



# JENKS DISTRICT GAZETTE

One of Six Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers

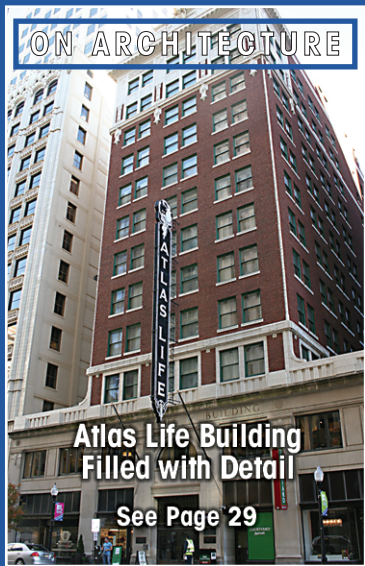
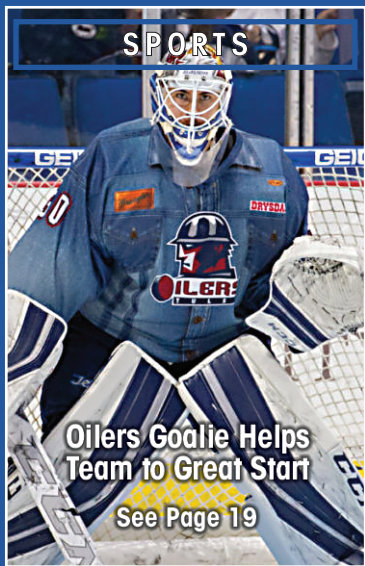
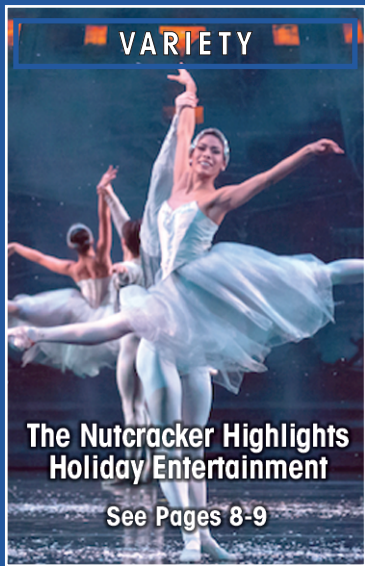
Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group

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**IN THIS ISSUE:**



## JENKS GROWS ITS RANGE OF OFFERINGS



**STATE OF THE CITY:** Mayor Kelly Dunkerley provides an overview of current and upcoming construction and development projects coming to the city of Jenks during his State of the City, held in November at The Hive.



**ANDOLINI'S AT RIVERWALK:** Andolini's Pizzeria Co-Owner Mike Bausch stands in the restaurant's Cherry Street location. Andolini's will open in RiverWalk Crossing in spring 2017.

By **EMILY RAMSEY**  
Managing Editor

Jenks Mayor Kelly Dunkerley's November State of the City provided a rosy look at city-wide development projects in 2016 with a similarly-bright outlook for the coming year.

The city saw eight groundbreakings take place in 2016, including local businesses joining Main Street, the replacement of Jenks Public Schools' High School Dining Hall, the Downtown Commons park and Jenks Crossing, a more than \$30-million project to include apartments and commercial space that is to be located southwest of Highway 75 and 111th Street.

In downtown Jenks, The Hive, which opened in October 2015, has seen a successful 2016 as an art gallery and incubator space. Currently, The Hive's three artists in residence are local artists Chris Hopkins, Allison Keim and Christopher Westfall. The Hive also houses the offices of the Jenks Chamber of Commerce and 3,000 square feet of gallery space.

During 2016, The Hive saw more than 3,000 attendees and eight art shows, all of which were free and open to the public.

"We are always looking for more artists and art groups to collaborate with," says Nick DeMoss, vice president of communications and pro-

grams. Interested artists can email nick.demoss@jenkschamber.com.

Art shows have been scheduled for 2017 but are yet to be announced. Individuals can visit thehivejenks.com to find the most up-to-date information on upcoming shows and events.

In downtown Jenks, the city's efforts to improve some of its alleyways were on display when the Jenks Chamber of Commerce hosted the Alley Bash in August, with food trucks, four live bands and an art show at The Hive.

Currently taking place in downtown Jenks is the construction of the Downtown Commons. The park will be a green space, with a stage, food truck hook-ups and restrooms. "We have learned the importance of 'place' in the public's decision of where they want to live," Dunkerley said. "We want to provide that 'place' and an experience for visitors to Jenks."

Currently, Jenks sees its downtown festivals bring in more than \$1 million in economic impact annually. Dunkerley expects to see the park increase that impact and strengthen downtown businesses by encouraging visitors and residents to spend more time in downtown Jenks, he continued.

Thrive apartments is set to open its one-and-two-bedroom units in January.

Since opening FlyingTee and various other local businesses including Trader Leaf tea shop and Robin's Roast Coffee, RiverWalk Crossing, next year, will welcome Maryn's Taphouse and Raw Bar and Andolini's Pizzeria.

"RiverWalk's progress, made possible by the Creek Nation's investments there, have made it an undeniable draw for visitors from the region. We're seeing the development really come alive again," notes Chamber President Josh Driskell.

Maryn's Taphouse, a venture by Corey Crandall, owner of George's Pub, will offer wines, craft beers, and a full food menu, including oysters.

Regarding the decision to bring Andolini's to Jenks, co-owner Mike Bausch says, "We want to go into communities where our brand matches a walkable environment and where people enjoy our pizza choices."

So, when Jenks officials approached the company, "saying that everything about the RiverWalk is changing; we are getting local businesses, local coffee roasters," says Bausch, he and his brother, Jim, were listening.

This will be the company's largest location to date, including a private room with audio-visual capabilities. The restaurant will offer the same signature Andolini's pizzas found at

its other locations as well as STG gelato and is expected to open in April.

Regarding the restaurant's exterior, "we like the look of the natural brick at our Cherry Street location. You'll know from both inside and the parking lot that it's Andolini's," Bausch says.

Construction is moving forward on Simon PremiumOutlet Mall and is expected to open June 2018.

The Oklahoma Aquarium will unveil its Sea Turtle Experience exhibit, featuring two 300 pound turtles and reef sharks, in March.

According to the aquarium's website, the 65,000-gallon tank will be surrounded by a boardwalk and can be experienced from three viewing levels-including an underwater observation area.

The aquarium will add educational components that emphasize the endangered status of sea turtles, their important role in the wild, and how humans' actions can impact sea turtles and their ocean habitat.

In 2017, as these commercial projects continue and more are added, the city will be ever more focused on public safety, Dunkerley said, and easing traffic congestion. One anticipated project planned to begin in June is the widening of Main Street into four lanes from Elm Place to Highway 75.

## KUDOS OF THE MONTH: NSUBA

NSUBA, which serves approximately 3,494 students, celebrated its 15th anniversary in August.

The campus primarily serves non-traditional students and offers state-of-the-art facilities, small classes, flexible schedules, affordable tuition, and experienced faculty and staff.

Five colleges and one library later, NSUBA has ushered in a wave of possibilities for community stakeholders.

With 33 undergraduate majors, 25 undergraduate minors, 18 graduate majors and certificate options, the campus' newly appointed Dean Dr. Roy Wood explains that NSUBA is considering degrees that would

add value to the communities it serves.

"Our faculty and leadership stay in touch with the community to ensure that our degrees meet potential employers' needs.

Hearing this 'voice of industry' is important to ensure that our students can step in to good paying jobs," Wood explains.

NSUBA's academic instruction emphasizes hands-on learning in the classroom and experiential training via internships. This methodology mutually

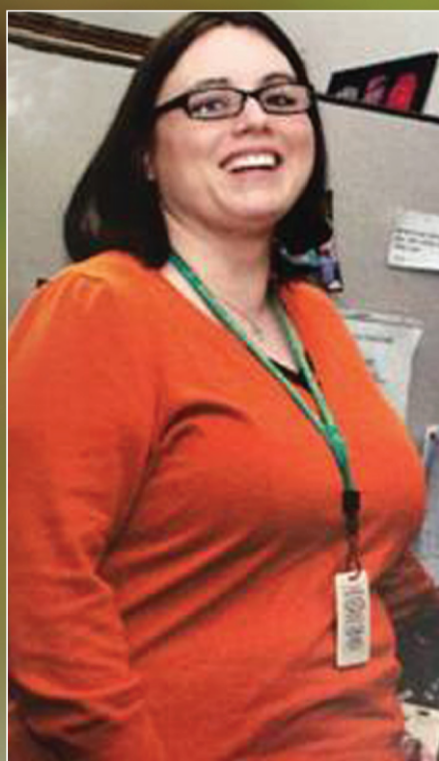
benefits students and the community. Students graduate with a practiced skill set, confidence in their abilities and a strong sense of what the world of work expects from them.



**15 YEARS:** City and state representatives stand with NSU administrators including Dr. Ed Huceby, second from left, former NSU associate vice president; Dr. Mark Arant, fourth from left, NSU provost & vice president of Academic Affairs; Dr. Steve Turner, second from right, NSU president; and Dr. Roy Wood, right, NSUBA dean.



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EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers  
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS:** Downtown Tulsa is aglow with holiday lights and activities with the ninth annual Winterfest hosting much activity, including ice skating and Oklahoma's largest Christmas Tree, above. The tree and rink are located just south of the BOK Center.



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers  
**SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY:** On Nov. 4, TYPros hosted an early voting party at the Tulsa County Election Board, 555 N. Denver Ave., to provide Tulsa Public Schools students an opportunity to learn about public service and democracy-in-action.



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**INAUGURAL DAV 5K:** The Disabled American Veterans and presenting sponsor American Airlines hosted the inaugural DAV 5K at Guthrie Green Nov. 5, an event to honor veterans. Motorcycle riders led the event, followed by runners, rollers and walkers.

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**READY TO LEAD:** Tulsa Mayor-Elect G.T. Bynum was the keynote speaker at the Land Legacy Dinner with the theme "Green Space Matters." Bynum was hosted by Land Legacy Director Michael Patton, right. The event was held at Centennial Park Nov. 1.



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**UNITED WAY CELEBRATION:** Tulsa Area United Way President and CEO Mark Graham prepares to announce the amount of money raised during the 2016 campaign, which was more than \$25 million. At right is loaned executive Emeka Nnaka at the event, held at Bond Event Center in downtown Tulsa on Nov. 10.

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### December

- 2, 4** Home for the Holidays  
Tulsa Symphony Pops
- 2-30** Pop Impressionism  
John Hammer / PAC Gallery
- 7** Tulsa Festival Ringers  
PAC Trust Brown Bag It
- 8-23** A Christmas Carol  
American Theatre Company
- 10-23** The Nutcracker  
Tulsa Ballet
- 15-16** Christmas Cabaret  
Sheridan Road Vocal Ensemble
- 16-18** Elf Jr.  
Theatre Tulsa Family
- 22** Christmas at the Tulsa PAC with Brian Nhira and Friends From 'The Voice'  
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The Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers consist of the *Union Boundary*, the *Jenks District Gazette*, the *Midtown Monitor*, the *Owasso Rambler*, the *Bixby Breeze*, and the *Broken Arrow Express*. The papers target news coverage to school district areas. The papers also have common pages of information of interest to all readers in the greater Tulsa area.

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

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# TEN PEOPLE WE WATCHED IN 2016



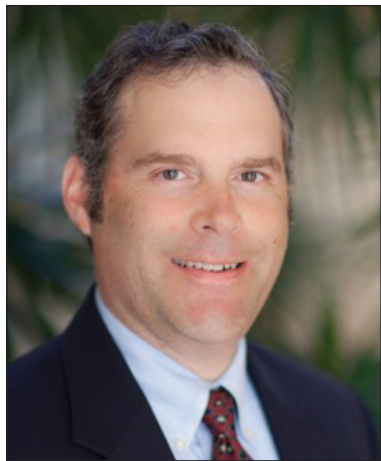
**G.T. BYNUM**

G.T. Bynum will be sworn in as Tulsa's 40th Mayor on Dec. 5. Bynum defeated incumbent Dewey Bartlett Jr. in June, where Bynum received more than 50 percent of votes.

"I ran for mayor because I didn't feel like as a city we were challenging ourselves enough to progress," says Bynum.

Bynum's priorities upon entering office include working to reestablish Tulsa as a nationally-competitive city and strengthening the relationship between the City of Tulsa and Tulsa Public Schools.

Bynum served on the Tulsa City Council for the eight years leading up to his run for mayor. During that time, he focused largely on fiscal restraint, public safety and infrastructure. Among his achievements are helping to enact the largest streets improvement package in Tulsa's history, serving as chairman of the Arkansas River Infrastructure Task Force from the time it was formed in 2013, and crafting budget amendments that put Tulsa Police Department helicopters back into service and doubled the number of police academies.



**KELLY DUNKERLEY**

Kelly Dunkerley was elected Mayor of Jenks in April 2015.

With the opening of FlyingTee in June, local businesses have joined RiverWalk Crossing in the past months with more on their way, including Andolini's Pizzeria and Maryn's Taphouse and Raw Bar.

The city is also seeing new commercial projects, including Simon Premium Outlets, located south of the Creek Turnpike, to open in mid 2018; Thrive Apartments to open in January in downtown Jenks; the newly completed Gateway Mortgage headquarters, which sits at Main Street and Highway 75 and will include a commercial center with shopping and a hotel; and the recently announced Jenks Crossing, a commercial and residential development near 111th Street and Highway 75.

Ground was broken in September for the Downtown Commons park in downtown Jenks, located on A Street between Second and Third streets. The property will feature a stage, green space and public restrooms. Its expected completion is early 2017.



**MOMODOU CEESAY**

Local restaurateur and Glenpool Vice Mayor Momodou Ceesay celebrated 20 years of Mamadou's Restaurant in Glenpool in November.

In July, Ceesay opened Mamadou's Restaurant and Sports Bar at 200 Civic Center in downtown Tulsa. The restaurant sits below 5th Street between the Aloft Tulsa Downtown hotel and the newly renovated Central Library at 5th Street and Denver Avenue.

Mamadou's downtown is the host of the University of Tulsa's Philip Montgomery Radio Call-In Show, held Monday nights, and the location for TU football away-game watch parties.

Ceesay has lived in Glenpool with his wife and four children since 2000. He came to Oklahoma from Gambia after being encouraged by his cousin who was recruited to play soccer at Rogers State College (now Rogers State University).

Ceesay served as Mayor of Glenpool from 2013-2015 and has served on the Glenpool City Council since 2012.



**JEFFREY T. DUNN**

Jeffrey Dunn served as the 2016 chair of the Tulsa Regional Chamber. Dunn is a Jenks High School graduate and president of Mill Creek Lumber and Supply Company.

Dunn's areas of focus as chair in 2016 consisted of addressing the state's education crisis and the April Vision Tulsa vote.

The Vision Tulsa package, at a total of just under \$885 million, was approved in April.

The package consisted of three propositions involving public safety, transportation and economic development. Dunn served on the Vision campaign's steering committee.

Included in the economic development portion is \$10 million allocated for Tulsa, Union and Jenks public schools to aid in teacher retention, recruitment and training efforts.

Dunn also played a significant role in maintaining Williams Companies headquartered in Tulsa, traveling with Governor Mary Fallin and Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett to meet with Williams representatives.



**DR. DEBORAH GIST**

Dr. Deborah Gist took the helm as superintendent of Tulsa Public Schools in July 2015.

In January 2016, the school district officially approved a five-year strategic plan called Destination Excellence. Some of the changes instituted with the strategic plan are the use of new English language arts resources and literacy supports, innovative models for math classes at Clinton Middle School and Hale and McLain junior high schools, and the adoption of personalized blended learning at Memorial Junior High School and Whitman and McClure elementary schools.

In November, Gist met with area school districts and city officials regarding how to best use the \$10 million of education funding included in Vision Tulsa's Proposition 3. They proposed a new-teacher induction program and professional-development opportunities for all teachers.

Other district achievements in 2016 include implementing a new K-12 English language arts curriculum and launching two Tulsa Teacher Institutes in order to improve staff retention.

## Edward Jones

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**RECONCILIATION ATTENDEES:** Taking part in the 7th Annual John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation Dinner held at the Greenwood Cultural Center Nov. 14 are, from left, civic leader Hannibal B. Johnson, John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation board members Dr. Pauline Harris and John Gaberino (the event co-chair with his wife, Marge Gaberino), and featured speaker and former CEO of the NAACP Ben Jealous.

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# TEN PEOPLE WE WATCHED IN 2016



DANIEL REGAN

Daniel Regan served as Tulsa's Young Professionals' 2016 board chair.

Regan is a fourth generation Tulsan with a passion for cities' urban cores. "I've always had a fascination with downtowns, so to be able to have some impact on downtown Tulsa is wonderful."

Regan is also active in politics and the community, and he holds the role of vice president of downtown Tulsa's largest commercial property management company, Kanbar Properties.

Regan's areas of focus for 2016 were largely based around encouraging greater engagement of young voters under age 40 and TYPros' 2016 Street Cred event. Street Cred is TYPros' annual community redevelopment initiative.

Street Cred: 66 was held in April along Route 66, with the goal of emphasizing the need for transit and multi-modal options in that area.

Street Cred highlighted two of Tulsa's transportation plans: the east-west Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line, which will be funded through Vision Tulsa, and the GO Plan, Tulsa's bicycle-pedestrian master plan.



SHERRY GAMBLE-SMITH

Sherry Gamble-Smith joined the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce in 2014 and became its executive director in October 2015.

Gamble-Smith grew up in north Tulsa and graduated from Central High School. Her father had a church on Greenwood Avenue.

Over the past four years, the chamber has seen its membership grow from close to zero to over 100, with chamber leaders making an effort to reestablish its connection with city leaders, local foundations and the private sector, an effort that Gamble-Smith is continuing.

For example, the chamber hosted Juneteenth 2016, held June 16-19, which engaged a number of community groups and local businesses.

Beyond Juneteenth activities, the chamber has continued working to expand its offerings to its members and the public. Plans on the horizon include the revival of the chamber's business planning classes and its business incubator, the start of legislative luncheons and membership mixers, increased partnerships with city groups and organizations, and the formation of a young professional group.



MICHAEL PATTON

Michael Patton, a born-and-raised Tulsan, became executive director of Legacy Land Trust in May 2015 after 26 years of working for the City of Tulsa and then the M.E.T., 21 of those years as the M.E.T.'s executive director.

Patton has spent his professional years focused on benefiting nature through his recycling endeavors with the City of Tulsa and the Metropolitan Environmental Trust. His current role with Legacy Land Trust involves focusing on land preservation. A portion of Legacy's efforts also revolve around the water treatment and maintenance of Tulsa's watershed.

Patton joined Legacy with his own personal mission to encourage developers of urban areas to create green buffer zones along with their developments, because "green space matters," Patton says.

Patton's passion for parks and the outdoors runs so deep that he named his first child, Braden, after his favorite park, located at 5th Street and Yale Avenue.

"For some people, nature is just background scenery, but for me, it's a conversation," he says.



JAMES PEPPER HENRY

James Pepper Henry was named Gilcrease Museum's Executive Director in March 2015.

Henry's maternal grandmother is Muscogee (Creek) Indian, and his maternal grandfather is Kaw.

As soon as Henry entered his role, he began working towards the creation of a proposal to have Gilcrease Museum included in the Vision Tulsa package. The museum's \$65 million expansion project was added to Vision Tulsa's Proposition 3, which passed in April.

The project will involve a general reconfiguration of the museum's floorplan to create an improved visitor experience, expanded and more convenient parking, and the creation of a Grand Entry atrium that will serve as both an entrance into the museum and an event area.

Other planned additions include a casual cafe on the museum's lower level, a 12,000-square-foot signature traveling space and an expanded children's area.

"Gilcrease is Tulsa's most valuable asset," Henry says. "I want to see Gilcrease reach its full potential; our facility needs to match the prestige of our collection."



MICHAEL SPURGEON

In September 2015, Michael Spurgeon became Broken Arrow's fifth city manager in 11 years.

When he came to Broken Arrow, he took the reins of a growing city that had recently hit 100,000 citizens and was in the midst of its downtown resurgence.

Two areas where Spurgeon feels that he was able to leave his mark in downtown were the construction of the downtown fountain, which opened in September, and the removal of the vacant Assembly of God Church at 305 N. Main St. in order to make way for redevelopment.

The city is also working on a future partnership with its business and education communities to create an innovation district that would include high-tech businesses, start-up companies, business incubators, and educational partnerships.

Among Spurgeon's priorities after taking the helm was improving transparency. Some of the ways he has done that include providing online video recaps of city council meetings, publishing an annual financial report, and conducting phone and social media campaigns.

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# Bartlett Family Legacy Stands Tall in Tulsa

*Oil Brought Bartletts To Tulsa in Early 1900s*

*Father and Son Became Prominent Civic Leaders*

By Managing Editor **EMILY RAMSEY** and Publisher **D. FORREST CAMERON**

Tulsa Mayor Dewey F. Bartlett Jr. leaves the office in December 2016 after two successful terms serving the people of his city. He followed in the civics footsteps of his father, the late Dewey Follett Bartlett, who served Oklahoma as governor from 1966 – 1970 and U.S. Senator from 1973-1979.

Oil brought the Bartlett family to Oklahoma at the turn of the last century. D.A. Bartlett, Mayor Dewey Bartlett Jr.'s grandfather, began coming to the Tulsa area in the early 1900s for his oil business, Keener Oil Company. He would commute for many years back to his hometown of Marietta, Ohio, where, in 1919, Dewey Bartlett Sr. was born.

Bartlett Sr. was only three when his father died. After D.A. died, Keener Oil was operated mainly by D.A.'s brother, David. D.A. Bartlett and his Keener Oil and Gas Company originally conducted oil and gas operations in Titusville, Pennsylvania, but, upon arriving in Oklahoma, the company immediately became involved in oil and gas operations in Creek, Tulsa, and Washington counties. After D.A. Bartlett's death in 1922, the company continued to grow, and ultimately

was owned and managed by D.A. Bartlett's two sons, David A. Bartlett and Dewey F. Bartlett.

Bartlett Sr. was educated in Marietta and Lawrenceville Preparatory School in New Jersey. Always an excellent student and leader, he attended Princeton University, receiving a degree in geological engineering and was the 1942 senior class president.

Though Bartlett Sr. spent his school years in Ohio and New Jersey, he was very familiar with Oklahoma, often spending the summer months working in the family business as a roughneck on oil rigs near Dewey and Bartlesville.

Shortly after college graduation and during World War II, Bartlett Sr. enlisted in the Navy and was trained at the Naval Air School in Norman. He served as a dive-bomber pilot for the U.S. Marine Corp, winning the Air Medal for action against Japanese installations in the South Pacific.

While in the service, Bartlett Sr. met his bride-to-be, Ann Smith, at a USO dance in California. They were married in 1945 and moved to Tulsa in 1946, where they became active with the family oil business. They had three children: Dewey Jr., Michael and Joanie.

Bartlett Sr. became interested in Republican politics in 1960 and



DANIEL C. CAMERON for GTR Newspapers  
**MAYOR DEWEY F. BARTLETT JR.:** Tulsa Mayor-elect Dewey Bartlett Jr. talks to his supporters at the Stokely Event Center Nov. 10, 2009 upon learning of his first mayoral victory. The photo appeared in the December 2009 issues of GTR Newspapers.



Courtesy Oklahoma Historical Society  
**GOVERNOR & SENATOR DEWEY F. BARTLETT**

was elected to the Oklahoma Senate from Tulsa County in 1962. He was re-elected in 1964.

A Catholic, he was the first of his faith to run for governor of Oklahoma in 1966, and he won. His credits included streamlining state government, overhauling the state judicial system, the advancement of minorities and support of common education. He served in the U.S. Senate from 1972 through 1978, when he died at the age of 59.

Dewey Bartlett Jr. says he was interested in business at an early age, spending many of his growing up years working in the oil fields and driving trucks. He attended Bishop Kelley High School and graduated from Regis College in Denver. He holds a master's degree in finance from Southern Methodist University.

then, spent the next decade focusing on the family business.

He also served on various boards including with the American Red Cross, Oklahoma Energy Resources Board, Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, and the Independent Petroleum Association of America.

During those years was when Bartlett Jr. began thinking about the benefits that he could bring to political office.

"I developed the idea that it would be good for people from the business community to be involved in political office; it brings a good perspective," he says.

However, Bartlett Jr. is the first one to pronounce himself "not a politician."

"I don't refer to myself as a politician. Politics is a game, and I don't think it really fits in with the job of mayor."

When Bartlett Jr. turns over his office on Dec. 5, he will be heading back to his helm as president of Keener Oil Company.

In addition to that, though, as Bartlett Jr. announced at his final State of the City on Nov. 15, he is pursuing the position of secretary of transportation on President-elect Donald Trump's cabinet.

"Having served as mayor, transportation fits well into my areas of expertise.

"There is so much that the U.S. Department of Transportation does on a state level that directly affects cities, such as involving highway construction, airports, space travel, satellites."

Bartlett Jr., a born-and-raised Tulsan, continues to reside in Tulsa with his wife, Victoria; their three children, Dewey III, Andrea and Ann; and five grandchildren.



**TULSA BLUE EMPLOYEES:** During a special recognition ceremony in 2016 at City Hall, Mayor Dewey Bartlett presented Tulsa Blue certificates and awards to four exceptional City of Tulsa employees for their outstanding service to the community and their colleagues. From left are Bob Garner, Jeff Ostler, Mayor Bartlett, Mike Perkins and Debbie Stefanek.

**NATIONAL RECOGNITION:** Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York City invited Mayor Dewey Bartlett Jr. to Gracie Mansion in New York to thank him for showing the way for peaceful demonstrations in the difficult hours after the police involved shooting of Terence Crutcher. Mayor de Blasio praised Tulsans for staying calm under tense circumstances which kept the scenes that happened in Dallas, Milwaukee, Orlando, Ferguson, and Charlotte from happening in Tulsa.



Courtesy City of Tulsa

## Congratulations to this award-winning newspaper!

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The Oklahoma Press Association is proud to announce that this newspaper was recently named one of the state's best by a panel of judges. As a winner, this newspaper is entitled to proudly display this 2015 award-winning emblem, which signifies continued excellence and service to the community.



## VARIETY

# Tulsa PAC Showcases Holiday Fun in December

### From the PAC

By ADAM J. FOREMAN

Cue the bright lights, family gatherings and seasonal cheer as the holidays bring forth some of the best entertainment in the region at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.

December shows kick off with Tulsa Symphony Pops' "Home For The Holidays" concert. Tulsa's newest holiday tradition unites Tulsa Symphony, Tulsa Oratorio Chorus and area high school choirs to bring families and the community together in a celebratory musical extravaganza. Conducted by Ron Spigelman, this uplifting showcase of nostalgic holiday favorites and joyous sing-alongs is a delightful kick-off to a memorable holiday season. Concerts are Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 4 at 2:30 p.m. in Chapman Music Hall.

American Theatre Company continues its 47th season with one of Tulsa's favorite holiday family musicals, "A Christmas Carol." Robert Odle and Richard Averill's musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' beloved novel celebrates its 40th anniversary! Watch miserly Ebenezer Scrooge's overnight journey to redemption - an annual reminder of the basic message of the holiday season. Karl Krause returns as Scrooge, accompanied by Brad Gemeinhart as Bob Cratchit, Brittany Wright as the Ghost of Christmas Past, John Knippers as the Ghost of Christmas Present, Matt Lindsey as the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, Rick Reiman as Marley, and Gigi Jenkins as Tiny Tim. The show runs Dec. 8-9, 14-16, 19-23 at 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 10-11, 17-18 at 2 p.m. in the John H. Williams Theatre.

Continuing another family holiday tradition, Tulsa Ballet presents "The Nutcracker." Local children join professional dancers in this holiday classic about a young girl whose dreams are filled with enchanting characters. The Sugar Plum Fairy, Mother Ginger, and dancers from faraway lands entertain Marie and her Nutcracker Prince after he and his toy soldier brigade defeat the Mouse King and his rowdy rodent army. Tulsa Symphony performs Tchaikovsky's beloved score in this annual production that mixes the visuals of a Broadway show with delightful dance and well-known melodies. Join the fun Dec. 10-11, 17-18 at 2 p.m. and Dec.



Photo by KENNETH JONES

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL:** John Knippers, left, as *The Spirit of Christmas Present* and Karl Krause as *Ebenezer Scrooge* in a scene from *American Theatre Company's 40th Anniversary production of "A Christmas Carol"* at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center Dec. 8 - 23.

16-17, 22-23 at 7 p.m. in Chapman Music Hall.

Ready for a cozy night of Yuletide cheer? Join Sheridan Road for their "Christmas Cabaret" Dec. 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kathleen P. Westby Pavilion for candlelight, nostalgia, a cappella carols and jazzy Christmas fun. With table seating for everyone, your ticket includes refreshments of wine, cheese, coffee and holiday desserts as you enjoy beautiful holiday harmonies. Call your friends and reserve a 10-seat table for a 20-percent discount and a fantastic evening of seasonal spirit and fun! Sheridan Road is a Tulsa vocal jazz ensemble founded in 2012 by Dr. Barry Epperley. This eclectic group of Tulsa vocalists can combine to create a lush a cappella sound or swing it with a great instrumental combo for jazz, blues, pops, international rhythms, and more.

Kids get in on the fun this season with Theatre Tulsa Family's presentation of "Elf Jr." This children's version of the musical based on the movie is performed by youth from Theatre Tulsa's Broadway Academy. Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised unaware that he is actually a human until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity. In the process, he helps New Yorkers remember the true meaning of Christmas. "Elf Jr." features songs by Tony Award nominees Matthew Sklar and Chad

Beguelin ("The Wedding Singer") and a book by Tony Award winners Bob Martin ("The Drowsy Chaperone") and Thomas Meehan ("Annie," "The Producers," "Hairspray"). Enjoy the show Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the Liddy Doenges Theatre.

"The Voice" season 10 contestant Brian Nhira comes to Tulsa Dec. 22 at 7 and 9 p.m. with "Christmas at the PAC with Brian Nhira and Friends." The gifted vocalist from Tulsa will be joined on stage by fellow "The Voice" alumni Alaska and Madi (Season 6), Kristen Marie (Season 10), Chelsea Gann (Season 10) Malik Heard (Season 10) and local talent Jesse Graver, in addition to Nhira's live band. The concert takes place in the Liddy Doenges Theatre. Part of the proceeds from this concert will



Photo by MATT CHRISTINE

**MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER CHRISTMAS BY CHIP DAVIS:** Celebrity Attractions presents the sights and sounds of the international best-selling group Dec. 28 at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.

go toward the collection of backpacks and school supplies for grade-school children in Zimbabwe, Africa.

Last but certainly not least, Celebrity Attractions presents a sight and sound spectacle with "Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis." Grammy Award winner Davis has created a show that features Mannheim Steamroller Christmas classics along with a selection of compositions from his groundbreaking "Fresh Aire" series, which introduced the distinctive Mannheim sound to America. The program celebrates the group's recent anniversary of 30 years since the first Christmas album and 40 years since the first "Fresh Aire" album and includes dazzling multimedia effects performed in an intimate setting. Experience the magic as the spirit of the season

comes alive with the signature sound of Mannheim Steamroller. The show closes out the month on Dec. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in Chapman Music Hall.

Several free events are also happening in December. The Tulsa PAC Trust presents the Brown Bag It Series Dec. 7, featuring the Tulsa Festival Ringers, Tulsa's only auditioned handbell choir. Shows are at 11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. in the John H. Williams Theatre. In the gallery, artist John Hammer will exhibit his pop impressionist paintings Dec. 2-30, M-F, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and during all Chapman Music Hall events.

Tickets for all shows are available by calling the Tulsa PAC ticket office at 918-596-7111 or online at TulsaPAC.com.

Adam J. Foreman is the new Director of Marketing for the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.

## Warren Theatre to Host Annual Holiday Series with Free Tickets

The Broken Arrow Warren Theatre will host its second annual Holiday Series in Broken Arrow starting Saturday Dec. 3. Tickets will be free for the public, and there will be a limited number available. Tickets may be picked up starting the Tuesday before each show in person at the box office. All seating will be reserved. A kid's combo pack will be available for purchase at the concession stand.

Doors will open at 9 a.m. with

all shows starting at 10 a.m. There will be special appearances from costumed characters as well as a visit from Santa before the shows on Dec. 3 and 10. The Holiday Series will include screenings of *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Elf*, *It's a Wonderful Life* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

**Holiday Series Schedule**  
**Saturday, Dec. 3 at 10 a.m.:**  
*Miracle on 34th Street*

**Saturday, Dec. 3 at 10 a.m.:**  
*How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

**Saturday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.:**  
*It's a Wonderful Life*

**Saturday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.:**  
*Elf*

The Broken Arrow Warren Theatre is located at 1700 W. Aspen Creek Drive, Broken Arrow, OK 74011 (Off the Creek Turnpike between Aspen and Elm).

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# Beautiful Day at the Mercantile in Historic Pawhuska

By **CHUCK CISSEL**  
Feature Writer

My favorite television shows are those on HGTV, Food Network, Create TV, PBS, ESPN and Tennis Channel. My most favorite, however, is Food Network with its galaxy of star chefs and cooking shows, including the extraordinary Ree Drummond, known by television viewers as the Pioneer Woman.

The program stars Ree and often features her four children (Paige, Alex, Bryce and Todd) and of course, her husband Cowboy Ladd Drummond. On occasion she extends her gracious spirit to the cowboys on the ranch, as well as her in-laws, other family members and friends.

I took a road trip to Pawhuska recently with my good buddy, Robert Bailey, to see the newly reconstructed icon, The Mercantile General Store, in Pawhuska. When I met Ree at the Mercantile, she glowed with her wonderful spirit and that enchanting dimpled smile. I was introduced to her by my friend Robert, and when he told her I was from Tulsa, lived in New York City and was in the original cast of Broadway's mega-hit, A Chorus Line, her eyes nearly popped out of her head. She said to me, "I love that show; I know the entire album; sing it all the time: she then proceeded to sing "I Can Do That" from the musical. We both sang a little of it and enjoyed a wonderful moment and had a great laugh.

After viewing Pioneer Woman for



**PIONEERING WOMAN:** Author Chuck Cissel with Pioneer Woman Ree Drummond.

several years now, I have watched her kids grow up right in front of my eyes. When I met Ladd recently at the Mercantile, I asked him, "How is Toddy? (That's what Ree and Ladd call their youngest son). His name is actually Todd. In any case, after being a part of the Pioneer

Woman viewing audience for so many years, one feels a sense of inclusion. You get to know the cast of friends, family members, cowboys and of course, appreciate their various personalities.

It has been so much fun watching Todd grow up from a little tot. With his personality bubbling over, you can count on him to say, "This is the best meal I have ever had Momma" for, literally, every meal Ree cooks. I did the exact same thing growing up. Besides the crazy good recipes and hospitable Ree Drummond, one of the key reasons I enjoy Pioneer Woman so much is the family connection. It takes me back to a simpler place and time. It's a wholesome family lifestyle program that is reminiscent of my childhood and one I relate to – my mom cooking delicious food, baking cakes/pies/bread and me coming home from school to see what Mom made each day as well as the comforting dinners on Sundays. Pioneer Woman brings a little bit of the childhood magic back for me and also reminds me of my lovely



Courtesy photos

**POPULAR STORE:** The Mercantile General Store includes a restaurant and a deli and a retail shop filled with cookbooks, Drummond's Cookware line, kitchen essentials and more.

mother Corrine "smelling up the house" with her sensational cooking.

The Pioneer Woman is an uplifting half-hour series, and Ree has an easy, breezy way about her, radiating warmth, sincerity and her special brand of joy wrapped in every episode. In addition to her cooking show and the Mercantile General Store, Ree has a successful Pioneer Woman blog, authors popular cookbooks, is a photographer, has a line of culinary merchandise selling in Walmart, and, from what I hear, has other new projects in the works.

Several years ago, the Vision 2025 Project provided opportunities for entrepreneurs to cultivate new ventures, renovate warehouses and create boutiques, eateries and other establishments to boost the economic development in downtown Tulsa, while giving the public fresh and exciting places to visit there. It looks like Ladd and Ree have taken a page from the Downtown Tulsa Renovation book and are on the fast track to building a sparkling new destination for all of us in Northeast Oklahoma and certainly for Osage County.

On my recent Saturday visit, the Mercantile was filled to the brim with people of all ages, from the early morning hours into early evening. The deli was packed all day long, and the bakery upstairs was teaming with wide-eyed visitors too. If you get the chance, try

one of the wedding muffins – moist and delicious. The General Store on the first floor features all kinds of tchotchkes, cookbooks, her cookware line and other special kitchen essentials, plus plenty of fun gifts for the kids.

I think Ree and Ladd have outdone themselves with the Mercantile. The renovation may have taken a few years, but the overall result is stunning. Beautifully appointed and designed, with a careful eye to detail from top to bottom, including the first-class kitchen areas, amazing floors, spotless bathrooms, cushy leather furniture. The rooms are spacious with floor to ceiling windows, and don't forget the scrumptious food.

It was a heartwarming road trip on a beautiful, sunny morning. If you get the chance, take the trip and enjoy a fun-filled, delicious day at the Mercantile. When you visit, leave early in the morning and stay the day in this inviting atmosphere. By the way, the bakery goods, breakfast and lunch are yummy. It is Pawhuska's new shining star attraction. Enjoy!



Courtesy photo

**NUTCRACKER IN TULSA:** The famous Nutcracker Ballet will be held in Tulsa at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center Dec. 10-11, 16-18, and 22-23. See [tulsaballet.org](http://tulsaballet.org) for more information.

## Syncretic Showcases Tulsa Artist Fellowship

By **JULIE WENGER WATSON**

On Friday, Dec. 2, 108 Contemporary in the Brady Arts District premiered Syncretic, an exhibit showcasing the works of the inaugural class of recipients of the Tulsa Artist Fellowship (TAF). Established in 2015 by the George Kaiser Family Foundation, TAF was created to retain and recruit artists from across the U.S. Fellows receive a stipend, housing and studio space to allow them to work on their craft. The initial group of 12 visual artists moved to Tulsa in 2016. This exhibit is a celebration of the fellowship's first year.

According to TAF Program Manager Julia White, the fellowships not only benefit the participating artists but also Tulsa's broader art community.

"Our overall goal is to recruit and retain national artists to Tulsa, as well as to retain local artists," White explains. "Because of our location in the country and our growing art community and just the overall quality of life in Tulsa, we're really hoping to see the impact of long-term relationships being built."



**ART FROM MOLLY DILWORTH**

While the fellowship doesn't require the artists to participate in community events, many of them have become involved with local organizations through teaching, lecturing or exhibiting their work.

"We don't have a requirement for participation in the community, but we strongly encourage them to get involved, whether it's through Philbrook or Gilcrease or

TU or OSU," White says. "Whether it's public art talks or open studio visits with art communities, it's at their discretion how they would like to participate, but we do provide them the tools."

There is no set requirement for how or what each artist must produce during the year.

"We really just want to provide them the time and the space and stipend money so they can just focus on their work at the moment, rather than having to have an end-of-the-year project due," White notes.

White is pleased with how the first year has gone.

"We've seen a lot of collaboration in this Brady Arts District as a whole," she says. "Although we don't put any requirement or pressure on their involvement in the community, it seems as if that's the natural habit of an artist. They want to be involved in their surroundings, so having the artists participate at some level has been a great success, and having art shown throughout the community has also proven to be a success this year."

For more information on TAF, visit [TulsaArtistFellowship.org](http://TulsaArtistFellowship.org).

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# Premier Climbing Gym to be National Draw

I can't remember when I experienced rock climbing. I have narrowed it down to around my senior year in high school, but the reasons as to why I tried it in the first place, I can't recall. Maybe I was simply looking for something new to try. Maybe it was fitness related. Or possibly a friend suggested it.

Nevertheless, as to the reasons that I have continued to hold onto the activity for the past 10 years or so, I could go on for hours. And so could Jason Burks, who bought Tulsa's only rock-climbing gym, New Heights, 13 years ago. "You get to these beau-

## Out & About in Greater Tulsa



By EMILY RAMSEY  
Managing Editor

Burks, who grew up in greater Tulsa, recently announced plans to build Climb Tulsa, a 17,000-square-foot state-of-the-art climbing facility near 31st Street and Yale Avenue, next year.

Rock climbing teaches mental prowess and discipline, improves fitness and positively affects our emotional state.

"When you're climbing, you forget about your troubles and your stress," Burks says.

Burks, who also owns Retrospec Films, started climbing outdoors

tiful spots, and the only way to get to them is to have this skill of climbing."

Once he began outdoor climbing, he later added indoor climbing at New Heights as a way to train for his outdoor climbs. So, when the opportunity came to take ownership of New Heights, he couldn't say no.

"I figured, if this works, we'll build something bigger," he says.

And that is now his plan: to build a high-quality indoor rock climbing gym, to be among the largest climbing gyms in the country.

Climb Tulsa will feature two floors of climbing walls, a children's climbing area, a private party room, and a yoga and fitness center.

The climbing walls will be built by Walltopia, the leading climbing wall design and manufacturing company, known for its first-class rock walls and innovative designs, Burks says.

The gym will meet USA Climbing standards, which will allow Climb Tulsa to host national climbing competitions.

"It's rare that people come in to



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

**A SPORT FOR ALL:** Jason Burks, owner of New Heights climbing gym, expects to break ground on Climb Tulsa, a 17,000-square-foot climbing gym in midtown Tulsa, early next year.

climb for their first time and they don't love it," Burks says.

"On average, we see 25-30 first-time climbers every week."

Climbing offers a constructive activity for youths, but it's also something older ones can do, he continues. "We have members at

New Heights who are in their 60s."

Burks hopes to break ground on the project by early next year, with construction taking about a year.

"If I'm going to do this project, I want to do it the best that I possibly can," says Burks. "I just love the sport, so I want to convince others."

# Green Efforts Net Hardware for Local Leaders

## TRASH TALK

By BETH TURNER

Gilcrease Museum provided the perfect backdrop for highlighting the amazing works of The M.e.t.'s

2016 Recycling Awards recipients. Friends and colleagues gathered on Tuesday, Nov. 15 to celebrate America Recycles Day by awarding local recycling champions, many of which pulled off feats of artistic proportions.

The Green Government Award

went to Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. Recognizing the lack of recycling in this rural area, the Tribal Environmental Department led by Kandice Taylor, provides the community with recycling drop-off and maintenance as well as a bi-annual e-waste event. Thlopthlocco Tribal Town is a federally recognized American Indian tribe with approximately 845 members.

The Green Non-Profit Award went to Sustainable Tulsa's ScoreCard program. Created by Executive Director Corey Williams, Sustainable Tulsa partners volunteer guides with area businesses to increase the "Triple Bottom Line" of saving money, working more sustainably and efficiently, and creating a healthier work environment to enjoy. Trash Talk highlighted ScoreCard in October promoting the call for the next volunteers and businesses, which is now underway. We will be excited to learn of their progress.

The Green Recycling Business went to NORDAM and the Siegfried family who owns this Tulsa-based aerospace repair and manufacturing firm. As noted by The M.e.t., in 2015, the firm implemented a company-wide single stream recycling program. Led by Mandy Leemhuis, NORDAM diverted 60 percent of its waste stream from the landfill, recycling 432 tons of material.

The Green School award went to Inola Middle School Green Team.



Courtesy TERRIE HANNAM

**GREEN ACCOLADES:** The M.e.t. represented our communal, "thank you" to Sustainable Tulsa, NORDAM, Inola Middle School Green Team, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and Terri Brannan for striving to live and work sustainably for our area communities. Pictured from the left: Friends of The M.e.t. President Jill Norman, Sustainable Tulsa's Corey Williams and Alison Stone and The M.e.t. Board Chair Michael Willis.

Organized by Carol Holland, Inola Green Team has earned their Oklahoma Green Schools flag. OGSP is promoted heavily here on Trash Talk for its incredible, hands-on, STEM-based student-led curriculum, which all comes at the high price of engaging fun, excellent education and zero charge. Energy Curriculum Volunteer, Les Pace of Pace Industries said of Holland and her students, "They jumped right in to learning how to save the school thousands of dollars through auditing the energy usage and making a PowerPoint for savings suggestions. Oklahoma schools are hurting, so this came at a very important time for the school itself. They really

earned their flag and had a good time doing so."

The Green Volunteer award went to Terri Brannin. The M.e.t. offers full disclosure and pride that Brannin is married to director Graham Brannin. "Terri has volunteered countless hours. She never stopped at the tire collection event in June. It was so hot!"

Thank you, and congratulations to all the award winners for this well-earned success.

## National Accolades

Here are a few highlights from national awards given on America Recycles Day that will have a positive impact for all of us:

- The New York City Sanitation Department set a plan in place for a zero waste city by 2030. Thanks to Homegrown Festival in Ozark, Arkansas, reported by Trash Talk in August, we've seen that zero waste for events is possible, so we're excited to learn more about doing this for day-to-day living.

- ByFusion invented RePlast Blocks, which turns plastic waste into cinder-type blocks. According to their awards accolades, this process "requires no adhesives, produces 95 percent less greenhouse gas emissions than concrete blocks, and provides high thermal insulation."

- Headed to one of our nation's big cities and want to know where to recycle? Now you can know, thanks to "Recycle By City." Log on to [www.recyclebycity.com](http://www.recyclebycity.com) to learn more.

## Looking Ahead to 2017

In January, Trash Talk will offer eco tips from around the readership area, so send in your favorite advice @TrashTalkTulsa or by emailing [bethturner@me.com](mailto:bethturner@me.com).

Have a great holiday season, and may all your days in 2017 be green.

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DINING OUT IN GREATER TULSA

Elote Continues to Reflect Libby Billings' Ideals

Local Dining

By BLAKE AUSTYN  
Contributing Writer

When individuals witness the enthusiastic, seemingly endless energy that is Libby Billings, they usually aren't surprised to discover that in addition to running successful businesses, she continues to breed new ones.

Roppongi ramen bar, Billings' third restaurant, opened Nov. 21 in downtown Tulsa's Deco District at 601 S. Boston Ave., smack dab in between her two well-established restaurants Elote and The Vault.

Elote opened in 2008, with The Vault following in 2012.

Billings, a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School and Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology culinary school, has always only worked in restaurants.

Her first job was at Mexicali Border Cafe, where, allegedly, she said that one day she would open a Mexican restaurant in downtown Tulsa, according to a former fellow employee.

"But I don't remember ever saying that," she laughs.

Nonetheless, that's what Billings did.

She opened Elote in downtown Tulsa at a time when restaurants, particularly along Boston Avenue, did not operate after the weekday workday ended.

So Billings needed to give people a reason to come downtown, particu-

larly to the Deco District.

"When Elote opened, there was going to be some residential options coming soon to the area," she says.

When that didn't happen, Billings threw festivals: Luchador runs, salsa competitions, chalk fests. She partnered with Mod's Coffee and Crepes, located across from Elote, in offering puffy tacos and gelato specials.

Now, with residential offerings coming quickly to the area. "I'm proud to have been a part of the change that we've seen in the Deco," she says.

Bringing change to the Deco District, however, wasn't exactly Billings' initial aim when she opened Elote.

Sustainability, on the other hand, was.

Working in restaurants growing up, "I always saw waste," she says.

Quite the contrast to her home life.

"I was raised by hippies, and I was raised vegetarian, so we did not have meat in our house, and I grew up composting. Having no waste in our house was normal.

"So, to go into restaurants and see them throwing away styrofoam and learning where the meat came from; for my personal sanity, I knew that I would need to do things differently."

Billings, therefore, endeavored to create a menu featuring fresh versions of Mexican dishes with a restaurant engaging in green practices, including recycling and composting.

Billings chose to open Roppongi at the southeast corner of 6th Street and Boston Avenue because "I wanted



**JALAPENO SCREAMERS:** Elote's Roasted Jalapeno Screemers: roasted jalapeños filled with cream cheese and topped with strawberries and black bean corn relish.



**FLOURISHING RESTAURATEUR:** Libby Billings stands in her third restaurant venture, Roppongi ramen bar, 601 S. Boston Ave., which opened in November. Billings opened Elote in 2008, followed by The Vault in 2012. All three restaurants are located in downtown Tulsa's Deco District.

this spot to be open at night between Elote and The Vault," she says honestly.

As Elote inches towards its 10-year anniversary, it seemed a nice time to revisit Elote, 514 S. Boston Ave., the restaurant that Billings calls "her baby."

For an appetizer, my friend and I started with the Roasted Jalapeno Screemers, roasted jalapeños filled with cream cheese and topped with strawberries and black bean corn relish. I can handle my fair share of spice, but this spice nearly blew me out of the water.

We were attracted to this dish due to the strawberry element, which added a lightness to the spice that we very

much enjoyed.

For our entrees, we ordered the Elote's Puffy Tacos, the most popular menu item, says Billings, and the Enchilada Tomatillos.

We chose to go with pork on the two puffy tacos. They were topped with caramelized onions, lettuce, tomato onion relish and a version of Mexican sour cream.

We sprang for three tomatillos, two with avocado and one with chicken. Each tortilla was also filled with poblano peppers, portobello mushrooms and cilantro tomatillo sauce.

Both entrees came with two side orders.

The combination of the airiness and

crunchiness of the puffy tacos makes me understand why the dish has remained so popular. Elote even offers a breakfast puffy taco option at the Cherry Street Farmers Market during the summer months.

The tomatillos tasted very fresh, particularly the ones with avocado. Although, while I don't eat a lot of meat, there was something about the added flavor of the chicken tomatillo that hooked me.

Elote's menu contains appetizers, tacos, burritos and larger entree items, with no dish costing more than \$13.99.

Elote serves lunch and dinner Monday-Saturday, starting at 11 a.m.

OLIVETO LAUNCHES SEASONAL MENU



GTR Newspapers Photo

**RINGING IN THE HOLIDAYS:** Oliveto Italian Bistro, 8922 S. Memorial Dr., recently unveiled its seasonal menu and drinks to ring in the holiday season. The restaurant offers traditional Italian dishes, woodstone pizzas, sandwiches and salads. Oliveto also offers catering services and "Curbside Carryout." From left are Beau Selby, manager of Oliveto Italian Bistro; Julie Selby, school program, nutrition specialist and account executive for catering sales; Eric Selby, vice president of brand development and managing member; and Sheri Miksa, Mazzio's president and CEO.

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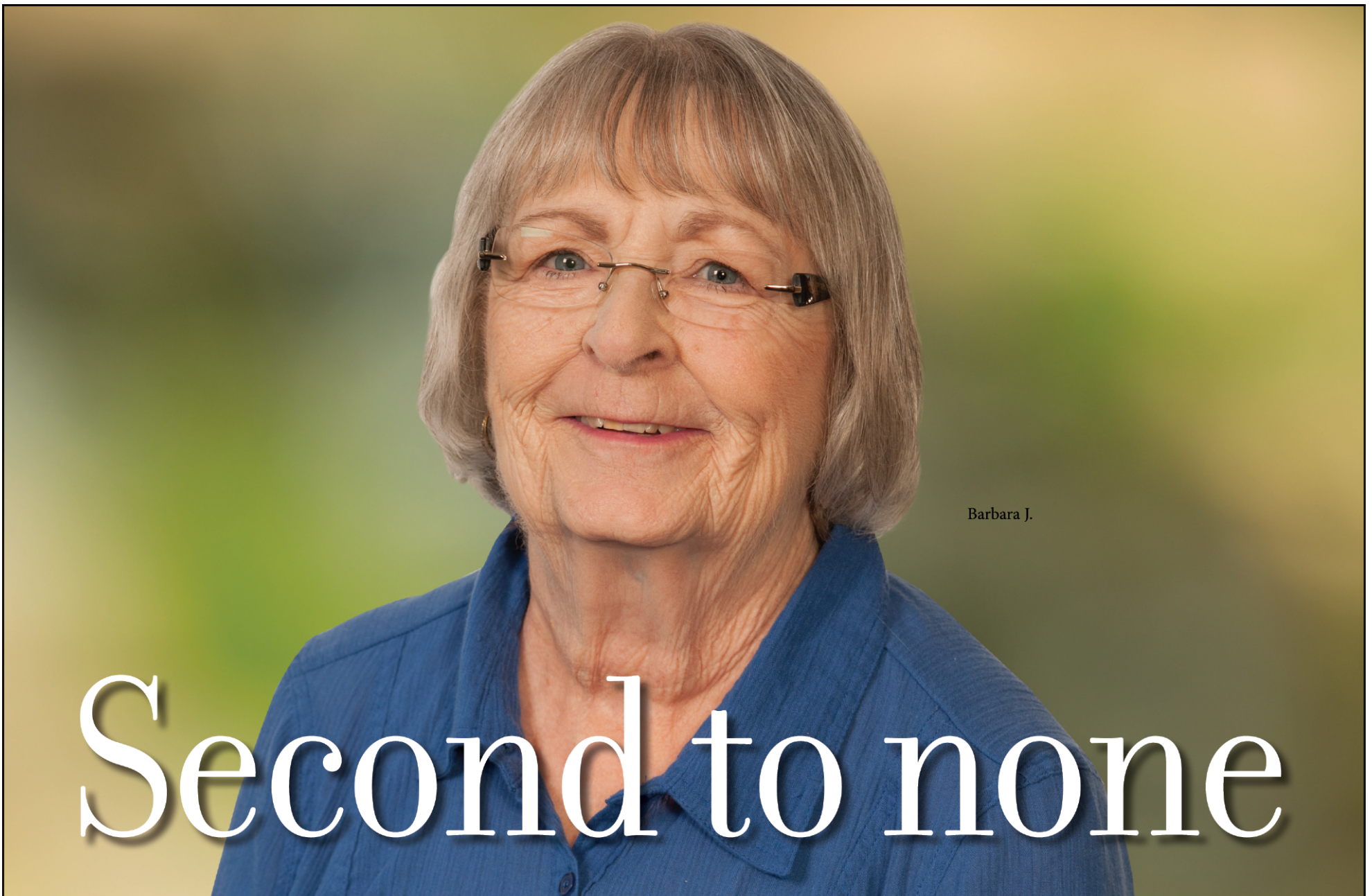
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HEALTH & WELLNESS

# Annual 'Don't Bug Me' Flu Campaign Kicks Off

Hillcrest, Health Dept. Join Together to Help Keep Community Healthy

Hillcrest Medical Center and Tulsa Health Department hosted the 13th Annual "Don't Bug Me" Flu Prevention Campaign kick-off event Nov. 1 at Smith Elementary School in Owasso during a school assembly attended by hundreds of students.

Professor Penelope IAK, a fun and eccentric character, entertained the students teaching them how to prevent the flu bug. Students also

received a pair of Don't Bug Me antennae at the kick-off.

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



**PROFESSOR AND FRIEND:** Professor Penelope IAK and Hillcrest Healthcare System CEO Kevin Gross get ready to battle the flu during the school assembly in Owasso.



**FLU FIGHTERS:** Students at Smith Elementary School in Owasso put on their Don't Bug Me hats during the school assembly, hosted by Professor Penelope IAK.

# CTCA Hospitals Receive National Awards

Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) announces that its hospital located in Tulsa has been named 2016 Guardian of Excellence Award winner by Press Ganey. The Guardian of Excellence Award recognizes top-performing health care organizations that have consistently achieved the 95th percentile or above of performance in patient experience.

CTCA-Tulsa was recognized for excellence in outpatient care. Other CTCA hospitals in Chicago, Atlanta, and Phoenix, were also honored. Atlanta and Chicago received the award for inpatient services. Phoenix was recognized for excellence in outpatient care.

The Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award is a nationally-recognized symbol of achievement in health care. Presented annually, the award honors clients who consistently sustained performance in the top five percent of all Press Ganey clients for each reporting period during the course of one year.

"True to our mission, vision, values and commitment to the mother standard of care, the Guardian of Excellence Award symbolizes the unyielding service excellence that our employees provide to our patients and caregivers every day," says CTCA in Tulsa President and CEO Jay Foley. "I am very proud of our

team in Tulsa, as well as across the CTCA organization for their dedication to those they serve."

According to Foley, the award represents an important recognition from the industry's leader in measuring, understanding and improving patient experience.

"We are proud to partner with CTCA," says Patrick T. Ryan, CEO of Press Ganey. "This award is a testament to the organization's leadership in delivering patient-centered care. By achieving and sustaining this level of excellence, CTCA continues to demonstrate their commitment to reducing patient suffering and advancing the overall quality of health care."



TULSA'S CANCER TREATMENT CENTER OF AMERICA FACILITY

# CTCA Employee Receives Language Certification

This past fall Jose Minguez, a patient relations advocate and interpreter for Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) in Tulsa, took a challenging examination. And he passed it. Few people in the state will ever take this exam, let alone receive a proficient score. What makes Minguez such a special employee at this Tulsa cancer center is the calling behind why he pursued the achievement in the first place.

If you have ever been in a situation with a complex and frightening health diagnosis, you know that understanding all the medical terms can be daunting and the processes unfamiliar, even with a great healthcare team and communicating in English. But what if English was not your first tongue? The dictionary of medical vernacular used in a hospital every day can be like a language unto itself. Add to that financial terms, insurance protocols, fatigue from illness and the stress of worry. There is a big chance you won't hear or understand everything you need to make the best health choices for you and your family.

That challenge, the worry of the unknown coupled with the fear of not understanding, is why Minguez committed himself to



**JOSE MINGUEZ:** Making a difference in the lives of patients.

studying for the National Board Certification in Spanish for Medical Interpreters (NBCMI). The distinction is a nationally recognized and validated certification for medical interpreters. It is an independent division of the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA).

"We never want language to be a barrier to making good, informed healthcare decisions,"

says Susan Magill, guest services director at CTCA and Minguez's supervisor. "So we support and encourage any employee who desires to achieve this certification."

Minguez says his medical interpreting skills are used on almost a daily basis at the hospital. "This service is not used only when the patient is here but also to help facilitate communication between the patient and his or her appointment scheduler and care manager."

A few of the special requirements Minguez accomplished for his certification included 40 hours of medical interpreting coursework, the study of anatomy, physiology and medical terminology, and interpreting specialty technique classes in consecutive, simultaneous or sight translation. The process was capped off with written and oral exams and took him about a year to complete.

"As a patient advocate, I make sure that all our patients experience our 'Mother Standard of Care' model, which is treating our patients like we would treat a loved one," says Minguez. "When you mix this with being an interpreter, it usually means guiding them through the whole process. I become the contact

person for any questions, concerns or any other communication between them and the hospital."

For less common languages, the CTCA patient advocate team offers patients and their families another language solution system, called Video Remote Interpreting. Four computer-based devices throughout the medical center provide access to fluent speakers in multiple languages, 24 hours a day. "The interpreters are unique, because of their deep knowledge of our cancer center's services, and their proficiency is communicating complex medical terms, ideas and treatments," says Magill. "During the past year, our guests

used interpreters for Russian, Chinese (Mandarin), Creole, Arabic and Portuguese through this program."

Minguez noted that he likes to be good at any tasks he sets his mind to. But, becoming a medical interpreter was kind of a "revelation." The 42-year-old foreign language teacher says he had not felt fulfilled working in his earlier career in the legal system.

"I wanted a real purpose and I found it here at CTCA. I came to interpret as an outside provider, and I knew immediately that this is what I wanted full-time," says Minguez. "To be able to help people who are in a moment of extraordinary need has no comparison. I knew I was at home."

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EDUCATION

TCC Launches New Concept for Holiday Giving

During the next few weeks, mailboxes will be stuffed with Christmas catalogs and shopping guides vying for attention this holiday season. They will shine and sparkle with pretty items that range from the useful to the useless. But what if, in the season of giving, individual's generosity is the gift of opportunity to learn or to explore?

The Tulsa Community College Foundation has created the ultimate gift catalog, featuring scholarships, learning opportunities and educational experiences for students. Launched in time for the holiday season, The Wish Book 2016, in print and online, details gift-giving opportunities for those looking for something a little different.

"The Wish Book reimagines education giving opportunities and uses Neiman Marcus' The Christmas Book as inspiration," Lauren Brookey, president of the TCC Foundation says.

The 17 projects featured in The Wish Book range from helping students in the Honors program to providing students an opportunity to learn about their heritage in the African country of Ghana or study at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab in California. Other projects include a new laboratory for biology students with naming rights, underwriting a student art competition or financing a mock courtroom renovation.

"The Wish Book is timed to capitalize on holiday giving as individuals look for that unique gift to give. Most of us will soon receive numerous retail catalogs with gifts that sparkle. The Wish Book is a catalog with opportunities - small



HOUSTON, WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY

or large - to help our students and faculty at TCC and reflects extraordinary experiences to assist the learning process.

Some of the gift opportunities are scholarships. A private scholarship in the name of its donor has value that extends beyond monetary support for a struggling college student, according to Brookey. Private scholarships link students to their future through graduates who traveled a similar academic or personal road. The donor provides a real example of the returns of hard work and perseverance for students who see economic, academic and social pressures ahead.

The catalog was born from the educational dreams of students

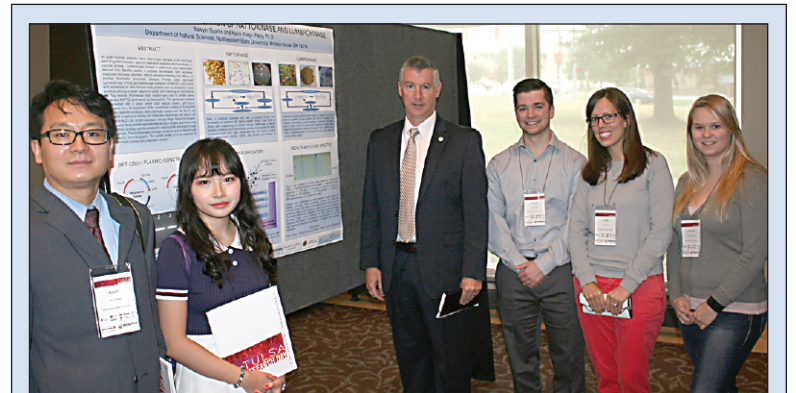
and faculty at TCC and reflects extraordinary experiences to assist the learning process.

"These ideas are sure to ignite a student's passion or provide a building block for success. We call them opportunity gifts. The gifts you can give cover a broad range of costs and possibilities, and we will take donations at any level to help fund these education dreams," Brookey says.

This is the first year for The Wish Book that provides a way to give back to students as an investment in tomorrow's leaders of Tulsa. For more information, check out the digital version of The Wish Book 2016 at [tccwishbook.com](http://tccwishbook.com).



BIOSCIENCE RESEARCH EXPERIENCES



GTR Newspapers photo

**TULSA RESEARCH DAY:** Students, educators, and professionals came together Nov. 3 at the OU-Tulsa campus for Tulsa Research Day to collaborate and learn about research happenings in Tulsa. Among those at the event were, from left, Dr. Kevin Yueju Wang, professor of molecular biology at Northeastern State University Broken Arrow, who specializes in plant biotechnology; Jingling Yu, student from Victory Christian Academy; Michael Teague, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment, who delivered the keynote address; and NSUBA research students Sawyer Sparks, Janet McLane, and Courtney Willingham. The annual event is presented by Tulsa Research Partners (TRP), an initiative of the Oklahoma Innovation Institute (OII). The theme for the event was "FEWS" (Food, Energy and Water Systems).

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# Student Recognized for 'Breaking Traditions'

Each year the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education recognizes students who have chosen to study specific programs based on interests and abilities, rather than traditional gender roles, with the aptly named "Breaking Traditions Award." Nominees for the award contribute by creating more awareness of and support for all non-traditional students and programs.

Non-traditional training and employment is defined by occupations and careers where individuals from one gender comprise less than 25 percent of the individuals employed in a particular field.

Cinnamon Anderson, an adult student in Tulsa Tech's drafting program, has been nominated for one of this year's awards. Her initial decision to follow this career path wasn't determined by her gender, however; it was built on her desire to achieve her career goals and follow her dreams.

"I decided to study drafting because it was more along the lines of what I wanted to do in the future," Anderson says. "My goal is to someday own a construction company and specialize in the construction of power plants."

The Nebraska native has worked on construction projects

in Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and Florida. In fact, it was a power plant construction project that brought her to Oklahoma in 2011. Although Anderson admits that studying in a male-oriented class can be challenging at first, her experiences on numerous construction sites have made her confident in her abilities, and everything has worked out fine, she says.

"Studying a subject that has a lot more males than females is similar to working on a construction site," she continues. "At first, it can be competitive, which is good because once everyone knows that you have the skills to succeed, then we can all get back to work. I really enjoy my class. We have a good group, and it is easier to learn with individuals around me who also want to learn."

Michael Doering, one of Tulsa Tech's drafting instructors, thinks there are plenty of opportunities in the industry for students with Anderson's drive and determination.

"There is no doubt that Cinnamon is determined to learn as much as she can, in order to achieve her goals," Doering says. "Wherever her career takes her, that determination will translate into success."

Anderson credits her instructor with providing knowledge and patience and taking the extra time to explain the reason behind each correct answer.

"Mr. Doering is very helpful," Anderson says. "He doesn't just tell you something, he takes time to visit with you and explain why this is the correct solution."

The proud mother of two feels her involvement with the student organization SkillsUSA has provided her with additional confidence and more opportunities, helping her to learn valuable skills outside of her drafting courses.

"My involvement with SkillsUSA has not only provided me with support and encouragement," says Anderson, "but, most importantly, it has taught me about leadership; I feel it demonstrates to employers and others that, as students, we are striving to be our best."

Like all Tulsa Tech students, Cinnamon Anderson is making her own path toward success, and she is quick to encourage other young women, regardless of their interests, to do the same.

"My advice to other young women," she says, "is just to keep at it. If you want to work in drafting or construction or become a mechanic or an engineer, it doesn't matter. If you feel it in your heart, then just keep at it."

If you're currently looking for exciting classes for high school and adult students, quality business and industry training, or are determined to begin a new career, Tulsa Tech invites you to visit today. For more information, please call 918-828-5200 or visit us online at [tulsatech.edu](http://tulsatech.edu).

## News from Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER  
Superintendent



Courtesy Tulsa Tech

**CONSTRUCTION INTEREST:** Cinnamon Anderson, a student in Tulsa Tech's drafting program, has been nominated for an Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education "Breaking Traditions Award," in recognition of her pursuit of a "non-traditional" occupation.



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# JENKS DISTRICT NEWS

## VETERANS CONCERT



Courtesy Jenks Public Schools

**HOME OF THE BRAVE:** On Nov. 10, Jenks East Elementary fourth graders performed at the 16th annual Home of the Brave concert, hosted by Jenks East Elementary and its Poppy Project, a program with the goal of fostering greater patriotism in students.



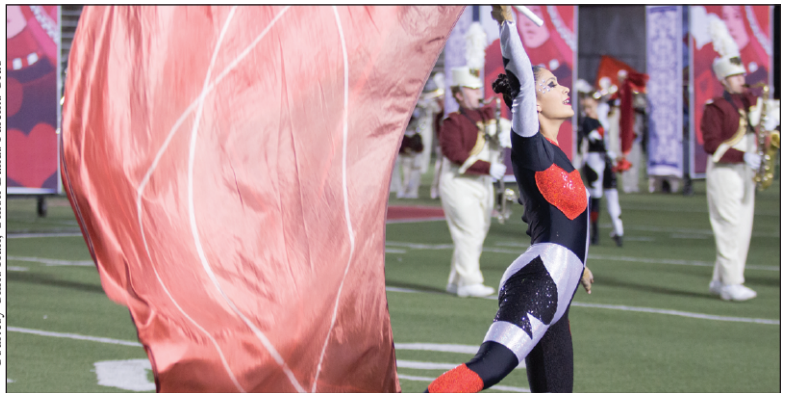
Courtesy Jenks Public Schools

**FAMOUS JENKS GRADUATE:** Also performing at the Home of the Brave concert were Jenks High School theater students and Brian Nhira, pictured at left, a 2012 Jenks graduate and previous finalist on the NBC singing competition show *The Voice*. The event was held at the Jenks Performing Arts Center on the High School campus.

## PRIDE COMPETES IN RENEGADE REVIEW



Courtesy Chris Hall, Union Bands Parents Club



**REGIONAL COMPETITION:** In October, the Trojan Pride participated in the 34th Annual Renegade Review Marching Band Championship at Union High School, where it won third place. The event featured marching bands from both Oklahoma and surrounding states. The Pride also competed in the Owasso Invitational in September, placing fourth.

## Teacher's Actions Save Student

EMSA recently awarded High School Food Prep and Nutrition teacher Marla Cole with its "Everyday Hero" award for her quick actions in the classroom when student Cameron Edwards suffered a potentially life-threatening injury. While Edwards was trying to cut a zip-tie, the knife she was using slipped and went into her arm. Cole acted quickly to apply pressure and call for help. Doctors burned Edwards' artery back together, and she received 39 stitches. Additional teachers, staff and students who helped during the situation were also honored during the award ceremony.



Courtesy Jenks Public Schools

**EVERYDAY HERO:** High School Food Prep and Nutrition teacher Marla Cole holds the "Everyday Hero" award that she received from EMSA in recognition of her quick actions after student Cameron Edwards, right, suffered a severe injury in the classroom.

## Teacher Applications Available

Applications are now available for Oklahoma fifth- and eighth-grade teachers interested in receiving a fellowship to attend the 2017 Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute in the restored capital city of 18th-century Virginia. The session for Oklahoma fifth-grade teachers will be held June 8-14, 2017.

The program has been expanded this year to offer fellowships for Oklahoma eighth-grade social studies teachers. Their session will be held June 15-21, 2017.

The fellowship covers all program activities, airfare, lodging and most meals. Each teacher also receives a \$300 stipend for classroom materials. While at Colonial Williamsburg—the world's largest living history museum—Oklahoma teachers will have the opportunity to meet character interpreters of 18th-century people and be immersed in early

American history through hands-on activities and reenactments of historic events. Participants will visit nearby Jamestown, the site of the first permanent English colony in America, and visit the Yorktown battlefields where the Continental Army forced the British to surrender. Participants also will meet daily with a peer facilitator to discuss interactive teaching techniques and develop creative lesson plans based on their experiences.

Oklahoma's fifth-grade teacher institute program is designed for fifth-grade social studies/history teachers and resource teachers, such as librarians or gifted-talented teachers, who plan to teach U.S. history in their schools in 2017-2018. The middle-school program is open eighth-grade classroom teachers who teach U.S. history as part of their social studies curriculum. The

fellowships are available to public and private school teachers. Participants are asked to share materials, skills and experiences with fellow teachers through two workshops or in-service programs upon their return from the institute.

"No textbook can replace the inspiration and knowledge gained by walking in the footsteps of early Americans, both famous and ordinary," said former Teacher Institute participant Linda Goodnight of Wewoka. "The Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute is by far the finest, most comprehensive teacher training I have ever attended."

The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence has coordinated Oklahoma's participation in the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute since 1993, thanks to the leadership and support of the late Oklahoma City businessman Edward C. Jouljian III, who was an active supporter and former board member of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Jouljian was also a trustee of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, a non-profit organization that recognizes and encourages academic excellence in Oklahoma's public schools. The Jouljian family continues to support the program.

Applications are available on the foundation's website at [www.ofe.org](http://www.ofe.org). Completed applications must be postmarked by Feb. 1, 2017.

## DOWNTOWN LIGHTS



Photos courtesy Jenks Chamber of Commerce



**HOLIDAY WELCOME:** On Nov. 19, the Jenks Chamber

of Commerce held its annual Lights On! event to welcome the holiday shopping season. At top, Channel 6 meteorologist Travis Meyer was on hand broadcasting the festivities with the Jenks High School Trojanaires singing behind him.



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# JENKS SPORTS

## Matt Young Overcomes Challenges to Win State

By MIKE MOGUIN  
Sports Writer

It was a dream come true for Jenks senior cross country runner Matt Young.

Young overcame two years of adversity when he captured the Boys Class 6A cross country state championship on Oct. 29 in Edmond, running a time of 15:50.3. Finishing behind him was Bartlesville's Henry Williams (15:54.9) and fellow Trojan Alexander Jones (15:58.3).

"I just felt relieved that I'd done it," Young said. "I was finished with the race and happy with how I placed. It was just a relief after a real hard season."

As a freshman, Young missed out as an inexperienced runner on a deep team. He had to deal with a stress fracture as a sophomore; then last year, as a junior, he was edged out by two seconds.

"It was meaningful (to win state this year)," Young said. "To come so close last year, it was a little defeating. Of course, we won the team title last year, so that kind of helped ease the pain there. But, just to win it this year feels a little more complete."

Young said the key to winning the race was putting a strategy in place to lead most of the race.

"I led from start to finish and just got some space between myself and the rest of the field," he said.

What makes the victory more meaningful for Young is the fact that he overcame the stress fracture he had in his sophomore year.

"It was real frustrating," he said. Young ran his best race that year with a time of 15:39 at the Southlake Trail Meet, a tournament in Texas. Everything seemed to be going well until the next week of training.

"I had excruciating pain in my shin. I didn't know what it was," Young said.

Out of all the days he had to realize it, it came on his birthday, Sept. 16.

"I had to go to the trainer, stop running, figure out what it was and we still didn't know," he said. "To realize you have an injury, your birthday is not the best day for that to happen."

After taking a month off, Young went to a physical therapist, where an MRI was scheduled. That was when he learned he had a stress fracture.

"It was definitely really defeating," Young said. "I just thought my running career was over, that everything I worked for was done."

However, he got to running again the next spring in track.

"I came back and got PR's (personal records) in the 3,200 (meter-run) and really kick-started my running again after that. It is just great after being defeated my sophomore year and be one of the best (cross country runners) in the state," Young said.



**GREAT RUNNER:** Matt Young runs in the Chili Pepper Festival in Northwest Arkansas recently.

That gave Young reason to believe his body could overcome the injury.

"I just needed to rest my body and just gradually get back into it and I knew I would have immediate results," Young said. "I kept working out and was careful with my shins, making sure I had my proper footwear and stay healthy."

While Young did win as an individual medalist, his team's streak of state championships ended at four. Jenks took third with 111 points. Bartlesville won it with 55 and Owasso was runner-up with 93.

"We're just used to having every single guy running under 17 minutes in the 5K and we've been blessed with that for the past four years," Young said. "Our fifth, sixth and seventh were just not under 17 minutes this year. Going into the state race, we did not expect to win. We didn't even expect to get even podium. We were ranked fourth going into the race and we got third. I was happy with how our team did compared to how we were ranked during the season, and we got the podium. I was real happy with that."

"It's not what you would expect winning those four years in a row, but I was definitely happy with how our team did," Young said.

Young plans to run in college and is deciding between Oklahoma State, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Air Force and Army.



## Same-Day Appointments in Jenks

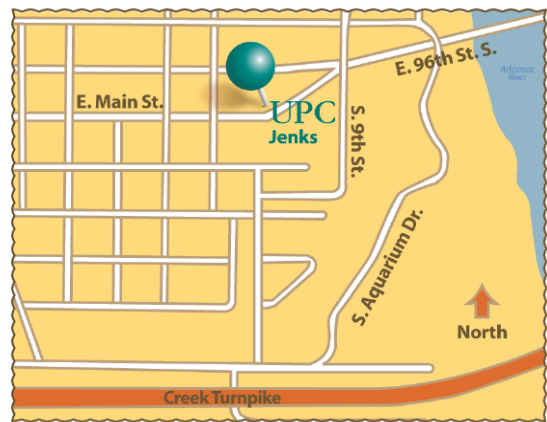
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SPORTS

Lincoln Christian Cross Country Takes State

By MIKE MOGUIN
GTR Sports Writer

A first was made in Lincoln Christian school history when its cross-country teams captured the Class 4A state championships Oct. 22 in Shawnee.

The boys won the title for the third straight year while the girls got their first.

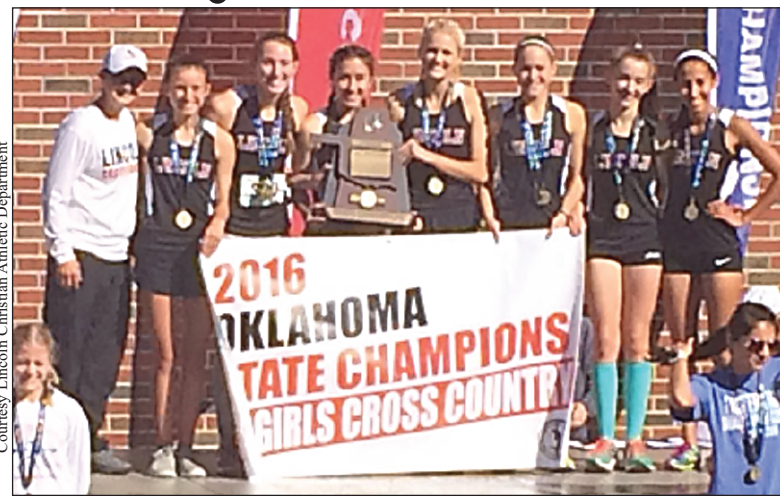
Each team also did it with new coaches at the helm, although both were familiar with the program. Martha O'Rourke had previously coached both the Eagles and Lady Eagles for seven years, before retiring and turning the reins over to Stephen Lewelling and Kailan Woods, respectively, who were assistants for each team.

"It was incredible," Lewelling says of his team winning. "We knew there was really good competition with Bethany and Metro. We knew we had to work real hard. The kids just sold out to the idea of leaving it all out there."

Each team also had a runner-up, with junior Luke Murphy taking those honors for the boys and senior Alyssa Solberg getting it for the girls.

"It's fun because you did it together," Woods says. "The boys have been winning and the girls just accomplished it. Our guys coach and I work side-by-side everyday like we both equally pour into both programs. It's like one big massive family, to be able to celebrate a state championship in the same year is a great feeling and an incredible accomplishment by our kids."

In the boys' competition, the Eagles won with 57 points, beating



Metro Christian, who finished with 80. Bethany was third with 112.

"The guys are really focused and driven," Lewelling says. "They have a great ability to put distractions aside and focus on the task at hand."

Murphy finishing the boys' run with a time of 16:02.88. Berryhill's Daniel Mazzei won the meet after completing the race at 15:33.18.

"I, honestly, was not focused on how I was going to do," Murphy says. "I was thinking about how my team was going to do. I really didn't care how I placed. I knew all the hard work I had done was going to show itself, but I was thinking about our team and hoping they could put all the pieces together and pull out a win."

Other runners for the Eagles at state were Preston Turner (16:41.18), Brock Sherwin (17:00.18), Harison Michael (17:16.28) and Clay Levell (17:25.62).

The Eagles are in a good position to four-peat next season, because they have no seniors on their squad. Everyone will be back.

In the girls' race, the Lady Eagles finished with 66 points, also beating Metro Christian, who finished with 86. Plainview, a school based out of a community in Ardmore, was third with 97.

"It was definitely a team effort," Woods says. "We talked a lot about a vision. The Bible says where there is no vision, the people perish. So we talked a lot about that and the strength God will give you as you honor him."

The girls attributed winning state to having a vision of putting in more miles in practice than they ever have before, Woods says.

"There's really no explanation for it other than God's grace and favor and the work ethic of those kids," Woods said. "They persevered."

"That was fantastic," Lewelling says in regards to the girls' win-

ning state as well. "They were not fazed to win at all. They really busted their tails in the season. Every practice, they gave it their all and it paid off in the end."

"It was probably one of the greatest joys of my life to see those kids come together and accomplish that," Woods says. "There is just something about being a coach and mentoring those kids and they work pay off in a state championship, I don't think you could ask for anything more. And the way they ran was unbelievable."

The Lady Eagles had run 34 seconds faster than they ran all season long, Woods says.

Solberg, who won the individual title last year, achieved her second-place finish with a time of 11:39.88.

"Getting an individual state title last year felt amazing, but doing it with a team by my side felt 10 times better," Solberg says. "I loved the fact that we talked about winning all season, put in work together

for months, and grinded it out until the very end. Finishing my senior year with a team state title is one of the best feelings and I am so proud of how hard my team and I worked for that accomplishment."

Winning the individual medal was Maicie Brown from Weatherford, who ran a time of 11:35.62.

Other Lady Eagles who ran for Lincoln Christian were Isabella Murphy (12:23.84), Ariana Cruz (12:24.31), Jaylen Riley (12:28.28) and Asia Pybas (12:41.53).

Besides Solberg, Pybas, Emily Young and Emily Grace Long are the team's seniors.

"I really truly believe we will compete at a high-level," Woods says. "We won't have any seniors next year. I got a couple of juniors, sophomores and freshmen. We're really young, we have great talent coming, so our expectations is to continue to compete at our very best ability and be highly successful."

Advertisement for ORU basketball season tickets. Includes text: 'SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW!', '2016-2017 ORU BASKETBALL', 'KIDS IN FREE', 'CALL 918-495-70RU', 'ORUATHLETICS.COM', 'ALL KIDS AGE 13 AND UNDER ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT GET INTO ALL BASKETBALL GAMES FOR FREE'.

Tulsa Oilers 2016-17 schedule. Includes Oilers logo, monthly calendar grid with game dates and opponents, ticket information: 'FOR TICKETS CALL: (918) 632-7825 or visit www.tulsoilers.com', and an abbreviations key for various teams like AK, ALN, ATL, COL, etc.

# Oilers Goalie Helps Team to Great Start

## Jamie Phillips Earns Accolades

By **GLENN HIBDON**  
GTR Sports Writer

Jamie Phillips appears to be mild mannered, almost shy. He seems modest, intelligent and focused on his future. But more importantly to fans of the Tulsa Oilers, the young goalie wins hockey games.

Through the first dozen games of the ECHL season, the Oilers enjoyed success they hadn't experienced in years. With a 10-2 record, including an 8-0 mark at the BOK Center, Phillips was between the pipes for all of the victories. The 23-year-old rookie earned early praise from the league, winning Goalie of the Month for October, Goalie of the Week once and three times selected the No. 1 star for his performances.

In mid-November, the question for the franchise and its followers was, how long will it continue? Phillips is the property of the NHL Winnipeg Jets and was sent to Tulsa for playing time. Obviously, his success hasn't gone unnoticed, and a call up could come at any time.

"I'm sure he will get his chance, but the last thing we need to be doing is worrying about that," says Oilers coach Jason Christie. "When an opportunity comes, you wrap your arms around it. Right now he's working hard and pushing other goalies. It's day to day with him, but while he's here, he's with us."

At 6-foot-3 and 175 pounds, the native of Caledonia, Ontario, strikes an opposing image for enemy snipers. Through four seasons at Michigan Tech he compiled a 57-25-8 record with 10 career shutouts. The Jets were so impressed they took him in the 2012 NHL entry draft.

With the Oilers, Phillips has continued his winning ways, leading the ECHL in minutes played and saves with a 2.16 goals against average and a .931 save percentage through the team's first 12 games. The franchise hasn't seen such a performance since Rod Branch in the 2001-02 season. Some veteran observers say Phillips surpasses Branch in potential,

making him perhaps the club's best goalie prospect since the Oilers' resurrection in 1992.

That's a lot of pressure to put on the shoulders of a rookie, but Phillips appears to be bearing up quite well.

"They (the Jets) said I need to play a lot of games and that's why I was sent down here," says Phillips, who went to camp with the Jets and then their AHL affiliate the Manitoba Moose. "They said I really played well, but they wanted me to play as many games as I can so I can get better."

"I really wanted to make the Moose roster for opening day, but it is what it is, a numbers game. I do feel that I can get better, and Tulsa has a really good team. It's helped my confidence a lot and we're competitive every night. My team makes my life easier, blocking shots, and I'm getting some key saves to keep us in the games."

Indeed, Christie appreciates his diamond in the rough. The coach is known as a keen developer of talent for the Jets organization, and Phillips is one of his prize pupils.

"He's making key saves at the right time. He's dialed in and focused," says Christie. "He's prepared and works hard and that's what it boils down to. When you see how he competes in practice, he's going to make himself have success that way."

Christie says Phillips can see pucks and he makes himself big in the crease. His timing is an asset.

"He's a young kid who is learning every day and he keeps learning," adds Christie. "The biggest thing is for him to develop. If he keeps doing those things he will make himself into a better goalie. As a team, I like the way the guys are playing for each other. We have a young team but good leadership. We won't lose games by not working hard."

Phillips says he didn't know what to expect when he came to the ECHL, but he's found the game to be faster than in college with players making smarter decisions with the puck. More goals are scored, and more scoring opportunities await.



JAMIE PHILLIPS

"College hockey is more of a defensive game," Phillips says. "And we play double the games here than we do in college. I've been able to adapt to the schedule and I would play every night if I could."

However, Phillips acknowledges that rest is important. He uses his days off to recover, to relax and stretch his muscles. In his spare time, the rangy keeper plays the guitar, watches television and reads. Trips to the bookstore are common.

Phillips decided at age 12 he wanted to be a goalie. He "wasn't having fun" as a skater and after the switch, he found the position he loved.

"I loved it since the first day," says Phillips. "I've had a lot of ups and downs and things don't always go my way. It's a long grind, but I think my size helps in positioning. The bigger you are, the more net you take up. I try to look big in the net."

"I think I have good instincts and mental consistency. I try not to let in soft pucks and key on my game every single night. College helped a lot because playing one or two games a week, if you lose one game, it could ruin your season. I know I've got to be in the zone every single night."

Phillips says he is a butterfly style goalie who takes dives across the crease to stop pucks. He says his approach on certain shots can result in him getting hit more with the puck, but that's his job. As the last line of defense, he's a puck arrester putting the cuffs on enemy scoring aspirations.

"I think getting my first shutout was pretty cool and also my first pro win," Phillips says. "Every single game I always look back on it with the team and it's fun to win. We have a good team that can score a lot of goals and we're consistent on the back end with our defense and all-around game."

"The team has confidence in me and I have confidence in my own game. I expect the best out of myself. I have no idea when I will be (called up). I keep that out of my head and try to control what I can. I want to win as many games as I can and win the Kelly Cup."

Phillips is not bashful about stating his career goals. He said the next step may be the AHL and the Manitoba Moose. If and when that day comes, he'll probably greet it in his usual aw-shucks manner.



GTR Newspapers photo

**SOONER GREAT AND FRIENDS:** University of Oklahoma football great Uwe Von Schamann, center, recently visited the Cigar Box in Broken Arrow and was greeted by friends and fans alike. In the photo are Tulsans Steve Abbott, left, and Lindsay Williams. Von Schamann is famous in OU football history for kicking the winning field goal in the last seconds to defeat Ohio State in 1977. He played for the Miami Dolphins from 1979-1984 and is now associated with the Children's Rehabilitation Center in Bethany, Oklahoma.



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# Tulsa Jr. Tennis Team Places 3rd in Nationals

A team from Tulsa, representing the USTA Missouri Valley section, finished third at the 2015 USTA Junior Team Tennis 18 Under Intermediate National Championships, held at the Cayce Tennis and Fitness Center in Cayce, S.C., October 20-23.

The 2016 USTA Junior Team Tennis 18 Under National Championships brought together the top 32 teams from various USTA Sections throughout the country.

The Tulsa team defeated a team from Ithaca, N.Y., 56-27 in the Third Place match. Earlier in the day, they lost to a team

from Columbia, Maryland, 46-38, in the semifinals.

The team is coached by Jennifer McCorkle and features Blake Sprouse (Broken Arrow), Christian DeMaio (Tulsa), Grace Whitten (Bixby), Jeremy Vaughn (Broken Arrow), Lauren McCorkle (Tulsa) and Zachary Vaughn (Broken Arrow).

The National Championships serves as the crown jewel of USTA Junior Team Tennis as the nation's top teams compete for the title. Each year the USTA crowns a national champion in two age divisions (14U and 18U) in both the Intermediate

and Advanced play divisions.

Established in 1991, USTA Junior Team Tennis provides youth with all of the health and social benefits of tennis in a co-ed, fun and competitive team environment, and allows participants to compete with and against individuals of similar skill and age levels. It promotes social skills and important values by fostering a spirit of cooperation and unity, as well as individual self-growth. USTA Junior Team Tennis is also a fun environment for kids to learn that succeeding is really more about how they play the game-win or lose.



Photo by DAVE DELLINGER

**TULSA TEAM:** From left, Blake Sprouse, Christian DeMaio, Grace Whitten, Jeremy Vaughn, Lauren McCorkle, Melody Holcomb, Rachel Maras, Rachel McCorkle and Zachary Vaughn.

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# Tulsa Student-Athlete is Rhodes Scholar

University of Tulsa senior cross country and track and field student-athlete Kirk Smith has been awarded a 2017 Rhodes Scholarship, making him one of only 32 recipients in the nation. Smith is TU's first Rhodes Scholar since 1988, when another TU track and field student-athlete, Peter Bednekoff, was awarded the same prestigious honor.

While his team was finishing in 11th place at the NCAA Cross Country Championships recently, Smith was in the midst of two days of interviews for the Rhodes Scholar award. Smith is a captain on the Tulsa cross-country team and in track and field runs the steeple-

chase, 5,000-meter and 10,000-meter for the Golden Hurricane.

Rhodes finalists are selected for their outstanding scholarly achievements, character, commitment to others and potential career leadership. Rhodes Scholars receive two years of full financial support to pursue a degree at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.

"This is an outstanding honor for Kirk, our university and the athletic program. Kirk has been able to successfully compete for our cross country and track and field teams, and still be in a position academically to win such an acclaimed award that only recognizes 31 other recipients nationally," said Vice President and Director of Athletics Derrick Gragg. "This recognition epitomizes the dedication and hard work of Kirk in the classroom that we want all of our student-athlete to strive to achieve."

A St. Louis, Missouri, native, Smith is a TU Presidential Scholar, an inaugural member of TU's Global Scholars program and a National Merit Scholar. At Oxford, he plans to pursue a doctorate in engineering science.

"This is a great honor not only for Kirk and the university, but for our track and field program as well. I think it shows the type of student-athlete we try to bring into our program," said Tulsa Cross Country and Track and Field Coach Steve Gully. "Kirk is a great leader and leads by example. He has worked hard all four years, and I think his work ethic speaks the most about him."

"You get everything Kirk has – 110 percent – and I think it shows, not only academically, but athletically too. Through the recruiting process it was very obvious that Kirk was very organized academically and was really committed to pursuing engineering as his academic major," added Gully. "The

university's reputation in engineering made it easier to get him to join our track program."

The University of Tulsa students and alumni have won more nationally competitive awards than all other Oklahoma colleges combined. Sixty-one percent of Tulsa's student-athletes last year maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above, while 14 of Tulsa's 17 inter-collegiate sports teams had a cumulative 3.0 GPA or better.

Since May, Tulsa student-athletes have now won three prestigious national awards, including soccer student-athlete Katie Riojas receiving the 2016 NCAA Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship award, and women's rower Emalia Seto earning the NCAA's 2016 Jim McKay Scholarship.



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HARRY LENTZ for GTR Newspapers

**COWBOY YARDAGE:**  
 OSU's Chris Carson gains yardage earlier this season at Boone Pickens Stadium in the controversial game with Central Michigan. Despite that finish, the Cowboys have experienced a very fine season as a premier Big 12 team.



HARRY LENTZ for GTR Newspapers

**HURRICANE TALENT:**  
 Tulsa's DiAngelo Brewer rushes for 182 yards earlier this season in the overtime win against SMU. Brewer finished the regular season with 1,320 rushing yards to help TU finish 9-3.

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=GTR 2016 COMPOSITE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE=

Table with 3 columns: DATE, VISITOR, HOME. Contains football game schedules for dates from Sept. 1 to Sept. 23.

Table with 3 columns: DATE, VISITOR, HOME. Contains football game schedules for dates from Sept. 23 to Oct. 1.

Table with 3 columns: DATE, VISITOR, HOME. Contains football game schedules for dates from Oct. 7 to Oct. 22.

Table with 3 columns: DATE, VISITOR, HOME. Contains football game schedules for dates from Oct. 22 to Dec. 3.



GTR Newspapers photo

BIKE NEWS IN TULSA: The USA BMX Grand Nationals, presented by the Tulsa Sports Commission, brought nearly 3,000 riders from 47 states and 21 countries to Tulsa over Thanksgiving weekend. Present at Lee's Bike Shop signing autographs at the table is Olympic Gold Medalist Connor Fields. At left is Nickel Potter, manager of Phat Tire Bike Shop, headquartered in Fayetteville, Arkansas. At right is Adam Vanderburg of Lee's Bicycles. In bicycle news, Phat Tire has purchased Lee's Bicycles, which will go forward with the Phat Tire Bike Shop name. To watch video and see photos from the BMX races, visit the Tulsa Sports Commission Facebook page.



HARRY LENTZ for GTR Newspapers

PSO MAYOR'S CUP WINNERS: The Tulsa Golden Hurricane won this year's PSO Mayor's Cup, defeating the ORU Golden Eagles at the Mabee Center, 79-65. Tulsa used a 16-0 run in the second half to ensure the victory. Jaleel Wheeler's 15 points led five Tulsa players in double-figures.

TULSA MEN'S BASKETBALL THE NEXT CHAPTER OF THE GOLDEN LEGACY 6-GAME WEEKENDER PACKS START AT JUST \$90 Schedule includes Oklahoma State, Texas State, UConn, UCF, SMU, Houston SINGLE GAME TICKETS NOW ON SALE! TULSAHURRICANE.COM/TICKETS 918-631-GOTU



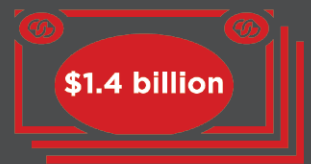
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# THE ECONOMY

## Propeller, Waller PR Merge to Expand Services

Propeller Communications and Waller & Company, two Tulsa-based marketing and public relations consulting agencies, have joined forces to offer their clients enhanced services and broader staff expertise.

The combined company will operate as Propeller Communications.

Jesse Boudiette is the agency's president. Waller & Company founders and principals Barrett Waller and Mary Waller will join Propeller's leadership team: Barrett Waller will serve as vice president and Mary Waller as executive strategist.

"Our clients will continue to have access to the people and services they've known for years," says Barrett Waller. "At the same time, they will benefit from the new services, expertise and networking that a larger team can provide. Offering this expanded capability together is our whole reason for doing this."

Current Propeller staff members Meredith McDaris and Trina Kelly will remain in their roles as account director and operations manager, respectively. McDaris also will lead the company's creative services and non-profit strategies practice areas.

Waller & Company staff members Kristy White, Rebecca Fast

and Vanessa McLearn also will join Propeller. White will serve as account director and lead the company's restaurant and hospitality practice area.

Fast and McLearn join Propeller's Bria Moore and Kayte Spillman as senior consultants. Adrianna Catalanotto is an intern from The University of Tulsa. Propeller now employs a total of 11 people at its new headquarters located in Tulsa's Pearl District.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our new combined company," says Boudiette. "Barrett and Mary are consummate professionals with exceptionally strong reputations in this community and in the industries they serve. Their entire team delivers remarkable service to some of Tulsa's most admired companies."

On the corporate side, the new Propeller team has worked in newspaper and magazine newsrooms, with hospitals, nonprofits, an electric utility, a publicly-traded bank, a university, consumer packaged goods, publishing, and an insurance agency.

On the agency consulting side, the company combines the best of Propeller and Waller & Company, with staff also having worked for other agencies in

Oklahoma, St. Louis and South Bend, Indiana.

"The merger allows us to bring all our various areas of expertise under one roof for the benefit of our clients," SAYS Mary Waller. "As we look to the future, we also see clear growth opportunities for our talented team as the company continues to evolve to offer best-in-class services."

The Wallers founded Waller PR in 1999, and Boudiette began Propeller Communications in 2012. The combined agency offers in-house services including public relations strategy, media relations and media spokesperson training, crisis communications, paid advertising and media buying, content development and copywriting as well as graphic design, digital communications, and social media. Propeller began offering in-house graphic design and creative services in 2015.

The expanded agency serves a wide breadth of client industries, including healthcare, restaurant/hospitality, non-profit, man-



**COMBINED EXPERTISE:** Jesse Boudiette, center, founder of Propeller Communications, stands with Barrett and Mary Waller, founders of Waller & Company PR. The two companies recently announced their merger in order to offer their clients enhanced services and broader staff expertise. The combined company will operate as Propeller Communications.

ufacturing, technology, gaming, brand visibility consulting firm banking, education and municipalities. Propeller Communications is a services.

## INNOVATIVE EYE CANDY OPENS ON S. MEMORIAL



**SEEING THE FUTURE:** Local entrepreneur Gretchen Denslow has opened her new eye wear shop, Eye Candy, in South Tulsa. Greeting guests at the opening were, from left, Optometrist Dr. John Diver, Optician Wes Douglas, Founder Gretchen Denslow and Chris Wright.

Recently, Gretchen Denslow said goodbye to her law career to start her own retail company. After growing up in a family of entrepreneurs in the optical business, she has used her background and expertise to create Eye Candy. Eye Candy is an upscale optical shop that sells prescription, non-prescription and sun glasses.

Local architecture, engineering and design firm KKT Architects recently completed the store's design. Denslow chose a symbolic day to host her grand opening, Small Business Saturday on Nov.26, which celebrates small business owners and local retail shops.

Eye Candy is located at The

Vineyard at 106th Place and South Memorial.

## Junior Achievement Hosts Panel

In honor of National Entrepreneurship Month in November, Junior Achievement of Oklahoma hosted the annual JA Business Success Series on Nov. 30 at the DoubleTree Warren Place. The event featured a panel discussion on the topic of entrepreneurship with four women in the Tulsa community whose businesses represent a wide range of industries: Risha Grant, founder of Risha Grant LLC and Diversity Connex; Staci Taruscio, founder and CEO of Rebellion Energy; Dana Weber, CEO and president Webco Industries, Inc.; and Shannon Wilburn, CEO and co-founder of Just Between Friends Franchise System.

"For 50 years, Junior Achievement has been inspiring students in Oklahoma with our youth entrepreneurship education program," said Erica Irvine, JA vice president of operations. "Many JA participants have gone on to be successful entrepreneurs. JA connects volunteers



**WOMEN IN BUSINESS:** Regent Bank CEO Sean Kouplen served as emcee at Junior Achievement of Oklahoma's Annual JA Business Success Series, held Nov. 30. The event featured a panel of four women in the local business community. The panelists were Dana Weber, second from left, CEO and president Webco Industries, Inc.; Risha Grant, founder of Risha Grant LLC and Diversity Connex; Staci Taruscio, founder and CEO of Rebellion Energy; and Shannon Wilburn, CEO and co-founder of Just Between Friends Franchise System.

from the business community with young people through the use of proven programs to help students understand how business works, while inspiring them to consider the opportunities associated with being an entrepreneur."

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# Vintage-Inspired Toy Mall Opens in B.A.

By EMILY RAMSEY  
Managing Editor

The fantasy world of crime-fighting superheroes, far away galaxies and superpowers appeals to many, young and old alike. Jenks native Rasoul Ezzat-Ahmadi is no exception.

Ezzat-Ahmadi began collecting action figures at a young age and has never stopped.

“As a kid, it was the appeal of the fantasy of the superhero world that attracted me,” he says. “Now, as an adult, it’s the nostalgia of that fantasy world.”

Over the years, he has built up large collections of Batman, Super Powers, Star Wars and Ninja Turtles memorabilia, to name a few.

In October, Ezzat-Ahmadi, who also opens Computer Trendz computer repair service, opened Vintage Toy Mall, 530 S. Elm Pl. in Broken Arrow.

Over the years, as Ezzat-Ahmadi grew in his collections, he recognized a need in the market for durable plastic covers to best preserve action figures from age and possible hazards, such as damage by children and animals, he says.

In answer to that problem, just under two years ago, Ezzat-Ahmadi created Toy Shield. He began by offering two sizes, with plans to continue growing the size offerings.

As Ezzat-Ahmadi continued to



**LIFELONG COLLECTOR:** Rasoul Ezzat-Ahmadi opened Vintage Toy Mall at 530 S. Elm Pl. in Broken Arrow in October. The store came about largely due to his childhood love of collecting action figures and superhero memorabilia.



**NOSTALGIC APPEAL:** Vintage Toy Mall is located at the northwest corner of 81st Street and Elm Place. The 3,000-square-foot store offers a diverse range of vintage and vintage-inspired toys and comic book collections.

collect more figures in order to display his protective product, the idea for a vintage and vintage-inspired toy store began to form.

All the while, a friend of Ezzat-Ahmadi’s who lived out of state, LeRoy Kersey, shared Ezzat-Ahmadi’s interest and planned to move to Oklahoma to join him in the business.

Kersey and Ezzat-Ahmadi spent all of 2015 both collecting items for the store and searching for individuals to join the store as independent vendors.

Earlier this year, however, Kersey passed away unexpectedly, and

Ezzat-Ahmadi was left to determine if plans for the store would continue. Kersey’s family also asked him to help with the collections that Kersey left behind.

Ezzat-Ahmadi decided to carry on with the store and purchase Kersey’s items to add to the store.

Vintage Toy Mall specializes in vintage and vintage-inspired toys and comic book collections, but it also endeavors to stay current by selling memorabilia that is currently in demand, such as items featuring Dr. Strange, the upcoming Rogue One Star Wars movie and The Walking Dead.

“The concept of a multi-vendor antique toy store is unique in Tulsa and around the country,” he says. “We have the largest and most diverse selection of action figure, comic and comic-related collectibles.”

The 3,000-square-foot store features about 10 independent vendors in order to offer shoppers a diverse range of collectibles, he says. That includes My Little Pony, Care Bears, Aladdin, Pound Puppies and Barbie.

Other items that can be found include Dr. Who graphic novels and a bookshelf modeled after the

spaceship from the TV show, Star Wars collectibles, Marvel and DC comics memorabilia, movie posters, board games and action figure prototypes.

In addition to appealing to toy collectors and comic book collectors, “many of my customers are drawn here for nostalgic reasons,” says Ezzat-Ahmadi.

“When people walk in the store, I want them to have a flashback: ‘Oh my gosh, I had this as a kid.’ And that’s what I hear a lot from customers.”

“I love that they can experience that.”

## ‘America First’ Energy Plan Means More Jobs

### Energy Watch

By MARK A. STANSBERRY

During the presidential campaign, Donald Trump stated that he would “implement an ‘America First’ energy plan that enables the U.S. to become the world’s dominant leader in energy production and gets the government out of the way of innovation within all forms of energy.”

Donald Trump, the candidate, stated that he would develop “a regulatory and legislative roadmap” that would rescind President Obama’s executive actions and regulations that are outdated, unnecessary, bad for workers, illegal, or contrary to the national interest, including the Climate Action Plan and ‘waters of the U.S.’ rule; lift moratoriums on energy production in federal areas; support the

Keystone XL Pipeline and other important infrastructure projects; revoke policies that impose unwarranted restrictions on new drilling technologies; ensure affordable, reliable, clean electricity from coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydropower, solar, wind and other domestic sources; encourage the use of free-market principles in energy policy instead of the federal government choosing winners and losers; end U.S. involvement in the Paris Climate Agreement and stop payments of U.S. tax dollars to UN global warming programs; restore the important role of the U.S. coal in the American economy; select top officials at the Department of Energy, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Interior, and other relevant federal agencies who will faithfully execute the laws of the US, implement policies that are consistent with an American First energy plan,

and not seek to use their power to push an extreme environmental agenda.”

In 2012, my book “America Needs America’s Energy: Creating Together the People’s Energy Plan” was released. Since that time, The Energy Advocates and I have gone around the country making speeches before high school and college audiences, and rallying the energy industry at events, including the National Association of Royalty Owners Annual Convention, Shreveport Wildcatters Association, San Antonio Wildcatters Association, Desk and Derrick clubs, International Energy Policy Conferences and roundtables...; interviewed and aired on over 150 radio stations; written weekly and monthly newspaper columns; hosted weekly radio show; and interviewed on numerous media outlets. America Needs America’s Energy Facebook page has over 21,700 supporters/likes of this writing from all 50 states and several countries since the campaign began in

2012. It has received several national awards, read by many outside the energy industry. Our message, America Needs an Energy Plan, a roadmap, has been clear, “future generations are depending on us to keep the American dream alive. We must drive the process, evaluating how we can best leverage our natural resources here at home to ensure long-term energy independence and security”.

From President Nixon in the 1970s to President Obama, we have been told time and again that an energy policy is in the works, and a national energy plan is on the way. Will the U.S. adopt an energy plan, as we have been advocating, under a Trump Administration?

During the campaign, Trump stated that he “supports a major increase in U.S. energy production, including oil and gas in offshore areas and on federal lands. My administration will pursue an America First energy plan that unleashes the vast energy resources of this nation for the benefit of the American people, bringing jobs and a stronger economy. - and states, we have too many costly, burdensome, and unwise regulations that are bad for Americans and do little or no good.”

Pro-energy means pro-economic growth and pro-jobs! It is time to implement a national energy plan. It is time to tell our story.

America Needs America’s Energy! And America Needs an Energy Plan!

Mark Stansberry is Chairman of The GTD Group and Award-winning author and Energy Advocate.

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# BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES



Courtesy RIP STELL

**STATE OF THE CITY:** Mike Cooper, director of external affairs with AT&T, introduces Mayor Dewey Bartlett at the 2016 State of the City, hosted by the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 15. Read about the Bartlett family history in Tulsa and Bartlett's plans for the future on page 7.



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

**BOOMTOWN AWARDS:** Zac Carman, CEO of ConsumerAffairs, accepts the overall Boomtown Award, given to an outstanding nominee who exemplifies TYPros Mission in everyway possible. With him are, from left, Boomtown committee chairs Andrea Gentis and Dillon Waters; Daniel Regan, 2016 TYPros chair; and Stephanie Cameron, 2017 TYPros chair.

**Tulsa Community College** has named **Mark McMullen** as chief financial officer. His appointment was approved by the TCC Board of Regents during the Oct. 20 board meeting.



MCMULLEN

As CFO, McMullen will oversee Oklahoma's largest community college and an annual budget exceeding \$140 million with more than 2,000 employees. He was named Interim CFO earlier this year and previously served as controller and director of finance.

Since joining TCC in 2010, he helped facilitate the further automation of the College's purchasing department; worked closely with both the facilities and IT departments to help fund and manage major capital projects; including the renovation of two main campus buildings and the refreshing of college-wide IT hardware and software; and implemented higher standards of financial reporting for both audited financial statements and state required reports.

McMullen has a Master's degree in accounting and financial analysis and a Bachelor's degree in accounting from Northeastern State University. McMullen is also a certified public accountant.

He serves on the Ronald McDonald House Charities board and is co-treasurer. He is also active in his church serving as section leader and a member of the hospitality team.

**April Sailsbury**, senior vice president of the **Broken Arrow Chamber**, has been named the Outstanding Chamber Leader of the Year by the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Executives (OCCE). Sailsbury has been with the Chamber for over five years and has held the SVP position for 3 years.



SALISBURY

The award recognizes a chamber staff member who has performed exceptional work for their local chamber and community. Sailsbury received the award Nov. 3 during the annual OCCE statewide conference. OCCE Chairman Suzanne Shirey said the award was a significant honor.

During her tenure, Sailsbury has increased member involvement, developed new and meaningful content for members and increased revenue streams for the chamber.

"Our entire Chamber organization salutes April on her selection for this award," SAYS B.A. Chamber President Wes Smithwick. "She is a valued member of this organization and we are proud to have her as a part of our team."

Law firm **Hall Estill** has been named as a "Highly Recommended Law Firm" in 2017 by Benchmark Litigation, a leading national law publication. This is the highest category a law firm may achieve through this publication. Additionally, eight of the firm's attorneys have been recognized as "Local Litigation Stars" and one has been named a "Future Litigation Star."

Attorneys **Mark K. Blongewicz**, **J. Patrick Cremin**, **Phillip L. Free, Jr.**, **J. Kevin Hayes**, **Timothy S. Posey**, **Mike E. Smith**, **Steven W. Soule** and **D. Kenyon Williams, Jr.** were those selected as "Local Litigation Stars." Attorney **John F. Heil III** was also selected as a "Future Litigation Star."

The **Tulsa Performing Arts Center** welcomes **Adam J. Foreman** as the new director of marketing.



FOREMAN

Foreman comes to the Tulsa PAC after 14 years with Broken Arrow Public Schools as the graphic artist and publications specialist. He was responsible for the launch and marketing of the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center's season of events for the past eight years.

Foreman has served on many boards, including the Broken Arrow Arts & Humanities Council, Oklahoma Music Hall Of Fame, Northeastern State University Alumni Campaign, Friends of Broken Arrow, and the American Cancer Society. He currently serves on the ARTSOK Regional Arts Alliance board.

"I am thrilled to join the Tulsa PAC staff and look forward to enhancing the patron experience at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center, as well as assisting our longtime clients in accomplishing their marketing outreach," SAYS Foreman.

The marketing director position became available after the retirement of Nancy Hermann, who worked for the facility for 23 years.

**Rupe Helmer Group** announces recent hirings:

**Vice President of Construction Danny Kennedy**, Director of Acquisitions and Development **Mike Cropper**,



KENNEDY

and Construction Accountant **Liz Tobey**. Kennedy graduated with a Bachelor of Construction Science from the University of Oklahoma and a Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma City University. His 24 years of experience in the construction industry will prove invaluable in his transition into this new role at Rupe Helmer Group.



CROPPER

Prior to his move, Kennedy held the position of vice president of pre-construction for another Tulsa-based construction organization. His extensive background in the industry also includes roles such as project management, business development and estimating.

A 1996 graduate of the University of Tulsa, Cropper has 15 years of experience in real estate related fields. Prior to joining the company, Mike was a commercial investment real estate broker, working with real estate professionals across the United States. Before becoming a broker, he spent eight years in wholesale data networking where he led various sales and business development teams.

A 2001 graduate of The University of Central Florida, Tobey has a Bachelor of Science in Finance and over 12 years experience in the field of accounting with a strong emphasis on operations, finance and analysis. Prior to coming to the Rupe Helmer Group, she was working to become a licensed financial advisor. Her passion has always been in finance. Tobey has always enjoyed collaborating with her coworkers and feels Rupe is a great fit for her for that very reason.



TOBEY

**Christina Jackson**, senior engineering manager at Honeywell UOP in Tulsa, was recently honored by the **Society of Women Engineers (SWE)** with an Emerging Leader Award for her outstanding technical excellence, accomplishments and community engagement efforts. She received the award during a regional ceremony in Colorado in February and is qualified to advance for national recognition during the annual SWE conference in October. The conference brings together the leading businesses, organizations, universities and innovators in engineering.



JACKSON

Jackson has worked in the Performance Materials and Technologies (PMT) business since 2007 and has held roles including SAP technical deployment lead, SAP advisor for international deployments, Global Quality Manager, Special Projects Engineer and Project Engineer. She manages a team of global engineers and contractors and is a certified Six Sigma Black Belt. She has mentored more than 40 Six Sigma Green Belt participants and is actively involved in STEM youth outreach through work with the Society of Women Engineers, Girl Scouts, Tulsa Engineering Foundation, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and The University of Tulsa.

**Executive Women International (EWI) of Tulsa** recently installed its board of directors for 2016-2017 year. President, **Tonya Solomon** of Clempire Janitorial; vice president, **Angie Walters** of Schnake Turnbo Frank; secretary, **Sheila Sayne** of Neuens Mitchell Bonds PLLC; treasurer, **Dana Nichols** of Cimarex Energy Co.; sergeant-at-arms, **Jeanette Sefers** of LynnCo Supply Chain Solutions, Inc.; B/C/DP, **Heather Rettelal** of Arvest Bank.; membership recruitment, **Gayle Dicus** of Mazzios LLC; membership retention, **Jamie Mathew**, individual member; programs coordinator, **Sarah Hall** of Tulsa Federal Credit Union; communications director, **Pam Taylor** of Dewberry; advisors are **Felicia Senter** of Tulsa Tech, **Judy Russell** of ONEOK Inc. and **Jody Davis** of Accent Moving & Storage, Inc., agent for Mayflower Transit, LLC.



SOLOMON

EWI of Tulsa was chartered in March 1956 and currently has 59 member firms. For more information, visit [www.ewitulsa.org](http://www.ewitulsa.org)

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FAITH

# Salvation Army Captain Ken Chapman Brings Enthusiasm

By K.J. WEBB  
Contributing Writer

Since relocating in June 2016 to Tulsa from his command in Jackson, Mississippi, Salvation Army Area Commander and Captain Ken Chapman has formed a strong opinion about the people in the community. He says, "People here are incredibly friendly with an incredible work ethic. It's very impressive and refreshing."

Chapman also points out the deep generosity of the metro Tulsa community. "The resources in Tulsa are tremendous, the community is very philanthropic, and the foundations and organizations are very well-run. People are quite attuned to helping each other here in this community," he says. "We are dealing with human crises every day, and it's amazing to me how many people here are helping their fellow neighbors in need. It astounds me what people give to us and it speaks so highly of this community that people care so much to give."

When asked about the differences between the Tulsa Area Command and his previous command in Jackson, Chapman says, "It's a larger operation with a bigger staff and more responsibilities. I welcome it, and it is a blessing to serve here in Tulsa."

When asked if there are misconceptions about The Salvation Army, Chapman says, "We are a Christian faith-based organization and make no apologies about that. Over the years I have discovered that there are some that mistakenly think that we discriminate. We do not. We love inclusively, and we serve others without discrimination. We will tell you our message, but you are not required to accept it."

For 20 years, prior to his full-time work in The Salvation Army, Chapman was president and creative director for Creative Events International and won 22 industry awards as a producer. He was the music producer for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and executive producer for the Atlanta and Barcelona Paralympics Ceremonies. Chapman also produced the Easter Egg Roll for the Bush Administration at the White House in 2006 and produced Santa's Traveling Workshop, a touring show that brought toys and hope to over 300,000 people affected by hurricane Katrina.

Chapman's knowledge and experience of event planning and production serves him well in his role as Area Commander. For The



**SPREADING THE WORD:** Captain Ken Chapman preaching in downtown Tulsa recently at the corner of Second Street and Cheyenne Avenue, where the Salvation Army started in Tulsa in 1906.



**BRASS BAND:** The Salvation Army Area Command Brass Band plays during the 110th anniversary of the founding of the organization in Tulsa at Second Street and Cheyenne Avenue.



**SALVATIONIST LEADERSHIP:** The Salvation Army in Tulsa is headed by Area Commander and Captain Ken Chapman and his wife, Captain Jessie Chapman.

Salvation Army, Christmas season is incredibly busy, starts months before the holiday season gets underway and requires tremendous logistical planning.

One of the most recognized Christmas traditions is The Salvation Army's Red Kettle Bell ringing during Christmastime. Chapman heightened the Red Kettle recognition six years ago when he was certified by the Guinness Book of World Records for achieving a new world record for bell ringing. Chapman rang the Salvation Army Red Kettle bell for 36 hours, five minutes and five seconds. "I rang that bell continuously that whole time," he says. "It brought a lot of attention to the cause and we raised more than \$80,000."

Chapman is no stranger to larger-than-life stunts during the Christmas holidays. Two years ago he rang a bell for another 36 hours in 22 degree weather while standing on a billboard. "It was three stories high, next to I-20. I was tethered to the sign," Chapman recalls. "I had to go through OSHA training to do that one." Chapman describes the challenges involved, saying "It was not only physical, it was mental. I was so fatigued. Your mind plays tricks on you when you get that cold and tired. I had to pray my way through it near the end. I'm glad to have that one off my bucket list."

Chapman is continuing his tradition of larger than life stunts and plans to walk 66 miles on Route 66 in 66 hours to raise \$66,000. "Route 66 is an icon of Oklahoma and integral to the cultural identity here. I want to do something relevant that would have meaning for

the community so I selected Route 66." Chapman begins his 66-mile journey on Dec. 6, sleeping in a cardboard box by the side of the road and completing the walk on Dec. 9 with a ceremony outside the BOK Center at 6 p.m.

The Christmas stunts are exciting (and challenging), but Chapman emphasizes the focus is always on serving others. "We are dedicated to meeting human needs in Jesus' name without discrimination, not only during Christmas but throughout the year," he says.

Chapman offers the "Power of Twelve" program as an example. "Starting in January, we will start the 'Power of Twelve.' If an individual will commit to giving \$12 a month it would feed a hungry person at our Center of Hope Homeless Shelter three nutritious meals every day for a month. When you multiply that by tens of thousands of individuals giving \$12 a month, it makes a tremendously powerful and significant impact on those in our community who need food, shelter and help." (Many people do not realize that The Salvation Army operates The Center of Hope, the largest homeless shelter in eastern Oklahoma. Last year the Center of Hope served over 330,000 warm nutritious meals to the hungry and homeless.)

Chapman says, "Not only does it take commitment to giving and serving, it takes all of us working hand-in-hand to give a voice to voiceless and direction to those who have lost their way; to give safe haven to the homeless and helpless."

"My whole life is about what our founder William Booth said

in 1910," Chapman says. "It was Christmastime and The Salvation Army was operating in 80 countries. Booth wanted to send a message by telegraph to all the officers but it was very expensive, so he sent one word, 'Others'. This is how I want to live my life. I lived the first part of my life for myself. I was a good Salvationist but I was not living for others. But when the Lord anointed me for preaching I knew what I was created to do - what I am doing now. I am working harder than I have ever worked for less money that I have ever made or imagined, but I have found the sweet spot by knowing and doing what God wants from my life. I trust God and know He has my back."

A fourth generation Salvationist, Chapman was born and raised in Savannah, Georgia. He received a Bachelor of Music Education at Armstrong/Atlantic University and taught high school band for 10 years where he won over 300 competition awards and was named Teacher of the Year twice during his tenure. He received his Master's of Music Education and a Master's in Conducting from Georgia State University.

His wife, Captain Jessie Chapman, Associate Commander of the Tulsa Area Command, is a fifth generation Salvationist, born and raised in the Fort Walton Beach, Florida area. GTR Newspapers will publish a feature article about Captain Jessie Chapman in a future issue.



**SPECIAL GIFT:** John 3:16 Mission President and CEO Steve Whitaker accepts a \$30,000 grant from Life Church in celebration of a four-year partnership. The gift will help the nonprofit continue its mission to reclaim lives and restore hope to homeless and at-risk men, women and children.

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# Paula Wood a Nationally-Known Designer

## Tulsan is this Year's Philbrook Festival of Trees Collectible Artist

By MELISSA CLARK  
Contributing Writer

For Tulsan Paula Wood, getting back to work means ditching her alarm clock and high heels.

After retiring from Tulsa Public Schools as the director of School and Community Relations last spring, it was hardly the time to slow down. In fact, it was actually her cue to focus once again on her design business, which she's maintained all along, but now, she can devote more time to it. And today, it shows no signs of slowing down.

For more than 30 years, Wood has been creating jewelry and clothing that has dazzled customers across the country. In addition, Wood works as an interior designer, a personal wardrobe consultant and room designer. She's also a portrait artist specializing in pets, inspired by her own Boston Terriers and French bulldog.

Wood was recently selected as the Philbrook Museum 2016 Festival of Trees collectible pin artist, marking the second time she has received this honor. Philbrook selected Wood in 2012 for this same juried honor. Wood will also participate as a designer in the Foundation for Tulsa Schools' 2017 Designer Showcase home.

"The business all began as a natural transition from my intrinsic love of jewelry and design," says Wood.

In the early years, Wood did what many would have thought to be impossible. She developed and maintained her design business while raising two children as a single mom. She sold her designs to major markets around the country as well as to locally owned businesses. She created more than just designs. She created a business that supported her and her children. "My original customers included

wholesalers throughout the country and local customers including Miss Jackson's, which was probably the last of Tulsa's high-end retailers," she says. "I had trunk shows of my creations in their window displays. It was a great honor. But many of my local customers kept my business on a successful trajectory."

Today, she has the street cred to underscore her demonstrated success. For more than 10 years, Wood hosted a live segment on the News at Noon on KOTV as the shopping expert with then-anchor Glenda Silvey. Her focus was to showcase small and unique shops around Tulsa and to inspire viewers. Her own creations have garnered the greatest attention for Wood. She has designed clothing and fabric for a manufacturing company, Traditional Trading. In addition, Claudia Imel, a prestigious handbag manufacturer, also chose Wood to create and paint designs as part of its national collection.

"You must listen to trends to if you want to succeed," she says. "I have always had a radar for trends and was determined to maximize this. I think less is more, but I never move past my own passion, which is glam and robust."

She adds that when she's designing jewelry, she uses materials that are unique and out of the box.

"My inspiration comes from some kind of internal and natural tendency. Plus, the world around me has an influence. I have more time now to explore with this relatively new freedom from scheduling and alarm clocks, if you don't count my Boston Terriers and their time clocks," she jokes. "I create best in isolation with doggies underfoot!"

Wood says that when she's creating in "the zone," all forms of designs can occur. The best part



**HOLIDAY SPECIAL:** Wood has completed nearly 1,000 pins for Philbrook Museum's 2016 Festival of Trees.



**WIDE ARRAY:** This is a sampling of Wood's jewelry, which includes the conservative to the eclectic.



**IMPRESSIVE SHOWING:** Paula Wood, second from right, at a recent private showing of her jewelry to the members of the Assistance League of Tulsa executive board.



**DESIGNER'S TABLE:** The place where it all begins is at Wood's design table.

about her jewelry designs is that every piece has a name and is one-of-a-kind, never to be duplicated.

"It's all about feeling amazing about yourself and your environment," Wood says. "I want every client to feel empowered by a new design concept or confident about a new jewelry purchase."

If you're not sure what type of jewelry looks right on you, Wood can help with that, too. She offers

fashion consulting and can also assist clients with selecting jewelry pieces that are right for them.

"Women who are skeptical of my designs are often persuaded after a personal consultation," she says. "Fear keeps us from exploring new things. I try to dispel this. Jewelry is essential, I believe."


Wood said that if you have a short neck, long earrings can make you look thinner. Your dress or shirt

neckline will determine what length of necklace works best. Not sure whether to go with big, bulky jewelry or something simple? Wood says both can work on all body types - depending on the jewelry. Finding the right piece is a matter of trial and error - with assistance.

"If you wear a signature piece of jewelry every day, that's really great, but I think you should explore possibilities."

And for this designing woman, exploring possibilities is what Wood does every day as part of her creative process.

To see some samples of Wood's creations, go to paulawoodcreations.com.




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# Atlas Life Building Filled with Detail

When is an office building not an office building? When it has been converted into a 119-room boutique hotel in 2010. So it is for the Atlas Life Building, now the home of a Courtyard Marriott Hotel at 415 S. Boston Ave.

## On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

Built in 1922 for the Atlas Life Insurance Company on land leased from the Tulsa School Board for 99 years, it was designed by one of Tulsa's leading architectural firms, Rush, Endicott and Rush. With the multi-story Mid Continent Building built on the north in 1918 and an anticipated but not yet built high rise on the south (Philtower), the architects employed the device of an inverted T shape for the building providing natural light and ventilation (before air conditioning) for the 10 floors on the north and south above the second floor. Not coincidentally, one of the main investors in the Atlas Life Insurance Company was Waite Phillips who would build the Philtower in 1928.

The exterior is a combination of stone and red brick. The first and second floors are faced with limestone, the full lot width. The second floor is capped by a metope frieze parapet, which includes curved limestone brackets at the

10-story setback. The top two floors terminate with a limestone overhanging cornice above dentil molding with pronounced medallions. At the top, centered on this ten-story tower (three pairs of windows wide), is a kneeling statue of Atlas, holding up the world. An iconic Atlas Life neon sign hangs on the building's front.

As with many office buildings of its day, the Atlas Life Building has large double hung steel windows and intaglio signage identifying the Boston Avenue entrance.

The main lobby of the building is a mall concept. Tall and wide, it runs the entire length of the building with rows of shops on both sides. At its east end is a large clock dominated by a brass kneeling Atlas holding up the world (which is the clock). The mythological Atlas theme is repeated in the typical room door hardware where a tiny brass Atlas holds up the key hole escutcheon or, in some cases, the door knob itself. Midway through the lobby is a monumental stair on the north and three elevators on the south.

The lobby floor is gray marble with a black marble border. The



**ICONIC SIGN:** The Atlas Life Building, 415 S. Boston Ave., was built in 1922 for the Atlas Life Insurance Company. At the top of the building, centered on the ten-story tower, is a kneeling statue of Atlas, holding up the world.

**HISTORIC RENOVATION:** The Atlas Life Building's main lobby is a mall concept. Tall and wide, it runs the entire length of the building with rows of shops on both sides. In 2010, the building was converted into a 119-room Courtyard Marriott Hotel, with its lobby is on the second floor. The building is also home to the Tulsa Press Club and Atlas Grill.

walls are gray marble tile perforated with brass-framed storefronts for adjacent shops. Originally, each shop had a small rectangular illuminated brass box sign at 90 degrees to the main wall. The ceiling is framed by a three-part stepped molding and a Greek key pattern frieze. The ceiling is coffered plaster in an octagonal pattern with an acanthus leaf in each octagon opening. Today, the center of the lobby utilizes groupings of occasional furnishings. The original coffee

shop is now a restaurant. Other spaces are occupied by the Tulsa Press Club, Atlas Grill, Marriott sales offices and other hotel support facilities; there are also corridors connecting to the Mid-Continent Tower and Philtower Building.

The second floor is the main lobby of the hotel. In addition to the main check-in desk, there is a concierge area, a restaurant, bistro, and bar, lounge space, meeting rooms, an exercise room, and an historical museum room of building artifacts.

Integral to the original building

was a single enclosed stair beginning at the second floor adjacent to the elevators. At the stairwell landings were single restrooms with men's and women's facilities on alternate floors. This was a common practice in 1920s buildings. A required second means of egress was by a fire escape on the alley (east) side of the building.

The Courtyard Marriott boutique hotel appears to be thriving. Its arrival has been a welcome part of downtown Tulsa's revival. Another of Tulsa's numerous classic buildings has been given new life.



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

**SANTA IS COMING:** Many are expecting the arrival of Santa Claus on Christmas Eve, though he has been seen recently at Tulsa's Woodland Hills Mall. He is expected to be at the mall until later in December when he will go to the North Pole to get his presents.



GTR Newspapers photo

**WATERFORD AT NIELSENS:** Waterford artist Tom Brennan was the guest of Andrea Nielsen at Nielsen's Exclusive Gifts Nov. 5. Nielsen celebrates crystal craftsmanship and heritage with the House of Waterford Collection. Nielsens is located in the Plaza at 81st Street and Lewis Avenue in Tulsa.

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# Castle Christmas, Garden of Lights Now Open

The Castle of Muskogee's Castle Christmas and Garden of Lights is open through New Year's Eve to welcome the holiday season and enjoy family traditions.

Castleton Village offers a free drive-through display of thousands of holiday lights. Donations are accepted. Outside The Castle, visitors can enjoy a hayride, a ride aboard the Castle Train, or a ride with the ponies through the Village.

Inside The Castle, individuals can make ornaments in Santa's workshop, warm up by the fireplace, and plan a visit with Father Christmas. A number of local artisans will be selling their handmade creations. Fireworks can also be purchased for New Year's Eve celebrations as well as items from The Christmas Shoppe.

The Castle Cafe is open for a light supper or snack, hot chocolate and treats, with holiday movies playing for the entire family. Visit [okcastle.com](http://okcastle.com) or a complete schedule of nightly activities.

In Honor Heights Park, the Garden of Lights brings thousands of visitors each holiday season. The celebration includes a free drive-through display of over a million shimmering lights exhibited throughout the park. Christmas lights are placed on trees, bushes and structures throughout the park to enhance the natural beauty of the gardens, waterfalls and ponds. Internationally known for its Azalea Festival, Honor Heights Park draws up to a half million annual visitors to its scenic hilltop drive, which encompasses nearly 30,000 azalea bushes and thousands of trees.



**HOLIDAY JOY:** The Castle of Muskogee's Castle Christmas and Garden of Lights offer free holiday light displays and many family activities inside and outside of The Castle. Activities include visits with Father Christmas, hayrides, pony rides and ornament making. The through light displays are available for viewing nightly through New Year's Eve, 6-10 p.m.

**Castle Christmas and Garden of Lights event hours:**

Open nightly through New Year's Eve, 6-10 p.m.

**Holiday Activities at The Castle:**

Open Dec. 1-4, 8-11, and every night December 15th through December 31st.

View the Calendar at [okcastle.com](http://okcastle.com) for a detailed schedule of each night's activities.

**Tractor-drawn Hayrides** - The ride starts in the parking lot of The Castle and travels through the village on a different route

from cars' drive-thru route. Hayrides depart every half hour.

Cost: \$5.00 per person, children 12 and under are free.

**Castle Train** - Enjoy the lights with a tour from the train conductor.

Cost: \$5 per passenger. Kids 2 and under are free.

**Pony rides** - A holiday favorite!

Cost: \$5 per child.

**Gift Shops** - A wide assortment of holiday merchandise, inflatables and much more.

**Castle Cafe** - Find soups, sandwiches, cookies, hot chocolate and more.

**Chalice Hall** - Enjoy watching holiday movies for the whole family, or sit and warm up by the fire.

**Christmas Merchants** - Find local, unique and handcrafted items from a variety of craftspeople.

**Father Christmas** - Father Christmas will be at The Castle on Dec 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 6:30-9 p.m. No cost to visit with Father Christmas; pictures available for a nominal fee.

## Ted & Shiela Haynes to Co-Chair OSU Fundraiser

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma President Ted Haynes and his wife, Shiela, have been selected as co-chairs; senior U.S. District Judge Terence Kern and his wife, Jeanette, have been named honorary co-chairs for "A Stately Affair in Tulsa," the biennial black-tie gala fundraiser for Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences and OSU-Tulsa.

As event co-chairs, Shiela and Ted Haynes will lead the organizing committee for the fundraiser set for May 1, 2017, at Southern Hills Country Club. Proceeds from the gala support scholarships for undergraduate, graduate and medical students from OSU-CHS and OSU-Tulsa.

In addition to supporting student scholarships at both Tulsa campuses, A Stately Affair in Tulsa also honors Icons for OSU in Tulsa. These individuals have made significant contributions to the community and the state while advancing the missions of OSU-CHS and OSU-Tulsa.

OSU-CHS offers degrees in osteopathic medicine and graduate programs in forensic sciences, biomedical sciences, health care administration and athletic training.

"The donations we receive from A Stately Affair in Tulsa are an integral part of producing physicians who will provide quality health care service in rural and underserved areas of Oklahoma," says OSU-CHS President Kayse Shrum, who is also dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. "Shiela and Ted Haynes are

known for their generosity and work to improve the community and will ensure this event is successful."

Created in 1999, OSU-Tulsa offers more than 80 undergraduate and graduate degree options and the opportunity for students to earn the same internationally-recognized OSU degree that students in Stillwater receive.

Ted Haynes was named president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma (BCBSOK) in 2012.

Gov. Mary Fallin appointed Haynes to the Oklahoma Physician Manpower Training Commission in 2015.

Shiela K. Haynes serves as president of the board for Domestic Violence Intervention Services and is board vice chair for the Tulsa Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. The Haynes' son, Carter, is a 2015 graduate of OSU in Stillwater.

Honorary co-chair and senior U.S. District Judge Terence Kern was nominated by President Bill Clinton in 1994 to serve the Northern District of Oklahoma. He assumed senior status in 2010.

Judge Kern was recognized in 2001 as an OSU Distinguished Alumnus and will be inducted into the OSU Hall of Fame in February 2017.

Jeanette Kern is a member of the Children's Hospital Foundation Board of Directors. She was chairwoman of The 2015 Painted Pony Ball, a fundraiser for



**A STATELY AFFAIR:** Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma President Ted Haynes and his wife, Shiela, pictured at left, will serve as co-chairs and senior U.S. District Judge Terence Kern and his wife, Jeanette, as honorary co-chairs for "A Stately Affair in Tulsa," the biennial black-tie gala fundraiser for Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences and OSU-Tulsa.

The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis, Education school. She is actively involved and is a mentor at Eugene Field Elementary, the OSU-CHS Partners in

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Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2017 From GTR Newspapers

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

4 December
TSO POPS: HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
BRIAN REGAN BOK Center

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CHRISTKINDMARKT
THE EDGE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
THE WOOD BROTHERS

6
STEVE VAI
TULSA GIRLS ART SCHOOL KALEIDOSCOPE EXHIBIT

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BROWN BAG IT: TULSA FESTIVAL RINGERS
GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Illinois State
THE DRUNKARD AND THE OLIO AUDITIONS

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OK, SO... STORY SLAM TULSA STORY TELLING COMPETITION

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TULSA OILERS vs. Missouri
JOE BONAMASSA

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ELF JR.

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BIPOLAR MANAGEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

4
SUPPORT GROUP FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PROGRESSIVE SUPRANUCLEAR PALSY AND RELATED BRAIN DISEASES
FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAY

5
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FIRST FRIDAY ART CRAWL

6
FIRST FRIDAY ART WITH GILCREASE MUSEUM
ARSON CITY

7
WARRIOR SISTERS FIRST SATURDAY INTRODUCTORY SELF DEFENSE CLASS
MONSTER JAM

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## REGIONAL NEWS

## The Walk to Welcome Growler USA Microbrewery

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**  
Contributing Writer

The Walk at Tulsa Hills, located at 81st Street and Highway 75, has reached near capacity, with one of its final tenants, Growler USA microbrew pub, hoping for an end-of-year opening.

Tulsa residents Dan and Amber Richards, Growler USA franchise owners, got involved with Growler USA due to the company's focus on local and the craft beer industry, which is growing so much, says Dan Richards.

"We met with the company owners, and we liked their vision," including their way of offering craft beers and wines on tap or from kegs, as opposed to in cans or bottles, Richard says.

The microbrewery's craft beverages will include microbrews,

hard cider, draught wine, handmade wine, handmade root beer, cold-pressed coffee and kombucha tea, with no macro brews or imports.

"We will focus our taps on Oklahoma breweries first, and as we fill the taps, we will broaden the selection to regional beers and then national," Richards says.

Regarding the menu, company owners employ a number of executive chefs on staff, he continues. "Because the craft beer industry is moving so rapidly and offerings change almost daily, as the chefs receive new beers, they sample them and determine which foods pair best with them."

Some already-determined menu items include Mahi Mahi tacos, buffalo chicken wraps and sliders.

The Richards chose to open

Growler USA in The Walk due to the area's retail density and high level of traffic, as well as the lack of pub-style establishments.

"There's a lot of craft beer options around downtown and in midtown, but there is not much available in this area of the city," he says.

The national franchise company Growler USA was created in 2014 and is headquartered in Colorado with the focus on promoting local and pouring 100 percent American-made, premium craft beverages.

Growler USA occupies the southern end of the shopping center located in The Walk at Tulsa Hills. Other tenants in the shopping center include Blaze Pizza, Massage Envy, Great Clips, Sushi Fork and Qdoba, which is also opening soon.



BLAKE AUSTYN for GTR Newspapers

**CRAFT BEER MOVEMENT:** Growler USA microbrewery is expected to open in The Walk at Tulsa Hills by the end of the year. The microbrewery will offer craft beers, including many from Oklahoma, draught wine, handmade root beer, cold-pressed coffee and kombucha tea as well as a full food menu.

## Downtown Tulsa Districts Add New Retail Options

By **EMILY RAMSEY**  
Managing Editor

The flurry of development projects in downtown Tulsa is obvious to anyone passing through. Besides the many residential and hotel construction projects currently underway, perhaps the two most anticipated upcoming commercial projects are taking place in the East Village and the Brady Arts District.

Officially opening Dec. 10 is The Boxyard with 39 shipping containers to house 20 businesses, including local retail shop Dwelling Spaces and JoeBots Coffee, which got an early start in the center, opening Nov. 25.

The retail center is a development project by Elliot Nelson and Casey Stowe, partners in Nelson+Stowe Development. The Boxyard is located at the corner of Third Street and Frankfort Avenue.

Many of the businesses will use more than one container, says Stowe. Dwelling Spaces, for example, occupies five containers.

The main aim of the project is to bring more retail options to the area, says Stowe, but there will be a mix of other businesses as well. Confirmed tenants include Abelina's Boutique; Blue Sky Bank; a barber shop; Boxyard Comics; Downtown Dry Cleaners; Landella jewelry; women's clothing store Modern Mess; Rose



**EAST VILLAGE:** Patrons explore The Boxyard, a commercial development at Third Street and Frankfort Avenue in the East Village, featuring 20 businesses housed in 39 shipping containers. The Boxyard will hold its grand opening on Dec. 10. Local shop Dwelling Spaces opened Nov. 25.

Rock Microcreamery; a bar named Open Container; Sole Massage; STEMcell, a science retail store; Sweet Boutique, a candy shop; The Water Co.; and Wirwar, a Belgian Honky Tonk featuring street food, beer and music.

As for The Boxyard's location on the western end of the growing East Village, "we are right in the middle of so much," says Stowe.

Besides the recent addition of various residential options, including Urban 8, The Edge and the East End Village, further

commercial projects are coming to the area, including right next door where work is underway to renovate the former KOTV building into suitable commercial space.

"This area has exceeded all of our expectations," Stowe says.

In a few months, the Brady Arts District will welcome its latest completed project, a mixed-use building on Archer Street, spanning the block between Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and Detroit Avenue.



**BRADY ARTS:** Construction crews work on George Kaiser Family Foundation's latest mixed-use building in the Brady Arts District, on Archer Street, between Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and Detroit Avenue. The 75,000-square-foot building will open in spring 2017 and feature 35 artist fellowship work studios, 14 artist fellowship apartments and 10 ground-floor retail spaces, including many local businesses.

Work began in 2014 by the George Kaiser Family Foundation to renovate the 75,000-square-foot building that formerly served as a Bank of Oklahoma warehouse.

"We had been eyeing this location for a while. It was an underutilized property and an obvious piece to the puzzle of the Brady Arts District," says Stanton Doyle, GKFF senior program officer.

When the building is fully completed by spring 2017, it will feature 35 Tulsa Artist Fellowship (TAF) work studios, 14 TAF apartments and 10 ground-floor retail spaces.

With nine of the 10 retail tenants confirmed, the building will include Strange Donuts, Goods Bodega, Lone Wolf restaurant and bar, Glacier Confection, Holy Mountain Records, Magic City Books, and Made.

When determining which potential tenants to contact, "we were looking to fill the gaps in the neighborhood," Doyle says, such as retail.

Regarding Holy Mountain Records and Magic City Books, "a record shop is a place where people congregate, and reading is an art form not yet represented in the district. We want to provide anchors for different communities."

Magic City Books is a project by nonprofit organization Tulsa Literary Coalition. The independent bookstore will support the organization's mission to affect social change through literature and to grow the local lit-

erary community, according to its website. It will also serve as the venue for Booksmart Tulsa.

This project will provide a welcome resource for GKFF's 2017 TAF cohort, which will include writers, a first for the program, Doyle says.

The TAF is a Tulsa-based artist recruitment and retention program that provides artists with a \$20,000 stipend and, in most cases, free housing and studio work space.

The inaugural TAF class launched in 2016 and included solely visual artists. However, for the 2017 class, due to demand, the TAF expanded its fellowship. For the 2017 class, GKFF saw more than 575 applications from 40 states; the selected fellows hail from 13 states and include graphic novelists, play/screenwriters, poets, painters, ceramics artists, photographers and street artists. The fellowship will begin on Jan. 9, 2017.

"A thriving arts district needs galleries and museums, but it also needs to see success as a residential district," Doyle says.

"In order to make the Brady district a long-term successful district, we need more affordable housing for artists and teachers who bring life to the area."

The next project on the list for GKFF in the Brady will be the Western Supply building at North Boulder Avenue and Easton Street. Doyle hopes that the foundation will be able to offer additional information on the multi-use project in 2017.

## HOMEGOODS IN SOUTH TULSA



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

**NEW RETAILERS:** HomeGoods opened in November at 101st Street and Memorial Drive, within the Jenks school district, in the Memorial Crossing shopping center on the southwest corner. PetSmart will soon open next to HomeGoods, both retailers occupying space formerly used by Food Pyramid.