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# OWASSO RAMBLER

One of Six Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers

Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group

Volume 20

November 2017

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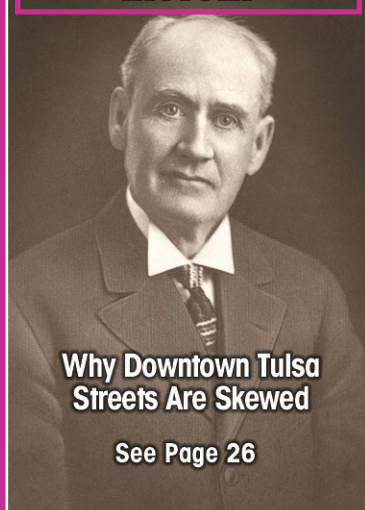
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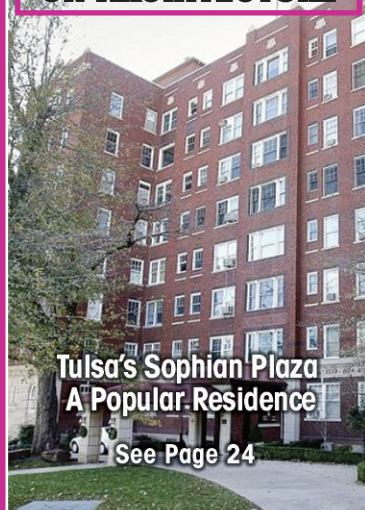
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## OWASSO SEES PROJECTS



BLAKE AUSTYN for Owasso Rambler

**STATE OF THE CITY:** Owasso City Manager Warren Lehr gives his State of the City Address at the Owasso Chamber of Commerce meeting in October. Lehr referenced the many street, commercial and quality of life projects taking place throughout the city.

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**  
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 27, the Owasso Chamber of Commerce hosted the annual State of the City Address, where City Manager Warren Lehr spoke about the city's recent economic growth as well as current and upcoming city projects.

Lehr credited Owasso residents for their approval of various funding methods over the recent years as reason for the projects.

"The city is seeing more projects than ever before," he said. "Once all of the projects are underway, the city will have over \$100 million in projects all going on at the same time."

In 2015, a half penny sales tax to fund public safety and streets was approved.

In April of last year, voters approved to recapture the expiring Vision sales tax—.55 percent—to fund two major road construction projects: the widening and signalization of 116th Street North between Highway 169 and Mingo Road and the addition of lanes on 96th Street North between 119th and 129th east avenues in order to ease congestion.

In addition, the Vision 2025 excess funds are being used for quality of life projects throughout the city.

Through the original Vision 2025 sales tax, the city of Owasso was

allocated to receive \$7 million. However, in September 2014, city officials were notified of an excess in Vision funds that would grant Owasso an additional \$6.9 million.

Through the excess Vision funds, many improvements are coming to the Sports Park, including road rehabilitation, improvements to the park's entrance and exit, and the addition of shade structures and lighting. Lehr also expects, in the future, construction of a south splash pad.

The McCarty Dog Park, Owasso's first dog park, was completed in September.

More than just being for dogs, though, "dog parks are really people parks," said Lehr. "They are a place for people to gather. They encourage community."

Improvements and utility relocation with an eye on downtown beautification have been taking place at 76th Street North and Main Street, which has slowed traffic, but Lehr expects the project to be close to completed by the start of the holiday shopping season.

Projects coming soon, Lehr said, include work on the Highway 169 service road near Rejoice Schools, including its extension from 106th to 116th streets north.

"That is a key arterial street, and this construction will help with safety," he said.

(Continued on page 28)

## LONG-TIME EDUCATOR, BOARD MEMBER TO RETIRE



EMILY RAMSEY for Owasso Rambler

**OWASSO LOYAL:** Retired educator and 15-year school board member Gail Ballinger stands with Owasso Superintendent Dr. Clark Ogilvie. Ballinger will retire from her school board position early next year. She taught for 18 years in the Owasso school district.

By **EMILY RAMSEY**  
Managing Editor

Gail Ballinger, a 30-year retired teacher and Owasso school board of education member for Ward 3, will retire from her school board position next year after 15 years.

Ballinger earned her elementary education degree from Northeastern State University but changed her major three times before choosing her teaching path.

Although she can't pinpoint when she knew that teaching was the right career choice, Ballinger does know how she caught the "travel bug," she says, which played a large role in forming her teaching technique.

Ballinger grew up in Venezuela due to her father's work in the oil industry, thus learning early on how to live and travel internationally.

She remembers traveling alone between South and North America in her early teens and, later, traveling with a friend to the Netherlands, crediting that trip as the excursion that set her on her lifelong path of exploration.

"After that trip, I made it a goal to take a trip somewhere every summer," she says.

And Ballinger has lived up to that plan.

Currently, she has visited 73

countries and territories. Her destinations have included the Galapagos Islands, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Turkey, Israel, Canada, Antarctica and Africa.

It was those experiences that she used to enrich her classroom instruction.

"I had so many adventures that I would share with my students," she says. "I would bring back costumes and candy from the countries that I visited."

Ballinger also credits one of her elementary school teachers as illustrating "the kind of teacher that I did not want to be," she notes, so "I strove to do the opposite of whatever she had done."

Ballinger made sure that her students felt the concern and interest that she had for children and her passion to help them learn.

She incorporated her travels into students' learning projects especially during her 18 years at Owasso Public Schools where she taught social studies.

As students studied different countries, Ballinger would come to class dressed in costumes and bring native foods for student sampling—spaghetti to represent Italy; sauerkraut, sausage and chocolate for Germany.

"I wanted to use all five senses to enrich students and their instruction and to encourage their (Continued on page 28)

## KUDOS: Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation

The year 2017 marks two decades of service to the Tulsa community for the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation.

Since 1997, LTFF has been working towards making Tulsa an innovative, collaborative and thriving city by focusing on entrepreneurship, innovation, and community engagement and, over that time, has committed more than \$20 million dollars to over 100 grantees.

LTFF recently celebrated its anniversary by announcing its \$5.5 million-dollar development of Mother Road Market, Tulsa's first food hall that will feature a mix of local food entrepreneurs, to be located on the corner of 11th Street and Lewis Avenue.

The LTFF program Kitchen 66, a program that helps to launch food entrepreneurs, will

expand into the Mother Road Market upon completion in late spring 2018. Currently, Kitchen 66 has served over 65 food entrepreneurs from over 10 different countries.

Also, to increase equal access to startup capital, LTFF brought internationally acclaimed "crowdfunding" platform Kiva to Tulsa in November. Kiva allows entrepreneurs to borrow up to \$10,000 with no interest and gives Tulsans the opportunity to lend in \$25 increments towards these crowd-sourced small business loans.

The Tulsa StartUp Series, which LTFF operates with support from OSU's Riata Center for Entrepreneurship, Cox Business and Cox Media, is celebrating its 10th year of giving local innovators a platform to pitch their ideas.



Courtesy LTFF

**TULSA SUPPORTERS:** Elizabeth Frame Ellison, CEO of LTFF, stands with her sons Taylor, left, and Wyatt Ellison and LTFF founders, former Mayor Kathy Taylor and Bill Lobeck.



# hillcrest

## Medical Center

Michelle B.

every moment is a gift.

Michelle was surprised to learn the small lump in her breast was cancerous and required a full mastectomy. Because of her diagnosis, she required another 20 weeks of chemotherapy treatment after her cancer spread to her lymph nodes. With the help of her Hillcrest team, she was able to keep a positive attitude. "Sometimes you just have to smile and make the best of it. There's a good reason it's called 'the present' - because life itself is a *present*." Cancer-free today, Michelle now volunteers at Hillcrest, sharing her remarkable story and encouraging others.

*To learn more about Michelle's life-changing experience with Hillcrest Medical Center, visit [Hillcrest.com](http://Hillcrest.com).*

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# Tulsa Press Club Names Headliners

The Tulsa Press Club has announced its 2017 Headliners – Bill and Kathy LaFortune.

They will be recognized at the 2017 Headliners Dinner, to be held Tuesday, Dec. 5 at the BOK Center. The reception begins at 6 p.m. with dinner following at 7 p.m.

This extraordinary couple embodies service to the community:

Bill LaFortune helped redefine Tulsa while serving as its 37th Mayor. He ushered in the redevelopment of Tulsa's downtown and the great revival of Tulsa's central business core.

During his tenure, he took on the role of consensus builder in working with elected officials, local governments, business leaders and neighborhood advocates to create a capital investment campaign known as Vision 2025, which was approved by voters in 2003. Those Vision 2025 projects, including the BOK Center, were the beginning of a bold new future and served as a catalyst for Tulsa's renaissance, spurring more than \$1 billion in private investment in downtown Tulsa.

As a member of Tulsa's legal community for more than 30 years, Bill has served as an Oklahoma Assistant Attorney General and Tulsa County District Attorney, in private practice and as a partner with the firm of Norman Wohlgemuth Chandler & Dowdell.

Entire generations of Tulsa families have been helped by the work of Kathy LaFortune. As a nationally-recognized forensic psychologist, she has given a voice to the Tulsa community's most at-risk populations, serving to help juveniles and individuals with severe mental illness. She is currently the Forensic Psychological Services Coordinator of the Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau and has served as Chief of Forensic Psychological Services for the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System. She has published articles on the competency to stand trial and child custody evaluations and has taught and spoke on these issues across the country as a noted expert in her field.

"This is a first for the Tulsa Press Club – honoring a husband and wife as Headliners," notes Melani Hamilton and Nicole Burgin, 2017 Headliners co-chairs. "Bill and Kathy LaFortune have worked to create a vibrant and healthier community for all Tulsans. Beginning with the vision of the redevelopment in downtown Tulsa and a sustained commitment to advocate for our troubled youth and mentally ill, these two individuals have shaped Tulsa for the better."

Since 1956, the Tulsa Press Club has honored Headliners – a group of outstanding Tulsa area civic, business, professional and industrial leaders whose unselfish contributions to the growth, prosperity and culture of Tulsa have made headlines.

Previous Headliners include Alan Armstrong, Dr. Keith Ballard, Henry Bellmon, David Boren, Chet Cadieux III, Sharon Daugherty, Sharon King Davis, Nancy Day, Becky J. Frank, Robert LaFortune, Wilma Mankiller, Elliot Nelson, Julius Pegues, Major Dan Rooney, former Mayor Kathy Taylor, Steve Turnbo, Steadman Upham and Michael Wallis.

The Tulsa Press Club will use a portion of event proceeds to fund scholarships for Oklahoma college journalism and communications students.

For more information about the 2017 Headliners event, sponsorships and tickets, email [kelly@tulsapressclub.org](mailto:kelly@tulsapressclub.org), call 918-583-7737 or visit [shop.tulsapressclub.org](http://shop.tulsapressclub.org).



**BILL AND KATHY LAFORTUNE:** Former Mayor Bill LaFortune and Kathy LaFortune will be honored on Dec. 5 as the Tulsa Press Club's 2017 Headliners. The event will be held at the BOK Center, with a reception beginning at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.

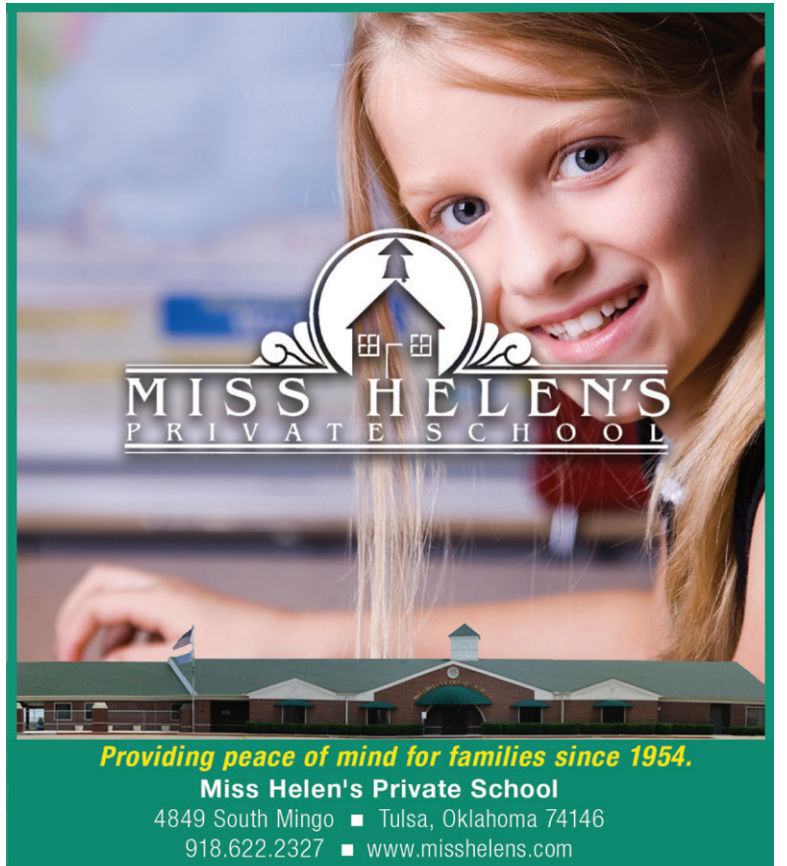


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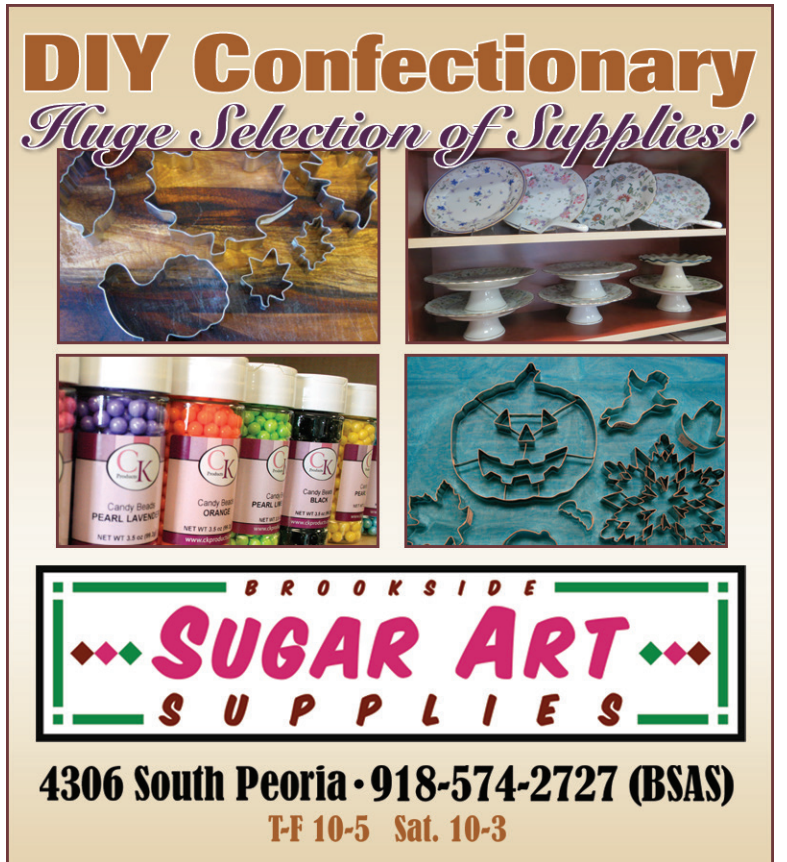
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The Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers consist of the *Union Boundary*, the *Jenks District Gazette*, the *Midtown Monitor*, the *Owasso Rambler*, the *Broken Arrow Express* and the *Bixby Breeze*. The papers target news coverage to school district areas. The papers also have common pages of information of interest to all readers in the Greater Tulsa area.

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

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





## CIVICS

# Gateways to Growth to Promote Immigrant Integration

## From Tulsa's Mayor

By G.T. BYNUM  
Mayor of Tulsa

As your Mayor, I recognize that Tulsa's greatest assets are our people. For the past few decades, a growing number of people from different countries are choosing to call Tulsa their home.

Trends show that immigrants have been a key part of Tulsa's economic and social growth. As Tulsa becomes a world-class city, I believe that immigrants are valuable members of our community who can help contribute to our city's overall success.

Recently, our city was selected as one of 25 Gateways for Growth Cities by the New American Economy (NAE) and Welcoming America. Our city has joined the ranks

of Chicago, Dallas, Des Moines, Little Rock and Memphis, among others. The Gateways for Growth Grant will allow us to utilize data to better understand our growing immigrant and refugee population here in Tulsa.

With the Gateways for Growth Grant, I also announced a new effort to promote immigrant integration in Tulsa. The New Tulsans Initiative, spearheaded by Christina Starzl Mendoza community development and policy assistant in the Mayor's Office, is a purposeful approach to promote the social inclusion of immigrants. Our partners in this new effort are the Schusterman Foundation, Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce, Tulsa County Health Department, Tulsa Area United Way and YWCA Tulsa.

This month, the City and the Tulsa Regional Chamber will host a "New Tulsans Summit," which

will bring local community organizations, businesses, nonprofits and residents together to help shape the direction of a strategic plan. We hope to have this fully developed within the coming year.

Immigrants are an important part of Tulsa's success and prosperity. Right now, Tulsa is fortunate to have more than 2,200 immigrant entrepreneurs who help sustain our economic growth. Immigrants from different parts of the world are choosing Tulsa to buy homes, raise their families, participate in our faith communities and be our neighbors. I believe it's crucial for our city to unite our diverse communities, engaging both native born and immigrant Tulsans to nurture healthy economic and social growth for everyone.

Many people know my family has been in Tulsa for a long time. However, I often think about my Irish ancestors coming here 100



GTR Newspapers photo

**DIVERSITY IN OKLAHOMA:** University of Oklahoma-Tulsa professor and former Tulsa Mayor Rodger Randle, lower left, hosts a series of discussions about diversity in Oklahoma. The session pictured above was held October 20 on the OU-Tulsa campus and was about the rise of the Hispanic/Latino community in Tulsa.

years ago and what it would have meant to them to have a city that welcomed them with compassion and included them to participate in the economic and political leadership of that city. Ultimately, my

desire is to let immigrants bring their best to our Tulsa – providing fresh perspectives, starting businesses, and contributing to the vibrant diversity that makes our city prosper.

# Tulsa County Elected Officials Working for Constituents

## From Tulsa County

By COMMISSIONER RON PETERS

Last month, all eight Tulsa County elected officials hosted a legislative luncheon for the State Representatives and Senators who represent some portion of Tulsa County.

This meeting was an opportunity for our elected officials holding state or county office's to discuss how they can work together to provide a more efficient and effective government to all Tulsa County residents.

During the meeting, County officials presented some of the issues and challenges they face that could be addressed with the passage of legislation in 2018. Here are some of the ideas that were presented.

Court Clerk Don Newberry believes it's

time to add members of our law enforcement to the list of those professions which are exempt from jury duty. As a practical matter, when a law enforcement officer is called for jury duty they are never selected to serve on a jury because of the perception they have a professional bias or personal knowledge of the facts of the case. This would be a savings for taxpayers, as these law enforcement officers are currently paid by the county to sit in the jury assembly room, paid by the city which employs them and often the city that employs the officer has to pay overtime to another officer to cover the shift of the officer who is summoned to jury duty.

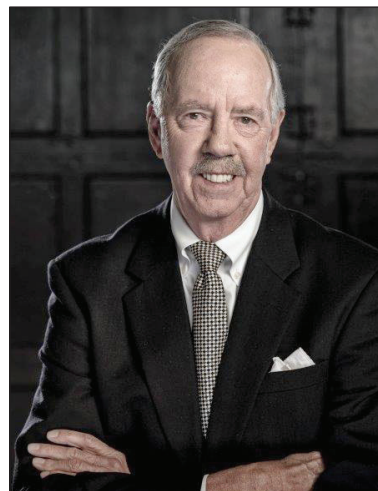
County Clerk Michael Willis supports a measure that would address how for-profit businesses receive land information, which they use in their business dealings. Currently, while these businesses do not have to pay for the right to access this information, they

do sell this information to their clients. In a sense, these businesses are acting like "records brokers" where they expect to collect it for free and then sell it for a profit. The County Clerk believes there should be a reasonable and fair cost assessed for access to these records.

County Purchasing Director Matney Ellis believes that the way current construction-at-risk contracts are awarded could cost the county millions of dollars and should be changed. Currently, when the County is preparing a major capital improvement project, a "Request for Qualifications" is issued. After several contracting companies reply to the request, the selection is based upon which contractor appears to be the most qualified to do the work. Consequently, the selection of the contractor is not based on competitive bidding, the best and lowest bid, which ensures the least cost to the taxpayers, but instead solely on their qualifications to do the work. When there are several well qualifying businesses it is common that they bid differing amounts to do the work. But the county never gets to compare their bids...only their qualifications. The legislative request is to allow the final selection to be based upon competitive bidding and not exclusively based on qualifications.

Sheriff Vic Regalado believes it's time for Oklahoma to make the possession of a stolen firearm a felony, not a misdemeanor as it currently is. People in possession of a stolen firearm are predictably up to no good and involved in patterns of criminal behavior. Between 2012 and 2016 in Oklahoma, over

35,000 firearms were reported stolen from private owners and over 500 from firearms dealers. Because most of these guns are valued at less than \$1,000, this is considered petty larceny, a misdemeanor that generally results in little or no jail time. The Sheriff wants to get tough on stolen firearms with stiffer penalties and consequences.



COMMISSIONER  
RON PETERS

Our Director of Social Services, Linda Johnson, believes it time to crack down on fake and forged prescriptions for controlled substances. Currently, these prescriptions are prepared by a physician on medical security paper, which is easily accessible to anyone through local office supply stores. With this paper, and the ability to use technology, individuals can prepare fake prescriptions for certain controlled drugs, which are a leading cause in the opioid crisis facing Oklahoma and the country. Legislators are being asked to consider mandatory E-prescribing for controlled substances where the physician no longer uses the medical security paper but rather electronically transmits the prescription to the pharmacy.

These ideas, and others, seemed to be well received by the legislators in attendance. Armed with firsthand information from county officials dealing with these issues on a daily basis, the legislators are now better informed on these issues and can consider how they can propose and/or support legislation to addresses these concerns.

With the 2018 Legislative session just 3 1/2 months away, this was a great beginning of a public servant partnership that can help every citizen in Tulsa County.

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# Kimberly Johnson Has Long-Time Love of Libraries

By EMILY RAMSEY  
Managing Editor

*Editor's Note: Tulsa City-County Library CEO Kimberly Johnson is one of Greater Tulsa Reporter's "10 People to Watch in 2017," as announced in its January 2017 issue. GTR was the first news group in Greater Tulsa to introduce "10 People to Watch," which launched in January 2009.*

*Look for a review of GTR's "10 People to Watch in 2017" in the December issue.*

As a self-proclaimed lifetime library user, it is only fitting that Kimberly Johnson would devote her professional life to improving a library system.

"The library has always played a special role in my life," she says.

Johnson, who assumed the helm as Tulsa City-County Library chief executive officer at the beginning of the year, has been with the Tulsa library system since 1998, when she was originally hired as coordinator of the African-American Resource Center at Rudisill Regional Library.

From there, she has held various positions, including library manager, regional director and chief operating officer. Johnson also oversaw the preparation and opening of Librarium.

"Librarium was a project that allowed us to test many of our ideas of ways to address the 21st-century library user," says Johnson, a New York native.

That quality of consistently looking at ways to further the library's effectiveness in meeting community needs, Johnson feels, summariz-

es her aim with the library and the goals of her staff, many of whom have been with the organization for decades, just like Johnson.

"Our staff is passionate about our communities; they want the right books in the hands of the right people," she says.

Johnson had an early experience during her school years with a librarian named Miss Sperling, who impacted her love of books.

"She was welcoming and challenged students to read at the next level," Johnson says.

"At the Tulsa City-County Library, I feel like I'm surrounded by Miss Sperlings."

Johnson's love of books led her to earn her bachelor's degree from the University of Tulsa in secondary education and English literature with her plan being to teach literature.

Although the library was not in her original plans, after reading the description for the job opening of coordinator of the African-American Resource Center at Rudisill Regional Library, a newly created position with the library system, she felt that the position lined up well with her skills and her educational background.

Regarding her professional goals, Johnson always knew that she would pursue a career that allowed her to serve.

"I do my job in service to others: what better place to do that than here at the library?" she says.

During her time as coordinator, Johnson created the historical All-Black Towns Bus Tour, which has continued to run every summer since 1999. The tour shines a light on Oklahoma's history as hav-

ing one of the highest number of all-black towns in the country between 1865 and 1915.

Once Johnson began with the library, "I felt like I had found my place," she says. "The library was a natural fit for me."

She later earned her master's degree from the University of Oklahoma in library and information studies.

Johnson's later jobs with the library put her in management roles, which allowed her to focus on more than serving solely the community but also library employees, she says.

Since Johnson took over as CEO in January, she has made it a goal to visit each library location within the library system.

She completed all of her visits earlier in the year and is currently on her second round.

"My visits allow me to see what our staff is dealing with and how we can improve," she says.

Also, in the past six months, library staff has hosted library systems from Frisco, Texas, and Washington, D.C.

Johnson credits the library's array of cutting-edge offerings as reason for the attention.

"Our library system is something that our customers can be proud of," she says. "We are a model system for the country because of our offerings."

Those offerings include maker spaces, digital literacy labs, audio labs, movies, music, books, spaces for community gatherings—"Think about the value of a library card, that all of these services are free with the card," says Johnson.



Courtesy photo

**LIBRARY LOYALIST:** Tulsa City-County Library CEO Kimberly Johnson assumed the leadership helm in January, replacing previous CEO Gary Shaffer. Johnson, a New York native, has worked for the Tulsa library system since 1998.

Additionally, the library remains connected with the local schools to provide books for them. The library system has been a part of Books to Treasure for 15 years, a program sponsored by the Zarrow Family Foundation that gives a book to each Tulsa-area second-grader followed by a visit and book signing by the book's author. During summer 2017, the library

saw 52,000 participants in its summer reading program.

"We are creating a more literate community," she says.

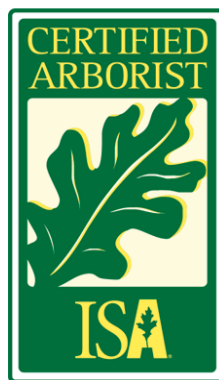
Another benefit of reading?

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**HONORING OUR VETERANS:** U.S. Veterans will be honored in Tulsa at the Veterans Day Parade that is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 10 to begin at 11 a.m. at 300 S. Boston Ave. Anticipated attendance is 15,000. GTR Publisher Forrest Cameron is a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, where he served in the Military Police.



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## VARIETY

# Holidays Launch with Arts and Entertainment

November in Tulsa is rich with entertainment. Celebrities, big-name bands and Grammy-winners galore can add variety to your holiday-time planning. And, if the fine arts and family-friendly events are more your style, look no more. Tulsa-area venues comprise a cornucopia of it all.

Tulsa Ballet performs the light-hearted "Don Quixote," Nov. 3-5 at the Tulsa PAC. Perfect for holiday-time, the ballet is a showcase of great dancing. Anna-Marie Holmes, the choreographer/former dancer who set the piece on Tulsa Ballet, is a world-renowned ballet master and an authority on Russian ballet. Also opening Nov. 3 and playing through Nov. 11 is Theatre Tulsa's "Amadeus." I'm looking forward to seeing Tulsa actor Will Carpenter as the Mozart's menacing competitor, Salieri, and the superb Cody McCoy as Mozart.

Chamber Music Tulsa presents the acclaimed Meccore Quartet, from Poland, Nov. 12, performing works by Haydn, Szymanowski and Schumann. The Sunday afternoon performance will be held in the PAC's Westby Pavilion. The Meccore has the distinction of performing their music while standing!

Do you remember Paul Anka? "Put Your Head of My Shoulder"? I associate Anka with that song but not with Frank Sinatra's "My Way," which Anka wrote. For his River Spirit Paradise Cove appearance, Nov. 3, he'll sing a range of

cover songs, all performed Anka's way.

Comic Dennis Miller entertains at the Cove that same weekend. 'What can I tell you?' You'll remember Miller best from "Saturday Night Live." Although he appeared to sway to the left in his "Weekend Update" segments, he is known to have neo-conservative political leanings these days. We'll see who he's making jokes about when he lands in Tulsa, Nov. 4.

Hey, hey it's the Monkees, Mickie Dolenz, Nov. 5 at Hard Rock's The Joint. Five decades have passed since the Monkees grabbed a piece of TV history. Dolenz was a childhood actor who learned to drum for his Monkees' role. Moreover, he was the voice behind the foursome's biggest tunes, like "Last Train to Clarksville." His act will combine Monkees' songs with other tunes linked to Dolenz's life story.

The BOK Center hosts three notable music events this month, beginning with Kris Kristofferson, Nov. 6. Did you know he is a Rhodes Scholar, an Army helicopter pilot, a Golden Globe winner and a former boyfriend to Janis Joplin? She and others sang his "Me and Bobby McGee." He wanted to be a novelist but became a songwriter, penning "Help Me Make It Through The Night," among many other hits.

Paradise Cove has more music with Kenny Loggins and Michael

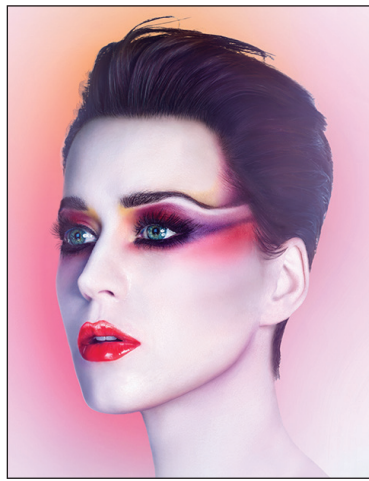
## Show Buzz



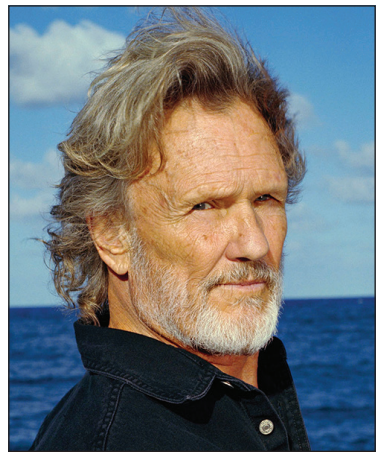
By NANCY HERMANN



**TULSA BALLET:** The light-hearted "Don Quixote" runs Nov. 3-5 at the Tulsa PAC.



**KATY PERRY:** The pop diva brings her "Witness: The Tour" to the BOK Center, Nov. 29.



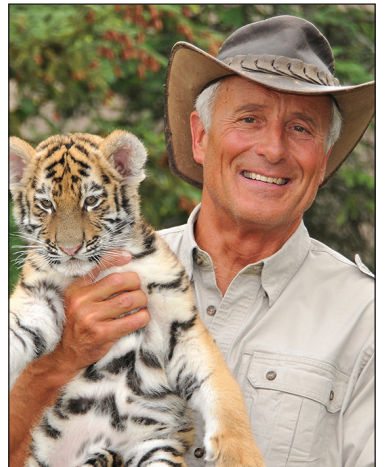
**KRIS KRISTOFFERSON:** The singer, songwriter and actor performs his hits songs at the BOK Center, Nov. 6.



**HOLIDAY CLASSIC:** Celebrity Attractions presents two performances of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" on Nov. 26 at the Tulsa PAC.



**CHAMBER MUSIC:** The Meccore Quartet performs their concerts standing up! They appear on Chamber Music Tulsa's concert series Nov. 12 at the Tulsa PAC.



**WILD LIFE:** It's a wild November at the Tulsa PAC with Jack Hanna's "Into the Wild Live!," Nov. 9, presented by Celebrity Attractions.

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McDonald, Nov. 9. They co-wrote the Grammy-winning "What a Fool Believes." McDonald sang with Steely Dan and then the Doobie Brothers. Aside from his years making music with Jim Messina, Loggins wrote "Footloose," "Danger Zone," "Angry Eyes," "I'm Alright," and "Your Mama Don't Dance." I expect this show will sell out. Also appearing at River Spirit are Oklahoma's Swon Brothers, Nov. 11, and the country music cross-over band Alabama, Nov. 17.

Family-time takes center stage in November on several fronts. "PJ Masks Live! Time to Be a Hero," Nov. 8 at the PAC, is a musical production based on the "PJ Masks" series airing on Disney Junior. It gets wilder at the PAC, Nov. 9, when Celebrity Attractions hosts Jack Hanna's "Into the Wild Live!" Hannah will tell stories of his adventures, share film footage, and bring live animals with him. Not recommended for the younger set is William Shatner's "Shatner's

World," Nov. 4 at the Broken Arrow PAC. What a career he's had! There are tales to tell in this engaging one-man show featuring Shatner in command once again.

The Grammy-winning American rock band Foo Fighters lands at the BOK Center, Nov. 15, and Katy Perry brings her Witness: The Tour to "rock the BOK" on Nov. 29. Perry is a mega-star, the first woman in U.S. history to have five number one hits on one album. She and Taylor Swift had a falling out, resulting in Swift's "Bad Blood" record and Perry's answer, "Swish, Swish," which you can hear on her "Witness" album. Look for Perry in a judge's chair on the 2018 revival of "American Idol."

Tulsa's Broadway presenter, Celebrity Attractions, keeps the PAC rocking and gleeful. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical" is slated for two shows on Nov. 26, and the long-awaited "Beautiful, The Carol King Musical" runs Nov. 28 through Dec. 3. King's songs express the heart of an era.

Everyone I knew owned her "Tap-stry" album in its day. This true-to-life musical tracks King's rise to fame, incorporating all her hits: "I Feel the Earth Move," "You've Got a Friend," (You Make me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," and so many others.

Entertainment for a range of interests and ages includes puppeteer Terry Fator at The Joint, Nov. 12; the Mabey Center presentation of "Moscow Ballet's 'Great Russian' Nutcracker," Nov. 24; and "Paw Patrol Live!" at the BOK Center, Nov. 25-26. "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, In Concert," at the PAC Nov. 18-19, features the complete Harry Potter film projected on a giant, high-definition screen while the Tulsa Symphony performs the film's score. We saw the film "Raiders of the Lost Ark" in this same format last year. The live music makes the action jump off the screen!

I hope you will enjoy this abundance of talent brought to our door. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

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# Red Dirt Music: A Farm-Raised Oklahoma Original

New Orleans has Dixieland. Seattle has Grunge. Stillwater has Red Dirt.

Literally and musically.

It's a genre that has gained popularity nationwide and even internationally, but Stillwater, Oklahoma, is its undisputed birthplace.

More specifically, a 160-acre farm a few miles east of Stillwater which, in the 1980s and 1990s became a creative mecca and served as a melting pot, combining country, rock and roll, bluegrass and folk into what we know today as Red Dirt music.

A six-bedroom, two-story farmhouse once stood on the property that was the home

and gathering place for musicians, songwriters, poets and artists. Bands were formed. Collaborations spawned. Songs were swapped around the campfire, and young musicians like Garth Brooks picked up a few tricks from the older guys.

As we know, Brooks went on to Nashville and became a megastar. What is not as well known is that the band he went to Nashville with was called Santa Fe and featured Tom Skinner on bass.

When Santa Fe was formed in Stillwater in 1986, Skinner was already a well-respected and popular local musician, playing frequent gigs with his brothers Mike and Craig in the Skinner Brothers Band.

The Skinner Brothers, along with Steve Ripley, Bob Childers, Randy Crouch and others had created something in Stillwater throughout the 1970s and 1980s: not just a unique sound, but a community.

Being a college town, Stillwater attracts a mixture of kids from rural areas who grew up with country music and kids from larger cities who grew up listening to rock and roll. The willingness and eagerness to collaborate among people from different backgrounds led to something entirely new that changed the musical landscape.

That's why I'm proposing that we replace members of congress with Red Dirt musicians. I'll lay out the details of that plan in a later column.

Steve Ripley, whose band Moses recorded under the label "Red Dirt Records" for their self-published album in 1972, is credited with naming the genre, but Bob Childers is widely considered the godfather of Red Dirt music.

"Three chords and the truth," says fellow Red Dirt Pioneer Randy

Crouch when recalling his friend Bob Childers, who passed away in 2008. "Of course, if you got a song about a pretty girl, you only need one chord. And it don't have to be the truth!"

I'm not sure if he was quoting Childers there or not, but it doesn't really matter. As Crouch would tell you, "we're all in the same band."

That "same band" mentality, is a theme among Red Dirt musicians. It goes deeper than, a little bit country, a little bit rock and roll. It's working together, playing and writing songs together that is a unique and defining characteristic of Red Dirt music. Childers

called it "cross pollinating." It should be pointed out that Childers' status as godfather is not unanimously agreed upon.

"I respectfully disagree," says Ronald Boren, director of museum operations at the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in Muskogee. "If you ask me, Red Dirt music traces back to Woody Guthrie."

Interesting and valid take. Feel free to debate that one among yourselves. But keep it civil, we're all in the same band.

Getting back to Tom Skinner, he's also in the same band. He was an essential part of the Red Dirt community, and that community was part of him in a way Nashville never could be.

You can take the musician out of the red dirt, but you can't take the Red Dirt out of the musician.

After an amicable parting of ways with his soon-to-be-famous partner, Skinner left Nashville and returned to Stillwater just as the genre he helped pioneer began to flourish.

It was the late 1980s and influential Red Dirt musicians like Jimmy LaFave were gaining popularity in Stillwater, playing gigs like Willie's Saloon and becoming regulars at the farm.

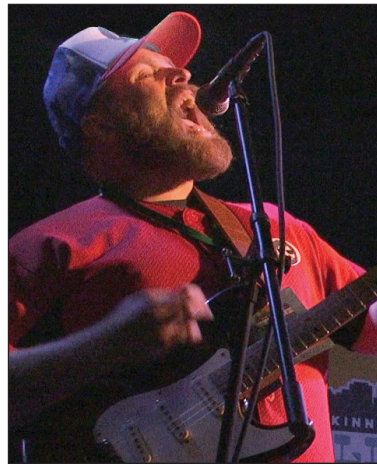
In 1988, LaFave offered a slot at a musicians' reunion festival to one of the original tenants on the farm who had been playing open mic nights with a few friends on campus at OSU. He was a young mandolin player named John Cooper, who, along with Brad Piccolo and Ben Han, accepted the offer and took the stage under the name Red Dirt Rangers for the first time.

In the 1990s, a new crop of young talent that featured Stoney Larue, Cody Canada and Jason Boland

## Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL



**BRYON WHITE:** The Damn Quails singer/guitarists joined the Red Dirt Rangers to perform an inspired version of the Tom Skinner song and festival namesake, Skyline Radio.



**JACOB TOVAR:** He would have been popular at Cain's Ballroom 90 years ago, yet somehow he's a fresh voice. Check this guy out ASAP.

began showing up at the farm and learning from their predecessors. As these artists' popularity grew regionally and nationally, Red Dirt music became an official export of Stillwater.

While the genre itself and many of its ambassadors are still going strong, the farm is no longer a haven for musicians and artists. The house burned down in 2003, but the Red Dirt spirit of community and family is alive and well.

That spirit was on full display in October, as 45 musicians gathered for Tom Skinner's Skyline Festival. Playing across two venues, The Shrine and Mercury Lounge, the event raised \$5,213 for Red Dirt Relief Fund, a non-profit organization that has provided more than \$60,000 to musicians in need since its inception in 2012.

Named for the Tom Skinner song, Skyline Radio, the Oct. 15 event was a celebration of the late great songwriter's music that entertained fans and benefitted musicians. It was a win-win.

Another win-win event coming up is the Horton Records Folk n



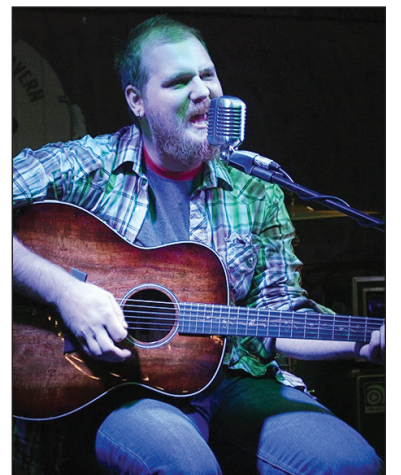
**RED DIRT RANGERS:** From left, guest guitarist Brad James sits in with John Cooper; Brad Piccolo, Don Morris, Ben Han and Randy Crouch. Obscured by the rest of the band but keeping the beat is drummer Rick Gomez.



**GENE COLLIER AND CRAIG SKINNER:** These two teamed up with Grazzhopper and mandolin player Kurt "Frenchy" Nielson for a set at The Mercury Lounge.



**RANDY CROUCH:** The legendary fiddler got down with the Red Dirt Rangers during the song, Get Down Randy, Get Down at Tom Skinner's Skyline Festival.



**CHRIS BLEVINS:** Fresh off the release of his debut album, *Better Than Alone*, this Okie original will perform at Cain's Ballroom for the first time at Horton Records Rock n Folk n Chili Cookoff Nov. 11.

I hope to see you on Nov. 11 at Cain's with a few cans of food and an outgrown coat or two. We are in the same band after all.

Until then, keep searching, keep listening.

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# Development, Sense of Place Unite in Rose District

I moved from Broken Arrow to downtown Tulsa five years ago.

This was my first time living in a bustling area that afforded me various recreational and entertainment opportunities just beyond my doorstep.

So, when the weekend came, the last thing I ever expected to do was spend my evenings in downtown Broken Arrow. Never say never, as my mother often says.

If you grew up in Broken Arrow like I did, you would know that, just a decade ago, traffic pretty much disappeared on Main Street after 4 p.m.

Because all that you would find in downtown Broken Arrow is a

few antique shops and one restaurant.

## Out & About in Greater Tulsa



By EMILY RAMSEY  
Managing Editor

Main Street Broken Arrow, although many decades ago the epicenter of Broken Arrow, had long ago dissipated and was showing no signs of revitalization.

That is, until a small group of individuals decided to move toward change.

In 2011, Jason Scarpa started the movement by opening Main Street Tavern—a gutsy move considering the area's lack of an evening draw.

In 2012, the first of many streetscaping projects Main Street more

city rebranded the district as the Rose District.

There were grumbles along the way from shoppers and from shop owners regarding construction and lost sales revenue; city managers came and went, but progress continued.

I recently spent a Sunday afternoon exploring the shops in the Rose District, particularly those in Main Street Square, a retail area that sits at the corner of Main and Dallas streets.

Although Fleet Feet Sports is located at the front of the center, a parking lot separates it from the rest of the shops, which include a number of stores that I plan to regularly frequent, including Hops & Hangers, a two-story clothing shop with an interesting concept to merge shopping with a bar on its first floor. (Why hasn't anyone else thought of this?)

Also, home decor shop Simplicity offers many unique finds, and Rocket Fizz Soda Pop and Candy Shop plans to open soon.

After that, I popped into Nouveau Chocolates for an iced mocha,



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

**WALKABLE DOWNTOWN:** Broken Arrow's Main Street has seen an explosion of growth and commercial development in the past seven years, thanks to city efforts to increase walkability and developers willing to invest in the city.

which sits just down the street—a shop which has held its own, operating in downtown Broken Arrow since 2006.

Across the street are additional stores and restaurants; add to that

the towering trees, the flowering rose bushes and the many pedestrian-friendly crossing areas, and B.A. (no bias, I promise) has become one of the more interesting and vibrant places to visit in Greater Tulsa.

# Poke Bowl Love Brings Fast-Casual Poke Bowls to Tulsa

## Local Dining

By BLAKE AUSTYN  
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 21, Poke Bowl Love opened as the first retailer in the Meridia Building in downtown Tulsa at 522 S. Boston Ave. The fast-casual sushi concept was brought to Tulsa by Janet Love and a silent business partner.

Poke (pronounced: Po-keh) bowls are a Hawaiian dish that basically takes sushi from a roll to a bowl.

Love, who grew up in Tulsa, spent her college years in California.

While in California, "I discovered so many different options for food, including poke bowls," she says.

"Every time I would visit my family in Tulsa, it was always a struggle to find anything similar—affordable, quality and fresh sushi."

"After speaking with friends and family that work in downtown Tulsa, the constant feedback from everyone was that they love sushi, but they do not want to spend \$15 on a role at lunch and not feel satisfied."

Although Love's target may be largely the weekday lunch crowd, the restaurant remains open until 9 p.m. every day of the week.

The decision to locate in the Meridia Building had to do with the space's convenient location and the building's modern design and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) status, she says.

"We use all plant based com-



BLAKE AUSTYN for GTR Newspapers

**MERIDIA BUILDING:** Poke Bowl Love, 522 S. Boston Ave., opened on Oct. 21 in the Meridia Building in downtown Tulsa. The fast-casual restaurant offers poke bowls and sushi burritos.



**NEW SUSHI OFFERING:** Poke Bowl Love features a simple menu, with guests given the option of choosing a pre-determined dish made as a Poke Bowl or a Sushi Burrito or choosing the Make Your Own option. A Kids' Meal is also available.

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The restaurant's interior is bright and clean, with green walls and white tables and chairs.

The simplicity of the space matches the straight forward nature of the menu.

Guests have a choice between a Poke Bowl or a Sushi Burrito. Both are available in two sizes: regular and large. They, then, must choose between making their own bowl or burrito or ordering from the menu's bowl and burrito dishes. There is also a Kids' Meal option.

As I was walking down the line of ingredients, one of the employees asked me if I wanted additional vegetables at no extra charge,

which is a nice perk, I thought.

For my meal, I chose The Works Poke Bowl, which consists of tuna, salmon, yellow tail, cherry tomato, cucumber, tangy ponzu, house shoyu, sriracha aioli, masago and ginger.

Reading some of the sauces, I was concerned that the bowl would be too spicy, but the girl at the counter confirmed that it was not. However, for me, and I can tolerate a fairly medium spice, it was extremely spicy.

The flavor of the bowl, though, as a whole was good, and the size I chose (Regular) is large enough to satisfy an adult.

My friend ordered the Slammin' Salmon in a burrito, the concept

like eating one long, uncut sushi roll, one of the employees told me. The burrito combines salmon, jalapeno, cucumber, tangy ponzu, house shoyu, sriracha aioli, crispy onion, masago and ginger.

Regarding the spice level, many of the same sauces from my dish were in this dish, and it wasn't as spicy as The Works. Maybe one of the girls just had a heavy hand with my bowl.

For dessert, Love is proud to be the first to bring Macaron ice cream sandwiches to Tulsa. The restaurant sold out all of its ice cream sandwiches within three days of its grand opening.

Poke Bowl Love is open seven days a week, 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

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# Philbrook Museum Offers Behind-the-Scenes Look

In October, Philbrook Museum of Art opened Museum Confidential, running through May 6, 2018.

This groundbreaking exhibition, unique to Philbrook, gives visitors the opportunity to observe museum practices, hear stories, and see an unprecedented number of never-before-seen works of art. The format of this exhibition allows Philbrook Director (and Museum Confidential curator) Scott Stulen the opportunity to present a unique, behind-the-scenes experience that illuminates the inner workings of museums, collections and their workers.

The exhibition explores how museums work from the inside out through four participatory sections:

- Museum Mysteries (Research and Investigate)
- The Other 95% (Look Closer)
- DIY Exhibition (Curate a Show)
- Locally-Inspired Installation by Artist-in-Residence Andy DuCett (Work With an Artist)

## Museum Mysteries

Every work of art has a story. Often, that story that extends beyond the subject of the work itself. Through Museum Mysteries, visitors join the Philbrook team to investigate and discover the stories, history and complicated issues behind works from the collection.

## The Other 95%

The average museum typically shows five percent or less of its collection at any given time. This exhibition reveals hundreds of rarely or never-before-seen items from Philbrook storage through a large-scale, salon-style presentation, including pieces from the Phillips family, design objects, and dozens of paintings and prints.



**SUPPORT TEAM:** Philbrook Chief Preparator George Brooks, left, and Frank Campbell, part of Philbrook's prep team, display their workroom at Philbrook Museum of Art as part of Philbrook's Museum Confidential, running Oct. 14-May 6, 2018.

## DIY Exhibition

See what it takes to be a museum curator. Curating is about making choices. In DIY Exhibition, visitors will learn the considerations that curators must weigh, and then they will make their own choices to create a unique exhibition.

## Work With an Artist

Resident artist Andy DuCett takes over a section of the gallery with a site-specific installation titled, "At the Intersection of Everywhere," which playfully illustrates the ongoing relationship between museums and artists. The installation features a working motel lobby, research library, and other elements focused on the everyday objects humans collect and cherish. A nearby portion of the gallery will offer insight into the artist's process by presenting preparatory sketches, photographs and ephemera from DuCett's Minneapolis studio.

Museum Confidential will also feature dozens of scheduled and pop-up programs throughout the run of the show, including an evening with NPR show, Invisibilia,

to Tattoo Roulette, where guests can get an artist-designed tattoo. Visitors can chat via Skype with museums around the world, take irreverent Museum Hack tours and learn about the ongoing care of the collection and villa. Every guest will receive an experience punch card, which can unlock access to exclusive experiences, based on frequent visitation. And with the new Philbrook Fridays platform, every weekend starts with late night events and programs at the museum.

"Museums are much more than places to store beautiful objects," says Philbrook Director Scott Stulen. "They're alive and constantly changing, full of stories, history, and collective community experience. They're also a lot of fun."

The Philbrook main campus spans 25 acres of grounds and formal gardens, and features an historic home, as well as a modern museum complex. The satellite location in downtown Tulsa showcases the Philbrook modern, contemporary, and Native American art collections, as well as the Eugene B. Adkins Collection and



**SCOTT STULEN:** Philbrook Director Scott Stulen discusses Museum Confidential. The exhibition is unique to Philbrook and offers a behind-the-scenes experience that illuminates the inner workings of museums, collections and their workers.



**MINIATURE MUSEUM:** Jeff Martin, Philbrook communications manager, works with a miniature museum gallery to illustrate how exhibitions are set up.



**HANDS-ON EXHIBITS:** Philbrook's Museum Confidential exhibition includes four participatory areas: Museum Mysteries, The Other 95%, DIY Exhibition and Locally-Inspired Installation by Artist-in-Residence Andy DuCett.

Study Center of Native American art.

Philbrook Museum of Art is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday. Philbrook Downtown, 116 E. M.B. Brady St., is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

Philbrook admission runs \$9 for

adults, \$7 for seniors and university students; Philbrook Members and youth 17 and younger are always free. Philbrook Downtown admission runs \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and university students; Philbrook Members and youth 17 and younger are always free.

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## HEALTH & WELLNESS

# New Leadership at Tulsa Spine & Specialty Hospital

With the retirement of Terry Woodbeck, chief executive officer of Tulsa Spine & Specialty Hospital (TSSH), a part of Hillcrest HealthCare System, at the end of the year, Trent Gastineau, TSSH's current chief operating officer, will assume the CEO role.

Woodbeck has served as CEO of TSSH since its inception in 2002 and was instrumental during TSSH's development. Under Woodbeck's leadership, the hospital has established itself as a leading provider of spine care in northeast Oklahoma and has received both the Outstanding Patient Experience and Patient Safety Excellence Awards from Healthgrades, a third party resource that provides comprehensive health care data to help consumers evaluate and compare hospitals.

"We are incredibly grateful for

Terry's service to TSSH. His commitment to excellence can be seen throughout TSSH and is felt by each and every patient," says Steve Gaede, M.D., a TSSH founding physician and board chairman. "I join the team at TSSH and all of Hillcrest in congratulating him on his upcoming retirement."

Woodbeck will retire in December.

Gastineau has served as COO at TSSH since 2010. Prior to joining TSSH, he served Houston Hospital for Specialized Surgery and has worked for hospitals in Texas and Oklahoma.

"Trent has the experience and cultural collateral to continue to grow TSSH and its patient experience, services and impact on the Tulsa community," says Kevin Gross, chief executive officer of Hillcrest HealthCare System. "His

knowledge of the organization will facilitate a smooth transition."

TSSH, 6901 S. Olympia Ave., was founded in December 2002. It is jointly owned by Hillcrest HealthCare System, the majority owner, and a group of surgical physicians. Hillcrest acquired its interest in 2014. TSSH offers surgical services, diagnostic imaging and pain management. Its services include ENT, general surgery, gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, pain management, podiatry and spine care. TSSH has received both Outstanding Patient Experience and Patient Safety Excellence Awards from Healthgrades, a third party resource that provides comprehensive health care data to help consumers evaluate and compare hospitals.

For information on TSSH and its services, call 918-388-5701.



**COMING CHANGES:** Current Tulsa Spine & Specialty Hospital Chief Operating Officer Trent Gastineau, left, will take over for CEO Terry Woodbeck when he retires at the end of the year.

## Senior Star Announces Internal Changes

Senior Star Management Company recently announced the promotion of Anja M. Rogers to chief executive officer. Previously chief operating officer, Rogers now leads the company's customer-focused team in its ongoing mission to provide a community lifestyle that inspires people to embrace senior living.

"Anja has been an integral part of this company for 34 years, and she has led Senior Star as COO for the last four of those years," says Senior Star Principal William Thomas. "Anja has been the major architect of our company culture, and she thoroughly understands this business, its fundamentals, and the strategies and tactics required for success."

Commenting on Rogers' new role, Senior Star Principal Robert Thomas says, "Anja will guide the company's positioning for the future — both in strategic direction and organizational support. Her seniors housing knowledge and experience make Anja the ideal person to lead Senior Star through a successful leadership and organizational transition."

Senior Star also announced a restructuring of its corporate office staff.

"One of our long-time company goals is to maintain a framework that allows for superior communications, sound decisions, diversity of thought and best business practices," says Rogers. "Our new structure will improve Senior Star's ability to quickly and effectively execute our plans for the future."

The following members of Se-

nior Star's management team take on new or expanded roles and report directly to Rogers:

Matt Clifton, who has served as senior vice president and chief financial officer for five years, assumes additional responsibility for acquisitions, development and information technology.

Letitia Jackson has been promoted to senior vice president with responsibility for innovation and programming, marketing outreach initiatives, and fortifying the company culture. Jackson has been with Senior Star for 20 years

and most recently served as its vice president, corporate engagement.

John Dornblaser, senior vice president, who has been with Senior Star for 18 years, continues leading the company's strategic planning and also assumes responsibility for human resources, risk management and legal functions.

As a result of these changes, two positions have been eliminated: senior vice president/operations and senior vice president/general counsel.

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**FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION:** In October, Hillcrest Hospital South held its first responders appreciation cookout to honor local fire, police and EMT teams. From left are Hillcrest Hospital South Chief Nursing Officer Patrick Callanan; Hillcrest Hospital South CEO Lynn Mergen; and Hillcrest Hospital South Director of Security Dwight Sanders.

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## EDUCATION

# Hillcrest Partners with Cascia Hall for 'Free Library'

Community leaders have joined forces with students from Cascia Hall's Library Advisory Council to promote literacy in downtown Tulsa through the development of the area's first Little Free Library.

The project has been a labor of

love for Cascia Hall's librarian and several students, along with two community spirited landlords, says Ashley Hudgeons, vice president of communications and government relations for Hillcrest HealthCare System.

Hillcrest is especially engaged

in this project as a proud "next door neighbor" and champion for the revitalization of this community nestled between historic Route 66 and Cherry Street.

A ceremony officially introducing Tulsans to the new Little Free Library at 12th Street and Rockford Avenue was held in October.

Present at the event were, pictured from left, Cascia Hall library advisory council members Joseph Barbour, Celyn Grigson, John Milanowski, and Margaret Barbour; Father Brian Barker; Cascia Hall Library Director Joan Hubble; and Forest Orchard Neighborhood Leader and volunteer Cleo Douglas.

In addition, Hillcrest plans to develop the land in the background of the photo into a community park.

For more information on the nationwide initiative, visit [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org).



GTR Newspapers Photo

## Holland Hall Announces 2017 Distinguished Alumni

The Holland Hall Alumni Association and its board recently honored Dr. Jay Wohlgenuth (Class of 1988) as its 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award winner and Dr. Kara Bear Butler (Class of 2002) as its 2017 Young Alumni Achievement Award winner.

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes an alumnus/a who demonstrates exceptional service on a local, state or national level, exhibits a high degree of character and integrity, exemplifies accomplishment in his/her profession and whose achievements, affiliations and career(s) have honored the legacy of excellence at Holland Hall.

Dr. Jay Wohlgenuth, M.D. is a senior vice president at R&D Medical and the chief medical officer for Quest Diagnostics, located in San Juan Capistrano, California. Previously, he served as senior vice president and chief healthcare officer at HealthTap, a health information start-up. He serves on the board of directors for the Personalized Medicine Coalition

Diagnostic Labs of Oklahoma and The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation.

The Young Alumni Achievement Award recognizes the alumnus/a from the last 15 years who excels in his/her profession or pursuit of higher education and has made a significant mark on the community in which he/she lives.

Dr. Kara Butler is associate vice president of health affairs at the University of Tulsa and medical director at the Alexander Health Center and Hurricane Health Clinic. Previously, she was the clinic medical director at the University of Oklahoma Wayman Tisdale Specialty Health Clinic and a program director for the Heart Improvement Project and Youth Services of Tulsa's Outreach Clinic. Butler also served as chief resident in Medicine/Pediatrics at University of Oklahoma School of Community Medicine and created initiatives to provide healthcare and screenings for patients in rural and underserved areas.

## Students to Perform at Carnegie Hall

Two Cascia Hall seniors have been chosen to participate in the Honors Performance Series, a program through Carnegie Hall and Sydney Opera House.

Celyn Grigson and Wilson Hoyt were both selected as members of the Carnegie Hall Honors Choir. Hoyt was also accepted for the Sydney Opera House Honors Choir.

Their next step will be to meet with the other winning students in New York City to participate in four days of rehearsal with world-renowned conductors, culminating in a performance on the famous Carnegie Hall stage.



GTR Newspapers Photo

**CASCIA SENIORS:** Celyn Grigson, left, and Wilson Hoyt, Cascia Hall seniors, have been chosen to participate in the Carnegie Hall and Sydney Opera House Honors Performance Series.

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MAKE YOUR OWN PATH





# Career Academy Student on Mayor's Youth Council

Career Academy students, like all Tulsa Tech students, work hard to succeed and, ultimately, are responsible for achieving their academic and personal goals. They are required to do the work, complete the assignments and pass the exams in order to thrive. They truly make their own path to success.

Tulsa Tech's Career Academy students spend half of each day earning high school credits in math, science, English, and social studies through a combination of teacher-led instruction and on-line, computerized learning. Students are offered credit recovery or "first

time" credit courses, or assistance for GED exam preparation. The remaining half of each day is spent in a CareerTech training course available on Tulsa Tech campuses.

Dyonea Mitchell, a former student at Edison High School, is one of many successful students currently enrolled in the Career Academy.

"By my sophomore year, my grades began to drop, and my GPA was a 2.0," Mitchell says. "Now, some of my classes are college level courses, and I am making perfect grades, so the Career Academy has been a great fit for me."

To further illustrate how well the Career Academy provides a rewarding, yet challenging, learning environment, the current high school senior not only improved

her academic performance, she also applied, and was recently appointed to the Tulsa Mayor's Youth Council.

The Tulsa Mayor's Youth Council is a learning organization designed to encourage high school students to become active in the community by participating in local government. Members of the Council get to see firsthand the many faces of city government in action and learn to appreciate how each entity contributes to the city's goals of public safety and quality of life. The selected members also learn about the political process and

how youth in our region can have a voice in local government issues.

The daughter of Fran and Tyronne Mitchell had heard about the Mayor's Youth Council and was immediately interested but lacked the confidence to submit her application.

"I was very excited when I found out about the council," says Mitchell. "But I didn't really think I could do something like that. Then my counselor, Miss Orr, visited with me about my strengths as a student and encouraged me to apply."

Kori Orr, counselor at the Career Academy, feels that the most common misperception is these students are often the "bad kids" or "those kids" when in fact, it is usually the complete opposite.

"So many of these students are

very talented," Orr says. "They are kinesthetic learners, so they need to be hands-on and in an environment where they can benefit from a little extra one-to-one instruction."

The application process for the Mayor's Youth Council requires interested students to submit a short essay explaining why they want to serve, outlining some of the issues they feel are important to youth in our area. Mitchell didn't have to wait long to see if her counselor's assessment and encouragement would pay off.

"Just a few days after I had submitted my application letter, I was checking my email and discovered that I had been accepted," Mitchell says. "I was so excited and couldn't believe that it happened so fast."

While the focus of the Mayor's Youth Council, of course, is youth, with appointed students selected from various public high schools, private schools, and alternative schools, many of these issues affect everyone in the community, regardless of age.

Mitchell feels she has been given an exceptional opportunity to make a difference and looks forward to working with other youth from across the Tulsa metro area.

"I really feel like with such a diverse group of students from different parts of the community, we have a unique opportunity to really make a difference," Mitchell says. "I feel if we can get the youth in Tulsa more involved, then we will generate more ideas, more solutions and eventually more leaders."

The council began meeting in early October and consists of approximately 20 students. Participants are given exclusive access to the City of Tulsa as they work to develop leadership skills, learn how local government works, and make recommendations based on the research and discussion of top-



Courtesy Tulsa Tech

**DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP:** Tulsa Tech Career Academy student Dyonea Mitchell was recently appointed to the Mayor's Youth Council, which offers students the opportunity to develop leadership skills and learn how local government works.

ics that affect citizens across the city.

Mitchell is proud of her improved academic performance and extremely honored to have been selected to serve on the Mayor's Youth Council. She is also very quick to point out that without the support of others, including her Career Academy instructors, classmates, and especially her family, none of this would have probably ever happened.

"My parents and my younger sister Jasmine have been the biggest influences in my life," she says. "I would really like to acknowledge them, along with everyone at the Career Academy, and thank them for everything they have done for me."

If you're currently looking for exciting classes for high school and adult students, quality customized corporate training, or wish to Make Your Own Path, Tulsa Tech invites you to visit today. For more information, call 918-828-5000 or visit online at [tulsaatech.edu](http://tulsaatech.edu).

## News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER  
Superintendent

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# OWASSO EDUCATION

## TU ANNOUNCES JESS CHOUTEAU OUTSTANDING SENIORS



Photos courtesy the University of Tulsa

**OWASSO RAISED:** Claire Collard and Brett Stewart, both from Owasso, were two of 10 University of Tulsa seniors to be named 2017-18 Jess Chouteau Outstanding Seniors by the university. The award recognizes students for their achievements in academics and their community engagement.

In October, the University of Tulsa recognized its 2017-18 Jess Chouteau Outstanding Seniors. The honor is given to 10 seniors each year for their exceptional achievement in academics and community engagement. Two of those seniors hail from Owasso: Claire Collard and Brett Stewart.

Claire Collard is a speech-language pathology major in the Oxley College of Health Sciences. She is a member of the Golden Hurricane Spirit Squad, Kappa Alpha Theta, TU Student Speech Language and Hearing Association and Student Athlete Advisory Council. She has received the Wilson Holloway Service Award and was named a TU Top 10 Freshman and Buddy of the Year for Down Syndrome Association of Tulsa. Collard has earned a University Academic Scholarship and TU Pom Scholarship. She has volunteered for Speech and Beyond Pediatric Therapy, Green Country Shining Stars, Down Syndrome Association of Tulsa, Special Olympics of Oklahoma, Miss Amazing Oklahoma, Camp Hope's Crossing and True Blue Neighbors. She studied abroad in Cuba through the Education Foundation. Collard plans to pursue a graduate degree in speech-language pathology at TU.

Brett Stewart is a chemical engineering major in the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences who is also earning a minor in mathematics. He is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, University Ambassadors, Reformed University

Fellowship, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Kappa Alpha Order, and Future Alumni Council. He also serves as a TU Orientation Leader and is a member of Omega Chi Epsilon chemical engineering society, Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society, Mortar Board, Phi Eta Sigma, and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Stewart was named a TU Top 10 Freshman and has been named to the President's Honor Roll. Stewart has received the Mervin Bovaird Foundation Scholarship, the TU Vision Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Academic Scholarship, and the OERB Petroleum Scholarship. He has interned at Honeywell UOP Russell, Brainerd Chemical Co., Occidental Petroleum Corp., and Hilcorp Energy Co. Stewart has participated in several service activities through First Baptist Church of Owasso. He has also volunteered at Night Light Tulsa, TU Service Day, Kendall-Whittier Elementary, and Camp Loughridge. Stewart plans to obtain his professional engineer license and has accepted a full-time engineering position.

Additional students receiving the honor were Jacqueline Boggs of Broken Arrow; Madisen Fae Dorand of St. Louis, Missouri; Shelby Hackney of Ponca City; Emma Hug of Fort Smith, Arkansas; Tejaswi Makkapati of St. Louis, Missouri; Luke Monsees of Kansas City, Missouri; Camden Schinnerer of Sand Springs; and Matthew Wells of Wichita, Kansas.

## NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS



DOMINICK CAMMUSO



KALEIGH CURTIS



LANDON TURNER

Three Owasso High School seniors have been named 2017 National Merit Semifinalists: Dominick Cammuso, Kaleigh Curtis and Landon Turner.

They are among approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 63rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program and have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$33 million that will be offered next spring.

About 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors and is made up of the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and his/her high school must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the Semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

From the approximately 16,000 Semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level.

Three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered in spring 2018: Every Finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit

\$2,500 scholarships that will be awarded on a state-representational basis. About 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards will be provided by approximately 230 corporations and business organizations for Finalists who meet their specified criteria, such as children of the grantor's employees or residents of communities where sponsor plants or offices are located. In addition, about 190 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 4,000 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2018 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 330,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholarship title.

## \$57 Million Bond Issue Passes

By EMILY RAMSEY  
Managing Editor

On October 10, Owasso Public Schools patrons approved the school district's largest school bond issue to date by close to 80 percent.

The \$57 million bond issue includes construction of a new elementary school, new safe rooms, and technology and facility upgrades.

Below is the break down of projects to be completed through the bond issue:

### New school—Morrow Elementary

Cost: \$23,500,000

Construction on the new school is planned to begin in spring 2018 and open in fall 2019.

Morrow Elementary will sit on 116th Street North between 129th East Avenue and Highway 169 and help to alleviate continued student growth, Owasso Superintendent Dr. Clark Ogilvie says.

Currently, Owasso Public Schools has about 9,800 students with a current total capacity of 10,400.

The school will include an F-5 safe room gym, with safe rooms being a continued focus of the school district through both new construction and building renovations.

"While adding a safe room to any school project adds about 15 percent to the price," Ogilvie says, "safe rooms have become

an expectation of the community."

### Construction of High School West Campus (Mid-High) Science Wing and F-5 Safe Gym

Cost: \$8,700,000

"These safe rooms are built to withstand a direct hit by a tornado," says Ogilvie.

The Mid-High's existing gym will be kept in order to provide additional gymnasium space.

### Turf Replacement and Installation

Cost: \$5,450,000

Turfs will be added or replaced, including replacement of the High School football field turf and adding turf to a portion of the High School's track area, to allow for a practice area for the band.

### Administrative Center Renovation/Expansion

Cost: \$4,710,000

"Our current service center does not represent our district adequately," Ogilvie says.

The center will be expanded and renovated, including the construction of a two-story building to replace the existing pre-fab buildings.

### Smith Elementary F-5 Safe Gym Construction

Cost: \$3,300,000

Smith Elementary's other gymnasium will be conserved to provide additional gymnasium space.

### Technology

Cost: \$3 million

"This is our first bond issue ever to have more funding going to technology than to textbooks," Ogilvie says.

The money will pay for various technology upgrades throughout the district, such as new equipment, security measures, and wifi improvements.

### Facility Upgrades

Cost: \$2,500,000

Upgrades include windows, HVAC and electrical systems.

### Textbooks/Materials

Cost: \$2 million

### Transportation—replacement of aging school buses

Cost: \$2 million

### Bond Issuance Fee

Cost: \$500,000

### Student Safety Needs

Cost: \$500,000

### Library Materials

Cost: \$310,000

### Band Instruments

Cost: \$250,000

The school district's largest extracurricular program is its band program, with over 1,000 kids in grades 6-12, says Ogilvie.

### Copiers

Cost: \$250,000

## Youth Leadership OK Accepting Applications

Leadership Oklahoma, a statewide leadership program, is currently accepting applications for its 2018 Youth Leadership Oklahoma (YLOK) class, to be held June 3-8, 2018. Applicants must be high school juniors or home-schooled equivalent with at least a 3.25 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Nearly 16 years ago, Leadership Oklahoma endeavored to create a unique model youth program designed to be educational and inspiring while instilling in Oklahoma youth a hope, pride and feeling of responsibility for the state's future.

The program's week-long activities introduce high school students to the leaders, issues, resources and cultural history of Oklahoma.

To date, over 850 students from 237 schools have participated in the program.

Fifty students are accepted for each summer program. Criteria for selection include demonstrated leadership ability in activities such as student council, athletics and service clubs in schools and communities and an exhibited commitment to community service and extracurricular activities.

Applications can be downloaded at leadershipoklahoma.com or requested by email at lstone@leadershipoklahoma.com or by phone at 405-848-0001.

Completed applications must be received in the Leadership Oklahoma office in Oklahoma City by Dec. 5.



## OWASSO SPORTS

# Bryce Cabrera Gaining Big Yards for Owasso

## The Senior Ram Idolizes former Dallas Cowboy Emmitt Smith

By **MIKE MOGUIN**  
Sports Writer

Growing up, Bryce Cabrera became a fan of the Dallas Cowboys while watching them with his dad.

Playing running back since the age of eight, Cabrera emulates the moves of a Cowboy at that position. No, not Ezekiel Elliott, but the legendary Emmitt Smith, who went on to become the NFL's all-time leading rusher during his career.

"Emmitt Smith is like my idol," Cabrera says. "I feel like we're kind of alike in a lot of ways. It's the ways we carry ourselves on and off the field, the way we block, the way we run too. Ever since I was a little kid, I knew who Emmitt Smith was. I collected all of his football cards. That's who I really look up to and want to be like one day."

As a key weapon in the Owasso Rams' offense, Cabrera (5-9, 195, senior) has taken what he has learned from the Cowboys legend, putting his skills to use while his team has cruised to a 7-1 record and No. 2 ranking on Class 6AI under first-year coach Bill Blankenship, as of Oct. 26.

Having put up 20 touchdowns through the first eight games this season, both running and receiving, Cabrera recognizes his versatility.

"I can block, I can catch out of the backfield, I can run and cut," he says. "My athletic skills are pretty good. I can catch and block and run and run over people, and juke, so it's pretty good."

What he enjoys most about playing the role is simple. "I just like going in and scoring," he says.

Because of their dominance this season, the Rams are expected to be a force in the playoffs and to be a contender for the Class 6AI state championship. But Cabrera and the guys know it won't be easy.

"Our season is not over yet. We got some more competition," he says. "I know a lot of the fans think that since we got the big three (Jenks, Broken Arrow and Union) out of the way that we're just going to float into the playoffs, but, no, we still got business to take care of. They'll all be big games."

As of print time, the Rams had played against Moore (Oct. 27) and had their regular-season finale against Edmond North on Nov. 3. Both games were at home. The playoffs start Nov. 10.

Regardless of how the season ends, Owasso has taken a 180-degree turn with its program after going 3-7 a year ago. Cabrera says he can't put into words how different the enthusiasm has become since former Union and University of Tulsa coach Bill Blankenship took over, but he can acknowledge it. Blankenship also coached Fayetteville to the Arkansas Class 7A title last year.

One thing that has also been a plus is the chemistry Cabrera has with teammates Dylan Chinn (wide receiver) and Will Kuehne (quarterback), a move-in from Texas, who has also impacted the Rams' success in 2017.

"Dylan and I have been friends for a long time," Cabrera says. "But when Will came in, things just clicked."

Here's a look back on the Rams' season so far:

Cabrera ran for one TD and caught another from Kuehne in the season opener at Jenks, a game in which the Rams, ranked fifth at the time, stunned the Trojans with a 48-10 rout.

"We expected to win, but we didn't expect to win the way we did," Cabrera says. "But when we did, we knew we belong in the playoffs."

"No one believed in us, but we knew what we had," he adds.

In a week-two game against Broken Arrow, he scored four rushing TDs in a 49-27 win.

Against top-ranked Union on Sept. 29, Cabrera only had one TD receiving, which came in the middle of Owasso surging to a 20-6 lead. At that point, the Rams were believing they were headed to another big-margin win like the one at Jenks. But the Redskins came back for a 44-41 win in double overtime.

"We knew it was Union and they just came back," Cabrera says. "The loss was hard to take but we believe we're going to see them again."



Courtesy Owasso High School Athletic Department

**TOUCHDOWN!** Owasso running back Bryce Cabrera (28) scores a touchdown against Broken Arrow earlier this season. Cabrera has been a key part of the Rams' offense in their rise to No. 2 in the Class 6AI poll.

"I don't think there was ever a turning point (in the game)," he says. "It was just a matter of both teams going back and forth. The difference for us was we didn't execute enough."

Cabrera scored four touchdowns on the ground for the Rams in a 60-28 win over Norman North, the 2016 6AI state runner-up, on Oct. 20. His TD runs spanned six, 30, three and 21, respectively against the Timberwolves, who were ranked seventh at the time, and his Owasso teammates would like nothing more than to break the Jenks-Union stronghold that has owned Class 6A and 6AI the previous 21 seasons and win state in December.

"Well, it would be special, considering how it hasn't been done since 1974, Owasso's last football championship," he says. "We want to change things around here, and I don't see why we can't win it, as far as I'm concerned. It would be very special not only for us and the team but also the coaches and everybody. So, it will be a special deal."

And then he'll have a championship, just like Smith.

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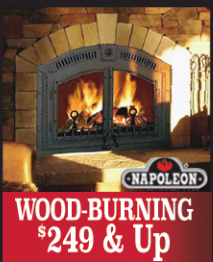
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SPORTS

TU Soccer an Underrated Commodity in Tulsa

By GLENN HIBDON  
GTR Sports Writer

Sometimes unappreciated by the public and overlooked by the media, there is nothing wrong with the University of Tulsa men's soccer program that winning the NCAA championship won't cure.

The most successful men's team sport on campus has produced 242 victories in 23 seasons under head coach Tom McIntosh, including 10 conference championships and 10 NCAA tournament appearances. However, the Golden Hurricane is still waiting on the golden moment when TU soccer becomes a household word.

McIntosh, a true believer, says he and his program are dreaming of the day they finally reach the pinnacle.

"We always put ourselves in position to win our conference championship," says McIntosh, whose team has won three straight American Athletic Conference tournament titles. "That goes a long way for our program to take the next step to get to the College Cup and win the national title."

The Hurricane has played in league tournament championship games nine times in the last 11 years, earning the program national respect among coaches. Seventeen players have been drafted or gone on to play professionally since 2004, and Tulsa reached a No. 2 national ranking in 2010.

TU was named national Team of the Week in September after beating Santa Clara and top-ranked Stanford on the road. The performance earned a No. 20 ranking, the Hurricane's first time in the polls since 2014. Except for the

team's die-hard fans, there was little in the way of fanfare.

"Sometimes the university in general seems overlooked athletically and maybe a little academically," says McIntosh. "We're in the middle of the country and Oklahoma doesn't get much publicity. Our program is overlooked, but we always play a difficult non-conference schedule. Some things we control and some we don't, but very few programs in the country can say they've done what we have on a consistent basis."

McIntosh says his team does have support within the university, but various factors limit soccer's visibility and appeal to prospective fans.

"Oklahoma is a big football state for high schools and colleges and we fall in the same time period," he says. "We have to play a lot of Saturdays and that leads to limited press coverage. The end of our season comes at the beginning of basketball. We (NCAA soccer coaches) are working on trying to play the same amount of games but spread them over the fall and spring semesters. It would be better for the athletes if we did that."

Standing 4-5-1 in mid-October, McIntosh says he's disappointed in his team's 2017 record, but the strength of schedule is second among 205 soccer playing schools. Tulsa has fallen to a No. 39 RPI rating, but like any sport and any team, victories make everything brighter.

"Very few teams have gone to the places we've played," says McIntosh. "We understand that our road is more difficult than most. The ACC schools play in the No.1 conference and play all their non-

conference games at home. All the teams in their league are good.

"We used to have to play guarantee games, but teams never returned them. We don't have to do that anymore. Big teams come here like Virginia and Creighton, but fans don't turn out like they should. Arguably, along with tennis, we have the highest ranked opponents come to Tulsa than any other sport."

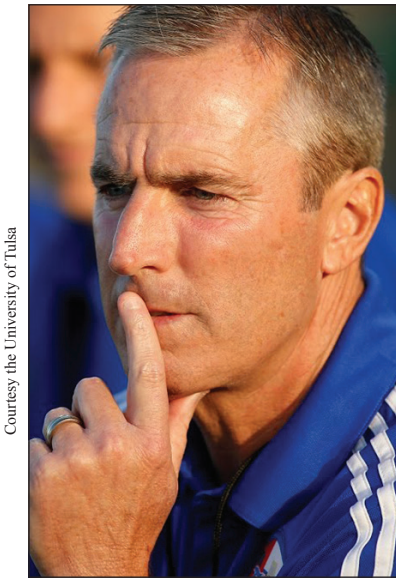
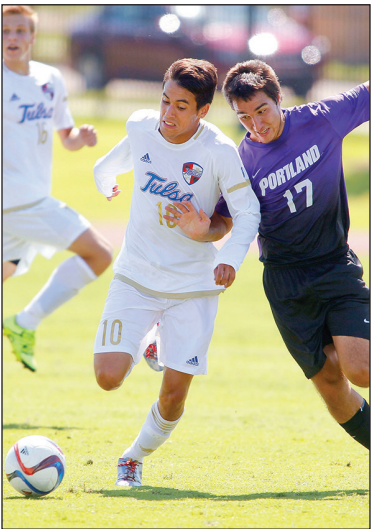
Despite the tough slate, McIntosh says his current team is a good one and still has a chance to make some noise when postseason tournaments roll around.

"I think we're pretty well balanced," says McIntosh, who noted that nine different players have scored goals this season. "We don't have a guy who scores tons of goals, the guy who carries the load, but we're balanced and deep."

"We've played 24 different players and this is one of my more competitive teams. We are a very good passing team and pretty athletic overall. Our chemistry is very good since we came back for fall camp. We have guys on the team who have won three conference championships, so we have experience."

Maybe so, but the one experience McIntosh's players don't have is tasting the champagne of a national title celebration. He says the solution is simple. Win more games.

"We need to have a little bit more regular season success. That would put us in position (for an at-large NCAA berth)," says the coach. "Teams with high RPI rankings play at home, and we want to put ourselves in position to play a few more home games."



PLAYING TOUGH: Tulsa soccer plays a tough schedule and defeated Stanford, the number-one team in the nation, earlier this season.

TOM MCINTOSH: The successful coach is in his 23rd season at TU.

"That would give us a chance to rest. A lot of times in conference tournaments you end up playing on Fridays and Sundays. The tournaments are out of town and you have to fly and travel. You're on the road on Thursdays and sometimes your team can be exhausted. If you do a better job in the regular season you get another home game or two. If you get past the second (NCAA) round it evens out, everybody gets a week between games."

To worry about that, Tulsa has to get there first. McIntosh says his team's 2-0 victory over No. 1 Stanford infused confidence and displayed how TU can compete with the top teams. However, a sub .500 record won't qualify for NCAA play. He says teams must

have an RPI rating in the low 20s.

"We control everything we need to do in order to achieve our goals," McIntosh says. "We have a lot of things going for us as far as strength of schedule, big wins and no bad losses. Every team on our schedule, except one, is a team that will be considered for the NCAA tournament."

"Now we have to improve our record. We'll probably have to get two or three games above .500. We need to get to the point where we can compete for the national title. We've achieved some good things but not the ultimate."

If anything will force Green Country to sit up and take notice of University of Tulsa soccer, sweeping the College Cup should be the answer.

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Courtesy Tulsa Oilers

GOALTENDER OF THE WEEK: Tulsa Oilers rookie Devin Williams was named the CCM ECHL Goaltender of the Week for Oct. 23-29. A native of Saginaw, Michigan, Williams, in his first five games with Tulsa, posted a record of 4-0-0 with one shutout.

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# Victory Christian Celebrates Volleyball Title

By MIKE MOGUIN  
Sports Writer

Victory Christian overcame adversity to capture a state championship in volleyball back on Oct. 17 in Sapulpa. The Lady Conquerors were one point away from defeat three times and prevented it by scoring the point they needed. Eventually, they would score the points that would win the match.

Victory would win the Class 5A title, by beating Mount St. Mary, 3-2 (25-23, 11-25, 18-25, 25-21, 18-16). The championship was the second sports championship in school history. The first came from the boys' basketball program in 2000.

The Lady Conquerors, ranked No. 5 throughout the year while finishing with a record of 29-10, won the first set of the match but had their backs up against the wall after dropping the next two. They bounced back to win the fourth. They fought off elimination in the last set with a combined seven kills by middle blockers Jaxie Wakley (sophomore) and Gem Summers (junior).

"We really had to come together," Wakley says. "In the two sets we lost – two and three – we didn't have the enthusiasm that we should have to win the game. Without enthusiasm, you won't win. In the fourth and fifth set, we really had the enthusiasm to be able to win the game and get to a different level."

"I felt proud of my team for winning, because we had never won a volleyball state championship and we've been to state ever since I've been here," Summers says.

"It just felt very rewarding because we would practice hard every day, along with our conditioning," Summers says.

Victory had been to the 4A state semi-finals the previous two years. The Lady Conquerors had used that fact in the offseason for motivation. The program has also been to state in volleyball for 14 of the past 15 years. It also played in the state championship game in 2007 and lost.

"Our players knew of that tradition and knew they could be the first team to win the whole thing. With that attitude, it drove them," Victory coach Dan Donohue says.

"That was neat to see as the coach.

Donohue became the head coach in 2006 and was an assistant for one year before-hand.

Victory had a tough stretch at the end of the regular season as it lost three of its last five games.

"Right before state, we had a losing streak. But, we pushed through it and worked it out," Summers says.

Wakley and Summers led the Lady Conquerors in kills throughout the season. Wakley totaled 489 kills, an average of 4.6 per game, and 81 blocks. Summers produced 207 kills, with a hitting efficiency of 0.31, and 26 blocks. Ruthie Udoumoh was also a factor for Victory with 51 blocks.

While 25 points are needed to win a set, a team only needs to reach 15 if the match goes to a fifth set. But a two-point cushion is the minimum required to finish.

Three times Mt. St. Mary was one point away from taking the title with leads of 14-13, 15-14 and 16-15. In each instance, Victory prevented it by getting the point needed to keep the match going. They eventually got the points needed to finish it off, 18-16.

"I'm like, 'okay, we need to get this right now. We can do it. Let's just play smart defense. Let's be the best we can be,'" Wakley says.

Wakley and Summers combined seven kills in the final set.

"We had to take advantage of it," Wakley says. "We couldn't be on our heels. We had to attack. They had it three times. We had to take advantage of this one time and just put the ball down or just play smart and let them make the mistake."

"Fighting off the three match points, they never panicked," Donohue says. "They never looked worried. It's like, 'okay, we're going to get the next point. We're going to eventually get this.' Just that resolve to carry us through the rough spots, and it carried us through to win the thing."

"When we came back to school, everybody was congratulating us, and it was just good knowing that it was a big deal to everybody



Courtesy Victory Christian Athletic Department

**STATE CHAMPIONS:** Jaxie Wakley embraces the Class 5A state volleyball championship trophy along with her teammates after the Lady Conquerors beat Mt. St. Mary's for the title.

for winning a second championship at the school," Summer says.

The girls were recognized and honored the following Sunday during a service at the church, Victory Christian Center, which is connected to the school.

"I liked it," Summers says. "It was nice, because it was not only people from our school that go to the church. It was like a community congratulating us on the way."

Victory only loses one senior, Olivia Stenzel, to graduation. Wakley, Summers, Udoumoh and the rest of the team will be back next year.

"We are a very young team, and we have got a great opportunity for the next couple of years to carry through and gain a cou-

ple of more titles," Donohue says. "This team has been so determined. The spot in the middle of the season where we didn't play so well almost served as a good thing for us. They used that to drive themselves to get better and carry us to the state tournament."

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## TU ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



Courtesy the University of Tulsa

**GREAT TEAM:** The 1982 Tulsa Golden Hurricane football team was honored at the recent TU Athletic Hall of Fame event. In their sixth year under head coach John Cooper, the Golden Hurricane compiled a 10-1 record (6-0 against conference opponents) and won the Missouri Valley Conference championship. The team defeated Big Eight Conference opponents Oklahoma State (25-15) and Kansas (20-15). Head coach John Cooper was later inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.



Courtesy the University of Tulsa

**INDIVIDUALS HONORED:** Individuals honored at the event are, from left, Joe Mills, TU PA announcer for 27 years; Don Zimmerman, tennis and golf coach at Tulsa in the 1970s and early 80s; Tom Cairns, the first TU volleyball coach in school history; and Len Morton, TU radio voice from 1959-1971. Also pictured is TU Athletic Director Derrick Gragg.

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Sportscene is hosted by, from left, Tulsa Public Schools Athletic Director Gil Cloud, local and national TV sportscaster Chris Lincoln, and Tulsa sports legend J.V. Haney.



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# Boxer Eddie Oakes Turns Injury Into Opportunity

By JULIE WENGER WATSON

After close to a decade on the rugby field, Eddie Oakes knows a thing or two about the downside of contact sports. In fact, it was a torn ACL from a match in Memphis that first landed this 30-year old Tulsan in the boxing gym three years ago. What started out as a way to rehabilitate his knee post surgery has now turned into a serious pursuit of the “sweet science.”

“I’d always loved boxing since I was a kid, but I’d never really participated in the sport,” Oakes recalls. “After I tore my ACL, it was my opportunity to get into something different. I wanted to try my hand at it and see where it took me. Once I started sparring, I

fell in love with it.”

Oakes is currently preparing for an amateur fight on Nov. 17 at Greenwood Cultural Center in downtown Tulsa. On top of his full-time job as a building engineer, Oakes trains at the Engine Room Boxing Gym in the Pearl District six days a week. Soon, he’ll be adding an early morning run into the mix in anticipation of his upcoming match.

“I’ve always loved physical sports, and I really love the mental aspect of boxing,” he explains. “The biggest thing to me is when you’re in the ring, and you’re hurting or exhausted – or both – and your body is telling you to quit and your mind is telling you to quit, but you just keep going. It’s a great

feeling, just the mental fortitude it takes to be able to compete in a sport like boxing.”

While Oakes isn’t sure where the sport will lead him, for now, he’s taking it one fight at a time.

“I was almost 28 years old when I first walked into the gym,” he says. “I never really had any expectations of fighting for a world title or anything like that. I just wanted to see how far I could take it and how well I could do with it. My whole goal behind it was to gain a better understanding of the sport.”

**Engine Room Fight Night V**  
Friday, Nov. 17. Doors at 5 p.m. Fights begin at 6 p.m.  
Greenwood Cultural Center, 322 N. Greenwood Ave.



EDDIE OAKES



**READY FOR SOME BASKETBALL:** The University of Tulsa men’s and women’s basketball teams are ready for action. From the women’s team are Erika Wakefield (3), a 5-4 senior guard from Moore, Oklahoma, and Kendria Elliott (00) a 6-2 sophomore



forward from Wichita, Kansas. From the men’s teams are Curran Scott (10), a 6-4 sophomore guard from Edmond, Oklahoma, and Sterling Taplin, (4), a 6-1 junior guard from East Amherst, New York.

## = GTR 2017 COMPOSITE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE =

DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME	DATE	VISITOR	HOME
Aug. 31	Tulsa 24	OSU 59	Sept. 22	BT Washington 63	Ponca City 21	Oct. 6	Summit Christian 7	Kiefer 36	Oct. 27	Jenks 38	Westmoore 21
	Washburn 31	NSU 7		Pryor 47	Memorial 18		NOAH 6	Pembroke Hill 26		Moore 6	Owasso 52
Sept. 1	Bishop Kelley 48	Edison 14		East Central 10	Shawnee 35	Oct. 7	Iowa State 38	OU 31		BT Washington 21	Bixby 0
	Bixby 35	Jenks 18		Claremore 53	Hale 21		TU 28	Tulane 62		Bishop Kelley 49	Hale 6
	BT Washington 27	Midwest City 24		Collinsville 6	Bishop Kelley 24		Arkansas 22	South Carolina 48		East Central 20	Coweta 40
	Union 38	Eulless Trinity 7		Tecumseh 48	Central 24		Cisco College 9	NEO 42		Edison 13	Noble 27
	Southlake Carroll 21	Broken Arrow 14		Poteau 42	Metro Christian 35		NSU 7	Emporia State 44		Grove 14	Cascia Hall 41
	Owasso 56	Bartlesville 14		Miami 30	McLain 49	Oct. 12	Owasso 48	Southmoore 2		Oologah 54	McLain 7
	Claremore 49	East Central 0		Cascia Hall 7	Wagoner 34	Oct. 13	Norman North 31	Union 45		Metro Christian 48	Rogers 0
	McLain 18,	Webster 13		Broken Bow 56	Rogers 12		Edmond Santa Fe 21	Broken Arrow 52		Harrah 44	Central 18
	Okmulgee 46,	Will Rogers 0		Sequoyah 15	Lincoln Christian 14		Ponca City 7	Bixby 68		Webster 21	Vertigris 28
	Holland Hall 21	Cascia Hall 7		Webster 0	Sperry 43		Bishop Kelley 23	Skiatook 45		Lincoln Christian 20	Locust Grove 26
	Victory Christian 47	Bristow 21		NOAH 13	Okema 50		Memorial 49	Collinsville 35		Victory Christian 49	Salina 6
	Jones 60	Lincoln Christian 34		Kansas 13	Victory Christian 63		Noble 43	Holland Hall 48		Holland Hall 48	Colcord 14
	Tahl. Sequoyah 55	NOAH 6		Ketchum 12	Holland Hall 63		Edison 6	Coweta 49		Rejoice Christian 30	Fairland 20
Sept. 2	Ute 7	OU 56		Rejoice Christian 35	Barnsdall 27		Hale 20	Pryor 55		Woodland 36	Summit Christian 2
	Florida A&M 7	Arkansas 49	Sept. 23	OU 49	Baylor 41		Grove 28	McLain 34	Oct. 28	Tulsa 34	SMU 38
	New Mexico M.I. 7	NEO 40		TCU 44	OSU 31		Rogers 0	Ft. Gibson 62		Texas Tech 27	OU 49
Sept. 7	NSU 10	Lindenwood 49		Teas A&M 50	Arkansas 43		Vinita 6	Cascia Hall 42		OSU 50	West Virginia 39
	Union 59	Jenks 40		New Mexico 16	Tulsa 13		Metro Christian 7	Hilldale 35		Arkansas 38	Old Miss 37
Sept. 8	Broken Arrow 27	Owasso 49		NSU 7	Fort Hays State 31		Central 32	Cleveland 35		NEO	Blim College
	McGuinness 42	Bishop Kelley 21	Sept. 28	Salisaw 35	Rogers 0		Lincoln Christian 13	Sperry 40	Nov. 2	Missouri Southern 29	NSU 32 20T
	McLain 6	Central 18	Sept. 29	Jenks 26	Broken Arrow 13		Dewey 29	Webster 26		Broken Arrow	Sapulpa
	Victory Christian 26	Sperry 21		Owasso 41	Union 44		Victory Christian 49	Chouteau-Mazie 0		Hale	Memorial
	Rejoice Christian 35	Kiefer 14		Muskogee 23	Bixby 38		Holland Hall 40	Kansas 0	Nov. 3	Lincoln Christian	Keys
	Bartlesville 29	Cascia Hall 48		Sapulpa 0	BT Washington 63		Afton 22	Rejoice Christian 20		Mustang	Union
	Claremore 25	Rogers 28		Bishop Kelley 37	Prior 21		OU 29	Texas 24		Edmond North	Owasso
	Metro Christian 33	Okla. Christian 14		Memorial 13	Claremore 49	Oct. 14	Baylor 16	OSU 59		Jenks	Edmond Santa Fe
	Poteau 64	Hale 14		Edison 30	East Central 7		Houston 17	Tulsa 45		Bixby	Page
	Memorial 0	Edison 32		Hale 14	Skiatook 63		Arkansas 9	Alabama 41		BT Washington	Bartlesville
	Holland Hall 22	Lincoln Christian 16		Cascia Hall 42	McLain 0		NEO 34	Coffeyville C.C. 30		Talequah	Bishop Kelley
	Webster 41	NOAH 6		Metro Christian 41	Stillwell 35		NW Missouri State 42	NSU 14		McAlester	East Central
	Kellyville 54	Summit Christian 14		Central 0	Tuttle 47	Oct. 19	Norman 7	Broken Arrow 59		Durant	Edison
	Bentonville 47	Bixby 28		Manford 31	Webster 14		Southmoore 0	Union 48		McLain	Catoosa
	OSU 44	South Alabama 7		Jay 70	Webster 14		Yukon 7	Jenks 49		Cascia Hall	Oologah
Sept. 9	OU 31	Ohio State 16		Ketchum 0	Webster 14		Bixby 37	Bartlesville 21		Rogers	Stillwell
	TCU 28	Arkansas 7	Sept. 30	Texas Tech 34	Webster 14		Sand Springs 0	BT Washington 40		Salisaw	Metro Christian
	NEO 14	Trinity Valley CC 27		Arkansas 42	Webster 14		Glenpool 30	East Central 33		Central	Blanchard
Sept 15	Louisiana 42	Tulsa 66		Tulsa 21	Webster 14		Bishop Kelley 38	Memorial 6		Sequoyia	Webster
	Jenks 0	Har-Ber 29		NSU 17	Webster 14		Edison 0	Shawnee 21		Holland Hall	Victory Christian
	Bixby 35	Putnam City 37		NEO 42	Webster 14		Hale 16	Talequah 55		Rejoice Christian	Foyil
	Summit Christian 27	Rejoice Christian 54	Oct. 5	Moore 0	Webster 14		McLain 10	Vinita 35		Summit Christian	Porter
	Lincoln Christian 35	Seminole 8		Hilldale 69	Webster 14		Rogers 6	Poteau 58		Memphis	Tulsa
	Millwood 52	Cascia Hall 15	Oct. 6	Memorial 7	Webster 14		Cascia Hall 41	Catoosa 27	Nov. 4	OU	OSU
	Hale 14	NW Claussen 12		Owasso 55	Webster 14		Central 20	Ada 57		Coastal Carolina	Arkansas
	Sapulpa 3	Bishop Kelley 38		Jenks 52	Webster 14		Westville 6	Lincoln Christian 56		NSU	Central Missouri
	Muldrow 48	Broken Arrow 41		Westmoore 7	Webster 14		Capital Hill 12	Webster 28	Nov. 11	TCU	OU
	Rogers 0	McLain 47		Sapulpa 10	Webster 14		Sequoya 21	Victory Christian 49		Central Oklahoma	NSU
	Skiatook 38	East Central 6		Muskogee 21	Webster 14		Salina 0	Holland Hall 11		OSU	Iowa State
	NOAH 0	Victory Christian 42		Edison 17	Webster 14		Summit Christian 13	Mounds 34		Arkansas	LSU
	Edison 21	Claremore 35		Bishop Kelley 25	Webster 14		Hulbert 41	Rejoice Christian 42	Nov. 16	Tulsa	South Florida
	Metro Christian 14	Holland Hall 45		Hale 0	Webster 14	Oct. 20	Owasso 60	Norman North 28	Nov. 18	OU	Kansas
Sept. 16	Shawnee 0	BT Washington 63		Durant 35	Webster 14	Oct. 21	OU 42	Kansas State 35		Kansas State	OSU
	OU 56	Tulane 14		Wagoner 62	Webster 14		OSU 13	Texas 10 OT		Mississippi State	Arkansas
	OSU 59	Pittsburg 21		Metro Christian 28	Webster 14		Auburn 52	Arkansas 20	Nov. 24	Missouri	Arkansas
	Tulsa 51	Toledo 54		Cascia Hall 47	Webster 14		Tulsa 14	Connecticut 20	Nov. 25	West Virginia	Oklahoma
	Pittsburg State 68	NSU 21		Berryhill 49	Webster 14		NEO 65	Arkansas Baptist 24		Kansas	OSU
	NEO 28	Tyler JC 34		Lincoln Christian 55	Webster 14		NSU 27	Nebraska Kearney 42		Temple	Tulsa
Sept. 22	Norman 7	Jenks 58		Victory Christian 63	Webster 14	Oct. 26	Broken Arrow 49	Edmond Memorial 7			
	Mustang 41	Owasso 63		Holland Hall 52	Webster 14		Memorial 40	Talequah 56			
	Broken Arrow 56	Yukon 20		Liberty 20	Webster 14	Oct. 27	Union 41	Punam City North 3			





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## THE ECONOMY

# Olga Morgan's Accomplishments Are 'Vydayushciysya'

## From Russia to Oklahoma: A Fascinating Success Story

By **BOB LEWIS**  
Contributing Writer

The tongue-twister in the headline is Russian for "outstanding," a word that reflects the accomplishments of a woman who came

to the United States from that country and has earned a place as one of the most credentialed professionals in Oklahoma's financial services industry.

After successfully completing nine different business exams — eight of them on the first try — the controller of the First National Bank & Trust Co. of Broken Arrow proudly claims the title of "Olga Morgan, CPA, CFE, CITP."

To put all those letters into the proper perspective, CPA is short for Certified Public Accountant. CFE designates her as a Certified Fraud Examiner. Her most recent designation, CITP, shows she has qualified as a Certified Information Technology Professional.

"I have a perfect career balance," she jokes. "There are 10 letters in my name and 10 after it."

Morgan's rise to the top of her profession is "a true American success story," according to Gregory Graham, First National's Board chairman and CEO.

"Olga is a tremendous individual and a tremendous asset to this bank. She has worked very hard to get where she is today and is a terrific role model for anyone who wonders if they will ever be able to make it in today's highly competitive marketplace," he says.

Born in Kazan, a city about 500 miles east of Moscow, Morgan earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in applied mathematics (computer science) from Kazan Federal University and worked for a year as a computer programmer.

She came to the U.S. in 2002, married Bill Morgan, a long-time travel agent and financial investor, and later went to work for what is now Central Bank of Oklahoma.

Despite her university degrees, she says she realized further education was needed if she was to achieve her goal of becoming a Certified Public Accountant. So



OLGA MORGAN

she enrolled in Northeastern State University and earned straight A's while completing the accounting courses she needed to make that happen.

During this time, she says she had the opportunity to visit Broken Arrow on a number of occasions and was always impressed with the community. So, when invited to be part of it by joining First National as a credit analyst, she jumped at the opportunity. With her accounting expertise she was quickly promoted to assistant controller and, in 2016, assumed the position of controller.

While justifiably proud of what she has accomplished, Morgan is quick to note "It's not just me. The people of First National gave me a chance, and they are there for me in every way."

When asked to identify the biggest challenge she faced in relocating from Russia to Oklahoma, Morgan again flashed her keen sense of humor by saying, "learning the language. I thought I spoke English well when I came to this country, but Okie English is different from what I was taught in school. It was almost like learning an entirely new language. But I caught on pretty quickly."

While admittedly uncomfortable in the spotlight, Morgan says she doesn't mind telling her story in hopes it might prove to others that if you are willing to work for it, anything is possible.

"Persistence really does pay off," she says. "I had to keep telling myself 'you can watch TV or go out with friends when you get where you want to go.' That kept me focused in the classroom and on the job. I still try to go the extra mile, because it isn't crowded there. Anything I can do to make a better version of me, I want to do it."

Away from the bank, she and her husband are travel enthusiasts. She said she has been back to Russia a few times, but her real love is visiting Spain, Italy, Great Britain and parts of Europe they haven't seen before.

As a person responsible for focusing on the "big picture" in her job, Morgan says she can't help but wonder what things would be like in the biggest picture of all if Russia and the United States could put aside differences and truly work together for the good of the planet.

"I would love to see it," she notes. "Both countries have such terrific power, it is hard to imagine all the good things that could be accomplished."

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# Winter is an Economical Time for Tree Care

*We B Trees Owner Tim Nall  
Says Prices Go Down  
During Colder Months*

By **BRANDON SCHMITZ**  
Contributing Writer

Certified Arborist Tim Nall created his tree care company in part to break away from the competition. Whereas many of the tree services in Tulsa specialize in removal, We B Trees focuses primarily on preservation.

Established in 1995 by Nall and his wife, Barbara, We B Trees boasts a plant health care program that covers all aspects of tree maintenance, including trimming, cabling and bracing.

"We've got climbers, bucket trucks, loaders, you name it," Nall says. "We can do anything from the smallest job to the largest job."

According to Nall, these last few months of the year are the ideal

time for homeowners and business owners to remove dead wood from their trees. Additionally, he suggested the removal of any unwanted branches.

"You could take out branches like the one over the child's swing set or the one over the house," Nall says. "Anything that's not desirable for whatever reason, whether it be for the health of the tree or the safety of the people."

Root pruning is best saved for either fall or winter, too.

"It would need to be done if the tree has girdling roots or if there are undesirable roots in the yard that you're hitting with the mower," Nall says. "You always want to prune roots when there are either no leaves on the tree or if leaves are falling off."



GTR Newspapers photo

**TIM AND BARBARA NALL:**  
*The owners of We B Trees have been recognized by the Better Business Bureau for excellence in ethics in the marketplace.*

Winter in particular is ideal for maintenance such as cabling and

bracing, for the trees are going to be dormant.

"They're not going to have any leaves on them, so you're not taking away from any photosynthetic activity," Nall says. "Just about anything that can be done to a tree, winter is probably the best time to do it."

As far as We B Trees as a service is concerned, the main difference between fall and winter is the rate at which the company charges.

"Normally the rates are a little bit cheaper in the winter because everybody's slower," Nall says. "If you know you need to do the work and you're not on a timetable, then why do it in November when you can do it in December for a better rate?"

Home and business owners' knowledge on how to care for their trees is generally limited. Nall suggested that, if nothing else, they should have a professional look at their trees and offer some advice.

Speaking of professionals, per-

haps the most sure-fire way to determine whether a company offering their services is reputable is by calling the Better Business Bureau of Tulsa, of which We B Trees is a member.

Nall has watched the average home or business owner make their fair share of mistakes when tending to their trees, chief among them being the types of cuts they make.

"If there's a difference in price, then there's probably going to be a difference in the quality of work," he says. "I guess people sometimes consider trees like they would grass in that they don't think it really matters who cuts it; but you can really make bad cuts on trees that really affect how it grows in the future. The whole idea of the certified arborist is that you're hiring a professional, and he's going to be a little more expensive."

For more information, visit [webtrees.com](http://webtrees.com).

## Joe Robson Honored by Home Builders

Tulsa-based builder and developer Joe Robson has received the National Housing Center's 2017 Exemplary Service to Home Building Award. Robson served on the leadership team of the National Association of Home Builders' Board of Directors for five years and was NAHB Chairman in 2009.

"This award was established to recognize individuals for outstanding and commendable accomplishments in service to the housing industry," said C. Kent Conine, chairman of the National Housing Center Board of Governors, which administers the awards. "The contributions of these honorees have had a broad impact on new construction and home building."

These accomplishments may include extensive leadership in builder associations and housing-related service at the local, state and national levels; development of market enhancements related to such concerns as housing finance or regulation; or other contributions that have a broad impact on new construction and home building.

Other recipients of the 2017 award include Brian Catalde from El Segundo, California; Gerald Kosmensch from Southgate, Michigan; Jean MacDonald from Austin, Texas; Ted Schlossman from Dallas; and Wayne Stetson from Arlington, Virginia.

For more details about the National Housing Center awards, visit [nahb.org/halloffame](http://nahb.org/halloffame).

About Tulsa HBA

The Home Builders Association



Courtesy photo

**AWARD WINNERS:** In addition to Joe Robson, second from right, recipients of the 2017 award include Brian Catalde from El Segundo, California; Gerald Kosmensch from Southgate, Michigan; Jean MacDonald from Austin, Texas; Ted Schlossman from Dallas; and Wayne Stetson from Arlington, Virginia.

of Greater Tulsa is a not-for-profit, professional trade organization that is an advocate for the resi-

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imately 900 members. The association is a corporate channel through which builders contribute time, money and services to local community service projects and education initiatives. Professional members must meet stringent requirements, including customer and professional references, insurance certification and adhere to a strict code of ethics. For more information, visit [TulsaHBA.com](http://TulsaHBA.com).

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## FIRST STATE CELEBRATION



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**CONGRATULATIONS:** Sid Shupack of First State Investment Advisors congratulates colleague Matthew Redmond who was recently appointed vice president of the firm. Redmond also recently became a CFA Chartholder. The event was held at a First State Open House at the firm's Tulsa office in October.

## BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

**Schnake Turnbo Frank**, a strategic communications and management consulting firm with offices in Tulsa and Oklahoma City, has announced the recent election of **Steve Turnbo** as chairman of the Oklahoma Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC), effective immediately.

In this role, Turnbo will conduct all meetings and business of the JNC during the one-year chairman term. Turnbo is only the second non-attorney to be appointed to this position. The only other non-attorney to serve as chairman was Lowe Runkle, the first chair of the JNC in 1969. The chairman is annually elected by the JNC sitting commission members.

"We are so proud of the work Steve does not only for the firm, but in the community as well," said Becky Frank, partner, chairman and CEO at Schnake Turnbo Frank. "He is a great example of a leader and will serve Oklahomans well in his new role as Chairman of the Oklahoma Judicial Nominating Commission."

Turnbo's six-year appointment as a sitting commission member of the JNC began Oct. 5, 2013 and will end Oct. 5, 2019.

**Hope Forsyth**, a student at The University of Tulsa College of Law, has been selected as the college's **Oklahoma Bar Association (OBA) Outstanding Student** in 2017. Annually, each law school in the state selects a graduating student to receive the award at the OBA meeting in November. "I'm honored and excited to be selected as TU's representative for this great honor," says Forsyth. "I greatly appreciate the stellar education, mentorship and opportunities I have received throughout both my law and undergraduate education at TU."

Forsyth is the executive editor of the Tulsa Law Review, a student member of the Council Oak/Johnson-Sontag Inn of Court and a member of Phi Delta Phi. She has earned eight CALI Excellence for the Future Awards for the highest grade in various classes and the George and Jean Price Award for legal reasoning, research and writing.

During her time at TU, Forsyth has gained experience at multiple levels of the federal court system through internships for Chief Judge Gregory K. Frizzell, former Magistrate Judge T. Lane Wilson and Magistrate Judge Paul J. Cleary, all of the Northern District of Oklahoma. In the spring of 2018, Forsyth will extern for Tenth Circuit Senior Judge Stephanie K. Seymour.

Forsyth's law review comment, "Mutually Assured Protection: Dmitri Shostakovich and Russian Influence on American Copyright Law," will be published in the Tulsa Law Review Spring 2018 issue. Prior to law school, her examination of the historical and current use of the word "forum" was published in Princeton University Press' Digital Keywords: A Vocabulary of Information Society and Culture.

Forsyth grew up in Cushing, where her father practices law. She earned a bachelor's degree magna cum laude in communication and media studies with minors in English and philosophy from The University of Tulsa.



TURNBO

**Tulsa Regional Chamber** has announced the promotion of **Kuma Roberts** to the role of executive director of talent attraction, retention and Mosaic. Roberts was previously appointed interim executive director in April. Before that, Roberts served as the Chamber's program manager for education. In that capacity, she drove engagement between the Tulsa business community and area school districts.

In her new role, Roberts will direct the Chamber's workforce development efforts, including the areas of training and degree attainment, as well as Mosaic, the Chamber's diversity business council.

Roberts is a native Tulsan who graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and went on to study English and theater at the University of Tulsa. Prior to joining the Chamber staff, Roberts worked at Volunteers of America, where she developed her desire to work in a community betterment capacity.

In addition to her Chamber work, Roberts serves on the Leadership Tulsa board and is the education co-chair for the Tulsa Area United Way Women's Leadership Council. In June, Roberts was appointed to the mayor's inaugural African American Affairs Commission. She is on the program committee for LEAD North and a graduate of Leadership Tulsa Class 51.

**Ruslan Ilyushenko** has joined the Broken Arrow-based **Oseco** team as vice president of manufacturing. With over 17 years of industry experience, Ilyushenko will lead manufacturing operations for Oseco.

Ilyushenko received his Bachelor of Science in Economics and Finance from the University of Tulsa in 1999. He went on to receive his Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma State University in 2013.

Also joining Oseco as vice president – finance is **Garren Taylor**. With over 10 years of industry experience, Taylor will oversee accounting and internet technology operations within the Oseco organization.

Taylor received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Baylor University in 2004 and became a CPA in 2007. He went on to receive his Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma State University in 2014.

**Lloyd Landreth** has been honored with the 2018 "Best Lawyers" distinction. Best Lawyers is the oldest and most respected national, peer-review publication in the legal profession.

Landreth, a resident of Jenks, practices with the GableGotwals law firm and was recognized for his expertise in the areas of natural resources law and litigation-environmental.

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. The firm has offices in Tulsa, Oklahoma City and San Antonio, Texas.



ROBERTS

**AVB Bank** announces the hiring of **Jody Manning** and his election to the position of executive vice president, finance. Manning will serve on the bank's executive management team.

Manning has more than 20 years of experience in the financial industry as both a controller and auditor.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to work at a bank so deeply rooted in state history, serving the community through innovative banking solutions and traditional personal service," says Manning. "AVB demonstrates a unique blend of the traditional customer experience of banking, along with the ever-changing world of 'on-the-go' banking services."

Manning went to McAlister High School before attending Oklahoma Baptist University, where he received his bachelor's degree in Accounting. Since 2012, he has served as a board member of the Oklahoma Accountancy Board. Manning and his family reside in Tulsa.

**Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors** has hired Tulsa architect **Tyler Sappington**.

Sappington brings to Sparks Reed an in-depth knowledge of three-dimensional printing and milling, a skill he also shares with Tulsa's Fab Lab as an advisory committee member and volunteer. Developments in this emerging field fuel his bullish outlook on the industry's future.

A Tulsa native and Holland Hall graduate, Sappington worked at two other Tulsa architectural firms before coming to Sparks Reed.

Sparks Reed Architecture and Interiors was founded in 2011 by Gary Sparks, Jill Selman, and David Reed. These three have worked together on private and public architectural and interior projects valued at more than \$500 million. To learn more about the firm and its past projects, visit sparksreed.com.

Governor Mary Fallin has appointed **Dr. Lori McGinnis-Madland** to serve as a commissioner for the **Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY)**. McGinnis-Madland will serve for a minimum of two years and work with 18 other commissioners who will work to develop and improve services to the children and youth of Oklahoma.

McGinnis-Madland serves as the president and chief executive officer of Street School located in Tulsa, a position she has held since 2003. Prior to Street School she was a field coordinator for the Oklahoma Technical Assistance Center and also began alternative education programs for Sand Springs Public Schools. Early in her career, she was a special education teacher at Sand Springs Public Schools.

McGinnis-Madland has a doctorate in educational administration from Oklahoma State University.



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# Tulsa's Sophian Plaza a Popular Residential Choice

## River View Apartments Reflect An Era of Luxurious Amenities

At 1502 S. Frisco Ave., Tulsa's very first high-rise apartment building sits serenely, overlooking the Arkansas River. It was built by developer Harry J. Sophian and probably financed by his brother, Kansas City physician Dr. Al Sophian.

The Sophian Plaza has a larger, more elaborate look-alike sister: the Kansas City Sophian. The Kansas City big sister is two floors higher with a more elaborate ornamental exterior. Both buildings were designed by the Kansas City architectural firm of Shepherd and Wiser. The Tulsa Sophian Plaza was completed in 1926, several years after its Kansas City sister.

The Sophian Plaza reflects an era of luxurious amenities when elegance was important. The building staff included a valet, a porter, a gardener, garage attendants and laundry maids. There was a separate servants' entrance and a bell and buzzer system to summon the servants. Originally, no children or pets were allowed. Its 45 apartments are a mix of five-room efficiencies and seven-room suites, which have three baths. Most units had hardwood floors and crown

moldings. In this H-shaped building, the units are arranged along a double loaded central corridor with the most popular ones facing the river on the west.

The main lobby harkens back to the New York Waldorf Astoria Palm Room décor with walls of yellow Kasta marble and black York Fossil base. The floor is white Italian marble with black York Fossil squares set in a checker board design.

The exterior of the eight-story Sophian Plaza is clad in a dark red brick highlighted by double hung wood windows with muntined upper sashes and limestone highlights and detail. The central main entrance is approached by a circle drive. The lobby/lounge overlooks a large lawn, which is terraced down to a pool and croquet court. Tenant garages are concealed and tucked into the hillside.

The Sophian Plaza's north and south wings are faced in limestone at the first floor. This treatment terminates in a carved floral frieze capped by dentil molding. At the north and south wings are arched windows with limestone rope surrounds and central keystones. Bas-relief baluster panels occur below the windows at the rear elevation.

### On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA



Courtesy photo

**FIRST HIGH RISE:** Built in 1926, the Sophian Plaza, 1502 S. Frisco Ave., was Tulsa's first high-rise apartment building. The building's western views of the Arkansas River have helped it to maintain popularity as a residential property. It currently is a condominium facility.



Courtesy photo

**LUXURIOUS AMENITIES:** Originally, the Sophian Plaza's building staff included a valet, a porter, a gardener, garage attendants and laundry maids. There was a separate servants' entrance and a bell and buzzer system to summon the servants.



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**WARREN PLACE RETAIL:** Construction moves forward on a shopping center at the corner of Yale Avenue and 61st Street. The project is planned to be called the Shops at Warren Place as of this writing. This photo was taken in early September. Development is continuing on the project.



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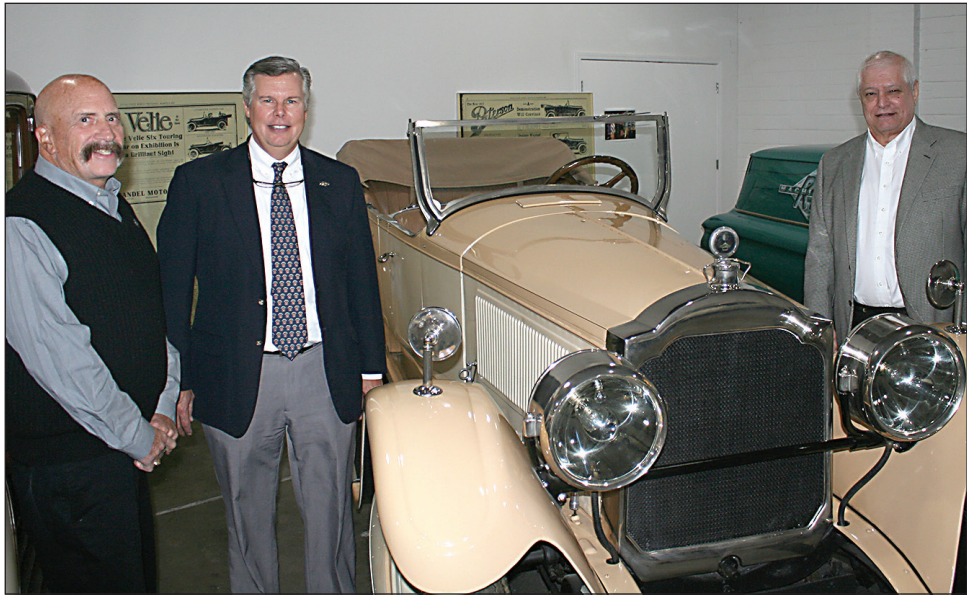
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**AUTO MUSEUM VISIT:** Members of the Rotary Club of Tulsa recently visited the Heart of Route 66 Auto Museum in Sapulpa. From left are Art Rasher, professor emeritus at the University of Tulsa; Jerry Bates, Head of Riverfield Country Day School; and Bob Saied of Saied Music. The museum was founded by Rotarian Richard Homes of Tulsa.



Courtesy Tulsa Press Club

**FIRST DRAFT:** The Tulsa Press Club's First Draft beer tasting event is scheduled for Nov. 10 at ONEOK Field. From left, First Draft Co-Chair Brian Welzbacher, Cabin Boys' Austin McIlroy, Heirloom Rustic Ales' Jake Miller and Zach French, Co-Chair Nikki Schack, and Tulsa Press Club Manager Kelly Nash gather to promote the event.

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# Tulsa History: Why Downtown's Streets Are Skewed

By CHARLIE CANTRELL  
Editor At Large

Ever notice how all those downtown streets encapsulated in the inner dispersal loop are slanted precisely 34-degrees off true north? Why are they skewed compared to the rest of Greater Tulsa? To understand, one needs to go back to when Green Country was an uninterrupted expanse of plush prairie grasses and hardwood forest.

After the Civil War, much of the tall grass prairie was known as Indian Territory, and what was destined to become northern Texas, Oklahoma and much of Kansas was opened to railroad right of way by the federal government. Rail lines running south from the transcontinental lines of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe and the Union Pacific were needed to transport cattle to growing urban markets like Kansas City and Chicago. Demand for rail lines continued growing as the post civil war cattle industry spread across Green Country.

Slow, cumbersome cattle drives northward to market centers became a thing of the past, replaced by the more rapid transporting capabilities of the mighty Iron Horse. Railroads were like blood vessels to the Tall Grass Prairie, bringing in the lifeblood of new settlers and exporting their agrarian products into the heart of growing urban markets.

In 1871, the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad (A&P) conducted a survey plotting a course through what was to become Tulsa in hopes of bringing rail service into burgeoning cattle country. But due to financial challenges, the actual construction of the rail line was halted approximately 60 miles northeast in the town of Vinita.

Finally in 1882, the A&P reorganized into a new entity: the St Louis-San Francisco Railway, forever to be known as the Frisco Railroad. Solicitation for contractors to build the new rail line began, and a contract was awarded to Harry Constantine Hall, an experienced railway contractor who helped build the famous transcontinental Union Pacific Railroad, completed in 1869.

Most Tulsans probably won't recognize the name Harry C. Hall or that of his younger brother, James Monroe Hall, who soon joined Harry to help carry out the work of completing the Frisco rail line south from Vinita to the Arkansas River. Yet, these two historic figures through force of will, ingenuity and good old frontier gumption were instrumental in determining



**EARLIEST KNOWN PHOTO OF TULSA:** Taken in 1882, this is believed to be the earliest image of Tulsa, looking north from about Main and Second streets. The two-story structure in the background on the right is the town's first hotel, The Tulsa House.

the location and birth of the City of Tulsa.

The Hall Brothers were like other early settlers who came to Indian Territory in search of a foothold in the vast expanse of territory. They were multi-skilled, resourceful, energetic and in search of opportunity. But they differed from many of the less refined characters drawn to Indian Territory in that they were personable, mild-mannered, reasonably well-educated, ambitious family men, with what turned out to be keen judgment and foresight.

After receiving the Frisco railroad contract, Harry recruited his brother, known to all as J.M., to help him corral the often-rowdy construction crew. In the spring of 1882, the building of the Frisco Railroad out of Vinita began in earnest. Although J.M. was mild mannered and slight of build, his personable approach and friendly countenance somehow succeeded in keeping the raucous work crew focused on the task at hand.

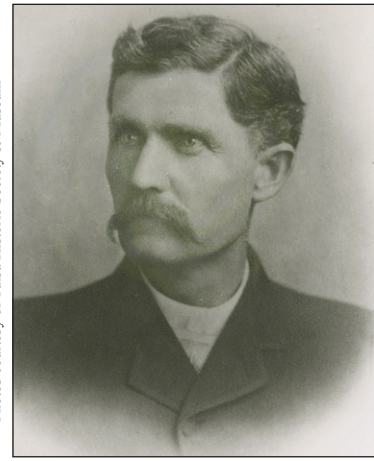
Construction progressed quickly, soon crossing the Verdigris River and continuing south. During the last leg, the brothers searched ahead along the grading stakes of the survey line for the optimum location for a depot. Establishing a depot in the heart of cattle country was the primary purpose of the rail line. The brothers understood the location of the depot would become the commercial center of the region. It would be the destination of cattle drives from the many area ranches. Wherever a depot was built, commerce and eventually a community would likely follow. The two entrepreneurs planned to return to their first love: that of successful merchants by building a trading post near the depot. They believed

becoming merchants would offer more financial stability and enhance the prospects of family life. Both men had left their families behind in pursuit of the opportunity afforded them by the railroad contract.

A burgeoning population of cowboys, farmers, ranchers, railroad workers, and most importantly, Native American tribes made up the increasingly diverse population of Indian Territory. The region needed a trading post, and as railroad contractors, the Hall brothers had positioned themselves to know exactly where the trains would eventually stop and therefore where best to locate their planned enterprise.

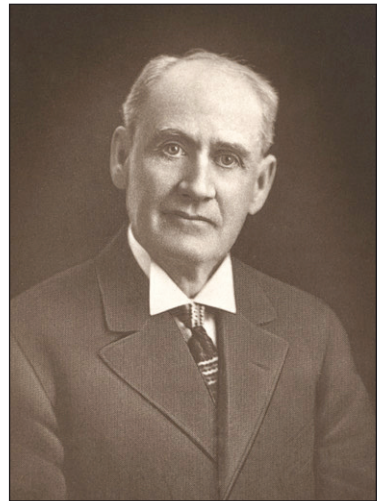
It's easy to imagine why they chose a location in the fertile Arkansas River basin on Creek Nation land for the depot. Not only were nearby large cattle ranches poised with market bound herds of long-horn cattle, but the sandy loam soil awash with Blue Stem and Buffalo Grass was perfect for farming, and close by was abundant hardwood forest for lumber. Also, less than a third of a mile to the north was the convergence of the Creek, Cherokee and Osage nations. A little farther west were the Pawnee and Sac & Fox Nations.

Harry Hall's insistence that the depot be located on Creek Nation land meant less hassle when it came to restrictions that other tribes imposed on non-Indian residents. The Creeks were ahead of other tribes in the region when it came to assimilation with the influx of white settlers. Therefore, the chosen lo-



Photos courtesy of Tulsa Historic Society & Museum

**HARRY CONSTANTINE HALL:** Had he lived to see Tulsey Town grow into a thriving metropolis, Harry Hall would likely be remembered as the founding father of modern Tulsa. Instead, due to longevity his younger brother J.M. Hall holds claim to that title.



**JAMES MONROE HALL:** After the death of brother, Harry, J.M. continued pursuing their dream of a city on the prairie. Evidence of his success is modern day Tulsa.

cation offered more potential for a white settlement to succeed.

By coincidence, the location the two brothers chose for the depot was within a short buggy ride of the Council Oak Tree where 46 years earlier the Loachapoka Tallasi people of the Muscogee Indians (called Creeks by white settlers) had settled after their long, torturous journey on the infamous Trail Of Tears.

The establishment of the Frisco Railroad Depot began the history that shaped a little prairie settlement once known as Tulsey Town into "America's Most Beautiful City," "The Magic Empire" or "The Oil Capital of the World." Take your pick.

But wait. What about those skewed streets?

J.M. knew that to have a town, one must first have streets. When the railroad grading crew showed up to prepare the grounds for the depot construction, he directed two streets be graded south of the depot location. One grade was a two-block-long, eighty-foot-wide swath to serve as Main Street. It ran perpendicular to the newly completed rail line while the other street, the one dubbed First Street, ran parallel to the tracks. First Street connected to Main Street to form a T intersection. The Frisco rail line was not true north thus neither was Tulsa's first two streets. The direction of streets

to follow was set and that is how early downtown Tulsa got skewed.

Even if the early grid of Tulsa streets was not laid out true north, everything else was right on track thanks in large part to the Hall brothers' insistent focus on creating a civilized, family-friendly community centered around education, opportunity, commerce and faith as the governing forces serving as counterpoints to the all too often turbulence of frontier life.

Soon to follow were the Hall & Co. Store, the Presbyterian Mission School, a two-story hotel named Tulsa House, the Archer Store, and the Perryman Store. As anticipated by the brothers, these enterprises sprung up in the next five years close to the Frisco Depot. It was the beginning of Tulsa.

Harry Hall's death in 1895 robbed him of witnessing his vision of a fledgling prairie community growing into a thriving city. On the other hand, J.M. lived for eighty-four years and saw it all come true.

Today, Greater Tulsa benefits from the legacy of accomplishments of the Hall Brothers, from their tireless efforts to build a city on the prairie, and from their entrepreneurial spirit and their uncanny vision.

*Special thanks to Tulsa Historic Society and the Beryl Ford Collection/Rotary Club of Tulsa for the photos accompanying this article.*

## The Hamlet Returns to South Tulsa

By BLAKE AUSTYN  
Contributing Writer

In October, The Hamlet returned to its original south Tulsa location at 9107 S. Sheridan Rd.

"Everyone was wanting The Hamlet back," says Owner Gordon Pendergraft. "The demand was really large, so The Hamlet returned."

"The restaurant returns revamped and rebranded with a new look, and we are excited to see all of our returning customers."

The restaurant features a dine-in cafe for daily lunch dining, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The pa-

tio includes a large fireplace and heated atmosphere for fall afternoon dining.

The menu features wraps, sandwiches, and salads, including grilled ham, chicken caesar and turkey club, a kids menu, and catering options.

The restaurant also includes a retail store with spiral-cut hams and turkeys available year round. A second retail store is located at 71st Street and Trenton Avenue.

The Hamlet recommends calling ahead to order hams and turkeys, especially during the busy holiday season.

The Hamlet has been locally owned since 1986.



BLAKE AUSTYN for GTR Newspapers

**TULSA FAVORITE:** The Hamlet, 9107 S. Sheridan Rd., has returned to its 91st Street and Sheridan Road location. The restaurant features a dine-in cafe for daily lunch dining, a heated patio, and a retail area with spiral-cut hams and turkeys available year round

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>29 October</b> <b>PUMPKINHEAD WORKSHOP</b> Tulsa Botanic Garden 2 – 2:30 p.m. Visit tulsabotanic.org for more information. <b>CHICKS WITH HITS</b> Hard Rock Hotel and Casino 5 – 7:30 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information. <b>THE LACS: DEPLORABLES TOUR</b> Cain's Ballroom 7:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	<b>30</b> <b>BOOKS SANDWICHED IN</b> Central Library 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Dave Rader reviews, "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>BLUES TRAVELER RE-UNION SHOW</b> Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	<b>HALLOWEEN</b> <b>FABULOUS FALL: WINTERIZING HOUSEPLANTS</b> Central Library 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>TRUNK OR TREAT</b> First United Methodist Church of Owasso 6 p.m. Visit fmcowasso.org for more information.	<b>1 November</b> <b>BROWN BAG IT: TRIO BALAN-KAN</b> PAC Trust 12:10 p.m. FREE event. <b>THEORY OF A DEADMAN</b> Cain's Ballroom 7:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. <b>Free Small Business Checking</b> Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	<b>2</b> <b>MAGIC OF ART</b> PAC Gallery Nov. 2 – 29 FREE exhibit. <b>SIMPLE STEPS FOR STARTING YOUR BUSINESS</b> Hardesty Regional Library 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>BOOTCAMP</b> Guthrie Green 5:30 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.	<b>3</b> <b>GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Memphis</b> • 7 p.m. Football tulsahurricane.com for tickets. <b>TULSA OILERS vs. Utah</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. <b>DON QUIXOTE</b> Tulsa Ballet 8 p.m. • Nov. 3-4 myticketoffice.com for tickets.	<b>4</b> <b>TULSA OILERS vs. Utah</b> 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. <b>NATURE TRAIL FULL MOON HIKE</b> Tulsa Botanic Garden 8 – 9 p.m. Visit tulsabotanic.org for more information. <b>AMADEUS Theatre Tulsa</b> 8 p.m. • Nov. 3-4 myticketoffice.com for tickets.
<b>5</b> <b>AMADEUS Theatre Tulsa</b> 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>DON QUIXOTE</b> Tulsa Ballet 3 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>MICKY DOLENZ</b> Hard Rock Hotel and Casino 5 – 7:30 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.	<b>6</b> <b>KRIS KRISTOFFERSON</b> BOK Center 7:30 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. <b>BOOKS SANDWICHED IN</b> Central Library 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>More Bank for Your Buck</b> Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	<b>7</b> <b>BLEACHERS: GONE NOW ERA - PART 2</b> Cain's Ballroom 7:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. <b>TULSA MASTER GARDENERS LUNCH AND LEARN EDUCATIONAL SERIES - FABULOUS FALL: COMPOSTING 101</b> Central Library 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	<b>8</b> <b>STRENGTHENING THE IMMUNE SYSTEM</b> Cancer Treatment Centers of America 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Visit www.cancercenter.com for more information. <b>PJ MASKS LIVE! TIME TO BE A HERO</b> 35 Concerts 6 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	<b>9</b> <b>KENNY LOGGINS &amp; MICHAEL McDONALD</b> RiverSpirit Casino 7:30 p.m. Visit riverspirittulsa.com for more information. <b>JACK HANNA'S INTO THE WILD LIVE!</b> Celebrity Attractions and Nationwide 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	<b>10</b> <b>GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Lamar</b> • 12 p.m. Men's Basketball tulsahurricane.com for tickets. <b>AIRI POSITIVE HITS TOUR</b> BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. <b>AMADEUS Theatre Tulsa</b> 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	<b>11</b> <b>AMADEUS Theatre Tulsa</b> 2 & 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>TERRY FATOR</b> Hard Rock Hotel and Casino 4 – 6 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information. <b>ROCK N FOLK N CHILI COOK OFF</b> Cain's Ballroom 5:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.
<b>12</b> <b>BIG FISH THE MUSICAL</b> TCC Van Trease Pace 2 p.m. Visit tulsace.edu for more information. <b>MECCORE QUARTET</b> Chamber Music Tulsa 3 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>2017 CYNERGY HURLAND, A TULSA TOUGH PRODUCTION</b> Owen Park All Day Visit hurtlandusa.com for info.	<b>13</b> <b>GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. ORU</b> • 7 p.m. Men's Basketball tulsahurricane.com for tickets. <b>BOOKS SANDWICHED IN</b> Central Library 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Dr. Joseph Bradley reviews, "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	<b>14</b> <b>DRAWING ON MEMORIES</b> Gilcrease Museum 10 a.m. Visit alz.org for more information. <b>SCREEN PRINTING 101</b> Central Library 4 – 5 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>GUNS N' ROSES</b> BOK Center 8 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.	<b>15</b> <b>FOO FIGHTERS</b> BOK Center 7:30 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. <b>BIG FISH THE MUSICAL</b> TCC Van Trease Pace 8 p.m. Visit tulsace.edu for more information. <b>Ask us about fraud ID protection</b> Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	<b>16</b> <b>MARTIN LUTHER ON TRIAL</b> Fellowship for Performing Arts 7 p.m. • Nov. 16-17 myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>EDDIE MONEY AND STARSHIP FEATURING MICKEY THOMAS</b> Hard Rock Hotel and Casino 7 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.	<b>17</b> <b>BLUE OCTOBER</b> Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information. <b>ALABAMA</b> RiverSpirit Casino 8 p.m. Visit riverspirittulsa.com for more information. <b>ASTRONOMY NIGHT</b> Tulsa Botanic Garden 7:30 – 10 p.m. Visit tulsabotanic.org for more information.	<b>18</b> <b>HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE</b> Tulsa Symphony 1 & 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>MARTIN LUTHER ON TRIAL</b> Fellowship for Performing Arts 2 & 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.
<b>19</b> <b>HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE</b> Tulsa Symphony 2 & 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>WILLIAMS ROUTE 66 MARATHON</b> Cox Business Center All Day Visit route66marathon.com for more information.	<b>20</b> <b>BOOKS SANDWICHED IN</b> Central Library 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Lisa Stefania reviews, "The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules" by Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>We Offer Health Savings Accounts</b> Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	<b>21</b> <b>COOKING CLASS: WINTER COMFORT FOODS</b> Cancer Treatment Centers of America 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Visit www.cancercenter.com for more information. <b>OPEN DRAWING STUDIO</b> Central Library 3 – 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	<b>22</b> <b>A SPOON FULL OF FUN! MARY POPPINS MOVIE AND MORE!</b> Hardesty Regional Library 2 – 4:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>RITZ - LAST CALL TOUR</b> Cain's Ballroom 7:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	<b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING</b> <b>LIGHTS ON!</b> Ulica Square 6:30 p.m. Visit uticasquare.com for more information.	<b>24</b> <b>BRIT FLOYD</b> Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information. <b>MOSCOW BALLET'S GREAT RUSSIAN NUTCRACKER</b> Mabee Center 7 p.m. Visit mabeecenter.com for info. <b>JASON BOLAND &amp; THE STRAGGLERS</b> Cain's Ballroom 8:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	<b>25</b> <b>PAW PATROL LIVE! "THE GREAT PIRATE ADVENTURE"</b> BOK Center 10 a.m., 2 & 6 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for info. <b>GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Temple</b> • Time TBA Football tulsahurricane.com for tickets. <b>GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Central Ark.</b> • Time TBA Men's Basketball tulsahurricane.com for tickets.
<b>26</b> <b>PAW PATROL LIVE! "THE GREAT PIRATE ADVENTURE"</b> BOK Center 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. <b>RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER: THE MUSICAL</b> Celebrity Attractions 1 & 5 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	<b>27</b> <b>GOLDEN EAGLES vs. Oakland</b> • 7 p.m. Men's Basketball Visit mabeecenter.com for info. <b>MAKING AND GIVING: DIY HOLIDAY GIFTS</b> Central Library 4 – 5 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	<b>28</b> <b>BEAUTIFUL - THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL</b> Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>GWAR - THE BLOOD OF GODS TOUR</b> Cain's Ballroom 7:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. <b>New Name. Same Bank.</b> Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	<b>29</b> <b>KATY PERRY</b> BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. <b>BEAUTIFUL - THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL</b> Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>THE REVIVALISTS</b> Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	<b>30</b> <b>GAMES IN THE GARDEN</b> Central Library 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>BEAUTIFUL - THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL</b> Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>WHISKEY MYERS</b> Cain's Ballroom 8:15 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	<b>1 December</b> <b>BEAUTIFUL - THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL</b> Celebrity Attractions 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>AMY GRANT AND MICHAEL W. SMITH</b> BOK Center 8 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.	<b>2</b> <b>BEAUTIFUL - THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL</b> Celebrity Attractions 2 & 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>RIVERFIELD ROCKS</b> Cain's Ballroom 6 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. <b>LINDSEY STIRLING</b> BOK Center 8 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.

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## OWASSO NEWS

# Owasso Nurse Provides Aid to Hurricane Maria Victims

Eric Hanson, an Owasso nurse, recently returned home after assisting the federal medical response to Hurricane Maria as part of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). Hanson serves as a member of an NDMS Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT).

NDMS personnel, along with U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS) officers, have provided care to more than 1,600 people affected by the storm.

The NDMS is a federal program that provides support to communities with medical care and mortuary assistance during disasters or public health emergencies at the request of states and U.S. territories. NDMS is among the resources made available by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant

Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

HHS personnel deployed to the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are providing life-saving care, helping stabilize health care systems including suppliers and regulated industries in the territories, and restoring services to meet residents' needs with a focus on services for people with chronic health conditions. HHS also is maintaining a physical presence in every hospital in Puerto Rico through a collaborative effort with the Department of Defense.

NDMS teams consist of physicians, nurses, veterinary staff, paramedics, fatality management professionals, and experienced command and control staff.

The NDMS comprises approximately 5,000 medical public health and emergency manage-

ment professionals organized into more than 70 response teams. Although they hail from communities nationwide, when deployed, they are federal government employees working as part of a coordinated federal response.

ASPR leads the nation in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the adverse health effects of public health emergencies and disasters. It focuses on preparedness planning and response; building federal emergency medical operational capabilities; countermeasures research, advance development, and procurement; and grants to strengthen the capabilities of hospitals and health care systems in public health emergencies and medical disasters.

For more information about federal medical response and NDMS, visit [phe.gov](http://phe.gov).



Courtesy HHS ASPR

**DISASTER RELIEF:** The National Disaster Medical System team recently treated community members in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, after the devastation of Hurricane Maria. Owasso nurse Eric Hanson took part in the medical relief efforts.

# Dairy Queen Continues to Expand in Greater Tulsa

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**  
Contributing Writer

Despite the recent closings of two area Dairy Queens, the company is planning to further expand in the Tulsa area with its growing Grill & Chill restaurant concept.

Currently, the company has stores in the Tulsa area, with a plan to add upwards of seven additional stores in the next five years, says Dairy Queen Vice President of Development Mike Mettler.

Dairy Queen's Grill & Chill concept launched in 2002. Currently, there are more than 2,134 Grill & Chill restaurants in 46 states.

The company also operates Dairy

Queen Treat locations throughout the country.

"Dairy Queen's Grill and Chill concept makes up 50 percent of the company but is currently 100 percent of company growth," he says, "making us the fastest growing burger store in the U.S. currently."

About 85 Grill & Chill restaurants are being added across the country per year.

The Grill & Chill concept endeavors to round out Dairy Queen offerings by combining its historical and nostalgic cold treats with a lunch and dinner menu, including burgers and chicken sandwiches, a \$5 lunch special, and artisan-style sandwiches.

There are various factors in the company's decision as to where to open new store locations, Mettler says, factors such as daily traffic numbers, retail and residential developments, area income levels, and the area's proximity to families and community activities.

The company operates under a franchise model, so executives are currently working to identify local, potential franchise owners and the appropriate real estate locations with the goal to begin construction on two new stores in 2018, Mettler says.

Two stores would continue to be developed for the following five years.



Courtesy photo

**HOLDING ONTO POPULARITY:** Dairy Queen plans to add seven Grill & Chill stores in the greater Tulsa area in the next five years. Currently, Dairy Queen's Grill & Chill growth makes it the fastest growing burger operation in the country.

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## Board Member Proud of Service

(Continued from page 1)

love of social studies and their love of traveling," she says.

This not only stirred up student interest in class but also kept student absences low, Ballinger smiles,

"I would never tell my students when I was going to dress up or bring them candy so they never knew what they were going to experience in my class. Therefore, they didn't want to miss class."

Ballinger joined the Owasso school board in 2003 after retiring from teaching.

"When I retired, I asked myself, 'How can I continue to serve?'" she says. "Being on the school board offered me a way to continue to serve and to be involved in education after retirement."

"Ms. Ballinger is literally an Owasso icon as it seems like everyone in Owasso had her for their teacher," says Superintendent Dr. Clark Ogilvie.

"Due to her reputation as an outstanding teacher," he notes, "She has always had the trust and confidence of the community as a school board member and has never violated

that trust in her 15 year tenure. She always puts the welfare of every Owasso student before anything else in her decision-making process."

The responsibilities of the school board include hiring and evaluating the school superintendent, setting school policies and approving school expenditures.

As for the accomplishments Ballinger is most proud of while serving on the school board, Ballinger notes the hiring of Dr. Ogilvie as school superintendent and moving the life-sized version of Owasso's Rambo to the High School.

Rambo's move to the High School came about due to community donors, and Ballinger had the privilege of unveiling the statue.

"To me, that statue is so symbolic of the school system and the giving spirit of the community," she says.

While Ballinger appreciates her years on the school board, she hopes to see someone take her seat who is ready to serve the community and put the students first: "You have to have a servant's heart to do this job," she says.

## Owasso City Manager Praises Growth

(Continued from page 1)

Also on the horizon is Owasso's Public Safety Operations and Training Complex, located on 116th Street North between Garnett Road and 129th East Avenue. The City broke ground in September. The facility will house Fire Station No. 4 and training areas for fire, police and public works.

"This will be the best public works facility in the state if not the country," said Lehr. "And it will be good for Owasso's public safety."

Lehr expects bids to go out on the city's Redbud Festival Park in spring of next year.

"The greatest feature of that park will be the great lawn, which will stretch from Main to Birch streets," said Lehr.

The park will encourage community gatherings in downtown, including the Gathering on Main and a possible farmers market.

Two major mixed-use projects have been

announced for downtown Owasso.

Construction is already underway on two mixed-use structures on the corner of First and Main streets by Steve and Renee Mowery, owners of Mowery Funeral Services and The Suites at Bella Dea.

The buildings will offer studio, one and two-bedroom lofts with restaurants and retail space on the bottom level.

Seven6Main, a three-story mixed-use building, will be located on 76th Street North between Main and Birch streets, and is being developed by the Coulter family, owners of Coulter & Company and Smoke Woodfire Grill.

The 41,000-square-foot building will feature first-floor restaurants and retail spaces, second-floor office space, and third-floor residential apartments.

Both of these projects came about after the Owasso City Council approved a TIF District for downtown.