



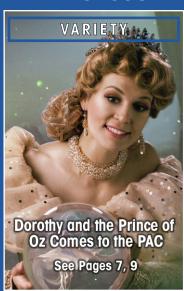


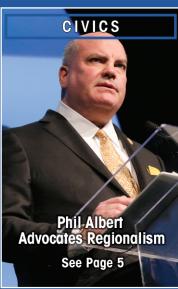
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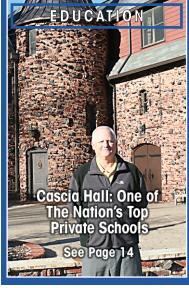
Volume 23 February 2017 www.gtrnews.com

### IN THIS ISSUE:









### **Bond Vote:** Feb. 14

Superintendent Dr. Stacey Butterfield Gives State of the Schools

By EMILY RAMSEY Managing Editor

In her State of the Schools address, Jenks Superintendent Dr. Stacey Butterfield spoke about district growth and current and future construction projects, including projects included in the 2017 bond proposal.

Patrons will vote on Feb. 14 regarding a bond issue of \$10,420,000, its two most noteworthy and largest elements being construction of phase II of the Middle School athletic fields and, to address the district's annual student growth rates, the addition of secondary classrooms, phase I.

The Middle School athletic fields will benefit not only midschool athletes, said Butterfield, but all community groups because it will provide an additional practice space for the school district and the communi-

The location of the additional secondary classrooms will accommodate growth in the district, which is on average 200 students per year, Butterfield continued. However, "until we get into planning of the project, we are not ready to nail down where the classrooms will go and at what

The bond package's other elements are mostly maintenance items, such as technology upgrades, equipment, printing improvements, transportation needs and textbooks.

As the state department continues to cut education funding, school bonds become even more important for school districts in maintaining the quality of its and offerings, Butterfield said, which includes website.

### THRIVE JENKS NEARS COMPLETION



DOWNTOWN RESIDENTIAL: From left, Eve Rosin, experience designer for Thrive and ERC Companies; ReGina Rotert, of Thrive Bentonville; and Christian Rodriguez, Thrive Jenks client relations manager, pose in the kitchen of one of Thrive Jenks' completed living spaces. (See story on page 32.)

proper technology for our stuthe world they are going to live and work in.

Throughout the school district, there are a number of construction projects taking place at present, such as the construction of Northwest Elementary, at 7625 S. Elwood Ave., and the classroom expansion at West Intermediate. Both projects are expected to be completed in time for the 2017-2018 school year, and both schools will include a STEM Learning Lab.

The labs encourage student creativity in a self-directed, handson learning environment, with a focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) curriculum, according to the Jenks Public Schools Foundation

rently working on their plan to dents in order to prepare them for add one learning lab to every school site, with the foundation providing much of the funding.

Also for the 2017-2018 school year, the addition of Northwest Elementary will bring into effect new elementary attendance zones. Northwest Elementary students will come largely from West and East Elementary schools, which encompass students mostly living north of 81st Street.

Capacity of the Middle School's cafeteria is being increased, with about 300 seats being added. The project is planned for completion by April.

Work began in July 2016 on the Central Campus Dining Hall, with an expected opening in the

Renovations of the High School's Building 5 and 6 are being done in three phases. Phase I, which focused on Building 6, was completed in summer 2016. Phase II, which began in December, will complete renovations to Building 6 and begin work on Building 5. Its planned completion is the summer. Phase III will complete Building 5.

The project includes classroom renovations, building updates and upgrades, and some space reconfigurations, said Butterfield, including adapting areas to create more open seating spaces to encourage student collaborations and greater accessibility to power outlets for technology.

Another focus is on the High School stadium: its classroom fall. The new dining hall will sit spaces and locker rooms and in the location of the former din- expansion of the press box, to be

### KUDOS OF THE MONTH: Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Greater Tulsa Reporter's February Kudos of the Month goes to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for its development of River Spirit Casino Resort and Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant, helping to grow Tulsa into a go-to tourist destination.

The \$365 million expansion project broke

The first milestone that the Margaritaville project met was the opening of the 5 O'Clock Somewhere Bar in July 2015.

Next came the opening of the Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant in August 2016, with a resort grand entry, valet parking structure and expanded 3,000-space parking facility with a climate-controlled walkway.

In September, the 30,000-square-foot convention center opened; the adjoining 27-story hotel tower with full-service spa opened in December.

River Spirit opened January, Margaritaville's Paradise Cove theater and Ruth's Chris Steak House.

The final piece of the expansion, the Landshark Bar, resort pool deck, outdoor event space, and River Parks Trail will open in the

spring.
Kudos to Principal Chief James R. Floyd who addressed his people in the State of the Nation about the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's blueprint for progress and success accomplished over the past calendar year. The address was held at the MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION: Tulsa Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building on Jan. 28.

The address reviewed the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's economic development plans and actions on how they will be improving services and programs for the Indian nation.



Mayor G.T. Bynum speaks at the December opening of the River Spirit Casino Resort's 27-story hotel tower, while representatives of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Tulsa Regional Chamber CEO Mike Neal listen. (See page 3 for additional information.)



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all readers in the greater Tulsa area.

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CIRCULATION

### Paradise Cove Theater, Ruth's **Chris Steakhouse Most Recent** To Open at River Spirit Casino

step away from completing its \$365 million expansion project that includes its construction of the Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant complex.

Since breaking ground in 2013, the expansion project has only one element left to open. The LandShark Landing pool bar, tropical-themed resort pool deck and Margaritaville Tiki Bar, outdoor event space, and new River Parks Trail will all be completed in the spring.

August 2016, Margaritaville Restaurant and Casino opened, which included the new resort grand entry and lobby, a Margaritaville coffee shop located in the hotel lobby, a Margaritaville retail store and a resort gift store, connectivity entrances to the River Spirit Casino, a valet parking structure, and a 3,000-space parking facility with a climate-controlled walk-

The 30,000-square-foot convention center opened in September, with a ballroom and conference and board rooms with audio and video capabilities.

In December, its 27-story hotel tower opened with 483 rooms including 54 suites, an upscale spa and salon, a fitness center, a business center, retail stores, and a gift shop.

Country singer and songwriter Chris Young was the first to perform at the Paradise Cove theater, after it opened in January. Also opening in January was Ruth's

Chris Steak House.
Additionally included in the River Spirit complex is a 50,000square-foot casino with 850 of the latest gaming machines and 27 live table/poker games and Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Restaurant. The 400-seat restaurant includes two outdoor decks with views of the Arkansas River.

The economic impact over the two-year construction phase is approximately just over \$300 million for the region and created 4,100 construction jobs.

When all openings are complete, the expansion will provide 1,000 new direct jobs and will support an additional 1,200 indirect jobs in the region. According to the Tulsa Regional Chamber, the ongoing regional economic impact is \$135.1 million annually.



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WELCOMING GUESTS: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd greets guests at the ribbon cutting for River Spirit Casino Resort's concert venue, Paradise Cove, while Second Chief Louis Hicks, left, and Country Music Star Chris Young look on.



CUTTING THE RIBBON: Country Music Star Chris Young along with members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Tulsa Regional Chamber



### Working Together to Implement a Strategic Plan for Tulsa

Mayor's Office led a joint retreat and measurements by which citiwith the City Council to brain- zens can track our progress. I will

strategic plan for our city. This retreat serves as the catalyst toward framing our strategic-planning process moving and ahead as a unified city government.

working together, will pursue initiatives that will not only benefit our city but will position us as a national leader. At the retreat, we began the process establishing our collectively agreed upon goals. As a next

future column.



By MAYOR G.T. BYNUM City of Tulsa

From The **Mayor** 

important don't do any of the rely on day to day. We don't arrest house fires. And, in any enterprise, be it a business or customers? Employees who feel a stake in the direction of the organization, who feel part of one team - or employ-

Shortly after I took office, the which we will pursue these goals who feel pitted against one another? It doesn't take a graduate degree in organizational psystorm our goals and form a have more to say about this in a chology to know the answer to that question.

We believe employees who feel point of consensus valued do better work for our to arise from the customers (the citizens of Tulsa). retreat was the So, discussion at the retreat recognition that we extended to City of Tulsa as elected officials employee benefits and pay, and then to employee satisfaction. A work that Tulsans survey conducted by the City Auditor last year found that nearly two-thirds of City employees criminals or fix reported low morale among their potholes or put out coworkers. As a City government, we must do better - much better.

All of our elected officials share a nonprofit, what a commitment to employee kinds of employees empowerment, fair pay, quality do the best work health insurance, and a reliable retirement system. With a flat budget, these are not simple goals feel valued, who to address, but I am encouraged by our unity of commitment to build a better workplace for our employees so that they may, in turn, better serve our fellow Tulsans.

We have a lot of work ahead of step, City employee teams are ees who feel like an afterthought, us. It is exciting to be working, working to identify strategies by whose work is not rewarded and together, to build a better city.



**TULSA CITY COUNCIL** 

### Tulsa County Wins Budget Presentation Award

Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is pleased to announce that County, has received Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget.

This is the highest form of recognition granted by this organization. The award represents a significant achievement by the county. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the

The Government Finance Officers highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

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cient" in all four categories, and the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual or department designated as being primarily responsible for its having achieved the award. This has been presented to Tom R. Gerard, Chief Financial Officer, Tulsa County Fiscal Office.

"I say to our staff, 'Job well done," said County Commission Chairman Ron Peters. 'Also, all of the elected officials of Tulsa

Budget documents must be rated "profi- we produce a budget that is recognized as among the best in America."

The Government Finance Officers Association is a major professional association servicing the needs of nearly 19,000 appointed and elected local, state and provincial-level government officials and other finance practitioners. It provides top-quality publications, training programs, services and products designed to enhance the skills and performance of those responsible for government finance policy and management. The association is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, with offices in Washington D.C. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation County have put a lot of time and effort into Awards Program is the only national awards our budget process each year, and I'm glad program in governmental budgeting.



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MAKING THINGS BETTER: OSU Tulsa hosted a recent book signing for former Oklahoma Representative Wes Watkins for the book "Making Things Better: Wes Watkins' Legacy of Leadership," by author Kim. D. Parrish. From left are OSU-Tulsa student Angela Brown, author Kim D. Parrish, Wes Watkins and Lou Watkins. Angela

Brown happily purchased a copy of the book during the event.

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### 2017 Chamber Chair Brings Regionalism to the Fore

By EMILY RAMSEY Managing Editor

Editor's Note: Phil Albert is one of Greater Tulsa Reporter's "10 People to Watch in 2017," as announced in its January 2017 issue. GTR was the first news group in greater Tulsa to introduce "10 People to Watch," which launched in January 2009.

Throughout the year, GTR will publish a series of articles featuring each of its "10 People to Watch," with next month's issue to feature Laura Chalus, executive director of the Tulsa Garden Center.

Phil Albert, co-owner of Pelco Structural, LLC, located in Claremore, became the Tulsa Regional Chamber's 2017 Board Chair on Jan. 19 – a chairmanship that is very illustrative, Albert notes, of the chamber's status on regionalism.

"Being the first chairman at the Tulsa Regional Chamber to have a business outside of Tulsa shows that the chamber has become a voice for the Tulsa region," he

Ålbert, an Oklahoma City native who moved to Tulsa in 1980, has been with the Tulsa Chamber for 10 years. During that time, he has held various volunteer roles such as working with the chamber's annual resource campaign, Tulsa's Future, Tulsa BizPac, and the OneVoice education task force.

He credits the chamber's annual OneVoice Agenda as the catalyst in establishing the chamber as Northeast Oklahoma's regional

Each year, to create its OneVoice Agenda, the chamber forms task forces of leaders in business and the community to determine the leading regional issues and concerns for the coming year.

process," Albert says. "I think (the effort put into this process) is the reason that when we visit cities to discuss our OneVoice objectives, people listen."

Those city visits include Oklahoma City and Washington, D.C. The chamber's OneVoice Day at the Oklahoma City Capitol will take place Feb. 21-22, where attendees will meet with legislators and Governor Mary Fallin.

Regarding Albert's areas of focus for the year, he says: "Education continues to be a focus and finding solutions for municipal funding issues.

There's not going to be any easy answers to Oklahoma's budget crisis. Collaboration with organizations like the Tulsa Chamber will be pivotal in identifying long-run solutions."

In February 2016, the Tulsa Chamber and OU-Tulsa hosted the Blue Zones Project representatives to speak at OU-Tulsa. The project is a community-based well-being program aimed at increasing human longevity, health and happiness.

The chamber plans to collaborate with OU-Tulsa this year to bring the Blue Zones Project to Tulsa, with the goal of significantly impacting the life expectancy disparities between north and south Tulsa, says Albert, with the help of public/private partnerships.

Another of the chamber's anticipated yearly trips is its Intercity Visit. In 2016, chamber leadership and members visited Cincinnati,

Particularly regarding the role of regionalism in an area, "that intercity trip was an eye opener for us," Albert says. "Cincinnati is essentially the same size as Tulsa, but it seems 10 times as big because of the strength of its regional comthe right track, he says.

"Twelve years ago we really saw the separation between urban and suburban, but in the last few years we have seen a blurring of those lines: what's good for Claremore is good for Broken Arrow, is good for Tulsa.'

Albert moved to Tulsa after graduating with an accounting degree from Oklahoma Baptist University.

He began work at an accounting firm, where his first day on the job as an auditor took him to a manufacturing company, the same one that would later employ him, JEM Engineering.

"I love to see what a business does well and can do better that's what accounting allowed me to do," he says.

By moving into the manufacturing industry, Albert was able to be more involved in the intricacies of a company and in providing a product, he continues.

Albert spent 24 years at JEM Engineering, his last 10 years as president.

He started Pelco Structural, LLC, in August 2004 with partner, Phil Parduhn. Pelco Structural manufactures, designs, and provides logistics solutions for steel infrastructure products used in a variety of applications. These applications include electrical transmission and distribution, traffic and lighting, sports lighting, cellular transmission, signing, and substation structures.

In February 2015, Pelco Structural celebrated its 10th year in operation with all major steel certifications including American Institute of Steel Construction, American Welding Society, and the Canadian Weld Bureau.

Pelco is also involved with providing steel pole structures for the 700-mile Plains and Eastern Clean That "magic," he continued,



BUSINESS LEADERSHIP: Tulsa Regional Chamber 2017 Board Chair Phil Albert speaks during the Tulsa Regional Chamber's Annual Meeting on Jan. 19. Albert is co-owner of Claremore-based Pelco Structural, LLC, and is the first Tulsa Chamber chair with a business that operates outside of the City of Tulsa.

wind power from the Oklahoma Panhandle to Arkansas, Tennessee and other states in the mid-South and Southeast.

Albert serves on the Board of Directors for New Dominion, LLC, and the Advisory Boards for UMB Bank and BancFirst. He was nominated by Governor Mary Fallin to the Board of Regents of The University of Oklahoma in January 2016. He was formally appointed by Governor Fallin in 2014, where he served on the Chair of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission.

During Albert's inaugural speech as 2017 chair, Albert noted the hope and excitement that currently surrounds Tulsa, with his theme being "From here to there."

"There is a magic with what we Line project that will transmit includes the city's new Mayor G.T. cle to do that.'

more than 3,500 megawatts of Bynum, his administration, and their outlook of collaboration; the economic development projects that will soon begin through Vision Tulsa funding; the region's renewed focus on Route 66 and its potential for development; and Governor Fallin and the state's overall continued focus on growing business.

The opportunity here to start and grow a business is abundant because of our state and local leadership," he says.

Albert also recognizes the role a community plays in a business'

"Businesses thrive in communities that are dynamic," he says, thus, his reason for his various volunteer roles, including with the Tulsa Regional Chamber.

"I believe it's the responsibility of every business to give back, and the Tulsa Chamber is the best vehi-

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MLK JR. PARADE: Tulsa Community College students and representatives ride the TCC Martin Luther King Jr. Parade float at the MLK Jr. Parade on Jan. 16 in downtown Tulsa. This is the second year that TCC has had a float in the parade.



RIP STELL for GTR Newspapers FIRST LARGE TREE PLANTING: On Jan. 24, workers planted the first large tree in A Gathering Place for Tulsa. The tree was placed near Peggy's Pond. In the background is the 21st Street bridge and downtown Tulsa. Phase I of the Gathering Place will be completed in late 2017.



WINTERFEST FUN: A father

helps his daughter learn to ice skate at Tulsa's Winterfest ice rink, located in downtown Tulsa. Winterfest was open Nov. 25-Jan. 15.



HELPING PETS: Spay Oklahoma recently received a \$25,000 grant from PETCO for affordable spay and neuter programs in Oklahoma. The funds help support Spay Oklahoma's low cost surgery program for pets.



DVIS ROOFTOP: Domestic Violence Intervention Services hosted 4-WAY SPEECH WINNER: Rooftop Rendezvous: Best of Brunch on Jan. 21. The event featured brunch items from some of Tulsa's favorite dining hot spots. From left are Madelyn Tackett (co-chair), Sarah Regan, Damon Roberts, Lisa Johannsson (cochair) and Shannon Slagle. All proceeds benefit DVIS' legal department.



Monica Martin of the Rotary Club of Tulsa congratulates Adilene Peru of Langston Hughes Academy who is this year's Four-Way Speech winner.





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### TCC's Signature Symphony Presents Overture

The tastes and sounds from During the cocktail reception, and entertainment in Signature Symphony at Tulsa Community College presents Overture, a gala featuring international cuisine with wine pair-

Overture will be held Friday, March 3 at Sky Loft at First Place Tower, 15 E. 5th St. A cocktail reception begins 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner and program. Complimentary valet parking will be available.

The evening, presented by TTCU, The Credit Union, explores food from interesting locales with a three-course dinner paired with music from the country of origin. It promises to be a delight for the senses and a passport to travel the world, sampling the best food and music provided by the talented musicians with Signature Symphony at TCC. In addition to the dinner, there will and wine pull.

across the globe come to Tulsa as Chef Orr Nalp will begin the evening with a sampling of hors d'oeuvres inspired by different parts of the world, and a hosted bar which will include a signature cocktail. Guests will enjoy vegetarian sushi, empanadas and minibaked brie inspired by the countries of Japan, Argentina and France respectively. During dinner, Chef Örr will present a light and decadent salad inspired by the flavors of Spain. Guests will continue their flavorful journey around the world during the main course, with stops in Germany, India, Sicily and the United States. The dessert course will be the evening's sweet and final destination on this year's journey. Wine pairings will accompany each course with selections made by Maestro Andrés Franco and Chef Orr. Each course will be accompanied by a musical selecbe a live auction, silent auction tion influenced by the food itself. Jacqueline Wilson. The event supports quality arts

through Higher Scale, Signature Symphony's music education outreach. Higher Scale teaches children in Tulsa area schools how to play the violin, viola, and cello. The music education program also provides free musical interactive experiences for children of all ages through performances in schools, lessons on stringed instruments, and opportunities to experience live music and engage with professional musicians.

Overture honorary chairs are Tim and Carol Lyons and event chair is Kimberly Self.

Jane Primeaux is auction committee chair. Committee members are Brenda Barnes, Marcia Brueggenjohann, Kelly Clark, Chelsea Feary, Andrés Franco, Katie Johnson, Susan Martin, Delia Pierson, Brittany Sawyer, Dr. Dean VanTrease and ing the event or tickets, call the sacc.edu. Sponsorships start at



FOOD. WINE AND MUSIC: Maestro Andrés Franco, Jane Primeaux, Susan Harris, Jerry Hoopert, Kimberly Self and Chef Orr Nalp toast the upcoming Signature Symphony's Overture.

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TCC Foundation Office at 918- \$300 and individual tickets are

### Tulsa Ballet to Celebrate 60th Year with World Premiere

production for their 60th anniversary season that is sure to delight audiences of all ages. The company has commissioned an all-new, \$1 million full-length ballet in collaboration with BalletMet Columbus, Ohio. This exciting new ballet feature choreography by the esteemed Edwaard Liang (artistic director for BalletMet, choreographer for Tulsa Ballet's acclaimed Romeo and Juliet) as well all new music, sets, costumes, puppetry and digital projection. The world premiere of Dorothy and the Prince of Oz will take place in Tulsa.

says, "Edwaard and I started discussing this project in the fall of 2014 when he was appointed Artistic Director of BalletMet. I truly believe he is one of the most talented dance makers of our time and is able to instill deep feelings and meaning into dance steps. Everybody knows The Wizard of Oz, and yet there are 13 additional books about Oz written by L. Frank Baum. The next step was to find someone to evaluate the individual novels from a ballet perspective and suggest the one that could be best adapted into a 'screenplay'. Oliver Peter Graber, the librettist of the Vienna Staatsoper, with Edwaard's help and guidance, chose the fourteenth book in the series and a new story was introduced – within the

existing story – to dramatize the work." The artistic team, chosen by Edwaard to support him, is truly a compilation of some of the best in the business. Basil Twist, a McArthur Genius Fellow and a puppet master, designed the sets and will create massive puppets to bring the magical creatures to life. Mark Zappone has designed the costumes for the production. Oliver Peter Graber has also created a score from both existing music and his own composition to follow the libretto. 749-6006 or by visiting www.tulsabal-According to Angelini, "Edwaard has let.org.

Tulsa Ballet will present a very special already created the majority of the choreography and what he did so far is stunning. It is probably his most inspired and mature work to date."

Tulsa Ballet's Managing Director Scott Black believes that "allowing ballet to be accessible to all audiences is necessary for the future of the company." He says, 'The Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, and Swan Lake are standard repertoire for most ballet companies that consistently bring new audiences and increased earned revenue potential from ticket sales. Yet the ballet repertory is very scarce when it comes to titles able to attract large audi-Artistic Director Marcello Angelini ences. Creating new family friendly story ballets will help expand our local audiences and audiences all over the country when these productions are performed by other companies. Owning these new productions also provides additional revenue through set/costume rentals, when leased to organizations that are not part of the original co-production.'

When asked about the excitement surrounding this outstanding and unique production, Angelini says, he is "thrilled that Tulsa Ballet is now able to offer its community brand new, large scale productions that rival those that premiere in any major city around the world. This is all thanks to Mrs. Mollie Williford, who, with a very generous gift, has allowed us to dream big and to offer our community large scale, original works. Tulsa is growing and evolving at a fast pace and we intend to continue to lead the arts community in the city and state." With only four performances, tickets are expected to sell out.

Dorothy and the Prince of Oz will run from February 10-12 at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center. All performances include live music provided by Tulsa Symphony Orchestra. Tickets start at \$25 and may be purchased by calling 918-



TALENTED COMPANY: Tulsa Ballet Artistic Director Marcello Angelini stands with Principal dancer Madalina Stoica and Soloist Cavan Conley at Tulsa Ballet's 2017-2018 Season Reveal event, held in January.

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### Showtime: More Than Flowers and Chocolate

fect way to celebrate Valentine's month long?

starters, there's country music heartthrob Eric Church, "Mr. Misunderstood," appearing at the BOK Center as part of a 60-city tour on Feb. 2, and Ariana Grande stops by T-Town as part of her Dangerous Woman tour, Feb. attended Ī Grande's last Tulsa engagement couple of years ago. She and neareveryone, except me, was

wearing cat ears

at that concert as homage to Cat Valentine, the character Grande played on Nickelodeon. She's all grown up now with slinky hits like Grande locked down the American Music Association's "Artist of the Year" for 2016. Her biggest fans have been females under age 25, but that fan base has grown. Her voice can fill the BOK bowl, and her backup dancers, if you like that sort of thing – I do!, are a show of their own.

Tulsa is a music hotbed. Platinum-selling country artist Brett Eldridge appears at River Spirit, Feb. 3, The Eli Young Band plays the Cain's on Feb. 4, along with hard rockers Styx (Feb. 9) and KISS, (Feb. 22), both at The Joint at the Hard Rock. Really hot right now is Twenty One Pilots, playing at the BOK Center in a sold-out concert Feb. 21. This alternative music duo from Ohio is behind "Stressed Out," "Ride" and "Heathens." Ticket holds are sometimes released on the day of the show, so if you are ever interested in pursuing a sold-out performance, you can always check a venue's website or, better yet, go to their ticket office on the concert date to see if any ticket inventory is being

The song "Danke Schoen" made Las Vegas, crooner Wayne Newton a star in 1963. The part-Cherokee 74-year-old does a show at the Hard Rock on Valentine's Day! The band Sugar Ray is there Feb. 17 and the heavy metal blues group Tesla blows it out at the Brady Theatre,

Other than music, theatre or dance, a date with comedy is always a winner. Tulsa Gridiron presents its 2017 show at the Cox Business

Entertainment can be the per-fect way to celebrate Valentine's Bynum Brigade Invades City Hall." Day. And why not celebrate all This election year provides lots of great material for song parody.

**Show Buzz** 

By NANCY HERMANN

Skewering newsmakers from politicians to pop singers, Tulsa Gridiron has making been fun for nearly eight decades. The songs are clever and not mean-spirited, and the performers can sing! Rebecca Ungerman directs and head writer is Randy Krehbiel. Roasting Ear recipient is Mayor G.T.

Bynum. You can catch two shows, Feb. 17-18.

Fresh off her HBO special, comedienne Whitney Cummings makes "Dangerous Woman" and "Side to fun of her failures and weaknesses at the River Spirit Event Center, Feb. 25. Cummings became a comic at age 25. "Life broke me," she has said of that time. She decided to turn her life into "a giant journal entry" on stage. Also on Feb. 25th is The Rock and Worship Roadshow at the BOK Center. It's family entertainment, starring Steven Curtis Chapman.

Back at my old Tulsa Performing Arts Center stomping grounds, the upcoming month is enormous in the breadth and quality of entertainment. Tulsa Ballet will dazzle with the world premiere of chore-Liang's Edwaard ographer "Dorothy and the Prince of Oz." This ballet, commissioned by Tulsa Ballet, takes audiences to the magical "Land of Oz," Feb. 10-12. This sparkling, extraordinary production will enchant any sweetheart or dance enthusiast.

For theatre, enjoy Tulsa Project Theatre's "Avenue Q," Feb. 10-19, and Theatre North's "Court-Martial at Fort Devens." Theatre North's presentation is based on a true story about a cadre of young black women in the Women's Army Corps during WWII who want to train to become medical technicians but are compelled to face down discrimination. This inspiring and timely drama runs Feb. 19-25.

An event I have been waiting for all year is the Beethoven Winter Festival, comprising the complete Beethoven string cycle performed by the illustrious Miró Quartet. This Music Tulsa and for Tulsa, and is attracting music lovers from across



TRUMPLANDIA OR THE BYNUM BRIGADE INVADES CITY HALL: Tulsa Gridiron returns to the Cox Business Center stage Feb. 17-18 to poke fun at politics and pop culture, and all for a good cause.



Cummings' offbeat comedy show Feb. 25 at the River Spirit Event Chamber Music Tulsa. Center.

the country. By experiencing the works as a whole, and through hearing them in the order in which they were composed, audience members can more fully appreciate the extent to which Beethoven transitioned music from the Classical era to the Romantic, and how through his genius he created music that, as composer Igor Stravinksy pro-claimed, "will be contemporary forever." The six-concert series will be in held in the intimate Westby Pavilion at the PAC, Feb. 17-26.

Another bigger-than-life event at the PAC is Tulsa Opera's star-studded Puccini to Pop, Feb. 25, with Leona Mitchell, Alyson Cambridge, David Miller, Michael Todd Simpson, Sarah Joy Miller and James Lowe. Music selections will include opera, jazz, show tunes and more.

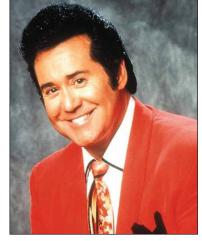
Wrapping up the month on Feb. 28 and March 1 at the PAC is the return of Shen Yun, presented by festival is a coup for both Chamber the Falun Dafa Association of Oklahoma. Eons of Chinese history are covered in this dance show. The



WHITNEY CUMMINGS: Catch BEETHOVEN WINTER FESTIVAL: The Miró Quartet performs the complete cycle of Beethoven's string quartets, Feb. 17-26, hosted by



**CHURCH:** Country music's Eric Church brings his "Holdin' My Own" tour to the BOK Center, Feb. 2.



WAYNE NEWTON: "Mr. Las Vegas" himself delivers a Valentine's Day concert at the Hard Rock Casino.

presentation also takes the opportunity to share the philosophy of the Falun Gong, an organization or spiritual movement that is at odds with the Chinese government. good entertainment. I'm wishing There's a bit of proselytizing tossed you a warm and sweet February!

in there with the dance, so just expect that.

There's nothing like getting out of the house and becoming lost in

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# Exciting Anniversary Year Continues in February at Tulsa PAC

Special from the PAC

February looks to be a busy month at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center, with Beethoven, puppets and even a trip to Oz filling the bill, all part of its 40th Anniversary Celebration.

The Brown Bag It Series, presented by Tulsa PAC Trust, returns with Tulsa Opera's Big Sing on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 12:10 p.m. This laid-back lunchtime event encourages the audience to bring and eat their lunch while Tulsa Opera artists teach them excerpts from a famous opera chorus-and help them perform it, in harmony, Big Sing-style. Singing experience is not required-but all listeners are welcome. The event is free and open to the public.

Pirates, mermaids and magic all come together for Theatre Tulsa's presentation of Peter and the Starcatcher. This swashbuckling grown-up prequel to "Peter Pan" upends the century-old story of how a miserable orphan comes to be The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up. From marauding pirates and jungle tyrants to unwilling comrades and unlikely heroes, "Peter and the Starcatcher" playfully explores the depths of greed and despair and the bonds of friendship, duty and love. Based on the 2006 novel "Peter and the Starcatchers" by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson and adapted for the stage by Rick Elice, the play won five Tony Awards in 2012. The show runs Feb. 2-5 in the Liddy Doenges Theatre.

Part flesh, part felt and packed with heart, "Avenue Q" features a cast of puppets led by Princeton, a college grad who moves to Avenue Q in New York City. He and a group of new friends struggle to find jobs, dates, and an ever-elusive purpose in life. Seth Paden directs this outrageous musical comedy, which stars Tulsa Project Theatre favorites Liz Hunt, Andrew Barker, Emily Pace and Megan Montgomery. Kent Dennis is music director. This winner of the 2004 Tony Award "Triple Crown" - Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book - features "Sesame Street"-style puppets with "South Park" attitudes. "Avenue Q" is for mature audiences. The show runs Feb. 10-12 and 16-19 in the John H. Williams Theatre.

Tulsa Ballet presents "Dorothy And The Prince Of Oz" Feb. 10-12 in Chapman Music Hall. This brand-new, full-length ballet features sets, costumes and a score commissioned by and created for Tulsa Ballet. Sets by McArthur Foundation Genius Award winner refuse and are held for trial. Basil Twist; costumes by top Defended by a civilian lawyer who's American designer Mark Zappone; never tried a court-martial, they



WONDERFUL WORLD OF OZ: Join Tulsa Ballet as they present an original, brand new production, "Dorothy And The Prince Of Oz," Feb. 10-12.

libretto, score and additional music by Vienna Staatsoper librettist and musicologist Oliver Peter Graber; and choreography by international master Edwaard Liang. ing up for one's rights.

In an ambitious show presented by Chamber Music Tulsa, the Miró Ouartet makes its fourth appearance in Tulsa for the Beethoven Winter Festival, Feb. 17, 18, 21, 23, 25 and 26 in the Kathleen Westby Pavilion. The quartet will play Beethoven's complete String Quartet Cycle in chronological order over the course of six nights. Hearing the quartets in compositional order, the audience follows Beethoven's own life experiences, from concert to concert, in the evolution and flow of the music: from youth and success, through frustration and personal challenges; through his maturity; and through his final struggles with illness, relationships, and ultimately with death.

Theatre North returns to the Tulsa PAC with "Court-Martial at Fort Devens," Feb. 19 and 24-25 in the Liddy Doenges Theatre. When a group of young black women join the Women's Army Corps during WWII, they're promised training as medical technicians. But a racist colonel at Fort Devens has other ideas and demotes them to cleaning duty, leading to a confrontation in which the colonel makes comments so offensive that the WAC's pull an immediate strike. Though a visiting general is able to compel most of the women to go back to work, two

embark on an uphill fight to change the status quo. Written by Jeffrey Sweet and based on a true story, this gripping and inspiring drama explores the complexities of stand-

A luxurious winter feast of soaring opera hits and American musical favorites featuring six internationally acclaimed artists come to the stage with Tulsa Opera's "Puccini To Pop." Soloists include sopranos Alyson Cambridge and Sarah Joy Miller, baritone Michael Todd Simpson and Il Divo tenor David Miller, with special guest star, one of the greats from opera's 'golden era," Leona Mitchell. You'll hear beloved classics of Puccini (Nessun dorma), Verdi (Libiamo duet), Bizet (Habanera), Tchaikovsky (Onegin's Act 1 aria), Gershwin (Summertime), Jerome Kern (You Are Love), Bernstein (Tonight) and many more, including a few surprises! The voices will be supported by a full orchestra conducted by the versatile and virtuosic Grammy-nominated James Lowe. The show happens Feb. 25 in Chapman Music Hall.

There was a time when the world was full of magic and splendor, as if all on earth existed in harmony with heaven. You could see it in the arts, feel it in the air, and hear it in the beat of a drum. This was a land of heroes and sages, dragons and phoenixes, emperors and immortals. Known today as China, this place was once called "the Middle Kingdom" and "the Land of the Divine." What if you could journey



CATCH A "STAR": Theatre Tulsa takes you back to Neverland in "Peter And The Starcatcher," playing Feb. 2-5.

back and visit this lost world...? Now you can. "Shen Yun" invites you to experience this divine culture of the Middle Kingdom. "Shen Yun" brings the profound spirit of this lost civilization to life on stage with unrivaled artistic mastery. Every dance movement, every musical note makes this a stunning visual and emotional experience

you won't find anywhere else. This invigorating show comes to Chapman Music Hall Feb. 28 and

Tickets for all events are available by calling the Tulsa PAC ticket office at 918-596-7111 or online at TulsaPAC.com. You can also check out the latest PAC news on social media platforms.







### Andolini's Pizzeria: Expanding in Greater Tulsa

### **Local Dining**

By BLAKE AUSTYN Contributing Writer

When Mike Bausch moved to the greater Tulsa area to join his brother, Jim, and open a pizza restaurant, the plan was always to go big, says Mike Bausch.

The brothers opened Andolini's Pizzeria in Owasso in 2005, but they took their time before expanding, learning from past mistakes and finding what worked best, Mike continues.

Mike and Jim next expanded Andolini's Pizzeria into midtown Tulsa onto Cherry Street in 2011. That was followed by STG Gelateria in The Farm shopping center and STG Pizzeria and Gelateria in the Blue Dome District in downtown Tulsa, both in 2014. STG stands for Specialty and Tradition Guaranteed, or Specialita Tradizionale Garantita in Italian.

After Mike's trip to Italy in 2009 to compete in a pizza-making competition, "I came back wanting to do something very authentic, exactly as it is in Italy," he says. That inspiration was behind the creation of STG and its gelato and authentic Italian Napoletana pizza.

In 2015, Andolini's opened in downtown Broken Arrow's Rose District, at 222 S. Main St., with a fourth Andolini's planned to open in April, this location at Jenks' RiverWalk Crossing.

Regarding the decision to bring

Andolini's to Jenks, "we want to go into communities where our brand matches a walkable environment and where people enjoy our pizza choices," says Mike.

The Jenks location will be the company's largest location to date, including with 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.

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," he says.

Another notable element to all of the Bausches' restaurants is what is not there: televisions. "We want people to enjoy each other without distractions," Mike

My party visited Andolini's in Broken Arrow for an early weeknight dinner. That is when we found out about Andolini's happy hour: half-price appetizers 2-5 p.m, Monday-Friday. The happy hour special is available at all Andolini's locations.

that and chose three appetizers from its list: Appian Way Meatballs with Fresh Mozzarella, Marzano Rolls and Eggplant Parmigian.

good flavor. The Marzano Rolls,



**OWNERS:** Bausch, co-owner of Andolini's Pizzeria, stands in the restaurant's midtown Tulsa Cherry Street location, 1552 E. 15th St. Mike opened the first Andolini's with his brother, Jim, in 2005 in Owasso.

We decided to take advantage of nice basil flavor, and I enjoyed the doughiness of the bread. The Eggplant Parmigian was tasty and is a nice vegetarian choice; there is also a gluten-free option.

For our pizza, we choice The The Appian Way Meatballs with Athenian, with olives, feta Fresh Mozzarella had three cheese, red onions and sausage. hearty, large meatballs with a The pizza was cheesy with a strong onion flavor, but with the stuffed with pesto, san marzano mild sausage flavor, the ingreditomatoes and fresh basil, had a ents combined to create a unique, currently the only Andolini's Saturday, 10 p.m.-close.



**DOWNTOWN BROKEN ARROW:** An exterior view of Andolini's Pizzeria in Broken Arrow's Rose District, at 222 S. Main St., which opened in 2015. Andolini's will open its fourth greater Tulsa location in April at Jenks' RiverWalk Crossing.

overall flavor that got better as I location where STG Napoletana

Pizzas come in 14, 16 and 20inch sizes, and the options for toppings and styles can make your head spin. There are make-yourown options, classic, and specialty pizzas, and STG Napoletana pizzas that require a special oven to cook the pizzas to 900 degrees.

pizzas are available.

Other Andolini's specials include a weekly Pint Night every Tuesday, featuring a \$5 beer (you can keep the glass) and \$5 slices of a featured pizza. This special is available at all Andolini's locations.

Its Cherry Street location offers The Broken Arrow restaurant is Late Night Slices Thursday-



### Ruth's Chris Steak House Opens

The first Ruth's Chris Steak House in Oklahoma opened at River Spirit Casino Resort Jan. 23.

The 13,000-square-foot restaurant will offer American Steakhouse favorites ranging from the signature USDA Prime Steaks, served on 500-degree plates, to high-quality seafood, a variety of salads and appetizers, homemade sides, and desserts.

The restaurant features rich textures and unexpected finishes reflecting Tulsa's roots in the oil industry, the region's green country, and its Art Deco architectural influences. The décor, created by celebrity designer Taniya Nayak, reflects the local Tulsa community



FOOD BANK DONATION: Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma Executive Director Eileen Bradshaw holds a check that the food bank received from Ruth's Chris Steak House at the steak house's opening in River Spirit Casino Resort on Jan. 23.







while also paying homage to the New Orleans heritage of founder, Ruth Fertel

Fertel founded Ruth's Chris Steak House 50 years ago in New Orleans. Since then, the restaurant own to more than 150 rant locations around the globe.

The restaurant includes three private dining spaces that can accommodate parties of 15 to 80 people.

'With the creation of our world class resort, Ruth's Chris Steak House is the perfect addition to River Spirit," says Pat Crofts, CEO of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casinos. "Their upscale atmosphere along with their renowned steaks will offer our guests a wonderful fine dining experience. We are thrilled to have the first Ruth's Chris in Oklahoma."

Prior to opening, Ruth's Chris hosted private team training dinners benefiting the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. The organization provides food and hope to individuals, families, children and seniors throughout eastern Oklahoma, distributing more than 339,000 meals each week to those struggling with hunger.

### Tulsa Airport Heightens Travel Experience

and the airplane travel that accomparecent aesthetic and operational

**Out & About in** 

**Greater Tulsa** 

By EMILY RAMSEY

Managing Editor

nied it, presented with moment of pause to be reminded of yet another Tulsa gem that most of us certainly take for granted: our airport.

What a wonderful way that we Tulsans get to begin and end our trips, with the ease and calmness that envelop our approachable air-

While that may sound silly at first, I can't tell you the number of airports I've encountered that cause me to, momentarily, consider never

crowded hallways with endless gates to the halls. filled with complaining passengers and stressed-out airline employees.

updates, has been made more beautiful than ever.

Over the past five years, the airport's renovation projects included Concourses A and B, costing more than \$50 million. The project modernized airport's mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, bringing noticeable changes of renovated restrooms, seating with fully integrated power charging stations, and added skylights and raised concourse ceilings. The skylights and raised

ceilings bring a traveling again. The chaotic and noticeably more modern, lighter feel

Trash Talk

By BETH TURNER

Now, some may argue the numer-

My recent vacation (see page 27), easily-accessible airport that, with its wings, hallways filled with bars and restaurants, and countless number of flight destination choices.

> These are things that many individuals desire. And, I admit, I mostly look forward in anticipation to my airport layovers, wandering through the shops, exploring the cafes and restaurants, and just meandering the halls to soak in the activity and ponder where all of the travelers are headed

However, I think the reason that I can find joy in those moments is thanks to the contrast of "my" air-

Driving to the airport, like most Tulsans, my morning starts off easily. A 15-minute drive with only a few cars to contend with at the drop-off area. Usually, in less than 30 minutes, I am past security and enjoying a coffee and pastry, overlooking the runway through the abundant wallto-ceiling windows that reward passengers after moving through the security checkpoint.

I overheard one traveler comment, "If we were in Denver, we would still be in the security line."

I felt like commenting, "Welcome ous benefits of a large metropolitan to Tulsa." Instead, I simply smiled



**MODERN RENOVATIONS:** A view of a renovated concourse at Tulsa International Airport. Over the past five years, the airport has undergone many renovation projects, including updates to Concourses A and B, costing more than \$50 million.

Yet, with progress comes growth and more progress and more growth and, oftentimes, the eventual loss of a city's small-town feel.

In recent weeks, I have heard Tulsa's new Mayor G.T. Bynum and the recently-inaugurated Chamber Chair Phil Albert both comment on the many changes coming to Tulsa in the future months and years: the opening of A Gathering Place for Tulsa by the end of 2017, the construction of the OKPOP Museum, ing Route 66, and the many Vision Tulsa projects that will soon take shape, such as the move of USA BMX to 15th Street and Yale Avenue, making Tulsa the international headquarters for BMX racing.

Tulsa is undoubtedly growing in the attention it receives nationally and beyond.

Hopefully, our city's charm, hospitality and overall welcoming spirit that is so often noted by visitors will remain unchanged as other changes

### Contrast that with Tulsa's pleasant, hub, with its international travel knowingly. the city's renewed focus on improv-Surviving Successfully When Talking Trash

In crafting Trash Talk each month, it's with the input of successful editing that I don't come roadmap for how to do this. You can watch her across more preachy or stuck on a soapbox; that presentation in full on YouTube. "expert" you avoid at a

party.

Recently, however, I've been pleased with the openness of our country's public discourse. Right or wrong, red or blue, left or right, seeing Americans exercise their first-ammendment rights is inspiring. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

So how do we speak out about things that matter to us while maintaining civility and decorum? For answers, I reflect on my own lessons learned and advice gleaned from the positive leadership here in Tulsa working towards creating positive public con-

versations. Here are those musings:

### **Seek to Understand Before** Seeking to be Understood:

This I credit to my mama. Can you feel the eye rolls she endured over the years as she peppered me with this wisdom? Thankfully, it generally sunk in because when I better understand where someone is coming from, it's easier to find our common ground.

#### Know When to Say Yes and How to Say No

In summary, learning to invest helps me spend my energy wisely, so that I accomplish my short-term goals and lifestyle plan.

Williams gave a presentation recently regarding Scor3Card, which provides a business or company the tools to track and improve people, profit and planet.

her presentation, Williams said the best success stories come when people, "Just ask. So many times, I find that a busi-

what we are offering. It's just that no one has asked about it before," says Williams. "So, before dismissing an idea as too unattainable,

recognize my own interests, goals and ideas as well as the time I really have to long-term

### **Just Ask**

Sustainable Tulsa's Corey their triple bottom line of

Tulsa Master Recyclers Association ness' gatekeepers have had similar ideas as

ask someone. Have that conversation."

#### **Allow for Human Connection**

From a round table of articles involving how best to personally lobby for change, all participants agree that the best approach for success is a personal one. I like the tip from Minnesotanonprofit.org: Make that phone call to your legislator...Thank them for their time From a working lunch hosted by Tulsa's both on the phone and with sending a note of



#### **Community Involvement**

volunteering in areas of sustainability, here are some local organizations for you to consider:

- TYPros Sustainability Crew
- Sustainable Tulsa Scor3Card
- · Global Gardens volunteer
- Oklahoma Green Schools Program
- Event Sustainability Crew volunteering such as Route 66 Marathon or Tulsa Tough

#### **Success Story:**

As I ponder this compilation, thoughts of Webster High School's Green Team come to mind. To read the myriad of ways this team of

students and volunteers successfully tracked If you are interested in learning more about and implemented eco savings at WHS, check out my column from June 2011, "Going Green Can Save Our Schools Green.'

By finding common ground, the project was a success both economically and environmentally. We listened to each point of view and crafted a plan workable for everyone, and it all began because someone asked for a meeting to learn about the Oklahoma Green Schools pro-

What has the New Year sparked in you? To send in your thoughts and ideas, email bethturner@me.com or follow me on Twitter @TrashTalkTulsa.



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### **Clinical Trial Targets Cancer Drugs**

enrolling patients nationwide, solid tumor, multiple myeloma, across its five-hospital system, to the Targeted Agent and Profiling Utilization Registry (TAPUR) Study-the American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) first-ever clinical trial.

The study will evaluate molecularly-targeted cancer drugs and collect data on clinical outcomes to learn about additional uses of these drugs outside of indications already approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

CTCA's five hospitals are locat-Atlanta, Chicago, Philadelphia, Phoenix and Tulsa. CTCA is the first hospital in Atlanta, Chicago, Philadelphia, Phoenix and Tulsa area to offer patient access to the TAPUR trial.

"We are excited to have CTCA join the TAPUR Study. Their national reach allows us to provide access to the trial to a diverse group of patients," says ASCO Chief Medical Officer Richard L. Schilsky, MD, FACP, FASCO. "With TAPUR, CTCA patients have the potential to benefit from targeted therapies that have already demonstrated effectiveness in other cancer types."

The trial involves broader opportunity for participation than in many cancer clinical trimore patients to participate. this landmark trial.'

Cancer Treatment Centers of Eligible participants include America (CTCA) is currently those who have an advanced or B cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma, are no longer benefiting from standard anti-cancer treatments, or for whom no acceptable standard treatment is available. Patients enrolled in the study will have access to experimental targeted cancer drugs at

#### The goals of the study are:

- Learn how approved drugs might work against different tumor types that harbor the drug target;
- Find out how genomic or molecular tests are used to care for people with advanced cancer;
- Use the study results to help inform future studies and aid in the care of people with can-

"Being part of the ASCO TAPUR Study . . . allows us to offer eligible cancer patients access to new treatment options under investigation," says Maurie Markman, MD, president of medicine and science at CTCA. "In addition, our unique and robust precision medicine program helps remove both the financial and educational barriers patients experience when accessing genomic sequencing, als-with the hope of enabling which determines eligibility for

### **CTCA Expands Surgical Team**

Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Southwestern Regional Medical Center in Tulsa (CTCA) announces the addition of two new surgical oncologists. Pragatheeshwar Thirunavukarasu, M.D. (known as Dr. Prag) and Huan Nguyen Vu, M.D. In addition, Vu serves as Medical Director of Surgical Services.

In his new role at CTCA, Prag focuses on tumors of the gastrointestinal tract, liver and pancreas and peritoneal surface malignancies. He employs advanced techniques and practices to treating a range of cancers, with a particular focus on advanced and metastatic

Prag studied medicine at one of the leading medical colleges in India, completing a bachelor's of medicine/bachelor's of surgery (MD) degree in 2005. He then came to the United States for extensive postgraduate training and completed a surgical internship and general surgery residency at the University of Pennsylvania and then at the University of Pittsburgh, respectively. With a research scholarship from the American College of Surgeons during his residency, he undertook a two-year fellowship at the Hillman Cancer Center, part of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, where his research focused on developing oncolytic viral gene therapies (for example, using genetically modified viruses to infect and kill cancer cells).

Prag also completed two clinical fellowships, first at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in complex general surgical oncology and then at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, where he trained specifically in hepatopancreaticobiliary surgery.

Prag is board certified in general surgery by the American Board of Surgery. He has made many pre-



**PRAGATHEESHWAR** THIRUNAVUKARASU, M.D.



HUAN NGUYEN VU, M.D.

sentations at the American College of Surgeons, the Society of Surgical Oncology and the Hepato-Pancreato-Americas Biliary Association, has published multiple articles in peer-reviewed journals such as the Annals of Surgery, JAMA Surgery, and the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, and has served as an editor of a surgical oncology textbook.

While most of Dr. Vu's focus will be on breast cancer surgery, he also provides surgical care for patients with colorectal, gastric, thyroid, melanoma, liver and pancreatic

Vu holds a Doctor of Medicine from Texas Tech University School of Medicine. His postgraduate medical training spanned more than 10 years. After completing a residency in general surgery at the University of South Alabama, he was a surgical oncology fellow at the University of Pittsburgh. He then spent three years as a senior research fellow focused on cancer angiogenesis at the National Cancer Institute.

During and following his training, he also held several teaching positions in surgical oncology at Texas Tech University and was later named associate professor in surgical oncology at two large hospitals affiliated with Virginia Commonwealth University, including the NCI-designated Massey Cancer Center. He has received numerous teaching throughout his career and has led several specialty courses for advanced medical training. He has also served as both a mentor and an advisor to medical students and surgical residents.

Vu is board certified in general surgery by the American Board of Surgery. He is certified in robotic surgery through Hunter-McGuire Veterans Administration Hospital.

Vu is a member of the American College of Surgeons, the American Society of Breast Surgeons, the Society of Surgical Oncology, the Society of Surgery of the Alimentary Tract and several other professional organizations. He participated in laboratory research and also contributed to the latest edition of Oncology for the Primary Care Provider, a seminal reference

"We are excited to have Doctors Prag and Vu join our team and look forward to the capabilities they bring while helping to expand the surgical services we offer patients," says Dr. Daniel Nader, chief of staff at the Tulsa hospital.



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

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### **EDUCATION**

### Cascia Hall: One of the Nation's Great Private Schools

**By K.J. WEBB**Contributing Writer

Cascia Hall Preparatory School was founded in 1926 by the Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel, of the Order of Saint Augustine. It is rooted in the teachings of St. Augustine of Hippo and promotes the Augustinian values of Truth, Unity and Love. These values guide the Cascia community and prepare Cascia students for college and life.

The school is named after St. Rita of Cascia, an Augustinian nun who lived during the 15th century in a monastery in Cascia, Italy. Cascia Hall has been located at its 40-acre campus location at 2520 S. Yorktown Avenue since its founding and its first headmaster, Francis Driscoll, was a former president of Villanova College.

Cascia originally was all-male and had day and boarding students. This changed in 1986 when it became co-ed and created two divisions, Middle School and Upper School which expanded its student body to grades six through twelve. Current enrollment is 510, the Middle School has 181 students and Upper School has 329 students. The student teacher ratio is 9:1. Most students live in Tulsa, but many live in the surrounding suburbs and some commute from as far away as 40 miles. Half the students are Catholic, and the gender split is 53 percent male, 47 percent female. The largest minority representation is Native American, African-American and Hispanic.

When asked about Cascia's educational philosophy, Headmaster Roger Carter says, "We focus on educating the whole person - spiri-

TULSA

tually, intellectually, emotionally, and physically. The liberal arts curriculum is structured in a logical sequence so as to best prepare the student for college and thereafter for a lifetime of learning." Carter adds, "Cascia Hall teachers are encouraged to see themselves as not only imparting information and ideas but also as profoundly respecting their students. This respect is often expressed by the teacher's patiently waiting for students to compare new information with their own inner dictates of truth." The school's approach to teaching and learning broadens understanding and enables students to embrace new ideas enthusiasti-

Classrooms are not the sole venue for student learning at Cascia. Learning takes place in social settings, on the athletic fields, during religious exercises and through community service. The myriad of learning environs fosters positive interpersonal relationships, community building, a sense of teamwork and a commitment to others. It also provides the students the opportunity to develop and realize their responsibilities as students as well as citizens.

Cascia is very strong in its college preparatory curriculum and 100 percent of the students matriculate on to college. According to Carter, a recent development that has enhanced the curriculum is the one-to-one Google technology program. This program implements Chromebook usage by each student to facilitate learning and collaboration. The program helps prepare students to learn and work in a technology-rich and global environment.

Cascia continues to innovate its curriculum and programs. Carter says, "Our immediate growth is geared toward STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). A robotics team and an incredibly successful science research team are developing along with future plans of new buildings and programs incorporated into our curriculum."

A long-held tradition at Cascia is "Minimester" which takes place every January. For the past 40 years, during the month of January students have the chance to participate in unique professional, academic and spiritual electives as they develop as both learners and citizens. During "Minimester" all students continue to take their Advanced Placement and core classes. Freshmen and sophomores have the opportunity to choose from a variety of electives that interest them such as Introduction to Sports Psychology, and Poetry. The upperclassmen can choose a service project or do a professional internship that enables them to explore potential career interests.

In addition to academics, all students participate in volunteer activities in the Tulsa community. The school has six Caritas Partners – non-profit agencies that serve the greater Tulsa area. This year Cascia students are proud to partner with Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, Catholic Charities, Reading Partners, Youth Services of Tulsa, and Global Gardens. The graduating class of 2016 completed over 9,600 Christian service hours for partner agencies.

When asked if there is a "typical" any other school in Oklahoma. You Cascia student, Carter says, "No. Each and every student is unique. It mayors (including Mayor G.T.



HEADMASTER ROGER CARTER: Cascia Hall Headmaster Roger Carter stands outside the school next to a statue of St. Augustine, the Teacher. In the background is the Monastery, left of the turret, and the 1926 classroom building to the right.

is one of the things that makes Cascia so special. We have many students whose parents sacrifice a great deal to send their children to Cascia. Our population is diverse with students from all ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds and we place a high value on this." In 2016-17, approximately \$878,000 was given out in needbased financial aid to 108 students at an average of \$8,100 per student. This represents 20 percent of student enrollment. Cascia Hall has increased its financial aid awards 80 percent since 2010.

Cascia has a long history in the Tulsa community which, Carter says, is another differentiating feature of the school. "The history of Cascia Hall distinguishes us from any other school in Oklahoma. You only have to look at the leaders mayors (including Mayor G.T.

Bynum), governors, ambassadors, legislators, judges and many of Tulsa's "mover-and- shakers" - that we have produced to realize our impact on the community and beyond. We are proud of what our former students have accomplished, what our current students are achieving and what our future students will be able to achieve."

### A quick view of Cascia Class of 2016:

- 24 Oklahoma Academic Scholars
- 26.4 composite ACT score average (national composite is 20.8, state composite is 20.4)
- United States Presidential Scholar Gracie Rule
- Over \$9.8 million was offered in academic merit-based scholarships to the Class of 2016, which had 85 graduates.



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### Tulsa Tech Students Are Sold On Real Estate Classes

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**Tulsa Tech** 

By DR. STEVE TIGER

Superintendent

sions made during their lifetime. Choosing a real estate professional continues to be a vital part of this process. Realtors are well-informed about critical factors that affect a specific market area, such changes in market conditions, consumer attitudes. and financial interest rates.

According to the latest report

from the Greater Association of Realtors, general market activity in northeast Oklahoma rose in 2016, with a 2.85 percent increase in real estate closings from 2015.

For more than 20 years, Tulsa Tech has offered courses to help individuals receive their real estate license, as well as encourage realtors to gain additional education for specialization in particular areas of property transactions. These courses are designed to help licensees enhance their knowledge, expertise and ethics as they practice real estate sales in our region.

Teresa Berg, adult and career development coordinator for Tulsa Tech, says there are a variety of courses to accommodate an assortment of schedules for both individuals who are new to Realtors, and a certified residen-

Buying or selling a home, for a the industry and those agents tial specialist, is currently a bro-

"We offer a real estate sales associate course for those new to the industry," Berg says. "As well as new Post Basic License Course for all newly licensed sales associates. The first classes start on Feb. 4 and will run until April 1."

The 90-hour sales associate licensing course consists of 50 required in-class hours, with instructor-led training, combined with 40

Tulsa hours of self study.

Berg says the majority of the solutions real estate courses offered are for existing agents and are required for license renewal.

"The majority of our classes are continuing education (CE) courses required for realtors and brokers to maintain their current license," Berg says. "We offer those courses in a variety of formats including one-hour, threehour, six-hour and 15-hour plans.

All students attending Tulsa Tech's real estate courses benefit from high-energy, knowledgeable instructors with decades of experience as agents, brokers and classroom instructors. Cindy Manchester, a member of the National Association of Realtors, the Oklahoma Association of

ker sales associate with Coldwell Banker and brings a wealth of knowledge and industry experience to her classroom.

"I enjoy teaching students and sharing everything the industry has taught me through the years,' Manchester says. "And as a native of Tulsa, I also enjoy providing information related to our unique market area, which includes not only Tulsa but all of northeast Oklahoma."

This level of instructor expertise, along with customer-based schedule flexibility, are two important factors that set Tulsa Tech real estate courses apart from other training opportuni-

Some students attending the courses live in surrounding communities and have limited access to training, while others are simply limited by their current employment.

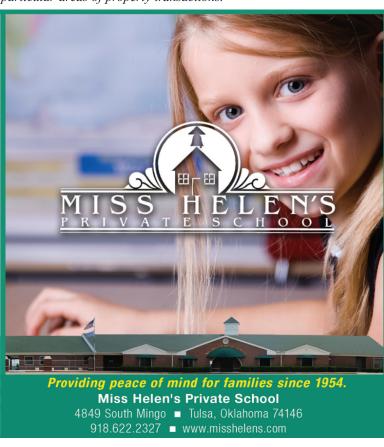
"We offer flexible educational for agents," Manchester says. "We have developed course schedules for Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, in an effort to provide more options for those individuals already working with fulltime jobs.'

For more information about Tulsa Tech's real estate courses, schedules, or the current market buzz, contact Cindy Manchester at tulsahomebuzz.com, or call 918-625-

And if you're currently looking for quality business and industry training, exciting classes for high school and adult students, or determined to begin a new career, Tulsa Tech invites you to visit today. For more information, please call 918-828-5000 or visit us online at tulsatech.edu.



ON THE MARKET: For more than 20 years, Tulsa Tech has offered courses to help individuals receive their real estate license, as well as encourage realtors to gain additional education for specialization in particular areas of property transactions.





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### Foundation to Hold Fundraiser

On Feb. 18, Jenks Public Schools Foundation will hold its 2017 We are Trojans Dinner and Auction at the Cox Business Center Tulsa Ballroom, 100 Civic Center in downtown Tulsa.

All proceeds from the event will benefit programs funded by the JPS Foundation, such as STEM Learning Labs, Junior Achievement's BizTown, Artists in the Schools, Jenks Wild, Vision of Excellence Awards, Go Noodle and AVID.

The annual fundraiser not only serves as an important fundraising initiative for the foundation but it also provides the foundation an opportunity to recognize and thank the donors who support the foundation, Jenks students and the Jenks Public Schools community, says Elizabeth Inbody, JPS Foundation executive

For the event, Jenks elementary students have created over 80 unique and creative silent auction baskets which will be up for bid at the event. Dr. Stacey Butterfield. In addition to



WE ARE TROJANS: The Jenks Public Schools Foundation will hold its annual fundraiser at the Cox Business Center in downtown Tulsa on Feb. 18. Present at last year's event, and holding the logo poster, were David and Greta Warta, JPS Foundation Board President Danny Christner and Stephanie Christner, Chad and Chasidy Crissup, and Jeff

Basket themes are varied, ranging from a fly fishing basket to a special reading activity with Superintendent

and Diane Medders.

the silent auction, a live auction will take place with several vacation getaways available as well as tickets to concerts and dining experiences.

The evening begins at 5 p.m. with a cocktail hour; event activities begin at 6 p.m.

To purchase tickets or for more information, visit wearetrojans.org.

### **Jenks Students Present** 'Wizard of Oz' in March

March 2-5, the Jenks Vocal ues that lie at the center of The Music Program will present The Wizard of Oz at the Performing Arts Center on the campus of Jenks High School. Tickets are on sale now and available to the public at mater to direct this production. jenksvocal.tix.com.

The production will feature 65 students from Jenks High School as well as students from all three elementary schools and both intermediate schools. Members of the Jenks High School Orchestra and Band will be joined by several professional musicians to play the score for the production.

"The Wizard of Oz is undoubtedly a classic American story," says Director Michael Fling, a 2011 graduate of Jenks High School. "At a time when our country is deeply divided, and we look together toward to the future, it is important for us to examine the American val-

Wizard of Oz: brains, heart, courage and home."

Fling is a musical theatre director based out of New York City who returned to his alma

Jenks Vocal Music will present the Royal Shakespeare Company's adaptation by John Kane, which is based on the 1939 motion picture produced by MGM which was nominated for six Academy Awards, including Best Picture. The film went on to win two Oscars for the score by Herbert Stothart and for the song "Over the Rainbow.'

Tickets can also be purchased by calling the Jenks Box Office: 918-299-4415, ext. 2368.

#### **Show times:**

Thursday, March 2 - 7 p.m. Friday, March 3 - 7 p.m. Saturday, March 4-7 p.m. Sunday, March 5-2 p.m.

### **Call for Nominations**

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Excellence is seeking nominations for its 2017 Outstanding Program Awards for Local **Education Foundations.** 

The foundation annually recognizes innovative programs sponsored or administered by public school foundations.

Recognized programs may include but are not limited to: arts integration, student leadership development, mentoring, curriculum enhancement, student scholarships, professional development for teachers, public relations and fundraising. Nominations for recognition may come from anyone in the community knowledgeable about the foundation, including its board members. Only one program per foundation krose@ofe.org.

MUST BRING

The Oklahoma Foundation for may be nominated for recognition.

Trophies and monetary awards of \$1,000 each will be presented to honorees in October at the Fall Forum for Local Education Foundations.

Nomination forms and instructions, as well as descriptions of past award recipients, are available at

Nominations must be postmarked on or before April 3 and mailed to the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, 101 Park Ave., Suite 420, Oklahoma City, OK, 73102. Winners will be notified in May.

For more information, contact Karen Rose, director of Local Education Foundation Outreach, at 918-743-5533

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TEDFORD SCHOLARSHIP **RECIPIENT:** Jenks High School senior Sarah Thiessen stands with Mark Tedford, partner at Tedford Insurance, after being awarded the Tedford \( George Memorial Scholarship at the Jenks Chamber of Commerce's 2017 Inaugural Banquet. The \$1,500 scholarship is awarded to a Jenks High School senior student-athlete who has demonstrated leadership potential and plans to pursue a full-time undergraduate degree.



YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR: Cody Brumley, executive pastor at First Baptist Church Jenks, accepts the award for Young Professional of the Year Josh Driskell at the chamber's annual inaugural banquet.



NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: Jenks Chamber of Commerce President Josh Driskell, left, stands with FlyingTee representatives after FlyingTee won the Jenks Chamber's New Business of the Year award at the chamber's inaugural banquet on Jan. 19.



COMMUNITY IMPACT: Carole Huff Hicks, Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) community affairs manager, accepted the Community from Jenks Chamber President Impact Award on behalf of PSO. Standing with her are Mike Wallace, president of the Jenks Chamber of Commerce Community Foundation, and Jenks Chamber President Josh Driskell.



ongratulations to all of the ✓award winners at the Jenks Chamber of Commerce's 2017 Inaugural Banquet on Jan. 19!

- Young Professional of the Year: Cody Brumley, executive pastor at First Baptist Church Jenks
- New Business of the Year:
- FlyingTee
- Retailer of the Year: Biergarten Wine & Spirits
- Restaurant/Bar of the Year: The Cigar Box Whiskey Bar & Tap
- Community Impact Award: Public Service Company of
- Oklahoma (PSO)
- Business of the Year: Tedford Insurance
- Ed Gerchman Leadership Award: Pat Bogdanoff Thomas
- · George Tedford Memorial Scholarship: Sarah Thiessen, Jenks High School senior

### **OSU Dream Comes True for Brett Standlee**

By MIKE MOGUIN Sports Writer

Since starting baseball at a young age, it has been a dream for Brett Standlee to play the game in college. Having tailgated at Oklahoma State football games while growing up, Standlee wanted to attend college there. Both came true Nov. 9 when the Jenks standout signed a letter of intent to play his college career for the Cowboys before his classmates, coaches and school administrators at the Sharp Center.

"I've played baseball since I was about four years old, so it's been a part of my life for a long time," he said. "It wasn't until about my freshman year in high school that I realized I could have a career in baseball."

Standlee, who pitches and plays third base for the Trojans, got his varsity breakthrough when he was called to duty during that freshman year. Jenks finished as a state semifinalist that season.

"We brought Brett into the finals of the regionals to pitch," Jenks coach Danny Morgan said. "You don't do that very often with freshmen at the 6A level. He came in and closed out an inning for us, and we ended up winning that game 2-1 and going on to play in the state semifinals. But he has progressed and matured and obviously

has gotten bigger and stronger. He is just a well-rounded young man, off the field and

Eventually, Oklahoma State came calling and wanted him to come up for an unofficial visit. He went to Stillwater, talked to Coach (Josh) Holliday, toured the campus, and an offer was made.

"I thought, 'Man, this is a dream come true that Oklahoma State wants me to play baseball," Standlee says.

Standlee, who was recently featured in a story on the Jenks football team, batted .425 and hit one home run for the Trojans in 2016. Expectations are high for him and everyone else on the diamond in 2017.

"There's going to be some returning starters from last year," he says. "We lose some good bats like Nick Woodley, Matt Gaskins and Carter Nelson, but a lot of our infield guys are coming back, a lot of our middle lineup guys are coming back, so it'll be a fun experience this spring. We got to come together. There's a bunch of seniors on the team, so it'll be a good experi-

What Standlee's favorite thing about pitching is the individual battle against the batter.

"You got to execute their pitches and attack their weaknesses," Standlee says in



**BRETT STANDLEE AND FAMILY** 

regard to the batters he faces. "When you're up there, everybody is watching you, and the game is basically evolving around you. It's kind of like controlling my outcome,'

At third, it's where the big play is made that he likes.

"It is happening because you got the long throw across the field," Standlee says. "If you get lucky and dive and snaggle, and you got that long throw, it's pretty fun."

What can this Jenks standout athlete see for himself wearing the orange and black at

'It's hard to say now, but I certainly want to go there and make an impact on that program and make an impact in college baseball," Standlee says. "The ultimate goal is to win a national championship. Hopefully, when I get there, we can accomplish that.

His coaches are thrilled for him as well. "We're very proud of Brett and what he's accomplished so far," Morgan says. "We're looking forward to him having a great senior year with us. We respect what coach (Josh) Holliday does at OSU, and Rob Walton is one of the best pitching coaches in the United States. Brett is excited about going to OSU. I think he'll be a big part of what they are doing and hopefully, he can have an exceptional career over there like he has at Jenks.



gymnastics team, Pride Gymnastics Academy, has gymnasts from many school districts in Greater Tulsa.

On January 7 and 8, the men's competitive team from Pride Gymnastics of Tulsa traveled to St. Louis, Missouri, to compete in the 2017 Meet Me In St. Louis Invitational. They competed against boys from 8 other states and came out on top.

Two gymnastics from the Jenks level 9 team are Jenks Public Schools students, Ignacio Yockers and Tyler Graf. From the Level 9 team, Ignacio Yockers of Jenks Ignacio Yockers.

JENKS PRIDE: A new competitive Middle School placed 1st on Pommel Horse and Still Rings and finished 1st All Around. Ted Maliga placed 2nd on Pommel Horse and finished 3rd All Around. Austin Padgett placed 3rd on Parallel Bars, 3rd on Vault and finished 5th All Around. Tyler Graf from Jenks High School placed 5th on High Bar and finished 7th All Around.

Their combined efforts awarded them 3rd place Level 9 Team award. Pictured from left are Ted Maliga, Austin Padgett, Coach David Finning, Tyler Graf and



BUDDY BASEBALL: The 10th Annual Buddy Baseball game was held this past October at Jenks' Hinch Field. During the event, Jenks High School baseball players are paired with their "buddies" from the Autism Center of Tulsa for a day of fun, fellowship and baseball. In attendance were Jenks baseball players, children from elementary to high school age affected by Autism, Jenks Spirit Squads, parents and spectators.



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### **SPORTS**

### Regent Prep School Becoming Impressive in Sports

17-Year-Old Tulsa Private School Won State Volleyball Title in 2014; Football, Basketball on the Rise

By MIKE MOGUIN Sports Writer

One school that has risen to excellence in the athletic realm is Regent Preparatory School, a private Christian institution with high academic standards.

Regent, located at 8621 S. Memorial Dr. in Tulsa, has gained most of its athletic attention from its volleyball team, which won a state championship in 2014. But it has excelled as a competitive force in other sports as well.

The football team, which currently plays 8-man, was in the Class C playoffs this past year, and the boys basketball team is ranked eighth in Class A, as of Jan. 23. The Rams have also been forces in baseball, golf, tennis and cross country in recent years. Individually, they boast the state girls' cross country champion the past two years in champion Ellie Gilbreath and a girls state champion tennis player in Grace Willis (No. 2 Singles in 2015; runner-up last year).

Regent Prep didn't become the power it is overnight. It took years

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of building.

"The school is 17 years old. It started off by adding grade-by-grade, year-after-year," says athletic director Kerwin Dees, who came to Regent in 2014, the same year the school joined the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association. "At some point, there was a decision to start athletics. It was not a member of the association."

Dees is also head coach of the boys' basketball team.

The foundation of Regent's success in both academics and athletics can be found in its representation of Jesus Christ and the family culture.

One of the really great things at Regent is the community we have of like-minded people who are committed to building a school," Dees says. "We have families that have been there before there was a high school, before there was athletics and before we became affiliated with the OSSAA. As these families joined together up to 17 years ago, they put their children in these grades, started to try to build a school. Some of these families have stayed and continued to support the school because it is like family for them.

"The kids in our locker room, our fields and our playing courts, they are like family, they are like brothers and sisters," Dees says. "It's really a unique situation in



**KERWIN DEES:** The veteran coach is Regent Prep's athletic director and boys basketball coach.



**CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM:** Regent Prep boys celebrate their area consolation championship in 2016.

our school. We rarely get a movein to our school, so these are kids that have grown up through the grammar school, through the middle school and through the high school program, that are joined together with the likemindedness of honoring Christ, growing in Christ, growing in all areas of their life, spiritually and academically, and together, they're building a school and an

athletic program."

Two of the most notable alumni athletes of Regent Prep are Madeline Drake and Daniel Philpot, standouts respectively in volleyball and football, and both from the Class of 2015. Both athletes are now playing their respec-

tive sports at Northwestern State University of Louisiana and Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri.

"We do have tremendous support as far as our alumni coming back to games, coming back to support the Regent community," Dees says. "Many of those alumni still have brothers and sisters in school and it is like a homecoming for them when they return."

Dees said he hopes for the school to be viewed as a program best known for not just what it does but how it wins in every sport.

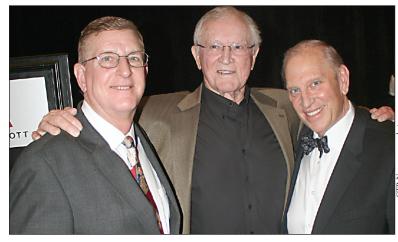
"It's not just wins or losses, this year plays malthough we are striving for schools than any oth excellence and we are striving program in the state."

for success," Dees says. "But it's how we win with such togetherness, sportsmanship, class and lose with dignity. We have certainly have had great success there, but I think we're trying to model that across our athletic program. My volleyball program has had tremendous success since the OSSAA with winning the state championship and having a runner-up. Our other sports compete in very difficult leagues as well. We're a Class A school playing schools that are three or four times bigger than us. I believe our basketball program this year plays more larger schools than any other Class A





### TWELVE INDUCTED INTO 5TH TPS HALL OF FAME





PITCHING STAR AND COACH: Tulsa Public Schools Hall of Fame HALL OF FAME HUDDLE: Members of the TPS Hall of Fame gathered before the event at a reception in inductee Jackson Todd, left, with his college baseball coach Enos the lobby of the Marriott Southern Hills. From left are Julius Pegues, BTW basketball; Daniel Ford, East Semore, center, and Hall of Fame Master of Ceremonies Chris Lincoln Central football; Billy Tubbs, Tulsa Central basketball; David Vickers, Nathan Hale football; and Cathey at the Marriott Southern Hills during the event Jan. 19. Todd attended Will Rogers High School, the University of Oklahoma and pitched for the New York Mets and Toronto Blue Jays.

Central Jostotal, Buty Tubos, Tubos, Patha Victors, Nathan Thate Jostotal, Buty Tubos, Patha Victors, Nathan Thate Jostotal, Buty Tubos, Patha Victors, Nathan Thate Jostotal, Buty Tubos, Patha Victors, Nathan Thate Jostotal, Buty Tubos, Patha Victors, Nathan Thate Jostotal, Buty Tubos, Patha Victors, Natha Victors, Natha Patha Victors, Natha Victors, Natha

### BASKETBALL ACTION HEATS UP IN GREATER TULSA



**ORU'S ALBERT OWENS** 



**OSU'S LEYTON HAMMONDS** 



**TULSA'S STERLING TAPLIN** 



TUBBY SMITH: He returned to Tulsa with his Memphis team Jan. 11 and lost, 81-71.



STRONG CHILI BOWL SHOWING: Bryan Clauson envisioned a "Dream Team" for the Chili Bowl Midget Nationals. That's exactly what Clauson-Marshall Racing delivered at the Tulsa Expo Raceway in January, picking off a pair of preliminary feature wins and landing four of six entries into the 55-lap Chili Bowl championship feature event with the other two missing the cut by just one position apiece. For additional information regarding Clauson-Marshall Racing, see www.clausonmarshallracing.com/.

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### Rugby Gaining in Popularity in Green Country

GTR Sports Writer

Move over football. At last there is another way for Green Country high school athletes to find fame and glory playing a collision sport in college. It's called rugby and it's still seeking an identity in

Thanks to men like Luke Turner, a Sapulpa firefighter and president of the Tulsa Rugby Football Club, rugby is gaining in popularity locally and promises to become a fixture on the American sports scene. It's been a slow process, but the movement is gaining ground.

It is the fastest growing sport in the United States over the last 10 years," says Turner, who played rugby at Jenks High School. "It's growing regionally and locally. We've got 14 high school teams with a number of programs starting girl's teams.

'Tulsa Rugby started a women's team five years ago, and that's one of the areas where we've had the most growth. They like the camaraderie of the sport, and they bring in husbands and boyfriends. They like being part of a club and they get their kids involved.'

Turner became so enamored with rugby that he quit playing football at the University of Arkansas to join the school's club team as an inside center. He transferred to the University of Oklahoma and continued his rugby career. Now he is an advocate for the sport, heading the TRFC that started play in 1974.

Today there are more than 350 high school players and 75 each on the individual rosters of the

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have high school teams. 'We've got youth clinics for first through eighth grade boys and girls," Turner says. "We're

Bartlesville, Bixby, Stillwater,

Edmond, Norman and Yukon all

trying to develop a league for the first through eighth grade brackets, and we're hoping to have that set up by spring. There has been a lot of interest due to the Olympics, and we're trying to capture all of that interest and give the kids an opportunity to play."

There are four names that come to Turner's mind when celebrating the "kids" who took advantage of their chance to play. Foremost is Lorenzo Thomas who suited up at Union, reached All-America status University Lindenwood Missouri and became a member of the USA national team.

Maylon Al-Jiboori and Chance Wenglewski are both Union products who earned All-America honors at Lindenwood and are on it opens you up to a global the Under-21 USA development sport," says Turner. "There are team. Neariah Persinger played at Broken Arrow and was also an All-America at Lindenwood last

'People who enjoy football are naturally inclined to like rugby because it offers a lot of the same physicality, athleticism and excitement," says Turner. "I prefer rugby because of the non-stop speed of the game. Look at an NFL game, and they may have only 10 minutes of actual play. In rugby you play 80 minutes and 65 of that the ball is in play. In my opinion, that's more exciting.'

The sport has a long and distinguished history, described as a 'type of football developed at Rugby School in Rugby, England, one of many versions of football played at English public schools in the 19th century." It was introduced to America in the mid-19th century and there are over 115,000 players and 2,588 clubs registered with USA Rugby, the national governing body.

Recognized by many as a sport requiring physical strength, toughness and aggressiveness, injuries are perceived as commonplace.

"It's not a dangerous sport, speaking from experience," Turner says. "It's safer than other collision sports, and I believe the numbers will back me up on that. Knee injuries are similar to any other sport you play. I encourage everyone to play rugby and I feel good about saying that.

Indeed, there are "old boys" teams in Tulsa for senior players in addition to the women's program. The men's season runs

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men's and women's teams. from December to June with the Broken Arrow, Jenks, Union, women playing from September to May. Most games are played at 37th and Riverside with some at Mohawk Sports Complex.

> "Both our men's and women's teams play in the Red River Rugby Conference," Turner says. "We're in Division II club rugby, and we compete with teams from Oklahoma City, Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. We've been very successful over the years and won our region multiple times. We've played in the (national) Sweet 16, the Elite Eight and the Final

> Turner says he enjoys the sport for its flowing movement with no coach sending in plays like football. Quick reaction on the field is necessary and players play "both ways." There are no changes from offense to defense. A wide variety of skills are required and everyone has a chance to run with the ball, make tackles and make an impact.

"I love the networking and how opportunities to play internationally, and it's a lifelong sport. You don't have to settle down once high school is over. It's cradle to grave. A lot of people continue to play well after retirement. It may not be as physical, but they are still passionate."

Turner says fitness is important to play 80-minute games with no timeouts, but the willingness to learn is more important. There is sport at the youth level, the next to stay.



INTERNATIONAL ACTION: This photo is from rugby action in Johannesburg, South Africa. The international sport is gaining in popularity in the U.S. as well as in the greater Tulsa area.

the need to "think on your feet" while learning the laws of the

'We're always looking for players. We don't turn people away,' says Turner. "Our members run the gamut of people, from doctors, lawyers, bartenders, waitresses to firefighters like myself. We have multiple teams and there is one for everybody.

'There is a position for every body type somewhere on the field where you can fit in. That's another thing I like about it. We're getting requests for tryouts and we're spreading the word through our website (www.tulsarugbyclub.com) and social media page. Those are our biggest recruiting tools in terms of media."

frontier for Turner and the TRFC is encouraging the University of Tulsa, Oral Roberts and Rogers State to start programs.

"We want the universities to consider rugby as a varsity sport," he says. "OU and OSU already have club teams.

"There is also the Professional Rugby Organization (the PRO league) of North America that started this year. There is an opportunity for growth with a lot of cities approving stadium construction to bring in pro rugby. We've made similar pitches to the (Tulsa) Sports Commission. We want to attract USA Rugby to Tulsa and make it the Olympic training center."

For now, spreading the word is the name of the game. Rugby is In addition to developing the in Tulsa, and Turner says it's here

### Oilers Tweak Roster During All-Star Break

The Tulsa Oilers announced a starting in goal for the ECHL course of the league's three-day the Rapid City Rush for 2015 Oilers goaltender Jamie Phillips and signed forward Kale Kessy to a professional tryout agreement in separate transactions.

compiling 12 assists in 28 games for the Rush this season. The native spent all of 2015-16 with the Alaska Aces and was an ECHL All-Star as a rookie in 2014-15 with the South Carolina with Norfolk on December 12. Stingrays. Haar spent two seasons at Western Michigan QC, also skated in 18 games for University, where he was team- the Admirals and two for the mates with Oilers defenseman Dennis Brown, before finishing his amateur career in 2013-14 WHL's Portland with the Winterhawks.

Phillips heads to Manitoba for

series of roster moves over the All-Stars, where he stopped 12 of 13 shots in 25 minutes of action. All-Star Break. Tulsa traded The rookie out of Michigan Tech defenseman Samuel Noreau to University posted a 19-10-2 record with a 2.63 goal-against All-Star defenseman Garrett average, .913 save percentage Haar. The Moose also recalled and one shutout in 31 appear-

Kessy recorded 16 points (6g, 10a) in 18 games, including five multi-point games and one power Haar, 23, comes to Tulsa after play goal. This is the second time in 2016-17 that the Shaunavon, SK, native has been loaned to Huntington Beach, California Manitoba on a tryout agreement.

Noreau tallied three assists in 18 games for Tulsa after the Oilers acquired him in a trade The defenseman from Montreal, Missouri Mavericks earlier this

Tulsa returned home for the first time since New Years Day on Jan. 21 to host the Idaho Steelheads at 7:05pm at the BOK



**NEWCOMER:** Recently acquired All-Star defenseman Garrett Haar in a game vs. the Oilers when Haar played for Rapid City.

jerseys honoring the 65th year of Tulsa Oilers hockey dating back to 1928. The player-worn jerseys will be auctioned off after the game in the OneOK Club on the concourse level.





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### Advisor Encourages Early Financial Planning

By MELISSA CLARK Contributing Writer

When individuals begin planning their financial futures, Valerie Zwosta, a financial advisor for Wells Fargo Advisors, says the most important thing is to just get started. "Ask questions and get involved in

the process," Zwosta says. Zwosta admits there are many ways to invest on your own, but what she finds is that most people choose to seek professional help. Many of her clients are people who don't have the time, knowledge or desire to be concerned with the intricacies involved in developing, maintaining, adjusting and monitor-

ing an investment plan. This is

where a financial advisor can be especially helpful.

"I help people identify, prioritize and plan for their financial goals," Zwosta says. "Many people have things in mind they would like to accomplish. I help them build a plan and guide their decisions to work towards those goals.'

Zwosta notes that it's important for clients to seek outside advice. The additional perspective can help prevent emotional decision-making during challenging times.

The role of the advisor is about being there through thick and thin and celebrating when we are able to stay on track toward meeting the client's financial goals," she says.

Zwosta explains that when she many are caregivers to children client's answers actually mean to them. This makes defining and then prioritizing goals easier because the goals reflect the client's priorities and not her own idea of what might be important.

As for whether there are differences between working with men versus women, Zwosta says women don't necessarily invest differently than men. She says other variables such as goals and risk tolerance play a larger role than gender in how one approaches financial goal-setting and financial management.

In my experience, the biggest differentiator between male and female clients is the relationship," she says. "Women tend to be more inquisitive. They want to make sure they have entrusted their money with a financial advisor who understands their unique needs and situation. Generally, I think women need to feel like they can trust us as their advisors, that we understand where our clients are coming from and that we have the skills, training and background to help them."

Zwosta suggests that women bring an interesting perspective to investment planning in that they

works with individuals, she asks a and aging parents. Some have twolot of questions to find out what a part careers - meaning they start a career and then take time to raise children and then return to the workforce years later. Or, they leave the workforce late in their careers to help with an aging relative or child who moved back home.

"This time away from the workforce can make a huge difference in the amount of retirement assets women can accumulate," she explains.

Zwosta says that women may also find themselves single later in life through divorce or death of a spouse or partner.

The longer I'm in financial services, the more I see that there is a need to understand and work with women facing some or all of these challenges," she says. "Since I have and am dealing with many of these issues myself, it helps me to understand some of the concerns and fears they may have."

Whether a person has years of experience setting and working toward financial goals or are just now starting the process to find an advisor and get on track, Zwosta says the important thing is to just move forward.

"Don't be concerned about your level of investment knowledge," often hold a unique position in the she says. "You are not alone. ice for my clients. There is a high Valerie.Z family dynamic. She explains that Interview different financial advilevel of professionalism and sors.com.



VALERIE ZWOSTA: Local Wells Fargo financial advisor Valerie Zwosta stands in the Wells Fargo Advisors offices at 6060 S. American Plaza St. in Tulsa.

sors and work with the one with expertise in the Tulsa office that I whom you feel most comfortable." Zwosta works through Wells

Fargo Advisors because there she has the tools, training and other resources she needs to offer a holistic investment planning experience for her clients, she contin-

"I strive to provide top-tier serv-

can grow with. I was drawn to the client-centered focus and leadership of the branch manager: John Gero.'

For anyone interested in getting their financial goals on track and who wishes to talk to an advisor, contact Valerie Zwosta at Wells Fargo Advisors, 918-742-8000, Valerie.Zwosta@wellsfargoadvi-

### ust Between Friends Celebrates 20 Years

Special to GTR Newspapers

In 1997, Just Between Friends was created in a living room in Tulsa when co-founders Daven Tackett and Shannon Wilburn hosted a sale with 17 friends as consignors, and had gross sales of \$2,000. The sales caught on with families and grew, so in 2003, they formed Just Between Friends Franchise Systems, Inc. Wilburn is now sole owner of Just Between Friends Franchise Systems, Inc., which has more than 150 franchises in 28 states with a franchise now in Canada.

Just Between Friends has been on the Inc. Magazine 5000 list of fastest growing companies four years in a row and was named one of Entrepreneur Magazine's Top 500 Franchises. In 2012, Just Between Friends was one of only 25 companies to receive the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Blue Ribbon Award. Just Between Friends Franchise Systems Inc. also received a "Franchisee Satisfaction Award" and was named in the Top 50 franchises by "Franchise Business

Review." JBF has been featured on numerous national television shows including The Today Show, CBS Early Show, ABC News, Good Morning America, CNN, Headline News, Fox News, Inside Edition, CNBC's The Big Idea, Entrepreneur Magazine and on www.yahoo.com, www.sheknows.com, and Disney website www.family.com.

Tackett and her husband, Paul, organize and facilitate JBF Tulsa and are thrilled to help their community save and earn money. JBF Tulsa's consignors are very generous, donating unsold items to Emergency Infant Services and Catholic Charities. The Tackett's offer what they call the "Three C's" when preparing items to sell:

Clean – washing clothing and toys can help improve the appearance and make them easier to sell.

Complete – make sure toys have all parts, are working and not on the CPSC's recall list. Also, group clothing outfits. They tend to sell better.

Current – if items are in style, then you have a better chance selling

You can sell items year round, but the following items sell best in spring: large outdoor playhouses, outdoor toys and swim items. Clothing should be seasonal, in good condition with no rips or tears, clean and smelling fresh. Jeans are accepted at both spring and fall sales events. The average JBF Tulsa consignor makes \$350. At the same time, parents looking to save will find everything they need to raise a family, from maternity to tween. Bargains range from clothing, toys, electronics, books, baby equipment, furniture and more. Everything is typically 50 to 90 percent off retail. And before the event, a recall specialist inspects everything, including clothes.

"If you want to make the most money at a consignment sales event you should set a goal to tag at least 100 items," Tackett explains.

When pricing your items, a good rule of thumb is to price it one-third of the original price."

The nation's largest consignment



**AMAZING EVENT:** JBF Tulsa now features 1,000 consignors in 58,000 square feet in the Exchange Center Building at Exop Square twice a year. The next sales event is the Spring/Summer sale set for Feb. 26-March 4.

Exchange Center Building at Expo

The following are the dates and

Sunday, Feb. 26 - Noon to 7 p.m; Monday, Feb. 27 - 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

event, Just Between Friends Tulsa Tuesday, Feb. 28 - 9 a.m. to 7 is "SELLabrating" 20 years of bar-p.m.; Wednesday, March 1 - 9 is "SELLabrating" 20 years of barp.m.; Wednesday, March 1 - 9 gains Feb. 26 - March 4 in the a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday, March 2 - 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Discount Days Start w/ 25% off); Friday, March 3 - 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (25% off continues); and Saturday, March 4 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Half Price Day). Admission is \$10 on Sunday.

(New Merchandise Arrives); with all remaining days free.

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### Bixby-Based BTC Broadband Expands Offerings

Managing Editor

In January, BTC Broadband announced the expansion of its fiber optic backbone network into Tulsa, which will allow it to offer fiber-based business services in the Tulsa metro beginning this

year.
"BTC has been focused on expansion for the past 11 to 12 years, investing in infrastructure with the purpose to offer increased services and build on our capabilities," says BTC President Scott Floyd.

The company has also been specifically focused on expanding its services outside of Bixby and reinforcing its underground fiber infrastructure.

BTC's fiber backbone now spans some 90 miles, from Bartlesville to Henryetta, including communities such Collinsville, Owasso, Broken Arrow, Bixby, Glenpool, Jenks, Okmulgee and Sapulpa.

In addition to being able to provide fiber optic telecommunications services to the Tulsa business market, BTC's expanded

"This expansion has the potential to provide many communities throughout Green Country the leverage to attract top industries and jobs and allows them to be competitive with other cities anywhere," says CEO Bob Rozell.

Additionally, the company has made efforts to bury as much of its network as possible. Although it is more expensive, buried lines versus aerial lines are more secure from danger, Floyd says.

That includes security from the elements, from humans and from other external sources.

"It also looks better, and it is safer," he continues.

BTC Broadband has operated in the Bixby community for 103 years, starting out in 1914 as Bixby Telephone after the telephone company was bought by Lee Newlin and Henry Sample. In the early 1940s, Newlin's son Dr. William Newlin and Newlin's son-in law Dr. Raymond Daily took ownership of the company.

In 1966, the company extended its free, local toll service area to

launching points in each business the Arkansas River. Because this district all along its 90-mile made phone calls between Bixby and Tulsa local, as opposed to long distance, it created new opportunities for area companies to conduct and grow their busi-

> By 1993, Bixby Telephone had become an internet service provider and was offering customers high-speed internet service, in addition to local and long distance telephone service.

> Company owners later changed the name to BTC Broadband to reflect its status as a full-service telecommunications provider.

> In 2014, BTC began offering download speeds of up to one gigabit with unlimited bandwidth. Gigabit service is offered to

> fiber-to-the-home neighborhoods only, which include more than 50 residential developments within the BTC service area. Most neighborhoods built in the past seven years within the Bixby area have BTC Broadband fiber-tothe-home.

For at least the next several vears, the city of Bixby is expecting up to 500 new homes per year to be built. All of those new backbone network allows for businesses and residents north of homes will have fiber to the high speed internet and local and and data networking.

broadband

FIBER NETWORK FOR TULSA: BTC Broadband President Scott Floyd stands in the lobby of BTC Broadband's Bixby office building and retail center, located at 11134 S. Memorial Dr. In January, BTC Broadband announced the expansion of its fiber optic backbone network into Tulsa.

premise. Any new commercial long distance telephone service. also have fiber to the premise. It requires fiber, built all the way to the premise, to get a gig.

BTC Broadband currently offers

buildings or developments will The company also provides business telecommunication services, including carrier class high speed internet, local and long distance phone service, phone systems,

### uestions Permeate the 2017 Energy Watch List

when it comes to focusing on (WSJ)

energy issues and policies. Here is some of America's Energy WatchList that I will be monitoring in 2017:

#### President Trump and the Republican-Led Congress

As of this writing, it is six days before the U.S. presidential inauguration. What will be implemented? What will be eliminat-What will the out-

comes? President Trump's plans and 67 were exploration and prohave included development of regulatory and legislative initiatives: rescinding 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 lifting moratoriums on energy production in federal areas.

#### OPEC and the supporting non-**OPEC** countries

Will their pledge be upheld? How much difference do they really make? "Oil had its biggest annual gain in 2016 since the financial crisis, even in a year that also sent prices to a decade low. Saudi Arabia and its Allies in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries are reclaiming their role as the world's cartel, pledging to cut output to end a glut that had

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### **Energy Watch**



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

Cautious Optimism? It is beginning to appear that most of the oil and gas companies across the U.S. are optimistic about the future of the oil and gas industry. According to Federal Reserve Dallas, in the

past quarter,

of 147 respon-

dents, 80 were oilfield services firms, duction firms, 18.4 percent reported net hiring and 15 percent reported net layoffs. The oil services firms increased in hiring by 22.5 percent and the explo-

this trend continue, and why?

#### Investments in the Oil and Gas Sector

Time to invest? The current status is "after a record-setting number of bankruptcies for North economic growth should occur. America energy and exploration companies in 2016, the sector is poised to reap the benefits of oil's rebound and a massive increase in productivity powered by technological improvements." (USA Today)

#### IPOS/M&A

Is it time to enter the market? There are several companies on the sidelines considering both initial public offerings (IPOs) and There have been attacks on U.S. mergers & acquisitions (M&A). In fact, we are already starting to see activity in regard to IPOs and M&As in the oil and gas sector.

#### **LNG/Natural Gas**

Upward trend for natural gas demand? The U.S. Energy Information Administration foreration and production firms had casts worldwide natural gas conto the oil and gas ind increased in hiring by 13.4 persumption will increase from 325 eliminating regulations?

There are many moving parts shaken the market for two years." cent. Therefore, more firms were billion cubic feet a day which was when it comes to focusing on (WSJ)

Infrastructure For years, Am to more than 500 Bcf/d by 2040. LNG terminals/projects are underway. The solution: demand growth on U.S. supplies will only be achieved by increased

#### **Earthquakes**

What are the facts? What are the answers? The U.S. oil and gas industry is working with others to closely monitor this situation.

#### Cybersecurity

Are we prepared? Are there enough safeguards in place? The oil and gas industry is very aware of the threats of cyberattacks. energy companies.

### Regulations

What will be eliminated? As mentioned earlier in this writing, Trump and the President Republican led Congress seem focused on eliminating many regulations. What will be the impact to the oil and gas industry by

For years, America has needed to update its energy infrastruc-What will happen, be ture. planned in 2017 and beyond?

#### Geopolitical/China/Russia

Geopolitical tensions along with geopolitical cooperation will be at the forefront. Any disruption along with cooperation can dramatically change the outlook on energy demand.

Also, energy education, transportation/auto makers, coal, nuclear, wind/solar, media, digital, and world supply/demand are among the other areas of my daily focus.

Future generations are depending on us to keep the American dream alive. For too long we in America have been wasting time blaming the energy industry or the government for failure to adopt a national energy strategy when we each should be responsible for creating the plan. America Needs America's Energy!

Mark A. Stansberry Chairman of The GTD Group, an Award-winning energy author and Energy Advocate





without notice. Restrictions apply.

### Amy Bates: A Leader in the Business of Clean

By KYLIE McFERRIN Contributing Writer

Gathered up by her parents in 1983 and moved to Tulsa from a small town in Minnesota, Redwood Falls to be exact, little did Amy know that her life would take an unpredictable turn. Her father, a dentist, and her mother, an art teacher, bought a Merry Maids franchise upon arriving in Tulsa.

The talk around the dinner table each evening concerning cleaning, clients, and business piqued Amy's interest and before long, she was hooked.

Before joining her family's company, Amy worked as a nanny outside of New York City. "That was a wonderful and interesting experience," she says.

Another job which shaped her life was at St. Michael's Alley. "I was a hostess when I was 15. I loved it and have great memories of that time. I think I drank so much coffee with a couple of girlfriends that they figured hiring me would get their money right back," she remembers fondly.

Her career in eldercare with Service Master furthered her desire to continue in the field of caring for others.

These jobs were integral to Amy's work ethic, compassion, and why she stands strong with her Merry Maids business.

Greater Tulsa Reporter: How did your Merry Maids business

Amy Bates: I originally developed the quality control role. We were one of the first offices to create that position. I then moved into sales and marketing. I worked at home handling that while my boys were very young and then took over managing more of the business. Twelve years ago, I began buying the business and taking over administration duties. Those experiences taught me every aspect of the business. From there we began focusing on keeping up with our clients' changing needs. Our continuous training program has kept our customers loyal and their referrals con-

We consistently are at the top of the "Best of the Best" and "A-List" as well as "Tulsa Kids Family Favorite" year after year. The Tulsa Regional Chamber named us "Family Owned Business of the

We take great joy in giving back and have donated tens of thousands of dollars worth of cleaning to Alzheimer's patients in honor of my father and to Breast Cancer Assistance Program. I also serve on the Board of the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless and serve on the Board of Advisors for the Tulsa Regional Chamber's Small Business Connection.

We consistently seek out the best products and equipment to deliver the best results. I travel to the International Home and Housewares Show, seeking out new tools. We are always improving and

possible. I love what I do, and I think it shows in our service.

GTR: Why do people come to

AB: Our team members are cleaning professionals that receive continued training. We have full-time quality control and are small enough to know our clients personally. We guarantee our service, never have a contract, and use the best products available: the "Better Life" line.

All team members are employees, which means we carry proof of coverage that does not stop at "liability." We have care, custody and control policies, so you can trust your keys.

We constantly educate our staff, taking great pride in offering housekeeping services. We change and wash linens, straighten, and assist in picking up children's toys. We are consistent and strive to always send the same team.

**GTR:** What fuels your career?

**AB:** I love what I do. It is awesome to make the lives of others better. Improving, giving back to the community, developing our teams, it's great. I am surrounded by wonderful people each day, and each day is different. My management team affords me the ability to give back my time to our community.

**GTR:** What fuels you in general? AB: Giving, gardening, outdoor activities. I love finding ways to make life easier. I suppose it was learning to deliver the best service due in part to what I see as work and life?



FAMILY BUSINESS: Amy Bates, Merry Maids franchise owner, stands near the cleaning company's offices at 5656 S. Mingo Rd. Bates' parents purchased a Merry Maids franchise when Bates was young. Bates began taking over the family business 12 years ago.

balance. I think there is so much pressure to keep things looking perfect. I started my blog "Don't Look Under the Rug" and have appeared in Good Housekeeping magazine as a contributor as well as on the Today Show. I love to travel and enjoy taking my boys on a road trip each

AB: I firmly believe it is my responsibility to leave everything better than I found it. Whether it be the lives of my staff, my clients' homes, or a committee I serve on. Even down to choosing happiness. I love watching our sons grow and develop, hoping they will grow up to do great things in the world. I am GTR: What's your purpose in so proud of them, they give me purpose on a tough day.

### Tulsan Becky Dixon Inducted into Oklahoma Hall of Fame

By JOE MORAN

Hall of Fame is to tell Oklahoma's story through its people. It's fitting, then, that Becky Dixon is among the class who was be inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in late

Becky has been telling the stories of Oklahomans throughout her career. Along the way, she has set a number of firsts in broadcasting and communications.

Becky began her career at

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Tulsa's KTUL-TV but would soon go on to make broadcasting The mission of the Oklahoma history. In 1986, she became the first woman to host a network sports show, joining ABC Sports as co-host of "Wide World of Sports," with Frank Gifford. Dixon also served as a broadcaster for the Super Bowl, Olympic Games, World Gymnastics Championships, college football and Triple Crown of Horse Racing.

Becky returned to Tulsa in 1990 and launched the television special, "Oklahomans." The show was the first statewide broadcast of its kind and for more than two decades was instrumental in promoting the achievements of Oklahomans in politics, entertainment, business, sports and more. Among those profiled were David Boren, Boone Pickens, Mickey Mantle, Reba McEntire, Garth Brooks, Kristin Chenoweth Carrie and Underwood.

Through "Oklahomans," many across the state learned about our shared history and the individuals who shaped our culture. In chronicling the lives and accomplishments of great Oklahomans, past and present, she made their lives accessible and relatable for

thousands of viewers. In 1994, Becky joined forces with communications pioneer Ed Taylor to form AyerPlay. The company broke new ground on the Internet with one of the first



BECKY DIXON

live webcasts, when Dixon cohosted a World Aids Day Symposium, in conjunction with Harvard University. Today, AyerPlay provides integrated marketing services to 7,000 clients nationwide.

Beyond telling the stories of Oklahomans, Becky has given back to the community and worked to see that the next generation has the tools they need to write their stories. She serves on the board of the Pencil Box, a free school supplies store for Tulsa-area teachers. She has also served on the board for the

Tulsa Ballet and the Sutton Avian Museum. "The Oklahoma Hall Research Center and is a member of Fame announcement luncheon of the Tulsa Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women.

Becky has been a trendsetter and pioneer throughout her career, achieving personal success and spurring innovation in her industry. For her home state, she has connected Oklahomans with the extraordinary lives of our fellow Oklahomans. Through hard work, talent and dedication, Becky Dixon has not only contributed to Oklahoma's story, she has deepened the understanding and appreciation of it.

Joe Moran is the managing director of Lighthouse Properties LLC, a community Lighthouse volunteer, and chairman emeritus of the Board of Directors for the Ŏklahoma Hall of Fame.

#### Additonal Oklahoma Hall of Fame Honorees

Seven outstanding Oklahomans have been selected for induction Oklahoma Hall of Fame. These Oklahomans. accomplished Oklahomans Oklahoma Hall of Fame since

"It's incredibly inspirational to be surrounded by such an accomplished group of people who has literally created our history," said Shannon L. Rich, president and CEO of the Oklahoma Hall of

Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the Fame and Gaylord-Pickens gives past inductees the first opportunity to congratulate the new class.

The 2016 Oklahoma Hall of inductees are: Troy Fame Aikman, Henryetta; Rita Bly Aragon, Dale; Michael Burrage, Durant; Dan Dillingham, Enid; Rebecca Dixon, Tulsa; Kelli O'Hara, Elk City; and Russell Westbrook, Oklahoma City. The honorees will be formally inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame on Nov. 17, in Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma Hall of Fame was founded in 1927 with the purpose of honoring Oklahomans in their lifetime with the state's highest honor and educating Oklahoma's youth on our rich history. The Gaylord-Pickens Museum, home of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, was opened in 2007 with the intent of giving the public access to the into the 89th class of the stories of these and other notable

"Being inducted into the joined the 677 individuals who Oklahoma Hall of Fame is the have been inducted into the single-highest honor an individual can receive from our state," Rich said. "The recognition of our state's greatest asset - our people - is the foundation upon which our organization was created."

> Along with being honored at the formal induction ceremony, the 2016 inductees were recognized with the unveiling of their portraits at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum, home of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. In addition to the other 677 members of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, their biographies, photos and fun facts will be accessible through interactive exhibits.

For more information about the Oklahoma Hall of Fame or Gaylord-Pickens Museum, call 405.235.4458 OklahomaHoF.com.

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**RECOGNIZING PHILANTHROPISTS:** The 2016 National Philanthropy Day Conference and Awards Luncheon, hosted by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Eastern Oklahoma Chapter, honored several philanthropists who have served with various nonprofit organizations in Tulsa. Top row, from left, Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Christopher Loerke; Pillar Award winners Robert D. Thomas and William F. Thomas. Front row, from left: Outstanding Volunteer Fundraisers Shiela and Ted Haynes; Outstanding Philanthropist from Bama Companies Isaac Rocha; and Outstanding Fundraising Professional Pamela D. Richardson, CFRE.



TULSA TOWN HALL: Tulsa Town Hall began its 82nd year and second consecutive sold-out season of public lectures with an appearance by internationally recognized broadcaster Soledad O'Brien. The 2016-17 series sponsors, from left, include: Tim Driskoll (INSURI-CA), Bob West (West Family), Victoria McKenna (Senior Star), and Rik and Janell Helmerich (Helmerich Trust). For more information about Tulsa Town Hall, visit TulsaTownHall.com or call 918-749-5965.



SCOUT LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON: The Indian Nations Boy Scouts 2017 Leadership Luncheon was held recently. From left, Gentner Drummond, Boy Scouts Board president; Joy Hofmeister, state superintendent of public instruction; Evan Tipton, 2017 Leadership Luncheon chairman; and Bill Haines, Scout Executive CEO.

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AVB Bank announces the promotion of Kelli Sowell to executive vice president and her addition to the bank's executive management team. She serves



SOWELL

as AVB's director of marketing and public relations.

Sowell has 24-years of experience in the financial industry, including branch and call center management, retail sales and training, electronic banking, consumer lending and fulfillment, marketing and public relations, and cash management.

Ted Cundiff, president and chief executive officer, comments, "Kelli has demonstrated great leadership and acumen in overseeing AVB Bank's marketing efforts, brand management and strategic focus on our customers." Cundiff continues, "I am proud to recognize Kelli's contributions and experience as we continue our growth in the Broken Arrow and Tulsa markets."

Sowell is a graduate of the Oklahoma Bankers Association's Leadership and Management Development Program Intermediate School of Banking; the American Bankers Association National Consumer Credit School and Graduate School of Banking Marketing; and the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado. Active in the Broken Arrow community, she is a graduate of Leadership Broken Arrow. She holds a bachelor's degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University and pursued graduate studies at the University of Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Hotel Lodging Association (OH&LA) announced its 2017 Board of Directors at its annual Lodging Summit on Jan. 17 at the River



**BROWELL** 

Spirit Casino in Tulsa. Guest speaker Troy Flanagan, vice president, state and local government affairs for the American Hotel Lodging Association (AH&LA) presented AH&LA's strategy on elevating government advocacy efforts and demonstrating to policy makers the importance of the lodging industry as an economic driver and job creator to members from around the

The OH&LA has elected Chris Browell, Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center as a 2017 board officer from the Tulsa area to serve as vice chair.

Board of Director members from the Tulsa area are Romel Chatterjee, Comfort Suites Central (Choice Hotels); James Cunningham, Hyatt Regency; Jon Davidson, Shangri La Resort, Monkey Island: Michelle Hartman, Courtyard by Marriott Downtown; Trisha Kerkstra, Postoak Lodge & Retreat; Heather McGregor, McGregor Insurance Group; Andrew Mungul, Ambassador Hotel; Roshan Patel, Leisure Hospitality Management; Pete Patel, Promise Hotels/Hampton Inn, Sand Springs; and Brittany Sawyer, Metro Tulsa Hotel & Lodging Association.

Incorporated in 1974, the Oklahoma Hotel & Lodging Association is Oklahoma's trade association for the lodging indus-

Oral Roberts University announces the promotion Mike Mathews to associate vice president of technology and innovation to coincide with the grand opening of the



**MATHEWS** 

new Global Learning Center on the ORU cam-

Mathews has been serving as the Information Officer of the university for nearly three years, and his current responsibilities will be expanded to include oversight of ORU's technological advancement and innovation in Whole Person Higher Education along with the management of new technologies now available in the Global Learning Center.

"Culture is changing rapidly, and technology is a key catalyst," says Mathews. "Harnessing and maximizing the innovation so that we can better launch ORU students to the uttermost bounds of the earth will be my top priority."

Mathews and his team will office in the ORU Global Learning Center. Mathews will continue to be a direct report to Neal Stenzel, the chief financial officer of the university while also reporting to and collaborating with the president's cabinet on a regular basis.

Associated **Builders** and Contractors of Oklahoma (ABC) announced its 2017 board of directors and officers at their monthly dinner on Jan. 5. Officers Chairman are



**JEZEK** 

Jennifer Jezek, president and owner, York Electronics Systems, Inc.; Chair Elect, Steve Ludwig, Construction Manhattan Company; past chairman, Andy Wright, Florwright Inc.; Vice-Chair, Brian Smith, Oakridge Builders; Secretary, Jason Stone, Green Country Interiors and Treasurer, Paul Kallenberger, Security Bank.

Jezek is ABC of Oklahoma's first female to serve as chairman. She's also the first succession to serve. Her father, Steve York, served as Chairman in 1999. ABC of Oklahoma President & CEO Carl Williams says, "We are pleased to have Jennifer serve as our chairman of ABC this year. She is a remarkable young woman who leads by example. We know she will do great things for our organization." At the monthly dinner, Jezek graciously accepted her role and educated attendees on her history with the organiza-

The following board members will help lead ABC in 2017: Jim Heley, Flintco, LLC; Steve Poleman, Rich & Cartmill Insurance and Bonds, Inc.; Dustin Wright, Crimson Steel Supply; Bill Jones, Bob Hurley Auto Family; David Kerns, L.D. Kerns Contractors, Inc.; Bill Morgan, LynxSystems, LLC; Thom Bowen, Securian Advisors Mid-America, Inc.; Armstrong, Advantage Glass, Inc.; Michael Holt, Blue Sky Bank; and Michael Jones, MAC Systems, Inc.; Joe Shemanske, Triple C Lighting & Controls; Michael Spradlin, Purple Wave Auction; Jim Blose, Flintco LLC; and Greg Smith, Crossland Construction.

For more information about ABC of Oklahoma, contact the ABC corporate office at (918) 254-





**DUCK** 

Duck succeeds Heather McDowell, who recently departed after serving as executive director for four years. Previously, Duck served as the economic development program coordinator for the Chamber and Tulsa Small Business Connection.

In her new role, Duck will be responsible for furthering the economic prosperity of small businesses in the Tulsa region by developing and maintaining Tulsa Small Business Connection programming and events, supporting member recruitment and retention, and overseeing the TSBC advisory board.

Duck joined the Chamber in 2013 and worked in the executive office before transitioning to economic development program coordinator. In that role, Duck assisted the executive director in managing details for TSBC's programs and events, the Tulsa Small Business Summit and board communications. Prior to joining the Chamber, Duck served as a loaned executive for the Tulsa Area United Way.

Komen Tulsa announces the hiring Pamela Ballard as its new executive director.

"Joining the Komen team means each day I get to be part of the world's largest network of breast cancer survivors and activists working together to save



**BALLARD** 

lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all, and energize science to find the cure," says Ballard. "That's a pretty magnificent job description, and I'm more than grateful to be part of this incredible community."

Ballard has 10 years of non profit experience and previously worked as the executive director for the United Way in Enid. Ballard is a Sapulpa native who says she is excited to be returning home to lead an organization that works daily to improve the health and well-being of others.

For additional information, contact Komen Tulsa Communications Jeromee Director Scot 918-859-9072 or at communications@komentulsa.org.

The mission of Susan G. Komen Tulsa is to provide funding for breast health services, breast cancer education and outreach in the Tulsa area. Through events like the Komen Tulsa Race for the Cure, Komen Tulsa invests 75 percent of the funds raised to support vital local breast health services, and dedicates the remaining 25 percent to national research to find the cures.

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### Discovering the Hidden Treasures of Belize

Managing Editor

A few months ago, when I would mention my upcoming travel plans Belize, most individuals responded with ooh's and ahhh's of exclamation.

With my unrelentingly inquisitive mind, I couldn't help but wonder what thoughts these ones were having; what were they imagining when I mentioned by international getaway?

Were they simply impressed by the international locale? Did a tropical beach scene complete with hammocks and mai tais come into their minds?

As I learned during my brief foray to the country, Belize offers many different travel experiences.

What stood out to me is the country's connection to nature: it is all around and, in many instances, appears almost undisturbed by humans, especially in comparison with more developed countries, such as our own.

I spent three days on the country's eastern coastline, but the majority of my time was spent inland along the countryside and mountains, where I saw toucans, geckos, iguanas and, at one point, felt a bit too close to a howler

Based on my time in Belize, I have consolidated four elements of the country that I found most impactful:

**Underwater allure:** Belize is home to the second largest barrier reef in the world, second only to Australia's Great Barrier Reef. It is breathtaking.

Snorkeling or scuba diving in Belize's clear waters provides close-up views of its barrier reef and animal life: sting rays, nurse sharks, loggerhead turtles, clown

As a first time snorkeler, seeing firsthand all of the life that is living underneath the water is nothing less than astounding. I only worry of the harm that the persistent crowds of tourists are doing to our underwater creatures.

Still, the pull to be so near such beauty is hard to resist.

Mountainside beauty: Beyond its aquatic options, Belize is filled with hills, mountain ranges and forests. There are natural waterfalls carved out of its mountains and zip lining journeys available that set you right among the tree-

Culture: English may be the official language of the country, but once you traverse beyond the "tourist" portions of Belize, you'll



MAYAN RUINS: Xunantunich is one of over a dozen Maya sites found throughout Belize. It sits in the Cayo District of Belize and is home to over 25 temples and palaces. The structure pictured above is 133 feet tall, the second tallest ruin Belize.

Spanish or if you venture deeper into the country: Mayan.

Do yourself a favor and move away from the tourist areas, if only for a day, because that is not a true depiction of Belize.

Visit a small town, walk its dirt

just a smile, order some fried plantains or other local treat, and observe how people really live. That is how to gain a true feel for

for sightseeing and exploring.

Central America, with the greatest part of the civilization found in Belize. At its peak, the Maya civilization may have reached two million citizens. Many of its intricate



HILLSIDE VIEW: In addition to the beauty of its eastern coast, Belize

offers much to see in its countryside, including waterfalls, mountains and

rainforests. The country's natural landscape holds many opportunities

**History:** The Mayan civilization, ruins are now scattered, and open considered to be one of the greatfor exploring, throughout Belize. find that the preferred language is roads, engage in conversation or est ancient civilizations, sat in Prepare to be mesmerized.

### New Orleans Offers Food, Music, History

By TERRELL LESTER

Editor at Large

Louis Armstrong said it first. The rest of us have repeated it

New Orleans, according to the Emperor Emeritus of Jazz, is "heaven on earth."

When first he recorded the sweetsounding evergreen, "Basin Street Blues," Armstrong was inviting one and all into his hometown on the Mississippi.

'The land of dreams," he called it. "Where the elite always meet." Such a musical vision. Even 80,

90 years after his introduction of this instant classic.

Each time I glide into New Orleans, I see the image of Armstrong beckoning to me from across the way, from a corner perch in Jackson Square, a smile on his face, a twinkle in his eyes, a horn in his hands.

My most recent excursion into the Crescent City was mere weeks ago, just as the old year was giving way to the new.

Calendars, however, absolutely no sway in this city.

Time stands still in New Orleans. Dixieland. Streetcars. Beignets. The French Quarter.

New Orleans is not so much a destination as it is a state of mind. Music. Conviviality. Indulgence.

New Orleans is a city for walking. From Decatur Street to Basin Street. From Canal Street to Bourbon Street. Shops and boutiques. Bars and street vendors. Sidewalk artists and one-man

A stroll from Jackson Square and the iconic St. Louis Cathedral to the musical cathedral that is Preservation Hall and the sprawling, exotic French Market provides a unique and in-depth look into a city and its history.

Or board one of the city's mov-

able treasures, the sparkling and efficient streetcars that open yet another door to this multi-layered

For a \$3 investment, one can hop unlimited one-day rides on the St. Charles Line, the Canal Street Line or the Riverfront Line.

The St. Charles Line might be the most popular. Heralded as the oldest continuously operating street-car in the world, the line moves along at a genteel pace through the antebellum world of homes and college campuses (Loyola and Tulane). The 13-mile excursion is one not to be missed.

And out toward the end of the St. Charles Line, on Carrollton Avenue, riders can depart the car and take in one of the city's most quaint and fanciful gastronomic delights.

Camellia Grill is a landmark diner. Dating back to 1946, the grill is, indeed, a throwback dining experience. The fast-moving, experienced wait staff is decked out in white coats and bow ties, while linen napkins and saucers accompanying coffee cups accent the neat and always-full countertops.

For breakfast, for lunch, for dinner, Camellia Grill is a happening not to be bypassed.

New Orleans is a haven for foodies. Favorite and funky eateries are on every corner. Seafood and po' boys. Gumbo and steaks. Bananas Foster and beignets. Night and day.

One of the most familiar New Orleans dining wayposts is near the heartbeat of the French Quarter, on St. Peter Street. Since 1933, Pat O'Brien's Bar has enjoyed an international reputation befitting its motto "Have Fun!"

From the Piano Bar to the Courtyard Restaurant to the Patio, Pat O'Brien's serves up entertainment, outstanding entrees and, of course, its signature Hurricanes.



RELIGIOUS AND HISTORIC LANDMARK: A traveler takes a photo of the ceiling of St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans. The cathedral

Orleans signature are the indescribable treats known as beignets. Somewhat akin to a doughnut, the sweet treats can be found in a num-

ber of locations throughout the

Holding forth equally as a New city, but the true essence of New Orleans, the true taste of New Orleans, must be experienced through the front doors of Café Du

(Continued on page 30)





dates back to 1850 and is the oldest cathedral in the U.S.



Early Bird Pricing Until February 28

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### Tracy Park Home Holds Historic Significance

**On Architecture** 

By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

Neighborhood in Tulsa, is a modest Art Deco residence. The house is significant not just for its design but also for the persons involved in its creation.

In 1924, Adah Robinson, a softspoken began planning her combination studio and residence. A high school art teacher, she was assisted by her prize student, Bruce Goff whose ability was encouraged in his after-school job at Rush, Endicott

and Rush, a well-known Tulsa architectural firm. This is said to be the first residence in which Goff was involved. He later became an influential architect and, for a time, was head of the University of Oklahoma School of Architecture.

At the edge of Tracy Park, a Certainly, Goff received a signifi- tical Art Deco. The exterior is a National Register-listed Historic cant education through his apprenticeship at Rush,

> Endicott and Rush. This firm designed Tulsa Club Building, the Atlas Life Building and the Spotlight Theatre of (home Drunkard and the Olio). Rush Endicott and Rush were the architects of record for the Boston Avenue Methodist Church (finished in 1929/1930), though the church officially Robinson with its design.

> Robinson eventually became head of the art department at the University of Tulsa, where she was

awarded a Doctorate of Fine Arts. After WWII, Robinson left Tulsa to join the staff of the art department at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas.

Robinson's residence is a handsome, almost sculptural work of vermonolithic off-white stucco (devoid of ornamentation) with chamfered corners and clear leaded glass windows. A two-story studio element with tall north-facing windows emphasizes this feeling of verticality.

The interior of the studio includes an Art Deco fireplace as a focal point. The fireplace has a semi-circular hearth which is sunken (precluding the conversation pits popular in residences of the 1960s). At the south end of the studio are two bedroom/bath/dressing room suites, one stacked above the other. A small stair leads to the second-floor bedroom with a balcony overlooking the studio. Terrazzo flooring is used throughout most of the main level. Light fixtures in most areas are reminiscent of the Art Deco fixtures at the Boston Avenue Church.

Construction on the residence began in 1927. Well-known Tulsa architect Joe Koberling worked for the building contractor and was instrumental in getting the house finished even after Robinson's funds were exhausted and the contractor went out of business. During construction, a friend, noticing the dining room, asked the owner



EARLY GOFF STRUCTURE: This Tracy Park Art Deco home was built in 1927 as a studio and residence for artist Adah Robinson. It is believed to be the first residence in which Bruce Goff was involved. Goff later became an influential architect and, for a time, was head of the University of Oklahoma School of Architecture.

where the kitchen was. Robinson, except for a long skylight-lit garden who didn't cook, had forgotten to include one. A small kitchen was soon added.

Today, the residence is owned by architect, Thomas C. Thixton. It serves as his office and residence. The exterior is virtually unchanged

room to the east, which connects to a generous carport and serves as a backdrop for a small swimming pool.

Simple and unassuming, like its original owner, the house represents a significant segment of Tulsa's architectural heritage.

### Toyland Honors Desiree **Doherty**

Toyland Ball, held every January, is The Parent Child Center of Tulsa's annual signature fundraising event. This black tie gala with a whimsical theme offers an elegant evening of dinner and dancing, with a live auc-

This year, the center honored retiring Executive Director Desiree Doherty. Desiree has been the PCCT executive director for 10 years. Under her leadership, The Parent Child Center has grown from a \$2.1. million agency to a \$4.5 million agency. The number of employees has grown from 36 to 63. Desiree's passion for its mission to prevent child abuse and neglect has propelled the agency forward. At Toyland Ball 2017, PCCT celebrated her leadership, accomplishments and love for the children and families served by The Parent Child Center.

Every year Toyland Ball is singly responsible for raising approximately 16 percent of the agency's total operating budget.



Northeast Oklahoma Beekeeping Association

**2017 Spring Beginner Beekeeping Class** February 4, 11 & 18, 2017

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. OSU Extension Center at the Tulsa Fairgrounds

Pre-registration at www.neoba.org is requested

Questions can be directed to info@neoba.org, or call 918-274-3822

**Bonus !! - Payment for** this class also includes **2017 club dues!!** 



CHAIRS AND ANGELS: Enjoying the Toyland Ball are Co-Chairs Drs. Jeff Broermann and Sarah Fox, PCCT retiring Executive Director Desiree Doherty, Guardian Angel Award Recipient Judge Doris Fransein, and Honorary Co-Chairs Kathy and Mike Mears.



FUN TIMES: Having fun at the Toyland Ball are, from left, Larry Davis, Caron Davis, Megan Buchan and Heather Gowin. Caron Davis and Heather Gowin are with Cancer Treatment Center, a sponsor of the Toyland Ball and strong supporter of the Parent Child Center.







Tues. - Fri.10-5 Sat. 10-3

### Nonprofit Gives Hope to Incarcerated Women

By EMILY RAMSEY Managing Editor

Christy VanCleave knows firsthand the challenges that individuals, particularly women, face when reintegrating into society after serving a prison sentence.

After completing her sentence, VanCleave continued to visit local prisons as part of a church group, and "I saw the same people coming back into prison over and over again," she says.

'These women couldn't make a decent wage; they had a hard time getting a job because they were felons.

Currently, the state average of recidivism, or relapse into criminal behavior, for females is over 13

"These women need to be taught a career. They need to learn how to take care of themselves and their families and gain self-sufficiency,' VanCleave says.

In response to that need, in 2009, VanCleave, who has been a dog groomer for over three decades, co-founded Pets Helping People, a nonprofit organization that provides non-violent female offenders job training in dog grooming and other pet care services.

In 2012, VanCleave sold her grooming business, Muddy Paws, to the nonprofit, thus providing students greater opportunity to gain grooming experience in an operational business setting. Pets Helping People DBA (doing business as) Muddy Paws offers dog grooming services, dog and cat boarding, doggie daycare, and other pet services.

Pets Helping People (PHP) sees a the program's classroom and com-



gram learn dog grooming skills by practicing on dogs from area rescue foundations. Once students have reached a certain level of skill, they move onto grooming dogs that belong to customers of Muddy Paws, Christy VanCleave's former grooming business that was bought by PHP in 2012.

**LEARNING A SKILL:** Students in the Pets Helping People (PHP) pro- **PETS HELPING PEOPLE:** Christy VanCleave, left, co-founder of Pets

Helping People, and Debbie Davis, director of operations and outreach, stand with rescue animals inside the headquarters for the nonprofit organization, which provides non-violent female offenders job training in dog grooming, boarding and other pet care services.

recidivism average of under four

"If there were more programs to help women adapt to life after prison, how to pay bills, how to hold a job, Oklahoma wouldn't have such high recidivism rates," VanCleave.

In 2010, VanCleave moved PHP to its current midtown location, at 2234 E. 56th Pl., where VanCleave and Director of Operations and Outreach Debbie Davis have continued to expand the shop's physical size and PHP's offerings.

The nonprofit is currently starting on its third expansion project since 2012, which will expand the shop into an additional space within the shopping center that will serve as

puter room, with most of the funding coming from proceeds from PHP's 2016 fall fundraiser.

Through partnerships with Tulsa Tech and CareerTech, students take weekly computer classes, workplace professionalism courses and OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Administration) training.

"We have expanded over the past few years because our needs have grown, and we have an excellent community that embraces what we do," says Ďavis.

"The majority of these women have never been employed before," she continues. "There is a huge emotional change that has to take place."

Therefore, in addition to teaching job skills, PHP goes beyond that, providing education in life skills. including finding healthy relationships, conflict resolution, maintaining a job, and building character qualities such as responsibility, compassion, and problem solving.

"We try to cover all aspects of life," Davis savs.

PHP also works with local groom-

ing shops in order to locate jobs for all of its students upon their graduation from the program.

PHP graduate Stephanie Ballinger will finish her prison sentence in March. She was recently hired as a groomer with PetSmart. "This program is a wonderful opportunity. Before prison, I didn't have many skills," she says.

"I have seen everyone get a job placement; that's a nice assurance," says Stevie Howell, a dog lover who has been in the PHP program for two months.

Before her conviction, Howell worked in minimum wage jobs, "nothing that I ever enjoyed," she says. PHP is giving her the opportunity for a new start after her sentence is completed: making a living doing something she enjoys, she continues.

"I've learned to step out of my comfort zone, be willing to learn new things, take constructive criticism, and I've gained confidence in myself, which doesn't just apply to the workplace, but in all aspects of life," Howell says.

Currently, over 200 women have graduated from the program.

VanCleave also uses PHP to benefit rescue dogs. She works with a number of area rescue organizations, including Oklahoma Westie Rescue, Okie Dokie Cocker Spaniel Rescue, Lab Rescue and Animal Rescue Foundation, that provide dogs for students to practice their grooming skills before moving on to grooming customers' animals with Muddy Paws.

VanČleave, who owns three rescue dogs of her own, then, takes efforts to find good homes for the dogs.

"Each woman has a favorite dog here," VanCleave says.

Although she admits that it can be hard for the students to see a rescue dog leave the shop when he/she finds a good home, that also provides another learning opportunity.

"It helps to teach students that you can love someone or something, but if you have to let it go, something else good will come along," she says.

For further information about Pets Helping People and Muddy Paws,





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### The New Orleans State of Mind

(Continued on from 27)

The beignets are served up hot and finger-licking decadent in orders of three 24 hours a day.

Strolling the French Quarter sidewalks or pulling a chair up to the patio tables, beignet-lovers can make a complete meal or a sumptuous dessert out of these fried, powdered-sugar-topped delights.

Not far from Café Du Monde stands the city's most familiar beacon, St. Louis Cathedral, the oldest cathedral in the United States.

Three Roman Catholic churches have stood on the site since 1718. The present structure dates to

Despite the general characterization of the city as the epicenter of nonconformity and hedonism, St. Louis Cathedral towers above the hubbub of dissipation.

The music of New Orleans has expanded and evolved since the days of Louis Armstrong and Dixieland. The sounds emanating from the French Quarter establishments range now from zydeco to rock to funk to blues.

Still, the direct connections to Armstrong and King Oliver can be heard on the sidewalks and within the walls of various venues, inviting and delighting.

With that in mind, there is no

place, no setting in the free world quite like Preservation Hall. Situated within steps of Pat O'Brien's, Preservation Hall is part showcase, part jazz mecca, part museum.

If there is one true destination in New Orleans, it surely is the holelodestone, in-the-wall Preservation Hall.

Armstrong once said, Preservation Hall is "where you'll find all of the greats.'

New Orleans today is where one can find all the great things in music, in food, in atmosphere, in

It remains a "land of dreams."







### CENTRAL BANK OF OKLAHOMA CALENDAR • JAN. 29 TO MARCH 4

Catch Tulsa Ballet's Presentation of Dorothy and the Prince of Oz in February.



**SUNDAY** 

**MONDAY** 

**TUESDAY** 

WEDNESDAY

**THURSDAY** 

**SATURDAY** 

### January

PAW PATROL - LIVE! myticketoffice.com for tickets. CIRQUE DU SOLEIL BOK Center 1:30 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.

PETER AND THE

STARCATCHER Theatre Tulsa Next Stage 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

I CAN'T ORGANIZE
HEIRLOOMS WITH
WOODY GUTHRIE
CENTER McKeon Center for Creativity 12 – 12:45 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more information.

Ask us about ID Fraud Protection Central Bank of Oklahoma

**QLIOVATIONS 2017** AUDITIONS Tulsa Spotlight Theatre 7 – 9 p.m. • Jan. 30-31

Visit spotlighttheatre.org for more information.

Hiring Event – Open Interviews Goodwill Job Connection – Tulsa West 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Visit goodwilltulsa.org for more information. February

BROWN BAG IT: TULSA OPERA BIG SING! PAC Trust 12:10 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. DRUNKARD AND

OLIO AUDITIONS Julsa Spotlight Theatre Visit spotlighttheatre.org for

PETER AND THE STARCATCHER Theatre Tulsa Next Stage myticketoffice.com for tickets.

CURATOR WALKTHROUGH 108 Contemporary 5:30 – 7 p.m. Visit 108contemporary.org for more information ERIC CHURCH 8 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more

PETER AND THE STARCATCHER Theatre Tulsa Next Stage myticketoffice.com for BRIGEM HARLEM

GLOBETROTTERS Visit bokcenter.com for

PETER AND THE STARCATCHER Theatre Tulsa Next Stage myticketoffice.com for tickets.

TULSA OILERS vs. Allen 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com

COMMUNITY BOOK FAIR Broken Arrow 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit baneighbors.org for more information

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS 1 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more

PETER AND THE STARCATCHER
Theatre Tulsa Next Stage 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

CHIEF KEEF Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.

6

NAVAJO MATH CIRCLES SCREENING Circle Cinema 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Visit circlecinema.com for more information. I CAN'T SCULPT WITH WATERWORKS ART CENTER

McKeon Center for *Creativity* 12 – 12:45 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more

**►**OPEN BOOK DISCUSSION: "EUPHORIA" BY LILY KIN Broken Arrow Library
6:30 – 7:45 p.m.
For adults. Visit
tulsalibrary.org for more \_information.

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8

TULSA IN THE TEENS LaFortune Community Center 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Visit lifeseniorservices.org for more information. HE SAID, SHE SAID LOVE STORIES TOLD BY THE TULSANS THAT LIVED THROUGH THEM!

IDL Ballroom 7:30 p.m. Call 918-596-2008 for more

ARIANA GRANDE 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more

FOREIGNER River Spirit Casino 8 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. STYX

Hard Rock Hotel and Casino 8 p.m. Visit hardrocktulsa.com for more information

10

AVENUE QTulsa Project Theatre myticketoffice.com for tickets.

DOROTHY AND THE PRINCE OF OZ 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets

TULSA OILERS vs. Missouri 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information.

GARDEN HEARTS AND CUPID'S WALK Tulsa Botanic Garden 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Visit tulsabotanic.org for more

DOROTHY AND THE PRINCE OF OZ Tulsa Ballet 3 & 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

AVENUE Q
Tulsa Project Theatre
7:30 p.m.
myticketoffice.com for tickets.

**QRU 8TH ANNUAL** TRIATHLON Mabee Center

Visit oru.edu for more

AVENUE Q Tulsa Project Theatre 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. DOROTHY AND THE PRINCE OF OZ

Tulsa Ballet 3 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. YOUNG THE GIANT

Visit cainsballroom.com for

more information.

information.

I CAN'T COLOR WITH GILCREASE MUSEUM McKeon Center for Creativity 12 - 12:45 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more information. INTRO TO 3-D PRINTING

Central Library 4 – 5 p.m. For all ages. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.

DRAWING ON MEMORIES 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Visit alz.org/oklahoma for more information. WAYNE NEWTON Hard Rock Hotel and Casino 8 p.m. Visit hardrocktulsa.com for

Movies @ the Library: "The LEGO Movie" Hardesty Regional Library 4 – 5:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for GROUPLOVE Cain's Ballroom

8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.

More Bank for your Buck. Central Bank
of Oklahoma of Oklahoma

AVENUE Q
Tulsa Project Theatre
7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

DATSIK Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for

more information. TULSA OILERS vs. Rapid City 7:05 p.m. • Feb. 17 Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information.



AVENUE Q
Tulsa Project Theatre
7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

Miró Quartet: Beethoven Winter Festival Chamber Music Tulsa 7 p.m. • Feb. 17-18 myticketoffice.com for tickets. BAREFOOT IN THE PARK B.A. Community Playhouse 7:30 p.m.
Visit bacptheatre.com for more

TULSA OILERS vs. Indy 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com

AVENUE Q

8 a.m.



19

AVENUE Q Tulsa Project Theatre myticketoffice.com for tickets. COURT-MARTIAL AT FORT DEVENS

Theatre North myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA OILERS

vs. Wichita 4:05 p.m. 4:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. **20** 

I Can't Letterpress with Philbrook Museum McKeon Center for Creativity 12 – 12:45 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more info. TULSA YOUTH SYMPHONY WINTER CONCERT Union PAC 7 p.m. Visit tyso.org for more info.

New Name, Same Bank Central Do of Oklahoma **Central Bank** 

Miró Quartet; Beethoven Winter Festival Chamber Music Tulsa 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TWENTY ONE PILOTS

**BOK Center** 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for info. TULSA NIGHTWRITERS MEETING Martin East Regional Library 7 p.m. Visit nightwriters.org for info.

HEALTHY LIVING FOR YOUR BRAIN AND BODY Whiteside Community Center 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Call 800-272-3900 for more information.

PAWS FOR READING Herman and Kate
Kaiser Library
3:30 – 5 p.m.
For ages 5 – 12. Visit
tulsalibrary.org for
more information.

16

MIRÓ QUARTET: BEETHOVEN WINTER FESTIVAL Chamber Music Tulsa 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. PUTTIN' ON THE DOG Cox Business Center

6 – 10 p.m. Visit lifeseniorservices.org for info. AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE HISTORY BOWL Central Library
3:30 – 9 p.m.
Visit tulsalibrary.org for info.

COURT-MARTIAL AT FORT DEVENS Theatre North 8 p.m. • Feb. 24-25 myticketoffice.com for tickets.

TULSA OILERS vs. Allen 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com NIGHT AT THE OSCARS

TCC Van Trease PACE 7:30 – 9 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more

MIRÓ QUARTET: BEETHOVEN WINTER FESTIVAL Chamber Music Tulsa 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. **PUCCHINI TO POP** 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

Mardi Gras Masquerade Venue Shrine 7:30 p.m. – 2 a.m. Visit tulsamardigrasmasquerade.com for more information.

**26** 

Miró Quartet: Beethoven Winter Festival Chamber Music Tulsa myticketoffice.com for tickets.

TULSA OILERS

vs. Missouri 4:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com

for more information.

I CAN'T PLAY GUITAR
WITH BART CENTER
FOR MUSIC
McKeon Center for

Creativity 12 – 12:45 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more

SHEN YUN Falun Dafa Association Oklahoma 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

LAUGHTER YOGA CLUB 1 − 2 p.m. Visit .lifeseniorservices.org for more information RETRO GAMING FOR TEENS Bixby Library 6 - 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more

information.

March

Brown Bag It: Lise Glaser myticketoffice.com for tickets.

SHEN YUN Falun Dafa Association Oklahoma 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.

FIRST THURSDAY SINGLE MINGLE MILES Fleet Feet Sports 5:45 p.m. Visit fleetfeettulsa.com for more information.

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BRIDGMAN-PACKER DANCE COMPANY Living Arts of Tulsa 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. SWEENEY TODD

8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. FIRST FRIDAY WITH **GILCREASE** Central Library 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more

information.

BRIDGMAN-PACKER DANCE COMPANY Living Arts of Tulsa myticketoffice.com for tickets.

SWEENEY TODD Theatre Tulsa myticketoffice.com for tickets.

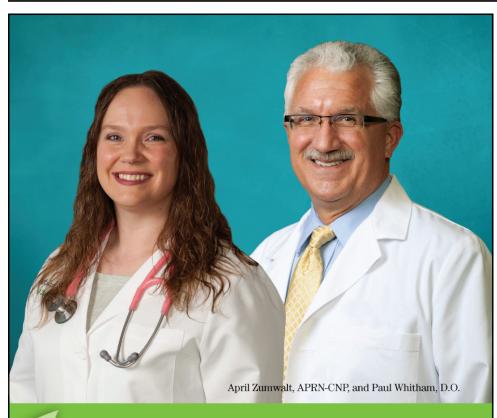
ROCKIN' ROAD TO DUBLIN Rockin' Road to Dublin LLC 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.



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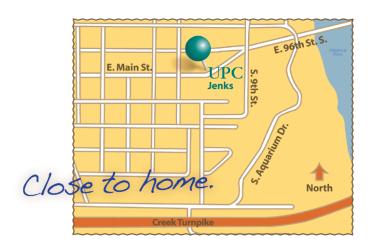
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### ——LOCAL NEWS

### **Downtown Residential** Soon to Open in Jenks



COMMUNITY GATHERINGS: Eve Rosin, experience designer for Thrive and ERC Companies, discusses with Christian Rodriguez, Thrive Jenks client relations manager, Thrive Jenks' focus on community and its many amenities. In the photo, they are overlooking one of the property's three courtyards.

**By EMILY RAMSEY** 

Managing Editor

Thrive, a residential multi-family property in downtown Jenks, is nearing completion.

Thrive Jenks broke ground in December 2015 and is a development by ERC, which has been building single family and multi-family residential properties in the South and Midwest since 1957. ERC's first Thrive development opened in Bentonville, Arkansas, in 2015.

'Our goal is that Thrive be a catalyst for growth in Jenks," says Eve Rosin, experience designer for Thrive and ERC Companies.

The Jenks property will feature six buildings, with a total of 168 living spaces, or units, from 616 to 1,100 square feet.

Amenities include garages, a dog park, bicycle rentals, a commuting program to encourage bicycling and walking, a saltwater pool, and yoga and fitness studios.

Three of the apartment buildings contain a center courtyard to encourage community gatherings, which is at the core of Thrive's lifestyle motto.

The idea is that clients can come home and open their door to this courtyard area where they can spend time recreationally and meet their neighbors as well, says Rosin.

"We are trying to create a feeling of commu-

Each courtvard contains a different amenity: the saltwater pool, a community green space, and the fitness and yoga studios.

In an effort to further foster community. Thrive plans to utilize its green space for events not only targeted to Thrive clients, says Christian Rodriguez, Thrive Jenks client relations manager.

'Clients can offer ideas for events and content, such as using our green space for a yoga night or a movie night," he says. "And these events will be open to the community.

Thrive is also making efforts to appeal to travelers and the Airbnb followers, with its VRBO (vacation rental by owner) option.

Thrive will offer three one bedroom-one bathroom rentable living spaces fully stocked with linens, towels and kitchen utensils and with washer and dryer units, with a two-night minimum stay.

"Individuals renting a VRBO have full access to all of Thrive's services: yoga, cardio, bicycle rentals," says Rosin. "VRBO's are for those whom a hotel might not suit their needs, or they want access to more amenities."

Thrive Jenks has a few living spaces currently occupied with more continuing to open through the spring.

Rodriguez suggests following Thrive Jenks on Facebook as a way to stay informed on the property's current availability.

### Vision Timeline Unveiled

By EMILY RAMSEY Managing Editor

In January, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum announced the funding timeline for the Vision Tulsa economic development projects, with 26 of the 37 projects planned to be funded completely by 2022. Five additional projects will receive annual appro-

priations throughout the 15-year program. 'We determined the ideal timelines for these projects," said City Councilor Anna America. "We know that the value of the dollar will hange over time, so getting these things started and completed as soon as possible is being good stewards of taxpayers' money.'

Because the project timeline is based on currently available information, minor changes may be required depending on shifts in projects coming online, city revenue collections and other considerations as the planning process continues, according to the City of Tulsa's official press release.

"We knew that it was important to get this going quickly so that Tulsans can enjoy the economic development effects as soon as possible," said Bynum.

He then pointed to the BOK Center as an representatives from businesses and commuexample of how a project can create a positive ripple effect in an area.

"The years following the completion of the in private investment in downtown. I believe there are projects in this package that could offer similar returns for the Tulsa area."

City councilors played a role in building the timeline, in addition to a diverse, citizenbased advisory group that was appointed from and there will again be recreational activity on Tulsa's public and private sectors, including the Arkansas River.'



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, city councilors, and community and business leaders announce the funding timeline for Vision Tulsa economic development projects in January.

nity groups and young professionals, to provide a final review of the plan.

"I think five years in the future, it will be BOK Center, Tulsa experienced \$900 million amazing what Tulsa will look like," Bynum said. "It will be home to an Olympic sport (BMX racing), home to a museum that is worthy of its world-class western art collection (Gilcrease Museum), and will have a lake in its downtown (A Gathering Place for Tulsa),