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MIDTOWN MONITOR

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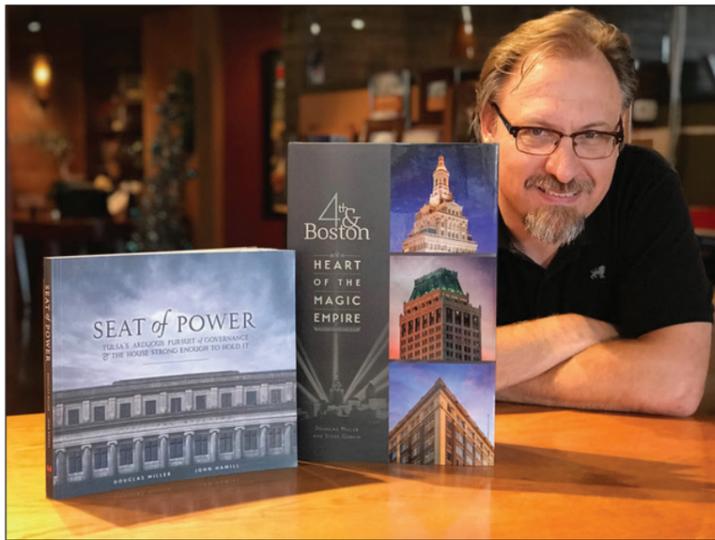
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DOUGLAS MILLER RELEASES BOOK ON TULSA HISTORY



Courtesy photo

STORIES OF LEGACY: Douglas Miller poses with his two books that highlight Tulsa architecture and history: *4th & Boston: Heart of the Magic Empire* and, the newly released, *Seat of Power: Tulsa's Arduous Pursuit of Governance & the House Strong Enough to Hold it*.

Just in time for the holiday season, the second of two books exploring the relationship between Tulsa's architecture and its history was released Dec. 8.

Publisher, lead author and book designer Douglas Miller builds on the success of last year's popular release, *4th & Boston: Heart of the Magic Empire*, with his new book: *Seat of Power: Tulsa's Arduous Pursuit of Governance & the House Strong Enough to Hold it*.

Seat of Power tells the story behind Tulsa's longest-serving City Hall—the Municipal Building which stands on the southwest corner of 4th Street and Cincinnati Avenue in downtown Tulsa. Construction on the building began in 1917, it opened in 1919, and it remained in use until City Hall relocated to the Civic Center in 1969. Fully renovated in 1974, the building has been in use as modern commercial office space since then.

Seat of Power is not a sequel to *4th & Boston*, Miller explains, but the two books do share a common

ancestry. Both projects, commissioned by property owners, celebrate the centennial of oil-boom-era buildings.

One-hundred years ago, Tulsa was experiencing growth too explosive, in Miller's view, to be fully appreciated by most Tulsans today: "We're amazed at how quickly areas like 101st Street and Memorial Drive or 91st Street and Yale Avenue fill up with box stores," he says. "But, during the oil-boom era, Tulsa was the fastest-growing city in the world. Between 1904 and 1929, Tulsa evolved from a cow town with a train depot and about 1,500 people to a major American metropolis with skyscrapers, industry and 140,000 citizens. And all of that progress occurred without the aid of computers, satellite communications, and modern transportation."

Miller says that it shouldn't be surprising that there was a lot of drama tied up in Tulsa's growth—including the buildings about which he writes.

"Tulsa was built by rough-and-

DESIGNER SHOWCASE HOME ANNOUNCED



Midtown Monitor Photo

MIDTOWN RESIDENCE: Designer Showcase 2018 chairs Evan and Cassie Tipton stand with a photo of the 2018 Designer Showcase home. The 5,800-square-foot house is located at 2703 S. Yorktown Ave.

The Designer Showcase House is preparing to enter its 45th year in 2018.

The event is an annual fundraiser organized by the Foundation for Tulsa Schools. The foundation provides education resources, opportunities and support for Tulsa Public Schools.

The 2018 Designer Showcase House is located 2703 S. Yorktown Ave., bringing 20 profes-

sional designers together to feature their creative designs. Each year, more than 6,000 people tour the home over a six-week period.

The 5,800-square-foot home was built in 1935 and features four bedrooms, three full and three half baths, and a finished basement.

The home will be open to the public for tours April 27-May 20.

tumble pioneers and wildcatters who started with nothing yet built a financial empire with little more than nerves of steel and raw opportunity. They worked extremely hard and took tremendous risks to get rich quick—not always legally, ethically or successfully. But those who made it wanted the world to know what they had achieved. It's not an exaggeration to say that behind every one of Tulsa's oil-boom buildings can be found the story of those bold personalities who wanted to leave their legacy."

Not only does this power of legacy make for a remarkable story, but in Miller's view, it also adds to the tragedy of all the architecture that Tulsa lost during the Urban Renewal era of the 1960s and '70s.

In *Seat of Power*, he reveals the pivotal role the Municipal Building had in the birth of Tulsa's current spirit of historic preservation. "After the city moved out, the Municipal Building was doomed to become a parking lot," he explains. "But someone was willing to take a risk on saving it just to prove that old buildings didn't have to be sacrificed in the name of progress."

More than just a financial gamble that paid off, the renovation of what is known today as the "Old City Hall" building succeeded in changing the way Tulsans look at the city's architectural heritage. "We owe a lot to that building," Miller says. "Having the opportunity to tell its story was both an honor and responsibility."

(Continued on page 28)

KUDOS OF THE MONTH: The Salvation Army

With the return of the holiday season, The Salvation Army is increasing its already active efforts to help those in need.

On Nov. 10, The Salvation Army Tulsa Area Command kicked off its Red Kettle Campaign with the goal of helping more than 3,500 families over the holiday season. The organization is also conducting its annual Angel Tree program, which provides Christmas gifts to children in need.

Earlier this year, the Tulsa Command launched the Power of Twelve, a fundraising and awareness campaign with the goal of locating 12,000 individuals to pledge to donate \$12 per month for 12 months.

The Tulsa command serves more than 100,000 children per year, in part through

its six area Boys and Girls Clubs, and serves over 350,000 meals per year at its downtown shelter, at 102 N. Denver Ave.

Additionally, Tulsa Metro Area Commander Captain Ken Chapman continues to draw attention to the issue of homelessness in Tulsa.

On Nov. 30, Chapman began a three-day, 66-mile walk along Route 66 in order to heighten awareness of the plight of homeless individuals. He walked during the day and slept two nights outside in a cardboard box.

On Dec. 1, leadership of The Salvation Army Tulsa Metro Area held a Summit on Homelessness in order to draw attention to the rising numbers that the organization is seeing locally of individuals seeking emergency shelter.



GTR Newspapers photo

RED KETTLE CAMPAIGN: Tulsa Metro Area Commander Captain Ken Chapman stands with a Salvation Army bell ringer and demonstrates the credit card donation option available at the organization's Red Kettle stands.

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Arvest Winterfest Brings Cheer

The time has come to bundle up and enjoy the magical spirit of the holidays with Tulsa's favorite winter festival has returned to the streets of downtown Tulsa as the 10th Annual Arvest Winterfest presented with Toyota. Named by the national People Magazine as the top holiday destination in Oklahoma, Winterfest will be open through Sunday, Jan. 7 (including all holidays in between).

"It's incredible that we're celebrating 10 years of Arvest Winterfest," Jeff Nickler, SMG Tulsa general manager, says. "We're excited to offer new and fun things to all our guests as a thank you for making this annual event a success year after year."

This year, in addition to the 9,000-square-foot-outdoor ice rink, Santa's Live Reindeer will be on-site to take pictures with families all season long. Guests will be able to see Prancer and Vixen or Comet and Cupid up close. A letter writing station will also be available for kids to write their letters to Santa.

New skating guides are available to help skaters glide in style. The lightweight helpers, courtesy of Health Zone at St. Francis, can assist skaters of all ages to be more confident on the ice and off of the rails.

Oklahoma's tallest Christmas Tree welcomes guests to the winter wonderland. Towering 44 feet into the air, the tree features 35,700 glowing lights, 109,534 individual tips and a diameter at the base of nearly 30 feet. The beautiful lights provide an ideal backdrop for holiday photographs under the Tulsa skyline. Guests can also take a ride in a carriage or warm up in the climate-controlled Osage Casino warming tent with seasonal concessions.

Free entertainment every Saturday until Christmas Eve takes place just in front of the Christmas tree in the ONE Gas courtyard. Visitors can sit down and listen to the joyful music performed by children from area churches, schools, nonprofit organizations and choral groups.

A variety of weekly promotions are being held during the festival. Every Monday, patrons receive half-price admission for skating with the donation of a non-perishable can of food benefiting the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, presented by Arvest. Every Wednesday throughout the festival visitors receive half-price skating or admission with the donation of a new or gently used coat, blanket, scarf or pair of gloves, presented by Cox Charities. These donations benefit Night Light Tulsa.

(Continued on page 9)



GTR Newspapers photo

HOLIDAYS ON ICE: Visitors have a great time ice skating at Winterfest.



Courtesy Ambiance Matchmaking

FUN RIDES: Winterfest offers horse buggy rides this year. Guests will be able to see Prancer and Vixen or Comet and Cupid up close.

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TEN WE WATCHED IN 2017



G.T. BYNUM



LAURA CHALUS



TONY MOORE



DANIEL SPERLE



KEN CHAPMAN

Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum has spent his first year in office working toward his campaign promise to re-establish Tulsa on the global stage.

In September, Bynum announced that he would make a bid to lure Amazon to Tulsa as the location of Amazon's second corporate headquarters.

In order to impact Tulsa's rising violent crime numbers, 90 police officers were hired this year, with 90 more officers to be hired in 2018. The city also received a grant to hire 60 firefighters this year.

In Bynum's first month as mayor, he convened the Tulsa Commission on Community Policing in an effort to begin implementation of one of the most comprehensive community policing initiatives in the nation.

In order to improve city beautification efforts, medians and rights-of-way are now being mowed at a higher frequency. Also, additional street maintenance workers and traffic signal repair crews have been hired.

Other areas of Bynum's focus include addressing racial disparity and citywide education needs and utilizing data to improve city government.

Upon entering her role as executive director of the Tulsa Garden Center in August 2016, Laura Chalus had a number of high-priority items to address, with one of the most pressing issues being the improvement of its rose garden, which had lost about half of its rose bushes due to Rose Rosette Disease.

The five-tiered rose garden now includes a research garden and pollinator and other non-rose plants.

The research element of the garden came about through a partnership with Oklahoma State University and the American Rose Society. The research garden allows rose experts from across the country to study Rose Rosette Disease and search for solutions in fighting the disease.

In line with the rose garden's new look, the organization's annual fundraiser, An Evening of Wine & Roses, was rebranded as The Tasting at Woodward Park after the event took a one-year hiatus in 2016.

When the fundraiser took place in November, it featured high-end restaurants and wineries and allowed access to the Linnaeus Teaching Garden and Woodward Park.

Tony Moore began his role as park director for A Gathering Place for Tulsa in August 2016. In his role, Moore is responsible for full operational and programmatic oversight of the Gathering Place and for downtown Tulsa's Guthrie Green.

Moore, a native of Jamaica, brings more than 30 years experience in the entertainment park industry. He began with his first job as a part-time operations employee at Sea World and went on to work in various roles, including marketing, environmental, health and safety, and culinary operations, at a number of Orlando-area entertainment parks. Most recently, Moore served as chief operating officer at Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, Florida.

The first phase of the Gathering Place, along Riverside Drive, is planned to open by spring/summer 2018.

In order to provide a sneak peek, Tulsa-area elementary students will be invited to visit the five-acre Adventure Playground, which will be completed by January.

The \$350-million park will include natural trails, a large green space, recreational water activities and educational programming.

Tulsa native Daniel Sperle took the role of executive director of Tulsa Bike Share in August 2016.

Tulsa Bike Share was started by INCOG (Indian Nations Council of Governments) in 2014. It is part of the GO Plan and will receive a portion of funds from Vision Tulsa.

Sperle earned his bachelor's degree in visual communications from the University of Oklahoma in 2013 and his master's in architectural urban studies from OU-Tulsa.

Sperle's hope is to create a bike share program that will be "at the forefront of where bike share is going," he says.

In line with that goal, Sperle and program stakeholders have been very deliberate in their formation of the program.

Phase I of the program was last expected to launch in spring of this year. However, because the equipment selected for the program is still in development, the launch date needed to be rescheduled, says Sperle.

Currently, the launch is planned for May 2018 with details regarding the equipment, bicycle station locations and branding soon to come, he continues.

The Salvation Army Tulsa Area Commander and Captain Ken Chapman, a Georgia native, came to Tulsa with his wife in June 2016.

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

The Tulsa command serves 109,000 children per year, in part through its six area Boys and Girls Clubs, Chapman notes. It also serves 357,000 meals per year at its downtown shelter, located at 102 N. Denver Ave.

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

Earlier this year, the Tulsa command launched the Power of Twelve, a fundraising campaign originated by Chapman. The goal of the campaign is to encourage 12,000 individuals to pledge to donate \$12 per month for 12 months, which would raise, in total, over \$1.7 million for the Tulsa Area Command, he says.

With the holiday season, the organization is also currently in the midst of its annual Red Kettle Campaign.



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

FIRST NATIVE AMERICAN DAY: Mayor G.T. Bynum and City Councilor Anna America joined chiefs of the Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek) and Osage nations in celebration of Tulsa's first Native American Day on Oct. 9. The event took place at downtown Tulsa's Guthrie Green.



Courtesy photo

HONORED FOR PHILANTHROPY: Bank of Oklahoma has been named 2017 Outstanding Philanthropist by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Eastern Oklahoma Chapter due to the company's commitment to investing in local communities. From left are Michelle Reagor, 2017 National Philanthropy Day chair; Steve Bradshaw, CEO of BOK Financial; Leslie Paris, director of Community and Employee Engagement for BOK Financial; and Stephanie Bonner, AFP of Eastern Oklahoma president.

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TEN WE WATCHED IN 2017



STEPHANIE CAMERON



DR. GERARD CLANCY



KIMBERLY JOHNSON



PHIL ALBERT



SCOTT STULEN

As 2017 chair of Tulsa's Young Professionals, Stephanie Cameron's and the organization's 2017 accomplishments include TYPros' Day at the Capitol, 2017 Street Cred event that highlighted the role of highway infrastructure and urban development, its Boomtown Awards and other initiatives that strengthened the core mission of TYPros, Cameron notes.

This year's Street Cred event, called "Bridging the Brady," was held in June in the Tulsa Arts District (formerly the Brady Arts District) and focused on how cities address highway infrastructure when it becomes a physical barrier. A local example of this is how Interstate 244 cuts through the northern end of the Brady Arts District, hindering its connection to the Brady Heights neighborhood and north Tulsa, she notes.

Although the district is already well developed, TYPros chose the area for the event largely due to its proximity to north Tulsa.

"Having a connection to north Tulsa is a critical component for community dialogue."

Cameron is state director of OK-2Grow and Dream It Do It Oklahoma and recently became community relations administrator for AAON, Inc.

Dr. Gerard Clancy became president of the University of Tulsa in January.

During his inaugural year, the school has dealt with a number of challenges, including the loss of certification status for its teacher preparation program, on-campus rape allegations and the recent death of President Emeritus Steadman Upham.

Regarding the university's loss of teacher preparation certification, Clancy says that TU is working to both regain the certification and provide a solution for affected students.

The university recently launched new education programs and policies to impact on-campus student safety, and a five-year strategic plan was recently unveiled.

The strategic plan's objectives include promoting an inclusive, diverse and safe campus; new scholarship opportunities; expansion of programs focused on emerging interest in innovation and social justice; and strengthening TU's role as an economic engine for the region.

Areas of focus include data analytics, health sciences, neuroscience, entrepreneurship and creating start-ups, cybersecurity for the U.S. military and the business sectors, coding, and programs to recruit veterans.

Kimberly Johnson, who has worked for the Tulsa City-County Library for nearly 20 years, was named the organization's CEO in January.

Johnson is a New York native who earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Tulsa and her Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Oklahoma.

She began as the coordinator of the African-American Resource Center at Rudisill Regional Library. From there, she held various positions, including library manager, regional director and chief operating officer.

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

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

"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."

During summer 2017, the library saw 52,000 participants in its summer reading program.

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

Phil B. Albert, president of Pelco Structural, LLC, located in Claremore, served as the 2017 Tulsa Regional Chamber board chairman.

This was the first time in the history of the chamber that the board chair's business resides in a regional partner community outside of Tulsa.

Albert credits the chamber's annual OneVoice Agenda as the catalyst in establishing the chamber as Northeast Oklahoma's regional leader.

Recently, the chamber created its OneVoice 2018 Regional Legislative Agenda with its regional objectives including creating an educated and healthy workforce, mental health and criminal justice reform, funding OCAST (Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology), modernizing the state's alcohol laws, and municipal funding diversification.

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

"It's a deliberate and well-vetted process," Albert says. "I think (the effort put into this process) is the reason that when we visit cities to discuss our OneVoice objectives, people listen."

Scott Stulen officially became director of Philbrook Museum of Art in August 2016, succeeding Rand Suffolk.

Since coming to Philbrook, Stulen has led the charge to further engage the community.

To increase educational partnerships, the Philbrook team provided area teachers with museum memberships and changed its hours in order to offer more weekday visitation opportunities for school teachers and their students.

Philbrook is using its 8,000-square-foot vegetable garden to provide food for its restaurant, La Villa, to donate produce to local nonprofits, and to create additional learning opportunities. The garden is also home to beehives and a dome that serves as an outdoor classroom.

In September, the museum began offering extended hours on Friday evenings in order to incorporate new programs, such as films on the lawn, discussions and adult versions of the museum's second Saturday offerings.

Coming to the Philbrook grounds in spring 2018 is a stained-glass log cabin—a long-time dream project of Stulen's. The cabin will be available for various community uses, including events and classes. Musicians even want to record in it, he says.



Courtesy TAUW

SURPASSING ITS GOAL: The Tulsa Area United Way (TAUW) recently announced that it surpassed its 2017 campaign goal by more than \$500,000, raising \$25,601,386 for the Tulsa community. Pictured at the announcement event are, front row, Billie Bayouth, left, and Maddy Edwards; second row, from left, John Hewitt, chair of the 2017 campaign, Will Turner and Mark Graham, TAUW CEO.



RIP STELL for GTR Newspapers

GATHERING PLACE FIREPLACE: A view of the three-story indoor fireplace under construction inside Williams Lodge, which sits in the former location of Blair Mansion and will serve as the Welcome Center for A Gathering Place for Tulsa.

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VARIETY

Live Entertainment Tops Holiday List

Do you have your holiday list ready? That would be the schedule of shows you plan to enjoy before New Year's Eve. Who couldn't use some family-and-friends time, away from screens of all sizes, and a few leisurely hours set aside for live entertainment?

My December roster begins with Tulsa Ballet's "The Nutcracker." I remember years ago when Tulsa Ballet Artistic Director Marcello Angelini announced that he was formulating a new "Nutcracker" ballet that would be set in Paris and have an Art Deco look and feel. That piece is now in its 15th season and has been tweaked to perfection. The next version will take advantage of the latest in technology and stagecraft, but you still have an opportunity to enjoy this glistening, sweet tale, along with the exquisite dancing that is a Tulsa Ballet hallmark. "The Nutcracker" plays at the Tulsa PAC through Dec. 23.

Early December can be filled with shopping tasks and parties, and then there's a lull before Christmas. What to do for entertainment when out-of-town guests arrive? Like Tulsa Ballet, American Theatre Company has scheduled performances into late December, with "A Christmas Carol" slated to have its last show on Dec. 23. Actor Karl Krause brings warmth and humanity to the character of Scrooge, and he's joined by a cast of 50. Ed Durnal directs. The Victorian-era set is a crowd-pleaser, as is the score, crafted by Bob Odle and Richard Averill. Also, I wanted to give you a head's up about an Eddie and the Ecclectics New Year's Eve gig at ATC's 3rd and Lansing location. I know many long-time Tulsans feel a connection to this show's music and characters.

If you are looking forward to holiday music in an intimate setting, Appassionata Duo performs the program "White Christmas," Dec. 18-19 at Harwelden mansion, and the vocal group Sheridan Road sings a range of Christmas tunes in a cabaret setting at the Tulsa PAC, Dec. 21-22. Tulsa Symphony Orchestra musicians

violinist Jeff Cowen and harpist Jill Wiebe comprise Appassionata Duo. Sheridan Road, a total of six singers, is led by Dr. Barry Epperley. Performances by these two groups include refreshments that are covered in the ticket price.

Holiday season at the Cain's includes the return of the Eli Young Band on Dec. 14. A Denton, Texas, country music group that has opened for Miranda Lambert, they had a major crossover duet hit with Andy Grammer on "Honey, I'm Good." Also at the Cain's this month are Broken Arrow singer and songwriter J. D. McPherson, Dec. 16; country music band the Turnpike Troubadours, Dec. 30; and the Hangover Ball, Jan. 1.

You may have seen Tulsa's Brian Nhira at the PAC last year and earlier on "The Voice." This holiday season, he stages his Christmas show at TCC's VanTrease Performing Arts Center for Education on Dec. 16.

Award-winning pop and country artist LeAnn Rimes brings her "Today is Christmas" tour to Paradise Cove at the River Spirit Casino. The 35-year-old performer will sing a mix of holiday songs and music from her 2016 "Remnants" album. A multi-platinum recording artist, songwriter, actress and writer, Rimes is often compared to vocalist Patsy Cline. Her Dec. 15 concert is one of only 16 concerts she will appear in across the U.S. in December.

Old Dominion plays at Paradise Cove Dec. 16 as part of its "Happy Endings" tour, with stops in Australia and Ireland. Lead singer Matthew Ramsey won "Songwriter-Artist of the Year" at the ASCAP Country Music Awards in November. He's written both for his band and for Sam Hunt ("Make You Miss Me").

A much-anticipated concert by Styx rocks into Paradise Cove on Dec. 28. Styx has had a string of mega-selling albums since the band was formed in 1972. The group is best known for the songs "Lady" and "Come Sail Away" and still packs a hard-rock punch

Show Buzz



By NANCY HERMANN



A CHRISTMAS CAROL: Actor Karl Krause brings warmth and humanity to Scrooge in American Theatre Company's production of the Dickens classic.



HOLIDAY CLASSIC: Now in its 15th season, Marcello Angelini's version of "The Nutcracker," takes the stage of the Tulsa PAC through Dec. 23.



SHERIDAN ROAD: The six-member vocal group enlivens the holiday season with Christmas cabaret concerts, Dec. 21-22 at the Tulsa PAC.



LEANN RIMES: The pop and country artist brings her "Today is Christmas" tour to Paradise Cove at the River Spirit Casino on Dec. 15.



STYX: The hallowed rock group rolls into town Dec. 28 for a one-nighter at River Spirit's Paradise Cove.

to complement their romantic ballads. This year they developed a concept album, "Mission," that references a trip to Mars.

What a year it has been in the Tulsa area for music, dance, theatre and comedy. Next year is sure to be over the top with the announcement of U2 coming to the BOK Center in May and a continuation of that facility's "10 for 10" anniversary celebration. Congratulations to the BOK Center, owned by the City of Tulsa, and River Spirit Casino, which has made good on its promise to offer a steady stream of great shows after opening Paradise Cove. The Joint at the Hard Rock keeps things interesting, and Cain's does an amazing job of booking established acts and worthwhile up-and-comers. The Tulsa PAC continues to reign as the area's home to the biggest variety of entertainment, and the Broken Arrow PAC

had a superb year with so much star appeal. I'm thankful that the Brady Theatre keeps truckin'. The building itself is an historical trea-

sure. I hope you enjoy the many seasonal events our performance venues have to offer. 'Happy Holidays' and all the best for 2018!

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Buy Local, Listen Local This Holiday Season

The fourth Thursday in November is widely regarded as the kickoff to the holiday season. It's known as Black Friday in the re-

Chris Blevins
Better Than Alone

Like many Red Dirt musicians, it's hard to label Chris Blevins

Searching for The Sound



By **BRYAN CANTRELL**

tail world, but in the world of Red Dirt music, it's leftover turkey day at Cain's Ballroom featuring Jason Boland and the Stragglers and Cody Canada and the Departed.

This year marked the 12th annual Leftover Turkey concert, and the two Red Dirt ambassadors didn't disappoint. If you missed it, both Boland and Canada will be among the musicians at the annual Hangover Ball at Cain's to close out the holiday season on Jan. 1. That show will be the second bookend to a busy and entertaining holiday season for local live music.

But, before we get into all the can't-miss shows on the horizon, it's still close enough to Thanksgiving to reflect and give thanks. As I watched Jason Boland and the Stragglers close out the Leftover Turkey show with Outlaw Band, a Randy Crouch/Bob Childers song, I was reminded that there's nothing, aside from my family and my health, that I'm more thankful for than the musical community we get to enjoy here in Tulsa. As a way of expressing that gratitude, I'm supporting local musicians and giving the gift of music this year. If you're inclined to do the same, here are a few 2017 releases that would make a great gift for music lovers:

Randy Crouch

Turn Off, Tune Out, Drop In
The latest offering from the incomparable Randy Crouch proves that he is still at the top of his songwriting game. This album showcases the full spectrum of Randy, from drunken sailor on the waltzy Three Sheets to the Wind, to poet laureate on Walking Each Other Home, to renegade outlaw in Hiding Out in the Cherokee Nation. Available at cdbaby.com.

BC & The Big Rig

Do You Remember How to Rock and Roll?

Speaking of Randy Crouch, Brandon Clark and his crew put their "shred dirt" spin on Crouch's song, High as the Price of Gas, on this, their second album. It's a powerful track, and one of many highlights on this guitar shredding, bluesy, occasionally funky album. It's available on iTunes, Amazon, Apple Music, Spotify and more.

with any one genre. He draws from many influences: country, southern rock, delta blues, folk, gospel. Also typical of Red Dirt musicians, he writes songs with meaning and substance. Featuring an all-star supporting cast that includes Grammy-award nominee John Fullbright, this album is a coming out party for the young singer songwriter. I'm excited to see what he does next. Available at hortonrecords.com.

Another debut album, this one from a California transplant that came to play a show in Tulsa and was so embraced by the local music community that she never left. Produced by Jesse Aycock, the album is a great collection of original material that Barth has referred to as "American mystic folk." Available at hortonrecords.com.

Lauren Barth
Forager

You can find many gifts at hortonrecords.com, from shirts and hats to essential Tulsa Sound recordings, on both CD and vinyl.

Finally, if you just want to help support local musicians, visit reddirtrelieffund.com and make a donation. You can also still download Stand (Let Your Voice Be Heard), the 2014 recording by more than 50 Oklahoma musicians. The song, written by Chuck Dunlap, John Cooper and Brad Piccolo, is available at iTunes with all proceeds going to address health care and other critical needs faced by musicians in the state. It is without question the best 99 cents you'll ever spend.

Now, onto the live stuff. As regular readers of SFTS are aware, there is good live music every night of the week in Tulsa. So make an appearance at your company holiday party and make sure the boss sees you, but get outta there before you drink too much eggnog and embarrass yourself. Instead, head over to the Colony, Soul City, Mercury Lounge, Blackbird on Pearl or another trustworthy venue. It may be the only way to get Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree out of your head.

In addition to the regular week-



BETH TURNER for GTR Newspapers

OUTLAW BAND FROM OKLAHOMA: Jason Boland and the Stragglers kicked off the holiday season with the annual Leftover Turkey concert at Cain's Ballroom Nov. 24. From left are Roger Ray on steel guitar, Brad Rice on drums, Grant Tracy on bass, Boland and fiddler Nick Worley.

ly gigs, here are a few of the musical highlights going on in Tulsa over the holidays:

BC and the Big Rig join the Red Dirt Rangers for an 8 p.m. show at the Shrine at 18th & Boston Avenue. on Friday, Dec. 22. This is Red Dirt music at its best and a great way to kick off the Christmas weekend.

Next up is the highlight of the season for me, as Whirligig will reunite on Dec. 23 at Blackbird on Pearl. No band is more responsible for my musical upbringing than Whirligig, so Christmas is coming two days early for me this year. They only play a couple of shows a year any more, so any time they book a gig, it's a must see. It's been fun watching Dylan Layton emerge as an elite bassist over the past few years, but it's

going to be even better to see him pick up a guitar again and break out some Whirligig classics.

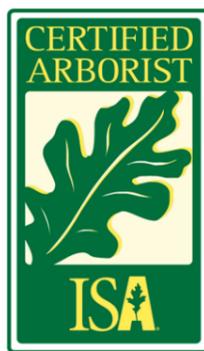
Randy Crouch comes back from a brief hiatus to be the special guest at Tom Skinner's Science Project on Dec. 27 at the Colony. Come sit by the fire and enjoy a true icon of Red Dirt music and a Northeast Oklahoma treasure.

Playing two nights at Cain's Ballroom and ringing in the new year is The Turnpike Troubadours, Dec. 30-31. This Americana, roots rock Red Dirt band from Oklahoma appear on the verge of a breakthrough. Their self titled 2015 album peaked at number three on the country charts and even reached the top 20 on the billboard 200. They're hoping to surpass that success with their fifth album, A Long

Way From Your Heart, which was released Oct. 20.

Finally, the holiday season comes to an unofficial end with the annual Hangover Ball Jan. 1 at Cain's Ballroom featuring Cody Canada, Evan Felker, Jason Boland, Mike McClure, Wade Bowen, Jamie Lin Wilson, William Clark Green and BJ Barham. A more laid-back, acoustic show, this New Year's tradition is a perfect way to end a busy holiday season.

Happy Holidays to all you music lovers, and thank you for reading Searching for the Sound. And thank you to all the musicians who make this the best job I've ever had. I look forward to bringing you more news and history about our amazing local music scene in 2018. Until then, keep searching, keep listening.



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Come See Mark & Brandon For your Deal of The Day

Archer Building Embraces Local in Tulsa Arts District

Time is a precious thing. A truth not fully realized until adulthood.

While I try hard not to crowd my life with many superfluous tasks, items and people, unexpected events happen that can flood our lives for months, even years.

I appreciate the quiet moments when I feel that I can stop the clock and the noise.

One of the places that helps me to briefly do that is a bookstore. Where phones and technology seem to take a backseat to the nostalgia and simpler times when entertainment was rolled up in one really good book.

As technology continues to move humans toward unimaginable places where reading is beginning to be viewed as an occasional necessity, it is being said that the bookstore is dying.

Really, I think it is more accurate to say that the bookstore is reshaping to meet the recent advancements.

So, when Magic City Books opened last month in the Archer Building in the Tulsa Arts District (formerly the Brady Arts District), it was met with many believers and cheerers-on, including myself.

The store has been forecasted as a replacement for Steve's Sundry, Tulsa's independent bookstore that closed in 2013.

Magic City Books is, for sure, a hipster answer to independent bookstores but not with the "everyman" appeal of Steve's Sundry. Nonetheless, it's a beautiful store

with a fully-windowed corner space at Archer Street and Detroit Avenue, with a coffee shop and plenty of seating for those wanting to take their chosen book for a "test read." It will also serve as a meeting place for Book Smart Tulsa.

The Archer Building development has been a much-talked-about project by the George Kaiser Family Foundation for some time, largely due to its focus on local tenants and mixed-use characteristics.



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

MAGIC CITY BOOKS: Patrons order at the coffee shop inside Magic City Books, which opened in November in the Archer Building in the Tulsa Arts District (formerly the Brady Arts District).



ANTICIPATED MIXED-USE: A view of the Archer Building, a project by the George Kaiser Family Foundation, in the Tulsa Arts District. The building sits along Archer Street between Cincinnati and Detroit avenues. The mixed-use development is nearly complete with many stores already open, including Made, Guitar House of Tulsa and The Goods Bodega.



By **EMILY RAMSEY**
Managing Editor

ly Foundation for some time, largely due to its focus on local tenants and mixed-use characteristics.

This development is one of my favorite projects going on in downtown right now because of its near-perfect blend of local offerings that cater to the needs and interests of downtown dwellers and visitors. Plus, the building is home to a number of storeowners making their first public appearance: Magic City Books; Press Yoga—a hot yoga and minimalistic coffee shop; Shuffles, a boardgame concept set to open next year; Que Gusto Ca-

tering, which got its start with the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation's Kitchen 66 and is planning to open its first brick-and-mortar location in January.

While Lone Wolf Banh Mi is not new to the Tulsa food scene, the restaurant's expansion into downtown is. It sits at the corner of Archer Street and Cincinnati Avenue.

Also found in the building are Guitar House of Tulsa, Made and The Goods Bodega. Glacier Confection is on its way.

The Archer Building is successfully bringing another destination

point to downtown Tulsa but more specifically to the Tulsa Arts District.

Next on the horizon for the district is the completion of The Flats on Archer apartments, construction of a Holiday Inn Express, and the opening of Welltown Brewing, a brewery located along Archer Street.

Although development is plentiful throughout downtown, the Tulsa Arts District looks to be well on its way to standing alone in uniqueness, density and sought-after destinations.

Louie's Grill & Bar Creates Approachable Ambiance

Local Dining

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**
Contributing Writer

Louie's Grill & Bar has been a favorite of my family since the Norman-based restaurant chain came to Broken Arrow in 2009.

I have often wished that I could find a similar concept closer to me in downtown Tulsa.

The approachable, affordable, relaxed neighborhood bar atmosphere offers a welcome way to end a long day at work without breaking the bank.

And who can deny that they don't appreciate the greeting when they walk through the door of "Welcome to Louie's"?

Louie's opened its first Greater Tulsa restaurant over 10 years ago at 101st Street and Sheridan Road, 6310 E. 101st St., in the location of a closed gas station. Due to the chosen location, I was skeptical of whether it would succeed, but its consistency, quality and subsequent expansion have proven me wrong, fortunately.

Louie's went on to expand into Jenks and Broken Arrow in 2009.

The chain is owned by Hal Smith Restaurants and has 15 locations throughout the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metro areas.

Its menu is reasonably priced with appetizers, salads, tacos, burgers, sandwiches, wraps, pizzas and entrees starting at \$7.99, up to \$12.99.

I visited with a friend and we started with boneless wings, extra crispy, as an appetizer. About 10 boneless wings come in an order, and we chose to divide the wings among two sauces: House BBQ and Honey Sriracha.

The Honey Sriracha was my favorite of the two. It brought the sweet contrasted with a bit of spice. The House sauce was also good but offered more of the basic bbq flavor but would be good for a person looking for minimal to no spiciness.

For our main entrees, I chose the Southwest Rice Bowl, with chicken, white rice, black bean salsa, bacon, avocado, olives and chipotle honey mustard sauce.

I am always leery of "bowls" because usually rice is often the overwhelming ingredient. While that was partly true with this dish, it was well balanced with its other ingredients. And the overall flavor was good, the dish large and the



BLAKE AUSTYN for GTR Newspapers

FRESH FISH: The Tilapia Tacos come filled with blackened tilapia, coleslaw and cilantro.

lasting feeling not leaving you feeling overly stuffed but comfortable and healthy.

My companion chose the Tilapia Tacos: flour tortillas with blackened tilapia, coleslaw, cilantro and lime.

My friend's first comment was "They do not skimp on the fish," which is very true. The tacos were overflowing with tilapia.



HAL SMITH RESTAURANTS: A view of the first Louie's Bar & Grill that opened in Greater Tulsa, located at 6310 E. 101st St. The restaurant expanded into Jenks and Broken Arrow in 2009. The restaurant chain is owned by Hal Smith Restaurants and has 15 total locations throughout Oklahoma City and Tulsa metro areas.

She also asked for extra coleslaw on the side, which they fulfilled—something that continues to endear me to Louie's—their accommodating nature, instead of nickling and diming the customer.

From previous visits, I know that the Veggie pizza, an off-the-menu option, is another solid choice.

However, I recently made the decision to make a move toward

veganism, and looking at the menu from that perspective, the offerings are not many—as is true of the majority of restaurants. Yet, there are a few options, mainly salads, with options for substitutions upon request.

Louie's is open seven days a week, opening at 11 a.m. Monday-Friday, with brunch available Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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Castle of Muskogee Celebrates with Castle Christmas

The Castle of Muskogee continues its yearly holiday tradition with Castle Christmas and the Garden of Lights at Honor Park. Both activities are open through New Year's Eve.

Individuals can take a leisurely drive for free through the Castleton Village, which is filled with thousands of holiday lights and displays. While the drive is free, donations are accepted.

Outside of the Castle, guests can enjoy rides on an old-fashioned hayride and the Castle Train. The tractor-drawn hayrides begin in the parking lot of the Castle and travel through the village on a different route from the car drive-through.

Also in the Village area, young and older ones may ride holiday ponies or Eli's Camels, a returning favorite, around the Village area.

Children will, no doubt, want to visit with Father Christmas, who will be at the Castle on select evenings, 6:30-9 p.m.

For additional festivities, inside the Castle guests can warm up and enjoy a variety of family holiday activities, including crafting ornaments in Santa's workshop, candle making, plush adoptions and face painting.

In addition, local craftspeople will be selling their handmade creations. Visitors can also purchase items from The Christmas Shoppe or the Castle Gift Shop for their holiday displays or holiday keepsakes.

In the Castle Cafe, individuals will find soups, sandwiches, hot chocolate and treats.

There will also be complimentary holiday movies for the whole family to enjoy in Chalice Hall.

Visit okcastle.com for a complete schedule of nightly activities.

In nearby Honor Heights Park, the "Garden of Lights" attracts thousands of visitors each year.

The celebration includes a free drive-through display of over a million shimmering lights exhibited throughout the park. Christmas lights are placed on trees, bushes and structures throughout the park to enhance the natural beauty of the gardens, waterfalls and ponds.

Gates open at 6 p.m. nightly.

Castle Christmas and Garden of Lights Drive-Through Hours, Prices:

Open nightly, 6-10 p.m. through New Year's Eve.

Drive-through displays at both

locations—free admission, donations accepted.

Holiday Activities Inside The Castle Hours:

Dec. 15-31, every evening, 6-10 p.m.

Visit the Calendar at okcastle.com for a detailed schedule of each night's activities.

Prices:

Tractor-drawn Hayrides - Departs every half hour; \$5 per person, children 12 and under are free. Runs Friday-Sunday, weather permitting.

Castle Train - Enjoy the lights with a tour from the conductor himself; \$5 per passenger, kids under 1 year old are free. Runs nightly through New Year's Eve, weather permitting.

Pony rides - A holiday favorite! \$5 per child. Friday-Sunday, weather permitting.

Visit with Father Christmas - There is no cost to talk to Father Christmas; pictures will be available for a nominal fee.

For more information, visit okcastle.com or cityofmuskogee.com.



FATHER CHRISTMAS WISHES: The Castle of Muskogee's Castle Christmas and the Garden of Lights at Honor Park are now open for the holidays through New Year's Eve.

Explore the History of Tulsa's Christmas Parade

Tulsa Christmas Parade by Jessica Gullo, published by Arcadia Publishing, is currently available at arcadiapublishing.com and tulsachristmasparade.org.

Since 1926, the Tulsa Christmas Parade has entertained thousands of children and adults year after year as it winds through the historic streets of downtown Tulsa. In its early days, when Tulsa was a new town booming with rapid growth from the recent discovery of oil, the Christmas

parade quickly became an annual tradition that has continued to be a favorite event for the past 90 years. Throughout part of its history, the parade has been held at night, and Tulsa and the surrounding communities have come together to put on elaborate, twinkling displays—full of sparkling lights—including floats, marching bands, and large balloons, culminating each year with the guest of honor, Santa himself, making a special trip

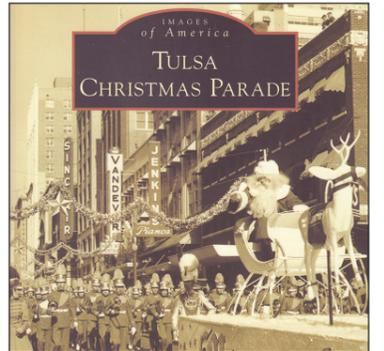
from the North Pole all the way to Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The book explores the grandeur and excitement of Tulsa Christmas Parade's history against the backdrop of one of the largest collections of Art Deco architecture in the United States. It also includes numerous historic photos from past parades.

The book's author, Jessica Gullo, has served as creative director for Tulsa Christmas Parade since 2015 and enjoys researching and

preserving history for others to enjoy.

Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK), who wrote the book's Foreword, served as the mayor of Tulsa from 1978 to 1984 and was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Oklahoma's First District from 1987 to 1994. Since 1994, he has represented Oklahoma in the U.S. Senate. For almost 40 years, Inhofe has been a fixture of the parade, riding his horse and greeting spectators.



Fun Times at Winterfest

(Continued from page 3)

Come grab a delicious meal at Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 9 with the whole family. Mr. Claus will be on-site for pictures and to hear any last minute gift requests. Admission is \$8 per person and reservations are required. Visit www.tulsawinterfest.com to save a spot. Breakfast with Santa is presented by BlueStone Natural Resources

The season ends with tots battling it out during the first Mites on Ice event presented by York Plumbing. Watch youngsters aged 6-8 compete in a friendly hockey competition on Jan. 6 and 7. The fun starts at 7 a.m. on the ice.

In 10 years, attendance for this event has soared from 35,000 visitors in 2008 to more than 150,000. The seasonal celebration is open to the public for 45 days. This season guarantees everyone a chance to enjoy skating beneath Tulsa's skyline while watching free entertainment from the outdoor stage

and taking in beautiful, gleaming holiday lights.

Winterfest 2017 is presented by Arvest Bank and co-presented with Toyota. Additional sponsors include Osage Casino, Cox Charities, BlueStone Natural Resources, Harsco, ONE Gas, Health Zone at Saint Francis, Pepsi and American Waste. Cox Radio, Inc. is the official media partner.

A full Winterfest calendar with prices and daily hours of operation is available online at www.tulsawinterfest.com. For more information or for group ice skating rates, please contact Connie Lytle, Group Sales Coordinator at 918-894-4264 or cllytle@smgtulsa.com.

Visitors can log on to www.downtowntulsaok.com to check out the calendar of holiday events and plan their trip to downtown Tulsa. GLOW partners will be posting their holiday events and promotions there throughout the season.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

CTCA in Tulsa Expands with Oncologist, Surgeon

Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Southwestern Regional Medical Center in Tulsa (CTCA) recently announced two physician changes: Asha Karippot, M.D., has joined the hospital as a medical oncologist and hematologist, and Michael Thomas, M.D., F.A.C.S., who has been serving as acting medical director of surgery, has been additionally promoted to medical director of breast surgery.

Karippot is triple board-certified in internal medicine, medical oncology and hematology. As a medical oncologist and hematologist at CTCA, Karippot sees a variety of cancer patients while focusing on patients with colon, breast and lung cancer.

After completing her medical degree at the University of Calicut in Kerala, India, graduating summa cum laude, Karippot completed an internship and residency in internal medicine at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. She then served as chief fellow while completing a fellowship in hematology and oncology at Seton Hall University in New Jersey.

Following graduation, Karippot worked in private practice as a medical oncologist for five years and served as director of an infusion center. She has experience as a mentor for medical students, residents and nurse practitioners. In addition, she is a

member of several organizations, including the American Society of Hematology, the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the American Medical Association, and she has authored several articles in peer-reviewed journals and presented her work at national conferences.

Thomas earned a medical degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, Arkansas, after completing a bachelor's degree in respiratory care at the University of Central Arkansas. He then completed a residency in general surgery at the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita, where he trained with breast surgeons and helped author a research report on aneurysm repair, published in the *Annals of Vascular Surgery*. In 2001, he was voted the medical school's Outstanding Chief Surgical Resident. He joined CTCA in 2006 as a general surgeon.

Thomas is board certified in general surgery by the American Board of Surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He is a member of the American Society of Breast Surgeons, the American Medical Association and the Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons.

In addition to caring for patients at CTCA, Thomas serves as chairman of the Department of Surgery at the Oklahoma State



ASHA KARIPPOT



MICHAEL THOMAS

University Center for Health Sciences. He credits his grandmother, a nurse who cared for patients with chronic diseases, with in-

spiring his passion for medicine. "I look at this not just as a job," he says. "For me, I look at it as a calling."

OSU-CHS Establishes Center For Opioid Research, Recovery

The Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences has announced the establishment of the OSU Center for Wellness and Recovery to combat the impact of opioid addiction in Oklahoma. Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S.

The mission of the OSU Center for Wellness and Recovery is to champion a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to addiction and pain management through research, education and clinical care.

The OSU Center for Wellness and Recovery will enable the OSU Center for Health Sciences to play an even larger role in combating the opioid crisis in Oklahoma, says Kayse Shrum, D.O., president, OSU Center for Health Sciences and dean, OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. "As an academic health center, OSU Center for Health Sciences is committed to taking a leading role in battling the opioid addiction epidemic afflicting Oklahomans and their families. We have assets such as clinical expertise, research capability and educational resources that can be deployed to help curtail the misuse and abuse of opioids."

In 2014, OSU-CHS was one of the first few medical schools nationwide to add an Addiction Medicine course to its medical school curriculum. In 2016, mandated clinical rotations at partnering agency 12&12, Inc. were embedded into the medical school curriculum. Most recently, OSU-CHS launched Project ECHO Addiction Clinic to push addiction treatment knowledge and pain management therapies out to rural areas.

The OSU Center for Wellness and Recovery will focus research projects on critical areas such as addiction psychology, the role of the brain in perceiving and managing pain, opioid-related pub-

lic policy, and alternative modalities for treating chronic pain.

Opioid Facts

Oklahoma is first in the nation for non-medical use of prescription drugs.

In 2015, enough opioids were prescribed in Oklahoma for every adult to have 100 pills

More Oklahoma adults age 25-64 die of unintentional prescription opioid overdoses than motor vehicle crashes.

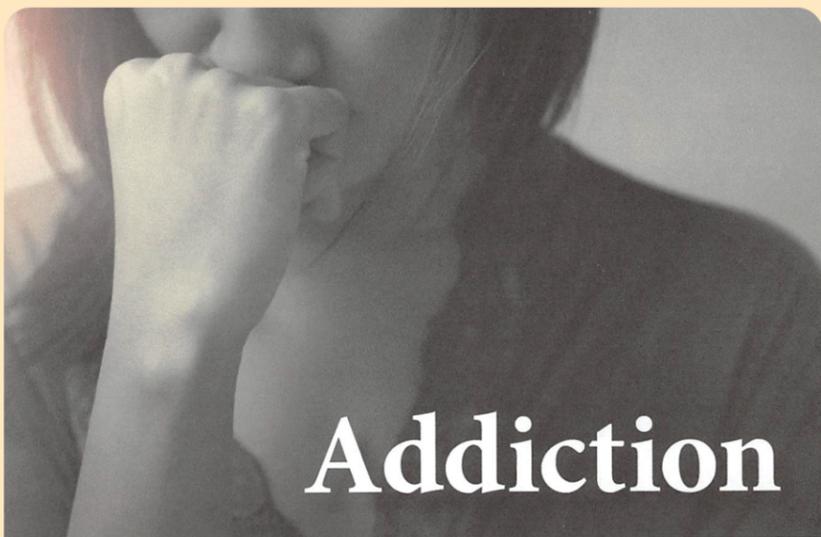
Oklahoma has the 18th highest drug overdose death rate in the nation in 2015.

"The state of Oklahoma, like much of the nation, is in a crisis because of the opioid epidemic," says Attorney General Mike Hunter. "I applaud the OSU Center for Health Sciences for being a leader in helping us find a solution by investing in new research and strategies for prevention and treatment."

"Our Project ECHO Addiction Clinic is uniquely positioned to reach into the rural areas hit hardest by opioid dependency. Through ECHO, OSU-CHS is using videoconferencing technology to equip rural primary care providers with the knowledge and the skills they need to help their patients manage pain and to overcome opioid addiction. This will go a long way with increasing patient access in rural Oklahoma to addiction treatment and pain management services," says Jason Beaman, D.O., chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at OSU-CHS.

As part of the overall strategic goals for the OSU Center for Wellness and Recovery, OSU Center for Health Sciences plans to open an addiction clinic in Tulsa in 2018, to establish an Addiction Medicine Fellowship for the training of future addiction specialists, and to conduct groundbreaking research in all aspects of pain management and addiction.

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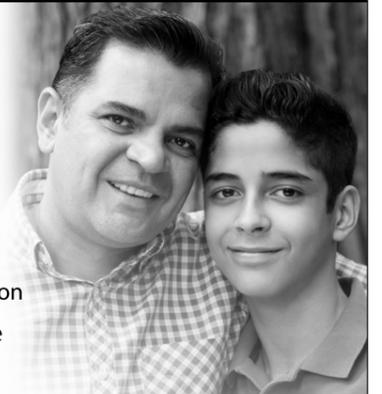
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CIVICS

State of the City:

Building a Globally Competitive, World-Class City

From Tulsa's Mayor

By Mayor G. T. BYNUM

On Nov. 1, I presented my State of the City Address to an overflow crowd of business leaders, along with the Tulsa Regional Chamber. I'm pleased to say we have many transformative initiatives underway in Tulsa and are moving full steam ahead on a number of fronts.

We have an outstanding City Council, and I'm proud of our working relationship to get things done for Tulsans. Last December, the City Council and I adopted a new vision statement for the City of Tulsa: To build a globally competitive, world-class city.

We're renewing a spirit of high expectations, starting with the City itself. Our goal is to run the City like a great business, and it starts with our team. Employees at the City of Tulsa are incredible public servants. During icy or snowy conditions, our street crews clear the way for you to get to work safely. Police officers and firefighters are selflessly sprinting toward danger to keep you safe. I'm honored to serve them and be a part of their team.

During my first month as mayor, we convened the Tulsa Commission on Community Policing, where everyday citizens work with police in making our community safer. The Commission made 77 different recommendations for policing in Tulsa. We're

dedicated to publicly tracking the completion of every one of them.

The following five major areas will be a game changer for our city:

Real estate development in the city has been too complicated and has hurt our ability to grow. So we're starting over with a new approach and shifting to self-certification to help us have one of the most innovative development processes in the country.

Even though we've carried out a record amount of street work, our streets still need improvements. We're establishing a **blue ribbon task force** to reform our street work process. Former Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation Gary Ridley will lead this effort.

We want Tulsa to be a na-

tional leader and must do better to understand what Tulsans hope for and expect from living here. That's why we're partnering with Gallup to establish the Gallup-Tulsa Citivoice. We'll measure the most important outcomes for city residents while providing local leaders with insights to build the best city possible.

Ron Peters, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners and I are forming the **City-County Parks Realignment Commission**. We're looking to have a public and transparent review of a potential merger of our parks systems into one healthy, accessible, well-maintained system that can endure for future generations of Tulsans.

And last, but not least – the greatest economic development challenge we face today is our **educational system** in Tulsa. If we reduce our property-tax to pay our teachers a wage to keep them here, the state will reduce our allocation by an equivalent amount. They will punish us for trying to help. We're going to change the dynamic in this upcoming legislative session. We'll try to empower Tulsans to take our destiny into our own hands.

I'm asking every family, every business owner, every employee, and every voter to let your legislators know – We Want to Help! If they will let us, we can address this challenge the same way we've addressed those that came before us.

Tulsa County and City Unite for Park System

From Tulsa County

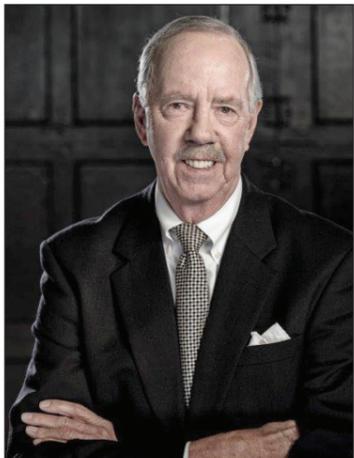
By RON PETERS
Tulsa County Commissioner

Tulsans have long supported and appreciated the many fine city and county park and recreation facilities. Whether it's golf courses, swimming pools, athletic facilities, recreation centers, or beautifully maintained gardens, Tulsans recognize that parks bring an important quality of life to everyone.

In recent years our parks departments have been faced with serious financial challenges brought about by changes in our economy and the cost to maintain and upkeep our park assets. With the soon to open Gathering Place and the improvements made at River Parks, Tulsa County citizens will soon have four park systems to support.

It is against this backdrop that Mayor G.T. Bynum and I recently announced the formation of the City-County Parks Realignment Commission to identify duplication within the City and County park systems and potentially align services. The Commission is composed of several committed parks experts and supporters to look at the optimization of park systems into one that is sustainable and can be enjoyed by future generations of Tulsans.

In fact, a few years ago, the future viability of our parks systems motivated a private sector group, Tulsa's Leadership Vision, Inc.



COMMISSIONER
RON PETERS

(TLV) to privately fund a comprehensive assessment to examine how the City and County could realign park operations if the decision was made to do so.

GreenPlay, LLC, a Colorado-based national parks management firm was retained to gather the facts and data about our city and county parks, to inventory the assets, to look at other successful models of park management from across the country, and to recommend a master plan for a viable and sustainable metro parks system. GreenPlay has a deep understanding of the Tulsa parks system, having developed the City of Tulsa's Parks Master Plan in 2010.

The information compiled by GreenPlay should be helpful to the Commission as we begin our discussion where we go from here.



COUNCIL OAK CEREMONY: The Council Oak Ceremony was held at Council Oak Park at 1730 S. Cheyenne Ave in October in remembrance of the 1834 removal of the Locv Poky people of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, who arrived in Indian Territory in 1836. In the photo is Chief James Floyd with Miss Muscogee (Creek) Nation representatives. In an act proclaiming their arrival and establishing their new home, the Locv Poky placed ashes, from their original fire, at the base of the towering oak tree in the background, which overlooks the Arkansas River.

It is certain that the Realignment Commission will be looking for ways to increase efficiency for both City and County park systems. For example, are there opportunities to:

Either reduce or eliminate underutilized facilities?



RIP STELL for GTR Newspapers

WILLIAMS LODGE AT THE GATHERING PLACE: Williams Lodge is one of the many structures at A Gathering Place for Tulsa that is continuing to take shape. The Lodge will serve as the Welcome Center for the park. The park is planned to open in the spring/summer.

Outsource duplicative or ineffective services?
Reorganize and/or form shared joint services or partnerships?
Realize the needed revenue to support park operations?

Considering that the citizens of Tulsa County will have four park systems, each of which depends upon private donations and public support, public operated park systems will continue to be faced with difficult decisions on how to maintain a sustainable and attractive parks system that meets the needs of the public.

I believe the City-County Parks Realignment Commission is the right approach at the right time.

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EDUCATION

OSUIT Renovates Historic Building in Downtown Okmulgee

The Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology Grand Old Post Office Student Housing, a project that took nearly three years to complete, opened its doors to the public recently after a grand opening dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Grand Old Post Office, or GOPO, is the newest university housing option for students attending OSU Institute of Technology, but it's no ordinary residence hall.

The GOPO is located in downtown Okmulgee at the corner of Grand Avenue and 5th Street. The loft-style housing was originally a two-building complex built in 1918 and 1919. The earliest building was the home of Okmulgee's first post office.

After several years of planning, design, construction and restoration, the 38-unit building, which can house 75 students, was opened to the public to witness the extensive renovation before students move in on Jan. 3.

A standing-room-only crowd participated in the building dedication before hundreds of Okmulgee residents, OSUIT employees, and future tenants toured the GOPO's lofts and flats, with no two units alike. The tiled lobby with grand staircase, community kitchen, two-story light wells and common areas were featured spaces of the tour.

"This project has been an absolute joy to work on. It's a true joy to turn it over to the community to show it off," said OSUIT President Bill R. Path. "When we first toured the building there was nothing grand about it, but now it deserves the name 'grand.'"

Architects and construction crews went to great lengths to preserve, restore and reuse as much of the original building as possible.

Throughout the GOPO, elements of the nearly century-old structure remain, such as doors and doorframes, post office boxes and exposed brick walls within the apartments. Other elements were repurposed including skylights, sliding firewalls, and lumber and ceiling slates.

David Lawson, of Flintco Construction, was the project manager and said the GOPO project was unlike anything he'd ever

worked on. And like some individuals in the community, he had his doubts that it would work.

"When I walked in the building for the first time last June, I had my doubts about what we could and would be able to do. When I think back to where we started, I realize how far we've come," Lawson said. "This project kept us on our toes. I'm incredibly proud of what we've accomplished. It was an awesome and once-in-a-lifetime experience."

The entire project, from purchase to completion, cost \$10.5 million.

"Not a single dollar of taxpayer money was used in this building," Path said, adding that student rental income as well as private funding will pay for the project.

Mark Mabrey, vice president of lending at Mabrey Bank and chairman of the OSUIT PROUD campaign, said that a lot has changed in Okmulgee in the past few years as a spark of excitement and revitalization has hit the community, due in large part to OSUIT's investment in downtown.

"I've never seen so much orange in Okmulgee," Mabrey said. "As an Okmulgee native, I just want to say how proud I am of OSUIT and the Okmulgee community. It's a large step toward becoming a vibrant community."

Currently, the OSUIT PROUD campaign has raised \$2.9 million of its \$3 million goal, with donations still being accepted through the end of December.

Choosing to have OSUIT's next student housing complex located in downtown Okmulgee and not on campus was not a decision taken lightly, Path said.

"This was not a simple project. If we had spent the money on a residence hall on campus, we would have fixed our student housing issue, but we wouldn't have helped the community. It wouldn't have spurred development of new downtown apartments and restaurants and businesses," he said. "The town needs our students, and the students need our town."

Okmulgee Mayor Steve Baldrige said the



Courtesy OSUIT

NEW STUDENT HOUSING: Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology representatives, including OSUIT President Bill R. Path, center, and community stakeholders celebrate the opening of the Grand Old Post Office Student Housing, located in downtown Okmulgee. The loft-style housing was originally a two-building complex built in 1918 and 1919 that served as Okmulgee's first post office.

GOPO is a great example of the Okmulgee Rising movement.

"This is a beautiful building that is ready for the next 100 years. OSUIT is a

life-changer to thousands of students, and we want to be a part of that," Baldrige said. "We welcome OSUIT to downtown, the heart of our community."



GTR Newspapers Photo

BAH-RAH 2017: In November, the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce held its annual BAH-RAH 2017 event, featuring 75 Tulsa restaurants and businesses. Pictured, from left, are Miss Helen's Private School directors Jayme Wingo-Baker and Christi Ray and Lead Kindergarten Teacher Stephanie Byrne.

Steadman Upham Receives Posthumous Recognition

The University of Tulsa President Emeritus Steadman Upham has been posthumously elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Upham had been nominated by colleagues at Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University and The Field Museum of Natural History for the award, which is reserved for a "member whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished," according to the association.

In July, however, the TU family was deeply saddened by Upham's sudden passing.

This latest recognition speaks to his outstanding academic work in the field of anthropology and his dedication to his students,

notes TU President Gerard Clancy.

"At TU, Stead was first and always a scholar who enjoyed exploring, discovering and learning about a myriad of topics and then sharing that knowledge with others. He was a renowned researcher on other continents and a beloved faculty member at other universities long before transitioning to leadership posts that led him to Tulsa. His contributions to scientific fields will be forever remembered thanks, in part, to this significant distinction."

Upham's family plans to attend the Fellows Forum in February to accept the AAAS certificate and rosette on his behalf. A complete list of this year's honorees appears in the Nov. 24 edition of Science magazine.

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Charlie Ludden, BSB '09, enjoys leading a faith-driven life. In high school and college, he merged his passion for the ministry with his calling to work with children, a combination that led him to a full-time career.

Ludden is the associate director of young adult mission and service for the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church. He also serves as associate director of Project Transformation Oklahoma.

Ludden works with children in literacy programs and with youth at local church camps.

"I like the energy of it all," Ludden said. "I'm a kid at heart too."

He strives to give personal attention and encouragement to youth who are in his care, a trait that reminds him of his time at OKCU.

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Student Wins Scholarship to Pursue Mechanical Interest

Teddy Girma, an adult student in Tulsa Tech's Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning program (HVAC), is one of Tulsa Tech's latest scholarship recipients thanks to a grant offered by the Oklahoma Mechanical Inspectors Association (OMIA).

"I feel very honored, and extremely blessed to have received this scholarship," Girma says. "It couldn't have happened at a better time, so I am truly thankful to the Oklahoma Mechanical Inspectors Association and to my instructor Mr. Hawley for everything they have done to help me."

Girma was awarded the scholarship in early November, a gift which originated with a suggestion from OMIA Treasurer Eric Blalock.

"Our organization had offered scholarships in the past," says Blalock. "I thought it was an idea worth re-visiting, so we put some materials together and presented it to the committee, and they voted to approve."

According to Blalock, OMIA feels it is important to support Career Tech students in their pursuit of technical training, and the organization plans on continuing to offer the scholarship in the future.

"Our goal is to offer the scholarship each year," Blalock says.

"Our plan is to provide the scholarship with funds generated from our annual conferences, along with the sales of code books."

Girma, a native Ethiopian who arrived in the United States at age 13, became an American citizen in 2012 and was a former undergrad at Oral Roberts University before eventually discovering just how much he enjoys working to solve mechanical issues.

"I really enjoy diagnosing and repairing mechanical problems," Girma says. "It's almost like a puzzle to me: the process of troubleshooting, finding the exact problem and fixing it. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to study at a university, but there is something that I really enjoy about technical training."

Tulsa Tech's HVAC program allows students to design and install heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems, troubleshoot electrical problems, and interpret blueprints to customize HVAC controls in a residential or commercial setting. Girma hopes to steer his career toward the area of the industry that focuses on the efficiency of systems and utilizes related alternative energy sources.

"Efficiency is probably one

of my main areas of interest in HVAC," he says. "Exploring what changes can be made to a certain system, or to a house, that will improve the overall efficiency of the residence."

Tulsa Tech is the oldest and largest technology center in Oklahoma's nationally-acclaimed Career Tech system. The school endeavors to provide affordable, industry-standard technical training in an engaging, innovative learning environment, where students benefit from instructors with years of valuable industry experience.

Students have access to over 90 full-time career majors, all designed to help them upgrade job skills or retrain for a new career in a short amount of time. Tulsa Tech is a highly-diversified institution that rivals the complexities of many colleges and universities and serves as a link between students and the developing economy of the Tulsa metro area.

Strong partnerships with businesses and industry organizations in the region create unique opportunities for student placement, work-based experiences and career-related scholarships.

"I would encourage adult students to explore the many programs available at Tulsa Tech," says Girma. "It offers great instructors and the latest equipment, and for me it has been a fantastic opportunity to pursue my new career."

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

News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent



Courtesy Tulsa Tech

TECHNICAL SKILLS: Teddy Girma, an adult student in Tulsa Tech's Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning program (HVAC), was recently awarded a scholarship from the Oklahoma Mechanical Inspectors Association.

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MAKE YOUR OWN PATH

MIDTOWN NEWS

TPS Teacher Receives Money

Arvest Bank recently awarded three Greater Tulsa area teachers as winners of Arvest's We Love OK Teachers campaign, including Dawna Jones, with Tulsa Public Schools' McClure Elementary.

Jones plans to reward her students with a field trip to the zoo with her prize money.

The additional winners are Judy Mullins, with Lynn Wood Elementary in Broken Arrow, and Jenks Northwest Elementary's Sarah Beyer.

The Arvest initiative to honor educators from a pool of more than 90 communities throughout the state by awarding more than \$15,000 in prize money was launched in October. The campaign awarded a total of 33 teachers statewide.

"Teachers work tirelessly to shape and educate the children of Oklahoma, and we are grateful for their efforts," says Arvest Marketing Manager Rita Garrison. "We hope these prizes can make their jobs a little easier."

Towns included in the contest were: Adair, Ada, Afton, Aqua Park, Arkoma, Badger Lee, Bartlesville, Bethel, Bixby, Blackgum, Broken Arrow, Box, Catoosa, Chickasha, Choctaw, Choteau, Commerce, Copic Slab, Cottonwood, Coweta, Del City, Dale,



ARVEST GIVES BACK: Dawna Jones, center, a teacher at McClure Elementary, stands with Rita Garrison, left, marketing manager for Arvest Bank, and Rebecca Lewis, Arvest Bank sales coordinator, after Jones accepted a check for \$500 as part of Arvest Bank's We Love OK Teachers campaign.

Dewey, Duncan, Edmond, Elgin, Eufaula, Fairland, Foreman, Ft. Gibson, Gans, Glenpool, Gore, Gore Landing, Grove, Heavener, Jay, Jenks, Kansas, Lawton, Liberty, Marble City, Maple, McAlester, McLoud, Meeker, Miami, Midwest City, Moffett, Moore, Muldrow, Muskogee, Nicut, Norman, Nowata, Oklahoma City, Okmulgee, Owasso, Panama,

Paradise Hill, PawPaw, Pocola, Poteau, Porter, Pryor, Quapaw, Redland, Reeder Ford, Roland, Sallisaw, Sand Springs, Sapulpa, Seven Oaks, Shawnee, Spiro, Stillwater, Stilwell, Stoney Point, Sycamore, Tahlequah, Tahihina, Tecumseh, Tulsa, Vian, Vinita, Wagoner, Walters, West Fort Smith, Westville, Wister, Wyandotte and Yukon.

QUESTERS AIM TO PRESERVE HISTORY

Tulsa-Area Chapters Support Pawnee Bill Legacy



RESTORED PAINTING: The portrait of Pawnee Bill's wife, May Lillie, that the area Questers chapters paid to have restored. The Questers' mission is the preservation, restoration, and education of antiquities and historic buildings.



ORGANIZATION VALUES HISTORY: Members of the area Questers chapters stand at the Pawnee Bill Mansion in Pawnee, Oklahoma, which was the home of Wild West entertainer Pawnee Bill and his wife. The area Questers have spent close to \$6,500 to create and install early-era light fixtures on the mansion's front porch and to restore a painting of Pawnee Bill's wife, May Lillie.

By **EMILY RAMSEY**
Managing Editor

The Questers was founded by Jessie Elizabeth Bardens in 1944 in Pennsylvania. For the group's first meeting, Bardens asked 14 people to bring a sandwich and an antique, notes Sharon Scott, first vice president of the Oklahoma State Questers.

When asked how to define a "quester," Bardens replied: "A Quester is a socially well-adjusted intelligent person who has curiosity, enthusiasm, imagination and a good memory."

"Without memory, we have no past and without imagination, no future."

Therefore, the International Questers' focus is on the preserva-

tion, restoration, and education of antiquities and historic buildings and sites.

The organization has chapters within 43 states in addition to two chapters in Canadian provinces, with a total of approximately 10,000 members.

Oklahoma has seven total chapters in Bartlesville, Claremore, Edmond and Tulsa. Tulsa is home to three Questers chapters.

Scott has been a member of one of the Tulsa chapters for about 15 years.

Projects her chapter has been involved with include the home of Gordon W. "Pawnee Bill" Lillie, known as the Pawnee Bill Mansion, located in Pawnee, Oklahoma.

Pawnee Bill was a Wild West

entertainer who completed his 14-room home in Pawnee in 1910.

The Tulsa chapter, with the help of the other local chapters, spent close to \$6,500 to create and install early-era light fixtures on the mansion's front porch and to restore a painting of Pawnee Bill's wife, May Lillie.

While many individuals may view the Questers as a group focused on antiques, "this is also about restoration and preservation of historic buildings," says Scott.

The chapters also hold monthly meetings focused on historic or antiquity subjects.

For more information on joining an area Questers chapter, email sscottspr@cox.net. To learn more about the International Questers, visit questers1944.org.

LEADERSHIP AWARD



TYPROS BOOMTOWN: Tulsa Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Deborah Gist, second from right, stands with Mayor G.T. Bynum and Tulsa's Young Professionals and TPS representatives at the November Boomtown Awards where she received the Leadership Legacy Award, given to an individual who promotes community engagement and leadership opportunities for young professionals.

DOWNTOWN ON DISPLAY



ALOFT HOTEL: Tourgoers enjoy the sweeping views of downtown Tulsa on the top floor of the Aloft Hotel, which features four individually-owned condos. The Aloft Hotel, 200 Civic Center, was one of 12 residences open for viewing on the Tulsa Foundation for Architecture's annual Dwell in the IDL downtown living tour.



EAST END VILLAGE: Individuals stand on a rooftop deck at the East End Village, 401 S. Elgin Ave. Other properties on display during the Dwell in the IDL tour, held Nov. 5, included the Y Lofts, Mayo Hotel & Residences, Palace Apartments and Jacobs Lofts.

Store Holds Charity Event

In November, Travers Mahan Apparel held a "Men in Media" charity event involving Tulsa's media members.

For every individual who tried on a shirt, using the unique Data Fit Technology, store owners Laurie and Travers Mahan donated \$20 to John 3:16 Mission.

Data Fit Technology crafts custom shirts by using a special algorithm that makes it easy for anyone to find their perfect fit with three measurements: chest, waist and sleeve, notes Travers Mahan. "The shirts offer the performance of athletic apparel with the sharp look of premium dress shirts."

Travers Mahan Apparel is the only clothing store in Tulsa to offer the Data Fit Technology, which was created by two former Johnson & Johnson executives who were looking to find a better-fitting shirt without the expensive tailoring costs. They created software that analyzed the measurements of half a million men using 3-D body scans. The result was an algorithm that is



JOHN 3:16 GIVING: KOTV News on 6 Meteorologist Michael Grogan is fitted for a shirt by Travers Mahan, of Travers Mahan Apparel, during the store's "Men in Media" charity event, held in November.

able to create a well-fitting shirt for men of most sizes.

Participating media members included Michael Seger, James Aydelott, Ron Terrell, Mark Bradshaw and Michael Grogan.

TPS SPORTS

Hornets Celebrate State Championship

By MIKE MOGUIN
Sports Writer

It was Booker T. Washington's year in football. The Hornets proved it by dominating opponents in every game except for one. They finished the 2017 season when they rallied to beat district foe Bixby, 28-21, Dec. 1 in the Class 6A Division II state championship at Jenks. With a final record of 12-1, they were also champions of District 6AII-2.

Nose guard Jonathan Brown made an impact from the defensive side of the ball by forcing two sacks, led the team in tackles with 11 and anchored a defense that kept pressure on the Bixby quarterback most of the game. Brown finished the season as the Hornets' leaders with 17 and tackles for losses with 30.

"It felt good to win state because it's good for the Booker T. football franchise, the community and for north Tulsa as a whole," Brown says.

"We just brought the neighborhood back alive, and, it's been seven years, so it's long overdue," BTW coach Brad Calip says. "There is excitement going on each and every day at school. These seniors rekindled the legacy for Booker T. football and I couldn't be prouder of these guys for bringing a gold ball back."

The state championship is the ninth in school history for Booker T. Washington. Prior to this season, it last won state in 2010. Other championships came in 1967, 1968, 1969, 1971, 1973, 1984 and 2008. The '67 team was recently

recognized to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the winning the title.

Booker T. Washington found itself facing deficits of 7-0 and 21-7 early in the game.

"I had a little bit of doubt, I'm not going to lie about that. But, I had to keep my composure and keep on telling myself to do my job and that everybody was going to do theirs," Brown says. "If we all do our job, we are going to come back to win."

Phillip Wheatley passed for 320 yards and three touchdowns on 18-of-30 attempts. His top receivers in the game were DeWayne Cooks and Javian Hester. He threw TD passes of 49 and 25 to Hester, which brought BTW to within 21-14 in the third quarter, then a 32-yarder to Cooks that tied the score in the fourth. Wheatley would score the go-ahead TD from one yard with 3:21 left.

Cooks had the most catches with five totaling 58 yards, while Hester compiled the most yardage with 145 on four receptions.

Hester also made the decisive defensive play, intercepting a Bixby pass at the goal line with 15 seconds left on the clock.

"We knew we were going to face a good team," Calip says. "Loren Montgomery (Bixby) is a great coach. I told these guys the only way we were going to get beat is beating ourselves. It was pretty tough in the first half. We had five turnovers, and to overcome that is an accomplishment and a credit to our team and character. They never gave up."

"We knew we had the momen-



Courtesy Booker T. Washington football

WINNERS: Booker T. Washington players come out of their tunnel for a game earlier in the regular season. The Hornets took state for 2017 on Dec. 1 when they beat Bixby in the Class 6A Division II championship football game.

tum in the fourth quarter, and these guys played lights out and we came up with a big victory," Calip says.

"At the end, (Hester) made a great play to seal the deal," Calip says. "They played great the whole year, and somehow, I knew they were going to come through at the end and they did."

Although, Hester's pick clinched the game, it was his 25-yard TD on a fourth down play which pulled BTW to within a

TD in the third quarter that gave Brown reason to believe that the Hornets had the game in the bag.

"After we scored the first time in the second half, after (Hester) caught that fourth-and-19 (TD), that gave us the momentum back and as a defensive unit we needed that. After that moment, we knew we had the game," Brown says.

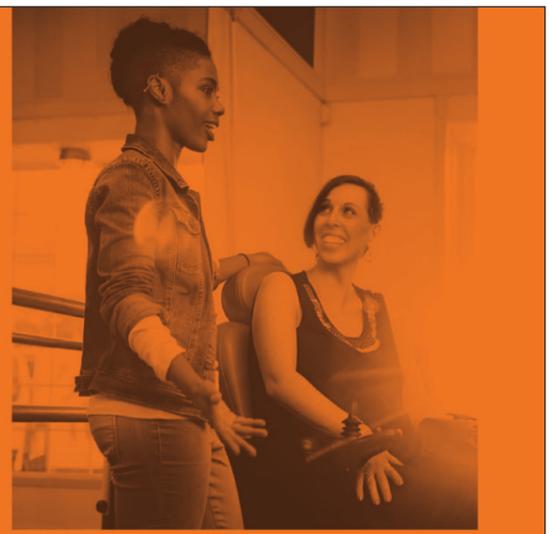
Booker T. loses as many as 23 seniors to graduation from this year's roster. That includes

Brown, Wheatley, Cooks, Rylan McQuarters and Jalen Moses.

Adding to the BTW football legacy is beautiful, Brown says.

"It means a lot because the last four years, I've witnessed heart-break and turmoil and all my senior friends crying and weeping because they just lost in the playoffs, and I didn't want that to happen to me. I promised the guys that we would win a championship."

And that they did.



Amy Meisner was diagnosed with MS in 1997. For someone who has always danced, MS would seem like the end. But for Amy, it means the start of a new chapter. She'll never leave the floor, still dances from her wheelchair, and is a great choreographer. Embracing Amy's undying passion, the National MS Society teamed up with LaTonya Swann to create an entirely new and inspired dance experience through virtual reality. See their experience and find out how you can share yours at WeAreStrongerThanMS.org.

Together We Are Stronger.



SPORTS

Adam Pleskach, Dennis Brown at Home in Tulsa

By GLENN HIBDON
GTR Sports Writer

They say “home is where the heart is.” If that’s the case, then both Adam Pleskach and Dennis Brown belong squarely in Tulsa.

Both are familiar faces of Tulsa Oilers fans. Both have established permanent residences in T-Town and both want to bring their adopted city an ECHL championship.

Right winger Pleskach, now in his fifth season with the Oilers, has been appointed team captain for the first time. Brown, a defenseman in his third year with the franchise, has fallen in love with Green Country and the people who support him, on and off the ice.

“I was very surprised coming from California. I expected a small town and a country atmosphere, but I felt right at home,” says Brown, who hails from Cypress, California. “I’ve lived in Nebraska and Kansas, but Tulsa is a bigger town, and I like the weather and friendly people.”

Pleskach’s journey to Oklahoma began in Beausejour, Manitoba, and led to his marriage and buying a home in Broken Arrow.

“Broken Arrow is my home now and I like being here,” says Pleskach, “I want to stay. The fans have always been great to me, and I have good friends here. They’re like my family.”

The 29-year-old 6-foot-2, 195 pound journeyman has settled down after playing 266 games with 116 goals and 210 points for the Oilers through mid-November. Former Oiler Ryan Cramer, who lives not far from Pleskach, introduced him to his wife, Jocelyn.

“She went to ORU and is now a third grade teacher at Jenks,” Pleskach says. “Tulsa is special to her because her parents met at ORU. We have a good commitment from friends here, even with people outside of hockey. We’re plugged in well with the community.”

A sign of domestic bliss for both Pleskach and Brown comes in the form of their household pets. Pleskach has a cat named Danny while Brown’s dog is called Jackson.

“We adopted Jackson, a black lab, retriever, Great Dane mix,” says Brown, who lives in a downtown Tulsa apartment with his fiancé, Kristi. “We got him out of an animal shelter and it’s unbelievable how much he loves us and how well he listens.”

While the 28-year-old Brown nurtures Jackson, he says the Oilers extended family sees to his needs and those of the other players. It’s an arrangement that brings out the best on both sides of the glass.

“We have a growing relationship with a lot of fans and good families who go out of their way to take care of us,” Brown says. “We feel very comfortable here because they do great things for us and don’t ask for much in return.”

As a 5-11, 185 pound D-man, Brown has played 130 games for the Oilers through mid-November with 10 goals and 49 points. He earned his degree in finance from Western Michigan University and met his future wife there. Kristi works in accounting at the Mayo Hotel in Tulsa with Brown spending his summers driving shuttle buses for the Mayo and the Aloft hotels.

Brown wants to have a family and coach hockey after his playing days are over. He says Kristi loves Tulsa and “I could see myself living here.”

Meanwhile, Pleskach earned a degree in economics from American International University and works for York Plumbing in the offseason. However, his future may not include hockey.

“I’m looking at a lot of different things. The oil industry is picking back up and the health care industry is interesting in Tulsa,” says Pleskach, who is still working toward his green card. “I don’t see myself getting into coaching.”

“My ultimate goal is to win here and it would be pretty special because Tulsa is home to me now. It would be a really cool thing for the city.”

Neither Pleskach nor Brown deny they want to move up to the AHL before their careers end, and they agree winning the ECHL



ADAM PLESKACH



DENNIS BROWN

championship would enhance the opportunity. Brown says the Oilers work smart together with good camaraderie and chemistry.

“My personal goal is to be a good teammate and make people around me better, says Brown. “I made the NCAA tournament two years in a row in college, and I had a strong first season in Tulsa. That’s the highlight of my pro career and gave me the opportunity I have today.”

While waiting patiently for his break to come, Brown spends his down time taking Jackson to the dog park and playing his guitar. Pleskach counters by playing golf every chance he gets. One thing they do have in common is trying to make the Oilers the ECHL’s best team.

“We have guys with good hockey sense. They think the game well and execute,” Brown says. “I definitely feel that I’m in a leadership role. I’m always looking to help the young guys who are new in town.”

In one way, Pleskach already considers himself a winner in Tulsa.

“I got married here and bought my first house,” he says. “But we (the Oilers) missed the playoffs two years in a row and that’s disappointing. This year we have a fresh start with a new coach (Rob Murray), and we have a lot on the horizon for us.”

“We’re playing a better defensive game than we have before. We’re allowing fewer goals and I’m happy with our start (to the season). We’re pushing to be better every day. My role over the last few years has been scoring goals, but I’ve rounded out my game a lot.”

He may be slick on an ice rink, but one of the biggest challenges now facing Pleskach is becoming a tried and true Oklahoman.

“Manitoba will always be home, but I want to stay in Tulsa,” he says. “I have good friends here. They’re my family now.”

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LEADING RUSHER: D'Angelo Brewer joined the Tulsa football team in 2014 after graduating from Tulsa Central High School. As a senior, he gained 262 rushing yards against Louisiana-Lafayette on Sept. 9. During the 2017 regular season, Brewer ranked fifth among all Division I FBS players with 1,517 rushing yards. On Nov. 16, 2017, in a game against South Florida, Brewer surpassed Marlon Mack to become the American Athletic Conference's all-time leading rusher and surpassed Tarrion Adams to become Tulsa's all-time leading rusher. He gained 837 rushing yards as a sophomore in 2015 and 1,435 as a junior in 2016. On Sept. 24, 2016, he rushed for 252 yards against Fresno State.

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Regent Student Wins 3rd Cross Country Title

Junior Ellie Gilbreath Sets Pace Again in 3200-Meter Run

By **MIKE MOGUIN**
Sports Writer

Ellie Gilbreath won her third straight Class 2A state championship in girls' cross country in October in Shawnee. But this one was special compared to the others.

Gilbreath, a junior at Regent Preparatory, did not have to persevere through nagging pain as she had to the previous seasons.

"This is the first season that I have been completely injury-free, because I have had shin splints in the past," says Gilbreath, who also runs track and plays soccer in the spring. "Normally, I get real bad shin splints in track and in cross country. They've always kind of flared up toward the end of the season. But, this year, I was able to train hard the whole season."

Running the 2-Mile (3200-Meter), Gilbreath finished the race in a time of 11:28.63, winning by 35.28 seconds against runner-up Zoe Weaver of Beaver (12:03.91).

"It felt really good," says Gilbreath, now a 3-time state champion. "Definitely, my hard work paid off. It's just really nice knowing that the whole season had a really good ending. Probably my favorite, so far."

"I prayed a lot. I put it all in God's hands, and I trained proba-

bly harder than I ever have. Being injury-free definitely helped."

Natalia Cleveland, a freshman who took 11th with a time of 12:55.93, was also a boost for Gilbreath.

"She really motivated me to work hard," Gilbreath says. "It was really nice having her in practice every day, pushing me, and I definitely think she helped me run as well as I did."

Running is not something Gilbreath has always done. She took it up in the seventh grade but never trained because she had been involved in ice skating most of her life at that point. But her skills on the rink helped her excel.

"I think it definitely did," Gilbreath says. "That's probably what made me able to run so well in middle school without training for running, because it is actually really hard, and it takes a lot of aerobic strength."

Although she only does it every once in a while, Gilbreath is expected to participate in a Christmas program this month at the BOK Center.

"Well, I definitely know that God has blessed me with natural talent. I do work hard," she says.

It was Gilbreath's freshman year when things took off for her on the trail.

"That's when I actually started running mileage and training,"



ELLIE GILBREATH: She won her third straight state championship in Class 2A cross country in October.

she says. "Ever since freshman year, I have run more and more and have gotten more competitive. My favorite thing is the feeling after the race. It's so nice to see that your hard work has paid off. It's just very rewarding."

Outside of Regent Prep, Gilbreath also runs with the Jenks

America Track Club. She ran in a national meet in Ohio, the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Gilbreath also won a state track title in the 2-Mile run last spring and finished runner-up the previous two years.

Next year, she hopes to successfully get the four-peat.

L. Christian Boys, BKHS Girls Winners

Lincoln Christian won its fourth straight state title in Class 4A with senior Luke Murphy winning as an individual. The Eagles captured the team championship with 44 points, beating Bethany who finished with 111. Murphy took top individual medalist honors with a time of 16:29.70. Finishing behind him in second was Michael Gates (3:20.53), of Weatherford.

Other Lincoln Christian runners were seniors Preston Turner (third, 16:50.06), Brock Sherwin (10th, 17:19.59), Harison Michael (13th, 17:27.89), freshman Josiah Antis (17th, 17:50.25) and sophomore Nate Gibson (23rd, 18:06.19).

One week later in Edmond, Bishop Kelley took home the Class 5A girls championship with 55 points. Runner-up Claremore was second with 67 points. Highest individual finisher was junior Tess Crosley, who finished the 5K run with a time of 20:09.03. Sophomore Sara Crosley (ninth, 20:22.77), junior Jenna Swords (11th, 20:28.98), senior Mary Ziegler (16th, 20:37.77), freshman Abigail Hills (19th, 20:49.13) and sophomore Shelby Peck (25th, 21:01.77).

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HARRY LENTZ for GTR Newspapers

COWBOY TOUCHDOWN: Tulsa Booker T. Washington graduate Justice Hill runs for a touchdown against Oklahoma in the Sooners' 62-52 win in Stillwater this season. Hill was the Big 12 Newcomer of the Year his freshman season. OSU will play Virginia Tech, coached by Union High School graduate Justin Fuente, in the Camping World Bowl in Orlando, Florida, Dec. 28.



Courtesy photo

ROUTE 66 MARATHON: The 2017 Williams Route 66 Marathon, held Nov. 17-18 in Tulsa, was another success. More than 10,000 runners from all 50 states and more than 10 countries swarmed the streets of Tulsa for the nationally-known event.

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OKLAHOMA SPORTS SCENE



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.

Shows in December will highlight Barry Switzer, "The King!"

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HEISMAN WINNER BAKER MAYFIELD AWAITS GEORGIA IN THE ROSE BOWL



HARRY LENTZ for GTR Newspapers

HEISMAN POSE: Baker Mayfield, a walk-on transfer from Texas Tech, became the sixth University of Oklahoma Heisman Trophy winner in December, joining Billy Vessels (1952), Steve Owens (1969), Billy Sims (1978), Jason White (2003) and Sam Bradford (2008). In the photo above, Mayfield gives a true Heisman pose as he runs past an Oklahoma State player in this year's Bedlam game, which OU won 62-52.

Mayfield led the Sooners to a third consecutive Big 12 championship with a 12-1 record and a berth in the College Football Playoff next month. For the season, he completed 262 of 369 passes for 4,340 yards for 41 touchdowns and only five interceptions. He also ran for 310 yards and five more touchdowns on the ground.

A signature moment in his Heisman campaign was the 31-16 road win over Big Ten champion Ohio State in which he threw for 386 yards and three scores. Against the rival Cowboys in the Bedlam game, Mayfield threw for a career-high 598 yards and five touchdowns.

Louisville QB Lamar Jackson, last year's Heisman winner, and Stanford RB Bryce Love trailed Mayfield in the balloting. Earlier in the week, Mayfield won the Maxwell Award as the nation's top player, and the Davey O'Brien Award as the nation's top quarterback.

Mayfield and the Sooners face Georgia in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1 in a CFP semifinal, with the winner to face Alabama or Clemson in the championship game on Jan. 8.

== 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
Sept. 1	Washburn 31	NSU 7		Pryor 47	Memorial 18		NOAH 6	Pembroke Hill 26		Moore 6	Owasso 52
	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	Eules 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	Oct. 12	NSU 7	Emporia State 44		Grove 14	Cascia Hall 41
	Owasso 56	Bartlesville 14		Miami 30	McLain 49	Oct. 13	Owasso 48	Southmoore 2		Oologah 54	McLain 7
	Claremore 49	East Central 0		Cascia Hall 7	Wagoner 34		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	East Central 31		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	Tulsa 13		Grove 28	McLain 34		Tulsa 34	SMU 38
	New Mexico M.I. 7	NEO 40		TCU 44	OSU 31		Rogers 0	Ft. Gibson 62	Oct. 28	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 38	Blinn College 34
	McGuinness 42	Bishop Kelley 21	Sept. 28	Salisaw 35	Rogers 0		Lincoln Christian 13	Sperry 40		Missouri Southern 29	NSU 32.20T
	McLain 6	Central 18	Sept. 29	Jenks 26	Broken Arrow 13		Dewey 29	Webster 26	Nov. 2	Broken Arrow 54	Sapulpa 13
	Victory Christian 26	Sperry 21		Owasso 41	Union 44		Victory Christian 49	Chouteau-Mazie 0		Hale 26	Memorial 60
	Rejoice Christian 35	Kiefer 14		Muskogee 23	Bixby 38		Holland Hall 40	Kansas 0	Nov. 3	Lincoln Christian 42	Keys 14
	Bartlesville 29	Cascia Hall 48		Sapulpa 0	BT Washington 63		Afton 22	Rejoice Christian 20		Mustang 28	Union 48
	Claremore 25	Rogers 28		Bishop Kelley 37	Prior 21		OU 29	Texas 24		Edmond North 14	Owasso 42
	Metro Christian 33	Okla.Christian 14		Memorial 13	Claremore 49		Baylor 16	OSU 59		Jenks 39	Edmond Santa Fe 21
	Poteau 64	Hale 14		Edison 30	East Central 7		Houston 17	Tulsa 45		Bixby 42	Sand Springs 21
	Memorial 0	Edison 32		Hale 14	Skiatook 63		Arkansas 9	Alabama 41		BT Washington 42	Bartlesville 13
	Holland Hall 22	Lincoln Christian 16		Cascia Hall 42	McLain 0		NEO 34	Coffeyville C.C. 30		Talequah 14	Bishop Kelley 16
	Webster 41	NOAH 6		Metro Christian 41	Stillwell 35		NW Missouri State 42	NSU 14		McAlester 27	East Central 23
	Kellyville 54	Summit Christian 14		Central 0	Tuttle 47	Oct. 19	Norman 7	Broken Arrow 59		Durant 26	Edison 49
	Bentonville 47	Bixby 28		Manford 31	Webster 14		Southmoore 0	Union 48		McLain 0	Catoosa 41
	OSU 44	South Alabama 7		Lincoln Christian 67	Jay 70		Yukon 7	Jenks 49		Cascia Hall 8	Oologah 17
Sept. 9	OU 31	Ohio State 16		Victory Christian 49	Ketchum 0		Bixby 37	Bartlesville 21		Rogers 9	Stillwell 63
	TCU 28	Arkansas 7	Sept. 30	OSU 41	Texas Tech 34		Sand Springs 0	BT Washington 40		Salisaw 20	Metro Christian 40
	NEO 14	Trinity Valley CC 27		New Mexico State 24	Arkansas 42		Glenpool 30	East Central 33		Central 0	Blanchard 43
Sept. 15	Louisiana 42	Tulsa 66		Navy 31	Tulsa 21		Bishop Kelley 38	Memorial 6		Sequoyia 27	Webster 20
	Jenks 0	Har-Ber 29		Missouri Western 65	NSU 17		Edison 0	Shawnee 21		Holland Hall 35	Victory Christian 21
	Bixby 35	Putnam City 37		Kilgore College 14	NEO 42		Hale 16	Talequah 55		Rejoice Christian 42	Foyil 22
	Summit Christian 27	Rejoice Christian 54	Oct. 5	Union 70	Moore 0		McLain 10	Vinita 35		Summit Christian 20	Porter 80
	Lincoln Christian 35	Seminole 8		Rogers 0	Hilldale 69		Rogers 6	Poteau 58		Memphis 41	Tulsa 14
	Millwood 52	Cascia Hall 15	Oct. 6	Skiatook 35	Memorial 7		Cascia Hall 41	Catoosa 27	Nov. 4	OU 62	OSU 52
	Hale 14	NW Claussen 12		Putnam North 10	Owasso 55		Central 20	Ada 57		Coastal Carolina 38	Arkansas 39
	Sapulpa 3	Bishop Kelley 38		Edmond Memorial 7	Jenks 52		Westville 6	Lincoln Christian 56		NSU 24	Central Missouri 52
	Muldrow 48	Central 13		Broken Arrow 41	Westmoore 7		Capital Hill 12	Webster 28	Nov. 11	TCU 20	OU 38
	Rogers 0	McLain 47		Bixby 48	Sapulpa 10		Sequoyia 21	Victory Christian 49		OSU 49	Iowa State 42
	Skiatook 38	East Central 6		BT Washington 42	Muskogee 21		Salina 0	Holland Hall 11		Arkansas 10	LSU 33
	NOAH 0	Victory Christian 42		McAlester 6	Edison 17		Summit Christian 13	Mounds 34		Central Oklahoma 62	NSU 21
	Edison 21	Claremore 35		Claremore 21	Bishop Kelley 25		Hulbert 41	Rejoice Christian 42	Nov. 16	NEO 26	Trinity Valley 10
	Metro Christian 14	Holland Hall 45		Collinsville 66	Hale 0		Owasso 60	Norman North 28	Nov. 18	Tulsa 20	South Florida 27
	Shawnee 0	BT Washington 63		East Cental 0	Durant 35		OU 42	Kansas State 35		OU 41	Kansas 3
Sept. 16	OU 56	Tulane 14		McLain 22	Wagoner 62		OSU 13	Texas 10 OT		Kansas State 45	OSU 40
	OSU 59	Pittsburg 21		Fort Gibson 33	Metro Christian 28		Auburn 52	Arkansas 20		Mississippi State 28	Arkansas 21
	Tulsa 51	Toledo 54		Miami 0	Cascia Hall 47		Tulsa 14	Connecticut 20	Nov. 24	Missouri 48	Arkansas 45
	Pittsburg State 68	NSU 21		Webster 6	Berryhill 49		NEO 65	Arkansas Baptist 24	Nov. 25	West Virginia 31	Oklahoma 59
	NEO 28	Tyler JC 34		Inola 12	Lincoln Christian 55		NSU 27	Nebraska Kearney 42		Kansas 17	OSU 58
Sept. 22	Norman 7	Jenks 58		Colcord 20	Victory Christian 63		Broken Arrow 49	Edmond Memorial 7		Temple 43	Tulsa 22
	Mustang 41	Owasso 63		Chouteau-Mazie 6	Holland Hall 52		Memorial 40	Talequah 56			
	Broken Arrow 56	Yukon 20		Rejoice Christian 56	Liberty 20		Oct. 27	Punam City North 3			



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THE ECONOMY

China Airlines and NORDAM Sign Agreement

NORDAM Asia Limited is Established

Tulsa-based NORDAM and China Airlines recently signed a joint-venture agreement that established NORDAM Asia Limited, a company to repair and overhaul structural aircraft components for the China Airlines fleet and for other airlines in the Asia-Pacific region.

For NORDAM, the partnership brings a consistent workload of work from China Airlines and its affiliates, while affording proximity to regional customers as a strategic objective of the company's maintenance, repair and overhaul business in the Asia-Pacific region. For China Airlines, the flag carrier and largest airline of the Republic of China (Taiwan),

the agreement ensures control of critical competencies while upgrading proficiencies, reduces labor and transportation costs, and expands its share of third-party maintenance.

The announcement was made at the NORDAM Repair Division on East Pine Street near Tulsa International Airport. NORDAM and China Airlines executives attended the announcement, including a large contingent of officials and representatives from the Taiwanese Ministry of Economic Affairs. Also in attendance were Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, City of Tulsa Chief of Economic Development Officer Kathy Taylor, and Tulsa County Commissioner John Smaligo.



INTERNATIONAL HANDSHAKE: NORDAM Vice Chairman & COO T. Hastings Siegfried, right, shakes hands with China Airlines Chairman Nuan-Hsuan after the NORDAM Asia limited agreement was signed.

Lobeck Taylor Launches Kiva Tulsa for Small Business

The Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation (LTFF), in partnership with Louisville-based Access Ventures, celebrated the official launch of Kiva Tulsa recently. Kiva Tulsa is an initiative that offers zero percent interest crowd-funded microloans up to \$10,000 to small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs in Tulsa and the surrounding areas. During the official launch, Kiva Tulsa held a live funding event featuring over 20 local businesses seeking Kiva loans at the Cox Business Center, in conjunction with the Tulsa StartUp Series Demo Day Finals. The live funding event resulted in an overall amount of \$20,575 lent to the participating startups. Four businesses (Mollycoddled

Hash Slinger, Reliveit, Inner Well Bean, and Bodhi's Bowl) received full funding for their small business loans during the course of the night.

"We know from the State of Entrepreneurship Report data that entrepreneurs in Tulsa desperately need more options to raise startup capital," said LTFF CEO Elizabeth Frame Ellison. "Kiva is a solution to that problem that doesn't just bolster our small businesses by giving them access to funding - it also recruits our entire community to use their resources to make a direct impact in local economic development."

With the Kiva Tulsa platform, anyone can help grow Tulsa's small business economy and pro-

mote local job creation by visiting us.kiva.org/Tulsa, browsing the available entrepreneur stories, and choosing an entrepreneur to support with a loan of \$25 or more. Last week, LTFF announced a \$250,000 match fund, which matches all loans in the Tulsa MSA dollar-for-dollar.

The implementation of Kiva Tulsa was made possible by several local organizations that act as Kiva trustees, publicly endorsing and vouching for Kiva entrepreneurs. Trustees in the Tulsa area who have endorsed borrowers include the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation, Kitchen 66, The Mine, BetaBlox, Kendall-Whittier Main Street, SCORE Tulsa and the Greenwood Cultural Center.



ENTREPRENEURIAL ADVOCATES: This photo was taken at the State of Entrepreneurship Address at 36 Degrees North in Tulsa where it was announced that the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation (LTFF) donated a \$250,000 match fund for Kiva. From left are Natalie Deuschle, director of Grants & Impact, LTFF; Meredith Peebles, COO, LTFF; G.T. Bynum, Tulsa mayor; Bill Lobeck - founding board member, LTFF; Kathy Taylor, founding board member, LTFF; Casey Allen, Tulsa Kiva lead; and Ashley Van Horne, director of communications, LTFF.

Edward Jones

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AT&T TEDDY BEARS: Representatives from AT&T delivered more than 500 teddy bears to the Tulsa Police Department in late October. Throughout the month of October, AT&T stores across the Tulsa metro collected teddy bears in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. At the end of the month, the bears were donated to TPD, so officers could give them to the children they encounter in domestic violence situations and other crimes.

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Tulsa Entrepreneur Introduces Roots Java Coffee

Clifton Taulbert, a Tulsa-based author and entrepreneur, has entered the multi-billion dollar national coffee supply chain with Roots Java Coffee.

African Bean Company is the first nationally certified, African American owned coffee supply company providing national distribution including the territories, according to Taulbert. The company's coffee is branded Roots Java Coffee.

From small communities on the Mississippi Delta to sidewalk cafés in Los Angeles and New York, consumers are drinking more and more coffee—helping to drive this multi-billion dollar industry, Taulbert says. African Bean Company, founded by Dr. Fitzgerald Hill, is making history in their 5th operational year as he and his partner, Taulbert (president & CEO), ensure that African Americans are also on the owner/supply side of this industry.

The company's rich tasting coffees are the result of beans grown by independent Rwandan farmers in the fertile, high mountain region of the country. These farmers, many of whom survived the horrific genocide, are now transforming their lives and their country by growing and harvesting some of the most sought-after coffee beans in the world.

Taulbert, who heads the operations of this national company, always smiles when asked about their market receptivity. "Roots Java's smooth and with no bitter aftertaste is winning customers nationwide. But it's still not easy to tackle a market that is dominated by major international corporations with little or no room for a start-up company to play," Taulbert says. "However, African Bean Company is here for the long haul. Using entrepreneurial tactics and plain ol' hard work, they are making their way into homes (online) with their signature 12 oz. bags of



ROOTS JAVA



CLIFTON TAULBERT

Ground and Whole Bean, along with their 42 count/cases of filter and fractional packs for commercial businesses (large and small), including academic institutions commercially delivered across

America. The brand's smooth taste is rapidly becoming a highly sought-after item for holidays and special occasion gift giving and corporate gifts by loyal customers nationwide."

African Bean Company, LLC is a privately owned enterprise with operational headquarters in Tulsa. To learn more call 918-584-0414 or visit the website: www.rootsjava.com

Natural Gas Becoming a National Net Exporter



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

National Energy Talk got underway on July 31 of this year with a salute to the oil and gas industry by hosting a bar-b-que luncheon for the industry in western Oklahoma.

I began my career in Elk City, Oklahoma, summer of 1977. Forty years later, I wanted to kickoff this effort with a luncheon followed by a town meeting in my hometown.

Since the kick-off in Elk City, National Energy Talk has had events at the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma City and Edmond. Panelists have included those from media, universities, oil and gas industry & associations, special interest groups, and government. Subjects covered at the events have included the future of Oklahoma energy: myths and facts, cybersecurity, energy industry and the media, federal tax reform, the future of coal, oil, natural gas, hydrogen, wind, solar, nuclear, hydroelectric and other forms of energy. Natural gas

especially Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) appears to be one of the key areas of dialogue.

Natural gas is leading the transition from being a net importer to a net exporter primarily due to the LNG efforts in the Gulf Coast region. The Sabine Pass operation, operated by Cheniere Energy, has shipped over 175 cargoes to some 25 nations, as of this writing.

According to an article in *The American Oil and Gas Reporter*, "since U.S. LNG export terminals are contracted with LNG buyers under long term (typically 20-year) purchased agreements, LNG exports represent a stable and growing new demand for domestic natural gas supplies." And the article goes on to state, "in aggregate, the 'first wave' of U.S. LNG export terminals coming on line during the next couple of years is expected to have a total operational capacity of 9.5 Bcf/d. The U.S. Energy Information Administration forecasts that average U.S. LNG exports will jump from 1.9 Bcf/d in 2017 to 4.6 Bcf/d by December 2018, and progressively climb thereafter as facilities ramp toward full capacity."

Among other companies involved in U.S. terminal LNG planning



MARK A. STANSBERRY

are Dominion Energy, Pacific Summit Energy, Kinder Morgan, GAIL Global, Sempra Energy, and Freeport LNG. Wood Mackenzie forecasts that the volume of LNG globally traded will increase by 50 percent during the next few years.

The U.S. Department of Energy recently proposed a rule that would achieve a quicker authorization of LNG exports from U.S. facilities. According to the *Federal Register*,

"in expediting the application and approval process for these exports, DOE recognizes the unique characteristics and minimal adverse impacts of the small-scale natural gas market emerging primarily in the U.S., Caribbean, Central America and South America".

Natural gas is an energy answer that is available today. We should definitely be putting it to use even more. For years, I have voiced my belief that natural gas reserves are critical to a strong U.S. economy and extremely important for America's energy security. Natural gas is an abundant, clean fuel that has many uses domestically. It is very important to our country's energy sustainability.

What do you think? It is time for National Energy Talk. Facebook: National Energy Talk. www.nationalenergytalk.com

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Advertising/Promotion Company Formed

Todd Fimple and Shannon Thompson have formed a new company, Oklahoma Promo, which offers thousands of advertising and promotional products to businesses from coast to coast. Friends since they were students at Oklahoma State University, Fimple and Thompson have a combined experience of 40 years in sales and marketing with 14 years in advertising and promotional products.

"We are not just order takers," says Fimple, "We add value by finding out what events you have coming up, we put them on our calendars, and call a couple of months ahead to provide ideas and suggestions that will match the theme, target population and budget for your event."

One way they offer added value to customer service is by posting on Oklahoma Promo's social media pages six hot products of the week to make sure that customers can see the hottest items in the industry. In addition to everyday products such as screenprinting and embroidery, t-shirts and polos, the company is currently highlighting ideas for customer and employee appreciation gifts for the

holidays and jackets for the winter. The company's motto is: We will provide the best customer service in the industry. This includes timely responses, relevant product ideas and suggestions, quick turnaround times and on-time delivery.

The company can be found on Facebook and on LinkedIn. The website is www.oklahomapromo.com and features more than 600,000 searchable promotional products and wearables.

"We have a great passion for sharing our faith, and we firmly believe that God led us on this

path to start our business," says Thompson, "We believe in treating people like they are our only customers and the way that not only we would want to be treated but how God would want them to be treated."

Oklahoma Promo has established relationships with all of the top suppliers in the industry, and their accounting system ties into the sourcing database of products. This allows Oklahoma Promo to offer great pricing and turnaround times. "Quicker than most, if not all, of our competitors," says Fimple.

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BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES



GTR Newspapers photo

MABREY HOLIDAY: Mabrey Bank held its annual holiday party this year at Southern Hills Country Club. From left are hosts Carlisle Mabrey III, CEO; Katie Mabrey, director of marketing; and Scott Mabrey, president.



GTR Newspapers photo

LOCAL AND FAMILY OWNED: Airco Service Co-Owner Tom Boyce stands with his sons Austin, left, and Chase at the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce's BAH-RAH 2017, held in November. Airco is family owned and operated and was established in 1961.

Eunice Tarver has been named **Tulsa Community College** Northeast Campus provost and will oversee the academic and daily operations of that campus. Most recently, she served as interim provost of the TCC Northeast Campus and will continue to serve in a dual role as Assistant Vice President for Diversity & Inclusion.



TARVER

Tarver earned a master's degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Oklahoma State University. She is currently enrolled in Oklahoma State University's Social Foundations of Education doctoral program where she is working to complete her dissertation.

TCC serves more than 25,000 students each year on four main campuses and is the third largest college or university in Oklahoma. TCC is currently one of 30 community colleges in the country that is part of a national initiative funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and focused on raising college graduation rates across the country through guided academic and career pathways. The Pathways Project, led by American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), builds better bridges for students from high school graduation to college completion leading to university transfer or credentials that match labor market needs.

Tulsa attorney **Kimberly K. Hays** will serve as the Oklahoma Bar Association's 2018 president. Also elected to represent District 6 is **D. Kenyon Williams Jr.** They will be a part of the OBA's 17-member Board of Governors, which meets monthly and governs the association.



HAYS

Hays is a solo practitioner in Tulsa. She has practiced exclusively in the area of family law since 1993. She received her B.A. in 1990 from Oklahoma State University. She graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law with her J.D. in 1993 and is a member of the Tulsa County and Creek County bar associations and American Bar Association.



WILLIAMS

Williams is a shareholder of the law firm of Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson PC in Tulsa. During his 40 years of practice, Williams has predominately assisted and defended businesses and communities in regulatory compliance or litigation matters in the areas of environment, natural resources, real estate and renewable energy. He is serving his second appointment to the Professional Responsibility Tribunal and has served as chair of the Environmental Law Section. He speaks frequently on environmental and energy topics and in 2013 received the Earl Sneed Award for his contributions to continuing legal education.

Williams currently serves as co-chair of the Tulsa County Bar Association Professionalism Committee and served as TCBA president in 2014-2015.

Charles W. Chesnut of Miami will serve as president-elect, and Richard Stevens of Norman will serve as vice president.

GableGotwals announces Broken Arrow resident **Alicia J. Edwards**, Jenks resident **Lloyd Landreth** and Bixby resident **Ryan Pittman** have recently been named by Thompson Reuters as Oklahoma Super Lawyers and Rising Stars. Super Lawyers is a listing of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.



EDWARDS



LANDRETH



PITTMAN

The selection process is multi-phased and includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations. Rising Stars recognized the top up-and-coming attorneys who are 40 years old or younger or who have been practicing for 10 years or less. The selection process is rigorous and has been recognized by bar associations and courts across the country for its credibility and sophistication.

Alicia Edwards has been recognized in the practice areas of Intellectual Property and Environmental Law. She has been a Rising Star since 2012.

Lloyd Landreth has been a Super Lawyer since 2010. He was recognized in the practice area of Environmental Law.

Ryan Pittman was recognized in the practice areas of Energy & Natural Resources, Business Litigation, Civil Litigation and General Litigation. He has been a Rising Star since 2015.

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.

AVB Bank announces the hiring of **Jim Myers** as senior vice president and commercial lender. Myers has several years of banking experience, extensive in all facets of lending, portfolio management and relationship development.



MYERS

AVB Bank President and CEO, Ted Cundiff, stated, "The addition of Jim is great for AVB. He is an experienced lender with savvy business acumen, and he is going to continue to help this bank pursue our goals and succeed alongside the communities we serve." Cundiff continued, "AVB has a rich culture we wish to continually develop, along with the people here at AVB. Myers fits the culture well, and is going to be a great asset for us moving forward. We are very pleased to have him."

On joining a community oriented bank, Myers said, "AVB is a genuine hometown bank focused on the support and growth of the communities they serve. That's why they are a cornerstone in the history of Broken Arrow."

Myers grew up in Inola, Oklahoma. He went to Claremore High School before attending Oklahoma State University, earning his bachelor's degree in business. Myers and his wife, Sarah, live in Broken Arrow.

The Golden Hurricane Club, the fundraising arm of The University of Tulsa's athletic department, has new leadership as it was recently announced that **Chris Maxon** will serve as associate athletic director for development, and **Ian Sadler** as assistant athletic director and director of the Golden Hurricane Club.



MAXON



SADLER

Maxon served in the capacity of assistant athletic director and director of the Golden Hurricane Club for the past four months. He came to Tulsa from the University of Oklahoma, where he held fundraising positions with the university's annual giving program, the National Weather Center and OU Athletics. During his time in Norman, he was part of the successful completion of the Sooners' \$100 million "Great Expectations" capital campaign, which touched all sports.

Maxon also established the annual giving program with OU's College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences, while raising over \$2.5 million in total giving. Prior to his work at OU, he was a private business owner, holding three Marble Slab Creamery franchises in central Oklahoma.

Sadler was most recently the manager of business development for Learfield's Golden Hurricane Sports Properties, the multimedia rights holder for TU athletics. In that role, he was responsible for over \$1.9 million in renewal negotiation and business revenue partnerships.

Maxon is a native of Cashion, Oklahoma, and earned his degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1994.

Tulsa Welding School (TWS) has named **Frances Heaston** campus president of the Tulsa-based skilled-trade school. A leader in the industry for more than 60 years, TWS has trained thousands of students for sustainable welding, pipefitting and electro-mechanical careers in a variety of industries, ranging from oil and gas to manufacturing.

As campus president, Heaston will oversee many aspects of campus operations at TWS, operated by StrataTech Education Group, including operational effectiveness, academic quality and overall growth. Heaston is also responsible for the general education and graduation success of nearly 700 students, and will oversee 70 staff members and administrative functions.

Serving the higher education sector since 1984, Heaston joins TWS from Altierus Career College, previously Everest Institutes, Colleges and Universities. During her 15-year tenure at Everest, Heaston separately led three campus locations as campus president, overseeing multiple functions and departments, including academics, admissions, career services and student finance. Additionally, she served as vice president for two years and director of Admissions for seven years.

For more information, visit www.weldingschool.com.

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The Dresser Mansion Preserves History, Beauty

A dark rumor circulated for many years about the Italian Renaissance house at 235 W. 18th St.

It was built in 1920, designed by New York architect Albert Joseph Bodker for Carl and Pauline Dresser. The rumor was based on the idea that owning the house was like signing a death warrant. The fact that Carl and Pauline's two subsequent husbands all died rather suddenly seemed to lend truth to this fable. However, the health of subsequent owners has laid this idea to rest.

The house, located on a steeply sloping lot, utilizes its site to the maximum. A port cochere on the west is adjacent to a walkout basement containing a study and a billiards room—the 1920s answer to a man cave. The L-shaped footprint has an attached three-car garage wing on the east

with servants' quarters above connected to the kitchen by a small breezeway. (In the 1920s, an attached garage was a very modern concept.)

Overall, the house has five bedrooms, six bathrooms, six fireplaces and three sun porches. The interior finishes include high beamed ceilings, Italian tile, hardwood floors, wrought iron railings, and leaded and stained-glass windows. The exterior is stucco with a low-pitched terra cotta tile roof.

There are a number of 1920s-era cutting edge details in the interior. The master bedroom suite includes a shower room with multiple shower heads, a steam room, and a master closet with four walls of closed cabinetry built-ins, leaving a large open center space to accommodate luggage packing and a furniture grouping.

Also in the interior is a large safe in the butler's pantry and a sunroom on the west above the port cochere, with panels that slide up vertically to create an open porch.

The dining room with a gold leaf decorated ceiling has a cast stone fireplace with an intaglio inscription in Latin on the mantel, "Inter secundus res esto moderat." (Translation: "In the future, among favorable things be moderate.") Adjacent to the front door is a small room, no bigger than a closet, which was planned as a telephone room when telephones were still a relatively new device.

In the 1980s, I was hired to design a small remodel for the owners at that time. The husband and wife were attorneys who wanted to convert the servants' wing to an at-home office facility for the two of them. I reviewed the original architect's drawings on linen blueprints, which were very detailed. I remember the owners proudly showing me the dining room table that was original to the house (probably because it was so massive it would have been hard to move). There was also a living room rug designed to fit the space, which I was told was original to the house.

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA



Courtesy Dresser Mansion

ELEGANT DESIGN: The Dresser Mansion, 235 W. 18th St., was built in 1920 near downtown Tulsa. Much of the home's original architectural elements remain preserved, including high beamed and gold leafed ceilings, Italian tile, hardwood floors, wrought iron railings, and leaded and stained-glass windows.

Today, the Dresser Mansion, as it continues to be known, has had several owners and is used as a special events facility for parties, weddings and receptions. The house was designed for large gatherings, so it works well in this capacity.

I have attended several receptions there, the last a wedding re-

ception for the son of an old friend. The backyard, due to the driveway and garage configuration, is essentially a courtyard. For this event, small bistro tables and strings of lights provided a romantic and very pleasant setting. Down to the present, the home continues to maintain its strong historical aura.

Less Means More: Fewer Toys Equals Better Development

It made my recycling heart happy to see a 2017 study indicating that

access to fewer toys results in longer, more meaningful playtimes for toddlers. Researchers at the University of Toledo released a report in November showing "an abundance of toys present reduced quality of toddlers' play." As we work hard to balance what we need with using less stuff, it's nice to see research bolstering that less stuff equates to good parenting.

Perfect timing for this study as we seek to delight our loved ones with gifts. So, for the toddler in your life, a great gift can mean wrapping up your wrapping supplies of boxes, tape and markers, adding in some old bed sheets and you've got a tent making kit that will ignite the imagination for hours.

Eco Glitter

Our nieces came to Tulsa to catch one of their favorite acts coming through town, and after only 24

hours, our house hasn't been free of glitter since. It got me thinking

about its environmental impact. A 2017 study found domestic and commercial filters do not capture glitter. Another study shows one third of our marine life now contains micro plastic particles, as well as congeals into a plastic island in our oceans, seas and lakes. While glitter's environmental impact is still under investigation, a ban has been proposed on this beloved/hated party favor.

There are several great options for biodegradable, compostable glitter that's even healthy for skin instead of detrimental like the petroleum-based glitter commonly found in craft stores. While you may still find flecks for the rest of your life, for the glitter-lover in your life, check out companies such as Enviro Glitter, Eco Star Dust, Glitter Revolution, Nurture Soap and Eco Glitter Fun.

Trash Talk



By BETH TURNER
Tulsa Master Recyclers Association

An Eco Thank You

For nearly a decade, Kristen McCormick's company, Shikoba Recycling, stood in the gap between Tulsa's landfill and our recyclables. Now that Tulsa has available large-scale commercial, residential, and event recycling options McCormick is hanging up the trash truck to pursue filling new gaps she sees that we need.

We here at Trash Talk are grateful to Kristen nearly beyond words. I personally have been one of the thousands of students and adults McCormick has taught about recycling, compost, environmental quality control and so much more. She has been a part of the program to hire people with criminal backgrounds, and she helped spearhead recycling at the Route 66 Marathon and the Tulsa State Fair.

Simplifying Your Own Life

What positive habit have you created for yourself in 2017? We deserve to look back at our accomplishments, both great and small, from helping clean up rivers and streams around town to remembering your to-go bag for nearly all your 2017 shopping trips.

I asked Facebook friends how they've reduced stress in their lives with the power of reducing waste. One friend said using a reusable K-cup for the Keurig helped his peace of mind and pocketbook.



BETH TURNER for GTR Newspapers

FAVORITE ECO MEMORY: My favorite moment of Trash Talk 2017 was reporting on McAuliffe Elementary and Katie Plohocky's partnership to eliminate school lunch food waste. Students organize the daily compostable program. Plohocky's team picks up the waste each day and delivers it to her farm animals for dinner. The Natural Resource Defense Council reports that 40 percent of food made is thrown away. Trash Talk salutes McAuliffe and Plohocky at lowering those statistics one meal at a time.

Another friend reports saving time and money by reducing her make-up routine each morning, which allows her to buy healthier beauty products that are eco-friendlier. Another great post comes from a friend who started participating in Meatless Mondays, which reduces her carbon footprint and her blood pressure.

I appreciate the pause this time of year to honor our struggles and efforts we endured over the past

year. I commend each of you for sticking with eco-efforts. Some days it's a struggle to see the positive impact you make. But make no doubts, your efforts are worth it, and they are valuable and commendable. May your 2018 be full of positive moments that bring you peace and security.

Send your 2017 accomplishments and your 2018 resolutions to bethturner@me.com, or on Twitter @TrashTalkTulsa.

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GTR Newspapers Photos

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE: The 17th annual Food 2 Families food drive benefiting the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma was held in November. Among those encouraging people to donate were, from left, KJRH 2 Works for You Meteorologist Taft Price; Pete George, director of creative services for KJRH; volunteer Madison Whitekiller; and Brianna Coble, volunteer coordinator at Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma.

SHOP WITH A COP: The Rotary Club of Tulsa held its annual "Shop with a Cop" event in December. The program pairs students from Celia Clinton Elementary School with police officers who help students shop for Christmas presents for their families. Pictured at the event in 2016 are Tulsa police officers with Rotarians Lindsey Dunn, center; Becky Fields; Lynne Moore, second from right; and John Rains with Clinton Elementary students.

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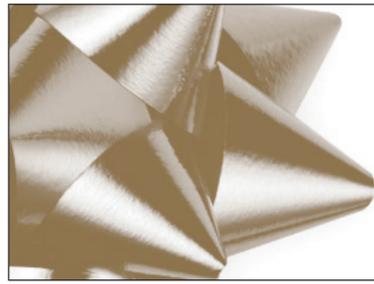
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TCC Offers Holiday Gift Guide for Students

The ultimate gift guide for TCC students is here with this year's The Wish Book. For the second year, the Tulsa Community College Foundation has created a catalog filled with opportunity gifts to help TCC students. These ideas go beyond tuition scholarships to engage the student with experiences and projects that add to their

learning. "We like to call this our education holiday catalog. Influenced by the Neiman Marcus concept for The Christmas Book, we want to reimagine education giving," says Lauren Brookey, president of the TCC Foundation and VP for External Affairs. "Our success last year in funding academic and program needs for students inspired us to develop our second catalog."

The Wish Book features eight opportunity gifts starting at \$450 that range from service learning to leadership conferences. One of the opportunities allows students to create little free libraries across 15 city park locations. Another project supports students in the True Blue Lead program who serve as volunteer leaders and ambassadors for the college.



W^{ish} BOOK

The Ultimate Gift Guide for Student Success

"We love the idea that our faculty and staff developed these ideas and opportunities with the goal of inspiring our students," says Brookey. "With the public's help, these gifts will become reality and lives will be transformed in ways that cannot be measured by dollars."

The Wish Book can be viewed at tccwishbook.com/.

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With the holiday season in full swing, it's time to make room for the latest technology for anyone on the holiday list.

The Tile Mate Item Tracker is a helpful gift for those friends who are always losing something. Help them keep track of their items with this tiny Bluetooth tracker paired with an easy-to-use app. Just place the tile on your items and easily find it by loudly ringing the lost item or checking the map on your device. Get a four-pack of tiles for \$69.99.

Pure joy will cover the face of anyone who finds a Mophie Powerstation Mini under the tree this year.

From moms who can't put the camera down to teenagers who spend hours on social media, this convenient power source is perfect for anyone who doesn't want to miss a moment because of a low battery. The powerstation has a rechargeable universal battery and can charge smartphones or tablets. This powerstation has it all with an easy-to-carry design and aluminum finish with two USB charging ports, an LED battery indicator and more for \$29.99.

Whether at work or play, anyone

will appreciate the convenience of the Belkin Wireless Charging Pad. The elegant design and black finish will go great on a desk, kitchen counter or bedside table. The pad is also compact and travel-friendly, making it easy to take on the go anywhere. This is the perfect stocking stuffer for anyone, priced at \$39.99.

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Nielsens Center Stage for Waterford

Nielsens Gifts, located in The Plaza at 81st Street and Lewis Avenue, was the first store in Oklahoma to carry Waterford Crystal. Arthur Nielsen selected the new crystal art when there was only one pitcher being imported to the USA in the early 1960s. Waterford and Nielsens has had a strong partnership ever since.

In November, Nielsen's hosted a signing event featuring Waterford's world famous Ambassador and Master Craftsman, Tom Powers.

The Limited From Ireland with Love bowl that was special for this year's signing event was mouth blown and hand cut in Ireland. Nielsens loves this unique Artisan Piece that is also a wonderful value. Other favorites are the fabulous Snowflake toasting flutes in Cobalt Blue and six-inch Heart vase at a special value!

Powers educated visitors on the mouth blowing and hand cutting of Waterford Crystal that give it



GTR Newspapers photo

SIGNING EVENT: Andrea Nielsen, right, hosted world famous Ambassador and Master Craftsman Tom Powers of Waterford and Ireland in November at her store, located in The Plaza, 81st Street and Lewis Avenue. In the middle is Andrea's daughter, Annika.

a special sparkle. Powers began his career with Waterford Crystal as an apprentice in the 1980s. After years of training, he became a Master Craftsman. Powers is the Waterford spokesman for the Times Square Crystal Ball for New Year's Eve. He lives in Waterford, Ireland.

The 2017 Waterford collection is now on display at Nielsens at 81st Street and Lewis Avenue. This year's Waterford collection has something for every taste from the traditional to the new colorful cut pieces to contemporary clear crystal. Visitors should see the Giftology Collection. Everything is packaged in colorful tins with fun sayings. There are some great surprises and specials just for Nielsens' customers. Lismore Pops- bright Hot colors in Champagne flutes and Bar Glasses are Andrea Nielsen's favorite new introductions.

More Information see www.NielsensGifts.com.

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HOLIDAY FUN: InHouse Advertising hosted their annual Holiday Party at their new offices at 6914 S. Yorktown Ave. From left are Dr. Terry Rigdon; Renee Profit, InHouse Advertising; Pat Baldwin, GM at KTUL; Stephanie Pierce, Dave's Claremore RV; and Amy Calvert, GM at KJRH.

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10 December A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. A WESTERN CHRISTMAS CAROL Oklahoma Performing Arts 2 p.m. Visit opanzart.org for more information.	11 CASTLE CHRISTMAS Castle of Muskogee 6 - 10 p.m. through Dec. 31 Visit okcastle.com for more information. LIGHTS ON THE HILL Chandler Park 5:30 - 10 p.m. through Dec. 24 Visit parks.tulsaok.gov for more information. TULSA WINTERFEST Downtown Tulsa 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. through Jan. 15 Visit tulsawinterfest.com for more info.	12 IMPROVE THROUGH IMPROV Mason on Leadership 1 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. OPEN DRAWING STUDIO Central Library 3 - 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for info. PHILBROOK FESTIVAL Philbrook Museum of Art 5 - 10 p.m. through Dec. 24 Visit philbrook.org for more information.	13 A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. BASICS OF MEDICARE LIFE Senior Services 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Visit lifeseniorservices.org for more information. Free Small Business Banking Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	14 BEGINNERS GARDEN SPIRIT SCULPTURE WORKSHOPS Tulsa Stained Glass 7 - 9:30 p.m. Visit tulsastainedglass.com for more information. A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. ELI YOUNG BAND Cain's Ballroom 8:15 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	15 THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. TULSA OILERS vs. Colorado 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information.	16 THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 2 & 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Manhattan • 6 p.m. Tulsa Men's Basketball tulsahurricane.com for tickets. TULSA OILERS vs. Allen 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information.
17 A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. A WESTERN CHRISTMAS CAROL Oklahoma Performing Arts 2 p.m. Visit opanzart.org for more information.	18 LEGO BUILD South Broken Arrow Library 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. RHEMA CHRISTMAS LIGHTS Rhema Bible College 5:30 - 11:30 p.m. through Jan. 1 Visit rhemabilechurch.com for more information. More Bank for Your Buck Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	19 A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. DRAWING ON MEMORIES Philbrook Museum of Art 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Visit philbrook.org for more information. WINK BURCHAM AND JACOB TOVAR Mercury Lounge 9 p.m. Visit mercurylounge918.com for more information.	20 STORYBOOK SANTA CLAUS Owasso Library 12 - 1:15 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. SCOTT EVANS AND DYLAN STEWART Blackbird on Pearl 9:30 p.m. Visit blackbirdonpearl.com for more information.	21 A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. SHERIDAN ROAD CHRISTMAS CABARET Sheridan Road 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. 21 SAVAGE - NUMB THE PAIN TOUR Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	22 THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. A CHRISTMAS CAROL American Theatre Co. 7:30 p.m. • Dec. 22-23 myticketoffice.com for tickets. SHERIDAN ROAD CHRISTMAS CABARET Sheridan Road 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	23 THE NUTCRACKER Tulsa Ballet 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. DUSTIN PITTSLEY BAND'S BLUES CHRISTMAS Soul City 9 p.m. Visit tulsasoul.com for more information. WIRLIGIG REUNITED Blackbird on Pearl 9 p.m. Visit blackbirdonpearl.com for more information.
24 BRANDON CLARK Mercury Lounge 4 p.m. Visit mercurylounge918.com for more information. GLow HOLIDAY EXPRESS TRAIN & ENTERTAINMENT Guthrie Green 7-10 p.m. Visit guthriegreen.com for more information.	 Best and warmest CHRISTMAS WISHES for you and your FAMILY	26 BOOKS TO FILM: "THE POLAR EXPRESS" Broken Arrow Library 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. THE PEARL JAM Blackbird on Pearl 9 p.m. Visit blackbirdonpearl.com for more information.	27 TULSA OILERS vs. Kansas City 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. MINECRAFT GAMING WITH MINECRAFT EDUCATION Central Library 1 - 3 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for info. Ask us about fraud ID protection Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	28 GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. ECU • 4 p.m. Men's Basketball tulsahurricane.com for tickets. STYX River Spirit Casino 8 p.m. Visit riverspirittulsa.com for more information. ROOTS AND BOOTS Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 8 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.	29 TULSA OILERS vs. Kansas City 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. GRITS CD RELEASE SHOW Soul City 9 p.m. Visit tulsasoul.com for more information.	30 TULSA OILERS vs. Kansas City 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. CHAD PRATHER Cox Business Center 8 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. TURNPIKE TROUBADOURS Cain's Ballroom 8:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.
31 TURNPIKE TROUBADOURS Cain's Ballroom 8:30 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. NEW YEAR'S EVE BANGER E.A. Rose District 9:30 p.m. Visit rosedistrict.com for more information. NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 2.0 Flying Tee 9 p.m. Visit flyingteegolf.com for more information.	1 January HANGOVER BALL 2018 Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. We Offer Health Savings Accounts Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	2 BIPOLAR MANAGEMENT SUPPORT GROUP Mental Health Association of Oklahoma 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Visit www.mha-ok.org for more information. \$2 TUESDAY FOR TU STUDENTS Circle Cinema All Day Visit circlecinema.com for more information.	3 GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. UCONN • 6 p.m. Men's Basketball tulsahurricane.com for tickets. DRUNKARD AND OLIO AUDITIONS Tulsa Spotlight Theatre 6:30 p.m. Visit spotlighttheatre.org for more information.	4 TULSA LANTERN LIGHT FESTIVAL River West Festival Park All Day Visit lanternlightfestival.com/tulsa for more information. GOLDEN EAGLES vs. Fort Wayne • 7 p.m. Men's Basketball Visit mabecenter.com for info.	5 DOG DAYS OF WINTER Tulsa Botanic Garden 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit tulsabotanic.org for more information. ELECTRIC EEL, PIRANHA & ARCHER FISH FEED SHOW Oklahoma Aquarium 2 p.m. Visit okaquarium.org for more information.	6 TULSA OILERS vs. Colorado 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. INTERNATIONAL COOKING CLASSES Raindrop Turkish House Tulsa 3 - 5 p.m. Visit internationalcookingclasses.eventbrite.com for more information.
7 TULSA OILERS vs. Colorado 4:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. SUNDAY CONCERT SERIES Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame 5 p.m. Visit okjazz.org for more information.	8 BROOKSIDE BOOK DISCUSSION Brookside Library 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Discussion of "No One Is Coming to Save Us" by Stephanie Powell Watts. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. SHARKS FEED SHOW Oklahoma Aquarium 11 a.m. Visit okaquarium.org for more information.	9 STENCIL SCREEN PRINTING Central Library 4 - 5 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. COVER TO COVER BOOK CLUB Broken Arrow Library 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. New Name. Same Bank. Central Bank of Oklahoma Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	10 TULSA OILERS vs. Wichita 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. DIGITAL LITERACY LAB ORIENTATION Central Library 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	11 TULSA'S STORY TELLING COMPETITION IDL Ballroom 8 - 10 p.m. Visit facebook.com/oksotulsa for more information. PHOTOSHOP LAB: HOAX PHOTOS Central Library 5:30 - 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	12 TREE PAC Gallery Jan. 4 - 30 FREE Exhibit. TULSA OILERS vs. Allen 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsadrillers.com for more information. EVITA Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	13 GOLDEN HURRICANE vs. Wichita St. • 6:30 p.m. Tulsa Men's Basketball tulsahurricane.com for tickets. AN EVENING WITH ERIC WHITACRE Tulsa Symphony Classics 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. EVITA Theatre Tulsa 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.



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MIDTOWN NEWS

Local Publisher Shares Tulsa Tales in New Book

(Continued from page 1)

Honor and responsibility in storytelling are guiding principles at Miller's Tulsa-based publishing house, Müllerhaus Legacy. In addition to designing books for larger publishers and developing high-level corporate communications materials, Müllerhaus Legacy found a niche creating commissioned history books for clients that, in 2017, ranged from a quaint small-town church with a few hundred members to families and businesses with assets in the billions.

In August, for example, Müllerhaus Legacy released *The Robson Ranch: Hard Work & Family Ties*. Authored by John Wooley, it tells the story behind the modest Northeastern Oklahoma cattle ranch where Wal-Mart's Walton family travels annually to spend time together and relive childhood memories.

"Whether we're telling the story of a business, a family, or a building, we do our best to craft a product that is as credible and honest as it is engaging and personal," says Miller.

In the world of marketing and branding, "storytelling" is a popular buzzword today. But according to Miller, that's been his focus since founding Müllerhaus after his departure from advertising giant Ackerman McQueen almost 15 years ago.

"Encouraging a client to consider the legacy they'll leave behind compels them—and

us—to take storytelling considerably more serious than most publishers and branding agencies. History is one of the most valuable—yet least leveraged—assets for compelling and authentic corporate communications. Too many business owners miss the opportunity to connect honestly with customers and employees when they replace their authentic story with a manufactured brand story that plays well to focus groups. Real life isn't crafted by a focus group. And folks nowadays—especially millennials—are hungry for authenticity, not idealized realities."

Miller hopes that in *Seat of Power*, readers will discover the authenticity built into Tulsa during its formative years.

The Old City Hall building certainly has a story worth remembering, he notes. And every old building that gets a new lease on life in downtown Tulsa shares in the legacy of Old City Hall.

Seat of Power: Tulsa's Arduous Pursuit of Governance & the House Strong Enough to Hold it and *4th & Boston: Heart of the Magic Empire* are available at Decopolis, Ida Red, Magic City Books, On A Whim, Tulsa Historical Society and other local bookstores. They can also be ordered on Amazon.com or by calling Müllerhaus Legacy at 918-747-0018.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB FORMING



GAME ON: Noelle Cullison, a member of the Broken Arrow 1st Junior Club, plays table tennis at the Tulsa Table Tennis Club at the Bixby Community Center. *Courtesy photo*

By **BRAD BALMER**
Table Tennis Aficionado

Looking for something to do this winter? Join us in playing the second most popular participant sport in the world and the most popular racket sport—ping pong.

Ping Pong is the perfect activity in that it is inexpensive, healthy, fun and can be enjoyed by individuals of any age and physical ability.

Top table tennis players are some of the greatest athletes in the world, yet the sport is also enjoyed by millions of children, teenagers, students and adults of all ages and abilities.

Table tennis is a tried and true staple of American homes, proven to bring families together through a non-electronic channel.

Competitive league play and instructional classes for juniors aged 7-16 both began in November.

The club will play at the Northside Christian Church Gymnasium, located at 1221 N. Elm Pl. in Broken Arrow, just south of the B.A. Expressway exit.

Please bring your paddle if you have one, or we will have extra paddles available. Tennis shoes and dark colored clothing is recommended.

For more information, visit brokenarrowpingpong.com or call 918-240-7465.

Top Health Benefits of Playing Ping Pong:

- Improves hand-eye coordination and stimulates mental alertness, concentration and tactical strategy. This makes it the perfect game for young people to sharpen reflexes and for older people to refine tactics.
- Develops mental acuity. The speed,

spin and placement of the ball are crucial in table tennis, and practiced players are highly skilled in both creating and solving puzzles involving these three attributes.

- Improves reflexes. Due to the fast-paced, short-distance nature of the sport, both gross and fine muscle movements are improved. The game is distinguished by bursts of exertion and recovery, leading to fast-twitch muscle development.
- Easy on the joints. Have you had knee surgery or back problems or are tired of twisting your ankles? Table tennis is a great way to improve leg, arm and core strength without overtaxing joints.
- Burns calories. A 150-pound person can burn 272 calories by playing table tennis for an hour.
- Offers a social outlet. Whether you play in the community center or at home with friends, table tennis offers a great way to bond with other people. Because young and old people can play the game, it can help improve communication and build relationships, irrespective of age. Playing at home with siblings or parents can bring family members closer and enable them to spend more quality time with each other.
- Keeps the brain sharp. Alzheimer's Weekly reports a clear increase in motor skills and cognitive awareness from playing table tennis, after a series of preliminary clinical studies in Japan found that table tennis markedly increases the flow of blood to the brain and could possibly even prevent dementia.

Brad Balmer is a 40-year ping pong player, competitor and teacher.

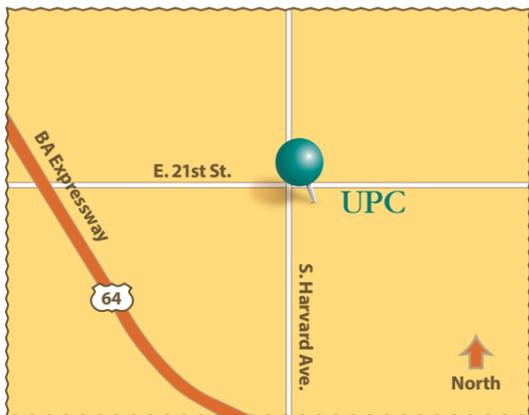


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