



TULSA BALLET DANCERS
CELEBRATE 60 YEARS

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TONY MOORE BRINGS EXPERIENCE
TO GATHERING PLACE

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JENKS DISTRICT GAZETTE

One of Six Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers

Volume 23

July 2017

Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group

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VOTE



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Jenks Student Supports Deployed Troops

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Jenks high school student Katy Grider is working to make a difference for deployed American troops.

In the spring of last year, at the encouragement of her mother, Cristi, Katy Grider began searching for a community-focused activity in which she could volunteer her time.

Because of the military's constant need for supplies for deployed soldiers, Grider decided to focus on gathering donations to give to the Tulsa Blue Star Mothers of America.

She began her collection efforts by going door-to-door, requesting items from her neighbors.

Grider, who at the time was an eighth grader at Jenks Middle School, then asked her principal if she could engage in fundraising efforts at the school. After gaining permission, she created posters to hang on campus, made announcements on the school's video broadcast and handed out fliers to fellow students.

Her next step involved her father and the company where he works, Summit ESP. Grider presented her project to the company's community outreach committee, which led to the company involving its branches throughout the U.S. to encourage employee giving.

Last year, Grider collected enough donations to fill 100 shipping boxes, called Freedom Boxes. Each box that the Tulsa Blue Star Mothers sends contains about \$50 of supplies, including ready-to-eat foods, sanitary items, socks, toothbrushes, and batteries.

For the 2016-2017 school year, Grider continued her efforts, this time at the Freshman Academy. She made classroom presentations, and she encouraged students to write letters to soldiers.

Recently, Grider completed a fundraising drive that involved donation bins set up at area businesses. She also regularly spends time packing shipping boxes at the Tulsa Blue Star Mothers' offices in downtown Tulsa at 907 S.



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

TULSA BLUE STAR MOTHERS: Jenks High School sophomore Katy Grider stands with members of the Tulsa Blue Star Mothers of America. Pictured with her are, from left, Tulsa Blue Star Mothers Donna Reatz, treasurer Mary Barnett, Sandy Alston, Chapter President Saundra Bixler and financial secretary Kathy Burns.

Detroit Ave. in the Sunoco Building.

Many of the local chapter's boxes are currently being sent to Ukraine, where additional U.S. soldiers are being deployed, says Chapter President Saundra Bixler.

For Grider, who was adopted along with her brother, Joey, from Ukraine, the chapter's efforts to help soldiers in her native country makes it that much more special.

"It felt really good for all of us to know that we were packing boxes to benefit American troops who are protecting the country in which Katy and Joey were born," says Cristi Grider.

The Tulsa Chapter of the Blue Star Mothers covers all of Tulsa County and was the first chapter established in Oklahoma in 2003.

The organization's purpose is twofold: to provide shipping boxes filled with needed supplies to deployed soldiers and to offer support for mothers of military service members.

The chapter is also involved in local efforts to support veterans and service members, says Bixler.

The chapter has donated to the Coffee Bunker, 6365 E. 41st St. in Tulsa, and recently provided support to a local serviceman who was



Courtesy photo

VOLUNTEER SPIRIT: Katy Grider stands at a donation stand that she set up in Walmart to collect items for the Tulsa Blue Star Mothers' Freedom Boxes, which are sent to deployed American soldiers. Last year, Grider collected enough donations through her fundraising efforts to fill 100 boxes.

in need of new tires for his vehicle.

"We also build up moms," says Bixler. "We are a soft shoulder for each other."

"Because we are all going, or have gone, through the same thing, we can share our experiences with each other and help mothers cope."

In 2016, the Tulsa Chapter sent 2,400 boxes overseas.

To ship one box costs \$15 on average, plus the cost for the supplies in the box, driving home the importance of community support, she continues. And the benefits to

the soldiers make it all worth it.

"These boxes bring soldiers the comfort of home," Bixler says. "We get letters from them all the time, thanking us."

Bixler recounts one story from a soldier stationed in Iraq who told her that he gives many of his boxes to the local Iraqi soldiers.

"The local soldiers are just astounded that a country would go to all of that trouble for its soldiers," says Bixler.

"How we treat our military is so different from other countries."

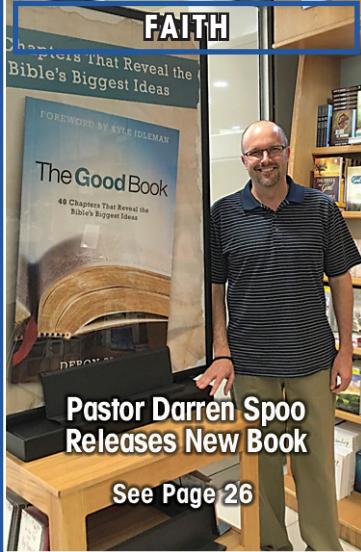
ECONOMY



Jackson Technical Builds New Building

See Page 20

FAITH



Pastor Darren Spoo Releases New Book

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KUDOS of the MONTH: Woody Guthrie Center

The Woody Guthrie Center, located in downtown Tulsa's Brady Arts District at 102 E. M.B. Brady St., recently celebrated its fourth anniversary.

The original Woody Guthrie archives were purchased in 2011 by the George Kaiser Family Foundation and moved to Tulsa from New York in 2013. The center opened in April 2013 with the mission of preserving Woody Guthrie's body of work and celebrating his life and the continuation of his legacy for social justice.

The center is home to several special collections, including the Woody Guthrie Collection, business papers of Harold Leventhal and the Joe Klein Interview tapes, which

were used in his biography of Woody Guthrie, "Woody Guthrie: A Life."

The center was recently gifted the research collections of the Phil Ochs Papers, the Ronald D. Cohen Folk Music Research Collection, and the Michael Ochs Collection. Besides archives, the center also offers lesson plans for teachers, summer music programs and fellowships.

On June 25, the center will present "Putting on Their Fighting Pants: Woody and Friends sing Wartime Songs on the BBC," a presentation by Christy Miller, recipient of the 10th Woody Guthrie Fellowship, regarding Guthrie's involvement in two radio programs that aired on BBC



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers
PRESERVING HISTORY: The Woody Guthrie Center, located in downtown Tulsa, celebrated its fourth anniversary in April.

during World War II: "The Martians and the Coys" and "The Chisholm Trail."

On July 6, the center will welcome folk performer John McCutcheon.

Tulsa Ballet Dancers Celebrate 60 Years

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is courtesy of a long-time volunteer and supporter of the Tulsa Ballet.

Sandwiched between Tulsa Ballet's final two performances on Mother's Day, 2017, was a quiet, joyful event. On the green just outside of the University of Tulsa's Lorton Performance Center was a tent filled with tables surrounded by celebrants. This was a gathering of six decades of former Tulsa Ballet dancers. They came from across the country to celebrate with their friends, their audience, and Tulsa Ballet supporters. All were applauding the end of Tulsa Ballet's 60th Anniversary Season.

Who could have imagined the impact on Tulsa...Oklahoma...and the entire U.S. ballet world when two world-famous professional dancers chose Tulsa for their retirement. Moscelyne Larkin, one of Oklahoma's "Indian ballerinas" and her premier danseur husband, Roman Jasinski, wanted their small son to have a "normal" upbringing. So they settled in Tulsa, joined the studio of Miss Larkin's mother and began to teach.

From that simple decision blossomed a whole bouquet of firsts....the first performance of a raw, ragged corps de ballet made up of students from four different studios; the first Oklahoma Indian Ballerina Festival that turned astonished international eyes on our city; early performances on tennis courts and in church basements; the first All-Boys class west of the Mississippi.

While young students began to be molded and trained in the classroom, brilliant ballerinas and

principal dancers came to Tulsa to lend the Jasinskis a hand, sharing their talents on stage. Slowly, slowly the city developed a taste for the art. Slowly, slowly supporters began to fund performances. Rare lost ballets were researched and recreated. Ballet Russe favorites were revived.

From those fledgling beginnings the company grew in stature and reputation until young students who started out as bunnies, mice and soldiers in early "Nutcracker" days grew into professional dancers of such talent that they joined major companies throughout Europe and America.

The "young son" Roman Larkin Jasinski, (who, years later, succeeded his parents as Artistic Director of Tulsa Ballet) was under that tent, along with former dancers from across the country who have danced, taught, led professional companies nationwide. All came from those early sequential companies—Tulsa Ballet Arts, Tulsa Civic Ballet, Tulsa Ballet Theatre, Tulsa Ballet. All came to cheer their predecessors and successors. All applauded a video that condensed 60 years of accolades into 15 minutes of memorabilia.

In the 22 years that followed the Jasinski era, the current Artistic Director, Marcello Angelini, built on their foundation until Tulsa Ballet is now recognized nationally and internationally for its dancers, repertoire and creativity. Under Marcello's guidance, Tulsa Ballet opened its first school. There are now two, the Hardesty Center for Dance Education in Broken Arrow and the SemGroup CDE in Brookside.



Courtesy photo

CLASSIC REUNION: Past, present and future members of the Tulsa Ballet gathered at the University of Tulsa this past Mother's Day to celebrate Tulsa Ballet's 60 Years of success.

The Youth America Grand Prix ballet competition named Tulsa Ballet's CDE "the best school in the region."

A small in-house theatre attracts eminent choreographers who create new works for the company. Major full-length ballets have been choreographed, costumed and produced to show off our international dancers. This year more than 1,000 aspirants auditioned personally or by video for a handful of openings in the company. Select company mem-

bers are encouraged to test their choreographic talents on Tulsa Ballet II, a junior company that augments the "big" ballets, and performs its own repertoire for Tulsa-area students.

And the first Tulsa student has successfully transitioned from the Center for Dance Education—to TBII—to the main company—with hopes that others will follow in the future.

Marcello's vision has always included "giving back" (taking Ballet to underserved communi-

ties) and "giving to the future," creating new works that can take the name of Tulsa Ballet to companies at home and abroad.

The term "giving back" took on a whole new luster this Mother's Day when dancers who hadn't crossed paths in decades shared life stories and warm memories. Talk about "out-reach" Talk about "impacting the future." Tulsa Ballet was proud to embrace its own and to applaud the dancers who gave life, form and future to their company.

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- Best Dance School
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- Best Radio Host

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- Best Place for Family Fun
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- Best Spot for Breakfast
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- Best Bagel & Bread
- Best BBQ Place
- Best Outdoor Dining
- Best Chicken

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- Best Mexican Food
- Best Asian Food
- Best Pizza
- Best Ribs
- Best Seafood
- Best Steakhouse
- Best Sushi Bar
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- Best Antique Store
- Best Bicycle Shop
- Best Car Dealer
- Best Carpet/Tile Store
- Best Clothing Store-Women's

BEST OF GREATER TULSA

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The 2017 Best of Greater Tulsa Reporter Readers Picks gives readers of GTR Newspapers a chance to vote for their favorite places to shop, dine, and receive services throughout Greater Tulsa.

Please fill in the blank space in each category to vote for your favorite in Greater Tulsa. Readers can mail their picks to GTR Newspapers, P.O. Box 470645, Tulsa, OK 74147-0645, bring them to our office at 7116 S. Mingo Rd., Suite 103 or email to best@gtrnews.com. Readers may also vote online at gtrnews.com. Votes must be received by July 7, 2017. Results will be printed in the August 2017 issues. One vote per reader, per category. Voters must fill in at least 20 choices.

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Lost Kingdom Exhibit Now Open at Tulsa Zoo

\$21 Million

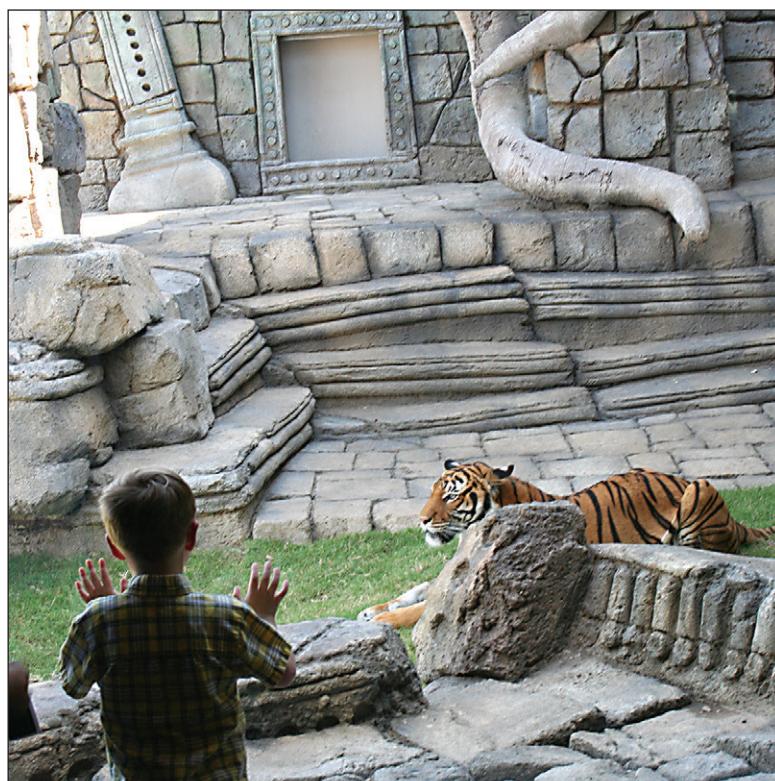
Exhibit Features

New Habitats with Updated, Naturalistic Homes for Rare Animals



GTR Newspapers photo

OPENING EVENT: Tulsa City Councilor Phil Lakin looks at the ribbon after it was cut to open the Lost Kingdom Exhibit. To Lakin's left are Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and Tulsa City Councilor David Patrick.



GTR Newspapers photo

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

CONTEMPLATING A TIGER: This youngster enjoys the first day at the Lost Kingdom Exhibit where he can view the animals from inside the facility.

The Tulsa Zoo hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its newest exhibit, the Lost Kingdom, on May 31.

This \$21 million exhibit replaces the existing over 50-year-old tiger and snow leopard facilities with updated, naturalistic homes. The new habitats include enrichment elements, demonstration areas and year-round viewing opportunities for some of Asia's most endangered species.

The Lost Kingdom is an example of the benefits of the public-private partnership between the City of Tulsa, which owns the zoo, and Tulsa Zoo Management, Inc., the nonprofit organization that operates and raises funds for the facility. TZMI, through generous private donors, funded more than three-fourths of the cost of the new exhibit. To honor the partnership with the city, Mayor G.T. Bynum helped zoo officials cut the ribbon at this new exhibit.

The Lost Kingdom Exhibit highlights rare animals from Asia. Animals exhibiting include Malayan tigers, snow leopards and Komodo dragons. The Helmerich Foundation made the lead gift to fund the zoo's new tiger exhibit. In honor of the gift, the Tulsa Zoo named the new facility Lost Kingdom: The Helmerich Tiger Exhibit, part of the Lost Kingdom complex. In addition to the Helmerich Foundation's gift, the Hardesty Family Foundation also generously pledged a donation to the Lost Kingdom complex. The Hardesty Family Foundation made a contribution as the lead gift for the new snow leopard facility, Lost Kingdom: The Hardesty Snow Leopard Habitat. This new exhibit provides the zoo's snow leopards a state-of-the-art enclosure, while allowing guests to see the highly endangered animals up close.

The Tulsa Zoo is grateful for the support of those who made this project possible: Helmerich Trust; City of Tulsa taxpayers through Improve Our Tulsa; George Kaiser Family Foundation; Hardesty Family Foundation; Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation; The Ann and Jack Graves Foundation; The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation; H.A. and Mary K. Chapman Charitable Trust; Suzanne and Jim Kneale Family Foundation; Bank of Oklahoma; The Grace and Franklin Bernsen Foundation; Lynn and Barbara Owens; Hille Foundation; Founders of Doctors' Hospital, Inc.; E.L. and Thelma Gaylord Foundation; Frank and Gayle Eby; Williams; Hannah and Joe Robson; Bailey Family; Great Plains Coca-Cola; Alma and Nick Robson Foundation; Stuart Family Foundation; Harold and Edna White Foundation; The Mervin Bovaird Foundation; and William S. Smith.



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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.

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CIVICS

Community Dashboard System Tracks City of Tulsa's Progress

From Tulsa's Mayor

By G.T. BYNUM

Here at the city we continue to work hard and grow our innovative capacity through the Office of Performance Strategy and Innovation. A group of talented employees, led by James Wagner, chief of performance strategy and innovation, is dedicated to using data and analytics from a range of sources to help city departments operate and prioritize resources.

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Since December 2016, our office of performance strategy and innovation has developed a community dashboard system to track the city's progress of outcomes important to the vitality and future growth of Tulsa. It's an all-out effort to use data and evidence to align our strategies to goals. This is a vital step in our work to make Tulsa city government more transparent and strategic.

As our community pursues clear goals to make us more nationally competitive, we want to empower every Tulsan with the ability to track our progress and hold your elected officials accountable. We use a variety of different software tools to track and measure data. When you visit the City's website – cityoftulsa.org/dashboards – you can access our available dashboards: Citywide Outcomes, Community Policing, and Animal Welfare. Simply click the links on each dashboard. Our Citywide Outcomes dashboard encompasses "Well-Being, Opportunity, City Experience, and Inside City Hall." Many of these outcomes focus on the experience that a resident, business owner or visitor of the city of Tulsa would experience. For example, one of the key outcomes is increasing Tulsa's population. This approach is unique:

It zeroes in on outcomes over outputs and gives city leaders the ability to work with external partners to realize goals.

The Community Policing dashboard covers 77 recommendations from the Tulsa Commission on Community Policing to help the city build upon community policing strategies in Tulsa. Recommendations include a detailed look at building trust and legitimacy, community policing and crime reduction, training and education, officer wellness and safety, policy and oversight, and technology and social media. We update these on a quarterly basis.

The Animal Welfare dashboard offers a birds-eye view of the entire Animal Welfare operation," plus descriptive statistics that can be broken down by council district. You can see from our websites' graphics that we consistently experience a huge spike in the summertime of more cats coming in to the shelter. So summer is the perfect time to adopt a kitten!

We plan to create strategies and dashboards in the coming months for Municipal Courts and the 311 Customer Care Center. Day by day our organization is becoming more targeted, efficient and effective. We strive to be a national leader in the use of data to deliver exceptional customer service to Tulsa citizens.



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

HONORING MAYOR ROBERT J. LAFORTUNE: The PAC Trust has commissioned a new portrait by Tulsa artist Nathan Opp of former Mayor Robert J. LaFortune to celebrate the Performing Art Center's 40th anniversary and to honor Robert J. LaFortune's dedicated leadership and service to the Trust. LaFortune's public service contributions to Tulsa are exceptional. As City of Tulsa commissioner of streets and public property (1964-70) and mayor (1970-78), he continued the development of the city's expressway system, led the massive land annexation effort, launched the floodplain mapping for flood prevention and was instrumental in building the Port of Catoosa. Perhaps his proudest achievement was working with John Williams of the Williams Companies for private-public funding to create Tulsa's Performing Arts Center. Long anticipated, the Trust proudly adds LaFortune's portrait alongside those of John Williams, Leta Chapman, Kathleen Westby and other PAC and Trust champions.



Courtesy photo

REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT: Mayor G.T. Bynum recognized 6-year-old Edith Fuller for her educational accomplishments June 7 at Tulsa City Hall. Edith recently received national attention for becoming the youngest competitor in National Spelling Bee history. To advance to nationals, Edith first had to win two competitions, her local school group spelling bee and the Green Country Regional Spelling Bee. To celebrate and recognize the importance of education in the community, Mayor Bynum presented Edith with a proclamation and key to the city of Tulsa.

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Tony Moore Brings Experience to Gathering Place

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Editor's Note: Tony Moore, park director of A Gathering Place for Tulsa, 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 Philbrook Museum of Art Director Scott Stulen.

Tony Moore was not initially looking for a job change, but it was A Gathering Place for Tulsa's message of inclusion and diversity that eventually proved too hard for him to ignore.

Moore officially began his role as Park Director for the Gathering Place in August 2016.

His background working in the entertainment park industry spans more than 30 years and began with his first job as a part-time operations employee at Sea World. He went on to work in various roles, including marketing, environmental, health and safety, and culinary operations, at a number of Orlando-area entertainment parks. Most recently, Moore served as Chief Operating Officer at Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, one of the most visited zoos in the southeast U.S.

"Orlando is the mecca of theme parks, with such major attractions and rides," says Moore, a Jamaica native. "It was a great place for me to be, especially when I was just starting in the business."

Even after being contacted regarding the position with the Gathering Place, Moore intended to remain on his present path, working towards an eventual role as park president.

"I was learning the business from the ground up, working my way to leadership," he says.

However, the Gathering Place's overall appeal and message were challenging to ignore, he continues, with the tipping point for him revolving around "the diversity of the content and the George Kaiser Family Foundation's mission behind the Gathering Place as a public space where all Tulsans can unite.

"The Gathering Place is really the ultimate climax of resources that are being used for the ultimate good."

Moore will be responsible for full operational and programmatic oversight of the park. He is also responsible for programs and operation of Guthrie Green.

Recently, the rest of the Gathering Place's leadership team was announced: Kirsten Hein as senior programming officer, Josh Henderson as senior operations officer, Amanda Murphy as senior marketing officer and Steve Terry as senior culinary officer.

"We have assembled an awesome team, none of what we do is individual," says Moore. "This team is well positioned to fully deliver on quality."

The first phase of the park, which will stretch from 26th Street to 33rd Street along Riverside Drive, is expected to open by summer 2018.

In order to provide a sneak peek and garner added anticipation, Tulsa-area elementary students will be invited to visit the five-acre Adventure Playground, which will be completed by January. The playground area will include five acres of handcrafted, one-of-a-kind equipment from Germany that has never before been seen in the U.S.

When asked about his favorite feature of the park, Moore won't commit, or maybe more accurate is



CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW: A Gathering Place for Tulsa Director Tony Moore stands near the north end of the Gathering Place. Behind him are Peggy's Pond and the Boathouse. Moore came to Tulsa from Orlando and officially began his role in August of last year.



LAND BRIDGES: A view of the land bridges that will create tunnels on Riverside Drive. The bridges will extend the park over the street and connect it to the Arkansas River. The tunnels will feature LED lights and have a European design element. Care is also being taken to engineer the bridges to minimize traffic noise from Riverside and to use vegetation and the landscape to muffle sounds.



GATEWAY BRIDGE: A rendering of the recently-announced bridge design that will replace the current Arkansas River Pedestrian Bridge and link A Gathering Place for Tulsa to west Tulsa. The bridge, designed by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, features a variety of shading structures and sitting areas, lighting features, and separate lanes for bicyclists and pedestrians. Construction is expected to begin in 2018.

that he is unable to commit to just one feature because "the park has a little bit of everything for everyone from toddlers to seniors," he says.

At the south end of the park, positioned next to the Arkansas River, will sit five multi-use sports courts that will also be lighted to allow for evening activities. Water activities, including boating and kayaking, will take place on Peggy's Pond, located at the park's north end, with eventual plans to expand those water activities onto the Arkansas River, Moore says.

Care is also being taken to engineer the bridge to minimize traffic noise from Riverside and to use vegetation and the landscape to muffle sounds. The speed limit will be decreased to 35 miles per hour for portions of Riverside.

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The park will also include 60,000 plants and shrubs and 7,000 trees. "We want to make this a green spot," says Moore. "This park will be beautiful, not flat but with hills and high inclines."

As the park moves into its final year of construction, Moore's and the whole city's degree of anticipation will only continue building.

"Tulsans will be blown away," he smiles.

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VARIETY

Summer Entertainment Takes Center Stage

How is your summer so far? I hope you've found some playtime to take in a concert or show. Along with what's happening at the BOK Center, the casinos, the Brady and the Tulsa PAC, there is always an assortment of summertime events under the stars that you can check out along with so much music at Cain's and the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame. If you like being outdoors, add "the big show" at Drillers stadium to your kick-back list. Baseball is its own fine art.

I'm very fond of baseball, dance and music in general. And I love theatre. It's fun to mix things up. In recent weeks I danced in my seat at the Chainsmokers concert, caught some ballet and Broadway around town, and experienced four exhilarating days of classical piano at the Cliburn competition in Ft. Worth, where seat-dancing was not allowed. There aren't any rules about how young or old you need to be to enjoy a certain type of entertainment. Healthy brains continually make new pathways.

Mixing the known with something new keeps life interesting. In the golden oldies column, there are three upcoming shows you might consider: Santana, Dionne Warwick and Peter Frampton. Santana has kept his career current with albums in 2009 and 2016. The winner of 10 Grammy awards, who gave us "Oye Como Va" and "Evil Ways," brings his Transmogrify Tour to River Spirit's Paradise Cove, July 6. That same night The Joint at the Hard Rock hosts singer Dionne Warwick. I was surprised to learn that she is a cousin of both opera singer Leontyne Price and Whitney Houston. Warwick is known mostly from her Burt Bacharach and Hal David songs like "Walk on By" "Do You Know the Way to San Jose?" and "I Say a Little Prayer for You." Also at the River Spirit is "Peter Frampton Raw: An Acoustic Tour," July

28. His mega-selling "Frampton Comes Alive" double album celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

As mentioned, I'm a baseball fan. I admire how people can finely train their minds and bodies. Considering the extreme athleticism required of dancers, there's no big leap from sports to dance. The BOK Center hosts "Dancing With the Stars Live," July 19. Anyone who has watched the show appreciates the quick mind and precision of movement required to perform at that level. You can understand why four NFL players have won the DWTS mirror ball trophy over the course of the show. This season's winner, former New York Giants running back Rashad Jennings, beat baseball's David Ross for the prize. Jennings will be the special guest during the "Hot Summer Nights" tour.

To view athleticism that is unquestionably art, I hope you will attend one or more of Chorégus Productions' Summer Heat International Dance Festival events at the PAC, July 28-Aug. 6. This is the festival's second year, and Ken Tracy has once again pulled together an incredible lineup. The festival begins July 28 with opening gala featuring "After the Rain," a Christopher Wheeldon creation danced by Joffrey Ballet dancers. That is followed by "Concerto," choreographed and danced by Josh Beamish. If you attended the spectacular Wendy Whelan "Restless Creature" performance a couple of years ago, you would have seen Beamish (and choreographer Brian Brooks) dance with Whelan. Beamish and the artists from Move The Company also will showcase an excerpt from "Masque of the Red Death." The 100-year-old Swiss dance company Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève and a troupe that is returning from last year's festival, 10 Hairy Legs, also will be featured in a thrilling Gala evening. On July 29, Ballet du Grand



DANCE FESTIVAL: Chorégus Productions' Summer Heat International Dance Festival runs July 28 – Aug. 6 at the PAC.

Théâtre de Genève will perform the sensual "Carmina Burana" in costumes designed by the Paris fashion house On Aura Tout Vu. That company also dances on Aug 1. The venerable Paul Taylor Dance Company performs July 30 — a fantastic opportunity for dance aficionados. The festival wraps on Aug. 6 with a performance by the extraordinary Brian Brooks. He will host a master class during the festival.

Also at the PAC in July are two family-friendly musicals from Theatre Tulsa. "Annie Jr." starring the Broadway Bootcamp group, plays July 13, 15 and 16.

"In the Heights" will be sung and acted by the company's Broadway bound students, July 14-16. You may have seen "In the Heights" on Broadway or at the Broken Arrow PAC. It features music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda, the genius behind "Hamilton."

Cain's Ballroom presents the wellRed Comedy Tour July 8, Asleep at the Wheel and Dale Watson July 22, and "That '90s Party," July 29. Three guys from the South comprise wellRed, claiming to be "southern born and southern bred, standing proudly blue in a sea of red." They've sold out in major cities like L.A. and Chicago. The "liberal redneck" antics of one member, Trae Crowder, have had 50 million views on YouTube.

Other events you might want to catch are comic Trevor Noah (from "The Daily Show") at River Spirit's Paradise Cove, July 14, Ronnie Milsap and Diamond Rio July 16 at the Hard Rock, and the raucous rock band Chevelle at the Brady July 23. Country music's Florida Georgia Line, rapper Nelly and progressive pop artist Chris Lane appear together at the BOK Center July 27.

If you aren't familiar with the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame,



SANTANA: The legendary guitarist brings his band to River Spirit's Paradise Cove July 6.



WALK ON BY: Dionne Warwick brings three decades of hit songs to the Joint at Hard Rock July 6.



ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL: The Austin, Texas-based band brings its brand of American country to Cain's Ballroom July 22.

please check out its offerings. Every Sunday at five p.m. there's entertainment at the Jazz Depot with tickets available from \$10 to \$20. On July 3, the hall welcomes saxophonist Tom Braxton. On July 9, enjoy guitarist Pat Kel-

ley and bass player extraordinaire Dean Demerritt. Composer and multi-instrumentalist David Amram entertains July 16, and closing the month, July 30, are two of my favorites, singer Stephanie Oliver and pianist Jon Glazer.

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Runway Tulsa Announces 2017 Events

Runway Tulsa announces its dates for its 2017 week of fashion. The local fashion organization will present four events beginning Wednesday, Sept. 27 and wrapping up with the Runway Finale on Saturday, Sept. 30. In addition to this year's event schedule, the group announces the formation of the Oklahoma Fashion Initiative, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, dedicated to establishing an extensive education program as well as economic development in the form of an apparel manufacturing business.

"In Runway Tulsa we have established a high-quality event series that features a mix of national and local fashion design talent," says Runway Tulsa Producer and Oklahoma Fashion Initiative (OFI) Executive Director Jon Terry. "We're very excited about the talent we're presenting on this year's runways and some new twists on our events."

Lexus of Tulsa Showroom - 4210 S. Memorial Drive This invitation-only VIP event will feature local boutiques and our Emerging Talent Runway Show.

Thursday, September 28

Fashion in the Square
Utica Square - 1709 Utica Square

This free event is open to the public and puts the focus on Utica Square's many retailers and restaurants with in-store parties and special showings.

Friday, September 29

Runway Show Benefitting Martha's Foundation
Cox Business Center Assembly Hall - 100 Civic Center

A ticketed runway show featuring local boutiques and specially selected emerging designers. All proceeds go to Martha's Foundation, a local nonprofit organization providing pregnant teens with a safe residence and assisting them in becoming independent and productive community members.

Saturday, September 30

Runway Finale
Cox Business Center Assembly Hall - 100 Civic Center

A ticketed runway show featuring a mixture of national and lo-

cal designers. Ticket information available at runwaytulsa.com.

The 2017 Runway Tulsa Finale will feature six designers including Nigerian-born and Canadian transplant Esé Azénabor, Miami, Florida-based designer Lisu Vega, Tulsa designer Nikki Warren and current New York Fashion Institute of Technology student Raul Flores. Azénabor's designs are inspired by the arts and her culture. They are daring, luxurious, extravagant, and show her artistic side through her beading and attention to detail. Venezuelan-born and Miami-based designer Lisu Vega is a celebrated artist and designer who expresses creativity on fabrics of all types. Warren's Mocha Butterfly line thrilled Runway Tulsa's audience last fall and served as a springboard for her showing at New York Fashion Week. Flores first gained attention by winning the 2015 Tulsa World sponsored competition in which designers worked exclusively with newspapers as their material.

"With the shows and other Runway Tulsa events in place as the public and entertainment element of our effort, it's time for us to move on to the next step," says OFI Associate Director Wade Bray. "We have been creating the infrastruc-



Courtesy photo

HIGH FASHION: The above look is from the fashion collection of Nigerian-born and Dallas-based designer Esé Azénabor who will be a featured designer presenting during the Runway Tulsa finale show on Sept. 30.

ture for the education and manufacturing elements for quite some time and are eager to fully implement these key areas of our plan."

Ultimately OFI's education program will include mentorships, a scholarship program and hands-on fashion-related collaborations between OFI and educational institutions at both the secondary and collegiate level. Partnerships already exist with Oklahoma State University and Central High School and will be expanded to include others.

The partnership with Oklahoma State extends beyond the fashion realm, with the university being a partner in the development of a small batch manufacturing operation. Oklahoma Fashion Initiative is still working with other potential partners in the manufacturing realm with further details being released as they are available.

Philbrook Showing

"Chicano art is American Art."
— Cheech Marin

From the Techno and House dance parties of the backyards and warehouses of East Los Angeles to the border refugia of El Paso to the ancient storytelling strong enough to survive the Rio Grande crossings, Chicano thrives on community.

"In ways both big and small," says Philbrook curator Sienna Brown, "our communities define our experiences and ourselves."

In Papel Chicano Dos: Works on Paper from the Collection of Cheech Marin, Philbrook Museum of Art presents works by 26 artists, assembled exclusively from the Chicano art collection of actor-comedian Cheech Marin. While the pieces are linked by the common theme of community, they illuminate the diversity of the Chicano experience through unique artistic practices and viewpoints. The exhibition opened June 4 at Philbrook Museum of Art, 2727 S. Rockford Road, in Tulsa.

Marin, who with Tommy Chong formed the legendary 1970s comedy duo Cheech & Chong, is among the foremost collectors of Chicano art in the world. Chicano (or the female Chicana) is a term used to define a person of Mexican-American ancestry, typically of Southwest descent. But Chicano is also a cultural, ethnic and community identity.

"Mexican Americans, for the most part, are indigenous to this continent and have various Indian bloodlines and Spanish ancestry," says CiCi Segura González, whose painting "Soy Chicana" ("I'm Chicana") is among the works exhibited in Papel Chicano Dos. "My artwork portrays the blending of our roots."

The drawings, prints, and paintings on paper represent a wide range of emerging and established artists from the 1980s to present day and feature images influenced by pre-Hispanic symbols, post-revolutionary nationalistic Mexican motifs, and contemporary urban culture. The images explode with color, and celebrate the richness of Chicano life, and the

mystical side where life seeps over into death.

Many artists in the exhibition present social issues concerning labor, political liberation, and spirituality in ways that combine the images iconic to Chicano art with those from a wider range of historical sources. These visuals combine to create a multifaceted view of Chicano communities and shed light on the issues and triumphs facing all American communities.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Philbrook will host "An Evening with Cheech Marin," 6 p.m. June 22, in the Patti Johnson Wilson Hall at Philbrook. Marin will discuss his collection, his career as a Chicano actor, director, comedian, author and musician, sign hardcover copies of his new memoir, *Cheech Is Not My Real Name: ... But Don't Call Me Chong*. Tickets are \$30-\$35, available online at my.philbrook.org.

Exhibition details:
Papel Chicano Dos: Works on

Paper from the Collection of Cheech Marin
June 4 – Sept. 3
Philbrook Museum of Art, 2727 S. Rockford Rd. in Tulsa.

About Philbrook:

Rooted in the beauty and architecture of an historic home gifted by the Phillips family in 1938, Philbrook Museum of Art has grown to become one of the pre-eminent art museums across the central United States. Highlights of the Museum's permanent collection include Renaissance and Baroque paintings from the Kress Foundation, one of the greatest surveys of Native American art anywhere, American and Southwestern art, photography, and growing modern and contemporary collections. The Philbrook main campus spans 25 acres of grounds and formal gardens, and features an historic home, as well as a modern museum complex. The satellite location in downtown Tulsa showcases the Philbrook modern, contemporary, and



CHEECH MARIN

Native American art collections, as well as the Eugene B. Adkins Collection and Study Center of Native American art.

Philbrook Museum of Art is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday. Philbrook Down-

town, 116 E. M.B. Brady St., is open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Museum admission runs \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors and university students; Philbrook members and youth 17 and younger are always free.



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Maryn's Joins in the Revival of Jenks' RiverWalk

Local Dining

By BLAKE AUSTYN
Contributing Writer

In May, Maryn's Taphouse and Raw Bar opened in the Jenks RiverWalk Crossing.

The restaurant is a venture by Corey Crandall, a Booker T. Washington graduate with more than two decades of experience working in the restaurant industry. Crandall also owns George's Pub, which he opened in downtown Jenks in 2010.

Maryn's is the second new restaurant to join the RiverWalk in recent months. Andolini's Pizzeria opened in April, and Burn Co. BBQ will soon join the restaurant and entertainment area.

My party arrived early on a Friday evening, hoping to beat the dinner rush.

We did not have trouble getting seats, but by the time we left around 8 p.m., there wasn't a seat to be found in the place.

The restaurant's menu features the traditional salad and burger choices as well as appetizers and high-end entrees, including filet, ribeye and salmon. The price point does not go higher than \$30 for a dish, with the exception of some market-price items found in its raw bar.

To start, we chose the Tamale Balls. A Mexican friend of mine

used to sell her homemade tamales, and I could never get enough of them. These carnitas tamale balls, on the other hand, while with a nice flavor, tasted more like a typical meatball. They came paired nicely, though, with a ranchero and queso sauce.

One unique element to Maryn's menu is its raw bar, a restaurant offering that used to be almost nonexistent in greater Tulsa.

Beyond sushi and the occasional ahi tuna dish, I steer clear of raw, but, fortunately, there are also some not-so-raw choices in the selections, including Ceviche, Shrimp Cocktail and Crab Claw.

I chose the Ceviche, with shrimp, fish, onion, tomato and jalapeño. Very fresh and tasty.

We also tried the Maryn Talk Thai Ribs, covered in a shishito barbecue sauce, with a side of house made slaw.

Four ribs came in the appetizer, and unfortunately, they were a bit tough in spots. However, the overall flavor was pleasant and made us wish we had more.

For main entrees, my party chose both the Sliders and the Mile High Rack of Lamb, which our server said is a popular item.

Three sliders and fries make up the dish, with three different meat choices for the sliders: pork belly, short rib and chicken. We chose to try one of each.

The pork belly was the most tender and flavorful of the three. The



BLAKE AUSTYN for GTR Newspapers

TAMALE BALLS: Paired with a ranchero and queso sauce, Maryn's Tamale Balls maintain a traditional meatball flavor.

short rib and chicken sliders both left us wanting for more meat.

The Mile High Rack of Lamb comes with a white bean puree, berry chutney and roasted carrots.

The dish's presentation was striking with the three cuts of meat balanced on top of one another.

However, the fattiness of our cuts took away from the dish. Since this is a popular item, I can only assume that our cuts were the exception to the rule.

Inside the restaurant, guests are treated with sweeping views of the Arkansas River, with large



A NEW OFFERING: Maryn's Taphouse and Raw Bar opened in the Jenks RiverWalk Crossing in May. This is the second venture for Corey Crandall, a Booker T. Washington graduate, who opened George's Pub in downtown Jenks in 2010.

which are burning once again after years of dormancy.

For those of us who watch the gradual, saddening decline of the RiverWalk over the past years, the returning signs of life are more than welcome.

Maryn's is open Monday-Thursdays 4-11 p.m., Friday 4 p.m.-midnight, Saturday 10 a.m.-midnight and Sunday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

On the weekdays, while food service begins at 4 p.m., I have been told that drink service at the bar opens at 3 p.m. The restaurant also offers a weekend brunch menu.

Herb'n Cowgirl to Present Program at Garden Center



GTR Newspapers photo

STREET PARTY TIME: St. John Health System hosted its annual Street Party June 3. From left are Cheena Pazzo, chief marketing and communications officer, St. John Health System; Lucky Lamons, president, St. John Foundation; Lindsey Helmerich, DDS, and husband, Isaac, St. John Street Party 2017 patron chairs; and Meredith Siegfried Madden and Pete Madden, M.D., St. John Street Party 2017 event chairs.



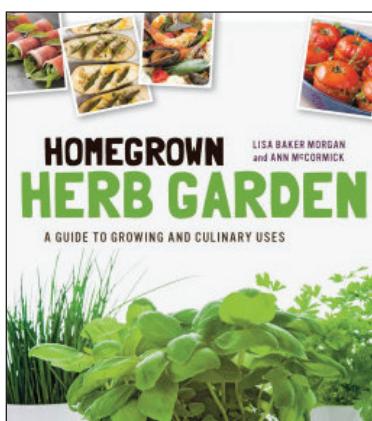
GTR Newspapers photo

GILCREASE BEER FUN: Gilcrease Museum hosted a "beer garden party" May 26. Visitors toured the Gilcrease gardens, listened to live bluegrass music, and enjoyed craft beer from Marshall Brewing Company, among others. Gilcrease After Hours takes place on the last Friday of the month.

Ann McCormick, the Herb'n Cowgirl, will be presenting a special herbal program at The Tulsa Garden Center on July 10 at 7 p.m. sponsored by The Tulsa Herb Society. She will be talking about her new book "Homegrown Herb Garden," co-authored with Lisa Baker Morgan. It is the perfect tool to help home chefs get their herb gardens started and to help home gardeners get a taste of what's possible when they cook with home-grown herbs. Copies of her book will be available for sale at the conclusion of the presentation.

The Herb'n Cowgirl's talk will include growing, harvesting, and cooking with 15 herbs anyone can grow—parsley, basil, sweet marjoram, lemongrass and more. She will also give the audience advice for growing in small spaces, how to clip herbs, and suggestions for their use in the kitchen.

A lifelong gardener, McCormick is a columnist for the Herb Quarterly and is a feature writer for The Dallas Morning News. She blogs from her website, herbncowgirl.



NEW BOOK



ANN McCORMICK

com and is on Facebook as herbncowgirl.com. She is the recipient of a Silver Award of Achievement from the Garden Writers' of America.

McCormick believes that her mission is to teach others about gardening for flavor, fragrance, and the unbridled joy of digging in the dirt."

She lives in south Fort Worth, Texas, with her husband and be-

loved dogs.

Steve Huddleston, senior horticulturist at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens says that "Ann is a knowledgeable, informative and entertaining speaker.... (she) is a good show and tell speaker and lives up to her persona as the Herb'n Cowgirl."

The Tulsa Garden Center is located at 2435 S. Peoria Ave. and the event is free to the public.

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Southern Hills Country Club a True Tulsa Treasure

There are not many things in Tulsa more picturesque and memorable than driving into Southern Hills Country Club, 2636 E. 61st St. The lush, rolling landscape, towering trees, and pristine beauty remain sketched in my brain long after I leave the grounds.

Beyond its visual appeal, Southern Hills offers history—it opened in 1936—and prestige. Golf Digest named it one of the top 100 golf courses in the U.S. and world in 2016.

And we have it in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Though I may never be a member of the club, I am grateful to the organizations who utilize the

location for events, placing the stately property within the reach of some who would otherwise not ever have the opportunity to marvel at it.

I recently helped to organize the Association for Women in Communications' 2017 Newsmakers Awards, which have been held annually at Southern Hills for many years. At that event, I heard my grateful sentiments echoed by many attendees.

I have no doubt that a similar giddiness was felt among many with the announcement of the PGA Tournament's future return to Southern Hills.

I remember my dad serving as a volunteer when the PGA visited Southern Hills in 1994 and attending with him for one day of the tournament. Being

quite young, I did not remotely understand the privilege of visiting Southern Hills nor being privy to a national tournament. I could only focus on the heat and my tired feet. I did, however, manage to snag autographs from Fred Couples and Phil Mickelson.

Maybe I will bump into one of them again at one of the upcoming tournaments to be held at Southern Hills—the 2021 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship and a future PGA Championship, to be held no later than 2030. (See full story on page 17.)

While 2021 certainly feels like a ways off, I can't help but remember when A Gathering Place for Tulsa was in its infancy in 2013 and how unpleasantly far away its opening day felt to me. Yet, now, it is only a year away.

The Gathering Place will, surely, do much for Tulsa's economy as will these coming PGA events. When the PGA last visited Tulsa

Castle of Muskogee Offers Best in Fireworks, Prices

The Castle of Muskogee, 3400 W. Fern Mountain Rd. in Muskogee, Oklahoma's 37,000-square-foot Fireworks Retail Showroom, keeps working to improve everyone's enjoyment on the Fourth. With a continually growing quantity and selection, the castle is filled to the rafters with an array of pyrotechnic choices—that's what awaits customers in Muskogee. The castle is air-conditioned, with accessible restrooms, paved parking, and knowledgeable and friendly salespeople to assist.

The annual fireworks sale lasts from June 15 through July 5, with special discount pricing throughout the showroom.

Family-founded, locally-operated and community-oriented, Castle Fireworks are red, white and blue from the foundation up. They are proud to provide 150-plus employment opportunities to the youth of Green Country during their summer breaks. Throughout their time with the castle, team members are trained in customer service, registers, and educated about the products.

The castle inspects fireworks through the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory before they leave China to assure safety. All fireworks are inspected again by the Consumer Product Safety Commission once they get to the U.S. All fireworks are guaranteed to light.

The Castle of Muskogee has fireworks to please anyone, with prices for every budget. There are novelty fireworks for smaller children, plus more than 400 items for teens and adults, including the country's largest selection of heavyweight and multi-action displays (80+ 500 Grams to choose from). Customers can select from many versions of specially priced family packs and other hand-picked assortments to get the most value.

With each purchase of \$50 or more, a complimentary Halloween Festival ticket (valid VIP Weekend) will be included. Perhaps one of the best reasons to shop with the castle, however, is that all fireworks are guaranteed to light.

Over a quarter-million people visit the castle each year for a variety of events, including the Oklahoma Renaissance Festival, the Castle Zombie Run, the Halloween Festival, the Boare's Head Feaste, and Castle Christmas, plus weddings and private and corporate gatherings. Many say "The Castle of Muskogee is Oklahoma's Gateway to Another World!"

Hours:

June 15 – June 30:
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June 1 – July 4:
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10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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COURTESY SOUTHERN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
BEAUTIFUL SETTING: Southern Hills Country Club, 2636 E. 61st St., opened in Tulsa in 1936. The 27-hole golf course was named one of the top 100 courses in the U.S. and worldwide in 2016 by Golf Digest.



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers
OUTDOOR ENJOYMENT: Many area events are held annually at Southern Hills Country Club, including the American Diabetes Association Concours for the Cure, which features classic cars from around the world.

in 2007, it generated an estimated \$70 million for the greater Tulsa area.

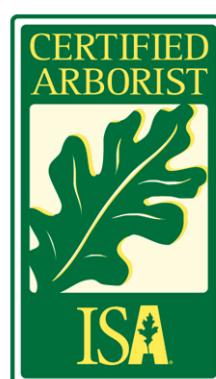
During a time when Oklahoma's education system is in crisis mode, various businesses are vacating the state, and the oil and gas industry remains in a downturn, this

brings some welcome news and the promise of future revenue to our region.

So, as I wait for these tournaments, I will remind myself that the anticipation is half the fun. Although, when it involves Southern Hills, I beg to differ.



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Freedom From Hunger Campaign Begins June 21

Funds Raised Benefit The Salvation Army's Feeding Program

Citing statistics that show 17 percent of all Tulsans live in food insecure homes, The Salvation Army and Reasor's are launching the Freedom from Hunger campaign to raise awareness and funds to help those in the community who need help feeding their families. All donations will benefit The Salvation Army's feeding program at the Center of Hope homeless shelter.

"We serve nearly 1,000 meals a day to the hungry in our community," says Captain Ken Chapman, Tulsa-area commander of The Salvation Army. "That's over 357,000 meals each year. And the number is growing."

Meals served at the Center of Hope increased 16 percent in the last year and 56 percent over the past 10 years.

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"Many people we feed daily aren't homeless; they come to us because they have nothing in the cabinets to feed their family. This program will address that," Chapman says.

From June 21 through July 4, Reasor's customers will be able to purchase \$15 or \$25 gift cards to be given to individuals who come through The Salvation Army's feeding program.

"Our goal is to provide a family, especially a family with children, some stability to allow them to stay in their homes and focus on any other barriers that are preventing them from succeeding in life," Chapman says.

The Salvation Army offers life skills classes on subjects, such as budgeting, food preparation and job interview skills, to aid individuals in developing self-sufficiency.

"Most people don't want to live a life of hand-outs," says Chapman, "but they haven't been taught any differently. We are addressing that."

Reasor's Chief Operating Officer Brent Edstrom says the partnership with The Salvation Army was an easy decision to make.

"We already work with The



Salvation Army at Christmastime with their red kettles and provide milk to each of the 4,200 families served through the Angel Tree program," Edstrom says. "Taking this a step further during a time of the year that often poses a food insecurity risk for families who rely on school lunch programs during the year made perfect sense."

If donors are unable to visit a Reasor's store, they may also text #Tulsa Hunger to 85944. A one-time donation of \$10 will then, be made to The Salvation Army and billed through the donor's cell phone bill. Funds raised through this text-to-give initiative will be used to purchase the Reasor's gift cards for the Freedom from Hunger program.

Red Cross Requests Blood Donations

The American Red Cross urges those who have never given blood before, as well as those who have not given recently, to make an appointment to give blood or platelets now and to help sustain a sufficient community blood supply through the summer months.

While the need for blood is constant during the summer months, the Red Cross experiences a dras-

tic decline in new donors during those months.

Nationwide, nearly one-third fewer donors gave blood last summer compared to the rest of the year. Additionally, many schools where blood drives are held are not in session, and donors often delay giving due to summer vacation plans.

About 38 percent of the population is eligible to give blood, but less than 10 percent of those eligible donate. The blood donation process takes about an hour with the actual donation only taking about 10 minutes.

Whether new to donating blood or a lifelong donor, the Red Cross offers helpful tips for an enjoyable donation experience:

- Eat iron-rich foods leading up to donation.
- Hydrate – drink an extra 16 ounces of liquid before and after the donation.

- Eat a healthy meal before the donation.
- Wear comfortable clothing with sleeves that can be raised above the elbow.
- Complete a RapidPass on the day of donation, but prior to arriving, to save time.
- Bring a photo ID, blood donor card or two other forms of identification.

"Every day, we have thousands of lives to help save, but blood and platelet donations often do not keep pace with hospital demand during the summer months," says Jan Hale, communications manager for the Southwest Blood Services Region. "In less time than it can take to go out to eat, you can make a life-saving difference for cancer patients, accident victims and others in need."

Appointments can be scheduled by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



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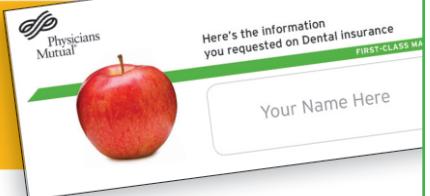
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Blake & Courtney C., holding forget-me-not flowers that represent their son, Silas.

a life & legacy of love.

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

*To learn more about the *SILAS* Program, Oklahoma's only hospital-based perinatal palliative care program, and the life-changing experience it provides, visit Hillcrest.com.*

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EDUCATION

OSU STARTUP EARN'S INVESTMENTS



PRESTIGIOUS COMPETITION: MITO Material Solutions, LLC, which was founded by Oklahoma State University students, won second place in the Rice University Business Plan Competition for its materials-strengthening additive. From left are Dr. Richard Gajan, Thoma Family Clinical assistant professor for the School of Entrepreneurship; MITO co-founders Kevin Keith and Haley Marie Kurtz; and Dr. Ranji Vaidyanathan, OSU-Tulsa professor of materials science and engineering.

A Oklahoma State University startup company that sells a materials-strengthening additive took second place in the prestigious Rice University Business Plan Competition, overtaking teams from Harvard and Stanford universities and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

MITO Material Solutions, LLC, presented its business plan in Houston recently for its nano-additive that can double the lifespan and reduce the weight of fiber-reinforced composite materials used in the automotive, aerospace and wind energy industries. The company was awarded \$90,000 in investment prizes.

The nano-additive was developed through extensive research by OSU-Tulsa graduate student Muthusubramanian Mohan at the Helmerich Research Center. Mohan is the recipient of an OSU Graduate Research Excellence Award for his nano-additive project. Forty-two teams drawn from 1,100 uni-

versity teams from across the world participated in the competition. MITO previously took second place at a similar competition at Baylor University.

MITO was founded by OSU students from the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology and the Spears School of Business, including Haley Marie Kurtz, chief executive officer and OSU business administration graduate student, and Kevin Keith, chief operations officer and OSU mechanical engineering student.

The OSU-Tulsa Helmerich Research Center is the home of the OSU School of Materials Science and Engineering, where students and faculty partner with business and manufacturing to support product development from concept to commercialization.

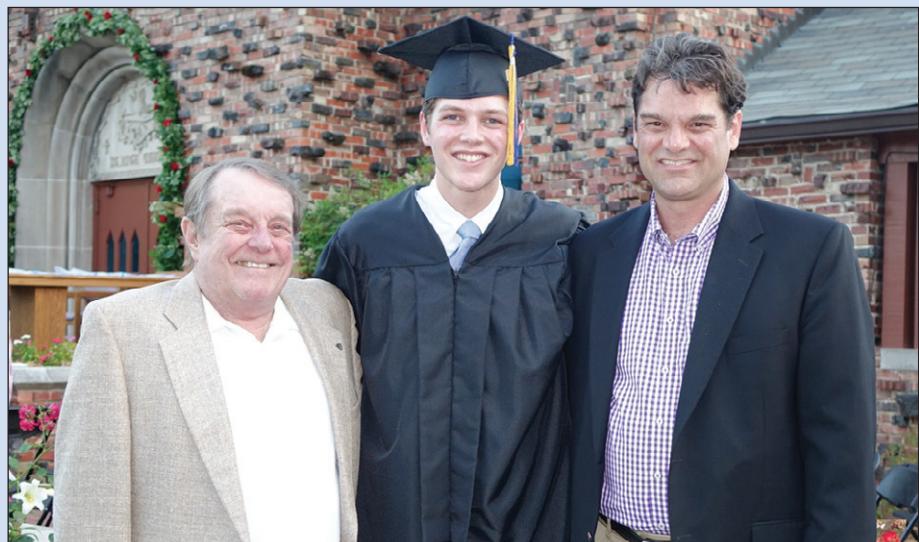
The approach provides students hands-on experience in research and entrepreneurship while contributing to the local and state economy.

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FAMILY HAS CASCIA HALL LEGACY



THIRD-GENERATION GRADUATE: Andrew Henderson graduated in May from Cascia Hall as a third-generation Cascia Hall graduate. Andrew's father, Brian, graduated from Cascia Hall in 1985, and Andrew's grandfather James Joseph Henderson, left, graduated in 1961.

TCC STUDENTS INTERN AT NASA



STUDYING SCIENCE: From left, David Nnaji, Tiffany Verlander, Robin Blanchard and Scott Walker recently began a prestigious summer internship program at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California.

Four Tulsa Community College students and recent graduates are spending their summer as part of a prestigious internship program at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

Students David Nnaji, Robin Blanchard and Scott Walker will spend 10 weeks working in labs and conducting research. In addition, Tiffany Verlander, who was a JPL intern last summer, returns for a paid JPL internship.

The students were selected through a competitive process by a team of TCC STEM faculty and JPL mentors.

Walker is majoring in mechanical engineering. Nnaji graduated in May with two

associate degrees in physics and math. Blanchard graduated in May with an associate degree in chemistry. Verlander is majoring in environmental studies.

Nnaji and Walker will work with robotics in areas such as pop-up robots, wall-climbing robots, tensegrity landers and a novel snow mobility system, which they will be in charge of completing.

Blanchard will look for bio signatures or signs of life and the precursors related to the exploration of icy bodies, such as Jupiter's moon Europa and Saturn's moon Enceladus.

Verlander will use geographic information systems to help map the images of the terrain of Titan, the largest moon of Saturn.

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Tulsa Tech Celebrates National CTSO Officers

In addition to the many career training programs available to students, Tulsa Tech also provides opportunities for students to participate in a variety of career and technical student organizations (CTSO's) related to their particular career interest. These valuable groups allow students to develop leadership skills, network with professionals across the nation and be involved in numerous community service projects.

Tulsa Tech is a proud host to several chapters of CTSO's, including Business Professionals of America (BPA), DECA Association of Marketing Students, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Future Health Professionals (HOSA), Oklahoma Society of Radiologic Technologists (OSRT), SkillsUSA, Technology Student Organization (TSA), and the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS).

Students begin by participating at the local level in various CTSO activities and competitions, with many participants advancing to district, state and possibly national ranks. For the 2016-17 school year, Tulsa Tech was honored to have three students elected to serve as national CTSO officers.

Lauren Cole, an apparel design student who recently concluded her term as FCCLA National Vice President of Public Relations, had

always dreamed of the day she would be able to participate in the organization.

"I am a third generation FCCLA member," Cole says. "My grandma, mom, and aunt were all involved in Future Home-makers of America (FHA). My aunt was an FHA advisor, and I was fortunate enough to get to attend many events with her as I was growing up."

While the mission of FCCLA is to promote personal growth and leadership development through family and consumer sciences education, Cole is quick to point out that the organization is no longer just cooking and sewing.

"Homemaking skills are important," Cole says. "However, I also felt it was important for me to improve my leadership skills and become more comfortable speaking in front of people. FCCLA has given me confidence, with opportunities that someone my age may not get to experience."

Cole was recently invited by the Department of Education to travel to Washington, D.C., where she met with Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, and beginning this fall, the confident Claremore High School graduate will attend Northeastern State University as she begins her undergraduate studies in early childhood education.

Jada Holliday, a biomedical

sciences student who served as HOSA Regional Vice-President for 2016-17, challenges students to explore the many benefits offered by participating in CTSO's.

"I would encourage other students to not only take a look at Tulsa Tech, but also find out about the many different ways to participate in student organizations," Holliday says. "It only takes one spark to start a fire, and often that spark comes from taking a risk. I feel as students we owe it to ourselves to take that risk."

The HOSA student organization provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition exclusively for secondary, postsecondary, adult, and collegiate students enrolled in health science education and biomedical science programs.

Holliday, a recent graduate of Broken Arrow High School and recipient of the U.S. Presidential Scholars Award, will attend Baylor University this fall to begin undergraduate studies in biochemistry and pre-med.

"I strongly feel that both my work in the classroom and my involvement in HOSA have better prepared me for my college-level courses," she says. "I know what to expect and I certainly have more confidence in my ability to succeed."

Mackenzie Oestreich, a criminal justice student and outgoing SkillsUSA National High School Secretary, feels that her involvement in the organization both helped her reach her academic goals and created a treasury of memories.

"I have enjoyed being involved in SkillsUSA," says Oestreich. "Serving as a national officer, traveling and meeting new people is probably the best time I ever had in my entire life."



Courtesy Tulsa Tech

CREATING LEADERS: Tulsa Tech National CTSO Officers are, from left, Lauren Cole, FCCLA national vice president of public relations; Jada Holliday, HOSA regional vice president; and Mackenzie Oestreich, SkillsUSA national high school secretary.

The Owasso High School graduate was awarded a scholarship to Northeastern State University, where she will begin undergraduate studies in political science, before hopefully continuing on to law school. The former state capitol page says she has enjoyed making connections with students from across the nation, meeting valuable industry partners, and being an ambassador for career and technical education. The only problem? It seemed to pass too quickly.

"It seems like yesterday," Oestreich says, "when I was looking at photos of CTSO students in my classroom and thinking how I wanted to become a part of that. I am sad to see it end."

On behalf of the Tulsa Tech family, and students, thanks to these amazing individuals for their exceptional service this past year and for being such incredible ambassadors and advocates of Oklahoma career and technical education.

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

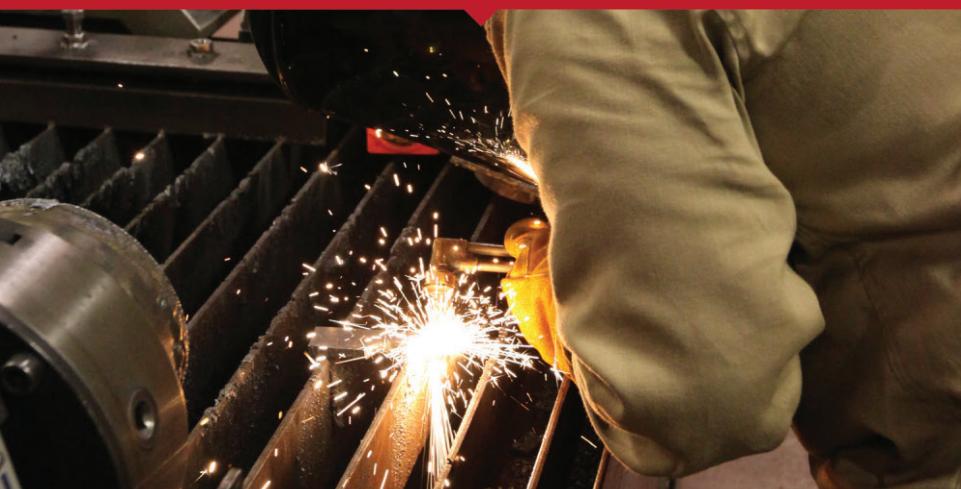
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JENKS SCHOOL NEWS

JENKS GRADUATES RECEIVE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS



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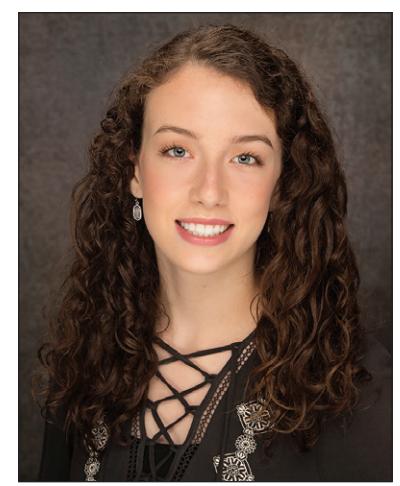
MATTHEW LUGIBIHL



KAITLYN MURPHY



SAMUEL SHORT



LAUREN WILKIN

Nine Jenks High School seniors have been named National Merit Scholarship winners: Olivia Lynn Bowles, Fallon Cochlin, Nathan Furman, Janet Hong, Sophia Lee, Matthew Lugibihl, Kaitlyn Murphy, Samuel Short and Lauren Wilkin. These students will receive between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at a higher education institution.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners are a part of approximately 7,500 high school seniors who will receive National Merit Scholarships for college undergraduate study worth over \$32 million.

Over 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2017 National Merit Scholarship competition when they took the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

In the fall, 16,000 semifinalists were named, who were the high-

est-scoring program entrants in each state and represented less than one percent of the nation's seniors.

To compete for Merit Scholarship awards, semifinalists were asked to submit a detailed scholarship application, which included writing an essay and providing information about extracurricular activities, awards, and leader-

ship positions. Semifinalists also had to have an outstanding academic record, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, and earn SAT scores that confirmed the qualifying test performance. From the semifinalist group, some 15,000 were named finalists.

NMSC, a not-for-profit corporation that operates without

government assistance, was established in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. The majority of National Merit Scholarships provided each year are made possible by the support of approximately 420 independent corporate and college sponsors. These sponsors join NMSC in its efforts to enhance educational opportunities for America's scholastically talented youth and to encourage the pursuit of academic excellence.

CFO Named Administrator of the Year

Jenks Public Schools Chief Financial Officer Cody Way was recently named the 2017 OASA District 5 Assistant Superintendent/Central Office Administrator of the Year by the Oklahoma Association of School Administrators (OASA).

Way is one of 20 assistant superintendents/central office administrators selected for this award by his peers from across the state. These administrators and the District Superintendent finalists were honored by colleagues at the OASA awards banquet in June at the annual Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration (CCOSA) Summer Conference, held in Norman.

"This award is a reflection of the wonderful people I work with each day," says Way. "We have so many talented and caring people who make students the focal point of every decision. Jenks is truly a special place because of our people and the support that we enjoy from our community."

Way has been a public school administrator for nearly 18 years. During his 12 years at Jenks Pub-

lic Schools he served as director of accounting from 2004 to 2011 before moving into the role of chief financial officer in 2012.

In managing all financial operations for Jenks Public Schools, Way oversees a total budget of over \$188 million and is tasked with maximizing resources to provide JPS students with a quality educational experience.

"It is an honor to be nominated and selected by your peers for your leadership, service and contributions to the profession," says Dr. Pam Deering, executive director of CCOSA/OASA.

Winners from each OASA District are eligible to submit an application for the Oklahoma Assistant Superintendent/Central Office Administrator of the Year. They must meet certain criteria that include successful experiences in the top administration position; a sound, dynamic and realistic philosophy of education; the ability to motivate and inspire people; support and recognize others; professional and personal growth; the ability to speak for education; and contri-



HIGH HONOR: Jenks Public Schools CFO Cody Way was recently recognized as the 2017 OASA District 5 Assistant Superintendent/Central Office Administrator of the Year by the Oklahoma Association of School Administrators (OASA).

butions to educational administration.

The Oklahoma Association of School Administrators is under the umbrella of the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration. CCOSA is an incorporated, nonprofit organization that serves over 2,800 superintendents, assistant superintendents, central office administrators, principals and special education directors.

government assistance, was established in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. The majority of National Merit Scholarships provided each year are made possible by the support of approximately 420 independent corporate and college sponsors. These sponsors join NMSC in its efforts to enhance educational opportunities for America's scholastically talented youth and to encourage the pursuit of academic excellence.

C-SPAN RECOGNITION



NATIONAL COMPETITION: Jenks High School students pose after receiving their awards as winners of C-SPAN's national StudentCam competition.

In May, Jenks High School students were honored as winners of C-SPAN's national StudentCam competition.

StudentCam encourages middle and high school students to think critically about issues that affect their communities and nation. This year, students were asked to create a 5-7 minute video documentary on the topic, "What is the most urgent issue for the new president and Congress to address in 2017?"

In response, C-SPAN received nearly 3,000 video submissions from over 5,600 students across the country.

- Senior Micaela Edwards: 2nd prize - \$1,500, "Beyond the Bite;"
- Senior Ethan Dennis: 3rd prize - \$750, "Worth the Cost;"
- Sophomores Matthew Murrie and Max Trost: 3rd Prize - \$750, "Why Go Back When You Can Frack?"
- Senior Taylor Millican:

3rd prize - \$750, "A Stacked Deck;"

• Senior Frank Muller: 3rd prize - \$750, "Up Against a Brick Wall;"

• Sophomore Jonathan Godfrey: Honorable Mention - \$250, "GMO: The Right to Choose;"

• Senior Sara Nell: Honorable Mention - \$250, "The Family's View;"

• Senior Madison Hines: Honorable Mention - \$250, "Bee Movie Without The Bees;"

• Seniors Madeleine Bonnallie and Madeleine Dorst: Honorable Mention - \$250, "Color Me Frustrated;"

• Sophomore Jackson Copher: Honorable Mention - \$250, "Food Insecurity in America;" and

• Seniors Marisa Wojtalewicz and Mia Nysveen: Honorable Mention - \$250, "Dear Poverty."

Visit studentcam.org to view all of the winning videos.

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JENKS SPORTS

TROJANS CELEBRATE TWO STATE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS



Courtesy Jenks Tennis Club

CHAMPION GIRLS: The Jenks girls tennis team celebrates winning the state championship on May 6 in Oklahoma City. From left are Sloane Johnston, Andie Williams, Maddie Cameron, Sarah Cameron, Sophia Debenedetti and Darbi Robertson.

By MIKE MOGUIN
Sports Writer

Jenks added to its rich tennis history when four players on each side took top individual honors, helping the program sweep the Class 6A state championships in May at the Oklahoma City Tennis Center.

The girls won their title on May 6 after finishing with 33 points. Edmond North, who has been Jenks' rival in tennis, was runner-up with 24. It marked the Lady Trojans' first title since 2015 and 18th in 32 years.

One week later, the Trojans won the boys' championship with 34 points. Edmond North was also second on that side of the team standings with 29. It was Jenks' second title in three years and 14th in a 27-year period.

Andie Williams and Sarah Cameron won the No. 1 and No. 2 Singles titles respectively.

Sophia Debenedetti and Darbi Robertson captured the No. 2 Doubles championship. Contributing to the team title was the duo of Maddie Cameron and Sloane Johnston, who finished runner-up in the No. 1 Doubles.

Titles were won in the same division the next week at the boys' championships.

Gabriel Willbourn and Scott Hjelm were respective victors in the No. 1 and No. 2 Singles, while Chris Lucas and Nick Elias won No. 2 Doubles. Clayton Hughes and Reed Slick were runners-up in the No. 1 Doubles.

Each champion recently shared their views on what they believed was key to their victories.

Hjelm, Lucas, Elias and Sarah Cameron were seniors who played for the last time for Jenks. All of them swept their sets.

Hjelm defeated Wes Robertson of Edmond North, 6-1, 6-1.

"I had to make sure to keep pounding the ball at him, keeping close to the baseline with big serves and keeping pressure on him the entire time," Hjelm says.

It marked Hjelm's second individual high school title. He also won one his sophomore year. He signed to play at Oral Roberts University in April.

"In my mind, I always make sure I go out with the mentality that I just expect myself to win," Hjelm says. "I treat every match the same so the championship match was just as important as my first round. I go out with the same mentality of 'just win.' So, I always have that mentality in my head that 'I'm going to win this match.' After I won, then it kind of settled in that I got my second state championship."

Sarah Cameron dominated Erica Jaggernauth of Bixby, 6-0, 6-0.

"I was super nervous going into it, because I have never been in a state championship final before," she says. "So, for me, the key was managing my nerves and just kind of enjoying the moment and playing my game."

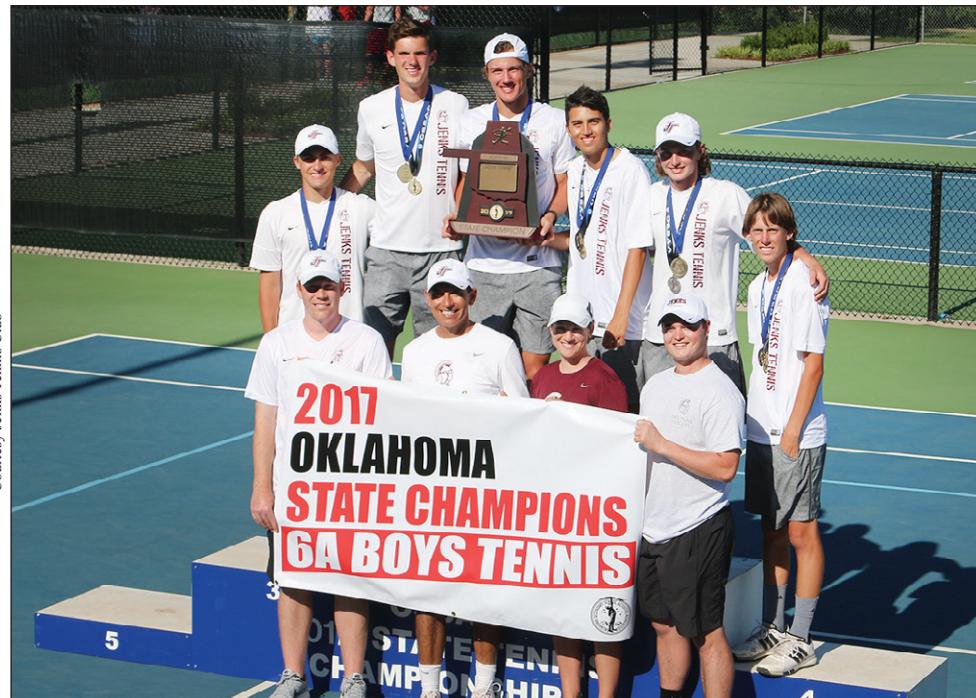
Sarah Cameron is venturing northeast to Yale, where she hopes to walk on for the women's tennis team at the Connecticut-based Ivy League institution. But for Lucas and Elias, that was it. They will be playing intramurals while attending the University of Oklahoma. The pair were 6-1, 6-3 winners against Hamza Chaudhry and Connor Trapp of Edmond North.

"We played well, but we wanted to make sure we play one point at a time," Lucas says. "After the first set, we knew we won 6-1. We were down 0-3 in the second set and that kind of scared us, but once we came up to 5-3 deuce, we knew they were tired and we had a chance to close rather than go one more game. At that point, we knew this could be it."

"It was one of the best sets we ever played," Elias says. "We knew we were constructing points so well."

Gabriel Willbourn had to overcome a loss in the first set before prevailing against Michael Grunsted of Norman, 6-7, 6-4, 6-1.

"He was playing some really good tennis," Willbourn says of Grunsted. "He had



CHAMPION BOYS: The Jenks boys tennis team celebrates winning the state championship on May 13 in Oklahoma City. Front row, from left, are Assistant Coach Jeff Wollmershauser, Head Coach Ron Acebo, Assistant Coach Lindsey Taylor and Assistant Coach Bennett Hughes. Back row, from left, are Reed Slick, Chris Lucas, Scott Hjelm, Nick Elias, Clayton Hughes and Gabriel Willbourn.

me on the ropes there in the second set. I just tried to stay solid. He makes mistakes if you make him work. I just tried to grind it out, stayed solid and eventually, he broke down."

Robertson and Debenedetti defeated Julie Roy and Kamry Snyder of Union, 6-3, 6-0. Because Jenks already had the team title clinched, by the time they were playing their final, they played with ease.

"We just went in with nothing but love for the game and just wanted to do our best," Robertson says.

"We did a great job of building each other up and that's a good connection we have

playing together," Debenedetti says.

Williams won both her matches, 6-4, 6-2 over Erin Epperson of Bartlesville.

"I was at first real relieved and was glad it was over," Williams says. "I'm just glad this season is done, and I'm ready for next season."

Willbourn and Williams were sophomores, while Robertson and Debenedetti were juniors. By preparing for their quest to repeat, they plan to play in USTA (United States Tennis Association) junior tournaments through the summer.

"I'll be practicing, training, getting ready," Williams says, smiling.

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SPORTS

Sooners Greet New Era Under Lincoln Riley

Editor's Note: Much of the content of this article is courtesy of the NCAA.

The collegiate football nation was shocked with the June 7 announcement from University of Oklahoma President David Boren and Vice President and Athletics Director Joe Castiglione one that Bob Stoops retired as head coach of the legendary program after 18 years at the helm.

His successor, highly-touted current offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley, is at the ready to lead the Sooners.

Riley says, "I'm sincerely honored to be given this opportunity to be the head football coach at the University of Oklahoma. I want to thank Coach Stoops for bringing me here two years ago and making me a part of the

Sooner family. He is one of the greatest coaches in the history of the game, at any level. I'm absolutely thankful for our friendship and for the mentorship he has provided.

"Coaching at Oklahoma is a dream come true for me and my family. I am extremely grateful to President Boren, Joe Castiglione, Chairman Bennett and the OU Board of Regents for believing in me and affording me this opportunity. I look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence that Coach Stoops and so many others before him have instilled in this great program."

Stoops will remain as special assistant to the athletics director. Stoops, owner of the most wins in Oklahoma football history and engineer of 10 Big 12 Conference titles and the 2000 national championship, said now is the appropriate time to conclude his illustrious run in Norman.

Stoops, who owns a 190-48 (.798) record at OU and coached the Sooners to a school-record 18 consecutive bowl berths, is the only coach to win the Fiesta Bowl, Orange Bowl, Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl and the national championship. He accumulated more victories over his first 18 seasons than any coach in the game's history.

The Youngstown, Ohio, native also guided the Sooners to the most wins of any Power 5 program over the last 18 years. Among those programs, only Ohio State can claim a better winning percentage during the span.

Stoops, 56, led the Sooners to



Courtesy photo
LINCOLN RILEY



DEAN ATCHISON for GTR Newspapers
BOB STOOPS

double-digit wins in 14 of his 18 seasons — the most of any FBS coach since 2000 — and to at least eight victories in each of the last 17 campaigns, good for the longest active streak in the nation. Seven of his squads finished in the AP top five, including each of the last two, while three more finished No. 6.

Riley, 33, takes over the Sooners' reins as the program's 22nd head coach. He has spent the previous two seasons as Oklahoma's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, presiding over one of the nation's most powerful offenses.

Riley was named the recipient of the 2015 Broyles Award as the nation's top assistant coach following his first season in Norman.

The offense ranked fourth nationally in scoring (43.5 ppg) and seventh in total offense (530.2 ypg). Mayfield was named the Sporting News National Player of the Year, while Westbrook was Big 12 Offensive Newcomer of the Year. Eight offensive players earned all-league honors.

Over the past two seasons with Riley as offensive coordinator, the Sooners have the highest quarterback rating in the country with a combined mark of 179.8.

Riley came to Oklahoma after five seasons at East Carolina where he held titles of assistant head coach/offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach (2014) and offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach (2010-13). The Pirates set more than 50 team or individual

school offensive records in his five seasons with the program. His five squads recorded the top five passing seasons in school history and the top four positions for total offense in a season.

Prior to East Carolina, Riley spent seven seasons at his alma mater Texas Tech, where he was part of seven bowl teams and five bowl wins. During that span, Red Raiders quarterbacks won NCAA passing titles in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2007. After serving as a student assistant from 2003-05,

he was promoted to offensive assistant in 2006 and wide receivers coach in 2007. He moved to coaching inside receivers in 2008 and 2009 and called plays for Texas Tech as interim coordinator in the 2010 Alamo Bowl.

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Golf Fans Look Forward To PGA at Southern Hills

By MEAGAN COLLINS
Contributing Writer

Tulsa's world-famous Southern Hills Country Club will host the 2021 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship—the most historic and prestigious major championship in senior golf—and will be the venue for a PGA Championship no later than 2030.

This will be a record fifth time that Southern Hills has staged the PGA Championship, one of golf's four men's major championships. In 2021, the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship will make its second visit to Oklahoma as it debuts at Southern Hills. Southern Hills will become the 13th venue to host both a PGA Championship and a KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship.

Since its founding in 1936, Southern Hills has hosted seven major championships, from the 1958 U.S. Open won by Tommy Bolt to Tiger Woods' PGA

Championship triumph in 2007. Southern Hills also hosted the 1970 PGA Championship, 1977 U.S. Open, 1982 PGA Championship, 1994 PGA Championship and 2001 U.S. Open.

"Few American golf venues match the legacy and record of excellence of Southern Hills Country Club," said PGA of America President Paul Levy during the announcement at Southern Hills. "Some of the sport's greatest names have walked these fairways and etched their name in major championship history. The PGA of America is proud to once again connect with Southern Hills, its membership and the great sports fans of Oklahoma," adding, "The event not only brings the top golfers to town. It was estimated the 2007 PGA Championship generated \$70 million for the greater Tulsa area."

The PGA Championship is the only all-professional major in

men's golf. It began in 1916, just months after the birth of the PGA of America and has perennially featured the top-100 players in the Official World Golf Rankings of all golf championships.

"We're thrilled to again partner with the PGA of America and host a pair of championships of this caliber," said Southern Hills President Craig Bothwell. "Major championship golf is a part of Southern Hills' heritage, but we could not make this happen without the unending support of our dedicated membership, the sporting passion of the greater Tulsa community and the welcoming spirit of our proven volunteer network."

The KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship is the most prestigious event in the game for PGA members ages 50 and older.

KitchenAid has been the presenting sponsor of the Senior PGA Championship and Official Home Appliance Brand of The



GTR Newspapers photo

SHARING THE NEWS: Making the May 30 announcement of the PGA tournaments coming to Tulsa are, from left, PGA of America spokesman Julius Mason, PGA of America President Paul Levy, Southern Hills President Craig Bothwell, Director of Global Partnerships for KitchenAid Deb O'Connor, and director of Championships for the PGA of America Kerry Haigh.

PGA of America since the championship was established.

Deb O'Connor, director of global partnerships for KitchenAid, said, "Golf brings people together, much like cooking does. This marriage of KitchenAid and PGA is for making memories, whether you're on the golf course or in the kitchen."

She hopes to bring members of the Kitchen Aid Tulsa facility, which manufactures stovetops and houses 1,700 employees, to

the golf championship. The appliances may be integrated into the Fairway Club, where golf fans can meet celebrities and local chefs, watch cooking and product demonstrations, and more.

"This partnership started as a revitalization of the community. But the goal has developed into a three-legged stool of sorts: revitalizing the community, hosting valued customers, and making a marketing impact," O'Connor said.



GTR Newspapers photo

HALL OF FAMERS: Harry Lentz, right, was recently inducted into the Holland Hall Sports Hall of Fame for the photography he contributes to the school. He is with Coach Fred Utter, who was named to the HH Hall of Fame last year. Lentz, an attorney by trade, also is a sports photographer for GTR Newspapers.



Courtesy Tulsa Oilers

NEW OILER COACH: The Tulsa Oilers hockey team and General Manager Taylor Hall announced recently that Rob Murray has been named the organization's next head coach and director of hockey operations. GTR will feature Coach Murray in the August issue.



TOUR DE CURE: The 2017 Oklahoma Tour de Cure, a fundraiser for the American Diabetes Association, was held June 3 with the starting line at Hillcrest South Hospital. It included a 5K Walk, 5K Run, and cycle routes with distances of 10, 25, 50 and 100 miles.





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Area Private Schools Experience Great Year

By MIKE MOGUIN
Sports Writer

Editor's Note: Bishop Kelley High School had a banner year in spring sports. An article on its success will run in the next issue.

May was a phenomenal month in athletics for Tulsa-area private schools. Dozens of athletes from Metro Christian, Lincoln Christian and Cascia Hall won state championships, either as part of a team or as individuals, in the spring sports.

Metro Christian won the Class 3A state baseball title and had one runner win a race in track. Lincoln Christian won the Class 4A girls team track championship, with one contestant winning an event and Cascia Hall captured the Class 5A girls title in tennis, while sweeping both doubles finals.

Bishop Kelley swept in soccer, won the team championship in boys' golf, had the top medalist in girls' golf, state champion singles in both girls' and boys' tennis, and one girl won a track event.

The Patriots' title was its second in school history and first in 16 years. Dylan Bierman was the hero on the mound, as the senior threw seven strikeouts in a two-hit-shutout in Metro's 4-0 victory over Verdigris on May 13 in Edmond.

The win was also sweet for Metro because it avenged an 11-3 loss to the Cardinals in the 2016 title game. The Patriots finished the year at 30-5.

"I pretty much had everything I threw, probably about every pitch evenly" says Bierman, a senior headed for Johnson Community College in Kansas. "They (Verdigris) dominated us the year before, and I wanted to dominate them."

Second baseman Dalton Smallwood led the team at the plate going for 2-for-3. Catcher Brody Gibson had two RBIs in the game, including a groundout in the fifth inning that propelled MCA to a 2-0 lead. A two-run single by third baseman Ote Staton in the same frame brought the game to the eventual final score.



CASCIA'S MILEY SISTERS: Cascia Hall tennis players and sisters McKenzie and Reagan Miley hold their No. 1 doubles state championship trophy.



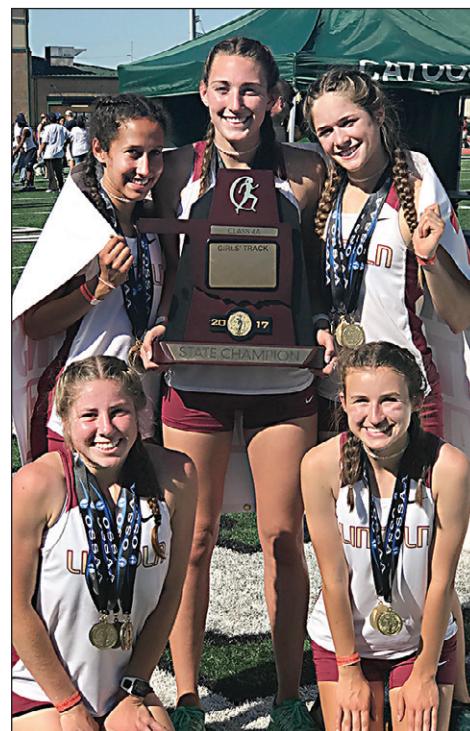
METRO SPRINTER: Metro Christian sprinter Jonathan Horton en route to winning the boys state 800-meter run.



CASCIA TENNIS: Cascia Hall tennis players Sydney Jennings and Emma Powers hold their No. 2 Doubles state championship trophy.



LINCOLN CHRISTIAN TRACK: The Lincoln Christian girls track team hoist their first-place trophy after winning the Class 4A state meet on May 6. Top row, from left, Ariana Cruz, Alyssa Solberg and Jaylen Riley. Bottom row, from left, Hannah Anello and Angelique White.



LINCOLN CHRISTIAN TRACK: The Lincoln Christian girls track team hoist their first-place trophy after winning the Class 4A state meet on May 6. Top row, from left, Ariana Cruz, Alyssa Solberg and Jaylen Riley. Bottom row, from left, Hannah Anello and Angelique White.

Hannah Anello took third in the 400 (58.77) and Ariana Cruz was fifth in the 800 (2:23.00).

Solberg, Anello, Cruz and Jaylen Riley teamed up in the 1,600-meter relay, taking runner-up (4:03.39).

Cascia Hall Girls Win in 5A Tennis

Behind the championship victories in the doubles' divisions, Cascia Hall won state in Class 5A tennis on May 6 in Oklahoma City. The Lady Commandos were crowned for the fourth straight year after picking up 28 points, three more than runner-up OKC Heritage Hall (25). Bishop Kelley was third with 24.

Individually, sisters McKenzie and Reagan Miley were first-place medalists in No. 1 Doubles, while Emma Powers and Sydney Jennings captured No. 2 Doubles.

The Miley sisters won the title match 6-0, 6-4 against C.J. Boydston and Peighton Johnson of Claremore.

"It's been really special because I've been here all four years," says McKenzie Miley, a senior turned graduate who is moving on to the University of Oklahoma. "It's pretty cool. I don't think Cascia has ever done that (four-peat) before in any sport."

"It was really an exciting experience for me," Reagan Miley says, a sophomore turned junior. "I couldn't have done it without my teammates. Everybody contributed. It was fun."

In their final match, Powers and Jennings beat Rebekah Corson and Sarah Routledge of Durant, 6-0, 6-3.

Jennings had taken last year off from tennis to play golf.

"I thought it was pretty special to come back and win the state championship my senior year," said Jennings, who is moving on to Arkansas.

"It is pretty special, especially after losing three talented seniors last year," says Powers, a junior turned senior. "To have enough girls to win another one is exciting. It was pretty close."

to be. In the last couple outs, I was definitely anticipating what was about to happen, but the biggest thing was trying to act like it wasn't almost (about to happen), that way, you can focus on the game and be able to finish out like that."

One week earlier, junior Jonathan Horton won the 800-meter run in the Class 3A track and field meet in Catoosa. He did it with a time of 1:55.71, winning by over three seconds. Horton was elated because he was second in 2016.

"It fired me up," he says. "I'm competitive. Winning it meant a lot to me."

He also took third in the 400, with a time of 49.92.

Lincoln Christian Girls Win Track Title

Lincoln Christian repeated as Class 4A state champions in girls track and field on May 6 in Catoosa. The Lady Eagles finished with 76 points, 13 ahead of second-place Weatherford (63).

"It's very meaningful, because in our whole track season, we've been training 18 weeks or so," says Alyssa Solberg, a senior turned graduate headed for ORU. "Our end goal the entire time was to win another state championship."

Solberg was the lone individual medalist for the Lady Eagles, as she won the gold in the 1,600-meter run in a time of 5:09.22, winning by less than two seconds over the second-place medalist.

"I just relied on my training and I relied on my strategy, and it just ended up working out in the end," Solberg says.



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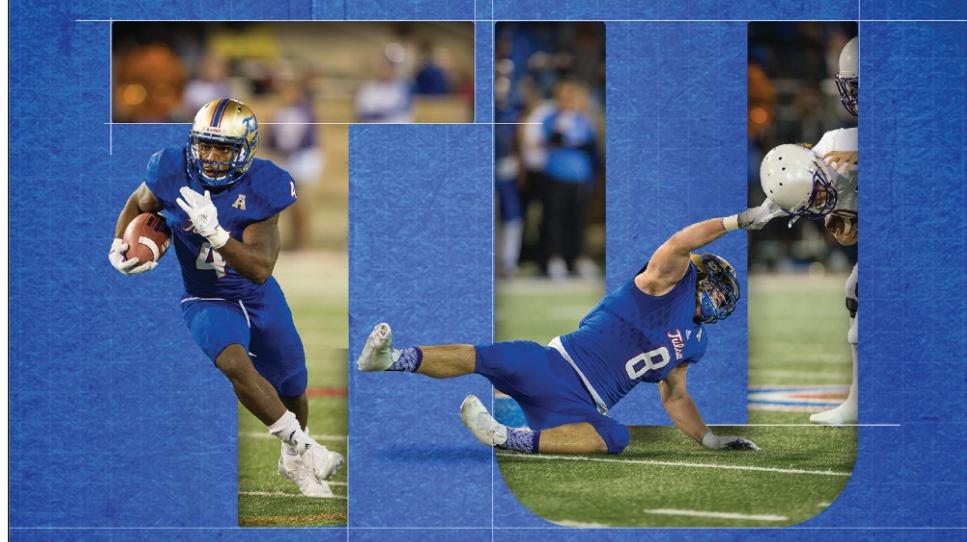
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TU's Chandler Miller On Rimington List

University of Tulsa offensive center Chandler Miller has been named to the 2017 Spring Watch List for the Rimington Award, an award presented annually to the nation's most outstanding center.

Miller (6-3, 293), a junior from Bixby was named to the preseason list for the second consecutive year. Miller has played and started in all 26 career games at the center position for the Golden Hurricane.

As a sophomore, Miller was named first-team American Athletic Conference, while leading a Tulsa offensive line that paved the way for a school record eight 300+ rushing games. Tulsa's offense ranked fourth nationally for total

offense (527.0 ypg) and eighth in the NCAA for rushing offense (261.7 ypg) last year.

Miller graded over 90 percent in eight games last season, including a grade of 94-percent at Navy and 91 percent against No. 12 Houston.

Miller red-shirted as a true freshman in 2014 following an all-state season at Bixby High School in 2013. He is one of seven players from the American Athletic Conference among a total of 63 players on the Rimington Award spring watch list.

About the Rimington Trophy

The Rimington Trophy is present-

ed annually to the Most Outstanding Center in NCAA FBS College Football. Since its inception, the Rimington Trophy has raised over \$2.9 million for the cystic fibrosis community. The award is overseen by the Boomer Esiason Foundation, which is committed to finding a cure for cystic fibrosis and has raised over \$130 million for the fight against cystic fibrosis.

Dave Rimington, the award's namesake, was a consensus first-team All-America center at the University of Nebraska in 1981 and 1982, during which time he came the Outland Trophy's only double winner as the nation's finest college interior lineman.



Courtesy University of Tulsa

STAR CENTER: Chandler Miller (6-3, 293), a junior from Bixby, was named to the preseason Rimington Trophy list for the second consecutive year.

Flying Tee in Jenks Celebrates First Year

Representatives of Flying Tee celebrated the first year anniversary of the unique golfing activity center June 7.

Flying Tee is a three story, 60-bay center offering three restaurants, a beer garden, outdoor patios, corporate meeting rooms and suits, and the ability to host everything from a detailed practice session to a 400-person charity golf tournament.

Flying Tee has been popular during its first year with venues such as the Flying Tee Sports Bar on the ground level, the Iron Wood Rotisserie on the second level, and the Flite, a third-level bar and restaurant.

A group coming out for an evening can rent a bay by the hour and take turns playing various golf games, all of which use real golf balls monitored by a sophisticated tracking system. Games include darts, blackjack, long drive, horse and the ability to play other famous



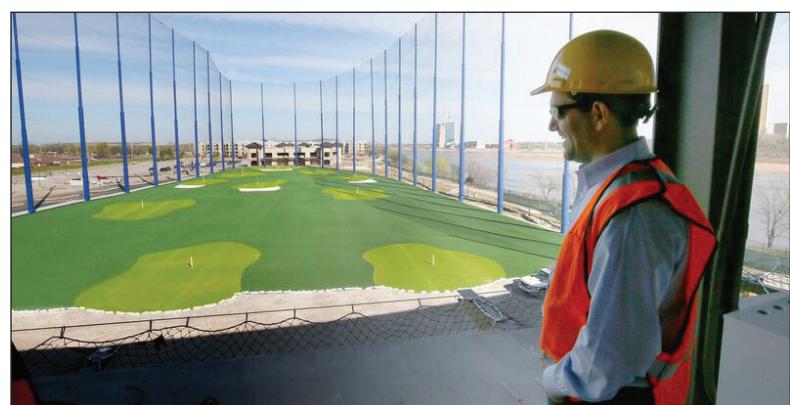
GTR Newspapers photo

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Flying Tee representatives are ready to cut the cake during the first-year celebration June 7. From left are Bryan Senger, assistant general manager; James Vollbrecht, COO; Cliff Grappe, general manager; Chris Bullis, executive chef; Julie Via, Sr. Human Resources Manager; and John Vollbrecht, CEO

courses.

Golfers can trace their ball flight and results on monitors using the sophisticated Pro Tracer technology seen on network golf tele-

casts. Each bay will have fans and misters for hot weather or heaters for colder times. Servers will take orders in the bays as well as in the bars and restaurants.



Courtesy photo

EYE-CATCHING VIEW: Flying Tee co-owner, CEO and founder John Vollbrecht looks down the driving range of the three-story golf and entertainment venue, located along the Arkansas River in Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks. The complex offers views of downtown Tulsa and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Margaritaville resort and casino complex.

The facility is open 9 a.m.–midnight on weekdays and 9 a.m. – 1 a.m. on weekends. Golfers who want to use the system's shot tracking and swing analysis capabili-

ties can bring their own clubs out during the morning, then return at night with a group of friends and use the new Cobra equipment provided free of charge at the bays.

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THE ECONOMY

Jackson Technical Building New Headquarters

*Tulsa
Company
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Jackson Technical will occupy its new three-story headquarters, 611 S. Elgin Ave. in downtown Tulsa, at the end of this year. With 18 employees and dozens of technical services offered, this new move from its current location at 427 S. Boston Ave. in the Philtower is in part because of the company's success.

The founder of Jackson Technical, Tim Jackson, became interested in computers over 30



GTR Newspapers photo

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSION: Tim Jackson, founder of Jackson Technical, stands outside his new building at 611 E. Elgin St. The building is scheduled to open later this year.



FINISHED PRODUCT: The Jackson Technical building will be a state-of-the-art facility in downtown Tulsa.

years ago. "I picked up BASIC programming easily," says Jackson. "That turned into a love of computers and electronics in general, which led me to join the U.S. Army as an electronics technician."

After leaving from the army and coming to Tulsa, Jackson began the company in 1999 as a one-man business. As the company grew, it moved to the Atlas Life Building in 2001. Then, in 2007, after building a decent number of client relationships, Jackson says, they moved to the Philtower.

Jackson Technical offers many services, including network security services, disaster recovery, general support, IT consulting and internet services, such as web hosting and design. Jackson Technical is adding even more services, one of which is VoIP phone systems and similar services because they are highly integrated into company networks.

Jackson Technical also serves the community by giving free or discounted services to nonprofit organizations and actively participates with Leadership Tulsa, which, Jackson says, "has been a

great way to introduce our staff to board service for nonprofits and other community efforts."

Jackson Technical offers many services specially designed for small businesses, such as remote access solutions, database design and conversion, server performance monitoring, and software installation and maintenance. The company also offers lesser-known services, such as license compliance reporting, network assessments and auditing, and staff augmentation. "We treat our clients' IT systems as if they were our own," he says.

Jackson says a common technical issue many of his clients face is the threat to their security, especially through email. His solution is simple. He recommends that computer users never click on links in emails that they aren't sure lead to the advertised destination. He also recommends creating a "comprehensive backup and disaster recovery plan to test before there is an emergency."

"Think of it like fire drills for your network."

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Digital Expert Discusses Changing Media Landscape

Strong Online Presence Becoming Essential for Business Success

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

As technology continues to shape the way humans operate, shop and interact with one another, the importance of a company's online reputation and practices is only increasing, notes Van Webb, owner of Webb Branding. Webb has close to 30 years experience in radio and digital sales management, including with iHeart Media in Tulsa.

"Not having an online strategy is like a store not having signage or lighting," he says.

In addition to website maintenance, companies must also think about their social media activity, comments on consumer review sites, such as Yelp and Trip Advisor, and content generation.

However, for many business owners, there are not enough hours in the day.

I hear often from business people that they know they need an online presence, but they do not have the time to manage it, Webb says.

When working with a client,

Webb's first step is to address the current state of the company's online elements, including its website and social media sites, customer inquiry responsiveness, and the consistency of its contact and location information across all platforms.

"These are all fundamental things, but they're important," he says, "because when these elements are inconsistent, search engines punish companies by lowering their search ranking."

Webb also keeps a watch on the Google algorithm, which impacts a business' search ranking. "The way consumers live and search for things is constantly changing, thus the Google algorithm is constantly changing," he says.

Once Webb has established the foundation, it, then, becomes about maintaining the business' online elements, such as consistent monitoring of consumer review sites and creation of content.

With consumer review sites playing a growing vital role in a company's success, says Webb, nega-

tive customer reviews play a role in driving down a business' search ranking.

"People give a lot of credit to what other people say. These online channels—review and listing sites, social media—are where people go before they make a decision about a business."

"I have seen companies spending thousands of dollars on building a new website and on advertising, but these other elements are in shambles."

Yet, Webb is the first to acknowledge that while one strategy may work today, there is always something new on the horizon.

"Technology is nonstop and constantly changing," he says. "If we keep doing the same things, we get left behind."

Therefore, watching for what's coming and remaining current on cutting-edge technology is essential.

However, what about those business owners who have not yet created an extensive online footprint?

"I always encourage my clients



DIGITAL BRANDING: Van Webb, owner of Webb Branding, is pictured at the American Marketing Association's annual leadership conference that was held in April. Webb founded his company last year with close to 30 years experience in radio and digital sales management.

Courtesy photo

to put themselves in the customer's shoes," says Webb. "What do you do when searching for a product or service? What are your habits; what websites do you visit?"

Their answers to those questions can help them to focus, then, on

the most important things, he continues. These should include an accurate, up-to-date website with easy-to-locate information and positive representation of the company on consumer review sites, which can serve as a powerful customer acquisition tool.

SemGroup Announces Acquisition of Houston Terminal

Purchase Puts Company in Unique Position

Tulsa-based SemGroup Corporation has announced that it has executed a definitive agreement to acquire Houston Fuel Oil Terminal Company ("HFOTCO"), one of the largest oil terminals in the U.S., from investment funds managed by Alinda Capital Partners. This acquisition establishes SemGroup's position in the premier energy market, the Houston Ship Channel.

The 16.8-million-barrel terminal is located on the U.S. Gulf Coast with pipeline connectivity to the local refining complex, deep water marine access and inbound pipeline, rail and truck receipt capabilities from all major producing basins. The assets are located on 330 acres on the Houston Ship Channel, one of the most active trading centers for residual fuel oil and crude oil in the world. The business is fully supported by take-or-pay contracts with primarily investment-grade counterparties that have been customers for an average of 15 years.

HFOTCO is currently executing on contractually-supported growth projects, including a new ship dock, a new pipeline and connections, as well as an additional 1.45 million barrels of crude oil storage, expected to be in service mid-2018.

"This is a transformational acquisition that adds tremendous stability to our business and provides a dynamic platform for growth," says SemGroup President and CEO Carlin Conner. "Consistent with our strategy to diversify our portfolio and become more refinery facing, HFOTCO brings a well-established base of high-quality, long-tenured customers. At the same time, the terminal's premier location on the Houston Ship Channel provides deepwater access and is well positioned to capture increasing export volumes. With the addition of HFOTCO, SemGroup will be uniquely positioned to capture the future trends in exporting crude oil and refined products resulting from the near

and long-term anticipated growth in U.S. shale production."

The total purchase consideration to acquire HFOTCO will consist of two payments. The first payment will be \$1.5 billion at closing, including the assumption of an estimated \$785 million of existing HFOTCO debt, and issuance of between \$300 million to \$400 million in common shares, at SemGroup's election, to Alinda at \$32.30 per share. The remainder of the initial payment will be funded in cash from SemGroup's revolving credit facility. The second payment will consist of an additional \$600 million which will be paid in cash before the end of 2018, which aligns consideration with EBITDA growth. SemGroup will have no obligation to make the second payment, which instead will be an obligation of its acquisition subsidiaries and secured by a pledge of the equity interests in such subsidiaries. The purchase price will be subject to customary adjustments.



TULSA-BASED ASSET: The Tulsa-based SemGroup purchase of the Houston Fuel Oil Terminal Company is positive news for the economy of greater Tulsa.

Courtesy photo

Hall Estill Tops for 10th Year

Hall Estill, with offices in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Denver, Northwest Arkansas and Nashville, has once again received high marks from the respected law firm and attorney ranking guide Chambers USA. The publication annually ranks law firms and individual attorneys across the country for their legal knowledge and excellence.

For the tenth year in a row, Hall Estill was ranked in the following practice areas: Corporate/Commercial Law, Energy and Natural Resources, General Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property and Labor and Employment Law. In addition, the firm is now ranked in the Real Estate Law practice area.

"It is a great honor to have our firm and attorneys recognized for their level of legal expertise by this highly respected publication," Hall Estill Managing Partner Mike Cooke says. "Our recognition by Chambers USA is a tribute to our

attorneys' commitment to providing excellent counsel and the broad range of experience at Hall Estill."

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gans, Phillip L. Free Jr., Randall K. McCarthy and Michael H. Smith for Intellectual Property; Robert D. Nelton for General Commercial Litigation; Timothy S. Posey for Native American Law; Stephen W. Ray for Corporate/Commercial Law; and Gregory W. Alberty for Real Estate Law. Bill D. McCarthy has also been posthumously recognized for his excellence in Intellectual Property Law.

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AVB BANK AWARD WINNERS: AVB Bank "Years of Service" Award winners were recently honored at the annual AVB Bank Employee Celebration. The Service Award is given out to employees to recognize their five-year milestone of service and dedication to the bank and to the community. Ted Cundiff, AVB president and CEO, congratulated and thanked the honorees ranging from five years to 45 years of service. From left are Dorothy Ferguson (five years), Kathy Pitts (10 years), Licia Kellerstrass (five years), Jan Grogan (10 years), David Keith (15 years), Tammy Natekina (10 years), Kelley Rash (45 years), Carol Sue Willcutt (35 years), Carol Lemon (45 years), Doug Vangilder (five years) and Ted Cundiff.



APA OPEN HOUSE: APA Services, Inc. a full-service staffing agency supplying qualified technical and professional personnel to the aerospace, aircraft and aeronautics industries nationally and worldwide, has opened its Tulsa office. From left are Jeremiah Smith, programs manager, Tulsa; Danny McKee, CEO and co-founder; Nicole Minter, principal and director of sales and recruitment; Keely Johnson, corporate recruiting manager; Lisa Adams, Tulsa branch manager; Jason Paty, vice president of operational performance; and Lance Powers, vice president of strategic growth and business development.

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BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

The board of Friends of Starlight Concerts, Inc., has selected Catherine DeCamp as its executive director. DeCamp brings more than 20 years of leadership experience and volunteerism to her role.

DeCamp received her Bachelor of International Business and Languages and Master of Business Administration from the University of Tulsa and spent the first part of her career in the corporate world and as a small business owner. She entered the nonprofit arena in 2014, most recently as the business development director for the Oklahoma Innovation Institute, a nonprofit organization committed to building an innovative economy in the Tulsa region.

The Starlight Band is Oklahoma's only professional concert band and includes over 50 musicians. Concerts are held at Guthrie Green, located at 111 E. Brady Street in Tulsa.

Oral Roberts University is committed to creating a thriving global culture within the university and to that end, ORU President Dr. William M. Wilson has announced a new position to serve that purpose.

Dr. Kevin Schneider will serve as the executive director of ORU's Office of Global Service. He has taught courses in the university's College of Business, coordinated international academic activities, and led a healing team to Brazil the past two years.

Schneider will coordinate Study Abroad Programs, Healing Teams and an Intercultural Experience for all graduates. He will oversee the International Student Center, Global Awareness Events on Campus as well as Global Sensitivity. Schneider will also assist the Office of the Provost in Global Partnerships.

Schneider earned his doctorate in business administration in strategic planning from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland. He earned his master's of business administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Theology at ORU.

Charles "Chuck" Halliburton, head of AVCOM Productions in Tulsa, has been awarded the Silver ADDY for his achievements over the past 36 years. The Silver ADDY is the Tulsa Advertising Industry's highest honor and was presented April 27 at an awards dinner at Tulsa Country Club.

Halliburton started his career with Advertising Inc., in 1971, shortly after graduating from Oklahoma State University with a degree in radio, television & film. After two years with the agency, in 1973, he was instrumental in helping Ad Inc., form a production subsidiary they named AVCOM. And, in 1981, Halliburton took the reins of AVCOM as the majority shareholder when the company broke away from the agency. He has guided Tulsa's first audio visual production company ever since.

Today, Halliburton and AVCOM continue to provide audio-visual presentations and donate in-kind services to numerous non profit charitable organizations in the Tulsa area.



DECAMP



SIEGFRIED

Jessica Borusky has been named artistic director for **Living Arts**, a Tulsa-based contemporary arts organization. Her appointment was announced by the Living Arts Board of Directors. She will fill the vacancy with the June 30 retirement of Steve Liggett, who has led Living Arts for the past 26 years.

Borusky is an artist, educator, and curator and holds an MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University in Studio Art with a concentration in Performance and Women's/Gender Studies, and a BA from New College of Florida in Art/Performance/Gender Studies.

Borusky currently resides in Kansas City as a Charlotte Street Foundation Residency Fellow.

Jones, Gotcher & Bogan, P.C. announces the firm's President, **James E. Weger**, has been appointed to serve as a member of the **Alcoholic Beverage Enforcement (ABLE) Commission**. Weger will serve a five-year term ending June 23, 2021.

Weger has been practicing law since 1982 with Jones Gotcher. He attended the University of Oklahoma, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1979 and his law degree in 1982. He also attended the University of Oxford, Queens College, in 1980 as part of his law school curriculum.

The **Oklahoma Dental Association (ODA)** has awarded **Dr. Kathy Henry** with the ODA Thomas Jefferson Citizenship Award and **Dr. C. Rieger Wood, III** with the ODA President's Leadership Award. These awards were given during the 2017 ODA President's Dinner on April 29 in Tulsa.

The ODA Thomas Jefferson Citizenship Award is given to a dentist who has put forth outstanding contributions to community service. Henry was honored with this award for her eight years of volunteer work with the Oklahoma Mission Mercy, a two-day dental clinic that provides free dental services to the public.

The ODA President's Leadership Award is chosen each year by the president and is presented to an individual who has exhibited exemplary leadership skills through service to the ODA, the membership, and his or her community. Wood was awarded this honor for his volunteer work for the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy. He has been instrumental with the inception of the event in 2010 and with executing each event including chairing the event twice. He has shown his dedication to the dental profession throughout his dental career and the ODA appreciates his commitment to his community and the dental profession.

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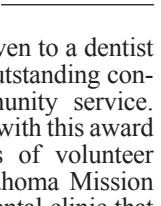
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DOG DAYS IN GREATER TULSA



LAB RESCUE ADOPTION EVENT: Marshall Brewing Company, located at 618 S. Wheeling Ave. in Tulsa, hosted a Lab Rescue Adoption Event June 3 for Lab Rescue OK, Inc. For more information, see www.labrescue.net.

BISCUIT ACRES: Biscuit Acres, located at Hunter Park in south Tulsa, celebrated its eighth year anniversary event June 3. The event included free dog scarves. PetsMart, The Humane Society and PetsWell Pantry were in attendance.

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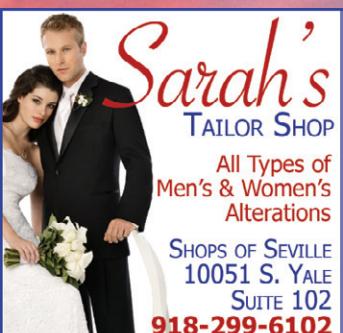
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Ornate Details Give Character to McFarlin Building

At the northeast corner of Fifth and Main streets is a handsome building with characteristics of a Florentine palazzo known as the McFarlin Building.

The McFarlin Building was designed in 1918 by St. Louis architects Barnett - Hayes - Burnett and constructed by engineer Brusssel Viterbo. The original owner was Robert M. McFarlin: oilman, banker, philanthropist and civic leader. He was one of the founders of Exchange National Bank, which eventually became First National Bank of Tulsa. The University of Tulsa credits him as the donor of its main library.

The McFarlin Building's first tenant was the Halliburton-Abbott department store that later moved to a larger building at Fifth Street and Boulder Avenue and is now defunct. A later ground-floor

tenant was a Skaggs drugstore. In 1979, the five-story building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

Little of the original building character remains on the interior. But the exterior, except for the ground floor, retains its original appearance. Unfortunately, although the ground floor arches remain, all the detail around them has been removed or covered with a smooth stucco facing. Based on the rest of the exterior, one can only imagine how rich this ornamentation was. Directly above the arches is a stone band in a Greek key pattern that supports massive bas-relief urns. The upper floors are faced with a dark red brick punctuated by pairs of double hung steel windows (three pairs on Main Street and nine pairs on Fifth Street). The simplicity of the brick work contrasts sharply with the two outstanding elements of the façade.

First is the substantial overhanging cornice which acts as the building's crown. The soffit of this cornice is articulated by strong modillions. According to the Tulsa Preservation Commission, these modillions, or brackets, are somewhat Victorian in character. Second are the three projecting limestone balconies which are the "tour de force" of the building. One could almost visualize Shakespeare's Juliette poised on one while awaiting her Romeo in Verona, Italy. Each appears to be supported by three massive curved stone brackets. Each balcony (projecting approximately three feet) is framed with limestone pilasters which terminate in a massive lintel with segmented panels. Above the lintel are two upright stone lions. Further above, tucked just below the deep soffit, are two heraldic bas-relief limestone shields with an inlaid blue background and a diagonal red stripe.

The footprint of the McFarlin Building is approximately 50 feet (Main Street) by 140 feet (Fifth Street). One balcony is centered on the Main Street elevation and two balconies are spaced at each end of the Fifth Street elevation.

Today, the McFarlin Building has a mixed-use occupancy, with



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

FIVE STORIES OF HISTORY: At 11 E. 5th St., the McFarlin Building was designed in 1918 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. It is a multi-use building today for retail and office spaces.

the ground floor accommodating retail and the upper four floors designated for office use. A lobby with two elevators, Spartan in ap-

pearance, serves the upper floors. An additional elevator, located at the east end of the building, is accessed by a city alley.

Redefining Displays of Grief and Remembrance in Today's Times

Leave no footprint. It's the hiker's creed, and a bit of a recycler's creed, I suppose. What's hard about a recycling lifestyle is realizing how little our culture is set up to make it simple, and sometimes how simple it could be to do so.

We just paid tribute to our men and women who died while serving in our armed forces. What I found around me that I could purchase for a literal pay in respecting my fallen loved ones, I found plastic flowers and plastic flags that would never compost yet be required to be removed within the next few days. That means, I would be literally throwing my hard earned money in the trash. The thought of this attempt to profit from my grief and respect was like adding insult to injury.

So, while difficult to discuss, here are some discussion starters on the topic of: How to pay re-

spect to our loved ones that truly reflects the respect we intend through respect of our time and money.

Take It With You
Take a framed photo of your loved one with you to their grave site, and take a series of photos. Bring family and tell stories, record stories with your smart phone or even an old-time video recorder, whatever you have on-hand.

Group Decisions
Connect with others who have loved ones buried in the same cemetery, and hire a professional photography and/or videography team during the Memorial holidays, and your professional can create a memory montage everyone can share. Talk with your cemetery manager if you aren't sure where to get started. Many cemeteries now have social media sites and web pages.

Trash Talk



By BETH TURNER
Tulsa Master Recyclers Association

New-Time Tradition

Speaking of social media, I appreciate the outlet Facebook provides for ongoing tributes, memorials, memories and media shared between those connected through this person we all loved. We can plan reunions, and know that on that birthday or Memorial Day, a whole bunch of us huddle together to light a digital candle in his or her honor.

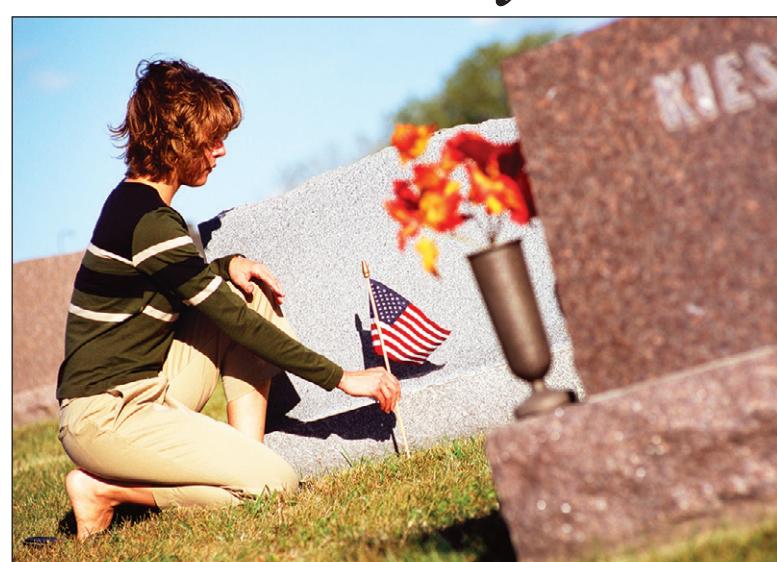
Old Time Tradition

Make a rubbing of your loved one's grave stone and frame it or just keep it in their memory book. Take butcher paper and charcoal or pencil, and rub the grave stone's markings onto the paper. You can spray the rubbing with hair spray for added protection of the rubbing.

Volunteer

So, what got this all started was our recent Memorial Day. Held the last Monday of May each year it's the day that, before we launch into our summer plans, we pay homage to our men and women who have died while serving in our country's armed forces, giving us a deeper gratitude for those sunny summer days that lie ahead.

Driving by those rows of fluttering American flags, then seeing the swarms of people taking



DECORATIVE POLICIES: Cemeteries have incredibly varied policies from requiring flat headstones and no decorations remaining after holidays to allowing elaborate mausoleums or "above-ground" decoration policies, and perennial plantings or "in-ground" decoration policies.

days to painstakingly stake each one of them, then take each one down five days later and properly stored. Whether a scout troop or many individual volunteers, it takes a community to pay such respect with precision, organization and sustainability.

Thoughtful Discussion

I'd love to hear what you have

found as a thoughtful outlet to honor those no longer with us. Send in your thoughts to bethturner@me.com, or let's get the conversation started @TrashTalk-Tulsa.

Whatever you find for your own traditions, I hope it brings you peace and a sense of gratitude for the little gifts found in the every day.

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FAITH

Big Biblical Ideas From First Baptist's Deron Spoo

Tulsa Pastor Releases Book

By K.J. WEBB
Contributing Writer

Deron Spoo, lead pastor of the First Baptist Church Tulsa, has stewarded his 2,000-plus congregants and overseen an impressive amount of church growth and expansion for the past 17 years. He has spent these years formulating thoughts for his recently published book, "The Good Book: 40 Chapters That Reveal the Bible's Biggest Ideas."

"Two decades of my teaching, preaching and study have gone into this book," says Spoo. "I spent five years writing it. After completing the book I worked closely with my agent, and we located a wonderful publisher based in Colorado Springs." In addition to the book, Spoo's publisher has produced a video curriculum, a children's book and small-group curriculum.

Spoo's decision to write "The Good Book: 40 Chapters That Reveal the Bible's Biggest Ideas" was inspired by a question from a young woman who had never stepped foot in a church until the morning she spoke with Spoo. "Following a worship gathering a young woman approached me and asked, 'Is there a book I can read that can tell me what you believe about God?'" Spoo gave her the right answer, the Bible.

"I knew that the Bible was the right answer, but I wondered at the time if it was the best answer for her," Spoo says. "For someone like this young woman, who has never stepped foot in a church or opened the Bible, it's easy to get overwhelmed and lost in its complexity."

Spoo says he looked for a book that would introduce and guide readers through the big ideas of the Bible and lay a solid framework for a better understanding of it. He couldn't find such a book. So, he decided to write one himself. Based on his experience as a pastor, a Christ-follower and from conversations over the years that have informed his own un-

derstanding, Spoo selected 40 Bible chapters essential to understanding the major themes of the Bible.

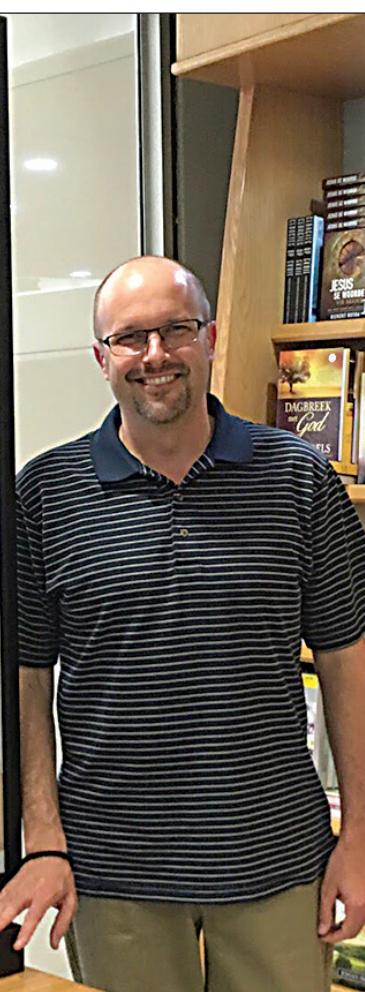
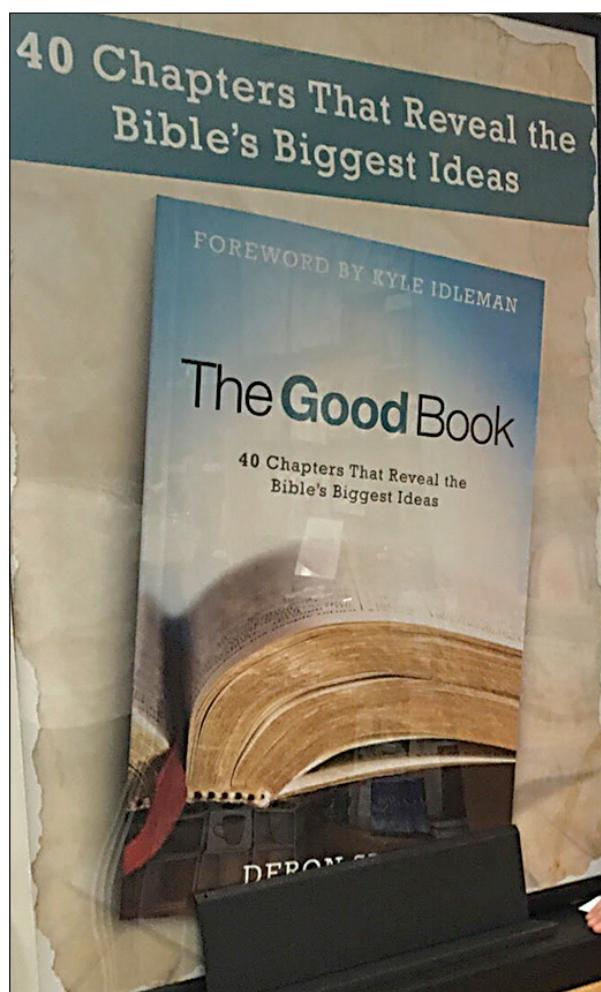
When asked who the book is for, Spoo says, "I had two audiences in mind when I was writing: the person who has never before picked up a Bible and one who may even be a bit intimidated by it. This book is a safe place for first-time readers to engage with Scripture, ask any question they want and gain a good understanding of the Bible's most important ideas. And, it offers experienced readers a fresh glimpse of the Bible and an opportunity to experience Biblical truths in a new way."

Regarding secular readers, Spoo says writing to a secular audience is not that difficult. "Every Sunday I am communicating to people who are skeptics, who are faith-challenged, or who might not believe at all. The greatest tool to overcoming skepticism is authenticity, not a lot of fluff."

The goal of the book, Spoo says, is not just for people to gain a good understanding of the Bible's biggest ideas but that readers would also fall in love with God, know him and who he has revealed himself to be in Jesus.

When asked if he had always wanted to write a book, Spoo says, "A lot of my professors in seminary were respected authors. By publishing books, they had a much larger platform and made a larger impact as spiritual leaders. It's something I had always hoped to make part of my vocation as a pastor."

Spoo mentioned one professor in particular, his mentor, theologian and noted author Calvin Miller. "Calvin Miller was one of my primary professors in graduate school. As a graduate assistant I worked on two projects for him. Through this, I had exposure to the world of book writing and publishing. I always admired how he used his talent and craft to help people discover the immensity of faith."



AFRICAN VISIT: Pastor and author Deron Spoo in Johannesburg, South Africa during a promotional tour for his recently published book, "The Good Book: 40 Chapters That Reveal the Bible's Biggest Ideas"

Every writer has his own writing process, and Spoo is no different. "I write every morning from 5 a.m. until 7 a.m. It's quiet, there are no distractions and I can sit at my desk and get everything on the page. The latter part of the week is for editing, re-writing and more editing." When asked how he deals with writer's block, Spoo says, "Habit is the greatest preventive of writer's block. For the past 20 years I have sat down at 8:30 in the morning and written sermons. It's the same thing with writing a book; the power of habit keeps the ideas flowing."

When asked if he has any advice for aspiring authors, Spoo says, "Try to write every day, even if it is a page or two. Write something you are passionate about because you will be living with it for a long time."

Growing interest from the international community has resulted in Spoo's book being translated into Afrikaans, and it is being promoted in South Africa. At the behest of his agent, Spoo is currently at work on another project.

ty chapters of the Bible. Perhaps as you read Proverbs 1, something about its punchy and practical wisdom hit home for you. Now, taking what you know of this single chapter, you may stride into the entire book of Proverbs with a bit more confidence and curiosity. Or possibly, as you read the foundational teachings of Jesus in Matthew 5, 6, and 7, your interest has grown stronger than your sense of intimidation, and now you're better prepared to explore the greater expanse of Jesus's instruction. So will you make it through the entire Bible? I hope so. But more than completion, the goal of Bible reading is clarity. The Bible makes more sense each time we read it. Ultimately, our clarity goes beyond the Scriptures to God himself. As you read the Bible, may you see God in crisper detail. Indeed, there is no substitute for Scripture in its ability to help us perceive God's face, his hand, and—best of all—his heart."

"The Good Book: 40 Chapters That Reveal the Bible's Biggest Ideas" is available at Mardel's, on amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and more.

Deron Spoo joined the First Baptist Church staff in 2000. He served as a pastor at a church in Texas and associate pastor in Alabama. Originally from San Angelo, Texas, Spoo received his B.A. from Angelo State University and M.Div from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Excerpt:

"The 40 chapters contained in this book are intended to serve you in much the same way as you walk into the larger universe of the Bible. I mean no irreverence by comparing movies to the Scriptures. I only mean to capture the effect that I hope you've experienced from becoming familiar with these for-

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18 June 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 bactheatre.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. Ask us about fraud ID protection Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	20 ZUMBA GOLD LIFE's Senior Center at Southminster 10 – 11 a.m. Visit lifeseniorservices.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 lifeseniorservices.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 tulsaadrollers.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 tulsaadrollers.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 tulsaadrollers.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. SWOPE PARK RANGERS ONEOK Field 7:30 p.m. Visit roughnecksfc.com for more information.	28 COOKING FOR 1 OR 2 Tulsa Health Department 1:30 – 3 p.m. Visit lifeseniorservices.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. TULSA ROUGHNECKS VS. SWOPE PARK RANGERS ONEOK Field 7:30 p.m. Visit roughnecksfc.com 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. We Offer Health Savings Accounts 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. AFTERTOON MOVIE Okwasso 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 roughnecksfc.com for more information. FAIR MEADOWS LIVE RACING Fair Meadows Race Track 5 p.m. Visit exposquare.com for more information.
2 TOTAL BLAST ZUMBA Guthrie Green 10:30 a.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information. SUNDAY DRAWS Gilcrease Museum 1 – 2:30 p.m. Visit gilcrease.org for more information. TULSA DRILLERS vs. Midland 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaadrollers.com for more information.	3 MUSIC SANDWICHED IN Central Library 12 – 12:45 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. FOR THE LOVE OF CATS AND DOGS Nathan Hale Library 12 – 12:45 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. FOLDS OF HONOR FREEDOMFEST River West Festival/Veterans' Park 5 – 10 p.m. Visit riverparks.org for more information.	4 4th of July FOLDS OF HONOR FREEDOMFEST River West Festival/Veterans' Park 5 – 10 p.m. Visit riverparks.org for more information.	5 DRUNKARD AND OLIO AUDITIONS Tulsa Spotlight Theatre 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit spotlighttheatre.org for more information. TULSA DRILLERS vs. Frisco 7:05 p.m. • July 5-6 Visit tulsaadrollers.com for more information. New Name. Same Bank. Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	6 TULSA ATHLETIC VS. CF MONTERREY U20 LaFortune Stadium 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Visit tulsaathletic.com for more information. DIONNE WARWICK Hard Rock Hotel and Casino 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information. SANTANA River Spirit Event Center 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.	7 STARLIGHT BANDS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES Guthrie Green 8 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information. TULSA DRILLERS vs. Frisco 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaadrollers.com for more information.	8 GEM & MINERAL SHOW Tulsa County Fairgrounds 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Visit tulsarockandmineralsociety.org for more information. TULSA ATHLETIC VS. LITTLE ROCK RANGERS LaFortune Stadium 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Visit tulsaathletic.com for info. WELLRED COMEDY TOUR Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.
9 BIG3 3 ON 3 PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL BOK Center 2 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. TULSA DRILLERS vs. Midland 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaadrollers.com for more information.	10 DIABETES EMPOWERMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM (DEEP) Woodland Village 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visit lifeseniorservices.org for more information. TULSA DRILLERS vs. Midland 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaadrollers.com for more information.	11 ANXIETY MANAGEMENT SUPPORT GROUP Mental Health Association Oklahoma 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit mhaok.org for more information. DRAWING ON MEMORIES Gilcrease Museum 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Visit alz.org for more info. More Bank for Your Buck Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	12 ROUTE 66: HISTORY AND BEYOND LaFortune Community Center 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Visit lifeseniorservices.org for more information. PARENTS SUPPORTING PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Mental Health Association Oklahoma 6 – 7 p.m. Visit mhaok.org for more information.	13 ANNIE JR. Theatre Tulsa Family 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. WOODY GUTHRIE FOLK FESTIVAL Okemah, OK July 12 – 16 Visit woodyfest.com for more information. ZOMBOY Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	14 IN THE HEIGHTS Theatre Tulsa Family 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. CRAYONS IMPROV COMEDY SHOW Woodlake Youth Center 7 – 9 p.m. Visit crayonsimprov.com for more information. WADE BOWEN Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	15 ANNIE JR. Theatre Tulsa Family 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. IN THE HEIGHTS Theatre Tulsa Family 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. NIGHT OF LEGACY; TRIMBLE STRONG Mabee Center 7 p.m. Visit mabeecenter.com for more information.
16 ANNIE JR. Theatre Tulsa Family 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. IN THE HEIGHTS Theatre Tulsa Family 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. RONNIE MILSAP & DIAMOND RIO Hard Rock Hotel and Casino 6 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.	17 BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT Tulsa Country Club 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit salarmytulsa.org for more information. TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaadrollers.com for more information.	18 BIPOLAR MANAGEMENT SUPPORT GROUP Mental Health Association Oklahoma 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit mhaok.org for more information. TULSA DRILLERS vs. Arkansas 7:05 p.m. • July 18-19 Visit tulsaadrollers.com for more information.	19 DANCING WITH THE STARS BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for info. BASICS OF MEDICARE LIFE Senior Services 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Visit lifeseniorservices.org for more information. ROOTED, REVIVED, RE-INVENTED: BASKETRY IN AMERICAN 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Visit 108contemporary.org for more information.	20 SARA EVANS Hard Rock Hotel and Casino 8 – 10 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information. CHAIR EXERCISE LIFE's Senior Center at Eastside 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Visit lifeseniorservices.org for more information. Free Small Business Checking Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	21 MAC MCANALLY River Spirit Event Center 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Visit riverspirittulsa.com for more information. MOVIE AFTERNOON Martin Regional Library - Auditorium 1 – 3 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	22 ROUGHNECKS WOMEN'S LEAGUE Rhema Ninowski Recreation Center 7 – 9 p.m. Visit roughnecksfc.com for more information. ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL Cain's Ballroom 7:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.

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JENKS DISTRICT NEWS

AROUND DOWNTOWN JENKS



FOOD TRUCK FEST: Patrons gather along Main Street for the Jenks America Food Truck Festival, held in May. The annual festival features a variety of food truck offerings and children's activities.



LOCAL LEADERS: At a recent Jenks Chamber luncheon are, from left, Jenks city councilors Robert Lee and Cory Box, Mayor Joshua Wedman, State Representative Jim Bridenstine, Vice Mayor Mike Sharp, Chamber President Josh Driskell and City Councilor Bo Summers.

FREEDOM FEST RETURNS JULY 4



Courtesy Jenks Chamber

SPLASH ZONE: Children play at the Jenks America Freedom Fest last year in the Splash Zone, set up by the Jenks Fire Department. The Freedom Fest will take place in downtown Jenks on July 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., with live music, family fun, artisan vendors and food trucks. The Jenks Kiwanis Club will be on hand with free watermelon slices, and the Jenks Fire Department will return with its splash zone. Fireworks at the Los Cabos Boomfest will begin at dark.

Students Take Golf Lessons

In May, Flying Tee at RiverWalk Crossing provided stand-out Jenks Middle School students with free golf lessons and an hour of golf.

"Golf is unique in how it is able to teach life skills and values that extend well beyond the golf course," says FlyingTee CEO John Vollbrecht. "Golf teaches everyone who plays the importance of honesty and integrity."

"These students have worked hard and deserve to be commended for their efforts."

Approximately 180 students were given the opportunity to learn from PGA teaching professional Tracy Phillips.

FlyingTee will open the doors early exclusively for these exceptional students on both May 9 and 10.

"I see this as a great opportunity to bring awareness to our youth about the sport," said Jenks Athletic Coach Justin Glenn, who worked to coordinate the event.



Courtesy photo

FLYING TEE VISIT: Exemplary Jenks Middle School students took golf lessons and spent time practicing their swings at FlyingTee in May.

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SUMMER SAFETY REMINDERS



MEAGAN COLLINS for GTR Newspapers

COMMUNITY AWARENESS: Safe Kids and The Children's Hospital at St. Francis held a joint press conference with area officials to discuss the potential dangers of summer fun. Since 1993, Safe Kids has advocated for continual parental awareness and safety.

By MEAGAN COLLINS
Contributing Writer

In 1993, Safe Kids, an international non-profit organization focused on child safety, came to the greater Tulsa area, with The Children's Hospital at St. Francis as lead organizer, to provide staff, support, and other resources to help keep children safe. Beth Washington, director of Safe Kids Tulsa Area, offers advice to enable parents to better protect their children, especially during the sweltering summer months.

"Never leave your child, not for a second," she says, "not even if the windows are cracked or the car is running. During summer, always be vigilant; put down the phone, and watch your kids."

Every 10 minutes, the temperature inside a vehicle increases close to 20 degrees.

Regarding water safety, Tulsa saw 14 water-related deaths last year and with six

already reported this year, noted Colonel Christopher A. Hussin, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In order to engage with the water safely, life jackets must be fully zipped or buckled and should fit tightly around a person's body, said Ed Ferguson, with the Grand River Dam Authority. He also advised that swimmers never swim alone, with adults actively supervising their children.

To encourage boat safety, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol offers free six-hour classes to boat operators of all ages. The classes will be offered at the Broken Arrow Bass Pro Shops through September. Pre-registration is required.

For more information visit okboated.com.

Safe Kids provides car-seat checkups on the first Thursday of the month in Broken Arrow, Tulsa, Jenks and Bixby. Visit safekids.org to learn more.