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New Season Awaits Dodgers as Drillers Affiliate

By GLENN HIBDON
GTR Sports Writer

Exit the Colorado Rockies. Enter the Los Angeles Dodgers. A new major league baseball affiliation will greet the Tulsa Drillers when the Texas League club opens the season on April 9.

Executives of the AA level franchise are banking that the name recognition of the Dodgers, plus their promising farm system, will equal success when Tulsa starts play against San Antonio at ONEOK Field.

"The Hubbards (Drillers owners) needed to take a look and see what their options were, and the partnership with the Dodgers became a possibility," says Tulsa media relations director Brian Carroll. "The Dodgers carry one of the most iconic sports brands in the country and it was too good to pass up. They have a great history in major league baseball and they are in a position to have future success."

While Carroll says the Rockies were tremendous to work with and they sent out a lot of quality players, the time was right for Los Angeles to become the Drillers' third major league affiliate, joining the Texas Rangers from 1977 through 2002 and the Rockies from 2003 through 2014.

Down through history, Tulsa minor league baseball has also had ties with the St. Louis Cardinals, Philadelphia Phillies, Chicago Cubs, Cleveland Indians, Cincinnati Reds, Pittsburgh Pirates and St. Louis Browns.

"They realize that to have long-term success, they've got to have a strong minor league system and that's exactly what we wanted," Carroll says of the Dodgers organization. "When the (Atlanta) Braves were winning all of those division titles, they developed players in their system. They elected not to go out and buy high priced free agents.

"The Dodgers have so many Hall of Famers associated with their franchise, players like Duke Snider, Sandy Koufax, Don Drysdale, Jackie Robinson and Tommy Lasorda. Third baseman Ron Cey will be here on opening night to throw out the first pitch and meet the fans."

Carroll says Los Angeles is also concentrating on developing the character of its players off the field. Instructors have been hired to work with them in nutrition, how to shop and what to eat, and to teach foreign players how to speak English.

"The type of people they send us is a priority with the Dodgers," says Carroll. "Our season ticket holders are loyal, and they've been coming for decades to watch Drillers baseball. We want good individuals that they can get to know. The better the quality of the players they send us on the field, the better the product."

Taking the field this season is new manager Razor Shine, who is looking forward to those "quality individuals" including left-handed pitcher Julio Urias and shortstop Corey Seager. Urias was regarded as one of the best pitchers in Class A ball last season while Seager was a first round draft choice out of high school in 2012. His brother Kyle is a third baseman with the Seattle Mariners.

"Julio Urias is creating a lot of attention, and most experts rate him the top left handed pitching prospect in minor league baseball," Carroll says. "They compare him to Fernando Valenzuela and he should have a quick path to the major leagues. He's the kind of player who will create a lot of national interest when he's on the mound. Some rate his curveball as the best in the minors and he's likely to start the season in Tulsa."

Carroll says Seager should also play in Oklahoma sometime this season, either in Tulsa or Oklahoma City with the Dodgers' AAA affiliate. In any event, the Drillers are expected to field an offensive-minded team under Shine.

The 58-year-old manager comes over from the Chattanooga Lookouts, the Dodgers' AA affiliate in the Southern League. Last season he led a young team to the playoffs. Shine played parts of four seasons with the Montreal Expos and was a base coach with the New York Mets and Chicago White Sox.

"Based off last year, he will play an aggressive brand of baseball running the base paths," Carroll says. "He's said they will get thrown out on the bases sometimes because of being too aggressive. The indications are that we should have a talented club this season."

Coinciding, Carroll says preseason fan interest in the Drillers has increased thanks to joining up with the Dodgers.

"There are a lot of Dodger fans out there, and nationally, we have a much larger social media base," he says. "We've seen our numbers grow substantially since we announced it. We get to be a part of that great history that the Dodgers have developed for a century and that's something you can't get with most other major league teams."

TOP RECRUIT: *Tulsa Football Head Coach Philip Montgomery announced the signing of top recruit Chad President from Temple, Texas during a recent recruiting event held for TU fans at the Lorton Performing Arts Center on the TU campus.*

Barry Hinson to Keynote Iba Awards Dinner

With 12 seasons as the head coach at two Missouri Valley Conference schools (Missouri State and Southern Illinois), Barry Hinson is the league's winningest active coach with 209 overall victories and 114 conference wins. Only four head coaches in the 100-year history of the MVC have won more conference games.

When it comes to the league's annual tournament, Hinson's win total is equally impressive. His 13 conference tournament victories ranks third all-time behind only Dana Altman (Creighton) and Rich Herrin (Southern Illinois), and he recently surpassed Nolan Richardson (Tulsa).

In two of his three seasons at Southern Illinois, Hinson has finished among the top vote getters for MVC Coach of the Year. In 2014, he finished runner-up for Coach of the Year to Wichita State's Gregg Marshall, after Hinson's squad improved from 10th to fourth place in the MVC, marking the biggest leap in the standings in school history.

The Salukis won eight of their last 12 games in 2014, and fans were so energized by the resurgence of the program that the final home game featured the first sell-out of SIU Arena in six years. The Salukis also advanced to the semi-finals of the MVC Tournament for the first time in seven years.

Although SIU finished 10th in the league standings in 2013 with a 6-12 mark, Hinson placed third in the voting for Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year, the highest finish ever for the coach of a last-place MVC team.

Hinson won over the fan base with his likable, no-nonsense, common-man demeanor. He kept a positive outlook after the team began conference play with a 1-10 record. On Feb. 5, the Salukis snapped a six-game losing streak by beating No. 22 Wichita State for its first win over a ranked opponent since 2008. That victory was the first of six wins in the team's final eight regular-season games. After the season, Hinson was rewarded with a one-year contract extension that will keep him at SIU through the 2017-18 season.

Hinson was named the school's basketball head coach during a press conference on March 28, 2012. He became just the 13th head coach in the 99-year history of the program.

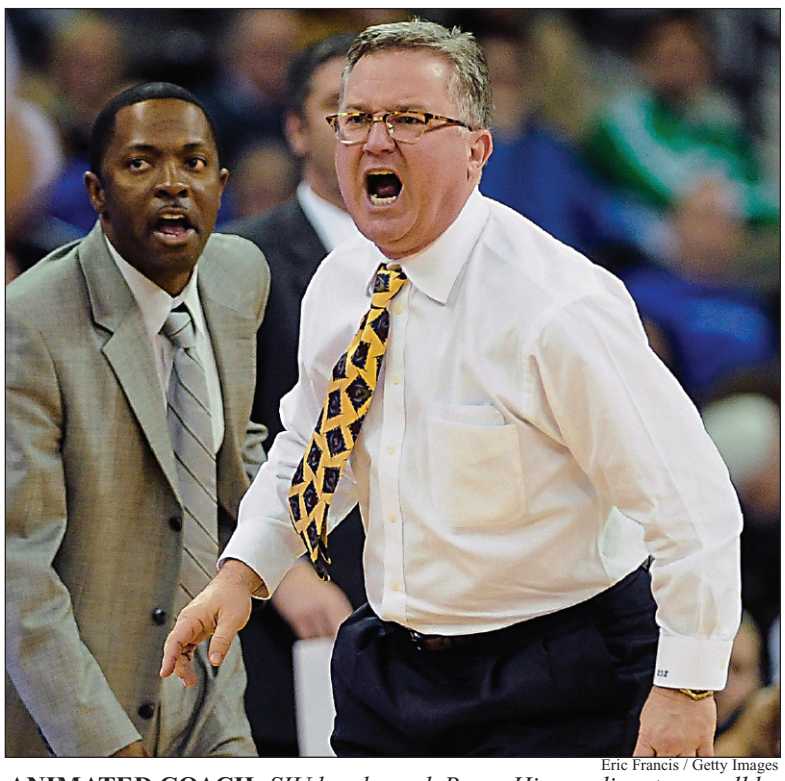
Hinson, 53, served four years on Bill Self's staff at the University of Kansas from 2008-12. The Jayhawks were one of the nation's premier programs during that four-year span with a combined 107-21 record and a trip to the National Championship game in 2012.

Prior to Kansas, Hinson was the head coach at Missouri State for nine seasons. While at Missouri State, he guided the Bears to a 169-117 record (.591) with post-season NIT teams in 2000, 2005, 2006 and 2007. His 2006 squad was left out of the NCAA Tournament with a 21 RPI. That club went on to win NIT games over Stanford and Houston.

Although Southern Illinois dominated the Missouri Valley Conference by winning six-straight championships from 2002 to 2007, Hinson's Bears beat Southern 10 times -- more than any other conference school during his nine-year tenure. The Bears had three 20-win seasons under Hinson and advanced to the finals of the MVC Tournament three times. Twenty-three of Hinson's 26 players, who completed their eligibility as seniors for the Bears, received undergraduate degrees from Missouri State. Thirteen of Hinson's players went on to play professionally overseas.

Hinson spent eight years as a high school coach in Oklahoma, including Tulsa's Bishop Kelley High School, before landing a college job on Self's staff at Oral Roberts in 1993. Four years later, he took over for Self at ORU and produced records of 19-12 and 17-11 in two years as head coach and tied for two Mid-Continent Conference regular-season titles.

The Iba Awards were created in 1994 by the Rotary Club of Tulsa to recognize an influential male and a female premiere athlete for their success in their sport, and more importantly, for being positive role models who give back to their communities - not only by donating to worthy causes, but by being personally dedicated and involved in their chosen charities.



Eric Francis / Getty Images

ANIMATED COACH: *SIU head coach Barry Hinson disputes a call by officials during their game against the Creighton Bluejays at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha, Neb.*

This year's female recipient will be famed mountain climber Melissa Arnot. The 2015 male recipient has not yet been announced. Returning as master of ceremonies will be Seth Davis, senior writer for Sports Illustrated, author and college basketball host and analyst for CBS Sports.

The awards are named after Henry P. Iba, former Oklahoma State University basketball coach and coach of three U.S. Olympic basketball teams. He was an unparalleled success as a coach, a leader and a citizen and these awards recognize and honor athletes who best exemplify a high degree of citizenship in his image.

This prestigious black-tie event will be held at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel & Convention Center on June 22, 2015. Proceeds benefit the Rotary Club of Tulsa Foundation.

For tickets or table sponsorship information, contact the Rotary Club of Tulsa at 918-584-7642 or online at ibaawards.com.

Greater Tulsa Basketball Action

Courtesy photo

OU'S RYAN SPANGLER: *The junior transfer from Gonzaga has been impressive for the Sooners this season.*

HARRY LENTZ for GTR Newspapers

OSU'S ANTHONY HICKEY JR.: *The senior Cowboy guard goes up for a basket against Iowa State in Stillwater.*

HARRY LENTZ for GTR Newspapers

UCONN POWER: *UConn's Brenna Stewart blocks a shot from Tulsa's Ashley Clark in Tulsa this season. The Huskies dominate NCAA women's basketball.*

HARRY LENTZ for GTR Newspapers

ORU's DENELL HENDERSON: *The Golden Eagle scores against South Dakota at the Mabee Center. Also in the photo is Korey Billbury.*

HARRY LENTZ for GTR Newspapers

TU'S SHAQUILLE HARRISON: *The Hurricane junior slams home a dunk against William and Mary in the first round of the NIT game in Tulsa.*

Hillcrest Healthcare and Roughnecks Announce Partnership

The Tulsa Roughnecks and Hillcrest HealthCare System recently announced a major partnership between the two organizations. In the agreement, Hillcrest HealthCare System will be the official medical provider of the Roughnecks soccer team as well as the presenting sponsor of the team's inaugural 2015 season.

"Today is an important day for our new soccer team," says Roughnecks President Mike Melega. "The commitment given by Hillcrest HealthCare System is big for professional soccer in Tulsa and is a great first step for a successful return to the pro game for our city."

"Hillcrest HealthCare System is honored to support the Tulsa Roughnecks Football Club as its official medical provider," says Kevin Gross, Hillcrest HealthCare System president and CEO. "We believe the Roughnecks will continue the exciting revitalization that is happening downtown."

As part of the agreement, Hillcrest will provide day-to-day medical and training care for the Roughnecks players.

"Hillcrest, Oklahoma Heart Institute and Utica Park Clinic are recognized for their outstanding quality scores and medical outcomes," says Melega. "We are fortunate to have our team in the hands of such highly-skilled and dedicated health professionals."

Hillcrest's role as the presenting sponsor of the 2015 season will encompass many features, including a number of season tickets and a prominent presence within ONEOK Field for all Roughnecks games.

The Roughnecks have begun preseason training under Head Coach David Irving. The club played its first-ever regular season game on Saturday, March 28 by hosting Oklahoma City in downtown Tulsa.

A number of season ticket packages are currently on sale at TulsaRoughnecksFC.com and by calling 918-744-5901. In addition, individual tickets to the first four regular season games and the exhibition game against Saint Louis FC at ONEOK Field are available.

Hillcrest HealthCare System is a comprehensive health system with approximately 5,000 employees that serves the communities of eastern Oklahoma.

"We hope the new Roughnecks will encourage our community to spend more time being physically active," says Gross. "Whether catching a game at ONEOK Field then walking to enjoy dinner at a restaurant downtown, or kicking around a soccer ball in the backyard, the team will remind our community how much fun it can be to pull ourselves away from the computer, TV or smartphone."

Hillcrest HealthCare System offers comprehensive primary and specialty care services. With seven acute hospitals, approximately 50 Utica Park Clinics, 15 Oklahoma Heart Institute locations and their new Urgent Care Clinic, located near 91st Street and Mingo Road, their dedicated team of health professionals are right around the corner from soccer fields throughout northeast Oklahoma.

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THE ECONOMY

TTCU Gets 'Wild About Savings' to Help Build Good Money Habits Among Oklahoma's Youth

Merriam Webster defines a habit as, "A usual way of behaving: something that a person does often in a regular and repeated way."

Everyone develops habits, and most likely, a lot of those habits are formed at an early age.

TTCU The Credit Union wants to get young people thinking about forming healthy savings habits for the future. It's never too early to start saving money - the earlier someone starts, the easier it is.

Warren Buffet said it best - "Well, I think the biggest mistake is not learning the habits of saving properly early. Because saving is a habit. And then, trying to get rich quick. It's pretty easy to get well-to-do slowly. But it's not easy to get rich quick."

To help kick-start a savings lifestyle with young people, TTCU is making it fun and appealing to its younger members.

"Children who learn good savings habits have a great head start on healthy financial futures," says Donita Quesnel, TTCU vice president of marketing. "TTCU believes so strongly in teaching kids about money."

April is National Credit Union Youth Month, and TTCU will celebrate all month long with a "Wild About Savings" program. Each time children make a deposit into their TTCU Kids' Savings Account, they will be entered to win one of three family passes to the Tulsa Zoo.

TTCU Kids' Savings Accounts are available for kids 12 years and younger. These accounts help kids start their financial future on the right path by introducing them to the fundamentals of savings and money management at an early age. Through the Kids' Savings program, TTCU offers prize incentives that are tied to various deposit amounts, which adds an element of fun to the act of saving.

"Our Kids' Savings program is a fun and simple way we can teach children basic financial skills early on so that saving and responsible spending become lifelong habits," says Quesnel. "We encourage parents, grandparents or anyone with a child in their life, to enroll them in a TTCU Kids Savings account. It's never too early to start learning."

The month of April is one for celebration. In addition to celebrating National Youth Savings Month, TTCU will also recognize National Financial Literacy Month.

In 2007, The Oklahoma Passport to Financial Literacy Act mandated that all high school seniors, starting with the class of 2014, had to pass a financial literacy course in order to graduate. This was a way to ensure that high school graduates can take responsibility for their personal economic well-being.

After the Act passed, schools were left with the task of hurriedly locating financial education materials that met all of the standards required to graduate – but this turned out to be a costly feat. TTCU saw the need, and quickly stepped in. In 2011, TTCU began offering the completely free financial literacy program, FoolProof, via the TTCU website - ttcu.com. More than 36,000 students in over 260 schools are currently enrolled in FoolProof through TTCU.

FoolProof is an online program that covers the 14 standards of instruction required for graduation. Students work through interactive, engaging modules that teach them the basic skills and knowledge needed to manage their personal finances. The class of 2014 seniors all over northeast Oklahoma were able to graduate through the use of the program.

TTCU sees the need for healthy financial habits in Oklahoma's youth. Whether it is offering savings accounts for kids or providing education tools for high school students, they are committed to helping young people take the right steps to a successful financial future.

"Anytime we can help young people learn to avoid making financial mistakes - mistakes that can take years to overcome - then we've given them a great gift," says Quesnel.

Courtesy TTCU

SAFE SAVINGS: *Cadence K., TTCU Kids' Savings Account member, grabs a prize from the TTCU Kids' Savings Safe.*

About TTCU The Credit Union

TTCU is the largest state-chartered credit union in Oklahoma with 16 branches; five in Tulsa, two in Broken Arrow and Tahlequah, one in Bixby, Jenks, Claremore, Miami, Muskogee, Owasso and Sapulpa. Established in 1934, TTCU The Credit Union, is a $1.5 billion credit union serving over 114,000 members who are educationally affiliated, including students and their families as well as hundreds of Select Employee Groups in NE Oklahoma with a full complement of depository, lending and financial advisory services. TTCU is federally insured by the NCUA.

Grogg's Green Barn Brings Unique Twist to Tulsa

By HEATHER BERRYHILL
Guest Writer

Grogg's Green Barn (GGB) is an organization that puts sustainability at the root and heart of what they do. And, they're bringing the best organic, non-GMO plants and eco- friendly gardening tips and supplies to Tulsa. But what makes this organization so unique is its education, community involvement, unique supplies and the genuine concern of the community, environment, and its people.

GGB has as much of a magical history as the store itself. Founded by Carla and Kelly Grogg, the dream of owning Tulsa's only organically-focused garden center has been at their roots for a long time. Growing up in Tulsa with a lawn care service at age 12, Kelly always had a passion for the outdoors and the beautification of our neighborhoods. After high school, Kelly sold his equipment and went on to college, but never lost the passion for gardening and landscaping.

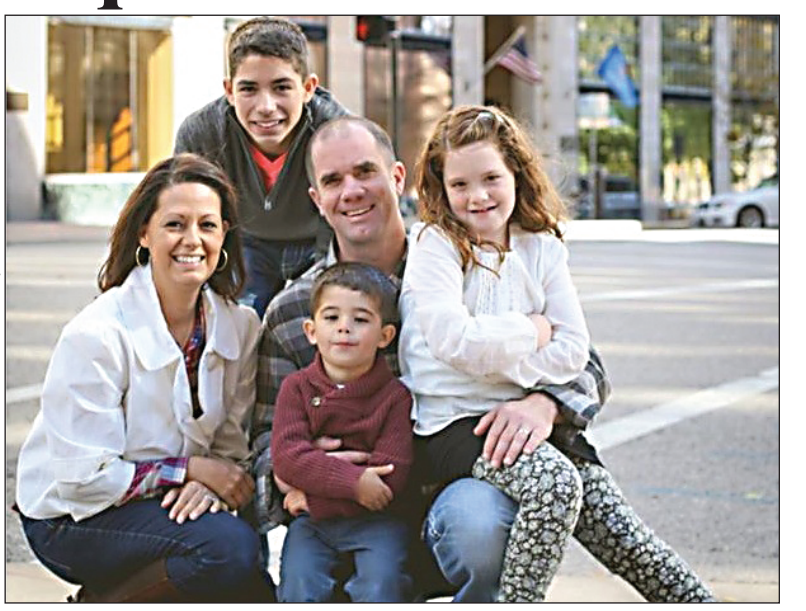
Kelly and Carla were married in 2004, and as a new couple with a son, enjoyed gardening with their newly-formed family. Carla was inspirational in planning a spot in the yard and directing Kelly on what she wanted grown. This continued for many years, and the garden got bigger and bigger, utilizing many of the products found at most garden centers.

Later, both Kelly and Carla were faced with a few tough situations and family members being diagnosed with cancer. Kelly's grandmother and Carla's aunt were both diagnosed and subsequently passed away from pancreatic cancer. At this time, Carla began researching possible ways these types of risks could be reduced. The answer they found was in organic gardening.

The problem they found was that it was very expensive to ship organic gardening products to Tulsa, and no garden center around really carried the products they needed. So after capitalizing on a final project in Kelly's pursuit for an MBA, and an accreditation course in Rhode Island through the North East Organic Farmer's Association, Kelly and Carla decided to build their dream. This dream is Grogg's Green Barn.

GROGG'S GREEN BARN: *The eco-friendly store is located at 10105 E. 61st St. in Tulsa.*

Photos courtesy HEATHER BERRYHILL



FAMILY BUSINESS: *Grogg's Green Barn is a family business. Owners Kelly and Carla Grogg are pictured here with their three children, Nicklaus (14), Eva (7) and Isaac (3).*

GGB leads by example. Through the architecture of its building, there is a reusable water collection system. The system takes advantage of passive solar energy through design and usage of low-e glass, utilizes techniques that limit energy consumption for heating and air, and utilizes organic gardening processes in its own landscape. The property also features unique, themed gardens, and shows how organic gardening can be not only beautiful but also cost-effective.

Grogg's is involved in countless community groups such as Sustainable Tulsa, OSU Master Gardeners, Global Gardens, Crossroad, Day Center for the Homeless and Hudson Villas, Audubon Society, Jenks Freshman Academy (Flycatcher Trails), Regional Medical Lab and their Health & Wellness Garden, Family & Childrens Services Gardens, and Saint Simeon's.

But what is most unique about Grogg's is the plethora of educational classes offered. On any given weekend at Grogg's, people can partake in classes that offer much to the organic-gardening enthusiast, as well as the family. For example, in March they offered classes on growing your own mushrooms; growing aquaponics; snap peas and strawberries; and providing an Easter basket workshop. Participants can even took a backyard chicken class that teaches people how to raise their own chickens for fresh, organic eggs and soil fertilization.

Grogg's is bringing something truly unique to Tulsa. With GGB's unique approach to gardening education, the Tulsa community is benefiting greatly from the Grogg experience.

Visit www.groggsgreenbarn.com for more information. Or find them on Facebook or Twitter @groggsgreenbarn.

TYPros Celebrates Trader Joe's Announcement

Tulsa leaders have expressed positive reactions to the announcement that Trader Joe's will be coming to Brookside.

Shagah Zakerion, executive director, Tulsa's Young Professionals, says, "Tulsa and Trader Joe's are a match made in the produce aisle of heaven. Our city's love affair with this quirky grocer is well-documented and undeniable, and it's no wonder its lineup of specialty health-conscious products fits well with Tulsans' sophisticated tastes. In 2013, Tulsa's Young Professionals proved the viability of Trader Joe's in Tulsa by selling $7,000 in Trader Joe's merchandise to people from across the region as part of our Bring It to Tulsa campaign. The throngs of people who amassed outside our pop-up Trader Joe's store in downtown Tulsa proved Tulsans would embrace this company wholeheartedly.

"We cannot express our gratitude enough for this company's decision to invest in Tulsa, nor for the countless Tulsans who helped us extend the welcome mat. We have seen time and again what happens when businesses invest in Tulsa: Tulsans invest right back. We're seeing today that the same happens when Tulsans invest in businesses, and you can bet it's a cycle that will continue as Tulsans continue embracing Trader Joe's. Thank you Trader Joe's, and thank you Tulsa. We did it. We brought it to Tulsa."

Evan Tipton, 2015 chair of the Tulsa's Young Professionals adds, "Trader Joe's decision to open in Tulsa permanently shows exactly what happens when Tulsa's dedicated, passionate young leaders pour their blood, sweat and tears into an idea. The second iteration of our Bring It To Tulsa campaign succeeded in bringing Uber to Tulsa last year. This year, we're seeing the long-awaited results of our tireless efforts to prove Tulsa's viability for Trader Joe's."

Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett Jr., a strong supporter of TYPros and area economic development, says, "This is great news for the city of Tulsa and opens up the door to an entirely new retail market. With the announcements of Costco, Urban Outfitters and now Trader Joe's, Tulsa is a place where retailers want to be as we have a strong economy, philanthropic and business community and have a uniqueness that is hard to find anywhere else in the country."

Editor's Note: Tulsa's Young Professionals, one of the nation's largest young professional organizations, is division of the Tulsa Regional Chamber and a volunteer-based free membership organization for working and creative adults under the age of 40. Its mission is to attract and retain young talent in the Tulsa region while establishing Tulsa's next generation of business and community leaders.

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Attorney's Work Led By Love of Children

By KIM SHOEMAKE
Contributing Writer

Wagoner attorney Terri Craig believes her call to the legal field was a matter of chance.

After completing her Bachelor of Science in criminal justice/paralegal at Northeastern State University, Craig had the desire to continue her love for education, and the pursuit of a law degree seemed a natural choice. Shortly after graduating from law school at the University of Tulsa in 1995, she was offered a job with a law firm in the adoption field. Two years later, Craig opened her own practice in Wagoner and has established herself as a prominent attorney in the field of adoption.

Craig feels it is the human side of adoption that first drew her to the field. She points out that while there is often a winner and loser coming out of most legal proceedings, "with adoptions, everyone leaves the courtroom happy," she says. Craig keeps in touch with most of her clients and often receives updates from her adoptive families.

Craig's desire to help families stems largely in part from her work with children in the care of Oklahoma Department of Human Services. In 2008, she was named the Adoption Advocate of the Year by OKDHS for Area IV Swift Adoptions. Her passion for helping children extends beyond those in custody. Her practice also includes stepparent, grandparent and private adoption.

Recently, she represented a married same-sex couple in Okmulgee County, who are believed to be among the first same-sex couples to be granted the right to adopt jointly in the state of Oklahoma. The ruling changes the landscape of adoption in the state, and Craig hopes this serves as a precedent for other married same-sex couples to pursue their dream of adopting a child.

Growing up in a small community of Wagoner most of her life, Craig feels it has given her a unique perspective in her practice. "I provide a more personal service. Because I'm from a small town, I think that influences how I treat people."

She believes it is important to get to know each of her clients to ensure they are getting the best possible representation, and that level of service extends to every area of law within her practice, she says.

Although Craig admits she has a special place in her heart for adoption, she also handles bankruptcy, guardianship, family law and estate planning.

For information regarding consultations, call 918-485-1529, or email Craiglawoffice@yahoo.com.

TERRI CRAIG

Tulsa County's Eco Focus Blossoms in Spring

Trash Talk

By BETH TURNER
Tulsa Master Recyclers Association

After the cold and icy months of winter, spring is a welcomed sight, bringing the beauty of Mother Nature rolling out her spring wardrobe. It also inspires many to get involved in eco events planned across the county aiming to celebrate renewal, help others, create community, and provide a little safe spring cleaning.

Hazardous Drop-Off

The Metropolitan Environmental Trust, The M.e.t., will host a two day pollutant collection event on Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Tulsa Fairgrounds. This event is located at 15th Street and Sandusky Avenue, Gate 7 next to the former Driller's Stadium.

Michael Patton, executive director of The M.e.t. says, "Unwanted chemicals and pollutants in basements and garages should be the first things to go in the spring cleaning process. If you aren't going to use it; why are you storing it?"

Household items that are accepted: cleaners, pesticides, fertilizers, automotive fluids, cooking oil, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, small ammunition, smoke alarms, aerosol paint, hobby paint, pool chemicals, and items containing mercury, gasoline and unused or out-of-date prescription medications.

Items that are NOT accepted: Latex paint, tires, electronic waste (phones, monitors, etc.), recyclables and commercial waste.

Latex or water-based paints are not accepted because you can allow the paint in these cans to dry, then drop them in your recycling bin.

Electronic waste can be dropped off at any Goodwill location, The M.e.t. location at 51st Street and Sheridan Road, or at Natural Evolutions located at 5701 E. 13th St. in Tulsa.

For construction waste recycling, contact Harley Hollan Companies at 918-317-7777.

Oysters & Ale

Thanks to Hospice of Green Country's fourth annual Oysters and Ale fundraising event, Tulsans now have proof that a fundraising event can also be done with zero waste. Thanks to the focus of volunteers, event planners and Tulsa Master Recyclers, last year's event left no waste behind. The oyster shells became walkways at a nearby community garden. Utensils were either compostable or reusable (such as using metal forks instead of the plastic, one-use-and-toss variety). Food waste was deposited in a compost pile and drink products in a recycling bin.

See the setup for yourself Thursday, March 26 from 5 to 8 p.m. Featuring raw oysters on the half-shell and locally-crafted ales, this casual "come and go" buffet, thanks to participants such as Executive Chef Tim Richards of Doc's Wine & Food, takes place at Living Arts located at 307 E. Brady St. in downtown Tulsa.

Enviro Expo

The international date for Earth Day is April 22. Each year, the M.e.t. hosts a celebration for the Earth in downtown Tulsa, providing several booths and activities for the many groups across the county focused on greening the 918. The 17th annual Enviro Expo will be held on Tuesday, April 21, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., between 4th and 5th streets on Main Street. Any groups or nonprofits who wish to reserve a booth free of charge need to contact The M.e.t.

Guthrie Green

Here's a weekend event in support of Earth Day. Guthrie Green will host an Earth Day celebration Sunday, April 19, from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. There will be activities, eco information and lots of live music - all free and open to the public.

Free Trees!

Tulsa Community College hosts a nod to Earth Day with its annual "Eco Fest" event. This year's "Eco Fest" will be held Sunday, March 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 pm., and will be hosted on the TCC Northeast Campus located at 3727 E. Apache St. This event provides the community with healthy living guides, environmental presentations and children's activities as well as live music and a free tree give-away.

Sustainable Together

Want to keep the green going all year long? Join in Sustainable Tulsa's, "First Thursdays." This luncheon is held at 11:30 a.m. the first Thursday of each month at Foolish Things Coffee Shop in downtown Tulsa. Each month provides the public with a great opportunity to network with others as well as learn from a guest speaker on a number of "green" topics such as the city's Low Impact Development focus, or Scissortail Farms, which is a new local aeroponic/ hydroponic farming facility located in west Tulsa that grows lettuce, herbs, and other leafy greens. For more information, visit www.SustainableTulsa.org.

Courtesy of Turner Bend Mulberry River Outfitter

RIVER CLEANUP: *Many volunteers were on hand for this year's Mulberry River clean up, which netted approximately 1,200 bags of trash from nearby roadways and waterways. This event was a finalist in Arkansas' Henry Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service.*

Pick It Up

Roughly 3,000 years ago, the ancient Greek poet Homer said, "Light is the task where many share the toil." The concept still applies today: many hands make light work. In a world where it feels like life moves too fast and sometimes it's hard to see positive impact being made, what a treat it is to simply go pick up trash then take a look at your before-and-after accomplishment. Join in the fun Saturday, May 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for "Creek Clean Up." Everyone will meet at the Westside YMCA located at 5400 S. Olympia Ave. For more information, contact Julie Monnot at jmonnot@cityoftulsa.org.

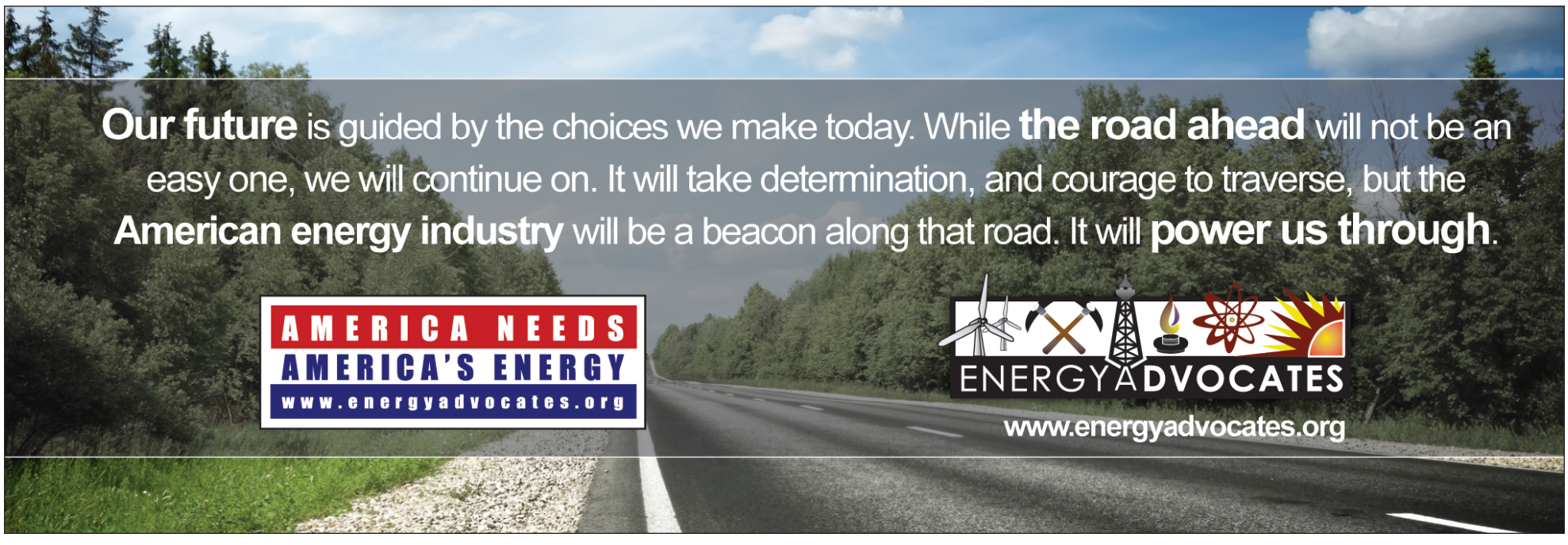
Trashy Accolades

A nearby trash pick-up event received recognition recently. Brad Wimberly, the owner of Turner Bend (my family's namesake) recently won an award for river clean-up efforts that began years ago. Wimberly started this project after overhearing a mother tell her child, "Don't throw that can in the middle of the road, throw it in the woods where nobody can see it." Fortunately, a lot has changed since that day, and now dozens of people join in the clean up. It hasn't been easy crawling through the brambles to de-trash the banks of the scenic Mulberry River, but it has been rewarding. I am proud to announce that Arkansas' Henry Awards recognized this annual spring clean-up as a finalist in the category of Outstanding Volunteer Service. The Henry Awards honor distinguished individuals, businesses and organizations in the Arkansas tourism industry.

Located just a few hours from Tulsa, this scenic byway is a great daytrip or weekend getaway. Learn more at www.TurnerBend.com.

Stay in Touch

If you have an upcoming event that you would like to "green up," or if you'd like to send in your spring greening photo send it to beth@gtrnews.com. Follow me on Twitter @TrashTalkTulsa and don't forget to subscribe to your favorite GTR e-edition by logging on to www.gtrnews.com.



CCK Strategies Receives Award for Employment

Courtesy Waller PR

NATIONAL RECOGNITION: Recently, U.S. House of Representative for the 1st District of Oklahoma Jim Bridenstine, center, congratulated Tulsa-based CCK Strategies, a tax and accounting specialty firm, for being selected the "#1 Midsize Accounting Firm to Work For in 2014" by industry trade journal Accounting Today. Standing with Bridenstine are Jeff Frable, left, with CCK Strategies, and company co-founder John Curzon.

No Oklahoma CPA firm has ever earned this honor from Accounting Today or been included in the top five of the annual competition.

According to the publication, the winning firms are "among the most forward-looking and progressive in the profession" as well as ones that have "made significant commitment to their employees and to their own future, implementing the policies and initiatives that create the kind of workplace environment that attracts engaged, enthusiastic staff."

Curzon founded CCK in 2002 with Terry Cumbey and Eric Kunkel. The company has grown to be comprised of more than 70 individuals and seven partners who plan strategic accounting solutions for a diverse base of entrepreneurs in and outside of Oklahoma.

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BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences President Kayse Shrum, D.O., has announced several changes to her executive leadership team:

PETTIT

STEPHENS

DYER

SMITH

William Pettit, D.O., will be promoted to provost of OSU Center for Health Sciences and senior associate dean of academic affairs for OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine; **Johnny Stephens, Pharm.D.**, will be promoted to chief operating officer; **Robin Dyer, D.O.**, will serve as associate dean for academic affairs; **Kent Smith, Ph.D.**, will be associate dean for the Office for the Advancement of American Indians in Medicine and Science.

Pettit, a graduate of the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa, has previously served as interim senior associate dean and associate dean of rural health. He oversaw the OSU Center for Rural Health and was a leader in developing OSU-COM's rural medical track. He has worked closely with hospital and clinic leaders across the state to develop medical residency programs in rural communities.

A licensed family medicine physician and professor of family medicine, Pettit joined the faculty at OSU Center for Health Sciences in 2002 as medical director of academic services. He served as staff physician in the U.S. Army at the Reynolds Army Community Hospital in Fort Sill, Okla., before entering private practice in Lawton.

Stephens has served as interim chief operating officer and interim vice president for research since July and will continue to serve as interim vice president. Prior to stepping into his executive role, Stephens was the assistant dean of sponsored programs at OSU-CHS, supervising clinical trials and the OSU Center for Aerospace and Hyperbaric Medicine. He also served as associate professor of internal medicine and ran the OSU Physicians Internal Medicine - Specialty Services clinic.

A graduate of OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dyer joined the faculty as a part-time adjunct instructor in 1994, the same year she was honored as Rookie Physician of the Year by the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association. She accepted a full-time faculty position with OSU-COM in 2006 and became head of the osteopathic manipulative medicine department in 2009.

Smith, a member of the Comanche, Chickasaw and Cherokee Nations, established the Office for the Advancement of American Indians in Medicine and Science and became interim associate dean in 2014 as part of an effort to recruit more American Indians into medical and STEM careers.

HESS

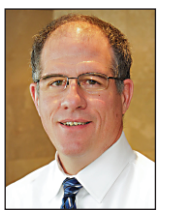
Cindy Hess, Ed. D., has been named by the **Tulsa Community College Board of Regents** as senior vice president and chief academic officer. Hess returns to TCC after spending the past 10 years in higher education leadership roles in North Carolina and St. Louis where she led initiatives in workforce development and spearheaded efforts to improve and streamline student services.

As senior vice president and chief academic officer, Hess will serve as an academic leader for the college, impact the direction of TCC and support the implementation of the new strategic plan expected to be presented to the TCC Board of Regents in April 2015.

Hess started her community college career in Tulsa, becoming TCC Northeast Campus Provost before moving to Craven Community College in New Bern, N.C., as executive vice president and chief academic officer. Then she served as president of St. Louis Community College before returning to TCC where she most recently served as associate dean for communication services at TCC Southeast Campus.

Hess has a Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Administration, a Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction and a Bachelor of Arts in English, each from Oklahoma State University.

She begins work April 1.


SWENGLE

Dewberry, a privately-held and nationally-ranked professional services firm, has promoted **Craig Swengle, PE**, to business unit manager of the Tulsa engineering group. In his new role, he will provide leadership for Tulsa's transportation, water and civil engineering practice. This includes managing the day-to-day operations, as well as design and consulting oversight and ensuring projects meet deadlines and are on budget.

Swengle has more than 30 years of industry experience in management, civil engineering design, and construction administration on a variety of infrastructure projects for both private- and public-sector clients. His portfolio includes highways, bridges, rail, ports and waterways, aviation, transit, water and wastewater, and site/civil projects, both large and small.

"We have an experienced and qualified team at Dewberry that is ready to take on greater responsibilities," says Swengle. "I look forward to the challenges ahead and am grateful for this opportunity."

"We are very fortunate to have strong leadership in place in engineering and architecture in our Tulsa office," says Dan Pleasant, Dewberry's chief operating officer. "This planned transition of the Tulsa engineering management to Craig ensures our clients' best interests will be served as we continue to expand both geographically and in our practice areas."

Swengle has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Pennsylvania State University and is a licensed professional engineer in Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada and Texas.

To learn more about Dewberry, visit www.dewberry.com.

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GARRETT

Stinnett & Associates, a professional advisory firm, has named a new principal and announces promotions.

Jennifer Brandt has been promoted to principal. Brandt plays a key role in leading client engagement teams, training and mentoring staff, pursuing practice development opportunities, cultivating client relationships, and developing firm strategy in addition to participating in internal firm initiatives.

Brandt has nearly 20 years of experience in IT Audit, Sarbanes-Oxley compliance, IT strategic development, business continuity planning and disaster recovery, SCADA security, and FERC IT compliance. A graduate of the University of Tulsa, she is a certified information systems auditor.

Jennifer Roberson has been promoted to senior manager of talent and leadership development. Roberson has been instrumental in leading the firm's training program and expanding it to encompass several initiatives. She has also assumed responsibility for on-boarding, campus outreach and the Strengths Finders program. In addition, Roberson has managed internal audit and Sarbanes-Oxley services for many of the firm's clients. Roberson is a certified internal auditor and holds a BSBA in Finance from Northeastern State University and an MBA from Oklahoma State University.

Stephanie Garrett has been promoted to senior associate. Garrett has IT audit and Sarbanes-Oxley experience in various industries and has been involved in several complex engagements while at Stinnett. Garrett holds a Bachelor of Technology in information assurance and forensics from the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology.

Sarah Peterson has joined **OSU-Tulsa** as the library director. She replaces longtime OSU-Tulsa Library Director Beth Freeman, who retired in December.

Peterson is a 20-year veteran of the Tulsa City-County Library.

She was most recently the technical services manager for the Tulsa City-County Library and also served as backup system administrator for the library's catalog software. She worked on a variety of projects for TCCL including joining a resource-sharing consortium, implementing a new ILS and new discovery platform, and working on sustainability issues.

Peterson holds a Master of Arts from the University of Tulsa and a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Oklahoma. She is a member of several state and national library associations, including two American Library Association committees.

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PASSPORT PHOTO

AWC Sets Newsmakers Awards Luncheon

Southern Hills to Host May 6 Event

The Association for Women in Communications Tulsa Chapter will recognize the AWC Newsmakers of the Year and the organization's Saidie Lifetime Achievement Award winner at a special luncheon May 6, 11:30 a.m., at Southern Hills Country Club, 2636 E. 61st. Each year, AWC selects a group of outstanding Oklahoma women who made news while advancing opportunities for women and working to improve their local communities and state. The Saidie Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates an accomplished professional in the journalism and communications field. The AWC membership has selected the following award winners.

Newsmakers:

- **Alison Anthony**, Director of Strategic Outreach at The Williams Companies, Inc., and President of The Williams Foundation.
- **Mary Bishop-Baldwin and Sharon Bishop-Baldwin**, Advocates for Marriage Equality
- **Meredith Siegfried-Madden**, CEO of NORDAM

Saidie Lifetime Achievement Award Winner:

- **Connie Cronley**, Executive Director of Iron Gate, Tulsa Journalist and Public Relations Professional

For reservations or sponsorship information, contact Sharla Koob at skoob@cars.com.

Courtesy of The University of Tulsa

HONOREES: *The Association for Women in Communications Tulsa Chapter has announced its AWC Newsmakers of the Year and Saidie Lifetime Achievement Award winner. They are, back row, from left, Meredith Siegfried, Mary and Sharon Bishop-Baldwin; front row, from left, Connie Cronley and Alison Anthony.*

Fundraiser Welcomes NFL Great

NFL Football great and best-selling author Tony Dungy will serve as the keynote speaker at the 22nd Salvation Army William Booth Society Dinner, May 19 at the Cox Business Center.

In 13 seasons as head coach of the Indianapolis Colts and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Dungy amassed a 148-79 overall record and reached the postseason an unprecedented 10 consecutive times. He became the first African-American coach to lead his team to a championship when his Colts defeated the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI. As a player, Dungy won his first Super Bowl ring as a member of the 1978 Pittsburgh Steelers; he is one of only three individuals to have won the Super Bowl as both a player and a head coach. Since retirement from coaching, Dungy has served as an analyst for NBC's Football Night in America and was nominated for an Emmy award in his very first season as a television commentator.

Courtesy The Salvation Army

SALVATION ARMY DINNER: *The 2015 William Booth Society Dinner, which serves as The Salvation Army's major fundraiser, will be held May 19. The featured speaker this year will be former NFL player and coach Tony Dungy. Pictured, from left, are Major April Taylor, associate commander, The Salvation Army of Metro Tulsa; Dede Hewitt, co-chair, 2015 William Booth Dinner; John Hewitt, co-chair, 2015 William Booth Dinner and president and CEO of Matrix Service Company; and Major James Taylor, Tulsa area commander, The Salvation Army.*

On and off the field, Dungy is known for his leadership style emphasizing decency and respect and his priorities of faith and family. A committed Christian, Dungy is passionate about causes that include Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Prison Crusade Ministry, Boys & Girls Clubs, and Christian Athletes.

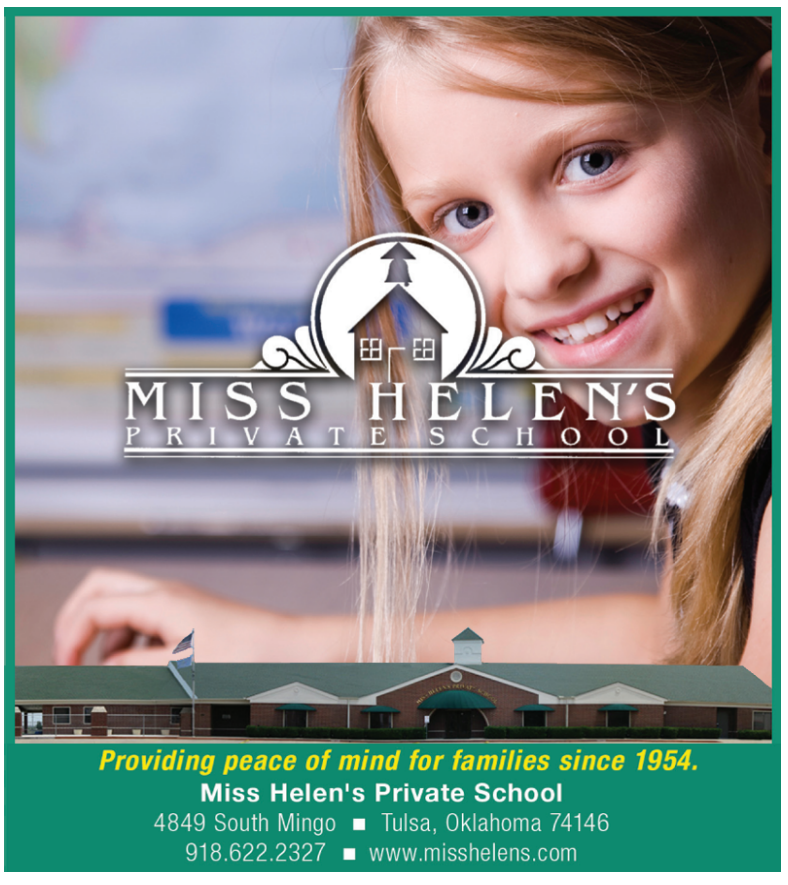
The William Booth Society Dinner, named for The Salvation Army's founder, is the largest source of funding for outreach programs that include the Center of Hope homeless shelter, Christmas assistance, and the Boys & Girls Clubs. The theme of the May 19 dinner is "A Day in the Life of …" and will highlight the positive, life-changing difference The Salvation Army's programs have made for so many in our community.

"We look forward to hosting Mr. Dungy as we come together to help those who desperately need our help," says John Hewitt, event co-chair with his wife, Dede Hewitt. "The need is great, but as demonstrated by Mr. Dungy and our generous sponsors, through decency and respect for each other and a generous, giving heart, we can and do make a lasting difference."

Past speakers for the dinner include: Paul Harvey, President George H.W. Bush and Barbara Bush, Walter Cronkite, Jay Leno, Tim Russert, Steve Forbes, President Bill Clinton, Peyton Manning, and Bob Costas.

Committee members for the 2015 event include: Allison and Trey Biggs, Kerri and John Bowen, Sheila Buck, Charlotte and Wade Edmundson, Hannah and Trent Ekblad, Marallie and David Littlefield, Adrienne and Rusty McMurray, Ruth Libertus and Jeff Sanders, Susie and Jeff Stava, and Marci and Jason Turner.

For ticket and sponsor information, call Nancy Lloyd at 918-587-7801 ext. 131.



Girls' Home Offers Guidance to Adulthood

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Ashley Walker knows foster care well. Not, though, because she grew up as a foster child.

"My family has always worked in foster care," she notes. She remembers serving as secretary when she was nine years old for her grandmother and her child placement agency.

Currently, both of Walker's parents each foster four children.

Walker went on to work at the Laura Dester Shelter and currently works with Youth Services of Tulsa.

When Walker began attending Oral Roberts University, her plan was to pursue law. "I wanted to do the political, legal side of child welfare; that's how I originally wanted to be involved in those issues," she says.

Soon, though, something intervened to challenge her plan.

In 2009, Walker took a mission trip to Brazil, where she visited an orphanage and was struck by the healthy way the children there talked about their lives.

"You had a seven-year-old saying, 'I know my mom has problems and has made mistakes, but I forgive her,'" she recounts. "The kids spoke in such a healing way."

That was all it took for Walker.

"I came back and started raising money to open a girls' home," called Project Manna Girls' Home, she says.

In the beginning, raising money and gaining support for her cause was slow-going, something Walker admits she didn't originally expect.

"I thought: my vision is worth funding. I wasn't thinking about the credibility that a person or organization needs to establish before corporations will write big checks," she laughs.

She spent those early days sending out donation-request letters, gathering information about the process of creating a foster home, and meeting with interested parties concerning her mission, which is to provide a residence where girls learn how to handle their independence.

"Girls with DHS (Department of Health Services) are highly institutionalized and completely dependent. They don't cook; they don't do laundry; they aren't really talked to about their future," she says.

"Then, at 18, they leave and become completely independent."

Walker aims to provide a group, independent living home, as a stepping stone between dependence and full independence.

As Walker's vision gathered steam, she gained the use of a home in Broken Arrow. She fostered four girls there for seven months, which helped her to create a more accurate picture of the resources that she needed moving forward.

In 2013, after a local individual heard Walker's story, he provided her a more suitable home for her mission in south Tulsa.

Currently, Walker is fostering four girls ages 15 and older who all attend Union Public Schools and take care of various chores and assignments assigned by Walker, who lives there with the girls.

Besides daily chores like cooking and cleaning, the girls receive assignments teaching them life and entrepreneurial skills. The girls make jewelry for a jewelry business, Heaven's Keys. The jewelry is for sale at Simply Boutique in downtown Tulsa's Blue Dome District.

The girls also receive tutoring, participate in weekly Bible study sessions, and set short-term and long-term goals for themselves, ranging from saying daily prayers and regularly calling a family member to saving money for braces. "I want to encourage them and challenge them to grow," Walker says.

Her hope is that in a year, she can open a second home for younger girls between 12 and 15 years old.

Her future goal is to establish a campus with a few group homes for foster girls.

Quite the undertaking for someone who has not even hit 30 years old yet, and Walker is the first to admit, sometimes "it feels heavy," she says.

However, she keeps her focus in view, which is to help girls in need become self-sufficient adults, and Walker has many success stories to reflect on in the short amount of time since opening her home.

Walker conducts regular evaluations with her foster girls to address areas where they have improved and areas still in need of improvement.

EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

PROJECT MANNA GIRLS' HOME FOUNDER: *Ashley Walker, founder of Project Manna Girls' Home, sits in the living room of the group home that she lives in with four foster girls in south Tulsa.*

"Sometimes the girls are harder on themselves than I am," Walker says, and she needs to remind them of how far they've come. "I told one of my girls recently, 'You're not the same girl who moved in here three months ago.'"

St. Simeon's to Hold Western Days

Western Days 2015: "Celebrating Saint Simeon's, Where Caring Really Matters" will be held Sept. 15 at Central Park Hall at Expo Square. Saint Simeon's Western Days 2015 event will mark the 19th year for this fundraising event that benefits Saint Simeon's Foundation. This year's event will support operations of Saint Simeon's Episcopal Home, a senior living community.

"At Saint Simeon's, operation costs mean a beautiful campus in a park-like setting, individual attention to residents in addition to fulfilling their healthcare needs, a highly-trained and experienced nursing team, and extras including an on-site therapy dog, resident programs such as the gardening club, the wellness center and therapy pool, and even the birds and peacocks," says Will Farrior president of the Saint Simeon's Foundation Board of Trustees.

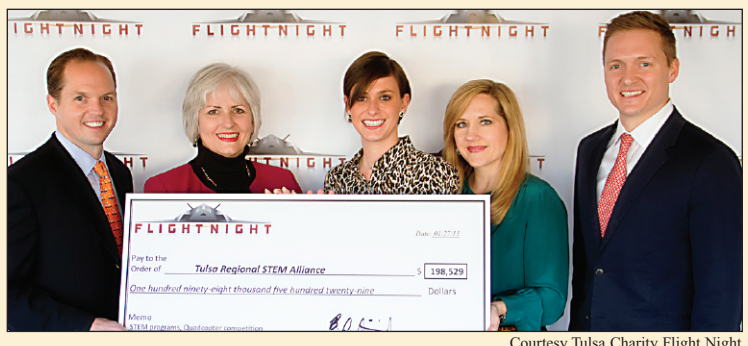
June Patton and David Hogan will serve as event chairs and Donna and Will Farrior as patron chairs. Karen and Rick Garren have been selected as honorary chairs and will be celebrated for their long-time volunteerism and support of Saint Simeon's. This year, the Pioneer Spirit Award will be presented to Saint Simeon's resident Jim Dempster, who serves on the Saint Simeon's Library Committee and who started a husbands' support group for men whose wives are dealing with memory loss.

The event will feature dinner, silent and live auctions, and the much-coveted raffle drawing for a $2,500 Utica Square shopping spree.

Courtesy Saint Simeon's

FUNDRAISING EVENT: *Saint Simeon's Episcopal Home will hold its annual Western Days fundraiser Sept. 15. Pictured from left are Donna and Will Farrior, patron chairs; June Patton and David Hogan, event chairs; Karen and Rick Garren, honorary chairs; and Jim Dempster, who will receive the Pioneer Spirit Award.*

Flight Night Gives Proceeds



Courtesy Tulsa Charity Flight Night

STUDENTS TO BENEFIT: Flight Night, a local nonprofit event focused on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, recently presented $361,000 in 2014 event proceeds to Fab Lab Tulsa and the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance. Pictured from left are Terrell Siegfried, Flight Night co-chair; Xan Black, program director with Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance; Annie Tyndall, communications and marketing coordinator at Oklahoma Innovation Institute; Mandy Leemhuis, president of Tulsa Charity Flight Night; and Flight Night co-chair Bailey J. Siegfried.

Funds will support related curriculum development and teacher training and construction and operation of a first-of-its-kind mobile 'fab lab,' designed to engage northeastern Oklahoma students in STEM studies through experiential learning labs. Likewise, the Flight Night contribution will finance Oklahoma's first quadcopter challenge.

Consistency Reigns Supreme at The Wild Fork

(Continued from page 12)

has such a range of dishes, naming only a few popular items was a chore for Michie and Woolman, and it quickly turned into a long list:

Big-item sellers include two of the restaurant's pita-bread sandwiches: the Grilled Chicken Sandwich and the Mediterranean Burger.

Fresh fish items change with the season and are always fresh, never frozen, says Woolman, with perhaps one of the hottest items being the salmon. "We never have our salmon for more than a day; it sells so quickly," says Michie.

They credit the fish's popularity to its quality and the variety of ways it is served: sesame crusted, topped on a salad, grilled, in a sandwich, and on a bed of pasta. "People can have it any way they want it," says Woolman.

Vegetarian and vegan customers especially appreciate The Wild Fork's lentils, either on a salad or sandwich or as a side order.

The Snow Crab and Corn Cakes is a reliable appetizer that has been on the menu since the beginning, says Woolman. "They are so popular, we can't take them off the menu."

Therefore, when I dined for lunch recently, that was the first item on my list to try.

The dish is reasonably priced for two thick, flavorful patties that are well-complemented with jalapeno slaw, tomatoes and a creamy herb vinaigrette sauce. The result is a fresh-tasting, light dish that has you wishing you had ordered more.

For our entrees, I ordered the Mediterranean Burger with its flatbread bun. The hearty sandwich comes with feta cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion and creamy herb vinaigrette, with the choice of German Potato Salad or Jalapeno Cole Slaw. I chose the cole slaw. The slaw mixed nicely with the flavors of the burger, and the dish was more than enough for lunch. I had to take half of it home.

A little more of a heartier dish, however, was what my dining mate chose: Red Corn Meal Crusted Chicken. This is more of a comfort food dish with black bean puree, pico de gallo, cilantro sour cream and garlic mashed potatoes, which were well-flavored and light. Vegetables or mixed grains can also be chosen in place of the mashed potatoes.

Because it was a bit chilly outside, we chose to sit in the restaurant's side dining room that is walled with windows, giving us the opportunity to enjoy the ever-changing local artwork that is featured throughout the restaurant.

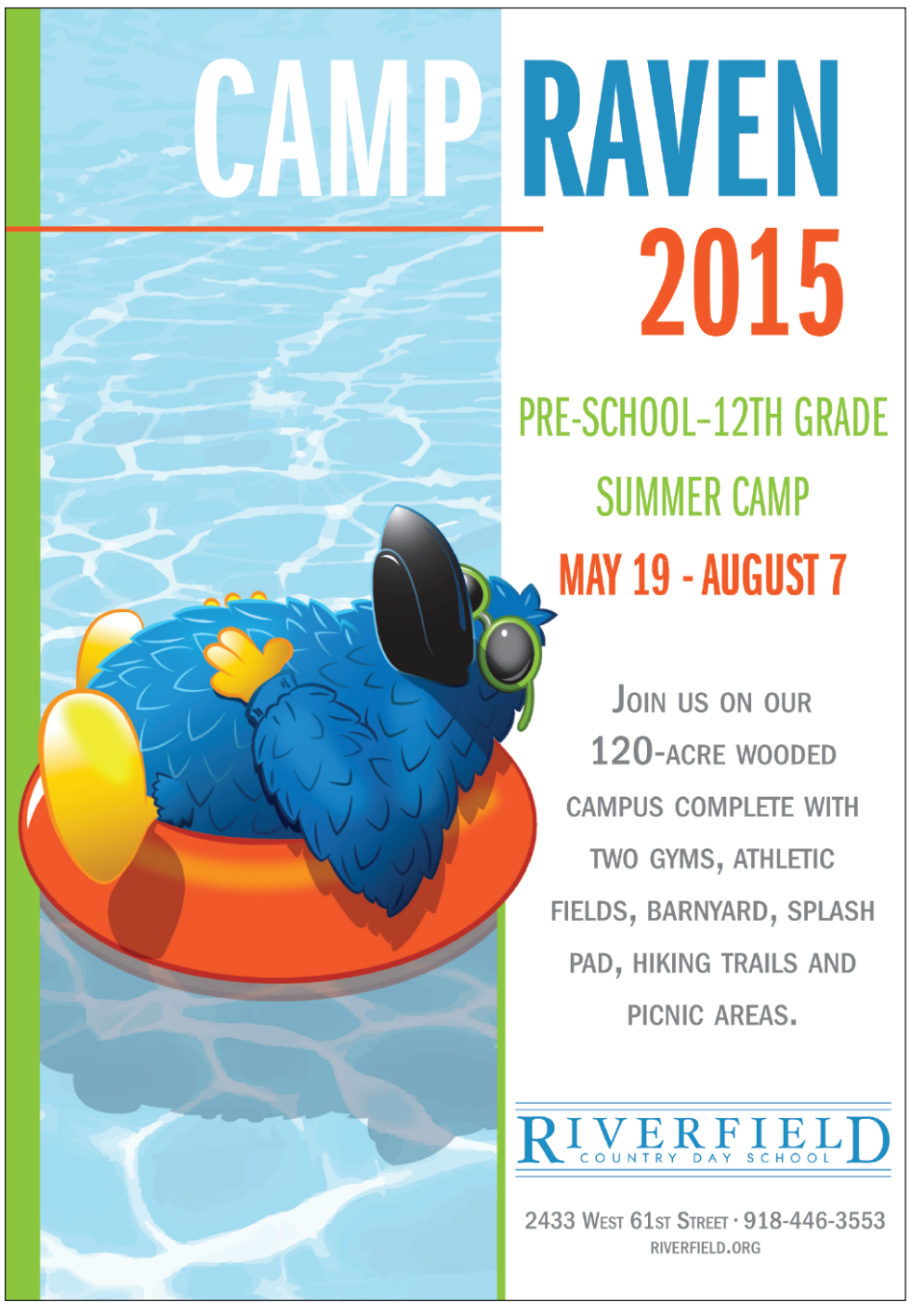
The art changes every eight weeks. Michie, an artist herself, and Woolman both opened The Wild Fork with a focus on spotlighting local artists. While in the beginning, they borrowed artwork from local gallery M.A. Doran, "we soon wanted more involvement with the community," says Michie.

So they began working with artists directly, hanging their art in their restaurant, with the sole purpose of supporting them. "This also keeps our restaurant interior fresh and always changing," says Michie.

"We don't charge any commissions. Instead, we put interested patrons in touch with the artist."

When the weather is right, however, diners are quick to turn to the restaurant's outdoor patio. When Michie and Woolman first acquired the space, the previous tenant wasn't making much use of the outdoor area.

"We knew that we would utilize the outdoor patio," say Michie. "Instead of the patio facing a parking lot or the street, the courtyard makes it special."



ONB BANK GTR COMMUNITY CALENDAR • MARCH 22 TO APRIL 25

The Tulsa Drillers Return to ONEOK Field April 9 vs. San Antonio

SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY

22 March

The 39 Steps
Theatre Tulsa
2 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Takacs Quartet
Chamber Music Tulsa
3 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Take Action Tour Featuring Memphis May Fire
Cain's Ballroom
7 p.m.
Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.

23

Firefly Experience
PAC Gallery
March 3–29
FREE exhibit.

Free 3-D Printing For Teens
Librarium
March 1 – 31
Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.

24

Disney Institute
Mabee Center
8 – 10 a.m.
Visit mabeecenter.com for more information.

German Language Lessons
German-American Society of Tulsa
6:30 – 9 p.m.
Visit gastulsa.org for more information.

25

Brown Bag It: Lynch, Hollis & Boustani
PAC Trust
12:10 p.m.
FREE event.

Tulsa Oilers
vs. Allen
6 p.m.
For more information, visit tulsaoilers.com

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26

The 39 Steps
Theatre Tulsa
8 p.m. • March 26-27
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Little Women
Lorton Performance Center
8 p.m.
Visit lortonpc.utulsa.edu for more information.

Dwight Yoakam
Hard Rock Hotel and Casino
8 – 10 p.m.
Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.

27

Sesame Street Live
Tulsa Convention Center
10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Visit bokcenter.com for more information.

Chris Tucker
Brady Theater
7 p.m.
Visit bradytheater.com for more information.

The Three Musketeers
Tulsa Ballet
8 p.m. • March 27-28
918-596-7111 for tickets.

28

The 39 Steps
Theatre Tulsa
8 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Mom Prom
All Saints Catholic School, B.A.
7 – 11 p.m.
Visit assistanceinhealthcare.org for more information.

Sesame Street Live
Tulsa Convention Center
10:30 a.m., 2 & 5:30 p.m.
Visit bokcenter.com for more information.

29

The 39 Steps
Theatre Tulsa
2 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

The Three Musketeers
Tulsa Ballet
3 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Sesame Street Live
Tulsa Convention Center
1 p.m.
Visit bokcenter.com for more information.

30

Preschool Storytime
Bixby Library
11 – 11:30 a.m.
Visit tulsalibrary.org for info.

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Tulsa Oilers
vs. Allen
6 p.m. • March 31
For more information, visit tulsaoilers.com

31

Literature LIVE! Theatre Series: Click, Clack, Moo.
Tulsa Convention Center
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Visit coxcentertulsa.com for more information.

Soledad Barrio & Noche Flamenca
Choregus Productions
7 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

1 April

Soledad Barrio & Noche Flamenca
Choregus Productions
7 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Brown Bag It: Dean Demerritt Jazz Tribe
PAC Trust
12:10 p.m.
FREE event.

Really Basic Computer Class
Zarrow Regional Library
1:30-3 p.m.
Visit tulsalibrary.org for info.

2

Kids Dig Books - Characters of the West
Gilcrease Museum
10 – 11 a.m.
Visit gilcrease.utulsa.edu for more information.

Tulsa Roughnecks
vs. St. Louis
7 p.m.
For more information, visit tulsaroughnecksfc.com

3

Godspell
Tulsa Project Theatre
7:30 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Tulsa Oilers
vs. Missouri
6 p.m.
For more info., visit tulsaoilers.com

Tedeschi Trucks Band
Brady Theater
7 p.m.
Visit bradytheater.com for more information.

4

Aquarium Run
Oklahoma Aquarium
10 a.m.
Visit okaquarium.org for more information.

Godspell
Tulsa Project Theatre
2 & 7:30 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Tulsa Oilers
vs. Missouri
6 p.m.
For more information, visit tulsaoilers.com

5

Godspell
Tulsa Project Theatre
2 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Gardening with Native Plants
Tulsa Garden Center
7 p.m.
Visit tulsagardencenter.com for more information.

6

The Craft Connection: Not Your Grandma's Quilting
Schusterman-Benson Library
6 – 7 p.m.
Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.

Dr. Dog: Flamingo Hotel Tour
Cain's Ballroom
7 p.m.
Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.

7

Nickleback
BOK Center
6 p.m.
Visit bokcenter.com for more information.

Steve Wozniak
Mabee Center
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Visit mabeecenter.com for more information.

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8

Brown Bag It: Strings and Pearls
PAC Trust
12:10 p.m.
FREE event.

Tech N9ne's Special Effects Tour
Cain's Ballroom
6:30 p.m.
Visit cainsballroom.com for info.

Mike Mcruiz Photo Exhibit
PAC Gallery
April 1 – 30
FREE exhibit.

9

Tulsa Drillers
vs. San Antonio
7:05 p.m.
Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information

Master of Public Administration Open House
OU-Tulsa
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Visit ou.edu/tulsa for more information.

Museum Babies I
Gilcrease Museum
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Visit gilcrease.utulsa.edu for more information.

10

Of Mice and Men
Tulsa Opera
7:30 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Jason Aldean
BOK Center
6:30 p.m.
Visit bokcenter.com for more information.

Tulsa Drillers
vs. San Antonio
7:05 p.m.
Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information

11

Tulsa Drillers
vs. San Antonio
7:05 p.m.
Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information

The Oklahoma Aquarium Run
Oklahoma Aquarium
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Visit okaquarium.org for more information.

Wine, Women & Shoes
Expo Square
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Visit wwstulsa.org for more info.

12

Tulsa Drillers
vs. Corpus Cristi
2:05 p.m.
Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information

Of Mice and Men
Tulsa Opera
2:30 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Modigliani Quartet
Chamber Music Tulsa
3 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

13

Tulsa Drillers
vs. Corpus Cristi
7:05 p.m.
Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information

Signature Symphony Pops 5
TCC Van Trease PACE
7:30 – 9 p.m.
Visit tulsacc.edu for more info.

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14

Tulsa Drillers
vs. Corpus Cristi
12:05 p.m.
Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information

Bryan Adams
Hard Rock Hotel and Casino
8 – 10:30 p.m.
Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.

Take Five: Worldbuilding
Broken Arrow Library
6:30-7:50 p.m.
Visit tulsalibrary.org for info.

15

Brown Bag It: Tulsa Camerata
PAC Trust
12:10 p.m.
FREE event.

The Phantom of the Opera
Celebrity Attractions
7:30 p.m. • April 15-17
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Drew Holcomb
Cain's Ballroom
7 p.m.
Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.

16

Bard Fiction
Theatre Pops
8 p.m. • April 16-17
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Tulsa Roughnecks
vs. Seattle
7 p.m.
For more information, visit tulsaroughnecksfc.com

Big Bang – The Creation of Color
Cox Business Center
6:30 p.m. • April 17
Visit bokcenter.com for info.

17

Will Shortz: A Morning with the Puzzle Master
Tulsa Town Hall
10:30 a.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Charlotte's Web
The Playhouse Tulsa and ORU Theatre
7 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

18

The Phantom of the Opera
Celebrity Attractions
2 & 8 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Bard Fiction
Theatre Pops
8 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Charlotte's Web
The Playhouse Tulsa and ORU Theatre
7 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

19

The Phantom of the Opera
Celebrity Attractions
2 & 7:30 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Bard Fiction
Theatre Pops
2 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Charlotte's Web
The Playhouse Tulsa and ORU Theatre
2 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

20

The Phantom of the Opera
Celebrity Attractions
7:30 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

I Can't Sing
Thomas K. McKeon Center for Creativity, TCC
12 – 12:45 p.m.
Visit tulsacc.edu for more information.

21

The Phantom of the Opera
Celebrity Attractions
7:30 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Tulsa Audubon Society Meeting
Tulsa Garden Center
7 p.m.
Visit tulsaaudubon.org for more information.

22

The Phantom of the Opera
Celebrity Attractions
7:30 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Food Truck Wednesday
Guthrie Green
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.

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23

The Phantom of the Opera
Celebrity Attractions
2 & 7:30 p.m.
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Tulsa Drillers
vs. NW Arkansas
7:05 p.m. • April 23-24
Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information

Teen Movie Night
Schusterman-Benson Library
6 – 7 p.m.
Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.

24

The Phantom of the Opera
Celebrity Attractions
8 p.m. • April 24-25
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Treasure Island
Theatre Tulsa Family
7:30 p.m. • April 24-25
918-596-7111 for tickets.

Joel Osteen
BOKCenter
6:30 p.m.
Visit bokcenter.com for more information.

25

Tulsa Drillers
vs. NW Arkansas
7:05 p.m.
Visit www.tulsadrillers.com for more information

NAACP Martin Luther King Community Scholarship Banquet
Downtown Doubletree Hotel
6:30 p.m.
For more info., call 918-951-7407

Gabriel Iglesias
BOKCenter
7:30 p.m.
Visit bokcenter.com for info.

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REGIONAL NEWS

Bixby Graduate on National 'Voice' Stage

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Bixby High School graduate Corey Kent White has helped to put a spotlight on his hometown with his recent entrance onto this season of NBC's The Voice as a member of Team Blake Shelton.

Although, this isn't the first time 20-year-old White has drawn attention for his musical talent.

In 2006, at just 11 years old, White joined Oklahoma Stomp, a country western swing group.

When the group opened for the Oak Ridge Boys, he and his bandmates saw Jim Halsey backstage before a performance. White, about 15 years old at the time, was the only one with enough courage to approach Halsey: "I walked up to him (Halsey) and introduced myself, and he looked me straight in the eye and said, 'You're going to be a star one day,'" White recounts.

About a year later, White had his next star encounter. In December 2010, White attended a Willie Nelson concert at the SpiritBank Event Center in Bixby and worked his way onstage to perform with Nelson.

"Willie Nelson is really responsible for me playing music today," he says.

In 2010, White left Oklahoma Stomp, as many of its members were moving on with other projects: "I had begun writing my own music, but I thought this might be it for me when it came to music. It was a discouraging time for me."

When it was announced that Nelson was coming to town, White's uncle and grandfather, who is a diehard Nelson fan, secured front row tickets and as the show neared, encouraged White to get a ticket.

White eventually did buy a ticket, and he swears, "I'm not kidding; I really had a feeling that I would end up on stage that night." His eagerness to perform kicks in each time he attends a concert, he says. "I wouldn't say that I'm jealous of the performers on stage, but I always imagine what I would do if I got to be up there."

So, after arriving at the event center, "I asked someone at the concession stand if they had any markers and cardboard, and I made a sign asking to come on stage."

About halfway through the show, White took his uncle's place on the front row, and before long, Nelson could no longer ignore the boy with the sign. "Willie kept throwing bandanas at me to get me to put my sign down because no one could see behind me, but I thought, 'I got this far, I'm not going to stop now,'" he continues.

After the third bandana was thrown, Nelson asked White what song he wanted to sing.

White replied with "Milk Cow Blues," a Bob Wills song from 1946 – a song choice White doesn't think that Nelson was expecting. "Willie's a big Bob Wills fan, and I knew that his band had played that song before."

That experience was all that White needed to keep him chasing his dream. A week later, he visited Halsey's office in Tulsa. Halsey hired him first as an intern, working with audio and video software but, later, became his manager. With Halsey's encouragement, White took summer classes to graduate from Bixby High School a year early. White then spent what would have been his senior year of high school writing songs for Grammy-winning artists, including Jason Aldean and Eric Church, and performing in Nashville, returning to Bixby for short times throughout the year "when my money ran out," he laughs.

After that year, White's parents encouraged him to go to college. So he moved to Stillwater and began attending Oklahoma State University, all the while performing with his band locally and beyond Oklahoma as his reputation grew.

His degree in business management was put on hold this year when he earned a place on The Voice.

White had never planned to try out for a television singing competition. However, after White received an email from show producers asking him to try out, "I felt like it would be foolish to turn the opportunity down."

White then went through a series of interviews and try-outs before finally earning the opportunity to perform a blind audition in front of the show's four superstar coaches: Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine, singer Christina Aguilera, music producer and singer Pharrell Williams, and country musician and Oklahoma-native Blake Shelton.

The audition aired March 3.

Courtesy photo

COREY KENT WHITE: *Bixby High School graduate Corey Kent White sings "Fried Chicken" at his blind audition to win a place on NBC's singing competition The Voice.*

Williams and Shelton both turned their chairs for White during his performance of Zac Brown Band's "Chicken Fried," but Shelton ultimately prevailed as White's coach.

Even though White's time on The Voice has not been long, he already knows he has greatly benefitted from the show's national platform, the caliber of the contestants and, of course, the guidance of the internationally-famed coaches. "With Blake, he's helped to push me past my comfort zone," he says. "I never thought this show would focus so much on the personal growth of an artist. Anyone who's been on the show would tell you they're a better artist after being on this show."

Reflecting on White's success thus far, his mother, Donna Brollier, who owns Donna's Fashions in South Tulsa, saw White's musical abilities early on and encouraged them.

"Corey did all kinds of activities growing up, but his gift kept leaning toward music, and his passion for music kept increasing over the years," she says.

"We just wanted to encourage him to do whatever his dream was."

From the looks of it, that was encouragement worth giving.

Jenks Herb and Plant Fest Coming April 25

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

The Jenks Garden Club prepares to welcome spring and gardening enthusiasts at its annual Herb and Plant Festival April 25 in downtown Jenks.

The event, to be held 8 a.m.-4 p.m., will host more than 100 vendors featuring herb and vegetable plants, flowers, shrubs, trees, and gardening supplies and materials.

"We feel like the festival is the announcement of spring," says Jenks Garden Club member Mari Migliore.

Children's arts and crafts activities will be available, including a booth offering them their "First Planting Experience." Also for kids will be train rides and tours of a Jenks Fire Truck.

An added feature at this year's festival will be an interactive exhibit of A Gathering Place that patrons can explore, offering a glimpse of the park's finished look.

"We're excited that the Kaiser Family Foundation selected our venue to display their exhibit," says Migliore. "I believe they chose us because (the festival) is a prime location that meets their demographic." That demographic largely being families and gardeners drawn to the nostalgic feel of downtown Jenks, she continues.

"It's a very hometown feel," says club member Dixie Grahlman.

The festival, in its 19th year, is organized by the Jenks Garden Club. It serves as the club's only annual fundraising event and provides gardening education to the community, Migliore says.

The club uses proceeds from the event to fund a yearly $2,000 scholarship that is awarded to a Jenks High School senior who will pursue a horticulture degree in college.

The remaining funds go to various beautification projects throughout the city of Jenks, such as the club's ongoing maintenance of the flowers and plants that line Main Street. Recent projects include creating flower beds at Jenks Fire Station #2 and at Veterans Park, says Karen Meyer, past co-president and four-year club member. Next in the club's plans is to add two covered picnic tables at Veterans Park.

FLOWERS AND MORE: *Jenks Garden Club members Karen Meyer, left, and Dixie Grahlman pose in promotion of the club's annual Herb and Plant Festival, to be held in downtown Jenks on April 25.*

The Herb and Plant Festival also offers gardening education opportunities for both seasoned and new gardeners, such as providing information about new plants and how to care for or use plants that people already own.

This focus on education stems from the club's interest in educating its members on new gardening trends, such as hydroponics. The club is currently planning to tour a local hydroponic farm to learn about the process. "We are always looking at the newest, most innovative trends in gardening," says Migliore, who has been a club member for 15 years.

Area Master Gardeners will be on hand at the festival to answer questions as well as members of the Garden Club. The club will have a booth set up to answer questions regarding gardening problems or inquiries and will be selling "pass-along plants," plants that were previously planted in another person's garden.

The purpose of these plants is twofold, says Migliore. "It can be to share an unusual plant and to sell a hearty plant that is tried and true because it's already been grown in someone else's garden."