THE CHAMBER DEPORT

Session wraps up with ONEVOICE VICTORIES

Chamber members are "Open for Business"

TYPros drives urban revitalization

NEW WEBSITE focuses on members

+ Tulsa's Future Job-creation plan surpasses goals

TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER







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EVENTS

6.18.13

STRIKE NIGHT

Andv B's 6 - 8 p.m.

6.25.13

SMALL BUSINESS FORUM

Tulsa Tech, Lemley Campus 3420 S. Memorial Dr. 7.30 - 9 a m

6.26.13

HIRING OUR HEROES

Tulsa Event Center 2625 S. Memorial Dr. 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

7.9.13

BREAKFAST NETWORK

Wyndham Hotel - Tulsa 10918 E 41st Street 7:30 - 9 a.m.

7.12.13

GOVERNOR'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Tulsa Convention Center 100 Civic Center 7:30 - 9 a.m.

ON THE COVER: "The Guardian" by Enoch Kelley Haney, a 9-foot replication of the statue that sits atop the Oklahoma State Capitol dome, is located near the rotunda inside the Capitol Building. Here, it is shown during the Tulsa Regional Day at the Capitol in April.

Reserve your space online at TulsaChamber.com or call 918.560.0212 for more information.

OneVoice progress DURING 2013 SESSION

onevoice

FULLY ACHIEVED

OSU Medical Center, OU Wayman Tisdale Center Funding

The OSU Medical Center received a \$13 million appropriation, while the OU Wayman Tisdale Center received its requested \$3 million appropriation. allowing both facilities to continue training physicians for rural and underserved areas while providing health care services to Oklahomans in need.

Workers' compensation reform

Costs to businesses will be significantly reduced with the reforms of SB 1062, which moves the state to an administrative system and establishes an "Oklahoma option" to allow businesses to opt out of the traditional system and provide their own benefit program to employees.

ODOT eight-year plan

Funding for the eight-year plan was maintained in 2013, including additional funding needed to fulfill the Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan.



SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

Education Funding

Common education received \$91 million in additional funding, with \$74 million dedicated to implementing past reforms and compensating for cuts in education funding since 2008. In addition, higher education received an additional \$33 million, and career tech received an additional \$3 million.

Quick Action Closing Fund

An additional \$3 million was appropriated to the closing fund this year, increasing the effectiveness of this crucial economic development tool. The Chamber will continue to advocate for increased funding in future sessions.



SLIGHT PROGRESS

Medicaid expansion

The Chamber achieved its primary goal for the 2013 legislative session, which was to ensure no legislation was passed that would limit Oklahoma's options when considering ways to expand access to insurance in the state. The Chamber was integral in bringing the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber on board with the coalition of advocates who supported expanded access, and will continue to work to amplify the voice of the business community in these efforts. A final report from the Leavitt Partners regarding an Oklahoma Plan is expected to be released at the June 13 Oklahoma Health Care Authority meeting, which the Chamber will attend in preparation for next steps.

Municipal revenue diversification

Legislation to support municipal revenue diversification passed overwhelmingly from committee, but failed to pass the full House. The Chamber hopes to readdress this need next session, absent of federal legislation.

Personal income tax reduction

The Chamber opposed any reduction in the personal income tax rate that was not revenue-neutral or would have a negative impact on core services. While delaying the cut by one year allowed critical needs like education, health care and Capitol repairs to receive additional funding for FY 2014, the losses from the income tax cut was not offset by spending cuts in other areas.

D.C. Fly-In

provides attendees with up-close look at federal advocacy efforts

In April, the Tulsa Regional Chamber led a group of nearly 100 to Washington D.C. for the annual Tulsa Regional Fly-In, where attendees lobbied Oklahoma's Congressmen and learned from top-ranking officials tied to some of the region's priority issues such as small business, health care, workforce and energy.

The three-day visit included discussions and updates from all of Oklahoma's U.S. senators and representatives. Attendees shared some of the 10 federal OneVoice priorities with the Congressmen, offering a much-needed firsthand opinion and personal perspective.

"Next, we'll follow up with our Congressmen and discuss how we can best prepare ourselves and our federal delegation for what's needed to make these priorities realities," said Mike Neal, president and CEO of the Tulsa Regional Chamber.

"This is an ongoing process. We're hopeful the Marketplace Fairness Act and immigration reform will pass this session, but many of the infrastructure needs discussed for the Arkansas River and the Tulsa and Muskogee ports will take some time to accomplish."

Neal stressed that without the support of many Tulsans, these issues could take much longer.

"When they hear it firsthand from the individuals affected by these issues, it has a stronger impact," Neal said. "That's why we travel here with representatives from around the region, who can provide the insight and the strong voice of advocacy for these regional priorities."



This is an ongoing process. We're hopeful the Marketplace Fairness Act and immigration reform will pass this session, but many of the infrastructure needs discussed for the Arkansas River and the Tulsa and Muskogee ports will take some time to accomplish.

- MIKE NEAL PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER.

Q&A with Senior VP of **Government Affairs,** Chris Benge

REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

Aug. 28 | DoubleTree by Hilton Register online at TulsaChamber.com

that drive Oklahoma's economy.

Q: LET'S START WITH THE BASICS. WHAT IS **ONEVOICE?**

OneVoice is the Chamber's regional legislative advocacy initiative that brings together Chamber members, municipalities, regional chambers of commerce, community organizations and many others for one unified collaborative effort. It allows us to define our regional priorities and deliver them to our state legislators and Congressmen with a greater impact.

Q: WHAT WERE SOME OF THOSE PRIORITIES THIS **SESSION?**

Through the OneVoice process, 10 state and 10 federal priorities are identified. We announce these priorities at the beginning of session, and share them with our legislators via the regional OneVoice legislative agenda. We keep these priorities in front of our legislators throughout session at events like Regional Day at the Capitol, private meetings, our weekly Legislative Update email, etc. That way, we know our legislators are mindful of the Tulsa region's wants and needs when they're making votes and passing legislation. This year our big focuses were workers' compensation reform, education funding, funding for the OSU Medical Center and OU's Wayman Tisdale Clinic and increased health care services

Q: WAS THE ONEVOICE AGENDA SUCCESSFUL?

Yes, this year we had some huge successes that will have tremendous impact on the cost of doing business in the state and the Tulsa region. Workers' comp was a big win, with comprehensive reform measures passed that create a more business-friendly environment for Oklahoma employers and will ensure

injured workers are able to return to their careers as quickly as possible. Education funding was increased at all levels, including an additional \$74 million to implement quality education reforms for common ed. Funding for the OSU Medical Center was absolutely crucial. Without the \$13 million allocated to keep OSUMC open, and the \$3 million dedicated for OU's Wayman Tisdale Clinic, rural and underserved areas of Oklahoma would not have access to quality health care services.

Q: WERE ANY ISSUES UNSUCCESSFUL?

I would say the majority, if not all, of the issues on the OneVoice agenda saw some progress. We're constantly moving the ball forward on these issues. Some take a bit more time than others, but the region continues to grow and we see the positive impact the One-Voice agenda has had on the region and the state. For issues like Medicaid expansion, we saw positive progress with the hiring of the Leavitt Partners to draft recommendations for an Oklahoma Plan and increased awareness about the impact of not finding a solution on Oklahoma's businesses. We're working to bring the business community and the health care community together to advocate for a solution

ISSUES THAT WEREN'T AS SUCCESSFUL? When session ends, the govern-

that ultimately insures more Oklahomans

and stops cost-shifting to the businesses

Q: WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE

When session chas, ment affairs staff begins scheduling OneVoice taskforce meetings to review the issues passed during session, those that were not addressed and any new issues of importance. Ten taskforces meet three or four times each between the last week of June and the first week of August to identify and prioritize. In their final meetings, they vote on the top three state and top three federal items specific to that taskforce. These top items will then move on to the Regional Legislative Summit Aug. 28, where all ten taskforces will join a larger group to discuss these top priorities and define the top 10 state and federal agendas for the 2014 session. Many of the items that can't be classified as "fully achieved" during a session remain a priority for the Tulsa region in subsequent years. Again, the legislative process can oftentimes be slow; our goal is to make sure legislators and the governor know the items that are a top priority for the Tulsa region and that these issues stay in front of them.

ONEVOICE TASKFORCES

Business Retention and Expansion Development, Economy and Taxes Education

Energy and Environment Health Care

Labor and Human Resources

Regional Tourism

Small Business

Transportation and Infrastructure

Business & Environmental Resources

Q: HOW CAN TULSANS GET INVOLVED WITH THE ONEVOICE PROCESS?

I would suggest joining one of the ■ taskforces, or more than one, to get involved at the beginning of the process. Anyone can serve on a taskforce, and this is really where the work is done in shaping the issues the Chamber will lobby for in the upcoming year. To sign up for a task force, email EricPollard@ TulsaChamber.com or call 918.560.0253.

Tulsa's forward momentum focus of Day at the Capitol

The 2013 Tulsa Regional Day at the Capitol proved to be a productive day of advocacy as a large group traveled to Oklahoma City to meet with legislators and share their top priorities for the session. Regional partners, municipalities and local leaders traveled with the Chamber for the region's annual day at the Capitol, where attendees heard from a number of speakers and shared top OneVoice issues.

Tulsa's forward momentum was a recurring issue in the legislators' comments, including Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, who called for more events such as the Bassmaster Classic to be held in Northeast Oklahoma.

"Whether you like to fish or you hate to fish, it was great to have the Bassmaster Classic in Tulsa, in your hotels and in your restaurants." Lamb said.

The Classic, held in February 2013, brought more than 106,000 attendees and roughly \$26 million in economic impact to the region.



State Finance Secretary Preston

Doerflinger commended the Chamber for its work in the region, saying when he began commuting between Tulsa and Oklahoma City, he was envious of the vibe felt as he entered Oklahoma City.

"Thanks to the Tulsa Chamber, Tulsa has a vibe now, too," Doerflinger said. "We have an energy and it makes me so excited for the future."

The day's speakers also included Senate Pro Tempore Brian Bingman, who stressed the importance of workers' compensation reform, and Speaker of the House T.W. Shannon, who focused on three items he feels will have the greatest impact on Oklahoma's future: increased quality job training, infrastructure improvements and a focus on economic development.

To read a full recap of the Tulsa Regional Day at the Capitol, go to TulsaChamber.com and visit the Government Affairs news section.



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- Go online to SourceLinkTulsa.com

From our archives 1923-1979

In 1923, a group of veterans of the early oil boom held a reunion at Tulsa's new convention center. They met again in 1924, 1925 and 1927, by which time the growing convention had spilled out into the streets. The Chamber was asked to assume management to make the event an exposition, and the "International Petroleum Exposition" (IPE), which the Chamber housed at the fairgrounds, was held at intervals of three or four years from 1928 to 1979. It became one of the largest trade shows in the world. The Golden Driller statue and the fairgrounds' huge Expo Building are relics of the Petroleum Exposition.

HIGHLIGHT: -

The Chamber's first members

WHO WERE SOME OF THE FIRST TULSA-AREA COMPANIES TO JOIN THE CHAMBER? EACH ISSUE. WE HIGHLIGHT OUR LONGEST-STANDING MEMBERS.

MRS. DEHAVEN'S FLOWER SHOP

Why has Mrs. DeHaven's believed in investing in the Chamber since 1937?

We are always proud to say that Mrs. DeHaven's Flower Shop is the oldest member of the Tulsa Chamber! In a day and age where many businesses do not meet their five-year anniversary, we are very proud to have celebrated 107 years. The Chamber has always been very supportive of our business. We have been blessed in countless opportunities to network and participate in programs to assist us in the 'day-to-day' running of the business. On any economic concerns whether on a local or national level, I always feel like the Chamber is there to assist us. In an ever-changing business world, I have always felt like the Chamber is a powerful ally.

How does your company strive to improve and contribute to the Tulsa community?

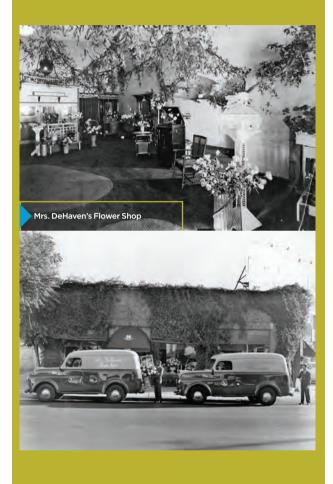
I feel very blessed to be the owner of a "Tulsa icon" and the oldest flower shop in Oklahoma. With that definitely comes a civic responsibility. We certainly desire to give back to the community in any way possible. Like most small businesses, we have a very small annual donation budget that we use to support local nonprofit organizations. Since that only goes so far, we strive to support the community in other ways. We feel a very strong pull toward the artistic community.

Three years ago we started an art show every fall. This has since grown tremendously. We invite up to 25 local artists, free of charge, to set up at our location and sell their work. This event is also free to the community. We also commission one of those local artists to produce an oil painting of our historic storefront. A promotional item is then developed and a portion of all proceeds from the sale of that item benefits a charity that we have partnered with.

We also like to give back in sharing our rich history. This business has a lot to say after 107 years. It has witnessed the two World Wars, the Depression, Women's Suffrage, The Civil Rights Movement, a man walking on the moon and many presidential inaugurations. Countless celebrities have shopped with us over the years! Whether by written history or by photographs, our heritage is one that we joyously share.

In about two sentences, describe the company's goals and mission.

Our mission for the past 107 years has been pretty simple: to celebrate life's events with flowers! We have been present for weddings, births and deaths. It is truly an honor to celebrate life's joys, and sometimes sorrows, with our beloved customers.







MARCH VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Marvin D. Krueger, Melaleuca, Inc.

APRIL VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Ron Benton, Rove Pest Control Inc. of Oklahoma

QUOTA MASTERS

Kimberly Alsobrooks, Holiday Inn Tulsa City Center

Casey Bacon, Tulsa Federal Credit Union

Chris Barton, Osage Casino

Brett Benge, ChartMark Investments, Inc.

Amanda Brown, Tulsa Direct Mail, Inc.

Ron Benton, Rove Pest Control Inc. of Oklahoma

Kent Brown, Eagleton Brown Investment Group

Kirk Davidson, Davidson Maintenance Service

Donna Davis, Bumgarner Asset Management, LLC

Jason Dieckman, Bank of the Wichitas Mortgage Co.

Orlando Dumalag, Orlando & Associates, Realtors

Janna Eremita, Employees Federal Credit Union

Ami Frazier, EasyTEL Communications, Inc.

Tommy Harris, Northwestern Mutual

Martha Hood, Sam's Club #8263

Vicki Hidde, Resume Source, Inc.

Matt Inouye, IMG Bookkeeping and Consulting

Deb Karstens, Home Creations

Joy Kelly, SpiritBank

Meschell Klinglesmith, Career Point College

Marvin Krueger, Melaleuca, Inc.

Ashley Neighbors-Massey, Java Dave's Executive Coffee Service

Carl Novara, Farmers Insurance *Novara Insurance Agency

Whitney Parker, *Arthritis Foundation - Eastern Oklahoma Chapter*

Nicole Payne, AppleOne Employment

Lisa Waterman, Waterman Insurance

Robert H. White, Plan Benefit Analysts of Tulsa, Inc.

Zach Willoughby, Blue Sky Supply

TULSACHAMBER.COM UNDERGOES MAJOR REVAMP, NEW SITE LAUNCHED

The Tulsa Regional Chamber constantly strives to identify ways to provide return on investment to its members, maintaining a focus on their needs and priorities while exploring new or exciting tools that enhance the Chamber-member relationship and boost engagement. To that end, the Chamber recently identified a need for a greater digital presence, including a new, user-friendly TulsaChamber.com.



"Our members are always our top-most priority," said Mike Neal, president and CEO of the Tulsa Regional Chamber. "We want them to be engaged in what the Chamber is doing to service them and how our partnerships in the Tulsa region are creating a better place for our businesses and families."

As the digital age clearly impacts the everyday lives of Tulsans, it was important the Chamber create a strong presence online.

"We wanted to be sure you could go to TulsaChamber.com and find any bit of information you may need," Neal said. "This new site is more focused on fresh, up-to-date content that better allows us to share what we're doing with our stakeholders. There's also a stronger presence for our members to share their own exciting news, their own events and enhance their directory information."

The user-friendly nature of the site will allow TulsaChamber. com visitors to easily access contact information for staff, download a PDF or brochure, read the latest happenings of the Chamber, view event photos and much more.

The new TulsaChamber.com's structure provides a cleaner, more modern feel while maintaining the breadth of content and information. The responsive design of the site now allows that content and information to refresh and move freely to allow the most up-to-date items priority placement, and makes the site easily viewed on any browser or mobile device.

"It's a really cool site," Neal said. "We're excited to see how the general public reacts to the new design, and how our members utilize the new tools available to them."

Go to TulsaChamber.com to see more.

CHAMBER MEMBERS ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Thank you to our members who agreed to be photographed recently for Tulsa Regional Chamber promotional materials. They turned out so well, we wanted to share some of them in this issue. Those included in this publication represent just a few who welcomed us into their businesses this spring. Each is proving Tulsa is "Open for Business."



















1. JESSIKA M. TATE

Tate Law Firm

2. PETE PATEL

Promise Hotels

3. TONI GARNER

Toni's Flowers

4. MARK HELMER AND JOHN RUPE JR.

NAI Petrous and Rupe Building Company

5. NICOLE SMALLWOOD

Tropical Smoothie Café

6. THERESA LEFLORE

Lolli & Pops

7. EDDIE REID

Hesselbein Tire of Oklahoma

8. LISA RILEY

Pinot's Palette

9. BRIAN MCKENNEY AND MARIO PADILLA

Monterey's Little Mexico

10. GILES GREGORY

Whiskey Business

11. JAYNE EXON

Jayne Exon Designs

12. REGGIE IVEY

Tulsa City-County Health Department



SPOTLIGHT: —

Small Business Council



⁶⁶ I love my job. The work is incredibly rewarding. Getting the chance to hang out with business owners, motivational speakers, coaches, athletes, academics, and celebrities is always a blast. 99

- KENT GUSTAVSON

How long have you been a small business owner?

During college and graduate school, I got into small business out of necessity. I was a musician, booking gigs, making records, and collecting money - doing my best to offset expenses for books, student loans, and an out-of-control record collection (while working for minimum wage, washing dishes in the dining hall). I started Blooming Twig Books in 2005, when I saw an incredible need and opportunity for indie alternatives to mainstream book publishers.

What are the greatest challenges associated with small business ownership?

I love my job. The work is incredibly rewarding. Getting the chance to hang out with business owners, motivational speakers, coaches, athletes, academics, and celebrities is always a blast. But what makes it all worthwhile is that I have the chance to see my clients transform into thought leaders. Then, I get to sit back and watch them shape the world around them - and I can say that I had some hand in that. It's not about the ROI for me. It's about the change that my authors are able to make in their world.

What do you find most rewarding about operating a small business?

Working with my staff. They have a heart for our students and they truly want to see them succeed. I also like knowing that

my efforts make a difference. The harder I work, the more successful I will be.

What advice would you give to any would-be small business owners considering starting a business in the Tulsa area?

When I was young, everyone told me that I had to choose a hat: scientist, teacher, musician, athlete, or businessman. I never was able to decide what I liked best, so I decided not to choose. I still wear many hats, and I love it. I think everyone has the ability to follow his/her dream. (Just don't take out too many loans.) My best advice is to reach out to the incredible business owners around Tulsa. After moving in the past few years from New York, it is amazing to me how willing fellow business owners are to reach out a hand of encouragement. Tulsa is the place to be for small business.

What have you experienced through vour involvement with the Small **Business Council?**

It's often lonely "at the top." I enjoy my work with authors, writers, editors, designers, and all the rest, but it's sometimes really nice to meet fellow entrepreneurs and business owners, and share stories and anecdotes about our day-to-day operation, work, and lives. It's also incredible to see what an impact our little council has on the greater Oklahoma area in terms of policy, laws, and economic growth. It's very exciting, and I hope to be involved long into the future.

Ask the **ECONOMIST**

Have a question for the "Ask the Economist" column?

bobball@tulsachamber.com with "Ask the Economist" in the subject line.

Q: What is the impact of the oil and gas industry on northeastern Oklahoma?

A: Bob Ball, economist and economic research manager, Tulsa Regional Chamber

Tulsa is no longer called the "Oil Capital of the World" as it was in the early part of the twentieth century, but the oil and gas industry has never gone away despite efforts to diversify after the collapse of oil prices in the mid-1980s. Although Tulsa lost 25,000 jobs in years 2009 and 2010, the loss could have been much greater had not oil-and-gas industry activity been strong and oil prices high. Tulsa's oil and gas sector is alive and well, providing jobs in headquarters, subsidiaries and stand-alone operations working in drilling, extraction, well servicing, pipeline distribution and equipment manufacturing. The Tulsa Regional Chamber and its partners across the Tulsa region have dubbed Tulsa "A World Class Energy City," a name well-deserved for the hub of an industry network of more than 24,000 jobs.

ImpactType	Employment	Total Economic Impact
Direct Effect	24,675	\$9,664,244,113
Indirect Effect	23,550	\$2,923,827,704
Induced Effect	33,504	\$2,410,608,093
Total Effect	81,729	\$14,998,679,910

"Oil and Gas" as defined as the drilling for and extraction of oil and gas, pipeline transportation, the manufacture of well-servicing equipment and oil and gas well services, accounts for 5.6 percent of all non-farm employment in the Tulsa 11-county area. Key points related to the oil and gas sector in the Tulsa 11-county area are:

- » Every 10 employees in oil and gas support 23 additional employees in the local economy, 9.5 of whom work in industries that directly supply resources to the oil and gas industry.
- » Every dollar earned by employees in oil and gas supports the earning of an additional \$1.08 elsewhere in the Tulsa-area economy.
- » Each job in oil and gas contributes \$391,661 to gross product of the 11-county region.
- » Each dollar of production in Tulsa-area oil and gas supports an additional \$0.55 of production of goods and services elsewhere in the 11-county region.
- » One year's activity in Tulsa-region oil and gas supports total sales tax of \$361.2 million, \$170.3 million of which is local, and total property tax of \$194.8 million.

Tulsa oil and gas employment is 4.3 times more concentrated compared to the industry overall in the U.S., an indication that Tulsa is an important region for growing the U.S. oil and gas industry.

Tulsa's cost-of-doing business is nearly 17 percent below the U.S. average and supports the 6.1-percent year-over-year growth that goods-producing industries are experiencing now and the 4.9-percent growth projected through 2017. Accounting for nearly 10 percent of all good-producing employment in the 11-county region, Tulsa oil and gas should grow steadily with the goods-producing industries of manufacturing and construction.

Taylor Forge constructs new Tulsa facility. plans workforce expansion



Taylor Forge Engineered Systems is marking its expansion in the Gas Processing and Heat Transfer business with construction of a new manufacturing center in Tulsa. The company plans to expand its workforce as part of its strategy for continued growth.

Taylor Forge is in the process of applying for the State of Oklahoma's Quality Jobs incentive, and plans to add as many as 100 employees at its new facility. Planned to be open at Cherokee Industrial Park in north Tulsa by September, the manufacturing center will focus on process and heat transfer packages.

"Our region's thriving manufacturing sector continues to grow, and we are very pleased to welcome industry leader Taylor Forge to northeast Oklahoma." said Tulsa Regional Chamber President and CEO Mike Neal. "Taylor Forge will be an excellent addition to the Tulsa region business community, and we look forward to a continued partnership with this outstanding company."

Tulsa's Future economic development plan bolsters state economy tulsas/\future

The Tulsa region is integral to Oklahoma's economic success, with the Tulsa Regional Chamberled Tulsa's Future plan playing a leading role in the state's economic development. That's what Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin, business leaders and regional elected officials had to say at the annual meeting for the Tulsa's Future economic development initiative April 15.





Tulsa's Future contributed to the announcement of 3,503 new jobs in northeast Oklahoma in 2012. More than 2,400 of those jobs were above the initiative's target annual income of \$50,000 or greater.

Gov. Fallin lauded the accomplishments of Tulsa's Future, emphasizing the role the Tulsa region plays in the state's economic development efforts.

"Oklahoma is recognized as a national leader in job creation and economic development, and the Tulsa area is playing an integral role in helping our state maintain that distinction. Successful regional partnerships, such as Tulsa's Future, are a key component in our continued economic growth."

The Tulsa region's economic development accomplishments would not be possible without the many partners that participate as Tulsa's Future investors, Tulsa Regional Chamber President and CEO Mike Neal said, citing major economic

development successes and continued economic progress in the region as examples of the Tulsa's Future plan's momentum.

"Tulsa's Future is a catalyst for regional economic development and will provide farreaching benefits that will serve our area for many years to come," said Stuart Solomon, Tulsa's Future Oversight Committee Chair and President and COO of Public Service Company of Oklahoma. "We are strengthening our region's position to compete for jobs, for people and for capital investment."

BRIEN THORSTENBERG VP // Economic Development

THORSTENBERG NAMED VP OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Tulsa Regional Chamber has named Brien Thorstenberg its new vice president of economic development replacing Justin McLaughlin, who recently assumed the role of senior vice president. Thorstenberg, formerly director of business and economic development for the Muskogee City-County Port Authority, joined the Chamber staff effective May 20. Thorstenberg has been a steadfast partner in the Tulsa's Future regional economic development plan and has worked with the Chamber to attract businesses and bolster job creation in northeast Oklahoma.

Thorstenberg began employment with the Muskogee City-County Port Authority in February 2012. In Muskogee, he championed industry expansions and a community visioning project to move

the community forward. Previously, Thorstenberg served as vice president of development of the Ardmore Development Authority for nine years.

SOCIALLY Speaking.



@alibuffer: Tulsa bound for the 2013 @TulsaChamber Resource Campaign kickoff

@fowwow: pumped for the 5/15 event on "stimulating downtown development through the arts!" thanks @AHCTulsa & @TulsaChamber!

@lanterncamps: Proud to be listed as a new member with the @TulsaChamber!

@LtGovToddLamb: Always great to speak at @TulsaChamber Day at the Capitol. Twitpic.com/ck17a3

@RepFrankLucas: I just met with the @TulsaChamber and discussed issues important to their city. It was a pleasure visiting with them. Pic.twitter.com/ a47Nkz4C0v

@MidwestTravelEd: Sending a colleague out to visit @visittulsa and @Visitokc to find great stuff for us to cover in @MidwestLiving. Where should she go?



CHAMBER: Tulsa was ranked fourth-best city to start a business by NerdWallet this week. Shout out to The Forge Tulsa. Tulsa's Young Professionals' business incubator, and to all our small business members. You picked the right place!

According to our records, Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) has been a Partner In Education since 1984 just one year after the program launched in Tulsa. Do you know

of any companies who have partnered with a TPS site for the entire 30 years?

TYPROS: Congrats to 2012 Chair Kate Hoback and 2014 Chair Isaac Rocha for being recognized as two of Oklahoma Magazine's 40 Under 40. We're grateful for such fantastic leadership at TYPros. You make T-Town terrific!

Thrilled to be mentioned as a "best practice" for communities needing to increase YP opportunities - check out yesterday's Market Street Report which mentions TYPros Next Gen Leadership Crew's Board Intern Program and TYPros Business Development Crew's Bring It To Tulsa. Awesome!

TSC: It's about to get very busy again in our offices. Mark your calendar for these great events: USA Volleyball June 14 and 15, Strike Night June 18, AC Milan July 12-14. And, don't forget to register early for the Tulsa Run, set for Oct. 26!

Downtown: Downtown will be bustling with activity next month as it welcomes Mayfest and the Blue Dome Arts Festival. Art and entertainment of all sorts will be featured at these exciting events.

VisitTulsa: Tulsa ranks in top 10 pet-friendly cities by Priceline.com. Book your spring vacation to our furry friend-loving town now. Need help? Go to VisitTulsa. com or call 800.588.3311.

CHAMBER NAMES NEW **SVP of economic** development



The Tulsa Regional Chamber promoted Justin McLaughlin to the role of senior vice president of economic development. He replaces Jim Fram, who resigned from the role effective April 26 to accept the position of president and CEO of the Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. Justin has served as vice president of economic development for the Tulsa Regional Chamber since 2009.

Justin holds the distinguished title of CEcD, certified economic developer, from the International Economic Development Council. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Chamber Institute for Organizational Management program at the University of Arizona. He holds a bachelor of business administration-finance from the University of Central Oklahoma.



Why do we care?

As the premier principal business-driven leadership organization the Chamber's mission is to improve the quality of community life through the development of regional economic prosperity, but where does health care fit in?

The answer is two-fold: premier health care is a key component of a healthy community but it is also integral to Tulsa's healthy economy.

"Tulsa's largest industries are aerospace, energy, manufacturing and health care," said Susan Harris, senior vice president of education and workforce at the Tulsa Regional Chamber. "Health care is often overlooked as an economic driver but it is undoubtedly related to business. More than 30,000 people are employed by the health care industry in Tulsa."

According to Tulsa MSA statistics, health care employment increased by 1.6 percent from 2007 to 2012; that figure is forecast to increase by 3.1 percent by 2017, although the needs of the community are expected to increase exponentially.

The Tulsa Regional Chamber's One-Voice legislative agenda includes health care items year after year. In 2013, one item supports continued funding for graduate medical education, which will ensure growth of residency programs in Oklahoma.

"Seventy percent of residents will practice within 100 miles of their residency," said Harris, "which means that we need residency opportunities in Tulsa to encourage our talented workforce to stav in the region."

The increase of residencies and physicians is specifically important as Tulsa, along with the nation, faces the looming "Silver Tsunami," which depicts the health care situation as baby boomers begin to retire and have increased health care needs. As these needs increase, Tulsa will see a decrease in physicians as they, too, retire; currently 41 percent of Oklahoma physicians are 55 years or older. Ranking 49th in the nation in physicians-per-capita, it is imperative the Tulsa health care industry grow significantly.

A second item supported by the Chamber is small business health care reforms, which will enable small businesses to keep down health insurance premium costs and increase the number of insured employees. This effort benefits individuals in the community and business-owners. all while strengthening the Tulsa economy.

LOOK INSIDE **THE ISSUES**

The Tulsa Regional Chamber hosts a number of **HEALTH CARE** FORUMS throughout the year. Forums are free and open to the public; upcoming events are listed on TulsaChamber.com. To be included on the email invitation list for health care forums, email program coordinator Joanna Slyter at joannaslyter@TulsaChamber.com.

RIVER SPIRIT ANNOUNCES \$250 MILLION MARGARITAVILLE EXPANSION

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is expanding its River Spirit Casino and entering into a partnership with Margaritaville to open a 22-story hotel along the Arkansas River. Expansion plans call for a 500-room hotel tower, new casino, restaurant, pool-bar area, theater, event center and more - all bearing Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville brand.

The project's size and scope is significant as it will generate approximately 800 new full-time jobs at the resort, and it will have a combined annual economic impact of \$135.4 million. The annual payroll for the new jobs is estimated to be \$38 million.



ENERGY INDUSTRY LEADERS TRAVEL TO TULSA FOR DUG MIDCONTINENT

VisitTulsa welcomed Hart Energy to Tulsa in April. Hart Energy, a leader in energy news, data, analysis and conferences for 30-plus years, hosted the latest in its successful series of DUG (Developing Unconventionals) conferences at Renaissance Tulsa Hotel and Convention Center

The DUG Midcontinent conference addressed the early success of unconventional drilling and completion technologies in the Mississippi Lime play region of North-central Oklahoma and Southcentral Kansas, as well as other emerging Midcontinent plays.



Despite being in its first year, the conference has already developed a reputation as a key place for dialogue around the Mississippi Lime. Exhibitor space sold out within the first day of announcing the conference and while attendance was initially estimated at 400, the final number of attendees proved to be well more than 1,000. With the success of this year's conference, Hart Energy has already committed to bringing the DUG Midcontinent to Tulsa again in 2014.

"We were thrilled to host Hart Energy's DUG Midcontinent conference. Conferences such as this continually increase awareness of our region's premier facilities. As a result, our region's presence as a destination for tourists and business travelers across the nation grows, and in turn, our economy grows and prospers," said Ray Hoyt, senior vice president of VisitTulsa and the Tulsa Sports Commission.

Bringing the DUG Midcontinent to Tulsa was a partnership of the Chamber and the City of Tulsa.

"We were invited by VisitTulsa and Mayor Bartlett to bring our DUG conference series to Tulsa. and we were very happy to accept," said Rich Eichler, CEO of Hart Energy. "Tulsa is a hotbed for unconventional oil and gas production with the Mississippi Lime, and with Hart Energy being a leader covering unconventional resource activity and technology, attendees were able to hear firsthand from the key players who are operating in this region."

The conference brought more than two dozen industry leaders as speakers. Among those were local leaders Pierce Norton, executive vice president, commercial. ONEOK and ONEOK Partners. and Steve Antry, chairman and CEO, Eagle Energy of Oklahoma LLC.

In addition to its impact on the Tulsa region's tourism and convention market, Chamber and City leaders believe bringing these key players to Tulsa will increase the visibility of the region's energy industry.

"The Chamber has identified energy as a target sector for its economic development efforts," said Justin McLaughlin, senior vice president of economic development for the Tulsa Regional Chamber. "The energy industry is vitally important for our region, bringing countless jobs and an economic impact of more than \$10 billion annually."

Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett agreed the event was a win for Tulsa's energy sector.

"Events such as the DUG Midcontinent conference help increase the visibility of Tulsa as a top-tier city in the energy sector, and bring energy professionals from across the region and country to Tulsa for enhanced educational, professional development and business opportunities."



Last summer the Chamber's internal staff "Green Team" began to improve the organization's sustainability efforts with a staff survey to benchmark the knowledge of sustainability, followed by a trash audit conducted by Tulsa's Young Professionals Sustainability Crew members.

Styrofoam cups have been removed from the office completely, biodegradable or recycle-friendly kitchen products have been added, and board meeting packets are made available electronically instead of printed. Most staff members have personal paper recycling bins at their desks, and the break room and print room have larger recycling receptacles for paper, cardboard, plastic and a variety of metals.

The Chamber's environmentally friendly changes are rooted in a desire to keep Tulsa healthy but the results, in the Chamber's case, have been more than reducing landfill waste. Representatives visiting Tulsa for a potential conference or business relocation have responded extremely positively to visible efforts at sustainability and view the Chamber's office as a reflection of Tulsa as a whole.

The green team continues to promote sustainable practices in the office; plans for the upcoming year include a comprehensive recycling center where staff can drop off uncommon recyclables such as batteries and electronics.

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM SPONSORS







TYPROS HOSTS successful Street CReD event

Tulsa's Young Professionals' third annual Street CReD brought approximately 1,000 people to 36th Street North and North Peoria in April to learn about community needs for updated transit and increased accessibility to healthy foods. The opportunities for development were highlighted by simulating proposed bus routes and providing farmer's market-style grocery vendors.



"Street CReD can only be successful if people attend and learn about the opportunities in our underserved communities in Tulsa," said Hillary Parkhurst, 2013 TYPros chair. "I am overwhelmed by the turnout and hope the awareness brings about sustainable development in North Star."

A representative from the City of Tulsa Small Area Plan set up a booth sharing PlaniTulsa's vision for 36th Street North. Additionally representatives from INCOG traveled on the trollies to share information about upgrading the transit system on the Peoria corridor to Bus Rapid Transit, which would decrease travel-time and increase accessibility.

"North Star is ripe for development," said Brian Paschal, executive director of Tulsa's Young Professionals. "It's 10 minutes from downtown, the zoo, Cherry Street, the airport, Gilcrease Museum and more. We hope this event highlights opportunities and that business developers choose to open shop in this community."

Street CReD also showcased local entertainers, vendors, food trucks, community partners and children's events.

Presenting sponsors were Crafton Tull and Kline Tools. Gold sponsors were DJ JB Smoove, Cyntergy AEC, Green Acre Sod, Osage Casino and Selser Schaefer Architects.

Chamber celebrates **30** years of Partners In Education, awards top partners



PARTNER OF THE YEAR, HELMERICH & PAYNE (PICTURED FROM L TO R: TPS SUPERINTENDENT DR. KEITH BALLARD; JOHN BELL, VP OF HUMAN RESOURCES AT HELMERICH & PAYNE; SUSAN HARRIS, THE CHAMBER'S SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE: AND PARTNERS IN EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR MIKE MILLS.)

The Tulsa Regional Chamber celebrated with Tulsa Public Schools administrators and Tulsa businesses and organizations on Thursday, May 9 at the Partners In Education Recognition Reception. The annual reception highlights the work of all partners and honors 12 with distinctive awards, including Outstanding Small Business Partner and the Dedicated Partnership Award.

Nancy McDonald, a long-time education activist in Tulsa, was the keynote speaker for the event and, unbeknownst to her, the recipient of the coveted Chittom Challenge Award. The award is named for Mike Chittom who wholly dedicated himself to the students, faculty and staff at Celia Clinton Elementary for more than a decade: the recipient of the award must show tireless commitment to enhance the educational environment of Tulsa's students. McDonald has undoubtedly shown tireless commitment as she was integral

in launching Partners In Education 30 years ago when she worked at Tulsa Public Schools and she continues to volunteer for the program.

Chamber staff went on a quest this vear to find the longest-standing partner to honor and thank for their service over the past 30 years and found Public Service Company of Oklahoma began its partnerships in 1984, just one year after the program began. PSO was honored with an inaugural PSO Public Service Partnership Award



ADDITIONAL PARTNERS IN EDUCATION AWARD **RECIPIENTS**

PARTNER OF THE YEAR Helmerich & Payne,

Wright Elementary

PRINCIPAL OF EXCELLENCE

Tasha Johnson. Gilcrease Elementary

VALUABLE INVESTMENT AWARD WPX Energy,

Hawthorne Elementary

OUTSTANDING SMALL BUSINESS PARTNER

Yankee Distributing. Mitchell Elementary

OUTSTANDING FAITH-BASED PARTNER (SMALL CONGREGATION)

Carbondale Church of Christ,

Remington Elementary

OUTSTANDING FAITH-BASED PARTNER (LARGE CONGREGATION) First United Methodist Church,

Clinton Middle School

OUTSTANDING DISTRICT PARTNER Camp Fire.

Mark Twain Elementary

DEDICATED PARTNERSHIP AWARD

First Presbyterian Church, Emerson Elementary

CHAMPIONS AWARD LINKS,

Gilcrease Elementary

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

John Calvin Presbyterian Church, Skelly Elementary



BROUGHT TO YOU BY VISITTULSA

It's been described as something you'll know when you hear, a laid-back blend of blues- and country-influenced rock and roll that began in the 1950s and 60s, and reached its pinnacle with artists such as Leon Russell. For decades, the "Tulsa Sound" has defined a musical generation that left its mark on pop culture and sparked a vibrant music scene in Tulsa that continues today.

This summer the local artists who are creating today's Tulsa sound will fan out across the metro in local clubs and bars, before coming together for strings of performances in an abundance of summer concert series. So before you make plans for a summer vacation elsewhere, consider some opportunities to stay at home and discover today's Tulsa sound.

On Thursday nights beginning May 23, Utica Square will be filled with musical talent as it hosts its 22nd annual Summer's Fifth Night. The free outdoor concerts will take place 7-9 p.m., every Thursday through the end of August. With bands and artists ranging in style from pop and R&B to Red Dirt country and Dixieland. local musicians will bring a variety of sounds to the square.

Downtown's new urban park and performance space, Guthrie Green, will also be hosting several free concerts. Since opening last year, the venue has already become a hotspot for local and regional musicians. Bands take the stage the first Friday of every month in conjunction with the Brady Arts District's First Friday Art Crawl. Concerts featuring an eclectic mix of local artists with original music are also scheduled throughout the summer on weekend afternoons and evenings.

For an outdoor concert set against the backdrop of the Arkansas River, check out Starlight Concerts held at Tulsa's only floating stage, the River West Festival Amphitheater. For decades, the stage has played host to a variety of music. Starlight Concerts this summer will feature concert bands and jazz orchestras. The grassy hillside and stadium-style steps make it the perfect venue for a blanket picnic and fun with the family.



In addition to these Tulsa traditions, the new outdoor concert series every music lover can't miss this summer is the Center of the Universe Festival set for July 19-20. The festival is named for the mysterious "center of the universe" marker on the Boston Avenue pedestrian bridge, where passersby who stand directly in the center of a 30-inch cement circle on the ground will notice a strange echoing and vibrating sound to their voice, which only they can hear.

Contrary to the nature of its name, the Center of the Universe Festival is sure to



bring sound that everyone can hear, featuring more than 70 local, regional and national bands. The festival will include two outdoor stages where general admission is free: a main stage located near north Main and Easton, across from Cain's Ballroom, with a second stage at Guthrie Green. The stages will host headliners OneRepublic and Neon Trees fronted by other nationally known acts. The main stages will be open Friday and Saturday evening from 5 to 11 p.m., and then

selected emerging artists from across the region and country will play in Brady Arts District bars and clubs for more intimate performances until close.

But outdoor venues aren't the only opportunity to check out the Tulsa Sound. True to its reputa-

tion, Tulsa offers a variety of venues for listeners. From one-of-a-kind, intimate experiences at places like the historic Cain's Ballroom to the roar and excitement of an arena crowd at the BOK Center, there are dozens of hot spots around the region to take in a performance.

Wherever you go in and around Tulsa this summer, there's sure to be a local band nearby. So stop, take a moment to listen. and discover today's Tulsa sound.

LISTEN UP

There's a reason why Livability.com ranked Tulsa as the ninth best place for live music in 2012. It has some of the best local talent in the music industry and this summer there'll be plenty of opportunities to soak up the sound at outdoor concerts.

For outdoor performance schedules:

SUMMER'S FIFTH NIGHT

UticaSquare.com

GUTHRIE GREEN

GuthrieGreen.com

STARLIGHT CONCERTS

StarlightBands.net

CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE FESTIVAL

CenteroftheUniverseFestival.com







The Tulsa Sports Commission gathered with Mayor Dewey Bartlett and other officials from the City of Tulsa recently to celebrate the grand opening of Mohawk Soccer Complex. The facility, located at 3500 E. 56th St. N., was completed last year utilizing funds from Vision 2025 and Park Friends donations.

Tulsa**Sports**Commission

66 Not only will this state-of-the-art complex attract more economic development opportunities for our city, but it keeps Tulsa at a competitive level with other cities to attract sports organizations and increase tourism dollars. 99

- MAYOR DEWEY BARTLETT

The new complex sits on 350 acres with 17 soccer fields, playgrounds and shade structures as well as buildings for restrooms, concessions, tournament administration and locker rooms for referees.

While the complex's primary purpose is to attract national youth soccer tournaments, the versatility of the fields will also lend to marketing for a wide variety of high school and college sports such as football, lacrosse and field hockey.

"Not only will this state-of-the-art complex attract more economic development opportunities for our city, but it keeps Tulsa at a competitive level with other cities to attract sports organizations and increase tourism dollars," Bartlett said.

During the grand opening ceremony, Bartlett announced the City of Tulsa is working to partner with the Tulsa Sports Commission to manage, market and promote the soccer complex. The Tulsa Parks & Recreation Department will continue to handle the maintenance for the facility.

"We're thrilled to be considered for this partnership with the City of Tulsa to market this great new facility. Mohawk Soccer Complex will be a key addition to the many assets Tulsa has in attracting top level sporting events from around the country," said Ray Hoyt, senior vice president of VisitTulsa and the Tulsa Sports Commission.

The complex has already played host to its first tournament. Blitz United Soccer Club hosted the Friendship Cup at the facility in April. The tournament drew 150plus teams from surrounding states for a three-day competition. Tournaments such as the Friendship Cup are exactly the type the Tulsa Sports Commission would like to see more of, bringing in visitors from other communities.

"The kind of youth sporting events this facility will draw can have a significant economic impact. It is not just the kids coming; the parents, coaches and referees will all stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants and visit our attractions," Hoyt said.



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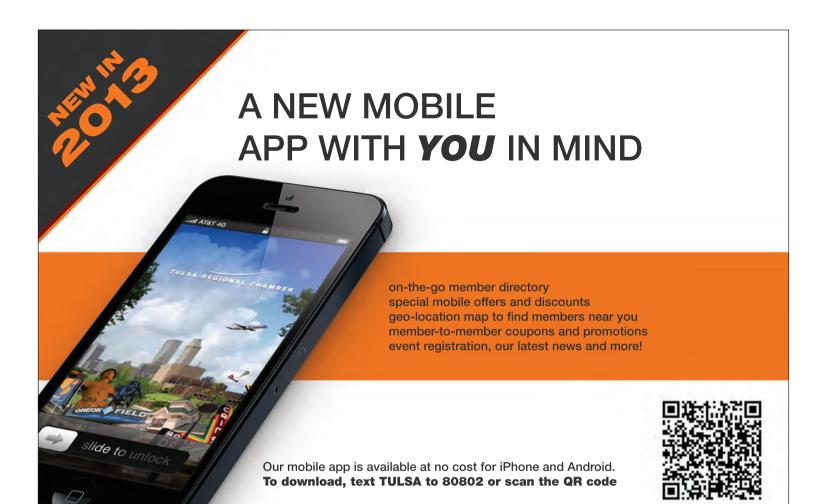
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