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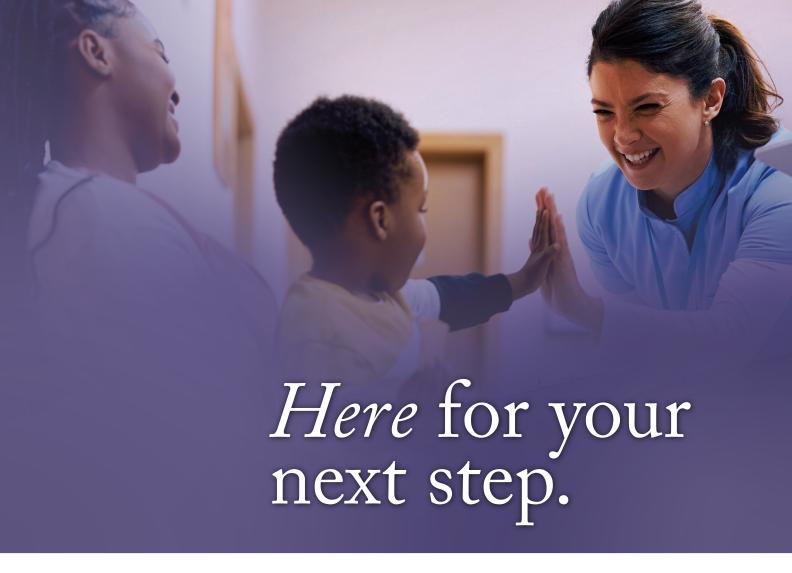


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= Hear from our Tulsa Families =

"We couldn't be happier with our experience at Celebree! From the very first day, the caring and attentive staff made both us and our little one feel right at home."

"The teachers are genuinely passionate about early childhood development, and their warmth and kindness are evident in every interaction. The facility is always clean, safe, and filled with a variety of engaging toys and learning materials that keep our child happy and stimulated."

"We are so grateful to the entire team for their patience, professionalism, and genuine LOVE for all of the children. We couldn't ask for anything more!"

"If you're looking for a daycare that feels like an extension of your family, we highly recommend Celebree! Choosing Celebree has been the best decision we've ever made." ★★★★★ 5 days ago

We couldn't be happier with our experience at Celebreel. From the very first day, the caring and attentive staff made both us and our little one feel right at home. The teachers are genuinely passionate about early childhood development, and their warmth and kindness are evident in every interaction.

The facility is always clean, safe, and filled with a variety of engaging toys and learning materials that keep our child happy and stimulated. My favorite part is the peaceful and calming music playing throughout the school at all times. We love the regular updates and adorable photos they share daily, which give us peace of mind knowing that our child is in great hands, playing with her friends, and learning and exploring new things every day.

What truly sets Celebree apart is their dedication to creating a nurturing environment. We are so grateful to the entire team for their patience, professionalism, and genuine LOVE for all of the children. We couldn't ask for anything more!

If you're looking for a daycare that feels like an extension of your family, we highly recommend Celebree! Choosing Celebree has been the best decision we've ever made.

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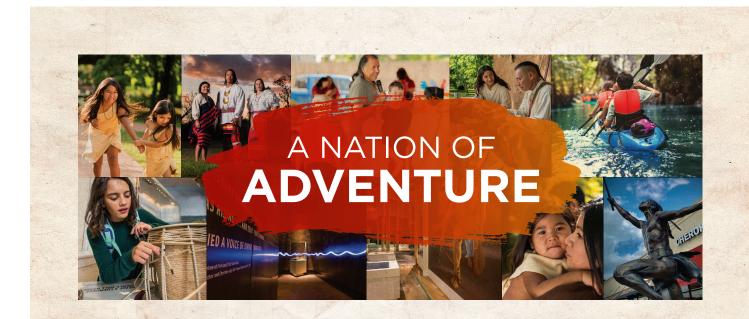
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s I was waiting to see a healthcare professional at urgent care, a mom and a little boy, maybe 4 years old, were sitting across the room from me. "You are learning to be patient," the mom said to her fidgety son. I continued to fumble through filling out the copious check-in pages on my phone, making educated guesses without my reading glasses. The little boy in the meantime had reached the end of his patience in that cavernous grey room and stood up in the grey plastic chair. The mom told him to sit on his bottom. He bounced down momentarily and then flipped on his stomach, sliding down, half-in, half-out of the chair. The mom began to lose her patience. "Sit down now!" You know how kids have that ability to hang half-way off a chair, upside down with their legs on the seat and the top half of their bodies hanging toward the floor? This kid was doing that. The lesson in patience was at its end for both of them. "I'm going to call your dad!" the mom said. That got the kid's attention. He flipped around and sat down, but they were called in for their appointment, so I didn't get to see whether dad would actually come, or what might happen if dad were called.

It did make me think about dads as we approach Father's Day. They play a certain role in the family, and it may be different for each family. Bring up the topic of dads with your friends. People will have all kinds of dad stories to share, from funny to loving to sad.

As with moms, the important thing for any adult in a child's life is that they engage in positive ways so that the child feels valued and loved.

Our staff enjoyed reading all the nominations for the Amazing Dad contest. It was heartwarming to read about the various activities that dads enjoy doing with their kids, the very difficult role of being a single dad, or the sometimes-overwhelming role of being the parent to a child with disabilities.

All dads who lovingly parent a child are Amazing Dads.

We celebrate all you do every day!



**Betty Casey**ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

# tulsakids

Volume XXXVIII | Number 6

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### **Turkey Mountain Visitor Center Gets BOK Donation**

The River Parks Authority recently announced the development of the BOK HUB, a new visitor center and the future headquarters of the River Parks Authority, located at the main entrance of Tulsa's Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness. The \$8 million project is being launched with a generous \$2 million lead donation from Bank of Oklahoma.

"As a company that values community and the great outdoors, we're thrilled to support the creation of a space that Tulsa families can enjoy for generations to come. This donation is about more than just enhancing a recreation area; it's about investing in the future of our community and ensuring that our children and grandchildren have a beautiful place to play, explore and connect with nature," said Stacy Kymes, president and CEO of BOK Financial.

With over 300,000 annual visitors, Turkey Mountain has risen as a leading regional destination for hiking, biking and outdoor recreation. As the area continues to grow, the River Parks Authority has followed a comprehensive Turkey Mountain Master Plan—and the BOK HUB represents a major step forward in those plans. The new center will serve as a central gathering area for visitors to rest or find trail maps, volunteers to gather and showcase the landscape, and a launchpad for programming at Turkey Mountain.

This announcement and contribution by Bank of Oklahoma and the River Parks Authority brings this vision closer to reality. However, support from additional donors and the community is essential to bridge the final gap and officially break ground on the BOK HUB.

In the meantime, River Parks Authority will continue the work on this project as they get closer to bringing the BOK HUB to life. Visitors to Turkey Mountain can view on-site visuals of the future hub, track the progress and even contribute to the ongoing fundraising campaign.

To learn more about the River Parks Authority, visit riverparks.org.

## Victory Athletic Center Celebrates Grand Opening

Victory Christian School announced the official grand opening of its newly constructed indoor athletic facility, located at 7700 S Lewis Ave., south of the baseball fields.

The Victory Athletic Center will serve student athletes of all ages and skill levels. The center features two indoor courts for basketball and volleyball, and an indoor turf for football, baseball and soccer training.

"At VCS, we use athletics as a tool to disciple young adults and train them to know God and know who God has called them to be. This new facility will help us continue in our mission with an added level of excellence," said Ryan Wakley, Victory Christian School athletic director. "All our programs will benefit from having additional space to practice and meet as a team. We are grateful for the partnership of our church, Victory Tulsa, who partnered with us to build debt-free. The school can continue operating profitably without the burden of a great new facility bill, and we couldn't be more excited."



### Tulsa City-County Library's One Book, One Tulsa Features Mateo Askaripour

Tulsa City-County Library (TCCL) invites Tulsa County residents to join the conversation and participate in "One Book, One Tulsa," a communitywide reading initiative focusing on Mateo Askaripour's novel "This Great Hemisphere" and culminating with a free presentation by the author on Friday, July 18 from 6-7 p.m. at Central Library, Fifth Street and Denver Avenue. Books will be available for purchasing at the event, courtesy of Fulton Street Books.

The annual "One Book, One Tulsa" event fosters literacy within Tulsa County through this communitywide book reading and encourages conversation about a meaningful work. Askaripour is a recipient of the National Book Foundation's "5 Under 30" prize, and his novel "This Great Hemisphere" is a powerful, captivating work about how far we'll go to protect the ones we love.

Readers are invited to explore Askaripour's work and then deepen their understanding of the book through "Appetizers: Community Conversations," a series of enlightening programs leading up to Askaripour's visit in July. "Appetizers" events will be held in June and July, detailed below, and shareable food will be provided by the host location unless otherwise noted.

- Wednesday, June 4 from 1-2 p.m. at King's Way Wings, 804 S. Lewis Ave.
- Monday, June 9 from 2-3 p.m. at Mack's Wings, 782 E. Pine St.
- Friday, June 20 from 2-3 p.m. at Central Library. Refreshments provided by Italian Ice Co.
- Saturday, June 28 from 1-2 p.m. at Suburban Acres Library, 4606 N. Garrison. Refreshments provided by Daddy B's BBQ.
- Tuesday, July 1 from 10-11 a.m. at Fulton Street Books & Coffee, 21 N. Greenwood Ave.
- Thursday, July 10 from 5:30-7 p.m. at Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Road. Refreshments provided by Wanda J's.

For event details, visit tulsalibrary.org/one-book-one-tulsa.

"One Book, One Tulsa" is sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust. The event and associated programs are free and open to the public. Copies of "This Great Hemisphere" are available for checkout at the library. Learn more about the event or place a copy of the book on hold at *tulsalibrary.org*, or call AskUs at 918.549.7323.



# **OKPOP Hosting Monthly Public Tours During First Friday Art Crawl**

The Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture, better known as OKPOP, will host free monthly "OKPOP-IN" public tours during the First Friday Art Crawl in the Tulsa Arts District.

This is a chance for a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum that will highlight Oklahoma creatives in music, movies, television, comics and beyond. OKPOP is in the middle of its Heart & Soul fundraising campaign, which will help support the acquisitions and design of one-of-a-kind exhibits. Blake Shelton is the honorary campaign chair. To date, OKPOP has more than 40,000 items in its collection, ranging from instruments to puppets and sketches to costumes. Recent acquisitions include posters and signage from Cain's Ballroom, Leon McAuliffe's 1955 Fender Quad-neck Stringmaster steel guitar and Tommy Allsup's 1958 Fender Stratocaster guitar. They've conducted hundreds of video interviews with Oklahoma creatives, including Kristin Chenoweth, Joy Harjo, Olivia Munn and Leona Mitchell. The OKPOP Foundation is more than halfway to the goal of raising \$18 million by November 2025 to receive a matching \$18 million in funding from the state, which was appropriated in 2023.

OKPOP is located in the Tulsa Arts District at 422 N. "Bob Wills" Main St. in Tulsa. For more information, please call 918.402.2887. OKPOP is a division of the Oklahoma Historical Society.









SCIENCE I TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | MATHEMATICS



# Make a Solar Oven!

By Kirsten Lang

What better way to kick off the summer season than to make your very own solar oven at home with the kids.

It is a great way to utilize the start of these hot summer days, learn a little science and have a sweet treat in between!

## What You'll Need

Start by saving an old pizza box, grabbing some aluminum foil, scissors, black construction paper, plastic wrap, tape, a ruler and ingredients for s'mores (chocolate bar, graham crackers and marshmallows).

## What You Do

Draw a square about 2 inches in on the top of the pizza box. Cut along the lines on three sides of the square, leaving the top attached to form a hinge. A box cutter or Xacto knife might be easier to use for this.

Fold up the square flap that you have made. Prop open the flap of the square with a ruler, and then cover the top flap with aluminum foil. This will be what reflects and concentrates sunlight into the box.

Then, tape down some black construction paper on the bottom of the inside of the box. Black absorbs sunlight more than any other color, and this will help convert the heat in the box and warm the food at a faster rate.

Place your uncooked s'mores in the box and seal the open top with plastic wrap. The plastic will allow sunlight to enter the "oven" while also sealing in heat. Turn your solar oven so that the aluminum flap is facing the sun. Did your marshmallows melt?

### How It Works

Similar to a greenhouse, a solar oven uses the plastic to let sunlight in but then traps the heat, while the reflection of the aluminum allows for an increase in heat in the process.

# CONTESTS + GIVEAWAYS

Get links to the following at tulsakids.com/contests

# WHAT'S GOING ON(LINE)?

# Thank you to everyone who entered our Take Me Out to the Ballgame Photo Contest, sponsored by Tulsa Drillers

Here are a few of the wonderful submissions:

















# **TulsaKids with Tulsa Places**

We recently started collaborating with Tulsa Places, an Instagram account run by local mom Lindsay Morris, which highlights local businesses and fun things to do around town. Follow @tulsakids on Instagram to see the latest adventures on Fridays.

(Also: Read Lindsay's article on homeschooling in this issue!)



# 2025 Family Favorites votes are in! We have tallied up the votes from our 2025 Family Favorites contest (more than 50,000 of them!). The winners and finalists will be announced in our July issue. Thanks to everyone who voted! SAK Family Favorites 2025

# First Pitch Giveaway, with Tulsa Drillers

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# Setting Boundaries with Children

Simple, Necessary and Consistent

# By Angie Porter, MS, CCPS

eaching children begins early. Toddlers are not too young to begin to understand right vs. wrong. The important thing is to make a few simple rules, be consistent and kind and follow through.

# 1. Keep Boundaries Simple, Necessary and Minimal

Children thrive when expectations are clear and manageable. Too many rules can overwhelm and confuse them.

Focus on the rules that truly matter – those that keep children safe, help them respect others and protect the environment around them.

Example of a necessary rule: "We keep sand in the sandbox to keep everyone safe."

# 2. Repeat Rules Often - Children Learn Through Repetition

Young children are still developing their memory and self-control. Gentle, frequent reminders help reinforce expectations.

Repetition is not nagging — it's teaching. Use the same calm, clear language each time to help the rule "stick."

Example: "Remember, sand stays in the sandbox."

### 3. Consistency Builds Trust

If it's a rule, it must be applied every time. Inconsistency confuses children and makes it harder for them to follow through.

Children feel safer and more secure when they know what to expect.

If a rule changes depending on mood or situation, children may test boundaries more often.

### 4. Follow Through with Calm and Kindness

When a rule is broken, act right away, calmly and predictably.

Following through is not about punishment — it's about helping the child experience the natural result of their choice.

Example: "George, I see you threw the sand again. Now it's time to play in another area."

Then gently guide George to a different activity.



# Why This Works

Simple and consistent boundaries help children feel safe, learn self-control and develop respect for others. Repetition and follow-through teach them that their choices have predictable outcomes, which builds both responsibility and trust.

NOTE: It is important to recognize that children are emotional beings who are still learning to manage their emotions. Sometimes, when we enforce rules, children will have a "melt down," cry or vocalize their displeasure. This is OK. Allow your child/ren to express their displeasure and calmly stick to your rule and move on.

Angela Percival-Porter serves as a Child Development Specialist for the State of Oklahoma and is an adjunct professor, teaching various child development and child care administration courses at both community and national colleges. With 33 years of experience working with families and children, Angela has held roles such as director of an NAEYC-accredited early care and education center and has provided mental health consultation to local childcare centers.



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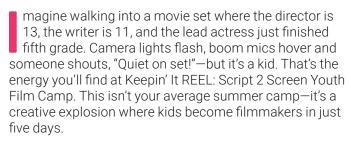
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# Where Kids Call "Action!"

Inside Tulsa's Youth Film Takeover

By Dr. Tamecca Rogers, PhD





Back for its second year by popular demand, Keepin' It REEL is more than just fun—it's an entry point into one of the fastest-growing industries in Oklahoma. With Tulsa's film industry booming and production activity increasing by over 300% in the past five years, the opportunities for young creatives have never been better. From June 9 through June 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, students ages 9–18 will step inside TWHTV Studios' Television, Film & Digital Media Program at Webster High School and turn their ideas into real short films.

What makes this camp special? It's not a simulation. Every camper becomes part of a real film crew. They collaborate on short films from the first word typed on the script to the final cut. Last year's students didn't just participate—they made award-winning films that were shown at festivals across the country and even internationally. These weren't basic school projects—they were fully produced short films worthy of the big screen. And when the credits rolled, those kids saw their names in lights.

Oklahoma has made significant moves to support its creative workforce. The state has attracted filmmakers and crews nationwide with stackable cash rebates on qualified film and television expenses. That industry momentum is spreading into our schools and communities, and it's time our youth knew just how many doors it can open.



Keepin' It REEL is here to show them. Whether your child dreams of being in front of the camera or loves working with their hands, there's a role for them. Filmmaking isn't just about acting and directing—it's lights, set building, wardrobe, makeup, editing and more. From carpentry to costumes, every student finds their lane and explores it in a hands-on, fast-paced environment that feels more like Hollywood than a high school.

The camp is even bigger this year thanks to new and returning sponsors. We've partnered with TWHTV Studios and Tulsa's historic Circle Cinema to provide top-tier facilities and screening opportunities. We're excited to welcome the Schusterman Family Foundation as a first-time supporter. We are deeply grateful for our returning sponsors: Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Arts and Culture and Cherokee Film. Their backing means students get more than instruction—they get the real deal.

And nobody's creating magic on an empty stomach. With help from local restaurants and catering businesses, every camper gets breakfast and lunch daily. They'll need the fuel because it's all hands on deck when you're in production.

One of the most incredible surprises for students is discovering just how many careers exist in film. One student might geek out over special effects makeup, while another falls in love with sound mixing. A quiet kid might thrive behind the camera, while an outgoing one finds their rhythm as a producer. There's no one-size-fits-all path in this industry. That's why we say: If your child is creative, curious or loves telling stories, this camp is for them.



Throughout the week, students are guided by real professionals—award-winning filmmakers, passionate mentors and guest speakers doing the work and making moves. They're not just learning; they're networking and getting a taste of the real-world hustle. The goal? By the end of the camp, each group will have a finished short film that will premiere at Circle Cinema's Film Festival in July. It's the kind of experience that sticks with you; for many, it's just the beginning.

And yes, scholarships are available. We believe every young person deserves access to this experience, regardless of financial background. We want every dreamer, every doodler, and every behind-the-scenes tech wizard to know there's a place for you here.

So if you're reading this and thinking, "My kid would love that," you're probably right. Don't wait. Spots fill fast. Give them the chance to step into or behind the spotlight and explore a world where their imagination has power.

Apply now at bit.ly/3GshF1l and let them take the first step into something unforgettable. This summer, let them keep it REEL.

**Dr. Tamecca Rogers** serves as Director of Student Access and Success at Tulsa Technology Center. An award-winning author and filmmaker, she is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in all her endeavors.



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# How to Help Your Teen Avoid Distracted Driving

By Julie Wenger Watson



e live in distracting times. While the boom in technology has brought many positive advances, we now have countless diversions vying for our attention - everything from social media and endless streaming options to texts and calls. One of the most beguiling devices, particularly to teenagers, is the cell phone. With apps designed specifically to capture and keep our attention, the phones are as addictive as they are ubiquitous. Unfortunately, when it comes to teens and driving, the consequences can be lethal.

# The Statistics

Although plenty of adults are guilty of distracted driving, it's of particular concern for teen drivers, who are less experienced and more likely to engage in this behavior. The National Roadside Safety Foundation reports that 60% of teens drive while distracted, which is double the rate of all drivers. That distraction can have deadly consequences. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC) show that teens are 10 times more likely to be in a fatal car crash than adults.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 3,275 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2023 alone. Additional statistics from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation show 205 Oklahomans killed in distracted-related crashes from 2017 to 2021, with an additional 8,000 injured.

Texting is the most alarming distraction. On average, sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. At 55 mph, that equates to driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

Texting isn't the only activity that contributes to distracted driving, although it's one of the most prevalent. Talking on the phone, eating and drinking, interacting with passengers and fiddling with the radio or navigation apps can also steal your attention from the road.

### Oklahoma Law

Not only is distracted driving a huge safety issue, it's also illegal in Oklahoma. State Statute §47-11-901b states, "The operator of every vehicle, while driving, shall devote their full time and attention to such driving."



Because texting while driving is as common as it is risky, Oklahoma state lawmakers also passed OK Statute §47-11-901d to specifically address it. The law makes it illegal for any driver on Oklahoma roads to text while driving.

# The Role of Parents

As a parent, there are a number of things you can do to help your child learn to be a responsible, focused driver. First and foremost: Model good behavior. Your teen has witnessed your driving from a young age and is very likely to copy your behavior for better or worse.

"Kids have so many tools that distract them, and one of them is cell phones," says Greg Nash, a Driver Education instructor with Oklahoma Driving School. "Not only do these kids text, but they get a bad example from adults who text because they think it's OK. 'Mom and dad text. My friends text. Other drivers text. Why can't 1?""

Nash, who has 38 years of teaching experience, estimates he's helped some 10,000 students learn to drive. He believes parents (or other caregivers) can support their kids in many ways, including making sure each new driver gets adequate driving experience.

"These kids need to have 50 hours of driving time, 10 at night. They need to have a lot of parent/student driving sessions," he says. "They're immature, inexperienced, with no practice time behind the wheel. These kids need their parents to make sure they get some practice in."

Nash sees this as a great way to spend quality time with your child and "get some repetition behind the wheel."

# Establish Rules

Whether it's a safe driving "contract" or simply ground rules, understanding expectations around technology is important. Establish clear rules for your new driver regarding device use and driving. Discuss consequences, such as losing phone or car privileges, if the rules are broken.

Other issues to address might include passenger limits, drug and alcohol use, compliance with traffic laws and courtesy to other drivers.

# Pre-Trip Checklist

Establishing a pre-trip checklist can help teens avoid engaging in distracting activities while driving. Work with your new driver to make a list specific to his or her needs. For example, your list might include things like finding sunglasses, setting



music and temperature controls, adjusting mirrors and programming the GPS – all before starting the car.

Distracted driving impacts everyone. Taking steps to teach new drivers how to drive safely is incredibly important. Driver Education, hand-in-hand with the support of parents and other adults, plays a significant role in developing the next generation of responsible drivers.

"I enjoy preparing people for driving an automobile, which really is a weapon," Nash says. "I want these kids to understand the responsibilities and the liabilities that you have as you prepare to drive this car. It's rewarding to see these kids go on and be good, safe drivers throughout their lifetime."

For more information, visit oklahoma.gov or oklahomadrivingschool.com.

Julie Wenger Watson is a freelance writer who's worked in all aspects of music promotion. She's also Co-Director of "Live From Cain's," a public radio show pilot.

# FOUR-STEP OKLAHOMA GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE PROGRAM

# 1. Student Driver (no license)

Must be at least 15 years old and enrolled in a state-certified Driver Education course

Allowed to drive only while accompanied by and receiving instruction from either a Certified Driver Education Instructor or a Public School Instructor

### 2. Learner Permit

Must be 15 years old and enrolled and receiving instruction in an approved Service Oklahoma Driver Education course and pass the Oklahoma Written Exam OR

16 years old and passed the Oklahoma Written Exam (Drivers Education is optional for people 16 years old and older)

Allowed to drive between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. while accompanied by a licensed driver at least 21 years old

## 3. Intermediate License

Must have previously held a learner permit for 180 days, no traffic convictions, 50 hours of behind-thewheel training (10 at night), completed the Oklahoma Work Zone Safe course

Allowed to drive from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. with no restrictions if you're driving to and from activities related to school, church or work or if you're accompanied by a licensed driver at least 21 years old in seated in the front

Allowed to drive with one passenger or only household members or any passenger if accompanied by a licensed driver at least 21 years old seated in the front

## 4. Unrestricted License

Completed Driver Education and have held an Intermediate License for 180 days OR

haven't take Driver Education and have held an Intermediate License for at least the immediately preceding year OR 16 1/2 years old with 50 hours (10 at night) of behind-the-wheel training

No restrictions on the time of day or the type/number of passengers



# The DOG MAN Days of Summer

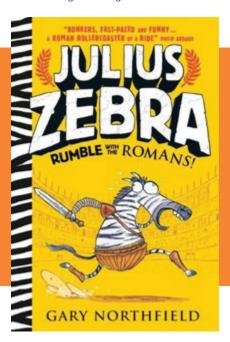
Check out these "Dog Man" read-alikes at the library!

By Laura Raphael, MA, MLIS, Children's Services Coordinator, Tulsa City-County Library

or several years running now, the Tulsa City-County Library year-end circulation statistics show that the MOST popular book title for children is anything in the hilarious, heartfelt "Dog Man" graphic novel series by Dav Pilkey, which was itself a spinoff of his uber-popular (and just as silly-sweet) "Captain Underpants" series.

We are still in peak "Dog Man" mode as a society, and you better believe that the library is on top of making sure there are plenty of "Dog Man" books at all 24 libraries and the bookmobile this summer!

But if your little readers have read ALL of them already, or you want to expand their reading diet, consider these excellent read-alikes, which combine slapstick humor with thought-provoking themes like friendship, responsibility and overcoming challenges.



# "Julius Zebra: Rumble with the Romans" by Gary Northfield

Zany adventures featuring a fasttalking zebra, a grumpy lion and a clueless warthog, who are whisked away to the Roman Coliseum where they are coerced into becoming gladiators. Combining short chapters, irreverent text and cartoons, this series nevertheless manages to impart a lot of facts and knowledge about the Roman Empire.

# 2025 Summer Reading Program

June 2-July 31

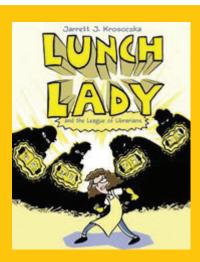
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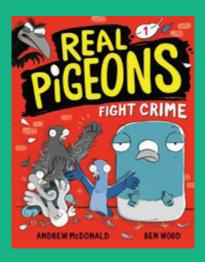
For more information: tulsalibrary.org/summer





# "Lunch Lady and the League of Librarians" by Jarrett Krosoczka

The first in this 10-volume humorous graphic novel series about a crime-fighting lunch lady is actually "Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute," but c'mon, I had to recommend the library one (number 2 in the series) instead, even though the "bad guys" are actual librarians! Silliness, slapstick and spectacularly energetic artwork inform these adventurous tales about an unexpected hero, similar to "Dog Man."



# "Real Pigeons Fight Crime!" by Andrew McDonald

Birds don't just fly...some of them fight crime, too! At least they do in this gloriously ridiculous series where pigeons make sure the city is safe. The fun reveal is that the "villains" in this series are other flying animals who aren't even really evil, just intent on achieving their own animal goals.

Related title: "The Real Poop on Pigeons!" by Kevin McCloskey is a nonfiction book that carries the fun spirit of the "Real Pigeons" series while giving even more facts on these creatures if your young reader is interested in learning more. (Alas, it does not support the crime-fighting theory.)





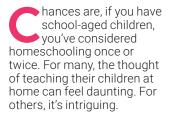




# Homeschooling Offers Oklahoma Families Flexibility, Connection



By Lindsay Morris



Tulsan Kathryn Johnson, a mother of four, didn't grow up as a homeschooler but now homeschools her two older children.

"I thought homeschooling was kind of weird growing up," Johnson said. "I bought into the stereotype that homeschool kids were weird."

After extensively researching homeschooling, Johnson decided it was the right choice for her family when her oldest child was 2.

Now, seven years later, Johnson shares homeschooling resources and encouragement through her Instagram account, @homewithmytinies.

Families typically choose to homeschool for four reasons, said Jonathan Bartlett, president of Homeschool Oklahoma, an organization dedicated to promoting, protecting, encouraging and equipping homeschoolers in the state. The first reason is extended family time.

"Homeschooling gives you 10,000 more hours with your kids," Bartlett said. The second reason is religious.

"People want to raise their family in the faith that they hold, and they sometimes feel that's undermined at school," he said.

Third, special circumstances prompt some families to homeschool.

"If your kid has an illness or trouble at school, homeschooling gives you the freedom to educate however you need," Bartlett said.

Finally, distrust of government leads some families to choose homeschooling, he said.

For Johnson, the decision was about spending more time with her children.

"We homeschool so that we can have slow mornings and time together. We can have quiet evenings together, not rushing around," she said.

Grace Gunn, 12, just finished her second year of homeschooling. Before that, she attended a private school in Tulsa. She said her favorite aspects of homeschooling are flexibility and "sleeping in."

Her mother, Rebecca Gunn, said homeschooling has benefited Grace because it allows her to focus on her individual needs.

"She can spend time on what she needs to focus more on

and less where she doesn't," Gunn said. Gunn also enjoys that she gets to spend more time with her kids.

HALI JIKK LIMMNA OOPP QORY SSI

Johnson Family Homeschool

ourtesy Kathryn Johnso

For Johnson, whose oldest child is 9, one of the highlights of homeschooling has been watching her children learn to read.

"We have time to read books together, and I can tailor each child's education to their strengths and weaknesses," she said.

While homeschooling offers numerous perks, critics sometimes raise concerns about socialization.

Bartlett said homeschooling has evolved significantly since he was a kid in the 1990s.

"The homeschooling community has grown and built its own momentum," he said. "Now, homeschoolers have every opportunity that kids in public and private schools have."

For example, the Northeast Oklahoma Association of Homeschools Jaguars, a large sports organization, recently had its football season opener at AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys. Additionally, homeschoolers swept several categories in the 2024 Discovery Awards for musical theater.

"We have an incredible homeschool community, and

that itself is drawing people," Bartlett said.

Freedom is another major factor drawing families to homeschooling. Homeschool Oklahoma advocates for minimal government interference with home education.

Oklahoma law places no restrictions or requirements on homeschooling. It is the only state with a constitutional provision guaranteeing the right to homeschool. If families teach for 180 days, they can legally operate a homeschool program according to their own quidelines.

A homeschool tax credit exists in Oklahoma. Beginning with tax year 2024, taxpayers may claim a refundable income tax credit of up to \$1,000 per homeschooled student for qualified expenses. However, Homeschool Oklahoma would prefer to have no tax credit in Oklahoma.

"We've been trying to get that removed from legislation since it was enacted," Bartlett said. "We don't want anything from other people. We just want freedom to operate in a manner consistent with our families' values."

Each family must make its own decision about education. While homeschooling offers more family time, less rushing



and freedom to customize education, it also has challenges.

"I don't have as much time to myself, and my house is always messy because we're literally here all the time," Johnson said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many parents were forced to educate their children at home due to school closures.

"That wasn't homeschooling; it was crisis schooling," Johnson said. "That put a bad taste in some people's mouths about homeschooling."

If you're interested in homeschooling, many resources can help you decide if it's the right fit for your family. While it isn't the best choice for everyone, it can enhance a child's education and strengthen family dynamics.

"I realize it isn't the best fit for every family," Johnson said. "It's the best fit for our family. I always try to encourage people: If homeschooling is something you want to do, I'm confident that you could do it."

# **RESOURCES**

The Tulsa City-County Library website (tulsalibrary. org) offers a number of homeschooling resources, from co-ops to extracurricular activities to local resources and tutors.

Homeschool Oklahoma (homeschooloklahoma.org) offers virtual seminars.

Recommendations from Kathryn Johnson:

**Homeschool Sisters Podcast** 

The Peaceful Press curriculum (thepeacefulpress.com)

Lindsay Morris is a native Tulsan, mom, writer and full-time marketing/ communications professional. She is the founder of Tulsa Places, where she highlights local businesses and fun things to do.

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# **Day-cation Destination**

Crystal Bridges Museum of Art
– Meet the KAWS: Family

# By Macy Goodnight

ooking for a fun getaway you can make in a day? A short trip into "The Natural State" of Arkansas will take you to an extraordinary destination that the whole family will enjoy. Crystal Bridges Museum of Art in Bentonville boasts an outstanding collection of American art and exhibitions, awe-inspiring architecture, and 134 acres of Ozark nature to explore.

Now through July 28, 2025, the iconic KAWS: Family is on exhibit, created by artist Brian Donnelly, professionally known as KAWS. His work has become familiar around the globe for its pop culture references and modern social relevance. KAWS created a unique cast of characters, each with their own distinct personality, brought to life beginning in the late 1990s in 2D, ultimately evolving into 3D figures and sculptures. The exhibit was organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario and features sculptures, paintings, drawings and brand collaborations.

Kids of all ages will love the KAWS works, whether they are already familiar with them or meeting them for the first time. Alejo Benebetti, Curator of Contemporary Art at Crystal Bridges, describes KAWS' popularity as accessible to all.

"His work exists beyond art-specific spaces," Benebetti says. "You'll see people wearing a KAWS shirt or shoes in the cereal aisle at the grocery store, or as a balloon in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. His work is exciting in that it does exist in these spheres and the way that we're able to interact with it."

KAWS' work speaks in the language of cartoons, Benebetti explained. "It's a language we all speak. We're all familiar with it. The way KAWS plays with this and the way we relate to the characters is really the crux of this exhibit."



General admission to Crystal Bridges is always free, and tickets for the KAWS exhibit are \$15 (free for members, as well as ages 25 and younger. Other discounts available). There are multiple exhibit events on specific dates, including tours and talks. A schedule of events related to the exhibit is available at *crystalbridges.org*.

# More to Experience

A visit to Crystal Bridges is always a memorable experience. Architectural enthusiasts may enjoy its stunning exterior and interior artistry. Designed by architect Moshe Safdie, the museum structures embrace the beauty of the surrounding grounds with the intent of immersion with nature. Additionally onsite is an architectural wonder designed by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright – a classic Usonian house.

Expansive gardens and more than five miles of trails also beckon the curious explorer to wander, extending the museum's reach into the wooded acreage. A trip to Crystal Bridges meets all the criteria for a perfect day's getaway to make lifelong memories. It's close, it's affordable and it's amazing.

Crystal Bridges is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. The trails and grounds are open from sunrise to sunset daily, and during museum operating hours. Plan your visit at *crystalbridges.org*.

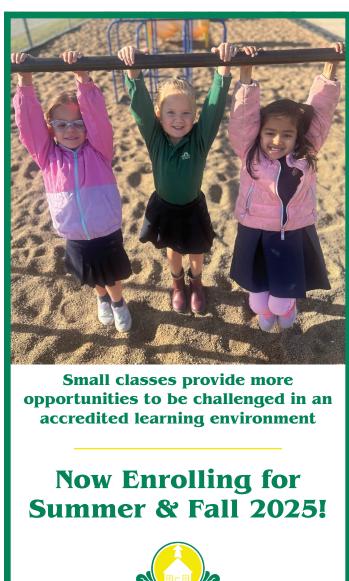
# \*



# WHILE YOU'RE THERE: VISIT BENTONVILLE!

- Historic Downtown Square – dining, shopping, bakeries and coffee shops, community art visitbentonville.com
- The Walmart Museum corporate.walmart.com
- Museum of Native American History monah.org
- The Momentary contemporary visual, performing and culinary arts themomentary.org





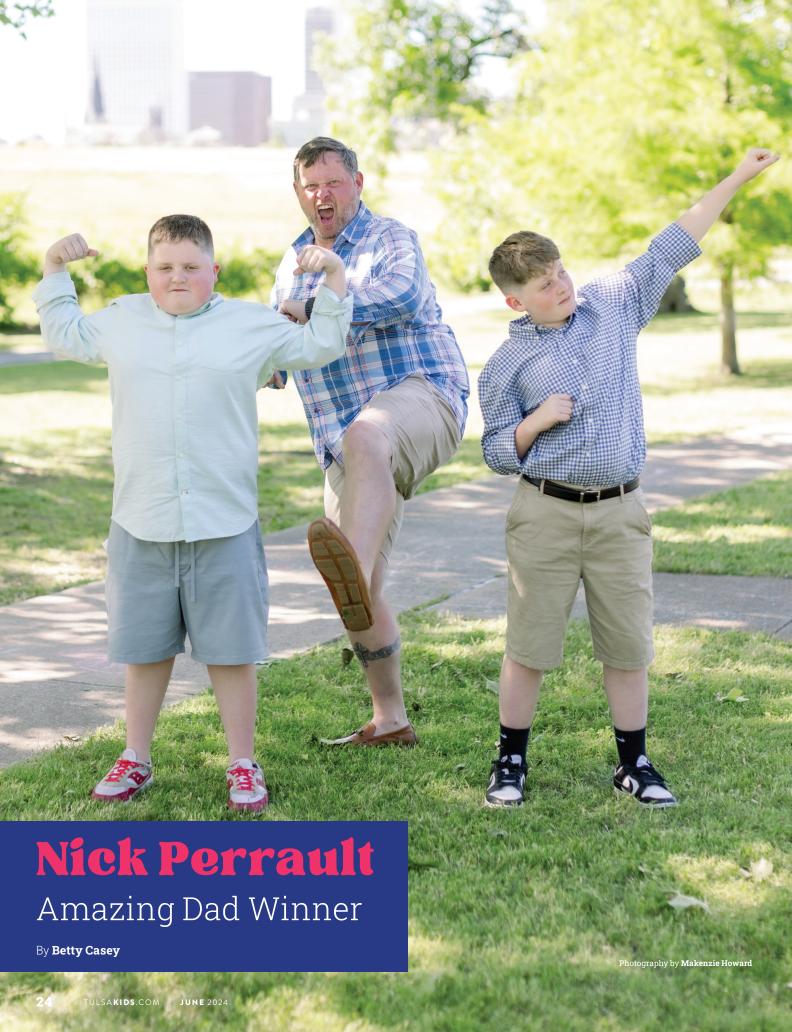




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HELEN'S



s we celebrate Father's Day this month, we want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to all the amazing dads out there who are on the front lines of the sometimes difficult, but rewarding and joyful role of child rearing. For the second year, TulsaKids invited readers to nominate an amazing dad to be highlighted in our June issue. Reading the nominations brought us smiles, tears and admiration for all the loving tributes to dads in the Tulsa community.

Nick Perrault, our Amazing Dad winner, was nominated by his wife, Jennifer Perrault. She wrote:

My husband, Nick Perrault, is an amazing father. He has two sons, Mason, 13, who has autism and special needs, and Carter, 11. He makes sure both of his kids are treated the same and fairly based on their needs. For over a year, he was on the board for A New Leaf, so he could understand what his son's future could look like and learn how to help him thrive. He's truly one of a kind and always has a smile on his face or is laughing. He can't go anywhere without someone recognizing him and wanting to stop him to catch up. He's such an incredible example of what a parent should be for all children.

### What Being a Dad Means to Nick

Nick says that as a parent "some things work, and some things don't. The challenging part is that there's no playbook for being a parent."

Having a child with high-functioning autism comes with unique challenges, so Nick allows himself the flexibility to course-correct when something isn't working. Nick credits his wife Jennifer for being "a rock star for us" in finding resources that Mason needs within the family, at school and beyond. "She may catch me in the moment and suggest ways to do things differently (with Mason)."

Having kids with very different personalities can be challenging, but Nick works hard to understand both of their needs and interests, rather than expecting either of them to fit a preconceived mold.

"I try to meet the kids where they're at," Nick says. "Kids are pulled in so many different directions. Carter is very social and wants to be doing anything and everything. He doesn't want to miss out. Mason might want to be alone. He's a unique kid. Anyone who interacts with him usually loves him. He's not dependent on other people. He's a really good kid."

### Making Time

Nick says his job involves travel, so he tries to be intentional about spending time with his family and one-on-one time with Mason and Carter. He reflected on how as a child he spent a lot of time with his grandparents and cousins and feels some regret that his kids don't have the same experience.

"How do I create memories today?" he asks. "Everybody's just busy. How do you get them to slow down and appreciate the moments? I try to model good behavior and structure like doing family dinners and community things, but I still struggle with being in the moment."

Nick says one of the best things about being a parent is sharing outdoor activities that he enjoys, such as camping and fishing ,with Mason and Carter. They also go to TU football games, Oilers games or hiking at Turkey Mountain.

"I'm always down to have a good time," Nick says. "We got a golf cart a couple of years ago and drive it around. If we're bored, sometimes we'll just get in the car and cruise."

He says it's important to expose kids to lots of different things. "If they don't like it, fine. They've done cooking classes, theater camp, football. But I also want then to understand what commitment means, following through with things."

Nick hopes that allowing the boys to have a variety of experiences now will help them discover their interests as they get older.

"I engage differently with each of the boys and differently than they do with their mom. I try to carve out one-on-one time and create those little moments – something that will continue to build that bond is cool."



### **Handling Hard Things**

Nick says that one of the most challenging things for him about being a dad is being in the moment.

"It's easy to get into worrying about how things are going to be in the future," he says. "I think most parents struggle with being present without letting life, work and all those other things creep in – the 'what-ifs' of our kids' future. I'm a big proponent of this one shot at life. I try to model that behavior and instill that in my kids."

As his boys get older, like most parents, Nick is working on the balancing act of allowing more freedom while still providing protection. He laughed about his son asking if he could take a pocketknife to help build a fort with the neighborhood kids.

"I looked at Jen and said, 'It's a good thing that he asked us," Nick laughed. "Instead of overreacting, we asked him a lot of open-ended questions to find out what he was going to do with it. We told him to just be careful and thanked him for asking."

Nick says he and Jennifer find themselves having more of those open-ended conversations about friends and activities like gaming as their kids get older.

"I didn't have those kinds of conversations with my dad," he says. "I think about bullying and group chats on their games. You have to have a break. They're connected 24/7. There is no escape. How do you not stifle it, but how do you get them to disconnect and let them be kids?"

Since they are constantly connected, Nick says kids also have to experience the pain of being left out. "They're not equipped to handle that stuff because they don't want to miss out on anything. You try to protect them as much as you can," he says. "And, when they are doing things like sleepovers, you ask questions. You have to meet the parents. Creating community is a big thing."

One of the qualities of being a good dad for Nick is listening and then providing options to help with decision-making.

"I think of how my dad was with me," Nick says. "I'll ask his advice. And he's usually the first person I call to share something – good or bad."

Nick wants to be the go-to person for his kids. "I want them to be comfortable coming to me – whatever that may be. I want to be open and honest," he says. "Not being a friend, but being a parent. You have to be able to say no, even if it makes them feel bad or disappointed."



### Finding a Tribe

While Nick has a great parenting partner in Jennifer, he also has a group of male friends that he can go to for advice and support.

"It's OK to say you're not good at being a dad," Nick says. "I don't know what I'm doing sometimes. And you can say that you're not OK."

Nick's group of college friends meets once a week, and he'll often throw out a scenario and ask for their advice.

### Leaving a Legacy

"For me, being a dad is one of the hardest and most rewarding roles I've ever had," Nick says. He is thoughtful as he reflects on what it means to be a dad. "What's the legacy I'll leave with them? How do I continue to be mindful of the key aspects of the role that I signed up for?"

Looking forward over the next few years for his boys, Nick doesn't know what will happen. He is uncertain about how much Mason will be able to do on his own. What he does know is that he wants to continue to be a good example. He knows that they're always watching him, and Nick takes his role in their lives seriously.

"I look forward to watching Mason and Carter grow up and become young adults," Nick says, "and become the good citizens I know they will be."





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# **Woolaroc Turns 100**

# Kidsfest and More Events Will Celebrate This Milestone

Situated in the rugged landscape of the stunning Osage Hills, this Oklahoma treasure is an homage to early Western life that entertains and inspires kids of all ages

# By Marnie Fernandez

Voolaroc is celebrating a milestone this year. The world-class museum, working ranch and opulent hunting lodge nestled among a 3,700-acre wildlife preserve has served as a time capsule for Western life in the early 1900s. Founded by oil baron Frank Phillips in 1925, the 3,700-acre preserve he called Woolaroc (a combination of the words: woods, lakes and rocks) was his personal ranch retreat where he entertained guests, stocked his acreage with animals, and stored his vast collection of artifacts and world-class artwork.

Over the years, Phillips' collection became so massive, it led to the creation of the museum, which opened to the public in 1938. After his passing, his foundation took over the operation of Woolaroc and opened for all to enjoy. "Uncle Frank," as he was known by those close to him, not only cared for children, but felt a deep responsibility to share the history of Oklahoma with future generations. After 100 years, Frank Phillips' mission and dream continues to live on.

"We are using this milestone opportunity to enhance all of our existing events and give them something extra special," says Jena Rulo, Woolaroc's Museum and Media Coordinator, "From Kidsfest, to our National Art Show and Wonderland of Lights, you can expect to see more activities, special guests and new additions."

Kidsfest, a longtime Woolaroc summer tradition, will take place on June 21 and 22. In addition to the wildlife preserve, museum, animal barn and playground, there will be several inflatables, live music, arts and crafts stations, face painting, pony rides, a rock wall and several food yendors.

"There is no extra charge to come to Kidsfest," Rulo says, "and kids under 12 are always free, so it makes for a wonderful and affordable family outing."

Visitors will find that Woolaroc looks very much the same as it did when Frank Phillips lived on the property.

"Woolaroc is dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage and lifestyles of early Western residents," Rulo comments. "We even have the descendants from the original herd of bison that were brought here via train from South Dakota!"

Other wildlife living on the preserve include elk, deer, water buffalo, longhorn, llamas, pygmy goats, ostriches and donkeys. Guests can drive through on designated roads to see the animals roam in their natural habitat.

The museum is home to an impressive collection of Western and Native American art. Some of the Native American artifacts even date back to prehistoric times! In addition, Woolaroc has an expansive assortment of Colt firearms. Originally an airplane hangar for the Woolaroc airplane, the 1920s plane now takes center stage in the 50,000 square-foot museum.

Other attractions include an animal barn, hiking trails, the Mountain Man Camp (special hours apply), gift shop and a café. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$16 for military and seniors over 65, and free for children 12 and under. For more information, visit *woolaroc.org*.





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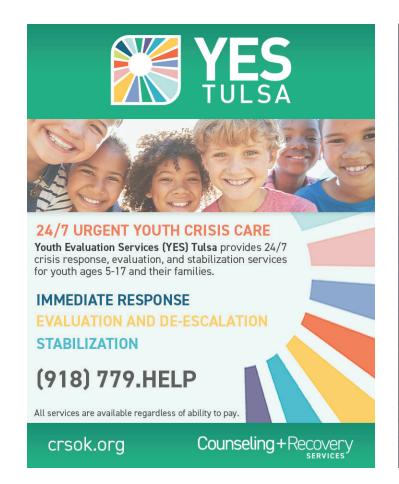
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Natalie Mikles is a mom of three. She writes about food, sharing recipes for busy families

- straws. Ask older kiddos to make the lemonade.
- 4. Make a veggie tray: Wash and slice some carrots, celery, cherry tomatoes, broccoli and other favorites, then let the kids arrange them in a creative way.
- **5. Write a toast:** Put the kids in charge of a toast for Dad. Let them know it doesn't need to be perfect-something short and sweet before the meal will be meaningful.

Even picky eaters tend to like these simple burgers.

# **Family Favorite Sliders**

Makes 8-10 burgers

- 1 pound ground chuck
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ¾ teaspoon black pepper
- Hamburger buns

Garnishes: Mustard, ketchup, pickles, lettuce, tomato, cheese

- 1. In a large bowl, combine ground beef, Worcestershire sauce, onion powder, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Divide mixture into 8-10 pieces. Roll into balls and flatten into patties.
- 2. Preheat grill over medium-high heat. Cook patties 3-5 minutes per side or until cooked through.
- 3. Toast buns. Assemble burgers with buns and garnishes.

Adjust the mayo, mustard and relish depending on your tastes. If you're not a sweet relish fan, swap it for dill.

# **Creamy Potato Salad**

Serves 10

- 3 ½ pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, cut into cubes
- 2 tablespoons pickle juice (from jar of pickle relish)
- 2 tablespoons white vinegar
- 2 cups mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons prepared mustard
- ¼ teaspoon celery seed
- 3 stalks celery, finely chopped
- ¼ cup sweet pickle relish
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 6 hard-boiled eggs, cut into small cubes
- ½ cup chopped fresh parsley
- Ground paprika
- 1. Place potatoes in a large saucepan, adding water to cover. Bring to boil over high heat; reduce heat and simmer about 8-10 minutes or until potatoes are tender.
- 2. Drain potatoes and transfer to a large bowl. Fold in pickle juice and vinegar to coat potatoes. Let sit until just warm, about 30 minutes.
- 3. In a large serving bowl, combine mayonnaise, mustard and celery seed. Add cooled potatoes; toss to coat. Fold in celery and pickle relish. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and refrigerate until chilled.
- 4. Gently fold in diced eggs just before serving. Garnish with parsley.



This super simple cake recipe is a hit. Even kids can help make it. It's great for Father's Day or to take to a summer picnic.

# **Quick Lemonade Cake**

Serves 16

- 1 box lemon cake mix
- 1 (4-ounce) box lemon instant pudding mix
- ¼ cup fresh lemon juice

# Glaze:

- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 3 tablespoons whole milk
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease and flour a large Bundt pan. Make cake according to package directions, adding pudding mix and lemon juice. Pour into prepared pan. Bake as directed on package. Let cool 15 minutes. Carefully run a knife around edges to release from pan. Invert cake onto serving plate.
- 2. To make glaze: In a small bowl, whisk glaze ingredients until smooth. Drizzle over warm cake.



# J.W. Craft – From Tulsa Roots to Big League Vision

Investing in Community Through Sports

By Nancy A. Moore



aised on the courts and fields of Tulsa, J.W. Craft grew up competing in classic childhood sports and enjoyed the camaraderie and connection. After living in some of the country's biggest cities and building a successful career, he felt a strong pull back to his hometown-not just to work alongside his father in their family business, but to raise his kids - he has five - in a city that is near and dear to his heart. He is also very interested in investing in Tulsa's future and has done so with brothers, Ryan and Kyle, through bold moves like acquiring FC Tulsa and Ascension St. John Sportsplex (formerly Titan Sports Complex). Through these endeavors, they are blending their passion for sports with heart for community development by creating vibrant spaces where families, fans and future athletes can thrive. Their mission? To fuel civic pride, foster healthy lifestyles, offer high-level development and connections locally, and help Tulsa shine on a national and global stage.

# TK: What did you enjoy about growing up in Tulsa?

J.W.: I played all the traditional kids' sports where I was able to compete and get to know many kids who went on to play at the next level.

# TK: You left Tulsa for college and a career but eventually returned to raise a family. What made you want to return?

J.W.: The main thing was the chance to work with my father in the family business. Also, having been raised within a family who were actively working with non-profits to make Tulsa better, I was keen on making that a priority when I moved back. I have lived in several different large cities (Washington, D.C., NYC area, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Dallas) and the quality of life and raising a family here is very hard to beat.

# TK: What sparked your interest in owning a professional soccer team in Tulsa?

J.W.: I was looking for a project of some kind that was going to add to the fabric of the city that would complement the positive growth going on with the Gathering Place, Guthrie Green, BOK Center and ONEOK Field. Soccer is going through tremendous growth in the country, and the idea that we play major market cities (Tampa, Sacramento, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis), I felt like our matches could be a nice two-hour commercial to highlight the city for people around the country and world. Having this team has also had a positive impact on economic development, increased the talent/workforce, and quality of life for Tulsans.



J.W.: Sports bring communities together. We have one team the whole city can cheer for and support. This team has been a source of civic pride in celebrating what we have in common versus what is divisive.

# TK: Once acquiring the team, it went through a rebrand. Tell us a little about that.

J.W.: It was really about embracing Tulsa's history, but also looking to the future. The name, FC Tulsa, resonates internationally and works because we draw a lot of international players. We were looking to recognize the name of our city as well as the scissortail flycatcher, our state bird, being at the heart of the logo - so really taking a lot of our local influence and honing back into where we're from. It also incorporates vertical typeface that matches a lot of the downtown signage, and the Art Deco matches the buildings. We continue to work with a number of different local graphic designers to amplify a lot of really cool stuff that's happening here in town, and you'll see that in special jerseys and merch.

# TK: What interested you about acquiring Ascension St. John Sportsplex?

J.W.: We've been a tenant in the space since it was built in 2018.

When it was listed for sale a few years ago, we knew we either needed to purchase it or look to build our own. FC Tulsa is an important but small piece of what the facility provides. We are running all kinds of youth programming, national and international events in the space. It brings visitors to Tulsa and encourages a healthy and active lifestyle for kids and adults of all ages.

# TK: Tell us about your vision for FC Tulsa and the Sportsplex.

J.W.: Our vision is to have packed, sellout matches and have the Sportsplex utilized all the time. We play 17 times at home from March to October, and we want every match to be an event people look forward to going downtown to see. At the Sportsplex, we really have two different segments: Weekends host tournaments bringing volleyball, basketball and other sports into town playing teams from Tulsa, the state and region. And during the week, we have our youth and adult leagues to keep people active and enjoy fun and competition in a comfortable place.

# TK: Why do you feel that FC Tulsa and the Sportsplex are good ways to invest in Tulsa?

J.W.: Tulsa is on an exciting trajectory and certainly having more things for the community to get behind as it grows is



something we want to be a part of.

# TK: Tell us about what people can expect when they attend the soccer matches

J.W.: With roughly two games a month, most of those matches are on Friday or Saturday night. We offer a number of ticket options and bundled group pricing to appeal to all fans. The games run about two hours with two halves of 45 minutes each. Goals are exciting as we shoot off fireworks when we score!

# T.K. As a father of five, how have you involved your family/kids in what you're working on?

J.W.: Only one of my kids plays soccer, but my passion has rubbed off on each of them. I will usually pick one or two road games a season and take one of my kids with me. We pick the city and make a weekend with the game as one thing on the itinerary. Last year was a big one for international soccer as we went to the Liga MX final in Mexico City and quarterfinal and semi-final matches in Germany for the Euros.

# T.K.: How can families/kids get involved in FC Tulsa? What opportunities are available?

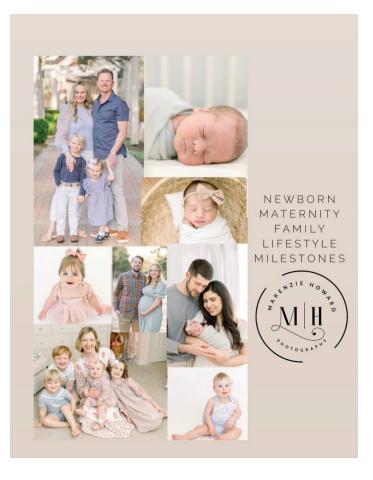
J.W.: This summer, we have a variety of sports camps running all summer long at the Sportsplex. Register for one of our sports leagues at the Sportsplex Signup for the FC Tulsa Training Academy Camps.

Get to know our players, come out to a match and support the team. Both home and away games are on ESPN+, and the Paramount+/CBS Sports Network.

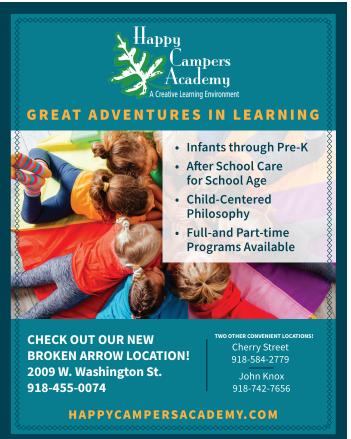
Listen to the Sharing Passion and Purpose Podcast for the full interview and to learn the one thing that J.W. never expected to happen as a result of investing in FC Tulsa.

Listen on your favorite podcasting app or directly at SharingPassionandPurpose.com.

Check out FC Tulsa & Ascension St. John Sportsplex online: FCTulsa. com is #ForTulsa; Instagram: @fctulsa & @ascentionstjohnsportsplex; Facebook: @fctulsa & @ascensionstjohnsportsplex



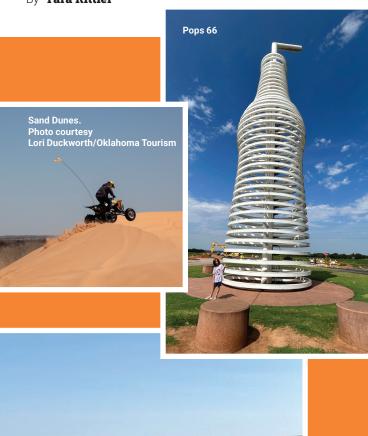




# **Uncommon Oklahoma:**

# 25+ Unique Destinations in Our State

By Tara Rittler



t's easy to spend hours researching all the unique things to do and see in Oklahoma! The following lists are by no means comprehensive, but hopefully they can get you started in planning some summer adventures.

## **OUT-OF-THE-BOX MUSEUMS**

Toy and Action Figure Museum in Pauls Valley

This museum grew out of a discussion by Pauls Valley citizens looking for ways to draw more visitors to the town – and it's worked! More than 50,000 people from around the globe have visited this attraction since it opened in 2005. In addition to displaying more than 13,000 figures, the museum walks visitors through the process of creating these iconic toys.

toyandactionfiguremuseum.com

Shattuck Windmill Museum and Park in Shattuck

Have you ever considered how many varieties of windmills there are? A visit to Shattuck's Windmill Museum will give you a new perspective on these agricultural staples. You'll see more than 35 windmills, ranging from five feet to 18 feet, as well as a pioneer home on the site. shattuckok.com/windmillpark.html

- American Pigeon Museum & Library in Oklahoma City
  If you needed another reason to visit OKC, here it is the American
  Pigeon Museum. Explore the difference between homing and fancy
  pigeons, learn about the exciting sport of pigeon racing, and view a
  collection of live birds. theamericanpigeonmuseum.org
- Closer to Home Vintage Sewing Center and Museum in Tulsa
   Located on South Peoria, the Vintage Sewing Center and Museum
   showcases over 1,000 vintage sewing machines and accessories.
   Owner WK Binger can tell you the unique history of just about any
   machine in the building, too. vintagesewingcentermuseum.com

# "WORLD'S LARGEST" ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

- World's Largest Peanut in Durant
  OK, it's not really the world's largest peanut but the sign says it is!
  Look for the peanut on Durant's City Hall lawn.
  discoverdurant.com
- Largest Totem Pole at Ed Galloway's Totem Pole Park in Chelsea
   Folk artist Ed Galloway built up what is now Totem Pole Park from
   1937-1961. The largest totem pole stands at 90 feet. Step into the
   Fiddle House Museum, also on the property, to see Galloway's unique
   collection of handmade fiddles.

nps.gov/places/ed-galloways-totem-pole-park.htm

- World's Largest Pop Bottle at Pops 66 in Arcadia
   Your kids will have a blast browsing Pops 66's selection of handcrafted sodas, in all colors of the rainbow. You can also grab a bite at the restaurant to fuel your journey. Don't leave without snapping a pic in front of the 66-foot-tall pop bottle sculpture outside! And keep an eye out for the Arcadia Round Barn, another unique Oklahoma attraction, just down the road. pops66.com
- World's Largest Leg Lamp in Chickasha
   Originally a feature at the Chickasha Festival of Light, this 55-foot-tall leg lamp a larger-than-life replica of the one made famous by A Christmas Story is now on-view year-round in downtown Chickasha. visitchickasha.com/the-leg-lamp
- Closer to Home Blue Whale of Catoosa, World's Largest Blue Whale No doubt you've seen photos of the friendly Blue Whale of Catoosa, but if you haven't taken your kids to visit, maybe this summer is the time! The whale is 80 feet long and 20 feet tall and has been an Oklahoma icon since 1972. Gift shop hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. facebook.com/thebluewhaleofcatoosa





#### **OUIRKY ACCOMMODATIONS**

· BirdHouse Cottages in Medicine Park

These birdhouse-shaped cottages are perfectly sweet, and each is themed after a different bird. Choose from cardinal, bluebird, hummingbird or painted bunting. Each cottage only sleeps two people, so they're perfect for a cozy getaway. *medicineparkproperties.com/birdhouse-cottages* 

Covered Wagon at Orr Family Farm in Oklahoma City

While spring and fall is the best time to visit Orr Family Farm, as the attraction is most active during those seasons, you can book a stay in one of their covered wagons or teepees year-round. The covered wagons and teepees are both set up in circles around a firepit, perfect for marshmallow roasting. orrfamilyfarm.com

Teepee at Roman Nose State Park in Watonga

Roman Nose State Park is known for, among its beautiful landscape, being one of the few places in the state where you can rent a teepee for overnight stays. When booking through the TravelOK website, choose the "Book A Campsite" option. Roman Nose also has cabins and a lodge for cushier accommodations, but those are booked under a separate tab. The teepees are available April through October and sleep up to four adults. travelok.com/state-parks/roman-nose-state-park

• Closer to Home - Spartan Trailers at TeePee Drive-In in Sapulpa Have a truly nostalgic experience when you book a stay at one of TeePee Drive-In's converted Spartan trailers, built in the 1950s – and decorated to match. Start the evening with a drive-in movie and some popcorn, then head to your cheery trailer. Seasonal availability. teepeedrivein.com

#### **ENTRANCING ECOSYSTEMS**

Alabaster Caverns State Park in Freedom

This state park is home to one of the largest natural gypsum caves on the planet. It is open to the public, offering daily guided tours every hour. travelok.com/state-parks/alabaster-caverns-state-park

Little Sahara State Park in Waynoka

If you think Oklahoma is all prairie and plains, think again! The Little Sahara State Park, with 1,600 acres of sand dunes, is just one example of our state's diverse ecosystems. *travelok.com/state-parks/little-sahara-state-park* 

Salt Plains State Park in Jet

Once covered in a prehistoric ocean, the salt plains are now a distinctive destination, with large areas of salt-covered sand neighboring a saltwater lake. Dig for hourglass selenite crystals – nonexistent anywhere else in the world – from April through mid-October.

\*\*travelok.com/state-parks/salt-plains-state-park\*\*

Closer to Home - Keystone Ancient Forest in Tulsa

One of our unique local ecosystems is the crosstimbers forest, which is on glorious display at Keystone Ancient Forest. Here, you'll see trees up to 500 years old. Well-marked trails, ranging in difficulty, give visitors a chance to explore the forest without worrying about getting lost. Hiking is available Thursdays through Sundays. *facebook.com/keystoneancientforest* 

#### **ONE-OF-A-KIND ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS**

Endangered Ark Foundation in Hugo

Home to a herd of Asian elephants, some of which are retired circus elephants and some of which were born at the Foundation, EAF offers public tours, private encounters, observation deck experiences and even on-site lodging. Where else can you get an "Elphie selfie"? While you're in Hugo, visit the Showman's Rest section of Mount Olivet Cemetery, where you'll see some one-of-a-kind headstones honoring deceased circus performers. endangeredarkfoundation.org

Mowdy Ranch Mustangs in Coalgate

This fifth-generation family-owned ranch is also an official wild horse eco-sanctuary and home to about 350 wild horses. Tours are available by appointment only, and visitors can also book a stay in the lodge or at one of their two RV hook-up sites. **mowdyranch.com** 

Closer to Home – Giraffe Feeding Experience at Tulsa Zoo

From March 14-October 12, zoo guests will be able to purchase a giraffe feeding experience on the weekends (Fridays-Sundays, 11 am.-1 pm.) While you can only feed the adult giraffes, keep an eye out for the newest member of Tulsa Zoo's giraffe herd, who was born in February 2025. *tulsazoo.org/visit/thingstodo* 



#### REMARKABLE WILDLIFE REFUGES AND PRESERVES

- Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in southwest Oklahoma These 60,000 acres are home to free-roaming bison and elk, prairie dogs, "Mountain boomer" lizards and many more native species. In addition to hiking, activities include fishing, kayaking, biking, educational programming, etc. fws.gov/refuge/wichita-mountains/
- **J.T. Nickel Family Nature & Wildlife Preserve in Tahlequah** This wildlife preserve has the distinction of being "the largest privately protected conservation area in the Ozarks." Three self-guided trails, ranging from .5 miles to 1.5 miles, offer an invigorating way to look for native wildlife and plant life. Of particular note, the preserve is home to black bears.
  - nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/j-t-nickel-family-nature-and-wildlife-preserve/
- Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge in Tishomingo Birdwatchers and lepidopterists in particular will want to add the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge to their upcoming travel plans. The area is a hub for migrating monarch butterflies and other species of butterflies, and it draws in a diverse array of bird species as well. Depending on when you visit, you may see pelicans, bald eagles and more. fws.gov/refuge/tishomingo
- Closer to Home Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Pawhuska
  Keep an eye out for bison as you drive through the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve especially bison calves, as there may be hundreds born in the early spring season. Show up early in the summer for a chance to hear prairie chickens "booming" at sunrise (the preserve is open from dawn to dusk). The summer is also an excellent time to see the prairie covered in wildflowers. Choose to hike on one of the three interconnected trails or tackle them all together.

  nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/tallgrass-prairie-preserve

#### **NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTERS**

- · Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur
  - A visit to the Chickasaw Cultural Center offers visitors the chance to experience "a unique destination where the culture of the Chickasaw people doesn't just live and breathe it plays, creates, cooks, dances and sings." The Chikasha Inchokka' Traditional Village gives a look at life in a 1700s Chickasaw village, including cultural demonstrations like stickball and stomp dancing. *chickasawculturalcenter.com*
- Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural & Welcome Center in Vinita
   Named for Cherokee potter Anna Mitchell, whose work had an important and lasting impact on other Cherokee artists and the revival of several traditional art forms, the center includes an outdoor exhibit honoring Mitchell, indoor exhibits detailing the history of the Cherokee people, a gift shop and café. visitcherokeenation.com/attractions
- Choctaw Cultural Center in Calera
  - Families can learn about the past, present and future of the Choctaw people through exhibits as well as hands-on activities in the Luksi Activity Center. Here, kids can climb inside a statue of a giant alligator snapping turtle, explore a treehouse and log cabin, and learn Choctaw stories through engaging puppet shows. Grab lunch at the Champuli Café, which serves up traditional foods such as fry-bread tacos and grape dumplings. choctawculturalcenter.com
- Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center in Shawnee Explore the centuries-long history of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation through informative and interactive exhibits. Schedule a tour of the aviary, which houses injured eagles and other raptors. potawatomiheritage.com
- Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center in Lawton Highlights of this cultural center include a permanent exhibit on the Comanche "Code Talkers," whose use of the Numunuu language proved devastating to Hitler's army. You'll also find an interactive exhibit allowing guests to get a feel for what it would be like to participate in a Comanche buffalo hunt. comanchemuseum.com





#### **DISCOVERY LAB**

discoverylab.org/birthday-parties 918.295.8144 Ext. 2509 3123 Riverside Dr., Tulsa rentals@discoverylab.org

#### Celebrate with Science at Discovery Lab!

Make your young scientist's special day unforgettable with a birthday party at Discovery Lab. Parties include a private party room and a dedicated birthday coordinator to help every step of the way. You bring the cake and decorations, and we take care of the clean-up. All parties include museum admission, so guests can enjoy hands-on exhibits and STEM-based fun before or after your party room time.

#### Add a Little Extra Spark!

Upgrade your celebration with a Science Showcase, where Discovery Lab staff present amazing, kid-friendly experiments that dazzle and delight. You can also add the Sweet Treat for Your Mastermind, an interactive liquid nitrogen ice cream experiment starring the birthday child. Each guest receives a cool treat to enjoy at the party.

Whether you are planning a high-energy day of play or looking to ignite curiosity with science, Discovery Lab has everything you need to celebrate in style.

#### Ready to party?

Visit discoverylab.org/birthday-parties to learn more and book your party.

For questions, contact us at 918.295.8144 or reservations@discoverylab.org

#### MILLER SWIM SCHOOL

millerswimschool.com

Tulsa

6415 S. Mingo Rd., Tulsa

918.254.1988

**South Tulsa** 

7820 E. 101st St., Tulsa

**Jenks** 

525 W. 91st St. S., Tulsa

Parties at Miller Swim School are a BLAST! You can party year-round — rain or shine — our indoor heated pool is perfect any time! All parties are two hours and are scheduled at Tulsa, South Tulsa and Jenks locations on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

The basic party package includes a party room and a T-shirt for the birthday child. All your guests will receive a pass to come back to a family swim and, of course, we provide a lifeguard.

To view party package options and prices, go to our home page at millerswimschool.com — and choose birthday detail information.

To reserve your party, call Miller Swim School at 918.254.1988 and plan to make a big splash! Gift certificates are also available — what better gift could you give than the skills that could someday save your loved one's life?

#### **TULSA ZOO**

tulsazoo.org/visit/private-events 918.669.6609

6421 E. 36th St. N., Tulsa Contact: Wylie Shaw

From birthday parties, to company celebrations, to weddings, the Tulsa Zoo offers just the right setting for your special event. Zoo staff will cater to your wildest instincts, helping you plan and customize your unique zoo experience. From the total package to our a la carte options, you'll find plenty of ways to party at the zoo.

Find out how you can plan the party of the year at your Tulsa Zoo by visiting tulsazoo.org/visit/private-events or by calling 918.669.6609.

#### SOCCERCITY TULSA

soccercitytulsa.com/parties-events 5817 S. 118th E. Ave., Tulsa 918.249.0044 alex@soccercitytulsa.com

Your child will have a blast bouncing off the walls at our house. Let us do the work while you have the fun. With hundreds of age-appropriate Lil' Kickers games to choose from and our high-energy coaches, you can't go wrong.

Youth and adult packages available. All party packages include field time, time in our party room and unlimited number of guests. Let your imagination run wild with endless possibilities of what you can do with your individual field time or have a birthday party hosted by a Lil' Kickers coach.

Our Lil' Kickers child development program – ages 18 months to 9 years – and camps, parties and lock-ins are offered year round as well.

Please contact alex@soccercitytulsa.com for party booking and availability.

See: soccercitytulsa.com/parties-events.





#### WHEELS AND THRILLS

10637 N. Garnett, Owasso 918.272.7537 facebook.com/wheelsandthrills wheelsandthrills.com

#### tammy@wheelsandthrills.com

We are your one-stop shop for hassle-free birthday parties. We've got it all!

Our party packages include food, drinks and fun all rolled into one! We'll make the birthday honoree feel like this day was created just for them! With many custom birthday packages to choose from, you'll be the hero as we help you host the perfect party for the big day. We have three attractions to choose from: Skating, Playzone, and Laser Tag!

#### What's our secret to the perfect party? Your Party Pal!

Your Party Pal will set up your party supplies and paper products which are included with your package. When it's time to gather for your celebration, they will greet your guests and serve your pizza and drinks.

When it's time, your Party Pal will take a group photo, lead your guests in the "Happy Birthday Song," then cut and serve your cake. They will interact with your guests and, once the party has been dismissed, your Party Pal will take care of all the clean-up.

Please visit our website, wheelsandthrills.com for complete package details or contact tammy@wheelsandthrills.com.

#### THE BIG BISCUIT

bigbiscuit.com
Tulsa (41st & Yale)
5335 E. 41st St., Tulsa
539.867.1550
Tulsa (91st & Memorial)
8922 S. Memorial, Ste E, Tulsa
918.957.5163

Owasso 8529 N. 129th E. Ave., Owasso 918.609.6509 Broken Arrow 1134 N. 9th St, Broken Arrow 918.957.5187

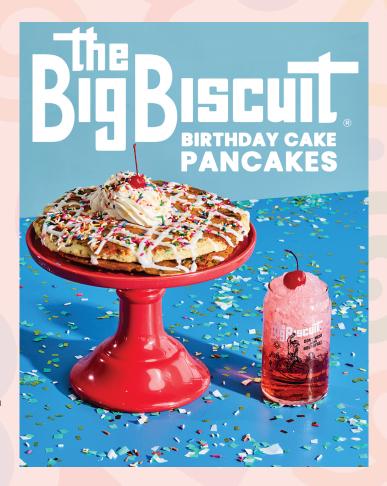
Celebrate BIG at The Big Biscuit! Whether you're looking for postgame pancakes for the team or planning the ultimate birthday breakfast, our private rooms make it easy to gather the whole crew in one fun, delicious spot.

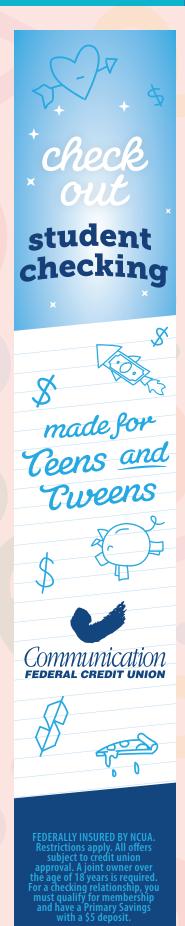
From our new Chicken Biscuits to plate-sized Birthday Cake Pancakes (yep, they're on the kids' menu, too!), we've got the whole group covered-little ones, grown-ups and everyone in between.

Bring your balloons, birthday hats or just big laughs over bigger biscuits, and you have a party to remember. We make planning simple so you can focus on the fun (and the food!)

Heads up: Private rooms are available by request Monday through Friday, and first-come, first-served on the weekends. Call your nearest Big Biscuit for more details.

Come hungry and ready to celebrate BIG!





#### **NEXT DOOR ESCAPES AND ENTERTAINMENT**

nextdoorescapes.com

7715 E. 91st St., Suite D, Tulsa

918.324.0151

info@nextdoorescapes.com

Celebrate your next birthday in the most exciting way possible at Next Door Escapes and Entertainment in Tulsa, Oklahoma! Perfect for kids, teens and adults alike, our unique venue combines thrilling adventure with relaxed social fun. Your party kicks off in one of our immersive escape rooms, where guests work together to solve puzzles, crack codes and race against the clock in a themed challenge full of excitement and teamwork.

After the adventure, the celebration continues in your own private party room—exclusively reserved for you and your guests. We'll take care of the fun and the food, so you can focus on making memories. Enjoy refreshing cold drinks, delicious pizza and festive cupcakes, all included to make your birthday hassle-free and unforgettable.

Once everyone's recharged, hang out in our cozy café and board game lounge where you can enjoy even more quality time with your group. With a welcoming atmosphere and activities for all ages, Next Door Escapes and Entertainment is Tulsa's go-to spot for birthday parties that are anything but ordinary.

Book your party today and give your guests an experience full of laughter, adventure, and celebration from start to finish!



#### **RIVER RUN FARM**

riverrunfarmok.com

9300 S. 51st W. Ave., Tulsa

918.855.5032

barnmanager@riverrunfarmok.com

Our Pony Parties delight both kids and parents. We specialize in parties with our miniature horses for young horse lovers, but also offer parties with ponies and horses for older horse enthusiasts.

Our parties are held in the beautiful, wooded setting of a working stable. We hold the party inside our nice, clean barn and provide the pony rides in our indoor riding arena. Parties are fun, entertaining and include hands-on activities like petting, brushing and learning fun information about horses.

Our parties are much more than games and a pony ride and provide a wonderful experience for horse lovers of all ages.

Party times are limited, so plan ahead to reserve your space for this memorable party.

#### YMCA OF GREATER TULSA

ymcatulsa.org/rentals

Multiple locations

Make a Splash with Your Next Celebration at the YMCA of Greater Tulsa!

Looking for the perfect place to throw an unforgettable birthday bash? The YMCA of Greater Tulsa has everything you need to make your child's big day extra special—without the cleanup stress!

From cannonballs to cake, our pool parties are a hit for kids of all ages. You'll get exclusive access to our indoor or outdoor pools (depending on location), plus lifeguards on duty to keep everyone safe while the kids splash, swim and celebrate. Not into water? No problem! We offer party rooms and multi-purpose spaces perfect for themed parties, dance-offs, game days or whatever your little one dreams up.

The Y's party packages are flexible and fun—whether you're planning a small get-together or a blowout birthday bash, we'll help you customize the day to fit your needs.

Perfect for birthdays, team parties, and special family celebrations, YMCA rentals are available across multiple locations in the Greater Tulsa area.

Let us help you plan a party that's active, affordable and absolutely unforgettable.

Learn more and book your event today at ymcatulsa.org/rentals.









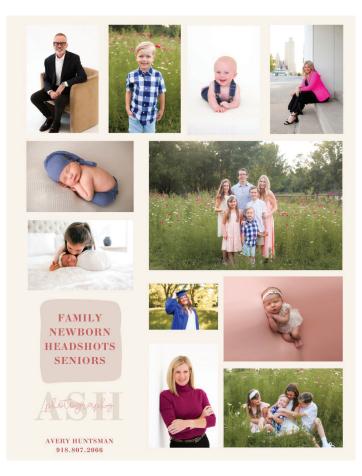




"Enrolling our children at Lake Hills Montessori has been one of the most rewarding decisions we've ever made. From the moment we walked through the doors, it was clear that this is more than just a school- it's a thoughtfully crafted environment where young children are the focus. It's amazing to see the academic, social, and emotional growth our children have experienced throughout their time at Lake Hills Montessori. The emphasis on grace, courtesy, and collaboration is woven into every part of the day. Each child is learning to resolve conflicts peacefully, communicate with confidence, and treat others with empathy and respect. It's heartwarming to watch them interact with peers of different ages, naturally stepping into roles as both learner and mentor. There's a strong culture of respect, not only between students and staff, but also in how each child is taught to value and respect themselves. We couldn't be more grateful for the impact this incredible school has had on our family."

5130 E. 101st St., Tulsa, OK | 918.296.9936 lakehillsmontessoritulsa.com







Earn great prizes and coupons for food and local recreation! Attend awesome free events! Read for the fun of it! Starting June 2, visit any library to sign up and get a reading log and event guide. To learn more or sign up using the app, visit **www.TulsaLibrary.org/summer**.























## **ASK** THE EXPERTS



#### **GRAND MENTAL HEALTH**

### What is the role of technology in supporting mental health for children and teens, and how can families use digital tools effectively?

Technology can play a vital role in supporting the mental health of children and teens, offering tools that foster emotional well-being, providing educational resources, and enhancing communication with caregivers and professionals. Digital platforms provide access to mental health apps, mindfulness exercises, and therapy services, making support more accessible, especially for those who are hesitant to seek help in traditional ways.

Families can use technology by selecting age-appropriate digital tools that promote positive mental health habits. Guided meditation apps, mood-tracking platforms, and online counseling can offer structured ways to manage stress and emotions. Virtual support groups and forums can provide a sense of community, helping young people feel less isolated in their experiences. We utilize technology extensively at GRAND Mental Health and have seen amazing results.

While technology offers many benefits, maintaining a balanced approach is essential. Helping children navigate social media responsibly, setting screen-time boundaries, and promoting a mix of online and offline activities can help create a healthy relationship with technology.

By using digital tools thoughtfully and incorporating them into a broader mental health strategy, families can harness technology to support children's emotional well-being while ensuring it remains a positive influence rather than a source of stress or anxiety.

(844) 458-2100 24/7 Crisis Line: (800) 722-3611



#### **DENTAL DEPOT**

#### Sun, Snacks and Smiles: A Summer Dental Check-in

Long summer days mean more time for fun—but they can also bring more sugar, less structure and forgotten toothbrushes. Here are some things to keep in mind during the summer months:

- Common summer dental issues: In the summer, kids often snack more frequently and may not be brushing and flossing as consistently. We also tend to see more dental trauma from kids playing sports or just being more active in general.
- Maintain good oral hygiene during a season with less routine: Keep dental
  care part of the daily routine, even if bedtimes and mealtimes shift. Make
  brushing and flossing a family activity if needed—especially when you're out
  of town or doing sleepovers. Also, be mindful of what's in the house. Try to
  keep healthier snack options stocked and limit sugary drinks. This can really
  cut down on cavity risk.
- Make oral care more fun: Use apps or songs to time brushing, let kids pick out their toothbrush and toothpaste, or create a sticker chart for brushing streaks. Some families turn it into a game—anything that adds fun or a sense of ownership helps kids take pride in their routines.

Dr. Scott Kooken, Dental Depot Tulsa Hills

Six Convenient Tulsa Metro Locations DentalDepot.net





#### **MILLER SWIM SCHOOL**

#### What do I need to know about swimming supervision?

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, active supervision is one of the best defenses against drowning; however, many parents aren't sure what that means. Here are some key tips:

- Parents of kids younger than age 5 (or those who are older but lack swim skills) need to be within arm's length of their kids.
- 2. They also need to be watching closely. Common distractions include cell phones, conversations, and "quick" tasks like running inside to grab a drink of water
- 3. No one should swim completely on their own no matter their age or swimming proficiency. Older kids and teens should have a competent "buddy" with them at all times.
- 4. Designate a Water Watcher and never assume that "someone else" is watching the kids in the pool. Ultimately, the more layers of protection you have, the better. This includes pool fences, self-latching gates, alarms on doors that open to the outside, designated "water watchers" and parents/caregivers certified in CPR. As experts say, "Drowning incidents often occur not because of a lack of supervision, but because of a lapse in supervision."

6415 S. Mingo Rd., Tulsa 525 W. 91st St. S., Jenks 7820 E 101st St, Tulsa OK

918.254.1988

MillerSwimSchool.com

#### SUMMER FAMILY FUN GUIDE!

Our Summer Family Fun Guide can help you check off these items - and more from your summer bucket list.



SCAN ME TO PLAN YOUR SUMMER!

sponsored by



_SUMMER_
> BUCKET LIST <
Pick berries
Take a road trip
Watch fireworks     Watch firework     Watch fi
Cheer for Tulsa Drillers
Try a new flavor of ice cream
Make family memories





#### June 1 Sunday

#### **SENSORY SKATE SUNDAY**

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wheels and Thrills, 10637 N. Garnett Rd., Owasso, wheelsandthrills.com

Wheels and Thrills will suspend their arcade and laser tag for a more sensory friendly experience. No flashing lights or loud music.

#### "WICKED"

1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St.. celebrityattractions.com

The untold true story of the Witches of Oz. Additional showtimes through June 15.

#### June 2 Monday

#### **TULSA ZOO SUMMER CAMPS**

Grades K4-12, Tulsa Zoo, 6421 E. 36th St. N., tulsazoo.org/camps

This summer, Tulsa Zoo is hosting week-long camps and 4-day camps from June through August. Visit the website for camp sessions, descriptions, pricing and registration.

#### LITTLE LAB **PROGRAMMING** W

Ages 0-4, 11-11:30 a.m., Discovery Lab, 3123 S. Riverside Dr., discoverylab.org

Educational activities for early

#### THE DISCOVERY AWARDS

All ages, 6 p.m., Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St., tulsapac.com

High school theater students battle it out for a chance to attend The Jimmy Awards in NYC.

#### June 3 Tuesday

#### STORYWALK® []

All ages, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Ray Harral Nature Center, 7101 S. 3rd St., Broken Arrow.

facebook.com/rayharralnaturecenter

Stroll at your own pace and read Wonder Walkers by Micha Archer. Repeats daily through June 7.

#### ROSE DISTRICT FARMERS MARKET (3)

All ages, 4-8 p.m., Rose District Plaza, 418 S. Main St., Broken Arrow, brokenarrowok.gov

Get fresh produce and other local goods at this weekday market.

#### WHAT IF PUPPETS PRESENTS "HOW TO SNAG A SEA MONSTER" 🕞

All ages, 7-8 p.m., Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., tulsalibrary.org

Join What if Puppets for this fun show, sponsored by OKM Music.

#### June 4 Wednesday

#### STORYTIME AT TULSA ZOO W

All ages, 10-10:30 a.m., Tulsa Zoo, 6421 E. 36th St. N., tulsazoo.org

Enjoy a story and meet an animal ambassador at the world globe near the main entrance (will move inside in inclement weather).

#### ITTY BITTY REN FAIRE ()

All ages, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., South Broken Arrow Library, 3600 Chestnut Ave., Broken Arrow, tulsalibrary.org

Take a journey into the past and create art, joust and more.

#### INSPYRAL CIRCUS JAM (

All ages, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Guthrie Green, 111 E. Reconciliation Way, guthriegreen.com

A free, community jam open to anyone interested in circus arts.

#### June 5 Thursday

#### **LUCKY DIAZ AND THE** FAMILY JAM BAND (3)

All ages, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-3 p.m., Hardesty Regional Library 8316 E. 93rd St., tulsalibrary.org

Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band bring smart, crafty lyrics with irresistibly fresh pop beats!

#### **BANDS & BLOOMS: PAT HOBBS AND JOHN HAMIL**

All ages, 6-8 p.m., Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr.. tulsabotanic.org

Enjoy live music in a beautiful garden settina.

#### **OWASSO GATHERING** ON MAIN (3)

All ages, 6-9 p.m., Redbud Festival Park, 109 N. Main St., Owasso, owassogathering.com

A large community block party in Owasso's Redbud District.

#### June 6 Friday

## TRADITIONAL CHEROKEE GAMES (3)

All ages, 11 am.-1 p.m., Various locations, visitcherokeenation.com

Teams at the Cherokee National History Museum (Tahlequah), Saline Courthouse Museum (Rose, OK) and Sequoyah's Cabin Museum (Sallisaw) will show you how to play games that Cherokees have enjoyed from time immemorial

## THE GLEN MILLER ORCHESTRA

7 p.m., Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St., tulsapac.com

The most popular and sought after big band of all time returns to Tulsa for an evening of swing music!

#### **SUNSET YOGA**

Ages 16+ with parent, 7-8 p.m., Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., tulsabotanic.org

Evening yoga session in beautiful gardens, in collaboration with Humble Warrior Collective.

#### "HALF TIME"

8 p.m., Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St., okworldstage.org

The incredible true story of ten determined dreamers who audition to dance at half time for a major basketball team. Additional showtimes through June 15.

#### June 7 Saturday

### SATURDAY MORNING BIRDING (5)

All ages, 8-9:45 a.m., Oxley Nature Center, 6700 Mohawk Blvd., oxleynaturecenter.org

Bring binoculars if you have them and keep an eye out for local birds while you hike.

#### **SATURDAY TINY TOTS (3) (7)**

Ages 0-6, 9-11 a.m., Wheels and Thrills, 10638 N. Garnett Rd., Owasso, wheelsandthrills.com

Skate, play, ride and jump with your favorite characters!

#### **NATIONAL TRAILS DAY**

All ages, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., tulsabotanic.org

Take a self-guided hike on the Garden's Cross Timbers Nature Trail (1-mile loop) to see native prairie and forest.

## ART ON THE LIBRARY LAWN (3)

All ages, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Collinsville Library, 1223 W. Main St., Collinsville, tulsalibrary.org

A family-friendly outdoor art experience celebrating creativity and nature.

#### "THE HOBBIT"

6:30 p.m., Lorton Performance Center, 550 S. Gary Pl., tulsaopera.com

Tulsa Youth Opera goes "there and back again" in this delightful adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy epic. Repeats June 8, 2:30 p.m.

#### June 8 Sunday

## SENSORY-FRIENDLY FAMILY HOURS

All ages, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Discovery Lab, 3123 S. Riverside Dr., discoverylab.org

These early hours are designed for families with children on the spectrum and other sensory needs.

#### June 9 Monday

#### SPHERO ROBOTS (3)

For teens and tweens, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. or 5-6 p.m., Owasso Library, 103 W. Broadway St., Owasso, tulsalibrary.org

Create Sphero robots, a programmable robot that helps you learn fundamental STEM concepts through play-based learning and educational activities. Registration required; only sign up for one session.

#### BOOKS SANDWICHED IN: KIDS READ EDITION (5)

12:10-12:50 p.m., Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd., tulsalibrary.org

TCCL Children's Services Coordinator Laura Raphael will introduce a cavalcade of what's popular, new and exciting in children's literature.

#### June 10 Tuesday

## TUESDAYS WITH TULSA GARDEN CLUB (3) (2)

All ages, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Teaching Garden at Woodward Park, 2435 S. Peoria Ave., tulsagardenclub.org

Free kids' activities and opportunities to explore the arboretum, gardens, conservatory and mansion at Woodward Park.

#### TEEN VIDEO GAME CLUB: SUPER SMASH BROS. ULTIMATE TOURNAMENT (3)

For teens and tweens, 4-5:30 p.m., Pratt Library, 3219 S. 113th Ave. W., Sand Springs, tulsalibrary.org

Enjoy prizes, fun and friends at this Super Smash Bros. Ultimate tournament!

#### STARLIGHT CONCERT (3) (7)

All ages, 8 p.m., Guthrie Green, 111 E. Reconciliation Way, starligthconcerts.org

Enjoy live music at Guthrie Green every Tuesday, June 3-July 8. This week's theme is "Once Upon A Time," and there will be a kids' costume parade.

#### June 11 Wednesday

#### **BOARD GAME PARTY (**

For teens and tweens, 3-5 p.m., Herman and Kate Kaiser Library, 5202 S. Hudson Ave., tulsalibrary.org

Enjoy the library's growing selection of board games. Snacks and drinks provided.

## YOGA: FITNESS ON THE GREEN **⑤** ₩

All ages, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Guthrie Green, 111 E. Reconciliation Way, guthriegreen.com

A free yoga class taught by a licensed YMCA fitness instructor.

#### June 12 Thursday

## INSPYRAL CIRCUS PRESENTS EMOTION IN MOTION (5)

For toddlers to elementary schoolers, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Central Library, 400 Civic Center, tulsalibrary.org

This colorful circus adventure explores the emotions we all experience every day.

## COLORFUL CLOUD DOUGH CREATIONS (5)

For teens and tweens, 2-3 p.m., Rudisill Regional Library, 1520 N. Hartford Ave., tulsalibrary.org

Create super soft, no-cook cloud dough.

#### BANDS & BLOOMS: TRAVIS KIDD

All ages, 6-8 p.m., Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., tulsabotanic.org

Enjoy live music in a beautiful garden setting.

#### June 13 Friday

## HOT TOAST MUSIC COMPANY (F)

For toddlers and preschoolers, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Redbud Festival Park, 109 N. Main St., Owasso, tulsalibrary.org

Music that celebrates childhood and encourages everyone to join in the magic of learning.

#### PAWS FOR READING ()

For elementary schoolers, 4-5 p.m., Brookside Library, 1207 E. 45th Pl., tulsalibrary.org

Read your favorite book to a furry, four-pawed friend. Registration required.

#### June 14 Saturday

#### **GLOBAL GATHERINGS** (2) (7)

All ages, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Gathering Place, 2650 S. John Williams Way, gatheringplace.org

Be immersed in a different region of the world on Saturday mornings, June 14-July 26.

#### TREE FORT STORYTIME

Ages 10 and under, 10:30 a.m., Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., tulsabotanic.org

Enjoy a nature-themed story in the Tree Fort in the Children's Discovery Garden. Free with admission. Repeats June 28

#### **RIVERWALK POP!**

All ages, 12-5 p.m., Jenks Riverwalk, 300 Riverwalk Terrace, Jenks, jenksriverwalk.com

A celebration of pop culture, with a costume contest, live music, vendors and more.

## PAWNEE BILL'S ORIGINAL WILD WEST SHOW

All ages, 2 p.m. (Museum open 11 a.m.-7 p.m.), Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, 1141 Pawnee Bill Rd., Pawnee, okhistory.org/sites/pbshow

Enjoy historically accurate entertainment such as blacksmithing, chuck wagon cooking, sharpshooters and more throughout the afternoon. The big show begins at 7:30 p.m.

#### **FC TULSA GAME**

All ages, 7:30 p.m., ONEOK Field, 201 N. Elgin Ave., fctulsa.com

Cheer for FC Tulsa as they play Phoenix Rising FC.

#### June 15 Sunday

HAPPY
Father's

## ZOORASSIC WORLD: FROZEN IN TIME

All ages, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tulsa Zoo, 6421 E. 36th St. N., tulsazoo.org/roar

See more than 25 life-sized animatronic dinosaurs, plus the giants of the Ice Age. Open through Sept. 1. Not included with admission.

#### FATHER'S DAY AT TULSA BOTANIC GARDEN

All ages, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., tulsabotanic.org

Spend Father's Day in the beautiful Tulsa Botanic Garden.

#### June 16 Monday

## MELTED-CRAYON JEWELRY (F)

For teens and tweens, 3-4 p.m., Herman and Kate Kaiser Library, 5202 S. Hudson Ave., tulsalibrary.org

Shred old crayons, heap the shavings into jewelry settings and apply heat.

#### June 17 Tuesday

#### YOU MADE ME INK!

For teens and tweens, 2-3 p.m., South Broken Arrow Library, 3600 S. Chestnut Ave., Broken Arrow, tulsalibrary.org

Sketch, dye and print with alcohol and India ink

#### June 18 Wednesday

# BUBBLE BLIZZARD AND NITROGEN ADVENTURES WITH THE DISCOVERY LAB

Ages 5-12, 11-11:45 a.m., Herman and Kate Kaiser Library, 5202 S. Hudson Ave., tulsalibrary.org

Enjoy two fast-paced and fun demonstrations.

#### LIKE AN ARTIST (3

Ages 8-12, 2-3:30 p.m., Helmerich Library, 5131 E. 91st St., tulsalibrary.org

Explore the art styles of four different artists and then create your own piece.

#### June 19 Thursday

## BANDS & BLOOMS: DENISE HOEY AND DAVID JOHN

All ages, 6-8 p.m., Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., tulsabotanic.org

Enjoy live music in a beautiful garden setting.

## SUMMER'S FIFTH NIGHT (3 (W)

All ages, 7-9 p.m., Utica Square, uticasquare.com

Bring a picnic and enjoy live music. This week's performer is The Chain Project.

#### June 20 Friday

## FOAM PARTY AND FACE PAINTING WITH DUSTIN REUDELHUBER ©

Ages 5 and up, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Redbud Festival Park, 109 N. Main St., Owasso, tulsalibrary.org

Music, beach balls, pool noodles and FOAM!

#### FAMILY MOVIE FRIDAY 🕞 🕅

All ages, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Central Library, 400 Civic Center, tulsalibrary.org

Grab your picnic basket and watch a movie in the library's garden.

#### June 21 Saturday

#### **TASTE OF SUMMER**

All ages, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Central Park on Main, 1600 S. Main St., Broken Arrow, tasteofsummerba.com

It's an all-you-can-eat Blue Bell ice cream festival!

## COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT: "MOANA 2"

All ages, 7:30-10:45 p.m., Redbud Festival Park, 109 N. Main St., Owasso,

face book.com/redbudfest ival park

Bring a lawn chair and watch Moana 2! Before the show, meet Moana and Maui, play on the bounce house, etc.

#### June 22 Sunday

## SUNDAY ZUMBA WITH ARIANE (3) (2)

All ages, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Guthrie Green, 111 E. Reconciliation Way, guthriegreen.com

An electrifying workout experience that seamlessly blends dance, music and fitness

#### June 23 Monday

#### MUSIC MONDAY () (V)

For toddlers and preschoolers, 10-10:30 a.m., Central Library, 400 Civic Center, tulsalibrary.org

A fun morning of singing and dancing to help foster early literacy skills.

#### June 24 Tuesday

## SUMMER MOVIE TUESDAYS (3)

All ages, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Rudisill Regional Library, 1520 N. Hartford Ave., tuslalibrary.org

Kick back and enjoy a family-friendly movie and treats. Repeats June 17.

## DISCOVERY LAB: EARTHQUAKES!

Ages 6-10, 2-3 p.m., Schusterman-Benson Library, 3333 E. 32nd Pl., tulsalibrary.org

Learn how to build structures to withstand seismic activity and how to measure an earthquake's power. Seating limited.

#### June 25 Wednesday

## WILL PARKER: MUSIC FOR KIDS AGES 1-100 (5)

All ages, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Brookside Library, 1207 E. 45th Pl., tulsalibrary.org

A fun, interactive show for the whole family!

#### **TEEN CONNECTION**

For 6th-12th graders, 4:30-6 p.m., The Arc of Oklahoma, 2516 E. 71st St. Suite A, thearcok.org

A social group for middle and high schoolers with high-functioning autism.

#### June 26 Thursday

## SUMMER STORYTIME AT THE AIRPORT (5)

Ages 0-5, 10-10:30 a.m., Tulsa International Airport, 7777 Airport Dr., tulsalibrary.org

Join the Maxwell Park Library at the airport for a fun "Color Our World" storytime.

## BUILD A READER STORYTIME: SENSORY (5)

Ages 2-10, 10:30-11 a.m., Broken Arrow Library, 300 W. Broadway Ave., Broken Arrow, tulsalibrary.org

Sensory Storytime is designed for children with a variety of learning styles or sensory integration challenges. Must pre-register.

#### POKÉMON ADVENTURE (3)

For elementary schoolers to teens, 3-4 p.m., Charles Page Library, 551 E. 4th St., Sand Springs, tulsalibrary.org

Participate in a variety of Pokémon activities, games and challenges.

## FLORIGAMI SUMMER NIGHTS

All ages, 5-8 p.m., Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., tulsabotanic.org

Tulsa Botanic Garden is open until 8 p.m. every Thursday through Oct. 30. See larger-than-life metal sculptures of flowers, birds, deer and more, inspired by origami.

#### **AWFUL ART NIGHT**

All ages, 6-8 p.m., Bixby Library, 20 E. Breckenridge Ave., Bixby, tulsalibrary.org

Create truly artless art. Hang your work in the library's Summer Gallery of Shame!

#### June 27 Friday

#### **NATURE ACADEMY**

For students of all ages, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Tulsa Zoo, 6421 E. 36th St. N., tulsazoo.org

Calling all homeschoolers! Join the zoo for Nature Academy at the COX Nature Exchange! There will be a treasure trove of exciting activities and prompts, designed to inspire you to explore the outdoors. No registration required.

#### **MOVIE NIGHT (**

All ages, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Will Rogers Memorial Museum, 1720 W. Will Rogers Blvd., Claremore, willrogers.com

Enjoy fun activities before a screening of "Doctor Bull," featuring Will Rogers. Free popcorn and drinks.

#### June 28 Saturday

#### PESTS & POLLINATORS: FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE IN YOUR GARDEN

Ages 16+ with parent, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., tulsabotanic.org

Learn how to support pollinators while keeping common garden pests in check in this class.

## TINY ART SHOW + ART DISCUSSION (2)

For elementary to high schoolers, 2-3 p.m., Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd., tulsalibrary.org

Create your own mini masterpiece and participate in an engaging art discussion to inspire your work. Your completed work will be displayed in the Hispanic Resource Center in July.

## COLOR OF HOPE: A CASA INTERACTIVE ART FEST

All ages, 6-9 p.m., WOMPA, 3306 Charles Page Blvd., tulsacasa.org

Unleash your inner artist and groove your way to supporting Tulsa CASA, which makes a real difference in the lives of local children in foster care.

#### **FC TULSA GAME**

All ages, 7:30 p.m., ONEOK Field, 201 N. Elgin Ave., fctulsa.com

Cheer for FC Tulsa as they play the Chattanooga Wolves FC. There will be fireworks!

#### June 29 Sunday

FIND MORE FUN AT TULSAKIDS.COM/ CALENDAR

#### **CHEER FOR TULSA DRILLERS!**

Tulsa Drillers are playing ball all month long at ONEOK Field, 201 N. Elgin Ave.

Kids 12 and under can join Hornsby's Kids Club for free tickets to games on June 21, July 19 and August 16. Your \$30 membership fee also includes a welcome bag with a special Drillers T-shirt! Join today at tulsadrillers.com

6/3, 7 p.m. vs. Amarillo
6/4, 7 p.m. vs. Amarillo
6/5, 7 p.m. vs. Amarillo
6/6, 7 p.m. vs. Amarillo\*
6/7, 7 p.m. vs. Amarillo\*
6/8, 1 p.m. vs. Amarillo\*\*
6/17, 7 p.m. vs. Midland
6/18, 12:05 p.m. vs. Midland
6/19, 7 p.m. vs. Midland
6/20, 7 p.m. vs. Midland
6/21, 7 p.m. vs. Midland
6/21, 7 p.m. vs. Midland\*
6/22, 7 p.m. vs. Midland\*\*
6/23, 1 p.m. vs. Midland\*\*
\*Fireworks
\*\*FUNday Sunday, kids eat free!



#### June 30 Monday

#### **BABY BOARD BOOK BOOK CLUB (3)**

\*\*\*Hornsby's birthday celebration

For babies and their grown-ups, 10-11 a.m., Central Library, 400 Civic Center, tulsalibrary.org

Experience the joy of reading with your baby and make new friends!

#### **DUNGEON MASTER ACADEMY** (1)

For teens, 4-5 p.m., Jenks Library, 523 W. B St., Jenks, tulsalibrary.org

Join DnD MC's Wes Rose for an overview of everything you need to become a successful dungeon master! Space limited.



## **Summer Festivals: June**

Find a whole year's worth of festivals at tulsakids.com/festivals

#### BARTLESVILLE SUNFEST

May 30-June 1 Sooner Park, located at Madison Blvd. and Tuxedo Ave., Bartlesville

"Oklahoma's Biggest Picnic" features live music, an arts and crafts show, Youthfest activities and more. bartlesvillesunfest.org

#### **OKM MUSIC FESTIVAL**

May 30-June 5 (Especially for Kids Festival); June 6-9 (main festival) Various locations, Bartlesville

Celebrate music at the annual OKM Music Festival. The "Especially for Kids Festival" includes music-themed storytimes, special concerts and other musical activities. okmmusic.org

#### **SAINT FRANCIS TULSA TOUGH**

**June 6-8** 

Blue Dome Arts District (Friday); Tulsa Arts District (Saturday); Riverside Dr. (Sunday)

Cheer for cyclists from all over at this three-day cycling festival! Includes kids races (Saturday and Sunday) and a community Townie Ride (Sunday). tulsatough.com

#### **MUSCOGEE NATION FESTIVAL**

June 26-29 Claude Cox Omniplex, 555 Tank Farm Rd., Okmulgee

A weekend of family fun celebrating the Muscogee people. Activities include a 5K Walk/Run, a fun fair, traditional games and much more. creekfestival.com

#### **TULSA JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL**

June 18-21

**Historic Greenwood District** 

Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery in the U.S. Enjoy a weekend of music and other entertainment. tulsajuneteenth.org

#### **BIXBY GREEN CORN FESTIVAL**

June 25-28 Charley Young Event Park, 50 W. Dawes Ave., Bixby

A community celebration featuring a parade, free roasted ears of corn, music, booths, a carnival and more. bixbyoptimist.com

#### **AAA ROUTE 66 ROAD FEST**

June 21-22 Expo Square, 4145 E. 21st St.

A celebration of Route 66 with historical displays, interactive activities, a classic car show, etc. route66roadfest.com

#### **KIDSFEST**

June 21-22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Woolaroc, 1925 Woolaroc Ranch Rd., Bartlesville

Crafts, games, live music, inflatables and so much more! Included with general admission; craft and food vendors are an additional cost. woolaroc.org



# **Peyton Brock**CLIMB® Graduate

#### By Betty Casey



hen I met 6-year-old Peyton Brock at her house, she was scrunched up next to her mom, Kendra. But it didn't take long for her to tell me about her kindergarten graduation coming up the next day and a birthday trip to the Oklahoma Aquarium. Peyton is a cheerful kid who loves playing with her family, but she also has had to face a difficult reality at a young age – her mom's breast cancer diagnosis. While Kendra's surgery was successful, she still faces several months of radiation and chemotherapy. The entire family is impacted by the emotional and physical toll of a cancer diagnosis and treatment. When Kendra saw information posted about The CLIMB® Support Group at the Saint Francis Cancer Center, she involved her family. CLIMB® is an emotional support program for children and teens, ages 6-18, whose parents are diagnosed with cancer. Sessions are held at Saint Francis, but it is open to those at other cancer centers. Peyton is a recent graduate of the six-week CLIMB® program.

#### TK: How did you feel when you found out your mom had cancer?

Peyton: I felt scared that they didn't get all of it.

Kendra says there's no evidence of the disease, but she will continue treatment, followed by immunotherapy. She and her husband didn't keep the cancer diagnosis from their children, Peyton, her younger sister and older stepbrother. To participate in CLIMB®, the children must already have been told about the cancer diagnosis.

#### TK: Tell me about going to the CLIMB® classes.

**Peyton:** When we first get there, we sit and wait until they're ready. Sometimes we eat dinner. After dinner, we go to our classes. (There are separate classes for each age group, so information can be delivered in developmentally appropriate ways. Parents go to classes with a different speaker each session, which includes talking to kids about cancer.) In my group, we learned how my mom got cancer.

#### TK: How do you feel when you go to the class?

**Peyton:** We talk about five emotions: fear, anxiety, happiness, sadness and anger. It makes me feel better to know that I didn't give her the cancer. (Sometimes children feel responsible for their parent's cancer.)



#### TK: What other things did you learn?

**Peyton:** There's a long tube that goes around her and goes to a port. I learned about chemo and radiation. We got to go discover the whole, entire cancer center on a tour. There's a big machine that shoots a laser. Sometimes they have to put wax on a person to line up the laser. We got to play on one of the chairs where my mom gets her chemo. We went to the doctors' offices. That helped me feel better to know where my mom is.

#### TK: Do you do things to help your mom?

**Peyton:** One time I was scared because I thought my mom was sleepwalking, and I had to tell my dad. She was just very tired. I massage her feet. (The treatments give Kendra neuropathy, and she says Peyton has the best touch for massaging.)

#### TK: What else would you like to tell me about CLIMB® classes?

**Peyton:** I made some friends. One is Jonah. After I met Jonah and he told me his dad had cancer, I felt less alone. I knew there were other families that had cancer, and it made me feel less alone.

#### TK: What do you like to do for fun?

Peyton: I like to play with my family. I like to go to the park and the pool.

#### TK: Can you share a fun fact about yourself?

**Peyton:** I'm very flexible. (At this point, Peyton showed me how she can bend her arms and legs!)

For upcoming dates and information about the CLIMB® program, please contact Margie Taylor, LMSW at 918.556.7012.

## **Beat the Heat!**

## Places to Swim and Splash

By **Tara Rittler** 



#### WHERE TO SWIM

#### Community Pools at Local Parks

Chamberlain Park: 4940 N. Frankfort Ave.; opening summer 2025; cityoftulsa.org/aquatics

Family Aquatic Center: 1400 S. Main St., Broken Arrow; brokenarrowok.gov

Lacy Park: 2142 N. Madison Pl.; open Monday-Saturday (closed Sundays), 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; brokenarrowok.gov

McClure Park: 7440 E. 7th St.; open Tuesday-Sunday (closed Mondays), 12-6 p.m.; cityoftulsa.org/aquatics

Nienhuis Aquatic Facility: 3201 N. 9th St., Broken Arrow; brokenarrowok.gov

Reed Park: 4233 S. Yukon Ave.; open Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (closed Mondays); cityoftulsa.org/aquatics

South County Park: 13800 S. Peoria Ave., Bixby; open Tuesday-Wednesday, 12-5 p.m., Thursday-Sunday, 12-5 p.m. (closed

Mondays); www2.tulsacounty.org/parks

Whiteside Park: 4013 S. Pittsburg Ave.; open Wednesday-Monday (closed Tuesdays), 12-6 p.m.; cityoftulsa.org/aquatics

#### WHERE TO SPLASH

Open 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

#### City of Tulsa Parks Water Playgrounds and Splashpads

cityoftulsa.org/aquatics

#### Water Playgrounds

Celebration Park, 1002 W. 21st St. Chamberlain Park, 4949 N. Frankfort Helmerich Park, 7301 S. Riverside

Hunter Park, 5804 E. 91st St.

Kendall Whittier Park, 2645 E. 5th St.

Lacy Park, 2134 N. Madison Pl.

Manion Park, 3003 E. 56th St.

Maxwell Park, 5251 E. Newton St.

McCullough Park, 11534 E. 25th St.

Mohawk Park, 5701 E. 36th St. North

Owen Park, 560 N. Maybelle St.

Reed Park, 4233 S. Yukon Ave.

Schlegel Park, 3825 W. 53rd Pl.

Springdale Park, 2223 E. Pine

Vining Park, 6502 N. Cincinnati Ave.

Whiteside Park, 4009 S. Pittsburgh

Zeigler Park, 3903 W. 4th St.

#### Splash Pads

Archer Park, 2831 E. Archer St.

Benedict Park, 1630 E. 12th St.

Braden Park, 5036 E. 7th St.

Carbondale Park, 2802 W. 48th St.

Crutchfield Park, 1345 E. Independence Ave.

Dawson Park, 2035 N. Kingston

Florence Park, 1936 S. Gary Ave.

Highland Park, 4909 E. 36th St.

Johnson Park, 6002 S. Riverside Dr.

Maple Park, 404 E. 15th St.

Penney Park, 531 S. 49th West Ave.

Starks Park, 1622 N. Main

Tracy Park, 1134 S. Peoria, Ave.

Dream Keepers Park, 1875 S. Boulder Ave.

Wheeling Park, 2209 W. Wheeling Ave.

Zink Park, 3216 S. Trenton Ave.

#### Chandler Park Splash Park

www2.tulsacounty.org/parks

Location: Chandler Park, 6500 W. 21st St.

Hours: Sessions available: 9-10:30 a.m. (Toddler time, ages 1-3); 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 1-2:30 p.m.; 3-4:30 p.m.; 5-6:30 p.m. The splash park is closed between sessions

for 30 minutes for cleaning.

Fee: \$1 per person (cash only, no bills larger than \$5); purchase at Splash Park gate. No advance sales.

#### 41st Street Plaza

riverparks.org/experience/41st-street

Location: 41st and Riverside

Hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

#### Bixby

bixbyok.gov/290/Parks-and-Trails

Locations:

Bentley Park: 8505 E. 148th St. S., Bixby

(Open 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily)

Charley Young Event Park: 50 W. Dawes Ave., Bixby

#### **Broken Arrow**

brokenarrowok.gov/government/parks/splash-pads

Locations:

Camino Villa Park: 2812 E. Madison Pl., Broken Arrow

Haskell Park: 601 E. Dallas St., Broken Arrow

Jackson Park: 4800 West Washington St. S., Broken Arrow

Leisure Park: 801 W. Charleston St., Broken Arrow Preserve Park: 3000 N. 37th St., Broken Arrow Rockwood West Park: 1308 N. Narcissus Ave.,

**Broken Arrow** 

Sieling Park: 801-899 N. Elm Ave., Broken Arrow

**Rose District Interactive Water Feature** 

#### **Jenks**

jenks.com/164/Parks-Recreation

Locations:

**Veterans Park:** 305 S. Birch St., Jenks **Central Park:** 208 N. Elm St., Jenks

Hours: 7 a.m.-11 p.m. daily

#### Owasso

cityofowasso.com/610/Parks-Department

Locations:

Rayola Park: 8300 Owasso Expressway, Owasso Funtastic Island: 10320 E. 116th St. N., Owasso

Hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

#### Sand Springs

sandspringsok.org/164/Parks-Recreation

Locations:

Case Community Park: 2500 S. River City Park Rd.,

Sand Springs

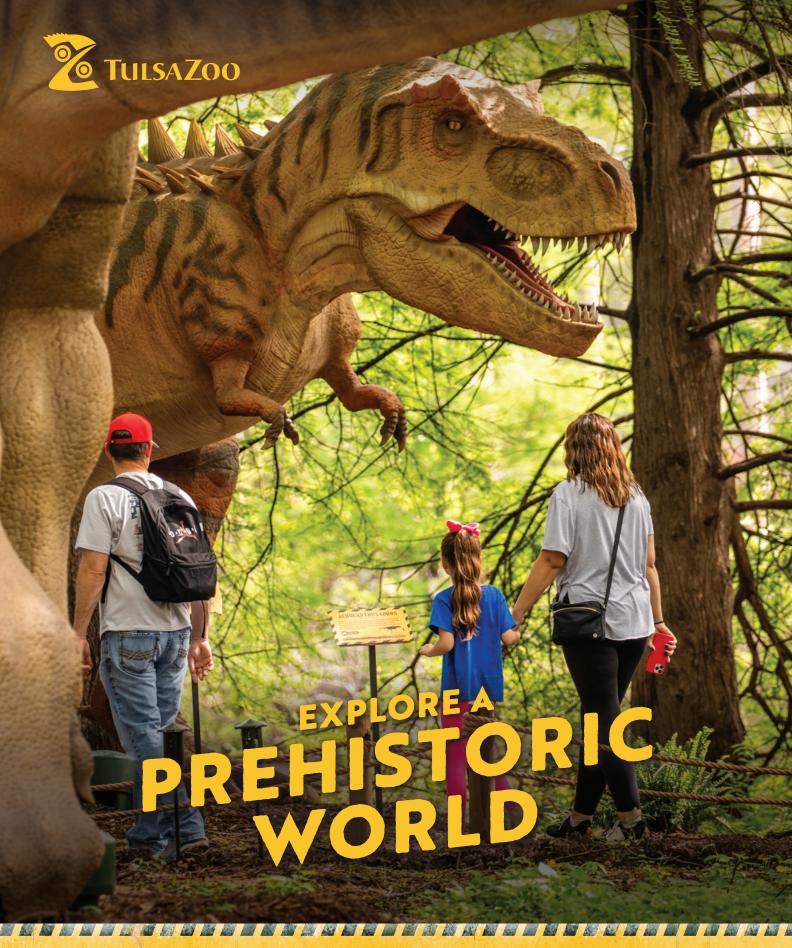
Pratt Civitan Center: 306 W. 43rd St., Sand Springs

Hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m









ZOORASSIC WORLD TICKETS AT TULSAZOO.ORG/ROAR