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UNION BOUNDARY

GREATER TULSA REPORTER

One of Six Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers

Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group

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Proposals Continue for Vision Tax

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

As the Vision 2025 sales tax prepares to expire, city leaders hope to see Tulsa County residents vote to renew the 0.6 percent sales tax in April 2016.

Through a series of Vision meetings, residents have had the opportunity to pitch proposals to be included in the Vision tax extension package. The full list of proposals can be found at www.cityoftulsa.org.

During a Sept. 17 city council meeting, city councilors pitched their own proposals.

District 1 City Councilor Jack Henderson proposed the development of the 162-acre site bounded by 36th Street North, North Peoria Avenue, North Lewis Avenue and Mohawk Boulevard in order to attract commercial development. He anticipates that the proposed area has the potential to create up to 1,500 jobs.

"I've never been so excited in my life. This is the shot in the arm that North Tulsa needs," he said.

The Transit Hub proposal, backed by Councilor Blake Ewing, is named the Center of the Universe Expansion Concept. The idea is to expand the Center of the Universe site between the Blue Dome and Brady Arts districts, at 1st and Archer Streets, creating a downtown transit hub on the street level with a park built above it on the existing bridges. The park would span five blocks from Main Street to Elgin Avenue.

The transit hub would include general bus transit, a downtown circulator, bike sharing and car sharing options, bike trails and tenant space possibly for rental car companies, said Ewing.

District 6 Councilor Connie Dodson made four proposals: improvements to 11th Street near the Creek Turnpike, extension of 31st Street and of 161st Street in Broken Arrow, implementation of an incentive program to encour-

age travelers to visit area attractions, and an east Tulsa park facility.

Other councilor proposed projects include:

District 2, 7, Jeannie Cue, Anna America:

Creation of a Citywide Strategic Commercial Revitalization Plan and creation of a Retail Development Fund, which would target the revitalization of aging commercial areas.

District 3, David Patrick:

Creation of the Route 66 Trust Fund, which would serve as a permanent, citywide organization that would be the leading advocate for the preservation and revitalization of Route 66 throughout Tulsa.

District 7, Anna America:

The construction of South Mingo Road, from 71st to 91st Streets, and 91st Street from Mingo Road to Memorial Drive.

Supporting Union Schools

Regarding programs that strengthen the local economy, TTCU The Credit Union, through its 50/50 checking promotion, gave more than \$80,000 last year to local schools.

Through December, when individuals open a checking account, they will receive \$50, with \$50 also going to their school of choice.

The 50/50 promotion combined with its School Pride program has allowed TTCU to donate more than \$500,000 to area schools since the promotion began.

TTCU is also helping area schools through its free financial literacy program, FoolProof, that it began in 2011. The program is offered through the TTCU website.

TTCU began the program in response to the 2007 passage of the Oklahoma Passport to Financial Literacy Act, which mandates that all high school sen-



TRANSIT HUB: District 4 City Councilor Blake Ewing speaks during a Sept. 17 City Council meeting about the Transit Hub Vision proposal.



EDUCATION SUPPORTERS: TTCU began its free financial literacy program, FoolProof, in 2011 in response to the 2007 passage of the Oklahoma Passport to Financial Literacy Act, which mandates that all high school seniors, starting with the class of 2014, pass a financial literacy course in order to graduate. Promoting the course at a local event are Georgia Steele, left, TTCU relationship management manager, and Rosie Kramer, business development manager.

iors, starting with the class of 2014, pass a financial literacy course in order to graduate.

"We see the need for healthy financial habits in Oklahoma's youth and are committed to helping young people take the right steps to a successful financial

future," says Georgia Steele, TTCU relationship management manager. "What's great is that

these graduates can now take the skills they learned in the program and make smart financial decisions as they enter a new season of life."

KUDOS OF THE MONTH: Tulsa State Fair

The Tulsa State Fair Junior Livestock Auction benefits Oklahoma's agricultural youth who participate in the Tulsa State Fair Youth Livestock Shows. Each year, thousands of animals are shown by 4-H and FFA youth across Oklahoma hoping to earn a place in the Junior Livestock Auction. The responsibilities associated with the care and development of a livestock project are considerable for a young individual and contribute toward their future success in any of their life's endeavors. Though the competition is focused on the champion livestock projects, the champion youth across the state are the real highlight.

Each year, the Tulsa State Fair Youth Livestock Shows see more than 4,000 youth exhibitors compete and 20,000 entries in the livestock shows and contests.

This year, \$50,000 worth of scholarships were awarded to 32 4-H and FFA graduating seniors in Oklahoma; \$630,000 was raised for the 4-H and FFA youth who qualified for the 2014 Junior Livestock Auction. In the past 13 years, more than \$6 million has been raised for thousands of youth who qualified for the Junior Livestock Auction. On average, between 35 and 45 animals are donated each year to the Tulsa Boys Home.



ANIMAL EXHIBITION: Each year, the Tulsa State Fair Youth Livestock Shows see more than 4,000 youth exhibitors compete and 20,000 entries in the livestock shows and contests.

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* HCAHPS results can be found at www.cms.gov.

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

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Margaritaville Rising

River Spirit Resort and Casino Expansion Reaches Halfway Mark

As construction continues for the Margaritaville at River Spirit Resort and Casino (formally known as the River Spirit Casino Phase II expansion), the hotel tower recently reached the halfway mark at 14 floors. The Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant is scheduled to open in fall 2016, with the 27-story hotel tower opening in late 2016.

The luxury hotel tower will be a 27-story reflective glass tower, featuring 483 rooms and suites, with a fitness center, a spa, retail stores and a business center. It will rise 316 feet above the ground and contain 25 floors of guest rooms.

The development will also include a large pool deck and riverfront entertainment area, with poolside cabanas, palm trees, fire pits and the Landshark Landing beach bar with swim-up seating.

The Margaritaville-themed casino will be 50,000 square feet with 850 of the latest gaming machines and 27 live table/poker games. There will be a two-story Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville restaurant and bar featuring a seaplane and a volcano, erupting lava into a giant blender. Together, these amenities will feature seating for more than 400, including two outdoor decks overlooking the Arkansas River with additional seating for more than 150. The property will also hold a retail outlet with t-shirts, souvenirs and Margaritaville merchandise.

The development's convention venue will offer 30,000 square feet of event and meeting space including a ballroom, conference rooms and board rooms with state-of-the-art audio and visual capabilities.

For entertainment, the casino's showroom will offer theater-style seating for 2,500 guests, plus VIP suites and a lounge. The venue will expand to 3,000 seats for sporting events.

Additional food and beverage venues will include a fine dining steakhouse, a 24-hour restaurant, the 5 O'Clock Somewhere Bar and additional options.

A new attached parking structure will be constructed providing 1,500 additional parking spaces.

Approximately 350,000 cubic yards of dirt were relocated from the Arkansas River to the new building location to construct the building pad.

Total construction costs for the project are \$329 million with total costs, including design, being \$365 million.

The economic impact during the two-year construction phase to the greater Tulsa region is reported to be \$303.5 million with 1,800 construction jobs provided. Once construction is completed, the development will bring 800 permanent full-time positions plus 1,000 indirect jobs to the area with an ongoing annual economic impact of \$135 million.

The architect for the development is Dallas-based HKS. Manhattan Construction and Redstone Construction are overseeing construction with Program Management Group Native as project manager.



RIP STELL for GTR Newspapers

HALFWAY POINT: The hotel tower, part of the Margaritaville development at River Spirit Resort and Casino, recently reached the halfway mark at 14 floors. The Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant is scheduled to open in fall 2016, with the 27-story hotel tower opening in late 2016.



RIP STELL for GTR Newspapers

RIVER VIEW: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Casinos CEO Pat Crofts, left, and project director Ryan Haynie talk about the status of construction on Margaritaville at River Spirit Resort and Casino. The Margaritaville development will include a casino, restaurants, a hotel, and entertainment and convention venues.

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2 THE BFG (Big Friendly Giant) Tulsa PAC Trust	23-25 THE TAMING OF THE SHREW Tulsa Ballet
2 SUE MONK KIDD: Tulsa Town Hall	30-11/7 BAD JEWS Heller Theatre
4 QUARTETTO DI CREMONA Chamber Music Tulsa	31 HALLOWEEN SYMPHONY SPOOKTACULAR Tulsa Symphony Pops
6 JEFF BARNHART AND BRIAN HOLLAND Ragtime for Tulsa	
7 WIKI & MAYFIELD Brown Bag It, PAC Trust	
8-11 ALL NEW PEOPLE Theatre Pops	
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The *Union Boundary*, the *Jenks District Gazette*, the *Owasso Rambler*, the *Bixby Breeze*, and the *Broken Arrow Express* are distributed monthly to nearly every home in the Union, Jenks, Owasso, Bixby and Broken Arrow school districts. The *Midtown Monitor* is distributed to selected neighborhoods in the Tulsa school district. All six papers are distributed to newsstands and other outlets in over 700 locations throughout the greater Tulsa area.

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CIVICS

River Parks West Festival Park Reopens

On Sept. 18, River Parks Authority opened the newly-renovated River West Festival Park, 2100 South Jackson Ave.

Matt Meyer, executive director of River Parks Authority, was very complimentary of the renovation project's general contractor, Tri-Star Construction LLC. "When the 2014 Oktoberfest ended, they were 'waiting at the gate' to begin work. They have been attentive to the project schedule throughout, enabling us to hold the 2015 ScotFest and Linde Oktoberfest Tulsa without any delays. We are excited to unveil these new park improvements to the thousands of area residents who enjoy River Parks facilities year round," he said.

The Festival Park first opened to the public in the spring of 1985, a year and a half after the completion of Zink Dam. That opening featured the first of many performances on the floating stage, where outdoor concerts by popular artists were a staple during the late 1980s and 1990s. The Festival Park also became home to Tulsa's most popular fall festival, Linde Oktoberfest Tulsa, as well as major events such as ScotFest and FreedomFest.

With time, the Festival Park's facilities became worn and an explosion of entertainment venues in the Tulsa area drew music entertainers to indoor venues where unpredictable weather was not a challenge. An increase in major festivals held at the park also rendered the site's storage insufficient, resulting in the need to use mobile storage containers. Space for festival administration

and parking was also lacking.

Tulsa voters approved the Festival Park renovation as part of the 2006 City of Tulsa Third Penny Sales Tax Program. Designed by the local office of Dewberry, the \$5.5 million renovation addressed deficiencies and features elements that will better serve existing festivals and hopefully attract new ones. With demolition of the old amphitheater seating area, Tulsa's downtown skyline is now "front and center" as the backdrop of a new performance platform and overlook that replaces the floating stage. LED lighting on the river side of the platform will allow seasonal displays of color and draw attention to this recreational area for everyday use by Tulsa families.

A new circular entrance drive improves park access and offers display opportunities for festival-related banners, inflatables, or art. From the entrance, lighted sidewalks offer paths to parking, the performance platform and other facilities. The portion of the park's recreational trail that runs through the Festival Park and north to the 11th Street Bridge now meets the dual trail standard found throughout most of River Parks.

Festival Park improvements have been aided by release of a "no build zone" by Westport on the River on the north, as well as a generous easement by GCC Mid-Continent Concrete, the park's neighbor to the south. These actions paved the way for the construction of new parking, a playground and restroom on the park's north side, and a significant expansion of parking on the south



RENOVATIONS COMPLETED: Matt Meyer, executive director of River Parks Authority, shakes hands with Mayor Dewey Bartlett during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 18 to mark the re-opening of River Parks West Festival Park. Also pictured, to the right of Mayor Bartlett, City Councilor Jeannie Cue, County Commissioner Karen Keith, Robin Ballenger, with River Parks Authority, and Steve Bertone, managing director of Linde Engineering.

EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

side that includes a tree-lined median. Also new is a festival storage and office building, located alongside the park's long-time tenant, the Sooner Rowing Association. The new building provides office space for use during festivals and events, as well as more accessible and efficient storage for supplies and equipment. Electrical and water service for the 14-acre site have also been improved to better serve vendors and entertainment areas, and the irrigation system has been upgraded to provide greater coverage for turf areas. The site's irrigation water continues to be well water, a "green" cost-saving measure that aids the park system's operational budget.

TAUW CAMPAIGN



GOAL ANNOUNCED: On Sept. 4, the Tulsa Area United Way (TAUW) announced its 2015 campaign goal at the Crosstown Showdown: the annual rivalry between Owasso and Broken Arrow high schools. This is the largest goal in the history of TAUW.

Courtesy TAUW

OSU INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY WELCOMES AMY MATTHEWS

to Women in Technology 2015
on the OSUIT campus

Amy inspires people to tackle just about any home improvement task as she hosts shows on HGTV and DIY, including Renovation Raiders, Sweat Equity, Bathroom Renovations, Blog Cabin, and This New House. Throughout her career, she has done every home improvement job imaginable, from wielding a sledgehammer to overseeing construction of complete home builds. Her shows remain popular because of her willingness to take on any project and break it down for even novices to understand.

November 6 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Listen to Amy share her knowledge & experience about how the construction industry and today's technology intersect. A meet & greet will follow.

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TU Celebrates 2015 Homecoming Oct. 21-25

The University of Tulsa will commemorate Homecoming 2015 with five days of events planned for Oct. 21-25. "OklaHOMECOMING," hosted by the Alumni Association, celebrates TU's pride in the city, state and on campus.

This year's Distinguished Alumni - Bill Carmody (JD '88), Marcia Mott MacLeod (BS '75, JD '80) and Wayne Rumley (BS '60) - will be honored Oct. 21 in the Lorton Performance Center. TU also will recognize Susie Collins Hentschel, recipient of the J. Paschal Twyman Award, and Ms. Homecoming Vicki Hendrickson.

Annual events include a pep rally and bonfire at Dietler Commons, formerly known as "The U," on Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to join the TU community for this campus tradition celebrating Golden Hurricane pride with the lighting of the bonfire, music from the TU marching band and fireworks.

TU's colleges and many departments will hold open house events Oct. 22-23. Campus walking tours will be available for alumni and friends, and all alumni will receive free admission to Gilcrease Museum Oct. 21-25.

Game day moves to Friday evening this year, as the Golden Hurricane faces the University of Memphis Tigers at 7 p.m. at H.A. Chapman Stadium. Distinguished Alumni, the J. Paschal Twyman Award winner, Ms. Homecoming, Top Ten Freshmen, Jess Chouteau Outstanding Seniors and the home-

coming court will be honored at half-time.

The Young Alumni Committee of the TU Alumni Association will host its annual TU on Tap event from 7 to 10 p.m. Oct. 24 at Tulsa's Linde Oktoberfest. Admission is free to a limited number of alumni who register in advance.

For a complete list of homecoming events, visit www.tualumni.com.

2015 Homecoming Honorees:

Bill Carmody (JD '88), Distinguished Alumnus

Carmody, managing partner of Susman Godfrey's New York City office and a permanent member of the firm's executive committee, is one of the nation's top litigators. A native New Yorker, he was a cadet at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy while earning his bachelor's degree in engineering. Carmody later moved to Tulsa to attend TU's College of Law. His career highlights include securing millions of dollars of judgments and settlements for his clients, feature profiles in the Wall Street Journal and Forbes magazine, and providing expert commentary on national television.

Marcia Mott MacLeod (BS '75, JD '80), Distinguished Alumna

MacLeod is among the highest ranking women in the national energy scene. Currently senior vice president of human resources and administration at WPX Energy and an



BILL CARMODY



MARCIA MOTT MACLEOD



WAYNE RUMLEY

owner of Mott Production LLC, a privately-held company holding various oil and gas interests, she has held leadership posts in several companies, including HEB Grocery Co., Electronic Data Systems and JC Penney before returning to Tulsa's Williams Cos. 15 years ago. In 2011, she was handpicked to help WPX spin off from Williams and become a stand-alone, publicly traded corporation.

Wayne Rumley (BS '60), Distinguished Alumnus

An alumnus of TU's College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Rumley's career began as a junior processing engineer at Champlin Oil Refinery in Enid. Later, when he and his family returned to Tulsa, he launched his first company, Air

Cooled Exchangers. In 1968, Rumley founded R&R Engineering, and the company thrives today as a leading expert in the engineering, design and fabrication of air-cooled heat exchangers for the chemical, petrochemical and natural gas transmission industries.

Susie Collins Hentschel, J. Paschal Twyman Award Winner

For more than 30 years, Hentschel and her family have supported the university as generous donors and loyal friends. A vibrant presence on campus, she is a member of the university's Board of Trustees who has established herself as one of TU's most spirited advocates. Hentschel carried on the vision of her late husband, Fulton Collins, who, before passing away in 2008, made a gener-

ous donation that helped expand and advance the university they loved.

Vicki Hendrickson, Ms. Homecoming

Hendrickson, director of TU Student Financial Services, guides students and their parents down the financial path to graduation. During the past 16 years, she has dedicated her career to improving TU's financial aid process with unwavering enthusiasm. In her role overseeing the Office of Financial Aid, Hendrickson is respected for her talents as a compassionate mentor and supportive financial aid expert. In addition to traveling and volunteering at her church, Hendrickson is a devoted Golden Hurricane sports fan and enjoys watching football, basketball and soccer.

Distracted Driving Policy: Put Away Mobile Devices

At the City of Tulsa, we place safety and health at the forefront of everything we do. Our organization's safety culture transformation efforts are making a difference in employees' lives and helping them be safer at work and home.

Earlier this year I had the opportunity to tell you about our organization's Distracted Driving Policy, which went into effect May 1. You may recall this important policy bans city employees from using mobile devices while driving a work car or personal car. This includes the use of hands-free cell phones to reply to work emails, texts or calls while conducting City of Tulsa business, except for emergencies.



COMMENTARY BY MAYOR DEWEY F. BARTLETT, JR

Our organization also had the

pleasure of welcoming David Teater, National Safety Council Senior Director to Tulsa to speak to city officials and department heads about the importance of the city's leadership in addressing distracted driving. Mr. Teater passionately spoke about the dangers of distracted driving and cited how the use of cell phones while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes each year.

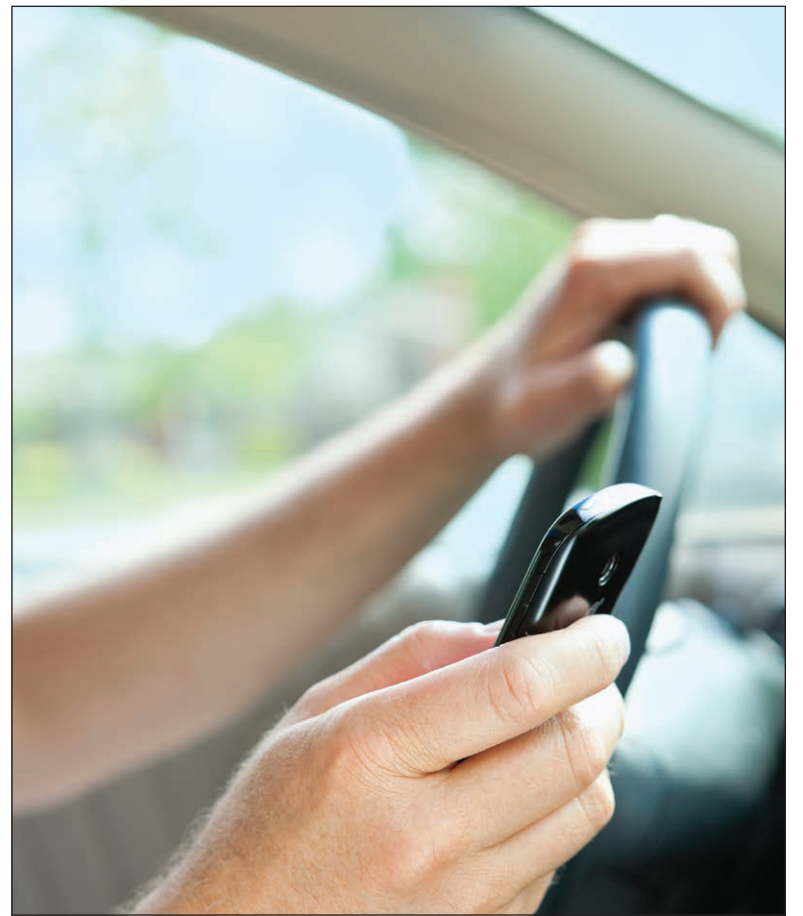
Teater said, "We fail to understand or realize what a serious obligation it is to drive a vehicle safely. I appreciate the example and the leadership position that the City of Tulsa has taken. Not only are they not just putting out a memo about a new policy, they're educating people. And I'm absolute-

ly convinced that this policy will save at least one life and maybe a lot more than that. Not just in Tulsa, but in other cities around the country."

As Mayor of Tulsa, I am greatly concerned about inattentive driving that comes at a great cost. I have to say Teater's greatest impact on our organization came when he shared, on a very personal level, how he lost his young son to a distracted driving incident. This deeply resounded with our leaders and employees. Many have since made a commitment to their coworkers and family to put aside their mobile devices while driving.

I am thankful that Gov. Mary Fallin and state lawmakers have joined together in enacting a ban on texting while driving, which will go into effect Nov. 1. It will carry a \$100 fine. It's a step in the right direction to reduce crashes involving cell phone use and saving countless lives.

Won't you please join me in making sure the space inside your vehicle is a distracted-free driving zone? Also, take a moment to watch a brief video, "The City of Tulsa Puts The Brakes On Distracted Driving" at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8GM-E2qKZw>.



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VARIETY

Experiences to Share at the Tulsa PAC

When people ask me when is the best time to visit Tulsa, my first thought is to reply "anytime," but my answer, most often, is "October."

Between football and the State Fair, there is much activity to remind us that fall has arrived. Please save some time for shows at the Tulsa PAC. October is our busiest month of the current season and some internationally known talent is dropping by.

Sue Monk Kidd stepped into the author spotlight after "The Secret Life of Bees" was published in 2002. The book sold eight million copies worldwide and was translated into 36 languages. Her bestselling "The Invention of Wings" (2014) may be her most powerful and satisfying work yet. She is the first speaker scheduled for Tulsa Town Hall's sold-out 2015-16 season, which begins Oct. 2.

If it's family-friendly time you are looking for, consider the PAC Trust's presentation of The BFG (Big Friendly Giant), also Oct. 2. The production is adapted from the beloved book by Roald Dahl and performed by the excellent Dallas Children's Theater troupe. Tickets are only \$10 and going fast.

Another superb family, date night, or group outing event is the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, slated for the evening of Oct. 2. This is the crème de la crème of jazz orchestras, and Marsalis is an amazing advocate for the arts. All proceeds from the show benefit the launch of Sistema Tulsa, a social change through music education program.

Chamber Music Tulsa welcomes back the Quartetto Di Cremona on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 4. I had a memorable time listening to these charming Italian musicians perform in 2013. They'll be playing Mozart, Webern and Brahms.

Two musicians at the top of their game, Jeff Barnhart and Brian Holland, perform a Ragtime for Tulsa concert, Oct. 6. Both highly respected in the world of ragtime, Holland is an outstanding ragtime and stride piano performer, and pianist Barnhart sings, composes and has a notable recording career.

Theatre Pops takes on a dark comedy by playwright Zach Braff, Oct. 8-11. A quartet of solid actors star in

"All New People," playing a guy who is saved from suicide, a British real estate agent, a call girl and a drug-dealing fire chief. Yep, this isn't for the young ones, but I love when we get to see new material performed locally. George Romero directs.

Time for Three is back by popular demand, Oct. 10 for Choregus Productions. This string trio has performed at Carnegie Hall, NFL games, the Indy 500, and at festivals throughout the U.S. and Europe. You'll hear jazz, folk, bluegrass and more. It's one of those events you can suggest to anyone and know they will thank you later.

Storyteller/actor Peter Story is ready to share witty bits of wisdom on love, sex and marriage in "Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus," adapted from John Gray's best-selling book. Celebrity Attractions presents this show in the PAC's Williams' Theatre, Oct. 13-15.

Tulsa Opera opens its season with Giacomo Puccini's "La bohème," Oct. 16 and 18. Tulsa opera audiences will remember Karin Wolverson, who made her Tulsa Opera debut as Micäela in "Carmen." She sings the role of Mimi, the coquettish belle of bohemian Paris, who falls in love with the adoring Rodolfo, sung by Nathan Granner. The couple finds that even the most devout love cannot conquer all, but the ensuing passion, longing and heartbreak make for great stage moments and music. Kostis Protopapas conducts. This story was the basis for the popular rock musical, "Rent."

We miss Chad Oliverson at the PAC, so we're glad to have him doing "The Time Warp" again as Dr. Frank-N-Furter with the return of "The Rocky Horror Show." Tulsa Project Theatre reprises this rock classic Oct. 16-24.

Tulsa Ballet presents its first full-length ballet of the season Oct. 23-25 with a production based on Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew." This humorous story, featuring fast-paced choreography by John Cranko, follows the rocky romance of two people who fall in love while fighting the attraction at the same time. And, you will be treated to

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN



JAZZ LEGEND: Fifteen of jazz's leading soloists and Wynton Marsalis play the music of Ellington, Mingus, Coltrane and others when the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra performs Oct. 2, all proceeds benefiting Sistema Tulsa.



SHAKESPEAREAN BALLET: Shakespeare's comedy shines in choreographer John Cranko's fast-paced and spectacular "The Taming of the Shrew," danced by Tulsa Ballet, Oct. 23-25.



TULSA OPERA: Soprano Karin Wolverson, who delighted Tulsa audiences in "Carmen," sings the role of Mimi in Tulsa Opera's "La bohème," Oct. 16 and 18.



TOWN HALL: New York Times bestselling author Sue Monk Kidd talks about her career and recent novel, "The Invention of Wings," when she opens the Tulsa Town Hall speaker series, Oct. 2.



ECLECTIC TRIO: Time for Three plays a high-energy mix of bluegrass, jazz, folk and hybrid styles, Oct. 10, presented by Choregus Productions.



CHAMBER MUSIC: Quartetto di Cremona brings its crisp, exciting and colorful performance style to Tulsa Oct. 4 for Chamber Music Tulsa.

Domenico Scarlatti's lovely score, performed by Tulsa Symphony.

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch" premieres Oct. 23 to Nov. 1, staged by Theatre Tulsa. Neil Patrick Harris won one of the show's four Tony Awards when it ran away with all the Broadway buzz and accolades in 2014. Basically, it's about a guy, Hansel, who becomes Hedwig in a multi-layered story that has messages of love and redemption.

Another Tulsa premiere is Heller Theatre's "Bad Jews," Oct. 30-Nov. 7. Written by Joshua Harmon and directed by Rebecca Ungerman, this comedy drops in on a post-funeral conflict between three cousins, all in their 20s, who are mourning their grandfather, sort of. There are dis-

agreements about several things, like who is a "real Jew," and who is entitled to family heirlooms. The play debuted in New York in 2013.

No tricks and all treats await concertgoers Oct. 31 with Tulsa Symphony's Halloween Symphony Spooktacular. This is the Symphony's first event in its new Pops Series, featuring Halloween-themed music conducted by Ron

Spigelman. The Symphony makes this concert a fun outing for the family with trick-or-treating, a costume contest and more fun. We love it at the PAC when an event we host becomes an experience to share.

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Tulsa vs. OKC: Tulsans Have Many Reasons to be Proud

There is something about our city's creative energy and sense of community that is palpable and makes me proud to be a Tulsan.

However, when we talk of Tulsa's future and direly-needed projects, such as public transportation improvements, the conversation often turns toward Oklahoma City.

Out & About in Greater Tulsa



By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Tulsa Fashion Week, which just finished its inaugural event, is one recent example (see page 31). The growth of Tulsa's creative communities is inspiring to watch.

Granted, I'm a born and raised Tulsan, so, not only will I defend this city till the day I die, but I will also always see this city through the eyes of one who is willing it to succeed.

Sure, I see the failures, the molasses-like speed it sometimes

takes to progress. I feel the irritation when I can't buy high-point beer at a grocery store. And I feel the sadness every time I look at our dried up Arkansas River that many cities would have bent over backwards to fill up decades ago, receiving no arguments from anyone.

But, I also recognize the ways we are thriving, arguably, in spite of the aforementioned things.

And it's clear that we're moving in the right direction.

Josh Driskell, president of the Jenks Chamber of Commerce, commented recently regarding the future of Jenks, saying, "This next year is going to be exciting; the next five years are going to be incredible."

I feel that sentiment also mirrors the outlook for Tulsa.

Learning about Oklahoma City's MAPS (Metropolitan Area Projects) program, one can't help but admire the city. And quite possibly feel a bit envious of its ability to get things accomplished.

Yes, Oklahoma City has a much-developed downtown thanks, in part, to the Oklahoma City Thunder and Bricktown. And there's a good chance that they'll remain a bit ahead of us in the future. (Their current MAPS phase - MAPS 3 - includes a public transportation rail line.)

As I considered these accomplishments, I made a plan to visit and see for myself how much Oklahoma City has, in fact, accomplished.

I booked my hotel in the Midtown District, which turned out to be my favorite district of the ones I visited. Midtown is still very much in the genesis of its growth, but the development that is already there looks promising. Our very own Eliot Nelson already has a presence there, with McNellie's Public House, Fassler Hall and Dust Bowl Lanes and Lounge all situated within the district. Midtown also features a



DOWNTOWN SIGHTS: The Bleu Garten food truck court is located in Oklahoma City's Midtown District. It is fenced in with permanent restrooms and a bar, seating areas, and televisions, with food trucks lining one corner of the property. Pictured at left is a southern view of Oklahoma City's skyline from a Midtown hotel.

handful of shops, including a men's clothing shop and a boutique, that all recently opened in the spring.

Toward the south end of the district sits a dog park and a food truck court, the Bleu Garten, it being one of the most attractive developments in the district. The Bleu Garten is fenced in with permanent restrooms and a bar, seating areas, and televisions, with food trucks lining one corner of the property, making the trucks feel more like a comfortable addition as opposed to the court's focal point. The focal point, instead, being that of a gathering spot instead of serving solely as a destination place for a meal.

A mixed-use housing project that is still under construction sits at the north end of Midtown near the district's restaurants, giving that part of Midtown a very walkable feel.

East of Midtown is Automobile Alley, lying along Broadway Avenue, the district named for its

history as a home to many automobile dealerships and service companies. The area today holds a smattering of shops and restaurants, but my preferred area sat to the east of Broadway: an off-the-beaten-path area of old homes sitting among the trees. The homes have been turned into local shops and restaurants.

This was an area that I wished continued on a little farther - a similar feeling I get when I'm on Cherry Street: its development one that I wish extended further east.

Deep Deuce is a downtown district within walking distance of Bricktown, just to its east. This area is mainly made up of residential projects, with a couple restaurants scattered throughout.

Later, I ventured into the Plaza District, a couple miles north of downtown. It's about the size of Brookside, with a nice balance of shops and restaurants, something Tulsa's districts need to work on. Although the feel here is more like

Blue Dome, as opposed to Brookside.

There are many local bars and restaurants, including an old-time soda shop, and many boutiques, some quirky, others more upscale, but all of them focused on providing locally-themed and locally-made items.

Another area, the Paseo Arts District, north of the Plaza, is a quaint district with colorful buildings that is home to many art galleries and a few shops and restaurants.

Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to venture much outside of the downtown circumference. Next time, I want to make sure to hit the Oklahoma Zoo, Lake Hefner and, of course, a Thunder game.

So, the conclusion I've drawn from my trip?

That Tulsans should hold our heads up high because, like Oklahoma City, Tulsa holds its own set of strengths.

I, for one, can't wait to watch what both cities do next.

Madonna Coming to Tulsa

Just days after the launch of Madonna's highly-anticipated Rebel Heart Tour, Live Nation has announced that Madonna is adding more tour dates in Asia and North America. The new dates added to the 64-city world tour include first-ever concerts by the Material Girl in Taipei, Hong Kong, Macau, Bangkok, Louisville, San Antonio, Tulsa and Nashville, as well as her first concerts in Tokyo in a decade and additional dates in Mexico City and Houston. A full list of dates can be found below.

Tickets are on sale and available online at www.bokcenter.com, Arby's Box Office at BOK Center, all ticket outlets, or by calling 1-866-7-BOKCTR.

The Rebel Heart Tour launched to two sold-out nights and rave reviews in Montreal, Quebec on Sept. 9 and 10 and will continue throughout North America and UK/Europe through the rest of 2015 and into 2016. The Montreal Gazette proclaimed, "In a spare-no-expense theatrical spectacle that artfully flowed from showstopper to showstopper, Madonna proved once again that she doesn't just crave the spotlight - she owns it;" and the Associated Press raved, "Pole dancers dressed like nuns, Mike Tyson and nonstop theatrics. Welcome to the church of Madonna."

The Rebel Heart Tour follows the spring release of Madonna's Rebel Heart album on Interscope Records. Rave reviews of the album include Rolling Stone: "Rebel Heart is a long, passionate, self-referential meditation on losing love and finding purpose in chilling times," L.A. Times: "Rebel Heart like its creator pushes through the pain and more often than not lands solidly and with great grace on its feet," Noisy: "Madonna continues to keep us on our toes, like no other performer in the history of modern music." N.Y. Daily News: "Rebel Heart's best moments boast some of the most finely structured pop melodies of Madonna's 32-year career."

Along with extraordinary critical acclaim as an artist, songwriter and producer who



has sold a record-breaking 300 million records, Madonna's reputation as one of the most successful, provocative and enduring live performers of all time speaks for itself. The 2008/2009 Sticky & Sweet tour is the highest grossing tour of all time for a solo artist and the 2012 MDNA tour was the most successful tour of that year.

Icon is Madonna's official fan club. Lifetime Legacy members of Icon will receive first access to tickets and VIP Packages. Fans may purchase an "Icon Live Pass" today, which gives them access not only to ticket & VIP Package pre-sales but also a free membership to Icon, the official Madonna fan club, access to a tour devoted forum and an exclusive tour gift. Fans who are already registered simply need to upgrade their account with the Icon Live Pass on Madonna.com.

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Tulsa Press Club to Hold Annual First Draft

Oct. 16 Beer Tasting Helps Fund College Scholarships

Tulsa's premier beer tasting event returns this fall to ONEOK Field, home of the Tulsa Drillers and anchor to the revitalized Brady and Greenwood Districts. The Tulsa Press Club's annual First Draft craft beer tasting is celebrating its 11th year, and will be held Friday, Oct. 16 from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Last year's supporting brewers were Marshall Brewing, Prairie Artisan Ales, Dead Armadillo, Black Mesa, Roughtail, Coop, Choc, Tallgrass, Mustang, Willow Family Ales and FOAM with more than 50 Oklahoma craft beers being featured.

Tom Gilbert, chief photographer for the Tulsa World and "What the Ale" beer blogger, is serving as chair of the event for the fourth straight year. "We're

happy to celebrate 11 years of this great event by bringing it back to ONEOK Field, where the Brady District and Greenwood meet," Gilbert says. "Oklahoma's breweries continue to make a name for themselves both regionally and nationally. This is an opportunity for our local beer lovers to be among the first to taste the next great beer on the market. With so many unique beers and the beautiful downtown Tulsa skyline as a backdrop, you can't ask for a better experience."

Sellout crowds on ONEOK's Refinery Deck during previous years have opened up the opportunity to take First Draft to the concourse level of the ballpark. The concourse accommodates more people, offers overhead cover, allows for more brewers

and gives beer tasters extra room to move. Last year's event came close to being sold out as in previous years with about 500 attendees. This year's event is expected to draw at least 600 people.

First Draft benefits the Tulsa Press Club, whose mission is to foster and promote ethical journalism, defend freedom of the press and the public's right to information, and encourage the exchange of ideas between media and the public. The event also helps to fund college scholarships.

To purchase tickets or for more information about First Draft, visit www.firstdrafttulsa.com, check out the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/firstdrafttulsa or follow the event on Twitter at @TulsaFirstDraft. Sponsorships and VIP packages are available.



PAST DRAFT: This photo was taken at the First Draft in 2011. From left are Event Co-Chairs Tom Gilbert and Karen Gilbert, former Press Club Executive Director and event committee member Tami Hensler, and event committee members Amanda Clinton and Jennifer Hardesty.

Riverfield Students Help to Rock the Green

Tulsa Roots Music Concert Series Offers a Variety of Entertainment

Students from Riverfield School were a main act during the Tulsa Roots Rocks the Green Sunday, Sept. 20.

The event, in its fourth year, is presented by Tulsa Roots Music. This year Tulsa Roots Rocks the Green offers five consecutive Sundays of free concerts on Guthrie Green, in the heart of Tulsa's Brady Arts District.

The music includes world-class reggae, ska, rock, Latin, blues, folk, world music and performance arts. For more information, see TulsaRootsMusic.org.



ELEMENTARY CHORUS

GTR Newspapers photo



RIVERFIELD ROCKS

GTR Newspapers photo

Postoak Wine and Jazz Festival

POSTOAK Lodge and Retreat launched the POSTOAK Wine & Jazz Festival, presented by Weinkauf Petroleum on Sept. 5. Nestled in the Osage Hills, POSTOAK is located 10 minutes from downtown Tulsa. The music was curated by Tulsa's Grady Nichols, and headlining the festival was Bill Champlin, formerly of the group Chicago. Attendees were

able to purchase wine from a variety of Oklahoma and California wineries, and the event included food trucks and culinary delights from Chef Damien Jacob, executive chef at POSTOAK.

"The POSTOAK Wine and Jazz Festival is an inaugural arts event that enhances Tulsa's cultural landscape, supports professional and student musicians, promotes local

food and wine, and boosts economic development. POSTOAK has long been known as a treasured retreat and special event destination. It is also committed to travel and tourism and have established this festival as a way to promote cultural tourism for the area," says Trisha Kerkstra, general manager at POSTOAK Lodge & Retreat.



HIGH SCHOOL TALENT: The Booker T. Washington Jazz Quintet was a hit at POSTOAK Lodge and Retreat's Wine and Jazz Festival.

Courtesy photo

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Michael V's Classical Cuisine Hits the Mark

Local Dining

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Writer

In January, Michael V's Restaurant, 8222 E. 103rd St., will celebrate 10 years in business. Owners, husband and wife team, Michael and Carol Minden opened the restaurant in 2006 with decades of experience in the restaurant and hospitality industry.

Michael graduated from the Culinary Institute of America in 1971 and was then recruited to help open Walt Disney World.

"It was the best experience of my career: to come out of one of the best culinary schools in the world and to join a company like Walt Disney World," says Michael.

After 10 years, Michael left Walt Disney World and worked for various hotels, resorts and country clubs before joining Marriott.

He met Carol when they were working together opening a Marriott hotel.

Carol is a graduate of Michigan State University's Hotel School and has worked for various hotel chains as catering director, convention services director, and food and beverage director.

Michael and Carol moved around the country, living in various places, before Carol was offered a job with DoubleTree at Warren Place in Tulsa.

When they moved to Tulsa, Michael found a job with SouthCrest Hospital, helping to open the hospital, create its menu and hire nutritionists.

Michael and Carol made the move into restaurant ownership when Michael was offered the opportunity to buy Back Street Bistro in Jenks. They owned the eatery for seven years before the property was taken over by the Jenks school district.

However, the Mindens weren't down for long. They heard about a shopping center being built on the border of Tulsa and Bixby, "a part of town that we knew would be an area of a lot of growth," Michael says.

During the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma's Restaurant Week, I visited Michael V's to try some of its heralded dishes. I figured that it was a perfect time to try the restaurant, while helping a local organization.

Before ordering, our waiter brought out bread with delicious house-made garlic butter. The butter made it hard to stop eating the bread.

For my three-course Restaurant Week prix-fixe meal, I chose the Signature Salad,



CONTINUED QUALITY: Michael and Carol Minden stand in their restaurant, Michael V's, 8222 E. 103rd St. in Bixby. In January, they will celebrate the restaurant's 10-year anniversary. The restaurant's menu features classical dishes, such as Beef Wellington, as well as local favorites, like Chicken Fried Steak. Pictured at left is the Coconut Cream Pie, one of the restaurant's most popular desserts.

Chicken Oscar and Coconut Creme Pie for dessert.

My tablemate ordered off the regular menu and chose Pan-Seared Tilapia.

The Signature Salad was a nice size, full of dark, leafy lettuce with raspberry vinaigrette, apples, candied pecans and goat cheese.

Chicken Oscar is one of many Oscars offered on the menu. The pan-seared chicken came topped with asparagus, crab and a creamy béarnaise sauce and with mashed potatoes. The creaminess of the sauce combined with the mashed potatoes makes this a great comfort dish.

My friend's Pan-Seared Tilapia was tender and came with shrimp plus a nice selection of vegetables: mushrooms, artichoke hearts and fresh spinach.

The Coconut Cream Pie is one of Michael's specialties. The pie slice is large and sweet yet very light. Michael is so confident about its quality, "If you don't like it, I'll buy it," he laughs.

The menu at Michael V's has a classical slant, Michael's preference:

"I've worked for and studied under many classical chefs so I just really like that style."

However, he's come to realize that there are

some non-classical dishes that Oklahomans just want. Like Chicken Fried Steak.

Michael eventually offered the dish as a special at Back Street Bistro; the response was so positive, "it's been on our menu ever since," he says.

Other popular menu items include Beef Wellington, Baby Lamb Chops and the Tenderloin Ravioli Stacker, with an eight-ounce filet mignon, spinach ravioli, red pepper marinara cream sauce, mushrooms and spinach, a dish that Michael says appeared to him in a dream. He woke up the next day and created the recipe.

The Snickers Brownie Pie is another loved menu item that Michael first created in his dreams.

After making it for real, he entered the dessert in a state competition with US Foods and won first place.

Other popular menu items include the variety of Oscar dishes, with the choice of salmon, halibut, veal, chicken and filet, and the Chicken Marsala and Veal Marsala.

"We've designed our menu with a little bit of everything," says Michael.

However, because Michael V's has built many regular customers through the years, "we find that if we try to change the menu, our customers don't like that," he says.

Instead, various specials are offered throughout the week and weekend. Michael is also willing to cater a dish to a customer's specific dietary needs, such as gluten free.

"Our customer is the most important thing, so if we need to modify a dish and we can, then we will do it," Michael says.

Michael V's Restaurant is open for lunch Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and for dinner Mon.-Sat. beginning at 5 p.m.

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Tulsa Ballet's Creations in Studio K Opens Season

Tulsa Ballet opened its 2015-2016 season in September with Creations in Studio K. This year marks the ninth annual Creations in Studio K series, which provides choreographers and dancers alike the opportunity to be part of a remarkable creative process, the outcome of which is the creation of three brand new contemporary works by accomplished choreographers. The choreographers involved in this year's creations are Ma Cong, Jorma Elo and Dwight Rhoden.

The choreographers were brought to Tulsa to craft what Artistic Director Marcello Angelini calls "the most important program of the season" as it focuses on the future of the art form. "Dance exists between the past, present and the future," says Angelini. "We commit to present the classics of the past as well as the best works of the present-day leading dance makers. Creations are essential for the future of dance as they represent the evolution of the art form."

Ma Cong started his dance career at the Beijing Dance Academy, dancing with The National Ballet of China. In 1999, he joined Tulsa Ballet as a Demi-Soloist and rose through the ranks to become Principal Dancer. In this capacity, he danced the works of some of the top choreographers of past and present times, including Jiri



Courtesy Tulsa Ballet

Kylian, Nacho Duato, Sir Kenneth McMillan, John Cranko, Paul Taylor and George Balanchine, among others. Cong was given his first opportunity to choreograph in 2004 by Angelini. Since then, Tulsa Ballet has commissioned from him over a dozen new works. His work with the company has allowed Cong to develop into an internationally-renowned choreographer. Today Cong works with many companies, both in the U.S. and abroad, including the Richmond Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Smuin Ballet San Francisco, Queensland Ballet and The National Ballet of China. Cong describes his inspiration for his new work for Creations in Studio K and says, "I found this music absolutely stunning. While I was listening to the music, the

television news was on, talking about the earthquake in Nepal and how people were saving each other's lives, pulling each other out from the mud and dust. It was so emotional and inspirational. After watching this performance, I would love the audience to feel inspired by the movement and the music." Since Cong knows the company so well, he says he is able to imagine which dancer works best for different parts and describes working with the Tulsa Ballet as a "stunning process."

Jorma Elo is one of the most sought-after choreographers in the world. Jorma trained with the Finnish National Ballet School and the Kirov Ballet School in Leningrad. He danced with Finnish National Ballet and Cullberg Ballet until joining Netherlands Dance Theater in



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

WORLD-CLASS CHOREOGRAPHERS: Helping to start the 2015-2016 Tulsa Ballet season with Artistic Director Marcello Angelini, second from right, are, from left, Ma Cong, Dwight Rhoden and Jorma Elo.

1990, where he enjoyed a 15-year career. Elo was appointed resident choreographer of Boston Ballet in 2005, where he has created many world premieres. He describes his inspiration for his Creations in Studio K piece, "This is a very simple source of inspiration, which is the music of Beethoven, which I try to attack. It's complicated and it's hard which excites me. The music is very structured; it's like the architecture and the dancers, and I try to fill up that space. Most of the dancers I have worked with before, so I was excited to work with them again and see what we can make. When I start a creation,

I usually have the music imprinted on me, so then I'm free to improvise with the dancers on the themes that the music brings to me. I'm free to change anything in the moment with the dancers. It's a collaboration." He always enjoys working with the Tulsa Ballet and says, "Marcello has done a wonderful thing with Creations. I hope the audience will go home and feel the energy and the excitement of creating a work never seen before."

Dwight Rhoden is the Founding Artistic Director and Resident Choreographer of Complexions Contemporary Ballet and has established a remarkably wide-ranging career, earning distinction from The New York Times as "one of the most sought out choreographers of the day." He is a beneficiary recipient of various honors and awards including the New York Foundation for the Arts Award, The Choo San Goh Award for Choreography, and The Ailey School's Apex Award in recognition of his extensive contributions to the field of dance. On working with Tulsa Ballet for his work for Creations in Studio K, Dwight says, "I have loved working with these dancers. I can truly say that this is really one of the most amazing companies here in America that I've seen. I knew there was a high level of dancers here, but it's another thing to be in the room with them and to actually see the expertise in the movement, but more importantly they are open. There are no limitations with these dancers, which is wonderful because they can go anywhere and it's a treat for any choreographer."

All performances took place at Tulsa Ballet's Studio K in Brookside (1212 E. 45th Pl.).

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

My Choice: Getting the Best Help in the Home

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Writer

When a loved one needs care in order to safely and comfortably remain at home, finding the right person can be a challenge. Even though the benefits of having help are clear, the idea of inviting a stranger into the home understandably makes many people feel uncomfortable. Add to that the challenge of finding a caregiver and it can seem easier to just try and take care of things on one's own.

It does not have to be impossible to find the help a person needs. The two options for finding an in-home care provider: use a home care agency, such as My Choice, or hire a private independent caregiver.

Hiring an independent caregiver may seem more affordable than a home care agency, at first glance. However, one needs to consider employment laws and regulations since home healthcare is considered to be an employer/employee relationship. As such, people are responsible for federal and state employment taxes, which can swiftly escalate the cost above a simple hourly rate. People also need to carry special insurance for protection in the event of an accident – simple homeowner's insurance is probably not enough.

In addition, people will need to have a fully developed job description and employment agreement. The caregiver will need to fill out an I-9 and the homeowner will need to keep a copy. People should conduct a thorough review of any private caregiver's background and may want to consider checking their credit report and driving record. Be sure the candidate meets all Oklahoma state licensing requirements to provide hands-on care.

Most people find choosing a home care agency is the better option, both in terms of managing the caregiver and the peace of mind an agency can provide, as an established, rep-

utable home care agency takes off the burden. My Choice excels at matching caregivers to clients. My Choice sifts through all applicants until a caregiver is found that matches specifications.

The benefits of choosing My Choice home care agency include:

All of the caregivers are extensively background checked locally and nationwide. Each caregiver is fingerprinted and the results sent through a national database.

All of the caregivers receive training when they start and again with ongoing classes to add to their base of caregiving experience. My Choice offers specialty courses that are offered to complement the client's specific needs. Courses in caring for clients with dementia, Alzheimer's and MS are just a few of the offerings.

My Choice is bonded, licensed and insured. Responsible agencies assume liability for all care provided and are insured in the event a caregiver is injured in a home. Keep in mind that hiring an independent caregiver, as the employer, that person will be responsible for the liability risk of both the caregiver and the care recipient.

Agencies monitor and supervise caregivers to ensure quality care. My Choice wants to be assured that it is providing the highest level of care possible. Programs are in place for supervising and checking in on the caregivers when the homeowner is not present.

Agencies take responsibility for the caregiver's payroll and benefits. If a caregiver is hired through My Choice, My Choice is the employer. This means not having to be concerned with keeping track of pay schedules, vacation days, or paying taxes for them.

My Choice has caregivers that provide fill-in care should any of the caregivers be sick or unable to make their shift for any reason. My Choice takes pride that their employees are mature, responsible and reliable.



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

WHITE DOVE RELEASE: Dr. Chris Stephenson, far left, national board member of Cancer Treatment Centers of America; CTCA Tulsa President and CEO Richard Haldeman, left kneeling; Shawn Stephenson, CTCA Tulsa board member; and cancer survivors watch as white doves are released during CTCA's Celebrate Life event, in honor of the patients' five-year milestone since their first treatments at CTCA. The Tulsa hospital invited 190 cancer survivors from Tulsa and around the country for the event, held Sept. 18.



GTR Newspapers Photo

CHANGING LIVES: On Aug. 20, Hillcrest Medical Center and the Oklahoma Heart Institute held its Changing Lives Celebration to announce the launch of its new Changing Lives campaign, which features the stories of patients and their families. Oklahoma Heart Institute patients Jessica and Bridie Cooley display the campaign item that features them.



Courtesy BRENDA MELANCON

MEDICAL SUPPLIES NETWORK: Employees of Vanguard Enterprise Holdings pack medical supplies at Medical Supplies Network, Inc. to be shipped to a third world country during the United Way Annual Day of Caring on Sept. 11. MSNI's mission is to provide free medical equipment and supplies for those in need throughout the world and is supported by Rotary International District 6110.

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Helmerich Women's Center Expands to Claremore

On Sept. 3, Hillcrest Hospital Claremore physicians, employees and board members gathered with Peggy Helmerich for the dedication of the Peggy V. Helmerich Women's Health Center at Hillcrest Hospital Claremore at 12012 N. Muskogee Pl.

There are now three Peggy V. Helmerich Women's Health Centers, the other two located in Tulsa at Hillcrest Medical Center, 1120 South Utica Ave., and Hillcrest Hospital South at 8801 South 101st East Ave.

In 2003, Hillcrest Medical Center opened the first Peggy V. Helmerich Women's Health Center. As Tulsa's only hospital dedicated solely to women's

health, the hospital bearing Mrs. Helmerich's name offers patients high quality care in a unique boutique-style setting designed especially for the needs of women. And, in 2012, Hillcrest Hospital South in South Tulsa dedicated its women's center in honor of Mrs. Helmerich.

The Peggy V. Helmerich Women's Health Center at Hillcrest Hospital Claremore offers obstetrics and child birth classes. And, as a part of Hillcrest HealthCare System, patients are connected with a wide-range of highly specialized women's services at Hillcrest Medical Center, including breast care, an antepartum unit and a Level III neonatal intensive care unit.



BUNDLE OF JOY: Peggy Helmerich holds a newborn baby girl on Sept. 3 during the dedication of the Peggy V. Helmerich Women's Health Center at Hillcrest Hospital Claremore, 12012 N. Muskogee Pl.



ADDED SERVICES: From left, David McGrail, Hillcrest Hospital Claremore CFO; David Chaussard, Hillcrest Hospital Claremore CEO; and Peggy Helmerich stand with nurses and staff at the dedication of the Peggy V. Helmerich Women's Health Center at Hillcrest Hospital Claremore, 12012 N. Muskogee Pl., held Sept. 3.

Oklahoma Heart Institute, Tulsa City Council Partner for Women's Empowerment Series

Atrial Fibrillation, or A Fib, is a common condition that affects the heart's rhythm. Individuals with A Fib often report the sensation of their heart skipping a beat or beating off-rhythm. They may also experience fatigue, shortness of breath, sweating, chest pain and/or dizziness. Unfortunately, A Fib is often misdiagnosed as anxiety or a panic attack.

On Sept. 19, the City of Tulsa recognized World Atrial Fibrillation Day with a free community event, held at Whiteside Park, 4009 S. Pittsburg Ave. Oklahoma Heart Institute partnered with Tulsa city councilors and Dana McMurchy of Bliss Yoga

to offer a free yoga class aimed at empowering women to listen to their bodies and take control of their health. This was the first community event in the Tulsa City Council's Women's Empowerment Series, which focuses on encouraging women to "create a healthy and strong community."

"Through this event, we are hoping to get women to not only do a better job of looking after their own health but also as leaders in the community and in their families to encourage others to shape up and make healthier choices," says City Councilor Anna America.

According to the American Heart

Association, nearly 2.2 million Americans suffer from A Fib. It is a condition that is not only uncomfortable but also one that can have a significant effect on a patient's health – A Fib is a leading cause of stroke – if it is not properly monitored and treated.

While it is important for anyone experiencing the symptoms of A Fib to see a cardiologist, research has found yoga to be a natural way to reduce the effects of A Fib. Yoga reduces stress, anxiety and fear, all of which are components of the brain that, when activated, transmit impulses to the autonomic nervous system, triggering arrhythmias.



GTR Newspapers photo

ATRIAL FIBRILLATION AWARENESS: Individuals participate in a free yoga class on Sept. 19 at Whiteside Park, 4009 S. Pittsburg Ave., in recognition of World Atrial Fibrillation Day. Oklahoma Heart Institute partnered with Tulsa city councilors and Dana McMurchy of Bliss Yoga to offer the free yoga class, which was aimed at empowering women to listen to their bodies and take control of their health.

During the yoga event, David Sandler, MD, an electrophysiologist with Oklahoma Heart Institute, spoke about the signs and symptoms of A Fib. "It is important to listen to your

body," says Sandler. "In addition to relieving some of the side effects of A Fib, yoga allows you to slow down and reconnect with yourself, improving physical and emotional health."

FALL FESTIVAL

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Please RSVP by October 15



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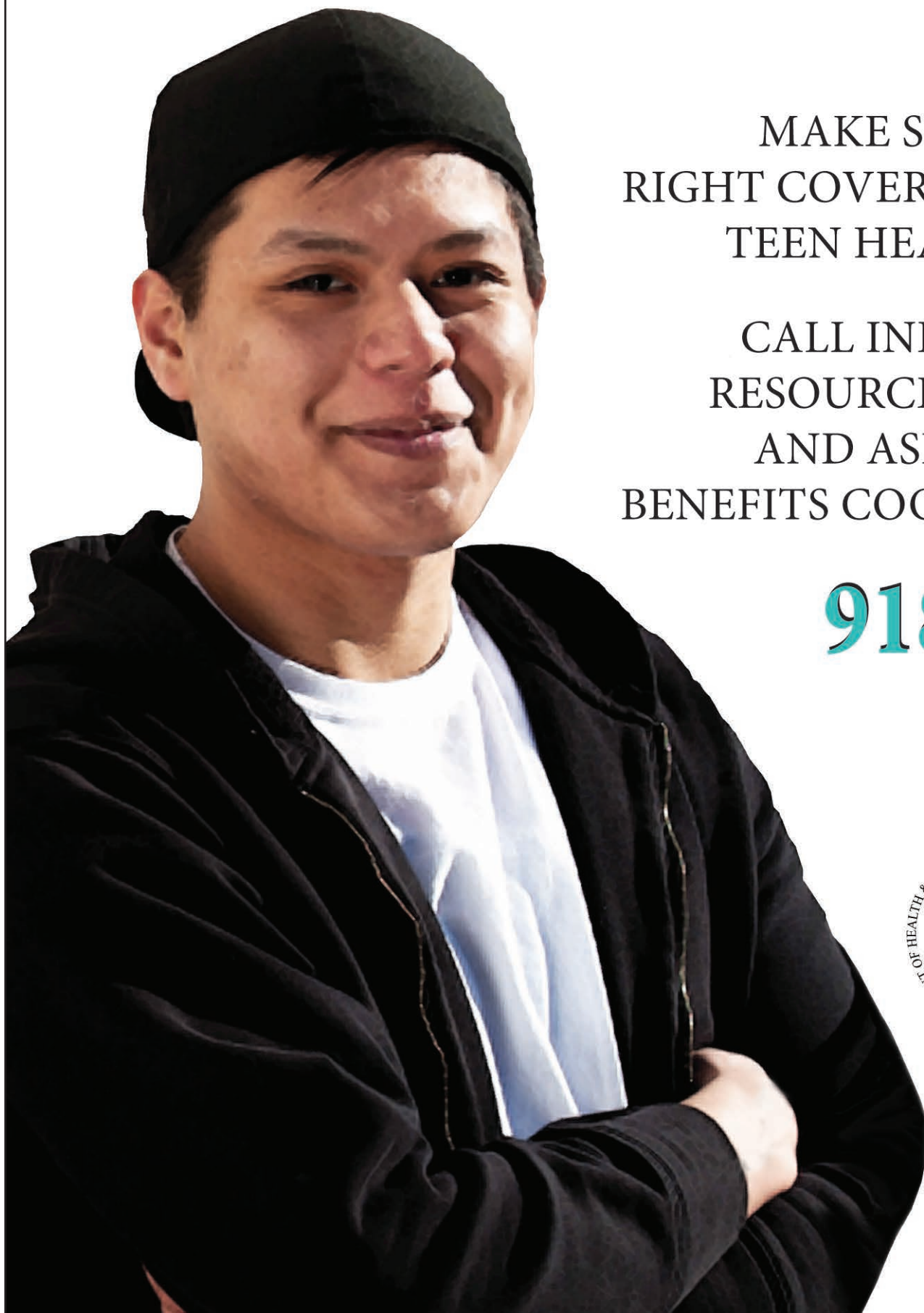
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EDUCATION

Cascia Hall Research Team Earns Trophy

Congratulations to the Cascia Hall Upper School Science Research Team, which earned the Sweepstakes Trophy for the second consecutive year at state competition in March 2015. Highlights of their many accomplishments are listed here:

- **Chase Antonacci** - Best Project in the entire High School Division (top award), chosen as Delegate to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), 1st Biochemical-Medical & Health, Scholarship Award, U.S. Surgeon General's Health Science Award.
- **Hannah Easley** (Team President) - Outstanding Physical Science Project, Invitation to ISEF, 1st Environmental Science, U.S.

Metric Award, Environmental Science Award

- **Beau Bingham** - 1st Microbiology. Invited to ISEF at Regional competition.
- **Zachary Haskins** - 2nd Behavioral Science, American Psychology Award.
- **Paige Roberts** - 2nd Botany Zoology, Scholarship Award.
- **Andrew Henderson** - 3rd Earth & Space Science, U.S. Air Force Award, American Meteorology Award
- **Minna Apostolova** - 1st Biochemical Medical & Health (Jr. Division)
- **Erika Ravitch** - 3rd Microbiology (Jr. Division).
- **Lewis Guillory** - Best Research Plan (Jr. Division).

• **Gracie Rule** - Naval Science Award.

After regional and state competitions, five team members were invited to attend the 2015 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in May in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Intel ISEF is the world's largest international pre-college science competition. More than 1,700 high school students from around the world are awarded the opportunity to showcase their independent research and compete for more than \$5 million in prizes. The team is coached by Mrs. Sally Fenska.



Courtesy Cascia Hall

AWARD-WINNING RESEARCHERS: Five members of the Cascia Hall Science Research Team were invited to attend the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. From left, front row, are Zachary Haskins, Chase Antonacci and Hannah Easley. Standing are Beau Bingham and Gracie Rule.

Tulsa Tech Aerospace Opens

Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett joined community leaders Sept. 14 to welcome students of the inaugural Tulsa Tech Aerospace Academy at Tulsa Tech's Riverside Campus, 801 E. 91st St. Community leaders met the students and spoke about their journey to open the academy.

In the photo, Bailey Siegfried, global marketing vice president of Nordam, speaks to the students.

From left are Dr. Keith Ballard, former Tulsa Public Schools superintendent; Dr. Deborah Gist, Tulsa Public Schools superintendent; Siegfried; Col. David Burgy, commander at the 138th Fighter Wing of the Oklahoma Air National Guard; Dr. Steve Tiger, Tulsa Tech CEO/superintendent; and Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett. Dr. Tiger led a tour of the facility.



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Tulsa Tech Student Elected National President

The annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference is the largest and most diverse showcase of skill training in the nation. More than 6,000 students, including many Tulsa Tech students, competed in hands-on skills and leadership events during this year's national conference in Leesburg, Virginia. Dante Williams, a culinary student at Tulsa Tech, was elected national president of the college/post-secondary division of SkillsUSA during the conference by fellow student national officers.

News from Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent

America's future skilled workforce. This career and technical student organization improves the quality of America's skilled workforce through a structured program of citizenship, leadership, employability, technical and professional skills training. SkillsUSA serves more than 300,000 high school, college and post-secondary students and instructors each year. The group also has the active support of more than 600 corporations, trade associations, and business and labor unions, and includes more than 11 million former members since its founding in 1965.

As president, Williams will serve as a student leader, spokesperson and ambassador for the organization, in addition to participating in national membership and industry tours during the 2015-2016 school year. The newly-elected officer looks forward to speaking on behalf of SkillsUSA at various events, before students, instructors, and representatives of business and industry.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity to serve as a national officer," Williams says. "I enjoy speaking to other students, motivating them to succeed, and I believe it is very important to demonstrate the value of leadership, regardless of each student's individual career path."

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry professionals working together to ensure

Williams, an Owasso High School graduate, credits Richard Stewart, Tulsa Tech's Criminal Justice instructor and avid SkillsUSA sponsor, for his initial involvement in the student organization.

"At that time in my life, I didn't believe I could really make an impact on anyone or grow beyond who I was," says Williams. "Mr. Stewart saw something in me that I didn't see in myself; he pushed me to become involved in something larger than just myself and explore my leadership capabilities."

To run for a national office, members must be nominated by their school, local training program, and state leaders and participate in the Professional Development Program, a curriculum that focuses on professionalism and advancement, from school to work.

Tim Lawrence, executive director for SkillsUSA, feels the determination demonstrated by Williams will benefit the organization.

"Dante's passion for hard work and education makes him a great leader for our student members," Lawrence says.

SkillsUSA programs teach leadership, citizenship and character development to complement technical skill training. The organization emphasizes respect for the dignity of work, ethics, workmanship, scholarship and safety. Tulsa Tech is proud to be home to the national president of this amazing group, and we wish Dante the best during the 2015-2016 school year!

To find out more about SkillsUSA, visit skillsusa.org. If you're currently looking for quality business and industry training, exciting classes



Courtesy Tulsa Tech

SKILLSUSA LEADER: Dante Williams, a culinary student at Tulsa Tech, was recently elected national president of the college/post-secondary division of SkillsUSA for the 2015-2016 school year.

for high school students, or wish to explore a life-changing career, Tulsa Tech invites you to visit today. For more information, please call 918-828-5000 or visit us online at tulsatech.edu.

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LOCAL NEWS

Seniors Named Semifinalists

Eleven Union High School seniors have been named 2016 National Merit Semifinalists.

The number of semifinalists at Union is among the highest in the area. Only two schools in Tulsa County had more than 10 students recognized for the honor this year.

Union's National Merit Semifinalists are Austin Boyington, son of Terry and Karen Boyington of Broken Arrow; Sae Yeun Chang, daughter of Dong Chang and Sungkyu Park of Broken Arrow; Marie Gordon, daughter of Ronald and Carolyn Gordon of Tulsa; Maureen Haynes, daughter of Michael and Eileen Haynes of Broken Arrow; Arkam Javed, son of Muhammad Javed and Saima Waheed of Tulsa; Harold Jones, son of Ricky and Bianca Jones of Tulsa; Miles King, son of Steven and Stephanie King of Broken Arrow; Stephen Pangestu, son of Bun and Mary Phang of Tulsa; Erhan Sarica,



NATIONAL MERIT CONTENDERS: Union High Schools' 11 2015-2016 National Merit Semifinalists are pictured with Senior Class Principal Tony Tempest, left, and Superintendent Dr. Hartzler, right. The seniors are Arkam Javed, Erhan Sarica, Marie Gordon, Harold Jones, Sae Yeun Chang, Austin Boyington, Maureen Haynes, Stephen Pangestu, Alexander Shadley, Daniel R. Smith, and Miles King.

son of Cem and Esmá Sarica of Broken Arrow; Alexander Shadley, son of Michael and Theresa Shadley of Tulsa; and Daniel R. Smith, son of Doug and Althea Smith of Broken Arrow.

The 16,000 semifinalists nationwide are in the running to receive 7,400 National Merit Scholarships, worth about \$33 million, that will be offered next spring.

B.A. Manager Takes Office

Sept. 21 was Michael Spurgeon's first official day on the job as Broken Arrow's city manager. Most recently, Spurgeon served as director of administration for the City of St. Charles, Missouri. He has also worked as city manager for the City of Miami, Oklahoma, township business administrator for Pemberton Township, New Jersey, and township manager for Eastampton, New Jersey.



MICHAEL SPURGEON

Spurgeon grew up in Tulsa, where his father was a captain of the Tulsa Fire Department, and his mother worked for the Tulsa Police Department.

His three-year employment agreement provides for his retention by the City of Broken Arrow at an annual salary of \$166,000. As in prior city manager agreements, it also provides a transportation and technology allowance and a bank of available personal leave and

retirement contributions in the amount of 12 percent.

Spurgeon holds a master's degree in public administration from Rutgers University and bachelor in business administration from Edison State College.

Look for a feature profile on Spurgeon in the November issue of the Union Boundary.

B.A. Youth Council Announced

STUDENT ACTIVISM: Pictured are the 2015-2016 Broken Arrow Youth City Council members: Braden Price, Broken Arrow High School (BAHS), Brent Shafer, BAHS, Cale Ensminger, BAHS, Caleb Elder, BAHS, Cameron Elder, BAHS, Cara Ho, homeschool, Corinne Honeyman, BAHS, Elizabeth Dana Thomas, BAHS, Eric E. McKinney, Pentecostal Christian Academy, BAHS, Grace Robinson, A BeKa Academy, Jonathan Robert, BAHS, Maureen Hanes, Union High School, Precious Okourwa, BAHS, Winchell Gallardo, BAHS, and Zarría Young, BAHS. Broken Arrow



Youth City Council provides opportunity for high school students to learn how municipal government

works, obtain an understanding of local policymaking and serve their community.

Union Offers Smartphone App

Students in Jennifer Fisher's sports marketing classes, known collectively as the U-Hype team, have developed an app they've named "The Hype" in conjunction with SuperFanU. Colleges such as Clemson and Penn State use SuperFanU for their sports teams, but Union is the only high school in this region, and one of a handful in the country, to adopt the platform.

The idea sprang from class brainstorming sessions in March as a means to underscore Union's tradition of spirit and pride. Fisher also sees The Hype as a tool for increasing student engagement at all Union secondary schools, grades 6-12.

Run entirely by the marketing and promotions interns in Fisher's classes, the app disseminates information about Union's varsity athletic events and provides a master social media feed for Union's 24 athletic programs. Initially, students can use the app to check in at varsity events and earn rewards from area sponsors such as Raising Cane's. Eventually, they'll be able to do the same for a variety of student activities, such as plays, concerts and band competitions.

The Hype is available for iPhone and Android versions. While anyone can use it, only Union High School students are currently eligible to earn prize points.

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UNION SPORTS

Union Student Finishes 7th in Nation in Motocross

Union student Jackson Craig made a dream come true this past summer. The 12-year-old dirt bike racer finished seventh in the nation at the Motocross National Championship held at Loretta Lynn's ranch near Hurricane Mills, Tennessee. This is the third time in the young racer's career that he qualified for the largest amateur motocross race in the world, the 34th Annual Rocky Mountain ATV/MC AMA Amateur National Motocross Championship presented by AMSOIL at Loretta Lynn's Ranch. Craig took on over 22,000 hopefuls from across America to earn two of just 1,482 qualifying positions. And of the 42 racers that qualified in this particular class, his seventh place finish sets him apart as one of the fastest motocross racers in the world.



**JACKSON CRAIG
MOTOCROSS CHAMPION**

"The Amateur Nationals at Loretta Lynn's is the event every motocross racer in the country wants to compete in," says Event Director Tim Cotter. "A win at the Amateur Nationals gives a rider instant national fame and can serve as a springboard to a lucrative professional motocross career."

Most of America's top professional motocrossers, including James Stewart, Ricky Carmichael, Travis Pastrana and Ryan Dungey, have won AMA Amateur National Championships at Loretta Lynn's. The race is so prestigious that, in 2013, race coverage was aired on NBC for the first time ever. In 2015, the coverage only improved as the Rocky Mountain ATV/MC National Championship aired with live streaming from Loretta Lynn's on RacerTV.com throughout the week, and the event will be broadcast later in the fall on NBC Sports Network.

Craig, who attends the Union 6th and 7th Grade Center, has been riding since he was four years old. He has been a Texas State Champion and has won the Oklahoma State Championship for several years. Craig is currently on track to win not one, but four State

Championships this year in the Oklahoma State MX Championship series. Craig trains year round with a local National Champion, Robbie Reynard at his training facility in Wellston, Oklahoma. Craig has a track at his home in Broken Arrow where he trains and another at Grand Lake.

Craig qualified for the race on two other occasions and finished 12th in the 65 9-11 the last time he competed in the event. Craig is just one of the over 22,000 who spent the last four months qualifying for the event. There are 36 classes in the event and only the top 42 riders in each class earn a spot to this coveted race. Craig took home the 7th place National trophy in the highly competitive 65cc 7-11 class.

The race action will be broadcast with two highlight shows which will air on NBC Sports Network on Sunday, Oct. 11 at 4 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 18 at 4:30 p.m. ET.



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SPORTS

Former Notre Dame Star Fanning Happy at TU

By **MIKE MOGUIN**
Sports Writer

One gem the University of Tulsa has on its athletic staff can be found in Mike Fanning.

Fanning, who has been on the TU staff for more than six years, grew up in Tulsa and had a standout football career at Notre Dame and in the NFL. People would be amazed with the connections he has. This guy has roomed with people who went on to become actors.

Today, he is a special assistant in administration operations for TU.

"I just do things like help raise money or just whatever they need," Fanning says. "I will help out on football game days, soccer, etc. I help find cars for coaches from dealers."

Before going to Notre Dame, Fanning was a standout defensive tackle at Edison High School, where he earned his share of awards and accolades, having graduated in 1971. When recruited, besides the Fighting Irish, OU, OSU, Arkansas and Colorado had also come calling for his services. Making the decision to go to Notre Dame was tough for Fanning, but it paid off.

"To graduate from there and play there," Fanning says. "It was the greatest thing I ever got to do."

Fanning also had the privilege of playing for the legendary Ara Parseghian, who was the coach

when he attended the prestigious Catholic institution.

"He was the best," Fanning says of Parseghian. "He's the best coach I was ever around. He was a way cut above. He was fabulous. He is 92 now. He is just beloved by everybody. I never heard anybody say a bad word about Ara Parseghian. And he was tough though. We had some good teams and some good players, and he got a lot out of us."

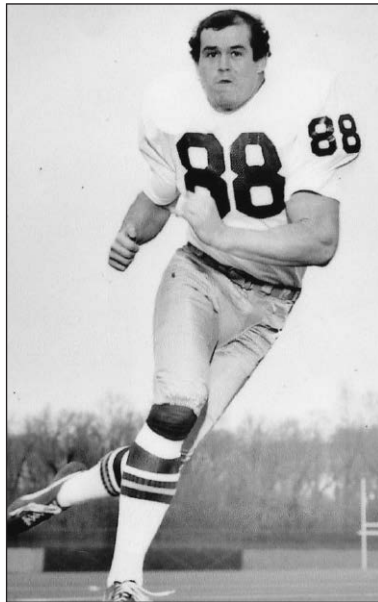
The local native started on the Irish defensive line in his junior and senior campaigns of 1973 and 1974, having made 164 tackles. As a senior, he was an All-America selection by the Walter Camp Foundation, The Sporting News, NEA, Time and was a AP Second-team All-America selection.

The 1973 season was memorable for Fanning because he and his teammates won the national championship after beating Alabama in the Sugar Bowl, capping off an unbeaten season.

A pair of losses kept Notre Dame out of the running in '74, but they beat the Crimson Tide again, this time in the Orange Bowl, denying them the championship. With that result, OU, who did not play in a bowl game due to being on probation, was awarded the AP championship.

The wins over Alabama are Fanning's most memorable games in college.

Fanning was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams as the ninth pick in the first round in 1975. He played eight seasons with them, including an appearance in Super Bowl XIV against the Pittsburgh Steelers at the end of the 1979 season. He



ALL-AMERICAN: Tulsan Mike Fanning was an All-American defensive lineman for Notre Dame, graduating in 1971. He also played in the NFL for Los Angeles, Detroit and Seattle.

would wrap up his NFL tenure with stints in Detroit (1983) and Seattle (1984).

In his lone Super Bowl, Fanning pressured Steelers' quarterback Terry Bradshaw a few times. Despite that, he doesn't recall any specific pro-game memorable moments.

"The thing you remember the most are your buddies. You develop all these great friendships," he says.

When with the Rams, he roomed in training camp with Fred Dryer, who became an actor after his football career. Dryer was best known for his role in the TV series, "The Hunter," which was popular in the 1980s.

"He was such a great character," Fanning says of Dryer. "We had a lot

of characters on the team. Back then, you had guys stay together on the same team for eight or nine years. Now, everybody is leaving all the time through free agency."

Fanning has not kept in touch with teammates from his playing days with the Rams, but stays in touch with people from Notre Dame.

One is Greg Collins, who Fanning roomed with in college. Collins, who also played defensive line, was a captain for the Irish and led the team in tackles. He has played in movies such as The Rock, Armageddon, as well as several TV series. Collins plays a police officer in the movie Straight Outta Compton, which is currently in theaters.

Another is Tom Clements, who quarterbacked the Notre Dame

teams Fanning was a part. He is now the assistant head coach for the Green Bay Packers.

"He should be a head coach," Fanning says. "He gets to do their offensive play calling. He has always developed great quarterbacks."

When the Golden Hurricane played Notre Dame in South Bend in 2010, Fanning went with Bill Warren, a trustee of the William K. Warren Foundation, who is a big supporter of both TU and Notre Dame.

"He gave us orders. 'We're going to root for TU. It won't hurt Notre Dame to lose another game, but if TU could win it, it would be so great for the city,' and it was. It was great. Tulsa just beat them."

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Oilers Open Season with Winner Jason Christie

By GLENN HIBDON
GTR Sports Writer

If everything goes according to plan, new Tulsa Oilers coach Jason Christie could become the East Coast Hockey League's all-time leader in victories sometime in November. Christie comes to town with 483 wins in his career and needs just nine more to take over the top spot.

Perhaps the Oilers have never had coach behind the bench with Christie's credentials. The arrival of the 46-year-old native of Gibbons, Alberta, has given Oilers fans every reason for optimism when the season starts on Oct. 16. Now all he has to do is live up to his advance billing.

"It's definitely a challenge," says Christie, referring to a late start since taking the job in July. "I've got to put together a team, but it's the same thing I did in Ontario (Calif.). I got a late start there and this is the same challenge I faced. It puts you behind, but at the end of the day all the guys still have to come together."

Christie left the ECHL Ontario Reign when the American Hockey League moved in for the 2015-16 season. He departed having coached in 863 games, fourth most in the ECHL, and with four consecutive seasons with at least 43 victories. Christie has suffered just one losing season in 13 years as a head coach and reached the playoffs in all but two seasons.

"Tulsa is a great city, and I learned there was a job opening here," says Christie, who was the Central Hockey League Coach of the Year in 2010-11 with Bloomington. "I explored a couple of other opportunities, and I talked to Taylor (Oilers general manager Taylor Hall).

"Through my relationship with the Winnipeg Jets, I knew they were looking for a place to put a team. Tulsa did not have an affiliation, and the Oilers have a long history. The city is awesome and I can still work for the NHL. This is a great fit for Tulsa and myself."

Virtually a package deal, the Oilers landed Winnipeg as their NHL parent club and the Manitoba Moose as their AHL affiliate, along with Christie as head coach. Christie, who has a career winning percentage of .616, has a long history with the franchise.

In 1996-97 and 1997-98, Christie played 88 games for Manitoba, then served as an assistant coach with the Chicago Wolves from 2008-2010 under current Jets GM Kevin

Chereldayoff. He went on to become head coach for Ontario, the Jets' ECHL affiliate. Tulsa served as the Jets' farm club from 1979 through 1982.

Now Christie is in another familiar situation when training camp opens on Oct. 4. The mission he has accepted is to once again forge a cohesive team from a bunch of players who have never played together.

"It takes a lot of coaching, but it's mostly individual stuff and how they work together. We will be signing lots of guys who come out of AHL camps as free agents, looking for the right place to play," says Christie. "There will be players out there with the goal of the NHL and AHL. We're an afterthought."

"Some guys will be free agents who don't even know it now. We do have a good crop right now. It all comes down to putting the players together."

The Oilers have announced the signing of 10 players from last season's playoff squad, including standout goalie Kevin Carr, defenseman Eric Tallent, Kevin Noble and captain Nathan Lutz, plus forwards Brady Ramsay, Justin Mansfield, Kyle Bocheck, Matt Larke, Phil Brewer and Adam Pleskach.

Christie already has his ideal team in mind. "I want size and kids who are hungry to play. I want kids who are looking to play every night and play an up tempo game," he says. "Puck protection is part of the game, and I want kids who will work their tails off. If you get that, you will win hockey games. I want guys who want to win championships."

Christie says mental approach and dedication are key ingredients for his kind of player. He also says time in the defensive zone leads to better offense.

"We will be a high tempo puck possession hockey team. The goals we can control are getting better day in and day out," Christie says. "I know I've got good players here and they will have an equal opportunity to come out and win hockey games together."

"We want to eliminate excuses and for the organization from top to bottom to get on the same page. Winnipeg is one of the best in the ECHL in developing players. We don't know who they will send us. Hopefully, the guys will gel together. All we can do is prepare ourselves for the first game and go from there."

The Oilers open the season Oct. 16 against the Wichita Thunder at the BOK Center.



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers
HOCKEY LEADERSHIP: Tulsa Oilers General Manager Taylor Hall, right, presents a jersey to new Head Coach Jason Christie in July at the BOK Center after Christie's announcement.

Williams Route 66 Marathon Reaches Milestone in 2015

The Williams Route 66 Marathon celebrates its 10th anniversary this year with a weekend full of events for all ages and skill levels, Nov. 20-22.

Each year, the marathon generates a \$5 million economic impact in the community. In addition, the marathon has generated more than \$200,000 in direct donations to Tulsa charities. This year, the marathon has a goal of raising \$75,000 for Tulsa-area nonprofits with the Charity Challenge.

"The mission we started with nine years ago still stands today," says Route 66 Marathon Founder Chris Lieberman. "The Williams Route 66 Marathon was created to promote

health and fitness while contributing to other nonprofits and generating an economic impact for our community."

The Williams Route 66 Marathon has grown from 3,000 participants in its first year to an expected sellout race with 15,800 participants for this anniversary year. Runners will be coming from every state and Washington, D.C., with foreign participants traveling from the United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico, Ireland, Argentina, Italy, Cayman Islands and China.

"So far our youngest participant is 10 and our oldest marathon participant is 85," Lieberman says. "The Williams Route 66 Marathon

(Continued on page 22)

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DANE EVANS: The Tulsa QB had a great day at OU, completing 34 of 51 passes for 427 yards. Tulsa was a 32-point underdog before the game but came within two TD's in the upset bid.



JOSHUA ATKINSON: The Tulsa receiver goes high for a touchdown catch in the Sooner end zone. The Hurricane offense totaled 603 yards in the Sept. 12 game in Norman.



BAKER MAYFIELD: The transfer from Texas Tech was amazing for OU against Tulsa. The Player of the Game was 32 of 38 in passing and totaled a school record of 572 total yards in OU's 52-38 win.



CHRIS CARSON: After scoring his first touchdown as a Cowboy to put OSU ahead 10-0 against Central Arkansas in the season opener, Carson leapfrogged over a Bears defender for a nice gain in the first quarter. OSU won, 32-8.



TURKEY MOUNTAIN CHATTER: Over 350 participants ran or walked the trails in the Escape from Turkey Mountain event on Labor Day, sponsored by Fleet Feet. Funds went toward improvements on Turkey Mountain.



HURRICANE BROADCAST: The TU Golden Hurricane radio broadcasts are being carried by Big Country 99.5 Classic Country with award-winning announcer Bruce Howard, above, doing the play-by-play and Rick Couri on color.



THUNDER EXPERIENCE: Don King of AM 1430 and AM 1300 was present at the Oklahoma City Thunder Rally held Aug. 29 at MidFirst Bank at 71st Street and Memorial Drive in Tulsa.

Ten-Year Anniversary for Williams Route 66 Marathon

(Continued from page 21) attracts thousands of participants from around the world to take an intimate street level tour of our city. We have so much to show off and our participants often tell me how much their experience at the

Williams Route 66 Marathon has changed their impression of Tulsa." This year, participants can earn free entry in any race by raising funds for one of the marathon's charity partners: Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, Folds

of Honor Foundation, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Oklahoma Chapter, Tulsa Area United Way or the Tulsa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The Williams Route 66 Marathon will match the first

\$25,000 raised by participants. The Williams Route 66 Marathon weekend includes the two-day Health, Fitness and Sustainability Expo, marathon, half-marathon, marathon relay, 5K run and walk, a one-mile fun run and walk, and the

ever popular mascot dash. Post-race activities at Tulsa's Guthrie Green in the Brady Arts District include free live music, a car show and fun for the entire family. For more information visit www.route66marathon.com.

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= GTR 2015 COMPOSITE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE =

DATE	VISITOR	HOME
Aug. 28	Holland Hall 41	Casady 21
Aug. 29	College of DuPage 33	NEO 31
Sep. 3	OSU 24	Central Michigan 13
	Pittsburg State 38	NSU 14
	Texas Inst. of A&T 23	NEO 53
	Seaworth 0	Webster 40
	Sand Springs 61	Hale 8
Sep. 4	Memorial 31	Central 14
	Bartlesville 47	East Central 0
	Midwest City 16	BTW 28
	McLain 41	Mannford 14
	Bishop Kelley 21	Edison 7
	Southlake Carroll 34	Union 30
	Jenks 58	Bixby 24
	Broken Arrow 21	Owasso 0
	Cascia Hall 35	Holland Hall 29
	Metro 55	NOAH 2
	Victory 47	Kansas 8
	Warner 37	Summit 0
Sep. 5	Florida Atlantic 44	TU 47
	UTEP 13	Arkansas 48
	Akron 3	OU 41
	Lincoln 57	Edison 20
Sep. 10	NSU 13	Fort Hays State 27
Sep. 11	East Central 7	Bixby 71
	BTW 62	Central 6
	Bishop Kelley 19	Bishop McGuinness 16
	Hale 0	Sapulpa 55
	Webster 31	Rogers 51
	McLain 63	NOAH 14
	Memorial 35	Edison 15
	Jenks 45	Union 27
	Broken Arrow 24	Coppell (Tex.) 17
	Muskogee 25	Owasso 34
	Cascia Hall 14	Bartlesville 42
	Holland Hall 7	Lincoln 44
	Metro 42	Oklahoma Christian 6
	Victory 47	Lighthouse Christian 18
	Liberty 8	Summit 22
Sep. 12	Toledo 16	Arkansas 12
	OU 31	Tennessee 24
	Central Arkansas 8	OSU 32
	TU 40	New Mexico 21
Sep. 18	NEO 30	Blinn College 31
	Hale 6	Edison 62
	Central 50	NW Classen 0
	Webster 31	OC Capitol Hill 8
	East Central	BTW (cancelled)
	Rogers 6	Woodward 38
	Hilldale 42	McLain 7
	Memorial 16	Noah 7
	Union 42	Broken Arrow 18
	Owasso	Jenks (cancelled)
	Bixby 57	Springdale (AR) 38
	Millwood	Cascia Hall (cancelled)
	Oakridge 41	Holland Hall 34
	Claremore Sequoia	Metro (cancelled)
	Shiloh Christian	Victory (cancelled)
	Oklahoma Christian 0	Lincoln 48
Sep. 19	TU 38	OU 52
	Texas Tech 35	Arkansas 24

DATE	VISITOR	HOME
Sep. 19	Texas San Antonio 14	OSU 69
	Missouri Western 24	NSU 17
	Tyler Junior College 27	NEO 40
Sep. 25	Memorial	Kelley
	Broken Bow	Central
	Webster	Dewey
	Tahlequah	East Central
	BTW	Ponca City
	Morris	Rogers
	Catoosa	McLain
	Edison	Pryor
	Hale	Skiatook
	Putnam City North	Putnam City
	Jenks	Yukon
	Broken Arrow	Owasso
	Norman North	Claremore
	Bixby	Miami
	Cascia Hall	Trinity Valley
	Holland Hall	Metro
	Stilwell	Beggs
	Victory	Okmulgee
	Lincoln	Verdigris
	Ketchum	Summit
Sep. 26	OSU	Texas
	Texas A&M	Arkansas
	Arkansas Baptist	NEO
	NSU	Emporia State
Sep. 26	OC Capitol Hill	Edison
Sep. 26	Sapulpa	BTW
Sep. 26	Owasso	Southmore
Sep. 26	Kelleyville	Webster
Sep. 26	Central	Sallisaw
Sep. 26	East Central	Coweta
Sep. 26	Roland	Rogers
Sep. 26	Vinita	McLain
Sep. 26	Durant	Memorial
Sep. 26	Noble	Hale
Sep. 26	Union	Norman North
Sep. 26	Norman	Jenks
Sep. 26	Putnam City	Broken Arrow
Sep. 26	Bartlesville	Bixby
Sep. 26	Cascia Hall	Wagoner
Sep. 26	Greenhill	Holland Hall
Sep. 26	Poteau	Metro
Sep. 26	Chicotah	Victory
Sep. 26	Lincoln	Sperry
Sep. 26	Summit	Fairland
Sep. 26	Arkansas	Tennessee
Sep. 26	West Virginia	OU
Sep. 26	Kansas State	OSU
Sep. 26	Houston	TU
Sep. 26	NW Missouri State	NSU
Sep. 26	NEO	Kilgore College
Sep. 26	Broken Arrow	Norman
Sep. 26	Owasso	Moore
Sep. 26	BTW	Claremore
Sep. 26	Edison	East Central
Sep. 26	Ft. Gibson	Central
Sep. 26	Webster	Lincoln
Sep. 26	McLain	Cleveland
Sep. 26	Rogers	Checotah

DATE	VISITOR	HOME
Oct. 9	Memorial	Noble
Oct. 9	Hale	Durant
Oct. 9	Southmore	Union
Oct. 9	Jenks	Westmore
Oct. 9	Bixby	Ponca City
Oct. 9	Oologah	Cascia Hall
Oct. 9	Holland Hall	Ft. Worth Coutry Day
Oct. 9	Metro	Muldrow
Oct. 9	Victory	Beggs
Oct. 9	Afton	Summit
Oct. 10	Arkansas	Alabama
Oct. 10	OU	Texas
Oct. 10	Louisiana Monroe	TU
Oct. 10	OSU	West Virginia
Oct. 10	NEO	Navarro
Oct. 10	NSU	Nebraska-Kearney
Oct. 15	Central	Muldrow
Oct. 15	Berryhill	Webster
Oct. 15	East Central	Grove
Oct. 15	Beggs	Rogers
Oct. 15	McLain	Wagoner
Oct. 15	Skiatook	Memorial
Oct. 15	Kelley	Hale
Oct. 15	Union	Owasso
Oct. 15	Edmond Santa Fe	Jenks
Oct. 15	Westmore	Broken Arrow
Oct. 15	Sapulpa	Bixby
Oct. 15	Vinita	Cascia Hall
Oct. 15	Fort Gibson	Metro
Oct. 15	Hilldale	Victory
Oct. 15	Dewey	Lincoln
Oct. 15	Summit	Foil
Oct. 16	Bartlesville	BTW
Oct. 16	Collinsville	Edison
Oct. 16	St. Mark's	Holland Hall
Oct. 16	TU	East Carolina
Oct. 16	OU	Kansas State
Oct. 16	Missouri Southern	NSU
Oct. 16	Cisco College	NEO
Oct. 23	Memphis	TU
Oct. 23	Rogers	Victory
Oct. 23	Stilwell	Central
Oct. 23	Webster	Verdigris
Oct. 23	East Central	Pryor
Oct. 23	BTW	Bixby
Oct. 23	Miami	McLain
Oct. 23	Tahlequah	Edison
Oct. 23	Shawnee	Memorial
Oct. 23	Hale	McAlester
Oct. 23	Union	Moore
Oct. 23	Broken Arrow	Jenks
Oct. 23	Owasso	Mustang
Oct. 23	Cascia Hall	Catoosa
Oct. 23	Holland Hall	All Saints
Oct. 23	Lincoln	Kelleyville
Oct. 23	Hominy	Summit
Oct. 23	Texas Tech	OU
Oct. 23	Kansas	OSU
Oct. 23	Auburn	Arkansas
Oct. 23	NEO	Trinity Valley
Oct. 23	Rogers	Central Missouri

DATE	VISITOR	HOME
Oct. 29	Okmulgee	Rogers
Oct. 30	Memorial	Hale
Oct. 30	Central	Metro
Oct. 30	Sperry	Webster
Oct. 30	Sand Springs	BTW
Oct. 30	McLain	Cascia Hall
Oct. 30	Edison	Coweta
Oct. 30	Mustang	Union
Oct. 30	Jenks	Edmond Memorial
Oct. 30	Edmond Santa Fe	Broken Arrow
Oct. 30	Edmond North	Owasso
Oct. 30	Bixby	Muskogee
Oct. 30	McLain	Cascia Hall
Oct. 30	Victory	Morris
Oct. 30	Lincoln	Tahlequah Sequoia
Oct. 30	Rejoice	Summit
Oct. 30	TU	SMU
Oct. 30	Tennessee-Martin	Arkansas
Oct. 30	OU	Kansas
Oct. 30	OSU	Texas Tech
Oct. 30	Central Oklahoma	NSU
Nov. 5	Collinsville	East Central
Nov. 6	Poteau	Central
Nov. 6	Webster	Westville
Nov. 6	BTW	Muskogee
Nov. 6	Rogers	Hilldale
Nov. 6	Oologah	McLain
Nov. 6	Edison	Grove
Nov. 6	Memorial	McAlester
Nov. 6	Shawnee	Hale
Nov. 6	Union	Edmond North
Nov. 6	Yukon	Jenks
Nov. 6	Edmond Memorial	Broken Arrow
Nov. 6	Owasso	Putnam City North
Nov. 6	Bixby	Sand Springs
Nov. 6	Cascia Hall	Cleveland
Nov. 6	Metro	Salisaw
Nov. 6	Victory	Stigler
Nov. 6	Berryhill	Lincoln
Nov. 6	Summit	Quapaw
Nov. 7	Central Florida	TU
Nov. 7	Iowa State	OU
Nov. 7	TCU	OSU
Nov. 7	Arkansas	Ole Miss
Nov. 7	Washburn	NSU
Nov. 14	TU	Cincinnati
Nov. 14	Arkansas	LSU
Nov. 14	OU	Baylor
Nov. 14	OSU	Iowa State
Nov. 14	NSU	Lindenwood
Nov. 21	Navy	TU
Nov. 21	TCU	OU
Nov. 21	Baylor	OSU
Nov. 21	Mississippi State	Arkansas
Nov. 27	TU	Tulane
Nov. 27	Missouri	Arkansas
Nov. 27	OU	OSU

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THE ECONOMY

We B Trees Known for Ethical Business Practices

By LOUANN BUHLINGER
Contributing Writer

When Tim Nall created his tree care company, he knew he wanted to provide the best in tree management services and operate with the greatest of ethics. Twenty years later, We B Trees received a BBB Torch Award, which recognizes outstanding businesses and individuals for ethics and in marketplace excellence.

"We like to do what is right for the customer," says Nall. "And we apply the same business practices to working with our vendors and supporting our employees."

Nall started We B Trees in 1995 with his wife, Barbara.

Nall is a registered forester receiving his bachelor's degree in forestry from Oklahoma State University. After working for the City of Tulsa Urban Forestry

Department, Nall created We B Trees, which is currently a member of the International Society of Arboriculture, Tree Care Industry Association, Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa and the Better Business Bureau of Tulsa.

The business is active in charitable pursuits as well. Tim is a member of the Rotary Club of Tulsa. In addition, they both serve as counselors for Rotary's Camp Enterprise, an annual four-day business camp for area high school juniors. We B Trees also supports Tulsa Boys Home, the Westside YMCA, the Southwest Tulsa Chamber of Commerce and Up With Trees, where Tim serves on its board.

As a certified arborist, Nall is qualified through education and professional experience to manage all aspects of established-tree maintenance, including pruning, spraying, fertilization

and removal. He operates a seven-member team and serves customers across northeast Oklahoma.

"This time of the year, we recommend that homeowners and businesses prune dead wood in their trees," says Nall. "We have also been quite busy spraying trees for web worms. Although, in most instances the worms defoliate the tree but do not kill it, the worms burrow into the ground during winter and will come back the next year. If a tree is defoliated by web worms two or three years in a row, the health of the tree could be affected."

Nall also recommends deep root fertilization at this time of year. "We use a fertilizer formulated especially for trees that is applied by a soil injection within the tree's root zone. Trees are evaluated for their nutrient needs, and treatment is timed depending on species and grow-

ing conditions."

We B Trees also offers leaf removal services and holiday light hanging.

Homeowners and business owners who have questions about the health of their trees can turn to We B Trees for help. "Sometimes Oklahoma weather can be tough on trees and plants," says Nall. "That why we offer inspection and diagnosis reporting."

The company also provides cabling and bracing services to help reduce stress damage from high winds and excess ice and snow weight.

Having the right tree or shrub in the right place can make all the difference in the beauty and value of your property. Nall says that Oak, Ash, Redbud, Pistache, Bald Cypress, Maple and Japanese Maple trees grow well in Oklahoma when planted in the right spots.



LOUANN BUHLINGER for GTR Newspapers
TORCH AWARD WINNERS: Tim and Barbara Nall, owners of tree care company We B Trees, celebrate winning the BBB Torch Award. The company is in its 20th year of business.

Tulsa Regional Chamber Visits Music City

Just over 100 of the region's elected officials, business representatives and civic leaders joined the Tulsa Regional Chamber for the sixth Intercity Visit, which took place Oct. 2-4 in Nashville, Tennessee.

The group learned about best practices in areas including educational successes, community branding, workforce development, entrepreneurship and innovation, healthcare, talent attraction, retention, and place-making.

Nashville's leaders spent considerable time with the Tulsa contingent, sharing their suc-

cesses and challenges toward growth. Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and former Mayor Bill Purcell, among others, spoke to the group about their ability to navigate positive change by making key decisions collaboratively with public input. Key points include:

Nashville's "Music City Brand" is successful because of the concept of presenting a completed plan to the public;

Nashville leaders embrace the importance of including the public in key decisions impacting the entire region;

A commitment to regionalism is a key component of their success in attracting companies;

They have confidence in themselves, which transcends any internal conflicts they have toward progress. Their confidence is the driving factor behind the continued (public and private) investment.

Intercity Visit trips are held annually to bring best practices back to northeast Oklahoma toward moving the region forward in a globally competitive environment. The 2016 Intercity Visit is scheduled for Oct. 5-7.



Courtesy Tulsa Regional Chamber
LEARNING BEST PRACTICES: Local leaders from around the Tulsa metro traveled to Nashville for the Tulsa Regional Chamber's annual Intercity Visit, learning best practices for community development and economic prosperity.

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Stephanie Cameron Works to Impact the Community

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Stephanie Cameron may not be a Tulsa native, but her community and professional involvement speak volumes about her feelings for her adopted city.

Cameron, born and raised in Georgia, settled in Tulsa in 2008 and has since grown her level of activism to a vast degree.

She serves as community affairs director for APSCO and state director for OK2Grow, the brain child of her recently-passed boss and friend Larry Mocha.

In addition, she is a member of nearly 10 boards of directors, chairs various committees, and participates in numerous other local and national organizations.

She is a board member of the national Manufacturing Institute, a member of the Rotary Club of Tulsa and chair of its Celia Clinton Elementary committee, involved in the Tulsa Regional Chamber's One Voice task forces and its Partners in Education steering committee, vice chair of development for the Tulsa Global Alliance, government relations crew leader for Tulsa's Young Professionals (TYPros), a member of Leadership Oklahoma's current class, and a Big Sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters – an organization that she chose to join for personal reasons, she says.

Cameron clarifies that because sometimes, she admits, it becomes challenging to separate her professional and personal endeavors. But she's okay with that, she continues.

"I like to feel a part of the community and to be a resource connector."

Many of the organizations that Cameron is involved with have to

do with her representation of APSCO and OK2Grow and their interests in the community.

Cameron met APSCO CEO Larry Mocha through her job with the American Heart Association, where Mocha volunteered.

She joined APSCO in August 2012 and by October, Mocha was introducing her to his ideas for OK2Grow.

"Larry would say, 'We need to do something about this,'" Cameron smiles. "He wanted to provide job focus for students and make them aware of job opportunities after high school."

The nonprofit, which is focused on workforce development, currently offers Scholarship to Success: entrepreneurship scholarships for high school seniors to be used for post-secondary education; the High School Completion Coalition, which promotes career awareness activities and addresses the high school drop-out rates; and Dream It Do It Oklahoma: part of the national Dream It Do It organization with the focus of changing the perception of manufacturing careers.

Cameron continues to work closely with the organization's additional founders, Lynda Wingo and Jerry Holder.

In past GTR interviews with Mocha, he always spoke glowingly of Cameron and her efforts.

Like Mocha was, Cameron is passionate about OK2Grow's purpose.

Growing up, her mother held a staffing position that, by extension, allowed Cameron to work at different jobs and to tour companies – providing her early exposure to future employment opportunities.

"Those experiences are powerful: seeing how things are made and meeting people who do the

jobs. That sticks with you. Now, I get to help provide those same opportunities to kids."

As word spreads about OK2Grow and as more baby boomers exit the workforce, Cameron hopes to continue to see an uptick in interest in the nonprofit's efforts.

"This kind of workforce development makes sense. Companies need to engage the future workforce and reach out to them, and we know the channels.

"We would like to see this model used more across the state."

Cameron's work to improve the community and its workforce bleed over into her activity with TYPros, where she has been a member for more than five years. She is currently in the process of applying to be TYPros' 2017 chair.

"TYPros was a game changer for me after moving to Tulsa," she says. "It was a great fit for me.

"I knew that I wanted to volunteer after college, and it helped me feel like I could make a difference in my community, which I think is what many millennials are looking for."

TYPros, no doubt, played a significant role in shaping Cameron's view of her new home.

"Tulsa has a sense of community. As a young professional, we have access to things such as mentorship opportunities, the ability to get involved and serve; those things aren't as available in other cities," she says.

She cites as an example: TYPros' board internship program where young professionals are given the opportunity to explore various local organizations.

"I love Tulsa: its quality of life pieces really add up," she says. "And with all of the current development going on, this is a great time to be in Tulsa."



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers
GLOBAL VISION AWARDS: Stephanie Cameron, second from right, vice chair of development for Tulsa Global Alliance (TGA), stands with, from left, Jami Fullerton, event chair of the TGA Global Vision Awards Dinner; Mark and Becky Collins, Global Vision Awards honorees; and John Harper, TGA board president, at a pre-event for the TGA Global Vision Awards Dinner, to be held Oct. 7.

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Bed Making Competition Highlights International Housekeeping Week

In recognition of International Housekeeping Week, on Sept. 14, the Metro Tulsa Hotel & Lodging Association hosted its annual Bed Making Contest to determine who is the fastest bedmaker in Tulsa.

International Housekeeping Week is a global hospitality event that recognizes some of the hardest workers in the industry.

Bed making speed and neatness are considered to determine first, second and third place winners.

The 2015 winners are, in first place: Yessenia Aguirre, Hampton Inn Broken Arrow; second place: Abigail Kellam, Doubletree Hotel Downtown Tulsa; third place: Angie Salvador, Hilton Garden Inn Tulsa Airport/Promise Hotels.



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U.S. Secretary of the Navy Visits Tulsa for Formal Naming of Littoral Combat Ship

The U.S. Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, was in Tulsa Sept. 15 to announce the naming of its newest Littoral Combat Ship during a ceremony at the VFW Post.

The Navy is naming its newest Independence-class combat ship the U.S.S. Tulsa. As part of U.S. Navy tradition, the ship has a sponsor, former Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor, who is sponsoring the new U.S.S. Tulsa in honor of her late father, Chief Signalman James Taylor. Chief Taylor served on the U.S.S. Bollinger during World War II.

Taylor's sponsorship also honors William Lobeck, Sr., the father of Taylor's husband. Lobeck trained

thousands of industrial workers in aviation mechanics during World War II for the U.S. Naval Station in Norfolk, Virginia.

Kathy Taylor was joined by current Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett and former mayors Bob LaFortune, Bill LaFortune and Susan Savage at the ceremony.

The Navy says the U.S.S. Tulsa is currently in the pre-production phase of development. This will be the second U.S. Navy ship named the U.S.S. Tulsa. The first was launched in 1922 and served with distinction during World War II. In December 1944, she was renamed Tacloban to free the name Tulsa for use on a new ship, but the war

ended before the new ship's keel was ever laid. The original U.S.S. Tulsa was scrapped in 1946.

Individuals in the photo, from left, are Retired Major General Myles Deering, United States Army, and Oklahoma's Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs; Former Mayor and Tulsa County Judge Bill LaFortune; former Mayor Kathy Taylor and U.S.S. Tulsa Ship Sponsor; U.S. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus; Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett, Jr.; Former Mayor and Secretary of State Susan Savage; and Former Mayor Robert LaFortune.



Photo by ACE CUERVO

Spirit AeroSystems Makes United Way Contribution

The Tulsa Area United Way has received a \$30,000 corporate grant from Spirit AeroSystems to help kick off its 2015 campaign for the community.

"We are grateful for this generous commitment from Spirit AeroSystems to help make this community a better place to live," says Mark Graham, president and CEO of the Tulsa Area United Way.

The announcement was made recently at the company's offices in Tulsa.

"Spirit has a long history of partnering with United Way," says Bill Brown, senior vice president/general manager of Spirit AeroSystems' Oklahoma operations. "We know United Way has the right people in place to work with agencies and have a direct impact in our community."

The Tulsa Area United Way's

annual campaign for the community officially kicked off Sept. 4 at the Crosstown Showdown, the football rivalry between Owasso and Broken Arrow high schools. The goal of the annual campaign was revealed during halftime of the game.

The campaign culminates on Nov. 12 at the "Unite!" celebration, to be held this year at the Helmerich Advanced Research Center at Gilcrease Museum. The public is invited as the local United Way announces the success of its annual campaign.

Spirit AeroSystems, with headquarters in Wichita, Kansas, is one of the world's largest non-OEM designers and manufacturers of aerostructures for commercial aircraft. Spirit has locations in the U.S., the U.K., France and Malaysia. In the U.S.,

Spirit's core products include fuselages, pylons, nacelles and wing components. Spirit Europe produces wing components for a host of customers, including Airbus. Additionally, Spirit provides aftermarket customer support and services, including maintenance/repair/overhaul, spare parts and fleet support services in North America, Europe and Asia.

The Tulsa Area United Way works to advance the common good by focusing on the three building blocks of a better quality of life: education, health/safety and financial stability. TAUW serves more than 500,000 people annually through its 60 partner agencies in a six-county region.

For more information, or to contribute to the campaign, visit www.tauw.org.



Courtesy Tulsa Area United Way

EARLY CONTRIBUTORS: Bill Brown, left, and Martha Webb-Jones, both with Spirit AeroSystems, and Mark Graham, president and CEO of the Tulsa Area United Way, display the significant donation to this year's TAUW campaign.



GRK Newspapers photos

POWER OF A NICKEL: The Power of a Nickel was started by Dr. Stanley Grogg and his wife Barbara. It raises funds to provide scholarship money for licensed physicians, medical students, other health care providers and helpers to travel to underprivileged countries and help those who may not have access to medical care. The photo was taken at the Awareness Campaign and annual BBQ Sept. 18. The Groggs are fourth and fifth from the right. The students are from the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine.



VISION FOR CHILDREN: The annual Vision for Children Charitable Foundation fundraiser was held Sept. 19 at Whispering Vines Winery. From left are Event Coordinator Kay Long, foundation founders Dr. Tom Vanderpool and Susan Vanderpool, and the Vanderpool's son Max, proudly wearing his Bahamian flag shirt. The Vanderpools raise funds to provide eye glasses to children in Bimini, an island in the Bahamas.

Our future is guided by the choices we make today. While the road ahead will not be an easy one, we will continue on. It will take determination, and courage to traverse, but the American energy industry will be a beacon along that road. It will power us through.

BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES



Courtesy AWC

RUSTIC CUFF AT AWC: *The Association for Women in Communications* welcomed Tulsa entrepreneur and Rustic Cuff founder Jill Donovan, center, for its monthly luncheon program Sept. 2 at Philbrook Museum. Donovan's jewelry company has experienced substantial growth since its birth in 2011 and is known locally for giving back to the community. Also pictured are Emily Bolusky, AWC immediate past-president, and Nicole Burgin, AWC program co-chair.



Courtesy Big Elk Energy Systems

BIG ELK EXPANSION: *Tulsa-based Big Elk Energy Systems, LLC, a manufacturer of oil and gas pipeline equipment, recently moved into a 140,000 square foot, 12-acre complex in Tulsa and has added more than 40 jobs, with more jobs to be added in the coming months. Big Elk has invested more than \$7 million in infrastructure; the company expects a total employment increase of 340 over the next three to five years.*

Stinnett & Associates, a professional advisory firm, continues hiring to accommodate continued growth in the greater Tulsa area.

John Points has joined the firm as a manager. He has more than 30 years of experience in natural gas operations, project development, contract administration, and the sale and distribution of natural gas production and LP-gas products. Points holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Rice University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Tulsa.

Carolyn Brooks has joined the firm as a manager from her previous long-term contracting role with Stinnett & Associates. Brooks has more than 25 years of experience in accounting, internal audit and operations in various management roles. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Wichita State University.

Drew Haynes has joined the firm as a senior associate. He has five years of public accounting experience with a focus on Sarbanes-Oxley internal control compliance. Haynes is a graduate of Oral Roberts University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

Cameron Walker has been named executive director of **Habitat for Humanity**. Walker brings nearly 15 years of business development, marketing and non profit management experience to his new role. He graduated from Oklahoma State University with a bachelor's degree in journalism and broadcasting and currently resides in Tulsa with his family. Walker serves on the board of directors of Tulsa International Mayfest and is a member of Crossover Bible Church. For more information about Tulsa Habitat for Humanity, visit www.tulsahabitat.org.

The First National Bank of Broken Arrow has been notified by the Oklahoma Bankers Association that Credit Analyst **James Bailey** has been selected as an Honors Graduate from the 2015 Commercial Lending School. This award is based on classroom performance, student votes and test scores.

Randy Corp, Chairman of the Commercial Lending School's Board, presented Bailey his award. As part of the Honors Graduate Program, Bailey is being asked to serve as an advisory member of the 2016 Commercial Lending School Board of Regents.

A native of Bartlesville, Bailey earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Oklahoma State University. He joined First National of Broken Arrow last year. Before that, he served as a consultant with RDK & Associates and as a credit analyst at RCB Bank.



POINTS



BROOKS



HAYNES



WALKER



BAILEY

RL Hudson & Company, a Broken Arrow-based designer and supplier of engineered rubber and plastic components, has named **Richard Von Drehle** as its new president. He has been serving as an executive consultant to the company for the past several months. Von Drehle replaces company founder Rick Hudson, who previously held the title of president and CEO.

Over the past 25 years, Von Drehle has led several global manufacturing companies. Most recently, he was CEO of Clear Edge Filtration, a manufacturer and supplier of industrial filtration products, based in Tulsa.

Dr. Brett Campbell, currently provost at **Tulsa Community College's** Southeast Campus, has been named vice president for workforce development and provost. Campbell will assess workforce needs in Tulsa County and collaborate with area employers and workforce agencies to establish training programs and academic curriculum to prepare TCC students for future employment opportunities. He will also provide curriculum oversight and training development with program reviews, community advisory committees, and continuous analysis of workforce programs college-wide. Campbell will also serve as the principle liaison with local, state, and national workforce boards and professional organizations.

Campbell has been with TCC for 12 years serving as provost at Southeast Campus and associate vice president for student affairs. He previously served as associate vice president for student affairs/dean of students at Rogers State University. Campbell earned a Doctor of Higher Education Leadership from Oklahoma State University, a Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction from OSU, and a Bachelor of Arts in History from University of Oklahoma.

GableGotwals shareholder **Lloyd W. Landreth** was recently named to the 2016 Edition of Best Lawyers, the oldest and most-respected peer-review publication in the legal profession.

Landreth earned his bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University in 1981 and his Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado School of Law in 1986. Landreth, who was recognized for his work in Litigation-Environmental and Natural Resources Law, has practiced exclusively in the environmental regulatory and litigation area since 1986.

Lawyers on the Best Lawyers in America list are divided by geographic region and practice areas. They are reviewed by their peers on the basis of professional expertise and undergo an authentication process to make sure they are in current practice and in good standing. Best Lawyers has published its list for more than three decades.

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



VON DREHLE



CAMPBELL



LANDRETH

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) welcomes **Jane Dunbar, CFRE**, as executive director for the Oklahoma Area. Dunbar will lead volunteers and staff in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa offices in their efforts to move the mission of the American Diabetes Association forward to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

Dunbar previously served as the director of development and community relations for Habitat for Humanity in Tulsa where she was responsible for corporate development and special events, soliciting and receiving corporate gifts of more than \$100,000 to support building projects. Dunbar is well known in the fundraising community, having served in leadership roles for the local chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Nearly 30 million Americans are affected by diabetes, including 14 percent of Oklahomans. The Oklahoma area office of the American Diabetes Association has made an impact in the lives of people with diabetes with programs such as Living with Diabetes to guide those who are new to diabetes, Family Link to help families get the resources and support they need, and local advocacy efforts to protect the rights of children and adults with diabetes. Education and program delivery are made possible through a number of annual fundraising events: Tour de Cure, Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes and Concours for the Cure.

For more information visit diabetes.org. Information from both of these sources is available in English and Spanish.

Stephanie Pollard has recently joined **Edward Jones** as a financial advisor in Broken Arrow. "I entered the financial services industry because I like helping people work toward achieving their long-term financial goals," Pollard says. "Building relationships with my clients and in my community is key."

Edward Jones financial advisors meet face-to-face with clients to build strong relationships.

"And we do so by offering excellent client service through our convenient branch locations in the communities where our clients live and work," says Pollard.

Pollard is a member of the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce.

Pollard received a J.D. from the University of Tulsa College of Law and was a practicing attorney from 2002 until joining Edward Jones.

Edward Jones, a Fortune 500 company, provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and, through its affiliate, in Canada. The Edward Jones website is located at www.edwardjones.com, and its recruiting website is www.careers.edwardjones.com.



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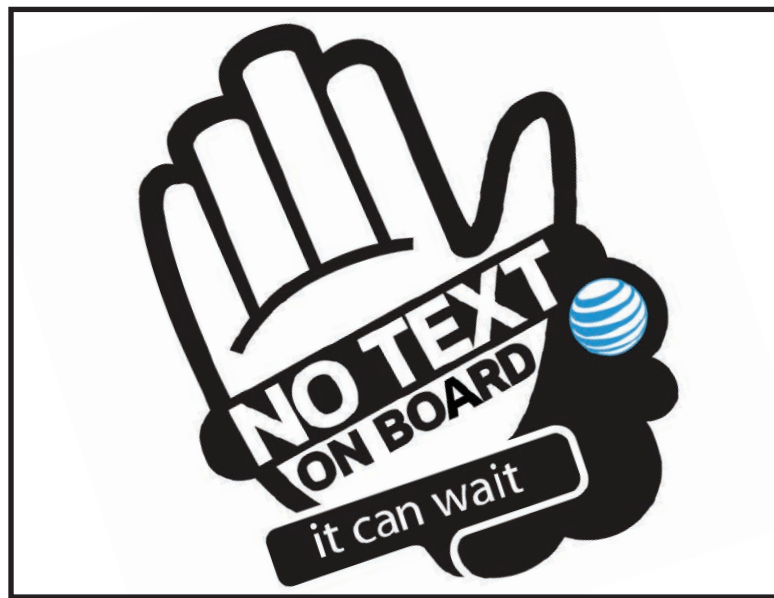
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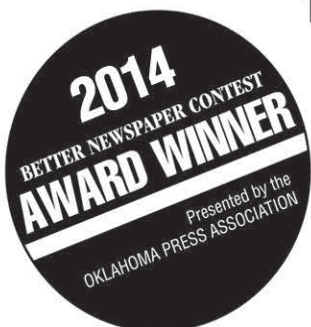


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In the Know: What Recycles and Where Does It Go

Author's note: This is the first in a series of looking at odd products that we wind up with, and how to reduce, reuse or recycle them in our area.

Now that Oklahomans are in the know about how easily stuff can be recycled, it's understandable that Tulsa's curbside bins are full of product that cannot be recycled by our service provider, Mr. Murph.

Once you start identifying recyclable items, it seems possible for everything, and why not? Mainly because we as a community did not start out realizing we needed a full-circle plan for our products and packaging right away. Honestly, I didn't realize as a teen the importance of sunscreen until now, either, but I digress.

Over the next few months, we will explore the possibilities of recycling for our stuff so get ready to respond. Collaboration will unlock the educational door to recycling ease in our community.

Easy Inspiration

It was "Recycle Michael" Patton, speaking at Tulsa Master Recyclers Association class on behalf of The M.E.T in 2006, who exclaimed, "I do not care about losing money if it saves one more

battery from our waste stream. Crushed batteries and lighters leach toxic chemicals, contaminating our groundwater whether they're in a 'safe' landfill or not. They must be properly contained."

That statement inspired me to turn my pretty vases into a tiny collection site for lighters and batteries, and I have since added wine corks and beer bottle tops. When full, I deliver batteries and lighters to any M.E.T. location, corks get delivered to my father-in-law for his wood/cork kitchen creations.

The bottle caps go to either my friend making bottle cap counter tops, or my curbside bin recycler – they're made from aluminum, after all. I wonder what your personal tiny container collection will hold. Send in your photos to bethturner@me.com or tweet them @TrashTalkTulsa.

A Cap on Art

After taking a gander at Keep Oklahoma Beautiful's latest recycling campaign, I am again inspired to add another vase for plastic bottle caps.

Between the dates of Oct. 19-26, you can go online to vote for your favorite 5th-grader's art project made from plastic bottle caps. Log on to Facebook, "like" their page,

Keep Oklahoma Beautiful, and post your opinions for a good cause.

Not only will you get to peruse some amazing 3-D creations from around our great state, your choices will determine which students get a free pizza party. Don't worry, it isn't all fun and games. Those who submitted art also submitted essays describing what they learned about litter through their artistic process.

So, the next time I get a vase full of plastic caps, I'll throw them in a laundry garment bag to run them through the washing machine before delivery to an elementary school art class or Tulsa Children's Museum.

Sensible Conferences

Want your kitchen scraps to become their weight in gold-like soil? Already have and want to rank it against other compost piles in the state? Attend this year's Oklahoma Compost Conference: "Compost Makes Sense." It will be held Oct. 28 at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds in Norman. If cost is an issue, you can submit your request for a waiver. Learn more by emailing terry@fertile-groundokc.com.

Oklahoma Recycling Association, or OKRA, will host another great conference on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at the OU Schusterman Center in Tulsa. This year features keynote speaker Scott Cassel from the Product Stewardship Institute. Learn more about helping our businesses create full-circle plans for products and packaging. Register online at recycleok.org.

Your Two Cents

Okay, Trash Talk community, weigh in with your two cents' worth

Trash Talk



By BETH TURNER
Tulsa Master Recyclers Association



BETH TURNER for GTR Newspapers
VASE SPACE: From the left, beer bottle caps are made from aluminum and can be recycled, lighters and batteries can be taken to any M.E.T. location, and corks make great craft creations, or can be composted. Notice the crushed batteries in the photo – just two of the many I've picked up while walking the dogs along the streets of Tulsa.



BETH TURNER for GTR Newspapers
IN THE KNOW: Next month we will explore solutions for what to do with the items pictured now that their original job is done: a Whirlpool water filter, dust mask, battery powered thermostat, an electronic doorbell, an old thermostat and an electrical fuse.

of savings. Send in your money-saving/earth-saving upcycle/recycle ideas, especially in regards to next month's photo. Take a gander, then write in your opinion on the best

way to handle it after its intended purpose is done. To submit your ideas, tweet @TrashTalkTulsa or Email btturner@gtrnews.com, header Two Cents.

Castle of Muskogee Halloween Festival Opens Oct. 2

New attractions are coming to the Halloween Festival at the Castle of Muskogee, 3400 W. Fern Mountain Rd. in Muskogee.

Visitors can enjoy eleven Halloween events at the 60-acre Halloween Theme Park.

New this year is Portal to the Dead: ancient hieroglyphics led modern scientists to create "portals" to allow individuals to see the spirits of the dead. However, what if they are able to come through the portal into the human world?

Introduced in 2013, the 10,000-square-foot Dark Castle Zombie Hunt allows participants to kill zombies using a weapon with special "Zombie Bullets" while they search for survivors of the raging Zombie wars.

Patrons can walk through the woods on the Trail of Blood, where

the lost souls of those who have gone before will guide them. The Torture Chamber shows what really happened in medieval times in the depths of the dungeons; Casa Morte offers mystery and fear in a labyrinth within the 12th-century castle; Domus Horrificus takes individuals to the areas where their favorite horror monsters dwell; the brave ones willing to enter the Ultimate Maze may struggle to find their way out.

For those with faint hearts, there is the Haunted Hayride, taking riders through the Halloween Festival grounds; the Enchanted Boardwalk, filled with Halloween inflatables; and live entertainment on the Chessboard Stage with the Magic of Matthew VanZee, The Escapologist and the comedy of the Jester Rejects.

For children eight years old and under, the Halloween Festival hosts Halloween Land, an old-fashioned carnival of kid-friendly games, face painting and prizes with no scares. The Halloween Village is the place where everyone experiences the very best of Halloween, including ghost stories, dancing, food and drinks, games, and bounce houses. Admission is free.

The Halloween Festival is open 6 p.m.-10, Oct. 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, 30-31. Halloween Land closes at 9 p.m.

On Friday, Oct. 9, there will be a canned food drive benefiting the Muskogee Cooperative Ministries Food Pantry. For every canned food item individuals bring to the Castle, they will receive 50 percent off one ticket.

Parking and admission to the



THE CASTLE OF MUSKOGEE

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combo specials available. Advance tickets may be purchased online at okcastle.com.

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TULSA FASHION WEEK A GLAMOROUS SUCCESS



KICK-OFF RECEPTION: *Tulsa Fashion Week* began with a Sept. 15 Kick-off Reception at Jackie Cooper Imports. From left are Stacy Rippy, Jackie Cooper Imports Porsche and Maserati Sales Manager Nizar Khaled and his wife Anderle Khaled, and host Greg Kach with Jackie Cooper Imports.



MISS USA AND FRIEND: *Miss USA* Olivia Jordan with Hollywood designer Alexis Monsanto on the runway for the TFW finale at the Cox Business Center.



GREETING GUESTS: Models Ismir Reynoso Pena, Emily Cooper and Bailey Thomas greeted guests at the TFW Kick-off Reception. The popular inaugural *Tulsa Fashion Week* put Tulsa on the fashion map. Events featuring local, regional and national designers were held around Tulsa Sept. 15-19 at different venues, including Utica Square and the Mayo Hotel.

Philbrook Hosts 4th Annual Craft Cocktail Contest

Philbrook Young Masters Society hosted Mix 2015 at Cain's Ballroom on Sept. 15. The annual event includes music, mixology, food, and live art and benefits the Museum. Sixteen of the hottest bartenders from across the region competed to be named the best "MIX-ologist." Event co-chairs Jillian and Will Ihloff were happy with the capacity crowd.

Created in 2012 by the Philbrook Young Masters Society, a group of donors under the age 40, MIX draws attention and energy to Philbrook Downtown, a satellite space that opened in 2013.

To date MIX has brought over \$150,000 to Philbrook, while introducing dozens of couples to

the Philbrook Young Masters Society, an active group of Members under the age of 45 interested in promoting arts and culture through Philbrook.

Rooted in the beauty and architecture of an historic home gifted by the Phillips family over 75 years ago, Philbrook Museum of Art has grown to become one of the preeminent 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, and growing modern and contemporary collections.



RHONE RANGER: *Dustin Saied of Rhone Ranger* was popular at Mix 2015 with his Rhone Ranger cocktail.



IMPRESSIVE MIXERS: *Philbrook's Mix 2015* was a success with the leadership of Chairs Will Ihloff, left, Jillian Ihloff and Philbrook Director Rand Suffolk.

Dress for Success Steps Up

Dress for Success Tulsa announces its annual fashion show and auction, "Step Up To Success" for Friday, Oct. 9 at The Greenwood Cultural Center, 322 N. Greenwood in Tulsa. Doors open at 6 p.m. with a silent auction, cocktails and dinner, which includes a wide array of food selections presented by Chef Mark Michalski and Tulsa-area restaurants. Jarrid Horton Creative will be coordinating a masquerade party, patrons are welcome to participate or wear business dressy attire to the event.

Chera Kimiko, anchor from KOTV-Tulsa CW, will be the evening's emcee. Executive men and women representing Tulsa-area businesses will be modeling the latest fashions and accessories from Dillard's in Woodland Hills Mall, with hair styling by Kim Freeman with Ihloff Salon and makeup artistry courtesy of Lancôme. In addition, several Dress for Success Tulsa clients will take the runway this year compliments of fashions



PLANNING TEAM: *Ready for another success Dress for Success Event* are, from left, President Katherine Skorvaga, Executive Director Ronda Adkisson and Advisory Board Member Pat Simmons.

by local designers Enmanuel Durant, Kenya Carter and Clary Sage.

Fashion show models for this year include: Dixie Agostino -

Switchgear Search & Recruiting; Angela Buchanan - Melton Truck Lines; Nick Breese - Nikco; Tara Claxton - AcctKnowledge; Robert Franklin - Tulsa Tech; Ryan McDaniel - Commerce Bank; Hayley Rose - ONEOK; Kyle Smith - Workforce Tulsa; and Michelle Thomas - TD Williamson.

Jill Donovan, founder and CEO of Rustic Cuff, will serve as the keynote speaker for the event.

Some of the corporate sponsors for the 2015 event include: Simmons Homes, Executives Title & Escrow, TD Williamson, ONEOK, Nikco, First Oklahoma Bank, Reddy Pipe, Grant Thornton LLP, The AMC-Swift Team, Switchgear Search & Recruiting, Commerce Bank, Verizon Wireless and Walmart Stores, Inc.

For more information regarding Dress for Success Tulsa, contact Ronda Adkisson, executive director, at 918-599-8892 or email to Tulsa@dressforsuccess.org.



CHUY'S IN TULSA HILLS: *Chuy's Tex-Mex* opened at the Walk in Tulsa Hills Sept. 14 with a Charity Night event benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma. Hosting the event are, from left, Chase Mowery, Big Brothers Big Sisters recruiter; Dustin Simon, Chuy's area supervisor; Janet Walker, Big Brothers Big Sisters regional resource director; and Matt Couch, Chuy's Tulsa Hills location owner and operator.

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Tulsa's Spotlight Theatre Holds onto Its History

An interesting building occupies the property at 1381 Riverside Dr. in Tulsa. It's interesting in the way it nestles into the hillside as if it always belonged there. It's interesting because its front is dominated by a large 14-foot-diameter circular glass window.

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

And finally, it's interesting because it is slightly run down in the way of old buildings with long deferred maintenance. Originally called Riverside Studio, this building is the Spotlight Theatre.

The Spotlight Theatre's history is also an interesting tale to tell. In 1928, the well-known architect Bruce Goff, who was then a young staff member with the prominent Tulsa architectural firm of

for his piano teacher, Patti Adams Shriner. The design featured a large recital hall, eight practice rooms and, at the rear, a residence for the owner. Among Shriner's students would be Rosalie Talbot and Patti Johnson Wilson, both whom later were instrumental in the creation and support of the arts in Tulsa. Although usually included in the list of important local Art Deco structures, I relate the design more to the currently popular moniker of Mid-Century Modern or the International Style.

In 1929, Shriner opened her studio. It included an exterior fountain by Alfonso lanelli and vibrant murals in the recital hall by Olinka Hrdy. Both artists were friends of Goff. There was apparently a strong



LOCAL LANDMARK: Tulsa architect Bruce Goff designed Spotlight Theatre, 1381 Riverside Dr., as a recital hall for his piano teacher. It was built in 1929. In 1962, it was sold to its current owners, the Tulsa Spotlighters, a nonprofit organization that puts on weekly performances of "The Drunkard" and "The Olio."

argument between Hrdy and Shriner; Shriner wanted the abstract, cubist murals to be subdued in color; however, Hrdy won as the final colors were extremely brilliant.

Shriner gave up her studio in 1933, and in 1939, similar to many properties during those depression years, a Tulsa bank took possession. For a few years, the building passed through the hands of various financial institutions until 1941 when it was purchased by Richard Mansfield Dickinson.

Dickinson was a leading theater figure in Tulsa in the post-World War II years. He was a mentor to Jennifer Jones, who became an Academy Award winning actress, but his key role in our story was his adaptation of the Victorian Melodrama "Ten Nights in a Bar Room," which we know today as "The Drunkard."

Dickinson loved the Spotlight

Theatre. He lived in the residence to the rear and converted the recital hall to a theatre for the performances of "The Drunkard." The play was first performed in 1953. In 1962, he sold the building to the Spotlighters for approximately \$40,000 (much less than other offers he received). Thus, the nonprofit Tulsa Spotlight Theatre was born. In 1978, the building's mortgage was paid in full.

Today, Tulsa Spotlighters Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation run by an eight-member board with a part-time office manager and a part-time cast scheduler. The organization sponsors "The Drunkard" and "The Olio," performed Saturday evenings by volunteer actors, and Spotlight Children's Theatre, performed Friday nights with Saturday and Sunday matinees. The facility is also occasionally used for special concerts and events during the week.

The building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is in definite need of repair and maintenance. The fountain and the recital hall murals are long gone with little to no record of their original design available. The light green Japanese wood veneer wall covering, the aluminum ceilings and the fireplaces of black glass and green marble are also long gone. Access to roof terraces overlooking the Arkansas River is questionable. Mechanical equipment and electrical wiring are marginal. The stucco skin on the perimeter clay tile walls is failing in many areas.

What remains is a tribute to Goff's ability; the proportions and massing of the building and the subtle way that musical notes are represented in a theme of narrow rectangular stair-stepping windows. Even the missing fountain and murals were said to be done with a musical theme.

The Tulsa Spotlighters are mounting an earnest drive to restore the building and are actively pursuing grants. They have a goal of \$3.2 million with \$900,000 of that earmarked for a maintenance endowment fund. Those interested in helping should contact www.spotlighttheatre.org.

Finally, if you have never seen "The Drunkard," you are missing one of Tulsa's most original entertainments.

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Camp Fire Develops Life Skills, Confidence

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

When Renee Meek first began working for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma, it was mainly because she needed a job.

"Sometimes a person takes a job but may not see it as their life work, but then you stay because that mission gets to your soul," she says.

Meek, a Jenks graduate, worked with Big Brothers Big Sisters for almost nine years, most recently serving as chief development officer before accepting the role of executive director of Camp Fire Green Country in July.

"It's hard to leave a position like that (with Big Brothers Big Sisters) because you never feel like you've fully completed your job," she says, "because there are always kids who need those opportunities for mentoring and new experiences."

However, the mentoring missions of both Big Brothers Big Sisters and Camp Fire made the transition a bit easier, she continues. While Big Brothers Big Sisters focuses on one-to-one mentoring, Camp Fire is group mentoring.

"So, missionwise, the transition felt fluid, and in my new role, I have the opportunity to continue serving kids in the Tulsa area."

One way Meek plans to do that is by increasing public awareness.

"I would like to see Camp Fire at the top of the list for mentoring, that people know this opportunity is available for all kids in northeast Oklahoma, that we're a high quality small mentoring group."

Meek also wants to remind the community that Camp Fire includes both boys and girls, something the public sometimes forgets.

While the original Camp Fire organization, which began in 1910 in Vermont, served only girls, in 1975, the organization became co-ed.

Camp Fire consists mainly of two programs: weeklong summer camps and weekly clubs, which are small groups of approximately 10 children who meet with a group leader: either a community volunteer or a Camp Fire employee, who uses Camp Fire curriculum to lead various activities that are often determined by the children's interests, such as the outdoors, STEM, building construction, and health and fitness.

"Our activities revolve around finding children's passions," says Meek. "We help to show them, if this is an activity you like, there's an education path you can go down."

All children from pre-K to 12th grade can participate in Camp Fire. Groups meet at partner locations like local churches and schools, including a number of Tulsa Public Schools and Union Public Schools sites.

Annual membership fees are kept low and financial aid, in the form of scholarships, is available to allow any interested child to join. "We have always intentionally served low-income children because they are the ones who typically have less access to these opportunities," Meek says.

However, Camp Fire is open to all children with the aim to positively affect all children of varying backgrounds and experiences, with a focus on inclusivity.

"We're not for a certain type of kid. We welcome all children, including ones with disabilities and kids in the LGBT community," Meek says.



Courtesy Camp Fire

SMALL GROUP MENTORING: Children participate in a Camp Fire Club activity. Camp Fire Clubs are small groups of approximately 10 children who meet weekly with a group leader, either a community volunteer or a Camp Fire employee, who uses Camp Fire curriculum to lead various activities that are often determined by the children's interests, such as the outdoors, STEM, building construction, and health and fitness.

Children have an opportunity to interact with a larger group of young ones at Camp Fire's summer camps, where the main goal is to pull children out of their comfort zones.

Activities include camping, hiking, fire building, swimming, kayaking, archery and rock climbing.

Yet, behind all of these activities lies life lessons, says Meek. "You see kids learning social skills, gaining confidence, cheering each other on, group camaraderie and inclusion."

"We want to show them that meeting new people is an opportunity to learn the value in someone different than you."

At a recent summer camp, a young girl with a physical challenge overcame her fears to kayak for the first time. What made her do it?

"The children with her at camp cheered her on and gave her the confidence to try it," says Meek. "Now, she has the confidence to try other new things."

At an after-school club, a student was continually becoming frustrated and angry over his inability to accomplish an activity. "The group leader just kept helping him to calm down, telling him to take a breath, walk away and come back," Meek says.

A couple weeks later, that group leader saw the same boy working on another activity and saw that the child would walk away and then return to the project.

"He had learned how to manage a project and accomplish it," Meek says. "That's huge because we're all going to face challenges in life so we need to learn to not give up."



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Renee Meek, executive director of Camp Fire Green Country, stands in the organization's Tulsa offices at 706 S. Boston Ave. Meek joined Camp Fire Green Country in July after spending almost nine years with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

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Calendar grid with columns for SUNDAY through SATURDAY. Each cell contains event details for a specific date, including event names, times, locations, and ticket information. Includes Central Bank of Oklahoma logos and advertisements.

Central Bank of Oklahoma advertisement. Features the slogan 'NEW NAME. SAME BANK.' and 'ONB Bank is now Central Bank of Oklahoma'. Includes branch addresses for Tulsa, Owasso, Sapulpa, Stillwater, and Edmond, along with the tagline 'Strong roots. Endless possibilities.' and the bank's logo.

REGIONAL NEWS

Great Raft Race Returns

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Tulsa's Great Raft Race, which ended in 1991, returned to the Arkansas River in September with much anticipation and fanfare, reminiscent of the popularity the race experienced in its heyday.

"There was always lots of excitement that surrounded the event each year," reminisces Leslie Johnson, whose father, Don Nelson, participated in the race for the event's first three years, 1973-1975. "People would literally grab anything: a board, styrofoam, to just be a part of the race and to float down the river. And thousands of people lined the banks to watch."

On Sept. 7, the banks of the Arkansas River, once again, saw spectators lining its banks to cheer on participants.

For Johnson, participating in the race this year was not just a no-brainer but an absolute must.

When her father participated, Johnson was too young to ride in his raft with him. "So when I heard they were bringing it back, I said, 'I'm doing it no matter what!'" she says.

And she did, along with about 900 others, many of them Tulsa natives who were excited to see the energy that surrounded the event and hopeful that this would finally prove what some people remain unwilling to admit – that Tulsa needs a steady flow of water in the river.

"We have this beautiful asset in our region that is never utilized," says Seth Erkenbeck, race director. He was among the members



Courtesy JESSE BOUDIETTE

BEAUTIFUL VIEW: Great Raft Race participant Jesse Boudiette took this photo of his view of the Tulsa skyline from the Arkansas River.

of Tulsa's Young Professionals (TYPros) involved in the conversation to bring the race back.

And Tulsans responded in droves.

"As soon as I heard about the race, I wanted to do it," says Jesse Boudiette, a Tulsa native who participated in this year's race. "The public's response to this event just proves beyond a doubt how eager people are to have water in the river."

While Boudiette expected Tulsans to embrace the return of the race, what he didn't expect was the view he had from the river. "For me the most unexpected discovery was seeing the skyline from that perspective," he says.

Participants were also treated to a widespread camaraderie on the water.

"From the beginning to the end of the race, there were no

strangers," Boudiette says. "There was a huge sense of community."

Organizers are currently planning for next year's event, barring any unforeseen weather events, such as a drought that could affect the amount of water released from Keystone Lake for the race.

And if everything goes well, next year, Tulsans can expect to see double the amount of participants on the river.

This year, we dealt with some unknowns, says Erkenbeck. Now that those questions have been answered, we can adjust the race accordingly.

And if recent feedback is any indication, organizers should be ready for even more public interest next year.

"Among all the participants, I heard, 'Okay, what are we doing next year?'" says Johnson. "I didn't hear anyone say they wouldn't participate again."

FOOD TRUCKS FIND A HOME IN PEARL DISTRICT



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

PARK IN THE PEARL: Joel Bein, left, and Josh Lynch, both co-owners of The Park in the Pearl, Tulsa's first food truck court, sit in the park, which opened Sept. 12 at 418 S. Peoria.

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Tulsa's first food truck court, The Park in the Pearl, opened Sept. 12 at 418 S. Peoria.

The park will feature three food trucks on weekdays with six or more trucks on the weekend.

"As the demand grows, we will add more trucks but we want each truck to leave at the end of each day with a nice profit," says Josh Lynch, owner of The Dog House food truck and park co-owner.

Joel Bein and Chris Wygle, both co-owners of Rub BBQ food truck, are park co-owners with Lynch.

Currently, about 23 trucks have signed up to be a part of the park. Trucks will rotate so that different options are available each day.

"We want different things for people each day and innovative dishes," Lynch says.

In order to encourage innovation, the park will recognize various food events such as national food days. On those days, food trucks must offer one dish that incorporates the specified food item, says Lynch. For instance, National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day: "it will be interesting to see the different dishes created by each food truck," says Lynch.

Park owners are in the process of obtaining a liquor license and plan to add a bar.

While Lynch and his partners had considered other locations for a food truck court previously, such as along Riverside, the park's western view sealed the deal. "Its the view of the downtown skyline that really sold us," says Bein.

Hours for The Park in the Pearl are Tuesday-Thursday 11 a.m. – 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. – midnight, Sunday 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

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