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APPLAUD BY CIVIC LEADERS See Page A5



FLIGHT NIGHT FUNDS POWER
STEM LEARNING See Page A4

MIDTOWN MONITOR

One of Six Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers

Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group

Volume 24

May 2016

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LOCAL WOMEN HONORED



MADAM PRESIDENTS:
Tulsa Public Schools Superintendent Deborah Gist, left, and Commissioner Lydia Gonzalez-D'Ross after receiving their Madam President awards from the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa. The event recognized 34 Tulsa-area women for their leadership and community service.

On April 11, the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa held its inaugural Madam President event, where 34 Tulsa-area women were recognized for their leadership and community service.

Honorees were Tulsa County Commissioner Anna America, Sue Ames, former Tulsa City Councilor Maria Barnes, Ziva Branstetter, Lauren Brookey, Rosie Brown, Adedolisi Burton, Shelley Cadamy, Trinity Cadamy, Sheryl Chinowth, Stephanie Conduff, Desiree Doherty, Diana Downing, former State Senator Judy Eason-McIntyre, Vanessa Finley, Tulsa Public Schools Superintendent Deborah Gist, Commissioner Lydia Gonzalez-D'Ross, Tulsa Community College President and CEO Leigh Goodson, Vanessa Hall-Harper, State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, Deanne Hughes, Gail Lapidus, Paula Marshall, State Representative Jeannie McDaniel, Violet Patterson, Whitney Pearson, Floretta Reed, Patty Southmayd, Ethel St. John, Sheila Swearingen, former Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor, Emma Thadani, Corey Williams and Shagah Zakerion.

MAYFEST BEGINS MAY 19



ART ON DISPLAY: A patron views artwork from one of Mayfest's vendors. The yearly, free event returns this year May 19-22 in downtown Tulsa and will feature more than 120 visual artists of fine arts and handmade goods, three indoor art galleries, live music on four stages, and food vendors.

By **EMILY RAMSEY**
Managing Editor

The 44th annual Tulsa International Mayfest celebration will be held May 19-22 in downtown Tulsa. More than 350,000 people are expected to attend the free festival, which will include more than 120 visual artists of fine arts and handmade goods, three indoor art galleries, live music on four stages, and food vendors.

New to this year's festival is Inspired, a live art competition featuring four past poster artists. Similar to the Food Network's Chopped, the Inspired competition combines random "ingredients" to inspire the artists' creativity. The event will take place Saturday at 11:30 a.m., allowing Mayfest visitors to watch the art process and interact with the artists during the competition.

Festival guests can vote for their favorite creation, and one artist will receive a people's choice award.

Mayfest's KidZone will include a kids' art area, the Saint Francis Children's Hospital Bear Clinic and the Art Beginnings gallery, where children can visit and choose their own piece of art to take home. Entrance to Art Beginnings is \$5. This year, the KidZone area will encompass the entire intersection at 6th and Main streets and offer expanded craft activities, a make-your-own-Mayfest-T-shirt activity for \$10, and physical play activities on the attached green space.

Mayfest artists will include those from more than 20 states with work in 2D and 3D varieties, including wood, paint, clay and metal.

The three indoor galleries are the Invitational Gallery, the Youth Art

Gallery, and the Pop Art Music Gallery, which will showcase local artists.

New this year is the Pop Art Music Gallery, a project in cooperation with Mayfest, WPX Energy, the Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa and Hawthorne Elementary, which provided five weeks of art classes to fifth and sixth grade students at Hawthorne Elementary. Students' projects will be on display in the Pop Art Music Gallery located in the downtown YMCA.

Festival hours are 11 a.m.-11 p.m. May 19-May 21 and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. May 22. Mayfest is located on Main Street, from 3rd to 6th streets, also on the Williams Green at 3rd Street between Main Street and Boston Avenue and along 4th Street between Main Street and Boston Avenue.

KUDOS OF THE MONTH: The Tulsa Drillers

The Tulsa Drillers baseball franchise is celebrating its 40th season of play this year. Professional baseball has been played in Tulsa since 1905, but the Drillers franchise was born in 1977. Local businessman Bill Rollings and Country Music Hall of Famer Roy Clark purchased a Texas League team that had been playing in Lafayette, Louisiana, and they moved it to Tulsa.

The Drillers served 26 seasons as an affiliate of the Texas Rangers before joining the Colorado Rockies organization in 2003. The Drillers are currently in its second season as the Double-A affiliate for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Over the Drillers' 40 seasons of play, a number of future major league stars have played for the team. The list includes Mark Teixeira and Troy Tulowitzki as well as Major League MVPs Ivan Rodriguez, Sammy Sosa and Juan Gonzalez. Rodriguez is expected to eventually become the first former Drillers player elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

The 2010 season was the first season that the Drillers played in their new home: ONEOK Field. Since the team's move to downtown Tulsa, more than 2.3 million fans have attended Drillers games at ONEOK Field.

For the Drillers' 2016 season, 19 fireworks



PLAY BALL: Tulsa Drillers pitcher Chris Anderson delivers the first pitch of 2016 at ONEOK Field before a record crowd.

shows and a number of other promotions are scheduled to help celebrate the Drillers' four decades of play.


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Blake & Courtney C., holding forget-me-not flowers that represent their son, Silas.

a life & legacy of love.

It was heart-breaking news. Their unborn son had been diagnosed with an inoperable life-limiting condition. Blake and Courtney vowed to make Silas' life, though short, precious and peaceful. They met with a team from the *Peggy V. Helmerich* Women's Health Center at Hillcrest Medical Center who helped the family build a birth plan that would allow Silas to experience only love and comfort during his time on Earth. Although his body carried him just 56 hours, Silas lives on through the families and newborns who find comfort in the SILAS (*Strongly Impacting Lives Against Suffering*) Program at Hillcrest.

To learn more about the SILAS Program, Oklahoma's only hospital-based perinatal palliative care program, and the life-changing experience it provides, visit Hillcrest.com.

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Golden Driller Stands Tall 50 Years

At one time, Tulsa was known as the "Oil Capital of the World."

But Tulsa did not build Tulsa's giant oilman. It was built by Mid-Continental Supply Company of Texas, which set him up in 1953 for the International Petroleum Exhibition at the Tulsa State Fairgrounds. Dubbed "The Golden Driller," the giant roustabout resembled an oversized brass statuette, with a broad grin, a tin helmet tipped back at a rakish skew, and a gloved right hand raised in a kind of limp-wristed OK sign. The statue proved so popular that the Texas company returned six years later with a second temporary giant.

A third giant, tallest of all at 76 feet, took up permanent residence at the fairgrounds on April 8, 1966. This version still stands today. He's very different from the original Golden Driller, with a slender waist, muscles ripped on a bare chest, mustard-colored rather than gold, and a face that's a chiseled mask of Teutonic invincibility. He was designed by George S. "Grecco" Hondronastas (1893-1979), a Greek immigrant to Tulsa who viewed the Driller as his greatest artistic accomplishment.

By 1979, the Texas supply company had abandoned the Golden Driller, which had suffered from years of neglect (and bullet holes). The city of Tulsa adopted the statue, repaired it, and put "Tulsa" on the giant's belt buckle. With that, the statue was declared Oklahoma's official state monument. It was not a universally popular decision. Many Oklahomans at the time viewed the Golden Driller as an artistic eyesore. Some wanted his bare chest covered with a shirt, an idea that was quickly shot down by the protests of angry oilfield workers.

The Golden Driller is still the tallest free-standing statue in the U.S. He's so high that he rests his gloved right hand on a real Oklahoma oil derrick. Built of steel and concrete, he weighs nearly 22 tons and is expected to survive 200 mph tornadoes. The plaque at his base dedicates him "to the men of the petroleum industry who by their vision and daring have created from God's abundance a better life for mankind."

To show how much Tulsa now loves its mega-roughneck, in 2011 it gave the Golden Driller a thorough inspection (which found him to be in excellent shape) and coated him with a new layer of state-of-the-art mustard paint, which its suppliers said will last 100 years.



GTR Newspapers photo

HONORING LONGEVITY: Tulsa City and County officials and guests were among those who attended the Golden Driller's 50th Birthday Bash April 8 at Expo Square. From left are Tulsa County Commissioner Ron Peters, Bonnie Peters, Pat Kroblin, Tulsa City Councilor Anna America, Michael Patton, Chief Deputy for Tulsa County Vicki Adams and Steve Adams.

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<p>1 DALÍ QUARTET WITH RICARDO MORALES <i>Chamber Music Tulsa</i></p> <p>1-7 BILLY ELLIOT: THE MUSICAL <i>Tulsa Project Theatre</i></p> <p>4 SUSIE BROWN & FRIENDS <i>Brown Bag It, PAC Trust</i></p> <p>4-29 A KALEIDOSCOPE OF ART <i>Alpha Rho Tau, PAC Gallery</i></p> <p>6, 8 SAMSON & DELILAH <i>Tulsa Opera</i></p> <p>6-14 A LONG TIME SINCE YESTERDAY <i>Theatre North</i></p> <p>10 ALTON BROWN LIVE: EAT YOUR SCIENCE <i>35 Concerts</i></p> <p>13-21 MOTHERS AND SONS <i>American Theatre Company</i></p>	<p>13-21 BYE BYE BIRDIE <i>Theatre Tulsa Family</i></p> <p>14 AMERICAN FANFARE <i>Tulsa Symphony Classics</i></p> <p>20 KYLE ABRAHAM/ABRAHAM.IN.MOTION <i>Choregus Productions</i></p> <p>24-29 JERSEY BOYS <i>Celebrity Attractions</i></p>
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THE GREATER TULSA REPORTER NEWSPAPERS

The Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers consist of the *Union Boundary*, the *Jenks District Gazette*, the *Midtown Monitor*, the *Owasso Rambler*, the *Bixby Breeze*, and the *Broken Arrow Express*. The papers target news coverage to school district areas. The papers also have common pages of information of interest to all readers in the greater Tulsa area.

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

All advertising published in any or all of the GTR Newspapers is subject to the applicable rate card, copies of which are available at the GTR Newspapers office or from the account representatives listed in the above newspaper credits.



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FAMOUS VISITOR: Television journalist and best-selling author Deborah Norville was the keynote speaker at the 23rd Salvation Army William Booth Society Dinner April 14 at the Cox Business Center. Steve Largent, former Oklahoma U.S. Congressman and NFL Hall of Fame receiver, served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Past speakers for the impressive dinner have included Tony Dungy, 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.

CIVICS

Flight Night Funds Power STEM Learning

Flight Night, the local nonprofit gala focused on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, has presented \$501,000 in event proceeds to its 2015 beneficiaries, Fab Lab Tulsa and the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance.

Educational programs supported by these funds are projected to reach some 70,000 students in northeastern Oklahoma with inspirational and potentially life-changing STEM education content.

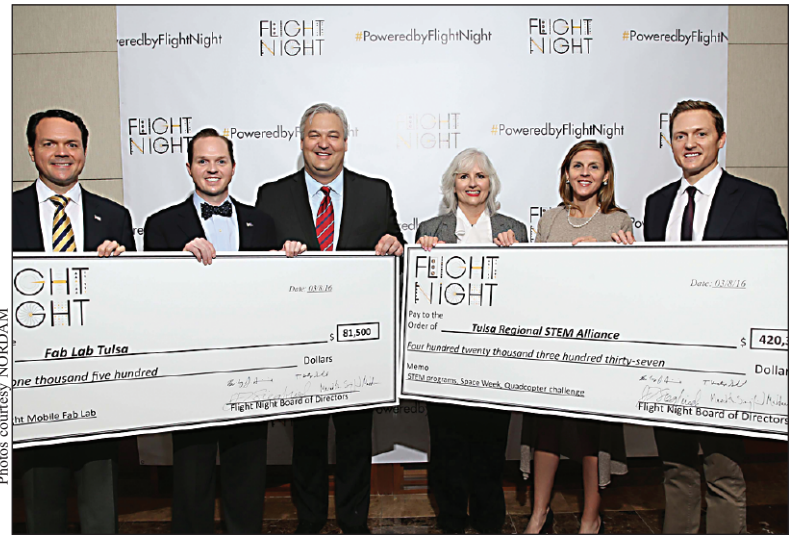
"We are committed to a bold and sustained vision of helping Oklahoma students achieve their dreams," Bailey J. Siegfried, who co-chairs Flight Night with three of his siblings, Terrell, Meredith and Hastings, said. "Today's check presentation makes it possible for every student we reach to dream, to create, and to attain the confidence to pursue a STEM career."

New in 2016, a portion of Flight Night funds are earmarked for professional development scholarships and 'Science of Flight' as well as other STEM-based classroom grants for Oklahoma teachers. Also, in recognition of the key role of administration and educators in encouraging students to pursue STEM studies, 'STEM Innovator' cash awards will be awarded for outstanding leadership and excellence in STEM at the administrator, high-school, middle-school and elementary-school levels.

Other diverse, ongoing STEM education initiatives Flight Night supports include additional



ON STAGE: From left are Meredith Siegfried Madden, Terrell Siegfried, Bailey Siegfried and Hastings Siegfried on stage at Flight Night 2015.



SMART MONEY: From left, Hastings Siegfried, Terrell Siegfried, Nathan Pritchett, Xan Black, Meredith Siegfried Madden and Bailey J. Siegfried present funds in March to Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance and Fab Lab Tulsa for STEM programs.

equipment for and ongoing operation of a unique mobile "fab lab," which hit the road at the start of the 2015 school year, featuring multiple experiential learning labs, digital fabrication tools, such as 3D printers, laser cutters and a three-axis mill. The unit moves from school to school in a custom-built, high-tech trailer, with no cost to students or schools.

Likewise, Flight Night 2015 proceeds will finance expansion of Oklahoma's only quadcopter challenge, with this year's effort set to involve more students and educators in a competition that rewards student-built flying machines for performance in maneuverability, speed and

retrieval courses.

Flight Night proceeds also make possible a hands-on "STEM Exploratorium" led by STEM experts from around the region to help young students see the connection between mastering the STEM sciences and future career success; and roughly 20 "STEM Access" events for grades K-12, focusing on creative thinking, problem-solving and awareness of STEM careers.

Presenting sponsors for the 2015 fundraising gala were NOR-DAM, Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and H.A. & Mary K. Chapman Charitable Trust. Other sponsors included ONEOK, D&L Oil Tools, ONE Gas, Chickasaw

Nation, Muscogee Creek Nation and George Kaiser Family Foundation, among many others.

The Flight Night 2016 gala is set for Sept. 15 at Jones Riverside Airport in Tulsa. For event information, visit tulsaflightnight.org, facebook.com/tulsaflightnight, or follow the nonprofit on Twitter at @flightnightUSA.

About Flight Night

The Tulsa Flight Night event is operated by Tulsa Charity Flight Night, Inc. a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation supporting STEM education programs and projects that inspire curiosity and learning in tomorrow's leaders. The charity was founded by the late Ray H. Siegfried II. For more

information about Flight Night and the programs it supports, visit TulsaFlightNight.org.

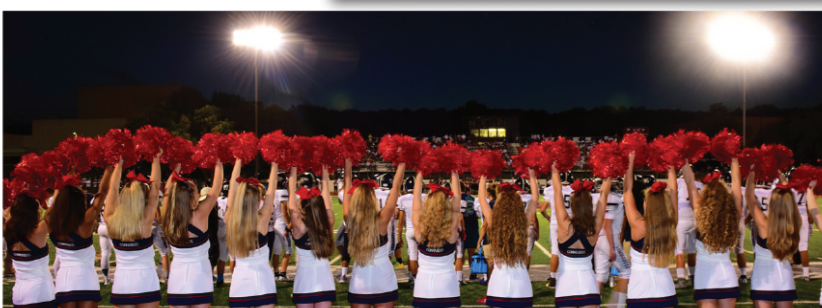
About Tulsa Regional Stem Alliance

The Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance (TRSA) connects the dots around Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education in northeastern Oklahoma. TRSA is focused on providing broad, deep and innovative pathways for students to pursue high impact STEM careers. As a backbone organization, TRSA serves the STEM ecosystem through their goals of the 4 C's: Collaboration, Cultivation, Communication and Calculation. (Continued on page A6)

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Passage of Vision Tulsa a Huge Positive

I want to express my deepest thanks to the citizens of Tulsa for acting in a spirit of innovation and enterprise by voting for Vision Tulsa. Tulsans have shown their support for some truly remarkable projects that will help preserve the safety of our community, improve our streets and implement game-changing economic development projects.

More than three years ago, I pitched the public safety and street maintenance needs in our city to citizens at the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Tulsa. It's been a long road to get where we are today, but with the input from citizens and the work from my Administration, the City Council and our City departments, one of the largest investments in history passed. I couldn't be more proud of our city. We now have a plan totaling \$884 million in revenue streams that will put more boots on the ground, safeguard our streets system and provide more transportation opportunities for our community. The economic development projects will also play a pivotal role in the coming years, which will keep Tulsa competitive and garner tremendous dividends for our city.

The Public Safety permanent

portion of Vision Tulsa will put an additional 160 patrol officers on the streets to assist our gang, homicide, streets and narcotics units. Police School Resource Officers will be brought back to the force and utilized in our public school system to mentor our youth. For the fire department, 65 firefighters will be hired to help with the call volume in our perimeter stations, as well as construction/staffing for a much-needed east Tulsa Fire Station. With the addition of the fire station, response times for residents in the area will decrease and be in line with the rest of the city. On top of that, more 911 call takers will be hired to help citizens when they need us the most.

Another priority that was very important, in my eyes, was to continue our investment in the streets system. With Vision Tulsa in the books, the permanent addition of street crews will allow them to carry out crack sealing, permanent pothole repairs, street striping and a variety of sustainable solutions to keep our streets drivable and safe. The Streets Department can now add more signal technicians and operators to make needed repairs to the 400 traffic signals in Tulsa and help



COMMENTARY BY MAYOR DEWEY F. BARTLETT, JR



CELEBRATION: Tulsa City and County leaders celebrate the successful passage of Vision Tulsa at the official watch party held April 5 at the Bond Event Center on East Third Street in downtown Tulsa.

with traffic synchronization needs in the city.

In 15 years' time, our city is going to be safer, stronger and more resilient with the strides we are making as a community. The economic development investment in Vision Tulsa alone totals \$510 million, which will add two low-water dams on the Arkansas River and enhance the Gilcrease Museum, the Air National Guard, the Tulsa Fairgrounds, and the

Cox Business Center and Arena District Master Plan. It will also provide funding for our Public Schools and its Safety First Initiative, and much more. The economic development funding for Vision Tulsa will expire after 15 years and the public safety and streets portion will remain permanent. For more details, visit www.cityoftulsa.org/Vision

Soon, the City will begin implementing Vision Tulsa to improve

public safety, create jobs and more opportunities for our youth and improve our streets and transportation systems. My Administration and the Tulsa City Council have worked tirelessly to ensure we are guaranteeing the highest and best use of citizens' tax dollars - and that work will continue with the Vision Tulsa program.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your mayor. Together, let's keep the momentum going.

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TCC Leader Selected for Presidential Fellowship

Tulsa Community College President and CEO Leigh B. Goodson, Ph.D. has been selected for the prestigious Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence. The Aspen Institute, an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, D.C., announced that Goodson joins the inaugural class of the Aspen Presidential Fellows, a diverse group of 40 extraordinary leaders with the drive and capacity to transform community colleges to achieve higher levels of student success.

Over the next decade, the majority of current community college presidents are expected to retire. At the same time, increasing numbers of students are flocking to community colleges to earn degrees that lead to good jobs, but

too few actually graduate. The Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence aims to equip college leaders with the tools they need to dramatically improve student outcomes.

"I am honored to have been selected, but this is truly about how to position TCC and our students for success," Goodson says. "The Aspen Institute is an outstanding organization known for sharing ideas and helping organizations grow. I know the program will be challenging as well as exciting since I am becoming the student and will be able to share with TCC faculty and staff what I learn from this experience."

Goodson was selected through a rigorous process that considered her abilities to take strategic risks, lead strong teams and cultivate partnerships, and focus on



TCC PRESIDENT
LEIGH B. GOODSON, PH.D.

results-oriented improvements in student success and access. Fellows will participate in a series of innovative, action-oriented seminars and ongoing mentorship focused on a new vision for leadership, delivered in collaboration with Stanford University faculty and top community college leaders.

"This class of remarkable Fellows will expand the talent pipeline to the presidency at a time of dramatic presidential turnover and urgent need to improve student outcomes," says Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program. "These individuals are deeply committed to making a difference - they are eager to take bold action to help more students, especially those facing the greatest odds, earn cre-

denials that reflect rigorous learning and lead to well-paying jobs."

The 2016-2017 Aspen Presidential Fellows hail from 17 states and 30 community colleges of varying sizes and will begin their program in July 2016 at Stanford University with anticipated completion in spring 2017. Applications for the second class will be available by Sept. 30. For more information, visit aspeninstitute.org.

The Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence is funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, ECMC Foundation, Greater Texas Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, and the Kresge Foundation.

A Gathering Place Attracts Millions More in Pledges

George Kaiser Family Foundation has announced commitments from 19 additional donors for A Gathering Place for Tulsa totaling over \$14 million in contributions. The group of donors includes a blend of Tulsa companies, foundations, families and individuals, further showcasing the support of the entire community around this transformational park. The total contributions to A Gathering Place for Tulsa are now nearing \$150 million.

These generous contributions will help fund the development and construction of A Gathering Place and seed the lifetime operating endowment.

"We are eternally grateful for the many investments made to A Gathering Place by Tulsa's generous families, foundations and corporations," says Jeff Stava, executive director and trustee of A Gathering Place for Tulsa. "It is remarkable to see the support that has been extended and how willing Tulsans are to work together to further enhance our community for generations to come."

A Gathering Place for Tulsa will include experiences for all ages. From the five-acre Adventure Playground to Mist Mountain, sport courts, bike and skate parks, natural trails, and large lawns for concerts,

there are activities for the entire family to enjoy. Additional features will include the Williams Companies Lodge, QuikTrip Great Lawn, ONEOK Boathouse, and the Chapman Foundation's Adventure Playground, which are great for recreational and social gatherings.

Newly announced donors include: Mervin Bovaird Foundation: \$2 million; Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma: \$1 million; The Fulton and Susie Collins Foundation: \$1 million; Mike and Pat Case: \$1 million; Dekraai Family Foundation: \$1 million; D&L Oil Tools: \$1 million; Hale Family Foundation: \$1 million; Meinig Family Foundation: \$1 million; Melton Truck Lines: \$1 million; DTAG Legacy Fund/Scott and Vanessa Thompson: \$1 million; The John T. and Julie Nickel Family: \$1 million; The Judith & Jean Pape Adams Charitable Foundation: \$1 million; Meshri Family: \$500,000; James M. Cox Foundation: \$250,000; Mabrey Bancorporation, Inc.: \$250,000; Moran Family Foundation: \$250,000; Kathy and Ed Leinbach: \$50,000; Samson Resources: \$50,000; Darden Family Charitable Foundation: \$25,000.

The George Kaiser Family Foundation has contributed \$200 million toward the project (\$50 mil-

lion in land plus \$150 million for construction of Phase I of the park). Partnering with the community, the project has raised nearly \$150 million in private donations bringing the total cost of the project to \$350 million. Construction for the largest park project in Oklahoma's history is expected to be complete in late 2017.

Project information and the latest updates can be found by visiting www.agatheringplacefortulsa.com.

Additional donor quotes of support:

"A Gathering Place for Tulsa is going to be a transformational park for Tulsa. Our family looks forward to enjoying this great Tulsa amenity for years to come."

- The John T. and Julie Nickel Family

"Melton Truck Lines is pleased to contribute to the building of The Gathering Place. As a long-time Tulsa employer, we are proud to support such an extraordinary project that will benefit our community for years to come."

- Bob Peterson, Melton Truck Lines

"Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma is proud to be a part of A Gathering Place for Tulsa. Providing unique experiences like this in our community help attract

new businesses and families, and in turn, enhance Tulsa's economic vitality. We look forward to the completion of the project and offering a world-class outdoor space as a new opportunity for Tulsa families to live a healthier lifestyle."

- Ted Haynes, President of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma

About A Gathering Place for Tulsa

A project of George Kaiser Family Foundation, A Gathering Place for Tulsa will transform nearly 100 acres of Tulsa's waterfront along the Arkansas River into a dynamic and active space when the project is completed. 66.5 acres will be completed within Phase I by late 2017. GKFF and numerous corporate and community philanthropists gave ownership of the \$350 million park to River Parks Authority who in turn signed a long-term operational and management lease back to an entity of the foundation to ensure the highest quality operation, maintenance and programming for the life of the park.

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(Continued from page A4)
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Tulsa Roots Run Deep for G.T. Bynum

City Councilor Celebrates Local Support of Water in The Arkansas River

By **EMILY RAMSEY**
Managing Editor

Editor's Note: G.T. Bynum is one of Greater Tulsa Reporter's "10 People to Watch in 2016," as announced in its January 2016 issue. GTR was the first news group in greater Tulsa to introduce "10 People to Watch," which launched in January 2009.

This article is part of a yearlong series of articles featuring each of GTR's "10 People to Watch," with next month's issue to feature Gilcrease Museum Executive Director James Pepper Henry.

Whether he liked it or not, for the past nearly three years, Tulsa City Councilor G.T. Bynum has been the face of the "water in the river" movement. Although, if you ask him, he probably doesn't mind that label, especially since residents largely approved Vision Tulsa's Proposition 3, which includes \$127 million to construct a new Zink dam and a Jenks dam in the Arkansas River.

Bynum is a fifth-generation Tulsan with ties to the Arkansas River beginning, if not earlier, in 1964 when his grandfather Robert (Bob) LaFortune was serving as commissioner of streets and public property and developed a plan for Arkansas River development.

That 1964 plan, which currently sits on Bynum's desk in the City Council offices, bears many resemblances to the current river plan, he says.

Yet, the decades came and went, and the river continued to sit mostly empty.

During those years, Bynum graduated from Cascia Hall Preparatory School and Villanova University, spent 10 years working in the U.S. Senate for State Senators Don Nickles and Tom Coburn, and then moved back to Tulsa with his wife.

And still, there the riverbed sat.

Bynum remembers watching the news in 2007 and seeing that Tulsans were once again voting no on a proposal to put water in the river, and he was struck by the apathetic response from city leaders.

"Their attitude was, 'we'll try again in 10 years,'" he says, "when, instead, they should have been asking, 'what do we need to change about this proposal to get this to pass?'"

It was then that Bynum started thinking about running for city council. He was elected to serve as city councilor for district 9 in 2008. He recently announced that he is running for mayor of Tulsa.

With a strong history of political activism in his family, Bynum readily admits that he has long been planning to one day run for Tulsa mayor.

Bynum's great-great-grandfather R.N.

Bynum served as the second mayor of Tulsa from 1899-1900 and helped to establish the Tulsa Public School System. Bynum's grandfather Bob LaFortune served as Tulsa's mayor from 1970-78 and Bob's son Bill LaFortune served as mayor from 2002-06.

With all of these examples, Bynum's political aspirations don't come as much of a surprise; yet, Bynum says, it's the example of Bob LaFortune that helped to shape Bynum's view of public office as a "noble calling and a public service."

"My grandfather (Bob) is my hero because he does everything the right way. He is selfless in our family and in the community."

Tulsa's long history of striving for greatness is one thing that Bynum has always loved about his hometown. And it is one reason why he is choosing now to run for mayor.

"A century ago, individuals in the city were focused on making Tulsa a world class city, but in the past few decades, we have started to lose that focus," he says.

"For example, Waite Phillips made his oil fortune and then came to Tulsa and built Philbrook, the Philtower and the Philcade Building. He built skyscrapers downtown, because he felt like Tulsa deserved the best.

"We need to get back to that previous approach: becoming nationally competitive again and setting high expectations for ourselves as a city."

For Bynum, getting Tulsans behind putting a consistent amount of water in the Arkansas River was the first step in reestablishing those high expectations for Tulsa and utilizing a "glaring, untapped opportunity," he says.

"Whenever leaders from across the country come to Tulsa, they always comment on the underutilized opportunity of the river."

Bynum served as chairman of the Arkansas River Infrastructure Task Force from the time it was formed in 2013.

"That (task force) went on a lot longer than we anticipated," he says, "but we wanted to make sure that we put something before Tulsa's citizens that was correct and could actually be constructed.

"Two years of public engagement is not the normal process before taking something like this to voters."

The next steps for the Arkansas River include hiring a contractor to demolish and construct a new Zink dam at 29th Street and approval by the Tulsa Metropolitan Area Planning Commission and the city council of the river corridor's land use plan, which establishes development guidelines for the land area surrounding the river.



GTR Newspapers Photo

MAYOR HOPEFUL: As chairman of the Arkansas River Infrastructure Task Force, Tulsa City Councilor G.T. Bynum played a major supporting role in the passage of Vision Tulsa's Proposition 3, which includes funding to construct two dams in the Arkansas River. Bynum, who comes from a family with three former Tulsa mayors, recently announced that he is running for mayor of Tulsa.

The new Zink dam and replacement of the pedestrian bridge is expected to take five years.

Also, officials with the City of Jenks and Muscogee (Creek) Nation will need to come to an agreement on construction of the Jenks dam, to be located at 103rd Street, by the end of the year, says Bynum.

Regarding the amount of additional revenue that water in the Arkansas River could generate, the University of Oklahoma recently conducted a study that found that cities with waterways comparable to the Arkansas River experience about \$120 million in additional economic development impact annually.

"I think with Vision Tulsa's Proposition 3, we are not going to be able to fully appreciate or see the full impact of passing that package for 10 years or so," Bynum continues, making a comparison to the passing of Vision 2025 and the construction of the BOK Center. "We didn't anticipate all of the residual effects that the BOK Center brought about: downtown private investment and residential growth, the revitalization of the Brady Arts District. There are so many positive things that came out of that package that we didn't anticipate."

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EDUCATION

ORU Announces New Focus on Student Success

Oral Roberts University President William M. Wilson announced the creation of a new division to focus exclusively on student success. Starting May 1, Dr. Matt Olsen will lead this new focus at ORU as dean of student success. Dr. Olsen and his team will serve students from the time they enroll at ORU until they graduate and find employment. He will work to see students succeed, increase the retention and graduation rates, and oversee the career services department.

"ORU's mission is dependent upon our ability to help our students not just while they are enrolled at ORU but also as they are stepping into their first jobs," Wilson says. "This is a declaration that demonstrates our commitment

to student life, development and their future."

Dr. Olsen holds three degrees from ORU. In 1993, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work. In 2002, he earned a master's degree in education. Last year, he completed his doctorate in educational leadership.

He served as dean from 2006 to 2016 and as an adjunct professor from 2002 to 2016.

"This new effort will have the strong unfettered support of the university's administration and the full academic community," says Provost Kathaleen Reid Martinez. "Families make a huge commitment to see that their children have a first-rate education. This is our way of showing our measurable support."

Congressman Bridenstine Hosts 1st District Service Academy Day

Congressman Jim Bridenstine of Tulsa hosted a Service Academy Day with admissions liaisons from the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Military Academy West Point, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

The purpose of the Service Academy Day is to familiarize and educate students from grades 8 through 11 and their parents with the service academies and their admissions processes.

The event was held Saturday, April 16 at the CityPlex Towers, 1st Floor Auditorium, 2448 East 81st Street in Tulsa.



CONSIDERING AN ACADEMY: Union High School student Riley Ingram is greeted by U.S. Congressman Jim Bridenstine during the 1st District Service Academy Day held April 16 at the CityPlex Towers. Representatives from the U.S. Service Academies were present to familiarize the students with the academies and the admission processes.

OSUIT Honors Top Industry Alumni for Success

The third annual OSU Institute of Technology Alumni Homecoming Reception & Hall of Fame Awards, held Saturday, April 9, was warmly received by former students and current and former OSUIT faculty and staff.

This year, 11 individuals were chosen to receive awards. Five received Rising Star awards, those who graduated less than 10 years ago, and five were chosen for the Distinguished Alumni award, those who have graduated more than 10 years. A special posthumous Distinguished Award was also given to Gary Myers, renowned paint artist and former dean of the School of Visual Communications.

"In this room I see a testament to our core mission," said Dr. Bill Path,

president of OSUIT. "Each and every one of you make us proud, not only because you are a product of OSUIT, but because you are all setting the example in your industry and perpetuating the reputation of this university."

In accepting his Distinguished Alumni award, Randy Smith talked about the significance of seizing opportunities. Smith, who graduated in 1975, now owns his own multi-million-dollar electrical contracting business in Sherman, Texas, and serves on the advisory board for OSUIT's School of Construction Technologies. "This school was my land of opportunity," he said.

"It was great to be recognized by OSUIT," said Amanda Cullum, OSUIT alumna and Rising Star

recipient. "To know that they still care about their graduates even after graduation. I was truly blown away by how much they recognized my hard work."

While tears of happiness mixed with laughter, the diverse room held together a common thread: to show support and respect for the college that gave them the tools to be successful and to inspire others to join in the cause and support the future of OSUIT.

"The foundation of knowledge I acquired here at OSUIT has helped me build my career in the energy industry," said Brian Cochrane, 2013 alumnus and Rising Star recipient. "With that knowledge, I keep building and push on for the next hurdle of success."



DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES: Proud and honored graduates of OSUIT include, from left, Scott Sherrill, John Biggs, Liza Wenzel, Carie Myers (for Gary Myers) and Randy Smith.

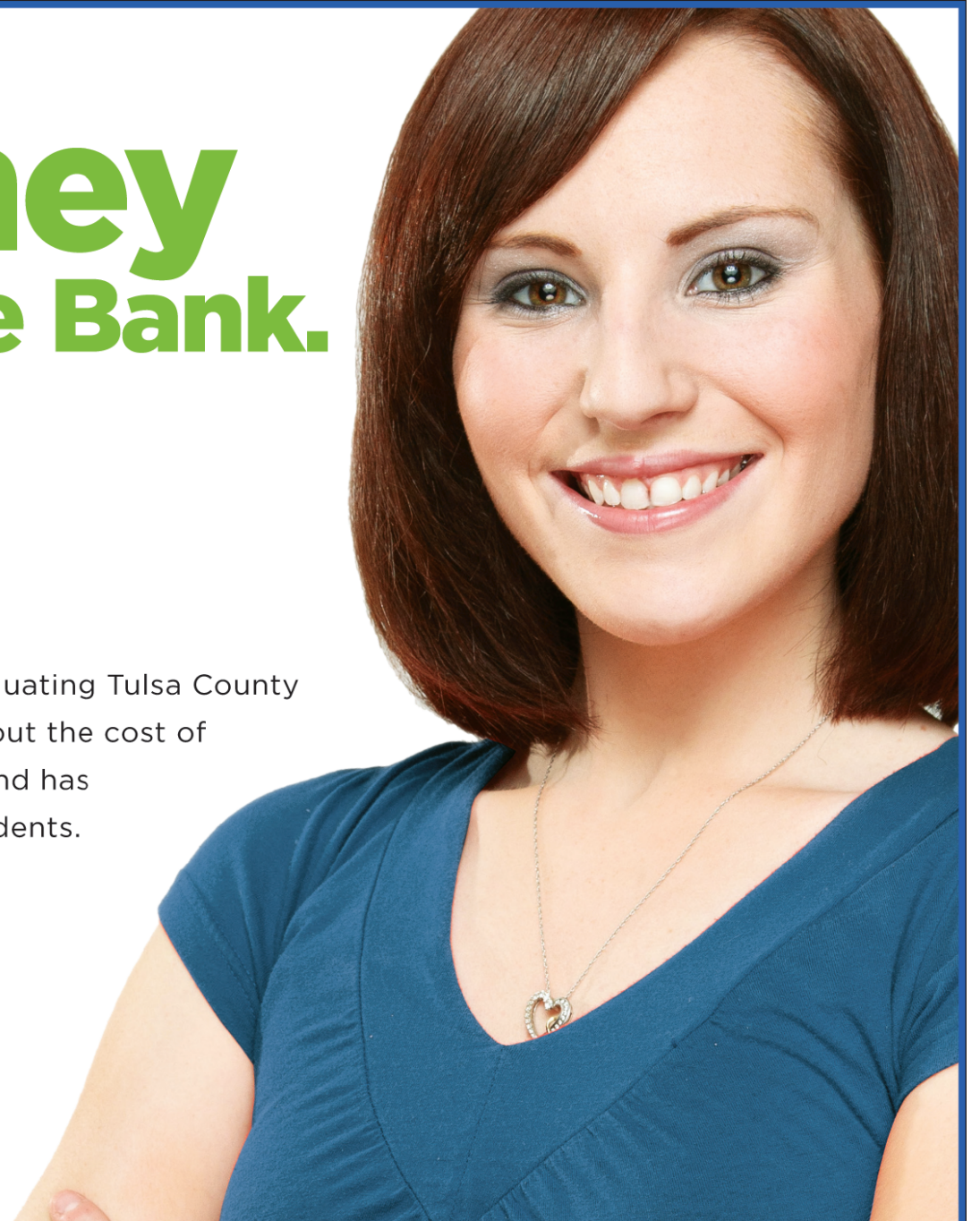


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Program Helps Companies Ensure Quality

Tulsa-based manufacturer the Carlson Company recently celebrated receiving its quality management certification, ISO 9001:2008. The organization earned the certification with the help of the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance, Tulsa Tech's Business and Industry Services, and other local resources. The ISO certification provides the company an opportunity to ensure its quality management standards, see a larger market for their work, and be added to many preferred vendor lists.

News from Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent

are independently certified, making ISO 9001 one of the most widely used management tools in the world today.

Carlson began the ISO registration process by contacting Bart Pickens, a manufacturing extension agent with the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance, sponsored locally by Tulsa Tech. Utilizing the statewide network of manufacturing extension agents and application engineers, the Alliance connects small and medium-sized manufacturing businesses with the information and resources needed to expand and succeed.

"The Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance is a partner with Tulsa Tech," Pickens explains. "Our goal is to reach out to companies in the manufacturing industry, help those organizations evaluate their processes from top to bottom, and improve their operations."

Pickens worked to map out a timeline for training and implementation and help to facilitate existing industry funding through Tulsa Tech. The training cycle included seminars on the quality management standard, writing procedures to support the processes that would be implemented, and the training of internal auditors to evaluate how the company monitors procedures, as well as meeting customer quality requirements. Six months after the process had begun, the Carlson Company

decided it was ready, and a registration audit was scheduled for late last year.

"This six-month cycle leading to a successful first registration audit is very fast for most companies," Pickens says. "Everyone at Carlson, the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance and Tulsa Tech contributed to this effort."

Jeff Carlson, Carlson's vice president of sales, expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance and Tulsa Tech.

"I'm confident the efforts will lead to an expanded customer base," Carlson says, "and contribute to the growth of the company well into the future."

Tulsa Tech's Business and Industry Services creates superior strategies and corporate training programs to help clients succeed in the world of business. Each year, Tulsa Tech provides services for more than 500 companies in the metro area, at state-of-the-art campus locations and on-site client facilities.

Chris Groden, a corporate training coordinator with Tulsa Tech, who was also involved in the Carlson project, feels that more companies should take advantage of the many services available.

"We have the expertise and the infrastructure already in place to help these businesses," says Groden. "We offer services for continuous improvement, human resources, safety programs and fully customized training to meet any organization's requirements."

If you're currently looking for quality corporate training, a career change, or exciting classes for high school or adult students, Tulsa Tech invites you to visit today. For more information, please call 918-828-5000 or discover us online at tulstatech.edu.



IMPORTANT CERTIFICATION: Bart Pickens, left, with Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance, and Chris Groden, with Tulsa Tech Corporate Training, recently helped the Carlson Company attain its ISO 9001 quality management certification. The certification helps the company ensure its quality management standards, see a larger market for their work and to be added to many preferred vendor lists.



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THE ECONOMY

Tony Heaberlin Aims to Expand Owasso Chamber

2016 Chairman Outlines His Areas of Focus

By **EMILY RAMSEY**
Managing Editor

As the 2016 Chairman of the Owasso Chamber of Commerce, Tony Heaberlin recognizes the chamber's need to continue to grow as the city's business community expands.

Heaberlin lives just outside of Owasso in Sperry. One of his children attends Rejoice Christian Schools, and, as Tulsa Tech's chief communications officer, Heaberlin remains active in both the Owasso community and the region.

"Owasso is a great community to live in," he says.

Heaberlin sees how the Owasso Chamber aids in the growth of local businesses, with those businesses, in turn, providing employment opportunities to Tulsa Tech's many graduates, including those from its Owasso campus, which opened in 2013.

Heaberlin has worked for Tulsa Tech for almost 30 years and has witnessed firsthand the school's

growth, as well as the increase in student interest.

"What's most exciting for me is the (student) success stories, how the school accelerates their independence and paves the path to their careers," he says.

The positive outcomes that the school brings about hits especially close to home for Heaberlin. One of his sons graduated from Tulsa Tech's automotive service program.

"Currently, he is an auto service technician at Jim Norton Chevrolet in Broken Arrow at 25 years old," he says.

"This is a kid who ended up in alternative school at Union High School because things weren't taught the way that he needed them to be."

After completing the automotive program, his son went on to work for various car dealerships and built a four-bedroom home in Broken Arrow in his early 20's.

"That wasn't something that I would have been able to do in my

20's, even with a college degree," Heaberlin says.

"There's a lot of need in the workforce for technical degrees right now."

A few months ago, as Heaberlin prepared for his new responsibility as chamber chair, he first determined what exactly that means: "The chairman sets the vision for that year and is the biggest cheerleader to motivate," he says.

Next, Heaberlin decided on his areas of focus for his year as chairman, one of those areas revolving around membership.

While the Owasso Chamber does an above-average job of retaining its members, with an attrition rate of eight percent compared to the national average attrition rate of 18 percent, "considering Owasso's business growth, which has been tremendous, the chamber has not kept pace," he says.

That local business growth includes the recent addition of Sam's, Academy Sports and Outdoors, and the Macy's Fulfillment Center.

Two more of his priorities include improving both the chamber's program offerings and its facilities.

"Aesthetics are important," he continues. "The building that the chamber operates in is 50 years old and is the former Tulsa City/County Health Department building. It no longer provides the functional space needed to meet the needs of membership and staff, and it does not project the professional image equal to the professional services that we provide."



Courtesy Owasso Chamber of Commerce
BUSINESS PROMOTION: Tony Heaberlin, left, 2016 chairman of the Owasso Chamber of Commerce and Tulsa Tech chief communications officer, stands with Chamber President Gary Akin. Heaberlin plans to spend his year as chairman focused on increasing the chamber's membership numbers and program offerings, facility improvements, and reinstitution of its annual resource campaign.

Therefore, in the coming months, the chamber's board of directors will be working with city officials, designers and construction experts to determine available options to modernize the chamber's facilities.

However, to bring about building upgrades, the chamber needs to see increased revenue; one-third of the chamber's revenue comes from membership dues with two-thirds coming from non-dues activities such as sponsorships of chamber events and advertising revenue from Lifestyle Owasso Magazine.

As another way to increase the chamber's revenue, Heaberlin has

recommended the reestablishment of its annual resource campaign. This would involve developing a comprehensive program to engage member volunteers in a campaign to sell sponsorships to programs and to increase memberships.

"There's an excitement surrounding downtown Owasso and Owasso in general," says Heaberlin.

Owasso residents recently voted to name downtown Owasso the "Redbud District," and upcoming building projects are in the works.

Now is the time for the Owasso Chamber of Commerce to match the city's growth.



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Geico Ad Execs Share Advertising Strategies With TU Students and the Tulsa Community

By LALE SAMARA
Guest Writer

Bill Hinkle, adjunct professor of advertising at the University of Tulsa, successfully completed his third annual University of Tulsa Advertising Program Dinner at the Greenwood Cultural Event Center in downtown Tulsa recently.

The program dinner is an event Hinkle and his advertising students put on together as a fundraiser for the TU advertising program to help raise money for the National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC).

"I like to say that NSAC is like the Super Bowl of college advertising," Hinkle says. Using a creative brief, 250 universities from across the U.S. compete on a single brand providing a plan book and supporting materials. This year the students created a full 28-page advertising plan book and supporting materials for Snapple. The NSAC team also prepared for a 20-minute presentation regarding their plan book and materials in front of 200-300 people, including four judges that represent Snapple.

"As far as I'm concerned, NSAC is as close to reality as it gets and gives the students a sense of confidence they wouldn't get from any other experience," Hinkle says.

Something that started out as a field trip to New York City has now turned into an annual event for Bill Hinkle and the TU advertising program. Each year, Hinkle invites the Tulsa advertising, public relations and media community for a presentation on an adver-



TU ADVERTISING TEAM: Members of the select University of Tulsa advertising team are, top row: Sarah Power, Sebastian Pineda, Miranda Dabney, Leah Suleski, Emalia Seto, Alyssa Johnson and Ashley Slater. Middle row: Sarah Marie Williams, Stratton Brooks, Betsy Govig, Emily Points, Yasmine Elbaitari and Caitlin Pond. Bottom row: Carly Chalmers, Tori Walton, Katie Snyder, Alyssa Apecechea, Paige Martin and Alyssa Adamson. Not Pictured: Hannah Hudspeth.



CREATIVE GUESTS: Wade Alger and Brad Higdon of the Martin Agency, creators of Geico advertising, were the speakers at the third annual University of Tulsa Advertising Program Dinner hosted by TU advertising professor Bill Hinkle.

tising campaign from presenters from across the nation.

Last year, Hinkle brought the chief creative director of the Dos Equis Most Interesting Man in the World advertising campaign as the speaker. This year Hinkle reached out to the creative team from the Martin Agency in Richmond, Virginia, responsible for Geico's advertising, and they quickly grew a friendship via email.

Hinkle mentioned he, Alger and Higdon became close friends over the Internet within a matter of

days. "I felt like they were my brothers when I first met them. I haven't had a speaker for this event that hasn't been the most down-to-earth and so willing to do anything for the students," Hinkle says.

Brad Higdon, VP/account director and Wade Alger, senior VP/group creative director, of the Martin Agency excitedly made their way to Tulsa to speak to the community about Geico's advertising campaigns. Higdon and Alger both competed in the NSAC competition as college students

and didn't want to pass up the opportunity to help the TU advertising students for the same competition.

Higdon and Alger both agreed the NSAC competition was the greatest experience they had as college students.

"We hope to show how Geico reshaped a category of advertising and how the Geico brand has evolved," Alger says.

And they did just that. The hour-long presentation showed the audience the overview of Geico's advertising and how it has devel-

oped over the years. Higdon and Alger touched on their creative process of how they turn ideas into reality.

Hinkle says the TU advertising program is blessed with the support they receive from the advertising, public relations and media community, as it was evident with over 400 in attendance that evening at the Greenwood Cultural Center.

"These advertising students are incredibly smart, and they get jobs. That's the best part," Hinkle says.



GROWING BUSINESS: Ted Andress, founder of Cell Phone Surgeon, stands outside his newest location at 10035 S. Memorial Dr., which opened in April. The company started business in September 2015 with a store in Owasso, and in November 2015 a store was opened in Tulsa Hills. Locally-owned Cell Phone Surgeon specializes in tablet, computer and game console repairs. For more information, see www.cellphonesurgeon.repair or call 918-986-9300.



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Richard Coltharp All Smiles at Don Thornton Cadillac

By GRANT ROWL
GTR Feature Writer

Richard Coltharp personifies the quintessential American success story.

Coltharp's father was a U.S. Marine, stationed in California when Coltharp was born. However, due to his mother's ties to Tulsa, their family soon relocated back to Tulsa, where Coltharp attended Webster High School.

As a young man in 1985, Coltharp found a job at Don Thornton Cadillac, 3939 S. Memorial Drive in Tulsa, washing and detailing cars. His professional life centered for five years, as he says, around a bucket and sponge.

Coltharp was somewhat content in his position through those early years, though his superiors at the company noticed something positive about Coltharp. He did excellent work putting the automobiles into clean shape and always with a positive attitude. So positive, in fact, that in 1990 one of his managers asked Coltharp if he would like to join the sales staff.

Join the sales staff? Coltharp says he was somewhat reluctant to make the change: "I thought back then that it would be scary to go on commission. I was making a guaranteed hourly income. What if I didn't sell anything?"

It didn't take him long to find out how good he would become in sales at Don Thornton

Cadillac. Almost immediately, he sold his first car. He says, "The first car I sold was a red Cadillac STS with 9,000 miles to George and Carole Graham. I quickly learned that the thrill of the close is exhilarating. A sale is like making a touchdown in football. It's exciting."

No doubt, Coltharp's gracious attitude and wide smile played a role in his earning himself a small part in the movie "Home Run," which was filmed in Tulsa.

Today, Coltharp is a top sales person, averaging 20 car sales a month. He says he loves coming to work every day. "The harder you work, the luckier you get," he adds, again reflecting that positive outlook.

Coltharp's enjoyment of his job also includes the relationships that he forms with his customers. "I love my customers," he says, a sentiment that seems to be mutual. A few of his customers often bring him his favorite food: sweets. One customer recently made him two coconut cream pies.



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

INDUSTRY STAR: Richard Coltharp welcomes new and repeat customers at the showroom of Don Thornton Cadillac in Tulsa, where he sells vehicles of all types, makes and models.

Concerning the excellent automobiles at Don Thornton Cadillac, Coltharp mentions the Cadillac SRX, a mid-size luxury crossover that has been Cadillac's best selling model in the United States since 2010. He

says that he also sells makes and models of vehicles of all types, new or used.

Coltharp is always interested in meeting new customers and making new friends. He can be contacted at 918-852-8927.

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SAVING WILLIAMS: Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin; Tulsa Mayor Dewey F. Bartlett, Jr.; Jeff Dunn, chair of the Tulsa Regional Chamber and president and CEO of Mill Creek Lumber and Supply Company; Stuart Solomon, immediate past chair of the Tulsa's Future program and president and COO of Public Service Company of Oklahoma; and Mike Neal, president and CEO of the Tulsa Regional Chamber, traveled to New York City April 15 to meet with Frank MacInnis, chairman of the Williams Cos. board of directors. The trip was made in an effort to make the plea for Williams to reconsider the sale of Williams Companies to Dallas-based Energy Transfer Equity (ETE). In the photo, Jeff Dunn addresses the media in Tulsa after the trip with Soloman, left, and Neal.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Jane Niemeyer Brings Comfort Through Nonprofit

By **EMILY RAMSEY**
Managing Editor

After Jane Niemeyer was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2013, she experienced firsthand the range of emotions that the disease brings. She also witnessed up-close those feelings in fellow cancer patients.

"I saw so much fear, anxiety, sadness, loneliness," she says.

"People deserve to be hopeful."

It was that sentiment that led her to create Angelheart, a 501(c)(3) organization that provides in-person comfort to cancer patients.

"I have always wanted to help people who are suffering, but as

you get older, you get busy with life," she says.

That was certainly true of Niemeyer before her diagnosis: she worked full time and is married with two children.

However, during her months of radiation treatments, she made regular visits to a friend at Oklahoma Cancer Specialists and Research Institute (OCSRI) in Tulsa who was also undergoing cancer radiation treatments. "I would bring fun things for us to do in order to cheer her up," she says, like make-up and sparkling champagne to celebrate the new year.

A nurse at OCSRI later asked Niemeyer if she had ever thought of

expanding her cheering-up efforts to other patients.

That's all it took to set Niemeyer on her new path.

After receiving approval from OCSRI, Niemeyer began making weekly visits to patients who were undergoing radiation treatments. Many of the individuals that she has created relationships with are ones who Niemeyer simply approached and started talking to.

"What I do is all about listening," says Niemeyer, struggling to explain how she sits down with total strangers and carries on, oftentimes lengthy, conversations. "The conversation just happens. It's very natural; it's not work for me.

"I try to get them to laugh, have a good time and forget about the cancer."

One factor that immediately connects Niemeyer with the patients whom she meets and visits is the commonality they all share. "When I tell them I had cancer, there's an instant bond," she says – a bond that those who haven't dealt with the disease, for the most part, can't fully understand.

Additionally, "cancer patients tend to protect their families, so they don't open up to them, but they feel free to tell me their fears and anxieties," she explains.

In addition to talking with patients, Niemeyer also often brings mementos and gifts for them, such as colorful prayer cards, jeweled bracelets in various color options – pink to represent breast cancer, blue for ovarian cancer – and soft rice bags that can be warmed "to provide patients comfort when they're hurting," she says.

Many of the women who Niemeyer has given these gifts to want to return the favor and help



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

CANCER SURVIVOR: Jane Niemeyer, left, founder of Angelheart, visits with Joyce Roberts, seated, and Roberts' sister Joann Schulze during one of Roberts' radiation treatments at Oklahoma Cancer Specialists and Research Institute (OCSRI) in Tulsa. Niemeyer began her nonprofit organization, in which she makes one-on-one visits to cancer patients, after being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2013.

in making them, such as Joyce Roberts and Joann Schulze, sisters who made 105 rice bags recently. "They donated their time and the materials," Niemeyer says.

While Niemeyer wishes she could give out all of her items for free, she has begun selling the bracelets in OCSRI's pharmacy, with all proceeds benefiting Angelheart.

"I don't want to charge for anything; I'm not focused on making money," she says. "Cancer patients are individuals of all financial backgrounds."

However, to operate an organization, money is necessary.

"For the first two years, I was doing this totally out of my own pocket," says Niemeyer. Only recently has she

begun to receive small donations from the community.

Niemeyer is currently working on building an active board of directors to aid in fundraising.

She recently earned the Standards for Excellence of Nonprofit Organizations national certification, and she is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

"The driving force for me is my resolute love for fellow cancer patients," she says, many patients with whom she maintains relationships after their radiation treatments end.

"This is a unique service that's one-on-one. I am trying to ease the journey," Niemeyer says. "I hear patients tell me, 'If you're not here, it's not the same.'"

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Researcher Selects OSU-CHS

Showket Hussain, Ph.D., renowned molecular oncologist and senior research officer for the Indian Council of Medical Research in New Delhi, recently joined Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences on an international visiting fellowship for cancer research.

"Dr. Hussain chose our laboratory for this prestigious fellowship because of his interest in our research related to infectious disease etiology of cancers," says Anil Kaul, M.D., director of clinical laboratories and associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at OSU-CHS. "He has made outstanding contributions in the field of cancer research, and we are excited to work with him."

During his six-month fellowship, Hussain will work with Anil Kaul

and Rashmi Kaul, Ph.D., associate professor of immunology, on how infectious diseases lead to the development of cancer. He will specifically study the role of the human papillomavirus (HPV) in the development of cervical cancer.

Hussain is one of six Indian scientists sent to the United States to facilitate the establishment of a National Cancer Institute in India by building collaborative relationships with American cancer research institutions.

Hussain's cancer research is focused on tumor virology, signaling, epigenomics and molecular epidemiology. He has published more than 50 research papers and book chapters in noted academic journals.



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TU Completes Renovations On Oxley College of Health

The University of Tulsa recently completed renovations on five floors of its downtown Tulsa campus facility at 1215 S. Boulder Ave. These renovations allow for expansion from 310 to more than 600 students in the Oxley College of Health Sciences. The space houses the School of Nursing, Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences, Department of Kinesiology and Rehabilitative Sciences, OU-TU School of Community Medicine, and the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship.

The building renovations include six new classrooms and experiential laboratories outfitted with the latest technology, including a state-of-the-art, life-like patient simulator, to offer learning opportunities that replicate real-world health care scenarios.

Hurricane Health Clinic, occupying the first floor, will provide general health services to the public as well as TU students, faculty and staff. Students supervised by faculty members will operate the clinic, which also



DOWNTOWN LOCATION: Dr. Gerard Clancy, second from left, dean of The University of Tulsa Oxley College of Health Sciences and TU vice president of health affairs, stands inside the Oxley College of Health Sciences, 1215 S. Boulder Ave., with Brandon King, left, visiting clinical assistant professor; Deborah Greubel, third from left, director of the School of Nursing; Nicholas Zumwalt, clinical assistant professor; Sheryl Stansifer, visiting clinical assistant professor; and Robb Rose, right, visiting clinical assistant professor. Renovations to expand the Oxley College of Health Sciences, located in downtown Tulsa, were recently completed.

will provide primary and preventive care and rehabilitation and wellness services as well as mental health and legal services staffed by psychology and law students.

Local Health Care in Crisis

By **JIMMY LEOPARD**
Guest Columnist

Rural hospitals across Oklahoma are in crisis. Each year, Oklahoma hospitals absorb more than \$560 million in unreimbursed care for their uninsured and underinsured patients. Wagoner Community Hospital provided \$4.3 million in free care to our local residents last year.

Oklahoma has rejected federal matching funds for Medicaid, which makes the problem worse. Instead of our federal dollars paying for health care in Oklahoma, we are paying for health care in other states. Many of our excellent doctors and nurses are leaving the state and not coming back.

With the state of Oklahoma facing a \$1.3 billion budget hole, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) has proposed a 25 percent cut in provider reimbursement rates beginning June 1. These cuts could deliver a devastating blow to dozens of hospitals and nursing homes across Oklahoma and the patients they serve.

With the state facing this imminent health care disaster, the Oklahoma Hospital Association is urging lawmakers to support a plan proposed by the OHCA to fix health care. It's a reasonable solution that would rebalance coverage under Medicaid in Oklahoma. The plan would require lawmakers to pass a \$1.50 per pack increase in the cigarette tax.

Raising the cigarette tax would generate an additional \$182 million in state funds that would allow Oklahoma to receive a nine to one federal match. The plan would reduce the number of uninsured in Oklahoma by 30 percent. If the state does nothing, up to four out of five Oklahoma hospitals will not deliver babies and more than a dozen Oklahoma hospitals could face closure within a year. Also, nine out of 10 nursing homes would be at risk of closing, dumping more than 16,000 disabled and elderly out on the streets.

If we are to live by the Oklahoma Standard, our legislators must be courageous and make sure we look after our most vulnerable - babies and the elderly.

Oklahoma can prevent this catastrophe by raising the cigarette tax and rebalancing Medicaid. Contact your legislators and tell them to act NOW to save health care. You can also join the movement to make Oklahoma better for everyone at makeOKbetter.org.

Jimmy Leopard is CEO at Wagoner Community Hospital and chairman of the Oklahoma Hospital Association board of trustees.



JIMMY LEOPARD



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Dr. Rhett Harwell, D.C., Clinic Director



Ask The Doctor

Your health questions answered by Dr. Rhett Harwell, D.C.

You Don't Have To Just Live With Back Pain

Q: Dr. Harwell, for several years now I have been dealing with back pain. Early on, an MRI revealed some spinal stenosis and arthritis issues. I've tried Ibuprofen, acupuncture and an epidural injection with no long-term positive results. An orthopedic specialist recommends surgery but I've just heard too many stories of failed surgeries. I feel I'm running out of options. What do you recommend?

- Edward S.

A: The human back is such a complex collection of delicate bones, muscles and nerves. It's amazing to consider but also just about the number one source of chronic back and neck pain for the majority of Americans. Having back pain, muscle spasms and shooting leg pain can bring your life to a standstill.

Don't let pain keep you from enjoying time with grandchildren, participating in an active lifestyle or even climbing the stairs without pain.

Pain is your body's warning sign telling you something is wrong. Sure, you can numb the pain if you take enough pain pills, but, if you just mask the pain, it can prevent healing and maybe even damage your back further.

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Likewise, Decompression Therapy has numerous studies that support its effectiveness:

The Journal Of Neuroscience Research concluded "Decompression therapy should be considered first, before surgical procedures."

The Orthopedic Technology Review found that "86% of the 219 patients who completed Decompression Therapy reported immediate resolution of symptoms."



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The Struggles and Rewards of Fitness

I've received my fair share of taken-aback responses and surprised glances when I tell people that I regularly attend 5:15 a.m. workout classes.

"You what?" is the most common knee-jerk reaction. "Wow." "I could never." "That's insane." "People would definitely be interested in understanding your motivation," my boss has repeatedly said to me.

While I admit that these past few semi-wintery months have caused me to slightly let up in my early-morning sweat routine, I am currently in the process of making a return to my routine. And no one has provided me more accountability and reason to return than my workout classmates.

Out & About in Greater Tulsa



By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

When a regular attendee doesn't come to class, many of us are quick to wonder why. Are they sick? What kept them from getting up at this obscene hour? — ignoring the fact that the obscene hour may be the very reason, some might think.

And yet, we fitness-lovers realize that most of us are loyalists who appreciate the opportunity to accomplish a 1,000-calorie burn by 6:15 in the morning.

"We will burn more calories in this class than many people will burn in their entire day," so says one of our group fitness instructors.

If that's not all the motivation a person needs, I don't know what is.

Additionally, I find it overwhelmingly encouraging to drive up to the gym's packed parking lot at 5 a.m. and to see the same people returning to the gym again and again. It spurs me on with a feeling of, 'If they can do it, so can I.'

Of course, there's many different venues, times and ways to burn calories.

As the days grow longer and the weather warmer, more Tulsans will choose the outdoors, and gym attendance sometimes decreases.

During the summer months, Guthrie Green hosts various fitness classes including Zumba, yoga and boot camps.

Other people prefer the solitude that comes with a walk outdoors or a bike ride.

The inspiring cyclists who travel here from all over the world for Tulsa Tough will be back for the cycling competition and festival June 10-12. Just watching one of those races and feeling the energy from the competitors and the crowd is enough to inspire.



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers
INSPIRATIONAL ATHLETES: Tulsa Tough cyclists conquer Cry Baby Hill on the last day of the three-day competition in June 2015.

Personally, I have always found group fitness classes to be the greatest way for me to find and maintain motivation and to achieve the best workout, thanks to that little bit of pride and competition that comes into play when working out with an entire room full of people.

Whatever your method, though, regularity is key, as the experts con-

stantly remind us. And facts are facts.

As I work to reboot my early morning madness, I will continue to remind myself that nothing worth gaining comes easily. And as I transition back into my routine, I will remember that the struggle will soon become less of a struggle and more of a joy that I feel eager to repeat.

Recycling for a Cause Brings Tulsans Together

Recyclers came together for Run Tulsa Pink 2016 in honor of a fallen friend. Cancer took Shelley Umezawa from us on New Year's Day.

She served our community in many ways, including as a longtime volunteer coordinator powerhouse at The M.e.t. The evening brought with it a range of emotions. There was joy in seeing our community's robust recycling efforts, but the wounds from losing our friend are still fresh, and the event was also a reminder that Shelley's energy and efforts are dearly missed. We will continue to honor her memory. Thank you to Tulsa Master Recycler John Beasley for organizing these recycling efforts in Shelley's honor, and to all the volunteers for braving the windiest weather I've ever recycled in. Run Tulsa Pink raises funds for charities that assist those affected by cancer right here in the Tulsa community.

Safe Drug Drop-Off

Drop off prescription drugs for safe disposal Saturday, April 30 from 10

a.m. – 2 p.m. at three locations in Tulsa:

- Reasor's at 71st Street and Sheridan Avenue

Trash Talk



By BETH TURNER
Tulsa Master Recyclers Association

- Reasor's at 41st Street and Yale Avenue

- M.e.t. Recycling Center at 11th Street and Cincinnati Avenue

Drug take-back programs serve the community in two ways:

Keeping them from the flush: wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove chemicals found in many medications and these chemicals could discharge into streams if medications are flushed instead of properly disposed.

Another reason to drop them off April 30 comes from a recent Oklahoma Prevention Needs Assessment study. It showed that 16.45 percent of Tulsa County youth obtain prescription drugs from home. According to the City of Tulsa, prescription drug overdoses kill more Tulsans, ages 25 to 64, than cars.

Find year-round drop-off boxes at cityoftulsa.org.

Mother Earth Thanks You

Celebrating Earth Day 2016 is in full swing across Tulsa County. Keep Broken Arrow Beautiful hosts "Trash Bash" on Saturday, April 30. Show up at 1500 South Main to help out.

On Earth Day, the University of Tulsa hosted 1,500 students from nine Tulsa Public Schools for an on-campus celebration. Several local metal recyclers increased the price they'd pay for aluminum cans. Those joining in included CMC, Advanced Metal and BAM Recycling companies. EnviroExpo held at Tulsa Community College Northeast campus saw another successful event, and downtown was hopping with those celebrating our planet. Throughout it all, several cleanups occurred including a Route 66 cleanup hosted by Tulsa Young Professionals, Saturday, April 23.

Keeping it Clean

After we've cleaned up all our favorite outdoor spaces, Kristen McCormick, owner of Shikoba Recycling, says one of the easiest ways to keep it clean is to prepare your food before heading outside for a picnic. "If you bring less stuff outside, the less stuff gets left behind. I clean up a lot of festivals and events. Vendors and patrons that do not pre-cut or pre-make their food before coming to an event create the most trash, and the most that's not recyclable. With just a little effort before going outdoors, you save a ton of waste, time, money and a lot of hassle on yourself, too." McCormick's



Courtesy JESSIE KNOBBE
RECYCLING FAMILY: At Run Tulsa Pink 2016, several groups came together in honor of Shelley Umezawa who lost her battle with cancer New Year's Day. Represented are ORU Recycling Team, The M.e.t. and Tulsa Master Recyclers Association.

top tips: make sandwiches at home and wrap them in a cloth napkin for transport. Whatever your drink of choice, get it to your mouth via a reusable or recyclable container, which means alternatives to Styrofoam and red solo cups (or any other color), such as a reusable bottle. Also, she suggests to make cleanup easier and more eco-friendly, bring along two bags of different colors, one for waste and one for recycling.

Myth-Busters

With recycling numbers increasing in Tulsa County, so are contamination rates. However, not in the way you may think. According to the Tulsa Authority for Recovery of Energy, it's not that recyclables are dirty, it's that people are putting more

in the bin than can be recycled. That's why we are seeing billboards and flyers touting "Focus on the Four" which are paper, plastic, metal and glass.

Top mythbuster tips:

- empty pizza boxes can be recycled, even with a little grease on the cardboard
- Recyclables do not have to be washed and rinsed
- you can leave the labels on your bottles and cans

What are some of your favorite recycling tips? Also, what are some of the ways you see your recycling turn into something helpful for someone else? Send in your thoughts, photos and tips to bethturner@me.com or tweet about it @TrashTalkTulsa.

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SECTION B

May 2016

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NatureWorks to Unveil Sculpture

On May 5, NatureWorks will donate its 27th bronze monument to the City of Tulsa as part of the organization's efforts to promote wildlife awareness and art appreciation through public wildlife monuments.

The latest monument to be donated is "Glacier Park Billy Goat." The event will take place at 57th Street and Riverside Drive at 4 p.m. Guests will be shuttled to the dedication site from Johnson Park at 61st and Riverside Drive, according to Brett Biery, NatureWorks Monuments committee chair.

More than \$3 million in heroic-size bronzes, many of them along Riverside Drive, have been produced and donated to the city of Tulsa and other local entities over the past quarter century by the local, all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization.

"Those of us in NatureWorks feel that these incredible monuments help bring beauty and meaning to our community," says Mike Linscott, president of NatureWorks.

For the past 26 years, during the first week of May, NatureWorks has unveiled a new bronze sculpture to the City of Tulsa. In 2015, the "Scissor-tailed Flycatchers" monument was unveiled inside Tulsa International Airport.

With the traditional dedication day falling on May 5, "Cinco de



Courtesy NatureWorks

Mayo," this year, the group seized upon the theme for music, food and beverages for the unveiling of the 15-foot mountain goat, which was created by sculptor Ron Lowry of Kalispell, Montana.

As a former taxidermist, Lowry's thorough knowledge of wildlife anatomy enhances the authenticity of his works, widely known for their accuracy and life-like qualities. Lowry drew inspiration for the monument from his frequent visits to Glacier National Park.

Other local monuments by Lowry can be seen at 96th Street and Delaware Avenue and at Turkey Mountain Park's trailhead at 68th Street and Elwood Avenue.

As a way to raise funding for its cause, NatureWorks holds an annual art show that has, to date, generated more than \$2 million in conservation funding for projects in Oklahoma, including habitat enhancement, high-tech equipment for field research and classroom learning material for students.

MAYFEST RETURNS

Marjorie Atwood's 2016 Poster Revealed

Tulsa artist Marjorie Atwood designed the 2016 Tulsa International Mayfest poster. The painting is called Namid, which is a Native American name meaning Star Dancer, and includes silhouettes of known Native American sculptures and a colorful Tulsa skyline. Atwood is a contemporary artist with a 20-year history of painting and exhibiting her work.

Posters will be available for purchase at the merchandise tent at the intersection of 4th and Main streets during the festival. For the first time, Mayfest will also offer limited edition signed reproductions embellished by hand with gold leaf.

The original artwork will be sold at the Mayfest Invitational Gallery, located in the Williams Towers lobby, 1 W. 3rd St. The sale will begin at the Invitational Gallery opening party on Wednesday, May 18, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Mayfest returns for its 44th



year May 19-22 in downtown Tulsa. More than 350,000 people are expected to attend the free festival, which will include more than 120 visual artists of fine arts and hand-made goods, three indoor art galleries, live music on four stages, and food vendors. Read the full story online at gtrnews.com or on the front page of the Midtown Monitor edition.



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Saturday, May 14	10:00am to 11:00pm	10:00am to 10:00pm

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VARIETY

'Jersey Boys' Highlights May at the Tulsa PAC

"Jersey Boys" is back at the Tulsa PAC! This is a much-anticipated return, so, let's begin at the end of May and work backwards through a big month of shows.

"Jersey Boys" is based on a true story about Italian boys from Newark who become famous as the pop group The Four Seasons. Their blue-collar, down-to-earth persona, relatable music, and the three-octave range of lead singer Frankie Valli, with songs like "Sherry," "Walk like a

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN

Man" and "Big Girls Don't Cry," propelled them to stardom. The musical follows their climb to the top, covering moments of triumph and personal failure, with members of the band each narrating one of the four sections (or seasons) of the story. The music from the show won a Grammy in 2006 and the production earned a 2006 Tony Award for Best Musical. Celebrity Attractions presents "Jersey Boys" May 24-29.

Last spring, dance phenomenon Wendy Whelan presented her "Restless Creature" program at the PAC showcasing four outstanding choreographers. Kyle Abraham was one of them. The piece he performed with Whelan, "The Serpent and the Smoke," was to die for. Abraham draws from a spectrum of influences, incorporating themes related to race and personal identity into his identifiable brand of contemporary dance. Dance Magazine named him "Man of the Moment" in 2015. Presented by Choregus, Abraham will be joined by his company, Abraham.In.Motion, on May 20.

The PAC's 2015-16 event roster is winding down, and we begin the final performances of the season for several of our user groups. Tulsa Symphony closes its Classics Series May 14 with Aaron Copland's Symphony No. 3. "Fanfare for the Common Man," which is famous in my office as the music played when the PAC opened in 1977, is featured in that symphony. Also on the program is pianist Jeffrey Biegel performing George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

Daniel Hege conducts this finale to the Symphony's 10th anniversary season, which also includes Aaron Jay Kernis' "Musica Celestis."

I can remember watching Ann-Margret, Janet Leigh and Dick Van Dyke in "Bye Bye Birdie" and imitating the big dance number "Got a Lot of Livin' To Do" when I was a teen. The musical is rarely done, but we'll have a chance to enjoy this bubbly and fun piece again May 13-21 when Theatre Tulsa presents "Bye Bye

Birdie" as part of its family series. Young people, along with adults, will have a great time at this show.

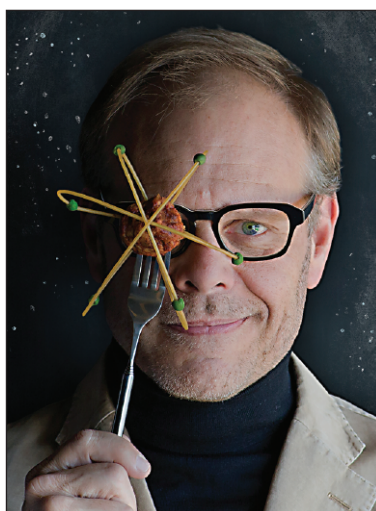
American Theatre Company stages Terrence McNally's 2014 compelling drama "Mothers and Sons" May 13-21. What an extraordinary cast. The incredible Lisa Wilson stars as Katherine, the mother of a man who died of AIDS. Years ago, I saw Wilson as Ophelia opposite Sterling McHan in "Hamlet." Wow! In this production, McHan is Cal, the former partner of Katherine' deceased son. A most excellent actor, Chad Oliverson, plays the current partner of Cal. This play will be one of the highpoints of the season.

Having watched "Good Eats" for many seasons on Food Network, I'm a huge fan of the brilliant Alton Brown. His multi-media show on May 10 is a combination of music, talk-show shtick and outlandish food demonstrations. "Alton Brown Live: Eat Your Science" is presented in Tulsa by 35 Concerts.

In 1978, my husband and I were doing production photography for Tulsa Opera when Beverly Sills performed at the new Tulsa Performing Arts Center in "I Puritani." Also in that cast was over-the-top handsome and talented operatic bass Samuel Ramey. It will be thrilling to hear and see Ramey again in Tulsa Opera's "Samson and Delilah," May 6 and 8. He will sing the role of the "Old Hebrew," which is only one reason to get tickets. A large orchestra of 55 will be in the pit. Seventy-five singers from Tulsa Opera and Tulsa Oratorio Chorus and eight



KYLE ABRAHAM: Dance Magazine called choreographer Kyle Abraham "Man of the Moment." Choregus Productions presents Abraham and his contemporary troupe Abraham.In.Motion on May 20.



ALTON BROWN: Food Network's charismatic star appears in a multi-media show that includes music, talk-show antics and food demonstrations, May 10 at the PAC.

dancers from Portico Dance Theatre are part of the production. Tenor Frank Porretta, mezzo-soprano Dana Beth Miller and baritone Peter Lindskoog star in this opera, based on the story from the Old Testament with gorgeous music composed by Camille Saint-Saens. This will be the last opera that Kostis Protopapas conducts as artistic director and conductor of Tulsa Opera. Thank you, Kostis, for all your groundbreaking and inspiring work since 2001!

Other events to note for May include the continuation of April's "Billy Elliot: The Musical," through May 7, along with Brown Bag It's Council Oak Trio, May 4, and Chamber Music Tulsa's pres-



JERSEY BOYS: The story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons returns to the PAC May 24-29.



MOTHERS AND SONS: Terrence McNally's 2014 compelling drama presented by American Theatre Company features a trio of Tulsa's best-known actors, Chad Oliverson, Sterling McHan and Lisa Wilson.



SAMSON AND DELILAH: Grand opera on a grand scale comes to the PAC May 6 and 8 with Tulsa Opera's Samson and Delilah, featuring a star-studded cast that includes Samuel Ramey, Dana Beth Miller, Frank Porretta and Peter Lindskoog.

entation of the Dalí Quartet with Ricardo Morales, May 1. Principal clarinetist of the Philadelphia orchestra, Morales joins the Dalí Quartet for an eclectic program that features music from Brahms, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Carlos Gardel

and others. Enjoy Mayfest and stop by the PAC over the month of May for more superb entertainment. Nancy Hermann is Director of Marketing at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.



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Series Reflects Ballet's Future

Tulsa Ballet is closing out its 2015-16 season with a triple bill, featuring some of Artistic Director Marcello Angelini's favorite works.

When asked about his choice of repertory for the program, Angelini speaks about the second half of the season as a reflection of Tulsa Ballet's past six decades:

"Romeo and Juliet, the first full-story ballet commissioned by the company, is the embodiment of the company's commitment to create quality classical works for audiences and the country.

"This spring, Masters of Dance characterized the company's pledge to present the best works by the best dance makers of the world, right here in Tulsa.

"The Italian tour that followed took Italy by storm and reaffirms Tulsa Ballet's commitment to serve Tulsa and the state of Oklahoma as a cultural ambassador."

Regarding the Signature Series, May 6-15, Angelini describes the performances as "the quintessence of my artistic vision for the company's future: the best of the American dance tradition, with Balanchine's Serenade; the return of a modern masterpiece of choreography Remansos, created by a Nacho Duato; and Infra, a work by one of the top dance makers of our times, Wayne McGregor, who is changing the trajectory of classical and modern dance for generations to come."

Serenade

Choreography by George Balanchine, Music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Serenade will open the program and is one of the masterpieces of George Balanchine, the unchallenged master of American ballet. While Balanchine was an advocate for abstract dance, Serenade is emotionally charged. With his ability to visualize the music through movement, the audience will witness a work of unequalled beauty and a timeless treasure.



Courtesy Tulsa Ballet

Remansos

Choreography by Nacho Duato, Music by Enrique Granados

Remansos is a delicate work for three women and three men. Created for the American Ballet Theater in 1997, Remansos makes use of a single rose as the connection between the dancers and a large silver wall at the back of the stage, where dancers enter and exit. This ballet is quintessential Duato, mixing the angular shapes and flowing movement of his choreography to invade our minds and hearts with a sense of beauty, romance and emotion.

Infra

Choreography by Wayne McGregor, Music by Max Richter

Infra is an exceptional work by a unique dance maker. Translated from its Latin roots as "below," Infra is an introspective investigation into the emotional life of people in large cities. This unforgettable ballet incorporates a large LED screen to project multimedia images along with the live performance. Created for The Royal Ballet of London by its Choreographer in Residence, Infra represents a groundbreaking moment in the evolution of dance and choreography. Last

August, it was performed by The Royal Ballet at The Metropolitan Opera House in New York as a visualization of the excellence of British dance in the 21st century. This will be the Oklahoma premiere of this haunting yet hopeful ballet.

"If there is a thread that connects these three works, I would say it is the fact that abstract ballets can pack an emotional punch, at times greater than story ballets," says Angelini.

Tickets for Tulsa Ballet's Signature Series start at \$25. Call 918-749-6006 or visit www.tulsaballet.org to purchase tickets. Performances will take place at Lorton Performance Center on The University of Tulsa Campus, 550 S. Gary Pl.

AUTHOR GETS SASSY, WRITES SECOND NOVEL



GTR Newspapers photo

LOCAL NOVELIST: Tulsan Martin Keating holds up *S.A.S.S.Y.*, his second terrorism novel that he recently published. It is available in paperback and on Kindle devices.

Martin Keating, a local author and brother of former Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating, recently published *S.A.S.S.Y.*, his second terrorism novel. He published *The Final Jihad* in 1996.

S.A.S.S.Y. focuses on one of the most worrisome susceptibilities of the United States, Keating says. If such an attack were carried out, it would dwarf the horrific 9/11 terrorist offensive by a factor of at least a thousand.

"I didn't set out to write a terrorism book," Keating confesses, "let alone two. However, after years of listening to my uncle and his fascinating stories of U.S. Navy intelligence forays across the globe, I knew I had to tell a larger audience what the country is really facing."

S.A.S.S.Y. begins with the discov-

ery of a classified U.S. Army plan to capture and "chip" the elusive Big Foot. Not one in 20 Americans has ever believed in the large ape-man, but the Army possessed decades of growing evidence to the contrary, dating back to General MacArthur and the Korean War. If such a creature actually did exist and could be caught and controlled, it would be the perfect killing machine for Pakistan, Afghanistan and similar "difficult" locales. However, U.S. Naval Intelligence, while shadowing the Army, uncovers a massive conspiracy led by the Chinese. A troika of enemies is on the verge of launching a diabolical agenda to exploit an unrecognized Achilles heel of the United States.

S.A.S.S.Y. is available at Amazon.com in both paperback and Kindle formats.

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Greg Weber Anticipates Future of Tulsa Opera

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

As the Tulsa Opera prepares to begin its 69th season, it welcomes back Greg Weber as general director and CEO.

Weber was originally hired as Tulsa Opera's managing director in October 2014; however, he left in June 2015, only to return March 1.

"My heart never left Tulsa," he says, "but there were situations that had to be worked through."

With his return to Tulsa Opera, Weber has brought his exuberant attitude and energy with his goal to return Tulsa Opera to the sought-after reputation it held only a few decades ago.

Weber holds 30 years of experience working with theater and opera companies throughout the world, including as San Francisco Opera's director of production,

managing director for Geva Theatre Center in Rochester, New York, and production and technical director at the Houston Grand Opera.

Yet, he makes clear his high respect for Tulsa Opera and its heritage.

"I have been fortunate to work for some big opera companies," says Weber. "However, even with these big companies, we would come to see Tulsa Opera, because some of the greatest voices have come out of Tulsa, such as Mark Delavan, Stephanie Blythe and Joyce DiDonato."

"Tulsa Opera featured these big names early in their careers. I want us to be known again as finding the greatest talent."

As soon as Weber returned to Tulsa Opera, he set about creating the 2016-17 season of performances, the names of the operas, though, at the time of this

interview, he could not yet share. "But what I can say is with the types of performers that we are getting, we are so excited," Weber says.

He also lets drop the season opener: "A French opera with a visual feast and a fashion excitement that hasn't yet been seen in Tulsa," he says. "I want Tulsa to see this kind of artistry and feel this type of show."

The season will close with a grand Italian opera "with dynamic voices and scenery; you'll feel as if you have walked into the San Francisco or Chicago Opera."

In early April, Tulsa Opera held a casting call in New York City to seek out new voices; Weber was pleased with the results.

"There was a real buzz that Tulsa Opera is back and special, that we're a national presence again," he says. "In just six weeks, we've taken a huge step."

Weber's goal in the upcoming season is to focus on audience demand based on responses from a survey of Tulsa Opera season ticket holders that was recently conducted. The survey asked them to name their five top favorite operas.

"I asked that question because I wanted to understand the repertoire that Tulsans were familiar with," says Weber.



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers
GRAND PLANS: Greg Weber, who returned to Tulsa Opera in March in a new role as general director and CEO, stands in the library at Tulsa Opera's offices at 1610 S. Boulder Ave.

What he discovered was something that he already knew but was pleased to confirm.

"We received 128 different opera suggestions," he says. "Tulsa is a smart, artistic audience, and I think Tulsans know much more about opera than people tend to think they do."

The survey also confirmed Weber's knowledge of what Tulsans prize most in their operas: vocal quality.

"Tulsa audiences respond when a performer nails an aria," Weber says. "This town knows good music, and it values strong voices."

Tulsa Town Hall Announces Season

Nonprofit organization Tulsa Town Hall will begin its 82nd season on Sept. 23 with award-winning journalist Soledad O'Brien.

As an internationally recognized broadcaster, O'Brien brings wider exposure to critical issues through her empowering initiatives, in-depth coverage of breaking news and documentaries. She will speak on the topic of "Diversity: On TV, Behind the Scenes & in Our Lives." O'Brien has been named the Tulsa Performing Arts Center 40th Anniversary Speaker.

Dave Barry, America's iconic humorist, speaks to Tulsa Town Hall subscribers on Nov. 4. For 22 years, Barry's weekly column appeared in more than 500 newspapers with "humorous commentaries on all aspects of life. The keen sense of humor of this Pulitzer Prize-winning author will provide some pre-election levity as subscribers enjoy "The Wit and Wisdom of Dave Barry." Thanks to a generous gift from the Bob West Family, Barry is the Sandra West Memorial Speaker.

Acclaimed poet and essayist Luis Alberto Urrea will take sub-

scribers "From Tijuana to the World" on Jan. 13, 2017. Urrea uses his dual-culture life experiences to explore the themes of love, loss and triumph. He is the author of 14 best-selling books and publications in all major genres and has had three of his books chosen by 30 cities and colleges for the One Book community reading programs.

Photographer Joel Sartore will take the stage on March 31. As a freelance photographer for National Geographic magazine, Sartore documents endangered species and landscapes. Sartore's latest work "Photo Ark" includes portraits of the world's captive species to inspire people everywhere to care. Joel Sartore is the Tulsa Town Hall Endowment Speaker.

The season will conclude with recent U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul. Speaking on "Foreign Policy Challenges Around the World," McFaul, a Rhodes Scholar, will share his expertise as senior director for Russian and Eurasian affairs at the National Security Council with subscribers. His appearance in Tulsa is made possible by a gift from The Helmerich Trust.

All lectures are held at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center in downtown Tulsa, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Season subscriptions cost \$75 per person for all five lectures. Tickets to single performances are not available, but subscriptions may be purchased at any time. School groups are encouraged to attend single lectures as a curriculum enrichment opportunity. Visit tulsatownhall.com for more information.

Following each lecture, the speaker is a guest at a luncheon featuring a question-and-answer period with the lecturer. Tickets are available for season subscribers only and cost \$25 per person for each luncheon. Reservations must be made in advance.

Round-trip shuttle service from Boston Avenue United Methodist Church to the PAC is offered for \$5 per person.

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SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Renaissance Festival Transports Guests

The 21st annual Oklahoma Renaissance Festival at the Castle of Muskogee returns April 30-May 30 with costumed performers, artisans, music, magic, comedy, juggling, jousting and food.

The Renaissance was a rebirth of the human spirit, igniting a passion for beauty expressed through poetry, art, music, intellect and romance. This pivotal time cultivated a desire for a noble life, a freer opportunity for expression, and the melding of intellectual curiosity, diverse culture, and exotic commerce.

Guests will be transported back into that time of 16th century discovery and expression at Castleton Village with more than 600 costumed stage and street performers, merchants, and artisans.

Throughout the day, patrons will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the excitement of the time where the Heroic Knights of Old clashed with sword and lance in full contact jousting. Patrons of all ages can watch Knight Wings Birds of Prey present education with a variety of raptors and cheer on their favorite heroes as they battle it out to win the match on the Giant Chessboard.

This year, the festival welcomes new performers, including Terra Nova Belly Dancers to perform a global dance interpretation. Wine + Alchemy will return this year for the entirety of the Faire to bring a high-energy experience uniquely contrived from its world dance roots inside the Cave. Also returning is Nancy Daily-Green on the Burns Stage to entice and enlighten audiences. Another entertainment option will be the Drummers playing from the Crown Inn Pub. On the Meadow Stage, May 6-8, will be Captain Jack Sparrow. Additional acts will be found on the 15 stages throughout the Castle grounds.

A variety of returning and new artisan merchants and their wares will be on display in 134 merchant shops. At Inside the Keepe, guests can create their own concoctions at Lenore's Absintery. Outside the Great Hall, patrons can stroll down twisting, tree-covered village lanes filled with quaint shops displaying one of a

kind, hand-crafted goods. Magpie Tricks will feature sterling silver and gemstone creations. In the newly renovated Harbor Village, the Muddy Pirate Pottery, new to the festival, will offer an eclectic variety of handmade pieces.

Individuals of all ages may be interested in purchasing their own dragon from Your Name On Rice or finding eggs from a variety of fairytale creatures at Gillywoods Imporium in the Italian Quarter.

Other activities include trying on the latest Renaissance fashions found in the marketplace and stopping for a flagon of ale at one of the inns or for a taste of fire-roasted food items or a smoked turkey leg. Guests will also have opportunity to participate in special daytime events, including the Queen's Tea, the Royal Luncheon and the King's Smoker.

Information can be found and after-hours tickets can be purchased on the festival website, okcastle.com, or at its Info Booth. After-hours entertainment will include the Masqued Ball, Pirate's Feast and the Ceilidh.

The Oklahoma Renaissance Festival will be open Saturdays and Sundays April 30-May 30, including on Memorial Day: May 30. Hours are 10:30 a.m.- 6 p.m. Student Day will be May 6, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



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DINING OUT IN GREATER TULSA

Bluestone Steak House Emphasizes Pure Ingredients

LOCAL DINING

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Writer

Purity and quality. That neatly and clearly sums up the mission of Bill Tackett, local restaurateur and chef, who became owner of Bluestone Steak House and Seafood Restaurant, 10032 S. Sheridan Rd., with his wife, Sharon, in 2014.

Tackett's background in the restaurant industry is long and varied: he has owned restaurants, launched new restaurant concepts, worked for U.S. Foods as a protein specialist, served as a restaurant consultant in six states, worked for a saucier, and aided in the launch of the Certified Angus Beef effort in Oklahoma and surrounding states.

His work in restaurants began at 13 years old in a local steakhouse. By 16, he was working as the kitchen manager for Red Lobster. He later graduated from Oklahoma State University's culinary school, where he received training in culinary arts, baking science and meat fabrication.

Tackett helped with the design and menu creation of Bluestone in 2007, so, when the restaurant came available in 2014, he took it as a way for him and his wife to return to their hometown.

Among the changes that Tackett made to Bluestone is its emphasis on "scratch cooking" with all food, including sauces, prepared on-site from fresh ingredients. "I don't like to use additives or anything that perverts the products," says Tackett.

Tackett also honed in on the menu, focusing the food offerings largely on steaks and seafood, with a few pasta and chicken dishes added in. Gluten free and

vegetarian options are also available.

"My mission is to provide all of the public with something," Tackett says in reference to all of Bluestone's food offerings as well as to its comfortable yet upscale interior, diverse array of live music and drink lists. The restaurant offers live music seven nights a week, 6-9 p.m.

"You can come in here in a black tie or blue jeans; just come expecting a great dining experience," he continues.

While the core items on Bluestone's menu mostly remain the same, Tackett is also always tweaking the offerings, adding daily and weekend specials in addition to seasonal menus and a growing drink menu.

"The idea is to always keep the menu lively," Tackett says.

He is currently preparing a reserve wine list with wines of varying price points – "this is an offering that can't be found out here in south Tulsa," he says – and a spirits menu, featuring unique scotches, some that are served with specialty chocolates from downtown Tulsa's Glacier Confection, various whiskeys, including the 100-year tribute to Frank Sinatra with Jack Daniels' Sinatra Century whiskey, and infused bourbons.

Tackett's focus on all aspects of his restaurant serve him well. Since he and Sharon took ownership of Bluestone, they have seen sales double and are currently ranked as the sixth best steak and seafood restaurant in the state.

"All cylinders have to be firing to be successful in the restaurant business," he says. "The food has to be great, the music and ambiance need to be set to make guests feel comfortable, and service needs to be top-notch, or people won't come back."

Bluestone is also launching an



SOUTH TULSA DESTINATION: Bill and Sharon Tackett took ownership of Bluestone Steak House and Seafood Restaurant, 10032 S. Sheridan Rd., in 2014. The emphasis of Bluestone's menu is on "scratch cooking" with all food, including sauces, prepared on-site from fresh ingredients.

app for iPhone and Android and a texting application. Individuals can download the free Bluestone app or text 95577 to begin receiving special offers.

My family began our dinner on a Sunday evening with the Portobello Mushroom as our appetizer. It was a hard choice, with close to 20 appetizers to choose from, ranging from Spinach Artichoke Dip to Fried Oysters and Asian Beef Brochettes. The dish comes with slices of mushroom placed alongside toasted baguettes with a bowl of herbed goat cheese mousse. The mousse made this dish outstanding; it was creamy and rich, leaving us wanting much more and, yet, eager to see how the rest of our dishes would measure up.

For our entrees, I chose the eight-ounce Halibut, upon the suggestion of our server, who

described it as one of the best dishes on the menu. The halibut came topped with crabmeat and two jumbo shrimp bathed in caper and lemon-butter sauce. The fish was tender with the sauce being a nice compliment and not overwhelming the fish.

Our server also recommended the Certified Angus Beef Tenderloin Tails, similar to a filet in tenderness. The dish is made up of four thick slices of meat equalling 12 ounces, topped with a wild mushroom port wine sauce and heavy cream. For meat lovers, it's an excellent choice.

For our third entree, we selected one of Bluestone's weekend specials: a combination K.C. steak and sirloin steak, topped with shrimp.

All of our dishes came with the choice of a soup or salad, the choice of rice or a potato, and a

side of vegetables. One of the most noteworthy sides was the Lobster Bisque, which was soothingly creamy with chunks of lobster.

For dessert, we shared the vanilla creme brûlée. Although I don't naturally gravitate toward creme brûlée, this was wonderful with a thick filling that was more creamy like custard as opposed to gelatin. There was also a key lime flavor of creme brûlée available; the offered flavors change regularly. The dessert menu is lengthy, with cheesecakes, cakes, cobblers and pecan pie.

The restaurant also offers beer and wine specials during their daily happy hour, 4-6 p.m.

Bluestone Steak House and Seafood Restaurant is open Sunday-Thursday 4-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 3-10 p.m. Call 918-296-9889 for reservations.

Cajun Ed's Annual CrawFest Returns May 14

On May 14, Cajun Ed's Hebert's Specialty Meats, located at 2101 E. 71st St., just west of Lewis Avenue, will host CrawFest 2016, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

This annual celebration will feature Cajun favorites like Crawfish Etouffee, Crawfish Boudin, Boiled Crawfish, Boiled Shrimp, Red Beans, Cajun Sausage Sandwiches, Corn Maque Choux, Homemade Pralines and Bread Pudding. Cajun Ed will also be grilling his well-known Beef and Pork Sausage and Pork Boudin, as well as hot dogs for the children.

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

A portion of the event's proceeds will benefit Planted Ministries, Inc, founded and operated by Tulsan, Rachel Richard Chaves. Planted Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is dedicated to helping the poorest children and families in Nicaragua through its education program in an effort to help break the cycle of poverty. Planted Ministries is

also in the process of receiving government approval to open a home that will serve as a safe and nurturing environment where abused and neglected children can grow and heal physically, emotionally and spiritually. For more information about Planted Ministries visit plantedministries.org.

Hebert's (pronounced Ay-Bears), home of the original deboned stuffed poultry, is owned and operated by true Cajuns. For additional information, visit cajuned.com.



FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT: On May 14, Cajun Ed's Hebert's Specialty Meats, 2101 E. 71st St., will hold CrawFest 2016, with Cajun favorites, live music and crawfish games.



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HAPPENINGS AROUND GREATER TULSA



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

DVIS ADVOCATES: Domestic Violence and Intervention Services (DVIS) hosted a groundbreaking April 19 for the new Darcey and Joe Moran Counseling Center at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Tulsa. From left are DVIS Vice President of the Board Virginia Cohlma, DVIS Executive Director Tracey Lyall and First Lady of Tulsa Victoria Bartlett.



GTR Newspapers photo

TU DAY AT COMMUNITY FOOD BANK: University of Tulsa graduates volunteered at TU Day on April 16 at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. Busy working on sorting and packaging food for distribution are, from left, Jeff and Emily Reh, Allie Parham, Sarah Taylor and Paula Kuykendall.



GTR Newspapers photo

JEWELRY AND FASHION SHOWING: Tulsa singer and jewelry designer Cindy Cain, left, held a show at her home in April of her and her mother's jewelry. Also displaying was fashion designer April Madden, formerly of Tulsa, now of Kansas City. Guests from the neighborhood and beyond enjoyed the showing.



SHARON CAMERON for GTR Newspapers

SILVER DESIGNS BY PEGGY: Peggy Upham's annual private jewelry show was held in April. From left are Peggy Upham, wife of Dr. Steadman Upham, University of Tulsa president; and Sarah Graves with her guest Julie Hunter, both displaying their jewelry purchases. Jewelry items included beautiful handmade silver and natural stone bead necklaces, cuff bracelets, earrings, silver chains and bolos made by Peggy.

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SPORTS

TU to Host NCAA Tennis Championships

*Division I Action is May 19-30
At Michael D. Case Tennis Center*

The nation's top collegiate tennis teams will converge on the city of Tulsa to compete at the 2016 NCAA Division I Men's & Women's Tennis Championships,

May 19-30, at the Michael D. Case Tennis Center on the University of Tulsa campus.

NCAA Championships feature 16 men's and women's teams competing for the first six days of the tournament (May 20-24) to claim the title of team champion. At the conclusion of the team event, a field of 64 singles players and a 32 doubles team bracket for both the men and women will be played out in the final six days of competition (May 25-30).

Both the Tulsa men's and women's tennis teams, as well as the Oklahoma State teams and the Oklahoma men have been ranked among the nation's top 30 for a good portion of the spring season. Those teams will be strong competitors at regional sites to be among the final 16 teams making their way to Tulsa.

Men's teams expected to make their way to Tulsa for the championships include No. 1-ranked North Carolina, defending champion Virginia, 17-time champion UCLA and 21-time winner Southern Cal, while TCU and Ohio State, who have been ranked

among the top-five nationally, have their sights set on Tulsa in search of their first national tennis titles.

On the women's side, California has moved into the No.1 spot in the nation, while Vanderbilt will look to repeat as NCAA champion. The North Carolina women, like the men, are strong as well, positioning themselves among the top-5 teams in the country.

The 2016 event is the third NCAA Tennis Championship that has been played in Tulsa. The Case Tennis Center was also host site for the 2004 NCAA Men's Championships and the 2008 NCAA Men's & Women's Championships.

All-Session Tickets are now available. Tickets for adults are priced at \$125 and \$75 for children for the 12-day event, which averages to just over \$10.40 per adult and \$6.25 per child. All-Session Tickets can be purchased online at TulsaHurricane.com or by calling the TU athletic ticket office at 918-631-GoTU(4688).

Individual session tickets will be available on each day of the tournament for \$15 for adults and \$8.00 for youth. Purchasing All-Session Tickets for the NCAA Championships will be a savings of \$55 for adults and \$21 for children.

For more information and tick-



Courtesy photo

CASE CENTER COMPETITION: This photo is from the 2008 NCAA Championships held at the University of Tulsa's Michael D. Case Tennis Center.

ets, visit NCAA Championship Central at TulsaHurricane.com.

2016 NCAA Division I Men's & Women's Tennis Championships Schedule

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

- Thursday, May 19, – Women's Round of 16, 9 a.m. (all day)
- Friday, May 20, – Men's Round of 16, 9 a.m. (all day)
- Saturday, May 21, – Women's Quarterfinals, Noon & 4 p.m.
- Sunday, May 22, – Men's Quarterfinals, Noon & 4 p.m.
- Monday, May 23, – Women's Semifinals, Noon; Men's Semifinals, 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 24, – Women's Championship, Noon; Men's Championship, 4 p.m.

SINGLES & DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Wednesday, May 25 – Women's & Men's First Round (64) (Singles), 9 a.m.
- Thursday, May 26 – Women's & Men's Round (32) (Singles Second Round & Doubles First Round), 9 a.m.
- Friday, May 27 – Women's & Men's Round of 16 (Singles & Doubles), 10 a.m.
- Saturday, May 28 – Women's & Men's Quarterfinals (Singles & Doubles), Noon
- Sunday, May 29 – Women's & Men's Semifinals (Singles & Doubles), Noon
- Monday, May 30 – Women's & Men's Finals (Singles & Doubles), Noon

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Cristian Mata Comes Home to Roughnecks

Bobblehead Night Scheduled June 17 for Former TU, Union Star

By **GLENN HIBDON**
GTR Sports Writer

From literally digging ditches to having a bobblehead night in his honor on June 17, Tulsa Roughnecks striker Cristian Mata has seen his life's journey come miles and miles in a very short time.

A former standout goal scorer at Union High School and the University of Tulsa, the 22-year-old native of Mexico said his soccer future has been reborn as a member of the United Soccer League Roughnecks, all while remaining close to home.

"I almost quit on myself and quit on soccer," says Mata, who left TU to participate in a Seattle Sounders combine and then tried out unsuccessfully for a Mexican first division under-20 team. "I had to get a job, and I didn't wake up a day without knowing I had to get back out there."

Mata wound up in construction work, digging holes for underground cable. He quickly realized there was no future in the job and desperately longed for a career adjustment.

"I wasn't using my feet," Mata says of his best money-making asset. "I knew I wasn't living up to my full potential. Trying out for a pro team and not making it was a wake-up call. I wasn't working as hard as I needed to."

"I went home, and I felt like my family needed more from me financially and spiritually. I knew I needed to work harder to be a support for my family."

Mata lives with his widowed mother, Ana, who works in janitorial services at Union Schools. Helping take some of the burden off her shoulders was a major motivating factor in his goal to play professional soccer.

Steve Earle, the former Roughnecks player and Mata's coach with the Tulsa Soccer Club, helped guide the 5-foot-9 forward in a different direction.

"I knew the Roughnecks were coming back last year, and at the time I wasn't really playing soccer anymore," says Mata, who joined the team in midseason. "One of my coaches (Earle) told me he wanted me to go back and play. I had something to offer in talent."

"I called the Roughnecks and they told me to come for a tryout. I was here for two or three weeks

before they signed me. Now I feel pretty comfortable around the players and coaching staff. Coming in every day was a different environment for me. All the guys were in good shape, and I had to adjust to the game and its speed."

Mata finished the 2015 season by scoring six goals in 15 games and drawing praise from coach David Irving.

"He's a goal scorer. Wherever he's been, he's scored goals," Irving says. "I'm a big believer in homegrown talent, and if there are players good enough to play at our level, why not give them a chance. He's a great example of that."

Mata's journey to Tulsa and the Roughnecks began in Chihuahua, Mexico. As a five-year-old, all he had to do was step outside his home and there was a concrete soccer pitch to play on. His mother's side of the family was drenched in the tradition. His father's side preferred baseball.

"Every day, I stepped outside, and I knew I had to get involved. I saw my older brothers play," says Mata. "We moved to Tulsa when I was nine years old, and I went to Union. I like the atmosphere of soccer and how everyone approaches the game. I like how competitive it is, and I like winning and the passion for the game."

Mata tried football and wrestling in middle school at Union but found his true calling on the soccer field. After graduating in 2012, Mata had racked up about every honor he could. His 70 career goals helped him earn Oklahoma's Gatorade Player of Year award and he was named both Union's Player of the Year and Offensive Player of the Year.

He couldn't help but attract attention from TU. His older brother, Omar, was already a standout for the Hurricane and had been his teammate at Union. Mata was selected conference Player of the Year at Tulsa and Freshman of the Year. He was nominated to the All-America list and departed with 27 goals in two seasons. Then he left school for a professional try-out.

"I have a year and a half left and I do want to go back and finish my degree," says Mata, majoring in communications and minoring in Spanish. "I want to go into sports management or coaching."



CRISTIAN MATA

Before that day comes, Mata still has unfinished business ahead with the Roughnecks. He missed the first few games of the 2016 season with an ankle sprain and wants to make up for lost time. Again. His future could depend on it.

"This is my real job and I'm depending on this season. I want to play for a MLS (Major League Soccer) team or any big club," says Mata, who played indoor soccer with the Tulsa Revolution. "I lost three games (to injury) and I've got to rely on the next 27. I definitely feel more positive and enthusiastic coming back here."

In addition to scoring goals, Mata says his role includes assisting and defending as "much as I can." His strengths are movement close to the goal and creating opportunities for himself and his teammates. He also likes to add quickness to his resume of skills. The Roughnecks appreciate that.

"We have a solid team this year and I have a big picture of us making the playoffs," Mata says. "I think we're underrated. The whole team is underrated. Nobody knows anything about Tulsa, and that can put a big responsibility on everyone."

Mata wouldn't have it any other way. He has family pride at stake on and off the field.

"Being a local guy, I've got a lot of family, friends and coaches who are all here," he says. "I may have 10 family members and another 10 to 15 friends and coaches who come to the games. It's always nice on game-day to have someone to watch you. Since I'm a local guy, people know me more than the others."

Mata's local fame and popularity is destined to grow even more when his head bobbles on June 17. He's found out that's a bit more fun than digging ditches.



GREAT STRIKER: Mata has earned many honors in his soccer career, including at Union being named Oklahoma's Gatorade Player of Year and Player of the Year and Offensive Player of the Year. At TU he was selected conference Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year. He was nominated to the All-America list and departed with 27 goals in two seasons.

DON'T BUG THEM!



Courtesy photo

KICKING THE FLU: Players from the Roughnecks served as celebrity judges of the 12th annual Don't Bug Me poster contest, a partnership of Hillcrest HealthCare System and the Tulsa Health Department. Posters were created by students of local elementary schools. At left is David Abidor, defensive player for the Roughnecks, and with him is midfielder Brady Ballew. Both are posing with the signature Don't Bug Me antennae.

The event was held April 5 at the ONEOK Field Conference Room.

For more than a decade, the Tulsa Health Department and Hillcrest HealthCare System have joined together to educate the community on ways to stay healthy by protecting themselves from the flu and other communicable diseases. Don't Bug Me is a fun campaign designed to equip elementary students with the tools to keep the spread of the germs at a minimum.



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Oklahoma Golf Hall of Fame Announces Second Inductees

Event to be Held Sept. 18 at Southern Hills

An induction ceremony will be nothing new for most members of the Oklahoma Golf Hall of Fame's second class.

Haworth native Tommy Bolt, winner of the 1958 U.S. Open at Southern Hills Country Club, and former University of Tulsa and LPGA superstar Nancy Lopez are both members of the World Golf Hall of Fame, while Bolt is also in the PGA of America Hall of Fame and Lopez in the LPGA Hall of Fame.

Jerry Cozby, who for more than 40 years at Hillcrest Country Club in Bartlesville set a shining example of the PGA club professional's often selfless duties, will be inducted, a fitting tribute during the 100th anniversary celebration of the PGA of America. Cozby is also in the PGA of America Hall of Fame.

Labron Harris, who founded Oklahoma State's golf program and coached there from 1947-74, was also the designer and builder of Lakeside Golf Course in Stillwater, and assisted on the design of a number of other significant golf courses around the state.

In a Contributors to the Game category which recognizes the integral contributions of individuals, families or organizations that did not necessarily play or work in golf as a full-time profession, the HOF Board has selected to honor W.K. Warren Sr. and W.K. Warren Jr. of Tulsa.

Without Warren Sr., it is likely Southern Hills Country Club, host of seven major championships,



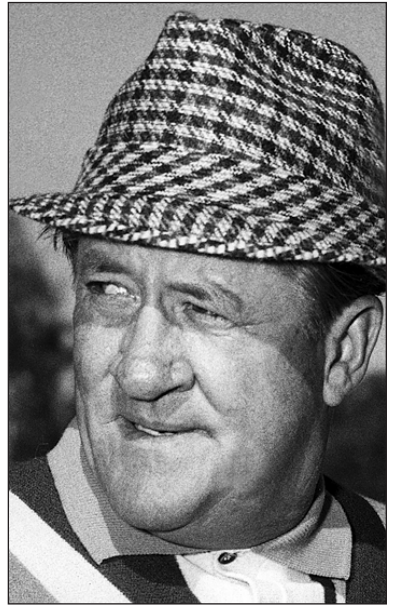
JERRY COZBY



NANCY LOPEZ



LABRON HARRIS



TOMMY BOLT

two PGA Tour Championships and two U.S. Amateur Championships, among many notable events, would never have existed. Without Bill Warren Jr., it would lack nine of its 27 holes and possibly two of its major championships, as he played a crucial role in both the 1994 PGA Championship and 2001 U.S. Open coming to Southern Hills.

"We are privileged to have so many outstanding candidates from which to select the second class," says Nick Sidorakis, executive director of the Hall of Fame board. "The Selection Committee did an outstanding job to identify these five candidates, two of whom have won major championships on the world stage in Tommy Bolt and Nancy Lopez.

"Jerry Cozby was the epitome of a PGA professional for more than 40 years at Hillcrest CC and helped grow the game through his

tireless contributions. Labron Harris not only founded the historically successful Oklahoma State golf program, but was a PGA professional and course designer. In the Contributors to the Game category, we're pleased to recognize the contributions of W.K. Warren Sr., one of the founders of Southern Hills Country Club, and Bill Warren Jr., who has helped enhance and further his father's vision for the growth of Southern Hills and by helping bring major championship golf to Tulsa for all the golf fans to enjoy."

The ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. Sept. 18 at Southern Hills Country Club. A fund-raising golf tournament will be at Southern Hills on the morning of Sept. 19.

Ticket and sponsorship information for both events are available at www.oklahomagolfhof.org or by calling 918-280-0787.



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SUTTON LEGACY: Holland Hall's Spencer Sutton, center at the table, signed on April 13 to play basketball at Oral Roberts University. He will be playing for his uncle, Head Coach Scott Sutton, and his father, Assistant Coach Sean Sutton. A favorite fan will be his grandfather, Eddie Sutton. From left in front are Spencer's mother, Trena, Spencer, father Sean and grandfather Eddie Sutton.

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Battle Creek Golf Club Offers 'Surf the Earth'

Greenway Golf, operator of Battle Creek Golf Club, is very pleased to announce the arrival of the GolfBoard, an all-new way to enjoy the game of golf. Battle Creek Golf Club is the first and only golf facility in Tulsa and Northeast Oklahoma to offer GolfBoards.

Named the "Best New Product for Golf" at the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, Florida, GolfBoard is safe, fun and easy for everyone to learn. The golf game will never be the same after players enjoy a round using the GolfBoard. All it takes is a few minutes of training before players head out.

"Greenway Golf's company

mission at Battle Creek has always been about delivering fun for players and guests," says Ken Campbell, company COO. "To many, driving a golf cart is one of the most fun things about golf, and now with the GolfBoard it takes riding to another level of fun with an exciting interactive experience. And, players also get some fitness, working core muscles and legs as the GolfBoard is steered similar to surfing or skateboarding. We have a saying around the course for players that "The Most Fun Wins." The new GolfBoard is the most fun new product I have seen in many years and is just simply cool."

To view GolfBoard video and to learn more, visit online at www.BattleCreekGolf.net or call 918-355-4850.

About Battle Creek Golf Club

Owned by the City of Broken Arrow and operated by Greenway Golf, Battle Creek Golf Club offers one of the regions most fun public golf courses. Battle Creek features 18-holes of golf, a bar and grill and event center. The Club's Ambassador of Fun team mission is "To Know, Love & Deliver Fun for All." To view GolfBoard video and to learn more, visit online at www.BattleCreekGolf.net or call 918-355-4850.

About GolfBoard

The GolfBoard has its roots in surfing and snowboarding. Built specifically for golf from the ground up, the GolfBoard is a four-wheel-drive, gear-driven, posi-traction golf transport vehicle. The user is always in full control of both the speed and direction of the board. The integrated thumb throttle controls the speed of the GolfBoard, while the user controls the direction through body movement. It is as intuitive to operate, as it is fun to ride. Its time to Surf the Earth on the GolfBoard. Learn more at GolfBoard.com.



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Temple Israel: Mid-Century Modern at Finest

Gently nestled into the sloping hillside of 22nd Street in Tulsa is an example of mid-century modern architecture at its finest.

With an exterior palate of subtle shades of gray, Temple Israel, 2004 E. 22nd Pl., is a feast for the eyes. Built by Manhattan Construction in 1955, the building was designed by architect Percival Goodman who was known for his cutting-edge buildings. Goodman designed more than 50 synagogues during his distinguished career. The Temple was the third building for this Reform congregation.

The form of this steel and concrete structure clearly identifies the function of its parts. A tall worship and assembly wing on the east connects to a welcoming one story lobby, which, in turn, connects to a two-story split level education wing on the west. Administrative offices are below, connecting to the lobby, while an early childhood learning center is located above with ground level access on the far west.

At the exterior north end of the sanctuary wing is a dramatic bas-relief sculpture by artist Bernard Frazier, depicting the Ten Commandments. They appear on two 40-foot concrete pylons separated by a slender blue glass shaft with fenestration, recalling the Shield of David.

Entering the lobby through doors that are a grillage of wood and glass, the concrete coffered ceiling, the gray slate floor and the stone walls clearly reflect the architect's intent that the interior be a continuation of the exterior design.

Turning left into the sanctuary, one is overwhelmed with the volume of the space. It is not a large space, but the ceiling, over three stories in height, soars. Along the east and west walls is a continuous band of

clerestory windows flooding the room with light. At the north end is the Bima, which has been slightly altered from the original to make it more accessible to the congregation. The walls of the Bima are painted a vibrant, bright red, an unusual feature for a Temple. The red color provides a powerful backdrop for three ritual objects: The Menorah, The Fruitful Vine and The External Light.

The External Light was created by sculptor Seymour Lipton whose work has been exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum, the Chicago Art Institute and the San Francisco Art Museum. This suspended sculpture suggests a winged crown of light with force lines drawing the eye upward and outward. Just seeing it is a special experience.

Although the sanctuary originally was designed for 316 worshippers, tall folding doors on the south open to the adjacent convocation center, allowing overall seating for up to 1,000 for High Holy Days. The bands of clerestory windows continue along the east and west walls. This design, along with a matching ceiling, give continuity to the whole space. Percival Goodman cleverly anticipated this flexible multi-purpose usage.

At more than 60 years of age, Temple Israel is pristinely maintained and looks as if it could have been built yesterday. Understandably, a few alterations have occurred. The convocation center stage has been removed and this space repurposed for the Miller Auditorium. Two Hebrew Instruction classrooms were added below the convocation center. These were damaged in a 1984 flood but have been restored. A covered walkway drop off has been provided for the south entrance to the lobby. The second floor with chil-

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers
MID-CENTURY MODERN: Temple Israel, 2004 E. 22nd Pl., was built in the mid-century modern architecture style in 1955 by Manhattan Construction. It was designed by architect Percival Goodman who was known for his cutting-edge buildings. At more than 60 years of age, Temple Israel is pristinely maintained and looks as if it could have been built yesterday.

dren's classrooms has been enlarged to become an early childhood learning center.

Temple Israel deserves our attention and

recognition. Many thanks go to Rabbi Emeritus Charles Sherman for his time and care in providing me with information to write this column.

Operation Aware Offers A.R.T

Operation Aware of Tulsa is gearing up for their annual fundraiser project and event, Operation A.R.T., and it's projected to be a grand Roaring '20s affair. Tulsa Metro area students will be paired with professional artists from around greater Tulsa to create a unique artwork together in a Philbrook classroom, which will be auctioned off at the event on May 5 at The Campbell Hotel's Renaissance Square venue. KTUL News Channel 8's Kristin Dickerson will emcee for the evening along with guest speaker Lisa Bain. Included will be a live auction, silent auction, drawings, heavy hors d'oeuvres and live music.

This project is in its fourth year and is expected to be the biggest event to date with our largest number of artists and students participating. Proceeds go to Operation Aware of Tulsa, whose mission is to equip youth, through prevention education, with the knowledge and skills to make positive life choices. Register online at www.operationaware.org

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SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT

How to Make Spring Projects More Eco-Friendly

Environmentally Conscious Approach Can Benefit Planet and Save Money

The arrival of warmer weather means different things to different people. Some anticipate opportunities for outdoor fun, while others may be considering redecorating or remodeling their homes. For the latter group, home improvement season provides a great opportunity to make homes more eco-friendly.

When planning home improvement projects, it's best to first choose a project and then look for ways to make the project more environmentally friendly. Such an approach may not only benefit the environment, but it also may benefit homeowners' bottom lines.

Interior Decorating

Longer days and warmer temperatures often translate into wanting to freshen up the interior of a home. Heavy draperies and comforters are put away, and lighter fabrics are taken out of storage. Whenever possible, reuse or repurpose items you already have rather than purchasing new items. Longer drapes can be cut and hemmed to be used as window treatments in other rooms. Making a patchwork blanket out of old T-shirts is a crafty project that makes use of items that would otherwise be destined for landfills.

When laundering linens, skip the energy-using dryer and let items line dry in the sun and fresh air.

If you decide to purchase some new items, look for products made from sustainable or organic fabrics. Hemp and bamboo textiles have grown in popularity. Hemp and bamboo plants grow quickly, and their durability makes these materials smart choices.

When replacing items around the house, donate older items to a charitable organization.

Flowers and Plants

Spring and summer call to mind beautiful blooming plants. Relying on native, sustainable plants is practical, environmentally friendly and cost-effective.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, sustainable

plants are native plants. Native plants sustain local wildlife more effectively than non-native alternatives, so include native plants in your sustainable garden. Native plants also are less reliant on pesticides and herbicides to keep them healthy and viable.

Don't forget to bring plants indoors as well. Even though you may be opening the windows more, indoor plants can filter and purify indoor air. The NASA Clean Air Study, led in association with the Associated Landscape Contractors of America, found that certain common indoor plants naturally remove toxic agents such as benzene, formaldehyde and trichloroethylene from the air. Efficient air cleaning is accomplished with at least one plant per 100 square feet of home or office space.

Proper Disposal

Spring cleaning is another tradition for many families come the end of winter and dawn of spring. Many people use spring as a time to go through closets and garages

to remove items they no longer use or need. In an effort to clean up fast, some people may dispose of chemical products, paints, treated lumber, and many other items in ways that can be damaging to the environment. Always learn local municipal guidelines for proper disposal of potentially harmful products. Area recycling centers may have drop-off areas for stains and paints, used motor oil and other potentially harmful products.

Before discarding something, see if it can be donated or sold. This will result in fewer items ending up in landfills.

Exercise caution outdoors as well. Runoff from cleaning products used on home siding or driveways can leach into the surrounding soil or find its way into sewage drains that ultimately direct fluids to public waterways. Choose environmentally responsible products whenever possible.

Springtime renovation and cleaning projects provide the perfect opportunity to adopt eco-friendly practices that pay dividends for years to come.



GREEN LAUNDRY: Skipping the energy-using dryer and letting items line dry in the sun and fresh air is cheap and eco-friendly.

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