

# OWASSO RAMBLER

One of Six Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers

Oklahoma's Largest Monthly News Group

Volume 21 January 2018 www.gtrnews.com

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## GTR Enters 26<sup>th</sup> Year

By FORREST CAMERON, Ph.D.  
Editor and Publisher

Greater Tulsa Reporter Newspapers is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday with the publication of this January 2018 issue.

Thank you to readers, advertisers and all who have been employed by GTR over the years for making this longevity possible. Also, kudos to my co-publisher Sharon Cameron, who has been with GTR from the beginning!

As written previously, I founded the company with the purpose of targeting the Union Public Schools area, which at that time was starting to grow from southeast Tulsa to west Broken Arrow.

I was raised in Tulsa in the 1950s near Edison Junior and Senior high schools. While growing up, what is now the Union School District was mostly farmland with scattered housing.

Our family moved from Tulsa to Kentucky in 1974 and returned home to Tulsa in 1985. In 1987, we moved to the Minshall Park neighborhood, which borders 71<sup>st</sup> to 81<sup>st</sup> streets and Yale and Sheridan avenues. The southern part of Minshall Park is in the Union School District, while the northern part is in the Tulsa School District. To the west across Yale Avenue lies the Jenks School District.

Upon our return to Tulsa, I was amazed at how much the Union area had grown. Having a long history of interest in journalism and newspapers, I began asking people in the Union district if they would like to have their own newspaper. One-hundred percent of the Union residents whom I spoke with said, "Yes."

Therefore, in 1992, I started work to publish the first Union Boundary, which published in January 1993.

By 1995, we realized that we needed to expand our newspapers to increase overall readership. Op-

tions for expansion included dropping the Union Boundary name and having one paper for all of Greater Tulsa.

One day, I was discussing this idea with a Union resident and advertiser who said, "We put you in business. You can't drop the Union Boundary!"

That was enough reason for me to decide to maintain our expansion into school district areas.

Therefore, in 1995, we expanded into the Jenks School District with the Jenks District Gazette and into the Tulsa School District with the Tulsa Free Press (later renamed the Midtown Monitor).

We also added Greater Tulsa Reporter as the overall company and publishing name.

In 1998, GTR expanded again, this time into Broken Arrow and Owasso with the Broken Arrow Express and the Owasso Rambler, followed by the Bixby Breeze in 2002.

Interestingly, in the mid-1990s, we started seeing a technological change taking place in journalism. When we started publishing in 1993, all of our articles were produced on typewriters. The papers were laid out on boards, not computers, and there were no emails.

Almost overnight, it seemed, computers were taking over.

All of our production began taking place on computers, and newspapers started publishing their content online.

GTR was quick to go online in 1996 with gtrnews.com. As far as I know, we were the first publication in Greater Tulsa to go online.

Technology continues to impact not only all forms of journalism outlets such as newspapers, television and radio, but also retail stores and many other sectors of society.

We will continue our quest to keep up with all forms of modernization in our efforts to provide quality, local news to our audiences.

Again, thank you to GTR's loyal readers and advertisers!



UNION BOUNDARY  
ISSUE #1, JAN. 1993

## OWASSO FOUNDATION GIVES TO TEACHERS



EMILY RAMSEY for Owasso Rambler

**GRANT PATROL:** Hodson Elementary kindergarten teacher Lori Armon, center, in black, was surprised by the Owasso Education Foundation Grant Patrol on Jan. 12. Armon received one of 37 grants, with all grants totaling \$46,047.88.

By EMILY RAMSEY  
Managing Editor

On Jan. 12, the Owasso Education Foundation (OEF) awarded over \$46,000 in classroom grants to Owasso Public Schools teachers.

The foundation's Grants to Teachers program is funded through proceeds from its annual Holiday Home Tour, held in December, and the Patriot Classic Golf Tournament, to be held May 15 at The Patriot Golf Club.

Lori Armon teaches kindergarten at Hodson Elementary. She received one of 37 grants.

Her grant totals \$795 and involves using augmented reality to teach students the alphabet, bringing letters to life, she says. "Technology is here to stay, so we might as well embrace it and use it to teach our students," she says.

This is Armon's third year to receive a grant from OEF. Last year, she earned a grant to purchase iPads for her classroom.

Armon is grateful to OEF because its grants help to supple-

ment teachers' classroom needs when school funding falls short, she notes.

Below are the totals for each school site:

- Ator Elementary: \$2,682.28
- Barnes Elementary: \$11,454.63
- Hodson Elementary: \$795.00
- Mills Elementary: \$800.00
- Northeast Elementary: \$13,666.41
- Stone Canyon Elementary: \$4,374.74
- 6th Grade Center: \$3,095.72
- 7th Grade Center: \$4,382.62
- 8th Grade Center: \$1,099.00
- High School West: \$1,947.97
- High School East: \$1,751.50

OEF and Owasso Public Schools also wishes to thank the many area organizations and businesses that support the school district, including Wings To Go and QuikTrip, which gave a box of donuts to all winning teachers and their students.

## KUDOS OF THE MONTH: Hillcrest HealthCare System

For 100 years, Hillcrest has been a health care leader in Tulsa, providing an environment of hope, health, and healing to patients and their families.

Founded as Morningside Hospital in 1918 in response to a nationwide influenza epidemic, Hillcrest is one of the longest-standing hospitals in Tulsa. Its original facility was located at 512 N. Boulder Ave. and was purchased to care for influenza patients. Morningside continued to expand over the next 10 years until a facility was opened in 1928 at 16<sup>th</sup> and Utica under the ownership of Mr. and Mrs. William J. McNulty.

In 1939, Morningside Hospital was renamed

Hillcrest Hospital and, under new leadership, grew to become one of the largest hospitals in Oklahoma.

Hillcrest continues to expand its presence and full spectrum of services to include advanced cardiovascular and neurological programs, specialized women's health care, and innovative approaches to surgery and primary care across northeastern Oklahoma. Hillcrest HealthCare System is now a comprehensive health system that includes nine hospitals, two physician groups and over 6,000 employees.

Hillcrest takes pride in its place in Tulsa's history and continues to provide medical excellence and compassionate care.



Courtesy Hillcrest

**HISTORIC GROUNDBREAKING:** Dolly (Browne) McNulty, who helped to establish Morningside Hospital (later renamed Hillcrest Hospital), with community members at the hospital's groundbreaking in the early 1900s.



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# GTR Newspapers

UNION BOUNDARY • MIDTOWN MONITOR • JENKS DISTRICT GAZETTE  
BROKEN ARROW EXPRESS • OWASSO RAMBLER • BIXBY BREEZE

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# The Tulsa Press Club Promotes Highest Standards of Journalism

Tulsa is fortunate to host one of the top press clubs in the nation. The Tulsa Press Club, with approximately 500 members, is a vibrant organization that hosts members of the media as well as citizens of many occupations throughout greater Tulsa.



Courtesy photo

**HOME:** The Tulsa Press Club is located in the lobby of the Atlas Life Building at 415 S. Boston Ave.

The Tulsa Press Club, according to its website, was founded in 1906 when a group of newspaper men formed an organization with the purpose, "To make the path of newspaper men more beautiful and have a little fun on the side." William Stryker, editor-publisher of the Tulsa Democrat, forerunner of The Tulsa Tribune, was president. It was before statehood, before taxes, before women's suffrage, before TV and radio.

The following is the mission of the Tulsa Press Club:

*To promote the highest standards of journalism and to encourage the pursuit of journalism careers among students.*

*To defend the principle of Freedom of the Press and the public's right to have access to public information.*

*To encourage the interchange of ideas between members of the media and those of the professional community with whom they come into contact.*

*To foster the highest ideals of ethics and fairness among all members.*

*To extend benevolence and assistance to recognized charitable organizations as approved by the Board of Directors.*

The Tulsa Press Club stays busy throughout the year hosting various events such as the Headliners Awards Dinner, the Legislative Reception, First Draft, Page One luncheons, the Great Plains Journalism Awards and the Newsie Awards.

The Tulsa Press Club is located in downtown Tulsa in the Atlas Life Building and hosts luncheons throughout the week and is open evenings for social interaction for members and their guests.

According to the website, The Tulsa Press Club today is very different in many ways from the group that formed in 1906. Today's members not only work for (or have retired from) newspapers, radio and television stations, they are also involved in advertising and public relations at agencies and corporations. Some members come from outside the media, including lawyers, politicians and businessmen.

Today's Press Club is also motivated by somewhat broader and more altruistic goals, hosting Page One speakers, awarding journalism scholarships, and recognizing radio, television and press icons.

For membership information, call 918-583-7737.



SEAN CAPSHAW for Resolusean Photography

**HEADLINERS:** The annual Tulsa Press Club Headliners event was held in December at the BOK Center. Honored were Bill LaFortune and Kathy LaFortune. From left, front row, are Keith McArtor, Tulsa attorney; Craig Sutter, Oklahoma Indigent Defense System executive director; and Bill and Kathy LaFortune, Headliner honorees. Top row are Karen Keith, Tulsa County commissioner; Michael Overall, Tulsa Press Club president; Melani Hamilton and Nicole Burgin, event chairs and Tulsa Press Club board members; and Jim Goodwin, attorney and publisher of The Oklahoma Eagle.



GTR Newspapers photo

**MEDIA DISCUSSION:** The Tulsa Press Club holds various events throughout the year. Above, a panel discussed issues occurring in the media. From left are panelists Amanda Clinton, of Cherokee Nation Business, and Jesse Boudette, of Propeller Communications, and emcee Jennifer Loren, formerly of KOTV and now with Cherokee Nation Business.



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**EDITOR & PUBLISHER**  
D. Forrest Cameron, Ph. D.

**CO-PUBLISHER**  
Sharon Cameron

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Emily Ramsey

**ART DIRECTOR**  
Bryan Cantrell

**CONTRIBUTING EDITOR**  
Beth Turner

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Harry Lentz • Dean Atchison  
Rossy Gille • Kevin Adams

**EDITORS AT LARGE**  
Terrell Lester • K.J. Webb • David Jones

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
Rossy Gille

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Blake Austyn • Nancy Hermann  
Glenn Hibdon • Mike Moguin  
Roger Coffey • Raegan Dougherty

**DISTRIBUTION**  
Distributech • Udevenko Family

**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES**  
Linda Miller • Ashley Schmidt  
Krista Gardner

**GREATER TULSA REPORTER**  
P.O. Box 470645 • Tulsa, OK 74147-0645  
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info@gtnews.com

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### THE GREATER TULSA REPORTER NEWSPAPERS

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

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

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





# 10 TO WATCH IN GREATER TULSA 2018



MOISES ECHEVERRIA

Tulsa's Young Professionals 2018 Chair is Moises Echeverria, president and CEO of the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice.

TYPros' over 80 annual initiatives, events and programs come to fruition through the work of its board of directors and staff.

The organization's efforts are divided up into eight committees, termed "crews," including arts and entertainment, diversity, government relations and sustainability.

In 2018, TYPros celebrates 13 years since its inception. The organization's mission continues to be "to attract young creative talent to the Tulsa region, develop the next generation of leaders, and enhance Tulsa's sense of place," says Echeverria.

In order to further that mission, Echeverria's goals as chair are "to elevate TYPros' initiatives and programming from each of our crews to the local policy level. As such, we will ensure the perspectives of those of our generation are considered, and more importantly, leave a legacy for years to come."



STEVE BRADSHAW

BOK Financial Corporation President and CEO Steve Bradshaw will serve as the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce 2018 Chair of its Board of Directors.

He has previously served the chamber as its VisitTulsa 2.0 chair and as the United Way campaign co-chair in 2016.

Bradshaw oversees BOK Financial, which provides commercial and consumer banking, investment and trust services, mortgage origination and servicing, and the TransFund electronic funds transfer network. He became the top executive at the corporation in January 2014.

Bradshaw joined BOK Financial, one of the largest bank holding companies in the U.S., in 1991 and has served in a number of roles, ultimately having oversight of every function of the bank at some point.

Bradshaw and the chamber's focus in 2018 will continue to be on the state of public education in Oklahoma, attraction and retention of top talent, and job growth.



SUSAN NEAL

In September 2017, Susan Neal was named interim executive director of Gilcrease Museum, after the resignation of James Pepper Henry, who left the museum in April 2017 to become director and CEO of the American Indian Cultural Center & Museum in Oklahoma City.

Gilcrease is owned by the City of Tulsa and managed by the University of Tulsa.

Neal, a lifelong Tulsan, has served as TU's vice president for public affairs, research and economic development since May 2010 and as chief operating officer for Gilcrease since 2014. In her new role with Gilcrease, she will retain her title and responsibilities as vice president for public affairs with TU.

Neal oversaw the final construction and opening of the Helmerich Center for American Research, which is connected to the museum, and opened in 2014.

She will also oversee the \$65 million museum expansion that will begin soon and will be funded by Vision Tulsa.



MICHAEL SPURGEON

Michael Spurgeon took the helm as Broken Arrow's City Manager in September 2015 amid a time of regular city manager turnover. Spurgeon was the city's fifth city manager in 11 years.

Since that time, the city has continued to grow in its commercial development projects, jobs and home construction, with commercial growth largely confined to downtown and the northern portion and residential expansion taking place to the south.

In 2017, Broken Arrow welcomed 1,000 new jobs and saw 20 new commercial business openings.

Spurgeon is also focused on improving city efficiency and effectiveness through its talent recruitment by being more interested in hiring individuals who have a willingness to learn and a servant's desire, he says.

The City is also in the midst of creating a general obligation bond package that will go before citizens later this year and the roll-out of two recycling pilot programs that will begin in the summer.



ANNA AMERICA

Anna America has been the Tulsa City Councilor for District 7 since 2014. America's district largely covers the Union school district.

During her time as city councilor, America has served as a voice for her district, shining a light on area problems, including long-time-blighted retail corridors and public safety, as well as street needs, such as along Mingo Road between 71st and 81st streets.

In addition to her city government work, America was named executive director of the Child Abuse Network (CAN) in November 2017.

CAN, located at 2829 S. Sheridan Rd., provides one location that brings together various community services and public agencies for families dealing with child abuse situations.

America's focus in her new role will be largely on securing funding for the nearly 30-year-old organization, she says.

America began her professional career working in the journalism and communications fields before moving into the nonprofit sector.

## Halliburton Pledges \$10 Million to Gathering Place

A Gathering Place for Tulsa has announced that Halliburton Company pledged a \$10 million donation to sponsor the King Post Bridge. Halliburton joins more than 70 donors who have contributed to the park. To date, George Kaiser Family Foundation has contributed \$200 million toward the project (\$50 million in land plus \$150 million for construction of Phase I of the park) and, with the gift from Halliburton, nearly \$200 million has been raised in private donations. Combined, this unprecedented public-private partnership totals \$465 million.

"At Halliburton, we very much appreciate the communities where we live and work and are happy to support Gathering Place," said Jeff

Miller, Halliburton president and CEO. "We believe the park is a great benefit to Tulsa and the local community – home of hundreds of Halliburton employees."

A Gathering Place for Tulsa is a planned 100-acre park along the Arkansas River that will connect three previously independently-owned sites with the existing River Parks. Phase I, the first 66.5 acres, will include experiences for all ages. From the five-acre Adventure Playground to Mist Mountain, sport courts, bike and skate parks, nature trails, and large lawns for concerts, there are activities for the entire family to enjoy. Additional features will include the Williams Companies Lodge. (Continued on page 5)



**BENEVOLENT ANNOUNCEMENT:** At the announcement of the Halliburton gift to the Gathering Place are, from left, Jeffrey Miller, Halliburton CEO; George B. Kaiser; and Jeff Stava, executive director and trustee of the Gathering Place, LLC.

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Many things have changed over the years, but our commitment to providing medical excellence and compassionate care has remained unchanged.

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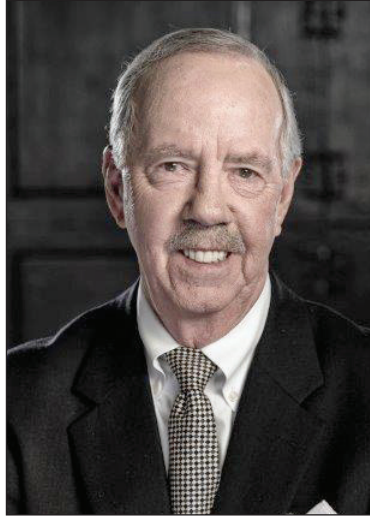
# 10 TO WATCH IN GREATER TULSA 2018



GARY AKIN



LYDIA WILSON



RON PETERS



HANNIBAL B. JOHNSON

OKLAHOMA AQUARIUM  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gary Akin has served as Owasso Chamber of Commerce President and CEO since 1995.

In addition to advocating for area businesses and industries, Akin sees his role as legislative advocate for citywide and statewide improvements, which are important to local businesses and citizens, he says.

These issues include regionalism, public education, healthcare, economic development and transportation.

Akin is excited to see Owasso continue to grow as its residential developments expand into the northern portion of the city.

Owasso residents approved a \$57 million school bond issue in October 2017 that will include the construction of a ninth elementary school that will sit in the northern part of the city to help with the projected growth.

Before coming to the chamber, Akin, an Oklahoma native, spent 19 years working as a banker with First Bank of Owasso.

"I chose to join the chamber in hopes of benefiting the city."

Lydia Wilson has been named Bixby Public Schools' Interim Superintendent as the search begins for the replacement of Kyle Wood, who was forced to resign amid allegations of student rape and a believed cover-up by school administrators.

Allegations came to light in November 2017, over one month after the alleged incident occurred. It was also discovered that a similar incident had occurred in 2016.

In light of the information, Bixby School Board President Ron Schnare resigned in December.

Work has already begun to move the district forward with healing, says Wilson, with internal restructuring and training efforts to ensure that we have a strong, safe and productive culture.

The district, next, plans to gain public feedback regarding its search for Wood's replacement.

Wilson began with Bixby schools in 1992 as a special education teacher. She has been principal of Central Elementary for almost 10 years.

The year 2018 will be the year of the parks in Greater Tulsa, especially with the opening of the extravagant Gathering Place, Tulsa's Riverfront Park.

In the taxpayer's interest, Tulsa County Commissioner Ron Peters has worked with Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum in the formation of the City-County Parks Realignment Commission to identify duplication within the City and County park systems and potentially align services, as the people of Tulsa County will have four park systems to support, each of which depends upon private donations and public support.

Peters says that the commission is composed of several committed parks experts and supporters to look at optimization of park systems into one that is sustainable and can be enjoyed by future generations of people living in Tulsa County.

It will be interesting to watch Commissioner Peters as he works to help optimize the efficiencies of the overall park system.

Hannibal B. Johnson will become the president of the Rotary Club of Tulsa beginning July 1 of this year through June 30, 2019. Johnson served as chairman of the board of directors of the Rotary Club of Tulsa 2015-2016 and chairs the club's diversity and inclusion committee.

Johnson is a leading citizen in Greater Tulsa. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and did his undergraduate work at the University of Arkansas. He is an attorney, author, and independent consultant specializing in diversity and inclusion/cultural competence issues and nonprofit governance.

Johnson is past president of Leadership Tulsa, past president of the Metropolitan Tulsa Urban League and past president of the Northeast Oklahoma Black Lawyers Association. He served as chairman of the board of directors of The Community Leadership Association, an international leadership organization, during 2001-2002, and is a founding director of the Oklahoma Appleseed Center for Law and Justice.

As of this writing, the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks is without an executive director. It will be interesting as to who will be chosen to lead the local tourist attraction.

In December 2017, it was confirmed that Director Terry Bowers' employment had been terminated after many months of controversy over her employment.

The aquarium opened its doors in 2003 and unveiled its most recent exhibit, Sea Turtle Island, in early 2017.

The Oklahoma Aquarium was partially funded by Vision 2025, which allocated \$12 million for construction costs. That amount was fully paid by June 2016.

Since then, the City of Jenks has been responsible for additional debt held by the attraction as well as other expenses.

While the aquarium annually brings in almost half-a-million visitors per year, funding remains a question.

The aquarium is governed by a seven-member Jenks Aquarium Authority.

## Phase One to Open in Mid-2018

(Continued from previous page)

QuikTrip Great Lawn, ONEOK Boat-house, and the Chapman Foundations Adventure Playground, which will offer spaces for recreational and social gatherings.

"We are honored to be the recipient of such a generous donation," said Jeff Stava, executive director and trustee of Tulsa's Gathering Place, LLC. "It is remarkable to see the ongoing support this project is generating and the unwavering commitment from our business community. This park will be a signature attraction for Tulsa and help ensure our city is a top destination for generations to come."

Phase I of the park is expected to open in late spring/summer 2018, with the Chapman Foundations Adventure Playground opening in January 2018 for scheduled visits by Tulsa-area elementary school children. With five-acres of handcrafted, one-of-a-kind equipment never before seen in the U.S., Tulsa's children will get

a first look at the highly-anticipated park.

Project information and the latest updates can be found by visiting [www.agatheringplacefortulsa.com](http://www.agatheringplacefortulsa.com).

### About A Gathering Place for Tulsa

A project of George Kaiser Family Foundation, A Gathering Place for Tulsa will transform nearly 100 acres of Tulsa's waterfront along the Arkansas River into a dynamic and active space when the project is completed. GKFF and numerous corporate and community philanthropists gave ownership of the \$465 million park to River Parks Authority who in turn signed a long-term operational and management lease back to an entity of the foundation to ensure the highest quality operation, maintenance and programming for the life of the park.

A Gathering Place for Tulsa is doing business as Tulsa's Gathering Place, LLC. To learn more about the project, visit [www.agatheringplacefortulsa.com](http://www.agatheringplacefortulsa.com).

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## VARIETY

# Entertainment Outlook is Bright for the New Year

I have one prediction for 2018. Leisure activities in Tulsa will rise to a new level. Along with the opening of the Gathering Place in its various stages, our town is set to rock. The BOK Center is celebrating its 10-year anniversary and already has announced a lineup of mega events. How many cities host U2 and Justin Timberlake in the same week?

More immediately, the BOK Center welcomes The Moody Blues, Jan. 23, for the group's 50th anniversary tour. "Nights in White Satin" and other hits keep this band on the road and booked into sizable halls. One of its founding members, flautist and soloist Ray Thomas, passed away on January 7 of this year. He hasn't appeared on recent tours, but will no doubt be honored by the band during its Tulsa concert, and at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame ceremony. The Moody Blues will be inducted in 2018.

The BOK Center welcomes the California heavy metal band Avenged Sevenfold (A7X) Jan. 29 and The Illusionists — Live from Broadway, Feb. 1. I was impressed by this clever assemblage of deft magicians when The Illusionists appeared at the Tulsa PAC several years ago. They've taken names like The Manipulator, The Daredevil and The Inventor — each with his own specialized approach to magic. Projections on the arena's big screens will ensure that even close-up sleight of hand can be appreciated along with levitation illusions and a water torture escape. If magic is not your bag and country music is more to your liking, you can see Travis Tritt at the Cox Business Center that same night.

American singer and rapper Kid Rock

brings his American Rock 'n' Roll Tour 2018 to the BOK Center Feb. 2, fronted by the band A Thousand Horses. Also on that evening, folk rock's Avett Brothers perform at the Cox Business Center.

Another set of siblings Brothers Osborne are guests of the River Spirit Casino's Paradise Cove Jan. 27. This American country music duo makes Tulsa an early stop on a world tour that takes them to Australia and the U.K. Their "It Ain't My Fault" is nominated for a 2018 Grammy. Also coming to the Paradise Cove is Jim Gaffigan on his Fixer Upper tour Feb. 10. Gaffigan has a deadpan comedy style influenced by David Letterman and Bill Murray. A father of five, who makes family life part of his act, Gaffigan is known for his "clean comedy." And if you enjoy comedians, check out Steve Trevino at the Cox Business Center on Jan. 27.

Other casino entertainment includes Clay Walker and fellow Vidor, Texas country music star Tracy Byrd, Feb. 1 at The Joint, located in The Hard Rock.

Broadway is back at the Tulsa PAC, Jan. 23 through Jan. 28, with Celebrity Attractions' presentation of "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder." Its story centers around an Englishman who learns that he is ninth in line to inherit property and a blue blood title. Doing away with the eight who precede him is a sticky (and comic) business, as are his romantic entanglements. It's all jolly good fun. One actor plays all the characters, men and women, who are targeted for elimination. The musical was a runaway hit on Broadway, winning seven Drama Desk Awards and the 2014 Tony Award for Best Musical.

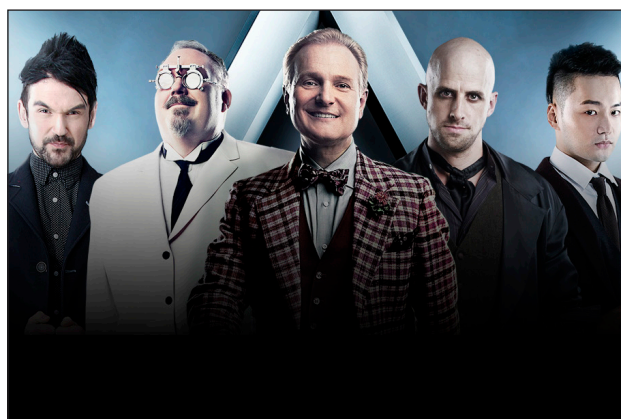
I've not seen enough dance this season,



**JIM GAFFIGAN:** The comedian, known for his "clean comedy," brings his Fixer Upper tour to River Spirit's Paradise Cove, Feb. 10.



**TONY WINNER:** "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" won the "Best Musical" Tony Award in 2014. Celebrity Attractions presents this hilarious Broadway hit, Jan. 23-28 at the Tulsa PAC.



**THE ILLUSIONISTS:** The assemblage of magicians work their magic at the BOK Center on Feb. 1.



**LAURA LINNEY:** The star of stage, TV and film delivers her talk, "Infusing Creativity Into All Aspects of Our Lives," Feb. 2 at the Tulsa PAC.

but I'm going to remedy that with Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. Formed two decades ago, the company excels in melding classical dance expertise with creative contemporary movement. I've enjoyed this top-notch company immensely in the past. Choregus Productions presents Aspen Santa Fe Ballet at the Tulsa PAC, Jan. 26-27.

Ensemble 4.1 makes its Tulsa debut as a guest of Chamber Music Tulsa. This German group, comprising piano, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn, has been praised for its Beethoven performances and for bringing to life the works of lesser-known composers. Music by Beethoven, Poulenc, Dorn and Gieseking is slated for Jan. 28 at the Tulsa PAC. A free lecture by Jason Heilman about the work to be heard is slated at 2:15 p.m. in Williams Theatre prior to the 3 p.m. concert.

Tulsa Town Hall opens the next phase of its 2017-18 season with a stage, TV and film star. Laura Linney is all that and a crusader for arts in education. Her talk on Feb. 2 at the PAC will focus on her work as an arts advocate. I've enjoyed her acting in "Mystic River," "Love Actually" and "The Truman Show." She's currently shooting the second season of the Netflix hit series "Ozark," starring as Jason Bateman's flawed and resilient wife.

Live indoor entertainment is a great option for February and March. Stay tuned for more excitement in the weeks ahead.



**ASPEN SANTA FE:** Blending classical ballet technique with contemporary movement, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet returns to Tulsa Jan. 26-27, hosted by Choregus Productions.



**ENSEMBLE 4.1:** A German quintet comprising piano, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon, Ensemble 4.1 makes its Tulsa debut for Chamber Music Tulsa on Jan. 28, at the Tulsa PAC.

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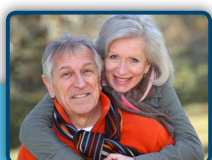
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# Local Designer Ariel Lev Dazzles Runway Tulsa

By CHET GREGORY  
Contributing Writer

*Editor's Note: Runway Tulsa is an annual event featuring a week of fashion in multiple locations across Tulsa. Although the major event takes place in a single week during the fall season, Runway Tulsa is involved in fashion events year-round.*

Ariel Lev was successfully and happily going through his life in an industry unconnected with fashion. But in 2016, while in a random and unrelated conversation, he learned that Tulsa had a newly structured and growing fashion movement. This struck a note and served as the genesis for what would soon be a year of creation and hard work. It culminated with a victorious presentation of his own fashion collection at Runway Tulsa held at the Cox Business Center on Sept. 29, 2017.

Lev has always been fascinated by how much one's clothing affects how they feel, and, for good or bad, how they're perceived and treated by others. He is a big fan of DIY fashion and the ideas of fashion as self-expression.

Starting in his mid teens, Lev started working with old patterns and used scrap fabric for practice. Once he became more proficient, he started taking on commission work to make money using his self-taught skills.

It was around this same time that cosplay (a contraction of the words costume and play, a hobby in which participants called cosplayers wear costumes and fashion accessories to represent a specific character) was

becoming popular in the U.S. and this allowed him to push his skills replicating the elaborate costumes of Japanese rock bands. Taking it to the next level had not been a viable possibility until Runway Tulsa came along.

After learning about the existence of Runway Tulsa, Lev attended all of the events of the 2016 September presentations. He then made it known to the organizers of his interest to present a collection in the 2017 runway show. He was quickly accepted to be part of the Emerging Talent show. This show was presented the night before the Finale runway show where national designers and even a Project Runway winner were featured.

Once Lev committed, the real work began and didn't end until the night of the big showing. His demanding day job meant he was "burning the midnight oil" and committing most of his weekends to produce a collection over a four-month period.

His creative designs demanded unique materials. It meant searching for specialty items that adorned his creations. He would find those through exhaustive hunts of flea markets and online searches. The results were worth it.

Runway Tulsa show producers chose Lev for the final walk of the Friday night show. The big event was coming fast. Still to happen would be the selection of his models and then the fittings. Matching accessories to each look and having it all ready and delivered backstage only added to the never-ending details such a showing requires.

The moment arrived. His first model was on the runway and his



Saisie Photography

**DESIGNER AND MODELS:** Ariel Lev, fourth from left, with his models wearing his designer collection at the Cox Business Center during Runway Tulsa, held in September.

other looks would follow. Backstage he could hear the first responses from the audience and they were enthusiastic and very encouraging. What the audience was seeing was a highly professional creation that was mysterious and sultry. Some repurposed vintage materials fashioned into an elegant Steampunk style (subgenre of science fantasy that engages technology and designs inspired by industrial steam-powered machinery of the 1800s) with obvious attention to detail. Lev's engineering background came forth in a fashionable manner without it being overly mechanical.

The last model walked and presented the perfect finale look that was even more dramatic than all that came before. It was time for the group walk of all the entire collection. Traditionally this includes

the recognition of the designer who makes the appearance at the end of the group. Whether Lev was able to take in the great crowd response during this moment is not known by this writer, but it was clear his collection was well-received.

This is normally where the show ends for the designers. The big moment they worked so hard for all year is over. But Runway Tulsa's emcee Chera Kimiko did something unusual for a fashion show. She called Lev back out to congratulate him on his presentation and asked him a few questions. The audience loved this and the chance to learn just a little more about the creator of what they just witnessed.

Backstage was a flurry – it always is, but the success of what just happened was felt by all involved. Just to add one more element to a per-

fect night, Runway Tulsa Director of Designs, Hope Tomorrow (from L.A.) approached Lev after a quick huddle with the show promoters and asked if he would return in 2018 and present in the Finale Show alongside prominent national designers. Spoiler alert, he accepted.

Two days later it was back to the day job where his accomplishments don't receive cheers and applause. But Lev is a fortunate person in that he has found the way to make both work in his life.

Like Ariel Lev at his Facebook [www.facebook.com/ariellevebvespoke/](http://www.facebook.com/ariellevebvespoke/) to keep up on his future fashion happenings. He does commission work and can be contacted through that site.

For more news on Runway Tulsa 2018 follow [www.facebook.com/runwaytulsa](http://www.facebook.com/runwaytulsa).



**NEW ON 6:** There are new faces for the News On 6 9 p.m. newscast. Brian Dorman and Ashely Izbicki will be joining Lacey Swope for News On 6's 9 p.m. show on Tulsa CW beginning in January. Dorman is a Detroit native with a passion for social media engagement, breaking news and community service. He is a two-time Chicago Regional Emmy award winner and has been recognized by Broadcasters Associations in Kansas, Missouri and Indiana. He brings 12 years of veteran anchor/reporter

experience, including five years in northeastern Oklahoma. Izbicki is new to Oklahoma, with her hometown being in Indiana. Prior to joining News On 6, she anchored/reported for stations in South Carolina, Tennessee and Indiana. "I can't wait for Brian and Ashley to join our team," News On 6 Meteorologist Lacey Swope said. "They are full of energy and a complete joy to be around. I know they will help make our 9 p.m. newscast something Oklahomans will rely on for facts and for a few laughs."



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# Bella Vista Provides Picturesque Setting in Nature

I have long heard Bella Vista, Arkansas, referred to as a sought-after retirement community and vacation spot filled with golf courses and lazy afternoons. That description led me to conjure up the image of an expansive well-planned community of manicured Stepford-type homes dotting picturesque winding roads.

Add to that its two-hour driving distance from Tulsa, and, I admit, I have been curious about the area.

Bella Vista's history stretches back to the early 1900s with the founders' plan to create a summer resort town due to the area's lakes and beautiful views. That vision slowly but eventually morphed into the area's current state as a retirement and vacation

area. The city was incorporated in 2007 and has a population of just over 28,000.

## Out & About in Greater Tulsa



By EMILY RAMSEY  
Managing Editor

When I recently received an invitation to visit friends who live in the area, I assumed my preconceived ideas would prove true. But while I found the picturesque winding roads, what I did not expect to find were miles and miles of towering pine trees with homes tucked among them, families of deer galloping through the trees and waterfront views complete with red foxes.

I have written before about my general discomfort with nature that is too close in proximity.

And I will admit that when my friends first pointed out the packs of vultures that hover in the trees



**FOX SIGHTING:** A red fox walks near the edge of one of the many lakes in Bella Vista, Arkansas.

near their home and sometimes meander across their roof, I felt, let's just say, uneasy.

The flurry of noise in the tree-tops during my daily walks and the black shadows sitting among the branches felt reminiscent of a Hitchcock movie.

Yet, once I acclimated to their noises and general presence, that only began to add to the area's charm.

And what I discovered was the



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

**EARLY MORNING VIEW:** An early morning view of Loch Lomond Lake in Bella Vista, Arkansas. Loch Lomond is the largest of Bella Vista's many lakes.

calm and tranquility that only comes from the true quiet found in nature.

Bella Vista is a large area stretched across acres of rolling hills—some areas more populated than others. But the hills and forests have a way of creating a feeling of isolation, as if you are far away from other humans. Traffic is mostly nonexistent until reaching the main thoroughfare, about a 10-minute drive.

I took early morning walks when the woods were especially quiet and the deer felt free to venture out from among the trees.

I sat near the water's edge, watching the early morning fog float atop the water.

I took leisurely drives, coasting over the hills.

There is certainly something to be said for the regeneration that takes place among nature. It's easy to forget how often we need that.

# Little Light House Receives Joy in the Cause Gifts

## Children's Books and Backpacks Full of Toys Brightened the Holidays

Rich & Cartmill Insurance and Bonds and Joy in the Cause are dedicated to bettering the community and enriching the lives of children.

As a sponsor for Joy in the Cause, Rich & Cartmill gave away children's books and backpacks full of toys this year to the Little Lighthouse in December. This special event also included a visit from Santa, elves, and Mavis Pearl Bulldog from Joy in the Cause. The kids were reported to have

truly enjoyed their new books and visits from their favorite characters.

After hosting this heartwarming event for the third year in a row, Vaughn Graham, the president of Rich & Cartmill, said, "The mission of The Little Light House is one that is close to Rich & Cartmill hearts. To see the expression on the kids' faces when they see Santa and to see the joy in their faces is what the Christmas season is all about. We are so lucky

to host this event for the past three years."

Since opening in Tulsa in October 1972, The Little Light House has set out to improve the quality of life for children with special needs, their families and their communities. They accomplish this mission by providing tuition-free educational and therapeutic services to children with special needs ages birth to six.

The Little Light House is located at 5120 E. 36th St. in Tulsa.



Courtesy photo

**HAPPY TIMES:** Lisa Bains, owner of Joy in the Cause, and Vaughn Graham, president of Rich & Cartmill, are all smiles for the successful holiday season at Little Light House.

# POSTOAK Lodge Offering Valentine's Special Feb. 10

For those looking for something out of the ordinary to celebrate Valentine's Day, POSTOAK Lodge & Retreat may be just the ticket. Situated on 1,000 acres just seven miles northwest of downtown Tulsa, the Lodge offers an escape from the norm that is relaxing and rejuvenating.

"We are inviting guests to rethink their Valentine's celebration. Come on Feb. 10 not just for a delicious dinner but also for a cozy room and a relaxing getaway," says Trisha Kerkstra,

of POSTOAK.

"In the morning, visitors can set out on a hike of the trails, soak in the outdoor hot tub or just enjoy the peace and quiet of the Osage Hills."

The Valentine's overnight package includes a one - night stay (Feb. 10) with a sweets basket for two, a hot breakfast buffet, and late check-out until 1 p.m. Rooms feature premier linens, private bathrooms, cable TV, and high-speed wireless internet. Enjoy a game of pool or shuffleboard or entice another

couple to a game of cards. The cost per night is \$139, not including taxes and gratuities. To book, call 918-425-2112 or go online at [www.postoaklodge.com](http://www.postoaklodge.com) and use group I.D. 2343 for the special rate.

POSTOAK is also offering a choice of three dinner entrees: Miso Glazed Salmon, Pan Roasted Chicken or Garlic Herbed N.Y. Strip. Seatings are at 6:30 and 7 p.m. Prices range from \$28 to \$35 per person, not including tax and gratuities. Salads, sides and desserts are

included. A cash bar is available from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Reservations are required and may be made up to Feb. 9.

Additionally there will be a "Paint & Pour" event put on by Bixby Painting Parties. Take part in a fun and interactive painting class and enjoy the cash bar. Cost for the Paint & Pour is \$35 per person plus tax. For more details call 918-425-2112 or visit [www.postoaklodge.com](http://www.postoaklodge.com).

Throughout the year, POSTOAK Lodge and Retreat is the ideal retreat for business

meetings, conferences and training sessions as well as weddings, special events and family reunions. It is located at 5323 W. 31st St. N.h in Tulsa.

POSTOAK Lodge & Retreat is a member of Green Country Marketing Assn., one of 11 multi-county organizations working with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, the Oklahoma Travel Industry Assn. and the other multi-country associations to promote state tourism, an \$8.9 billion industry.

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# Señor Tequila Offers Authentic, Quality Mexican Fare

## Local Dining

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**  
Contributing Writer

Señor Tequila has enjoyed a long history in Tulsa. Since opening its doors in 1999 in midtown Tulsa, it has grown to three area locations: in Brookside at 3348 S. Peoria Ave. and in south Tulsa at 6973 E. 71st St. and 9999 S. Mingo Rd.

While Greater Tulsa has its fair share of Mexican restaurants to choose from (and many with “Tequila” in the name), Señor Tequila endeavors to separate itself from the competition with its authentic Mexican offerings, housemade sauces and health-conscious menu items.

The large menu features a variety of combination platters, burritos, enchiladas and fajitas.

It also offers gluten-free options

and many vegetarian dishes, including vegetable enchiladas, guacamole tostadas and vegetable fajitas (Fajitas de Vegetales).

My friend and I chose to visit one of Señor Tequila’s south Tulsa locations in the Plaza del Sol shopping center at 101st Street and Mingo Road.

The first thing that I noticed when looking at the menu is how extensive it is. We both needed a few minutes to absorb it all.

I took that opportunity to order the Top Shelf Margarita, just one dollar more than the House Margarita and well worth it. Fair warning: they do not skimp on the tequila.

The menu offers many seafood options: salmon, shrimp, catfish.

I was drawn to the Fajitas del Mar due to its mixture of mahi-mahi, shrimp and scallops.

My friend ordered the Carnitas Michoacan, pork marinated in orange and spices complemented



BLAKE AUSTYN for GTR Newspapers

**SEAFOOD PLATE:** Señor Tequila’s Fajitas del Mar comes overflowing with mahi-mahi, shrimp, scallops and vegetables.



Courtesy photo

**SOUTH TULSA LOCATION:** There are three Tulsa-area Señor Tequila locations: in Brookside at 3348 S. Peoria Ave. and in south Tulsa at 6973 E. 71st St. and 9999 S. Mingo Rd., pictured above, in the Plaza del Sol shopping center.

## Food Entrepreneurs Graduate Kitchen 66

Kitchen 66 announced the completion of the Fall Launch Program for seven new food businesses recently. The diverse, eclectic group of budding food entrepreneurs completed an educational program spanning four months that combined a comprehensive curriculum with practical experience, sales opportunities, and access to commercial kitchen space. The seven groups of new food entrepreneurs also spent time collaborating with the Kitchen 66 community of fellow movers and shakers in the Tulsa food industry. Kitchen 66 is a program of the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation.

The Kitchen 66 Fall Launch Program graduates and their concepts are:

- Morgan Barkley, Emily Landry and Emily Price of Bakeshop Tulsa, a small-batch artisan baking company specializing in surprising, creative versions of baking classics, like long-fermented sourdough bread and savory granola.
- Thomas Boxley of Boxley Brewing Company, looking to establish an African-American-owned brewery in the Greenwood District.
- Sami and Brian Cooper of Big Dipper Creamery, a mobile cart featuring locally made, small batch ice cream

with fresh ingredients and adventurous flavors.

- Chanel Doakes and Abigail Robinson of Sovereign Chocolates, a local chocolatier that focuses on small batch bean-to-bar chocolate. They produce single origin bars using ethically sourced cacao beans from the Dominican Republic and Peru, as well as limited edition bars from other origins.
- Lesley Hullman of The Absurd Curd Co., a local small batch producer of authentic, small batch, fresh artisan citrus curds made from all-natural ingredients.
- Brad Linhart of Cult Kombucha, creating craft kombucha to distribute in kegs to local restaurants and bars.
- James Wegner of Bodhi’s Bowl, a fast-casual concept featuring authentic, gourmet rice-based bowls, without the cost or inconvenience of a full-service restaurant.

Applications for the 2018 Spring Launch Program will open in mid-January. Kitchen 66 has now served over 65 food entrepreneurs in the Tulsa area, hailing from 10 different countries, with over 50 percent of the entrepreneurs being female.

For more about Kitchen 66, visit [www.kitchen66tulsa.com](http://www.kitchen66tulsa.com), or Facebook/Instagram @kitchen66tulsa.

with the traditional Mexican sides: rice, beans, guacamole, lettuce and tortillas.

We also chose to order the Fiesta Platter, which offers a sampling of many of its appetizers: Chicken Nachos, Beef Taquitos, Chicken Quesadillas and Buffalo Wings.

The platter may cost \$13, but it comes stacked high with food. A trend that I later found continued in

our subsequent dishes.

The wings stood out as my favorite of the four items because of their tenderness.

The Fajitas del Mar also came loaded with items, particularly the large piece of mahi-mahi, which had a nice flavor and was cooked well so that it was not chewy or slimy as fish can sometimes be. The shrimp was also prepared well,

though the scallops were a little chewy.

My friend’s Carnitas Michoacan came with very tender pork. Although, the orange flavor was not overly present, which I preferred, but for those wishing for a stronger orange flavor, they might be disappointed.

Señor Tequila opens at 11 a.m. seven days a week.

## 16 Superfoods for the New Year

Superfoods contain a larger than average nutrient value, providing more nutrients to the body than another food of a similar serving size, says Kalli Castille, director of integrative and culinary services with Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Tulsa. As an example, wild salmon is a superfood for its large protein content and rich source of omega 3 fatty acids.

Many fruits and vegetables found at the grocery store are superfoods. Plus, when individuals choose seasonal fruits and vegetables picked at their prime, they may contain more antioxidants and phytochemicals.

Here are Castille’s seasonal superfood picks to help increase variety and nutrition in 2018:

### Winter Brussels Sprouts

A good source of dietary fiber, vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin K among many other nutrients.

### Grapefruit

At its peak in the coldest months, this tart citrus fruit has 4g of dietary fiber per cup and is a very good source of Vitamin A and Vitamin C.

### Kale

Has large amounts of vitamin A, Vitamin C, Vitamin K, Vitamin B6, and calcium.

### Sweet Potatoes

Provides 4g of dietary fiber per cup plus large amounts of vitamin A, vitamin B6, potassium and manganese.

### Spring Asparagus

A good source of dietary fiber, protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin E, vitamin K and many others.

### Broccoli

Offers dietary fiber, vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin K, vitamin B6, folate, potassium and manganese.

### Mushrooms

Mushrooms are a good source of vitamin D, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, vitamin B6, pantothenic acid, phosphorus, potassium, copper and selenium.

### Onions

Filled with Vitamin C.

### Summer Blackberries

With 8g of dietary fiber per cup, blackberries are an exceptional fruit to add to your diet. They contain high amounts of vitamin C, vitamin K and manganese.

### Blueberries

These sweet little fruits with a

dark blue skin are a great source of vitamin C, vitamin K and manganese.

### Cucumbers

Cool and crisp, cucumbers are low in calories, easy to prepare and provide a good source of Vitamin K.

### Kiwifruit

Also known as Chinese gooseberries, this sweet green treat is an excellent source of vitamin C and vitamin K.

### Fall Mango

In addition to being packed with vitamin A and vitamin C, this tropical fruit is also full of flavor.

### Cauliflower

A source of dietary fiber, vitamin C, vitamin K, vitamin B6, folate, pantothenic acid, potassium and manganese.

### Beets

Offer dietary fiber, folate, potassium and manganese.

### Parsnips

Other than its cream-colored skin, this root vegetable closely resembles a carrot. Full of dietary fiber, vitamin C, vitamin K, folate and manganese.

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## HEALTH & WELLNESS

# Six CTCA Physicians Earn 'Fellow' Designation

*Distinction Represents the Pinnacle of Integrity, Professionalism and Scholarship in Medicine*

In 2017, six Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) in Tulsa physicians earned the designation of "fellow," which represents the pinnacle of integrity, professionalism and scholarship. The distinction of fellow is considered recognition of one's accomplishments and achievements over and above the practice of medicine in his or her specialty of medicine.

**The six physicians are:**

**Dr. Peter Baik**, Lung Cancer Institute Leader and Thoracic Surgeon, is Board Certified in General Surgery by the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery and became a Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

**Dr. Rola Eid**, Medical Director of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery & Plastic Surgeon, is Board Certified in Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, as well as General Surgery, by the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery and became a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

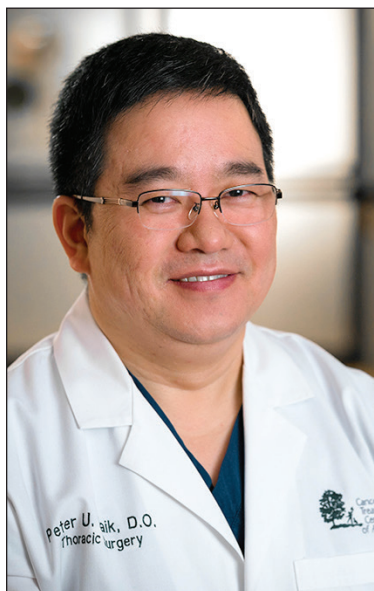
**Dr. James Flynn**, Radiation Oncologist, is Board Certified in Radiation Oncology by the American Board of Radiology and became a Fellow of the American College of Radiation Oncology.

**Dr. Larry Ladi**, Intensivist, is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Pulmonology by the American Board of Internal Medicine, as well as Board Certified in Family Medicine by the American Board of Family Medicine. Dr. Ladi became a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians.

**Dr. Sudheer Nambiar**, Intensivist, is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Pulmonology by the American Board of Internal Medicine, and became a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians.

**Dr. Kevin Tulipana**, Director of Hospital Medicine, is Board Certified in Family Medicine by the American Board of Family Medicine and became a Fellow in Hospital Medicine by the Society of Hospital Medicine.

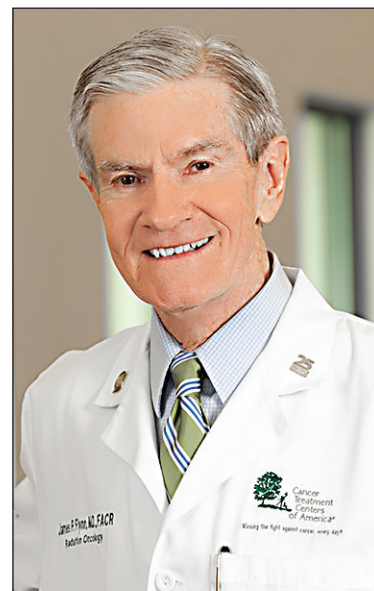
"At CTCA, our physicians are experts in their field, and I am honored to work with an incredibly talented group of physicians that continually seek to better themselves for the benefit of our patients," says Jay Foley, CTCA in Tulsa CEO and president. "Seeking the distinction of fellow is no small task, and I applaud their efforts and acknowledge their sacrifice in obtaining these notable recognitions."



PETER BAIK



ROLA EID



JAMES FLYNN



LARRY LADI

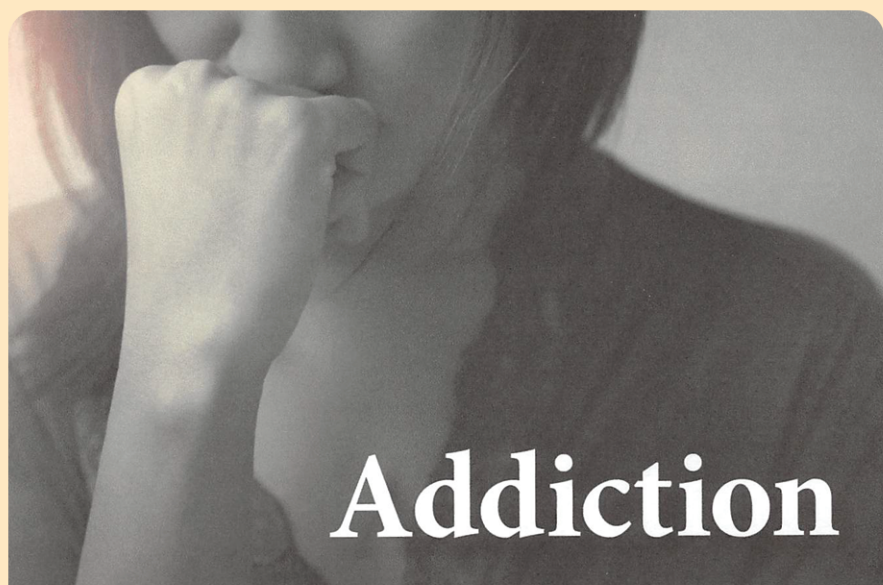


SUDHEER NAMBIAR



KEVIN TULIPANA

Photos courtesy CTCA



## Addiction

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Board-certified in Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

**JACKET DONATION:** In January, approximately 100 students from Eugene Field Elementary received fleece jackets thanks to nonprofit organization Gracious Tree and Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences. With Eugene Field students are, from left, Courtney Selking, Eugene Field principal; Daniel Mooney and Ryan Reed, of Gracious Tree; and Jesse Chaffin, OSU-CHS health and wellness manager.

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## CIVICS

## State of the City:

## Tulsa Becomes Oklahoma's First Dementia Friendly City

More than 6,000 individuals age 65 and older in Tulsa live with some form of dementia. Individuals living with dementia have on average three or more people who provide care for them. This means around 24,000 people in our community have dementia or care for someone with the condition. To put this number into perspective that many people would fill ONEOK Field three times.

A key fact to know is that dementia's progression can take from four to 20 years, which means people with dementia can shop, participate in community activities, worship, play, handle business transactions and enjoy social lives much longer than society acknowledges. As more Tulsans experience the effects of cognitive decline, we need to find ways to assist them and their caregivers in positive ways that promote kindness and safety for the benefit of all. That is why earlier this year Tulsa became the first city in Oklahoma designated as a dementia friendly city.

As part of Tulsa's first steps, we hosted the Dementia Friendly Tulsa Symposium last April and surveyed

stakeholders on how we can better serve our community members with dementia, as well as their caregivers. Last June, INCOG became the City's lead partner to develop the Dementia Friendly Tulsa steering committee, allowing us to tap into the expertise and existing resources readily available in our community.

Clark Miller, director of INCOG Area Agency on Aging, chairs the Dementia Friendly Tulsa Steering Committee, which includes the following members: Chief Michael

Baker, Tulsa Fire Dept. EMS Division; Marquay Baul, vice president of private banking, Arvest Bank;

Grace Burke, director, geriatric programs, Morton Comprehensive Health Services; Greg Burn, senior vice president, marketing, CommunityCare of Oklahoma; Steve Dickie, CEO, Oklahoma Methodist Manor; Mark Fried, president and CEO, Alzheimer's Association Oklahoma Chapter; Alysha Hiltbrand, director of human resources, LIFE Senior Services; Lindsay Morris, marketing and communications manager, Saint Simeon's Senior Community; Letitia Jackson, senior vice president, Senior Star; Captain Shellie

Seibert, Tulsa Police Department; Christina Starzl Mendoza, community development and policy assis-

## From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM  
Mayor of Tulsa



dementia.org

tant, City of Tulsa Mayor's Office; Zack Stoycoff, vice president of government affairs, Tulsa Regional Chamber; and Dr. Michael Weisz, Department of Internal Medicine, OU-Tulsa.

Since its launch, Dementia Friendly Tulsa has implemented a simple, zero-cost training to help increase community awareness about how to help individuals impacted by dementia. Parlour Salon, a locally owned business, became the first to receive the Dementia Friendly Tulsa training. Following Parlour Salon's lead, First Baptist Church and the Tulsa Fire Depart-

ment received tailored training to help them better understand ways their members and employees can better serve those impacted by dementia. Whether they participate in small or large groups, attendees learn simple communication skills and actions to help optimize community involvement for those with cognitive impairment and their care partners.

All Tulsa businesses, schools, faith-based groups, and organizations are welcome to schedule a free training session in 2018. For more information about Dementia Friendly Tulsa, visit [www.dftulsa.org](http://www.dftulsa.org).

## Tulsa County Enjoys Significant Accomplishments in 2017

## From Tulsa County

By RON PETERS

Tulsa County Commissioner

Assessing this past year requires an evaluation of the services provided to Tulsa County citizens by the county government which serves them. I am pleased to report that there were a number of significant accomplishments.

## Public Health and Safety

One of the County's top priorities should always be public safety. In this regard, we strive to meet or exceed our citizen's expectations regarding public safety. In 2017 we:

Were awarded a \$295,000 grant from the Department of Justice to purchase 216 body worn cameras for the Sheriff's Office. The use of these cameras should reinforce law enforcement accountability, while improving agency transparency;

Opened the new state of the art mental health pods at the David L. Moss Criminal Justice Center, the first of its kind in a county jail in Oklahoma and one of only a handful of county jails in America. The prevalence of mental illness in county jails is now three-to-six times higher than in the general population. Providing appropriate care means

shorter jail stays and when released, a lower likelihood that they will become repeat offenders;

Broke ground for a new Family Justice Center that will provide children and families with family support services. The best public safety investment is in prevention. This new facility will increase the County's ability to ensure this investment in prevention is optimized.

Along with public safety, improving the public health of our citizens is also a priority. For the first time in many years, money was appropriated to address the removal of abandoned and dilapidated structures throughout Tulsa County. These structures not only pose a public health hazard; they are often used for illegal activities as well.

## Transparency in Government

Elected officials should always put an extremely high importance on providing the most open and transparent government possible. In that regard, we launched the OpenGov platform on the Tulsa County website so citizens can see all of the financial transactions of the county and where and how their tax dollars are spent. To access this site simply go to [www.tulsacounty.org](http://www.tulsacounty.org).

## Preparing for the Future

With the widespread support of citizens across the county, the

Vision Tulsa initiative passed, replacing the expiring Vision 2025 effort and will allow us to continue to build and maintain important county infrastructure projects without a tax increase. This package includes \$30 million dollars of improvements at Expo Square, \$53 million dollars to maintain over 700 miles of county roads and 200 county bridges, \$14 million dollars to preserve and upgrade our great county park system, and \$13 million dollars to improve county buildings, parking lots, and the courthouse.

For years now, there has been an exchange of ideas on how to make citizens' access and use of county services more customer friendly. During those discussions, it was obvious that additional space and more accessible parking was essential to accommodate the thousands of citizens which pass through the courthouse doors every year. In December 2017 we purchased a building, directly across the street from the Courthouse that will address both of those needs.

After updates are made to the building, the administrative functions of county government will be moved into this building. This will allow the judicial side of county government the additional space they need in the current courthouse

complex. The new building will also make available more convenient parking for citizens who have county business with the treasurer, county clerk, assessor and county commissioners.

## Partnering with the City of Tulsa

In 2017, the City and County agreed that it would be in the taxpayer's interest to look at opportunities where the delivery of

services can be enhanced. This examination would include areas where there may be duplication of services, opportunities to develop partnerships, and collaborating together in the best interest of the citizens. This effort will begin with a newly formed city/county Parks Commission that will be looking for ways to improve and sustain our great park systems.

## Step Up Initiative

By MIKE NEAL  
President and CEO  
Tulsa Regional Chamber

A coalition of business leaders recently set aside partisan differences and presented an admirable effort to resolve Oklahoma's budget crisis. Our fiscal situation will only improve once our state's elected representatives and business leaders join together and strive for a budget that appropriately funds core government services. We commend the efforts of Step Up Oklahoma in bringing forward revenue and reform solutions.

In particular, we applaud Tulsa-area executives for their lead-

ership on this initiative: Phil Albert, president of Pelco Structural; Alan Armstrong, president and CEO of Williams; Ken Lackey, chairman of NORDAM; Tucker Link, founder and chairman of Knightsbridge Investments; and Jody Parker, CEO of Anchor Stone.

The effort has been quickly embraced by a number of business leaders across northeast Oklahoma. The Chamber's executive committee will meet to engage more fully with the plan's details. We look forward to working with legislators and business and community leaders to devise long-term solutions that benefit all Oklahomans.



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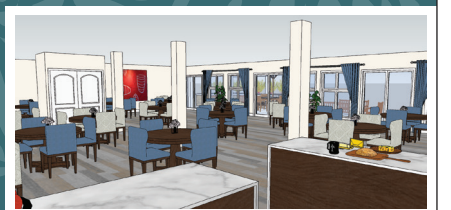
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## EDUCATION

# TCC Named Bellwether Finalist

Tulsa Community College has been named a finalist for a national Bellwether award. The selection as a finalist is recognition for the work the school has done in less than two years as part of the Pathways Project, a national initiative sponsored by American Association of Community College and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

A panel of experts and education professionals selected TCC as one of 10 finalists in the Planning, Governance & Finance category. The Bellwether Awards, given annually, recognize outstanding

and innovative college programs or practices in three categories.

The Bellwether winner in each category will be announced on Jan. 30.

Using the Pathways best practices, TCC is seeing positive results in student numbers. The fall-to-fall retention rates increased from 59 to 62 percent, and the retention rate for Latino, African American, and Native American students jumped nine percent, from 54 to 63 percent. TCC also saw an increase in the percentage of students completing 24 credit hours of college-level course-

work their first year, an increase in the percentage of students who completed developmental education requirements within their first year, and an increase in overall licensure and certification pass rates.

In addition, TCC has implemented mandatory advising for all first-time degree-seeking students, mandatory new student orientation, and on-time enrollment. In addition, the number of students per advisor has dropped from 1,044 in 2015 to 530 in 2017, with an expectation of reaching 300 as early as 2018.

# Data Show OK Education Still Behind

Oklahoma is falling further behind neighboring states and the nation when it comes to education investment, according to new federal data released recently.

Despite a slight increase in per-student current spending in Oklahoma, the new report from the National Center for Education Statistics reveals the gap between per-student spending in Oklahoma compared to the regional average has widened by \$115 million. Oklahoma would need to invest more than \$1.1 billion to reach the regional per-student spending average based on the fiscal year 2015 data featured in the report.

"The need for a long-term education funding plan to ensure competitive teacher pay and the classroom resources necessary for student success is dire," says Shawn Hime, executive director of the Oklahoma State School

Boards Association.

The report data show:

Oklahoma remains 48th in the nation and last in the region in per-student spending rankings. (The region encompasses the states around Oklahoma: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico and Texas.)

Per-student spending in Oklahoma public schools increased from \$7,995 in fiscal year 2014 to \$8,075 in fiscal year 2015.

Oklahoma's per-student spending is \$1,668 behind the regional average of \$9,744. A year ago, federal data put the regional gap at about \$1,500.

Compared to the national average, Oklahoma's per-student spending gap grew from \$3,071 to \$3,379.

While education investment lags, the teacher shortage grows. Oklahoma has approved a record number of emergency teaching

certifications, leaving tens of thousands of Oklahoma children in classrooms with underqualified and underprepared teachers. Many class sizes are growing and some courses have been eliminated as districts have struggled to tackle the double-whammy of the teacher shortage and tight budgets.

Much time and energy have been needlessly devoted to criticizing education spending instead of focusing on the benefits of properly investing in education, Hime says.

"This data should provide a sobering reality check and create a sense of urgency. A bold investment in education is key to better preparing our children for the future, catalyzing economic development and creating a more prosperous future for our state."

Information Provided by the Oklahoma State School Boards Association.

# Cascia Hall Names New Headmaster

On July 1, Fr. Philip Cook, O.S.A., will take the helm as Headmaster of Cascia Hall Preparatory School.

Cook has served at Cascia Hall off and on for the past 25 years. He came to the school in 1993 where he earned a reputation as an esteemed teacher of Theology and Latin in the middle school. After two years at Cascia, he moved to Chicago to complete his studies. Once ordained to the priesthood in 1997, he returned to Cascia Hall.

The Very Rev. Bernard C. Scianna, O.S.A., who is Prior Provincial of the Augustinians of Chicago, Canada and Chulucanas, Peru, stated, "I believe that Fr. Philip's education and experience have prepared him to take on this important role of service for the School and the Augustinian Order. This is a very exciting time for Cascia Hall."

Cook currently teaches Theology in the upper school.

"I am looking forward to taking on the challenge of leadership at Cascia Hall. Our students are some of the brightest I have encountered, and they energize me to be an even better teacher and leader," says Cook.

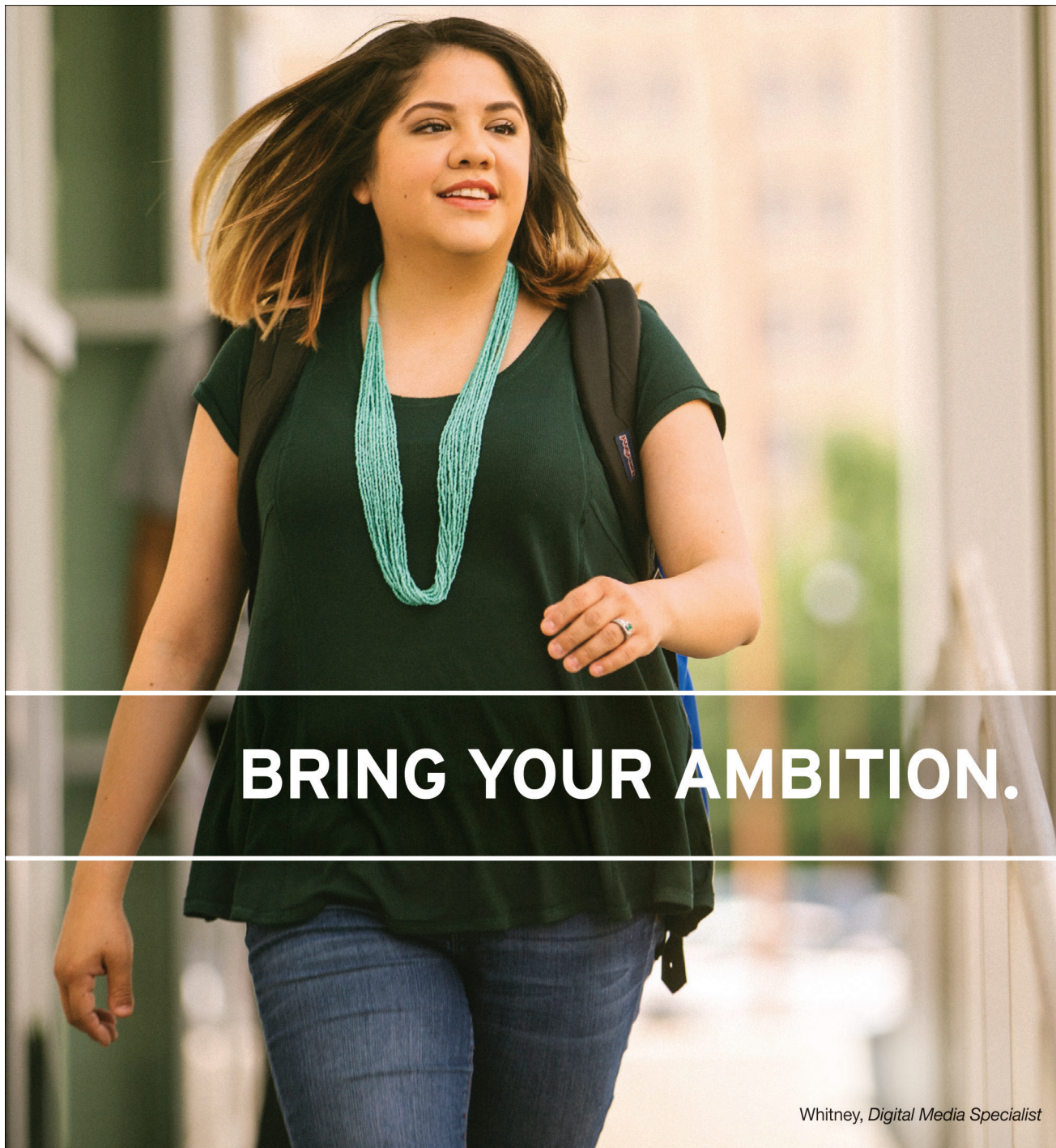
He will replace Mr. Roger Carter who had previously announced that he will be stepping down as Headmaster at the end of this school year after



**SCHOOL LEADERSHIP:** Fr. Philip Cook, O.S.A., will become Headmaster at Cascia Hall Preparatory School on July 1. Cook currently teaches Theology in the upper school.

eight years of service in the position.

A 1990 graduate of Villanova University, Cook earned a BA in Classics. He is a 1997 graduate of Catholic Theological Union where he earned a Master of Divinity. As a life-long learner, he completed a second master's degree in Latin and Greek in 2007 from Catholic University of America and his Ph.D. in Classics in 2016 from the University of Florida.



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Whitney, Digital Media Specialist



# 2017 Brought Student Success at Tulsa Tech

Now that the holidays are over, we find ourselves returning to work, school, and the busy schedules that accompany life in general.

While 2018 will certainly offer many exciting opportunities for Tulsa Tech students, faculty, and staff, this past year was full of activity, and included some major accomplishments in 2017.

Tulsa Tech continued an extensive master development planning and construction process with the redevelopment of the Lemley Memorial Campus along with the Industry Training Center, located at 3420 S. Memorial Dr.

Enrollment in full-time career training courses remains strong at Tulsa Tech with nearly 5,500 adult and high school students participating in full-time career training. More than 30,000 adults took advantage of part-time evening and online courses designed to help adults upgrade their job skills or retrain for a new career in a short amount of time.

Tulsa Tech's Accelerating Independence Scholarship covered 100 percent of tuition for scholarship recipients, and students with GED or high school diplomas from any of Tulsa Tech's in-district, public, parochial, or home schools through the age of 23

are eligible to apply for the 2018 spring semester.

## News From Tulsa Tech



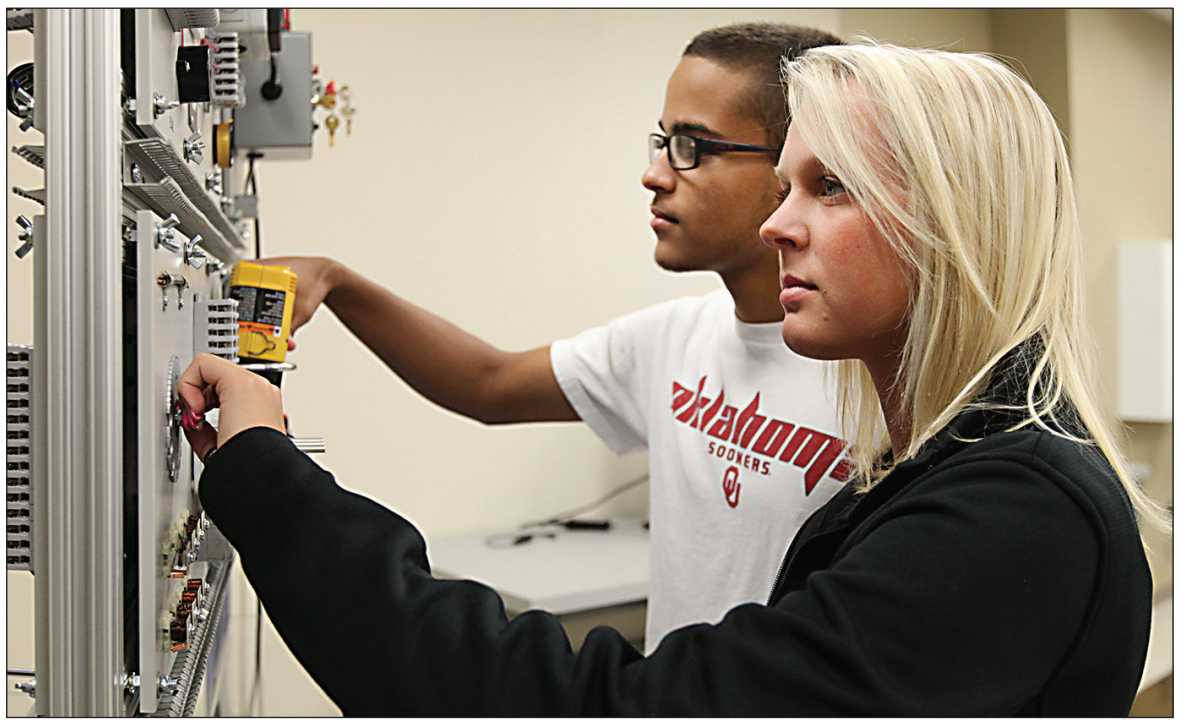
By **DR. STEVE TIGER**  
Superintendent

Academic credit continued to be offered to high school students, giving them the opportunity to earn math and science credits, including Advanced Placement courses for many programs taken at Tulsa Tech, and achieve their high school graduation requirements.

Tulsa Tech provided support and customized training services to more than 500 Tulsa-area businesses through the Business and Industry Services (BIS) Department, as well as management and preparedness classes.

small business self-employment preparedness classes.

Student leadership organizations celebrated many national winners in 2017, with several capturing first-place gold medals; there were also hundreds of local and state winners in career and technology student organizations (CTSO's) skill and leadership competitions. The seven student organizations are DECA, SkillsUSA, Family, Career & Community Leaders of America (FCCCLA), Oklahoma Society of Radiologic Technologists (OSRT), Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Business Professionals of America (BPA), and the Technology Student Association



Courtesy Tulsa Tech

**INDUSTRY TRAINING:** STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) students at Tulsa Tech's Owasso Campus utilize electronic circuits and pneumatics to solve real-world problems. Tulsa Tech continues to see increased enrollment in high school and adult programs at its multiple campuses and satellite training locations.

(TSA).

Tulsa Tech will continue to provide quality technical training to thousands of high school and adult students and corporate clients annually at multiple campuses and several satellite training locations.

We will be offering full-time career training programs to high school students from 14 public school districts throughout Tulsa County in addition to private, parochial, home-school, charter, and adult students. Classes for high school students will meet for three hours in the morning or three hours in the afternoon,

although programs specific to adults may have additional hour requirements.

From healthcare to aviation, information technology to construction, all Tulsa Tech courses offer hands-on activities in modern classroom, lab, shop, and/or clinical settings. High school students still attend tuition-free, and transportation is provided. Hundreds of part-time evening, weekend, and continuing education courses will continue to help adults train for new careers, upgrade current job skills, and maintain individual certifications and licensures.

This upcoming year is sure to

offer many more exciting opportunities for the state's oldest and largest career and technical education institution in Oklahoma's highly acclaimed CareerTech system. And we look forward to helping each of our students Make Their Own Path in 2018.

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, call 918-828-5000 or visit online at [tulsatech.edu](http://tulsatech.edu).



## Join us for a Culinary Arts Experience

Enjoy a gourmet meal prepared by Certified Master Chef and Southern Hills Country Club Executive Chef Jonathan Moosmiller and the OSU Institute of Technology School of Culinary Arts students. During the lunch, Chef Moosmiller will provide insight and expertise on the dishes served as well as his experience in the culinary industry.

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# OWASSO NEWS

## City Council Election To Be Held Feb. 13

By **BLAKE AUSTYN**  
Contributing Writer

It is election time for City Council Ward Nos. 1 and 2.

Ward No. 1, however, has already been decided. Kelly Lewis, who is running unopposed, will hold the Ward No. 1 city councilor seat. She will replace Jeri Moberly. Lewis' term begins in the spring.

Lewis is a realtor with RE/MAX Results in Owasso.

For the Ward No. 2 seat, incumbent Chris Kelley will run against Brian Cook.

Kelley has worked in Owasso since 1999 and is a veterinarian and partner at Small Animal Hospital of Owasso.

He has served as an Owasso city councilor since 2012, four of those years as Vice Mayor.

Cook is the Director of Operations for Mercy Regional EMS, based in Owasso.

He is running on a quality-of-life platform focused on street widening projects and increasing funding sources.

Voters will go to the polls on Feb. 13.

## Leadership Oklahoma Enrollment Now Open

Leadership Oklahoma (LOK), a statewide leadership program in its 31st year, is now accepting applications for its 2018-2019 adult class.

The organization accepts a class of 52 members each year. The criteria for selection includes demonstrated leadership on the part of applicants in their communities and state. The program is designed to be a series of issue-oriented forums and experiences, which are based on the belief that knowledge is a key element and prime motivator of leadership. It consists of an orientation session, a mandatory two-day retreat and eight two-day sessions. Classes are held in locations that best relate to the issues of importance to the state.

"Leadership Oklahoma and its graduates work to create and

implement the positive changes necessary to make Oklahoma a better state," says Marnie Taylor, president and CEO of the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits and recruitment chair for LOK Class 32. "By learning about the issues that impact our state socially, economically and environmentally, class members are motivated to fulfill our mission of creating a dynamic network of leaders whose increased awareness and commitment to service will energize Oklahomans to shape their state's future."

Approximately 1,500 individuals have graduated from the program.

Applications are available at [leadershipoklahoma.com](http://leadershipoklahoma.com). Completed applications must be received in the Leadership Oklahoma office by March 30 at 5 p.m.

## Progress in Downtown Owasso

### Construction Underway in Redbud District

By **EMILY RAMSEY**  
Managing Editor

Construction is moving forward on both mixed-use structures located in downtown Owasso's Redbud District.

In November, the Owasso Chamber of Commerce held a ground-breaking ceremony for Seven6Main, to be located at the southeast corner of 76th Street North and Main Street.

The building is planned to be 41,000 square feet and three stories with restaurants, retail and apartments.

More information can be found at [seven6main.com](http://seven6main.com)

Further north along Main Street, construction is moving forward on two mixed-use structures at the corner of First and Main streets by Steve and Renee Mowery, owners of Mowery Funeral Services and The Suites at Bella Dea.

The buildings will offer studio and one-and-two-bedroom lofts and first-floor restaurants and retail.

Due to Owasso's continued commercial and residential growth as well as its increasing focus on downtown, Chamber President Gary Akin, pictured at right at the groundbreaking, has been named one of Greater Tulsa Reporter's 10 to Watch in Greater Tulsa. (See pages 4,5 for more details.)

Akin's efforts championing the city coupled with the City of Owasso's efforts are, no doubt, a major reason for the city's persistent success.



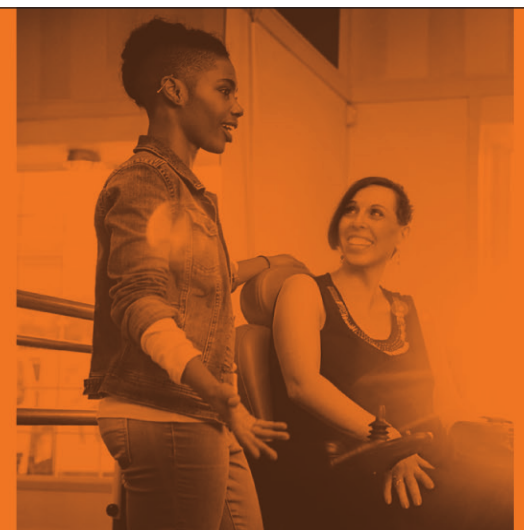
Courtesy Owasso Chamber of Commerce

**SEVEN6MAIN:** Area stakeholders participate in the recent ground-breaking for Seven6Main, a mixed-use building to be located at 76th Street North and Main Street. Owasso Chamber of Commerce President Gary Akin, pictured in the foreground, has been named one of Greater Tulsa Reporter's 10 to Watch in Greater Tulsa. (See pages 4,5 for more details.)



EMILY RAMSEY for Owasso Rambler

**STEADY PROGRESS:** The Mowery project, located at First and Main streets, is the other mixed-use project taking shape in downtown Owasso. The project will feature residential spaces as well as shops and restaurants.



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](http://WeAreStrongerThanMS.org).

Together We Are Stronger.





OWASSO SPORTS

# Leiloni Culley Hopes to Help Team to Title

By MIKE MOGUIN  
Sports Writer

When LeBron James is playing, you can be sure Leiloni Culley is watching.

The 5-10 Owasso senior, who plays forward/guard for the Lady Rams, looks up to the man they call King James in the NBA and models her play after him.

"I love LeBron," she says. "He is more of a role model for the game of basketball. He is humble, he is good, he is aggressive; he knows how good he is, but I like how humble he is about sports."

As far as Culley having a favorite NBA team, it's all about wherever King James goes.

She now likes the Cleveland Cavaliers and was a fan of the Miami Heat when he was there. "I'm just a LeBron fan. Usually, wherever he goes, I support him," she says.

"When I first started, I think I was honestly just doing it for fun," says Culley, who started playing the hardwood at the age of six. "But, as I got older, I watched LeBron, and I just liked how explosive he was when he played. I like how aggressive he is and how he can play every position. If I put my mind to it, I feel like I can do that too. But, I can play any position on the court."

"If I'm playing down low, I like to size up with a player and if I'm playing guard, then I like to use the dribble and things like that," she says.

Culley is also a fan of the performance of Skylar Diggins, who plays for the WNBA's Dal-

las Wings (formerly the Tulsa Shock).

"She is really a good explosive player. I like how great of a leader she is too," Culley says. "She's a great person. I met her in person awhile back when I was younger and just started playing. She is cool. I like her a lot."

Culley, a four-year starter, is one of three seniors and four returning starters leading the Lady Rams in a quest to return to the Class 6A girls state championship final, two seasons after finishing runner-up.

When the season started, Culley and two other key players were out due to injuries, but have all since returned. Culley was dealt a concussion after colliding with a teammate during a November practice.

Owasso went 1-2 in its first three games. But since Culley returned for the Tournament of Champions at Oral Roberts over Christmas break, they have won seven straight (as of Jan. 6), including championship game wins in the TOC and the Skiatook Invitational, giving the team a 7-2 record and No. 6 ranking in Class 6A.

Through the tournament games, Culley is impressive with 3.2 rebounds, 0.5 assists and 0.5 steals per game, while shooting 38 percent from the field, 22 percent in 3s and 53 percent in free throws.

The atmosphere of basketball in general is what Culley likes most about the game.

"I like the adrenaline that it gives you," she says. "It's fun and I like the bonds that you make, the traveling and everything that comes with it."



Courtesy Owasso Public Schools

**OVERCOMING PRESSURE:** *Owasso's Leiloni Culley attempts to shoot the basketball despite pressure from defenders in a game against Broken Arrow last season.*

Although it's been two seasons, the loss in the 2016 final motivates the team to return.

"It doesn't matter what talent you have on the team," Culley says. "If you listen to the coach and focus on the little things like fundamentals, we can get as far as we want. We got motivation going. Even though we lost some people, we can still make it there."

Being in leadership roles means a lot to the seniors, Culley says. They are wanting the younger players to experience the taste of playing and winning the championship.

"I know there is a big chip on our shoulder right now, but I think we can do it," she says. "We all want it really bad. We make sure the team knows that. The team does a good job of supporting us and we all come together."

The key, Culley says, is focusing on the little things.

"I think that's what it takes. Just coming together as a team and giving it all you got, no matter what," she says. "If we do the simple things right, we'll get very far. We're already practicing and working on those things. I think it'll just be a matter of keeping it simple, playing basketball and having fun."



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## SPORTS

# Football Thunder Predates Basketball Version

By GLENN HIBDON  
GTR Sports Writer

Tulsa's most successful professional sports franchise receives no love. There are no hugs. No kisses. No bouquets.

With only seven losses in nine years and six national championships, the team bearing a familiar name knows how to win unnoticed. The Oklahoma (not the City) Thunder travel from town to town and field to field searching for a place to call home.

Playing in Tulsa, Skiatook, Bixby and Catoosa, this kingpin of the Gridiron Developmental Football League (GDFL) is known nationwide in minor league circles. Don't dare call the Thunder semi-pro or wrath and scorn will be dealt out by general manager Steven Roper.

It appears the Thunder (bearing the name before the NBA team) has everything except one item — fans.

"Our problem is that we need people to come out and experience this level of football," says Roper, a member of the ownership group who also handles game-day operations, accounting and answers the phone from his business (Better Living Medical Equipment) in Sapulpa.

"We're well known in the football world, but the fan base is not there. We play in the summer months so we don't interfere with college, high school and NFL level football. Fans get the opportunity to come out and watch a great game, but when fans hear the word 'Thunder' they think basketball. That's the downside of sharing the name."

Roper says the nickname has been copyrighted by the football team, and the NBA franchise had to seek permission to use it. Oklahoma City has made the moniker famous. The on-field club not so much. Perhaps 300 to 500 fans a game turnout to watch the Green Country version win and win and keep on winning. Oklahoma has gone undefeated the last two seasons while sweeping the Gridiron Bowl national championship.

The Thunder also won the title in 2013 and captured three straight titles in the World Football League from 2008 to 2010, finishing 40-0. All Roper wants is a little respect from the community and about 2,000 fans per game.

"I'd really love to see that," he says. "We've done radio, sports shows, television and vehicle giveaways. We've put ourselves out there any way we can. We had our (custom painted) bus in the Catoosa Christmas parade and in the MLK parade."

While the Thunder searches for an identity, the Enid Enforcers will become the Thunder's farm team for the 2018 season, which runs from April to August. An open tryout for the Thunder was held Jan. 20 at the WBO Sports Center, 6217 S. Mingo Rd. The team will take a peek at any post-prep players 19 or older. The team has even had a 39-year-old on its roster. It seems no one is too old to dream of playing pro football.

Perhaps a little background about the Thunder and the GDFL is in order at this point. The franchise was born in 2008, the brainchild of Skiatook businessman James Ashford. It was then sold to the current ownership group consisting of Roper and three doctors. Dr. Venkatesh Movva also owns a team in India, the Thunder's sister club.

The local version of the Thunder began playing in 2008 at Booker T. Washington's S.E. Williams Stadium, then moved to Skiatook. Subsequent seasons have been played at LaFortune Stadium, Holland Hall and East Tulsa Sports Complex, Bixby and then at Catoosa last season. The 2018 home will be announced later.

Roper says the team is not fickle, it just moves every season.

"This year we're trying to move and find a community who wants to support us, like Skiatook did," says Roper. "We run into problems in Tulsa because it's an issue of stadium rental. A contract can conflict with a school's first right of refusal and it gets sticky for us."

And it gets in the way of the team's real



purpose, to help local talent keep playing beyond high school or college or sometimes even the NFL.

"A lot of athletes don't get that opportunity to play at the next level and they still want to play," Roper says. "We've done a good job of recruiting high level athletes. Anthony Gillespie of Jenks was recruited by the Browns and didn't make it. Trae Johnson from TU plays for us, and Shawn Jackson from TU was the Conference USA MVP."

"Brandon Noohi (from UCO) is our quarterback and made about \$20,000 last season. We had a linebacker and quarterback go to the Redskins camp a couple of seasons ago. It's our goal to give players from OU, OSU, TU, NSU and UCO the opportunity to go to NFL camps. They deserve a chance."

The Thunder and GDFL pay scales vary among players and teams. Players still must hold day jobs to make a living while some teams don't pay and some make athletes pay to play. However, the Thunder is as close to first class as a minor league franchise can be.

The team films players in high definition so they can provide video to prospective NFL teams. An in-house attorney is available to help negotiate contracts, and a medical staff is there to handle injuries. Rehab is

taken care of by the franchise.

Playing under NFL rules, Roper says the GDFL will add 19 teams for 2018 and will field nearly 50 teams nationwide. The Thunder still plans on winning the championship again under head coach Rashid Lowe, a trainer who also coaches locally at the high school level.

"Our success is due to our ability to pull local talent. Oklahoma has a vast amount of talent," says Roper. "We have a lot of great athletes coming from Owasso, Union, Jenks and Bixby. We do our best to recruit those guys."

"Willie Ponder is from Tulsa Central, and he played with the Giants, Seahawks and Rams. He couldn't get picked up, so he played for us. He's now on the coaching staff of the Eagles."

Accoutrements and accomplishments come and go with the Thunder. When the team has cheerleaders, they're known as the ThunderCats. Porter said the club has even played on ESPN, beating the Austin Game-Breakers 101-6 in 2009.

Maybe the most amazing fact of all focuses on the owners paying for everything out of their own pockets. They even lose money to keep their team on the field. Roper would like nothing better than to see the Thunder move up to the Indoor Football League or the Arena Football League. The problem is the IFL requires \$350,000 a year, and it's too costly for the local team.

"The Oklahoma Thunder Football Foundation is not for profit, and we don't get outside funding," says Roper. "We don't even come close to breaking even. We do it for the love of the game and helping athletes continue playing football."

In return, all the franchise wants is a little affection from a growing fan base. The Thunder is tired of being the cutest team at the GDFL dance and remaining a wallflower. When will the Oklahoma Thunder find true happiness? Roper's hoping that a pro football romance between the team and Tulsa fans is right around the corner.

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# Terrell Lester Among 14 Inducted Into TPS Hall

## Sports Writer Enters Fifth Hall of Fame

Terrell Lester, editor at large for GTR Newspapers, is one of 14 individuals who were inducted into the Tulsa Public Schools Athletics Hall of Fame on Jan. 25.

Lester, in his 54th year as a newspaperman, has long been recognized for his statewide coverage of high school athletics.

He is the first member of the media to be selected for the Hall of Fame, which honors individuals from each of the nine TPS high schools.

The sixth class of TPS honorees, chosen by an elite committee

chaired by TPS Director of Athletics Gil Cloud, was presented during a reception and banquet at the Marriott Southern Hills.

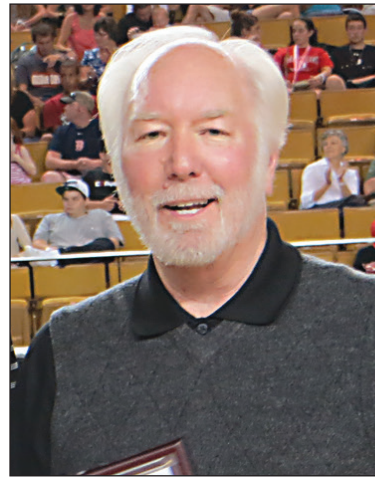
Lester graduated from Central High School in 1960. He joined the Tulsa World in 1964 and became a member of the GTR staff in 2000.

He has amassed a collection of local, state and national awards during his career. He has been inducted into the halls of fame of the Oklahoma Coaches Association, Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association, Oklahoma Girls

Basketball Coaches Association and the Basketball Tournament of Champions. He helped to launch the Tournament of Champions in 1966 and remains as its historian and records-keeper.

He consistently credits a high school English teacher, the late Paula Jean Whitson, for her encouragement to enter journalism and the late Tulsa World Sports Editor Bill Connors for his guidance and mentorship.

Lester's career not only has focused on high school athletics coverage but also on a far-rang-



TERRELL LESTER

ing span of news-makers and human-interest subjects. He has edited five books while holding numerous newsroom positions during his half-century newspaper career.

Other members of the 2018 class of the TPS Athletics Hall of Fame include Jonita Ford Criddle, Bill Goldberg, Joey Grayson, Clint Hill, Tommy Hudspeth, Gene Iba, Granville Liggins, Clay Martin, Danny Morgan, Joey Robinson, Etan Thomas, Bill Van Burklee and John Watson.

Read more information about the Class of 2018 TPS Hall of Fame inductees at [www.gtrnews.com](http://www.gtrnews.com).

# Tulsa to Host State Golden Gloves Tournament

By JULIE WENGER WATSON  
Contributing Writer

Whether fans are cheering or jeering, Jeremiah Milton channels that energy straight to his fists. The 23-year old amateur boxer thrives on the noise. On Jan. 27 and 28, Milton will join fighters from across the state to compete in the Oklahoma Golden Gloves State Championships at Tulsa's Greenwood Cultural Center. Winners will advance to the regional tournament in Wichita in April, hoping for a shot at the National Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions in May, one of the most prestigious amateur boxing events in the United States.

"I always use that energy," Milton says. "I'm not worried about the crowd intimidating me. Whether they're booing me or cheering me, it's all positive energy. I love the noise!"

Although Milton didn't pick up a pair of boxing gloves until he was

14, he's always been a fan.

"Like with a lot of boxers, it started out with movies like Rocky, very cliché," Milton says, laughing. "Any movie with a fighter, really, because the fighter always tended to be the underdog. I was the youngest brother getting beat up by all my older brothers. I've always been the underdog, so I've always identified with the fighter."

After learning the basics from some old Title DVDs, Milton took on one of his siblings.

"He had a pair of gloves but used only one," Milton recalls. "I'd have the left glove on, and he'd have the right glove on and we'd be in my room just punching each other."

With the acquisition of another pair of gloves, the stakes escalated and the fights moved outdoors.

"Next thing you knew, everybody sees us outside, and we start having fights out there every Friday night," Milton recounts. "It was just crazy. My mom hated it.

She was like, 'Jeremiah, this is a bad idea, especially in this neighborhood. I wish you'd get rid of those gloves.'"

Milton's older brother was lining up fights, and Milton found himself regularly boxing kids much older, and often bigger, than he was — and winning. Years later, Milton discovered his brother had ulterior motives.

"My brother was actually acting as a bookie," Milton laughs. "He was placing bets on me. I had no idea."

Milton's mom soon put his early boxing career on hold. Years later, he's happy to be back at the sport. These days Milton spends hours at the gym, training others and honing his own game. His hard work has paid off. He won his division title last summer at the Ringside World Championships.

Now he's set his sights on Golden Gloves.

"Golden Gloves is a tournament where you're going to see the best



Courtesy photo

**READY FOR THE RING:** Jeremiah Milton with Coach Aaron Sloan at Ringside World Championships.

of the best, and they're going to bring everything they've got because they want to take that next step," Milton says. "If you're a fan of boxing, or if you've never seen it before, this is where you're going to see someone really reach

out and go that extra inch. I'm looking forward to having that crowd, having that energy, and being part of something I always dreamed of."

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/KOGoldenGloves](http://www.facebook.com/KOGoldenGloves).



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**CHILI BOWL WINNER:** Oklahoman Christopher Bell, only 22 years old, second from left, won his second straight Chili Bowl in January at Tulsa's Expo Square. Kyle Larson, third from left, finished in second place. At left in the photo is Rico Abreu, who won in 2016, and at right is Tony Stewart, who won in 2007.

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# Luke Murphy a Winning Runner for Lincoln Christian

## Senior Wins Top Medal Honors at 4A State Cross Country Championship

By **MIKE MOGUIN**  
GTR Sports Writer

After finishing runner-up one year earlier, senior Luke Murphy of Lincoln Christian won top individual medalist honors in the Class 4A boys state cross country championship in October in Shawnee. Murphy won it with a time of 3:17.94, edging Michael Gates of Weatherford by less than three seconds (3:20.53).

In addition to Murphy getting first place, Lincoln Christian won the team championship with 44 points. Preston Turner, another senior Eagle runner, took third place, finishing with a time of 3:22.01. Other Lincoln Christian runners were senior Brock Sherwin (10th, 3:27.91), senior Harison Michael (13th, 3:29.57), freshman Josiah Antis (17th, 3:34.05) and sophomore Nate Gibson (23rd, 3:37.23).

The key to winning, Murphy says, was "making my mind up from day one to push my body and work to be the example I've had in front of me to the younger guys and to my fellow classmates."

"I was determined the work the hardest I have ever worked," Murphy says. "The mindset of a state champion is you have to make up your mind to be the best all the time. You can't slack off, you can't take days off that aren't necessary, you have to make sure that you're putting in 110 percent all the time."

In terms of winning as a team, what's special about it is Lincoln Christian school graduates about 60 people every single class, Murphy said. "For our size, the lega-

cy we've created of winning is so special. I've watched this program grow from nothing to blossoming into something special."

"What's more important than winning is having a winning mindset. In every practice, we invest more in each other. We care more about each other than winning a trophy. The people you run with, you know them long after winning the trophy and you can still connect with those people after the season. We've had a legacy for winning but also a legacy of caring for one another."

Winning by just less than three seconds against the runner-up, there were other runners close by. But Murphy kept his focus on the race.

"It's hard to gauge where the people are behind you, but there is a certain point in every race where you have to make up your mind to go for it," he says. "Even if they are close to you and you happen to be leading the whole time, you have to make up your mind to just lay it all down despite what the weather is like or how you may be feeling. It doesn't matter how long the race is, you're sprinting to the finish line. I wasn't worried, but you always have to have an intense mindset when you're at the front."

Murphy has a strong faith in God that drives him in all areas of life. It also moves him to inspire others, such as praying for all runners before the race.

"As a Christian, I believe in the sacrifice that Jesus made, so I'm driven to make sacrifices myself and to represent the love that Jesus

showed when he made the ultimate sacrifice," he says. "My faith in Him drives me to make unpopular decisions, like standing up for what I believe in before competition."

"Before one race, I felt led to ask everyone on the starting line if they wanted to pray and we did that," Murphy adds. "We got a huge circle going, basically, everyone who was racing that day gathered around and proclaimed that this race was going to honor God, and I got to lead that prayer. For me, that was honestly one of the coolest moments of my season."

For anyone who wants to run, Murphy, who is headed to run at the Naval Academy in college, says that it's a sacrifice.

"You have to eat better, discipline your mind, which is the biggest thing," he says. "And don't be afraid to lose. That's how you get better."

Murphy thanks those who have been part of his life in his prep cross country journey.

"I've grown a lot over the past four years in high school and a lot of it has been associated with my team and people who have been a part of my life because of running," Murphy says. "I feel like that's part of a divine-like setup. God saw the talent I have, but he also knew where I needed to grow, so he put certain people in my life to help me develop as a person. Honestly, all the glory I ever receive, I point it away from myself and keep in mind it comes from God, then my parents, and then my teammates, and then my coaches. The whole process has kept me humble."



Courtesy photo

**CROSS COUNTRY'S BEST:** Luke Murphy of Lincoln Christian won top individual medalist honors in the Class 4A boys state cross country championship in October in Shawnee.

## Chris Lincoln Inducted into Oklahoma Horse Racing Hall



Courtesy photo

**HALL OF FAME PRESENTATION:** Broadcaster Chris Lincoln was honored with inclusion to the Oklahoma Horse Racing Hall of Fame in December at Remington Park. In the photo are, from left, Becky Lincoln, Chris Lincoln, Remington Park president and general manager Scott Wells and Remington Park racing analyst Chris Kotulak. A longtime resident of Tulsa, Chris Lincoln helped found the sports production company Winnercomm and originated horse racing programming for ESPN and other networks for over 20 years. Lincoln still works in the Tulsa market with SportsScene and other projects after retiring as executive sports director at KTUL-TV in Tulsa in 2011. Also honored were Jockey Luis Quinonez, Trainer Joe Offolter; Breeder-Owner-Trainer C.R. Trout of Edmond; Caleb's Posse, winner of the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile at Churchill Downs in 2011; She's All In, only the second female Oklahoma-bred to become a millionaire and owned by Robert Zoellner of Tulsa; Okie Ride, a four-time winner of the Oklahoma Classics Sprint, also went into the hall of fame for owners Kris and John Richter of Perkins, Oklahoma.

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



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## THE ECONOMY

# Eastern Oklahoma Chapter of AIA Names Tulsa-Based GH2 Architects Firm of the Year

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Eastern Oklahoma Chapter has named GH2 Architects, LLC, as 2017's Firm of the Year. GH2 Architects is an international architecture and design firm headquartered in Tulsa.

The award, announced at the AIA's Year-End Awards Party Nov. 30, recognizes an architectural firm that has distinguished itself over the past five years to the betterment of the profession and community through leadership, vision and design.

"GH2 was a great choice for Firm of the Year," says Lindsey Ellerbach, AIA Eastern Oklahoma Chapter executive director. "Not only do they produce great work, but they make an extra effort to produce great architects. They show a real commitment to their staff by encouraging licensure, participating in AIA at all levels and most importantly, supporting the community. GH2 is an exemplary firm, and we are proud to give them this award."

"For more than 44 years, GH2 Architects has shown a commitment to the profession of architecture through their work at all levels of AIA," says Jonathan Crump, AIA Eastern Oklahoma president. "They have participated in Leadership AIA, served on local boards and chaired national committees. The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards named GH2 Architects an exemplary Architectural Experience Program firm earlier this year for the company's dedication to helping its employees earn licenses. GH2's support for the community extends beyond our AIA chapter. The company's employees have been involved as volunteers for more than 45 different community organizations in the Tulsa metro area."

"The AIA Eastern Oklahoma board congratulates GH2 as the 2017 Firm of the Year in recognition for its award-winning work, promotion of the architectural profession and creating a 'fun'



Courtesy GH2 Architects

**WELL DESIGNED:** An excellent team of employees has catapulted GH2 Architects to become the AIA Eastern Oklahoma Chapter Firm of the Year.

work environment," Crump says.

GH2 Architects was founded in Oklahoma City in 1973, opened its Tulsa office in 1992 and moved its headquarters to downtown Tulsa in 2001. The firm celebrated its 45th anniversary on Jan. 1, 2018. Steady, sustainable growth has built the internationally-renowned 50-person firm with two office locations. The firm's leaders include Michael Hall, AIA; Cara Shimkus Hall, FAIA; Chris Seat, AIA; and Steve Jagers, AIA. Together, they dedicate their time and talents to their team, clients, profession and community.

"Turning ideas into reality is what we do best, but our greatest reward comes when we see a school or nonprofit facility that we've designed help people in our community," says Michael R. Hall, AIA, CCS, principal at GH2 Architects. "In these situations, our client's projects serve others' needs – and knowing we've contributed is very rewarding for our team."

GH2 has been recognized with more than 90 industry and design awards, including the recent AIA Eastern Oklahoma Honor Award for a Tulsa residential project.

GH2 Architects is an award-winning, international architecture and design firm with offices in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. The firm offers architecture, interior design, landscape architecture and cost estimating services in-house. In addition to the distinguished general practice, GH2 also has several specialty practices in the areas of hospitality, equestrian and historic preservation architecture that have gained GH2 international recognition.

To learn more about the firm, visit [www.GH2.com](http://www.GH2.com).

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## PSO Named Customer Champion

Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) has announced it has been named a 2017 Residential Customer Champion in a Cogent Reports study by Market Strategies International.

Cogent Reports surveyed almost 60,000 customers from the 128 largest U.S. utility companies. The Customer Champion distinction was given to 17 electric-only utilities plus 32 other natural gas and gas-electric combination utilities. In a news release, Market Strategies noted that those named Customer Champions rate higher than industry peers on being well-managed companies.

"The bottom line is that Customer Champions are superior at profitably managing their customer operations and marketing efforts," says Chris Oberle, a senior vice president at Market Strategies International. "These utilities also lead on industry innovation and building the new energy

economy."

"It is an honor to be listed as a Customer Champion along with some of the top utilities in the country," says Scott Ritz, PSO director of customer services and marketing. "But it is even more satisfying knowing that our customers recognize the effort we put forward to provide them with highly reliable electricity and customer service to support their ever-changing needs."

Details on the entire Cogent Reports study can be found at: [marketstrategies.com](http://marketstrategies.com)

PSO, a unit of American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP), is an electric utility company serving more than 545,000 customers in eastern and southwestern Oklahoma. Based in Tulsa, PSO has approximately 3,800 megawatts of generating capacity and is a significant provider of wind energy in the state. News releases and other information about PSO can be found at [www.PSOklahoma.com](http://www.PSOklahoma.com).

## Central Bancompany Gives Bonuses to Employees

Central Bancompany, Inc., headquartered in Jefferson City, Missouri, and with six locations in the greater Tulsa area has announced that, as a result of the new federal tax reform, it will distribute a special bonus to its more than 2,500 employees residing across four states. Full-time employees will receive a \$1,000 bonus and part-time employees will receive a \$500 bonus.

"The economic development that should ensue as a direct result of the new tax reform legislation will positively affect the more than 66 communities we serve," says Bryan Cook, chairman and CEO of Central Bancompany, Inc. "We are excited for the opportunity to reward our dedicated and hard-working employees with this special bonus as a token of our gratitude for all that they do for our customers, businesses, and communities."

Central Bancompany is a \$13 billion, Missouri-based bank holding company with 13 full-service community banks and more than 250 locations in 66 communities serving consumers and businesses in Missouri, Kansas, Illinois and Oklahoma. The Central Bancompany family of banks are Central Bank, Central Bank of Boone County, Central Bank of Lake of the Ozarks, Central Bank of Moberly, Central Bank of the Ozarks, Central Bank of Warrensburg, Central Bank of Audrain County, Central Bank of St. Louis, Jefferson Bank of Missouri, Central Bank of the Midwest, Central Bank of Oklahoma, Central Bank of Branson, and Central Bank of Sedalia. Affiliate companies include Mortgage Central, Online Central, Central Trust Company, Central Technology Services, Central Investment Advisors, Central Mortgage Company and Central Travel.



# Tulsa Port of Catoosa Reports Tonnage, Welcomes Barge

The Tulsa Port of Catoosa welcomed a unique, and colorful visitor in December. It was "Big Hope 1," a pink barge that traveled along the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) to raise funds and awareness for the Mary Crowley Cancer Research Center. After a fundraising event held at the Tulsa Port of Catoosa, the barge was loaded with project cargo destined for Ohio. The barge and its message of hope was a meaningful end to another successful month for the Tulsa Port of Catoosa. There were 203,326 tons of cargo shipped in and out of the Port during the month of December 2017.

Big Hope 1 was loaded Friday, Jan. 12, with what is referred to as a "bubble tower." This is a 160-ton, 175-foot-long piece of equipment used in the oil and gas industry to process crude oil. It was built by Cust-O-Fab in Sand Springs, taking six months to build and providing jobs for six to 20 people at any given time. Cust-O-Fab creates and manufactures custom fabrication projects.

The pink barge carried the bubble tower up the Mississippi River to the Illinois River, then across the Great Lakes to the Port of Indiana Burns Harbor, where it was offloaded to a truck bound for a refinery in Lima, Ohio. This is a notable example of how inland river transportation supports the economy not only in Oklahoma but also the region and the country.

Though the cargo offloads in Ohio, the barge will continue to carry on its mission throughout the 25,000 miles of inland river system used for transportation in the U.S. Big Hope 1 is the only pink barge on the inland waterway system, a vision shared by Ceres Barge Line and the Mary Crowley Cancer Research Center. Mark Fletcher, managing partner of Ceres Barge Line, attended the Big Hope 1 press conference on Jan. 12 to tell the story of the big pink barge.

"This barge was inspired by an employee who had been dramatically affected by cancer," said Fletcher. "Since its launch in 2012, Big Hope 1 has raised over

\$800,000 to date."

It will continue traveling from port to port and stand out among other cargo loads, raising money and awareness. This barge truly brings hope to many families across the nation that have been affected by cancer," said Fletcher.

"As Big Hope 1 tours the Midwestern U.S., it's really everyone's story," said Donna German, CEO of the Mary Crowley Cancer Research Center. "It's about serving our fellow man."

Founded in 1997, the Mary Crowley Research Center focuses on advancing gene-targeted and immune therapies through clinical trials, which are less toxic than radiation or chemotherapy. It has conducted over 570 clinical trials and served approximately 6,000 patients from 48 states.

Supporting this organization and cause is especially important for the Tulsa Port of Catoosa, other public and private ports and the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River family because cancer has taken the lives of some of the dearest friends in the river business.



**PINK BARGE HOPE:** Awaiting shipment of the cargo on the Big Hope 1, known as the Pink Barge in support of the Mary Crowley Cancer Research Foundation, are Donna German, CEO, Mary Crowley Cancer Research Foundation; Paul Janoush; Penny Choate; Beverley Janoush; Mark Fletcher, managing partner, Ceres Barge Line; Vincent Schu, Ceres Barge Line; and Michael Eckart, Sherwin Williams.

"We know that many families are directly affected by cancer every day. So, for Big Hope 1 to come into our port to spread a message of hope and raise awareness was truly the best way for us to start

2018," said Chip McElroy, Port Authority Board chairman.

The Tulsa Port of Catoosa shipped 2,553,990 tons in 2017 and looks forward to another successful year in 2018.

## America's 2018 Energy Watch List: Issues and Policy



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

The beginning of last year, my column "America's 2017 Energy Watchlist" presented the "moving parts" which I believed would be the main focus regarding energy issues and policies: President Trump and the Republican led Congress, OPEC and the supporting non-OPEC countries, jobs, investments in the oil and gas sector, ipos/mergers and acquisitions, LNG/natural gas, earthquakes, cybersecurity, regulations, infrastructure, geopolitical/China/Russia, along with energy education, transportation/auto makers, coal, nuclear, wind/solar, media digital, and world supply/demand were among other areas of my daily focus.

Here is an important part of my "2018 Energy Watchlist":

**PRESIDENT TRUMP AND THE REPUBLICAN-LED CONGRESS:** Look for more energy proposals coming from the administration. A year ago, when I wrote the 2017 Watchlist column, it was six days before the U.S. presidential inauguration. A lot has been implemented and eliminated. President Trump's plans have included development of regulatory and legislative initiatives: rescinding Obama's executive actions and regulations that were outdated and lifting moratoriums on energy production in federal areas... As of this writing, according to the Wall Street Journal, "Federal energy regulators rejected a Trump administration plan aimed at shoring up struggling coal-fired and nuclear power plants to bolster the nation's electricity grid, saying the administration hadn't persuaded them it was needed to ensure the system's reliability." Again, look for other energy proposals.

**OIL:** Crude oil production in the U.S. is expected to reach record proportions in 2018, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA). EIA expects crude oil production to reach an average of 9.9 million barrels per day which would surpass the previous record of 9.8 million barrels per day in 1970.

**OPEC and the supporting non-OPEC countries:** Will their pledge continue to be upheld? And how much difference do they really make?

**JOB:** The oil and gas companies across the U.S. are optimistic about the future of the oil and gas industry. If there is price sustainability, the U.S. will have more energy jobs.

**IPOS/M&A:** There are several companies on the sideline considering both initial public offerings (IPOs) and mergers & acquisitions (M&A).

**LNG/NATURAL GAS:** In 2018, investments will continue in the building of our nation's LNG infrastructure. 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.

**CYBERSECURITY:** Cybersecurity efforts will continue in the energy industry. Look for more private/public partnering in cybersecurity initiatives.

**REGULATIONS/TAXES:** As mentioned earlier in this writing,



MARK A. STANSBERRY

President Trump and the Republican-led Congress seem focused on eliminating many regulations. Federal tax reform has been a positive for the oil and gas industry. The oil and gas industry is not only going to benefit from the reform but the nation will benefit from economic pro-growth initiatives. More proposals are expected to revitalize economic expansion. The energy industry will play an important role.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** There is a great need for the nation's energy infrastructure. Look for more investments and projects beginning in 2018.

**GEOPOLITICAL/TRADE:** Again, geopolitical tensions along with cooperation will be at the forefront.

Also, offshore drilling, energy education, environmental, transportation, weather, power generation, coal, nuclear, wind/solar, media, digital, technology... will continue to be of focus. "Sustainability" will be a key word of focus in 2018.

**NATIONAL ENERGY TALK:** (NET) National Energy Talk was launched last July in Elk City, Oklahoma, and has held meetings in Tulsa, Edmond and Oklahoma City. In 2018, NET will begin its efforts outside the state. National Energy Talk is a platform engaging a national energy dialogue. Visit Facebook: National Energy Talk to support/learn more about NET.

Mark A. Stansberry serves as chairman of the GTD Group; He is an award-winning energy author and an Energy Advocate.

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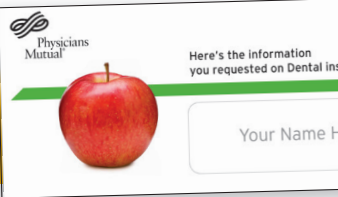
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## INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE



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**FOOD BANK DIPLOMACY:** Details: Three high school students and one adult who visited Tulsa July 20 – Aug. 3, through Tulsa Global Alliance (TGA) and the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program (IYLEP) have established a food bank in Kurdistan as a result of their visit to Tulsa. IYLEP students Mahmood Doghramajy, Amani Ramadan, and Lachin Bndyan and adult mentor Karwan Khuder came to the United States to study programs to help refugees and internally displaced persons (IDP), and as part of their experience, they volunteered at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. Inspired by their experience in Tulsa, they founded a new nonprofit organization - the Kurdistan Food Bank. The Kurdistan Food Bank aims to address the problem of hunger in their community by providing food for the refugee and IDP population in the city of Erbil. Their goal is to deliv-

er 20-30 packages to families in need monthly. In the month of November alone, they exceeded this goal by delivering over 80 packages to families in need. TGA Board Chair Cathy Render says, "This is a great example of how international exchange programs can inspire young visitors and change life focus. It's great to know the Tulsa spirit of community service has made such a profound impact in the lives of these students and their local communities." TGA Vice-President of Programs and Interim Director Bob Lieser says, "Tulsa Global Alliance applauds these Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program alumni for making a difference in their community." Greg Raskin, communications manager at the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, says "This is extremely inspirational and reminds us how our work impacts other people in not so obvious ways. We are proud to partner with Tulsa Global Alliance."

## BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

The **Parent Child Center of Tulsa's (PCCT)** board of directors have chosen **Regina Moon** as the agency's new president and CEO.



MOON

"The board of directors is extremely pleased to announce Regina Moon as the new president and CEO of our agency. She is an outstanding nonprofit executive and the right choice to take The Parent Child Center of Tulsa into a new era," says Carole Huff Hicks, PCCT board chairman.

Moon's resume includes more than 20 years of executive-level experience in strategic planning, operations, administration, revenue-generation, communications and marketing in the media and nonprofit sectors. She has served as executive staff for the local American Red Cross since 2009. Prior to that, she served as vice president and chief operating officer for Griffin Communications, KOTV-Channel 6, in Tulsa.

Moon received the Rotary Club of Tulsa's "2016 Rotarian of the Year" award, serves on the steering committee of the Tulsa Area United Way Women's Leadership Council, and was the Tulsa Area United Way's Campaign Nonprofit Division Chair. She is a Rogers State University Public Television advisory board member and has served as an appointee on the Mayor's Commission on Public Safety.

"The staff of The Parent Child Center of Tulsa are highly respected and expert in their field. I'm thrilled to join them in their worthy work," says Moon. "Our vision is that all parents have the knowledge and skills to protect, nurture, and provide for their own child. In attaining this goal, we can prevent child abuse and neglect."

Moon is acutely aware of the budget challenges The Parent Child Center of Tulsa faces. In November 2017 due to state budget issues, the agency lost a \$444,000 Oklahoma State Department of Health contract to provide the Parents as Teachers home visiting program.

**Sparks Reed and Interiors** has hired intern architect **Bryan Broaddrick**.

This marks a personal goal for the 30-year-old Broaddrick, who developed his design interests in high school while pursuing another love, baseball.

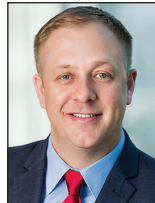
"I have always enjoyed attending sporting events and seeing the atmosphere generated inside these venues," he says. "It thrills me to be able to create spaces that give people that excitement."

That taps one of Sparks Reed's specialties. Its founding partners have a strong background in stadium and arena design, ranging from public school facilities to Oklahoma State University's Boone Pickens Stadium and Gallagher-Iba Arena.

"One thing I think our society has lost is a sense of community," says Broaddrick. "With the work we do here, we have the opportunity to help bring people together."

Broaddrick has served two other Tulsa firms since graduating from OSU in December 2014. He hopes to obtain his license next year.

**Oral Roberts University** has announced **Michael Rogers** as director of development. Rogers assumed this role on Jan. 2.



ROGERS

"I'm excited to have Michael join the development team and fill this vital leadership role," says Laura Bishop, vice president of development and alumni relations. "He has shown his passion for education through his service on the Southern Regional Education Board, which focuses on improving public education, and by chairing the Oklahoma State Legislature's Common Education Committee. He has also lived out ORU's vision very well throughout his career—as a public servant, a successful fundraiser at Summit Christian Academy and as a professional baseball player with the Cleveland Indians. I'm looking forward to Michael connecting well with our incredible donors as he shares all that God is doing in and through Oral Roberts University."

An alumnus of ORU, Rogers was an All-American pitcher for the Golden Eagles who still holds records for wins and strikeouts and is a member of the ORU Athletic Hall of Fame. He entered the MLB draft, being taken by the Cleveland Indians and playing two years in their system before a shoulder injury ended his career.

After Rogers worked as Athletic Director for Summit Christian Academy in Broken Arrow, where he helped build the program into one of the best in the state, Rogers was elected to serve as an Oklahoma state representative, ultimately becoming chair of the common education committee.

As director of development, Rogers will interact with other alumni, donors, foundations and corporations to implement a strategic comprehensive giving program to include operational, capital, planned and endowment.

Michael is married to Krystal who is a second grade teacher at Lincoln Christian School. They have three boys.

**Kelly Bland** has accepted the position of executive director of **Osage County Tourism**.

Bland is a Texas native and sought-after motivational speaker with extensive experience promoting rural Texas through her involvement in the Texas Midwest Community Network (TMCN) with a membership of 32 Texas counties. She served on the TMCN board of directors for several years working with more than 50 communities and their county, city, and civic officials for the benefit of economic growth and community development.

"We are thrilled with Kelly's energy and enthusiasm and are looking forward to her contributions. She comes to us with solid chamber experience and a true understanding of a sense of place," says Trisha Kerkstra, Osage County Tourism Board president.

Commenting on her new home, Bland said, "The countryside of Osage County takes your breath away and the people make you feel right at home. There's no place like the Osage."

Visit the Osage County Tourism website at [www.VisitTheOsage.com](http://www.VisitTheOsage.com). Bland can be contacted at 918-210-9788 or [visittheosage@gmail.com](mailto:visittheosage@gmail.com).

Law firm **Hall Estill** announces that **William "Bill" W. O'Connor** and **Jerrick L. Irby** have joined the firm as shareholders, and **Margo E. Shipley** and **John "Jack" W. Dowdell** have joined as associates in the Tulsa office.



O'CONNOR

**O'Connor** has been practicing law for nearly 30 years and concentrates his practice in the litigation arena, specifically complex litigation in energy, pharmaceutical and medical device, employment, securities, antitrust, class action, intellectual property, construction, and tort and insurance law. He has been recognized as a Best Lawyer in America in Commercial Litigation, as well as an Oklahoma Super Lawyer in Business Litigation, where he has been named among the top 50 attorneys in the state.

O'Connor received his J.D. from the University of Oklahoma College of Law where he was a member of the Oklahoma Law Review.

**Irby** has focused his legal career in the litigation arena, assisting clients in the areas of complex business and general litigation. While in law school, he served as managing editor of the Tulsa Law Review and was inducted into the Order of Curule Chair. Irby has been named a Rising Star in Business Litigation by Super Lawyers.

Irby received his J.D. with highest honors from the University of Tulsa College of Law and is licensed to practice in Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas.

**Shipley** will concentrate her practice in litigation, assisting clients in the areas of complex business and general litigation. She represented immigrant clients through the Immigrants' Rights Project at the University of Tulsa College of Law Boesche Legal Clinic and was inducted into the Order of the Curule Chair. In addition, she served as the Notes and Comments editor of the Tulsa Law Review while in law school.

Shipley received her J.D. summa cum laude from the University of Tulsa College of Law and is a volunteer with Tulsa Lawyers for Children.

**Dowdell** will also concentrate his practice in litigation, assisting various clients with complex business needs and other general litigation issues. While in law school, he served as the Notes & Comments editor of the Tulsa Law Review. Further, Dowdell represented immigrant clients through the Immigrants' Rights Project at the University of Tulsa's Boesche Legal Clinic.

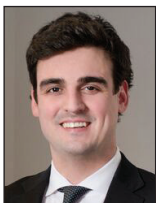
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# Renovated Midtown Duplex Receives Modern Facelift

There is a modest building at 1634 S. Boston Ave., which at first glance is unassuming but on closer inspection beckons the passerby to enter. This building represents a massive remodel and is the work of architect Brian Freese.

Built in the 1960s, the building was a very utilitarian, 2,400-square-foot duplex office structure containing two office suites with a central party wall, shared restrooms and other common facilities.

When Freese bought it in 2006, he kept the perimeter walls, part of the east/west party wall and the roof structure. Everything else was delivered to a dumpster. Approximately 300 square feet were added to the rear of the building along with a small

parking lot accommodating eight vehicles, which is easily accessible from a rear alley.

## On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA

What replaced the original is pleasant eye candy. The style is what Freese calls regional midwest modern. Frank Lloyd Wright influences, and contemporary Asian elements are evident.

From the street in front, one enters a simple forecourt with a small water fountain and an open sunshade wood trellis roof. Unexpectedly, this part of the building's footprint is U-shaped. The skin encasing the exterior walls is a screw fastened 5/16" fiberboard panel system, an unusual product manufactured in Denmark.

Walking through the building, it

is obvious that attention was given to effective glass placement for natural light. Floors throughout are concrete with an epoxy coating. Ceilings are 10 feet tall. The millwork and eight-foot doors are cherry. Base molding and door casings are simple 1 x 2s. The receptionist desk is a finish carpenter's tour de force and is also in cherry.

The heart of any architect's office is the studio. The Freese studio extends the width of the building and is located at the rear. Four built-in work stations pinwheel around a support column (a remnant of the original party wall), which rises to a large skylight. The natural light provided makes only some additional illumination necessary. The Freese staff consists of six people. An additional two offices are leased to related professionals; though, in the future, those extra rooms can provide expansion space for the architectural staff.

In 2009, the building received an honor design award from the Eastern Oklahoma Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. When asked what he would have



EMILY RAMSEY for GTR Newspapers

**A NEW LOOK:** The 1960s office building that sits at 1634 S. Boston Ave. was originally constructed as a duplex office structure before architect Brian Freese gave it a modern update almost 10 years ago. The building has a midwest modern style with Frank Lloyd Wright influences and contemporary Asian elements.

done differently with the building remodel, Freese mentions his problems with power activated water closets during power outages. He would also like to investigate passive solar design and a

reuse of existing materials for a more green philosophy.

Brian Freese may have another chance someday. For architects, there is always another building on the horizon.

## Celebrating, Informing Our Community Throughout the Years

As we celebrate 25 years of providing noteworthy news in our community, I am honored to be a part of the Greater Tulsa Reporter family since 2010. What a great time to go back and re-experience Trash Talk highlights printed over the years:

2010: Living Sustainably in the City: "Getting off the grid...sounds so romantic and exotic. But to me it sounds awful. I've seen the photos and heard the stories of my grandparents living off the land. They look hot, dirty and tired."

I love modern city living. But we can take note of my grandparent's habits for a more sustainable way of life here in the city, such as insulating our homes well, creating yard spaces that require little water or maintenance, and collecting rain water for those dry summer months."

2011: The Scoop on Poop, Why Picking It Up Is Our Duty: "According to a 1995 report in The Magazine of the Hydrological Society of South Australia, 'A single gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria.' At www.tpeb.org, you can read about how dog doo's bacteria, virus count and high concentration in nitrogen creates an overgrowth of algae, which absorbs the water's oxygen and kills fish and needed plant life...not picking it up can also cost you a city fine."

Update: Have someone pick up poo for you! There are several local businesses providing services such as pooptroops.com, Tulsadogpoop.com, Poop911.com, and dp-wsokc.com.

2012: Facts and Fanfare for Recycling in Tulsa County: "It's a win-win. Tulsa County Pharmacy celebrated the milestone of \$10 million dollars' worth of leftover prescription drugs repurposed to clients in need, while saving taxpayers money. Two retired Tulsa doctors spearheaded this cause in the 1990s. They are Dr. George Prothro and Dr. Jerry Gustafson. This program is the first of its kind in the nation and is now in more than 38 states and Canada."

## Trash Talk



By BETH TURNER

Tulsa Master Recyclers Association

Update: The program is going strong. From its start in 2004 through November 2017, 220,965 prescriptions have been filled through repurposed pills, averaging a financial savings of \$21,822,560 to our local community. Learn more through the Tulsa County Medical Society at tcmso.org/drug-recycling.

2013: Force Fields, Air Jets and Nanotechnology: Recycling for the Modern Age: "The EPA reports that the average American generates nearly one ton of trash each year and approximately 4.4 pounds of trash every day. The first step in lowering that number is using less stuff. After that, buying products made from recycled products that use less packaging and, finally, recycling."

To help us recycle more quickly and easily, a clean MRF system now calls Tulsa home through American Waste Control and Tulsa Recycling and Transfer. MRF stands for materials recovery facility. In a dance all its

own, this computerized system of conveyer belts, air jets, magnets and nanotechnology can identify and disperse almost 200 tons of recyclables per day."

Update: Recycling numbers are actually down for Tulsa County due to recycling bin contamination. City officials ask that we, "Focus on the Four," which is glass, metal, paper, and plastic bottles.

2014: Glass, Metal or Plastic: Recycling By the Numbers: "Here are statistics that've helped me remember why I do what I do: • People use approximately one million plastic bags every minute • A single plastic bag can take up to 1,000 years to degrade • Plastic bags remain toxic even after they break down • Plastic bags are the second-most common type of ocean refuse, after cigarette butts (2008) • Every square mile of ocean has about 46,000 pieces of plastic floating in it."

2015: MET Awards: An Honor to Serve, A Thrill to be Recognized: "You are now reading an award-winning column! The Metropolitan Environmental Trust, better known as The MET, held its 2015 America Recycles Day Banquet, honoring those in our community working towards environmental awareness and change. I am humbled to tell you they honored me as Recycling Reporter. I am among quite great company."

I also could not be here without GTR Newspapers' dedication to giving space to sustainability each month and the incredible team making it happen. Also, it wouldn't be possible without you, the reader, who takes this journey with me, and adds to the story with your own sustainable interests and goals. Thank you."

2016: Discarded Material Brings New Life to Tulsa Development: "In our search for success, we often try to think outside the box. Local business partners Elliot Nelson and Casey Stowe of Nelson+Stowe Development have a new downtown venture with the actual box in mind. 'I saw something similar to this in London, UK, and thought it was so cool, I had to bring the idea back to Tulsa,' said Stowe."

It's called Boxyard and is made from 39 upcycled shipping containers.

"Shipping containers are generally used for no more than 10 years. But as you can see, these are solid structures made of steel," said Stowe, as we stood gazing at the build site. "So, it's pretty exciting to know that these have been over many oceans, and now will retire right here in landlocked Tulsa for an entirely new life."

Boxyard will house up to 20 shops, restaurants and hot spots, including Sole Massage, great for runners by the way, and hometown favorites such as Dwelling Spaces and STEMcell, which I can't wait to check out!" Find out more at TulsaBoxyard.com

2017: Music Festival Proves Less Waste is Possible: "The Second Annual Homegrown Music Festival, held where I was home



Courtesy MET

**THROWBACK ACCOLADE IN 2015:** From left, Union Schools' Peters Elementary Principal Chasity Gray, along with Green Team members Beth and Mia proudly display their awards with fellow winner, Trash Talk's Beth Turner, at The MET's banquet honoring recyclers in our community.

grown along the Mulberry River in Arkansas...was another great success for this zero-waste music festival concept.

The amount of eco games and activities tripled this year. A highlight of the green education was the trash pickup contest for kids. ADEQ's Betsy Spedich said kids and their parents learned pickup safety and procedures [to earn tokens for prizes]. "One thing that gets the most tokens is what we're calling micro-trash," says Spedich. "All the little stuff you find ends up in the river, and the chemicals in cigarette butts wind up in our ground water."

The Ames Posse won the competition with more than 2,000 beer cans collected, and 109 ounces of micro-trash. Nine-year-old Marley Ames, looking behind her at the mountain of cans she'd collected, [said] "...I want to win the competition, and I want the earth to be healthy and happy." Well said, Marley. Well said.

2018: 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."

Looking Ahead: Thank you, Readers, for continuing to support GTR Newspapers. As the last independent newspaper in the state, I applaud Forrest and Sharon Cameron for their dedication to and love for our great community. If there is someone doing something in our town, there you will also find GTR Newspapers.

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## FAITH

# ORU Chapel an Integral Part of Student Life

By **RAEGAN DOUGHARTY**  
Contributing Writer

The Oral Roberts University campus is home to unique architecture in many of its structures, with gold tones and unorthodox shapes. One building is an echo of the large tents that held the revivals of Christian televangelist Oral Roberts. Students, faculty, staff and administrators gather twice per week in Christ's Chapel for a 60-minute chapel service. No classes are held during this time, and campus dining closes for chapel attendance.

Chapel is required for students, and on Wednesday and Friday mornings during the semester, a stream of people can be seen heading from early classes in ORU's Graduate Center to the chapel across campus grounds. Its outer walls are white, with blue glass windows along the top half of each exterior wall.

During services, students are seated in the chapel auditorium under high ceilings and the university's mission statement on the back wall. Roberts was said to have heard God's voice with inspiration for the university he would later build. According to ORU's website, God gave this commission to Roberts: "Raise up your students to hear My voice, to go where My light is dim, and My healing power is not known, even to the uttermost bounds of the earth. Their work will exceed yours, and in this I am well pleased."

Each service includes a praise and worship portion, which incorporates students as part of the praise team, along with members of ORU's Worship Center. The Worship Center office oversees



RAEGAN DOUGHARTY for GTR Newspapers

**WEEKLY WORSHIP:** Oral Roberts University students, faculty, staff and administrators gather twice per week at the university's chapel, where the program consists of praise and worship, prayer, and spiritual lectures.

various spiritual components of campus activity, including global missionary teams focused on music ministry and an initiative known as Prayer Movement, with organized worship and prayer for students to take part in during the week.

Services often include special performances by students and faculty that are normally centered on Christian themes, and each exhibits specific talents of the people on ORU's campus. Dance performances, musical pieces and snippets of plays by the ORU theatre

department have been part of past lineups.

Chapel at ORU entails the delivery of a sermon by a Christian speaker. The message is sometimes delivered by ORU President William M. Wilson or by another Christian speaker. Guests have included pastors of churches both large and small, as well as motivational speakers who identify with the Christian faith and faculty members, to name a few. Speakers are often those considered "giants" in the Christian faith, sometimes having ministries which reach



Courtesy photo

**A FULL HOUSE:** ORU's chapel auditorium is equipped for a large crowd and is bursting with students and faculty as enrollment numbers have climbed consistently over the past several years. Commuters and residential students fill the chapel as speakers from various backgrounds share messages with the student body.

into the U.S., along with nations across the globe. In an online virtual campus tour, Christ's Chapel is described as a place where "the ORU community gathers to hear life-changing messages and powerful student-led worship."

Individuals such as Christine Caine, founder of A21, an anti-human trafficking organization, have spoken to the students of ORU. Motivational speaker Reggie Dabbs, a voice to secondary school assemblies nationwide, has spoken from the chapel stage on multiple occasions.

Christ's Chapel also houses the ORU Missions and Outreach office, which sends out missionary teams to work with Christian ministries and nonprofits around America and the globe. The department's website says the office sends out over 500 students on more than 45 trips to 29 countries. According to usnews.com, ORU's total undergraduate enrollment is 3,288.

The 323-acre ORU campus is home to a variety of events, and Christ's Chapel is no exception in its uniqueness and wealth of activity.

## Life.Church Continues Working with Reading Partners

By **RAEGAN DOUGHARTY**  
Contributing Writer

Life.Church is part of the Evangelical Covenant Church, which is described as "a growing multi-ethnic denomination." Life.Church has multiple campuses located in eight states, using video streaming to allow different churches to hear messages from the senior pastor Craig Groeschel or another pastor on staff. The church says its "mission is to lead people to become fully devoted followers of Christ. That's how we're able to make a difference, and it's the driving force behind everything we do." Founded in 1996, the church celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2016.

Life.Church partnered with Reading Partners, a nonprofit which expanded to Tulsa in 2013. According to Reading Partners' website, the church became an "official local missions partner" to the nonprofit in fall 2014.

Reading Partners accepted a \$16,000 grant that will help fund the organization's mission to help children become lifelong readers. Reading Partners began in California to assist students who fell behind in reading at Belle Haven Community School in Silicon Valley. Since its launch in 1999, the nonprofit has spread into other states. The Reading Partners website includes the statement "In fourth grade, students are expected to transition from learning to read

to reading to learn." The organization believes that these foundational skills will be the basis of the child's continued mastery of new subjects. Students work weekly with trained community volunteers to reach the necessary grade level. Community volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to help children reach reading proficiency.

Pictured left to right: Allen Conner, Reading Partners site coordinator; Camille Newbro, Reading Partners site coordinator; Tiffany Hinson, Life.Church Jenks LifeGroups/LifeMissions project leader; Mendy Eakle, Life.Church Jenks LifeGroups/LifeMissions pastor; Jessica Risenhoover, Reading Partners director of external relations.



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# 'The Jane Heard Clinton Society – Women Aligned For the Arts' is Announced by Arts Alliance Tulsa

Courtesy Arts Alliance Tulsa

As a year ends and a new year begins, we tend to become a bit nostalgic. In fact, it was nostalgia that led to the creation of The Jane Heard Clinton Society, in part, anyway.

In researching how Tulsa's arts scene has flourished over the past decade, it was clear that much of what we have today was started by pioneering women who moved to Oklahoma over a century ago. While the move was usually tied to Tulsa's rich oil boom, people were not content leaving behind the culture and art they had enjoyed at home, so they organized and the evolution began. In fact, the arts in Tulsa are primarily as vibrant as they are because of the contributions of early 20th Century women philanthropists.

"Honoring the role of women in the arts while finding a way to engage them in the important work of Arts Alliance Tulsa was a priority for us from the day our United Arts Fund was conceived four years ago," says Todd Cunningham, AAT executive director. "When we discovered Jane Heard Clinton and learned of the significant place she holds in our cultural history, we knew we had found the perfect way to enhance our city's future while honoring our past."

As a component of Arts Alliance Tulsa (AAT), the Jane Heard Clinton Society (JHCS) exists to build a community of diverse and inclusive female philanthropists who inspire and encourage other women to strengthen the arts and cultural environment of Tulsa.

"In the late 1950's I worked on a survey to determine the advisability of having an Arts Council in Tulsa. One of the long-term goals was to establish a United Way for the Arts. I hope Arts Alliance Tulsa will achieve that goal," says Mary Athens, JHCS member



**MEMBERSHIP FUN:** Jane Heard Clinton Society members recently gathered for a photo. Front row from left: Anna Inhofe, Melanie Tate and Gayle Eby. Second row from left: Marilyn Inhofe-Tucker, Jordan Neal, Taylor Tate, Maddy Kennedy, Martha Cordell, Cassie Reese Tipton and Lesa Smaligo. Third Row from left: Nicci Atchy, Cheryl Waldeck, Victoria McArtor, Anna Norberg, Stacey Sprague, Michelle Hardesty, Suzie Bogle, Karen Kelly and Megan Nesbit.

and one of many women who has worked to advocate, raise funds, and grow arts in Tulsa.

Inspired by the legacy of historic Tulsa philanthropists, JHCS operates as a funding component of AAT and works to support its mission of providing operational funds to local nonprofit arts and culture member organizations. This honorary group recognizes those accomplishments of the past as well as fuels the continuation of that legacy in the future. Current members span three generations, embodying Tulsa's past, present, and future.

"Growing up with an avid arts advocate for a mother, it is exciting to launch a society in which the women of Tulsa pave the way for the next generation of arts and

culture. Jane Heard Clinton was referred to as the cultural soul of our city; when many of us are returning home to live, being in a room of women from different backgrounds and generations encourages me for the future of the arts in our city. This is a beginning of a legacy," says JHCS member and Arts Alliance Tulsa Development Manager Anna Inhofe.

Jane Carrol Heard accompanied her soon-to-be husband, Dr. Fred Stevens Clinton, to Tulsa in 1897. A young, cultured aristocrat from Georgia, she is largely responsible for bringing arts and culture to what was at the time a "cow town." A musician herself, Jane was a charter member of the Philbrook Art Center, Tuesday Book Club, and Hyechka Club. She was



**FIRST LADIES:** Jane Heard Clinton and her friends gathered for a photo in yesteryear. They were the original female leaders of arts and culture in Tulsa.

instrumental in bringing the New York Philharmonic to Tulsa in 1911 and in building Convention Hall (now the Brady Theatre) in 1914.

"As Tulsa's first outspoken advocate for the arts, Jane Heard Clinton not only provided the inspiring leadership, but was also the work-a-day catalyst for building the arts community's ongoing support in this city. I feel it is most fitting that Jane be the one in whose honor this society is named and for whom contributions are made in support of Arts Alliance Tulsa," says Penny Williams.

Arts Alliance Tulsa is the newest member of a national network of similarly-organized United Arts Funds that function to receive donations from individuals, corporations, and charitable foundations and, after considerable independent review and due diligence, distribute operating funds

to 40 local nonprofit arts institutions.

Members of the Jane Heard Clinton Society include Ellen Adelson, Mary Athens, Madison Baird, Stephanie Cameron, Candace Conley, Martha Cordell, Sally Davies, Patty Eaton, Gayle Eby, Judge Kelly Greenough, Michelle Hardesty, Ana Helmerich, Leanne Helmerich, Peggy Helmerich, Ginny Hensley, Marilyn Inhofe-Tucker, Karla Hoose, Karen Keith, Sharon King-Davis, Janet Levit, Victoria McArtor, Anna Inhofe, Rebecca Marks-Jimerson, Hannah Murray, Anna Norberg, Maddy Kennedy, Jackie Price, Margaret Swimmer, Barbara Sylvan, Melanie Tate, Taylor Tate, Kate Thomas, Teresa Valero, Cheryl Waldeck, Megan Whittaker Nesbit, Penny Williams, Dana Wilkes, Anna Davies, Katie Jones, Karen Kelley, Stacy Sprague, Michelle Place and Susan Thomas.



GTR Newspapers photo

**PERFORMING ARTS PARTY:** The Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust hosted a holiday party at the home of Jayne Reed. From left, Mark Frie, executive director of the Tulsa Performing Arts Center; Hostess Jayne Reed; David Holden and Vince LoVoi, TPAC trustees; and Rodger Randle, chair of the Performing Arts Center Trust.



Courtesy University of Tulsa

**TU UNCORKED:** The popular University of Tulsa Uncorked fundraiser for student tuition will be held this year in June at Cain's Ballroom. At last year's event held at the Reynolds Center are, from left, TU Tulsa Chapter Alumni President Jackie Griffin, outgoing Houston Alumni Chapter President Thomas Porter, and incoming Houston Chapter President Leslie Mullin.

## DressFest Ladies' Night Out for Charity is Upcoming

DressFest is the ultimate ladies' night out, raising funds to empower women and girls. The event is hosted by Melanie Collins Consulting, with Safari Joe's H2O as the presenting sponsor. DressFest takes place at 7 p.m. March 10 at Safari Joe's H2O

waterpark.

The event is focused on empowering women and girls. DressFest is an opportunity to dress up and spend a fun night out with girlfriends, all while supporting charity. The night will include dancing, raffle and

door prizes, games, and special surprises throughout the event for a one of a kind ladies' night out. A fundraising dress sale will be held in February, offering dresses of all styles and sizes, perfect for DressFest, galas, or even prom. Date and location of

dress sale is TBD.

This year's primary beneficiary is the Native American Children's Alliance. Applications for a secondary charity are being accepted through Jan. 31. Charities supporting the empowerment of women and girls are encouraged

to apply at [www.melaniecollins.us](http://www.melaniecollins.us).














Eligible charities will be voted on by the community. In honor of the event's presenting sponsor, Safari Joe's H2O, a donation will also be made to the Safari Joe's Exotic Wildlife Rescue.






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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>21 January</b> <b>EVITA</b> Theatre Tulsa 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>TULSA OILERS</b> vs. Colorado 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. <b>WANDA JACKSON</b> Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	<b>22</b> <b>TREE</b> PAC Gallery Jan. 4 – 30 FREE Exhibit. <b>LEGO BUILD</b> South Broken Arrow Library 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. 	<b>23</b> <b>A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER</b> Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>JAZZ/BLUES JAM AT THE DEPOT</b> Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame 6 p.m. Visit okjazz.org for more info. <b>THE MOODY BLUES</b> BOK Center 8 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.	<b>24</b> <b>LAUGHTER YOGA</b> LaFortune Community Center 1 p.m. Visit lifeseniorservices.org for more information. <b>A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER</b> Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>Free Small Business Checking</b>  Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	<b>25</b> <b>SWEET OPPORTUNITIES</b> Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma 1:30 p.m. Visit okfoodbank.org for more information. <b>A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER</b> Celebrity Attractions 7:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	<b>26</b> <b>BOUNCE'N BEETHOVENS</b> Owasso Library 11 – 11:45 a.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER</b> Celebrity Attractions 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET</b> Choregus Productions 8 p.m. • Jan. 26-27 myticketoffice.com for tickets.	<b>27</b> <b>A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER</b> Celebrity Attractions 2 & 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>SWENEXT DESIGNLAB</b> Renaissance Tulsa Hotel & Convention Center 1:30 – 5 p.m. Visit welocal.swe.org for more information. <b>MARILYN MANSON</b> Brady Theater 7 p.m. Visit bradytheater.com for more information.
<b>28</b> <b>A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER</b> Celebrity Attractions 2 & 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>ENSEMBLE 4.1</b> Chamber Music Tulsa 3 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>WINTER JAM 2018</b> BOK Center 6 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.	<b>29</b> <b>STEAM WORKSHOP: A-MAZE-ING ROBOTS!</b> Central Library 2 – 3:30 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. <b>AVENGED SEVENFOLD</b> BOK Center 6:25 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. <b>More Bank for Your Buck</b>  Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	<b>30</b> <b>TULSA OILERS</b> vs. Rapid City 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. <b>GOBSMACKED</b> Broken Arrow PAC 7:30 p.m. Visit brokenarrowpac.com for more information. <b>TULSA BOAT SPORT &amp; TRAVEL SHOW</b> Expo Square Jan. 29 – Feb. 4 Visit tulsaboatshow.com for more information. 	<b>31</b> <b>TULSA OILERS</b> vs. Wichita 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. <b>TRAVELS WITH TULSANS: HUNGARY AND CZECH REPUBLIC</b> Central Library 12:10 – 12:50 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	<b>1 February</b> <b>GOLDEN HURRICANE</b> vs. SMU • 7 p.m. Men's Basketball tulsahurricane.com for tickets. <b>TRAVIS TRITT</b> BOK Center 7:30 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. <b>CLAY WALKER WITH TRACY BYRD</b> Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 8 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information.	<b>2</b> <b>LAURA LINNEY</b> Tulsa Town Hall 10:30 a.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>FREEDOM TRAIN</b> PAC Trust 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>KID ROCK</b> BOK Center 7:30 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.	<b>3</b> <b>TULSA OILERS</b> vs. Allen 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. <b>SING FOR OUR SCHOOLS</b> All Souls Unitarian Church 7 – 10 p.m. Visit allsoulschurch.org for more information. <b>SEVEN GUITARS</b> Theatre North 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.
<b>4</b> <b>MEYERSON'S SYMPHONY No. 3</b> Tulsa Symphony Classics 2:30 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>DANCE LESSONS: COUNTRY TWO-STEP</b> The Clubhouse 5 p.m. Visit tulsaswingdanceclub.net for more information.	<b>5</b> <b>PAC STAFF ART SHOW</b> PAC Gallery Feb. 2 – 27 FREE Exhibit. <b>SEWING FUNDAMENTALS WORKSHOP: PATTERNS</b> Owasso Library 4 – 5 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information. 	<b>6</b> <b>AQUA-TOTS</b> Oklahoma Aquarium 11 a.m. For ages 2-5. Visit okaquarium.org for more information. <b>OPEN DRAWING STUDIO IN THE MAKER SPACE</b> Central Library 3 – 7 p.m. Visit tulsalibrary.org for more information.	<b>7</b> <b>BROWN BAG IT: BARRON RYAN</b> PAC Trust 12:10 p.m. FREE event. <b>DRUNKARD AND OLIO AUDITIONS</b> Tulsa Spotlight Theatre 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit spotlighttheatre.org for more information. <b>Ask us about fraud ID protection</b>  Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	<b>8</b> <b>GOLDEN HURRICANE</b> vs. Tulane • 6 p.m. Men's Basketball tulsahurricane.com for tickets. <b>TAVIS SMILEY PRESENTS: DEATH OF A KING</b> Cox Business Center 7:30 p.m. Visit coxcenter.com for more information. <b>GOLDEN EAGLES</b> vs. N. Dakota St. • 7 p.m. Men's Basketball Visit mabecenter.com for info.	<b>9</b> <b>STRICTLY GERSHWIN</b> Tulsa Ballet 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>BLACKBERRY SMOKE</b> Cain's Ballroom 7 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information. <b>BLITHE SPIRIT</b> VanTrease PACE 8 p.m. Visit tulsacc.edu for more information.	<b>10</b> <b>HIGH SCHOOL HOOPS SHOWCASE</b> BOK Center All Day Visit hoopstulsa.com for more information. <b>SEVEN GUITARS</b> Theatre North 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>STRICTLY GERSHWIN</b> Tulsa Ballet 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.
<b>11</b> <b>THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS</b> BOK Center 2 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. <b>SEVEN GUITARS</b> Theatre North 3 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>STRICTLY GERSHWIN</b> Tulsa Ballet 3 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	<b>12</b> <b>CANDLELIGHT CONCERT: INVITATION TO THE DANCE</b> Harveldeen Mansion 7 p.m. Visit candlelightconcertseries.com for more information.  <b>We Offer Health Savings Accounts</b>  Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	<b>13</b> <b>TULSA AREA UNITED WAY LIVE UNITED LUNCHEON AND AWARDS</b> Cox Business Center 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Visit tauw.org for more information. <b>ASK THE EXPERT: DATING YOUR CAREGIVER THROUGH CANCER</b> Cancer Treatment Centers of America 5:30 p.m. Visit cancercenter.com for more information.	 <b>PETER CETERA</b> Hard Rock Hotel & Casino 7 p.m. Visit hardrockcasinotulsa.com for more information. <b>KEYS 'N' KRATES' CURA TOUR</b> Cain's Ballroom 8 p.m. Visit cainsballroom.com for more information.	<b>15</b> <b>VIOLINIST JAMES EHRES</b> ORU Music Department 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>BLAKE SHELTON</b> BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information. <b>GEORGE ORWELL'S 1984</b> Kendall Hall Chapman Stage 8 p.m. Visit artsandsciences.utulsa.edu for more information.	<b>16</b> <b>FOUR CHORDS AND A GUN</b> Tulsa Project Theatre 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>TULSA REMODEL &amp; LANDSCAPE SHOW</b> Cox Business Center Feb. 16 – 18 Visit coxcenter-tulsa.com for more information. 	<b>17</b> <b>FOUR CHORDS AND A GUN</b> Tulsa Project Theatre 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>THE STARS ALIGN: A GALA ANNIVERSARY CONCERT</b> Tulsa Opera 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.
<b>18</b> <b>FOUR CHORDS AND A GUN</b> Tulsa Project Theatre 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>GOLDEN HURRICANE</b> vs. USF • 2 p.m. Men's Basketball tulsahurricane.com for tickets. <b>TULSA OILERS</b> vs. Indy 4:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information.	<b>19</b> <b>SHARKS FEED SHOW</b> Oklahoma Aquarium 11 a.m. Visit okaquarium.org for more information. <b>SETH LEE JONES</b> The Colony 10 p.m. Visit thecolony-tulsa.com for more information. 	<b>20</b> <b>DRAWING ON MEMORIES</b> Philbrook Museum of Art 10 a.m. Visit alz.org for more info. <b>COOKING CLASS: COOKING WITH VEGETABLES</b> Cancer Treatment Centers of America 5:30 p.m. Visit cancercenter.com for more information.  <b>New Name. Same Bank.</b>  Strong roots. Endless possibilities.	<b>21</b> <b>DANIEL TIGER'S NEIGHBORHOOD LIVE: KING FOR A DAY</b> Mills Entertainment 2 & 6 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>GOLDEN HURRICANE</b> vs. UCF • 8 p.m. Men's Basketball tulsahurricane.com for tickets.	<b>22</b> <b>CAREGIVING 101</b> LIFE Senior Services 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Visit lifeseniorservices.org for more information. <b>PUTTIN' ON THE DOG</b> Cox Business Center 6 – 9 p.m. Visit coxcenter.com for more information. <b>FOUR CHORDS AND A GUN</b> Tulsa Project Theatre 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	<b>23</b> <b>IGNITE CONFERENCE</b> Word of Life Church 7 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>TULSA OILERS</b> vs. Colorado 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. <b>FOUR CHORDS AND A GUN</b> Tulsa Project Theatre 8 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets.	<b>24</b> <b>FOUR CHORDS AND A GUN</b> Tulsa Project Theatre 2 p.m. myticketoffice.com for tickets. <b>TULSA OILERS</b> vs. Colorado 7:05 p.m. Visit tulsaoilers.com for more information. <b>MAGIC MEN LIVE</b> BOK Center 7 p.m. Visit bokcenter.com for more information.



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## AREA NEWS

# Tulsa Couple to Bring Coolgreens Concept to Area

By EMILY RAMSEY  
Managing Editor

Tulsa residents Susan and Chris Gates will open the first of three Coolgreens locations in Greater Tulsa later this year.

The Oklahoma City-based company was founded in 2009 as a quick-service lunch and dinner restaurant chain focused on fresh, naturally-sourced food items.

"The overall model is a lifestyle eatery with fresh, local, healthy food, following the farm-to-table trend," says Susan.

The Gates are both from Okla-

homa and have lived in Tulsa for close to 15 years. They are previous owners of the Pecan Porch Coffee & Tea Co., located in Catoosa. In 2007, they were named Entrepreneurs of the Year by the Rogers County Industrial Development Authority as founders of the restaurant.

The Gates later sold the business, but their entrepreneurial interests did not die.

"We had been looking for a franchise concept to get involved with for about six years," Susan says.

But it wasn't until they found Coolgreens that their interest was

peaked for a number of reasons.

For one, the company's focus on health and freshness, with food being brought in daily, fits well with our personal lifestyle, she says.

The menu offers a broad range of options for those with dietary restrictions or preferences, such as vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, and carb free, and menu offerings go well beyond salads, she continues, with build-your-own choices as well as wraps, sandwiches, flatbreads and quinoa bowls.

Secondly, the Gates were drawn to Coolgreens' proven track record as a successful Oklahoma-based

food company and for its mentality of employee development and community involvement—such as opening its doors for after-hours fitness and health classes.

There are seven corporate-owned Coolgreens in the Oklahoma City area. The company began offering franchise opportunities in 2017.

Because of Coolgreens' health-conscious philosophy and Tulsans' growing interest in the movement, Susan and Chris feel confident in the company's local success.

"There is a shift happening around the country and in Tulsa of people

becoming more interested in what they are eating," says Chris.

"We are seeing the younger generation becoming more interested in eating a salad over burgers and fries. We will see how that changes the food landscape in the future."

The Gates plan to open at least three locations in the greater Tulsa area with hopes, then, to expand further into surrounding communities, says Susan.

The first Tulsa Coolgreens is planned to open later this year near 41st Street and Yale Avenue with additional locations to follow in yearly succession.

# Lokal and Main Supports Local Artists in Jenks

By SPENCER COX  
Contributing Writer

Whether cheering on one of Oklahoma's sports teams, supporting its rich native American history or championing Oklahoma's many positive attributes, one thing is clear, Oklahomans love their state.

In order to showcase that Okie pride, in August 2016, Amy Goodrich opened a local artist-focused shop in downtown Jenks, called Lokal and Main, located at 217 E. Main St.

The store carries products mostly crafted in the Sooner State with a few exceptions, says Goodrich. Although the exceptions are manufactured outside of the state, they remain made in the U.S. Goodrich's most sought-after product is the homemade Red Dirt Salsa that is prepared by her son-in-law.

Goodrich formerly owned a butterfly-themed gift shop in the tourist town of Pacific Grove, California, the monarch butterfly's winter migratory destination.

Almost three years ago, Goodrich's eight-year-old grandson was diagnosed with stage four Burkitt lymphoma, considered to be the most aggressive form of cancer found in children. After learning of their grandson's diagnosis, Goodrich and her husband moved to Jenks to be closer to him.

After her grandson had fully recovered from the illness, she opened up Lokal and Main with the goal of providing a location to allow local artists to showcase and sell their wares.

To complete the local feel, one wall of the shop features a mural of Oklahoma that was painted by the art director at Goodrich's grandchildren's school.

Goodrich's choice to open her shop in Jenks as opposed to Tulsa was due to the city's "small-town feel and atmosphere," she says.

One difference that she has noticed from her California city is the lack of a tourist market. Most of her customers reside in Tulsa, Jenks, Bixby and Glenpool. However, she has noticed that during the school year, many area students purchase host gifts from her store when they are studying abroad so that those in other countries can gain a sense of what Oklahoma pride looks like.

Currently, Goodrich's 26-year-old daughter largely helps with store operations; she is a student at the University of Oklahoma.

Goodrich hopes to continue to grow the Jenks location and expand by bringing in more vendors and local artists from around Green Country.



SPENCER COX for Jenks District Gazette

**ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY:** Amy Goodrich, owner of Lokal and Main, located in downtown Jenks, displays one of her store's top-selling items: Red Dirt Salsa, home made by her son-in-law. Behind Goodrich is a mural by a local artist, which well illustrates the focus of Goodrich's shop: local artists.

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