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BROKEN ARROW EXPRESS

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Volume 20 October 2016 www.gtrnews.com

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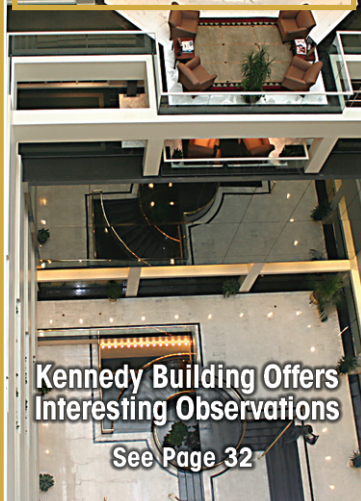
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Downtown Projects

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

The Rose District's interactive zero grade water fountain was unveiled in September.

The fountain includes a nighttime light feature and is located in front of the Pavilion near Fort Worth and Main streets.

The fountain covers an area of 1,200 feet with colored lights and various types of spray nozzles that provide mist and cause water to jump and spin. The fountain also features an evening light show that will last about 40 minutes, says Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce President Wes Smithwick. "This fountain is bigger and better than anything in the metro area."

The idea to incorporate a water feature in the Rose District was originally formed when the concept for the Rose District was first discussed.

"When we first started planning for the Rose District, we knew that we needed a water feature in the district," says Smithwick.

"Many successful downtowns throughout the country have an iconic water feature as a focal point," says City Manager Michael Spurgeon.

"The Rose District's interactive water fountain is designed to attract families to the Rose District during the day during the warmer months and to bring people there during the evening hours after dinner for the light show."

In mid-September, construction began to extend the streetscapes features of widened sidewalks, brick pavers, planters and light poles found on Main Street between College and Dallas streets. The streetscapes project will extend the features north to Detroit Street and south to Fort Worth Street.

Construction is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2017.

BAPS EXPANDS TECHNOLOGY



TEACHER GRANTS: Lynn Wood Elementary teacher Lindsay Little stands with School Superintendent Dr. Jarod Mendenhall, holding her check from Cox Charities for her grant, Defeating Dyslexia and Learning Disabilities. Four Broken Arrow teachers were recently awarded grants from Cox Charities.

Community Donations Provide Aid in Budget Crisis

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

For Broken Arrow Public Schools, the 2016-2017 school year began with a bang, with a large technology roll-out to high school students and with the district receiving a number of community monetary donations.

At the beginning of the school year, all students in grades 10-12 received Chromebooks.

The previous school year served as the district's pilot year for the technology roll-out, with only ninth graders receiving Chromebooks.

At the start of the 2016-2017 school year, with 10-12 grade students receiving Chromebooks, "we now have over 5,000 students using Chromebooks in the district," says School Superintendent Dr. Jarod Mendenhall, "with the eventual goal for all students to have Chromebooks."

In preparation for the large technology roll-out this year, all school sites and most classrooms were equipped with wifi.

As district administrators continue to adapt to the technological needs of students, they are also addressing how to best utilize technology to fit their other needs, continues Mendenhall, such as alternatives to traditional textbooks.

Over the summer, Broken Arrow Public Schools became a Go Open Ambassador District. The Go Open campaign was launched by the U.S. Department of Education in fall 2015 "to encourage states, school districts and educators to use openly licensed educational materials," according to its website.

BAPS is one of 20 districts in the country to be named an ambassador district. As an ambassador district, BAPS is responsible for mentoring other school districts in their

efforts to join the Go Open campaign and sharing openly licensed materials that it has created.

"New technology has caused us to evaluate how we instruct and to look more closely at Open Educational Resources (OERs), which are freely accessible online educational resources," Mendenhall says.

With OERs, teachers can create their own curriculum and textbooks, which helps districts financially "with the rising cost of textbooks."

"Teachers have the state standards, and they can create curriculum that coincides with that," he continues.

Over the past year, district administrators have led professional development activities focusing on OERs and the writing of curriculums.

"Openly licensed educational resources support teachers as (Continued on page 18)

KUDOS OF THE MONTH: Tulsa State Fair

For some fairgoers, the first thing that comes to mind when they think about the Tulsa State Fair is deep fried and delicious food. However, the fair is much more than a savory dish, on-a-stick delight or sweet treat.

Each year, the Tulsa State Fair brings a variety of attractions with the goal to entertain and to educate. From livestock shows and 4-H/FFA exhibits to culinary demonstrations and grounds

shows that thrill, knowledge is shared through fun and captivating ways.

Livestock shows and competitive exhibits are traditions that date back to the first fairs. The Tulsa State Fair offers an excellent setting for families to see an assortment of livestock. Animals and their owners travel from all 77 Oklahoma counties and others from out of state to compete during the fair's 11 days.

Trough Talk, a new exhibit on Central Park Lawn, will be an interactive experience with 4-H/FFA students, their show animals and the audience, allowing guests to ask questions and expand their understanding of agriculture's impact in their lives.

Also new this year is a Passport Tour that will highlight six areas of the fair with an educational message. Guests can pick up a Passport at any of the six locations and then visit the remaining five areas, collecting stamps along the way. The tour includes Little Ray's Reptile Zoo, Southwest Dairy's Milking Parlor and the Birthing Center.



LIVESTOCK SHOW: A participant in one of Tulsa State Fair's 2015 livestock exhibitions poses with his show animal.

hillcrest

Medical Center

Michelle B.

every moment is a gift.

Michelle was surprised to learn the small lump in her breast was cancerous and required a full mastectomy. Because of her diagnosis, she required another 20 weeks of chemotherapy treatment after her cancer spread to her lymph nodes. With the help of her Hillcrest team, she was able to keep a positive attitude. "Sometimes you just have to smile and make the best of it. There's a good reason it's called 'the present' - because life itself is a *present*." Cancer-free today, Michelle now volunteers at Hillcrest, sharing her remarkable story and encouraging others.

To learn more about Michelle's life-changing experience with Hillcrest Medical Center, visit Hillcrest.com.

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TCC Honors Rep. Tom Cole

The Tulsa Community College Foundation honored U.S. Representative Tom Cole with the 2016 Vision in Education Leadership Award. TCC President Leigh B. Goodson, Ph.D., TCC Foundation Chair Joan Parkhurst, and former Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating presented Congressman Cole with the Vision Award at the 17th annual TCC Vision in Education Leadership Awards Dinner Thursday, Sept. 1 at the Cox Business Center. The event raised more than \$300,000 for the TCC Foundation.

Congressman Cole was recognized for his leadership and commitment to education and his role as an Oklahoman who has consistently championed the value of education. Elected to the U.S. House in 2002, he has been part of the national dialogue about higher education, college accessibility and the achievement gap.

"Representative Cole is a visionary leader whose influence on American education has benefited students pursuing higher education at TCC and every other institution of higher learning in Oklahoma and across our nation," Goodson said.

Cole sits on the House Budget and the House Appropriations Committees. As the Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, he has supported federal programs for students who may come from disadvantaged backgrounds and need extra assistance to succeed in college such as Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) and TRIO, programs specifically designed to assist those student populations.

"It's a great honor to be recognized with the 2016 Vision in Education Leadership Award. GEAR UP and TRIO are both critical, foundational programs that ensure all students and potential students have access to quality higher education programs. I am proud to give my continued support to these outstanding programs," Cole said.

Before serving in the U.S. House, he was a faculty member at both University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma Baptist University. With his experience in the classroom, he understands the importance of higher education in advancing the state of Oklahoma through a better-educated workforce.

The 2016 Vision Honorary Chair is Stacy Schusterman, and David Stratton serves as the Vision Dinner Chair. The 2016 TCC Vision in Education Leadership Award Dinner committee members are Sharon King Davis, Shane Fernandez, Susan Harris, Ted Haynes, Mina Lotti, Meredith Siegfried Madden, Joan Parkhurst, Henry Primeaux, Shawn Slaton, and Melinda Stinnett. Joan P. Parkhurst is the TCC Foundation 2016 Board Chair.

Visionary Sponsors are Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and Cherokee Nation and Cherokee Nation Businesses for the 2016 Vision in Education Leadership Award Dinner.

Funds raised by the Vision Dinner support student scholarships, competitive academic conferences for students, presentations by noted scholars and enhancements in the classroom to propel students to graduation and success. Thanks to generous donations, the TCC Foundation gives more than \$1 million annually to support students, faculty and staff.



Courtesy Tulsa Community College

EDUCATION VISIONARY: From left, TCC VP for External Affairs and TCC Foundation President Lauren Brookey, TCC President Leigh B. Goodson, Ph.D., U.S. Representative Tom Cole, TCC Foundation Chair Joan Parkhurst, and former Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating present Cole with the 2016 Vision in Education Leadership Award from the Tulsa Community College Foundation at the 17th annual Vision Dinner Thursday, Sept. 1 in downtown Tulsa.

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- 9** Trio Solisti Chamber Music Tulsa

- 13-16** Pryor Rendering AmericanTheatre Company & CityRep
- 20** Sheridan Road Vocal Jazz Ensemble
- 21, 23** The Pearl Fishers Tulsa Opera
- 21** The Man Who Planted Trees Tulsa PAC Trust
- 28-30** Onegin Tulsa Ballet
- 28-11/6** Cabaret Theatre Tulsa



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

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CIVICS

Momodou Ceesay: Businessman, Civic Leader

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Editor's Note: Glenpool Vice Mayor and restaurateur Momodou Ceesay 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 People to Watch, which launched in January 2009.

Throughout the year, GTR has published a series of articles featuring each of its "10 People to Watch." Next month will feature the last of its 2016 series, spotlighting Broken Arrow City Manager Michael Spurgeon.

Gambia native Momodou Ceesay is having a big, and busy, year.

His flagship restaurant Mamadou's, located in Glenpool, will celebrate 20 years in November. He opened a second restaurant location in July at 200 Civic Center in downtown Tulsa. The restaurant sits below 5th Street between the Aloft Tulsa Downtown hotel and the newly renovated Central Library at 5th Street and Denver Avenue.

As a frequent visitor of Mamadou's in Glenpool, Lee Levinson, one of the partners in Aloft Downtown, approached Ceesay in 2014 regarding the prospect of bringing Mamadou's to downtown Tulsa in the building connected to the hotel, which would offer hotel guests a nearby restaurant choice.

Ceesay, the ever-friendly, accommodating individual that he is, easily replied "sure," not realizing, at first, just how serious Levinson was.

Soon after that conversation, Levinson brought his three additional partners (Neal Bhow, John Snyder and Bruce Taylor) and their spouses into Mamadou's in Glenpool, "and they all agreed that Mamadou's was the right restaurant to complement their hotel," Ceesay recounts.

Yet, while the plans were put into place early on, the extension of 5th Street into a loop in front of Aloft and the construction of a ramp leading to Elwood Avenue caused restaurant plans to be put on hold until construction neared completion.

A week after Mamadou's Restaurant and Sports Bar opened downtown, the 5th Street extension opened, to be followed by the opening of Central Library on Oct. 1.

"I'm happy about this downtown location," says Ceesay. "It's walking distance from the courthouse, hotels, the BOK Center, Cox Business Center and Central Library. There's lots of potential."

The restaurant's sports bar interior was created by John Snyder, with 15 big-screen televisions and a large draft beer selection. There is even a Mamadou's app available that allows individuals to view the restaurant's draft beer choices.

In addition to his restaurant obligations, Ceesay has served on the Glenpool City Council since 2012. He served as Mayor of Glenpool from 2013-2015 and currently holds the position of vice mayor.

"In 2015, Glenpool was the fastest growing city in Oklahoma," says Ceesay, "because we are a safe city; we have great schools and affordable housing, and are close to Tulsa."



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

RESTAURANT EXPANSION: Restaurateur and Glenpool Vice Mayor Momodou Ceesay stands in front of the sign for Mamadou's Restaurant and Sports Bar in downtown Tulsa near 5th Street and Denver Avenue. The restaurant opened in July and sits below 5th Street between the Aloft Tulsa Downtown hotel and the newly renovated Central Library.

A notable expansion announcement took place last year, when St. Francis Health System announced plans to construct a \$23 million, 49,000-square-foot health complex at U.S. Highway 75 and 151st Street in Glenpool. Its offerings will include emergency room, X-ray and laboratory services. Completion is expected in spring 2017.

Ceesay has also served on the Criminal Justice Authority Board for Tulsa County and Vision Board of Directors for Tulsa County, both since 2012.

Ceesay has lived in Glenpool with his wife and four children since 2000. He came to Oklahoma

from Gambia after being encouraged by his cousin who was recruited to play soccer at Rogers State College (now Rogers State University).

Ceesay's interest in the restaurant industry began during his time as a student at Rogers State College. He got a job working in the cafeteria, and "I found that I really liked interacting with people and enjoyed the excitement I got from cooking," he says.

Therefore, after transferring to Oklahoma State University, he changed his major from business administration to hotel and restaurant management.

He went on to open Mamadou's in Glenpool in 1996 after spending 12 years as a manager at Steak and Ale. Ceesay chose to spell the restaurant's name phonetically as the way that most Oklahomans pronounce it, he says, which is slightly different from the true pronunciation.

"I love having people always around me," he says. "It excites me to go around talking to people."

Ceesay's energetic presence that has helped his Glenpool restaurant succeed for two decades will, no doubt, carry over to his new downtown venture, as it has in all aspects of his career.



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FRIEND-RAISING EVENT



GTR Newspapers photo

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS: A fundraising and friend-raising event was held Sept. 14 for District 2 Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith at the home of Ralph and Marilyn Inhofe-Tucker. From left are Tulsa Mayor-elect G.T. Bynum, host Marilyn Inhofe-Tucker and guest Larry Silver. Keith is seeking her third term in the district that encompasses Tulsa County's west side, as well as Jenks, northern Tulsa and the midtown area. The event was also hosted by a bi-partisan slate of Tulsa elected officials including former Tulsa Mayors

Bob LaFortune, Rodger Randle, Susan Savage and Terry Young.

Mayor-elect Bynum introduced Keith and focused his remarks on their collaborative efforts between the City and the County on infrastructure projects like low-water dams and levees along the Arkansas River. Keith gave an update on her work with the Corps of Engineers on river development and the construction of the new Family Justice Center. She announced that the project is set to be operational and ready to serve youth and families by December 2018.



GTR Newspapers photo

AT&T PIONEERS AID VETS: As part of its ongoing effort to support military service men and women, the Tulsa Chapter of the AT&T Pioneers presented a \$5,000 donation to the Tulsa veterans organization Coffee Bunker; located at 6365 E. 41st St. in Tulsa. From left are Nelda Shoemake, AT&T Pioneers Tulsa Life Member president; R.J. Ransweiler, AT&T Pioneers OK Chapter president; Mary Ligon, founder Coffee Bunker; and Dr. Michael Horton, Coffee Bunker executive director. See page seven for more information.

PATRIOTFEST DONATES: On Sept. 1, organizers and volunteers of the annual Route 66 PatriotFest Car Show and Cruise gathered to disperse the funds raised from PatriotFest 2016. Recipients of the funds included Folds of Honor and other local military service organizations.



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Tulsa Press Club to Honor Headliners Oct. 26

The Tulsa Press Club will honor three 2016 Headliners: Alan Armstrong, Sharon King Davis and Julius Pegues. These individuals will be recognized at the 2016 Headliners Dinner on Wednesday, Oct. 26 at the Helmerich Center for American Research at Gilcrease Museum. A reception begins at 6 p.m. with dinner to follow at 7 p.m.

Alan Armstrong has served as president and chief executive officer of Williams since 2011. He joined Williams in 1986 as an engineer and has held numerous positions with the Tulsa-based institution. Sharon King Davis is a fourth generation Tulsan who works to build a better Tulsa as a developer, entrepreneur and community activist. The third honoree, Julius Pegues, has worked tirelessly for a decade to make the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park a reality serving as Chairman of the John Hope Franklin

Reconciliation Park Project and John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation, Inc. Board of Directors.

Since 1956, the Tulsa Press Club has honored Headliners - a group of outstanding Tulsa-area civic, business, professional and industrial leaders whose unselfish contributions to the growth, prosperity and culture of Tulsa has made headlines across the city and region. Previous Headliners includes Dr. Keith Ballard, Keith Bailey, Henry Bellmon, David Boren, Chester Cadieux, Nancy Day, Becky J. Frank, Stan Lybarger, Wilma Mankiller, Elliot Nelson, Major Dan Rooney, Kathy Taylor, Steve Turnbo, Steadman Upham and Henry Zarrow.

In addition to honoring this year's Headliners, the Tulsa Press Club will use a portion of the event's proceeds to fund scholarships for Oklahoma journalism and communication college stu-



ALAN ARMSTRONG



SHARON KING DAVIS



JULIUS PEGUES

dents. The Tulsa Press Club mission is to foster and promote ethical journalism, defend freedom of the press and the public's right to

information, and encourage the exchange of ideas between media and their publics.

For more information about the

2016 Headliners event, sponsorships and tickets, please email Nicole.burgin@tulsacc.edu or call 918-808-9694.

KPMG Report Helps Promote Efficiencies in Tulsa

COMMENTARY

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

The internal organizational culture at the City of Tulsa isn't the same since the consulting firm, KPMG, first published 1,100 recommendations for cost savings and efficiencies back in 2010.

It's six years later, and while the KPMG recommendations have yet to be fully implemented, the KPMG report did help kick-start a cultural movement toward effi-

ciency across our entire organization.

Last year, I took the KPMG initiative to a new level and created the Office for Maximizing and Advancing Performance (MAAP) with the purpose to vet and implement KPMG opportunities for savings. Our MAAP Office Project Managers Robyn Undieme and Penny Macias discovered when working with departments, that there were many more areas for efficiencies and cost savings not identified in the KPMG report. Through a combination of KPMG and department-led initiatives,

projects during the past six years have resulted in approximately \$21 million in savings and quite possibly more.

While achieving those significant savings has been a much-needed success for the city, the question still loomed as to how to make these efforts a long-term cultural shift throughout our organization. The MAAP Office decided that the best way to accomplish this shift in our culture would be to offer training to employees at all levels of the organization. A Lean/Six Sigma training was tailored to address public-sector issues and was made

available to City of Tulsa employees. In little more than a year, nearly 200 employees had voluntarily gone through the Lean/Six Sigma training with a number of efficiency projects ongoing as a result of the training program.

Many benefits have been derived from the KPMG report beyond financial savings. Thanks in large part to the report, the city now has a system in place to ask questions like, "Why do we do it this way?" "Is this process working and meeting our customers' needs?" Or, "Are we doing this the most efficient way?" Even better, these questions are

being asked by the people performing those processes and jobs, instead of being driven from the top down.

As for the KPMG recommendations, it was determined that the 1,100 considerations made by KPMG could be consolidated into 553 recommendations. Of the 553 recommendations, 96 KPMG projects have been completed; 56 projects were deferred; 179 projects are pending additional research or are in process; and 222 recommendations have been closed. The bottom line is we're still working hard to improve our service to the citizens of Tulsa.

Tulsa's Race Relations Draw Global Interest

Panelists recently spoke about their participation in the "Just Governance for Human Security Conference" that was held in Caux, Switzerland this past July. The event was held at the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum at 2445 S. Peoria Ave., in Tulsa on Sept. 15.

Panelists presented "Why is There Global Interest in Tulsa's Race Relations? Healing History - an African American Experience." The panel included Alesia Latimer Clement, a retired social worker and Booker T. Washington graduate; Alicia Latimer, African American research coordinator for Tulsa City-County Library; Michelle Place, executive director for the Tulsa Historical Society & Museum; and Susan Savage, former Tulsa Mayor and current CEO of Morton Health Services; and via recorded video, John W. Franklin, who is the senior manager, Office of External Affairs, National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Also in attendance was Shontaye Abegaz of Chicago, who is a program director for the Just Governance Conference in Caux, Switzerland.

Delegation chair, John W. Franklin son of the late Dr. John Hope Franklin, provided an

opening statement, via video, giving the background of the conference and why the Tulsa delegates were selected. Panel participants discussed their presentations to the conference and their observations and insights followed by a question and answer session.

The program was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tulsa's Community & Diversity Committee, the Tulsa Historical Society & Museum, and the Tulsa City County Library's African-American Resource Center.

The mission of the Tulsa Historical Society & Museum is to illuminate the past, enrich the present, and inspire future generations by collecting, preserving and presenting Tulsa's history. A respected research repository, Tulsa Historical Society & Museum holds an extensive collection of resources on the city's rich past, including more than 200,000 still photographs, books, maps, documents, graphics, historical costumes and architectural remnants, and fine and decorative arts. The museum utilizes its collection to create exhibits featuring stories from Tulsa's past as well as to provide educational programming to schools and civic groups.



GTR Newspapers photo

POIGNANT DISCUSSION: Panelists discuss Tulsa race relations from the perspective of the "Just Governance for Human Security Conference" that was held in Caux, Switzerland, this past July. Speaking is Alicia Latimer, African American research coordinator for Tulsa City County Library. From left are Michelle Place, executive director for the Tulsa Historical Society & Museum; Shontaye Abegaz of Chicago, who is a program director for the Just Governance Conference in Caux, Switzerland; Alesia Latimer Clement, a retired social worker and Booker T. Washington graduate; and Susan Savage, former Tulsa Mayor and current CEO of Morton Health Services.

Coffee Bunker Helps Vets

"I am really proud of the AT&T Pioneers in Oklahoma, and across the country, for their commitment to our military service men and women," said AT&T Oklahoma State President Steve Hahn after the Pioneers donated \$5,000 to the Coffee Bunker in Tulsa. "The sacrifices made by these men and women deserve our respect, and it is an honor to support them globally and right here in Tulsa."

The \$5,000 donation will be used to support operations at the Coffee Bunker, according to Mary Ligon, who founded the organization in 2010.

The Coffee Bunker is a place for veterans, service members and their family members to find connection, honor, support, resources and renewal. Each day up to 90

veterans and service members drop by Coffee Bunker to get together, use computers, access Wi-Fi, enjoy games and group activities, watch TV or just hang out.

The organization's mission is to offer opportunities that support service members and veterans toward successful reintegration with their families and communities.

"The most important thing we provide at the Coffee Bunker is a sense of connection," said Ligon. "Here, veterans find other vets who understand their experiences. They are reminded that they aren't alone. In a way, it's very fitting that AT&T, a company that is also focused on connecting people, is lending their support. We are so grateful."

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VARIETY

Ballet, Opera and Symphony All Slated for October

After nearly 24 years, I am retiring from my marketing job at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center. My youngest son was in second grade when I started work at the PAC, and now he is almost 32. When I think of time passing in that way, it does feel like I've walked the hallowed halls of the PAC for quite a stretch.

Here we are almost a quarter of a century later, and despite every kind of electronic entertainment enticement that has

come into our world since I began my PAC career, people are still craving a live theatre experience. I'm happy to share what we have coming up at the PAC in October! Then, in coming months, I will broaden the Show Buzz column to talk about entertainment in the Greater Tulsa area.

October is the only month in the upcoming season that Tulsa Symphony, Tulsa Opera and Tulsa Ballet all perform. Tulsa Symphony hosts guest conductor Philip Mann on Oct. 8 for Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony, along with Samuel Barber's Essay No. 1, written in 1937. Also that evening, Tulsa Symphony's Bruce Schultz will take the spotlight for Mozart's Horn Concerto No. 2.

Tulsa Opera opens its season with Georges Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers," Oct. 21 and 23. This colorful and steamy opera takes place in Ceylon and is about two fisherman-friends in love with an enchanting priestess. There will be plenty of eye-candy along with the usual fabulous music and singing. Fashion designer Dame Zandra Rhodes created the costumes and sets.

Last year when Tulsa Ballet opened its season with John Cranko's "The Taming of the Shrew," I had reservations. I've never cared for that storyline, but Cranko's choreography easily won the day. I can believe that dance companies around the world compete for the privilege to dance his work. Opening Tulsa Ballet's 60th anniversary season is John Cranko's "Onegin," with performances Oct. 28-30. The story centers on the unrequited love between a sophisticated Russian gentleman and a simple country girl. The ballet is based on Alexander Pushkin's

verse-novel, with music by Tchaikovsky.

Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood - Live!, presented by 35 Concerts, comes our way Oct. 5. The antics of Daniel Tiger and his friends are familiar to those who follow the popular TV show on which this live music-filled production is based. There's dancing and singing, and lots of fun planned for the children and families who attend. Earlier in the day, Ensemble Salonnière takes the stage at

Brown Bag It, hosted by the PAC Trust. The concert features classical vocalist Margaret Sewell, who specializes in art songs.

Chamber Music Tulsa continues its 2016-17 season with Trio Solisti, Oct. 9. The New Yorker proclaimed this group "the most exciting piano trio in America." Italian pianist Fabio Bidini joins violinist Maria Bachmann and cellist Alexis Pia Gerlach for music from Haydn, Chausson and Brahms.

The PAC welcomes Sheridan Road on Oct. 20. The group may be new to PAC audiences, but the ensemble has performed locally since 2012. Sheridan Road is known for its "a cappella" numbers and also performs with an instrumental combo. Band members, including Sheridan Road founder Barry Epperley, will perform a series of shows this year at the PAC with this one featuring the music of Benny Goodman, Frank Sinatra, The Beatles, Billy Joel and Sting.

The remainder of the performances in October are all theatre related. The Fellowship for Performing Arts presents "C.S. Lewis Onstage: The Most Reluctant Convert" (Oct. 6-8) with actor Max McLean in the title role. The piece follows the author as he turns from atheism to belief.

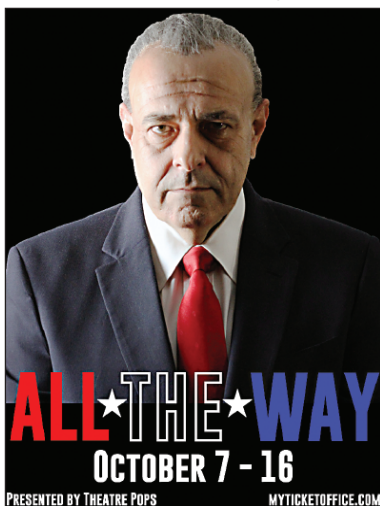
"All The Way" takes us back to 1964, a tumultuous year in America in the wake of JFK's assassination and during the escalation of conflict in Vietnam. Texan Lyndon Baines Johnson finds himself forced to the front and toe-to-toe with J. Edgar Hoover, George Wallace, Hubert Humphrey and others. Theatre Pops stages this 2014 Tony Award winner for Best Play, Oct. 7-16.

Here's a first. American Theatre Company and CityRep from Oklahoma City have collaborated on

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN



ALL THE WAY: Timothy Hunter stars as LBJ in Theatre Pops' staging of the 2014 Best Play Tony Award winner, "All the Way," Oct. 7-16.



TRIO SOLISTI: The New Yorker called this group "the most exciting piano trio in America." Italian pianist Fabio Bidini, cellist Alexis Pia Gerlach and violinist Maria Bachmann perform music from Haydn, Chausson and Brahms Oct. 9.

a new musical, "Pryor Rendering." Tulsa hosts its world premiere Oct. 13-16. This is Tulsa's Gary Reed's story about a young man coming out in rural Oklahoma in the 1960s. The piece was adapted for the stage by Shawn Churchman with music and lyrics by Frank Schiro.

The Tulsa PAC Trust brings the Puppet State Theatre Company of Edinburgh, Scotland, back to Tulsa on Oct. 21 for a reprise of "The Man Who Planted Trees." The play is adapted from Jean Giono's book about a shepherd who transforms a wasteland by painstakingly planting a forest, acorn by acorn.

Closing the month is Theatre Tulsa's production of the Kander, Ebb and Masteroff Tony Award-winner about the doomed romance between a very young British cabaret performer and a young



ONEGIN: Madalina Stoica and Arman Zazyan perform in Tulsa Ballet's production of John Cranko's story of unrequited love, set in Russia. Costumes and sets are from the Polish National Ballet.



RACHMANINOFF'S SECOND SYMPHONY: Guest conductor Philip Mann conducts works by Samuel Barber, Mozart and Rachmaninoff's beautiful and moving Symphony No. 2.



PRYOR RENDERING: This world premiere is a collaboration of American Theatre Co. and Oklahoma City's CityRep. The musical is a coming-of-age story about a man coming out in rural Oklahoma during the 1960s, Oct. 13-16.



THE PEARL FISHERS: Love for the same woman comes between two fishermen in Georges Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers," Tulsa Opera's season opener, Oct. 21 and 23.

American writer. The musical is set in the seamy Berlin Kit Kat Club against the backdrop of a growing Nazi threat. Catch this show Oct. 28-Nov. 6.

There's much more to enjoy at the PAC during its 40th Anniversary year. Though I'm retiring from front-line work, I will most definitely be in the audience all season long.

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Arkansas River Development Looms Large

I spent a portion of my Labor Day morning walking the Arkansas River banks, basking in the breeze off the water, admiring the downtown views and enjoying the cheers of spectators and the cries of children with their families during the second annual Great Raft Race.

While it's been noted before, it's worth mentioning again that our river, which has sat unnoticed for far too long, is preparing for a rebirth or, maybe I should say, is in the midst of a rebirth.

The potential has always been there, but the meeting of potential and reality often takes decades of work and waiting.

The 2016 Great Raft Race, which took place on Sept. 5, saw 800 individual participants with 200 water vessels. The festival also featured a much-expanded after-party compared with last year at River West Festival Park, with water inflatables, food trucks and shade tents.

It makes sense that the rebirth of

the river would follow the rebirth of downtown, the seeds of development which were planted years earlier with the construction of the BOK Center and the re-opening of the Mayo Hotel.

The next river project probably most notably in people's minds is A Gathering Place for Tulsa. Every time that I have a discussion with Jeff Stava about the Gathering Place or make a trip out to the park site to see its progress, I'm blown away by what is to come. I don't think most Tulsans fully realize just what is in store.

Although, developers are definitely in the loop.

University Club and its neighbor,

Mansion House, are in the midst of a multi-million-dollar renovation project to update their units. Property values are rising in the area. Construction is planned to begin in the coming months on the Cosmopolitan, a five-story, 260-unit luxury apartment complex, at the corner of Denver Avenue and Riverside Drive, with the first units

to be available about 15 months after breaking ground, says John Gilbert, owner of development company Bomasada.

The first portion of the Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant \$365 million expansion opened in August, with its convention center to follow. The 27-story hotel tower, including a luxury full-service spa, will open in December. The Paradise Cove theater and Ruth's Chris Steak House in January 2017, and the Landshark Bar, resort pool deck, outdoor event space, and new River Parks Trail to open in spring 2017.

Further up Riverside Drive in Jenks, Simon Premium Outlets is expected to open in early 2018. Sitting between the outlet mall and the river is about 100 acres of land that Jenks Mayor Kelly Dunkerley expects to see much interest in as the outlet mall moves further along in development.

In addition, there's the many new businesses looking to take up residence at Jenks' RiverWalk Crossing, which could help it to attain the full potential that a quality property like that deserves.

Add to that the future construction of a new low-water dam at Zink Lake and in Jenks and the recent city approval of the Arkansas River Design Overlay and the days of our small but mighty river being overlooked are, thankfully, behind us.

Out & About in Greater Tulsa



By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers
GREAT RAFT RACE: Spectators cheered participants at the second annual Great Raft Race, held Sept. 5 on the Arkansas River.



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers
POPULAR FESTIVAL: Crowds flocked to the banks of the Arkansas River and River West Festival Park to watch the 2016 Great Raft Race and to take part in the race's after-party, which was greatly expanded compared to last year, featuring water inflatables, food trucks and shade tents.

Chamber Music Tulsa Begins 2016-17 Season

On Sept. 9, Chamber Music Tulsa kicked off its 2016-2017 season with the Dover Quartet, who swept the 2013 Banff International String Quartet Competition.

The Dover Quartet was formed in 2008 at the Curtis Institute of Music and continued their studies as Graduate Quartet-in-Residence at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music from 2011-13.

On Oct. 8-9, Trio Solisti, called "the most exciting piano trio in America" (The New Yorker), will perform two shows.

Founded in 2001, Trio Solisti has performed on major concert series such as the Great Performers at Lincoln Center, People's Symphony Concerts at Town Hall NY, Washington Performing Arts Society at Kennedy Center, Seattle's Meany Hall and La Jolla's Revelle Series.

On Nov. 12-13, the Modigliani Quartet returns for its second appearance in Chamber Music Tulsa's series since first appearing in 2015.

The Modigliani Quartet was formed by four close friends in 2003. In 2004, they won the Frits Philips String Quartet competition in Eindhoven; in 2005, they took first prize at the Vittorio Rimbotti competition in Florence; and they won the Young Concert Artists Auditions in New York in 2006.

The Miro Quartet will make its fourth Chamber Music Tulsa appearance Feb. 17-26 with a performance of all 16 of Beethoven's string quartets in six concerts. Season subscribers can select one or two Beethoven concerts to include in their subscription and can purchase the rest of the series at a discount.

The Miro Quartet was formed in 1995 and is based in Austin,

Texas. They are consistently praised for their musical interpretations, exciting performances and thoughtful programming.

April 1-2, Hermitage Piano Trio will make its debut appearance in Tulsa. A rarity in the chamber music world, the Hermitage Trio is comprised of three musicians who are noted soloists in their own right: Misha Keylin, Sergey Antonov and Ilya Kazantsev.

Lysander Piano Trio will make its second appearance with Chamber Music Tulsa April 29-30.

The New-York-based Lysander Piano Trio is winner of the Concert Artists Guild Competition and has received top honors at the 2010 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, grand prize at the 2011 Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition and first prize at the 2011 J. C. Arriaga Chamber Music Competition.



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers
DOVER QUARTET: Standing with Chamber Music Tulsa Executive Director Bruce Sorrell, third from left, is the Dover Quartet, who opened Chamber Music Tulsa's 2016-2017 season in September. From left, they are violinist Joel Link, violist Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, cellist Camden Shaw and violinist Bryan Lee.

Kingston Trio Concert to Benefit Will Rogers H.S.

The Kingston Trio, the American folk and pop music group that launched the folk revival of the late 1950s to the early 1960s, will present "Holiday Cheers" at the Will Rogers High School Auditorium, 3909 E. 5th Pl. in Tulsa on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m., sponsored by the Will Rogers High School Community Foundation.

Back by popular demand, The Kingston Trio will perform their exquisite arrangements of holiday music plus several of their familiar classic hits.

The Kingston Trio's appearance at the school in February 2016 was believed to be one of the first-if not the first-musical concerts at that venue by a group of this stature that is open to the public. All proceeds from the concert will go to the Will Rogers High School Community Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity, which was formed in

2010. To date, the foundation has provided approximately \$270,000 towards academics, athletics, arts and administration needs, benefiting students.

The current trio, comprised of George Grove, Bill Zorn and Rick Dougherty, with Paul Gabrielson on acoustic bass, is as accomplished as any prior composition of the group, according to Dick Risk, (WRHS '59) volunteer event coordinator.

"Bill first joined the trio almost 43 years ago, although he left for a while and then rejoined them. George came into the group and is its longest-tenured member, in his 40th year, and Rick is in his 11th year. Bob Shane, the only surviving original member, still wields a guiding hand to ensure the trio stays true to its traditions and even performs with them on occasions."

The Kingston Trio was by far the most popular singing group in

the folk revival era. They dominated the Billboard charts, unmatched by anyone, once having four albums in the Billboard Top 10 at the same time.

This concert will help the foundation reach its budget goals for 2017. The board of directors has initiated an endowment, which will ensure continued support for school activities.

The foundation grants academic scholarships, provides school supplies and equipment, supports performing and visual arts, conducts public tours of the historic building, supports organized athletics and other extra-curricular activities, and is responsible for the continued operation of the Hall of Fame, which not only honors distinguished alumni but also inspires current students.

Tickets are now on sale, with prices starting at \$25. Tickets are on sale online at www.protixonline.com, by phone at (866)



THE KINGSTON TRIO

9PROTIX, or through ProTix ticket outlets in Tulsa at Starship Records and Tapes and the Brady Theater Box Office.

For more information concerning the event, sponsorship and group sales, call Jo Anne Lewis at 918-587-1341.

Voices of Unity Preserves American Spirituals

The Voices of Unity is a multi-ethnic choir that is preserving the history of the American Negro Spirituals and promoting unity within the community through music. In the spirit of that mission, they primarily sing a cappella with a repertoire of classic such as: Wade in the Water, Ezekiel Saw De Wheel, Ain't-a That Good News, Deep River and I Hear a Voice a-Prayin'. However, as their reputation has grown, so has their variety of music. The choir performs many classical, gospel and holiday tunes for area weddings, various organizations and community events, as well as private parties. They also perform current hits from Adele and Pharrell Williams.

The Voices of Unity has per-

formed for organizations such as the Child Abuse Network Banquet, John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Banquet, the North Tulsa Rotary, Tulsa's Martin Luther King Celebration Services, Juneteenth, Neighbor for Neighbor, Mayfest and the Tulsa Talons. The choir was honored to perform for the Rev. Jesse Jackson's visit to Tulsa in 2012. In April 2016, the Voices of Unity was chosen to sing back up along with the Metropolitan Baptist Church for the multi-talented artist Barry Manilow.

The Voices of Unity was formed in 2009 by Janice Bayouth, former Vocal Music Director at Booker T. Washington High School and former Tulsa Public Schools Magnet Director, who retired in 2013.



VOICES OF UNITY

Halloween Comes to Castle of Muskogee Thru Oct.

Fall is in the air, which means the Halloween Festival at the Castle of Muskogee is just around the corner, Sept. 30-Oct. 29.

At the 60-acre park, visitors will find a collection of culinary creations, over 30 shops with crafts, décor, clothing, and entertainment for the entire family. More than just a haunted house, the castle provides an array of

thrills between 11 different attractions:

New this year is the Halloween Train, where guests board at the Depot (located in Castle Village) and enjoy a ride throughout the festival grounds but only those falling into the "not-so-scary" category. Families are encouraged to plan a trip to Halloween Land, a carnival-themed area that is ideal for

younger castle visitors. Activities include kid-friendly games, face painting and prizes with absolutely no scares.

For those with faint hearts, there is the Haunted Hayride, a trip that is sure to keep riders on their toes as they ride through the castle countryside. The Enchanted Boardwalk provides opportunity to discover the magic of the Woodlands, which also features over 200 Halloween inflatables. There will also be live entertainment featured on the Chessboard Stage with the Magic of Matthew VanZee and the comedy of the Jester Rejects. Back by request will be Jack Sparrow entertaining on stage as well as throughout the Castle Village.

Within castle walls, guests can relive the doom of the dark ages by touring the Torture Chamber or daring a stroll through Casa Morte. Translated House of the Dead, this 12th century labyrinth provides horror and menacing spirits around every corner.

For ones looking to revisit the nightmare-inducing stars of the silver screen, they can plan a trip to Domus Horrificus, where everyone's favorite monsters dwell, and to the Ultimate Maze.

In the depths of the castle grounds, patrons can test their fear factor on the Trail of Blood, a staple



of the Halloween Festival with new menacing creatures added to this wooded walk. Guests may gather courage before entrance or count survivors afterwards at the trail's pub, The Rack. The hideaway's host, Elvira, may not offer sanctuary from the trail's ghouls, but she'll be there to serve up drinks and entertaining tales before the return to Castle Village.

The Dark Tower Zombie Hunt offers immersion scares where visitors receive weapons and the mission to clear the area of Zombies and rescue survivors.

Parking and admission to the

Halloween Village is free. Tickets must be purchased for each attraction, with prices ranging from \$3-\$15 with combo specials available. Advance tickets may be purchased online.

Castle of Muskogee's Halloween Festival is open every Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m.-10 Sept. 30-Oct. 29. Halloween Land is open 6 p.m.-9.

Visit okcastle.com to find pricing, packages and additional details on attractions. In this family-friendly environment, unaccompanied minors must have a photo ID to enter.

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Delores Del Rio to Appear in Tulsa

The Tulsa American Film Festival (TAFest) is pleased to announce the screening of the 1928 silent film *Ramona* supplemented by the new score by renowned film and concert composers David Spear and Joseph Gonzalez and performed with University of Tulsa (TU) musicians. After the screening a discussion of the scoring process and use of historical musical sources will be held with the composers will be held before being opened up to the audience. This event will take place on Oct. 8 at Circle Cinema from 10 a.m. – noon.

“Directed by Chickasaw filmmaker Edwin Carewe, the film is not only a beloved story starring famed Latina actress Delores Del Rio; it offers us a glimpse of the challenges and the richness of Native American and Latino life in Old California.” Joseph Rivers, music professor at University of Tulsa, says.

In 1928 United Artists released the silent film *Ramona*, based on Helen Hunt Jackson's beloved tale of Old California. A star vehicle for Dolores Del Rio, *Ramona* was an early example of producing a new song to promote the movie. The song, “*Ramona*” written by Mabel Wayne and L. Wolfe Gilbert, became an international hit. The worldwide popularity of the title



RAMONA: The 1928 film will appear at the Circle Cinema Oct. 8

song endured, yet the film, unlike the tune, was lost for 80 years. A lone print was discovered in the Czech Republic in 2010 and restored by the Library of Congress.

J. Donald Feagin Visiting Artists David Spear and Joseph Julian Gonzalez, composers from Los Angeles, will be joined by four current TU music majors on flute, string bass, percussion and violin and feature singer Monique Valadez.

Admission to this event is \$5 and tickets may be purchased through Circle Cinema.

About the Tulsa American Film Festival

Tulsa American Film Festival serves the Tulsa community through the world of film and creates opportunities for industry professionals by offering programs of American-made feature and short films of all genres, with a particular focus on American filmmakers, local Oklahoma films, Native American produced films and student films, and including industry driven panels and discussions. www.tulsaamericanfilmfest.com

For more information, visit tulsaamericanfilmfest.com.

Gilcrease Opens Chocolate Exhibit

On Oct. 9, Gilcrease Museum opens *Chocolate: The Exhibition*, an exploration of the relationship between human culture and chocolate, a treasure of the rainforest. The exhibit runs through Jan. 8.

Chocolate will immerse viewers in a sweet experience, endeavoring to engage all of the senses and reveal possibly unknown facets of chocolate.

The exhibit highlights the plant, products, history, and culture of chocolate through the lenses of botany, ecology, anthropology, economics, conservation and popular culture.

The ancient Maya of Central America knew it as a frothy, spicy drink, made from the seeds of the cacao tree and used in royal and religious ceremonies. But because cacao grows only in the rainforest, it was coveted by other cultures – in particular, the Aztec. It soon became a valuable article of trade; the seeds served as a form of money, and the drink became a luxury for the elite, served in lavishly decorated vessels. When the first Europeans reached the Aztec capital, instead of gold, they found treasure troves of cacao seeds.

The exhibition explores the commodification of chocolate by Europeans, and the use of forced labor on colonial plantations to meet the insatiable European demand for chocolate and its new soul mate, sugar.

Another portion of the exhibition concerns the cacao tree itself (*Theobroma cacao*), its lowland rainforest ecology and how it is grown today. A beautiful tree with delicate flowers, cacao grows only within 20 degrees latitude (about 1,380 miles) of the equator. It's relatively small, no more than 30 or 40 feet high, and grows naturally in the rainforest understory, in the shade of larger, canopy trees.

Sustainable cacao growing, environmental protections, and supporting the genetic diversity of wild cacao are increasingly important topics today, for economic as well as botanical reasons. Thanks to technological advances and mass production – not to mention enormous amounts of advertising – chocolate has become a part of the global market economy. Cacao seeds are traded on the commodities market (under the name “cocoa”), right along with pork bellies and soy. A futures stock ticker display in the exhibition brings this point home with a live display of current cocoa prices on the world market.

Even so, chocolate retains vestiges of its ceremonial history. Mexicans today use it as an offering on the Day of the Dead, in the form of beans or prepared as mole. Foil-wrapped chocolate coins are given to children as “Chanukah gelt.” And in the United States, of course, chocolate has a place in nearly every holiday

celebration: heart-shaped boxes of chocolate for Valentine's Day, chocolate bunnies for Easter, wrapped candies for trick-or-treaters at Halloween, and cups of hot cocoa to warm Christmas carolers.

Chocolate has its deepest cultural roots in places where it's indigenous, like Mexico, and where it's been turned into a commodity, like in Europe and the U.S.

The value of chocolate can be measured in sales – \$13 billion a year in the U.S. – or in symbols. In this country, for example, chocolate is closely linked not only with love but with patriotism: chocolate has been issued to U.S. soldiers since World War I, and it's even accompanied astronauts into space.

These popular uses of chocolate, along with a fascinating array of chocolate advertising and packaging and a look at myths about chocolate, are all part of the *Chocolate* exhibition.

Chocolate and its national tour were developed by The Field Museum in Chicago. This project was supported, in part, by the National Science Foundation.

Title sponsor of the Gilcrease Museum 2016 exhibition season is the Sherman E. Smith Family Charitable Foundation. Generous support is also provided by: Mervin Bovaird Foundation, C.W. Titus Foundation and M.V. Mayo Charitable Foundation.



Courtesy photo

A SWEET HISTORY: *Chocolate: The Exhibition* runs at Gilcrease Museum Oct. 9-Jan. 8, 2017. The exhibit explores the history of chocolate and its relationship with human culture.

Glacier Confection is Gilcrease Museum's local partner for *Chocolate: The Exhibition*.

Several programs have been planned to augment the exhibition including opening weekend lectures, a chocolate-making demonstration, a special chocolate-themed dinner with wine pairings and an after hours program in October. For the full list of events, visit gilcrease.org.

STREETS GONE WILD



Courtesy photo

80s ROCK: Brandon and Diane Gibbs perform at *Streets Gone Wild*, held Sept. 8-10 in downtown Tulsa. This was the first year for the 80s rock street festival. Other performers included Night Ranger, Road Dawg, Quiet Riot and Dead Metal Society.

TULSA BALLET OPENS 60TH CLASSICAL YEAR



Courtesy Tulsa Ballet

TALENTED COMPANY: Dancers in Tulsa Ballet's second company, *Tulsa Ballet II*, perform in August during *On Your Radar*, a program featuring 11 dancers performing three works created by young, up-and-coming choreographers.

Tulsa Ballet began its 60th anniversary season with *Creations in Studio K*, Sept. 16-25, with three world premiere works.

Up next is *Onegin*, Oct. 28-30. Based on Alexander Pushkin's verse-novel Eugene Onegin, this full-length ballet tells a dramatic tale of unrequited romance.

The *Nutcracker* returns, Dec. 10-11, 16-18 and 22-23 for the holiday season. This remarkable production mixes the visuals of a Broadway show with the heartwarming story of a fairy-tale Christmas, with more than 100 local children joining the professional company to help the larger-than-life Mouse King battle the *Nutcracker* Prince and his toy soldier brigade.

Dorothy and the Prince of Oz, a brand-new, \$1 million full-length ballet commissioned by Tulsa Ballet, comes to the Tulsa Performing Arts Center Feb. 10-12. Through a collaboration with BalletMet of Columbus, Ohio, the World Premiere of *Dorothy and the Prince of Oz* (working title) will take place in Tulsa and is guaranteed to delight audiences of all ages. It

will feature choreography by Edwaard Liang (artistic director for BalletMet, choreographer for Tulsa Ballet's acclaimed *Romeo and Juliet*) as well as all new music, sets and costumes.

The classic *Swan Lake*, March 24-26, returns to Tulsa for the first time in six years. Odette, a young maiden trapped in the form of a swan due to an evil sorcerer's curse, must find eternal love to break the spell.

TBII: Emerging Choreographers Showcase will take place April 21, 23. The Emerging Choreographers Showcase will feature three World Premiere works inspired by the TBII dancers and created by Jennifer Archibald, with Arch Dance Company, Rodrigo Hermesmeier, Tulsa Ballet soloist, and Arman Zazyan, Tulsa Ballet senior soloist.

For the closing program of Tulsa Ballet's 60th season, the Signature Series will take place May 11-14, featuring three of Artistic Director Marcello Angelini's favorite pieces: *Cacti* by Alexander Ekman, *A Million Kisses to My Skin* by David Dawson, and *Cripple and the Starfish* by Adam Houghland.

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DINING OUT IN GREATER TULSA

Apple Barrel Expands with Third Location

Restaurant Opens in South Tulsa

By DAVID JONES
Editor at Large

Chicken fried steak! Burgers by the score! Open-faced roast beef sandwiches! Breakfast served all day. Apple pie ala mode! Berry tarts! The new Apple Barrel restaurant that fills the old Arvest Bank at 101st Street and Sheridan Avenue would do Route 66 dining mainstays proud. It is all-American cooking at its best.

But no lamb, which may seem strange because where its owner grew up, lamb was a common in the diet.

"I imagine it's beef now," says Owner Simon Khatib, "but when I was growing up in Damascus, lamb was the favorite."

How did a Syrian steeped in the cuisine of the Middle East wind up selling bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwiches in Tulsa?

"I wasn't forced to leave Syria. The Syria I grew up in wasn't a battleground but a beautiful country where Muslims and Christians co-existed peacefully. It was certainly an open society compared to, say, Saudi Arabia."

But Simon's older brother had gone to America to get an education, moved into the food business, and wound up owning restaurants in a place that, for a Syrian, must have had an exotic and foreign sound: Oklahoma.

"I came to Tulsa 27 years ago to help my brother," says Khatib. "He taught me everything I know about the restaurant business. After a few years with him, I felt I could strike out on my own."

The restaurant business wasn't the only adventure he undertook. In his trips back to Syria to visit his family, he met Rida. They corresponded, more trips followed, and ultimately they married. She has since been at his side throughout his restaurant ventures.

"I opened my first restaurant on Peoria Avenue in 1996. It was a sort of a fast-food outlet that specialized in fresh foods. It was successful, but I opened it with a partner and I never really felt I had full control over what went on so ultimately I sold it and went looking for my own place."

Khatib's journey into the gastronomic wilderness ended in a small restaurant near East 151st Street and Memorial Avenue in Bixby. He gave it a good American name, the Apple Barrel, and frankly admits that he started off with pretty much the menu of the previous restaurant. "As we progressed, I began to experiment and add my own touches to the food. Now, what we serve is entirely to my standards."

Those standards, he says, emphasize freshness. "A lot of restaurants buy food that has been

pre-breaded; they plop it into a fryer and it comes out tasting like everyone else's meat. Our food is breaded with our own special recipe, and it gives us our unique flavor."

The Bixby restaurant, Khatib says, was a success from the get-go. It was so successful that he was encouraged to try a second location in Broken Arrow. "That one is at 3806 S. Elm in a shopping center sat well off the street. We were worried that we might be too far off the street, but our customers seem to have found us."

With Apple Barrel restaurants succeeding in Bixby and Broken Arrow, Khatib turned to Jenks as a likely target for a third restaurant. "I couldn't find a spot in Jenks, but this empty old bank in south Tulsa is close enough to the general location that I wanted, so I took it. You really know within six months if a location will work, but so far our reception has been excellent."

What is the hardest part of opening a new restaurant? "Staffing," Khatib responds. "Some of the people in the Bixby restaurant have been with me from the beginning. A few from the other restaurants are here in this new location but it takes time to get a smoothly-working, harmonious team. I'm pleased with what we have now, but I'm always looking for more."



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

SUCCESSFUL RESTAURATEURS: Simon and Rida Khatib, owners of Apple Barrel Café, stand in front of their third and newest Greater Tulsa restaurant location. The restaurant is located at 101st Street and Sheridan Road.

The restaurant business is a time-consuming one; the Khatibs work seven days a week. Restaurant hours are 7 a.m.-9 p.m. every day except on Sunday, when they close at 3 p.m. Even when they're off on a rare vacation, they're working. "When I go to a restaurant and I order chicken, I'm thinking what spices or herbs would make it

even better and if it would be a good addition to our restaurant."

Khatib, who with his wife has long been a naturalized American citizen, doesn't think his story is unusual. A citizen from across the ocean makes a trip to these shores, starts a business, marries, has two sons and thrives. That's a tale as American as apple pie.

Mazzio's Celebrates 55 Years of Ken's Pizza

Mazzio's brings a past favorite back to celebrate the 55th anniversary of Ken's Pizza.

In 1961, founder Ken Selby opened his first pizza parlor. A few years later he opened the first Mazzio's, and with that his pizza empire began. Ken's Pizza is a huge fan favorite, featuring a thin crispy crust, spicy sauce and fresh toppings to create the unique flavor that started it all.

To commemorate the 55-year anniversary, Mazzio's is offering a special duo on a past and present favorite. Mazzio's guests can order a large Ken's Supreme Pizza for \$11, or add on a Mazzio's large one-topping for a two-pizza deal of \$19.61.

"From day one, Ken's Pizza built a very loyal fan base, but there are still some folks who don't know that Ken's Pizza is available every day at Mazzio's," said Sheri Miksa, president and CEO of Mazzio's LLC. "With our Ken's 55th anniversary promotion we bring Ken's and Mazzio's pizza together for an offer that's a great deal for any group."

The anniversary special is available now through Nov. 14 for dine-in, carry out or delivery at participating Mazzio's locations.

About Mazzio's LLC

With 134 restaurants in 9 states, Tulsa-based Mazzio's LLC was established in 1961 and is the parent company of the Mazzio's Italian Eatery and Oliveto Italian Bistro brands. The corporation was founded in Tulsa, Oklahoma by the late Ken Selby and ownership remains in his family today.

Mazzio's Italian Eatery's 131 locations offer expedited service and convenience, great value, and high quality menu items served in a warm and inviting

fast casual setting, including some full-service locations. The family-friendly menu features Mazzio's signature fresh salad bar and world-famous Ranch dressing, signature pizza, pastas, hot sandwiches, Wing Run® Wings and Calzone Rings® plus kids meals all available for lunch and dinner, making it a perfect choice for dine-in, carryout, delivery, or large groups and catering.

To view our full menu, order online or get more information about Mazzio's Italian Eatery, visit www.mazzios.com. Or download

the Mazzio's mobile app, and enjoy ordering "on the go."

Mazzio's is proud to be a Made in Oklahoma (MIO) program partner. The MIO Coalition promotes brand awareness and consumer loyalty for Oklahoma food products through collective marketing for the purpose of increasing sales, maintaining business retention and expanding Oklahoma's food processing sector.

Mazzio's is honored to be the 2014 Wingapalooza winner, 2015 and 2016 People's Choice Wingapalooza winner.



Courtesy Mazzio's

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Soul City Highlights Food, Music, Art

LOCAL DINING

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Writer

Soul City, 1621 E. 11th St., has created a music oasis along 11th Street near Utica Avenue, its eclectic, colorful building sitting among a number of other commercial ventures, some of them historic Tulsa staples like El Rancho Grande and Ike's Chili along with many recent additions.

"This is really turning into a cool area," says Amy Smith, who owns Soul City with her husband, Kevin.

Soul City began as Studio 818 at 3rd Street and Lansing Avenue six years ago as a working art studio, where Kevin and Amy got their feet wet providing food and beverage catering and, occasionally, live music.

Both Kevin and Amy have a background in booking musicians and organizing events.

After three years, "we outgrew that location," says Amy. They soon found the right location on historic Route 66. "We wanted to find an old garage," she continues. "And this is one of the first service stations on Route 66 in Tulsa."

After they moved onto 11th Street, the Smiths began to focus on live music, providing a venue for local musicians, which served a two-fold purpose: creating an all-ages music venue, which is something sorely absent in Tulsa, and offering local musicians another performance venue.

"There are so many young kids taking music lessons, and they need to be inspired" and to be able to go and hear musicians play, Amy says.

As a long-time local artist, Amy also uses Soul City as a way to display and sell her vintage, rustic art as well as to display the work of other local artists.

Amy's son John Heckman created the mural of J.J. Cale found on the building's west outside wall.

The Smiths added food to Soul City's concept in March. The eclectic menu includes many French Cajun influences, due to Amy's heritage and almost two years that she spent living in Jamaica.

"It's a very different menu, not one that you'll find anywhere else in Tulsa," she says.

The Smiths are currently in the process of expanding Soul City's kitchen, due to the restaurant's popularity.

"This has blossomed into a really cool thing," says Amy.

The Smiths created the restaurant with a laid-back atmosphere, "a place where people can hang out and not be rushed to leave so that servers can turn tables," she says.

Patrons order at the bar, which greets them when they walk in the front door. Silverware, condiments and seating are all self-serve. The restaurant's outdoor patio has a definite relaxed, backyard feel, filled with patio chairs and tables, hanging lights and a chiminea.

Because of the inviting setting and the sunny Saturday afternoon, that is where my group chose to sit.

Starting with an appetizer, we chose the Hummus Among Us, which is made fresh, in-house. It came with carrots and pita bread for dipping, accompanied with a side of Moon Drop grapes and baby kiwi, a wonderfully



FRESH APPETIZER: *Hummus Among Us, made fresh, in-house, is one of Soul City's five appetizer choices. The hummus tasted bright and fresh and came with a side of Moon Drop grapes and baby kiwi.*

healthy dish and beautiful to look at. The hummus tasted bright and fresh.

For our entrees, we went with Ziggy's Jerk Tacos, with chicken and mango salsa, and Prairie Tacos, made with beef, cilantro, avocado, tomatoes and chili crema: two popular items suggested by the bartender.

I loved the freshness and the lightness of the chicken tacos with the homemade mango salsa, and I appreciated that they did not skimp on the chicken.

I was also drawn to the Prairie Tacos because of its cilantro and avocado ingredients.

Other menu items that we were tempted with but chose to forgo until the next visit were the Foo-Egg-O Sliders, with fire roasted chicken and pepper jack cheese topped with a fried egg and ghost chili mayonnaise, and the Ultimate Grilled Cheese with tomato basil bread and pesto and a side of cole slaw.

For dessert, we shared the chocolate mint gelato. Various gelato options are regularly available, including Texas salted caramel – a popular choice, says Smith – and fruit sorbets.

As I sipped my drink after finishing off the gelato, I couldn't help but revel in the back area's feel of ease and comfort, with tunes of Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra playing softly in the background and the sweet smell of pinion wood coming from the chiminea.

While the patio area was relaxed at that time, though, Amy assured me that it doesn't stay that way on many evenings when musicians perform.

Live music is scheduled Tuesday through Sunday. Tuesday evening, 7 – 9 p.m., features Dustin Pittsley with special guests; Wednesday, 7 – 9 p.m., carries a New Orleans music theme and a Shrimp n' Grits special; and Thursday night, 6 – 9 p.m., features singer-songwriters performing in 15-minute segments. "There's currently a waiting list of musicians wanting to perform on that night," says Amy.

A cover is charged on Friday and Saturday night – money that goes directly to the bands, she says. "It's a way for the musicians



ECLECTIC SPACE: *Soul City, 1621 E. 11th St., is a restaurant and all-ages music venue located along historic Route 66. It also provides space for local artists to display their works.*



BACKYARD PATIO: *Soul City's backyard patio area features live music by local and national musicians Tuesday-Sunday.*

to get paid." Sometimes the bands are local, but sometimes they're national bands who are traveling through Tulsa.

Brunch is offered Saturday and Sunday.

Hours are Tuesday-Thursday 5 – 10 p.m., Friday – Saturday 11 a.m. – midnight, Sunday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. The restaurant is closed on Mondays.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

CTCA 'Celebrates Recovery,' Raises Awareness

In its efforts to raise awareness for various forms of cancer and to recognize those who have triumphed over the disease, Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Tulsa, 10109 E. 79th St., recently held two special events.

On Sept. 10, Anna's Belles, the only ovarian cancer support group in Tulsa, hosted its annual awareness walk.

According to the American Cancer Society, it's expected this year about 22,280 new cases of ovarian cancer will be diagnosed, and 14,240 women will die of this form of cancer in the U.S.

This annual event was created to give families of victims and survivors time to meet together and to educate others about the symptoms of ovarian cancer because, oftentimes, the symptoms of this form of cancer go unnoticed.

On Friday, Sept. 16, CTCA in Tulsa held its 21st annual Celebrate Life event, where close to 200 cancer survivors met to celebrate their personal triumphs over cancer, five years after first receiving treatment at CTCA in Tulsa.

The event began with a tree-planting ceremony and white dove release.

"This year our celebration's theme is 'A New Day,'" said Jay Foley, interim CEO at CTCA in Tulsa. "We are thrilled to share this milestone in our patients' lives. Some of our honorees will travel from as far as South Dakota and Florida to be a part of this uplifting day."

"When a patient comes to CTCA, our entire team, from medical oncologists and regis-



CANCER SURVIVOR: Bob Duffer stands with his wife during Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Tulsa's tree-planting ceremony, held in September. Duffer, who suffered from multiple myeloma, celebrated his five-year anniversary as a cancer survivor with nearly 200 other former patients at CTCA's annual Celebrate Life event.

tered nurses to physical therapists and licensed dietitians, works together with the individual and their caregivers toward the goal of not just surviving, but thriving," added Foley. "This event is an important tradition that commemorates their incredible journey and every single new day they enjoy."

The 199 honorees had the opportunity to add their names on

brass leaves to the "Tree of Life" in the hospital's lobby. In addition, an Interactive Survivor Tree allows visitors to select a specific person's leaf and hear more about their cancer story.

Following the outdoor tree planting ceremony, the five-year survivors and their caregivers participated in "Hope Rounds," a special time in which celebrants share a commemorative, lapel



ANNA'S BELLES: The only ovarian cancer support group in Tulsa, Anna's Belles hosted its annual awareness walk on Sept. 10. The group was formed to raise awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer, which often go unnoticed.

pin. While visiting the hospital for their five-year anniversary, each survivor receives two pins - one for themselves and one to share in an encouraging way as a symbolic transfer of hope to patients currently undergoing treatment inside the hospital.

"The 'Hope Rounds' portion of the event is one of my favorite parts of Celebrate Life," said Foley. "It creates a powerful connection between the survivor who has made it through great challenges and the patient who is currently in treatment and in the midst of their own personal journey."

Additional special activities

included a brunch and a closing ceremony. Part of the special activities included celebrants and their families' visit to "Camp Thrive Survivorship Fair" to learn about integrative services CTCA offers to help patients thrive after cancer treatment and the event's final activity, where attendees danced the "Cancer Fighters Slide," an original song and dance that was created for this year's event.

CTCA, which is celebrating 26 years in Tulsa this year, sees patients from 33 states including Alaska. The average distance that patients travel to CTCA in Tulsa is about 520 miles.



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LLH Moves Into New Facility

Just in time for the 2016-2017 school year, the Little Light House (LLH) opened the doors of its new facility at 5120 E. 36th St.

With over 150 children with special needs on the two or three year long waiting list to gain admittance, the Little Light House was in a great need for expansion.

The new building features large classrooms that promote both cognitive and physical development, an expanded therapeutic gym to work on gross motor skills, a sensory stimulation room, and an assistive technology room. To aid in LLH college and career programs and its global impact program, the second floor houses four training observatories that are similar to surgical suites, allowing attendees to view and hear inside the classrooms without disrupting the daily activities.



UPGRADED FEATURES: From left, Lindsay Nozak, Little Light House (LLH) events coordinator; Kim Burnett, LLH building project chair; and Melissa Esmon, LLH community outreach coordinator, stand in front of the new LLH facility, which recently opened at 5120 E. 36th St.

DAY OF CARING



HELPING HANDS: On Sept. 9, Emeka Nnaka, with the Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges, and volunteers from Hillcrest Medical Center cleaned windows on The Center patio as part of Tulsa's Day of Caring.

Laureate to Participate in Landmark Study

The Laureate Institute for Brain Research (LIBR) announces its participation in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study - the largest long-term study of brain development and child health in the United States - that launched recently. The landmark study by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will follow the biological and behavioral development of more than 10,000 children nationwide beginning at ages 9-10 through adolescence into early adulthood.

LIBR is one of only 19 research sites and will recruit 600 children from the region to participate in the study.

"This study provides a once-in-

a-lifetime opportunity for parents to learn about how children's minds evolve and develop over the course of these pivotal 10 years," says Martin P. Paulus, MD, LIBR scientific director and president.

Adolescence is a time of extraordinary physical, emotional, and intellectual growth, as well as a changing social environment full of new challenges that help shape a young person's adult identity, health and well-being. There is much to learn about how varied adolescent experiences (e.g., participation in extracurricular activities; playing video games; poor sleep habits; head injuries from sports; experimentation with alcohol, tobacco, mar-

ijuana or other substances) affect development. This is particularly true in today's rapidly changing world, which is now dominated by social media and other forms of communication in which adolescents readily engage.

During the course of the next decade, scientists will use advanced brain imaging, interviews, and behavioral testing to determine how childhood experiences interact with each other and with a child's changing biology to affect brain development and, ultimately, social, behavioral, academic, health and other outcomes.

For more information about this study, visit abcdstudy.org or laureateinstitute.org/abcd.



ADOLESCENT BRAIN DEVELOPMENT: Site coordinator Florence Breslin is among those on the Laureate Institute for Brain Research's (LIBR) team that will participate in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study, the largest long-term study of brain development and child health in the United States.

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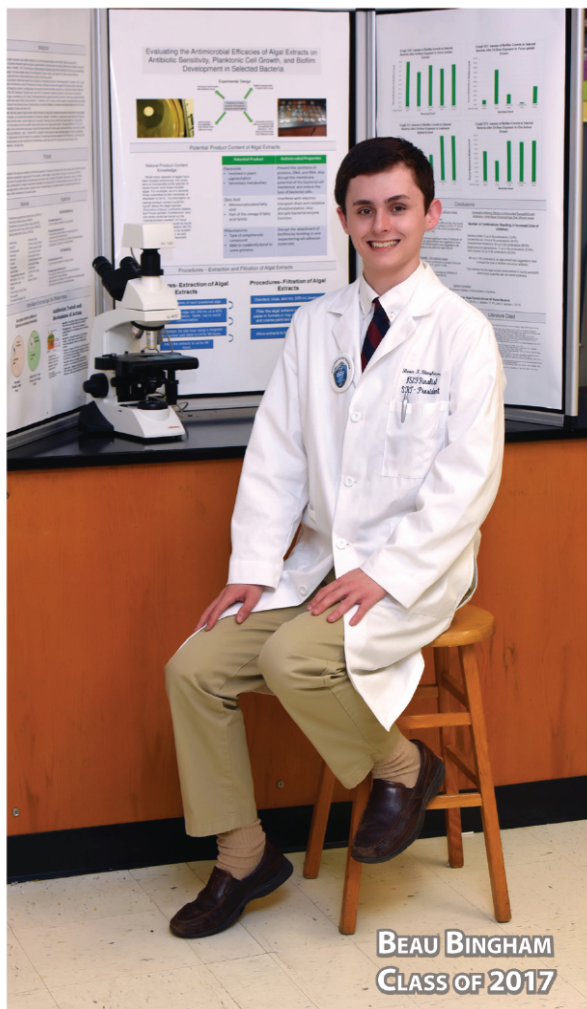
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OSUIT Earns High Rank

In U.S. News & World Report's 2017 list of Best Colleges, for the second consecutive year Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology has been ranked first in the west region for students to graduate with the least amount of debt. The lowest debt load distinction places OSUIT third among all regional colleges in the nation.

OSUIT, which participated in the rankings for the third year, was listed as No. 5 in the Top Public Schools-West; No. 20 in Top Regional Colleges-West; and No. 7 in Best Ethnic Diversity rankings for the West.

Fifteen states are included in the west region: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Less than half of all OSUIT students graduate with college loan debt, and the average amount of debt is \$13,775, according to U.S. News' rankings. Analysts report the average student debt nationally is \$35,051, that's two and a half times more than OSUIT students have when they graduate.

Of all of the regional colleges in the north, south, midwest and west regions, OSUIT ranked third in lowest student debt.

Rogers State University was ranked second for graduates with the least amount of debt in the west region.

OSUIT continued to make the list of the top colleges in the west region in both the overall and public school categories. U.S. News rankings take into consideration several factors such as freshman retention rates, graduation rates, student-to-teacher ratios, acceptance rates, ACT/SAT test scores and percentage of classes with 20 or fewer students.

OSUIT was also recognized in the Best Ethnic Diversity regional rankings. U.S. News factors in the proportion of minority students, excluding international students, among each institution's 2015-16 academic year student body.

The methodology, developed by Philip Meyer and Shawn McIntosh, produces a diversity index that ranges from 0.0 to 1.0. The closer a school's number is to 1, the more diverse the student population and the more likely it is for students to interact with peers from different ethnic groups.

OSUIT's index number is 0.54 with the largest minority group on campus being Native Americans, which make up 14 percent of the student population.

BUTTERFLY CONTEST



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

RIVERFIELD JUDGES: Carla Grogg, co-owner of Grogg's Green Barn in Tulsa, stands with students from Riverfield Country Day School's garden club during Grogg's monarch butterfly photo contest judging, held in September. The Riverfield students served as judges for the contest. Grogg's created the butterfly contest in celebration of the monarch butterfly migration through the region.



LEADERSHIP LAUNCH: In June, the Margaret Hudson Program announced its plans to launch a new leadership model in 2017 to impact the lives of at-risk youth in Tulsa and surrounding communities. The announcement was made at a special evening event where Lift Up America's Ambassador of Compassion spokesperson Spencer Tillman served as the featured speaker. Also pictured are Michelle Sutton, president of the Margaret Hudson Program (MHP) Board of Directors, and Dr. Genell Coleman, right, former Margaret Hudson Program executive director.

TCC Enrollment Rises

Tulsa Community College enrollment numbers for fall 2016 show an increase in students from the previous fall semester. Overall enrollment is up two percent, with enrollment numbers at 17,070 as compared to 16,702 from the first week of fall 2015.

This reverses a trend of declining enrollment over the past seven years for the state's largest two-year college. TCC serves nearly 28,000 students each year in credit courses.

A recent snapshot shows the number of first time entering students is up four percent for fall 2016 with 4,146 students compared to 3,992 from the first week of fall 2015. Early numbers also show TCC saw a large jump in the number of students earning college credit while still in high school. Concurrent enrollment has

increased 14 percent to 1,838 for fall 2016 as compared to 1,609 from the start of fall 2015. Historically, TCC is number one in the state of Oklahoma in concurrent enrollment. The enrollment numbers are not official numbers collected by the state later in the semester.

TCC has also implemented on-time enrollment for fall 2016 where students were required to be enrolled in a class before it met for the first time. TCC is the first college or university in Oklahoma to adopt the policy change to help with student success.

A report compiled by TCC officials showed a TCC student who enrolled after a class started was twice as likely to fail or withdraw from that class. Students who showed up after the 16-week classes had started had different options including 14-week and 8-week classes for the fall.

"We are thrilled with the numbers for fall 2016 and the first year of our on-time enrollment policy," says Leigh B. Goodson, TCC president and CEO. "We believe the on-time enrollment will help our students with success in the classroom as well as keep our students on track for graduation."

TCC also welcomed the largest Tulsa Achieves entering class for the fall semester with more than 1,800 students. In addition, Tulsa Achieves saw the largest number of returning Tulsa Achieves students for the second and third year of the program. Tulsa Achieves is a gap-funded program that provides tuition and fees for eligible Tulsa County residents.

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Tulsa Tech Program Meets Industry Demands

Over 3.5 million professional trucks drivers accounted for 70 percent of the nation's domestic freight tonnage in 2015, collecting \$726 billion in gross freight revenues, according to a recent analysis published by the American Trucking Association. However, even with these record-setting numbers, there is still one problem facing the industry; professional trucking companies do not have enough qualified drivers to meet their growing demand.

Donnie Tulk, coordinator for Tulsa Tech's Professional Truck Driving Training program, has spent over 30 years in the industry and says that the need for professional drivers is projected to rise dramatically during the next decade.

"Currently, there is a shortage of approximately 48,000 drivers in the U.S.," Tulk says. "And by the end of 2025, that number is estimated to be approximately 174,000 drivers, mostly due to the fact that the median age for drivers today is 55."

David Thompson, a student in the program and a former electrician, is working toward his commercial driver's license (CDL), along with additional credentials

and endorsements, providing him even more opportunities to help fill the void currently facing this rapidly-growing industry.

"I had been doing electrical work for several years, and then I became interested in truck driving," says Thompson. "Once I complete the program, I would like to be a regional, or dedicated, driver, which would allow me to still be home most weekends with my family."

Tony Bottoms, Tulsa Tech instructor for the program, with over 15 years industry experience, feels the time is right for those interested in this fast-growing career field.

"There are many options available for individuals who wish to work in this career field," he says. "Everything from the premium pay types of jobs associated with long-haul or over-the-road drivers, to regional or dedicated driving opportunities, which offer more flexible schedules for the driver."

Ja'net Leath, an Air Force veteran and mother of three, feels the timing is right for her too, and she is excited to begin the next chapter of her life along with her new career.

"My children are grown, and I feel like this is the next step," Leath says. "My goal is to become an over-the-road driver,

to cover the lower 48 states and see different parts of the country while I'm earning a great living."

Although some driver training programs are much shorter and only prepare students for the CDL exam, Tulsa Tech's Professional Truck Driving Training program was developed with input from industry partners.

"We intentionally designed this program to exceed minimal regulations," says Tulk. "And we adjusted our curriculum in response to the valuable input we have received from our many industry partners. They indicated a need for individuals with much more experience than, for example, minimal entry-level driving skills, and they are seeking drivers who have more knowledge about industry regulations and trip planning and a better understanding of the overall industry."

The 600-hour program is divided into three courses, Entry Level Driver, Skills and Regulations, and Specialist Driver, with the latter giving students a unique opportunity to earn additional endorsements, or credentials, in order to transport more specialized loads. After 360 hours, students may opt to intern with one of Tulsa Tech's industry partners, with the remaining hours of the course structured as on-the-job-training.

If you're currently looking for exciting classes for high school and adult students, quality customized corporate training, or wish to start driving toward a new career, Tulsa Tech invites you to visit today. For more information, please call 918-828-5000 or visit us online at tulsatech.edu.

News from Tulsa Tech



By **DR. STEVE TIGER**
Superintendent



PROFESSIONAL TRUCK DRIVING: Tulsa Tech's Professional Truck Driver Training instructors Tony Bottoms, left, and Donnie Tulk boast nearly 50 years of combined experience in the rapidly-growing career field.

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BROKEN ARROW EDUCATION

Broken Arrow FFA Officers

In September, elected officers from each of the 85 high school FFA chapters in the state's northeast district, including from Broken Arrow, attended the 2016 Oklahoma FFA Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT) Conference, held at the Glenpool Conference Center.

The half-day event, with the theme "The Bottom Line," was sponsored by Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO).

The leadership training is designed to equip attendees with tools to help them best serve their individual chapters during this school year.

"Students that attend the COLT Conference go because they are up to the challenge of leading a group of leaders," says PSO's John Harper, vice president of External Affairs. "It's clear FFA fosters a culture of excellence, not only in agricultural education, but also in science, technology, entrepreneurship and leadership, and PSO is proud to support their success."



Courtesy Oklahoma FFA Association

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: Elected officers from Broken Arrow's FFA chapter pose at the 2016 Oklahoma FFA Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT) Conference, held in September. Officers are Kelli Smullen, Kelsey Gray, Rachel Sanders, Deanna Hamersley, Wyatt Capers, Samantha Dixon, and advisors Rodney Arthur and Rachel Lawhorn. Also pictured are state FFA officers Northeast District Vice President Cleo Giraldo, seated left, and Secretary Piper Merritt, seated right.

The COLT Conference is a special project of the Oklahoma FFA Foundation. FFA is an integral part of the agricultural education division of the Oklahoma Department of Career Tech Education. There are 27,166 Oklahoma FFA members in 359 high schools statewide.

Thurmond Named Mayor of the Year

In September, the Mayors' Council of Oklahoma announced that Broken Arrow Mayor Craig Thurmond has been selected as the 2016 Mayor of the Year.

"I can't think of a more deserving public servant than Craig Thurmond, who is one of the hardest working people I know," says Vice Mayor Richard Carter. "So much of the success that's happened in Broken Arrow is directly related to Mayor Thurmond's ability to forge partnerships and get things done."



Courtesy City of Broken Arrow

CRAIG THURMOND

Major Accomplishments:

Thurmond played an integral role in forming Cities United, a working group of metropolitan Tulsa mayors and city managers who worked to capture the retiring Tulsa County Vision 2025 sales tax. With the Vision 2025 renewal, the City of Broken Arrow will hire 40 new police officers and firefighters over the next five years and commit approximately \$3.3 million annually to street rehabilitation in the community.

The Rose District, Broken Arrow's downtown shopping and entertainment district, continues to flourish under Thurmond's leadership. In November 2015, the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Planning Association honored the Rose District with the Great Street Award for its diversity and character.

Broken Arrow's first conference center is scheduled to open in late 2017. Stoney Creek Hospitality began construction in June 2015 on the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, which is expected to be a regional competitor. The eight-acre site, just north of Bass Pro Shops, will include a 187-room hotel and a

40,000-square-foot conference center.

"Mayor Thurmond's dedication to serving his community is infectious, and it inspires so many of us, myself included, to take care of our citizens," says City Manager Michael Spurgeon. "Broken Arrow is fortunate to have a mayor who is passionate about transparency and smart growth and is always looking for ways to move the community forward."

Thurmond was elected to the Broken Arrow City Council in 2001. He has served as mayor since 2012, focusing on economic development and public safety. Thurmond serves on 18 local and national boards, councils, and committees. He has worked in the land development and construction industries for 35 years in Oklahoma and California.

CHALK IT UP ART FESTIVAL RETURNS



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers



CREATIVITY ON DISPLAY: Local artists work on their chalk art masterpieces on Main Street in downtown Broken Arrow during the fifth annual Chalk It Up Arts Festival, held Sept. 9-10. The family-friendly festival was presented by the ARTSOK Regional Arts Alliance.

Local artists converged on Rose District for the fifth annual Chalk It Up Arts Festival, Sept. 9-10. The festival features local and regional artists, who are given two days to complete their chalk masterpieces in 10-foot by 10-foot spaces directly on Main Street.

Three different artist age groups competed in five different categories while also vying for Best In Show and the People's Choice Award. Cash prizes will be awarded to each category.

The family-friendly festival was presented by the ARTSOK Regional Arts Alliance.

In addition to the chalk artists, other activities included live music, performance artists, and arts and craft vendors.

Sponsors for the event were the City of Broken Arrow, AVB Bank, First National Bank of Broken Arrow, Your Design, Tiger Driving School and Simplicity.

Technology Provides Resource For Broken Arrow Schools

(Continued from page 1)
creative professionals by giving them the ability to adapt and customize learning materials to meet the needs of their students without breaking copyright laws," said Richard Culatta, U.S. Department of Education director of the Office of Educational Technology.

On Sept. 6, Broken Arrow native and Broadway star Kristin Chenoweth gave \$20,000 from the Kristin Chenoweth Arts and Education Fund to Broken Arrow Public Schools' (BAPS) fine arts programs.

Cox Charities recently gave Cox Charities innovation grants to four Broken Arrow teachers: Steve McKnight, Broken Arrow High School, grant: Forensic

Facial Reconstruction; Jessica McCutchen, Broken Arrow High School, grant: LEGO Education BuildToExpress & StoryStarter Sets for SPED; Lindsay Little, Lynn Wood Elementary, grant: Defeating Dyslexia and Learning Disabilities; and Andrea Fort, Oneta Ridge Middle School, grant: Constructing Creatures.

Additionally, ongoing donations made by TTCU as part of its SOS-Support Our Schools and School Pride programs provide added school aid.

"When you start putting all of these donations together, they are helping us during this funding crisis, which allows us to start to add back some teachers to our classrooms," says Mendenhall.

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B.A. SPORTS

Mia Bledsoe Leads Broken Arrow Volleyball

By MIKE MOGUIN
Sports Writer

Broken Arrow was up two sets to none in its match against Owasso at home back on Sept. 15. The Lady Tigers needed just one more win to sweep and they would be done for the night.

But it wasn't looking that way at one point. Owasso, ranked No. 5 in Class 6A, had a five-point advantage and needed four more points to force the fourth set. But things changed as Broken Arrow (17-5, ranked seventh) rallied to win 27-25 and finish off the match as it needed. The Lady Tigers won the previous two sets 25-17 and 25-20.

"The key to that is teamwork, talking on the court and not having long faces," senior outside hitter Mia Bledsoe says. "That's a big part of the game because when you have long faces, that's when you get down on yourself and you let the team down, so you got to keep up."

Bledsoe finished the match against Owasso with 12 kills and 11 digs. For the season, she has 298 and 151 respectively, along with 29 aces and 22.5 blocks.

"That's the thing that got us going is we started serving the ball really well," Broken Arrow coach Ian Bullen says. "It put them in a position where they couldn't attack that first ball. They were really getting some good swings early in that set which was why they were able to

get that lead. The first two sets, we were blocking the ball really well. Even their good swings, we were knocking them down. They were splitting our defense, they were beating our blockers, and we needed a spark, and we got to the end of that third set and Gwyn Cowan goes back there and hits four or five tough serves in a row. Momentum is a crazy thing. You get it going in your direction and suddenly you start making the plays that you were missing earlier in the set, and it is exciting."

Playing together has highlighted the Lady Tigers success this season, Bledsoe says.

"All season long, we've talked about playing together and our passing has got to get better, and we've got to communicate better as a team on-and-off the court, and I think that's what helped us as a team," she says.

Bledsoe's presence makes an impact for the Lady Tigers. When they played in the Bishop Kelley Comets Tournament of Champions on Sept. 10, she was absent, and Broken Arrow lost 3-1 to eighth-ranked Norman. Next came a meeting against the tournament-host.

"I've been told many times by my own teammates that me on the court having a good attitude plays a huge part in how they play," Bledsoe says. "For example, when I was gone from the Bishop Kelley

game taking my ACT, they were all down with long faces, but then I brought them up."

The Tigers edged the Class 5A second-ranked Comets 3-2.

"My coach says that I turned the whole game around for them," Bledsoe says. "I feel like I had a huge part of that because you have to have a good attitude to keep your team up, especially if you are a huge leader."

To keep the rhythm going, they have to keep up the teamwork, she says. "We have to communicate off and on the court as well. In practices, we got to give it our every single all, all the time. In practices, we can't let go, especially coming to the end of the season. We need to keep up our hard work that we've been doing lately."

Anybody that sees Bledsoe walk in the gym can see she is a stud, Bullen says.

"She is a strong girl. She makes plays that we don't teach," he says. "She can hit balls in places and makes plays that kind of defy logic at times. The fact that she is so big and strong and can jump is kind of a double bonus. When you got a horse like that, you got to ride it."

As Broken Arrow heads down the stretch, they have meetings with Sand Springs, NOAH, followed by the Jenks Varsity Tournament, then taking on Kelley again, followed by Union before heading into the playoffs.



Courtesy B.A. High School

MIA BLEDSOE

Broken Arrow High School Coaches Join Mentoring Challenge

Nearly 400 coaches, including from Broken Arrow High School, have joined forces to endorse Oklahoma's Coaches Mentoring Challenge, a statewide campaign that runs Aug. 1-Nov. 30 to encourage sports fans to mentor young people in their communities.

Those from Broken Arrow High School are Mike Hughes, girls' basketball head coach; Tiffany Jones, girls' basketball and track coach; David Alexander, football coach; and Aaron Nowell, football coach.

Oklahoma's third annual Coaches' Mentoring Challenge is spearheaded by Oklahoma State University Coach Mike Gundy and University of Oklahoma Coach Bob Stoops in collaboration with state mentoring organizations and the Boren Mentoring Initiative, a program of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence.

In 2014, 3,340 Oklahomans signed up to mentor, and in 2015 approximately 3,821 responded to the challenge. This year, organizers hope to build on that momentum by recruiting more than 4,000 mentors for Oklahoma youths.

Prospective volunteers can learn

about mentoring opportunities in their community, and coaches can sign up to endorse the challenge at okcoacheschallenge.org.

The Coaches' Mentoring Challenge started in 2008 as a friendly competition between mentoring advocates Coach Tom Osborne of the University of Nebraska and Coach Bill Snyder at Kansas State University. Since then, many coaches from universities, colleges and secondary schools around the country have signed up to endorse the challenge.

"Coaches know firsthand the impact that a mentor can have in building skills, confidence and character in our young people," says Beverly Woodrome, director of the Boren Mentoring Initiative, which helps coordinate the statewide mentoring campaign. "By endorsing the Mentoring Challenge, they are sending a message that they value mentoring and see a critical need for more volunteer mentors for kids in their schools and communities."

According to MENTOR, the National Mentoring Partnership, it is estimated that one in three Oklahoma children are in need of a mentor:

someone to listen, to encourage and to set a positive example for them. In a survey of state mentoring organizations, the Boren Mentoring Initiative found that the greatest challenge facing mentoring programs was a shortage of volunteers, Woodrome adds. "We need grassroots support from across the state to make this campaign a success for Oklahoma kids."

The Boren Mentoring Initiative, named for Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence founder and chairman David L. Boren and his wife, Molly, was launched in 2006 to promote the growth and development of quality youth mentoring programs statewide.

The initiative has created a directory of more than 160 mentoring partner organizations statewide and works with those organizations to offer resources and promote mentoring best practices.

It also provides free consulting and resources for groups seeking to create new mentoring programs and hosts Oklahoma Mentor Day at the Capitol, which honors outstanding mentors. Woodrome writes a blog, "The Oklahoma Mentor," which provides a searchable database of mentoring ideas and best practices.



Broken Arrow Express photo

TIGERS AT TULSA: The University of Tulsa is fortunate to have two graduates from Broken Arrow High School on this year's Golden Hurricane team. At left is Frankie Davis, a 6-3, 245 pound junior defensive end. He is standing with Rowdy Frederick, a 6-4, 330 pound freshman offensive guard. Davis is two-year letter winner and has played in 25 career games and has started three games. He has tallied 24 career stops. Last year he played in all 13 games. Frederick was a three-year letterwinner and starter at Broken Arrow High School, earning first-team all-state honors from the Tulsa World and The Oklahoman. He helped lead his team to the Class 6A-I state runner-up finish as a senior and powered the Tiger offensive attack that averaged 222.7 rushing yards and 37.8 points per game his senior season. Frederick was the fourth-rated prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com.

Tulsa's 11th Annual Route 66 Marathon Gearing Up

The Williams Route 66 Marathon, presented by Blue Cross and Blue Shield, is in full swing preparing for the 11th annual event. The marathon includes a weekend full of events for all ages and skill levels, taking place on the weekend of Nov. 18-20.

While the event celebrates health, fitness and accomplishing personal goals, this race has become an economic staple for the Tulsa community. For over a decade, the marathon has generated an \$8 million economic impact to the community. This figure includes more than \$200,000 in direct donations to Tulsa charities,

which are raised with the event's Charity Challenge.

"Tulsa is a highly philanthropic community and our race is very diligent about reflecting that mindset," says Route 66 Marathon Director Kim Hann. "The Williams Route 66 Marathon is about accomplishing personal goals while giving back to a cause. This year, our event will benefit the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, Folds of Honor Foundation, Tulsa Habitat for Humanity, Tulsa Area United Way and the Tulsa SPCA."

In fact, by participating in the charity challenge, participants can receive

a free entry to all of the weekend events just by raising money for any of the five chosen charities.

The Williams Route 66 Marathon has grown from 3,000 participants in its first year to an expected sellout race with 15,000 participants for 2016. Last year, the race celebrated its 10th anniversary, brining runners from all 50 states and over 10 countries including the United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico, Ireland, Argentina, Italy, Cayman Islands and China.

"We have been committed over the past decade to not only host a destination race with a tremendous impact on the Tulsa economy, but we have

worked on obtaining the highest standards for being an environmentally friendly event," says Hann. "We've replaced all paper goods with recyclable materials or compostable materials, we donate all excess supplies, such as water and clothing, and use environmentally friendly chemicals to clean the roads after our event. With these efforts, the Williams Route 66 Marathon has become a zero waste event."

Becoming a zero waste event is a major accomplishment for the race. Because the Williams Route 66 Marathon isn't just a 26.2-mile race, it was a long road to achieve the sta-

tus it has today.

The Route 66 Marathon is a weekend full of events, starting with a Health, Fitness and Sustainability Expo on Nov. 18 and 19. The Health, Fitness and Sustainability Expo is free and open to the public. With more than 100 vendors, this is Northeast Oklahoma's largest health, fitness and sustainability expo.

The 5K run and walk, one-mile fun run and mascot dash are on Nov. 19, starting and finishing at Guthrie Green. Then on Nov. 20, the marathon, half-marathon and relay begin at 8 a.m. in downtown Tulsa, finishing at Guthrie Green.

SPORTS

Metro Christian Volleyball Riding High

By **MIKE MOGUIN**
Sports Writer

Football is the popular sport taking place at this time of the year. But there are a few other sports for high school athletic participation. One of those is volleyball.

Metro Christian is among those having success in that court this year. With no starters lost to graduation last season, the Patriots are rolling with a No. 1 ranking in the OSSAA Class 4A poll and a 27-6 record as of Sept. 14.

Last year, the Patriots finished 22-16 and made state, but were ousted in the first round by Lincoln Christian.

What has been the key to their success? Unity.

"We have a lot of players who just grew up fast," Metro coach Beth Roe says.

Senior outside hitter Riley Roth is among the top players on the team, but she'll tell you the contributions of each athlete is what makes the program go.

"We're really just a good group of friends," Roth says. "It's not just me. It's all of us."

Roth leads the team averaging five kills, three digs and two aces per set.

She has earned 23 percent of her team's points this season. Through Sept. 16, Roth had 238 kills, averaging four per set, two service aces per set, totaling 10 blocks on the season and has a 2.14 out of 3.0 passer rating.

Besides Roth, Metro's seniors include Mary Mills, Kara Speer,

Jenna Smith, Malory Jackson, Sophia Clark, Ashlyn Groves and Hannah Gray. Juniors are Kyra Denmark, Evyn Fitzgerald, Anna Richey, Juliana Bushong, Christine Coulter and Madelyn Cupp. Sophomores consist of McKenzie Delehanty, Allison Morton and Kennedy Lawrence. Freshmen are Rio Fleshman, Sara Thomas, Danielle Hoffman, Elizabeth Ramey, Abigail Fossett, Rachel Gurley, Arden Row, Taylor Burman, Abbey Swanson, Lauren Gastineau and Emily Acker.

Metro had been unbeaten until it traveled to the Sunshine State of Florida, to play in the KSA Fall Classic in Orlando.

The Lady Patriots went 6-2 on the trip, posting wins over teams from Texas, Florida, Alabama, New York and Massachusetts. Their losses were to teams from Florida and California.

It was an experience that went beyond the game.

"We got to see some things that we never see from Oklahoma," Roe says.

"They (the California school) had a middle blocker that we had to keep the ball away from," she says.

"We did get compliments on our style of play and character from people from the schools in Florida," Roe says. "We had a nice camaraderie with people in Texas. We felt like we came from the same neighborhood."

An Aug. 18 win against Lincoln Christian (winning three sets to two) was big, Roe says.



Courtesy of MCA Athletic Department

FIRE UP: Metro volleyball players, from left, junior Juliana Bushong, along with seniors Riley Roth and Kara Speer celebrate.

Metro Christian got wins against top 15 foes from higher classes in the Catoosa Port City Classic on Sept. 9, defeating Shawnee (No. 6), Collinsville (No. 5), Claremore (No. 11) and Coweta (No. 7) from 5A, along with Sand Springs (No. 6) in 6A.

Could Metro Christian be hosting state volleyball championship trophy come October? That is the goal.

"That would be amazing," Roe says, thrilled. "For a couple of years, we had been the underdog, and we've kind of been like, no one has taken us seriously, and now this year, we're looking at, we're No. 1 and we have a target on our back. I take it into perspective and keep that mindset."

TU Frosh Named NFF Finalist

The University of Tulsa freshman tight end David Fitzwater was named one of 37 finalists for the 2016 National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) National High School Scholar-Athlete Awards.

The award will honor one young man from each of the country's five regions as the best and the brightest for their accomplishments as athletes, scholars and citizens at the high school level. The finalists all graduated from high school in 2016 and are now playing college football.

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TULSA ILERS

D'Angelo Brewer Becomes Star at TU

Junior Running Back Recently Surpassed 1,000 Career Rushing Yards

By **GLENN HIBDON**
GTR Sports Writer

University of Tulsa running back D'Angelo Brewer still vividly remembers the day. He was six or seven years old and playing football for the first time. Suddenly, he fell on the ball.

"I got the wind knocked out of me, and I told my mom. She didn't want me to play anymore," recalls Brewer, a star athlete from Tulsa Central. "My dad said, 'Just try it. You watch on TV and you like it.' I remember that feeling in the third grade when I finally went back to play. I grew up with a ball in my hands."

Brewer has since transformed from a breathless little kid into the Golden Hurricane's leading rusher with stars in his eyes. Born in Kankakee, Illinois, Brewer's dream is to someday play for his beloved Chicago Bears in front of his extended family. Until then, there are goals to achieve at TU.

"We want to win a conference championship," he says. "Last year, our goal was to get bowl eligible and get our program going in the right way. This year we're not settling for a bowl game. We want to win, and I want to be a 1,000-yard rusher."

Brewer led his team with 837 ground yards in 2015 and was second in total offense behind quarterback Dane Evans. He started this season in the same fashion, No. 1 in rushing, all-purpose yards and scoring. Brewer even grabbed the top rushing spot in the American Athletic Conference in the early going.

A 5-9, 195-pound junior, Brewer was a four-year starter at Central High School and earned honorable mention all-state recognition. He ran track and played basketball briefly before deciding his future was on a football field.

With more than 4,300 yards in total offense and 33 touchdowns at Central, Brewer had the credentials to earn a scholarship at Tulsa.

"I wasn't heavily recruited, but I received letters from Arizona State, OU and OSU," says Brewer, who moved from wide receiver to quarterback in his final two seasons at Central. "I lived in Tulsa and I decided to stay home and play in front of my family and friends. It was the right decision."

"Growing up, my mom rarely missed my games. They (TU) give me a certain amount of tickets for the games, and if I have any teammates with extra tickets, I try to get as many as I can. I may have 10 family members at games, and it gives me confidence. It's great to have family and friends here after a good win. It's heartwarming for me."

Brewer hopes to give his loved ones even more to cheer about this season. He surpassed the 1,000-yard career rushing mark with 164 yards in a season-opening win over San Jose State. It was all by design since the

darting dasher spent the summer bulking up for 2016.

"I got down to almost 179 pounds, and coming into this season I was up to 195," Brewer says. "I'm stronger and faster now. I started working out harder, and now I'm way more explosive."

"At TU, I had to learn to run between the tackles, and in high school it was all speed and athletic skill. Dan Bitson recruited me as a running back, and he felt like it was the best fit for me. He said it suited my abilities and I didn't mind (switching from quarterback).

"I'm not the biggest running back, but I play fast and hard and I'm patient. I let things develop and I make my blockers look good and they make me look good. I line up at slot sometimes and catch the ball out of the backfield. It gets me in the open field."

Brewer said he learned the rudiments of the game as a kid watching football on television. "Are you ready for some football?" the announcer beckoned. Indeed, he was eager. But for what?

"I thought I was LeBron James as a kid, but I've always been strong, cut up and buff," says Brewer. "I found out that I like scoring touchdowns, and I got used to it. That's my job. I have to be consistent and not play outside myself."

Brewer also had to learn to read defenses at TU and increase his awareness of what his offensive line is doing. He's found the approach to college football is more cerebral than high school. There, talent was enough.

Responsibilities in the classroom are also more stringent for Brewer at TU. He said he's on schedule to graduate in 2018 with a communications degree and a minor in psychology. Coaching someday is the plan, but perhaps there is another option - the NFL.

"Growing up, I was always a Chicago Bears fan and I have aunts and uncles living in Illinois," Brewer says. "I've dreamed since I was a little kid about being in Chicago and playing with family and friends there. I've been working to get there since middle school. It's hard to get to the NFL, but every day I practice I try to get better."

"I have to stay consistent and keep putting up good numbers. I've got to show off my skills when I get the chance to show up and show out. I've told my parents and I've told myself that I want to make it. My parents keep me motivated."

Whether Brewer reaches the NFL or not, he continues to enjoy a successful career at TU with more accolades awaiting in the future. He can look back on how far he's come in both football and in life and be encouraged.

"All my life I've struggled. I've never had it good," Brewer says. "I've always felt that I've been overlooked, but my parents kept me working hard to get recognition. After my



Courtesy University of Tulsa

LEADING RUSHER: Tulsa running back D'Angelo Brewer turns on the speed in Tulsa's game this season with San Jose State. Brewer rushed for 164 yards in that game, giving him over 1,000 career yards.

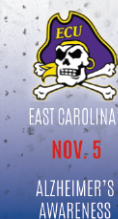
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Veteran Tulsa-Area Coach Awarded Nationally

By **TERRELL LESTER**
Editor at Large

Stan Irvine is well into the fifth decade of a decorated coaching career that has crossed many rivers, encountered the emotional extremes.

There have been the 3-27 seasons, the state championship seasons.

There have been the firings, the awards for a job well done.

He started two high-school programs from scratch, helped to create the Oklahoma Fast-Pitch Softball Coaches Association.

He coached in small towns and large, in high schools and junior college.

Having coached at 14 schools, along the backroads and the open roads of Oklahoma, he has earned a wing of his own in the Peripatetic Coaches Hall of Fame and Rest Stop.

At an elite soiree in Louisville during the summer, Irvine was recognized for all those miles, for all those years, for all those victories, for all his contributions to athletics and to athletes.

He was singled out as the National Softball Coach of the Year at the annual convention of the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.

That is heady tribute to an individual who started out as a coach of baseball and basketball, who did not know the layout of a softball diamond.

The 67-year-old Irvine is in his second year as head coach of the Inola High School softball team and in his first year as a resident of Bixby.

Two months after receiving one of his profession's most coveted awards, Irvine married and moved from Tulsa to Bixby with his bride, Ina.

It was in Tulsa that Irvine began his life's journey to the pinnacle of coaching, starting with a starring role in Hale's run to the 1966 large-school baseball state championship and picking up momentum in 1971 as a teaching intern at Edison under coaches Don Phillips and J.V. Haney.

He landed his first job in 1972, taking over as head coach in baseball and boys and girls basketball at Mannford.

After one year, Irvine moved to Washington High School as one of Principal H.J. Green's first hires. Irvine was handed the reins to the baseball program. It did not start out so well.

The Hornets went 3-27 in Irvine's debut season. "I questioned myself," he said recently. "I thought I knew baseball."

For an athlete who played at Northeastern A&M and the

University of Tulsa, he was justified in his thinking. And, as it turned out, in his fourth and final year at Washington, he guided the Hornets to the state tournament.

Halfway through his term at the school, he was charged with launching the girls basketball program as part of the Tulsa Public Schools' expanding athletics project.

Irvine did such a commendable job with the girls team that he caught the eye of Broken Arrow director of athletics Clifford (Red) Rogers. In 1977, Irvine assumed the duties of baseball coach and girls basketball coach at Broken Arrow.

Within two weeks of his hiring that summer, Irvine likes to recall the day "the accident happened."

It was a day that altered, albeit unknowingly, the path of his career. He was tasked with starting a girls softball program.

He was told he was the best candidate for the job.

He might not have been in agreement.

It might have appeared to be an accident in terms of coaching assignment, but over the ensuing decades, it might be better seen as an inspired selection by Clifford (Red) Rogers.

Still, there was that first home game for the Broken Arrow girls and their rookie softball coach.

Irvine watched from his perch in the dugout in the first inning as the opposing coach conversed with an umpire near the middle of the diamond. Soon, the umpire motioned for Irvine to join the conversation.

The umpire moved in close to Irvine, and whispered: "Hey, where's your circle?"

"Circle? What circle?" was Irvine's reply.

"You're supposed to have a pitcher's circle," the umpire tried to explain.

Irvine had spent hours preparing the field, lining, raking, making sure all was in order for his first-game efforts. Any mention of a pitcher's circle was new, even unknown, to him.

"That's how green I was," he said.

It was not to be a career-ender. Time has a way of helping green coaches reach maturity.

From that dubious beginning, Irvine has become one of the state's patriarchs of the fast-pitch softball family.

He has coached teams that have won four state championships, and six that have finished as runners-up. He has accumulated more than 840 victories. And, in something of an ironic twist on that long-ago pitcher's circle mix-up, he has even served two terms on the national softball rules committee.

In 2002, he was a member of the inaugural class of the state fast-pitch softball coaches hall of fame.

It is with that list of accomplishments on his resume that led to Irvine's selection as the national coach of the year.

"I don't think I can express just exactly how meaningful that was," he said. "It was an awesome feeling."

"One of the big things was that someone had to nominate me. It's not something you just go apply for. The Oklahoma Coaches Association had to initiate that."

The nominating individual or group undoubtedly saw in Irvine a softball lifer. A coaching lifer. A retired educator who still has plenty to offer a younger generation.

After Mannford (1972-73), Tulsa Washington (1973-77) and Broken Arrow (1977-84), Irvine added to his coaching legend with stops at Berryhill (1984-85), Mounds (1986-88), Sand Springs (1988-96), Oologah (1996-2000), Collinsville (2000-07), Tulsa Kelley (2007-08), Carl Albert State College (2008-09), Bixby (2009-12), Sapulpa (2012-14), Skiatook (2014-15), Inola (2015-present).

His championships came at Broken Arrow (1977), Oologah (1998, 1999) and Collinsville (2005).

Along the way, Irvine sat out one year when he joined the family business, Irv's Sporting Goods, in Tulsa. The respite in 1985 provided a new outlook on coaching and energized a career that has slowed only briefly in the years since. Irvine has overcome a stroke, triple-bypass heart surgery and a hip replacement and vows to continue coaching "as long as my health holds out."

"I have a passion for it," he said. "I am not looking forward to that day that I finally (leave coaching)."

There are few coaches in his age bracket still working. He remains because of a commitment to young people and a devotion to sports.

He retired from teaching in 2007 but continues to dispense his collected wisdom in the role of a lay coach.

"(Coaches) still make a difference," he said. "There are certain things that we still offer kids."

Much of what Irvine offers is away from the field of competition. He stresses what he calls "life skills."

"I just copied a lot of stuff from some very good coaches," Irvine said. "You can call it plagiarism."

He mentioned his high-school baseball coach Ken Hensley. His two athletics directors at Broken Arrow, Rogers and Bobby Lyons. His mentors at Edison, Phillips and Haney.



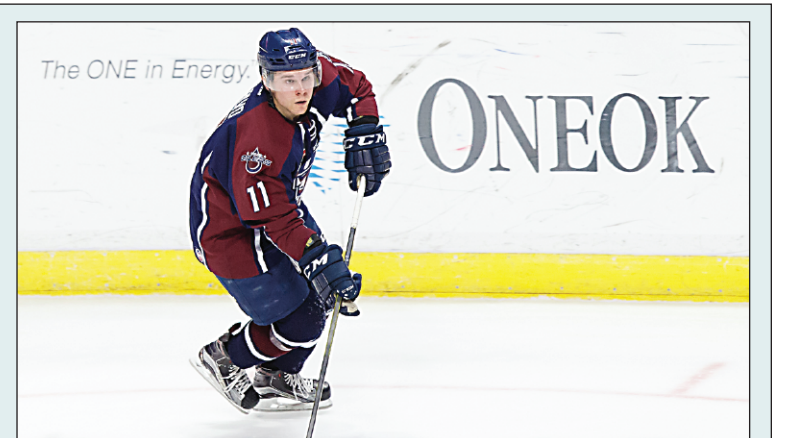
STAN IRVINE: National Softball Coach of the Year.

"There is a part of me that says I've met a lot more people by moving around," he said. "I have been so lucky. So fortunate."

"There are so many different

coaches who have given me the knowledge on the field and off the field."

Now, Stan Irvine is the one dispensing with the life experiences.



TOP SCORER RETURNS: *The Tulsa Oilers, proud ECHL affiliate of the NHL's Winnipeg Jets and AHL's Manitoba Moose, announced recently the signing of forward Dan DeSalvo, who returns to the Oilers after leading the team in scoring in 2015-16. As a rookie, the 24-year-old recorded 16 goals and 35 assists, with a plus-16 rating in 55 games, earning a spot on the ECHL's 2015-16 All-Rookie Team. He was eighth among league rookies with 51 points and his 35 assists were good for fifth. The Oilers begin their third ECHL season October 15 when the team travels to face the Wichita Thunder. The Home Opener is Friday, October 21, when Tulsa begins its ninth season of play at the BOK Center.*

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=GTR 2016 COMPOSITE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE=

DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME
Sept. 1	Holland Hall 10	Cascia Hall 48	Sept. 23	Edmond North	Union	Oct. 7	Liberty	Rejoice Christian	Oct. 27	Tahlequah	Memorial
Sept. 2	Broken Arrow 7	Union 42		Westmore	Bixby		Holland Hall	Chouteau-Mazie		Blinn College	NEO
	Bixby 34	Jenks 38		Hale	Claremore		Kiefer	Summit Christian	Oct. 28	Edmond Memorial	Broken Arrow
	Bartlesville 14	Owasso 59		Ponca City	B.T. Washington	Oct. 8	SMU	TU		Putnam City North	Union
	B.T. Washington 21	Midwest City 14		Shawnee	East Central		Alabama	Arkansas		Owasso	Moore
	Claremore 47	East Central 6		Bishop Kelley	Collinsville		Iowa State	OSU		Westmore	Jenks
	Edison 6	Bishop Kelley 42		Memorial	Pryor		Texas	OU		Bixby	B.T. Washington
	Central 27	Memorial 34		Edison	Glenpool		NEO	Cisco College		Coweta	East Central
	Tahlequah Sequoyah 33	McLain 12		Central	Tecumseh		Emporia State	NSU		Hale	Bishop Kelley
	Victory Christian 49	Bristow 48		Wagoner	Cascia Hall	Oct. 13	Collinsville	Memorial		Noble	Edison
	Lincoln Christian 6	Jones 42		Rogers	Broken Bow		East Central	Noble		Cascia Hall	Grove
	Seeworth Academy 0	Webster 33		McLain	Miami		Cascia Hall	Vinita		McLain	Oologah
	Okmulgee 28	Rogers 42		Metro Christian	Poteau		Webster	Dewey		Central	Harrah
	Summit Christian 6	Hulbert 43		Sperry	Webster		Chouteau-Mazie	Victory Christian		Rogers	Metro Christian
Sept. 3	OU 23	Houston 33		Lincoln Christian	Sequoyah-Tahlequah		Summit Christian	Hominy		Verdigris	Webster
	Louisiana Tech 20	Arkansas 21		Holland Hall	Ketchum		Rejoice Christian	Afton		Locust Grove	Lincoln Christian
	San Jose State 10	TU 45		Victory Christian	Ketchum	Oct. 14	Southmoore	Owasso		Salina	Victory Christian
	NEO 45	NMMI 52		OSU	Baylor		Union	Norman North		Colcord	Holland Hall
	NSU 19	Washburn 38	Sept. 24	TU	Fresno State		Broken Arrow	Edmond Santa Fe		Summitt Christian	Woodland
Sept. 9	Owasso 10	Broken Arrow 14		Navarro College	NEO		Bixby	Ponca City	Oct. 29	Fairland	Rejoice Christian
	Jenks 35	Union 28		Fort Hays State	NSU		Coweta	Edison		TU	Memphis
	Bixby 34	Bentonville (AR) 44	Sept. 30	Union	Owasso		Skiatook	Bishop Kelley		Kansas	OU
	Cascia Hall 27	Bartlesville 7		Broken Arrow	Jenks		Pryor	Hale		West Virginia	OSU
	Edison 7	Memorial 28		Bixby	Muskogee		McLain	Grove	Nov. 3	NSU	Missouri Southern
	Hale 10	Poteau 59		B.T. Washington	Sapulpa		Hilldale	Metro Christian		Bartlesville	B.T. Washington
	Bishop Kelley 7	Bishop McGuinness 14		Claremore	Memorial		Cleveland	Central		East Central	McAllester
	Central 42	McLain 28		Skiatook	Hale	Oct. 15	Rogers	Fort Gibson		OU	Iowa State
	Oklahoma Christian 7	Metro 54		East Central	Edison		Sperry	Lincoln Christian	Nov. 4	Owasso	Edmond North
	Lincoln Christian 43	Holland Hall 7		Pryor	Bishop Kelley		Kansas	Holland Hall		Edmond Santa Fe	Jenks
	NOAH 6	Webster 50		Tuttle	Central		Ole Miss	Arkansas		Union	Mustang
	Summit Christian 8	Kelleyville 19		McLain	Cascia Hall		TU	Houston		Sapulpa	Broken Arrow
Sept. 10	Sperry 38	Victory 0		Rogers	Sallisaw		Kansas State	OU		Sand Springs	Bixby
	B.T. Washington 7	IMG Academy (FL) 49		Stilwell	Metro Christian		NSU	NW Missouri St.		Edison	Durant
	TU 3	Ohio State 41		Jay	Lincoln Christian		Coffeyville	NEO		Bishop Kelley	Tahlequah
	OU 59	Louisiana Monroe 17		Webster	Mannford	Oct. 20	Union	Southmoore		Memorial	Hale
	Arkansas 41	TCU 38 (2OT)		Summit Christian	Liberty		Norman North	Owasso		Oologah	Cascia Hall
	Central Michigan 30	OSU 27		Ketchum	Victory Christian		Broken Arrow	Norman		Blanchard	Central
	Trinity Valley 29	NEO 30	Oct. 1	Rejoice Christian	Quapaw		Bartlesville	Bixby		Catoosa	McLain
Sept. 16	Lindenwood 31	NSU 35		Alcorn State	Arkansas		B.T. Washington	Sand Springs		Metro Christian	Sallisaw
	Har-ber Springdale 22	Jenks 44		OU	TCU		Shawnee	Edison		Stilwell	Rogers
	Putnam City 20	Bixby 56		Texas	OSU		Tahlequah	Hale		Webster	Claremore-Sequoyah
	Bishop Kelley 35	Sapulpa 7		NSU	Missouri Western St.		Catoosa	Cascia Hall		Keys	Lincoln Christian
	Claremore 28	Edison 7		NEO	Kilgore College		Ada	Central		Victory Christian	Holland Hall
	B.T. Washington 43	Shawnee 6	Oct. 6	Putnam City North	Owasso		Vinita	McLain		Foyil	Rejoice Christian
	NW Classen 52	Hale 47		Hilldale	Rogers		Poteau	Rogers		Porter	Summit Christian
	East Central 27	Skiatook 49	Oct. 7	Union	Edmond Memorial		Metro Christian	Broken Bow	Nov. 5	Florida	Arkansas
	Memorial 55	NOAH 20		Jenks	Broken Arrow		Victory Christian	Sequoyah-Tahlequah		East Carolina	TU
	Cascia Hall 32	Millwood 34		Westmore	Bixby		Lincoln Christian	Westville		OSU	Kansas State
	Star Spencer 6	Central 47		Sapulpa	Claremore		Hominy	Liberty		Central Missouri	NSU
	Holland Hall 7	Metro 37		Bishop Kelley	B.T. Washington		Mounds	Summit Christian	Nov. 12	LSU	Arkansas
	McLain 0	Rogers 26		Muskogee	Collinsville	Oct. 21	Jenks	Yukon		Baylor	OU
	Seminole 14	Lincoln Christian 50		Memorial	East Central		Webster	Capitol Hill		Texas Tech	OSU
	Rejoice Christian 48	Summit Christian 0		Hale	Memorial		East Central	Glenpool		TU	Navy
Sept. 17	North Carolina A&T 21	TU 58		Durant	McAllester		Holland Hall	Bishop Kelley		NSU	Central Oklahoma
	Pittsburg 38	OSU 45		Edison	Bethany		Rejoice Christian	Salina	Nov. 19	Arkansas	Mississippi State
	Texas State 3	Arkansas 42		Central	Miami		Arkansas	Hulbert		TU	UCF
	Ohio State 45	OU 24		Cascia Hall	McLain	Oct. 22	Tulane	Auburn		OU	West Virginia
	NSU 37	Pittsburg State 38 (OT)		Wagoner	Fort Gibson		OSU	TU		OSU	TCU
Sept. 23	NEO 14	Tyler JC 65		Metro Christian	Inola		OU	Kansas	Nov. 26	Cinninnati	TU
	Owasso	Mustang		Lincoln Christian	Webster		Arkansas Baptist	Texas Tech		Arkansas	Missouri
	Yukon	Broken Arrow		Berryhill	Colcord		Nebraska-Kearney	NEO	Dec. 3	OSU	OU
	Jenks	Norman		Victory Christian				NSU			

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THE ECONOMY

Marilyn Ihloff an Entrepreneurial Gem in Tulsa

K.J. WEBB
Contributing Writer

Entrepreneur, successful businesswoman, and devoted wife and mother, Marilyn Ihloff is a crowning jewel in Tulsa's business crown. Ihloff, founder and president of Ihloff Salon and Day Spa, opened her business in 1980. Using a home equity loan combined with talent, Ihloff established a business recognized in each year from 1998-2016 by Salon Today as one of the 200 fastest growing salons in the nation. Ihloff Salons and Day Spas are also regularly voted "Best of Tulsa" by readers of all of Tulsa's leading publications.

Prior to starting her own company in 1980, Ihloff worked for 10 years at the prestigious Miss Jackson's in Utica Square. When asked why she struck out on her own, she says, "I was very happy at Miss Jackson's and I remain close to my boss, Eric, from those days, but Sassoon had changed everything and I wanted to have a salon focused on education, serving the career woman, and be able to do men's grooming."

Ihloff established her Aveda partnership because of her mentor Edwin Neill's influence. "Edwin distributed Aveda to the Southeast quadrant of the U.S. He loved salon owners and wanted to be a partner in education and the growth of my business. He was my mentor and truly changed my life." Neill passed away in 2004 but Ihloff thinks of him often. "With him came Aveda and as I learned more and more about the company and its commitment to the planet and sustainability, I became a true advocate and doubt there is anything that would cause me to leave them. Aveda salons are measurably the most successful ones in the country. Each year well over half the Salon Today 200 Fasted Growing Salons in America are Aveda."

Since 1980, the operation has indeed grown steadily. Ihloff says, "We started with six hairstylists

and three nail technicians. Today we have a team approaching 150 and served 82,000 guest appointments in 2015." Ihloff Salon and Day Spa currently employs 145 team members and has three Tulsa locations, Utica Square, South Memorial, Ihloff at the Hyatt, and a fourth in the Brookhaven Center in Norman, Oklahoma.

When asked what her company's key strengths are, Ihloff says, "Our culture is built around five values: teamwork, excellence, wellness, learning and sustainability. We do our best to live these values and all company policies and decisions are made with them in mind." She adds, "Another strength is our amazing team, many of whom have been with us for over 20 years. Our managers genuinely care about the team and strive to help them grow. We also have benefits, which many other salons do not offer, such as healthcare and 401k retirement plans."

Ihloff explains the successful partnership's business model: "Aveda has a set of standards and, if the salon meets these standards, it is allowed to carry the full line. Ihloff locations are all Aveda Lifestyle locations which means we carry only Aveda and have a retail center which maintains Aveda schematics and displays on Aveda furniture. A Salon Development Partner lives in Tulsa and visits weekly to assist in any way and to assure Aveda standards are being met."

Celebrating 36 years of "bringing balance and beauty to life," Ihloff Salon and Day Spa is nationally renowned for its commitment to the environment, the Tulsa community and their clients' well-being. Ihloff is designated Aveda Lifestyle Salon & Spa – devoted to bringing clients back to balance with products and services based on Aveda's pure flower and plant essences.

There are no current plans for expansion since the Hyatt Regency location in downtown opened in June. Ihloff says that the focus is



GTR Newspapers photo

NEW AT HYATT REGENCY: The Ihloff Salon and Day Spa has expanded to downtown Tulsa's Hyatt Regency Hotel. Celebrating the opening during an event in June are, from left, Barbara Hasbini, Amanda Viles, Marilyn Ihloff and Kate Cottrill. Ihloff also has locations in Utica Square, South Tulsa and Norman.

on developing the full potential of the new location. "The hotel has been a wonderful partner to us, and we will together be able to really grow and develop the business and the area it serves," she says.

When asked about the key advice she would give in order to achieve a successful business career, the "must-dos," Ihloff says, "Believe in yourself, learn something every day, connect with your industry and your community, and look for a mentor!"

About Marilyn Ihloff

In 2007, Ihloff was awarded the Small Business Person of the Year by the Tulsa Regional Chamber and went on to win the award at the state level. In April 2008, Ihloff represented the state of Oklahoma at the national Small Business

Association competition in Washington D.C. She serves on the Tulsa Public Schools Bond Development Committee, the Board of Sustainable Tulsa, the Board of the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce and is the 2016 chair of Mosaic, the Chamber's Diversity and Inclusion group. On a national level, Ihloff has served on the board of the Professional Beauty Association, the American beauty industry's trade association and is a member of Intercoiffure America.

She graduated from Nowata High School and in 2014 was inducted to the Nowata High School Hall of Fame and Bartlesville Beauty College. She attended the University of Oklahoma and graduated with a B.S. in Finance from the University of Tulsa.

Ihloff holds a strong commitment to the community and the environment and was honored Sustainable Tulsa's Partner of the Year and the Tulsa Zoo's "Earth Day Hero" for her efforts in making Tulsa and the world a greener place. Each year, the salon celebrates Earth Month along with other Aveda salons around the globe. Ihloff raises money for local, regional, and global Earth partners. The Ihloff Fall Show has benefited Resonance, the Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa, and currently the Tulsa Girls Art School.

Ihloff is married to Greg Bledsoe. She has two sons, Ben (Sharla) and Will (Jillian), who with their wives, have produced seven grandchildren.

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Downtown Tulsa Company Lauded for Growth

It's four years in a row for Jackson Technical to achieve the INC 5000 list of the fastest-growing private companies in America. Twenty companies in Oklahoma are represented in the 2016 rankings. Jackson Technical ranks 3,982, showing a 73 percent growth in three years. Founder and President Tim Jackson is proud of the continued organic growth of his company and is re-investing in a new building to further

grow his company and its reach.

Sticking to its downtown roots, Jackson Technical plans to expand into its own headquarters, an 18,878 square foot new office building and training center, by the summer of 2017.

"Technology and IT Services are fast paced industries and Jackson Technical is on top of the newest and latest products and services. We strive to make sure clients' comput-

ing experience is a smooth and enjoyable process, so they can spend time doing what they do best... their business! We are thrilled to experience continued growth in such a competitive industry," says Tim Jackson.

About Jackson Technical:

Jackson Technical, founded in 1999, is a team of Tulsa computer experts that has the tools and the knowledge to provide small busi-

nesses with solutions for all their computer and communication support needs. At Jackson Technical, we pride ourselves in being the most experienced, professional and talented computer technicians and engineers available in Tulsa and the surrounding area. Jackson Technical has been listed in INC 5000's fastest-growing private companies in America in 2013, 2014, 2015. Visit www.jacksonstechnical.com.

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Striving for Energy Efficiency, Environmental Preservation

Hydraulic fracturing was first commercially used well over 60 years ago primarily for drilling of conventional wells. In the late 90s the combination of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling were introduced. According to the Horinko Group, a Washington, D.C. based environmental firm, "the process of hydraulic fracturing is used today in more than 90 percent of new oil and natural gas wells in the U.S. Industry estimates show that hydraulic fracturing has been applied to more than one million wells nationwide in 33 states

where oil and gas production occurs."

Energy Watch



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

With all the great opportunities that are ahead for oil and natural gas exploration by the use of technologies of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, there should be the continued goal of environmental preservation. There is an industry focus placed on providing technologies for maintaining water resources and reusing water that is generat-

ed. If there is not the opportunity for reuse then proper disposal must be implemented.

Collaboration is essential. It is important that there be the dis-

semination of best practices regarding the environment, that industry and economic growth be enabled, identify the research needs, and the sharing of legal, scientific, technical and other areas for long-term planning.

Natural gas is an energy answer that is available today. We should definitely be putting it to use now. For years I have voiced my belief that natural gas reserves are critical to a strong U.S. economy and extremely important for America's energy security. Natural gas is an abundant, clean fuel that has many domestic uses-from heating our homes to serving as an alternative to gasoline.

Over the last few years, shale gas has become a major topic of discussion in the media for several reasons. Until recent years, natural gas was primarily produced from "unconventional" reservoirs via vertical technology. "Unconventional" natural gas production includes hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling to extract supplies from tight sand formations and shale formations

where natural gas is trapped.

These finds have prompted public questions and concerns about the process of extracting natural gas. Hydraulic fracturing, in particular, is raising concerns for the safety of the environment. However, as mentioned earlier, the process of "fracking" has been used for over 60 years. The issue that is the focus of attention at present is water disposal wells, not fracking. The proper disposal of wastewater is of most importance and is being researched led by the oil and gas industry. The proper use of water is important for generations ahead.

Eric Claeys states in his recent article in National Affairs, "When energy companies discover new oil and gas reserves, they expand American consumers' freedom of action, by expanding the supplies of fuel, food, plastics, and other products available to everyone. If and when expanded supplies drive prices down, energy production increases consumers' liberty a second time, by letting them

reroute savings from basic needs (especially fuel and energy bills) to other, more satisfying parts of their lives. And new energy discoveries also empower the citizens who take the new jobs they produce."

And as he goes on to state, "...in a system of free enterprise, owners use their land to make their own lives better, and everyone benefits when energy companies increase the supply of energy available for all. The shale revolution needs more champions who can remind American citizens why. And so does the American system of free enterprise generally."

"Striving for Energy Efficiency and Environmental Preservation" has been the theme of the International Energy Policy Conference since I founded it in 1992. America Needs America's Energy and Environmental Preservation! Future generations are depending on us!

Mark A. Stansberry is Chairman of The GTD Group and Chairman and Founder of IEPC.

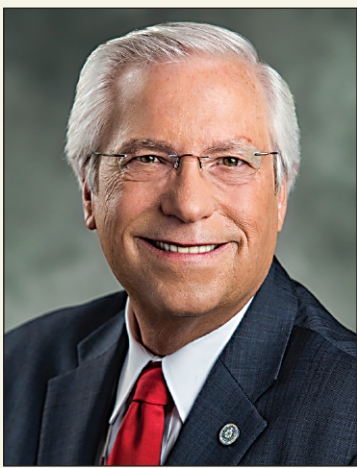
Cherokee Chief Recognized For Tourism Commitment

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker was recently recognized for his steadfast commitment to the tribal hospitality and tourism industry by the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association.

Baker was awarded the prestigious Enough Good People award recently at the 18th Annual American Indian Tourism Conference. The award honors individuals who have made a significant impact on AIANTA and contributed to the overall success of tourism in Indian Country.

"I am honored to receive the Enough Good People Award from AIANTA, an organization Cherokee Nation is proud to support. AIANTA plays such a critical role in growing and sustaining tribal tourism efforts in America and does it while honoring the traditions and values of so many indigenous cultures," Baker says. "At Cherokee Nation, we work diligently to retain our traditional lifeways through education and preservation, and we strive to share our heritage every single day with visitors from around the world."

Baker is a longtime supporter of AIANTA and has been instru-



CHEROKEE NATION
PRINCIPAL CHIEF
BILL JOHN BAKER

mental in leading efforts to support congressional legislation for the tribal tourism and hospitality industry. His emphasis on tourism stems from his family's roots in education and his passion for sharing the history and culture of the Cherokee people.

As Principal Chief of the nation's largest tribe, Baker has overseen the renovation and preservation of multiple cultural projects, including the Cherokee National Capitol, the Cherokee

National Prison Museum, the John Ross Museum and the Cherokee National Supreme Court Museum. He is an avid supporter of the Cherokee Heritage Center, which is home to historical art, archival records and an authentic re-creation of a Cherokee village from the early 1700s. Most recently, Baker supported efforts to purchase Sequoyah's Cabin from the Oklahoma Historical Society. The state of Oklahoma was no longer able to operate the national historic landmark and popular tourist attraction due to state budget cuts. The investment helps ensure that the legacy of Sequoyah and his development of the Cherokee syllabary are preserved for generations.

"AIANTA has been honoring tribal tourism champions from across the country with the Enough Good People Award since 2012," says Camille Ferguson, AIANTA executive director. "We are thrilled to present Chief Baker with this year's prestigious award, recognizing his strong partnership with AIANTA and his deep commitment to the preservation and sharing of American Indian culture through tourism."

Arvest Surpasses \$1 Billion Mortgage Mark for 14th Year

Arvest Bank announced recently its mortgage division has originated more than \$1 billion in mortgage loans for the 14th year in a row. That includes both purchase-money and refinance loans.

"We are so pleased to be able to offer home financing solutions for buyers and refinancers as well," said Steven Plaisance, president and chief executive officer of Arvest's mortgage division. "The low rates have really provided a great opportunity for so many to improve their financial conditions or increase buying power and affordability."

As of Aug. 19, Arvest had closed a total of 6,272 loans with total loan value of \$1,010,992,848. In 2015, Arvest didn't hit the \$1 billion mark until Aug. 21.

"Forecasts for this year called for rising rates, so the lower-than-expected rates have definitely helped accelerate our volumes versus last year," Plaisance said.

This is the third consecutive year in which purchase-money loans account for more of Arvest's total mortgage loan volume than refinances. Through

Aug. 19, purchase money loans accounted for 64 percent of the company's total loan volume. That's up from 62 percent in 2015.

"Purchase-money activity has been very healthy in many of our markets, and that is a great indicator as to how the local economies are performing," Plaisance said.

Through Aug. 19, 2016, Arvest made 3,956 purchase money loans with a volume of \$647,758,817. That's up from 3,830 loans and \$608,529,062 in volume as of Aug. 19, 2015.

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Arabian Show Brings Beauty, Economic Impact

Many local residents have already met the stately Arabian horses that come from around the North American continent each October for the U.S. National Arabian and Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show in Tulsa. The show, which returns Oct. 21-29 at the Expo Square fairgrounds, will again host approximately 2,000 horses and bring upwards of 10,000 visitors and \$30 million to the local economy.

This year, an exciting new concept designed to give back to the Tulsa community and share the mystery and beauty of the Arabian horse throughout the city streets will be unveiled.

The Horses Who Unite Humanity is a new program being introduced at the U.S. Arabian Nationals this year by the market development and promotion committee of the Arabian Horse Association. The program will celebrate the iconic breed through beautiful life-sized statues of the Arabian horse that will be available for viewing next year throughout the city. The statues will be sponsored by local businesses. The sponsor businesses will be in charge of selecting the local artists who will paint and decorate the horse forms that will be displayed throughout Greater Tulsa. The sponsor businesses will also be in charge of choosing the charities that will receive the proceeds from the sale of the statues.

The goals of the program mirror the Arabian community's desire both to share an understanding of how the ancient breed has united people throughout centuries in a common appreciation of the beau-



LIFE-SIZED STATUES: New this year is the Arabian Horse Association's Horses Who Unite Humanity program, which celebrates the iconic Arabian breed through life-sized statues of the Arabian horse that will be available for viewing next year throughout Tulsa.

ty and intelligence that it is famous for and to enable the ancient breed to continue in its ability to unite people throughout the centuries.

The Arabian breed is the oldest of all light horse breeds, with evidence of its existence dating back more than 2,000 years. Nearly all light horse breeds today trace their ancestry back to Arabian horses, who have been long sought after for their intelligence, endurance and ability to interact with mankind.

Used as currency among the desert tribes from whence they originated, the Arabian horses of the early Bedouins were so prized that the animals were kept in the tents with the family members to protect them from marauding

tribes. Children literally grew up under their horses feet, and this generations-long proximity to human beings has developed a breed of horse with an unparalleled ability to connect with humans and a clear talent for reading and mirroring their handler's thoughts and feelings.

Included in the shows' week of activities is the Arabian community's annual charitable fundraiser on Oct. 26, to be held in the Ford Truck Arena. This year, the Arabian Horse Association will be hosting local business owners and leaders to attend the evening's festivities, in part to view the first statue that will be being displayed and auctioned off that evening.



NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: Owner/breeder Heather Tracy of Massachusetts smiles as she and CWF Jitterbug Jane win a Reserve National Championship in the Half Arabian English Pleasure adult Amateur Owner class.

Drive-thru Opening Completes Project For First National National Bank of B.A.

The final phase of a total remodeling of the First National Bank & Trust Co. of Broken Arrow banking center that has anchored the intersection of Main and Commercial streets since before statehood is nearing completion.

Board Chairman and CEO Gregory Graham said construction crews are scheduled to put finishing touches on a new drive-thru facility in late September. That operation, situated on the southeast corner of the bank building, will include two full-service drive-thru lanes plus a

third that provides access to an Automated Teller Machine.

Graham said he expects employees to be relocated to the new drive-thru and serving customers in early October.

The old teller sites as well as an annex that housed the bank's real estate lending operation are being closed. The half-block parcel upon which they are situated is now up for sale.

Graham said David Parrish of Parrish Co. Realtors has been retained to broker sale of the site which is bounded by Commercial on the south, Broadway on the

north, First St. on the east and the alleyway immediately behind the bank on the west.

Chad Osgood, founder and owner of Highgate General Contractor, said given the nature of the remodeling of the downtown site, he knew he would have his hands full, but he had no idea just how complex the job would be.

"In my 10-year career this is the most difficult project I have ever undertaken," he said. "The building was comprised of parts and pieces of at least four different structures morphed together by

more than a century of renovations. By breaking down the project into three bays from south to north, the bank was able to remain open while we dealt with construction issues."

From the top down, Osgood said considerable re-engineering and a complete modernizing were done.

Julie Lackey, senior associate and director of interior design for Matrix Architects Engineers Planners Inc., said perhaps the most obvious change, even to casual observers, involved replacement of white stucco facing with a red brick and wood accent exterior. The arrowhead-theme clock that has been part of the bank for generations was given a facelift and returned to its place of honor on the front wall. Arrowhead door pulls, also a long-standing trademark, were updated and reinstalled.

Dominating the main entrance is a 32-foot tall aluminum curtain-wall entry tower. It is flanked on each side by storefront windows, providing an abundance of natural light along with an unrestricted view of downtown. The addition of north wall windows and enlargement of existing windows helped expand upon that same objective.

Lackey said the biggest challenge she and Senior Designer Shannon Mitchener faced was creating space to maximize efficiency for customers and employees while incorporating the unique heritage of the bank and its relationship with Broken Arrow. That theme, she said, is carried throughout 20 private offices, 19 open style offices, an executive board room and additional conference spaces, at least

one of which is being made available for use by community organizations.

A dedicated gallery showcases First National's roots through the display of artifacts and photographs depicting the history of the city and its first bank. It is lighted during evening hours for the enjoyment of people visiting the Rose District.

Since it was founded in 1902, First National of Broken Arrow has had four chairmen, Graham said. For the past 75 years, three of them have been members of his family.

"As I view all the work that has taken place, I feel the presence of my grandfather (Al Graham) and my father (Scott Graham) here. I know that they, along with all the employees of this bank and the outstanding leaders who have served on our Board of Directors, would be very proud to see how far their dreams and hard work have carried us," he said.

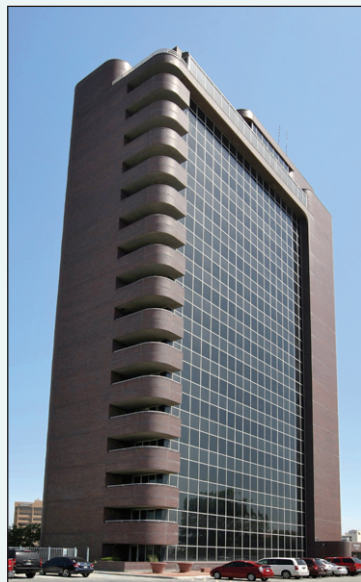
Rupe Helmer Improvements Help Remington Tower

When John Rupe, Jr. and Mark Helmer partnered with an affiliate company in the purchase of the Remington Tower in 2013, they set in motion changes that would soon transform the landmark building into what has now become a thriving commercial property.

Remington Tower, built in 1983, was at 51 percent occupancy when the group got involved with the property. Rupe Helmer Group CEO John Rupe, Jr. and President Mark Helmer immediately saw the value in their newly acquired investment, though at the time, vacancies were up in the building due to deferred maintenance and the ongoing construction of the I-44 corridor. Their vision was brought to life

through improvement of the building, bringing it to a new standard of excellence, including renovation to the lobby, exterior landscaping and upgrading of the mechanical systems.

In 2016, the Rupe Building Company became Rupe Helmer Group. The name change reflects a partnership between John Rupe, Jr., the CEO and founder of Rupe Building Co., and company president and longtime friend Mark Helmer. The new name is also part of a rebranding initiative to better align the company's name with its broad offerings, including commercial construction, development, real estate brokerage and property management.



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IBA AWARDS DONATIONS: Significant grants to two area nonprofits were presented recently at the Rotary Club of Tulsa. Both Little Light House and Special Olympics were each awarded \$12,000 while two outstanding high school citizen athletes were also awarded college scholarships. The funds from the Rotary Club of Tulsa Foundation came from the club's signature event, the Henry P. Iba Citizen Athlete Awards. From left are Rotary Club of Tulsa President John L. Rains, Special Olympics of Oklahoma Executive Director Adrian DeWendt, Little Light House Executive Director Jean Winfrey, Rotary Club Foundation Grant Chair John Dellavedova, and Iba Co-Chair Michael Birkes. Dana Birkes was also a co-chair.



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SMALL BUSINESS CONNECTION: Scott Burnett of Burnett Windows and Siding hosted the recent Tulsa Regional Chamber Small Business Connection social event. From left are Scott Burnett; Lori Dreiling, Fleet Feet; Kent Williams, HRB Consultants; Rick Bahlinger, Runners, Inc.; Kathy Duck, Tulsa Regional Chamber; and Mike Lingo, Huntington Learning Center.

BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

ImpactTulsa announces the hiring of educator and nonprofit administrator **Kathy Seibold, Ed.D.** as executive director.



SEIBOLD

ImpactTulsa aligns community partners and 15 school districts across the Tulsa area to work collectively on improving outcomes to ensure a high-quality education for all students. Currently, ImpactTulsa initiatives range from early childhood to college enrollment with initiatives to expand pre-K enrollment, encourage FAFSA completion, and identify and spread best practices in schools.

Seibold brings more than 20 years of experience in strategic planning, fundraising, legislative briefings and community partner engagement.

She most recently worked with Tulsa Public Schools as executive director for student and family support to coordinate counseling and social services, discipline supports, family engagement and community involvement.

Seibold also previously served as vice president of the Tulsa Area United Way, assistant vice president for campus affairs at OU-Tulsa and in various K-12 and post-secondary teaching positions. She holds a doctorate in higher education from Oklahoma State University.

The hiring of Seibold comes on the heels of previous Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor transitioning to the role of chair of the leadership council. During the search process, Dr. Cathy Burden, retired Union Public Schools superintendent, served as interim CEO. She will continue to support ImpactTulsa as an educational advisor.

Financial Advisors Laurisa Anderson and Steve Remchuk recently joined the **Wells Fargo Advisors** branch in Tulsa to create the **Anderson-Remchuk Wealth Management** Group of Wells Fargo Advisors.



ANDERSON

Anderson and Remchuk worked as a team for the past 20 years but joined Wells Fargo Advisors in August.



REMCHUK

The new **Anderson-Remchuk Wealth Management** Group of Wells Fargo Advisors offers a complete spectrum of personalized financial services, including investments, estate investment planning, and access to trust and lending services through affiliates. The group provides wealth management solutions to individuals, families and businesses.

With more than 60 years of combined experience, Anderson and Remchuk offer a team approach that allows them to provide their clients with investment expertise and one-on-one, localized service, while also offering the vast resources of Wells Fargo Advisors.

The Tulsa office is located at 6060 S. American Plaza, Suite 400 in Tulsa. To speak with The Anderson-Remchuk Wealth Management Group, call 918-746-1000.

The Institute for Organization Management, the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, announces that



CROCKETT

Krystal Crockett, IOM, president/ CEO of the Bixby Metro Chamber of Commerce, has graduated from the program and has received the recognition of IOM. Awarded to all graduates of the Institute program, the IOM Graduate Recognition signifies the individual's completion of 96 hours of course instruction in nonprofit management.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation (USCCF) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce dedicated to strengthening America's long-term competitiveness.

AVB Bank President and CEO Ted Cundiff and Chairman of the Board Kelley Rash have announced that **Sally Kimbrough Wilton** has joined the **AVB Board of Directors**. Wilton takes a seat on the board



WILTON

along with several of her family members, including her father, former President and CEO Neely Kimbrough, her sister, Kelley Rash, her cousin, Georgeanna Brown-Thomas, and her and husband, Thomas Wilton.

Kelley Rash says, "Sally Wilton has been a shareholder for many years, and I am happy to now have her participation on our Board." She adds, "In the absence of our mother, Barbara Kimbrough, Sally was the perfect fit. We welcome her input!"

"I am looking forward to my time on the board of directors, and I consider it a huge honor to occupy the same seat as my mother, Barbara, who served on the board for many years," Wilton comments. Wilton resides in Oklahoma City. She and Tom have two sons, Henry, 22, and Sam, 17.

AVB Bank also announces that **Randy Waldrup** has been named executive vice president and chief financial officer. Waldrup is primarily responsible for the administrative, financial, and risk management operations of the bank. Waldrup also spearheads developing the financial, and operational strategies, as well as the metrics used to continue promoting the growth of the bank.



WALDRUP

AVB President and CEO Ted Cundiff says, "Randy is an incredible asset to the bank, and we are pleased to have him onboard. He has years of experience as a banker and CFO, and he fully understands how integral his work is to the development of this bank."

Waldrup is a member of the Kiwanis, and he is actively involved in the Oklahoma Society of CPAs and the American Institute of CPAs.

Waldrup is a graduate from Oklahoma Christian College, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, and he earned his Master of Business Administration from Central State University.

Stinnett & Associates, a professional advisory firm, announces promotions to accommodate continued growth in the greater Tulsa area.



KINKAID

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

Zack Jones has been promoted to director of information technology. Jones has been an integral component of Stinnett for the past four and a half years. During that time, his role has expanded significantly to include the overall planning, organizing, and execution of Information Technology functions for all firm locations as well as supervising the IT staff.



JONES



CLARK



COKER



PATRICK

Carrie Clark has joined the firm as the marketing and communications manager. She has over 20 years marketing and communications experience including public relations, internal and external messaging, in-house video production, and brand positioning for international locations.

Matt Coker has joined the firm as a systems administrator. He has over 18 years of IT experience performing various roles which included supporting large network environments, data flow management, and technology improvements.

Camene Patrick has joined the firm as an associate. She has seven years of experience performing various roles in auditing, accounting and human resources.

Susan Broadbudd has joined the firm as an associate. She has ten years of experience in oil and gas accounting with focus on balance accounts, maintaining divisions of interest, and performing joint interest billing.

Ashley Wilbert has joined the firm as an associate. She comes with three years of experience supporting a variety of operational audits, cost-recovery reviews as well as internal control and Sarbanes-Oxley compliance activities in the natural gas industry.



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FAITH

Life Church Has Amazing Growth in 1st 20 Years

In January 1996, a 28-year-old pastor and a few dozen people with big dreams and even bigger faith launched Life.Church in a two-car garage. Fast forward 20 years and Life.Church now worships each weekend in 25 physical locations, including six in the Tulsa area. While the church has changed radically throughout the years, the mission of Life.Church has remained the same: to lead people to become fully devoted followers of Christ.

"My wife Amy and I felt called to start a church where people can come just as they are but leave forever changed. Through all the changes and growth, we have remained focused on our calling, and God has been so faithful," says Senior Pastor Craig Groeschel.

Staying true to its roots, Life.Church will go even further to meet people where they are with an upcoming message titled Trending Truth. On Oct. 8-10, Groeschel will explore how viral videos deliver a concentrated dose of heartbreak, inspiration, or gut-busting laughter, and often a nugget of wisdom, too. Using those viral videos as illustrations, Groeschel will teach biblical truths in a relevant and relatable way.

"Life.Church really is for everyone," says Tome Dawson, pastor of Life.Church South Tulsa. "It doesn't matter what you look like, who your friends are, if you've never been to a church, or you've been in church your whole life, when you walk through the doors, you feel welcome."

The services begin with high-energy worship and focus on biblical teaching from Groeschel.

Children (birth-6th grade) learn through age-appropriate curriculum created by Life.Church while adult volunteers lead discussions and care for each child. The atmosphere at Life.Church is casual and includes snacks, a friendly environment, and a lobby where people can get to know each other.

"Though many people attend a service each week, there are multiple services at each location, which creates opportunities for connecting with others and building community," says Dawson. "We also see life change happen in what we call LifeGroups, which are small groups that meet in homes each week. Overall, we consider ourselves a small church with a big vision."

Life.Church also extends beyond the walls of the local church to include Life.Church Online where more than 120,000 people attend services online each week. The services feature worship music and a biblical teaching message along with opportunities for the global community to connect through live chat interaction and one-on-one prayer through a private chat.

"We like to say we will do anything short of sin to reach people who don't know Christ, and that perspective has shaped our approach to ministry," says Groeschel.

Throughout Life.Church's history, the innovative use of technology has continued to play a role in how the church reaches the world. One of those innovations has become the one of the most popular apps in the world.

The Bible App was offered as one of the first 200 apps available when Apple launched the App Store in



Courtesy Life Church

JOY IN THE CAUSE: Life.Church Jenks named a new Local Mission Partner, Joy in the Cause, and celebrated the new partnership by giving the nonprofit a \$5,000 grant to continue their work to provide care, compassion, and joy to those with life-altering illness and special needs. Pictured from left are Joy in the Cause Executive Director Lisa Bain and Life.Church Jenks LifeGroups LifeMissions Pastor Richie Leber.

2008, and it has now been installed for free on nearly 240 million devices and in every country of the world. After seeing success with the Bible App, YouVersion partnered with OneHope to develop the Bible App for Kids, which was designed to help kids engage in the Bible through illustrated, interactive adventures.

With a passion for serving the "capital C" Church and partnering with other ministries to reach people for Christ, all of the resources and applications created by Life.Church are shared with churches worldwide at no cost through the Life.Church Open Network. Since 2006, more than 8.8 million free resources –

including sermons, series graphics, and children's curriculum – have been downloaded by more than 350,000 pastors and church leaders around the world.

"God has done more through our church than we could ever ask, think or imagine, and we are humbled to be a part of it. The best part is that God is just getting started, and we can't wait to see what He has in store," says Groeschel.

Life.Church has locations in Midtown Tulsa, South Tulsa, Jenks, Broken Arrow, South Broken Arrow and Owasso. To learn more about Life.Church or to find service times and locations, please visit www.life.church.

Based in Edmond, Okla., Life.Church is a multi-site church with 25 physical locations in seven states (Okla., Texas, Kan., Tenn., Fla., N.Y., and N.M.). Each location is equipped with a full staff including a Campus Pastor, Children's Pastor, and Worship Team. Messages are led by Senior Pastor Craig Groeschel and are broadcast to more than 228 worship experiences each weekend at physical locations, and throughout the week at Life.Church Online (live.life.church). Life.Church's mission is to lead people to become fully devoted followers of Christ. To learn more about Life.Church or to find service times and locations, please visit www.life.church.

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South Tulsa Baptist Hosts Largest Car Show in Area

The 12th-annual South Tulsa Baptist Church Car Show was held Sept. 20 at the church, located at 10310 S. Sheridan Rd. The free event displayed over 600 show cars with 3,000 in attendance. Visitors brought canned or non-perishable food items to the Car Show. Congressman Jim Bridenstine officially opened the show, followed by a flag salute and the National Anthem. Miss Oklahoma, Georgia Frazier, signed autographs in the church Commons area. She is a graduate of Oral Roberts University with a bachelor's of arts degree with a major in Organizational Communication and a minor in Humanities. She hopes to implement Warriors for Women in all schools and equip each student with the tools to live a healthy lifestyle. A martial arts



GTR Newspapers photo

UNDER THE HOOD: Visitors to the South Tulsa Baptist Car Show were able to view over 600 vehicles with makes from all eras.

demonstration was lead by Brian Bryan. Children enjoyed the kid's area. An OBI Blood Drive was

held at the event. Food included grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, chips and desserts.

NEW HOME: Cub Scout Pack 1966 participate in the Pinewood Derby at Epworth United Methodist Church, 4811 S. 25th W. Ave. For more than 25 years, Epworth United Methodist Church, 4811 S. 25th W. Ave., has served as sponsor for the Boy Scouts Troop 66, providing it and, more recently, Cub Scout Pack 1966 a regular meeting place.

Recently, however, the church announced that it will soon close its doors, causing the two groups to begin a search for a new meeting location and sponsor.

They found their answer in mid-September when they met Carbondale Church of Christ Minister Matthew Crain, who is a former Eagle Scout. Carbondale Church of Christ, 3114 W. 51st St., will now serve as the Charter Organization for both groups.



Courtesy photo

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ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Jamie Merisotis is a globally recognized leader in philanthropy, higher education and public policy. Since 2008, he has served as president and CEO of Lumina Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in the U.S. He previously served as co-founder and president of the nonpartisan Institute for Higher Education Policy.

A highly regarded analyst and innovator, Merisotis is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and the leadership council of the Aspen Institute's Franklin Project on national service. He serves as vice chairman and investment committee chair for the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, the world's largest museum for children, and is a member of the board of directors for the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, the leading voice for regional economic development in the Indianapolis metropolitan area.

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Kennedy Building Offers Interesting Observations

At first glance, the Kennedy Building at Fourth Street and Boston Avenue in downtown Tulsa appears to be an ordinary early 20th Century office building. But looks, as has been said, can be deceiving.

The site of the Kennedy Building was the location of the first residence built by one of Tulsa's early day physicians, S. G. Kennedy. He lived there for 10 years and then moved to North Osage Drive on the Osage reservation to take advantage of his wife's Indian allotment. After retiring in 1907, he made a fortune in the oil business. By 1915 a 10-story office structure called the Gallias Building (after its St. Louis developer) had been built on the south half of the site. In 1917 Kennedy purchased the building and two years later doubled its size by adding a ten story unit to the north with a main entrance on Boston Avenue. The original 4th Street entrance where Gallias Building in Intaglio letters remains on the stone lintels (above a pair of arches) has been converted to large fixed glass windows.

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

The exterior of the Kennedy Building is red brick with terra cotta and stone trim. Above a low granite base, the first two floors are masonry with deep horizontal joints. An interesting geometric wave pattern frieze highlights this part of the building. Unfortunately, all the stone and terra cotta have been painted in an off-white coating with a yellow cast, probably in a low-cost effort to cover stain and material deterioration. The top floor appearing as a cap to the building is also terra cotta and has received the same coating. It appears to sit on a projecting frieze with half round wagon wheel details. Columns at the building corners and at third points on the Boston elevation are painted. Each of these has a heraldic shield worked into the masonry at the second floor level. The main entrance canopy although architecturally compatible is a replacement, but otherwise the exterior remains vertically untouched. The north and south



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

INVITING FACILITY: The Kennedy Building at Fourth Street and Boston Avenue in Tulsa offers an amazing interior.

portions of the building intersect seamlessly at the Boston elevation.

It is on the inside that the unusual character of the Kennedy Building begins. Adjacent to the entrance vestibule is a small room that was originally the lobby for three elevators. The room has an Italian marble floor and a high Vermont marble wainscot with a strong distinctive vein pattern. Above the wainscot, a painted mural wraps all four walls. The ceiling highlights the room with an elaborate plaster coffered treatment.



WOW FACTOR: The ten-story atrium in the Kennedy Building is a "must see" for architecture enthusiasts.

Once through this lobby, the interior opens up into a 10-story atrium with a sloped glass ceiling. The center of the building was removed in an early 1980s remodeling to create this dramatic space. The three elevators remained in place, but their doors were relocated to the west wall of the atrium. Perimeter walls of the atrium are open walkways with low wall railings. The east wall is faced with two floors of mirrors and two floors of setbacks above them, terminating in six balcony floors

matching those and the north and south.

Centered at bottom of the atrium is a modern open curving stair which leads to the lower level Tulsa Foundation for Architecture's Drawing Library and tunnels to the Midcontinent Building, the 320 South Boston Building and the adjacent parking garage.

After you enter and see the atrium, which is so unexpected, you understand the term "wow factor." Stop by and see it.

Preserving Natural Beauty, Finding Common Ground

As election day grows near, political punditry is in full swing.

With all the talk of divisiveness and polarization; with every issue seeming to drive a wedge into an ever increasing gap between opposing factions of the electorate, it's fair to ask the question, "Do we agree on anything anymore?"

As a matter of fact, yes, we do.

I recently joined dozens of volunteers from different

walks of life for the Mulberry River Fall Cleanup Festival near

my home town of Ozark, Arkansas, and learned that we all

share a common belief: no one likes litter. In fact, according to Oklahoma Department of Transportation, our state spends \$4 million on litter each year.

Mulberry Cleanup

The cleanup festival featured door prizes, dinner, live music and even an appearance by Smokey the Bear. It was encouraging to see Boy Scouts, hippies, kayakers, 4x4 rock climbers, motorcyclists, hiking enthusiasts and more

come together for a common cause.

I'm happy to report that our trash totals were down this year, meaning, there was less trash to pick up. Two years ago, we hauled away more than a truckload of trash from one strip of dirt road. That same strip this year, we covered more ground and hauled away less than one bin in the back of the truck.

"We found trash that had to have been there for decades," says volunteer and GTR Art Director Bryan Cantrell. "I found a 10-ounce glass coke bottle and beer cans with the pull-off top. Those haven't been sold in 30 years."

I can just imagine two people enjoying the scene in front of us those many years ago and couldn't help but wonder if it was, in fact, my relatives drinking that 10-ounce coke. But I hope not, because it means that they littered.

Turkey Trash

If you'd like to do your part in helping keep outside spaces clean closer to home, join the Turkey Mountain Cleanup Saturday, Oct. 1 from 9 a.m. until noon. This event is hosted by Tulsa Urban Wilderness Coalition, which you can also join.

Sustainable Trash

For a more intensive immersion, applications are now online for Sustainable Tulsa's Scorecard coach training. The sessions begin Oct. 8 and run through May. Coaches will partner with area businesses interested in improving their triple bottom line of business: people, profit and planet. Learn more online at SustainableTulsa.org.

Not Really Trash

We usually think of spring as the season for cleaning, but fall is a great time to prep your home for the season of stuff ahead of us. Packing away summer and transitioning into cooler weather allows you time now to think about re-gifting, up-cycling and eco wrapping.



BETH TURNER for GTR Newspapers

SCENIC SCENES ONLY: Two years ago, this paddling put-in was littered with trash piles. This year, volunteers barely filled one bin with left-behind waste.



BETH TURNER for GTR Newspapers

DOG DAYS: Even Lilly is happy that there is less litter to pick up during the annual fall cleanup hosted by Byrd's Adventure Center along Arkansas' Mulberry River

There are always those few buys over the summer that turn out to be perfect for someone I love instead of languishing in my closet, or the half dozen glass jars I find in the fridge that turn into the perfect pickled garden gifts. I also find great stuff for wrapping gifts later on. A favored tip picked up from recycling award winner Michael Patton is to keep great cards in the family rotation. "Our family would mark through the last person's name

and put their own "To" and "From" below it. It was always fun to go back and remember who got what when. Oh, and we put the date. You can't believe how important those become after just a few years."

What's Your Trash

Send in your favorite eco tip for a fan-favorite round upcoming soon. Send your email to bethturner@me.com or tweet @TrashTalkTulsa.



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Biscuit Acres to Host 'Pancakes for Pooches'

The Biscuit Acres Volunteer Association, Inc. is hosting the 7th Annual "Pancakes for Pooches" Saturday, Oct. 15 at Tulsa Fire Station No. 32, located next to Hunter Park on 91st Street between Sheridan Road and Yale Avenue in Tulsa. The event will be held from 8 – 11 a.m. and will feature pancakes and fun.

The event benefits south Tulsa's only dog park, Biscuit Acres at Hunter Park. The park was constructed and has been maintained the past seven years by volunteers using donated funds, according to Association President Becky Clark and Treasurer John Benjamin.

"Pancakes for Pooches" is a free-

to-the-public breakfast hosted by Tulsa's firemen at Fire Station No. 32 and the Biscuit Acres Volunteer Association (BAVA) members. Voluntary cash donations will be accepted at the event. Gift certificate donations will be used in the event raffle which will assist in generating net proceeds.

With private donations the past two years, BAVA was able to repair fence damage, maintain park benches and tables, repair storm damage to shade sails over the water stations, plant Rye grass for the winter months, plant and fertilize new Bermuda grass, service and maintain the two pet fountains, expand the large dog section drain system to prevent

flooding, and finalize a plan to construct a new 35' x 35' shade sail (\$15,000) in the large dog section. The patio and sail will be placed in the area where the large tree was destroyed by a recent storm. BAVA, Inc., is a 501 C-3 nonprofit organization, so donations are tax-deductible.

Dog park friends will be at the Pancake breakfast. Visitors can tour the fire station and meet the firemen. Raffles and prize drawing will be held.

The K9 Manners & More Dog Drill Team will perform. Tom the Fire Marshall will appear, as will Sparky the Fire Dog, Gentle Jesters Clown Alley, and the event is free and open to the public.



GRAYSON AND FRIENDS: Biscuit Acres Treasurer John Benjamin holds Grayson's leash during last year's Pancakes for Pooches while Gentle Jesters look on. Grayson is one of the mascot's at GTR Newspapers.

TAUW Leadership Council Hosts Reception

Philanthropy: For the Love of Tulsa will be the theme for the 2016 Fall Reception sponsored by the Women's Leadership Council (WLC) of the Tulsa Area United Way (TAUW). The event will be held Thursday, Oct. 6, from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Lorton Performance Center on the University of Tulsa Campus, 550

S. Gary Pl. Each year approximately 350 WLC members and guests attend who are looking at ways they can make Tulsa a better place to live for the entire community.

The program will feature a panel of leaders from the Tulsa area who have dedicated their time and talents to philanthropic

missions. Speaking will be Susan Bynum, Terri Hozhabri, Hannibal B. Johnson, Esq. and Caron Lawhorn. Former Tulsa Mayor Susan Savage will serve as moderator. Susan Bynum, wife of Mayor-elect G.T. Bynum, will address why and how she and her husband made the decision to run for office while raising their family in Tulsa, including the vision and impact they hope to have on the city. Terri Hozhabri is the co-founder and Executive Director of Project Elf and will share how everyday women can start a philanthropic organization from their own garage. Hannibal Johnson, local author, attorney and consultant, will discuss ways people of color are working to leverage their time, talent, and treasure in the philanthropic community, including New Voices, a collaborative effort with Leadership Tulsa and TAUW to increase minority representation on Tulsa-area nonprofit boards. Caron Lawhorn is a founding member of the Women's Leadership Council, current member of the TAUW Campaign Cabinet, and senior vice president with ONE Gas. She will talk about why she chooses to support the TAUW.

A reception of hors d'oeuvres and wine will be hosted prior to the panel presentation so that attendees can network ahead of the main event. Cost to attend is \$25. Attendees can register at www.tauw.org/wlcfallreception.

Sponsors include ONEOK, Inc.; LUXA Enterprises; QuikTrip; ONE Gas, Inc.; BKD, LLP; Macy's Distribution Center; Hillcrest HealthCare System; WPX Energy; T.D. Williamson, Inc.; Cancer Treatment Centers of America; and Bank of Oklahoma.

Contact Kate Starr with questions at 918-295-6691 or by email at wlc@tauw.org.



ART SHUFFLE SALE: Debbie Gordan, Resonance development director; Susan Austin, Art Shuffle chair; and Deidra Kirtley, Resonance executive director celebrate a successful Art Shuffle sale and studio tour. The Stacked Deck Gala will be held Thursday, Sept. 29. For ticket information, visit resonancetulsa.org or call 918-587-3888.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25 September GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS Theatre Tulsa Next Stage 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. GRUPO CORPO Choregus Productions 3 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. XPO GAME FESTIVAL Cox Business Center 6 p.m. Visit westerndaysevent.com for more information.	26 I CAN'T DRAW CARTOONS WITH KIM DONER Thomas K. McKeon Center for Creativity 12 – 12:45 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more information. DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE: MEMO TO SELF - PROTECTING SOBRIETY WITH THE SCIENCE OF SAFETY Circle Cinema 7 – 9 p.m. Visit circelcinema.com for more information.	27 ONCE Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. GHOST Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information. Ask us about ID Fraud Protection Strong roots. Endless possibilities.™	28 ONCE Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. DUSK IN THE DECO DISTRICT Centennial Park - Downtown Tulsa 4:30 – 8 p.m. Visit facebook.com/tulsaartdecodistrict for more information.	29 SAINT MOTEL Cain's Ballroom 7:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. MOVIE IN THE PARK: CHILDREN OF MEN Guthrie Green 8:30 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information. TULSA STATE FAIR Expo Square Sept. 29 – Oct. 9 Visit tulsastatefair.com for more information.	30 GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS Theatre Tulsa Next Stage 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. MUFARO'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS PAC Trust 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. 2016 HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL Castle of Muskogee Sept. 30 – Oct. 29 Visit okcastle.com for more information.	1 October HEAD FOR THE CURE 5K Mabey Center 8 – 11 a.m. Visit theadfortheure.org/tulsa for more information. XPLORER JUSTICE ADVENTURE RACE The Center of the Universe, Tulsa 10 a.m. Visit thedemandproject.org for more information. GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS Theatre Tulsa Next Stage 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.
2 ANDRA DAY & CORINNE BAILEY RAE Brady Theater 6:30 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information. ANNE OF GREEN GABLES Tulsa Spotlight Theater 2 p.m. Visit spotlighttheatre.org for more information. GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY CELEBRATION GAST CENTER 3 – 5 p.m. Visit gastulsa.org for more info.	3 I CAN'T BE FUNNY WITH TOBY MORTON Thomas K. McKeon Center for Creativity 12 – 12:45 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more information. CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT The Oaks Country Club 12 – 5 p.m. Visit dreamcentergolf.com for more information.	4 OPEN BOOK DISCUSSION Broken Arrow Library 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. THE NAKED FAMOUS Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. Free small business checking Strong roots. Endless possibilities.™	5 BROWN BAG IT: ENSEMBLE SALONNIERE PAC Trust 12:10 p.m. FREE event. DANIEL TIGER'S NEIGHBORHOOD – LIVE 35 Concerts 6:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. M83 Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.	6 C.S. LEWIS ONSTAGE: THE MOST RELUCTANT CONVERT Fellowship for Performing Arts 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. BEN RECTOR Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.	7 GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. SMU 7 p.m. Football 918-631-4688 for tickets. C.S. LEWIS ONSTAGE: THE MOST RELUCTANT CONVERT Fellowship for Performing Arts 8 p.m. • Oct 7-8 myticketoffice.com for tickets. TOM JONES Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for info.	8 ART ON MAIN Downtown Jenks 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit jenkschamber.com for more information. OCTONAUTS LIVE! Brady Theater 4 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information. ALL THE WAY Theatre Pops 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.
9 OKLAHOMA REPTILE EXPO Cox Business Center 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Visit coldbloodedexpos.com for more information. ALL THE WAY Theatre Pops 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TRIO SOLISTI Chamber Music Tulsa 3 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	10 I CAN'T LOOSEN UP WITH PHILBROOK MUSEUM OF ART Thomas K. McKeon Center for Creativity 12 – 12:45 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more information. We offer Health Savings Accounts Strong roots. Endless possibilities.™	11 LAUGHTER YOGA LaFortune Recreation Center 1 – 2 p.m. Visit lifeseniorservices.org for more information. MS EXCEL 2 Hardesty Regional Library 6 – 8 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. DIY FIESTA! Martin Regional Library 4 – 4:45 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	12 WARRIOR SISTERS FREE SELF DEFENSE CLASS FOR WOMEN Church of the Restoration 1 – 2 p.m. Visit warrior-sisters.org for more information. BLUEGRAZZ WEDNESDAY'S WITH GRAZZHOPPER TRIO Cellar Dweller 9 p.m. Visit grazzhopper.net for more information.	13 OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER vs. MEMPHIS BOK BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. ALL THE WAY Theatre Pops 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. PRIOR RENDERING American Theatre Co. and CityRep 8 p.m. • Oct. 13-15 myticketoffice.com for tickets.	14 ALL THE WAY Theatre Pops 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TOBY KEITH BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. NIMROD WRITE NIGHT AND AWARDS CEREMONY Lorton Performance Center, TU 7 p.m. Visit utulsa.edu/nimrod for more information.	15 ALL THE WAY Theatre Pops 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. RACHMANINOFF'S 2ND SYMPHONY Tulsa Symphony 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. EAT STREET TULSA Blue Dome District 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. Visit eatstreettulsa.com for more information.
16 ALL THE WAY Theatre Pops 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. PRIOR RENDERING American Theatre Co. and CityRep 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. KORN AND BREAKING BENJAMIN BOK Center 6 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.	17 I CAN'T MAKE A PRINT WITH WATERWORKS ART CENTER Thomas K. McKeon Center for Creativity 12 – 12:45 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more information. INCA SHAMAN MEDICINE CIRCLE Unity Center of Tulsa Cottages 6:30 – 8 p.m. Visit www.unityoftulsa.com for more information.	18 BONNIE RAITT Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information. KRIS KRISTOFFERSON Cain's Ballroom 7:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. More Bank for your Buck. Strong roots. Endless possibilities.™	19 TULSAWORKS OPEN HOUSES FOR JOB TRAINING Goodwill Industries of Tulsa 3 – 5 p.m. Visit goodwilltulsa.org for more information. FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAY Guthrie Green 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.	20 LINDE OKTOBERFEST River West Festival Park Oct. 20 – 23 Visit tulsaoktoberfest.org for more information. AN EVENING WITH SHERIDAN ROAD Sheridan Road Ensemble 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. THE PRETTY RECKLESS Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for info.	21 THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES PAC Trust 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. THE PEARL FISHERS Tulsa Opera 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA OILERS vs. Indy 7:05 p.m. For more info., visit tulsaailers.com	22 GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Tulane Time TBD Football 918-631-4688 for tickets. TULSA OILERS vs. Atlanta 7:05 p.m. For more info., visit tulsaailers.com WIZARD WORLD COMIC CON Cox Business Center 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Visit wizardworld.com for more information.
23 THE PEARL FISHERS Tulsa Opera 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA OILERS vs. Atlanta 4:05 p.m. For more info., visit tulsaailers.com BOB DYLAN AND HIS BAND Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.	24 I CAN'T DO YOGA WITH AMY LEACH Thomas K. McKeon Center for Creativity 12 – 12:45 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more information. IN THE MIDDLE BOOK GROUP Broken Arrow Library South 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	25 TULSA OILERS vs. Allen 7:05 p.m. For more info., visit tulsaailers.com DESIGNING PUPPETS & BEYOND Thomas K. McKeon Center for Creativity 6 – 7 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more information.	26 ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION Bixby Library 2 – 3 p.m. Discussion of "Back of Beyond" by C.J. Box. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. MOVIE: "HOCUS FOCUS" Hardesty Regional Library 6 – 8 p.m. For all ages. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	27 CHARLIE PUTH Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information. HALLOWMARINE Oklahoma Aquarium Oct. 27 – 31 Visit okaquarium.org for more information. New Name. Same Bank Strong roots. Endless possibilities.™	28 THE PEARL FISHERS Tulsa Opera 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. CABARET Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. LESLIE JONES Hard Rock Casino 8 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.	29 THE PEARL FISHERS Tulsa Opera 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. CABARET Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. BOO HA HA PARADE Brookside 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Visit brooksidetheplacetobe.com for more information.

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AREA NEWS

Ferguson Subaru Gives to School

Ferguson Subaru, 1501 N. Elm Pl., in Broken Arrow held its 2016 Subaru School Supply Drive during the month of August with all proceeds going to Tulsa Public Schools' Kendall-Whittier Elementary School.

The annual supply drive is part of Ferguson's Subaru Loves Learning initiative, with the mission to make the pursuit of knowledge available to as many minds as possible.

Kendall-Whittier Elementary is located in north-central Tulsa, just west of the University of Tulsa campus, and is a Title I school with many of its students from low-income families.

According to school administrators, "As a Title I school, we don't require that students bring school supplies at the beginning of the year to respect the limited financial situations of many of our families."

According to the National Education Association, Oklahoma ranks 49th in expenditures per student and 48th in average salaries for public school teachers.

In addition to receiving pay that is far below the national average, Oklahoma teachers on average spend up to \$500 of their own money annually on supplies for their classrooms.

At the end of August, Ferguson Subaru and Fergie Bear, its Tulsa-area community mascot, drove to Kendall-Whittier Elementary School and presented teachers with the donated school supplies plus \$500 donated by Ferguson Subaru.

Ferguson Subaru's focus on education in the month of August and September was part of the Subaru Love Promise, a pledge to do right in its communities and the world.



Courtesy Ferguson Subaru

COMMUNITY DONATION: Kendall-Whittier Elementary Principal Ronda Kesler stands with Fergie Bear, Ferguson Subaru's community mascot, after the school accepted school supplies and a \$500 monetary donation from Ferguson Subaru in Broken Arrow.



GTR Newspapers photo

SUCCESSFUL WOMEN: In September, the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce held its annual Successful Women's Luncheon. Among the over 100 attendees were, from left, Kelli Sowell, AVB Bank; Mandy Vavrinak, Crossroads Communications; Kinnee Tilly, Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation; Lynda Wingo, Miss Helen's Private School; Cindy Morrison, Social Vention; and April Sailsbury, Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce.

WALMART OPENS TRAINING ACADEMY



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

FIRST IN OKLAHOMA: Broken Arrow Mayor Craig Thurmond speaks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of Walmart's first Training Academy in Oklahoma, located at 3900 E. Hillside Dr. in Broken Arrow. The Training Academies are dedicated facilities where the company's front-line supervisors receive hands-on training that combines the classroom and the sales floor.



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

B.A. CHEER: Broken Arrow High School cheerleaders cheer during the ribbon-cutting activities of the Walmart Training Academy in Broken Arrow. Walmart plans to have 200 Training Academies open across the country by the end of 2017.

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