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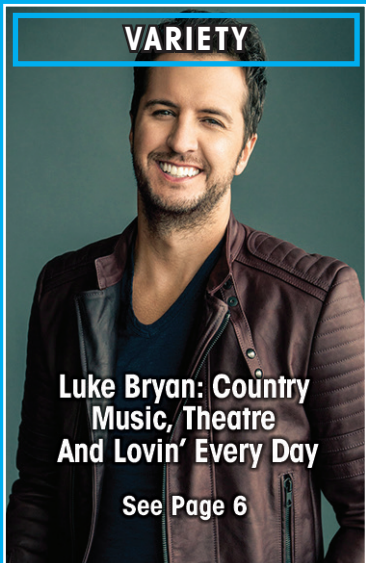
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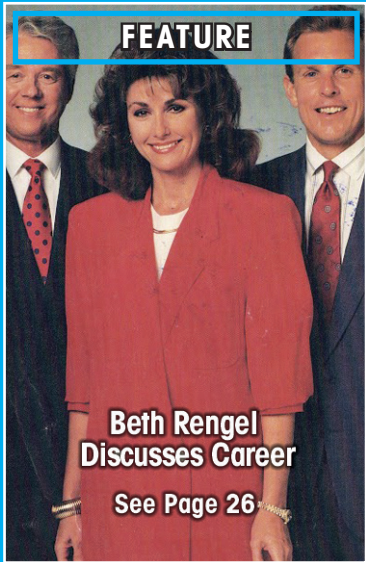
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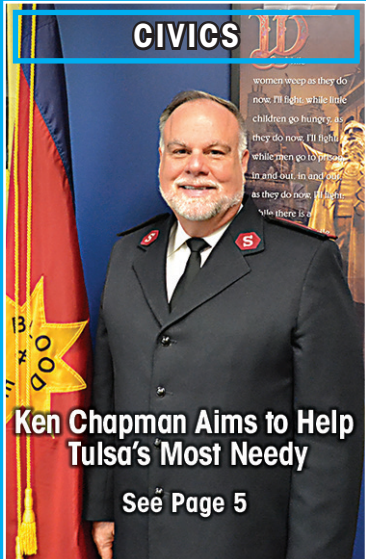
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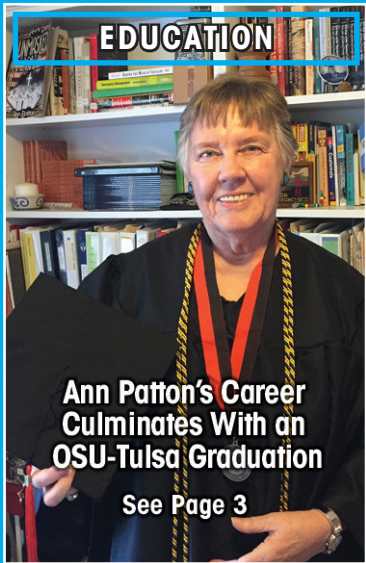
FEATURE



CIVICS



EDUCATION



Tulsa Balloon Festival Returns in June

By SARAH MITCHELL
Contributing Writer

The majestic sight of approximately 50 hot air balloons flying over Tulsa is an incredible view that one can only see once a year, and that is at the 2017 Tulsa Balloon Festival, which returns June 14.

The huge 20-plus ride carnival, the traditional and sometimes weird and wonderful carnival foods, retail vendors and even helicopter rides transform a lush green space close to the Highway 169 and Broken Arrow Expressway interchange into Tulsa's largest free-admission event.

The event site at 41st Street and 129th East Avenue was the home of Tulsa's original hot air balloon festival before it moved to various other locations and ultimately ended up in Claremore. It was only following the cancellation of that event in early 2016 did local promoter Ricky Lyons step in to ensure that balloons continued to pay an annual visit to the Tulsa Metro.

Lyons says, "It was a pretty sad situation. Individuals who had been running the event in Claremore for years got a letter in the mail saying that the event would not be taking place. Various other vendors and suppliers were also going to be out thousands of dollars so we literally got our heads together and put an event together in three months."

With thousands of people turning out in 2016 despite the inclement weather, the event was deemed a success, and plans began to make the 22nd annual balloon event in Tulsa even better than the 21st.

"It was a steep learning curve for me, but we pulled it off. We brought the balloons back to Tulsa. We added a huge carnival and various other activities, and the people came out and supported us."

The Tulsa Balloon Festival does not charge for admission, but there is a small parking charge to cover the cost of renting the land and paying for expenses such as



FLYING HIGH: Magnificent hot air balloons will grace the Tulsa-area skyline from June 14-18, emanating from the event site at 41st Street and 129th East Avenue. The huge 20-plus ride carnival, carnival foods, retail vendors and even helicopter rides will transform the lush green space into Tulsa's largest free-admission event.

paying police officers and bringing in the balloons. (Bring this copy of GTR Newspaper and receive half off on the parking price.)

While the event is no longer run by a single charity, the event does generate funds and publicity for multiple organizations.

Lyons says, "One of the huge perks of running this event is seeing the smiles on the faces of those who come out to the festival. Then there is the other side of it, when we have a company like Wonder Bread raise money for organizations like Coffee Bunker last year, where people generate dollars by taking pictures of a certain balloon and posting the images on social media. It was a great way to raise awareness for what those guys do, and it also raised some much-needed funds for those who have served our country."

In 2016, the Tulsa Balloon Festival generated over 1,000 hotel room nights for the city and attracted people from all over the United States, with guests from California, Florida, Montana and even Canada in attendance.

Lyons says he is confident that the event will continue to grow in future years, with the ultimate goal being the construction of a Balloon Festival Park to cement the future of ballooning within the Tulsa community.

Lyons says, "Tulsa is a great city, a great place to do business and a progressive, forward thinking place for people to create new facilities and ultimately generate tax dollars that will boost the local economy. City leaders have shown that they are prepared to invest economic development funds into privately-owned projects from out-of-town developers in recent months, so I really

do hope that some of those funds will be allocated to our community-led project to help generate the funds needed with associated developments to build out our facility and ultimately secure the future of ballooning in Tulsa.

"I really think that I just got lucky to end up as the custodian of this great event. But don't get me wrong, this event belongs to the city and is run for the people of the city. I'm sure that I won't be the last person that has the honor of running this event, but with a purpose-built facility, this event will continue for many years to come under the leadership of local people who live and work in this city. That to me is important."

The hours of the Tulsa Balloon Festival are 5 – 11 p.m. on June 14, 15, 16, and from 2 – 11 p.m. on June 17 and 18. For more information, call 918-442-4860.

KUDOS of the MONTH: Goodwill Industries

Goodwill Industries of Tulsa is celebrating 90 years with its continued goal to provide work opportunities and job training for individuals with barriers to employment.

The Rev. Wilkie C. Clock, pastor of the West Tulsa United Methodist Church, opened the first Goodwill office in the basement of the church, with Goodwill Industries of Tulsa being incorporated on August 3, 1927.

The nonprofit organization's mission remains focused on enhancing the dignity and quality of life of individuals and families by eliminating barriers to opportunity and help-

ing people in need to reach their fullest potential through the power of work, says Goodwill Industries of



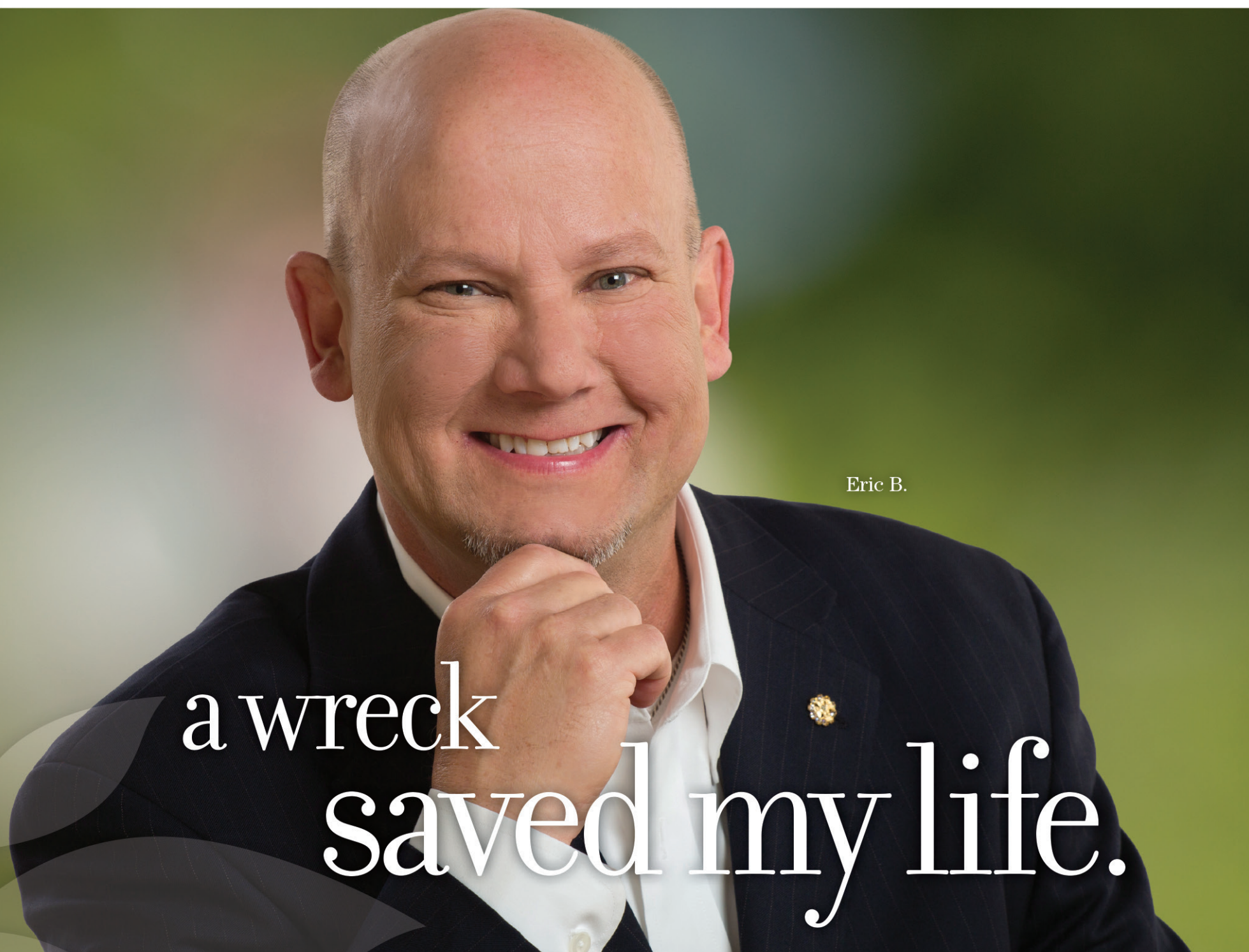
Tulsa Director of Community Relations Nancy Webster. Goodwill Industries started in Boston's South End in 1902, when Edgar J. Helms began searching for donations of clothing and goods in order to help disadvantaged and disabled individuals. He also taught those individuals to restore the donated items, which were then resold. That money was, then, used to pay the workers' wag-

es—thus establishing Goodwill Industries as one of this country's first social enterprise organizations.

In addition to its donation services and retail stores, Goodwill Industries of Tulsa provides workforce development training and job placement services with the goal of aiding individuals in becoming productive members of society.

"When people donate clothing and household items, they are helping to further our mission to provide work opportunities and job training and support services to people in need," says Webster.

In 2016, Goodwill Industries of Tulsa served over 5,500 individuals through its training and job placement programs with more than 1,200 going on to fill open jobs in the community.



Eric B.

a wreck saved my life.

While on his way to meet friends, Eric's vehicle was hit by a semi-truck. The impact threw him onto the floorboard. Although he did not have any visible wounds, he was transported by ambulance to The Emergency Center at Hillcrest. They discovered he had multiple internal injuries caused by the wreck and a pre-existing 100% blockage in his heart. Fortunately, cardiologists from Oklahoma Heart Institute were just steps away and quickly performed a heart procedure, saving his life.

To learn more about Eric's life-changing experience at The Emergency Center at Hillcrest and Oklahoma Heart Institute, visit Hillcrest.com.

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Ann Patton's Career Culminates With an OSU-Tulsa Graduation

By ANNA AMERICA

In 1955, Tulsan Ann Patton graduated from high school. In the 62 years since, she has done many things -- helped transform Tulsa's flood management system to one of the best in the country, written several well-regarded books, and raised four children.

One thing she didn't do? Earn a college degree.

Until May 15, that is, when just weeks shy of her 80th birthday, the 79-year-old Tulsa treasure leaned on a walker to make her way slowly across the stage to thunderous applause and cheers at the Oklahoma State University-Tulsa graduation to receive, as the announcer called it, "a bachelor's of everything!"

Commencement speaker Mayor G.T. Bynum cited Ann as an example of how one person can truly change their community. "Ann Patton has made a difference in this city for more than four decades," Bynum said, encouraging her younger classmates to follow Ann's example of working for things they believe in.

Patton said she dreamed of going to college her entire life. But when she graduated from high school, "College was not an option for poor kids like me. There was no Tulsa Community College, no OSU Tulsa. TU was the only option for students who could not leave Tulsa, and it might as well have been the moon."

So instead, she focused on her family. She and her husband, former Tulsa police officer Bob Patton -- they recently celebrated their 61st anniversary -- had four children by the time Ann was 22. When the youngest was in kindergarten, she had to go to work to help support the family, and has been working ever since (continuing to write and do contract work even after her "retirement" more than a decade ago). "By the time we had enough money to think about college for me, I was too busy."

She worked as a newspaper reporter for the Tulsa World and then helped create the city's stormwater management department and build Tulsa's into one of the most respected programs in the country -- and Ann into a nationally recognized consultant, specializing in disaster management, urban affairs, and grassroots partnership building. Over the years, her interests have followed diverse paths, and she has authored three well-received books. The most recent is UNMASKED! The Rise & Fall of the 1920s Ku Klux Klan. She is also the author of Dan's War on Poverty, published in 2012, and The Tulsa River, published in 2014.

She started the decades-long quest for a college degree while a newspaper reporter at the Tulsa World in the 1970s, covering City Hall. She took her first course, "The City," taught by the Rev. Dr. Earl Reeves, because she wanted to understand more about city dynamics. "From then on, I took one course and then another for specific issues I wanted to understand in more depth," she said. Over the course of more than 40 years, she assembled "a crazy-quilt collection of college hours from several schools that I always dreamed might add up to a degree."

It was OSU-Tulsa and its staff that brought it all together, Patton said, helping her fill the holes in her courses. When she and Bob moved to Orlando for health reasons in 2015, they helped her find the online course that completed



TULSA TREASURE: Ann Patton is all smiles after graduation from OSU-Tulsa just weeks shy of her 80th birthday.

the circle. "A miracle! After all these years, I earned a liberal arts degree -- exactly what I always dreamed could happen."

When asked why it mattered so much -- after all, she accomplished everything she did in her life without the degree, so why care about graduating now?

"Mostly, it is just for me. But also, I want my grandchildren to know not to give up on their dreams. Even more important, I want them to know that education has inherent value. People today argue that education has to translate directly to making money, but

the higher goal is to help us live a full life."

She recalls a young man she interviewed as a reporter, who had escaped from communism by swimming through shark-infested waters. "I will never forget something he said: 'My teacher is life.' Many people can get their college hours all together at the beginning, and good for them -- but it has been pretty fine to collect mine along slowly as a life pursuit, a lifetime of learning."

Anna America, who serves on the Tulsa City Council, is the daughter-in-law of Ann Patton.

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

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



CIVICS

Owasso Students Win 'Don't Bug Me' Poster Contest

*Winners Receive iPad,
\$500 for School*

In May, Hillcrest HealthCare System and the Tulsa Health Department recognized the winning students in its annual Don't Bug Me poster contest, a contest that Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum helped to judge.

The winner for grades 1-3 was Julia Holloway, an Owasso Public Schools Northeast Elementary third-grader, and for grades 4-5, Owasso Stone Canyon Elementary fifth-grader Leah Burns.

Both winning students won an iPad, a framed version of their poster and \$500 for their classroom.

The Don't Bug Me campaign began nearly 15 years ago as a way to promote flu awareness and prevention and is a partnership between the Tulsa Health Department and Hillcrest HealthCare System.

The yearly awareness effort is carried out throughout area classrooms and businesses and is supported by print, broadcast and outdoor advertising.



Courtesy Hillcrest

FIFTH GRADE WINNER: *Owasso Public Schools Stone Canyon Elementary fifth-grader Leah Burns, center, accepts her prizes as winner of the 4-5 grade category of the Don't Bug Me poster contest.*



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

THIRD GRADE WINNER: *Julia Holloway, an Owasso Public Schools Northeast Elementary third grader, holds her winning poster for the 1-3 grade category of the Don't Bug Me poster contest. Holding the check in both photos is Kaitlin Snider, with the Tulsa Health Department.*

Proposed Budget to Bring Citywide Improvements

From Tulsa's Mayor

By G.T. BYNUM

On April 26, I presented the City of Tulsa's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget to the City Council. You may recall how the City Council and I collaborated in a joint retreat

last December to form a strategic plan for our city. We unanimously agreed to set our sights higher and make Tulsa a globally competitive city once again.

Like most cities, Tulsa has seen its share of hard times. However, we will no longer stand idly by while our population and revenue growth remains stagnant. We will

no longer accept low employee morale in the workplace or allow for an inadequately-staffed police department. We will take decisive action to make Tulsa a better city for all of us.

My proposed budget includes covering employee health care increases, performance increases for qualifying employees and a sig-

nificant increase in pension contributions to put the city back on track to meet its long-term commitments.

In this plan, we will hire 90 police officers (the largest single-year increase in Tulsa history), add 35 firefighters, and replace apparatus and safety equipment that is more than a decade old.

For the first time in Tulsa Transit's history, we will offer Sunday bus service. We will install new playgrounds throughout our Tulsa Parks system. Vision Tulsa funds will provide better streets for economic development projects and major street construction projects. We will add more staff in street maintenance and traffic engineering.

We will provide funding for the operation of a Public Inebriate Alternative, a substance abuse al-

ternative program to free up police manpower, decrease municipal court's caseload and help people with substance abuse. Also, an innovative pilot program called "A Better Way" will offer a solution to panhandling, by partnering with local organizations to place panhandlers in beautification work programs. This will help connect individuals with much-needed services, mirroring the City of Albuquerque's "There's a Better Way" program.

This fiscal year's total budget equals \$268.9 million. It represents a shift from talking about the kind of city we want Tulsa to be to acting on it this year.

The City Council has until June 7 to finalize the budget prior to the fiscal year's start on July 1.

Visit cityoftulsa.org to read my full budget speech.



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Ken Chapman Aims to Help Tulsa's Most Needy

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Editor's Note: The Salvation Army Tulsa Area Commander and Captain Ken Chapman 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 A Gathering Place for Tulsa Director Tony Moore.

The Salvation Army Tulsa Area Commander and Captain Ken Chapman's road to the Salvation Army has been interesting and certainly unorthodox.

While Chapman is a fourth-generation "salvationist," he admits that his career focus has not always revolved around spiritual things.

A Georgia native, Chapman spent 10 years teaching high school band. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education.

"I had an early interest in music," he says.

After a decade of teaching, he left his job to spend time with his mother who was fighting cancer.

He went on to earn his master's degree at Georgia State University, where, during that time, he was given the opportunity to lead the school's band.

Chapman's musical skills led him into music production and event planning, including playing a role in the music production for Georgia's Coca-Cola Centennial celebration in 1986.

He went on to form an event planning company, which grew into planning Olympic-sized events, literally. Chapman served as the music producer for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and executive producer for the Atlanta and Barcelona Paralympics ceremonies.

He continued for a total of 20 years, organizing events of all sizes and for all kinds of people, including the president of the United States, Liza Minnelli and Aretha Franklin.

However, at a certain point, in the midst of his success, Chapman began to feel called for a new purpose.

He talked to his wife, Jessie, who, before they married, had been training to become a Salva-

tion Army officer.

"She said that she had been waiting 16 years for me to come to this realization," Chapman recounts.

He and Jessie made the decision to purge their old life and dedicate themselves to the Salvation Army and its cause.

Within three months, they were named auxiliary officers for the Salvation Army and, then, sent to the command in Jackson, Mississippi, where they grew its budget from \$2.5 million to \$7 million and built an \$8 million facility.

They were, next, assigned to Tulsa in June 2016.

Part of Chapman's focus in Tulsa has revolved around finding ways to increase the budget for the Tulsa Area Command.

The Tulsa command serves more than 100,000 children per year, in part through its six area Boys and Girls Clubs, and serves 357,000 meals per year at its downtown shelter, located at 102 N. Denver Ave.

"No one should go hungry in Tulsa, with the amount of meals that we provide," he says.

Yet, the Salvation Army does more than feed those in need.

Its shelter offers social programs in order to provide guidance and life skills to help people move out of homelessness and towards self-sufficiency, Chapman says.

"Sometimes homelessness results from needing guidance."

The Salvation Army also offers financial assistance to people in need, help during national disasters, and emotional and spiritual aid.

Chapman is quick to add, though, the Salvation Army's message of inclusivity.

"We serve all people without exception," he says. "If you don't like our message, that's okay."

The Tulsa shelter sees over 300 individuals sleeping there each night, double its number of beds.

While the need is clearly there, however, additional funding is also essential. Chapman, thus, developed the idea of the Power of Twelve, a campaign focused both on raising awareness of the Salvation Army and its programs and driving donations.

He developed the idea after seeing the ALS Association's Ice Bucket Challenge that swept social media in 2014 and brought in close to \$100 million for the association in a couple of months.

"So, I thought, how can we do the same thing with the Salvation Army?" says Chapman.

The idea behind the Power of



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

SALVATION ARMY COMMANDER: The Salvation Army Tulsa Area Commander and Captain Ken Chapman stands next to the Salvation Army flag in his office in midtown Tulsa. Chapman joined the Salvation Army nine years ago and came to Tulsa in June 2016. Earlier this year, he led the charge to begin the Power of Twelve, an ongoing campaign to raise awareness and financial support for the Tulsa Area Command.

Twelve is to encourage 12,000 individuals to pledge to donate \$12 per month for 12 months. That would raise, in total, over \$1.7 million for the Tulsa Area Command.

"I know this community can pull this off," he says. "Tulsa, I would say, is the most philanthropic city in the country."

The campaign also enables the Salvation Army to share information on how its programs are impacting the local community.

Each donor receives a monthly text message regarding a Salvation Army program or activity.

"Over the course of a year, we will be telling our story and showing how donors' money is being used," he says.

The campaign launched earlier this year and will be ongoing.

Raising community awareness of the Salvation Army is nothing new for Chapman.

Two years ago, he rang a bell for 36 hours in 22-degree weather while standing on a billboard. Last year, Chapman walked 66 miles on Route 66 in 66 hours to raise \$66,000. After Thanksgiving this year, he plans to find 100 people who will walk with him for com-

munity donations.

"I'm willing to do whatever I have to do to bring awareness to the Salvation Army."

Next month, he has another stunt plan but is mum as to the details. "Keep a watch out for that" is all he will say.

When one considers what Chapman gave up nearly 10 years ago, one can't help but wonder, was it worth it?

"My past life was a fun life, but all of those things were preparing me for this. To see someone set on the right path, that's worth it all."

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VARIETY

Country Music, Theatre and Lovin' Every Day

Summer in the city. What are your plans for June?

Before it gets too hot in Tulsa, consider a Thursday night under the stars at Utica Square. Concerts there are free, and some of the area's most popular musicians perform, like Starr Fisher, the Mid-Life Crisis Band and Mary Cogan.

The BOK Center hosts two big-name Country artists. Singer and songwriter Luke Bryan brings his "Huntin', Fishin' and Lovin' Every Day" tour to town, June 10. In 2016 he won a bucketful of American Country awards, including Artist of the Year. Bryan has an ardent following, but one of the hottest names in country music is guitarist and songwriter Chris Stapleton, slated for the BOK, June 22. The product of a Kentucky coal-mining family, Stapleton made a name as a member of The SteelDrivers band. Adele recognized the group's appealing bluesy, bluegrass groove early on by performing "If It Hadn't Been for Love," a song penned by Stapleton. He's written for Country Music's biggest stars, including Luke Bryan. A breakout moment for Stapleton was a CMA mash-up with Tennessee-born Justin Timberlake. Stapleton performed "Tennessee Whiskey" and Timberlake sang one of my favorite Timberlake tunes, which was so perfect for that pairing, "Drink You Away." You might have caught Stapleton recently on the season finale of "The Voice."

Still in the country music mode, an artist who needs no introduction, Loretta Lynn, has been rescheduled at The Joint at Hard Rock due to illness. Across town at the River Spirit Casino, you can enjoy Dwight Yoakum, June 22, followed there by Trace Adkins, June 29.

Trace Adkins in an interesting fellow. He's seen a patch of trouble in this lifetime. Before the budding singer was out of high school, his nose was partially ripped off when he rear-ended a school bus. He's had to have his pinky finger re-attached after he cut it off trying to open a bucket, and his house in Tennessee was completely lost in a fire. Most dramatically, one of his wives shot a bullet through his heart and both lungs, but he survived and didn't press charges. That's enough material for several Country Music albums and a bio-pic to boot! He is the voice of Elvin on TV's "King of the Hill," and he won "All-Star Celebrity Apprentice." If you see photos of him with Donald Trump, you'll know why. Beyond his personal history, he's a multi-platinum-record-selling artist. One of his big hits is "I Left Something Turned On at Home." I hope it wasn't the stove.

There aren't too many rock band concerts scheduled nearby this month, except for Roger Waters of Pink Floyd Fame, June 1, and Journey, June 5, both at the BOK Center, followed by the nineties British group Bush at the Brady, June 7. America drops by The Joint, June 29. If you follow rock music over the years, you would know America most notably from "Horse with No Name," and "Ventura Highway."

Patti LaBelle, also known as the "Godmother of Soul" is back in town June 2 at River Spirit. She's

Show Buzz



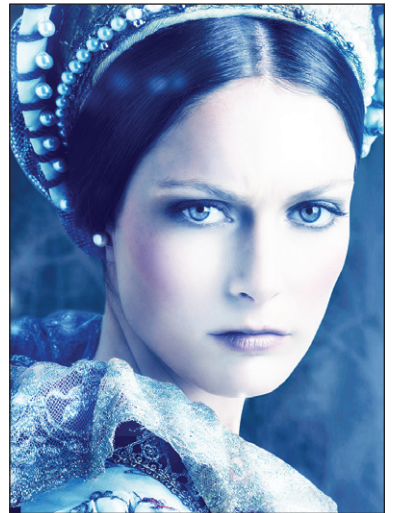
By NANCY HERMANN



LUKE BRYAN: The country music singer/songwriter plays the BOK Center June 10



CHRIS STAPLETON: One of the hottest names in country music is slated for the BOK Center June 22



SNOW QUEEN: Tulsa Opera's fairytale comes to the PAC June 17-18



LORETTA LYNN: The coal miner's daughter's June concert at The Joint at the Hard Rock has been rescheduled for 2018.



SUMMERSTAGE: Pianist Jeremy Stevens is one of many entertainers performing in the PAC's annual Summerstage in June.

The exquisitely talented Heather Richetto-Rumley and Mike Pryor return in the hilarious "Pete 'N' Keely," June 1-4, and there's a mega-showcase from Theatre Tulsa, June 23-24. The production culls through 95 years of Theatre Tulsa performances for one big show. Families can enjoy Tulsa Opera's fairytale "Snow Queen," June 17-18, and the beloved Broadway hit "Matilda," presented by Celebrity Attractions, June 20-25.

Pull out your lawn chair and get out beneath the stars, stay cool at the PAC, or turn up the heat with a big heap of country. I'm with Luke Bryan when it comes to easy livin' and loving every day.



PATTI LABELLE: The Godmother of Soul comes to River Spirit, June 2.



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Event Venue at Tulsa Zoo Offers Roaring Good Time

Location is king for celebrations. The Tulsa Zoo offers a number of unique and exotic indoor and outdoor settings for weddings, proms, corporate parties, reunions, birthdays and other special events.

"So many of our guests are passionate about animals and conservation and appreciate the idea that simply by selecting a Tulsa Zoo venue, their special events can help support the zoo and our wild-life mission," says Amy Watson, group sales manager.

The nearly 90-year-old Tulsa Zoo spans 84 acres within Mohawk Park, providing lush surroundings for any occasion. From simple birthday party gatherings for a handful of children to formal outdoor weddings for a thousand guests, the zoo can accommodate, says Watson.

Needing to accommodate more than a thousand? The zoo can. "Our largest event in recent memory was a private, after-hours corporate employee event for several thousand guests. This included catering for 5,000 people, as well as a variety of family entertainment options, from an outdoor movie, to an animal encounter, to live music," she says. "It doesn't matter how elaborate, we certainly can exceed expectations at the Tulsa Zoo."

The zoo offers a number of memorable event options for more intimate parties. "One of my favorites is our giraffe deck dinner experience, which is available for two to 50 guests. We feed you dinner, allowing you to dine at eye-level



VERSATILE SPACES: The Tulsa Zoo offers a wide variety of options for events, such as this room which housed a New Year Party.

with our resident giraffe herd, and then you can feed our giraffes," Watson says. The experience also includes a visit with giraffe keepers.

Each year, the zoo is host to more than 100 children's birthday parties. The Zoo is popular for events such as high school proms and college formals. And, zoo weddings benefit from the scenic grounds any time of year.

"Talk about unique photo opportunities. We are so much more than four walls. We provide a distinctive setting, as well as built-in entertainment. We remove the burden of entertaining guests. Thanks to 84 acres, more than

2,000 animals and a train, there is something for everyone here at the zoo," Watson says.

The Tulsa Zoo also is known for the individualized customer service each client receives. The private events team provides an onsite event coordinator for each event to assist from start to finish. Set-up and tear down also are covered.

With professional onsite catering and a full-time executive chef, the zoo truly is a one-stop experience. "We provide an expansive range of menu packages, or our executive chef will work with you to customize a menu based on your preferences and budget," Watson



WEDDINGS: The Tulsa Zoo is an excellent venue for weddings.

says.

The zoo is adding new venue options this summer, thanks to the soon-to-open Lost Kingdom exhibit complex. This five-acre habitat will add the Ann and Jack Graves Outdoor Café, as well as the George Kaiser Family Foundation Special Events and Dining Pavilion overlooking the new tiger habitat.

The zoo also is a go-to location for corporate events, Watson says, including conferences, employee appreciation days, summer barbecues, company picnics, product launches and team-building retreats.

"We can take on an event of any size and make it memorable for

you, your employees, coworkers and clients. We'll do all of the work so you can enjoy."

Whether plans call for an intimate gathering for a handful or a black-tie affair for thousands, the zoo offers an exciting variety of indoor and outdoor spaces that provide an uncommon setting for any special occasion.

The Tulsa Zoo's event spaces are available for bookings from the moment the zoo opens until midnight. For information about special event venues at the Tulsa Zoo, call 918-669-6605, or contact privateevents@tulsazoo.org. Or check out the photo galleries and menus at tulsazoo.org/party.

HANSON AT HOP JAM



Courtesy photo

HALL OF FAMERS: Hanson, who will be celebrating 25 years of playing music together locally, nationally and globally, has reached another milestone when

the group was added to the roster at this year's Hop Jam in Tulsa, where they were recently induction into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame.



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

SOMETHING ROTTEN: Members of the *Something Rotten* cast were present at a press conference before the show which was held at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center May 23-28. Included are Tony Award nominee Rob McClure as Nick Bottom, Tony Award nominee Adam Pascal as Shakespeare and Drama Desk Award nominee Josh Grisetti as Nigel Bottom. The show is part of the *Celebrity Attractions* 2017-2018 season.

Jim Blair, executive director for the OMHOF, presented brothers Isaac, Taylor and Zac with their award after a tributary video bio is shown to the audience. In the photo from left are Angelina Villegas-Cummings with OMHOF, Jim Blair, executive director of OMHOF, and Isaac, Taylor and Zac Hanson.

Blair says, "We've been wanting to get these guys inducted for some time now, and we thought how fitting it would be to happen on the band's 25th anniversary as well as the Hop Jam Beer and Music Festival established by Hanson in 2014."

Founded in 1992 at ages, 11,

nine and six, the brothers spent the first five years building a fan base in their hometown of Tulsa. Influenced by 1950's and 1960's music, the band cites some of their inspiration coming from greats, Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, The Beatles, Elvis, Little Richard and Chuck Berry which contributed greatly in developing their signature sound which incorporated strong melodies and songcraft as well as a reverence for their musical forefathers.

In 1997, Hanson soared to popularity internationally with their smash hit single "Mmmmbop" from the album *Middle of Nowhere* that earned the band multiple Grammy nominations. Since that time HANSON has had over 40 Top-40 singles, and have released five more albums, selling over 16 million albums to date.

In 2013, the group diversified its brand with the founding of their Hanson Brothers Beer Company and in 2014 established the Hop Jam Beer and Music Festival in Tulsa, which brings artists and brewers from all over the world to one of the country's leading Craft Beer and Music Festivals.

This induction precedes the June 14th OMHOF induction that will kick off the 2017 G-Fest festival June 15-17 in Muskogee.



GONE: James Pepper Henry recently resigned his position as executive director of Gilcrease Museum to become museum director of The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City. This photo was taken during the Frida Kahlo exhibit in 2016. Henry joined the Gilcrease staff in March 2015. "It has been a wonderful two years serving as Executive Director at one of our country's finest cultural institutions," Henry wrote in his post. "It is my honor to have worked with such a great staff, volunteer corps, trustees and National Advisory Council members." During Henry's tenure with Gilcrease, the museum secured \$65 million in funding through the Vision tax extension that will go toward improving and expanding the museum, along with an additional \$27 million to support and sustain museum operations. The museum is owned by the City of Tulsa, which has partnered with The University of Tulsa to steward the museum.

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DINING OUT IN GREATER TULSA

P.F. Chang's Maintains Popularity in Utica Square

Local Dining

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Writer

I remember when P.F. Chang's first came to Tulsa. The long lines of people out the doors and down the sidewalk and hours of waiting for a table were the norm long after its opening in early 2003. P.F. Chang's, complete with its identifiable, statuesque stone horses, is located in Utica Square at 1978 E. 21st St., which is still its only location in the greater Tulsa area.

I still remember the allure that the restaurant held around town and the excitement I felt when I gained a serving job there in late 2003.

I was eager to revisit P.F. Chang's, as, admittedly, it had been a while since I last dined there, not because I was ever displeased with the food but because the restaurant options in greater Tulsa feel almost endless, with new openings always on the horizon.

I was pleased to find that the restaurant's interior remains as grand as I remember with its open dining room, dark wood and eye-drawing bar that sits at the back of the restaurant and spans almost the entire back wall of the building. The bar certainly does not relegate its diners to a corner as some other restaurants

but, instead, puts them nearly in the middle of the action—a nice change if you're a bar dweller, as I tend to be.

My party visited for an early dinner to take advantage of the recently-added happy hour, available Monday-Friday, 3-6 p.m., with all offerings under \$6.

The happy hour menu includes well-known favorites like the Chicken Lettuce Wraps, sushi rolls, dumplings and egg rolls.

When we arrived on a mid-afternoon Friday, we noticed a nicely-sized lunch crowd more interested in lingering than in returning to work.

We started with the Crab Wontons, also part of the Happy Hour menu: four crispy wontons stuffed with bell pepper, green onion, crab, of course, and a sweet plum sauce for dipping. This is still one of my favorite appetizers that never leaves me feeling as if I've had enough.

We also chose the California Roll, a simpler sushi roll, for those in the group who are still acclimating to sushi and the Kung Pao Dragon Roll. The California Roll was uncomplicated with a crab mix, cucumber and avocado. The Kung Pao Dragon Roll is the California Roll plus sriracha sauce, crunchy tempura, and peanuts, topped with ahi tuna. I asked for moderate spiciness, so the spice was not overwhelming, and the tuna on top served as a reminder that sushi is, in fact, raw – a fact that can



CRAB WONTONS: One of the items on P.F. Chang's happy hour menu is its Crab Wontons, stuffed with bell pepper, green onion and crab.



BLAKE AUSTYN for GTR Newspapers

RECOGNIZABLE NAME: P.F. Chang's opened to much fanfare in Utica Square, at 1978 E. 21st St., in 2003, its first greater Tulsa location. Today, that remains the only area location. The menu features a large selection of traditional Asian dishes as well as seafood, gluten-free and vegetarian choices.

be easily forgotten with all of the ingredients rolled up together.

We also couldn't resist one of the restaurant's signature items: Chang's Chicken Lettuce Wraps, still as good as I remember, with a generous portion of chicken.

P.F. Chang's has done a nice job of expanding its overall menu to reach various tastes, including catering to seafood lovers as well as to vegetarians and those with gluten-free needs.

Since we saw a few new seafood items on the menu, we opt-

ed for the Surf and Turf and the Shrimp with Lobster Sauce.

The Surf and Turf came as a mixture made of lobster tail, filet mignon, potatoes, asparagus and shiitake mushrooms. Even with the meat elements, it served as a nice, lighter dish in comparison with the Shrimp with Lobster Sauce, which featured a combination of Asian mushrooms, black beans, peas and egg all in a rich, tasty sauce.

We couldn't leave without ordering The Great Wall of Chocolate,

one of the desserts that the restaurant chain has become known for.

It didn't disappoint. Six layers of chocolate cake, with chocolate chips and a side of raspberry sauce. (Note: Asking for extra sauce only makes it better.) It's a sinful dessert, but when shared, it relieves the guilt. Or you can take part of it home to prolong the enjoyment.

P.F. Chang's is open Sunday-Thursday 11 a.m.-10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

BREWERY EXPANDS MENU



Courtesy photo

TWISTED COMFORT FOODS: Bricktown Brewery, located in Owasso, Tulsa's Brookside and south Tulsa, recently added "Twisted Comfort Foods" to its menu. The new items include the Chicken Sandwich with Spicy Mayo and Slaw, Poutine, the Best Ever Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup, Cornflake Crusted Catfish, Small Batch Bacon Mac 'n Cheese, and the Fully Loaded Iceberg Wedge Salad.

Food Entrepreneurs Graduate

In May, Kitchen 66, founded by the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation, graduated another group of food entrepreneurs.

Ten Tulsa food entrepreneurs spent four months in Kitchen 66's Launch 1.0 Program honing their business skills, developing marketing plans and getting ready to take the next step in their food businesses.

The graduates walked away from the program with an established, legal food business; tested and validated product concept; a developed brand identity; a sustainable pricing structure and business model; and a sales and marketing strategy.

The four-month intensive program included weekly start-up courses on key topics in food business, such as how to set up a legal food startup, develop sales and marketing strategies and a profitable business model, and how to effectively pitch a food startup.

Graduates of Kitchen 66's Launch 1.0 Program are, Baby



Courtesy photo

KITCHEN 66: In May, Kitchen 66 graduated its latest class of food entrepreneurs. The program includes instruction on creation of an established, legal food business; a tested and validated product concept; a developed brand identity; a sustainable pricing structure and business model; and a sales and marketing strategy.

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K66's Launch 2.0 Program also graduated food entrepreneur El-epantry, a European-style bakery, during Spring Graduation Night.

This program allows participants to work alongside a selective group of Tulsa's top emerging food entrepreneurs; attend weekly sessions tailored to the most pressing needs of their company; and receive one-on-one mentorship and introductions with industry experts to grow their company and refine their strategy.

Making Sense of the Obstacle Course Trend

Strength, Endurance, Mud: Warrior Dash Brings Unique Experience to Greater Tulsa

I often hear people describe running as “cathartic;” for me, I cannot understand how feeling like my lungs are about to explode as my body slams against pavement translates to an enjoyable experience. Then again, we all have our preferences.

I think I may have found mine in obstacle course races, although I come with limited experience. My first and only foray, thus far, has been the Warrior Dash, a 5k obstacle course, which came to Inola in May.

I have grown increasingly intrigued by the obstacle course phenomenon since it began gaining mainstream

popularity in the mid-2000s. And there is no shortage of course

choices, depending on your desired challenge level: Conquer the Gauntlet, Spartan Race and Tough Mudder, to name a few.

The fitness junkie in me felt excited to explore the Warrior Dash, with hopes of furthering my endurance. Yet, another part of me worried as to what exactly I was getting into. Would the course prove my fitness level to be in sad need of improvement, or might I find the experience to be a raucous version of an adult playground?

Fortunately, I found neither.

What most struck me about the event was the immediate camaraderie felt with the other participants due to the shared goal to push our bodies and grow in strength. No matter our fitness levels, at the end of the day, we were all working to conquer the same obstacles.

That feeling pulsed through me throughout the entire race, as I willed myself to sprint that last mile, jump into the water and crawl through the muddy tunnel.

And afterwards, I gained a certain swagger from the knowledge that I did it. I made it through. And the spectators celebrated for me and all of the participants, cheering as we crossed the finish line, peppering us with photos. (For those who missed the race, never fear, Warrior Dash returns in May 2018.)

The high of accomplishment and physical fitness that one feels afterwards is tough to replicate, leaving participants, myself included, immediately asking, “when can I do it again?”

Out & About in Greater Tulsa



By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Philbrook Encourages Creativity

By MEAGAN COLLINS
Contributing Writer

Throughout the spring months, Philbrook Museum of Art opened its doors to CAP Tulsa and its four-year-old students with the goal of encouraging creativity inside and outside the museum.

As part of the partnership between Philbrook and CAP Tulsa, which began four years ago, Philbrook covers the school's transportation costs, museum admission for teaching staff and parent chaperones, and all project materials.

The purpose of the partnership is to provide a play-based, hands-on experience for children through age-specific activities, including scavenger hunts, picnic parties, and interactive garden story times.

CAP Tulsa is one of the largest anti-poverty agencies in Oklahoma, offering high-quality education for children, birth through four years old, and encouraging social skills and motor development through its various programs.

In May, students from CAP Tulsa's Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) Reed School visited the museum.

“Four-year-olds are ideal for wonder and are great at sparking creativity,” says Jessimi Jones, Bernsen director of education and public programs for Philbrook. “They have an incredible capacity for imagination.”

“For many kids this is their first time in a museum. These field trips provide an opportunity for the museum to experiment with the galleries and make them more hands-on and play-based.”

Teachers acted as tour guides as they led students from room to room. One teacher spread out a red-and-white-checked picnic blanket, where the children sat, looked at paintings, and described what they saw or what they wanted to see.

In a different room, students looked at a still life painting of flowers. When they were done pointing out objects in the painting, students placed items—a vase, wooden duck, flowers—on a table to create their own still life exhibit.

In the gardens, a group of students looked at picture books while their teacher encouraged them to ana-



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers
CAP TULSA PARTNERSHIP: In May, Philbrook Museum of Art opened its doors to students from CAP Tulsa's Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) Reed School in order to provide play-based experiences that encourage children's creativity.

lyze the picture for clues as to the story. Then the children went on an art-themed scavenger hunt.

Jones notes, “Creative thinking is essential for everyone, whether they're in the workforce or just as a citizen. Artists are ideal role models who can help foster imagination.”

Philbrook's additional art edu-

cation efforts included providing a special art education project at CAP Tulsa's Eugene Field Early Child Education Center in celebration of the National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) “Week of the Young Child” and its ongoing offerings of specialized tours, classes, and enrichment opportunities.



WARRIOR DASH: Warrior Dash, a 5k obstacle course, came to Inola in May. The obstacle course trend began sweeping the nation in the mid-2000s.



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers
MUDDY BUSINESS: Warrior Dash participants crawl under barbed wire through a 100-foot-long mud pit, one of 12 obstacles included in the course when it came to Oklahoma recently.

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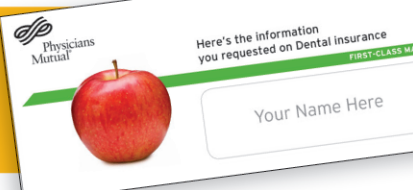
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Dr. Terry Rigdon Provides Excellence in Dentistry

Tulsa is Highly Regarded Nationwide

Tulsa-based Dr. Terry Rigdon is highly regarded nationwide for his skills in dentistry. He routinely provides dental services to his fellow dentists. In addition, he treats patients from all over northeastern Oklahoma, many of whom are referred by other dentists. Patients from Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Illinois, California, even France and the Ukraine (in the former Soviet Union) have sought treatment from Dr. Rigdon.

Dr. Rigdon's Rigdon Dental and Associates is located at 10010 E. 81st St., Suite 200 in Tulsa. His level of experience alone makes him stand out from the average dentist.

His years of knowledge and practical application in dental care include the areas of cosmetic dentistry, dental implants and denture services. He has 25 years of experience in using sedation with dental services, which allows patients to relax with the additional comfort of knowing they are under the care of a highly-qualified dentist.

In practice since 1978, Dr. Rigdon is known for his passion for excellence and his commitment to seeking perfection in his patients' care. He provides the highest skill level, utilizes state-of-the-art equipment, and is assisted by a staff that has been specially trained to provide op-

timal care, all within a comfortable environment.

Dr. Rigdon is a graduate of the Misch Implant Institute and the Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies. He has completed numerous hours of continuing education in dental advancement pertaining to implant dentistry and cosmetic dentistry.

He is active in numerous professional organizations and has been recognized by the American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry with Diplomatus status, which is the most prestigious credential an implantologist can receive. Only three dentists in Oklahoma have achieved Diplomatus status, with Dr. Rigdon as the only dentist east of Oklahoma City to receive this honor.

He has lectured nationally and internationally to dentists and dental laboratory technicians and has published work in professional journals. He feels that helping others achieve a higher level of knowledge and proficiency in dental care is one of the most rewarding parts of his career.

About the Tulsa Dental Office

Dr. Terry Rigdon and his team at Rigdon Dental & Associates are dedicated to helping patients achieve their healthiest, most beautiful smiles and keep them for a lifetime. Dr. Rigdon is one of only three board-certified Im-

plantologists in the state of Oklahoma, and his team has decades of experience offering comprehensive dental care that exceeds the highest patient expectations from preventive dental checkups and teeth cleanings to root canal therapy and dental implant-retained tooth replacement. The extensive treatment options are all located in the convenient Tulsa location. The staff takes time to know the patients and to develop treatment plans that meet the unique needs and goals while preserving an optimal amount of healthy dental structure.

Dental Patient Services of Tulsa

With a focus on cosmetic and restorative dental care, Dr. Rigdon's services can help patients who have lost one or more teeth enjoy a complete smile again, improving functionality and self-confidence in the process with services like porcelain veneers, crowns, white fillings, dental implants and more. Also, Dr. Rigdon and his team can maximize the comfort a patient feels during their appointments with sedation dentistry. Using oral sedation and nitrous oxide, the Tulsa team can create a soothing experience that will change the way they feel about dentistry. For more information, contact Dr. Rigdon at his Tulsa dental office at www.tulsaimplantdentist.com or call 918-505-7987.



DR. TERRY RIGDON

PARKSIDE HONORED



AWARD WINNING HOSPITAL: Parkside Psychiatric Hospital & Clinic's "By Your Side" patient assistance program is among 11 programs across the nation and the only one in Oklahoma to be named a Program of Excellence through the Hospital Charitable Services Awards, a national program sponsored by Jackson Healthcare. Present at the award presentation at Parkside are, from left, Charles R. Evans, FACHE, chairman of the Hospital Charitable Services Awards program; Ron Reynolds, Parkside Board of Directors; Debra Jones, Parkside CEO, Willie Roundtree Food Pantry coordinator and Eric Sachau, director of business development.

Parkside created the "By Your Side" Patient Assistance Program to provide patients in need, as well as their families, access to a food pantry, books, clothing and transportation.

"We are honored to receive national recognition for a program that delivers much-needed help to Parkside patients," said CEO Debra Jones. "Our patients often contend with multiple life

challenges in addition to living with mental illness. We know that meeting those challenges can be overwhelming for those who struggle to keep food on the table or meet their families' other basic needs. We are grateful to work with several community partners, as well as our own generous staff, to lessen these hardships through the By Your Side program."

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Dr. Jamal Siddiqui to Open South Tulsa Clinic

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Writer

Dr. Jamal Siddiqui, an ophthalmologist with The Eye Institute, opens his new practice in south Tulsa, at 7171 S. Yale Ave., on June 1. Dr. Siddiqui is making the move to the new location from The Eye Institute's location at St. John Hospital.

The Eye Institute is a multi-specialist ophthalmology practice founded in 1986 that includes nine ophthalmologists specializing in areas including cataract, retina, cornea, ophthalmic plastics, pediatrics and glaucoma.

Dr. Siddiqui specializes in comprehensive ophthalmology and cataract surgery.

A Tulsa native and Cascia Hall graduate, Dr. Siddiqui holds his Bachelor of Engineering in Biomedical Engineering from Vanderbilt University, his Medical Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma, and his residency in ophthalmology from Brown University.

The Eye Institute's locations are found largely in midtown, including at St. John Hospital and on Cherry Street, with plans for the institute to continue its expansion into south Tulsa.

When Dr. Siddiqui entered medical school, he wasn't yet sure which specialty he wanted to pursue, but he found his niche in treating cataracts, which manifests as cloudiness in the lens of the eye, through surgery.

"It's a simple surgery, but it makes a huge impact on your vision and life," he says. "The surgery is delicate and very beautiful."

He was also drawn to the profession due to the impact that vision makes on a person's life, he says, referencing an experience that he had early on in his career regarding an older woman whom he met in the hospital.

She had fallen and fractured her hip and was blind due to cataracts, he says. "We convinced her to do cataract surgery, and she cried

when she got her vision back. It allowed her to see her family again. "It's those experiences that add to my enjoyment of this profession."

Dr. Siddiqui is also regularly involved with the Tulsa County Medical Society, providing cataract surgeries for low-income or uninsured patients. Many of the doctors with The Eye Institute are also involved with charity clinics, including the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless and the Bedlam Clinic at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa.

Before making the move to the new location, Dr. Siddiqui worked for four years in The Eye Institute's location at St. John Hospital.

Glaucoma Specialist Dr. Anthony Economou and optometrists Drs. Jerry West and Blane Snodgrass will continue their practices in the 7171 S. Yale Ave. location.

The building, which was constructed in 1981, will undergo a renovation beginning in January. Dr. Siddiqui and the other doctors in the building will continue to see



BLAKE AUSTYN for GTR Newspapers

OPHTHALMOLOGY CLINIC EXPANSION: Dr. Jamal Siddiqui, an ophthalmologist with The Eye Institute, will open his new practice in south Tulsa, at 7171 S. Yale Ave., on June 1. The Eye Institute is a multi-specialist ophthalmology practice founded in 1986. Dr. Siddiqui specializes in comprehensive ophthalmology and cataract surgery.

patients during this time. The single story building is easily accessible with ample parking.

A few of the services that The Eye Institute offers include general examinations, pterygium surgery, cataract surgery, corneal

transplant surgery, oculoplastic surgery, prescription glasses and contact lenses, and iStent surgery, which relieves pressure in the eye caused by glaucoma.

Call 918-499-3937 to reach Dr. Siddiqui's office.



DONATION GRATITUDE: From left, Robin Stewart, hospital liaison with LifeShare of Oklahoma; Dr. Jennifer Clark, medical director of palliative care at Hillcrest Medical Center; Nita French, an organ recipient; and Ron Nofziger, Hillcrest Pastoral Care program chaplain, were among those present on April 5 for LifeShare of Oklahoma's celebration of organ and tissue donors.



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CELEBRATING LIFE: On April 5, participants released balloons as part of Donate Life Month. The event was a celebration organized by LifeShare of Oklahoma, held at Hillcrest Medical Center.

ANNUAL WALK AT LUNCH DAY



NATIONAL BCBS EVENT: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma employees joined walkers across the country to celebrate fitness and healthy lifestyle choices in the 11th-annual National Walk at Lunch Day. The event was established by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association to encourage people to begin a healthy routine of taking a walk during their lunch break.

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EDUCATION

Augustine Christian Academy Celebrates 20th Year

By ASHLEY SCHMIDT

The author is a teacher in the School of Dialectic at ACA.

One of the Tulsa Metro's best-kept secrets is about to be a secret no longer. Augustine Christian Academy (ACA), a classical Christian private school serving families with pre-K to 12th grade students, is celebrating its 20th year, and the school community wants to shout it from the rooftops. "We want people to know the good we are doing here," says Kirk Post, founder and headmaster, "and that is training young minds to learn, reason, and persuade from a distinctively Christian perspective."

Augustine Christian Academy is a unique school in many ways: a classical model of education, a Christian worldview, both full and part-time enrollment, and several diploma options. But one of the first things I noticed upon becoming a teacher here, is that it is not unusual for students to spontaneously break out in song - in the hallways, in the classroom, in the

lunchroom, or gathered around a piano. I've come to the conclusion that the explanation for this seemingly odd behavior is simply that the students here feel accepted, joyful and inspired.

Students at Augustine Christian Academy feel accepted because of the family atmosphere. The founders, including Post, planned it that way. They chose the time-honored tradition of placing upper school students into four Royal Houses, accomplishing two things. Students have a smaller family within a family in which to form relationships and be encouraged. Students also have more opportunities for learning and practicing leadership within their houses. Forming excellent leaders has been an ACA value from the beginning.

The joy stems from the solid Christian foundation. It informs everything that they do. The school motto, "In luce tua lucem videmus" ("In Thy light, we see light") seeks to acknowledge the source of all wisdom. The school song, "For the Glory of the Lord"

by Twila Paris, reinforces the reason for striving for excellence. Weekly chapel services unite students and staff in their endeavors to follow Jesus Christ in all they do. However, the focus on Christ does not stop there. The principles of God's Word are taught and modeled unapologetically to every age and in every subject matter.

One of the goals of classical education is to inspire the mind, teaching not just facts, figures, and skills, but teaching students what it means to be human. Educating classically at ACA is, according to their website, "a conscious return to the ancient goal of education: teaching children to think and learn for themselves by imparting to them the tools of learning." This is achieved by exposing students to original sources, classical languages and classic literature, with a focus on influential Western thought and culture. Other sources of inspiration include the mentoring relationships between teachers and students, as well as the flour-



ACA: Augustine Christian Academy, a Classical Christian private school serving families with pre-K to 12th grade students, is celebrating its 20th year. The school is located at 6310 E. 30th St. in Tulsa. Augustine Christian Academy is one of Tulsa's most affordable private schools and strives to partner with parents in the education of their children.

ishing performing and fine arts programs at ACA.

Augustine Christian Academy is one of Tulsa's most affordable private schools and strives to partner with parents in the education

of their children. The exceptional aims and atmosphere fostered by the school give the gift of acceptance, joy and inspiration to a new generation of Tulsa's future leaders.

Cyber Security Guru Addresses OSUIT Graduates

Despite the adage about success being all about showing up, commencement speaker Dr. Jerry Dawkins told the 206th graduating class from OSU Institute of Technology that it takes a lot more to prosper in the workforce.

Dawkins, founder and principal security consultant of Tulsa-based information security consulting firm True Digital Security, served as the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony Friday afternoon in Covelle Hall on the OSUIT campus in Okmulgee.

"Woody Allen said it this way, 'Eighty percent of success is showing up.' Woody didn't mention anything about the other 20 percent," Dawkins said, adding that he thought the math was a little off.

He also confessed to never being on that side of the graduation stage before.

"I have listened to several commencement speeches as a graduate, but I've never given one. So what was the first thing I did when they asked me to give this speech?"



DR. TERRY DAWKINS

I Googled it," he said, and found a lot of similar themes such as follow your heart, do the right thing, be kind to each other or fight for what you believe in.

"All of those things are good advice, but I'm going to assume you already believe in doing the right things, and being kind to one another, and all that other stuff," he said. "The one thing I found that was missing in most of the inspirational speeches was some concrete advice on how, exactly, to be successful in your life and career after

college."

Dawkins outlined four things the new graduates could do to ensure their careers were long and lucrative: show up early and stay late; don't be afraid of failure; pay attention to details; and understand the value of hard work.

Working hard was also a theme in the address given by Jacob Allen, the student respondent and graduate of the Air Conditioning & Refrigeration program in the School of Construction Technology.



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Tulsa Tech Alum to Attend Boston University

Tulsa Tech alum Victor Chiadi recently received his bachelor's degree in biomedical science from Oklahoma State University and has been accepted into Boston University's School of Dental Medicine for the fall—a tremendous achievement and opportunity that began four years ago when a high school student was simply looking for a science credit.

Because his high school did not offer an Advanced Placement chemistry class, something Chiadi knew he would need for college, he applied to attend Tulsa Tech's Biomedical Science program.

Each year, students in Tulsa Tech's Biomedical Science program explore the concepts of medicine in physiology, genetics and microbiology, as they perform hands-on activities to examine the processes, structures and interaction of the human body. The curriculum for this program focuses on science and math, giving students an opportunity to design innovative solutions to meet the health challenges of the 21st century.

At the time, the Tulsa East Central High School junior hoped that the challenging program would help to prepare him for college classes, and he was not disappointed, he says.

"Much of the curriculum translated right into several of my

classes at OSU, especially during my freshman year, with classes like general biology."

The Biomedical Science program is a Project Lead The Way certified two-year program, and during the second year, students not only demonstrate the skills they have learned but also focus more on working in a lab environment.

"During the second year, there was more lab work, so it placed more responsibility on me and my lab partner to be able to follow assignments closely, perform the lab work, and develop solutions while we were learning," says Chiadi.

Eddie Maggard, Jr., a Tulsa Tech Biomedical Science instructor, strives to duplicate the same lab environment and procedures that his students will encounter as they continue their education and move toward their individual careers.

"The way Mr. Maggard conducted our labs is almost identical to my experiences while in college," Chiadi says. "He was always available, but the class was more of a self-driven environment, and we were responsible for our work in the lab. This experience was very similar to the role of a TA (teaching assistant) in our college lab environment."

Maggard is proud of his former student and feels Chiadi has al-

ready demonstrated that he possesses all of the necessary skills to succeed.

"Victor was an excellent student, very self-driven, and always working toward a goal," says Maggard. "His outgoing personality, combined with his desire to be always searching for answers made him a great person to have in our group."

The newly-accepted dental student will always be thankful for his experiences at Tulsa Tech, he says, and he encourages others to explore the many career training options available to high school students.

"I would recommend Tulsa Tech to everyone," Chiadi says. "Whether you plan to study for a career or decide to attend college, the friendships I developed with both my instructors and fellow students were some of my greatest times."

We are extremely proud of Victor Chiadi as a Tulsa Tech alum and thankful to have been a part of his journey.

When it comes to inspiration and influence, however, we do not mind finishing a close second place.

"My mom is a nurse, and she has been one of the biggest influences in my life," Chiadi says. "She managed to work and raise two boys, all while she attended school. I will always be thankful to her for teaching us the value of a great education."

If you are currently looking for a challenging new career for both high school and adult students, quality corporate training and consulting, or exciting evening and weekend classes, Tulsa Tech invites you to visit today. For more information, please call 918-828-5000, or visit online at tulsatech.edu.

News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent



Courtesy Tulsa Tech

CONTINUING HIS EDUCATION: Victor Chiadi, a Tulsa Tech alum, recently graduated from Oklahoma State University and plans to continue his education at Boston University's School of Dental Medicine. Chiadi credits Tulsa Tech's Biomedical Science program for preparing him for his collegiate success.



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BIXBY EDUCATION

Seventh Graders Win, Advance in STEM Competition

In May, the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) announced two seventh grade teams from The Oklahoma School of Innovation and Experiential Learning (OSIEL) as first and second place state winners in the 15th annual eCYBERMISSION competition – one of several science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiatives sponsored by the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program.

The competition is administered by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) with the intention of promoting self-direction and enabling students to recognize the real-life applications of science, math, technology and mathematics (STEM).

First place team, Hard Knocks, is made up of students Matthew Hobbs, Nick Arenas, Chance Annis and Andrew Deibert. The team created a helmet padding that would help reduce the number of concussions sustained by football players.

Aphids Away, the second-place team, consisted of Audrey Arant, Jenna Tuggle and Anna Hammons. These students collaborated to create an aphid repellent consisting of environmentally-safe materials.

The Hard Knocks team will receive \$1,000 per student in U.S. EE Savings Bonds, and Aphids Away will receive \$500 per student in U.S. EE Savings Bonds.

In the next round of competition, a panel of judges will evaluate the top three scores from each region in each grade level. Sixty regional finalist teams will compete to advance as one of 20 national finalists, moving on to compete at the national judging event held in June in Washington, D.C.



TEAM HARD KNOCKS: The first place state winners in the eCYBERMISSION Competition are Matthew Hobbs, Andrew Deibert, Chance Annis and Nick Arenas. Their winning project involved padding for helmets that would help reduce the number of concussions sustained by football players.



TEAM APHIDS AWAY: Made up of Audrey Arant, Jenna Tuggle and Anna Hammons, the team earned second place in the eCYBERMISSION Competition. Helping the students is Kelly Seuhls. The students created an aphid repellent consisting of environmentally-safe materials.

DAR MEDAL: Bixby High School student Cadet Captain Rebekah Underwood recently received the Daughters of the American Revolution JROTC Bronze Medal from the Wealaka Chapter of the DAR. Cadets who receive the medal display dependability, good character, adherence to military discipline, leadership abilities and a fundamental and patriotic understanding of the importance of the JROTC training. Pictured with Underwood is Vice Regent of Wealaka Chapter NS-DAR Elaine Tittle.



Courtesy Wealaka Chapter

MISS BIXBY 2017: In April, Bixby High School student Ragan Fletcher was named Miss Bixby 2017 by the Bixby Optimist Club. Fletcher was also recently awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards as well as the State Superintendent's Award for Arts Excellence. Fletcher's other accomplishments include serving as a National Student Ambassador for Multi-i-grees and a five-year member of both All-District Honor Choir and All-State Honor Choir.



Courtesy photo

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Courtesy Rotary Club of Bixby

BIXBY YMCA BENEFITS: From left, Stephany McFadin, Daily Family YMCA volunteer; Monica Selli, director of the Brown Child Development Center; and Jason Koebele, Daily Family YMCA operations director, recently visited the Rotary Club of Bixby to share with club members how the organization's programs and services benefit the community. This year, the center expects to give away more than \$80,000 in scholarships.

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BIXBY SPORTS

Bixby's Natalie Gough an Up-and-Coming Golfer

By MIKE MOGUIN
Sports Writer

Natalie Gough played many sports when she was younger, but by the time she was 10 years old, she had switched to golf.

Both her brother, Mason, and father, Walter, had played the game. But it was her brother who influenced her to play.

"Because he wanted to play and I wanted to follow him, and he was the coolest," Gough says, smiling.

The Bixby golfer, who will be a senior when school starts in August, looks up to her brother for guidance on the links.

"Usually, if I have a big tournament in the summer, my brother usually caddies for me," Gough says. "We get along well. We don't fight anymore. We're close and are very reliant on each other, and we help each other with everything in life."

"Whenever he caddies for me, I could be shooting over the holes I've played, and he keeps me 'out of my head' and calms me down," Gough says.

As her junior year came to an end last month, Gough finished tied for fifth as an individual in the Class 6A State Girls Golf Championship in Ponca City. She shot the lowest score for her team with a scorecard of 77-86—163. The Lady Spartans (365-371—736) placed eighth as a team.

It marked a gradual climb for Gough in the standings. She placed eighth as a freshman and sixth as a sophomore.

However, Gough was not satisfied.

"I wasn't feeling that great about it because you know you can al-

ways do better," she says. "You can always say that whenever you play though. But it was difficult considering on the second day only one girl shot in the 70s. It was rough. I was playing consistently. I wasn't hitting bad, but I felt like my scores weren't quite piecing together. But my short game was better. I've been practicing a lot up to that point. I'd been working a lot harder and it paid off with my swing and short game. Everything was better. It was a tough day for everyone."

Gough made two birdies at state. The girl who hit in the 70s on day two was eventual champion Kaitlyn Milligan of Norman North, carding 74. Her 36-hole total was 147. Owasso (339-344—683) was the team champion.

The challenging aspects that Gough found at state was a north wind that came in, as well as the fact that Ponca City Country Club has slopes with its greens and fairways.

"It was difficult to play for sure," she says. "I have a draw too when I hit, so it was hard for me to play a lot of shots on that course with that direction of the wind, and, the holes are tight, so you have to place it just right off the tee most of the times."

The performance at state caps off a year of Top 5 finishes in all but one tournament, in which she was in the Top 10. Included were three runner-up finishes and another as top individual medalist.

One second-place finish came in an event at Buffalo Rock Golf and Gun in Cushing, in which the team took first. Gough's first-place finish came in a big one, the Frontier Conference Championship at



Courtesy photo

FAIRWAY SHOT: Natalie Gough prepares to shoot from a fairway in the 2017 Class 6A Girls Golf State Championship, where she placed fifth.

Forest Ridge Golf Club in Broken Arrow, making her the 2017 high school champion for the event.

"That day was exciting for me because I've been working hard for that tournament," Gough says.

"I placed with 79 and only two of us shot in the 70s that day, so it was pretty tough and the greens were fast, but it was also fun because I got to play in a playoff hole with Baylee Brewer of Broken Arrow. We were friends when we were younger. We played in tournaments whenever we first started, so it was a lot of fun getting to play in that. It was challenging and competitive."

This summer, Gough intends to prepare for her senior year by competing in the WOGA Junior,

Optimist PGA Qualifier, the Texas-Oklahoma Open and possibly, the WOGA State Amateur. She is also considering the AJGA or South Central tournaments.

She is also a member at The Club

at Indian Springs in Broken Arrow, "so I'll be out there a lot. I'll also be working out at Lit'l Links Golf Club with kids' camps. I usually do that in the summer and play in tournaments too," Gough says.

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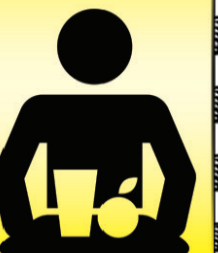
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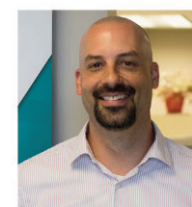
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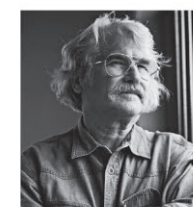
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SPORTS

Tulsa Athletes Honored for Academics, Service

The University of Tulsa student-athletes were honored for their athletic and academic achievements as well as their community service and campus involvement recently at the school's Golden 'Cane Awards Gala.

A crowd of over 750 gathered for the 22nd Annual Golden 'Cane Awards Gala, a Grammy Awards-type Ceremony, at the Donald W. Reynolds Center on the TU campus.

The top awards were given to TU's "Ultimate Team," recognizing the top student-athletes based on academic achievement, athletic success, campus involvement and community outreach.

Tulsa's all-time passing leader Dane Evans (football), Track All-American Marc Scott (cross country/track & field) and the school's third-ever Rhodes Scholar Kirk Smith (cross country/track & field) headlined an impressive Ultimate Team list that included 10 seniors and one junior.

Nadia Majidizadeh (golf), a Tulsa Union High School product, Mahitha Dadireddy (tennis), Rachel Thun (soccer), Jake McGuire (soccer), Skylar Lutjehuisen (rowing), Clara Langley (cross country/track & field), and twins Maddie and Maggie Withee (softball) rounded out the Ultimate Team for the 2016-17 season.

With perfect 4.0 grade point averages throughout their collegiate careers, Langley and Smith were also recognized as the Warren Garrison Academic Excellence Award Winners, presented in honor of TU's first academic advisor and given to the graduating senior with the highest cumulative grade point average.

The Wilson Holloway "Ultimate Service" award was established in order to recognize the efforts of student support staff for service to the teams and student-athletes. This year's honoree is spirit team member Claire Collard.

In December 1989, Tulsa football All-America receiver Dan Bitson's life was altered when his automobile was struck head-on just a mile from campus. His unlikely return to football in 1991 was inspirational to many and remains an inspiration to Tulsa stu-

dent-athletes today with the establishment of the Dan Bitson Courage Award.

The award is presented annually to the TU student-athlete who exemplifies courage, perseverance and tenacity for overcoming adversity. This year, two senior student-athletes were recognized with the Dan Bitson Courage Award, including volleyball student-athlete Brooke Berryhill and football receiver Kevan Lucas.

The Faculty Athletic Board Classroom Grit Award, which recognizes one female and one male graduating senior student-athlete who has faced the rigors of TU classes with extraordinary commitment and effort, went to women's tennis athlete Yelena Nemchen and football's James Flanders.

The Athletes Supporting Athletes Award, an award that began in 2016, goes to the team recognized by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) that attends the most sporting events in support of their fellow student-athletes throughout the year. This year, two teams share the award — the Golden Hurricane Women's Golf and Women's Tennis Teams.

The Dr. Barry Kinsey Faculty Athletics Representative Award, which goes to the Tulsa team winning a conference championship with the highest team grade point average, was presented to Men's Cross Country.

For turning in a total of 956.5 volunteer hours for an average of 73.6 hours per student-athlete in 2016-17, the Women's Basketball Team was the recipient of the Outstanding Team Community Service Award.

A first-year award this season is the Hurricane Cup, which is a Life Skills Team Competition, based on team's achieving points for academic achievement, athletic success, community service, development, SAAC membership and Athletes Supporting Athletes. The first-time recipient was the Men's Cross Country Team.

Each year, Tulsa student-athletes have the opportunity to select the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Faculty Member of the Year Award. This year's selection was Economics Professor Dr. Steve Steib.



Courtesy University of Tulsa

ULTIMATE TEAM MEMBERS: The 2016-17 Ultimate Team Members are, from left, Nadia Majidizadeh, Mahitha Dadireddy, Clara Langley, Maggie Withee, Maddie Withee, Marc Scott, Skylar Lutjehuisen, Rachel Thun, Dane Evans and Kirk Smith. Missing is Jake McGuire.

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Recipients Named for Iba Citizen Athlete Awards

The male and female recipients of the annual Henry P. Iba Citizen Athlete Awards ceremony have been announced. The female recipient will be Lauren Chamberlain, U.S. Specialty Sports Association Pride professional fast pitch player who helped lead the University of Oklahoma Sooners to the National Championship in 2013. The male recipient is mixed martial artist Justin Wren.

Shannon Miller, the most decorated Olympic gymnast in American History, and **Chris Herren**, former NBA player for the Denver Nuggets and Boston Celtics, will be the keynote speakers. The master of ceremonies will be **Chris Lincoln**, a sportscaster, former sports director and sports programming producer.

The awards are named after Henry P. Iba, former Oklahoma State University basketball coach and coach of three U.S. Olympic basketball teams. He was an unparalleled success as a coach, leader and citizen, and these awards recognize and honor athletes who best exemplify a high degree of citizenship in his image.

This prestigious black-tie-optional event will be held at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tulsa on June 26. It's the major fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Tulsa with proceeds benefiting the Rotary Club of Tulsa Foundation, which supports local non profits, statewide initiatives benefitting young people and the club's International Projects Committee.

Mixed Martial Artist (MMA) **Justin Wren** is a fighter in more ways than one. Bullied as a child, he channeled his frustrations into sports, winning numerous championships in the sport of wrestling under the guidance of two Olympic gold medalists: Kenny Monday, a three-time All-American and NCAA National Champion from Oklahoma State University, and Kendall Cross, a three-time NCAA National Champion. Altogether, Wren won 10 state titles in Texas and was a five-time All American and two-time NCAA National Champion.

He went on to train at the U.S. Olympic Training Center and was recruited by national wrestling legend Cael Sanderson to Iowa State University. But a series of events, including injuries, led Wren to pursue a new dream of becoming an Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) fighter.

During his UFC days, Wren appeared on "The Ultimate Fighter" as a contestant known as "The Viking." But the painful struggle of his past led him to a dark place of depression and addiction. When his life and career fell apart, he found himself at a men's retreat where he found new purpose – fighting for the forgotten people of the Congo. The Mbuti Pygmy tribe, or as Wren describes them, "the most bullied people on the planet," became his new family, and he channeled all his passion and energy into fighting for their freedom.

Five years later, Wren returned to the cage, fueled by his love for the Pygmy people and his desire to give them a voice. With an impressive 16-2 record as an MMA fighter, Wren is now known as "The Big Pygmy" and is a Bellator Heavyweight Contender. He uses his platform to raise awareness and support for the forgotten people of the Congo, and to inspire fans worldwide to join him in his fight to end the global water crisis.

Wren founded Fight for the Forgotten foundation to help the Pygmy people and later became involved with Water4. He and his wife moved to Oklahoma City in 2016 to work closely with Water4, a non profit that states, "Our mission lives at the crossroads of our heart and our actions, of our desire to share our faith, and our passion to solve the world water crisis." He was just named its national spokesperson. According to Wren, "Our team in the Congo has now drilled 62 water wells. Last year alone, Water4 empowered 44 well drilling teams, comprised of 370 Africans from 16 different African nations to have sustainable jobs, and drill 690 water wells, and to provide access to clean water to over 172,000 of their fellow countrymen.

That's empowerment. They are creating their own businesses, having their own jobs, and being the very solution to the problem they face on a day-to-day basis. Those men and women on our teams are the heroes!"

In 2015, his book, "Fight for the Forgotten," was released. Written along with veteran sports journalist Loretta Hunt, the book details Wren's account of faith, redemption, empowerment, and overwhelming love as he set out on an international mission to fight for those who can't fight for themselves.

The female recipient will be **Lauren Chamberlain**, USSSA Pride professional fast pitch player who helped lead the Oklahoma Sooners to the National Championship in 2013.

Chamberlain enters her third season with the USSSA Pride. She was drafted first overall out of the University of Oklahoma in the 2015 NPF College Draft by the USSSA Pride.

She finished her second season with an on-base percentage of .347. Chamberlain finished her rookie season with 11 RBI's, 5 home runs, 18 hits, a .300 on base percentage, and a .205 batting average.

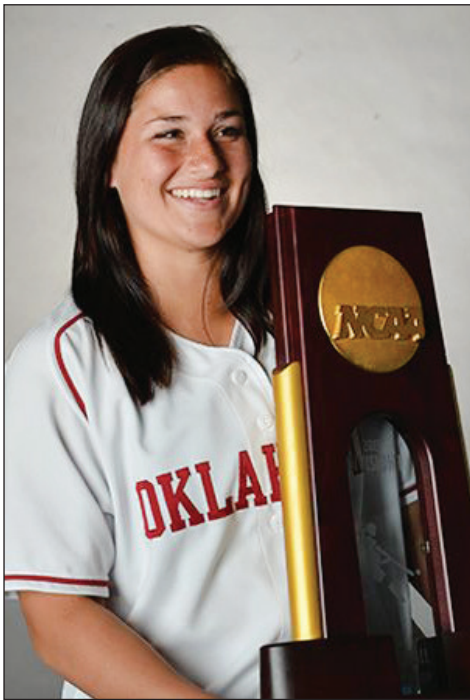
At OU, Chamberlain finished her career with an NCAA record 95 home runs and .960 slugging percentage. In NCAA annals, she ended her college career fifth in runs scored, ninth in walks and 10th in RBI. She owns the Big 12 record for home runs, slugging, runs scored, RBI, total bases and walks. She recorded school records for career on-base percentage and extra-base hits. She holds the third-highest batting average in OU history and sixth-highest in Big 12 history.

While at OU she was a four-time Division I All-American, a 2013 NCAA Player of the Year Finalist and helped lead the Sooners to the National Championship in 2013.

She was also named the Big 12 Female Athlete of the Year, WSF Finalist for Woman of the Year, nominee for the Honda Cup Award and ESPY's nominee for Best Record Breaking Performance.

Chamberlain was awarded the 2016 Jennie Finch Award for leadership and humility on and off the field during her second season with USSSA Pride. According to her website, her ultimate goal is to start transforming girls into women, not only athletically in softball but emotionally and mentally off the field.

She founded the Lo Chamberlain BGC of



LAUREN CHAMBERLAIN



JUSTIN WREN

Norman Scholarship Fund specifically designed for the Boys and Girls Club of Norman where kids have the opportunity to apply for scholarships after high school. Chamberlain said she started this scholarship fund because of the relationships that she formed with the kids of the BGC when she did an internship at the club while in college.

She is also involved in Fields and Futures, an Oklahoma City non profit that revamps OKC public schools' athletic fields and improves resources and professional development for the district's coaches, creating new opportunities for students to join a team and benefit from that experience. In addition, she is involved in Oklahoma Cleats for Kids, providing gently used sports equipment to teams.

For tickets or table sponsorship information, contact the Rotary Club of Tulsa at 918-584-7642, email iba@tulsarotary.com or visit ibaawards.com.

The Iba Awards were created in 1994 by the Rotary Club of Tulsa to recognize an influential male and a female premier athlete for their success in their sport, and more importantly, for being positive role models who give back to their communities – not only by donating to worthy causes, but also by being personally dedicated and involved in their chosen charities.

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- JUNE 22 - TREVOR STORY BOBBLEHEAD GIVEAWAY
- JUNE 23 & 24 - BACK-TO-BACK FIREWORKS
- JUNE 25 - KID'S CLINIC & KID'S POP SOCKET GIVEAWAY

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REVVED Fitness Center to Open in South Tulsa

South Tulsa will be bringing some new energy this summer. Revved Fitness will be taking occupancy in the new building behind IBC bank in June at 101st Street and Delaware Avenue. Revved is famous for high intensity, fat-burning workouts (HIIT). The studio will be equipped with advanced fitness equipment and certified, professional trainers. The facility will have a 3,000-square-foot interior with a large parking lot directly in front.

Fitness veteran Breean Akins and her husband, Adam Akins, bring 14 years of experience to the facility as owners, along with local entrepreneurs Bryan Hendershot and Larry Haskett and franchise owner Kevin Wilson, who want to create a fresh and innovative fitness venue for Tulsans.

Breean Akins says, "We are really proud of how well the Revved programs help people in reaching their goals. The 60-minute heart monitored interval training concept burns between 600-1,000 calories per class and gives people the hard evidence they're

looking for in calorie burn, metabolic increase and self improvement."

Revved instructors focus on individual goals although classes are conducted in a small group setting; they provide personalization based on each person's needs and preferences. From beginners to veterans, no member will feel overwhelmed or left behind. There will be many training sessions each day beginning between 5 - 5:30 a.m. and ending in the evening. In addition, several training sessions will be available on the weekends. Packages can be purchased for rates as low as \$10 per session. Revved will offer local business partnerships and corporate rates, as well as special rates to honor military veterans and first responders.

Revved utilizes the most advanced technology to complete body scans that capture exact measurements, composition and other pertinent data that assist in outlining the most effective personal workout regimen.

Results can be visually seen and monitored over time. With the use

of rowing machines, air assault bikes, free weights and suspension trainers, each client is guaranteed a high caloric burn along with a substantial afterburn, known as excess post-exercise oxygen consumption (EPOC).

Contact Revved South for packages and more information at 918-701-3762 (EPOC).

About REVVED Fitness

REVVED Fitness is a unique, high-intensity group training workout broken into intervals of strength, core and cardiovascular work. Training clients for over 14 years, the experience this team brings has helped hundreds of clients lose weight, tone, and achieve individual fitness goals in a short amount of time. They will continue to revolutionize the fitness movement.

The company is ramping up for fast expansion to keep up with the demand and popularity that the high intensity workout has generated. Franchises will soon be available. And Oklahoma is the company's number one geographic destination.



GTR Newspapers photo

BRINGING ENERGY: Breean Akins and her husband, Adam Akins, look forward to the June opening of Revved Fitness at 101st Street and Delaware Avenue in south Tulsa.

Tulsa to Bike Across America to Raise Funds for Polio Eradication

By VANESSA GLAVINSKAS
Guest Writer

Tulsa Bob McKenzie will be riding his bicycle this year for the sixth time in Race Across America (RAAM), one of the most respected and longest running endurance sports events in the world.

In explaining why he rides in the annual race, McKenzie says, "We have assembled a four-rider team along with a crew to represent rotary clubs from around the world participating in the Polio Plus campaign to eradicate Polio throughout the world. This race starts on June 17th, 2017 in

Oceanside, California and we hope to reach the finish by June 24 in Annapolis, Maryland. We will travel approximately 3,000 miles. Please support and follow us as we prepare and race this event."

(Though RAAM is not a fundraising event itself, teams use the event for various fundraising activities in addition to the Rotary effort.)

For seven days last June, at a pace of 18-plus miles per hour, McKenzie and three other cyclists labored across the U.S. from Oceanside to Annapolis. A 12-member crew followed in an RV and two vans, allowing the bikers to ride in shifts. "Every eight hours we'd swap riders and two of us would rest," McKenzie explains. "But at some points it was 118 degrees and we were swapping about every 15 minutes." McKenzie was encouraged by his wife Darlene, who served as a crew chief.

The team also included Rotarian Kurt Matzler. McKenzie organized the group, and the Rotary Fellowship Cycling to Serve helped generate international interest. McKenzie, who is 65, took up racing five years ago after reading a story in The Rotarian magazine about the Ride to End Polio, organized by District 5500 in Arizona.

In the Race Across America, his team took in \$300,000 for polio eradication with the Bill & Melinda



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READY TO RIDE: Tulsa Bob McKenzie displays his jersey from last year's Race Across America. The photo was taken during a meeting at the Rotary Club of Tulsa.

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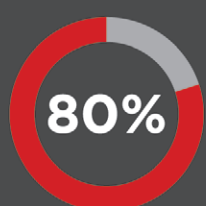
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THE ECONOMY

TTCU Progresses with Impressive Skyscraper

TTCU held the ribbon cutting for its new corporate headquarters in April, and the facility has already become a landmark in southeast Tulsa. It is located on 81st Street just east of Mingo Road. Board members, executives and dignitaries from around the region attended the ceremony.

The new facility serves as the central hub for TTCU's 16 branch locations.

"TTCU has moved to, and grown out of, five corporate headquarters, but we still operate on the same principle of 'people helping people' that was established more than 80 years ago," says Tim Lyons, TTCU president and chief executive officer. "We're committed to carrying that level of member service into the next 80 years."

The building has 90,000 square feet and is six stories tall. It is located next to the TTCU's southeast branch location. It was built by NewGround.



GTR Newspapers photo

CUTTING THE RIBBON: Getting ready for the ribbon cutting in April for the TTCU corporate headquarters at 81st Street and Mingo Road are, from left, Kevin Blair, NewGround CEO; Andy McKenzie, TTCU chairman of the board; Tom Auer, NewGround senior vice president, design; Tim Lyons, TTCU CEO and president; and Mike Neal, Tulsa Regional Chamber president and CEO cut the ribbon at the grand opening of TTCU The Credit Union's Corporate Office at 81st Street and Mingo Road in Tulsa.



GTR Newspapers photo

TTCU CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

Harsco Produces 100,000th ASME-Certified Cooler Section



Harsco Industrial Air-X-Changers / Hammco (HAXC/Hammco), a Tulsa-based producer of cooling systems for natural gas compression and processing, oil refining and other applications, has produced its 100,000th ASME-certified cooler section.

The milestone section is a key component of a Harsco AXC/Hammco Model 156 EH cooler, a vertical-discharge, forced-draft cooler combining engine and compressor cooling in a single, compact unit. The HAXC/Hammco Model EH design is the world's most popular gas compression cooler design.

The cooler was shipped April 21, 2017 and will be deployed in the Permian Basin of West Texas in a gas compression package driven by a Caterpillar engine with an Ariel compressor.

The section is the 100,000th HAXC/Hammco section certified as meeting the internationally recognized standards of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (BPVC) of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). The BPVC is the largest and oldest ASME standard and is used in over 100 countries around the world, detailing strict rules for the design,

fabrication and inspection of boilers and pressure vessels.

The cooling section is a core component of any air-cooled heat exchanger used for cooling natural gas in the compression process, comprising a precision-engineered matrix of tubes through which gas flows in the cooling process. Gas is cooled by air forced or drawn across the section by a fan.

HAXC/Hammco Vice President and General Manager Eric Clower says, "We received our first ASME Certificate of Authorization in 1957, and our first ASME-certified unit shipped in 1958. In 2012, we shipped our 75,000th ASME-certified section. In 2014, Hammco, an Owasso-based leader in cooling solutions for oil refineries as well as natural gas processing, joined us — and the next year, we consolidated all our operations in a 557,000 square-foot, single-campus facility designed to maximize productivity. Now, we've reached a major new milestone with the delivery of our 100,000th ASME-certified cooling section. And that production-output doesn't include the thousands of cooler sections and other components we've manufactured that didn't require ASME certification."

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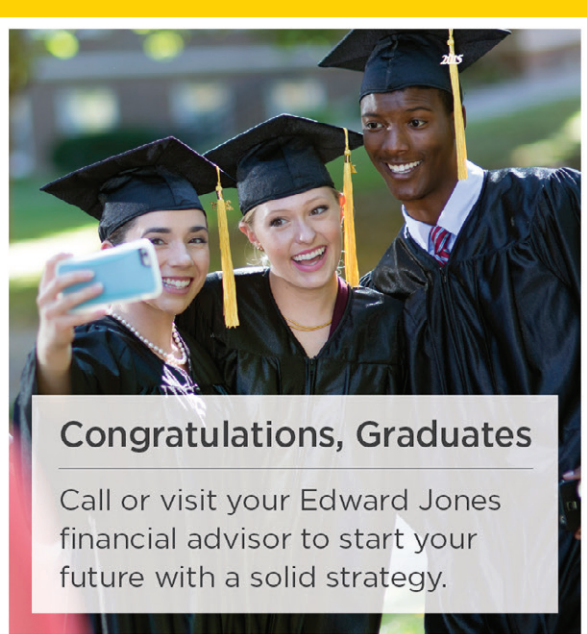


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Now is the Time to Tell Our Energy Story



By MARK STANSBERRY

It's Time to Tell Our Energy Story: 43 years ago, this spring, marked the founding of the Energy Advocates in Tulsa. The Energy Advocates was founded by a group of oil and gas executives in response to the 1973-74 oil embargo. Today, as then, the organization believes that it is critical for those of us in the energy industry to rise to the challenge and make a difference when it comes to energy issues.

Today's energy story is being advanced under the theme of "National Energy Talk." In 1992, I founded and launched the first International Energy Policy Conference. In the late 1990s, The Energy Advocates became an active sponsor/participant of

the conference. Since its inception, the conference has hosted dignitaries, Fortune 500 companies, industry experts, ambassadors, and delegations to discuss energy efficiency, environmental preservation, and the whys, hows and solutions of a national energy plan. The Tulsa-based conference has been held in Tulsa, Washington, D.C., Houston, Oklahoma City, Denver, and Dallas as well as other cities throughout the U.S.

The importance of a dialogue, "National Energy Talk," is very important in public energy education. We found, for example, that our Facebook wall "National Energy Talk - America Needs America's Energy" has a following/likes of over 22,000 people across the United States. Three regional oil and gas associations in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas have a combined total of 2,100 followers/likes on their Facebook walls. Therefore, this is an example of an area that National Energy Talk can definitely com-



MARK STANSBERRY

plement the industry and be an active voice on social media.

With the launch of National Energy Talk, (NET), what once was an annual conference has expanded into a media-driven platform

with year-round engagement. NET will help lead a national dialogue on energy issues, views, and solutions through events, publications, video, audio and online content. NET believes in the power of people, that "nothing moves without energy."

NET is Local, State, Regional and National.

NET is a platform engaging a dialogue on energy issues, views and solutions. We will address the needs, plans and issues that all types of energy face today. Through discussion, we can create an energy vision.

The founding principle of NET remains steadfast: the availability of reasonably-priced energy is paramount to the economic and business development both in the United States and in other countries around the world. NET officially launched May 1.

An important part of our efforts is having the support of our column in GTR Newspapers!

The 2017 NET Oklahoma events will include in Tulsa a higher education event and roundtable; in Elk City (where I began my career in the oil and gas industry, 40 years ago, June 1, 1977) with an industry appreciation Bar-B-Que and keynote address; in Edmond a State

and Federal Energy Dialogue Lecture and Roundtable; and in Oklahoma City, an awards ceremony with a keynote speaker and roundtable.

The website nationalenergy-talk.com will launch this summer.

"Future generations are depending on us. The time has come for all of us, the people, to take control of our energy future here in America!"

Mark A. Stansberry is Chairman of the GTD Group, an award-winning author and an Energy Advocate.

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Omni Air Expands Fleet With Learjet 75 & 40XR

Omni Air Transport, specialists in aircraft management and private charter, announces the acquisition of three jets.

A 2016 Learjet 75 was recently added to the lineup of OAT's ever expanding offering. This eight seat ultra-modern jet provides over 2,000 miles of non-stop flight with WiFi, custom video system, executive-style galley and more.

"We are proud to say that we have the newest, locally-based charter jet in the Oklahoma private air market. This aircraft is truly representative of perfection in air travel and we are excited to be able to offer such an exclusive experience to our clients," says Mike Skow, president of Omni Air Transport.

In addition to the LR-75, Omni Air Transport now has two Learjet 40XRs in operation. These six seat light aircrafts are known for performance and comfort. With superior cruise speeds and length of travel, this jet is ideal for coast-to-coast business trips or remote getaways, says Skow.

"OAT's competitively priced flights on these jets make them an excellent choice for our client's looking for an affordable getaway or low-cost business trip," says Dan Burnstein, CEO of Omni Air Transport.

Omni Air Transport is headquartered in Tulsa with satellite bases in Oklahoma City, Nashville and New Orleans. Omni Air Transport is a recognized industry leader and safety-accredited air service provider with over 34 years of experience in aircraft management, air charter and aircraft acquisition, sales and brokerage services. It has earned the highest credentials in safety and service, as well as preferred air charter contractor status with the United States Government. Omni Air Transport operates a wide range of state-of-the-art, executive-style aircraft and has FAA-designated international authority to operate worldwide.

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BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES



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SOUTH TULSA OPENING: Appliance Solutions recently opened its second greater Tulsa location. The new store is located in south Tulsa at 10324 E. 71st St. Pictured at the grand opening are Store Manager Matt Long, center, and employees John Eylar, left, and Kyle Hudson. Appliance Solutions also has a midtown location at 6540 E. 41st St.



GTR Newspapers photo

ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR: Michael Entz greets Raymond Gardner, left, at the Entz Lewis and McCullough Estate Planning Seminar, held in May at the University of Oklahoma Tulsa Schusterman Center. The attorneys at Entz Lewis and McCullough offer counsel in estate planning, oil and gas law, business formation, and social security disability claims.

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The Tulsa Community College Board of Regents named Mackenzie Wilfong as TCC's General Counsel.

Most recently, Wilfong served as associate general counsel for the Oklahoma A&M Board of Regents and Oklahoma State University. Prior to that, she was assistant university counsel and director of equal opportunity, Title IX coordinator and ADA coordinator for Oklahoma State University.

Wilfong will be responsible for handling grievances, policy development and contract review for TCC, Oklahoma's largest community college that serves more than 25,000 students annually in credit courses. In addition, she will assist TCC in navigating an increasing complex regulatory environment in higher education.

Wilfong has a Juris Doctorate from SMU School of Law and a bachelor's degree in public affairs and administration from the University of Oklahoma. She is licensed to practice law in Oklahoma. Wilfong is a certified Title IX investigator, Title IX coordinator and trauma-informed interviewer from ATIXA and the National Center for Campus Public Safety.

The Oral Roberts University Board of Trustees has elected a new board chair and its first female vice chair. **Dr. Mike Rakes**, D.M., D.MIN. succeeds Robert Hoskins. **Holly Moore** will serve as vice chair.

Dr. Rakes is an educator, author and pastor. Since 2006, he and his wife Darla have served as lead pastors at Winston Salem First in North Carolina. Dr. Rakes completed his undergraduate degree in ministry at Central Bible College, has an M.A. in biblical literature from AGTS as well as an M.Div. and D.Min. from Biola University. After pastoring in Oklahoma and Missouri, Dr. Rakes focused on higher education, becoming the vice president of academic affairs at Southeastern University in Florida.

Holly Moore steps into the vice chair role after serving on the Board of Trustees for four years. Moore, who graduated from ORU with a degree in nursing in 1986, is the vice president of Growing Leaders, a non profit organization that creates events and resources to teach character, leadership and career skills to the emerging generation. Moore has over 12 years of executive experience with non-profit organizations including Mercy Ships and Eagle Ranch.

Goodwill Industries of Tulsa announces newly elected officers for its 2017 - 2018 Board of Directors. Chairman of the Board **Terry Blain** of CrossFirst Bank; Vice Chairman **Steve Berlin**; Secretary/Treasurer **Ron Mucci** of ONEOK. Newly elected directors to the board are **Chris Mafille** of Unit Corporation; **Kevin Lackner** of Mid-First Bank; and **Michelle Hartman** of SJS Hospitality. **David E. Oliver** was re-elected as president of Goodwill Industries of Tulsa.



WILFONG

Meagan Collins, a junior at the University of Tulsa, is this year's summer intern at **Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers**. A Broken Arrow native, Collins will

graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in English and minor in communication and Chinese in May 2018. She has written and edited for The Collegian Student Newspaper, PennWell Publishing, WishDish, Nimrod International Journal of Prose & Poetry, Stylus, and VSolvit. She is also a cellist for the TU symphony orchestra. She is currently the general writing editor for Stylus Student Journal of Art & Writing. Her freelance editing business will launch this summer. After graduation, she will pursue a career in fiction editing.

The board of directors of the **Make-A-Wish Foundation of Oklahoma** has selected **Bradley Barghols** as its chief executive officer. In addition to managing the operations of the organization, he will work closely with supporters all over the state to promote the Make-A-Wish mission of "granting wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy."

Barghols joins the organization with a strong background in executive leadership of non profit organizations at both the regional and national levels. He was most recently the regional chief executive officer of the American Red Cross and the CEO of the Central and Western divisions of the Muscular Dystrophy Association where he served in various capacities for 25 years.

Mike Fournier of The Sonrise Companies in Broken Arrow was named the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Remodeler of the Month for May. Fournier was selected for his leadership, quality craftsmanship, customer service and community involvement. Approximately 140,000 builders and remodelers across the country are eligible for consideration of this monthly award.

Faith Technologies, a national leader in electrical planning, engineering, design and installation, has relocated its Tulsa office to 5825 S. 129th East Ave., on the southeastern side of Tulsa.

Faith's Tulsa office is led by **Michael Bowman**, regional vice president; Dave Klein, senior project manager; Joey Surowiak, project manager; Blaine Moore, project manager; and Justin Reavis, project manager. The new location is home to 15 additional team members representing several areas of the business including human resources, engineering, design, learning and development, office administration and logistics.

For more information on Faith Technologies' experience, career opportunities and locations, visit faithtechnologies.com.



COLLINS

Adam Akins has joined **In-House Advertising** as an account executive. After graduating from Oklahoma State University in May 2004, he

started his career at Clear Channel Radio. He has additional experience in sales and management with Fox 23, the Journal Broadcast Group and KTUL.

Akins also plans to open Revved Fitness Center in south Tulsa with his wife Breean Akins in June.

KJRH 2 Works for You has named **Mike Collier** its new chief meteorologist. Collier has

worked in the Tulsa market for 17 years, covering the severe and constantly-changing weather of Green Country.

Born and raised in Tulsa, Collier fell in love with weather at the young age of seven, when he visited Channel 2 as a Cub Scout. It was the Channel 2 chief meteorologist at the time who gave Collier a printout of his first weather map. From that moment on, he says he was committed to being a meteorologist in Tulsa.

Collier is a two-time winner of the Tulsa Press Club's best use of social media honor. He has a strong social media following, and he will continue to engage on Twitter and Instagram @Mike-CollierWX.

He spent five years on the board of directors for Emergency Infant Services, an organization that helps infants and children with emergency needs such as formula, diapers and clothing.

Oklahoma State University-Tulsa has selected **Dr. Lindsey Claire Smith**, OSU associate professor of English, as interim director of the Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers, an organization aimed at celebrating Oklahoma's literary heritage and examining the influence of writers from across the country.

Smith's area of expertise is Native American and Oklahoma literature as well as Native American studies and the arts. She is editor of the American Indian Quarterly, a leading publication in interdisciplinary American Indian studies.

Smith has served as faculty fellow for community engagement and received special recognition for her work as founder of the Oklahoma Indigenous Studies Alliance, a partnership between OSU, the University of Tulsa and Philbrook Museum of Art.

Smith also launched a partnership between OSU and the Tulsa Artist Fellowship to host public events and connect students with renowned writers and artists. She recently hosted events featuring Native American artist Arigon Starr and New Yorker writer David Grann at OSU-Tulsa.

For more information, visit osu-tulsa.okstate.edu.



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RIVER SPIRIT CASINO RESORT IS COMPLETE: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James Floyd cuts the ribbon during the final grand-opening event of River Spirit Casino Resort's expansion, with the help of Pat Crofts, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casinos CEO. In April, River Spirit Casino Resort's pool and cabanas, LandShark Pool Bar and Tiki Bar as well as the relocated River Parks Trail all opened to the public.



GTR Newspapers Photo

ARTIST AT WORK: Local artist Cecilia Villalobos paints at the First Friday Art Crawl in downtown Tulsa's Brady Arts District on May 5. Taking place behind her at Guthrie Green is the International Jazz Fest that featured area musicians.

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Tulsa's McBirney Mansion Holds Rich History

When I began writing these architectural-themed articles, I gave myself a rule that I would not include historical Tulsa residences, since John Brooks Walton and others have done a meticulous job of discussing these. However, there are always exceptions to every rule—the house discussed in this article is one of these exceptions.

On the crest of a small hill, between Houston Avenue and Galveston Avenue at Riverside Drive, sits the 12,000-square-foot McBirney Mansion, 1414 S. Galveston Ave., one of the largest homes in Tulsa. Occupying a site of 2.8 acres, complete with a small pond fed by an underground spring, this residence features a spectacular view of the Arkansas River.

The original owner was early-day Tulsa banker James H. McBirney. The McBirneys were

key players in the construction of the Gothic-styled First Methodist Church and the First National Bank buildings. The family is best known for the establishment and long-term management of the National Bank of Commerce.

The McBirney Mansion was designed in 1927 by architects Biollot and Lauch of Kansas City. The general contractor was John Long Company, who also built the Philtower.

Because of the property's sloping site, the residence is three stories at Houston Avenue and at its front elevation at Galveston Avenue but four stories at its elevation along Riverside Drive.

A classic Tudor, the house's exterior features clinker brick, limestone rubblestone, leaded glass windows and half-timbered stucco. A steeply-pitched slate roof is accented with dormers and brick chimneys capped with clay chimney pots. The garage is de-

tached with four stalls (two stalls accessed on Galveston and two stalls on Houston) in a split-level design.

The interior of the house reflects its exterior design. A long gallery hallway runs the length of the main floor. It begins with a massive staircase and ends at a stone terrace overlooking the river. Off this corridor is an expansive living room on one side and dining room on the other. All 35 rooms and over 12 bedrooms are on three levels.

The mansion's size alone, plus the fame of such guests as Amelia Earhart, has assured its place in Tulsa history.

The McBirney family occupied the house until 1975 when it was sold to Roger and Donna Hardesty. At that time, the untouched main floor was a 1928 time capsule. The Hardestys sold the house to a law firm that succeeded in obtaining National Registry designation in 1977: the first residence in Tulsa to receive this accreditation.

After further changes in ownership, it was staged as the Designer Showcase in 1997 and subsequently purchased by Jim and Renita Shofner and Ron and Kathy Collins.

These two couples were previous clients of mine. I had designed additions and extensive remodels for both of their homes. Renita Shof-



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

FAMED RESIDENCE: Since its construction in the late 1920s, McBirney Mansion, 1414 S. Galveston Ave., has served as both a private home and, later, a retreat for the rich and famous, operating as a bed and breakfast from 1997 to 2006. In 2015, the mansion once again became a private residence.

ner got the bed-and-breakfast bug while staying in bed and breakfasts in Scotland and talked Kathy Collins into launching McBirney Mansion as a bed and breakfast. They enlisted their husbands and secured a loan.

The stories that these businesswomen tell could fill a book.

They handled kitchen exhaust code issues by using a long-hidden masonry flue. They installed special grass matting to add event parking on the lawns since off-site parking was restricted by zoning. They located a retired naval engineer who could keep the original

boiler and radiator system functioning.

From 1997 to 2006, McBirney Mansion was the most successful B&B in Tulsa. Among its many guests were Garth Brooks, Helen Thomas, Tom Coburn and Don Nickles.

However, after nine years, the owners were ready to hang it up and spend more time with their families.

Today, McBirney Mansion is once again a private residence, purchased by Gentner and Wendy Drummond in 2015, that remains a beautiful fixture of Tulsa's history.

Trash to Treasure: Transformed Bottle Caps Win Mayfest Youth Arts

It took one inspired art teacher, two years of saving bottle caps, four months of work and one hundred art students to create the winning 2017 Mayfest Youth Arts entry.

Union High School Art Teacher Julie Skidmore led students through a group assignment she felt pays homage to our Native American history. "In Oklahoma, in Tulsa, and very much here at Union, we are proud of our Native American roots. So I feel this painting pays tribute to that honor, that pride and respect we feel today for our Native American ancestors."

Skidmore says students in four regular art classes were at first daunted by the task ahead. "They each had 15 caps they meticulously painted to match tiny portions of the portrait's sketch," which Skidmore created. Art student Chloe Click laughingly said, "At first, we didn't know what we were doing with all

these bottle caps. Then, after we knew, I thought, 'okay, but how are we going to get all this done?' I still can't believe how great it all came together."

Student Aliza Harris had the job of gluing the caps in place for third hour students. "When my friends would bring me their caps, I thought they'd never match, they'd never work. But, I mean, Wow...I really didn't expect it to look so great."

Skidmore says she's proud of how the students persevered throughout the process, and how they learned

the power of collaboration, and is proud they learned that what they thought of as trash they see can become something new and beautiful. "I'm so proud of them. This is the first time many of them have seen how something like a bottle cap can become a winning art piece. They worked so hard, and that hard work paid off."

Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) sponsors the Mayfest Youth Arts Mark of Excellence Award and gave \$500 to Skidmore who says she will spend the money on new art supplies for her students. "I want to thank PSO for sponsoring and supporting our young artists. I am proud this award highlights our art program at Union, and the hard work put in by our dedicated students."

Tulsa Inducted in National Recycling Hall of Fame

The National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA) recently inducted Tulsa Kenneth Burkett into their Hall of Fame for his "lifetime contribution to the waste and recycling industry."

Burkett is founder of American Waste Association, Inc., better known to us as Mr. Murph, and owner of our Trash-to-Energy services at the Sand Springs landfill. NWRA says since 1987, Burkett "...has helped recycle more than a billion tons of material." NWRA also cited that non-recyclable material are, "...sent to a renewable energy landfill that Burkett purchased in 2000. That Sand Springs landfill converts methane gas to electricity, providing 3.2 megawatts of power to more than 18,000 Oklahomans daily." Congratulations, Mr. Burkett!

Trash Talk



By BETH TURNER
Tulsa Master Recyclers Association



BETH TURNER for GTR Newspapers

WINNING ARTISTS: Union High School Art Teacher Julie Skidmore and Junior Chloe Click accepted the \$500 prize from PSO on behalf of the dozens of students who collaboratively created the winning piece for the 2017 Mayfest Youth Arts PSO Mark of Excellence Award. The painting utilized the mixed medium of acrylic paint, glue and upcycled plastic bottle caps.

Get Out and Get Involved

Summer is a great time to get out into the community, to engage with nature and become more invested in reasons why to recycle.

On Thursday, June 8 join Eddie Reese at Oxley Nature Center for a Tree Walk. Enjoy the stroll as you learn about their unique features and find out just how long it takes for a tree to get that big.

TYPPro's hosts Sustainability Crew meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Show

up at 6:00 p.m., at Prairie Brew Pub located at 223 N. Main St. just down from Cain's Ballroom.

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Anchored in Illusion: Beth Rengel Discusses Career

By **CHUCK CISSEL**
Contributing Writer

It's rare to spend time with a public figure you knew from their past success and wished, one day, you'd have the chance to spend time talking with them. Recently, that became a reality for me when I had that opportunity to sit down with the lovely Beth Rengel. Our conversation centered on her new book, "Anchored In Illusion." Just as I thought, I found Beth to be genuine, comfortable in her own skin and easy to talk to. It was a refreshingly candid interview.

With her natural beauty and talent, doors to her dreams opened, and she worked hard to put herself in a position to take advantage of opportunities and to reach for her goals. For years many of you will recall Ms. Rengel as a news anchorwoman on KOTV Channel 6, KTUL Channel 8 and KJRH Channel 2. She is also remembered for when she was crowned Miss Texas in 1972 and her third-place runner-up to Miss America in 1973. Beth was quite successful, as well, anchoring the news in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Atlanta, Georgia. For a young woman with simple beginnings from Wichita Falls, Texas, Beth Rengel is an American success story.

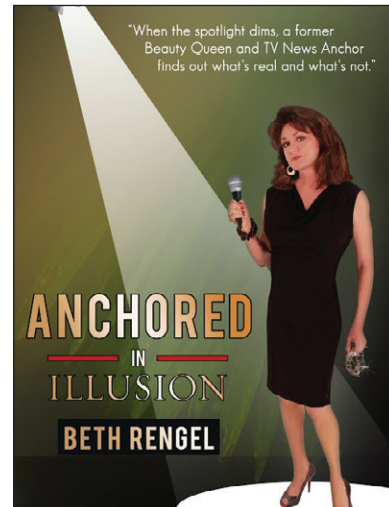
Her narrative began when she was dropped off by her dad and mom in Houston, Texas, to enter the Miss Astros contest (Houston Astros). Beth walked into the pageant world unsure of what was to come, a bit scared and a



MISS TEXAS: Beth Rengel was Miss Texas in 1972.



TV ANCHOR: Beth Rengel with her KOTV Channel 6 news team in the 1990s. From left are co-news anchor Clayton Vaughn, weatherman Jim Giles and sportscaster John Walls.



TELLING IT ALL: Beth Rengel reveals the ups and downs of her career in her new book, "Anchored in Illusion." She will have a book signing at the Tulsa Press Club on June 16 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

novice. But she had heart, determination and a strong desire to learn the ropes of the pageant world. She put in the time and hard work, and soon became a force to be reckoned with among her contemporaries on the pageant circuit. Her goal was to win and man did she ever: Miss Astros, Miss Texas and almost Miss America. Though she was a bona fide winner, Beth shared that for many years, she hid behind the illusion of perfection in her career paths and in her personal relationships. Though Beth enjoyed the trappings of national success for many years, she finally came to terms with what was stirring

deep within her soul. She struggled with insecurities, loneliness, failures, and had to outsmart and maneuver herself around the male-dominated broadcast journalism industry, which was no easy task. Beth said it took her a long time to wise up and realize that her life had been anchored in a façade. The false images that many of us often portray to the people around us – the masks we all wear. We lose ourselves in titles, labels, careers, our mates, driving a certain car, designer labels, living in the big house – "Anchored In Illusion."

Looking back, she recalled when the light bulb came on,

"When I lost my identity – I had quite the career at KOTV Channel 6; a public resignation, I left my marriage, raised my daughter and sent her off to college, my mother was ill, and my sister had cancer. I woke up to the fact that I could not control everything any longer. I clearly understood I did not have the labels anymore (wife, TV anchor, mom). I also moved out of a three floor mansion in midtown Tulsa and went back to being a single lady. It was not an easy period in my life and there were many unanswered questions, thoughts of failure and disappointments, yet I searched to find the answers. I had to keep moving forward."

Beth pondered her next steps and the direction for her life's journey. She remembered the pearls of wisdom her family often imparted and how their input helped to change Beth's outlook on life. Her grandmother would often tell her, "You don't regret the things you do, but the things you don't do." Her dad said, "If you fail, it's better than a kick in the rear," and her mother told her, "You'll never know unless you try." As fate would have it, Beth met nationally-acclaimed author and motivational speaker Jim Stovall, who impressed her with his wisdom, kindness of heart and guidance. Mr. Stovall asked Beth, "What does Beth Rengel want to do for the rest of her life?" Beth did not know because she felt she'd lost her identity. Stovall then asked Beth to write down the 10 most pivotal moments that changed her life. After listening to Beth share her life journey, Stovall encouraged her to communicate her story in the form of a book. Beth said, "A book? You think I should write a book?" Mr. Stovall stated, "You have a story

to tell that many will be able to relate to, women of all ages. You got knocked down; more importantly, you got back up. That's powerful."

The meeting with Mr. Stovall was a game changer and an empowering, life-affirming moment for Beth, so much so, it brought tears to her eyes. A new direction was on the horizon. Though it took eight years for Beth to complete "Anchored In Illusion," she has written a very personal and inspirational memoir that both men and women can relate to and certainly one that will empower women of all ages. According to Beth's bio, "She gives you a road map to examine your own illusions of perfection and to see behind the masks we all wear. Follow your dreams, wherever they take you, but don't get caught up in the illusions of life."

I admire women who succeed in this male-driven society. Too often women are not recognized for their intelligence, genius, creativity and strength. I tip my hat to Beth Rengel, because she is, indeed, a true champion and a phenomenal woman.

FYI – You can catch an interview with Beth Rengel on Chicago's WGN Wednesday, June 21. You can meet Beth Rengel in person on Friday, June 16 at the Tulsa Press Club. Beth will sign her new book, "Anchored in Illusion," 5 to 7 p.m.

If you would like to order her book, go to bethengel.com

The author, Chuck Cissel, has performed on Broadway as an American singer, dancer, director, choreographer and producer. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, he is the former CEO of the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame.

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28 May SOMETHING ROTTEN! Celebrity Attractions 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA JAZZ.COM ROWDY BUNCH MUSIC FESTIVAL Guthrie Green 2:30 p.m. Visit bacptheatre.com for more information. More Bank for Your Buck Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	 MEMORIAL DAY FITNESS ON THE GREEN: DEFEND TOGETHER Guthrie Green 6:30 p.m. Visit bacptheatre.com for more information. 	30 FUNCTIONAL MOVEMENT LIFE's Senior Center at Southminster 9 – 10 a.m. Visit lifeniorservices.org for more information. TULSA DRILLERS vs. San Antonio 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information.	31 PERCUSSION/RHYTHM CLASS LIFE's Senior Center at East Side 9 – 10 a.m. Visit lifeniorservices.org for more information. TULSA DRILLERS vs. San Antonio 7:05 p.m. • May 31-June 1 Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information.	1 June THE CHEROKEE MAIDENS & SYCAMORE SWING Robert J. LaFortune Studio 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. PEETE 'N' KEELY Tulsa Repertory Musicals 8 p.m. • June 1-2 myticketoffice.com for tickets. ROGER WATERS BOK Center 8 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.	2 VOICES OF THE FUTURE: SONGS ABOUT TEENAGE LIFE, LOVE & HOPE Tulsa Youth Cabaret 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Tulsa Project Theatre 7:30 p.m. • June 2-3 myticketoffice.com for tickets. FLYIN' WEST Theatre North 8 p.m. • June 2-3 myticketoffice.com for tickets.	3 PEETE 'N' KEELY Tulsa Repertory Musicals 2 & 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. SHELBY EICHER: HILL-BILLY JAZZ Robert J. LaFortune Studio 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA DRILLERS vs. Corpus Christi 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information.
4 TULSA DRILLERS vs. Corpus Christi 1:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Tulsa Project Theatre 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. VINTAGE WILDFLOWERS IN CONCERT Robert J. LaFortune Studio 3 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	5 MUSIC SANDWICHED IN Central Library 12 – 12:45 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. JOURNEY BOK Center 7:30 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. THE STRUMBELLAS Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	6 MISS OKLAHOMA Mabee Center 7:30 p.m. • June 6-10 Visit mabeecenter.com for more information. FLUX PAVILION Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. Free Small Business Checking Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	7 BROWN BAG IT: TULSA ROCK QUARTET PAC Trust 12:10 p.m. This event is FREE. BUSH Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information. SAMMY HAGAR AND THE CIRCLE River Spirit Casino 7 p.m. Visit riverspirittulsa.com for info.	8 LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Tulsa Project Theatre 7:30 p.m. • June 8-10 myticketoffice.com for tickets. WOW! HANDBELLS ROCK! Tulsa Festival Ringers 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. OK MOZART FESTIVAL Bartlesville June 8 – 16 Visit bradytheater.com for more information.	9 NORAH JONES Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information. 88 KEYS AND ME Jeremy Stevens 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. US/THEM Echo Theatre Company 8 p.m. • June 9-10 myticketoffice.com for tickets.	10 TULSA TOUGH Downtown Tulsa June 9-11 Visit tulsatough.com for more information. TULSA DRILLERS vs. Springfield 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. SILLY HABITS WITH JANET RUTLAND Janet Rutland 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.
11 TULSA DRILLERS vs. Springfield 1:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Tulsa Project Theatre 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. US/THEM Echo Theatre Company 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	12 TULSA DRILLERS vs. Springfield 11:05 a.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. FORE KIDS! MEN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT Bailey Golf Ranch All Day Visit obhc.org/golf for more information.	13 DRAWING ON MEMORIES Gilcrease Museum 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Visit alz.org for more info. TULSA DRILLERS vs. Springfield 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. SoMo - THE ANSWERS TOUR Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	14 TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. LEADING LADIES OF EARLY TULSA LaFortune Community Center 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Visit lifeniorservices.org for more information. New Name. Same Bank. Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	15 GUITARS GONE WILD: JAZZ & BLUES CONCERT Joef Glaude 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. SEEKING SHELTER Pique Theatre Company 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas 7:05 p.m. • June 15-16 Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information.	16 THE MOODY DUDES: A GARAGE BAND SALUTE TO THE SUMMER OF LOVE SummerStage Tulsa 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. JUST US: WHITNEY PETERS AND FRIENDS SummerStage Tulsa 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	17 PROTEST! A MUSICAL REVUE Shadley Arts & Sciences 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. GFEST Muskogee June 15-17 Visit gfestmuskogee.com for more information.
18 PROTEST! A MUSICAL REVUE Shadley Arts & Sciences 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE Broken Arrow Community Playhouse 7:30 p.m. Visit bacptheatre.com for more information.	19 FORE KIDS! WOMEN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT Bailey Golf Ranch All Day Visit obhc.org/golf for more information. MUSIC SANDWICHED IN Central Library 12 – 12:45 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	20 ZUMBA GOLD LIFE's Senior Center at Southminster 10 – 11 a.m. Visit lifeniorservices.org for more information. TUESDAYS IN THE PARK Central Park Broken Arrow 7 – 9 p.m. Visit artsok.org for more information. MATILDA THE MUSICAL Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	21 MATILDA THE MUSICAL Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. • June 21-22 myticketoffice.com for tickets. BASICS OF MEDICARE LIFE's Senior Services 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Visit lifeniorservices.org for more information. SCIENCE FUN WITH CHRIS MIDDLEBROOK Nathan Hale Library 1 – 2 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	22 CHRIS STAPLETON BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. MARK GIBSON BAND Summerstage Tulsa 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	23 THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Presented by Sand Springs Community Theatre 7:30 p.m. • June 22-24 myticketoffice.com for tickets. MATILDA THE MUSICAL Celebrity Attractions 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	24 MATILDA THE MUSICAL Celebrity Attractions 2 & 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. OY, GESTALT Spinning Plates Productions 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.
25 MATILDA THE MUSICAL Celebrity Attractions 2 & 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. OY, GESTALT Spinning Plates Productions 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA DRILLERS vs. NW Arkansas 1:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information.	26 FOR THE LOVE OF CATS AND DOGS Nathan Hale Library All Day Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. WEATHER WHYS Brookside Library 11 – 11:45 a.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	27 HIRING EVENT FOR POSITIONS WITH ELIOT MANAGEMENT GROUP Goodwill Job Connection 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Visit goodwilltulsa.org.com for more information. TULSA ROUGHNECKS VS. SHOPE PARK RANGERS ONEOK Field 7:30 p.m. Visit roughnecksfsc.com for more information.	28 COOKING FOR 1 OR 2 Tulsa Health Department 1:30 – 3 p.m. Visit lifeniorservices.org for more information. DIVE DEEP TO BUILD A CORAL REEF Nathan Hale Library 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. 	29 TIME TO GET FUNKY WITH SUGAR FREE ALLSTARS Hardesty Regional Library - Connor's Cove Children's Theater 2 – 3 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	30 THE BIXBY FREEDOM CELEBRATION The Bridge Church 4:30 – 10 p.m. Visit bixbyfreedomcelebration.com for more information. AFTERNOON MOVIE Owasso Library 2 – 3:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	1 July TULSA ROUGHNECKS VS. REAL MONARCHS SLC ONEOK Field 7:30 p.m. Visit roughnecksfsc.com for more information. FAIR MEADOWS LIVE RACING Fair Meadows Race Track 5 p.m. Visit exposquare.com for more information.



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BIXBY NEWS

EVENT PARK OPENS



GTR Newspapers Photo

CHARLEY YOUNG PARK: In May, the Bixby Metro Chamber of Commerce and the City of Bixby hosted a ribbon cutting and grand-opening celebration of Charley Young Event Park in downtown Bixby. Pictured are chamber, city and community representatives, including Bixby Mayor John Easton, County Commissioner Ron Peters and Chamber President and CEO Krystal Crockett.



GTR Newspapers Photo

DOWNTOWN'S FUTURE: Part of the Charley Young Event Park grand-opening festivities included a "What I Wish for Downtown Bixby" chalkboard that encouraged community suggestions on future downtown development.

Outstanding Senior Recognized

In April, Sarah Hartje, of Bixby, was named one of Northeastern State University's 2017 Outstanding Seniors during the inaugural Kaufman Medal Reception April 26, held in downtown Tulsa.

Hartje is a student at Northeastern State University Broken Arrow, pursuing a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

The NSU Alumni Association bestows the Outstanding Senior recognition annually, honoring graduating seniors who have made significant contributions to NSU through academic achievement, campus leadership and involvement, community service, and honors and awards.

During the ceremony, NSU recognized Rachel Jackson, of Owasso, as the 2017 Jack Kaufman Senior of Distinction. Jackson is a psychology major with a minor in social welfare. After graduation, Jackson plans to attend the University of Oklahoma for the clinical and mental health program. She hopes to become a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Licensed Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counselor.



Courtesy Photo

BIXBY TIES: In April, Northeastern State University Broken Arrow student Sarah Hartje was recognized as an NSU 2017 Outstanding Senior.

2017 Outstanding Seniors:

NSU Broken Arrow:

- Samir Ali, Tulsa, Cellular & Molecular Biology, minor in Psychology
- Sheena Bottorff, Cave Creek, Arizona, Environmental Health and Safety Management
- Jason Featherngill, Broken Arrow, Social Work
- Sarah Hartje, Bixby, Elementary Education
- Sarah Long, Claremore, Elementary Education

NSU Tahlequah:

- Ashton Beauvais, Oktaha, Health & Human Performance, minor in Pre-Health
- Paige Butler, Inola, Hospitality & Tourism Management
- Sarah Butler, Blaregnies, Belgium, English Education
- Ryan Christie, Stilwell, Cellular & Molecular Biology

- Dillan Davis, Inola, Media Studies, Public Relations & Advertising, minor in Hospitality and Tourism Management
- Elizabeth DePriest, Muskogee, Speech-Language Pathology, minor in Music
- Taylor Eversole, Oklahoma City, Special Education, minor in American Sign Language
- Rachel Jackson, Owasso, Psychology, minor in Social Welfare
- Johnathon Ozturk, Park Hill, Accounting, Finance
- Jaclyn True, Pryor, Cellular Biology, minors in Chemistry & Mathematics
- Heather Wallace, Edmond, Hospitality & Tourism Management, minor in Communication
- Jared Ward, Ramona, Health & Human Performance, minor in Business
- Sky Wildcat, Muskogee, Psychology, Geography

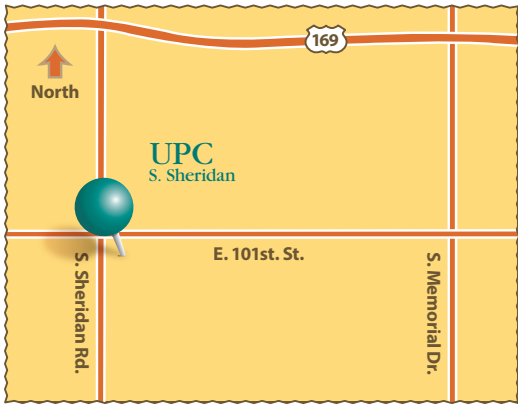


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