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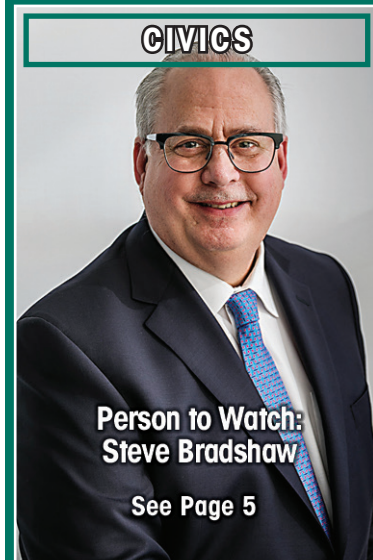
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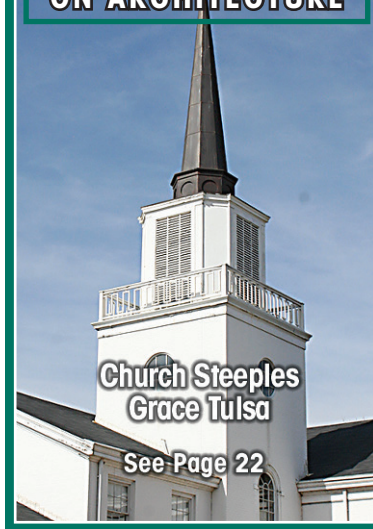
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Union Foundation Holds 'Night of Focus'

Annual Fundraiser To Be Held March 10

On March 10, the Union Schools Education Foundation (USEF) will hold A Night of FOCUS (Funding Our Children at Union Schools), its annual fundraising dinner and auction to benefit the school district.

The event will be held at the Cox Business Center, 100 Civic Center, in downtown Tulsa and begin at 6 p.m. Guests will include those from the philanthropic and corporate communities as well as Union patrons, who will come together for dinner, entertainment, and the opportunity to bid on auction items, with the goal of raising much-needed funds for teachers and students at Union. The event is presented by South Pointe Auto Mall.

All proceeds from the event benefit the students and programs of Union Public Schools, contributing to four main areas (as specified in the district's five-year strategic plan):

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM);
- Community Schools;
- Early Childhood Education; and
- College and Career Readiness.

Recently, Union was the focus of a New York Times article titled "Who Needs Charter Schools When You Have Public Schools Like These?"

"Union shows what can be achieved when a public school system takes the time to invest in a culture of high expectations, recruit top-flight professionals, and develop ties between schools and the community," wrote the article's author David Kirp.

This national recognition is a tremendous honor, solidifying Union Public Schools' reputation as one of the best in the nation, says Union Superintendent Dr. Kirt Hartzler.

By participating in A Night of FOCUS, participants and donors will help to ensure Union continues to be



AUCTION ITEMS: Shea Ludwig, center; Union Schools Education Foundation (USEF) director; and USEF board members Kulsum Siddiqui, left, and Allison Foster show off baskets designed by Union employees and teachers that will be auctioned off at USEF's A Night of Focus, to be held March 10.

a leader in providing a high quality education, he continues.

The Union Schools Education Foundation was created in 1991 by parents and administrators who were dedicated to making invest-

ments in public education and enhancing the quality of life in the Tulsa community and state. USEF's mission is to support Union Public Schools, its vision, and its nearly 16,000 students.

Tickets to A Night of Focus cost \$125 each and can be purchased at unionfoundation.org/events. For additional information, call 918-357-6014 or email ludwig.shea@unionps.org.

Union School Bond Issue Passes

On Feb. 13, Union Public Schools patrons passed a landmark five-year series bond issue of \$128.6 million. The bond package will fund districtwide projects for the next five years.

"I am extremely grateful to belong to a community that understands the importance of investing in our students and teachers," says Union Superintendent Dr. Kirt Hartzler. "Our theme for this bond package was 'Believing in U,' and clearly, our families believe in Union's mission of '100 percent graduation, college and career ready.' Thank you!"

The bond includes the com-

plete reconstruction of the west side of Union High School's Tuttle Stadium, the construction of a Fine Arts addition at the High School and the completion of Ellen Ochoa Elementary School.

The fine arts building will be located to the north of the stadium and will include band rooms and classrooms. It will also be equipped with south-facing doors that will open onto the football field to allow band members to easily enter and exit the football field.

The completion of the construction of Ochoa Elementary will allow Union to double

the number of students at the school to more than 1,000. An estimated \$6.6 million in funding is needed to finish the community school.

Also included in the bond package is continued expansion of Union's districtwide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiative, the initial rollout of the "1-to-1" initiative, which will provide every 9-12-grade student with 24/7 access to a laptop computer, and safety improvements related to bus transportation that involve the use of RFID (radio-frequency identification) technology.

KUDOS OF THE MONTH: Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts is celebrating 105 years as the leading leadership development organization for girls.

On March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Georgia, Juliette Gordon "Daisy" Low organized the very first Girl Scout troop. G.I.R.L. stands for go-getter, innovator, risk-taker and leader.

Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma serves approximately 13,000 girls and volunteers in 30 eastern Oklahoma counties and is a United Way agency. The national organization as a whole is 2.6 million strong—1.8 million girls and 800,000 adults.

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience is a one-of-a-kind leadership development program for girls. It is based on time-tested methods and research-backed program-



girl scouts

ming that teaches girls leadership skills through activities such as night-time hikes, missions on the International Space Station, lobbying the city council, and running her own cookie business.

Research shows that girls learn

best in an all-girl, girl-led and girl-friendly environment.

Girl Scouts endeavors to create an environment where girls can practice different skills, explore their potential and take on leadership positions.

For more information on how to volunteer, donate, or join, visit www.gseok.org. Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma is a proud 2013 recipient of the Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium's Community Impact Award and Alpha Kappa Alpha's Social Justice and Human Rights Award.



ROBOTICS ROCKSTARS: In 2016, the Lego Queens Girl Scouts robotics team won first place in Core Values at the FIRST Lego League by the Oklahoma Science and Engineering Foundation.

Donna's Fashions Celebrates 20 Years at Shops of Seville

By **RAEGAN DOUGHARTY**
Contributing Writer

Donna Brollier is the owner of Donna's Fashions, 10051 S. Yale Ave., located in the Shops of Seville on the corner of 101st Street and Yale Avenue. The upscale retail shop is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2018.

The store is tucked away in a tight-knit shopping center, offering customers a shopping experience that Brollier hopes weaves together multiple generations of shoppers.

In addition to owning her own retail shop, Brollier, a Broken Bow native, is a jewelry designer and blogger and the mother of three children, Corey, Tristan and Ashlyn. Her son Corey Kent White is a country music singer who competed on NBC's The Voice in 2015, making it to the top eight. White, a Bixby High School graduate, went on to receive a publishing deal with Warner/Chappell Music. He lives in Nashville with his wife, and they are expecting their first child.

Brollier earned her undergraduate degree at Oklahoma State University in family and children's services, a path that emphasized retail and fell under the college of home economics. She earned her master's degree at Oral Roberts University in Christian Counseling.

"I think my two [degrees] have served me well in that they have helped me to improve my customer-interaction skills and my ability to listen, which have helped me to build beautiful relationships with my customers over 20 years," she says.

Brollier opened her store in September 1998 after spending four years in the counseling field. Brollier says her hope was that the store would be an extension of the community's neighborhoods and even homes.

She credits GTR as a long-time

supporter of her store, publishing the very first article and advertisement for Donna's Fashions after she opened her doors.

With the ever-changing nature of the retail industry, Brollier has taken a number of steps to set her shop apart over the past 20 years. With the growing popularity of online shopping, brick-and-mortar stores now more than ever must "constantly evaluate inventory and realize what's moving and what isn't," she says.

Additionally, Brollier believes that her shop offers something that no online store can, a unique shopping experience with unmatched customer service.

"Tulsa has been good to us, and our customers have been amazing to trust us for 20 years. I think we've built a relationship that they know when they come here, they'll get honesty and quality," Brollier says.

Brollier's belief in strong community involvement has led Donna's Fashions to support local projects, such as Oklahoma Project Woman, Joy In The Cause, Dress for Success and The Salvation Army, among others. She encourages store guests to shop local and says that everyone wins when community members help one another by supporting local businesses. Those businesses often give back to local causes and charities, which Brollier says benefits everyone involved.

Brollier is also constantly evaluating her store's offerings, always on the hunt for on-trend versatile fashion pieces that can be shared by numerous generations, she says.

Donna's Fashions carries well-known brands, including Joseph Ribkoff, Johnny Was and Tommy Bahama. Since beginning to carry Tommy Bahama in 2008, Donna's Fashions has become one of the top 100 best-selling stores for the brand in the country.

To further set herself apart in



GTR Newspapers photos

SUCCESSFUL OWNER: Donna Brollier sits in her shop, Donna's Fashions, 10051 S. Yale Ave., located in the Shops of Seville on the corner of 101st Street and Yale Avenue. Donna's Fashions is celebrating 20 years in 2018.

unique offerings, Brollier launched her own line of jewelry in 2014, creating designs that she envisioned but was unable to find anywhere on store shelves. She says her line, Steel Magnolia Jewelry, is based on sophistication, strength and southern charm.

"I remember thinking at that point it seemed like the right time to try something new," Brollier says. Her store provided her the opportunity to test out her jewelry designs and gain customer feedback. She says the positive feedback was encouraging.

Brollier includes the Christian cross on many of her jewelry designs as a way to share her faith and her belief in women's strength, she says.

"I think it goes back to that as women, we're strong in our faith and in our values to raise our families, and together we can do just about anything."

Another way that Brollier stays connected with her customers is



SHOP LOCAL: Donna Brollier, owner of Donna's Fashions, displays a popular outfit currently available at her store. Donna's Fashions carries well-known clothing brands, including Joseph Ribkoff, Johnny Was and Tommy Bahama, as well as one-of-a-kind jewelry items.

through her blog, where she covers topics from closet organization to how to wear certain pieces. She says that the blog serves as a newsletter for the store and helps to bolster the relationship side of her business.

As Brollier looks to the future and reflects on the past, she credits the

success of her shop to "my amazing employees and loyal customers who have been with me for 20 years."

To learn more, visit Donna'sFashions.com. Donna's Fashions is open Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



Courtesy photo

HONORED INDIVIDUALS: Mackenzie Bechtold, left, was named The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Tulsa 2018 Youth of the Year at a banquet held Feb. 1 at the University of Tulsa. Brian Jackson, a development manager for Junior Achievement, was awarded the Clay Satcher Volunteer Award. Bechtold attends Charles Page High School and received a \$5,000 scholarship for the local contest and now advances to state competition.



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Alison Anthony to Succeed Mark Graham at United Way

When Mark Graham walked door-to-door to raise money for the Tulsa Area United Way as a young man, he never imagined he would eventually reach a quarter of a billion dollars.

As a young banker in his mid-20s at Sooner Federal, Graham responded to a request for United Way volunteers.

That early volunteer experience was Graham's introduction to community service and philanthropy. Through the next several decades of his career in banking and insurance, he would serve on the United Way's Campaign Cabinet, as well as other community volunteer roles.

"I realized it was time to pursue a career in service - to give back to the community in a more significant way."

Soon after, he was named president and CEO of the Tulsa Area United Way. During his tenure, Graham has presided over community campaigns raising more than a quarter of a billion dollars: \$252,759,483. Under his leadership, the Tulsa Area United Way continued building on its reputation as one of the most successful United Way organizations in the U.S.

As a testament to his character, Graham is most proud of the help his family received from seven United Way agencies during his tenure. Remarkably one volunteer, "For Mark, it has always been about service and helping those in need. That's just who he is."

Alison Anthony has been involved in community service and philanthropy most of her life, but her heart has always been with the United Way.

"I really do think of this new role as a calling," she says. "And I answer that call with joy, knowing I will wake up each day focused on serving the people of our community."

Anthony will become the next president and CEO of the Tulsa Area United Way on April 1.

She was named chief operating officer in August 2017 and has served alongside Graham ever since.

"Mark is a treasure in this community, and I am so grateful for his guidance and mentorship over these past months. What a legacy of impact and excellence he leaves. And I take the responsibility to honor and continue that legacy very seriously," she says.

Previously, Anthony served as president of the Williams Foundation and director of strategic outreach at Williams. She also led efforts in diversity, employee rela-



LEADERSHIP DISCUSSION: Alison Anthony and Mark Graham discuss the leadership role at the Tulsa Area United Way. Anthony was named TAUW Chief Operating Officer in August 2017 where she has served alongside retiring President and CEO Mark Graham.

tions and leadership development, and organizational effectiveness at Williams.

Anthony is no stranger to the local United Way or the Tulsa community. She has served in numerous roles for the United Way - as a member of its Board of Directors and Campaign Cabinet, a founding member and former chair of its Women's Leadership Council, and chair of the 2020 Strategic Planning Initiative, among many others.

She has served on the board of countless non-profit organizations

in the Tulsa area and state, including the Tulsa Community Foundation, Community Action Project, Community Service Council and more.

She received master's and bachelor's degrees from Oklahoma State University and has completed several leadership training programs, including the Harvard University Talent Pipeline Development Program and senior human resources professional certification from the Society of Human Resources Management.

She is married to Mark Wilson and they have five children.



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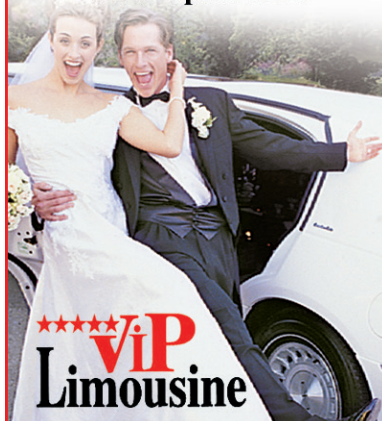
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The Union Boundary, the Jenks District Gazette, the Owasso Rambler, the Broken Arrow Express and the Bixby Breeze are distributed monthly to nearly every home in the Union, Jenks, Owasso, Broken Arrow and Bixby school districts. The Midtown Monitor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

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CIVICS

State of the City:

Community Response Team Addresses Mental Illness

Tulsans are pulling together to address mental illness and suicide through a groundbreaking program called the Community Response Team (CRT).

CRT is an innovative, first-responder collaboration project between the Mental Health Association OK (MHAO), Tulsa Police Department (TPD), Tulsa Fire Department (TFD), Family & Children's Services' (F&CS) and Community Outreach Psychiatric Emergency Services (COPES).

The CRT is a great example of our approach to problem solving:

We are breaking down the old pa-

rochial silos and bringing together the best experts in our community to address a specific need. This helps us deliver better service to the citizens we serve.

The three-person Community Response Team consists of a Tulsa police officer, a Tulsa fire paramedic and a mental health therapist who are able to address any security threats, healthcare needs and mental health crises going on in people's lives. Last month the Tulsa Area United Way gave more than \$100,000 in special community collaboration funding, allowing the CRT to respond to calls two

days each week.

I greatly appreciate the Tulsa Area United Way for its strong support of our innovative CRT program and am eager for us to serve more Tulsans in need throughout the year. Community partnerships like this help strengthen our community policing efforts in Tulsa. TPD and TFD are removing barriers between City departments and non-profit collaborators to deliver better service to the citizens we serve.

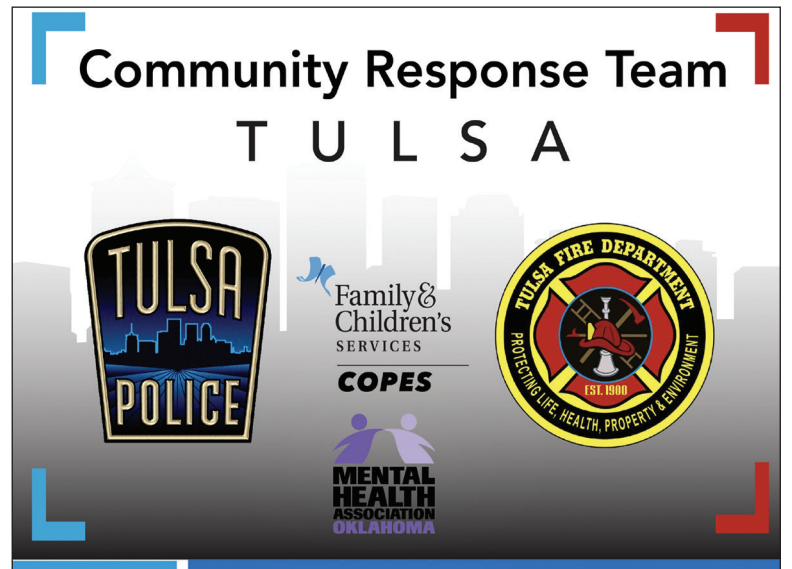
In 2017 alone, 13,000 911 calls were mental health crisis calls – each one taking time and effort from first responders and, ultimately taking them away from crime-related calls. Now, the CRT can give expert care to a person suffering from mental illness, so our patrol officers and emergency personnel can get back on the streets.

All CRT first responders undergo Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), and mental health professionals complete specialized training in mobile crisis response and crisis intervention through Family and

From Tulsa's Mayor



By G.T. BYNUM
Mayor of Tulsa



Children's Services COPES. CIT training is a model for our community policing efforts that bring together law enforcement, mental health providers, hospital emergency departments and individuals with mental illness and their families to improve responses to people in crisis.

By collaborating with highly valued community partners on public safety endeavors, we're building a safer Tulsa for all citizens.

For more information on Community Policing and to see the progress report dashboard, visit www.cityoftulsa.org/police.

Step Up Oklahoma Recommends County Home Rule

From Tulsa County

By RON PETERS

Tulsa County Commissioner

One of the government reforms recommended by the Step Up Oklahoma group is for county citizens to be allowed to decide what form of county government best suits the needs of the county.

While the recommendation didn't specifically endorse "county home rule," (CHR) it's certainly the direction inferred.

For over 20 years, the law in Oklahoma allowed for optional CHR. In the mid 1990s the then-eight elected Tulsa County officials started the statutory process for implementation of CHR when they each nominated two citizens, 16 in all, to serve on a Charter Commission.

Once the 16 members of the Charter Commission were nominated, the next statutory step was to allow Tulsa County voters to approve or disapprove both the nominations and the creation of a Charter Commission. The voters did in fact approve the nominees and the creation of the Charter Commission.

The Commission had two charges: to study the pros and

cons of CHR for Tulsa County and then to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners what version should be put to a vote of the people.

Unfortunately, before the Charter Commission could conclude its work, the Oklahoma Supreme Court struck down the CHR statutes as unconstitutional, because it was a "special law" that only applied to Tulsa County.

During the time that the Charter Commission was studying different forms of county governments, a great deal was learned that should be beneficial today to better understand what CHR could look like.

CHR does not ultimately mean, as some might suggest, the consolidations of city and county governments. It is not necessarily about county government getting

either bigger or smaller. Home rule is, as the name suggests, about placing the power to govern at the county level as opposed to a legislature miles away. It allows

local citizens to decide, not the legislature, how county government should be structured, what services it can or may provide, and to control its own destiny. It would allow the county to pass ordinances, rules and regulations for orderly governance and for citizens to have the rights of initiative and referendum actions on issues they want addressed, as long as they comply with

state laws and the state constitution.

At its core, CHR allows local decisions to solve local problems with local funding as the citizens see fit. This is the primary purpose of CHR. For example, counties could vote to establish public safety districts, fire districts, etc.,



COMMISSIONER
RON PETERS

where state law is silent on the matter.

Given recent events, most reasonable thinking people would agree that decisions made by governments closer to the people being governed are more likely to produce the results desired by local residents.

A CHR charter is similar to a constitution, written by representatives of the people, approved by the people and followed by those elected to county government.

While consolidation of some local government services is one form of county home rule, there are at least six other forms of CHR governance:

- Elected County Commissioners who appoint a cabinet to handle all administrative functions;
- Elected County Commissioners and an elected County Council made up of citizens elected from the cities within the county;
- Elected County Mayor who appoints a cabinet for all administrative functions;
- Elected County Commissioners who appoint a professional county manager to run the day-to-day operations of county

government, similar to what a city manager does for cities;

- Elected County Mayor and County Council, establishing both an Executive and Legislative branches of government;
- Elected County Commissioners and a few other county positions, like Sheriff or Treasurer;
- Variations or combinations of any of these forms.

Once the Charter Commission had concluded its work it would make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioner on what version of County Home Rule they would recommend be put to a vote of the people.

To move this process forward it would take amending the current law so that it applies to more than just Tulsa County. Only then would elected officials of Tulsa County be in a position to consider CHR.

When you hear the term CHR, don't consider this to be necessarily synonymous with government consolidation. As stated above, there are many forms of local county governments that the citizens of Tulsa County might eventually be asked to consider.

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Steve Bradshaw Aims to Raise Tulsa's Profile

By EMILY RAMSEY
Managing Editor

Editor's Note: Tulsa Regional Chamber 2018 Chair Steve Bradshaw is one of Greater Tulsa Reporter's "10 to Watch in Greater Tulsa 2018," as announced in its January 2018 issue. GTR was the first news group in Greater Tulsa to introduce "10 People to Watch," which launched in January 2009.

Throughout the year, GTR is publishing a series of articles, featuring each of its "10 to Watch," with next month's issue to feature Anna America, executive director of the Child Abuse Network and Tulsa city councilor.

As BOK Financial President and CEO Steve Bradshaw takes the reins as 2018 Chairman for the Tulsa Regional Chamber, Bradshaw brings his unique vision to the leadership position based on over 25 years with one of the most reputable banks in the state.

Bradshaw is a Bartlesville native who joined Bank of Oklahoma in 1991 after the bank purchased his seven-person investment firm.

Bradshaw's interest in finance stretches far back into his teens: "I was the 15-year-old helping my father decide on his 401k investments," he laughs.

His first bank job was in college as a part-time drive-up teller.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business finance from the University of Central Oklahoma and his banking degree from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University.

As chamber chair, Bradshaw's three areas of focus this year revolve around specific barriers that he has seen firsthand in business: public education funding, new economy jobs and direct flights.

Inadequate public education funding is not new to Oklahoma nor to Tulsa; yet, the situation continues to grow more dire, especially after the Step Up Oklahoma budget plan failed to pass in February.

"We need a more compelling voice," says Bradshaw. "We are underinvested in public education, and that is directly related to economic development."

While Tulsa's low cost of living is a plus in luring companies to the region, when companies add in the cost of private education because of low public education funding, that drives cost of living up, he notes.

In addition, an underfunded public education system raises questions as to the quality of our workforce, Bradshaw continues.

The need for technology-driven jobs and the workforce to fill them is growing around the world—jobs

involving information technology, research and development, and cybersecurity.

While Bradshaw realizes that this is a long-term aspiration, the need to think about emerging economies and then take positive action to grow local opportunities is essential for Tulsa to keep pace with other cities, he says.

He believes that plan involves both attracting technology-driven businesses and working with educational institutions and companies to develop internship programs, including the many area companies that already have large technology departments, such as ONEOK, Williams, QuikTrip and BOK—"Technology-driven jobs at BOK are the highest percentage of jobs being added."

Although Tulsa has seen a number of recent direct flight announcements, including Dallas, Austin, San Jose, California, and the D.C. area, the need for daily direct flights to New York City and Los Angeles remains, Bradshaw says.

"If people can't travel to areas of commerce quickly, companies' views of an area are negative."

In March, Bradshaw plans to initiate a FlyLocal campaign asking companies to pledge that their employees will fly in and out of the Tulsa airport unless it causes a financial hardship.



Courtesy BOKF

BOKF PRESIDENT: Steve Bradshaw was inaugurated as the 2018 chairman of the Tulsa Regional Chamber in January. Bradshaw's three areas of focus for the year are public education funding, new economy jobs and direct flights. Bradshaw has served as president and CEO of BOK Financial since 2014.

Perhaps surprisingly, Bradshaw has found that many travelers are choosing to bypass Tulsa as their airport of choice due not to cost concerns but to the possibility of missing connecting flights.

But that very practice only serves to decrease air traffic through Tulsa and keep direct flight dreams at bay, he says. "It's in everyone's best interest to use the Tulsa air-

port as long as it's not an economic disadvantage."

While Tulsa certainly has its hurdles to jump, though, the city also has much to brag about, adds Bradshaw, in the way of quality of life amenities, entertainment options and public/private partnerships.

"We just have to do a better job of telling people about it," Bradshaw says.

PSO Employees Help to Restore Power in Puerto Rico

Twelve Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) employees departed from Tulsa recently to fly to Puerto Rico to help restore power to the island. They are part of a group of nearly 70 frontline employees from PSO and its sister companies across the AEP system that are joining in the massive power restoration effort there.

The PSO employees are traveling to Caguas, a remote, mountainous and heavily impacted region of Puerto Rico. Their trucks and equipment were shipped by barge and arrived there earlier this week. Two additional PSO employees arrived several days in advance to prepare for the arrival of the restoration team.

Cliff Elliott, distribution system supervisor in Atoka, is leading PSO's team. He says he expects they will work 12 to 15 hours a day, seven days a week for the next 30-45 days.

"We're honored to have the opportunity to help bring power back to the people of Puerto Rico," says Elliott. "We will miss our families and friends, but the conditions in Puerto Rico are dire, and they need

power restored as quickly as possible. We have the expertise to do that, and we are happy to be able to help."

Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico Sept. 20, leaving 3.6 million people without power. More than four months later, many homes and businesses are still without electrical service.

The American Public Power Association, the Edison Electric Institute, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and their member companies have been working together to support the mission of restoring power for the citizens of Puerto Rico, following a request by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA). AEP and its subsidiaries are among several U.S. mainland energy companies providing resources and workers to PREPA.

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



Courtesy photo

LIGHTS ON: PSO employees get ready to board a flight to Puerto Rico to help citizens restore power after Hurricane Maria hit Sept. 20.

of wind energy in the state. News releases and other information about PSO can be found at www.PSOklahoma.com.

Bama Supports 12 & 12

12 & 12 announced a gift of \$700,000 from The Bama Companies, Inc., to support major renovations and the goals of the Transforming Recovery campaign. 12 & 12 offers life-saving recovery tools for adults suffering with addiction or co-existing mental health and substance abuse disorders to achieve individualized recoveries.

This gift pushed 12 & 12's \$8.7 million Transforming Recovery campaign over the \$5 million mark. The campaign includes capital projects, major interior and exterior renovations, and the expansion of 12 & 12's services.

Of the gift, Paula Marshall, CEO, said, "It is with great pride and humility that we have chosen to name the Bama Commons and fund major renovations at 12 & 12 with Bama's resources. 12 & 12 serves a vital need in our community as one of the very few adult treatment centers. Addiction to opioids and other substances is a huge problem in Oklahoma today, and without treatment our state will not ever be prosper-



GTR Newspapers photo

GRACIOUS GIFT: Paula Marshall of Bama Companies recently announced the significant gift of \$700,000 at the 12 & 12 Skelly Drive location.

perous and grow." She added, "Thanks to 12 & 12 for helping people in our community recover and become citizens who serve the state instead of those who detract from the growth of the state due to addiction."

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VARIETY

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The flu is relentless. Politics are mind-numbing. There's more scandal in the news than we can process. Get away from it all and celebrate Valentine's Day, and not just for one day. Let's stretch the feel-goods of February into a second month. You can't have too much love or too much fun.

Guaranteed to brighten any day, country music heartthrob Blake Shelton comes to the BOK Center, Feb. 15. "People" magazine's 2017 "Sexiest Man Alive" is an Oklahoman whom music fans of all stripes have come to know as the affable, quick-witted judge on "The Voice." The producers of that show could not have anticipated how entertaining the barb-trading bromance between fellow judge Adam Levine and Shelton was going to be. Frequent-flyer concertgoers rate Shelton's concerts near the top!

If you didn't know the Avett Brothers before, you may come across them now that Judd Apatow has released his documentary "May It Last" on HBO. Apatow is known as a producer and writer of "40-Year-Old Virgin," "Bridesmaids" and the recently Oscar-nominated "The Big Sick." He found the Avett Brothers' story to be uplifting and relatable. Certainly, their Mar. 2 concert at the BOK Center would make a killer date night. The group's neo-folk songs are romantic, heartfelt and touching.

Also upcoming at the BOK Center Mar. 5 is an appearance by pop star Pink. She sang the "Star Spangled Banner" at Super Bowl 2018 and was impressive with an understated, signed performance this year at the Grammys. I imagine her "Beautiful Trauma" tour will incorporate some of the Philadelphia native's aerial acrobatics along with "Raise Your Glass," "What About Us" and other mega-hits.

A date on Valentine's Day is not required to rock out Feb. 14 with Peter Dinklage at the Hard Rock's The Joint. Dinklage made 10 albums with the rock band Chicago and has eight of his own. "If You Leave Me Now" is one of his best-known hits. I think it will be sweet

to hear his "Glory of Love" on Valentine's Day.

The Joint welcomes Nashville recording artist Easton Corbin, Mar. 2, and two bands, Los Lobos and the Los Lonely Boys, Mar. 9. Los Lobos has been around since the 1970s. The lesser known Los Lonely Boys (a band of true brothers) were mentored by Santana and Willie Nelson. Reviews of the Los Lobos and the Los Lonely Boys combo concert mention a "guitar-shredding" that is worth the price of admission.

River Spirit's Paradise Cove rescheduled Brothers Osborne for Feb. 23, followed by rapper Flo Rida Feb. 24. The R&B, soul and funk band, Earth, Wind and Fire, founded by the late Maurice White, performs March 2.

Steve Winwood has enjoyed an astonishing career, whether he's singing "Gimme Some Lovin" with the Spencer Davis Group, "The Low Spark of the High Heeled Boys" with Traffic or "Can't Find My Way Home" with Blind Faith. In his solo career, he is known for "Higher Love" and "Valerie," among many other tunes. His Greatest Hits Live Tour comes to River Spirit on March 3.

The Brady Theatre hosts St. Vincent Feb. 26. Singer/guitarist Annie Clark was born in Tulsa and has a big following here. She's a Grammy winner for Best Alternative Album. Ellen DeGeneres hosted St. Vincent on "Ellen" late last year and is a huge fan.

"The stars align" at the Tulsa PAC Feb. 17, with a program by that name presented by Tulsa Opera. It's a 70th season celebration featuring mezzo-soprano Susan Graham. Also performing a range of music are acclaimed tenors Aaron Blake and David Portillo and soprano Sarah Coburn. Tulsans have come to know and love Coburn through her many Tulsa Opera roles. She a world-class singer, and we're lucky to have opportunities to hear her perform. Tulsa Opera is, of course, an amazing asset to Tulsa and has been for 70 years.

Among numerous events at the PAC in the upcoming weeks is

Show Buzz



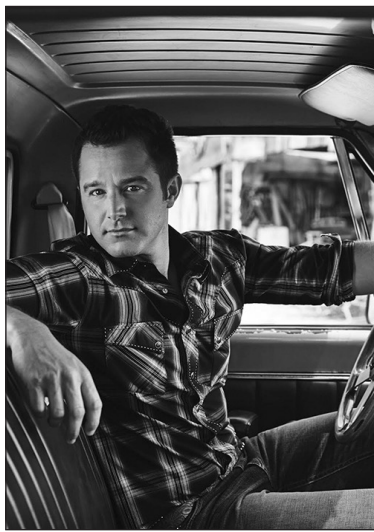
By NANCY HERMANN



BLAKE SHELTON: Country music heartthrob and "People" magazine's 2017 "Sexiest Man Alive" performs at the BOK Center Feb. 15.



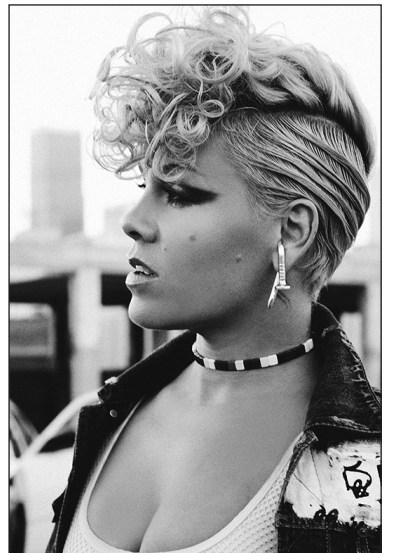
AVETT BROTHERS: Known for their relatable and romantic music, the neo-folk band perform at the BOK Center, Mar. 2.



EASTON CORBIN: The Nashville recording artist comes to the stage at The Joint inside the Hard Rock Hotel on Mar. 2.



FINDING NEVERLAND: John Davidson stars as Captain James Hook in this heartwarming musical playing at the Tulsa PAC Mar. 6-11.



PINK: The pop star brings her "Beautiful Trauma" tour to the BOK Center Mar. 5.

"Four Chords and Gun" by Tulsa Project Theatre Feb. 16-25. This is an emotionally charged, dark comedy that covers a reported shocking incident that took place between music mogul Phil Spector and the punk band The Ramones. It's great to see new work being presented.

Based on the Academy Award-winning film "Finding Neverland" and the play "The Man Who Was Peter Pan," the musical "Finding Neverland" is about imagination and allowing it to take flight. The story follows playwright J.M. Barrie's time with a family of four boys and their widowed mother. The children's inventive games and made-up characters inspired Barrie to write the fanciful tale we all know and love. A heartwarming story and Broadway magic combine in "Finding Neverland," coming to the Tulsa



THE STARS ALIGN: Tulsa Opera's 70th anniversary season gala performance will feature mezzo-soprano Susan Graham, among a star-studded cast of singers, Feb. 17 at the Tulsa PAC

PAC Mar. 6-11 as part of Celebrity Attractions' Broadway season. There's a sweet variety of arts and entertainment to choose from over the next several weeks. Savor time together and enjoy!

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Musicians, Fans Rally Around Red Dirt Legend

Brandon Jenkins to Undergo Heart Surgery

“This is art. This is trying to lift the spirits of people and trying to advance the culture a half step. Or a quarter step. Why not do it together?”

That rhetorical question was posed by John Cooper of Red Dirt Rangers in a recent conversation I had with him about the unique nature of Tulsa’s music community.

“Music is not a competition,” Cooper continues. “Our philosophy was always, all boats rise. If one of us does well, we all go up.”

As logical as that sounds, there are very few music scenes across the country that truly live by that attitude and develop the family-like community that Tulsa-area musicians have built.

They not only share and collaborate on music, they support each other like family. Recently, that family was called upon to rally around one of their own.

Hearts Beat for Jenkins

Tulsa native Brandon Jenkins writes songs with an insight and perspective that is rare and should be celebrated. You’re most likely to be familiar with his song “Feet Don’t Touch the Ground,” which has been covered numerous times, but his catalogue is vast and has recently grown with the release of his 17th album, Tail Lights in a Boomtown.

I wish that was the only news I had for you on Brandon Jenkins.

On the day of the album’s release, Feb. 9, the Red Dirt icon was on bed rest at his home in Nashville awaiting surgery to replace a heart valve.

Needless to say, this is a serious procedure.

“I ain’t gonna lie, they got me pretty scared,” Jenkins said on Feb. 2.

In addition to being scary, it’s also very expensive and will be followed by more medical costs during recovery. Jenkins’ drummer Michael Fitch has set up the fundraiser, “Hearts Beat for Jenkins.” Buy a shirt for \$20 and 100 percent of proceeds go directly to Jenkins. The shirts are available at topcottonprinting.bigcartel.com.

There are many other ways to support Jenkins: buy his albums and merchandise from brandonjenkins.com, or road trip to Denton, Texas, and attend the Feb. 18 benefit concert.

If you’re not familiar with Jenkins’ music, check him out on a streaming service. Let it stream all day, you’ll love what you hear, it’ll cost you nothing, and while it doesn’t generate as much money for Jenkins as it should (I’ll stay off that soap box for now), everything helps.

Nobody has Red Dirt music and the Tulsa sound more ingrained in his soul than Brandon Jenkins. His father, Dean Jenkins, was a popular radio disc jockey on Tulsa radio stations KELI and KMOD, while his uncle, Gordon Shyrock, is a Grammy Award-winning bass player best known for his collaborations with J.J. Cale and Leon Russell.

During his college years at Oklahoma State University, Jenkins became part of Stillwater’s burgeoning Red Dirt music scene before moving to Austin in 2003. In 2016, he relocated to Nashville, but he still makes frequent trips back to Tulsa for gigs, often to promote his independently released albums.

On Feb 7, a post on Jenkins’ Facebook page read, “Thanks y’all for all the love, and help paying the mounting bills! Like most musicians I don’t have insurance.”

As we go to press, Jenkins is still confined to bed rest awaiting the open-heart procedure.

Hang in there Brandon. We’re thinking about you, we love you, and most importantly, the beard will grow back.

Spreading the Dirt in Key West

Did I bury the lead in that last section? Yes, it’s true. Brandon Jenkins’ iconic beard has to be shaved for the surgery. Hopefully by the time you read this, Jenkins will be far enough along in his recovery that the idea of a beardless Brandon Jenkins will be our biggest concern. It’s a shame the beard has to go, but given the sit-



BETH TURNER for GTR Newspapers

FUNDRAISER: Hearts Beat for Jenkins shirts are available at topcottonprinting.bigcartel.com for \$20 with 100 percent of proceeds going directly to Brandon Jenkins to help with mounting medical bills. I got mine!

BRANDON JENKINS: The Tulsa native released his 17th album, Tail Lights in a Boom Town, on Feb. 9. As we go to press, Jenkins is awaiting a heart valve replacement surgery at his home in Nashville.

Courtesy photo

Searching for The Sound



By BRYAN CANTRELL

uation, I can live with it. Without it... Whatever.

Also a shame, but in perspective something I can live with, is that Jenkins was unable to perform at the Mile 0 Festival in Key West, Florida, Feb. 7-10, where he was part of a who’s who lineup of Red Dirt musicians that included Turnpike Troubadours, Jason Boland and the Stragglers, Red Dirt Rangers, Cody Canada & the Departed, Stoney Larue, The Great Divide and many others.

This was the inaugural year for Mile 0 Fest and its success – more than 50 bands and several thousand in attendance – is a testament to the growing popularity of Stillwater’s number one export, Red Dirt music.

Own a Priceless Piece of Tulsa Sound History

Question: How do you sustain the viability of a vibrant music scene like the one we enjoy here in Tulsa? If you answered, “By supporting youth music programs and putting instruments in the hands of young Tulsans,” you’re eligible for the grand prize, and it’s a big one.

The original dance floor from Cain’s Ballroom has been repurposed. Local craftsman Roger Cowan of Dog Tired Guitars has built four guitars out of planks from the 80+ year old, aptly named hard rock maple dance floor, and one of them is being auctioned off to raise money which will go directly toward buying instruments for Tulsa kids.

Raffle tickets are \$10 and can be found at tulsaband.com. Help ensure that the next J.J. Cale, Leon Russell or Wayman Tisdale will have the means to nurture and develop his talent, and take a shot at winning the coolest Tulsa Sound relic and piece of rock and roll history you’ll ever have the opportunity to own.

Until Next Time

Please continue to send thoughts, prayers, and especially purchases Brandon Jenkins’ way. I’ll be back

next month, hopefully with great news to report on the Red Dirt legend’s recovery. Until then, keep searching, keep listening.



Courtesy TCC

OVERTURE AT TCC: Signature Symphony at TCC and the TCC Foundation will present Overture: A Speakeasy Experience. Looking forward to the event are, from left, Susan Harris, Signature Symphony Advisory Board chair; Andrés Franco, Signature Symphony music director; Marcia MacLeod, honorary chair; and Marcia Brueggenjohann, Overture chair. Overture, with presenting sponsors TCC Federal Credit Union and Cox Communications, is Saturday, March 3 at the Bond Event Center in downtown Tulsa. The reception begins at 6 p.m. with dinner and program at 7 p.m. For information about the event and sponsorships, call the TCC Foundation Office at 918-595-7836 or tccfoundation@tulsacc.edu.

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Parent Child Center Goes 'Under the Sea' for Toyland Ball

The Parent Child Center of Tulsa's friends and donors went "Under the Sea" for the Toyland Ball held Jan. 20 at the Cox Business Center in downtown Tulsa. Toyland Ball is the signature event of the Parent Child Center of Tulsa. Ruth and R.D. Al Sowards received the Guardian Angel award honoring them for the difference they have made in the Parent Child Center of Tulsa's mission to prevent child abuse and neglect. The black tie optional gala was a success with cocktails, dinner, live auction, and dancing to the band Drive.

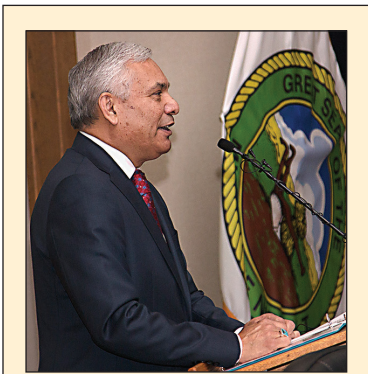
The mission of the Parent Child Center is to prevent child abuse and neglect through education, treatment, and advocacy. The vision is that all parents have the knowledge and skills to protect, nurture, and provide for their children.



CEO AND COMPANY: Enjoying the Toyland Ball are, from left, Steve and Regina Moon and Barbara and David Merrill. Regina Moon was recently appointed the Parent Child Center president and CEO.



GUARDIAN ANGELS: From left at Toyland Ball are Guardian Angels R.D. Al and Ruth Sowards, Honorary Chairs Susan and Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum, and Co-Chairs Carey and Brett Baker.



STATE OF THE NATION: The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief James R. Floyd delivered the State of the Nation Address during the MCN National Council Quarterly Session on Jan. 27.

Floyd highlighted the Nation's successes throughout the past year including health-care, education and cultural preservation, as well as gave credit to the MCN employees and National Council for the overall improvements.

"Together we can say with renewed confidence that the State of our Nation is very strong and that we have put into place the plans to help continue to grow even stronger," Floyd said.

Principal Chief Floyd's complete speech is online at www.mcn-nsn.gov/news.

Senior Star Employees Ride Oldest DC-3

Senior Star, a senior living company headquartered in Tulsa, has partnered with Flagship Detroit Foundation to provide Senior Star employees a memorable experience that connects them to those they serve. Senior Star associates took a special flight aboard that Flagship Detroit, the oldest flying DC-3 in the world, on Jan. 24 at the TCC Aviation Center.

The Flagship Detroit, manufactured in 1937, is one of the historical aircrafts that began the passenger airline travel revolution. It was the 21st of American Airlines' fleet of 84 Douglas DC-3s, operated from 1936 to 1947. Flights on the Flagship have special meaning for the Senior Star employees, who will be traveling to Tulsa from across the country to attend the annual Leadership Forum.

"The average age of a Senior Star resident is 85 years old, so the Flagship Detroit is distinct to their era," says Anja Rogers, chief executive officer of Senior Star. "We are thrilled to provide an opportunity for our associates to experience flight in this historic aircraft because it takes us to a place and time that remind us of the amazing lives led by those we serve in our communities."



FUN FLIGHT: Senior Star Employees enjoyed their ride on the DC-3 Flagship Detroit.



CLASSIC PLANE: The DC-3 Flagship Detroit is one of the few of its kind still taking to the airwaves.

Senior Star payed homage to the era by throwing a hopping hangar shindig for its associates that evening, including an 18-piece band playing all the hits while professional swing dancers entertain and give lessons to guests.

"We look for opportunities to incorporate fun and surprise for the people who work diligently for Senior Star residents and families," says Rogers.

Flagship Detroit Foundation is a non profit dedicated to preserving the legacy of the DC-3 with a goal of continuing to operate and maintain their namesake aircraft, the Flagship Detroit. The Flagship Detroit has flown at over 200 airshows throughout the country.

About Senior Star
Senior Star is a nationally-rec-

ognized industry leader for providing quality and innovative services to aging seniors. The portfolio includes 14 senior living communities in six states comprising 2,200 residences. Living options include independent living, assisted living and memory support. For more information about Senior Star visit the website at www.seniorstar.com.

Irish Festival Coming to Guthrie Green

Saturday, March 17, Guthrie Green will be home to a new, family-friendly festival celebrating the music, culture and food of the Irish.

For the very first offering of the Tulsa IrishFest, St. Patrick's Day was chosen as the perfect inauguration day because of its occurrence on a Saturday in 2018. Tulsa IrishFest will focus on music, culture

and art in the Celtic tradition. For 2018, the IrishFest will offer a family-friendly alternative to the existing options.

"Tulsans have always loved getting out and celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Our festival will complement the other celebrations around town with an event centered around authentic Celtic music. This is a place to bring children, and because of

the generosity of our Oklahoma Oil Patch sponsors, attendance is completely free!" says Don Burdick, festival organizer.

For more information, go to the event's Facebook page at Tulsa IrishFest, website at www.tulsairishfest.org or www.GuthrieGreen.com. Also, contact Don Burdick, founder of the Tulsa IrishFest at Don.Burdick@cox.net.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

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WELCOMING KOMEN: Supporters of the Susan G. Komen Tulsa Chapter celebrated the opening of their new location on the campus of Cancer Treatment Centers of America with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Feb. 1. From left are, Justin McLaughlin, Tulsa Chamber; Dana Haynie, CTCA; LeAnn Taylor, News on 6/Komen Tulsa board member; Pam Ballard, Komen Tulsa, CEO; Pam Pugh, Komen Tulsa, Executive Assistant; Jeromee Scot, News on 6/Komen Tulsa board member; Abbi Lee, Komen Tulsa, Chief Officer of Public Health; Dawne Stafford, Security Bank, Komen Tulsa board member; and Barbara Edwards, Wisdom Ministries, Komen Tulsa board member.



READING PARTNERS: CTCA held Community Day Feb. 1 with non-profit organizations to help match the CTCA employees' passion with volunteer opportunities, according to CTCA VP of Hospital Growth and Marketing Dana Haynie. Above, a Reading Partners volunteer is with Addie Allgood, a CTCA employee and Reading Buddy volunteer.



VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE: Above are members of the CTCA community involvement program committee who helped to organize the event, which connected the CTCA team members and more than 35 local charities as diverse as American Cancer Society to Tulsa Reading Partners. In 2017, the CTCA staff volunteered approximately 1,300 hours and donated more than \$300,000 to local charities. Tulsa is fortunate to be a home base for CTCA. From left are Lauren Bartlett, Kelsey Roe, Lauren Beach, Jessica Weeks, Maddie Jarred and Addie Allgood.

Oklahoma Heart Institute Weight Loss Program Ranked Best

Trying to find a plan you can stick with to lose weight and get healthy in 2018? A program offered by Oklahoma Heart Institute (OHI) and created by HMR Weight Management Services (HMR) has been named a No.1 Best Fast Weight-Loss Diet for 2018 by U.S. News & World Report. This is the third consecutive year in which HMR's simple diet and high intensity lifestyle intervention program has earned this honor.

"Successful weight loss is not only about losing pounds quickly; it's about creating changes around eating and physical activity that you can sustain over the long

term," says Thomas Guhr, manager of the Weight Loss & Wellness Center at Oklahoma Heart Institute. "By keeping the plan simple, people can lose weight quickly while building the skills they need for long-term weight management."

Unlike many commercial diet programs, HMR specializes in helping those with a lot of weight to lose. "Another key difference is that we're able to offer medical oversight if needed. This is important if you have diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or other weight-related conditions that may need monitoring during

weight loss," says Guhr. "There is such a need in the community for effective weight-loss options; we also offer the HMR plan as a self-guided option that people can do at home with online support. Whether you need to lose 20 pounds or 200, the Weight Loss & Wellness Center has a solution for you."

How it Works

Nutritionally-complete plans are designed to simplify food decisions by using only HMR foods (shakes, entrées, cereal, and nutrition bars), with the option of unlimited fruits and vegetables on

some plans. The most popular plan follows a simple 3/2/5 structure designed to keep people feeling full throughout the day. This plan includes at least 3 shakes, 2 entrées, and 5 servings of fruits and vegetables. People are encouraged to eat as many of these foods as they like to avoid hunger.

While losing weight, people practice developing skills in three specific areas:

- How to eat more fruits and vegetables;
- How to increase physical activity;
- How to make healthier food choices.

These are the lifestyle skills that will help keep the weight off, as well as help reduce the risk factors for the development of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, some types of cancer and other chronic diseases.

Established in 2014, the Weight Loss & Wellness Center (WLWC) at Oklahoma Heart Institute (OHI) offers both medically-supervised and at-home solutions for those seeking to reach a healthy weight in an effective, sustainable way. For more information on the WLWC at OHI, visit OklahomaHeart.org

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EDUCATION

Rogers Hall of Fame To Honor Inductees

What do rock and roll legend Leon Russell and S. E. Hinton, author of *The Outsiders*, have in common? Both are members of the Will Rogers High School Hall of Fame in Tulsa.

They'll be joined by a new class of Hall of Fame inductees during ceremonies April 6.

Inductees include: Charles Bell, an artist regarded as one of the founders of the Photorealism movement, whose works are in the collections of Philbrook Museum of Art, the Guggenheim, and Museum of Modern Art; Jim Frasier, known as the attorney of the working man, and for his work as Oklahoma Democratic Chairman; and Bill Hinkle, award-winning advertising creative director and educator; Dr. David James, gastroenterologist and researcher, who was an AAU champion wrestler; and Barbara Thompson, of Oklahoma City, Mother of the Year and Honorary French Consul.

Members of the Rogers Hall of Fame are selected by the Will Rogers High School Community Foundation, and they're honored with a display in the hallways of the school. Bell, Frasier, Hinkle, James, and Thompson will be formally inducted with a ceremony that is open to the public in the auditorium of the beautiful art deco Will Rogers College Junior and Senior High School on April 6. They'll also be honored at a dinner that evening at the Renaissance Hotel in Tulsa.

Tickets are on sale at willrogersfoundation.net.

A few years ago, Will Rogers High School became a magnet school. It is now Will Rogers College Junior High and High School, where students who meet the entrance requirements can start in seventh grade and graduate with both a diploma and college credit.

The Will Rogers High School Community Foundation enhances educational opportunities for Will Rogers students and empowers their teachers, families, and the community through charitable contributions. According to Board Chairman Darryl DeBorde, "In these times of school funding issues, our help is vital to making certain Tulsa Will Rogers keeps its place among the best. The foundation is a community organization, including businesses and other neighbors of the school, and our Roper alums will always be at its heart."

Working with the principal, Nicolette Dennis, the foundation provides thousands of dollars in academic grants, conducts tours of the historic building, and supports the arts and athletics. They fund such necessities as classroom projects, student trips, and science, music, and art equipment. There's now a waiting list to enroll in Tulsa Will Rogers, and the foundation continues to promote "Will on the Hill" as Tulsa's school of choice.

Spartan Names VP of Flight Operations

Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology recently hired John Fitzpatrick as Vice President of Flight Operations for its pilot program.

Fitzpatrick is charged with implementing Spartan's competitive recruitment effort for certified flight instructors. Having spent over two decades in corporate management, Fitzpatrick served most recently as chief operating officer for ISACO Flight Training in Redding, California.

Fitzpatrick is a 1978 graduate of the University of Tulsa's Electrical Engineering College and served 12 years as a fighter pilot with Tulsa's 125th Tactical Fighter Squadron, graduating Top Gun from the Fighter Weapons Instructor School in 1985.

He has over 35 years of executive management experience in companies including Hewlett-Packard, Harley-Davidson, and Indian Motorcycles.

Fitzpatrick holds certificates in Commercial Pilot, Multiengine Land, Certified Flight Instrument Instructor, Certified Flight Instructor, and Advanced Ground Instructor.

"Spartan College has a critical role to play in the future of airline services nationwide," says Fitzpatrick. "I look forward to utilizing my experience in aviation training to assist with Spartan's exponential growth in the coming years."

Fitzpatrick will receive his Masters in Criminal Justice (specializing in Cyber Security) from Boston College this May and holds a B.A. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tulsa.

He served as 2nd Lt., USAF Reserve Officer in the Air National



GTR Newspapers Photo

NEW APPOINTMENT: John Fitzpatrick, left, has been named Vice President of Flight Operations for Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology's pilot program. With him are Spartan consultant Dave Blankenship and Spartan CEO Dan Peterson, right.

Guard and valedictorian of his class for the Tulsa Police Reserve.

Currently, Spartan College has 30 certified flight instructors with 265 students enrolled in the pilot program. Through a series of incentives, such as a pay increase, a signing bonus, and free housing with paid utilities, Spartan hopes to increase the number of flight instructors to 75 in 2018.

"John is a tremendous addition to our leadership team and is a great asset for Spartan's long-term, strategic growth plan," says Spartan CEO Dan Peterson. "His management experience, coupled with his flight background, fits perfectly with Spartan's needs as we focus on recruiting more certified flight instructors and building a sustainable pipeline of trained pilots ready to meet the demand in the aviation industry."

Spartan is an aviation technology college offering student diplomas,

associates programs in the areas of Aviation Flight, Aviation Maintenance (Airframe and Powerplant), Aviation Electronics Technology, Nondestructive Testing, and Quality Control as well as a Bachelor of Science Degree completion program in Aviation Technology Management.

Since 1928, Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology has provided training to more than 90,000 pilots and technicians throughout the United States and 62 foreign countries.

It is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) and has Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval for both the Flight and Aviation Maintenance programs. Spartan Education Group, LLC is the parent company of Spartan College with six campuses among Denver, Los Angeles and Tulsa.



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Tulsa Tech Programs Create Qualified Workforce

Industry-Standard Training Prepares Students for Career Success

As the oldest and largest technology center in Oklahoma's nationally-acclaimed CareerTech system, Tulsa Tech works hard to consistently set itself apart as a quality technical training school. Tulsa Tech offers affordable industry-standard training in an engaging, innovative learning environment where students benefit from instructors with years of valuable industry experience.

Tulsa Tech offers a range of opportunities to prepare students for career success. With six locations in the Tulsa metro area, a campus is never too far away.

Tulsa Tech is a recognized contributor to regional economic prosperity with a sole vision based on leading the region's career and technical education, resulting in a quality job for every Tulsa Tech student and a skilled workforce for all companies. Therefore, Tulsa Tech's mission is educating people for success in the workplace.

We take great pride in being a highly-diversified institution that rivals the complexities of many colleges and universities and

serves as a link between students and the developing economy of the Tulsa region.

Tulsa Tech currently serves over 5,500 high school and adult students with over 80 full-time career major offerings; we also provide training for over 31,000 customers in both part-time classes and customized business and industry training.

Programs include health sciences, aerospace, pre-engineering, automotive, and information technology. Tuition is free for public, private and home-schooled high school students with affordable tuition for adult learners. Class offerings are designed to fit any schedule, with morning, afternoon, evening and all-day class options.

In addition, in order to aid individuals who are no longer in high school, Tulsa Tech offers the Accelerating Independence Scholarship, which covers 100 percent of tuition and required fees for individuals age 18-23 with GED or high school degrees from any in-district, public, parochial or home school. The Accelerating Independence Scholarship was de-

veloped to help provide a pathway for this age group to acquire the skills that currently align with the industry needs of the region.

Increasing student educational access and career success are among Tulsa Tech's top priorities. To facilitate this, Tulsa Tech offers many shorter courses aligned with overall career majors and industry certifications provided to our students in a more business-friendly way. Many of these part-time classes build upon larger career majors and ultimately offer students optional pathways within a particular career field.

Tulsa Tech believes in providing students with resources for work-based experience and placement, resources which are critical for making the transition from classroom to workplace. Our strong partnerships with business and industry in the region create unique opportunities for student placement and work-based experiences. Students who successfully complete training are referred to available and appropriate employers in their respective career fields. Career advisement is also available for middle school, high school and adult students within the metro area.

If you fit into any of the above categories and are currently looking for an opportunity to explore a challenging new career, quality customized business and industry training, or exciting evening and weekend classes, Tulsa Tech invites you to visit today to Make Your Own Path. For more information, please call 918-828-5000 or visit tulsaitech.edu.

News From Tulsa Tech



By DR. STEVE TIGER
Superintendent



80 PROGRAM CHOICES: Programs at Tulsa Tech cover a wide variety of topics, with over 80 program offerings including aerospace, health sciences, pre-engineering, automotive and information technology.

Philanthropic Opportunity

The Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF) is now accepting applications for its sixth annual Teen Leaders in Philanthropy class. Applications are due March 1.

The program offers high school sophomores, juniors and seniors opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the nonprofit sector, develop hands-on leadership skills and learn about different types of giving. Experienced professionals will also instruct students on how they can best implement these skills in their communities.

"We are trying to engage the next generation of philanthropists and to initiate a positive relationship with high-school-aged students to offer direction on how to be involved in their community and ways to give back

and make a difference," says OMRF Development Associate Caroline Allen. "This is a unique opportunity to develop and sustain long-term relationships with like-minded people, gain useful skills and meet leaders from the nonprofit sector, charitable foundations and corporate donors."

Up to 45 students are selected annually and must be entering their sophomore, junior or senior years of high school for the 2018-19 school year. The cost is free for students; all expenses are covered by OMRF.

Group sessions will begin in September and continue through the 2018-19 school year. Students chosen for the program must demonstrate good academic standing and attend school in Oklahoma. For more information, visit omrf.org/teen-leaders.

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MAKE YOUR OWN PATH

UNION AREA NEWS

Union High School Senior Spotlight

Tyler Fisher and Kailee McCrary are Union High School's January Seniors of the Month.

Fisher is the son of David and Jennifer Fisher, of Tulsa, and McCrary is the daughter of Scott and Rexanne McCrary, of Broken Arrow.

Fisher is active in football, baseball, Drug-Free Youth, Athletic Leadership Council, and National Honor Society, and he volunteers in youth athletics camps. He was recognized as a Top 10 Junior Boy and was on both the athletic and academic honor rolls. He is captain of the Union Redskins football team. Fisher hopes to attend Oklahoma State University and major in computer science with a minor in marketing.

McCrary is active in golf, the Tribe, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Student Council, and she has volunteered in Fields of Faith, SNAG Golf at Union elementary schools and kids' golf camps. She received a Wendy's High School Heisman award, was



Courtesy Union Public Schools

TYLER FISHER



KAILEE MCCRARY

named top female athlete at Union High School, All Conference 2nd Team in 2017, was named to the athletics honor roll and won a coach's award in 2016. McCrary also received the Henry Denman

Award, All Tulsa World, All-Metro and Vype All-Tulsa Team honors. She hopes to attend Oklahoma Baptist University on a golf scholarship and major in business management.

Kristin Chenoweth's Broadway

Boot Camp to Return in June

An open casting call was recently held for students in grades 8-11 for the fourth annual Kristin Chenoweth Broadway Boot Camp.

The camp will take place June 10-16 at the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center (BAPAC) in downtown Broken Arrow.

As in previous years, Chenoweth and a team of A-list Broadway professional will collaborate with the students, offering insight into the world of performing arts for aspiring entertainers.

The camp will teach audition techniques, stage movement and will include one-on-one direct instruction from Broadway, film and stage industry professionals.

Two students from the boot camp will be chosen to attend the Oklahoma City University High School Musical Theatre Camp in July for three weeks with all tuition waived.

"Ms. Chenoweth has a heart for arts in education, as cemented with



ROSSY GILLE for GTR Newspapers

HOMETOWN RETURN: Tony- and Emmy-Award-winning performer Kristin Chenoweth poses during her third-annual Broadway Bootcamp with Richard Jay-Alexander, a 42-year veteran of show business and an additional instructor. The one-week camp, held in June, provided performance-related instruction to 45 students from across the country.

the formation of the Kristin Chenoweth Arts & Education Fund," said Mark Frie, ArtsOK Board President. "For this camp, she is creating a unique opportunity for many high school students to further their creative arts aspirations by putting a new twist to its format."

Last year's camp saw 45 students working with top Broadway, film and stage industry professionals, including Tony Award winners Faith Prince ("Guys and Dolls") and Baayork Lee (original cast of "A Chorus Line"), Richard J. Alexander (producer and director), Lara Teeter, Michael Orland, John Tartaglia, Matt Berman, and Mary Mitchell-Campbell. The camp

started with a Tony Awards show watch party and concluded with a public performance by the students and instructors.

"I am so excited to partner with the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center and ArtsOK; The Regional Arts Alliance of Broken Arrow to help raise awareness for the arts in the city I call home," said Chenoweth. "Giving back to the community is a privilege and I feel most fortunate to be able to support educational and artistic opportunities in Broken Arrow."

For more information, visit brokenarrowpac.com, or call Kim Vento, BAPAC director, at 918-259-5723.

UNION GOES UNDER THE SEA



Courtesy Union Public Schools

LITTLE MERMAID: Union students performed in "Disney's The Little Mermaid" during the show's four-day run, Feb. 7-10 at the Union Performing Arts Center. The musical featured more than 165 students from all 12 grades in the district.



Courtesy Union Public Schools

TALENTED PERFORMERS: Several Union students who performed in "The Little Mermaid" gained additional acting experience during summer 2017 when they workshoped with award-winning actress Kristin Chenoweth. Those students included Madison Starkweather, who played Ursula; Graceson Todd, as Sebastian; Aiden Ryan, who held the role of Prince Eric; and Viviana Goodwin, playing Jetsam.

Airman Completes U.S. Air Force Basic Training



Courtesy photo

UNION GRAD: U.S. Air Force Airman and 2016 Union graduate Candace M. Mea recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman must complete an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

OERB Offers STEM Grants

The Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB) is offering \$2 million in grants to aid in bolstering science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) materials and equipment in every Oklahoma school district.

School districts are eligible for a portion of the grant based on student enrollment and percentage of low-income students. The grant dollars can go to anything STEM-related in the district.

In January, each district will receive an application to complete to receive the funding. They will have approximately one month to complete and return the application. Checks will be sent out as the forms are submitted.

In 2003, the OERB gave \$1 million in total to Oklahoma schools. "After hearing feedback from the hundreds of teachers who attend our workshops, we felt that now is the time we find room in our budget for another grant of this nature," says OERB Chairman Danny Morgan. "The OERB has always supported teachers and for the oil and natural gas industry's future, it's important we get students interested in math and science."

"The OERB has been dedicated to providing quality STEM-related educational resources and classroom materials for more than 20 years," says OERB Executive Director Mindy Stitt. "We hear from teachers about how many supplies are needed, and the grant will allow us to further our mission to provide educational resources to Oklahoma schools."

A five-year rolling budget and conservative oil and natural gas price forecasting, has allowed the OERB to pull from its reserves to fund the \$2 million project.

The OERB works with Oklahoma's oil and natural gas industry to improve the lives of all Oklahomans through education and restoration. Funded through a voluntary one-tenth of 1 percent assessment on oil and natural gas producers and royalty owners, the OERB provides free environmental restoration of abandoned well sites and extensive educational resources for Oklahoma educators, students and classrooms.

For more information about the grant, visit OERB.com/education/stem-grants.

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UNION SPORTS

Union's Jordan Flood Hopes to Help Team to State

Senior Guard Embraces Starting Role

You know what they say about perennial powers. They just re-load.

That's exactly what Union has done this season with players like Jordan Flood putting up points.

Flood, a senior guard, is second in team scoring, averaging 15 points per game. But that matters not to him.

"I don't care about points and stats," he says. "I only care about wins. That's all I'm chasing right now. You can't get to the championship without a win."

Flood and Michiah McQuarters have filled in spots that were vacated last year by graduation, and along with Mo Garcia, the lone starter from last year's team that went unbeaten until the state semi-finals, they appear on a course to take the Redskins back to the state tournament.

"It's crazy, especially coming off the bench last year," Flood says. "I had to come up and play a huge role after losing all those seniors, just coming out and playing basketball. That's what I wanted to do. I knew that coming in, we didn't know what we had. Somebody had to step up. Mo, Michiah and I, we're all playing good. We also have people coming off the bench playing good. I'm glad we're doing that."

Flood made a game-winning shot for Union on Jan. 26 in a game at Bishop Kelley. His basket with five seconds remaining gave the Redskins a 52-51 victory over the Comets that night.

"It was crazy. We were playing

poorly in that game. We could have played better against Bishop Kelley, I think. But when it comes down to it, you only have five seconds. In my mind, it was 'get down the court and go score.' Luckily, I saw (an opening) and I completed the play. It was a big layup for us," Flood says.

The Bishop Kelley game was a favorite moment for Flood.

"I never had a buzzer-beater like that. After I saw those triple zeros hit, it's kind of crazy to me. That was my favorite play in my career," he says.

Three nights before the Kelley game, Union (14-4 and ranked fourth in Class 6A as of Feb. 1) was dealt a 68-55 loss to top-ranked Broken Arrow. Flood denies any letdown.

"We definitely have rebounded from that. B.A. is a good team. We could have done better against them, but we rebounded from that," Flood says.

Union closed the month of January with a win against an Owasso team on the rise. The victory snapped a 13-game winning streak by the Rams. Owasso was a big test, and the Redskins know they have more coming from teams such as Sand Springs, Sapulpa and Bartlesville before the regional tournament starts on Feb. 22.

The competition is fun to Flood and that's what he likes about it.

"I just love competing out there in every game, seeing each team with different styles of play and different players. It's just all kinds of variety of games," he says. "I

just love going out there competing and having fun."

Flood says he is a fan of the Oklahoma City Thunder and loves Russell Westbrook.

"I love his energy so much, it is just amazing," Flood says. "He comes out with fire and passion every game. It's just crazy how much he can keep on going and keep on playing like that. I love watching him play. I see him screaming, hollering, he has so much energy which is just amazing. I definitely try to play like him and match his energy."

Another big moment for the Redskins came last month when they won the Jenks/Union Invitational, which they played the title game at their arena. Wins came against Enid, Booker T. Washington and Edmond Santa Fe.

"It was an important tournament for us to win because we had to make a statement," Flood says. "The teams we played, those were statement wins for us and we had to make a statement somehow, and beating Booker T., with them having four D-I players, was a good one. Then we had to come out and play again against Edmond Santa Fe. That was another statement we had to make. We're just making statements for us right now."

Beating BTW carried a lot of weight since the Redskins had their dreams for a perfect season shattered by the Hornets in last year's semi-finals. Flood says, "They have some of the guys from last year, and we still taste that



JORDAN FLOOD

Courtesy photo

feeling because we have some guys from this year too. We wanted revenge and we needed that win. That's what we got."

Flood believes Union will see Broken Arrow again.

"If we see them again, we have to match the intensity," he says. "They came out on fire last time.

We have to match that intensity every game."

In closing, Flood expresses his appreciation for his loved ones.

"A shout out to my mom, my grandma, my step-dad and my brother," he says. "That's my family. They come out to every game supporting me. I love them."



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.

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SPORTS

Jenks Basketball Coach Clay Martin Also an NFL Ref

TPS Athletic Hall of Famer Recently Returned To Trojan Bench

By **MIKE MOGUIN**
GTR Sports Writer

In the winter, Clay Martin can be seen on the bench coaching the Jenks boys' varsity basketball team in games during the week.

But when the season starts in December, he won't always be there for a Saturday game because he's somewhere, getting ready to officiate a National Football League game on Sunday.

Martin, a 1993 graduate of Hale who was inducted into the Tulsa Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame, was hired to be the head boys' basketball coach at Jenks in 2003. He served in that position for 12 seasons before stepping down for his NFL officiating job in 2015. But he remained with the Jenks administration as an assistant principal.

However, he recently returned to the head coaching position and remains an NFL official.

How did he get on an NFL crew?
"By the Grace of God, I think," Martin says.

Martin began officiating football games in 2005 when he joined the Greater Tulsa Officials Association.

"Honestly, I started officiating just to make a little extra money to keep my wife at home when our kids were younger," he says. "So, I was doing little kids football on Saturdays."

Martin got a big break after his second year.



HALL OF FAMER: Clay Martin with his wife Shannon, left, and daughter McKenzie during the Tulsa Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame event Jan. 25. Martin was an All-State football and basketball star at Nathan Hale High School, where he graduated in 1993. He is also a member of the Oklahoma Baptist University Hall of Fame, where he played basketball.



WATCHING THE ACTION: Clay Martin lines up behind New York Giants' quarterback Eli Manning (10), who attempts to throw to former OU star wide receiver Sterling Shepard (87) in their game against the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas, this past NFL season.

While working at the University of Tulsa spring scrimmage in 2007, he met Gerald Austin, the supervisor of officials for Conference USA. Austin had been an official in the NFL for 25 seasons before retiring that same year, and also refereed two Super Bowls.

"I just happened to be (at TU) working a scrimmage, and he hired me to referee in Conference USA that year," Martin says. "So, my big break came when I got hired to be a Division-I football official after only two years."

After eight seasons of doing games in Conference USA, Martin got a call from

the NFL to be part of a crew as a side judge.

Concerning traveling to the NFL games, Martin says, "I typically fly out on a Saturday morning. In most of our games, we have that early kickoff on Sunday. I'm back home late Sunday night. While there is definitely more weekends involved in the NFL as compared to college, the amount of nights has decreased, which is really a blessing for me and my family because I'm home quicker, and I'm very thankful for that."

In his first two seasons, Martin had the privilege of working a crew led by one of the most popular referees in the league.

"Not only do you get the joy of getting hired by the National Football League, but when I was told this icon named Ed Hochuli was going to be my referee, that just put the cherry on top," Martin says. "I was so thankful to be with him in my first two years in the league. He is such a great teacher."

This past season, Martin was on the staff of Carl Jeffers.

Martin says there is a bond that is formed with fellow game officials who come from all over the country due to working together in regular games every weekend for 26 weeks and attending meetings, training camps, and preseason games. "The bond goes beyond just being together on the field," Martin says. "You develop those friendships and you're checking in on each other's families. It's just like any normal friendship. We're just together almost half of the weekends each year."

A typical Saturday during the season for Martin begins with him flying out to his destination. Once there, he meets with his

crew for a pre-game meeting. In the evening, they go out to dinner. When Sunday morning comes, he wakes up, eats a crew breakfast, then leaves for the stadium by 9:30 in the morning (generally for noon, central time, kickoffs).

Of course, there is plenty of mental preparation involved.

"I think all of us as officials have to be ready to communicate with players and coaches and provide any answer that they may want. With as many plays or snaps that go on in a football game, not everybody is always going to agree with your decision, period, but we have to be there, again, to let the coach or the player vent and try to answer any question they may have about what we saw or didn't see."

With the constant running up and down the field in order to keep up with the players' action, officials run about five or six miles per game. Like the athletes they monitor, they have to stay in physical shape.

"For me, it's just consistent exercise with weight training and cardio. Again, I have to be ready for August. I do my best to make it a year-round lifestyle, not just for being in shape for football, but also for my own quality of life as I continue to age," Martin says.

As for returning to coaching the hardwood, Martin is extremely grateful that Jenks allowed him to return to his post.

"They've been so good to me throughout this whole process," Martin says. "They're supportive and have worked with me on how to manage both ends of my careers. So, to get back to this program that I served for 12 years has been amazing, and I'm having a wonderful time at it."

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Racing World Has Eyes on Tulsa's BMX

By **GLENN HIBDON**
GTR Sports Writer

Millions of dollars are expected to flow into Tulsa when the city becomes the hub of BMX racing nationwide in June 2019.

Already receiving a \$15 million yearly economic impact thanks to hosting the Grand Nationals every Thanksgiving at Expo Square, T-Town and Vision Tulsa have lured the USA BMX headquarters to Greenwood Country. The facility is expected to be up and running in less than 18 months.

"We have always had a good relationship with the city of Tulsa and Tulsa County," says Bernard Anderson, CEO of USA BMX. "We're looking forward to making this project a reality. With the passage of Vision Tulsa, planning for the new headquarters has begun in earnest."

Making the sport's home in Tulsa even more exciting is the building of a new national track stadium that will feature trials for the 2020 Olympic Team, and the site will also contain the Olympic Training Center and the BMX Hall of Fame.

"Tulsa already has an incredible image among BMX people," says Vince Trinidad, CEO of the Tulsa Sports Commission. "Everybody knows they have to come to Tulsa to be a champion, and we already have world-class athletes competing here. Moving the headquarters to Tulsa gives USA BMX a more central location, and during Thanksgiving many riders already consider Tulsa a home away from home."

The Vision Tulsa vote approved \$15 million for the construction of the facility with the groundbreaking ceremony expected this spring. The original site was to be at 15th Street and Yale Avenue, the location of old Drillers Stadium. Due to sponsorship problems and other unforeseen hiccups, a new site has been chosen nearer to downtown Tulsa.

Trinidad says the facility will be located east of OSU Tulsa and the Greenwood

District where the old Fin-Tube factory was once located.

"The location is in an area not being used," Trinidad says. "BMX likes the site and the potential it has there. It will bring people to the Greenwood area and downtown. Anyone coming to the national office can go to the restaurants around there or go catch a ball game (at ONEOK Field)."

A part of the American Bicycle Association, USA BMX is moving its headquarters from Chandler, Arizona, due to outgrowing its current operation, according to Trinidad. With the sport's addition to the Olympic Games schedule, it seeks higher visibility and increased community support. Tulsa is anticipated to be the solution.

"Tulsa has a history of working with BMX. This past Thanksgiving was the 20th Grand Nationals here with over 3,000 riders coming from 23 countries," says Trinidad. "You want to take care of something near and dear to your heart, and the riders who have competed here over the last 20 years carry a lot of weight."

"BMX appreciates the community and being a part of it. Some riders have come to Tulsa since they were five or six years old and they know Tulsa well. It's a great credit to have the national office here. We've been working on it for four years and we're a community who openly told them we want them here."

With the passage of Vision Tulsa in April of 2016, Tulsa embraced bicycle motocross (BMX), a sport that was born in 1969 in Southern California. Kids were racing Schwinn Stingray bicycles around vacant lots and unknowingly created a sport of their own. By 1977 pockets of loosely organized BMX races dotted the nation from coast to coast. It was time for a reliable national sanctioning body, and from out of this need, the American Bicycle Association was created.

"It's a family sport. There are very few sports that mom, dad and the siblings can



BMX HUB: USA BMX is moving its headquarters from Arizona to Tulsa. The new facility, scheduled to break ground this spring near downtown Tulsa, will include a national track stadium, the Olympic Training Center and the BMX Hall of Fame.

take part in," Trinidad says. "It may start off with dad riding growing up and he then shares the joy with his son or daughter. They all want to ride and then the next child or mom wants to ride. It's generational."

"It doesn't matter if you're an elite level athlete or a beginner, you can compete. It takes all ages. We had a rider at the Grand Nationals who was 70 and we have kids as young as five or six in competition. In 2017, we had several Olympians here, and there was a good field of entries from across the entire world."

Trinidad says all it takes to compete in BMX is the ability to keep the back wheel on the ground. If the back tire is not on the ground, a rider is not moving forward. And moving forward is what BMX is all about.

Toward that end, the sport has developed the STEM program. It stands for science, technology, engineering and math. The purpose is to stimulate youngsters in their choice of career fields, and there are two programs available. One allows fifth and sixth graders to learn about the principles of science in how to build a bike. The second helps students learn track modeling. They

can move dirt around and build one. Over 30 schools in the Tulsa area take part.

With current men's Olympic champion Connor Fields and women's silver medalist Alise Post hailing from the United States, interest in BMX racing is increasing by leaps and bounds and all over the world. Post's husband and Olympian Sam Willoughby is a native Australian.

With the National Training Center coming to Tulsa, Fields and Post may become a familiar sight. No longer do Olympians have to go to Colorado Springs for fine tuning. The road to Tokyo 2020 goes through Tulsa. Trinidad summed it up succinctly: "T-Town is the new home away from home for all who love BMX."

BMX Hires Marketing Officer

USA BMX, the largest sanctioning body of BMX racing in the world, named Rob Gardenhire as its new chief marketing officer. As a Tulsan and the first employee of USA BMX based in Tulsa, site of the new \$16 million USA BMX headquarters, Gardenhire comes to USA BMX after 10 years with the Tulsa Drillers and the Tulsa Roughnecks. In this role, among other things, Gardenhire will focus on strategic sponsorship planning for both the new Tulsa venue and USA BMX sanctioned events, marketing of the USA BMX Foundation and growing memberships.

"We couldn't be more excited to have Rob join our team," said USA BMX CEO Bernard Anderson. "With our new Tulsa facility in the planning stages in the Greenwood District, having a person with Tulsa ties to serve as our local ambassador was a priority and important element in making the new facility the best it can be."

Gardenhire has spent his life in sports, both personally and profession-

ally, having played football in high school and at the collegiate level before later becoming a high school coach and athletic director in Texas. After earning his MBA, Gardenhire ran an independent baseball team in the Continental Baseball League that opened the door for his return to Tulsa with the Drillers in 2008.

Gardenhire and his wife, Carrie, enjoy raising their two girls, Emma (13) and Ainsley (11), in Tulsa. The family stays busy attending the girls' sporting events, golfing, and spending their weekends boating and fishing on nearby Lake Skiatook.



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TPS HALL OF FAME: Tulsa Public Schools Athletic Director Gil Cloud, standing, greeted the media at a press conference in January to introduce members of the 2018 TPS Athletic Hall of Fame. From left are Terrell Lester; Clint Hill, Ruth Ann Hudspeth for her husband Tommy, Master of Ceremonies Chris Lincoln, Joey Robinson, Danny Morgan, Clay Martin, Jonita Ford Criddle, Bill Goldberg, Gene Iba and Joey Grayson.



Courtesy Tulsa Drillers

SPORTSCASTER OF THE YEAR: The National Sports Media Association has named Voice of the Drillers, Dennis Higgins, the 2017 Oklahoma Sportscaster of the Year. Higgins will be honored during the 59th annual NSMA Awards ceremony during the weekend of June 23-25 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Past winners of the NSMA Oklahoma award include Tulsa's John Holcomb, Al Jerkens and Bruce Howard. The upcoming season will be the ninth for Higgins as the Voice of the Drillers. He also has spent time in the major leagues as a member of the San Francisco Giants broadcast team.



GTR Newspapers photo

MASTER OF CEREMONIES AND TEAM: Chris Lincoln, second from left, with attendees before the Jan. 25 Tulsa Public Schools Hall of Fame Banquet. From left are Doris Smith, Lincoln, Cathey Dubin Barkley (TPS Hall of Fame Class of 2017), Mike Barkley, Becky Lincoln and Dr. George Mauerman of EEOC.



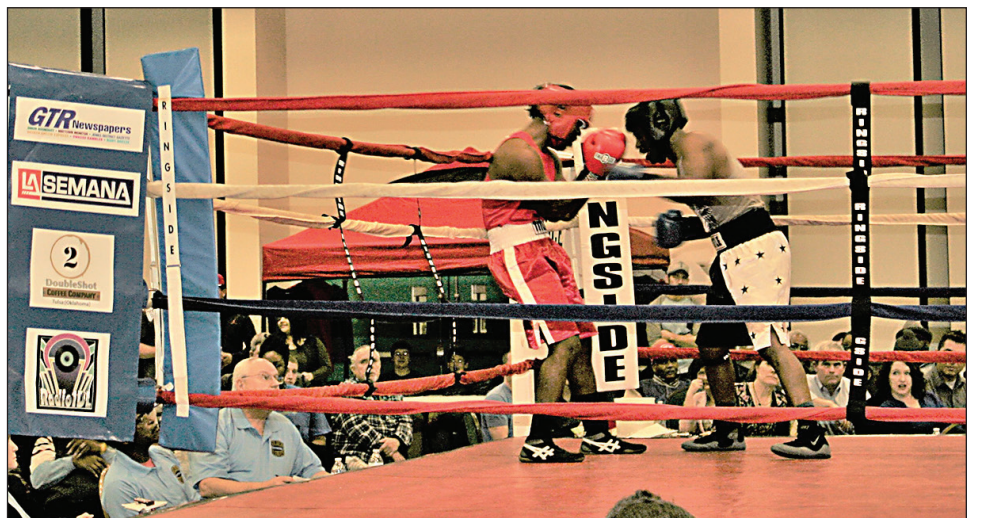
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HALL OF FAME FUN: Enjoying TPS Hall of Fame festivities are, from left, Oklahoma Senator David Rader; Tommy Thompson, 2018 Hall of Fame inductee Terrell Lester and Larry Egge of EEOC. The event was held at the Marriott Hotel Southern Hills.

Watch

OKLAHOMA SPORTS SCENE

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



GTR Newspapers photo

GOLDEN GLOVES ACTION: The Oklahoma Golden Gloves State Championship took place Jan. 27 and 28 at Greenwood Cultural Center. Boxers from across the state competed in front of an audience of over 700, including national boxing officials. Fifteen Oklahoma amateur boxers will advance to the Kansas-Oklahoma Golden Gloves Regional Tournament March 31 in Wichita. GTR Newspapers was a sponsor of the event.

OKLAHOMA SPORTS SCENE

Upcoming Shows will feature:

- John Smith – OSU Head Wrestling Coach
- Bob Carpenter – Voice of the MLB Washington Nationals
- John Petersen – Tulsa Oilers VP of Communications

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THE ECONOMY

Actress Kim Coles, Cindy Morrison Headline OSU Women's Business Leadership Conference

Actress Kim Coles and Emmy Award-winning television journalist Cindy Morrison are among the speakers highlighting this year's 27th Annual Women's Business Leadership Conference March 7 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Tulsa.

Oklahoma State University's Spears School of Business is partnering with the Oklahoma International Women's Forum as well as the International Women's Forum Leadership Foundation to present the conference.

Coles is a multi-faceted actress, comedian, author and speaker who has delighted audiences all over the world for over 32 years, including appearing in ground-breaking television shows like "In Living Color" and "Living Single." Morrison spent 20 years as a television news anchor and investigative reporter in Oklahoma City and Tulsa before starting SocialVention, a company that teaches brands how to strategically use social media.

Participants will learn how to effectively move toward their career

goals, how to develop themselves and others, as well as how to enhance leadership skills from expert women leaders. This day-long conference (8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) will feature multiple speakers from different areas who have significant experience within the business world. Each woman will bring a passion and insight to their specific topic. The moderator for the conference will be Alexis Smith-Washington, assistant professor of management at Spears Business.

Sessions will be as follows:

"Authentic Connections: Your Secret Sauce to Business Success" – Ramunda Lark Young, CEO and Connections Strategist of Ramunda Young, Inc.

"Mentoring – The Value of It, How Best to Do It, Benefits to the Mentor and Mentee" – Wanda Schiller, Managing Counsel for BP

"How to Become a Social Media Rockstar: Tips and Tricks that Work" – Cindy Morrison, Owner and Founder of SocialVention

Luncheon Speaker: "Live, Love and Laugh ... Outloud" – Kim Coles, actress, author, speaker

"Reaching a Balance Between Career and Life: Ways to Help You Succeed in Both Worlds" – Candice Carlyon, Managing Attorney for FedEx Custom Critical

"The Critical Need to Reinvent: You Cannot Stay Complacent in this Rapidly Changing World" – Rebecca Armen Lyman, Principal/Co-founder of The Garrigan Lyman Group

This year, Coles and Morrison will have a booth set up to give participants the option of purchasing their books.

Early bird participant registration is \$225 per person if registered before Feb. 23, increasing to \$275 after that date. Registration fees include electronic materials, refreshments and lunch. Vegetarian options are available.

Sponsorships are still available. Contact Kelle Scott for more details at kelle.scott@okstate.edu or call at 405-744-8679.



CINDY MORRISON



KIM COLES

For more information or to register for the conference, call 405-744-5208 or visit business.okstate.edu.

About CEPD:

The OSU Center for Executive and Professional Development in the Spears School of Business fulfills compelling executive, management and professional educational needs to business

and industry. For more than 60 years, the CEPD has played a vital role in Oklahoma's economic growth by offering 200 programs to more than 15,700 individuals each year. These programs include public and on-site executive and professional development programs and conferences, and retreat and conference planning.

Chamber Applauds Frontier Flights

By MIKE NEAL
President and CEO,
Tulsa Regional Chamber

The Tulsa Regional Chamber applauds Frontier Airlines' addition of nonstop destinations from Tulsa International Airport to San José and Washington, D.C. Direct flights not only give northeast Oklahoma residents additional op-

tions for travel, but they are a significant business driver for the region. These two destinations open additional commercial opportunities between the Tulsa region and the Bay Area and the nation's capital.

At the Chamber's Annual Meeting in January, Steve Bradshaw, 2018 board chair and president and CEO of BOK Financial, made

the case for an enhanced effort to recruit additional direct flights to Tulsa. Relocating or expanding companies regularly consider the number and frequency of nonstop destinations when evaluating prospective cities. These additional flights will help the Chamber better make the case for companies to build out their workforces in Tulsa rather than in other markets.



Courtesy photo

Edward Jones

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Mayor Bynum Selects Kian Kamas to Lead Mayor's Office of Economic Development

Mayor G.T. Bynum has announced that Kian Kamas will serve as the Chief of Economic Development for the City of Tulsa beginning March 1. Kamas has served as the Deputy Chief of Economic Development since June 2017.

Kathy Taylor, former Tulsa Mayor and Oklahoma secretary of commerce, served as the Chief of Economic Development for the past year with plans to return to her work in the community following Bynum's first year in office. Bynum hired Taylor to renew relationships with the many City authorities, boards and commissions while focusing on business development. Under her tenure, the City adopted its first multi-development tax increment finance (TIF) district leading to the launch of multiple downtown projects.

"When I asked Kathy to join my administration, I knew it would not be for the long-term as she had

many other projects underway. Kathy agreed to defer her projects for a year to help our administration start out on the right foot," Bynum says.

"In her short time here, the Economic Development Commission is alive again. The City has reoriented our sites to national competition and we have landed major new employers while empowering more local entrepreneurs to build the next great Tulsa business," Bynum says. "The Mayor's Office for Economic Development has also been reorganized based on professional guidance for optimum productivity. Kathy has done all of this work quietly and selflessly, because she loves Tulsa and I am tremendously grateful for her work to put our city in the best possible position to be successful."

"I was honored to be a part of Mayor Bynum's team and support the excitement and hope he has generated in Tulsa," Taylor says.



KIAN KAMAS

"I have completed the tasks I committed to the Mayor and the Economic Development Department is in good hands with Kian Kamas

as my successor and Jim Coles as executive director of the Tulsa Industrial Authority. Count on me to remain involved in other ways in the city I love. And you never know, I may finally take that trip down Route 66 I've planned for a decade!"

As chief of Economic Development, Kamas will be responsible for leading the city's comprehensive economic development strategies aimed at adding jobs and growing the workforce.

Bynum says, "Kian has been an able deputy to Kathy, leading many of our corporate recruitment efforts. Before that, she led similar efforts on behalf of the Tulsa Chamber. As we continue our work to make Tulsa a globally competitive city, Kian will be a great leader of those efforts."

"It has been an honor working alongside Kathy and learning from someone who has such a depth of experience in local and state gov-

ernment, as well as in the private sector," Kamas says. "At a time when Tulsa is seeing extensive growth and investment, the responsibility of leading the City's economic development team is one which I don't take lightly. I firmly believe that Tulsa's brightest days are ahead of us, and realizing our full potential will take the collective, concerted efforts of everyone within our organization and countless external partners. I am excited to continue to play a role in the dynamic team that Mayor Bynum has built, and to do so at such a pivotal time in our City's history."

Kamas holds a Master of Science in Comparative Public Policy from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma and is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute.

America's Energy Transformation: The Nation Accepts Challenges



By MARK A. STANSBERRY

"The elements of our strengths are many. They include our democratic government, our economic system, our great natural resources," stated Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick in the 1980s about the United States.

The business page headline, in the Nov. 3, 2001 Oklahoman, read "Terrorist attacks spur need for national energy policy." Energy experts and government officials had attended, the day before, the 2001 International Energy Policy Conference, now National Energy Talk, which I founded in 1992.

The message was clear as then Lt. Governor Mary Fallin said, "Sept. 11 has helped us come face-to-face with the issue of our energy policy." The conference included speakers/attendees from as far away as Venezuela, Japan

and Korea. It was interesting that one of the speakers, Mexico's Consul General Ezequiel Padilla, projected today's U.S. energy outcome. He said, "We need your (U.S.) entrepreneurship."

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported recently that the U.S. crude oil production exceeded 10 million barrels a day for the first time since 1970. During the 1970s, U.S. consumption began to outstrip production, and America started importing more oil than it produced. The needed U.S. entrepreneurship came along through the efforts of research and development along with technological advances. Twelve years ago, the U.S. was importing 12.9 million barrels a day of crude/petroleum products. As of the fall 2017, the number of barrels a day was at 2.5 million a day.

In 2008 when I published *The Braking Point: America's Energy Dreams and Global Economic Realities*, I expressed my view that America and the world were facing an energy crisis. The good news was that America's energy



MARK A. STANSBERRY

problems could be solved. The bad news was that our country's energy crisis did not exist in a vacuum, was not temporary, and would not fix itself. At that time I stressed that failure to effectively deal with this problem would threaten our nation's economic prosperity and compromise our

national security, and could radically alter our way of life. The book's title, *The Braking Point*, said it all: America needed to put on the brakes, stop, and assess the entire energy picture to see where the country was headed.

Especially the oil and gas industry reassessed and stepped up to the energy challenge. Through innovation, grit, determination, and ingenuity, energy solutions were found.

Energy education is more important than ever as we envision America's energy transformation. National Energy Talk is a platform engaging a national dialogue on energy issues, views and solutions. We address the needs, plans and issues that all types of energy face today. Through discussion, we can create a national energy vision.

The American energy industry is up to the energy challenges ahead. U.S. President George Washington stated, "A people... who are possessed of the spirit of commerce, who see and who will pursue their advantages, may achieve almost anything."

"Future generations are depending on us to keep the American dream alive."

It is time to take a stand, evaluate your own energy impact on our nation, and play your part in preserving our country. Energy is the future of America and America Needs America's Energy!

What do you think? It is time for National Energy Talk. Visit www.nationalenergyspeak.com.

Mark A. Stansberry, an award-winning author, is an Energy Advocate and Chairman of The GTD Group.

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Arvest Mortgage Tops \$1 Billion Mark

Arvest Bank has announced its mortgage division originated more than \$1 billion in purchase-money mortgage loans in 2017, the second year in a row it has done so.

Passing the \$1 billion mark in purchase-money loans in 2016 was a milestone for Arvest, so topping the year-old record for performance a year later is particularly rewarding, says Steven Plaisance, president and chief executive officer of the mortgage division.

"Arvest continues to show its commitment to home loan lending through its growing production and service to its communities," Plaisance says. "Housing is healthy in our markets, and we are very privileged to be there for the customers that choose us. We have a dedicated team with experience and expertise ready to answer the call on these important financial transactions. We thank our customers and partners for the opportunity to be part of these important moments in their lives."

As of Dec. 31, 2017, Arvest had closed a total of 6,684 purchase-money loans with total loan value of \$1,146,950,855. In 2016, Arvest closed a total of 6,222 pur-

chase-money loans with total loan value of \$1,009,284,166.

"Mortgage rates continue to remain historically favorable even though the Fed has taken action to push short-term rates up," Plaisance says. "Mortgage rates are derived from longer-term maturities (7-10 years), so mortgage rates do not always move in lock-step with the Fed action on short-term rates."

Arvest is unique among most local lenders in that it services 99 percent of its mortgage loans, meaning that customers make their payments to Arvest and deal with Arvest for any needs after their loan closes.

About Arvest

Arvest Bank, named by Forbes magazine as one of "America's Best Large Employers" for 2017, operates more than 250 bank branches in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas through a group of 15 locally managed banks, each with its own board and management team. These banks serve customers in more than 120 communities, with extended weekday banking hours at many locations. Arvest also provides a wide range of banking services including loans, deposits, treasury management, credit cards, mortgage loans and mortgage servicing. Arvest is an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC.

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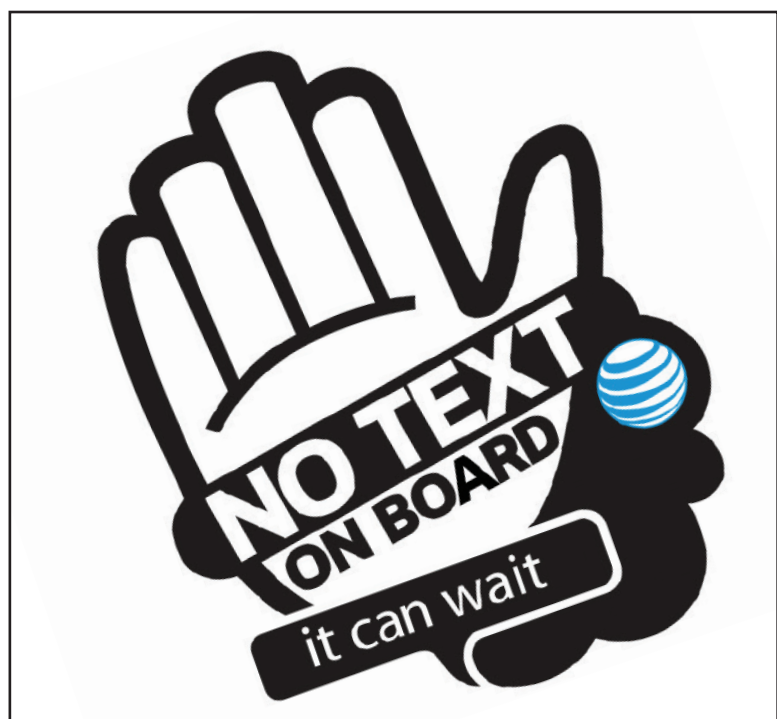
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BOAT, SPORT AND TRAVEL SHOW A SUCCESS AT RIVER SPIRIT EXPO



SHANGRI-LA RESORT: This year's Tulsa Boat, Sport and Travel Show was again a well-attended and popular event. Above are exhibitors from Oklahoma's Shangri-La. In the photo are Mike Williams, director of communications and government relations, and Dana Able, director of sales. Shangri-La, located at the tip of Monkey Island on Grand Lake, offers 119 guest rooms, a large resort pool and children's splash pad area, a luxury spa, a 120-seat casual-style restaurant, a bar with rooftop patio overlooking the lake and 8,000 square feet of conference space with a ballroom.

BUSINESS & PEOPLE NOTES

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) honored Peter Grant, CGR, CAPS, as the 2017 Remodeler Designee of the Year at the 2018 International Builders' Show (IBS) in January in Orlando.

NAHB Education recognizes housing professionals as Designee of the Year for their outstanding service in advancing the significance of NAHB designations.

Grant, president of Grant Homes Remodel & Restoration, is a professional remodeler with over two decades of remodeling experience. As a Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR) and a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist (CAPS) designation graduate, Grant's customers are assured of the specialized training, practical experience, and in-depth knowledge required for successful project completion.

"Education is not only essential to one's success and happiness, it is the determining factor at being good at what you do or being great at it. NAHB designation instruction and examination provides the resources to improve one's professional skills and to promote industry excellence to colleagues and clients," says Grant.

Grant is immediate past president of the Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa (HBA) and the HBA Charitable Foundation, and he is a member of the Tulsa Preservation Commission. He is a member of the NAHB board of directors and serves as a trustee on the NAHB Remodelers (NAHBR) Board. For more information, visit www.tulsaHBA.com.

Hall Estill, with law offices in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Denver and Northwest Arkansas, announces that Kristen Pence Evans has been elected shareholder in the Tulsa office and Matthew R. Gile and Moira C.G. Watson have been elected shareholders in the Oklahoma City office.

Evans joined Hall Estill in 2013 and concentrates her practice in the areas of business and commercial litigation, labor and employment, and tort defense. She has represented, counseled and advised clients ranging from local, family-owned companies to national, Fortune 500 companies in a wide array of industries, including energy and energy services, manufacturing, construction, logistics and heavy haul, financial services and healthcare.

"All three of these attorneys have earned this accomplishment through both their talent and their commitment to their respective communities," says Mike Cooke, managing partner for Hall Estill. "Kristen, Matt and Moira are all great representatives of our firm and we could not be prouder of them."

Evans received her J.D. with honors from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Since 2015, she has been named an Oklahoma Rising Star by Super Lawyers. She also devotes time to improving opportunities for youth in Tulsa, serving as a member of the board of directors for Street School.



GRANT

Women's justice advocate Stephanie Horten has been appointed director of Criminal Justice Collaborative for Tulsa's Family and Children's Services.



HORTEN

In the new role, Horten is being charged with working with criminal justice partners in the community to help move forward with recommendations from the Vera Institute of Justice and identifying additional areas for reform.

"I have been working closely with criminal justice community partners in Tulsa since 2014, and I'm excited about bringing my experience as both an attorney and an advocate to improve the justice system across the continuum," Horten says. "Many great organizations are working on the issue, and I look forward to continuing our work together."

Horten has a law degree from Northwestern University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Westminster College.

Prior to her time in Oklahoma, Horten helped wrongfully convicted individuals as part of the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University and represented indigent defendants in appellate and post-conviction proceedings. Prior to law school, she worked in public policy in Washington, D.C.

The Association of Oklahoma Nurse Practitioners officially seated its 2018 board officers at its January meeting. Margaret Rosales, a nurse practitioner from Tulsa, was sworn in as the organization's new president.



ROSALES

"I'm excited about the upcoming year and the opportunities we have to move our profession forward in Oklahoma," Rosales says.

Other officers sworn in at the recent board meeting were President-Elect Leah Melton, Norman; Secretary Cene' Livingston, Oklahoma City; Treasurer Tracy Langley, Ada; Immediate Past President Toni Pratt-Reid, Piedmont; Legislative Chair Mindy Whitten, Tulsa; and Historian Tricia Butner, Waynoka.

The officers were selected by AONP members during the association's annual conference in October.

The Museum Broken Arrow has announced the appointment of three new board members for 2018.

Newly appointed members include Lynn Palmer; vice president, S. Matt Condry; director and Cooper Rash; presidential appointee.

Lynn Palmer is a builder and developer in the Broken Arrow Community. In addition to being an active member of the Broken Arrow community, she owns the local store "Simplicity" in the Rose District.

S. Matt Condry is a 1998 graduate of Broken Arrow Senior High School and currently serves as vice president of commercial banking for Arvest Bank in Tulsa.

Cooper Rash grew up in and around Broken Arrow and has been with AVB Bank for two years, serving as the marketing and public relations research specialist. "Each of these individuals will add great expertise and knowledge to our board of directors," said Lori Lewis, executive director of The Museum Broken Arrow.

The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 918-258-2616 or visit BrokenArrowMuseum.org.

Mark Stanley, founder of Stanley Myers Morgan Law Firm, has been selected among America's Top 100 High Stakes Litigators for 2017.



STANLEY

Selection to America's Top 100 High Stakes Litigators is by invitation only and is reserved to identify the nation's most exceptional trial attorneys in high value, high stakes legal matters.

To be considered for selection, an attorney must have litigated (for either plaintiff or defendant) a matter (1) with at least \$2 million in alleged damages at stake or (2) with the fate of a business worth at least \$2 million at stake. These minimum qualifications are required for initial consideration. Thereafter, candidates are carefully screened through comprehensive Qualitative Comparative Analysis based on a broad array of criteria, including the candidate's professional experience, litigation experience, significant case results, representative high stakes matters, peer reputation, and community impact in order to rank the candidates throughout the state.

Only the top 100 qualifying attorneys in each state receive this honor and are selected for membership among America's Top 100 High Stakes Litigators. With these extremely high standards for selection to America's Top 100 High Stakes Litigators, less than one-half percent of active attorneys in the United States receive this honor, truly the most exclusive and elite level of attorneys in the community.

Rachelle Parker has been named Rotary District Administrator for District 6110. She was recently marketing and membership coordinator for the Rotary Club of Tulsa.



PARKER

Parker is an Oklahoma native from Cleveland. In 1996, she moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where she worked as an assistant manager for Kroger Co. from 1997-2006.

In 2012, after finishing her degree in H.S.D.A., she returned to Oklahoma and began work as a Child Support caseworker for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. In addition, Parker worked part time as an Adoption Counselor for Adoption Affiliates before accepting the Rotary Club of Tulsa position.

KKT Architects announces Carolyn Back as its director of planning. Back brings more than 17 years of national experience in the industry, and this addition will allow KKT Architects to add land planning services and pre-development research through site analysis and due diligence reports.



BACK

The new services areas will assist KKT Architect clients through the entitlement and permitting phases of their projects. These additions complement the award-winning architectural, interior design and structural/civil engineering services currently offered.

"This is a monumental moment for KKT as this new service will allow us to work with municipalities to help them foresee and prepare for long-range development within their communities," says Sarah Gould, partner.

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Unique Church Towers Bring Distinction to Tulsa

For a city of its moderate size, Tulsa has a large number of churches. Three of its medium-sized churches are particularly fine in their proportions and enhancements and share two major commonalities: they are all excellent examples of colonial revival architecture, and all include beautifully designed bell towers.

Most of us visualize colonial churches as simple white buildings with spires dominating the skyline of small New England towns. In the 16th and 17th centuries, this was often the case.

To trace this distinctive look, we can return to London, England, following the great fire of 1666. The damage caused by the disaster resulted in the building of over 60 churches in the neo-classical style of the day.

The prolific British architect Sir Christopher Wren was responsible for over 50 of these. Another notable architect was James Gibbs, the designer of Saint Martin-in-

the-Fields, a church that inspired imitation in southern cities such as Charleston, South Carolina. These British churches differed from their American counterparts in size and amount of ornamentation.

British bell towers, normally located at the main entrance, were taller (by at least 50 percent) and more massive in scale. In addition, these British ancestors were heavily festooned with classic columns, urns and swaged garlands. The American versions tend to be smaller and simpler.

Returning to the three Tulsa churches, the architecture of their exterior focal points – especially their bell towers – is worth discussing.

A church bell tower that penetrates a pitched roof begins with a large rectangular or octagonal element called a base. Seated on it is often an octagonal open chamber called a belfry. From that ascends a tall, slender shaft known as a spire.

Today, church towers are often

On Architecture



By ROGER COFFEY, AIA



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built on steel frames, unlike their heavy timber forebears. Spires are usually clad in metal, often copper. Catalogue bell towers are available but lack the design quality of custom work. In Tulsa, few church towers have working bells, as they have been replaced with more easily maintained electronic carillons.

The oldest of the three bell towers of concern here belongs to Southminster Presbyterian Church at 3500 S. Peoria Ave. The sanctuary wing and bell tower were built in 1949, designed by architect Joe Koberling. Its tower is the largest of the three. The base is octagonal, while the belfry is an octagonal space enclosed by louvered arches,

which are separated by columns. The spire rises from a low octagonal band above the belfry, which displays finial urns and terminates in a Latin cross.

The next tower is on the Sixth Church of Christ Scientist at 3620 S. Lewis Ave. It was built in 1954 and is attributed to architect Charles Faulkner. This is the most delicate of the three towers. Its base is a rectangle that terminates in an open steel railing. From the platform within this railing rises a tall, open-arched octagonal belfry. Above the belfry is a slender spire faced with metal and articulated with horizontal banding.

The last of the three towers is incorporated in the All Souls Uni-

tarian Church at 2952 S. Peoria Ave. One of the largest Unitarian churches in America, the sanctuary wing and bell tower were designed by architect John Duncan Forsyth in 1957. This tower also has a rectangular base, augmented with a single round window on each side. A steel railing caps the base and surrounds an octagonal belfry with louvered panes at quarter points. Above is an arched octagonal drum from which rises a massive spire.

Although similar, each of these towers has its own personality and would be out of place in any other setting. There is a special quality to them that delights the eye and completes Tulsa's residential landscape.

Tis the Season to Green Up Green Country

I realized this year that Valentine's Day marks the end of my feelings of hibernation. A scattering of warmer days inspires me to get up, go outside and reconnect with other humans, especially my sweetie, after months of burrowing into my winter's nest in the ugliest jammies you've ever seen.

Not only do warmer days inspire me to reconnect with people, it also inspires me to reconnect with my environment, with nature...now that I'm ready to stop being bitter about the cold.

Get Eco-Inspired

We still face some days of low temperatures, so find some eco-inspiration inside with TCC's Fourth Sustainability Conference. This event will be Feb. 22 at the Center for Creativity located downtown on

the TCC Metro Campus.

This day-long event is sure to inspire. The focus is to discuss issues and offer practical ways to move our community towards sustainability, specifically in the areas of food and food systems. This event is free and open to the public. Learn more at tulsacc.edu/sustainability-conference.

Eco Meet-and-Greet

Sustainable Tulsa offers several ways to stay engaged and on the cutting edge of sustainability in Green Country, thanks to B2B, or Business-to-Business, and First Thursdays.

B2B is a breakfast meet-and-greet. The next event will be at OU-Tulsa May 10th.

Meeting at TCC's Center for Creativity, First Thursdays is held, well, the first Thursday of each

month at 11:30 a.m., providing lunch and networking as well as information about those in our area working for a greener Tulsa County. Can't be there? Watch meetings online at www.SustainableTulsa.org.

Eco-Teacher Needed

The Metropolitan Environmental Trust (The MET) has an opening for a part time educator. The primary responsibility will be to continue to develop and manage their Green STEM program along with other various educational opportunities including school clubs, scouts, and event booths. For more information, email Graham Brannin at greengraham@metrecycle.com.

Spring Cleanup

It's always an incredible trip to clean up the Mulberry River in Ozark, Arkansas. This year's annual river cleanup event will be Saturday, March 3. There's a pretty nice canoe being offered for the raffle, too. Learn more at www.Turner-Bend.com.

Inspired by Next Generation

Working at Union Public Schools continually brings me good news for the future of recycling, upcycling and sustainability. Recent-

ly, students at Union Alternative School got to work dismantling a retired school bus to turn it into a fully-functional camper. As a girl who grew up taking trips in an old upcycled school bus, this is the thing eco-dreams are made of.

Union Board Members honored its 12 National Merit Finalists at the February board meeting and gave each the chance to talk about their future plans, and wow, was I inspired by each of them.

Sometimes I get down and wonder who will take up the mantra for a greener Earth when I'm gone. Morbid, but true. Well, I was very inspired by merit finalist Madeline McTigue. She told the audience she wasn't excited to take AP Environmental Science in the beginning but then found it to inspire her towards an exciting career.

"I want to study the relationship between environmental health and people's health, she said. "I want to help people understand that what is healthy for the environment is beneficial to our bodies as well."

McTigue says she also found career inspiration through AP Biology. "I am also interested in genetic sequencing and how to personalize medicine."

Hearing from McTigue and her fellow finalists makes me feel that



Courtesy Union Public Schools

UPCYCLING INSPIRATION: Community support makes all things possible. Thanks to Union Transportation, students at Union Alternative School are turning a retired school bus into a fully functional camper.

a sustainable future is brighter than it sometimes appears.

Stay Connected

There's been a lot of negative news out there, and as you know, here at Trash Talk we like to keep our sights on the positive. What are you finding to inspire you? Tell us your thoughts @TrashTalkTulsa or email bethturner@me.com.

Trash Talk



By BETH TURNER
Tulsa Master Recyclers Association

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Calendar grid with columns for SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY. Dates range from 18 February to 24 March. Each cell contains event details, venue, and time.

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AREA NEWS

MILLER SWIM SCHOOL TO EXPAND



GROUND-BREAKING DAY: Miller Swim School owners and staff turn the inaugural dirt with Jenks chamber and city officials and Herbie the Hippo, the Miller Swim School mascot, at the ground-breaking ceremony for the school's second location.

By **RAEGAN DOUGHARTY**
Contributing Writer

The sun shined on rows of parked cars lining nearby neighborhood streets as community members gathered at the ground-breaking ceremony for the second location of Miller Swim School. The event was held in January by the Jenks Chamber of Commerce near the intersection of Elwood Avenue and 91st Street in Jenks.

The second location will allow over 2,000 students to be accommodated in the new facility, which is expected to open in October. The building will be 8,200 square feet and will house a 50,000-gallon pool.

Larry and Rita Miller, former Tulsa Public Schools teachers and coaches, began teaching area children to swim in 1960 as a side job. Holding classes in a neighborhood pool, the Millers quickly outgrew the available space, and the number of swim students snowballed until the couple ultimately decided to move to a new facility.

"We started teaching swimming lessons at an outdoor pool, and it filled up so fast, they didn't want us to be there," Larry said at the ceremony.

The Millers used several different venues for three years before the number of students became too great. The Millers continued to experience student growth until

"One day, we woke up and said, 'We're going to build a swim school,'" said Larry.

The couple, who have been married for over 60 years, stood at the podium while machinery hummed in the background, preparing the site for building construction to begin.

"We're celebrating not just welcoming a new business into the Jenks community but celebrating their investment in our community. Celebrating new jobs and opportunities for people closer to home," said Jenks Chamber of Commerce President Josh Driskell.

Miller family members and Miller Swim School staff turned dirt as community members watched. The school's mascot, Herbie the Hippo, was present as well.

"We opened 22 years ago out on Mingo Road, and we're excited to expand into southwest Tulsa and the Jenks community," Larry said. "Our current location does not allow us to adequately serve the people of the Tulsa community as we should."

Located at 6415 S. Mingo Rd. in Tulsa, the first Miller Swim School has been a part of the community since its construction in 1995. According to its website, the Tulsa location employs 35 people year round and trains approximately 200 lifeguards annually. The Millers say they have taught around 200,000 Tulsans to swim.

GATHERING PLACE WELCOMES KIDS



INAUGURAL VISITORS: A Eugene Field Elementary student enjoys his trip down a slide in the Chapman Foundations Adventure Playground on Jan. 26. This visit marked the beginning of the student field trips that will take place through March.



ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND: A view of the eastern end of the Chapman Foundations Adventure Playground. The area includes a Richter playground, built by Richter Spielgerate in Germany. A total of 34,000 Tulsa-area elementary students will be welcomed to the playground through March.

B.A. Names Citizen of the Year

By **EMILY RAMSEY**
Managing Editor

On Feb. 10, Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Wes Smithwick was named Citizen of the Year at the Broken Arrow Chamber's Awards Banquet.

"Wes was chosen due to his tireless efforts in advocating for the city of Broken Arrow," says Eric Kehmeier, Broken Arrow Chamber 2017 board chair. "He has also been a driving force in the partnership of the chamber, city and school district to make sure our city is moving forward."

That mentality of working together for the good of the city and "leaving our egos at the door and working together as a team," has allowed the city to continue its upward trajectory, says Smithwick. "We work hard to support each other in affecting change."

One example of that "change" is the planned creation of an Innovation District that will involve partnerships with educational institutions and industries to help create a skilled workforce, says Smithwick.

The district will be designed to bring together education with internship and job training programs and employment opportunities.

Smithwick, an Alabama native, has been president of the chamber since 2010.

Among Smithwick's many accolades is that he is credited for leading the charge in the revitalization of downtown Broken Arrow, which began nearly seven years ago.

In April 2011, Smithwick chartered a bus to take 30 B.A. leaders and stakeholders to visit Dallas, Plano, Texas, and other cities that have successfully created thriving main streets and downtown areas, says Smithwick.

On the ride home, Smithwick led a discussion on what the city's vision should be for downtown.

"At the time, we had numerous disparate groups all wanting to help downtown move forward," he recalls.

However, the only way that downtown could successfully do that would be through the creation of a shared vision.

That discussion allowed all groups involved to get on the same page, and "now, everything we saw on that trip is unfolding in the Rose District," Smithwick says, such as mixed-use buildings, including the \$18 million, 120,000-square-foot development that will be constructed along Main Street,

widened sidewalks, outside dining, landscaping, and a water feature.

"The Rose District has been the most fulfilling thing in my career," he says.

"To be so intimately involved in a project from inception to reality and to continue to be involved in where it's going has been a privilege."

In order to learn from other cities' successes, Smithwick leads an annual Best Practices trip for community leaders and stakeholders. Last year, city members visited Carmel, Indiana, which was ranked the Most Livable City in the United States by USA Today. (Broken Arrow was No. 29.)

Recently, the city has experienced a series of job expansion announcements, particularly in the manufacturing sector, companies including Dover Artificial Lift ESP Systems, Russelectric, Alfa Laval and CymSTAR.

These announcements, far from coming about by happenstance, are due to strategic efforts to keep job growth happening, says Smithwick.

Most of these strategic efforts are focused on business expansion and retention, continues Smithwick, which are largely centered on building relationships and connecting them with needed resources.

"What many people don't realize is that Wes has been behind the scenes in many of our economic development projects," says Kehmeier.

Most recently, that has included the downtown mixed-use project as well as the Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, which will grow area tourism and sales tax revenue, he says.

After an unsuccessful attempt by city officials to develop a conference center in the early-2000s, Smithwick and chamber staff focused their attention in 2012 on reviving the project.

The hotel and conference center opened in November.

The chamber saw the conference center as something the city needed, Smithwick says.

As Smithwick reflects on the development explosion that has taken place in north Broken Arrow, his future plans include continuing to advocate for growth in south B.A.

Currently, 2,000 residential lots, mostly in south B.A., are under construction or are ready for construction; in addition, 45 percent of Broken Arrow is still undeveloped.

"My focus is to make sure that we continue our growth and build out the city."



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