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WE WATCHED
IN 2015



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OWASSO RAMBLER

GREATER TULSA REPORTER

One of Six Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers

Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group

Volume 19

December 2015

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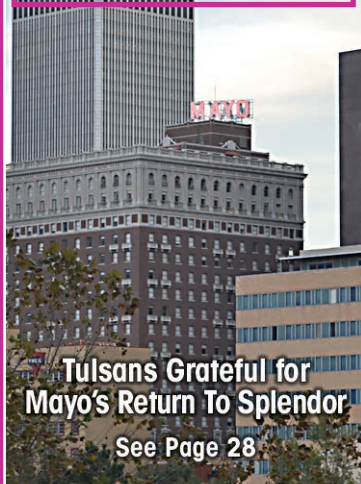
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Owasso Girl Scouts Beautify City

By **EMILY RAMSEY**
Managing Editor

Thanks to the efforts of Girl Scouts Troop 661, the City of Owasso now has a new avenue to emphasize city beautification.

The Owasso-based troop, which is made up of fifth-grade girls from the Owasso area, was looking for a community project. Each girl needed to spend at least 20 hours working in the chosen project.

Jerry Fowler, neighborhood coordinator for the Owasso Strong Neighborhood Initiative (OSNI), met with the troop to consider what needs of the community that the Girl Scouts could address.

"Litter impacts the overall look of the community," says Fowler.

Thus, Keep Owasso Clean, a monthly recycling event, was born.

Starting in January and over the following months, the Girl Scouts did research and then created pamphlets, brochures, and videos to engage the public and educate them on the importance of not littering and shared littering facts, such as the most littered item, which is cigarettes.

The public engagement also served to get the word out about the upcoming events.

The first event took place in April and drew upwards of 60 people.

Keep Owasso Clean focuses on picking up trash around the city on main arterial streets.

As the city recognized the importance of Keep Owasso Clean for the community, OSNI adopted it into its program.

"We like what it's promoting," says Fowler. "It's a program that fits well into the theme of OSNI, which is to maintain Owasso's value for the future."

Since April, the event continued on one Saturday each month through Nov. 14: the last event for the season.

Keep Owasso Clean activities will resume, most likely, in March, says Fowler, barring unforeseen weather.

Interested individuals will be able to find the dates at cityofowasso.com under the Neighborhood link.

During the winter months, "we will continue to promote the idea of not littering," says Fowler, who also hopes to spread the Keep Owasso Clean logo, which was developed with the help of volunteers at no charge to the city.

The logo shows a person throwing trash into a trash can. "We think we developed an attractive logo, and the color green pervades the feeling of hope, renewal and well-being," he notes.

In addition to the physical act of clearing away litter from streets, Keep Owasso Clean does more than that, Fowler continues.

"We are trying to change behavior, help people think about

(Continued on page 16)



Courtesy OSNI

SAY NO TO LITTERING: Owasso Girl Scouts Troop 661 stand with a sign promoting Keep Owasso Clean, a new program with Owasso Strong Neighborhood Initiative that the troop helped to create in partnership with the City of Owasso.

MARCHING TO ANOTHER WIN



Courtesy Owasso Public Schools

PRIDE OF OWASSO: Congratulations to the Pride of Owasso, who completed its marching band season at the Bands of America Super Regional in San Antonio on Oct. 31. The Pride finished 8th out of 63 bands in competition. Known as the toughest Regional on the Bands of America circuit, Owasso's Finals placement represented only the fourth time in 15 years that a non-Texas band has made it to Finals in San Antonio, the Pride of Owasso making up two of those four times. Owasso also made Finals in 2004. On Oct. 28, the Pride earned straight Superior ratings at the OSSAA (Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association) Regional Marching Contest for the 42nd year in a row.

KUDOS OF THE MONTH: Blue Cross Blue Shield

In November, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma (BCBSOK) celebrated 75 years in Oklahoma.

To celebrate the anniversary, BCBSOK gathered historical items to be placed in a time capsule that will be buried on the company's property and opened at its 100th anniversary in 2040.

"Our long history in Oklahoma is not just about insurance—it's about health, community and working together to make Oklahoma stronger," says Ted Haynes, BCBSOK president.

BCBSOK originally began as the Group Hospital Services of Oklahoma and opened its doors on March 15, 1940, in the Tulsa Loan Building in downtown Tulsa. Soon after, they adopted the Blue Cross name and logo. The Blue

Shield Companion Plan, initially known as Oklahoma Physician's Services, was established in 1945.

Over the coming years, hospital benefits and medical coverage was expanded and membership soared: the company grew from 13 employees in 1945 to 130 in 1952. Much of the member growth in the 1950s is attributed to the company's Community Enrollment Program that was established in 1953.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield operated for more than 30 years as separate entities with shared management and staff until 1973, when the two merged into Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma.

Today, BCBSOK has more than 840,000 members and employs more than 1,100 Oklahomans.



GTR Newspapers Photo

BCBS LEADERSHIP: In November, from left, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma President Ted Haynes and former BCBSOK presidents Ralph Rhoades, Ron King, C. Wyndham Kidd, Jr., and Bert Marshall all joined in BCBSOK's 75-year-anniversary celebration.

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** HCAHPS results were based on the published summary ratings provided by CMS for a data collection period of 10/1/2013 to 9/30/2014.

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Holiday Activities Unfolding

Various activities relating to the upcoming Christmas holiday season are unfolding throughout greater Tulsa, with Winterfest in downtown Tulsa as an annual highlight. For more information on Winterfest, please see page 5. The following is a brief listing of just a few of the holiday activities throughout greater Tulsa.

The Tulsa Christmas Parade, sponsored by American Waste Control, has been announced for Dec. 12 in downtown Tulsa. Tulsans have come together to celebrate Christmas in a downtown parade for many decades, dating back to at least the 1920s. And, like any great tradition in Tulsa, the Tulsa Christmas Parade features a rich and enduring history.

Today, 80 years later, the Christmas tradition is celebrated once again, coming together with a desire to bring the true spirit of Christmas to annual parade celebration.

In November, Santa Clause announced the Tulsa Christmas Parade in downtown Tulsa Dec. 12. The downtown parade will be combined with the parade previously held in Tulsa Hills shopping center.

Castle Christmas at the Castle of Muskogee and the Garden of Lights at Honor Heights Park are additional local highlights. Castle Christmas is open Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Eve, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. For more information on Castle Christmas, see page 29.

Christmas trees will be on display in Broken Arrow at Broken Arrow Neighbors through Dec. 12.

For more information, call 918-258-2616



CHRISTMAS PARADE COMING: Santa Clause announces the Tulsa Christmas Parade in downtown Tulsa Dec. 12. The downtown parade will be combined with the parade previously held in Tulsa Hills shopping center.



SUPPORTING SALVATION ARMY: Reasor's Chairman and CEO Jeff Reasor, left, presents a \$5,000 donation to Tulsa Area Commander James Taylor at the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign kick-off in November.



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PAC GALLERY EXHIBIT
- 1-13 **G2K RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S "CINDERELLA" THEATRE TULSA FAMILY**
- 2 **TULSA FESTIVAL RINGERS**
TULSA PAC TRUST
- 5-6 **HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**
TULSA SYMPHONY POPS
- 10-23 **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**
AMERICAN THEATRE CO.
- 11-20 **THE NUTCRACKER**
TULSA BALLET
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| ASSOCIATE EDITOR Charles Cantrell | ART DIRECTOR C. Bryan Cantrell |
| MANAGING EDITOR Emily Ramsey | PHOTOGRAPHY Harry Lentz, Dean Atchison |
| CONTRIBUTING EDITOR Beth Turner | ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Rossy Gille |
| EDITORS AT LARGE Terrell Lester • K.J. Webb • David Jones | DISTRIBUTION Distributech • Udovenko Family |
| CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Blake Austyn • Nancy Hermann Julie Wenger Watson • Glenn Hibdon Mike Mognin • Roger Coffey | GREATER TULSA REPORTER NEWSPAPERS P.O. Box 470645 • Tulsa, OK 74147-0645 (918) 254-1515 • (918) 254-1550 (FAX) E-Mail: info@gtrnews.com |
| ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Linda Miller, Earl Mathews Ashley Schmidt • Forrest Eliot | |

December 2015

Vol. 23, No. 12 (Union Boundary);
Vol. 21, No. 12 (Jenks District Gazette, Midtown Monitor);
Vol. 19, No. 12 (Owasso Rambler, Broken Arrow Express);
Vol. 14, No. 12 (Bixby Breeze)

COPY DROP-OFF: 7116 S. Mingo • Suite 103 • Tulsa, OK 74133



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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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TEN PEOPLE WE WATCHED IN 2015



ANNA AMERICA



ALAN ARMSTRONG



KEN BUSBY



TERRIE CORRELL



GERARD CLANCY

Since Anna America was voted into office as District 7 City Councilor in November 2014, she has had the focus of improving business growth and public safety in her district.

During 2015, much of her time has also been spent focused on helping to create a renewal package for the expiring Vision 2025 tax that will be brought to Tulsa residents next year.

The City Council's goal is, by the end of the year, to have a package created that will have a combined focus on future city projects, public safety and Arkansas River improvements.

Getting that done will be a significant accomplishment for the council, says America.

America hopes to see two of her proposals included in the Vision renewal package that would have a direct impact on her district as well as the city: a citywide assessment of aging retail areas throughout the city in order to generate additional future sales tax; and, two, the widening of Mingo Road between 71st and 91st streets: "the council agrees this needs to be done," she says. "The widening will be important for economic development and traffic control."

This has been a busy year for Alan Armstrong, president and CEO of Williams. A highlight during his Chamber leadership year has been the opening of the Macy's Distribution Center in Owasso, which was procured with a strong synergistic regional effort.

In addition to his chairmanship of the Tulsa Regional Chamber, Armstrong has been in the spotlight in his leadership role at Williams. Earlier this year Williams completed the acquisition of Access Midstream, headquartered in Oklahoma City.

This fall Williams was targeted by Energy Transfer Equity (ETE) of Dallas for a merger in a deal valued at \$37.7 million, according to the Oil and Gas Journal, which quotes Armstrong: "As a combined company, we will have enhanced prospects for growth, be better able to connect our customers to more diverse markets, and have more stability in an environment of low commodity prices. Importantly, Williams Partners will retain its current name and remain a publicly traded partnership headquartered in Tulsa, Okla."

In December 2014, Ken Busby announced that he would leave his role as executive director with the Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa. In May, he was announced as the executive director of the Route 66 Alliance.

Busby will oversee the creation of the Route 66 Alliance Interpretive Center, a 44,000-square-foot facility that will highlight the Mother Road, her stories and how Tulsa has played such a large role in her history.

"When I saw the preliminary designs for the building, I thought, 'Yes, I need to be involved,'" he says. "This center will be great for the state, great for Tulsa, tourism and economic development. We can use this center to get people off the Interstate and then showcase the rest of Tulsa."

The fundraising campaign for the center, which began in June, is currently on track, says Busby. Several companies and individuals have made pledges. The fundraising goal is \$19.5 million.

Busby expects a September 2016 groundbreaking, followed by two years of construction, with a planned opening in September 2018.

Tulsa Zoo President and CEO Terrie Correll continues to work with zoo officials and the community to bring additional progress and visitors to the Tulsa Zoo.

For fiscal year 2014-15, the zoo reported its second-highest attendance year on record.

In 2014, the Mary K. Chapman Rhino Reserve was the first exhibit from the zoo's 20-year master plan to open.

Following that was the groundbreaking for the Lost Kingdom Exhibit Complex, which is planned to open in 2017. "Lost Kingdom is another example of our master plan progress and is a game-changer for the zoo, in terms of animal habitat quality and guest experience," says Correll.

Lost Kingdom will feature Komodo dragons and Asian big cats, including tigers and snow leopards.

Other projects in the zoo's phase I plans include the Carnivores! exhibit, featuring a new habitat for African lions; renovations of the giraffe exhibit; and a revamped and expanded chimpanzee exhibit.

Dr. Gerard Clancy entered 2015 as the vice president and dean of the College of Health Sciences at the University of Tulsa. Previously, Clancy served as president of OU-Tulsa beginning in 2006. In 2011, while at OU-Tulsa, Clancy announced plans to collaborate with TU in the creation of a four-year community medicine educational program in Tulsa.

Clancy has continued to work hard for the collaborative program with OU-Tulsa, and the recent opening of the \$6.4 million Tandy Education Center at the OU-Tulsa Schusterman Center, 4502 E. 41st Street, has solidified that goal.

This fall, the inaugural class of first-year students from the OU-TU School of Community Medicine began their studies at OU-Tulsa, where they will complete all four years of their medical education. OU College of Medicine faculty in Oklahoma City and Tulsa as well as TU faculty are teaching the students and utilizing the Tandy Education Center.

Watch for Dr. Gerard Clancy to continue his leadership throughout the community in the future.

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Written by Deborah Craig-Claar & Robert Sterling

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HISTORIC HALL OF FAME: The Tulsa Historical Society hosted its annual Hall of Fame dinner at Southern Hills Country Club in October to raise money for the yearly operations of the Travis Mansion and the many educational and preservation projects of the society. The 2015 inductees included the late Dorothy DeWitty, Frederic Dorwart, Mary Anne Hille, Dr. Gary Trennepohl and the Rev. Dr. John Wolf. Pictured from left are Rev. Dr. John Wolf, Frederic Dorwart, Mary Ann Hille, Dr. Gary Trennepohl and Delbert DeWitty.

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TEN PEOPLE WE WATCHED IN 2015



FRANK HAITH

Frank Haith finished his first season as the head coach of the University of Tulsa men's basketball team last March with a winning record. The Golden Hurricane, members of the American Athletic Conference, finished the season 23-11, 14-4 in American Athletic play to finish in second place. They advanced to the semifinals of the American Athletic Tournament where they lost to Connecticut. They were invited to the National Invitation Tournament where they defeated William & Mary in the first round before losing in the second round to Murray State.

Haith inherited an experienced team last year, and in this 2015-2016 season they are one of the most experienced teams in the nation. That experience has paid off early in the season, as Tulsa upset Wichita State, ranked ninth in the nation. It was the highest ranked team Tulsa has ever defeated in the Reynolds Center.

Haith came to TU from the University of Missouri, where he was also the head coach.



JOHN SCHUMANN

Beginning Jan. 1, 2015, Dr. John Schumann became interim president of the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa. On Sept. 16, Schumann was officially appointed as president of OU-Tulsa by the OU Board of Regents.

Since becoming president, Schumann has seen the recent opening of the state-of-the-art Tandy Education Center, a \$6.4-million simulation and education center and the inaugural class of first-year medical students. Students can now complete all four years of their medical education at OU-Tulsa.

Recently, Schumann presided over his first OU-Tulsa convocation as president, with more than 400 graduates from 18 programs, and he traveled to Israel in May with OU social work students and officially established Haruv USA at OU-Tulsa, a collaboration with the Haruv Institute at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

He continues to author a weekly blog and has written for several national media including Slate, the Atlantic, and NPR's blog, Shots. Schumann also hosts Medical Matters on KWGS 89.5 FM.



PHILIP MONTGOMERY

As of this writing, Philip Montgomery's first season as the head football coach of the University of Tulsa has been successful in that the team has a possibility of playing in a bowl game for the first time since 2012. Tulsa has won games over Florida Atlantic, New Mexico, Louisiana-Monroe, SMU and Central Florida, while losing to Oklahoma, Houston, East Carolina, Memphis and Cincinnati, all very good teams.

A highlight this season was when Tulsa scored two touchdowns in 12 seconds right before halftime at Oklahoma. This may be a prelude to what is in store in the future, as Montgomery has time to recruit his own players into what many know as the "Baylor offense," his last coaching assignment before coming to Tulsa.

While at Baylor, Montgomery was honored many times, including as Offensive Coordinator of the Year by FootballScoop.com and was named a finalist for the Broyles Award as the nation's top assistant.



LEIGH GOODSON

Since becoming president and CEO of Tulsa Community College in July 2014, Leigh B. Goodson has led the application into the national education initiative Pathways Project. TCC was one of the 30 community colleges across the country selected. The Pathways Project focuses on raising college graduation rates by building better bridges for students from high school graduation to college completion.

Goodson also led the way in the college's development of its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, which was developed and approved after a collaborative process involving TCC faculty and staff.

Goodson has also created positions of Vice President for Workforce Development and Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness through internal reallocation to address critical, underdeveloped college functions, implemented a baseline budgeting model, and has initiated "Open Lines," which are campus forums to share updates on critical issues and address any questions or concerns expressed by faculty and staff.



EVAN TIPTON

Evan Tipton was the 2015 chairman of TYPros. Tipton is producing manager for the Scott McCoy Insurance Agency, and in November, he was inducted into Oklahoma State University's Spears School of Business Hall of Fame.

In May, TYPros held another successful StreetCred event, this one at 61st Street and Peoria Avenue, which focused on beautification, safety, and community involvement with family-friendly activities, games and entertainment.

While people often perceive TYPros to be focused mainly on midtown and downtown Tulsa, this event helped to show that the organization is inclusive, which was one of Tipton's goals as 2015 chair.

TYPros Foundation was announced in October 2014, with the goal of connecting young professionals with the organizations, funding and support for their ideas.

In August, the foundation awarded a total of \$28,000 to seven local projects or organizations.

Tulsa's Great Raft Race received the largest grant of \$10,000.

Eighth Annual Arvest Winterfest Returns to Tulsa

The time has come to bundle up and enjoy the magical spirit of the holidays as Tulsa's favorite holiday celebration returns to the streets of downtown Tulsa. The Eighth Annual Arvest Winterfest presented with Fabwell returns the day after Thanksgiving.

"Winterfest has become the kick-off for the holidays in downtown Tulsa," says Jeff Nickler, SMG Tulsa general manager. "As Tulsa's largest holiday tradition, we are excited to welcome our guests to enjoy the custom ice skating rink, holiday concessions and the beautiful display of lights."

In seven years, attendance for this event has soared from 35,000 visitors in 2008 to more than 150,000 in 2014. The seasonal celebration is open to the public for 52 days again this year. The extended season guar-

antees everyone a chance to enjoy skating beneath Tulsa's skyline while watching free entertainment at the outdoor stage and taking in the beautiful, gleaming holiday lights.

The 9,000 square-foot outdoor ice rink is open daily from Nov. 27 through Jan. 17, 2016 (including Christmas Day). A climate-controlled warming tent and delicious seasonal concessions are available for purchase to visitors looking to keep warm.

Just steps from the rink will be Oklahoma's tallest Christmas Tree. The massive 44-foot tree features 35,700 glowing lights, 109,534 individual tips and a diameter at the base of nearly 30 feet. The beautiful lights provide an ideal backdrop for holiday photographs under the Tulsa skyline.

Free entertainment every Saturday until Christmas will take place on the outdoor stage adjacent to the rink beside the glass icon wall of the BOK Center. Performances will feature children from area churches, schools, nonprofit organizations and choral groups.

A variety of weekly promotions are scheduled during the festival. Every Monday, patrons receive half-price admission for skating with the donation of a non-perishable can of food to the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, presented by OakTree IT Staffing. Every Wednesday throughout the festival, visitors receive half-price admission for skating with the donation of a new or gently used coat, blanket, scarf or pair of gloves, presented by Catalyst Benefits Group. These donations benefit

Night Light Tulsa.

As part of GLOW, Winterfest has teamed up with the Downtown Coordinating Council to bring the best of the holidays to downtown Tulsa. Guthrie Green, Winterfest, the Deco District, Reconciliation Park, East Village and Greenwood are all participating in a tour of lighting ceremonies Nov. 29. "Light the Loop! A Progressive Lighting" presents a day full of holiday activities throughout downtown Tulsa.

On Dec. 12, as Winterfest will host the Jingle Bell Run benefiting the Arthritis Foundation. The day also includes live entertainment, the Cheyenne Bus Toy Drive benefiting Family & Children Services, and Breakfast with Santa returns for its third year.

Breakfast with Santa takes place on Dec. 12 including a delicious

breakfast, visits with Santa and more for the whole family. Admission is \$8 per person, and reservations are required. Visit www.tulsawinterfest.com to place a reservation. Breakfast with Santa is presented by BlueStone Natural Resources.

A full Winterfest calendar with prices and daily hours of operation is available online at www.tulsawinterfest.com. For more information or for group ice skating rates, please contact Connie Lytle, Group Sales Coordinator at 918-894-4264 or cllytle@smgtulsa.com

Visitors can log on to www.downtowntulsaok.com to check out the calendar of holiday events and plan their trip to downtown Tulsa. GLOW partners will be posting their holiday events and promotions there throughout the season.

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Tulsa Participates in 100 Resilient Cities Summit

Last December, Tulsa began its quest to become a resilient city and was accepted into the second round of the Rockefeller Foundation's Challenge. As part of this elite group, we have the opportunity to share how our city has reacted to past storms and flooding, as well as to identify our resources, the plans we already have in place and the gaps we have to fill.



COMMENTARY BY MAYOR DEWEY F. BARTLETT, JR

The City of Tulsa has always looked to help our neighbors in need. A great way to highlight our experience as a resilient city was with our crisis management efforts during the Moore and Joplin tornadoes, which immensely interested the Rockefeller Foundation.

In October, I had the opportunity to travel overseas to attend the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Leaders' Summit in Bellagio, Italy. As mayor of Tulsa, I was joined by four other U.S. mayors from Berkeley and Oakland, Calif., Boulder, Colo., and New Orleans, La., along with 29 other mayors throughout the world. We collectively shared our experiences and knowledge and collaborated on implementing innovative solutions for natural disasters and social/economic issues.

I now have a better idea of the scope involved in being a resilient city. The Rockefeller

Foundation wants us to be more involved in water-related issues, but our role is still being defined. As soon as it's solidified, I'm confident of Tulsa's remarkable opportunity to play on the world stage and serve as a regional leader among cities.

Some of the challenges our city faces here include the economy, public safety and infrastructure needs. Right now, sales tax is our city's only source of revenue, which makes it difficult meeting basic needs for next year's fiscal budget. However, with the support of the Oklahoma Municipal League and Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, we're looking at ways to diversify our revenues without raising taxes.

We've already begun Tulsa's first engagement in its partnership with 100 Resilient Cities (100RC). In September, we held a workshop for a diverse set of stakeholders from across city government, private sector, nonprofit, academia and civic groups to identify the city's resilience challenges. We set a blueprint for engaging partners across sectors to equip Tulsa with



TOM PENNINGTON/GETTY IMAGES

CRISIS MANAGEMENT: Tulsa's crisis management efforts in the wake of the Moore and Joplin tornadoes have drawn interest from the Rockefeller Foundation and helped earn Tulsa a partnership with the 100 Resilient Cities. This photo is of the Moore tornado devastation.

the tools and resources needed to be more resilient.

As part of the 100RC, Tulsa will receive four types of support, including 1) Funding to hire a Chief Resilience Officer (CRO), 2) Assistance in developing a resilience strategy, 3) Access to a platform of resilience tools/service-

es to help design and implement our strategy, and 4) Membership in the 100 Resilient Cities Network.

I'm extremely pleased that Tulsa is a part of the 100RC. It will help us be proactive rather than reactive in dealing with the physical, social and economic challenges we face in the 21st century.

Tulsa Area United Way Reaches Record Goal

The Tulsa Area United Way recently unveiled the results of its annual campaign, raising \$26,524,575 for the community.

The total was beyond its original goal of \$26,524,500, the largest in its 91-year history.

The results were announced before more than 300 guests at the annual "Unite!" celebration, held at the Helmerich Center for American Research at Gilcrease Museum.

"Tulsans refused to allow a challenging economy stand in the way of ensuring their friends and neigh-

bors receive the services they need," says Mark R. Graham, president and CEO of the Tulsa Area United Way. "We once again demonstrated why Tulsa is known as one of the nation's most giving communities."

Nonprofit organizations, including the Tulsa Area United Way's 60 partner agencies, surpassed the \$1 million threshold for the first time, helping the local United Way to lead its peers nationally in giving by nonprofit organizations.

"This campaign was truly an

example of all of us coming together for the greater good," says Ted Haynes, 2015 campaign chair and president and CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma. "More than 44,000 individuals supported the campaign, in addition to generous companies, foundations and small businesses."

The campaign was energized by major challenge grants which provided dollar-for-dollar matching opportunities for many contributors, including small and medium-sized businesses, individuals who give at a leadership level of \$500 or more annually, and members of the United Way's Emerging Leaders Society and Women's Leadership Council. The challenge grants were issued by several local individuals, foundations, and corporations.

"Our annual United Way campaign is a volunteer-driven endeavor, led by the 50 members of our Campaign Cabinet, 25 loaned executives and hundreds of other volunteers," says Laura Hailey, senior vice president of resource development.

Funding for the Tulsa Area United Way's partner agencies as a result of this year's campaign will begin in January.

Local labor unions sponsored the "Unite!" event including International Union of Operating Engineers Local 627, Transport Workers Union of America Local 514, Communications Workers of America Local 6012, International



Courtesy Tulsa Area United Way

WINNING FIST BUMP: The Tulsa Area United Way recently unveiled the record results of its annual campaign, raising \$26,524,575 for the community. The results were announced before more than 300 guests at the annual "Unite!" celebration, held at the Helmerich Center for American Research at Gilcrease Museum. Pictured is Emeka Nnaka, left, Tulsa Area United Way loaned executive, bumping fists with Ted Haynes, 2015 Campaign chair. At right is Mark Graham, TAUW president and CEO.

Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1002, Northeastern Oklahoma Central Labor Council, Oklahoma State AFL-CIO, Oklahoma State Building and Construction Trades Council, Pipeliners Local Union 798, United Aerospace Workers Union of America Local 952 and United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 430.

"We so appreciate the generous support of our local labor unions," Graham says. "We wouldn't be able to present this end-of-campaign celebration without them."

Top company and organizational supporters will be recognized at the Tulsa Area United Way's annual Live United Awards and Luncheon on Feb. 16 at the Cox Business Center.

The Tulsa Area United Way serves more than 500,000 people each year through its 60 partner agencies and several community-wide collaborative programs, in the areas of education, health and safety, and financial stability.

For more information on the Tulsa Area United Way, visit www.tauw.org.



Courtesy photo

FOOD DRIVE KICK-OFF: Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin along with Tulsa Community College and the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma hosted the kick-off for Governor Fallin's 2015 Feeding Oklahoma Food Drive at TCC's Northeast Campus in October. From left are Eric Kunkel, Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma board member; Leigh B. Goodson, TCC president and CEO; Governor Fallin; and Eileen Bradshaw, Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma executive director. Feeding Oklahoma is a state-wide effort to fight against hunger. The annual drive takes place during the month of October.

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MET Awards: An Honor to Serve, A Thrill to be Recognized

You are now reading an award-winning column! The Metropolitan Environmental Trust, better known as The MET, held its 2015 America Recycles Day Banquet, honoring those in our community working towards environmental awareness and change. I am humbled to tell you they honored me as Recycling Reporter. I am among quite great company. Let me introduce you to the four winners in other categories:

The MET awarded Dr. Katharine Anderson with the Green Event trophy. Dr. Anderson's volunteerism created 2015 Tulsa Earth Day: Celebrate COMMUNITY. This annual event brings together more than 35 companies with approximately 1,000 students from Lee Elementary in the Tulsa school district, to inspire an environmental stewardship in these leaders of tomorrow.

The Green School award went to Peters Elementary in the Union school district. With the help of teachers Kathy Harding and Emmet Bowen, students at Peters earned their Oklahoma Green Schools flag in 2013, and have presented at the OGSC conference ever since.

These students are dedicated stewards of the environment, so much so that at least one former student continues to volunteer summer hours to keep green projects thriving while school is out of session.

The MET awarded Miller Environmental Transfer as this year's recycling entrepreneur. An affiliate of Miller Trucking, the company launched in December 2013 with the ambition to help their clients shift disposal methods away from traditional landfill avenues and toward recycling with an ultimate goal of zero-landfill usage. Miller Environmental Transfer is dominating the market thanks to its dedication to solid environmental practices.

The 2015 Lifetime Recycling Achievement award went to The MET's former executive director, Michael Patton. He began on this journey at age eleven by organizing a litter clean-up at McClure Park on the nation's first Earth Day in 1970.

In the 1980s, Patton organized the first phone book recycling event, became the state's first recycling coordinator in the 1990s, spearheaded the first household pollutant collection event in 1994 and established the Enviro Expo, bringing "green-minded" businesses and organizations together in Tulsa.

Patton now serves as Executive Director of Land Legacy, a nonprofit conservation organization whose mission is to conserve, enhance, and restore urban and rural lands and waters.

As you can read, I am in some pretty amazing company and could not be here without GTR Newspapers' dedication to

giving space to sustainability each month and the incredible team making it happen. Also, it wouldn't be possible without you, the reader, who takes this journey with me, and adds to the story with your own sustainable interests and goals. Thank you.

Trash Talk



By BETH TURNER
Tulsa Master Recyclers Association

As a follower of Trash Talk, you know we've been taking a look at the crazy things around our house that we know should recycle, but aren't easy to figure out. We will continue that segment next month but in light of the holiday shopping season bearing down on us, here are a few ideas for green gift-giving. Full disclosure - a few of these ideas I am recycling from the award-winning Michael Patton:

1. A bicycle basket: Bicycling offers great exercise, it can also be

a means to get your errands accomplished while avoiding congested traffic and find a parking space. Most of my weekend chores involve the bank and a few grocery stores, all of which are fairly close to my house.

Sometimes I've thought it'd be quicker to jump in the car to "run get something." But what I've found is the bike is the faster tool for travel and has the added benefit of letting me relax along the way vs. letting my road rage get the best of me. Added bonus: there are some great, local bike shops in town such as Lee's or Tom's. If you hate your bike, it could be your seat. While there, have them fit your fanny to a seat that's right for you.

2. Solar, portable battery pack: Conserve energy while you charge your beloved devices. While you're at it, take a moment to marvel at modern advances. Today's smartphone is so much more than a one-use product. I have my phone, email, texting, driving directions, games, videos, photos, music and books all in one device that I can charge in a few short hours, and thanks again to modern technology and about \$20 bucks, the sun will charge it for me. If you know of a local business that sells a solar charger, please let me know. Right now, my best advice is Amazon.com.

3. A nice water bottle/coffee cup combo: We all know we should bring along our own drinking container. But if it's not cool, you aren't going to want to tout it. Every reach of my beloved reusable coffee cup and water bottle fill me with happiness. (It really is the small things sometimes). Back in my sports days, my water bottle was covered in stickers of my favorite bands and brands. These days, I splurged a little more for a classier style that feels worthy of a boardroom meeting. My preferred con-



Courtesy CARLOS MORENO
LIFETIME ACHIEVER: The MET's new Executive Director Graham Brannin, left, congratulates former executive director and lifetime recycling achievement recipient Michael Patton. Patton now serves as executive director of Land Legacy.



BRYAN CANTRELL for GTR Newspapers
UNION RECYCLERS: From left, Union Schools' Peters Elementary Principal Chasity Gray, along with Green Team members Beth and Mia proudly display their awards with Trash Talk's Beth Turner at The MET's banquet honoring recyclers in our community.

tainers contain no BPA, so I lean towards glass and ceramic styles that are wrapped in a break-proof netting that mimics my smart phone casing. This just might be an eco-gal's favorite way to accessorize, by the way.

4. The gift of experience: Our family recently lost one of our own, and as it tradition, we all came together and reminisced. What I took away with me that day is how important our experiences have been to each other. As I look to the holiday season, I also recognize that the children in our family are all now young adults. So, these two moments make me realize that it's the memories we create, not the gifts we give that mean so much to all of us in the long run. What we need is time together, things experienced, memories made. We are also lucky enough to live in Tulsa - a town full of opportunities for enriching activities, from museums to live music to stellar restaurants to performance plays and

musicals to the zoo to hiking trails and beautiful parks to waterfalls and cabins for rent along Oklahoma's prairie. The tradition I always want to hold dear is the love of family that makes our community great.

Thank you, again, for making this article award winning, Readers. Since this column began nearly six years ago, it's always been with the intention of recognizing that it takes thought, planning and care to live a more sustainable lifestyle, so it's always good to know you're not alone. But I have found that in life, fighting the good fight for our journey brings its own rewards. I am so happy to share this reward with you.

May your holiday travels bring you joy and safely back home again. We will pick up our hunt for recycling those odd items around our houses next month. Until then, please send in your favorite eco-gifting ideas, advice and tips to bethturner@me.com, and follow the conversation @TrashTalkTulsa.

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VARIETY

Holiday Events Highlight December at the PAC

In the aftermath of the Paris attacks, and multiple other terrorist acts, the world seems dislodged, and many feel frightened. It is difficult to promote a fun business at times like this, but, to some extent, that "business as usual" is what we need. Certainly, we can always find solace, inspiration and diversion in the arts.

December at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center is shiny and bright with warm and merry entertainment - each event brimming with music. Beginning Dec. 2, Tulsa's only auditioned hand bell choir group, The Tulsa Festival Ringers, appears again on the Williams Theatre set of "A Christmas Carol" at 11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m., ringing in December with the sounds of the season. Presented by the PAC Trust, these Brown Bag It performances are free, and audience members can bring a lunch to enjoy along with "The Little Drummer Boy" and "Frosty the Snowman."

December also features events that are not necessarily holiday-themed, but have the dream-like enchantment that we associate with the season. Theatre Tulsa's Family series presents a condensed musical version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" that is well suited to a younger audience and with a plot that highlights important lessons for children. Local students from Theatre Tulsa's Broadway Bootcamp perform Dec. 4-13.

Tulsa Symphony, joined by the Tulsa Oratorio Chorus and 200 local high school children, blend their talents for two "Home for the Holidays" concerts. The Dec. 5 concert is in the evening, and the Dec. 6 performance is an afternoon matinee. This is a Pops series sing-along that will be a fun outing for everyone. Tulsa Symphony has been offering a ride-sharing program and childcare for its PAC events. Contact the Symphony for details.

I've probably seen American Theatre Company's "A Christmas

Carol" more than a dozen times, but I always leave a performance feeling less put upon by holiday stress and ready to spread some cheer. Part of its appeal is the fabulous revolving set that captures the look and mood of Victorian England. I appreciate how well Dickens' ghost story is conveyed in this production, and the music gives me a lift. And then there is Karl Krause, the actor who plays Ebenezer Scrooge. I don't know how many more years Karl

will continue in the role. You would not want to miss this quintessential Scrooge - he's just the best. The musical runs in Williams Theatre from Dec. 10 all the way through Dec. 23.

Our other long-standing holiday show, Dec. 11-20, is Tulsa Ballet's "The Nutcracker." I saw it again last year and was so glad I did. It is sparkly and elegant, and the dancing is exceptional. You get all that glitz, glamour and superb dancing, along with Tulsa Symphony in the pit performing Tchaikovsky's score! Local children appear as mice and toy soldiers, making the production even more precious. And, this production, choreographed by Marcello Angelini, is set in Paris and Versailles - making it extra meaningful this year.

"Dreamgirls" is not a holiday tradition, but it will be a different and enjoyable holiday-time diversion. The story is about small-town girls with outsized dreams who try to sing their way to stardom. Beyoncé, Jennifer Hudson and Annika Noni Rose were the Dreamettes in the film, which also starred Eddie Murphy. Staged by Spinning Plates Productions Dec. 17-23, "Dreamgirls in Concert" features the entire script sung in a concert setting starring Dionne White, LaToya Tillis, Briana Wright, Roderick Hudson and Nash Wayne McQuarters.

Wrapping the month in a big, dazzling bow is another musical that has all the elements of a fairy tale - Disney's "The Beauty and the Beast." This is a touring Broadway musical, presented by

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN



A CHRISTMAS CAROL: Karl Krause, left photo, reprises his role as Ebenezer Scrooge in American Theatre Company's heartwarming staging of Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol," Dec. 10-23.



THE NUTCRACKER: Featuring 100 local children and mixing the visuals of a Broadway show with outstanding dance, Tulsa Ballet's "The Nutcracker" runs Dec. 11-20 at the Tulsa PAC.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: Ron Spigelman conducts "Home for the Holiday," a Tulsa Symphony Pops sing-along, blending the voices of the Tulsa Oratorio Chorus and 200 high school students, Dec. 5 and 6.

Celebrity Attractions, Dec. 22-23. Lavish costumes and sets and characters like Lumiere and Gaston, along with Belle and the Beast, all contribute to a spectacular, enchanting theatre experience.

We hope to see you at several December events. Please pick up a brochure in our lobby racks and begin planning your 2016 entertainment. As 2015 closes, we thank you for supporting the arts and the Tulsa Performing Arts Center in the past year and wish you much love and a world at peace in the year ahead.

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



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: Disney's "The Beauty and the Beast" features lavish costumes and sets and a cast of unforgettable characters, Dec. 22-23, presented by Celebrity Attractions.

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'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' RETURNS TO PAC



WINTER NIGHT: The Lamplighter lights the street lamps in American Theatre Company's "A Christmas Carol" at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center, Dec. 10-23.

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Writer

The holidays are upon us, as are all of the events, music and festivities that come with them.

"A Christmas Carol" makes its splendid return to the Tulsa Performing Arts Center Dec. 10-13, 16-20, 21-23.

Claudia Sanders, director of this year's "A Christmas Carol," recently spoke about what she anticipates most about this annual holiday production.

Greater Tulsa Reporter: How many years have you directed Tulsa's "A Christmas Carol?"

Claudia Sanders: This will be the fourth year I've directed the American Theatre Company production. The last time I directed was in 1997, when we opened the show for three performances at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center and then moved it for an extended run at The Brady Theatre.

GTR: What do you enjoy about directing this production?

CS: Working with the cast is the first on a long list of things that I enjoy. The music is delightful and memorable. The set is amazing. The lighting, the snow and the energy surrounding the entire production are all thrilling. And the story stirs up so many emotions. It's fun to play with.

Also, this show has an established tradition of seeing families year after year either as performers or crew members for the show. We have at least three families returning this year, and they've done so for several years. It's their own family tradition, and it's gratifying to see them having such fun!

And there's something else. "A Christmas Carol" is a great show for young and old, who want to be in a play, to get their feet wet. To see some go from timid and shy to confident and strong, and making new friends, is rewarding beyond measure. We form lifelong friendships here.

GTR: Why did you return to direct this year?

CS: Simply put, to have fun. The "behind the scenes" folks - the Technical Director, Music Director, Choreographer, Stage Manager, Lighting, Sound, Costumer, backstage crew have all worked this show at least a couple of times and in most cases have worked it many times. So I just get to have fun.

GTR: What can the audience expect



WELL-KNOWN CHARACTERS: *Tiny Tim and Bob Cratchit head home for Christmas Eve in "A Christmas Carol."* Claudia Sanders returns this year as director of the annual holiday production.

from the show?

CS: Wonderful music, a lavish set and costumes, and a talented cast of just under 50, supported by a crew of approximately 25. It's magic!

GTR: What do you think audience members will most enjoy about the show?

CS: The sights and the sounds! Perhaps the ghosts. Or the wonderfully talented cast.

GTR: If individuals have seen the show in years past, why should they return again this season?

CS: It's a delightful family show. It's become a holiday tradition in Tulsa and is now in its 39th year. We also have many cast members returning this year to play different roles from previous years. And then there's Karl Krause, the man who plays Ebenezer Scrooge. Enough said!

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White Flag Reopens with Improved Offerings

LOCAL DINING

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Writer

White Flag Pub & Grub, 116 S. Elgin Ave., in downtown Tulsa, reopened in October in response to an immediate need.

"I wanted to give my employees at Joe Momma's Pizza a place to work," says restaurant Owner Blake Ewing.

Construction will begin by the end of the year on Joe Momma's after a fire in July, he says.

White Flag's road has been a bit rocky since first opening near the end of 2013.

"Previously, we had never gotten the consistency and quality right for White Flag," Ewing says.

Around the end of 2014, White Flag transitioned into a special event venue.

When Ewing decided to reopen White Flag, he brought with it a diversified menu.

Instead of a menu focused mainly on burgers, this time around, White Flag's menu includes other items like wings, hot melts and more interesting daily specials: "each day, an employee determines a special," he says. "They've come up with some cool things."

A friend and I decided to try out the new menu on a recent weekday evening.

We started with the White

Cheddar Curds for an appetizer. The menu's other options are basic appetizer fare but sound appealing. I was curious about the Jalapeño Poppers, stuffed with cream cheese and sausage and wrapped in bacon, which our waiter said are great but also spicy, and the Spinach Artichoke Dip is another popular dish, he said.

The curds sounded in their description like a fancy way of saying cheese sticks; however, their description termed them "lightly battered," which is not something that traditional cheese sticks are known for. So I was interested in how they would taste.

I was pleased to find that they were, in fact, lightly breaded, which allowed the cheese flavor to take center stage. They came with marinara sauce or ranch dressing, upon request.

My tablemate ordered the Turkey Spinach Artichoke sandwich, which we were told was a popular item, and for good reason. The sandwich is moist, and the flavor combination of smoked turkey, spinach artichoke dip, tomatoes and red onions gives the sandwich a bright taste.

All sandwiches and burgers come with a choice of a side order.

My friend ordered the Beer Battered Fries, which were medium crispy but didn't taste particularly different from the typical fry.



BLAKE AUSTYN for GTR Newspapers

DIVERSIFIED MENU: White Flag Pub & Grub, 116 S. Elgin Ave., in downtown Tulsa, reopened in October after a July fire at restaurant owner Blake Ewing's Joe Momma's Pizza. White Flag originally opened near the end of 2013 and transitioned to a special event venue a year later. The revamped White Flag menu is more diversified than it was previously, with options including wings, hot melts and daily specials.

I chose to go for the Italian Pesto Melt for my meal, which on the menu is a vegetarian item, but our waiter suggested adding sliced turkey to give it added flavor and thickness. Otherwise, the sandwich comes with pesto, basil, tomatoes and three kinds of cheeses.

While I think the Artichoke Spinach Sandwich stole my heart, this sandwich was a close second, because I love pesto,

which is important in liking this dish.

There is a lot of pesto.

For my side order, I chose the Mac & Cheese, which was creamy as macaroni and cheese should be, but I could have used a bit more seasoning on it.

Other side order options are French Fries, Onion Rings and Soup.

For dessert, we sprung for The Orpheum: a chocolate chip cook-

ie, baked fresh to order, which takes about 10 minutes, and is served in a skillet, topped with vanilla ice cream, chocolate sauce and whipped cream.

It was surprisingly light and a nice finisher to our meal.

White Flag is one of the few late-night options available downtown during the week. It is open Monday-Thursday 11 a.m.-midnight and Friday-Saturday 11 a.m.-2 a.m.



Courtesy Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma

GIVING SPIRITS: From left, Mimi Tarrasch, Richard Langston, Pat Quinn and Katy Quinn pose together during the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma's Giving Spirits whiskey tasting fundraiser, held Oct. 5. Pat Quinn, along with Lorri, Jean and Mike Quinn, served as honorary ambassadors. Funds raised from the event went to support the programs and projects of the Food Bank.



Courtesy DAR: Wealaka Chapter

BOOSTING MORALE: From left, Anne Nelson, Sherry Gamblin, Candy Dial, Marlys Fallen, Carolyn Thornton, Jo Lynn Crabbe and Gwen McLaughlin, all members of the Wealaka Chapter of DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), recently spent a morning packing nine boxes filled with snacks, toiletries and books for female servicewomen currently serving in Kuwait. Group members expect the boxes to be received by Thanksgiving.

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Tulsans' Bow Ties Earn 'Shark' Investment

Tulsa is quickly becoming a thriving incubator for entrepreneurs. And the word is spreading, both locally and nationally.

Forbes recently named Tulsa the No. 1 Best City for Young Entrepreneurs.

MBACentral.org named Tulsa the 39th most Entrepreneur Friendly City.

In January, local food truck Lone Wolf Banh Mi was featured on CNBC's Restaurant Startup.

In October, bringing Tulsa back again into the spotlight was Adam Teague and Tim Paslay, owners of Two Guys Bow Ties, who appeared on ABC's Shark Tank.

Teague and Paslay launched their wooden bow tie and accessory company in 2012. They met through their involvement with the Fab Lab. "We're both tinkerers," says Teague.

Paslay, a woodworker with a background in prop building and set design, came up with the idea to make wooden bow ties: "I wanted to have something to wear that shows people what I do (woodworking)," he says.

He made one for himself, which he wore to a wedding, and got positive responses from friends.

However, Paslay knew that if he wanted to turn this idea into profit, he needed a business-minded partner.

Teague's business background with entrepreneurial and e-commerce experience meshed well with Paslay's strengths.

"I've got good business sense," says Teague, who describes himself as a "serial entrepreneur."

Teague focused the young company on order delivery speed, customer service and additional website needs.

In December 2012, Teague and Paslay's bow ties were featured on uncrate.com, causing both a surge in orders and quite a

few late nights for the team during that holiday season.

"We figured that if we survived holiday 2012, we could do anything," says Teague.

"That experience showed us that we had something here and that we could do this," Paslay says.

The company continued to grow from there. And Teague and Paslay continued to innovate and add products, including lapels and pocket squares.

In May 2014, Mike Conley of the Memphis Grizzlies was photographed wearing a Two Guys Bow Tie.

By early 2015, the partners were experimenting with creating wooden fedoras and made sure to send one to Conley.

Then, in April, they received a text from a friend in Oklahoma City who heard about a casting call for Shark Tank.

"People were always saying that we should do Shark Tank," says Teague.

In fact, the partners could have tried out for Shark Tank in 2013, when they were in Texas, attending South by Southwest.

"But, for where our business was at, it was too early," Teague says.

While the second opportunity in April came at a hectic time for Teague and Paslay – they were in the middle of moving shop locations and adding equipment – they saw their opportunity and knew they were ready.

On the morning of the audition, Teague arrived at 5 a.m. to secure a place in line. They were 49th in the door.

Once they began their pitch, it wasn't until Teague and Paslay mentioned their wooden fedoras that the woman who they were pitching to began to take notice, says Paslay.

"She put down her cell phone and started asking questions," he remembers.

After their initial pitch, everything moved

Out & About in Greater Tulsa



By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

HANDCRAFTED QUALITY: Tulsans Tim Paslay, left, and Adam Teague started wooden bow tie and accessory company Two Guys Bow Ties in 2012. In June, the business partners earned a \$150,000 investment from FUBU Founder and CEO Daymond John on ABC's Shark Tank.

at top speed so they could be ready by June to tape for an episode where Troy Carter, founder and CEO of entertainment management company Atom Factory, would be serving as a guest Shark.

"I think they wanted us to be on the show when Troy would be a guest because our brand fits with his interests," says Teague.

However, while at one point in the deal it looked like Carter and FUBU Founder and CEO Daymond John were going to partner in a deal with Teague and Paslay, Carter ended up passing, and Teague and Paslay got what they had initially been aiming for: a partnership with John. Teague and Paslay made a deal to receive \$150,000 with 17.5 percent of the company going to John.

"Our game plan was to get Daymond," says Paslay. "He has gone through the whole business life cycle."

While some business owners shirk at giving up a sizable portion of their company to an investor, "we believe in partnerships," Paslay says.

"The concept of having someone who is so much bigger will be helpful to us," says Teague.

Since appearing on Shark Tank, the partners have definitely noticed an uptick in online orders and interest in their products.

"They tell us that being on Shark Tank is equivalent to \$10 million of exposure in advertising," says Paslay.

Teague and Paslay are also enjoying a local following.

On Oct. 24, they held a grand opening for their retail store in the Pearl District, at 623 S. Peoria Ave.

"It's cool to have people come into the store and say that they heard about us on Shark Tank," says Paslay.

As for the future, "our end game is innovation and staying ahead of the trends and continuing to create new, original ideas," he continues.

Coming soon: cufflinks, says Paslay.

After that? For these creatives, something tells me the sky's the limit.



GOING UP: The new corporate headquarters for TTCU The Credit Union is well underway at 9815 E. 81st St. in Tulsa, next to the TTCU Southeast branch. Expected completion is late 2016 for the six-story, 90,000-square-foot facility. Ground was broken on June 25, and officials say that the new headquarters will enable the TTCU team to provide even greater levels of service to the existing membership and to expand membership in years to come.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

State-of-the-Art Tandy Education Center Opens

The \$6.4-million Tandy Education Center was officially dedicated at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa Schusterman Center, 4502 E. 41st St., on Nov. 3.

The 16,000-square-foot Tandy Education Center features the latest advances in medical simulation and a training and feedback method in which students practice in lifelike circumstances using models or virtual reality. The center includes 10 exam rooms, two inpatient intensive care unit/emergency rooms, four interview consultation rooms, one model apartment for in-home situations, two debriefing rooms and a multipurpose training room with a separate area for training standardized patients.

"This facility will allow our community medical students to train in facilities equal to any available in this country," says University of Oklahoma President David L. Boren. "We deeply appreciate the generosity of those who made it possible."

Funding for construction of the facility was provided by a grant from the Tandy Foundation. The grant will also support the purchase of equipment, including simulators, computers, software, cameras, monitors and trainers.

Additional funding for social simulation was provided by a grant from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation. The Schusterman Social Simulation wing features a fully furnished apartment that allows students to practice assessment and intervention skills in a home environment with trained actors.

Simulation provides intensive and standardized experience for individuals and teams, allowing them to practice and learn prior to con-



RIBBON CUTTING: University of Oklahoma and University of Tulsa officials gathered on Nov. 3 for the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony of the 16,000 square-foot Tandy Education Center, which features the latest advances in medical simulation and a training and feedback method in which students practice in lifelike circumstances using models or virtual reality.

tact with live patients. The result is reduced medical errors, improved patient safety and reduced overall health care costs. During the simulation, students might treat a patient who is experiencing a heart attack or other emergency situations. After a simulated scenario is completed, students receive feedback and instruction from medical faculty and other student observers. In addition, all simulations are videotaped and reviewed by students and faculty for further educational instruction.

The simulation center will be available to all University of Oklahoma School of Community Medicine students, physician assistant students, resident physicians and faculty as well as students in nursing, social work, human rela-

tions and other non-medical programs. The center also will offer community hours during which it can be utilized by medical personnel practicing in the Tulsa community who need additional training and certifications. It is anticipated that the simulation center will be used by approximately 1,000 health care professionals annually.

This fall, the inaugural class of first-year students from the OU-TU School of Community Medicine began their studies at OU-Tulsa. These students will complete all four years of their medical education at the OU-TU School of Community Medicine. OU College of Medicine faculty in Oklahoma City and Tulsa as well as TU faculty are teaching the students and utilizing the Tandy Education Center.



ALMOST HUMAN: Those in attendance at the dedication of the Tandy Education Center were treated to demonstrations of the center's life-like medical mannequins that blink, breathe and talk in order to simulate a living human.



MEDICAL SIMULATIONS: During a tour of the Tandy Education Center on Nov. 3, first-year physician assistant students gave a demonstration of how students will use medical simulation to learn about the musculoskeletal system.



LUNG CANCER AWARENESS: From left, Dr. Daniel Nader, chief of staff and chief of pulmonary services at Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Tulsa; Jane Elterman, a CTCA lung cancer patient; and Jeremy Hughey, executive director of American Lung Association in Oklahoma gathered recently to recognize the American Lung Association's LUNG FORCE movement, which kicked off at CTCA in Tulsa on Nov. 3. Elterman is this year's LUNG FORCE Hero.

OSU-CHS Professor Researches Ways to Prevent Infections

Due to many cystic fibrosis patients dying from chronic pulmonary infections, an Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences researcher is looking at ways to prevent deadly bacteria from invading the lungs.

"My primary aim is to learn more about the basic biology of bacteria and come up with novel ways to combat them," says Franklin Champlin, Ph.D., associate professor of microbiology at OSU-CHS. "We want to better understand how certain types of bacteria cause opportunistic infections in the lungs of cystic fibrosis patients and determine the factors that make them so virulent."

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disease that causes the body to produce unusually thick and sticky mucus that lead to chronic lung infections.

It can affect the lungs, intestines, liver, pancreas and kidneys.

About 70,000 people worldwide and 30,000 people in the United States are living with the disease, and approximately 1,000 new cases are diagnosed each year, according to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. There is no cure for the frequently fatal disorder.

Champlin is particularly interested in why the antimicrobial agents used to fight infections are able to enter some bacterial cells but not others.

"Cystic fibrosis patients have compromised immune systems, lacking the ability to fight off bacterial infections like a normal, healthy adult," he says. "The bacteria that set up these chronic infections do so because they have certain chemical and physical properties that take advantage of the situation."



FRANKLIN CHAMPLIN

Champlin, who also is professor emeritus of microbiology at Mississippi State University, has narrowed his research to two antimicrobial agents - daptomycin and triclosan. Daptomycin is an effective antibiotic but only for one group of bacteria. Champlin also is interested in the antimicrobial compound triclosan because it is potent against a broad array of bacteria. The antiseptic is widely used in soaps, lotions, plastics and cosmetics.

By learning what makes these bacteria cause infections and what mechanisms deter certain compounds from eliminating them, Champlin believes scientists can develop treatments that will more effectively combat lung infections in cystic fibrosis patients.

"We are very excited about learning more about the basic biology of certain bacteria and how to better deal with these organisms," he says.

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To learn more about Stephanie and Seth's life-changing experience at the Alexander Burn Center at Hillcrest Medical Center, visit Hillcrest.com.

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EDUCATION

Child Advocate Discusses Internet Misconceptions

By **EMILY RAMSEY**
Managing Editor

On Nov 5, Dr. David Finkelhor spoke at the OU-Tulsa Schusterman Center regarding "Myths and Realities About Internet Crimes Against Children."

Finkelhor is the director of Crimes Against Children Research Center, co-director of the Family Research Laboratory, and professor of sociology and university professor at the University of New Hampshire. He began to study the problems of child victimization, child maltreatment and family violence in 1977.

In 2008, he published the book "Childhood Victimization: Violence, Crime and Abuse in the Lives of Young People."

Greater Tulsa Reporter: What misconceptions verses realities have you found in your research involving the Internet with regard to sexual predators?

David Finkelhor: Over the years, our society has experienced this

almost hysteria on the dangers of the Internet particularly for young children. However, instead of the danger being that of pedophiles who are targeting young children, the reality is that adolescents are more often the target. Usually, young children are more well supervised and not using the Internet in a way that makes them a target.

Research shows that the majority of online predators develop relationships with vulnerable teenagers, with predators often being individuals who are known to the adolescent, such as teachers, coaches, neighbors. The victims are usually troubled teenagers in need of friendship, guidance and sympathetic adults.

Research shows that predators usually do not deceive their victims. Few lie about being a youth or hide their sexual intentions. In reality, victims often meet their predators for sex willingly and repeatedly, and many claim to be "in love."

GTR: Are there other misconcep-

tions that you found through your research?

DF: The subject of bullying: while cyberbullying may be on the rise, the overall percentage of adolescent face-to-face bullying or victimization is on the decline, with a 74 percent decrease from 1992-2010, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. Research shows that cyberbullying mostly occurs in conjunction with face-to-face bullying and is not a separate problem.

GTR: Thanks to your research, how do you feel about the way the Internet affects our youth?

DF: The notion that the Internet and technology are corrupting our youth is not supported by today's research. We are seeing that kids are more virtuous today and better protected than ever before. We are seeing an overall decline in sex crimes, bullying and risky behavior.

Such things as binge drinking and suicide are declining.

In addition, the Internet benefits law enforcement agents by bringing

hidden crimes to light more quickly; helping to catch offenders earlier in their offending history; providing high quality evidence that results in high conviction rates; and bringing to light bullying and abuse situations.

GTR: How should future education about the Internet and online predators be handled so as to avoid these types of misconceptions?

DF: Aim prevention efforts, instead of solely at parents, at adolescents in middle school and high school. Acknowledge teenagers' interest in sex. Educate them about sexual activities such as child pornography, sexual crimes and transmission of sexual photos.

Educate youth on cyberbullying and when joking and teasing turns into cyberbullying.

GTR: What changes would you like to see occur based on these findings?

DF: Don't allow Internet abuse concerns to eclipse or distract from the general campaign against child



DAVID FINKELHOR

molesting and child abuse. Rather than focusing solely on Internet safety, we need to incorporate Internet safety into broader evidence-based education programs on personal safety, sex education, socio-emotional education and decision making. Our youth need to be educated on generic skills that improve both their online and offline decision making, health and safety.

OSUIT Unveils Honorary Pistol Pete Statue

On Oct. 26, Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology held a dedication ceremony for the new Pistol Pete Plaza and unveiled a bronze statue of Frank "Pistol Pete" Eaton, honoring the man who has become the symbol and mascot of Oklahoma State University. The event was held on Eaton's birthday.

The 12-foot-tall statue stands on a 6-foot-tall stone base and sits at the campus' south entrance.

The statue was sculpted by Oklahoma artist Wayne Cooper, who has shown pieces in galleries and museums all over the world. Cooper specializes in western art on

large canvases and larger-than-life sculptures.

Cooper's original Pistol Pete statue stands in Perkins, Oklahoma: Eaton's hometown.

OSUIT President Bill Path says that he learned about Cooper and his statue after Vice President of Fiscal Services Jim Smith visited the Oklahoma Territorial Plaza in Perkins and saw the Pistol Pete sculpture.

"With this statue in place, no one can mistake that OSUIT in Okmulgee is a true campus of OSU," Path says. "This statue will become a source of pride for our campus and a popular backdrop and symbol for the university."



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

PROUD ARTIST: Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology President Bill Path listens as Oklahoma artist Wayne Cooper speaks at the Oct. 26 dedication ceremony for OSUIT's new Pistol Pete Plaza, which displays a bronze statue of Frank "Pistol Pete" Eaton, the man who has become the symbol and mascot of Oklahoma State University. Cooper sculpted both OSUIT's statue and the original Pistol Pete statue, which stands in Perkins, Oklahoma: Eaton's hometown.



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION: Oklahoma State University's Pistol Pete shows his support of OSUIT's new bronze statue of Frank "Pistol Pete" Eaton, which was unveiled Oct. 26.

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Student Prepares for Career as Particle Physicist

Jenks High Schooler Embraces STEM

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education. Tulsa Tech's S T E M Academy focuses on these areas together not only because the skills and knowledge in each discipline are essential for student success but also because these fields are deeply intertwined in the real world.

Students in Tulsa Tech's S T E M Academy make their own path as they design and build unique creations, utilizing digital circuits, gaming software, model structures, remote control machines and robots. Students work individually and in teams to solve unique engineering challenges, using engineering equipment and current software, as they prepare for careers in areas such as software design, chemical engineering and physics.

Kaitlyn Ragosta, a second year STEM Academy student, has set her sights on a high-energy career, as a theoretical high-energy particle physicist.

"I always knew that I wanted to study a subject related to sci-

ence," Ragosta says. "Once I started reading about working with particle accelerators, I knew that was exactly what I wanted to do."

News from Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent

Particle accelerators are devices that use electromagnetic fields to propel charged particles to high speeds, while containing them in well-defined beams, and are best known for their use in particle physics. Sometimes referred to as colliders, particle accelerators provide evidence of the structure of the subatomic world and were commonly referred to as atom smashers in the 20th century. Today, there are currently more than 30,000 accelerators in operation around the world.

"I want to work with particle accelerators to explore and explain phenomenon on the subatomic level," she says. "My goal is to earn a doctorate in physics, and although I'm looking at several universities, my first choice of schools is MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)."

Teddy Wyatt, a pre-engineering instructor at Tulsa Tech's STEM Academy, feels his former stu-

dent has the ability to succeed in this exciting and challenging career field.

"Katy has an exceptional combination of insight and ingenuity," Wyatt says. "She's able to quickly grasp concepts and extend them to application faster than the typical student."

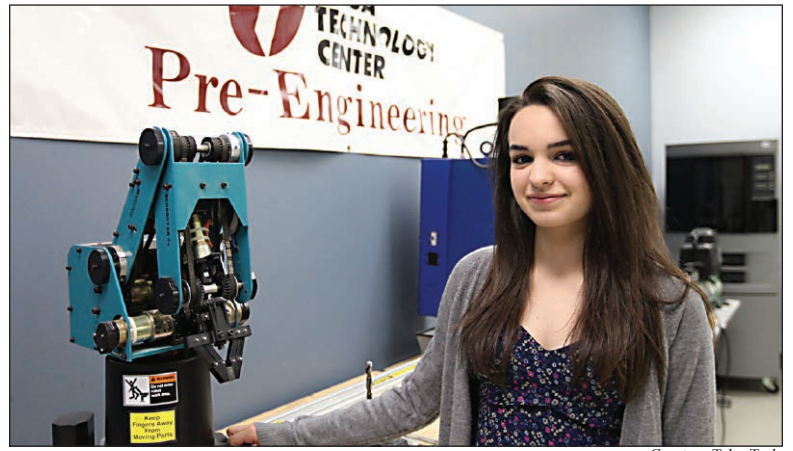
The Jenks High School senior credits her school for her initial interest in science and engineering along with her decision to pursue her academic goals at Tulsa Tech.

"Jenks High School was really good about advocating and making students aware of course offerings, including Intro to Engineering Design and Principles of Engineering," says Ragosta. "I was able to study those courses before continuing my studies at Tulsa Tech's STEM Academy."

Like other STEM faculty members, Carole Forsberg, a pre-engineering instructor, also believes her student has both the skills, and the character traits, necessary to succeed.

"Katy has the winning combination of ability and hard work," Forsberg says. "She's brought those traits to her senior design project, and she definitely has a promising future."

If you're looking for exciting classes for high school and adult students, award-winning business and industry training, or are ready to engineer your next career, Tulsa Tech invites you to visit today. For more information, please call 918-828-5200 or visit us online at tulsatech.edu.



Courtesy Tulsa Tech

BRAINY PURSUITS: Jenks High School student and second-year Tulsa Tech STEM Academy student Kaitlyn Ragosta is pursuing a career as a theoretical, high-energy particle physicist. She hopes to attend MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and earn a doctorate in physics.

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MAKE YOUR OWN PATH

LOCAL NEWS

City Adopts New Program

(Continued from page 1)
what item they might be littering. "It's as much about education as it is about actually picking up litter," he says.

Another benefit that has come from the creation of Keep Owasso Clean is an illustration to residents of what can happen if they are willing to partner with city government.

"The Strong Neighborhood program is a unique opportunity for residents to take an active role to work with their city government and to have a positive impact on community," Fowler says.

"These Girl Scouts took an active role in doing that."

The Owasso Strong Neighborhood Initiative began in 2009 as a way to retain home values and the overall quality of the city of Owasso and its neighborhoods. Since its creation, it has grown its programs to include the Alert Neighborhood Program, City Volunteer Program, Grant Program, Street Sign Toppers, Owasso Cares and Traffic Calming Program.

On Nov. 30, Keep Oklahoma Beautiful's 2015 Environmental Excellence Awards will be held, where Owasso Cares and Keep Owasso Clean are both nominated for awards.

"Even if we don't win, just to be recognized is an accomplishment," says Fowler, "and people will hear about Owasso and our programs that we've created to improve our city."



KEEP OWASSO CLEAN: Owasso Strong Neighborhood Initiative (OSNI) volunteers display the amount of litter they picked up during the first Keep Owasso Clean event in April.

Former Ram Recognized

TU SCHOLAR: Owasso High School graduate Brett Stewart was recognized at the University of Tulsa homecoming game, Oct. 23, as a top 10 freshman at The University of Tulsa. Stewart is majoring in chemical engineering and is the son of Joe and Lauri Stewart.



Courtesy photo

OEF GRANT PATROL



Courtesy OEF

FUNDING SUPPORT: On Nov. 13, trustees of the Owasso Education Foundation participated in Grant Patrol, where trustees caravan to school sites to deliver teacher grants. This year, the foundation delivered grants totaling \$94,000 to 12 school sites. From left are trustees Gary Mawby, Richard Zamor and Holly Neidel, parent representative Jodi Hamar, trustee Michael Gordon, Board Chair Stephanie Horne, Owasso Mid-High Principal Don Huggins, and trustees Susan McKeon and Alex Lamb.



Courtesy PSO

ENERGY CONSERVATION: On Nov. 4, Public Service Company of Oklahoma held its annual Peak Performers banquet and awards, where it awarded Tulsa area businesses that are leaders in energy conservation. Pictured above is Danny Henrie, third from left, Owasso Public Schools director of plant operations, who accepted a check from PSO. Also pictured are, from left, Stuart Solomon, PSO president, Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb and Randy Bailey, PSO Consumer Programs senior engineer.

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SPORTS

Six Inducted into Oklahoma Golf Hall of Fame

Six towering figures in Oklahoma golf history were inducted into the Oklahoma Golf Hall of Fame Oct. 25. The ceremony took place at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

The first Oklahoma Golf Hall of Fame class includes legendary amateur golfer Charlie Coe, course architect Perry Maxwell, former Oklahoma State golf coach and current athletic director Mike Holder, civil rights pioneer Bill Spiller, 25-time Champions Tour winner Gil Morgan and former U.S. Amateur, British Amateur and multiple PGA Tour winner Bob Dickson.

Also recognized on this special night were the 21 previous inductees into the Oklahoma Women's Golf Hall of Fame, which has since merged with the Oklahoma Golf Hall of Fame.

2015 Inductees:

Charlie Coe (1923-2001)

Ardmore native Charles Robert "Charlie" Coe stands alongside Bobby Jones as one of the great amateur golfers in U.S. history. He won the U.S. Amateur in 1949 and 1958 and was runner-up to Jack Nicklaus in a historic battle in 1959.

Coe, a three-time Big Seven Conference champion at Oklahoma, also won the 1950 Western Amateur, was runner-up in the 1951 British Amateur to Dick Chapman, won the Trans-Mississippi Championship four times and played on six Walker Cup teams.

Bob Dickson

McAlester native Robert B. Dickson won both the U.S. Amateur

and British Amateur in 1967, the first man to do so since Lawson Little in 1934 and 1935. Dickson learned the game from his father Ben Dickson, the professional, greenskeeper and manager of McAlester Country Club. By high school, Bob was good enough to win the Class 2A state championship three times for Muskogee High School. A two-time All-American at Oklahoma State in 1965 and 1966, he also won the Oklahoma State Amateur in 1965 and 1966 and the Oklahoma Open in 1966 and 1971.

Mike Holder

The current Oklahoma State athletic director, Mike Holder set a standard that will likely never be challenged during his 28 seasons as head coach of the Cowboy golf team. Taking over for Labron Harris Sr. in 1973, Holder coached the Cowboys to eight national titles and 24 conference championships. He coached 101 All-America selections, 20 conference individual medalists and five individual national champions. Every Holder squad made it to the NCAA Championship and made the cut.

Perry Maxwell (1879-1952)

The genius of Perry "Duke" Maxwell was his ability to divine the natural ebb and flow of any particular site and, using primitive earth-moving equipment, let his course routings take every advantage of what Mother Nature provided.

Without Maxwell's handiwork, Oklahoma would be bereft of many of its greatest golf course treasures, including Southern Hills, consis-

tently ranked among the top-25 courses in the United States, and site of three U.S. Opens and four PGA Championships. The former Ardmore banker left an indelible legacy on our state.

Gil Morgan

Gil Morgan could be in the Hall of Fame of humble. It's hard to imagine a nicer, more unassuming superstar than the Doctor of Optometry from Wewoka via East Central State College.

The long-time member and resident of Oak Tree National, Morgan has enjoyed one of the most incredible "second chance" careers of all time. A seven-time winner and consistent performer on the PGA Tour from 1977-90, Morgan's consistent ball striking and unflappable demeanor proved a magical elixir when he moved to the Champions Tour.

Bill Spiller (1913-1988)

Tishomingo native Bill Spiller fought valiantly for equal access on the PGA Tour for African-American golfers and, though he never really got to enjoy the fruits of his victory, his efforts were crucial in paving the way for Charlie Sifford and others to finally integrate the tour.

"Bill Spiller is a hero, but unappreciated," said national golf writer Al Barkow, who wrote the definitive story on Spiller's integration efforts for Golf World in 2008.

"Charlie Sifford gets a lot of the credit for breaking the racial barrier, but Bill Spiller paved the way."

Spiller moved to Tulsa at age 9 and eventually moved to Los Angeles and took up golf around age 30. He

started competing and winning blacks-only amateur golf tournaments during the 1940s. After being denied entry in the 1948 Richmond (California) Open by the PGA of America, Spiller spent many years challenging the segregation policy of the PGA of America.

Spiller sued. In 1952, the sponsors of the new San Diego Open invited Spiller, unaware of the "Caucasians only" clause. This time he was assisted by fellow invitee and former heavyweight champion Joe Louis. Both men were excluded by Horton Smith, president of the PGA of America.

In 1960, Spiller's cause came to the attention of California attorney general (and future California Supreme Court justice) Stanley Mosk, who told the PGA of America it would not be allowed to use public courses. At the time, most tournaments were held on public courses.

When the PGA of America replied that it would restrict itself to private courses, Mosk promised to stop that as well. Furthermore, he began contacting state attorneys general around the country. Spiller finally



BILL SPILLER

won his cause in 1961, but he was well past his prime by then. Every African American who has played on the Tour since owes Spiller a debt of gratitude.

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SPORTS

38TH TULSA RUN DRAWS 4,500 TO 9.3-MILE COURSE



HERE THEY COME: Runners enjoyed cool and overcast conditions during the Tulsa Run on Halloween.

THERE THEY GO: In addition to the 9.3-mile (15K) course in which these runners participated, others enjoyed the 5-K Run.

eBook About Metro Tulsa Gains Popularity

By DAVE ANDREWS
Contributing Writer

The people, places, teams and events that make metropolitan Tulsa unique are featured in the first comprehensive eBook about this area's contributions in entertainment, athletics, industry, education, religion and the American way of life.

"Derricks, Diamonds and Dreams: Life and Sports in the Tulsa Oil Patch" was published in July 2015 and quickly received national and international distribution from well-known eBook retailers such as Amazon, Apple, Barnes and Noble, Kobo and many others.

Some reviews have likened the eBook to a

Ken Burns public television documentary. While there is in-depth information about each subject, the presentations are entertaining.

The eBook's author, Elven Lindblad, is a life-long resident of metropolitan Tulsa with over 40 years of experience in research for such diverse industries as background screening, print and electronic communications, private education, and financial institutions.

"Derricks, Diamonds and Dreams" originally focused strictly on metropolitan Tulsa's sports heritage. Then, conversations with out-of-state visitors planted a seed that grew into something much larger.

"To a person, every one of them said they

wanted to learn everything possible about all aspects of Tulsa in a single book or eBook. For people considering relocating here for employment or other reasons, they says that is very important," Lindblad said.

"There have been many intriguing books written about Tulsa's civic history, minor league baseball, the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot and other topics, but most of those focused on a single subject," he continues.

"There was almost nothing that connected all aspects of life in Tulsa and the surrounding communities. So the more I thought about it, the more sense it made, and it was written that way."

An interesting story in "Derricks, Diamonds and Dreams" is the invention of the batting tee by the manager of the 1966 Tulsa Oilers baseball team, Charlie Metro, and how he lost out on millions of dollars from his creation.

In 1942, Metro played against Tulsa as a member of the Beaumont Exporters but couldn't hit worth a lick. While working after that season at a Pennsylvania rubber factory, he stacked rubber tubes of various sizes atop each other, put an old mattress nearby, placed a ball on top of those tubes and hit it into the mattress. Dollar signs soon danced in Metro's head.

"Charlie completed the necessary paperwork to patent his creation but never paid the filing fee because minor league baseball players weren't paid very much during the



ELVEN LINDBLAD

1940s," Lindblad says. "He kept putting it off, and others soon capitalized on his mistakes.

"Nevertheless, every child or grandchild that ever played tee ball owes a debt of gratitude to the manager of the 1966 Tulsa Oilers," he adds.

By visiting www.tulsasportsebook.com, a copy of "Derricks, Diamonds and Dreams: Life and Sports in the Tulsa Oil Patch" can be purchased for \$2.99, then directly downloaded to an eReader, tablet, smartphone or computer. Users of an iPad or other Apple devices, click on the Apple icon, Kindle users, click on the Amazon icon, and so forth.

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Tennis at LaFortune Park Becomes First Class

Michael D. Case, Fred Perry Serve Up Excellent Tulsa Facility

By GLENN HIBDON
GTR Sports Writer

A tennis renaissance has bloomed at LaFortune Park in Tulsa. With the completion of the Case Tennis Center, dreams have come true and created what those in the know say is the finest public tennis facility in the United States.

Eight years in creation, the tennis mecca on Hudson Street is "on par" with the center that bears the same name at the University of Tulsa, according to former County Commissioner Fred Perry, one of the founding fathers of the project. Perry spearheaded a drive that raised \$5.5 million in public and private funds to make the project a reality.

"I had a hard time believing it would happen. The indoor courts are icing on the cake," says Melissa McCorkle, director of tennis for Tulsa County Parks. "Everything is first class and it's rare to find a public facility with indoor courts, especially in this part of the country. It took so long to raise the money that we had to take baby steps. It was a team effort, but Fred was the driving force."

Perry is a lifelong tennis player and served as a Tulsa County commissioner for more than six years. McCorkle and Frank Ward, head of the Tulsa Tennis Association, approached Perry about the project in 2007 and fund raising soon began.

"They said 'Fred, you've played at LaFortune Park and you know how bad the courses are. And we don't have enough of them,'" recalls Perry. "I knew what the need was and I had Richard Bales (director of Tulsa Parks) sit in on the meeting. He agreed we would make an effort, but we were talking about a lot of money and there was no money, in the budget."

Not to worry. Perry, Ward, McCorkle, et al started Operation Facelift, a fund drive that would eventually raise the necessary finances. The group began calling on corporations, foundations and individuals, pleading their case and promoting the advantages to Tulsa. The private sector gave \$3.5 million and another \$2 million came from Vision 2025.

Perry also approached Mike Case and Associates, the apartment developers, to lend a hand.



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

BENEFACTOR: Michael D. Case, left, is one of Tulsa's greatest benefactors, helping numerous causes, including tennis. Here he is with University of Tulsa Athletic Director Derrick Gragg during a recent visit with the media to discuss the May 2016 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Tennis Championships to be held at the Michael D. Case Tennis Center on the TU Campus.



GTR Newspapers photo

SERVING THE COUNTY: Former Tulsa County Commissioner Fred Perry was instrumental in helping to garner the funding to build the indoor Case Tennis Center at LaFortune Park.

play matches here. Many of them also practice here," says Perry, who played high school tennis in Junction City, Kansas, placing sixth in the state meet. "The LaFortune Park site has also become a hub for small college programs. John Brown, Northeastern State and Arkansas-Little Rock routinely play quad matches there and participation in all phases has doubled since the project began.

"In 2002, we had 12 courts and 20,000 players that year. Now we have 45,500 a year," McCorkle says. "We're always on the lookout to bring more people to Tulsa."

The numbers are indeed impressive. Over 350 junior players call the Case Tennis Center home, there are more 10-and-under players than any private club in Tulsa and 93 USTA teams, and 27 recreational league teams suit up. There are also nine USPTA teaching pros on hand.

"Our main selling point is that our facility is good for the economic development of the city," Perry says. "With better facilities we're able to attract more tournaments. The second thing is



GTR Newspapers photo

CASE FOR CASE: Michael D. Case holds the scissors as he readies to cut the ribbon at the Case Tennis Center at LaFortune Park. From left are former Tulsa Mayor Bob LaFortune, Tennis Director Melissa McCorkle, Former County Commissioner Fred Perry, Mike Case, tennis community leader Frank Ward, major contributors Debbie and John Hale, Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith and Tulsa County Park Director Richard Bales.

LaFortune had to stop a lot of youth development programs in the winter because we had no indoor facilities. Now we're able to expand and get more underserved kids into the sport.

"The third benefit of our project is public health through exercise."

McCorkle says future plans include organizing a wheelchair tournament and continuing the Tennis Ball in the Spring, an event that has attracted famed pros such as Mats Wilander in the past.

"People from out of town and out of state rave about our club," McCorkle says. "They say they've never seen anything like it before. They say it's the best public facility they've seen. It belongs to the whole city, not just to those who play tennis."

Perry and McCorkle say another benefit is that people who have never played the sport before have decided to give it a try. Private clubs are in cooperation because many players who start at Case Tennis Center will eventually join a private club for the social aspect. There was no "push back" when the LaFortune Park

group was raising funds. "We have first class lights, playing service, fencing, everything," says Perry. "This really is a dream come true."

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Cedric Cudjoe Pushes Self After Childhood Accident

Seminole Star Played in 1st Tournament of Champions

By **TERRELL LESTER**
Editor at large

As a participant in the inaugural schoolboy basketball Tournament of Champions, Cedric Cudjoe would have been justified if he had been a little bedazzled by the competition.

Yet, despite the presence of such hoops luminaries as Ray Russell, Charlie Wallace and Sparky Grober, All-Staters all, Cudjoe felt right at ease. No hint of intimidation.

Cudjoe was a 6-foot-1 reserve for Class A Seminole, at a time when Class 2A was the largest classification for Oklahoma high schools.

"I considered it a privilege just to be able to play in a tournament as big as that tournament was," he said recently during an afternoon visit in his charming Oklahoma City home with his high school coach J.V. Haney.

"It was an outstanding event. It was outstanding in that you were surrounded by so many great, well-known basketball players," he said.

Cedric Cudjoe might not have been one of those "great" or "well-known" basketball players, players whose names and exploits have become an indelible part of state hoops lore since that January weekend in Tulsa in 1966 when a tournament tradition was born.

But Cedric Cudjoe used his modest high school basketball career as the foundation for a life of inspiration, a life of edification, a life devoted to education.

Seminole won one game and finished in sixth place in the 1966 Tournament of Champions, played at Memorial High School. The 51st edition of the tournament will unfold Dec. 28-30 in the Mabee Center on the campus of Oral Roberts University.

Just as the tournament has grown and evolved into a holiday basketball bonanza over the half-century since its inception, so, too, has Cedric Cudjoe matured into a pillar of respect and accomplishment.

Cudjoe's life journey, from teenage athlete to retired educa-

tor, was fueled by fearless resolve, singular courage, inexorable willpower.

He had to overcome extreme obstacles.

He had to prove himself. To himself. To others.

He had to demonstrate that one man's disability was another man's motivation.

Before he could play basketball, he had to teach himself to run.

At the age of 18 months, he lost half of his right foot following a freakish accident.

For more than six years, at a time when being an absolute, red-blooded, All-American boy with boundless energy was a natural evolution for most of his Seminole neighborhood pals, Cudjoe watched life unfold from afar.

He was told he would never play sports.

Fitted with what he called "a very antiquated contraption," Cudjoe had difficulty doing what others took for granted.

"I couldn't keep up with my sister walking to school," he said. "I just couldn't do much."

As a toddler, he left his home while his parents were inside with friends and crawled under a car parked in the driveway. When the guests were leaving, not knowing of Cedric's whereabouts, the driver of the car backed over both legs of the youngster.

Just as the front tires were closing in on Cedric, an alert delivery man making his rounds began shouting and waving at the driver.

Within milliseconds, Cedric was saved from an even worse fate.

One leg, he said, healed effectively.

The other leg, his right, did not. Doctors removed the front half of his foot.

He learned to walk wearing a garish brace that enveloped his right leg.

By the time he was 8, gangrene was beginning to spread up his leg. Amputation, at the knee, was the only solution.

Technology was changing throughout those years, Cudjoe said, and in the summer of 1956, he was fitted with the prosthetic leg that would enable him to once and for all kick down the barriers that had separated him from his dreams.

Tolerating and wearing the



COACH AND PLAYER: J.V. Haney, left, coached Cedric Cudjoe in Seminole in 1966, the first year of the Tournament of Champions. Cudjoe overcame the loss of a leg to become an excellent basketball player, and later in life he served as a successful educator.



SHOCKING THE SHOCKERS: TU senior guard Shaquile Harris elevates over a crowd of Wichita State defenders in a Nov. 17 game at the Reynolds Center. The Golden Hurricane upset the no. 9-ranked Shockers 77-67, its first win over a top-ten team since beating the seventh-ranked Cincinnati Bearcats in the 2000 NCAA tournament. Harris led TU in scoring with 20 points, including clutch free throws down the stretch.

apparatus that he did until he was 8, Cudjoe said, "I don't know if there were any others in existence other than the one that I had on."

"I kind of considered myself as a disabled handicapped person."

But with the new prosthetic, he said, "I was 8 years old and I discovered that I could move around quite well."

It was the beginning of the next chapter of Cedric Cudjoe's life.

"I said I was going to make every effort to be able to do what everybody else was doing," he said. "I didn't know if I was going to be able to make it, but I was going to give it my best shot."

That declaration to succeed, that vision of purpose at such a young age, was the result of his wish to alleviate the pain, the guilt, his parents must have endured.

"I always felt that even up to the time that they both passed, that I could always see behind their eyes," he said. "I knew how hurt they were over what had happened. I think they, like most other people in the neighborhood, always felt that Cedric was going to be the little crippled child in the neighborhood."

"I knew they didn't want that to be. And I knew I needed to do

something to get some of that weight off of them. I wanted my parents to not feel bad about what had happened.

"I just pushed myself. When I learned how to run, that was it."

"I found out that I had athletic skills. Just as good, better, than some. I enjoyed sports, and I was thinking that 'this will do it,'" he said.

Slowly, but surely, adapting to his new prosthesis, 8-year-old Cedric went out for a Seminole elementary school baseball team. As a catcher.

"My team didn't have a catcher," he said. "I determined that I could get down there, squat down behind home plate, and play catcher. And when it came my turn to bat, (his team could) just skip over me."

Cedric and his teammates took easily to the challenges.

"I got a lot of catching experience," he said with a smile.

There was just one element missing from his game.

"I said, 'you know, you're walking, you're squatting and catching the ball, now you need to run,'" he said.

Again, he pushed himself.

"Whenever I had complete
(Continued on page 21)

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THE ECONOMY

Grandma's Recipe Makes Billy Ray's BBQ Unique

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

When Billy Ray Cooper found the recipe for his Grandma Minnie's barbecue sauce in her silverware chest, he knew he had found something special.

"She used to make that sauce, put it in mason jars and give some to everyone in the family," he remembers.

After Minnie passed away, Cooper was going through her home, looking for things to help him remember her and his grandfather.

After he stumbled upon her sauce recipe, he walked to the neighborhood grocery store near his home, bought all of the recipe's ingredients and made the sauce.

Thus began the journey of the creation of Billy Ray's Catfish & BBQ.

Cooper opened his first barbecue location in 1984 at 3524 S.W. Blvd., and after 30 years, the original Billy Ray's location remains.

However, before opening shop, Cooper knew there was a bit of preparation to be done.



JENKS LOCATION OPENS: On Aug. 25, Billy Ray Cooper opened his third Billy Ray's BBQ location, at 399 E. Main St. in Jenks, in the same location that served as home to Billy Ray's BBQ in the 1990s.



FAMILY PRIDE: Billy Ray Cooper sits in the dining room of his Jenks Billy Ray's BBQ location. On the wall above is a photo of one of his nephews in a calf roping competition. Cooper opened the first Billy Ray's restaurant in 1984 using his grandmother's barbecue sauce recipe.

"I taught myself how to cook barbecue," he says. "I bought \$1,000 worth of meat and cooked it all. My friends came and ate it, and they all loved it."

Before becoming a restaurateur, Cooper worked as a fireman and owned a service station. Yet, when the opportunity arose to showcase the quality and flavor of his grandmother's sauce, he couldn't deny it.

And customers have responded equally favorably.

Over the years, Cooper expanded Billy Ray's BBQ throughout the greater Tulsa area and beyond to fill customers' barbecue demands.

"When we first opened in 1984, there were only a few barbecue restaurants in the area," he says. "No comparison to the number that Tulsa has now."

In order to remain efficient, Cooper now owns and operates three Billy Ray's in the Tulsa area.

His Broken Arrow restaurant, located at 1904 S. Elm Pl., opened in March 2010, and on Aug. 25, Cooper opened a third Billy Ray's, at 399 E. Main St. in Jenks, the same location that served as home to Billy Ray's in the 1990s.

"I always regretted leaving that Jenks location," he says, because of the loyalty of the customer base and the strong community support of the school district.

"On a (football) game night, you can hardly move on Main Street," he laughs.

After 30 years, customers remain strongly supportive of Billy Ray's sliced brisket, ribs and tabouli — the restaurant's three biggest sellers. Also high on the list of popular

items is the restaurant's catfish, which Cooper started selling in 1996, with a special seasoning and breading preparation that "I believe makes our catfish the best catfish in the state," Cooper says.

Besides good food, family can also be felt at Cooper's restaurants. Five of his grandchildren work at the three locations, his wife, Sherry, decorated all three restaurants' interiors, and a photo of one of his nephews can be seen proudly on display in the dining room at the Jenks location.

All three Billy Ray's Catfish & BBQ locations are open Tuesday through Saturday with specials running daily, including a Christmas meal special coming soon.

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Annual Arabian Show Boosts Local Economy

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Kay Stone Buford knows the power of a horse and its powerful connection with a human.

"I was raised on the back of a horse," she says.

Buford, who grew up in southeastern Oklahoma, was not yet three years old when her father brought home her first horse. Buford and all of her friends grew up riding horses together.

"It fills something inside that's indescribable; that relationship with a horse is special," she says.

"Horses were my security blanket."

Buford grew up and became a licensed clinical social worker, but she never forgot the impact that horses had on her early years.

"If you ever experience horses to the level that I have, you don't ever forget it."

After Buford retired in 2000, she decided to become a horse owner once again.

Although Buford was acquainted with many kinds of horses, the

Arabian horse especially drew her attention.

"There's something in the DNA that creates a connection between Arabian horses and humans," she says. "Owning an Arabian, it was different from other horses, the depth of the relationship."

Since 2007, Buford has bred five Arabians; three of those five competed at this year's U.S. National Arabian and Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show at Tulsa's Expo Square.

Buford's passion for and knowledge of Arabian horses made her a prime candidate a few years ago, to help bring the national horse show to Tulsa because of several reasons: Tulsa's central location; the equine facilities of the Expo Center, which came about through funding from Vision 2025; and the economic impact generated by the show and visitors.

When the show came to Tulsa for the first time in 2009, Buford held a welcome event at her home in order to introduce local dignitaries to those involved with the Arabian Show.

The 2015 event took place at

Expo Square Oct. 23-31; the show brings 1,800 horses, 1,500 people and more than \$25 million in total economic impact to Tulsa annually.

The show has two more years before its contract is up for renewal after the 2017 show.

"We have to start planning by the start of 2016 to keep the show returning because other people want it," says Buford.

And Buford is a little worried. "People aren't coming out to the show," she says. The show runs nine days, seven of those days with free admission.

The event also includes vendors of equine goods and other items.

"We need more people coming to the show and shopping at the vendors," she says. "To get this show to remain in Tulsa, we have to develop a culture here."

She attributes the lack of widespread support largely to awareness.

"Expo Square has been wonderful in responding to the show's needs; it's the vendors who need help from the community."

In addition, local publicity is



HORSE INTUITION: Kay Stone Buford stands with Sir KaDan El Bey, the first Arabian horse that she bred. Since 2007, Buford has bred five Arabians; three of those five competed at this year's U.S. National Arabian & Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show at Tulsa's Expo Square.

especially important to the show, she says.

She adds, "There are enormous opportunities the event presents for local businesses.

"Local businesses often sell out of supplies when the show is in town.

People who are here from out of town are looking for things to do.

There are so many opportunities for private business owners to create more awareness for trainers and visitors so that these ones are going out and seeing things in Tulsa," she says.

OSU-Tulsa Alumnus Finds Success with MBA Degree

Sean Kouplen, chairman and chief executive officer of Regent Bank, attributes much of his career success to his affiliation with Oklahoma State University.

"I am very grateful to OSU," he says. "It is largely because of the education I received at OSU and the relationships I made during that time that have led to the success I have been fortunate enough to experience."

A bank president and business owner by age 34, Kouplen earned his bachelor's degree at OSU and his Master of Business Administration at OSU-Tulsa. He has been named one of Oklahoma's Most Admired CEOs by the Journal Record and one of OSU's Top 50 MBA Graduates of the century.

OSU-Tulsa President Howard Barnett admires Kouplen for his commitment and dedication to the university.

"His enthusiasm and passion for giving back is powerful and a testament to the academic quality offered at OSU-Tulsa," he says. "We are proud to have one of our most prestigious graduates represent OSU-Tulsa to the community."

Kouplen said when he decided to get his master's degree, he knew immediately OSU-Tulsa was the right place.

"OSU-Tulsa was a godsend. I knew I wanted the quality of degree that OSU offered. But because I was working full time in Tulsa, I would have been unable to drive back and forth to Stillwater," Kouplen says. "The degree I earned at OSU-Tulsa is



SEAN KOUPLEN

the same exact degree I would have gotten in Stillwater. It was the perfect solution."

He found the MBA program to be rigorous and more grounded in practical application than theory. It gave him the credibility and preparation he needed for his career.

"Most of my instructors had actually worked in the areas they were teaching," he says. "They offered real-world experience that goes beyond theory and textbooks. They were teaching ideas,

concepts and theories they had actually practiced. An MBA from OSU-Tulsa is one of the best investments I have ever made."

One of his favorite instructors was Raj Basu, Ph.D., OSU-Tulsa vice president of academic affairs.

"As a student, Sean Kouplen was a standout. He was eager to use the knowledge he gained in his courses in his real-world career," he says. "He has worked hard to accomplish what he has, and OSU-Tulsa is proud to have played a role in his success."

Thirteen years later, Kouplen still utilizes the knowledge and relationships he gained at OSU-Tulsa within his career.

"I think the value of the OSU network in Tulsa is significant," he says. "We have tens of thousands of alumni in professional positions here in Tulsa. The ability to utilize that network and take advantage of these connections is very beneficial."

Kouplen was appointed to the OSU-Tulsa Board of Trustees in 2014. He views the position as an opportunity to give back to the university that gave so much to him.

"OSU-Tulsa is so important because it provides the opportu-

nity for individuals in Tulsa and surrounding communities to receive a Big 12 public education that otherwise would be out of reach for so many," he says.

As an adjunct professor of finance and management at the Tulsa campus, Kouplen has developed great respect for OSU-Tulsa students.

"There are so many amazing individuals who want to better themselves but are place-bound.

They have jobs, families and other commitments that keep them here in Tulsa," he says. "These students come to OSU-Tulsa to better themselves and they give 110 percent. That is what I am passionate about."

To learn more about Sean Kouplen and his passion for OSU-Tulsa, visit the Distinguished Alumni Series website at www.osu-tulsa.okstate.edu/main/kouplen.php.

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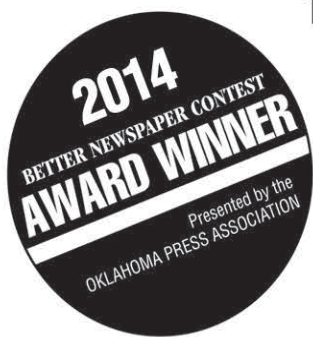
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Tulsa Federal Credit Union Opens in South Tulsa

Tulsa Federal Credit Union hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony Nov. 9 to celebrate the opening of its new south Tulsa branch. The 4,300 square-foot branch is located at 10790 S. Memorial Drive.

"We are happy to provide our members with a better, more convenient location in south Tulsa," says Greg Gallant, Tulsa FCU president/CEO. "As a credit union, it is our mission to serve those in our community, and we're excited to get to know our new neighbors."

The state-of-the-art facility constructed by Stava Building Corporation features more energy efficiency with (21) 270-watt solar panels located on the drive thru roof producing 28,000 watts of electricity per day. In addition, a geothermal system that provides heating and cooling to the building.

The branch's banking features are also cutting-edge. With ATMs located at each drive-thru unit, customers will have a much faster experience. In addition, lobby teller pods are installed inside for a more individualized, turnkey approach to



STATE OF THE ART FACILITY: The new Tulsa Federal Credit Union location will offer one of the most up-to-date financial facilities anywhere.

serving the members' financial needs.

The ribbon-cutting included remarks from Greg Gallant, John Stava, Stava Building Corporation president; Ruth Littlefield, Tulsa Regional Chamber senior vice president of membership development and

relations; and Krystal Crockett, Bixby Metro Chamber of Commerce president/CEO.

About Tulsa Federal Credit Union

Since 1943, Tulsa Federal Credit Union has thrived on the life-long partnership with its



CUTTING THE RIBBON: Getting ready to cut the ribbon for the new TFCU location are, from left, Ruth Littlefield, Tulsa Regional Chamber Senior Vice President, Membership Development & Relations; Gene Reeves, Tulsa FCU Chairman; Greg Gallant, Tulsa FCU President/CEO; Kyle Montgomery, Tulsa FCU Financial Center Manager; and Krystal Crockett, Bixby Metro Chamber of Commerce President/CEO.

members. Starting with just 12 members and \$240 in assets, its members and knowledgeable staff have helped grow the institution to 57,000 members, more than \$700 million in assets with 16 locally convenient branches. It is the essence of Tulsa Federal CU's mission to be the life-long

financial compass for its members, a positive force in the community, the best at making each member's experience exceptional and the commitment to trust, integrity, teamwork and making a difference that sets it apart. For more information please visit www.tulsafederalcu.org.

E-discovery Firm Holding Seminar for Attorneys

Avansic, an e-discovery and digital forensics firm headquartered in Tulsa, has announced its seventh annual End of the Year Continuing Legal Education (CLE) for attorneys in Oklahoma. The seminars will take place in Oklahoma City on Dec. 8 and in Tulsa on Dec. 9 and are free of charge for all participants.

"About seven years ago, we began providing this educational service to lawyers to specifically focus on e-discovery and digital forensics," says Gavin Manes, CEO of Avansic.

This year, Avansic has revamped its format and is bringing a panel of nationally recognized e-discovery experts and thought leaders for a panel discussion.

"We are thrilled to have the ability to

attract such a high-caliber group of panelists," says Manes. "Oklahoma attorneys have the opportunity to learn from several experts from all over the nation, covering a variety of topics such as upcoming trends in e-discovery, assembling an e-discovery team, ethics of e-discovery and cost effective e-discovery.

Panel experts include George Socha, co-founder of EDRM and Socha Consulting. Socha is considered one of the most respected experts in his field and is largely responsible for establishing standards and guidelines for the e-discovery industry.

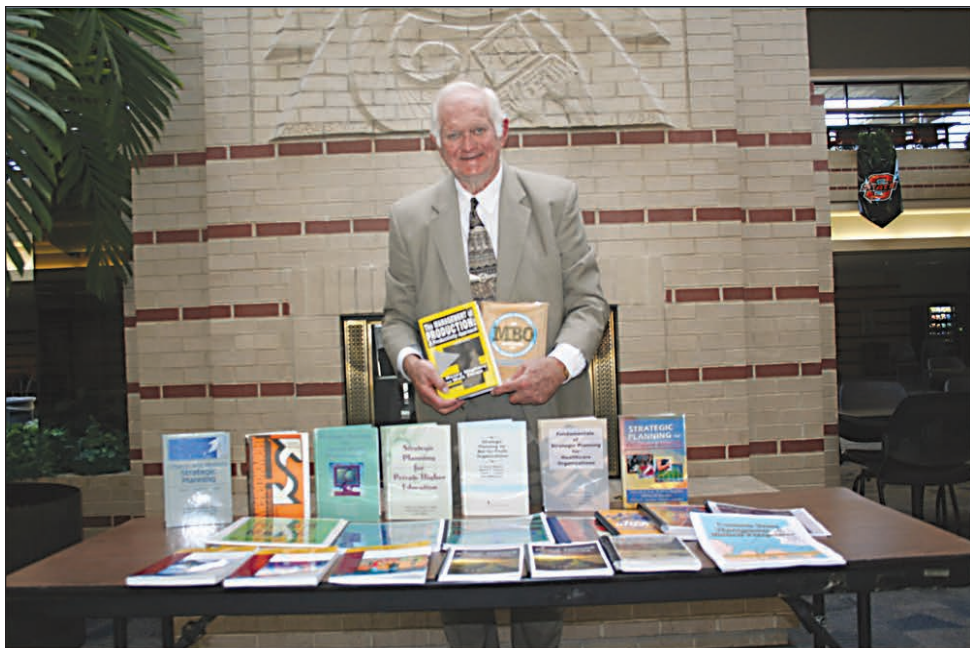
"Any lawyer should attend this CLE regardless if they may or may not need e-discovery services on their next case," says Manes. "Their corporate client may need

advice on discovery issues, or a small matter may turn into a larger matter with discovery or forensic needs."

While the CLE seminars are free, seats are limited, so reservations are required. Both the Oklahoma City and Tulsa seminars are

pre-approved for CLE credit in Oklahoma, and credit may be available in other states using self-submission.

To make a reservation, email cle@avansic.com, or for more information, visit www.avansic.com.



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OPINION

Our Nation's Air Force: First In, Last Out!

By LARRY SPENCER,
USAF Retired, 4-Star General
President, Air Force Association



LARRY SPENCER

When Saddam Hussein's military forces invaded and seized Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, U.S. Air Force men and women swiftly deployed a vast airpower armada to the Gulf. I know first-hand because, as the comptroller for the 4th Fighter Wing, our F-15E aircraft were among the first to deploy. And, as antiquated as it sounds today, I deployed several finance "paying agents" with a briefcase full of cash and checks to begin the initial build-up of forces.

More than 25 years later, I am retired but the Air Force is still in the fight. Without fanfare or bravado, the Air Force seamlessly moved from Desert Shield and the victorious Desert Storm, through Southern Watch and Northern Watch, and straight into 9-11 defense of U.S. air space and combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and now over the skies of Syria. Simultaneously, the Air Force responded to crises in the Balkans and the Horn of Africa, Libya, and as rapid responders to humanitarian crises and natural disasters all over the world.

When I grew up in Southeast D.C., my parents laid down a firm rule for my siblings and me to be in the house when the street lights came on. Thinking back on it, I never knew how the lights came on, I just knew, like clock-work, as night approached they came on. For some, Air Force capabilities are like street lights. Not many people know how Air Force satellites provide missile warning or weather or GPS, but they are always on point. Most people don't know how nuclear weapons operate but they know our nuclear deterrent is on the ready, 24/7.

Most Americans are not qualified to fly a jet fighter, but Americans do expect the U.S. Air Force to own the skies and provide freedom of maneuver for U.S. ground forces. When the balloon goes up, hundreds of cargo aircraft appear on the ramp, engines running, and ready to rapidly move people and cargo, anywhere on the globe. And, while most Americans take gas stations on the ground for granted, an Air Force Tanker aircraft coming into view at 35,000 feet to

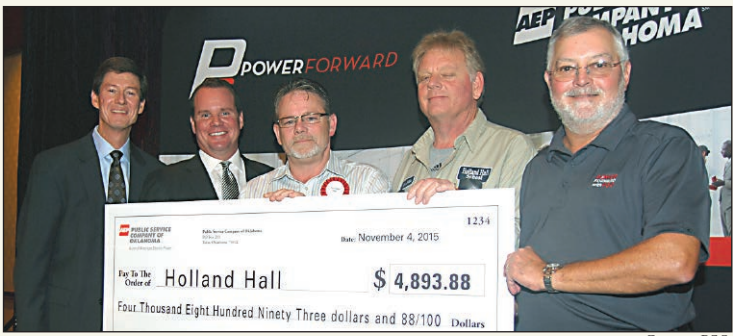
refuel a thirst aircraft is a welcome sight for pilots.

Never before has the nation's ability to project military power depended so heavily on air and space capabilities. Whether it is the principal actor or a supporting force, USAF brings to the fight unsurpassed space, air combat, air mobility, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, command and control, and nuclear deterrence, adding strength, flexibility, and resilience to the Joint Force. Often, just our presence acts as a deterrent to conflict or its escalation protecting our national security and interests.

However, these magnificent capabilities don't happen by accident, and over the years, the constant grind of the Air Force has taken a toll on its equipment and people. The Air Force aircraft fleet has reached the point at which it is inefficient and less effective in carrying out their respective tasks. They have sustained considerable wear and tear from combat operations around the world.

USAF proudly defines itself as one Air Force—with Airmen (both military and civilians, active duty, guard and reserve) executing strike, space, mobility, support or special operations missions. They are waging war, performing joint operations, supporting humanitarian relief and transforming in place - all while maintaining America's air and space dominance. For this effort to continue, it deserves our nation's support.

BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES



HOLLAND HALL AWARDED: Holland Hall School was awarded by PSO at the PSO's Peak Performers banquet and awards ceremony Nov. 4 at the Hard Rock Hotel. From left are PSO President Stuart Solomon, featured speaker Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, Ray Daniels and Randy Mills of Holland Hall, and PSO Consumer Programs Senior Engineer Randy Bailey.



AIRCO AT BAH-RAH: Representatives of Airco Service, Inc. attended the Tulsa Regional Chamber BAH-RAH event at the Hard Rock Hotel Nov. 12. From left are Josh Jacobsen, Tom Boyce, Dick Rago and Austin Boyce. The event is the chamber's premier networking function, combining Business After Hours and Restaurant After Hours.



FOLDS OF HONOR GIFT: The Bob Hurley Auto Family recently donated \$15,850 to the Folds of Honor Foundation. From left are Chad Smith, CrossFit T-Town; Jeremy Durtschi, Folds of Honor Foundation; Bob Hurley, Bob Hurley Auto Family; Julie Chin, Bob Hurley spokesperson; Chris Gilmore, Bob Hurley GMC Buick; and Kim Siex, Bob Hurley RV Store. The Battle of the Ballpark 2015 event through the Tulsa Drillers and CrossFit T-Town was the kick-off for this fundraising campaign, and the Bob Hurley Auto Family wanted to continue that effort.

Village, an application technology company with offices in Tulsa and Portland, Ore., has recently appointed **Tracey Norvell** as chief executive officer.



NORVELL

Village's patent-pending technology uses mobile devices to initiate a daily three-minute video call between two friends or family members. The company likens the interactive experience to a social exchange resulting from a chance meeting.

Norvell brings 35 years of business experience to Village. Graduating from the University of Tulsa with a BSBA in accounting, she spent eight years in internal audit at MAPCO, a Fortune 200 diversified energy company, while earning certification as a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Internal Auditor. Her next eight years were spent as a full-time volunteer board member and event chairman with numerous Tulsa nonprofit organizations. For the past 19 years she has owned Arts Society, a marketing firm.

Village is available on iTunes and GooglePlay as "Village Chat" at no cost.

Jenks Chamber of Commerce President **Josh Driskell** has been elected to serve as treasurer of **Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Executives**. He was elected at the Nov. 4 board of directors meeting for the organization.



DRISKELL

Driskell, who has served on the board since 2014, also chairs the organization's Communications Committee and its Bylaws Task Force.

Driskell has served as president of the Jenks Chamber since 2010 and previously was the director of communications and public affairs. Prior to joining the chamber, Driskell served as a congressional aide in a number of political campaign roles and as a journalist.

OCCE is the professional organization for chamber of commerce executives and staff in Oklahoma.

Tulsa attorney **Paul D. Brunton** was elected to the **Oklahoma Bar Association's Board of Governors** as vice president starting in January 2016. He will be a part of the OBA's 17-member Board of Governors, which meets monthly and governs the association.

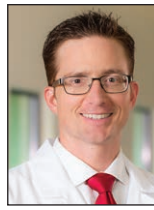


BRUNTON

Brunton graduated high school from Cascia Hall in 1962 and received his Bachelor of Arts from OU in 1966. He served in the U.S. Army Special Forces during the Vietnam War. He received his J.D. from the TU College of Law in 1971 and his LL.M. from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1982. He was admitted to the OBA and to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court and 10th U.S. Court of Appeals in 1971. His practice focuses on criminal defense in city, state and federal court.

Garvin A. Isaacs of Oklahoma City will fill the role of president, and Linda S. Thomas of Bartlesville will serve as president-elect. OBA leadership roles are voluntary positions in which lawyers serve while continuing to practice law.

Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Tulsa (CTCA) welcomes **Andrew Buck, DO**, to its team of medical oncologists. In addition, the hospital has named gastroenterologist **Scott Hendrickson, DO, FACOI** to medical director of metabolic services.



BUCK

A board-certified medical oncologist, Buck earned his **Osteopathic Medicine** degree from Touro University-Nevada in Las Vegas, followed by his internal medicine residency at Valley Hospital Medical Center in Las Vegas. His fellowship training included hematology/oncology with Nova Southeastern University/LCH in Miami, Florida, followed by graduation from medical oncology fellowship with Oklahoma State University/CTCA in Tulsa in July 2015, as part of the hospital's affiliation with the OSUMC fellowship program.



HENDRICKSON

Hendrickson has been promoted to serve as medical director of metabolic services. Metabolic support provides the nutrients a body needs to maintain a healthy daily metabolism. It can be administered in various ways, including through a feeding tube or intravenously. At CTCA, metabolic support is provided by a team of experts, including a physician – typically a gastroenterologist or a surgeon – a dietitian, a case manager and a nurse.

Bixby attorney **Ryan Pittman** and Jenks attorney **Erin Dailey**, both with the **GableGotwals** law firm, have been recently named by Thompson Reuters to the 2015 Super Lawyers Rising Stars list. Pittman was named a Rising Star for his work in energy and resources law and Dailey for her work in business litigation.



PITTMAN



DAILEY

Rising Stars recognizes the top up-and-coming attorneys who are 40 years old or younger or who have been practicing for 10 years or less. Combining peer nominations and evaluations with third-party research, the selection process is rigorous and has been recognized by bar associations and courts across the country for its credibility and sophistication. Each candidate is evaluated on 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement. Thompson Reuters is the world's leading source of intelligent information for businesses and professionals.

GableGotwals is a full-service law firm of more than 90 attorneys representing a diversified client base in Oklahoma, the Southwest and across the nation.

Gilcrease Museum Executive Director James Pepper Henry announces that **Laura F. Fry** has been hired as curator of art.



FRY

Fry comes to Gilcrease Museum from the Tacoma Art Museum in Tacoma, Wash., where she has been the Haub Curator of Western American Art since April 2013. Fry worked closely with collectors Erivan and Helga Haub to finalize their donation of 295 western American works of art to TAM. She curated and designed the inaugural exhibition of the Haub collection in a new gallery space – a 16,000-square-foot expansion, supported by an Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Prior to her position at TAM, Fry spent four years working with the collections of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming: first as an education and curatorial assistant, then as a Frederic Remington research assistant.

Jones PR, an integrated communications and public affairs agency with Oklahoma City and Tulsa locations, has added **Kelly Arnold, APR**, as senior account executive for public affairs and promoted **Suzanne Singleterry** to manager of public affairs and **Emily Anderson** to assistant account executive of consumer marketing.



ARNOLD



SINGLETERRY

Arnold will develop and implement integrated communications campaigns for state, regional, and national businesses and associations. Previously, she served as the communications and marketing director for the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha and as the communications and marketing director for Canadian Valley Technology Center.

Singleterry was promoted to manager of public relations, overseeing a team of communications professionals and providing strategic planning and direction for state, regional, and national businesses and associations. Anderson is being promoted to assistant account executive of consumer marketing, where she develops, executes, and evaluates media and community campaigns for several national retail brands.



ANDERSON

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Tulsans Grateful for Mayo's Return to Splendor

On a spring evening when I was 17 and feeling grown up as only a 17-year-old can feel, I took a date to my high school senior prom. I can't remember my date's name, but I remember the ballroom: a large, two-story chamber with tall arched windows and massive chandeliers. The dark red walls contrasted with massive amounts of gilded white plaster moldings. Even then, the ballroom was slightly shabby, but, to us teenagers, the Crystal Ballroom at the top of the Mayo Hotel was the height of elegance.

The Mayo has long been Tulsa's hotel icon. It opened in 1925, a dream project for the Mayo brothers, John and Cass, who were successful oil and gas producers. They previously had built the nearby Mayo Building and had even started an upscale furnishings business they called Mayo's. No expense was spared in building the 600-room hotel. Marble and fine fixtures were utilized in the public spaces. The main lobby had a back-lit stained glass ceiling. There were nine meeting/banquet rooms including the Crystal Ballroom. Most guest rooms had a private bath, a luxury for hotels in the early 1920s. A coffee shop and a restaurant for fine dining were also included. A meal at the Mayo was a special event for most Tulsans.

A book could be written about

the celebrities and well-known Tulsans who stayed and sometimes even lived at the Mayo. Eventually, the Mayo family sold the facility to an interested

hotel chain. The building passed through four separate hotelier owners, getting shabbier and shabbier before closing in 1981. At the same time, downtown Tulsa, once a center of activity for miles around, had become home to only a few private companies, law firms and government entities. After 5 p.m., sage brush was said to blow through the downtown streets.

A number of developers stepped in to try to resurrect the Mayo Hotel. Although it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, even the resulting tax credits didn't provide adequate funding to make an undercapitalized project viable. The result was an interior that was gutted of any salvageable materials, leaving the outside shell and only the inside structural frame intact. And so the Mayo sat, forlorn for more than 25 years, waiting for the right person to bring it back to life.

In 2007, downtown Tulsa was starting to revive. The BOK Center was on the drawing boards, and activity, like pollen, was in the air. The patriarch of the Snyder family, John Snyder, with years of construction experience under his belt, decided the Mayo's time had come.

One of the characteristics of a successful developer is recognizing the beginning of a trend. Timing is everything. Snyder has been both shrewd and lucky with his.

Coinciding with the Britney Spears' performance at the BOK Center in 2009, the Mayo reopened as a sophisticated high-end 102-room boutique hotel. There are 42 suites with 26 different layouts. There are five types of basic rooms and 76 residential apartments with 28 different layouts. The main lobby has been appropriately restored to its former glory. During a low point in the hotel's history, the upper half of the two-story lobby had been enclosed to create a new meeting room. The stained glass was hidden above an acoustical tile ceiling. Although only two stained glass ceiling panels remained when restoration work began, these have been duplicated to complete the ceiling. The elevator doors feature the distinct Mayo logo, which is used with great affect in many areas. The coffee shop and restaurant have reappeared, and the penthouse, originally a maintenance room for making metal room keys, has been reinvented as a bar and meeting room facility which opens to a roof terrace with spectacular views of downtown Tulsa. Finally, the historic Crystal Ballroom lives up to its earlier splendor.

Kudos to the Snyder family who still own and operate the Mayo. The Snyders have other projects in the works, including the already-completed conversion of the former City Hall building into a hotel and, currently underway, the former YMCA building into apartments. The value they bring to Tulsa's built environment is incalculable.

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA



Photos by EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

STORIED HISTORY: At top, the historic Mayo Hotel sign illuminates the Tulsa skyline. The Mayo Hotel was built in downtown Tulsa in the 1920s by brothers John and Cass Mayo. The hotel was a destination for celebrities and well-known Tulsans. However, as downtown Tulsa declined and the hotel changed hands, the hotel eventually closed in 1981. It was renovated and brought back to its former glory in 2009 by the Snyder family.

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Holidays Begin at Castle of Muskogee

The holidays are in full swing, and Castle of Muskogee has once again transformed its historic castle into a Christmas wonderland.

Visitors can start their evening at the Castle with a drive through the Castleton Village, filled with thousands of holiday lights and displays. The drive through is free, but donations are accepted.

In front of the Castle, patrons can take a hayride or a horse drawn carriage through Castleton Village, or ride the ponies. Inside the Castle awaits old-fashioned family holiday activities, including ornament making in Santa's workshop, a fireplace to get warm and visits with Father Christmas. Also on hand are many holiday shopping opportunities from local merchants offering unique items and holiday displays at The Christmas Shoppe.

Fireworks are also available for

New Year's Eve celebrations. Light supper items and snacks, hot chocolate and sweet treats are all available in the Royal Garden Cafe.

Nearby, in Honor Heights Park, the Garden of Lights includes a free drive-through display of more than a million shimmering lights that are displayed throughout the park. Internationally known for its Azalea Festival, Honor Heights Park draws up to a half-a-million visitors annually to its 122 acres. The park is planted with more than 30,000 azalea bushes and thousands of trees, beautifully situated among the park's scenic hilltop drive. Christmas lights are placed on trees, bushes and structures throughout the park to enhance the natural beauty of the gardens, waterfalls and ponds. Gates open at 6 p.m.

Both the Castle and Garden of Lights drive-through self-guided

tours are open nightly Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve, 6-10 p.m.

Additional events at the Castle of Muskogee are open Nov. 26-29, Dec. 3-6, 10-13, 17-31.

Horse-drawn Carriage Rides begin in the Castle parking lot and travels through a part of the village that is inaccessible to cars, offering riders a unique Christmas display. Cost: \$10.00 per adult, \$5.00 per child, or Family Pack, \$30.00 for up to 4 people.

Tractor-drawn Hayrides start in the Castle parking lot and travel through the village on a unique route. Hayrides depart every half hour. Cost: \$5.00 per person, children 12 and under are free.

Pony rides cost: \$5 per child. Chalice Hall offers holiday movies for the whole family or a fireplace to warm up.

Visit with Father Christmas Nov. 28, Dec. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19,



GARDEN OF LIGHTS: Castle of Muskogee's Castle Christmas and Garden of Lights brighten the holidays from Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve.

6:30-9 p.m. There is no cost to talk to Father Christmas; pictures are available for a fee. For more information and a complete schedule of holiday activities, visit okcastle.com.

TULSA PRESS CLUB STAYS BUSY WITH EVENTS



FIRST DRAFT: The 11th annual Tulsa Press Club First Draft was held Oct. 16 at ONEOK Field in downtown Tulsa. Pictured with representatives of Hard Rock Hotel & Casino are Eric Marshall, left, founder of Marshall Brewing; Shaun Lee, center, general manager of Tulsa Press Club; and Tom Gilbert, event chair.



NEWSIES: Tulsa anchor and reporter Charles Ely was recognized Oct. 27 at the Tulsa Press Club Newsies as a Tulsa Media Icon. Pictured with Ely are event co-chairs Melani Hamilton, left, and Amanda Clinton.



HEADLINERS: On Nov. 11, the Tulsa Press Club honored Dr. Keith Ballard, left, OU-Tulsa professor and former superintendent for Tulsa Public Schools, and Elliot Nelson, entrepreneur and owner of McNellie's Group, as its 2015 Headliners, held at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. Also pictured are event co-chair Rachel Anderson-Hill and event chair Lindsay Ellerbach, right. A portion of the proceeds from Headliners benefits the Tulsa Press Club's scholarships for Oklahoma journalism and communications college students.

Hispanic American Foundation Presents Annual Fundraiser

The Hispanic American Foundation (HAF) in Tulsa held its annual Noche de Gala fundraising event Oct. 24 at Southern Hills Country Club.

The HAF mission statement reads, "The Hispanic culture is the oldest non-indigenous influence in the Western Hemisphere, dating back over 500 years. It is currently reflected throughout contemporary life in our language, foods, architecture, music and art. In an effort to recognize and celebrate this heritage as it exists within the Tulsa community, the Hispanic American foundation, a non profit organization operating under IRS Rule 501 (c) 3 was founded in October 1990. The Foundation is dedicated to the preservation, appreciation and promotion of Hispanic culture through scholarships, grants and the presentation of cultural programs.



NOCHE DE GALA: The Hispanic American Foundation held its annual fundraising event, Noche de Gala, this year at Southern Hills Country Club Oct. 24. From left are Jeff Nevins, HAF chairman; Veronica Donnelly, HAF executive director; Thomas Bueno, HAF president; Gordon Marshall, HAF board member and 2015 auction chair; and Charles Bendaña, 2015 Noche de Gala honorary co-chair. Not pictured is co-chair Krista Bendaña.



DAPPER FOR DIMES: Enjoying the March of Dimes Dapper for Dimes Signature Chefs Auction at the Cox Business Center Nov. 13 are, from left, Bill Harris, Katie Plohockey, Scott Smith, Pauline Harris and Paula Wood.

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Happy Hands Provides One-of-a-Kind Education

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Al Proo recognized a problem, asked questions and, then, took steps toward a solution.

Thus began the journey of Happy Hands Education Center, a school for children with hearing loss and/or communication disorders.

Proo and his wife became professional American Sign Language interpreters after getting involved in a deaf group at their church in 1980.

After moving to a deaf church to provide further aid to the deaf community, Proo was asked to assume the role of pastor.

For the next almost two decades, “we almost had no hearing friends; we were fully immersed in the deaf culture,” Proo says.

As he and his wife made their way deeper into the deaf community, “we saw that many of the deaf had a problem with reading and writing. I thought, ‘why is this? It’s sad,’” Proo remembers.

Proo approached deaf individuals and area deaf education instructors to find out why. “I found out that there was no early intervention services for deaf children before three years old,” he says.

However, 75 percent of brain development, or brain growth, happens in the first three to five



STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING: Happy Hands Education Center opened in 1994 as a way to combat deaf illiteracy. Its programs are available for children up to six years old with hearing loss and/or communication disorders. In 2010, the nonprofit organization moved into a 22,000-square-foot facility at 8801 S. Garnett Rd.



COMMUNICATION ADVOCATES: From left, Happy Hands Education Center Board President Mishelle Embry, Happy Hands Executive Director Jan Pride, Founder Al Proo and Board Intern Aimee Cooper stand with two Happy Hands students during the nonprofit organization's October fundraising luncheon “Be the Story.”

years of life. By six years old, the brain is 90 percent of its adult weight, and 95 percent of language has been developed.

“Yet, here’s a deaf child that can’t acquire language because he/she does not get that foundation,” Proo says.

“We would see kids come into kindergarten with not nearly what they need in regard to language and then see that gap continue to widen each year to the point that we would see deaf or hard of hearing children graduating high school at second-to-fourth-grade reading levels,” says Jan Pride, who succeeded Proo as executive director of Happy Hands three years ago.

In addition to lack of early deaf education options, the problem had also formed due to the lack of early hearing testing, which has changed over the years as technology and awareness of the need has improved, Pride continues.

“Happy Hands works with local agencies in identifying hearing loss as early in life as we can. That way we are finding these children when they are very young, often between two and six months, instead of at four years old when they’ve already begun to develop behavioral issues,” she says.

Once Proo received his answer to why many deaf individuals dealt with illiteracy, Proo surveyed the situation. “I concluded that we needed to do something about this,” he says.

Thus, on Sept. 1, 1994, he and his wife opened Happy Hands, with the mission of providing learning and language to children up to six years old.

“We do whatever we have to do to get children to communicate,” says Proo.

Pride joined the school in 1997 as program manager, bringing with her 15 years of experience as a public school deaf education teacher.

With her background, Pride was able to help the nonprofit organization transition from a licensed child care center to a fully accredited school and expand its offerings to include kindergarten-aged children.

Happy Hands offers infant, toddler, preschool and kindergarten programs, before and after school care, and speech and language therapy.

“No one else in the state is doing what we’re doing,” says Proo. “Happy Hands is here to eliminate deaf illiteracy.”

In May 2010, Happy Hands moved from its previous location, a 1,600-square-foot house at 32nd Street and Hudson

Avenue, into a 22,000-square-foot facility at 8801 S. Garnett Rd., thanks to a \$6.8 million grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

Since we were building our facility, “we had the opportunity to tailor the building to our students’ needs,” says Pride. That included providing the proper lighting and using certain colors that are easy on students’ eyes, creating separate therapy rooms, using building materials that provide good acoustics to benefit students who are not deaf, and making the building accessible with ramps and wide hallways for students with various disabilities.

Happy Hands currently has a one-year waiting list; it reached full capacity last year, with approximately 66 full-time students and a few part-time students.

Happy Hands, however, is not focused solely on its students. The school also provides services for families and parents to help them move past their child’s “disability” into acceptance, Pride says.

Once that occurs, parents can begin to learn how to communicate with their child.

“When a parent can’t communicate with their child, that child is isolated unless the parent learns his/her language,” Pride says. “We help the parent give the child language.”

Happy Hands also accepts the siblings of deaf or hard of hearing students into their program.

“Often, it’s the hearing child who helps the parent turn the corner in learning sign language,” she says.

For the future, Pride expects to see Happy Hands’ program offerings grow to include various therapy and child care services all in one location in order to provide easy accessibility for their students and their families.

“Our goal is that at Happy Hands, we educate the child, nurture the family and build hope,” says Pride.

Happy Hands is currently offering free tours that are open to the public. Tours are one hour and come with a complimentary lunch. Visit happyhands.org for more information, or call 918-893-4800.

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Waterford Sparkles at Niensens

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Niensens Exclusive Gifts at The Plaza, 81st Street and Lewis Avenue, recently hosted the visit of Waterford’s world famous Ambassador and Master Craftsman Tom Power on Nov. 14.

Power educated visitors on the mouth blowing and hand cutting of Waterford Crystal that makes it have a special sparkle.

Power began his career with Waterford Crystal as an apprentice in 1969. After 25 years of training, he became a Master Craftsman working in Waterford’s Special Department where he cut the Times Square Crystal Ball for New Year’s Eve, The Super Bowl Trophy, the PGA Golf Trophy and many other famous Waterford pieces. His hobbies include soccer and photography. He lives in Waterford,



EXCLUSIVE GIFTS: Enjoying the Waterford signing event at Niensens Gifts are Annika Bartlett, Master Craftsman Tom Power, Faye Bartlett, Andrea Nielson and Gary Bartlett. The signing event raises awareness and money for The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges.

Ireland, with his wife, Ellen, their daughter, Michelle, and Grandson, Evan.

The 2015 Waterford collection is now on display at Niensens.

Niensens Gifts was the first

store in Oklahoma to carry Waterford Crystal. The event benefited The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges.

For more information, visit www.NiensensGifts.com.



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22 November

WILLIAMS ROUTE 66 MARATHON Downtown Tulsa 8 a.m. Visit route66marathon.com for more information. THE BOOK OF MORMON PAC Trust 2 & 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

23

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN Oklahoma Methodist Manor 12:10 - 12:50 p.m. Presenting the works of Rick Atkinson, winner of the Tulsa Library Trust's 2015 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.

24

TULSA LEAD EXCHANGE (A BUSINESS NETWORKING GROUP) Marley's Pizza 12 - 1 p.m. Call 918-794-4000 for more information. PRESCHOOL STORYTIME Broken Arrow Library South 10:30 - 11 a.m. For ages 5 and younger with their caregivers. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.

25

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP Baptist Village of Owasso 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Visit baptistvillage.org for info. REALLY BASIC COMPUTER CLASS Zarrow Regional Library 1 - 3 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for info. We offer Health Savings Accounts Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.

26 Thanksgiving Day

TURKEY DAY 5K Guthrie Green 6:30 - 10:30 a.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information. LIGHTS ON! Utica Square 6:30 p.m. Visit uticasquare.com for more information.

27

TULSA OILERS vs. Wichita 7:05 p.m. For more info., visit tulsaoilers.com. 10TH ANNUAL LEFTOVER TURKEY SHOW Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.

28

TEEN MOVIE CLUB Zarrow Regional Library 1 - 3 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. FAMILY STUDIO SATURDAYS Philbrook Museum of Art 12:30 p.m. Visit philbrook.org for more information. GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Little Rock • 3 p.m. Men's Basketball 918-631-4688 for tickets.

29

TULSA OILERS vs. Missouri 4:05 p.m. For more info., visit tulsaoilers.com. RYAN BINGHAM Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. CHUCK AND SANDY GARDNER: COMING OF AGE Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame 5 p.m. Visit okjazz.org for more information.

30

DIE LAUGHING IMPROVISATION VanTrease PACE - TCC Southeast Campus 8 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more info. PARKWAY DRIVE Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. More Bank for your Buck. Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.

1 December

WOMEN OF TOMORROW Greenwood Cultural Center 4:45 - 6 p.m. Visit greenwood-culturalcenter.com for more information. KEVIN GATES: THE ISLAH Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.

2

BROWN BAG IT: TULSA FESTIVAL SINGERS PAC Trust 12:10 p.m. This event is FREE. TULSA OILERS vs. Rapid City 7:05 p.m. For more info., visit tulsaoilers.com. KING DIAMOND - ABIGAIL Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for info.

3

TULSA OILERS vs. Utah 7:05 p.m. For more info., visit tulsaoilers.com. WILL ROGERS DAYS LECTURE SERIES Will Rogers Memorial Theatre 7 - 9 p.m. Visit willrogers.com for info. THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER Henthorne PAC 7:30 p.m. • Dec. 3-6 Visit clarkyouththeatre.com for more information.

4

G2K RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA Theatre Tulsa Family 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information. CHRISTKINDLMARKT GAST Center Dec. 4-6 Visit bradytheater.com for info.

5

GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. ORU • 3 p.m. Men's Basketball 918-631-4688 for tickets. G2K RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA Theatre Tulsa Family 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS Tulsa Symphony 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

6

G2K RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA Theatre Tulsa Family 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS Tulsa Symphony 2:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TOBYMAC BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.

7

HOLIDAY TEA Tulsa Garden Center 11:30 a.m. Visit tulsagardenclub.org for more information. Z-104.5 EDGE CHRISTMAS PRE-PARTY FEATURING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD Cain's Ballroom 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.

8

GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Iona • 8 p.m. Men's Basketball 918-631-4688 for tickets. DRAWING ON MEMORIES Gilcrease Museum 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Visit alz.org/oklahoma for more information. RAGTIME: THE MUSICAL Broken Arrow PAC 7:30 p.m. Visit brokenarrowpac.com for more information.

9

JASON BONHAM'S LED ZEPPELIN EXPERIENCE Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for info. HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN Cain's Ballroom 7:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. Free small business checking Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.

10

A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA OILERS vs. Idaho 7:05 p.m. • Dec. 10-11 For more info., visit tulsaoilers.com. TASTES OF THE HOLIDAYS Cancer Treatment Centers of America, Tulsa 5:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.

11

G2K RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA Theatre Tulsa Family 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. • Dec. 11-12 myticketoffice.com for tickets. THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

12

JINGLE BELL RUN BOK Center 8 a.m. Visit TulsaJingleBellRun.org for more information. G2K RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA Theatre Tulsa Family 2 & 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

13

G2K RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA Theatre Tulsa Family 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

14

IN THE MIDDLE BOOK GROUP Broken Arrow Library-South 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. BROOKSIDE BOOK DISCUSSION Brookside Library 1:30 - 3 p.m. Discussion of "The Christmas Train" by David Baldacci. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.

15

A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. THE TEN TENORS CHRISTMAS Broken Arrow PAC 7:30 p.m. Visit brokenarrowpac.com for more information. New Name. Same Bank Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.

16

FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAY Guthrie Green 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information. EDGE CHRISTMAS CONCERT STARRING MONSTERS OF MEN Brady Theater 6:30 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for info. A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

17

HOW TANGIBLE IS YOUR BRAIN? The Summit Club 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Visit amatulsa.com for more information. A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. DREAMGIRLS IN CONCERT Spinning Plates Productions 8 p.m. • Dec. 17-18 myticketoffice.com for tickets.

18

A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. • Dec. 18-19 myticketoffice.com for tickets. THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA OILERS vs. Wichita 7:05 p.m. For more info., visit tulsaoilers.com. DREAMGIRLS IN CONCERT Spinning Plates Productions 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

19

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23

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REGIONAL NEWS

Tulsa Native Makes Her Broadway Debut

By **EMILY RAMSEY**
Managing Editor

"I knew she was going to be a star," Barbara Terry said, in reference to a pre-teen Rachael Ferrera.

Terry's daughter and Ferrera grew up together, and Ferrera's natural charisma was all too easy to see, according to Terry.

Ferrera, a 2005 Union graduate, went on to attend and graduate from New York University in 2009.

In July, she had her Broadway debut in *Amazing Grace*. She started working with the show's development in 2010. "The production has been a huge part of my career," she says.

In promotion of *Amazing Grace*, in August, she appeared with some of her fellow castmates on *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*.

Since first arriving in New York, Ferrera has also worked around the country in regional theater productions, including performing her dream role of Sarah in *Ragtime*, and won a best lead actress award at the 2014 Planet Connections Theatre Festivity in New York City.

These accomplishments make it all the more surprising, then, that Ferrera began pursuing drama only a year before she graduated high school.

Yet, as Terry's earlier comments attest, Ferrera's light had already begun shining many years earlier.

Ferrera's first brush with performing came at her church's talent show when she was three years old.

"I told my parents that I wanted to sing at the talent show," she says. "I guess they thought I would be nervous so they had the stage manager go out on stage with me when it was time to perform."

"I remember looking up at him, thinking, 'Why are they sending this guy on stage with me?'"

The other thing that Ferrera remembers about that performance was her feeling afterward.

"I loved it," she says.

Though, as Ferrera grew up, drama did not take center stage in her life until 2004 when she accompanied her friend to an audition for the *Wizard of Oz*. Ferrera auditioned as a way to provide moral support and walked away as the understudy for Dorothy.

While she never got the opportunity to assume that role on stage, the time she spent preparing for the role was enough to draw her in.

Then, she approached Union High School drama teacher Troy Powell who encouraged her to pursue improvisation and drama classes.

During her senior year at Union, Ferrera played Maria in *Westside Story*, and "that's when I knew this was what I wanted to do," she says.

"It lit me up in a way that I never had felt before. I felt like 'I have to do this.'"

She is able to sum up why in two reasons:

"It's fun to go inside of a character and experience life from a different perspective."

However, it's the outward experi-



BROADWAY DEBUT: Tulsa native Rachael Ferrera made her Broadway debut in *Amazing Grace* in July. In August, Ferrera appeared with some of her castmates on *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*.

ence of the exchange with the audience that made the biggest impact on her.

"To be able to have a shared experience with the audience, being able to touch them and to be touched by them is amazing. It's an energy in the room; it feels like a bridge, a coming together," says Ferrera.

When she began applying for college, she stuck with her original plan to apply to Ivy League colleges with the intention of studying psychology and music. However, she also applied to NYU as her one theater option.

Once she was accepted, the full realization of what she was about to do set in.

"I was frightened to go to NYU. Here, I just started theater a year ago, and now I was going to be in class with all of these kids who'd been doing theater their whole lives," she says.

Yet, Ferrera pushed through her nerves. "I realized that I just had to focus on one thing at a time and stop focusing on my peers."

While Ferrera has accomplished a number of notable achievements thus far, it was her appearance on *The Tonight Show* that really hit home for her.

"Appearing on that show was a tangible realization that my dream was coming true. It showed me that so much is possible, and this is only the beginning."

Ferrera's recognition as best actress in 2014 at the Planet Connections Theatre Festivity in New York City came about through a production called *The Lost*, written by Keelay Ditson, also a Union graduate.

"Keelay was the one who encouraged me to apply to NYU," Ferrera says.

Ferrera played three different

characters: a teenage girl, a boy and a mother. The play used spoken word poetry and was nominated for upwards of 10 awards.

After *Amazing Grace* closed in October, Ferrera headed to Massachusetts where she was invited to help with the development of a new production, called *Bella: An American Tall Tale*. "I love doing new works and helping to develop original, new characters," she says.

The production is part of the Sundance Institute Theatre Lab – the same Sundance as the Sundance Film Festival.

For the future, Ferrera plans to continue her work in the industry, with hopes of one day entering television or movies.

"Performing is a passion for me," she says. "It's all about giving and receiving love. That's why I'm drawn to art because of its ability to touch people."

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