



'SPRING EXPO' FULL OF IMPRESSIVE WORK, INNOVATIVE IDEAS ...

PHOTOS BY JAKE O'SHAUGHNESSY

Published biweekly by and for the Upper School students of Riverfield Country Day School in Tulsa, OK

MAY 10, 2019

THE COMMONS



'INTO THE WOODS' PREMIERES TONIGHT

By **Brenden Paul**
STAFF WRITER

Riverfield Theater Company has been working for months on their production of "Into the Woods," which debuts tonight. Students started working on perfecting the play all the way back in February, and cast members' selection began at the beginning of the second semester.

Cast member Andrew Jordan says he "is very excited for people to see the show that we have spent months on, and I hope that everyone enjoys it."

The play debuts tonight at the Tulsa PAC in the Liddy Doenges Theater, which is the same place where RCDS' production of "Clue" was held earlier this school year.

The show starts at 7 p.m. tonight. If you can't make it to tonight's production, don't worry. There will be two more performances tomorrow. The second performance is a Saturday matinee starting at 2 p.m. The third performance will be held Saturday night at 7 p.m. All three performances will take place in the PAC's Liddy Doenges Theater.

This show is going to be a smash hit, and you won't want to miss it! Be sure to get your tickets on the PAC Website. Tickets are \$10 for students and faculty and \$20 for the general public. VIP Tickets are available for the shows as well, but prices may vary, so be sure to buy your tickets today.

TICKETS GOING FAST! \$10 FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY. BUY THEM ON TULSA PAC'S WEBSITE: WWW.TULSAPAC.COM OR CALL 918-596-7111.

Tara Fritts, Ethan Shaw, and Ari Sanders rehearse their parts for tonight's performance.
PHOTO BY ANDREW JORDAN

Preparing for finals

By **Will Dozier**
STAFF WRITER

As Dead Week comes to an end, Finals Week approaches quickly. This is a stressful time, and many of us want to end the year with good grades.

In order to do well on these tests, good study habits and discipline are necessary.

While it may be tempting to skip out on food to focus on your tests, your brain requires nutrients and energy to function. Eating substantive food will prove handy, especially if you are taking a final that is more analytical, like an essay.

Another way one can do well on finals is by studying consistently and getting good rest. While many students end up cramming the night before, cramming only works to re-

member specific facts.

The best way to study is over multiple days, going over study guides, tests, and class material repeatedly and consistently.

While there are many ways to prepare at home, faculty and school organizations also want to help students do well and get through finals.

If you miss breakfast on test days, StuCo has you covered. As usual, they will provide bagels and coffee for students throughout all three test days.

In addition, there are places and resources for good studying. One issue many students face is that it is hard to focus in the Cafeteria or upstairs when people are talking after their finals. In Mrs. Jacobs' room in the LAC, there will be a quiet Study Hall for students who want to

study without noise.

There are many methods one can use to do well on these tests. Good luck, and end the year strong!

FINALS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, MAY 13

9-11 a.m. — History
1-3 p.m. — English

TUESDAY, MAY 14

9-11 a.m. — Foreign Lang.
1-3 p.m. — Math

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

9-11 a.m. — Science

FAKE UBER DRIVER KILLS GIRL

By **Logan Payne**
NEWS EDITOR

At 2 a.m. on a Friday morning last March, Samantha Josephson, a 21 year old senior at the University of South Carolina on her way to law school, was murdered by a man she thought to be her Uber driver.

That night, Josephson was at a popular nightclub with her friends having a few drinks. She decided to call it a night and called an Uber to come pick her up and take her back to where she lived.

Fourteen hours later she was found dead in a field 90 miles from Columbia, South Carolina.

Nathan Rowland is the suspect in custody for the murder of Josephson. Her blood was reportedly sprayed all over Rowland's car. The report that

was made by Columbia police department stated that she was killed with a sharp object after being stabbed repeatedly.

After this horrific event, more crimes from people posing as a driver from Lyft or Uber have been reported. It seems easy for criminals to prey on young women coming from nightclubs or events late at night. Kidnappings and robberies have occurred and, in this instance, murder.

Lyft has already implemented a plan to help with these crimes. Now all Lyft drivers have a light in their car that projects "Lyft" onto the windshield.

Hopefully Uber also will implement something like this to better protect men and women from the horrors that could happen to them.

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MEMBER 2018-19

Online: riverfield.org/community/student-newspapers.cfm

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VOLUME XIII ISSUE 13

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019

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SPORTS

WE'RE ALL CHEERING ON THE VARSITY BOYS TODAY AS THEY COMPETE IN THE 5A STATE TENNIS FINALS ... GO RAVENS, GO!

OILERS NOW PLAYING FOR THE KELLY CUP

By Jon Morley
SPORTS EDITOR

The Tulsa Oilers had a good season this year finishing first in their division.

Having clinched the Mountain Division and moved on to

the playoffs to fight for the Kelly Cup now, let's check how the Oilers are doing in the playoffs so far.

So far they are doing really well in the playoffs, trying to move on. But first, they had some business to take care of,

and that is the Kansas City Mavericks. KC has been playing really well in the series so far. Let's look at the scores.

For their first game, it was Kansas City 6, Oilers 4.

In Game 2, Tulsa played better. The Oilers won in overtime 3-2, to tie the series 1-1.

Game 3 didn't go quite the way the Oilers wanted it. They lost 3-2 as the Mavericks took a 2-1 series lead.

But then, in Game 4, Tulsa struck back, tying the series 2-2.

In Game 5, the Mavericks beat the Oilers, putting the Oilers on the verge of elimination in the first round.

For Game 6, the Oilers got right back in the series, winning the game 4-2 and tying the series at 3-3.

That forced a Game 7, and the Tulsa Oilers won it! So they have moved on in the competition.

Watch the rest of the Kelly Cup playoff games and see who will win the 2019 Cup.



The Oilers won a close series and are still in the Kelly Cup playoffs! PHOTO: TULSAOILERS.COM

Tulsa Drillers have some good prospects

By Jon Morley
SPORTS EDITOR

The Tulsa Drillers are having an OK start to their season with a record of 18-12 so far. They are now in 2nd place, 1.5 games in back of the Arkansas Travelers. They are trying for 1st place and also trying to win the first half so they can keep the title from last year.

But first, let's look at how the players are doing.

D.J. Peters is batting .231 with three homeruns and 38 strike outs with 84 at-bats in 21 games.

What about the top prospects?

Keibert Ruiz had a good year last year helping the Drillers win the Texas League title. He is hopefully on his way to helping the team repeat the championship or get the call-up to AAA.

Next is Gavin Lux. He has been really impressive with the bat in past years. Looks like Gavin is keeping up the great hitting and will be looking forward to that call-up if it comes this year.

Then there is Dustin May. So far Dustin has had a good

year with the Drillers. If he continues to do well, he may get the call-up to triple-A by helping the Drillers win.

So that's it for now. The Tulsa Drillers have a lot of home games left in their season, so come out to a game this summer and cheer on the Drillers. We'd all like to see them repeat the title from last year.



Jon, a Drillers bat boy, talks with Clayton Kershaw, "a future Hall-of-Famer." PHOTO COURTESY MORLEYS

2019 FIFA World Cup starts

By Jack Bluhm
STAFF WRITER

Men's World Cup — May 23--June 15, host: Poland

Women's World Cup — June 7--July 7, host: France

Following an exciting 2018 FIFA World Cup, where the French were the eventual winners of the tournament, this year has been quite different.

There have been many teams that seemed to have no chance but actually are going very far in the tournament and

surprising many fans.

Sweden is one of these teams. They made the quarter finals where they faced England, but then lost to the Three Lions, thanks to some great play by England's captain, Harry Kane.

Another team that surprised everyone is who faced France in the World Cup final. Scoring two goals in the final was just not enough to defeat the French team.

Much like last year's Men's World Cup, there are some teams in this year's Women's World Cup competition that have a shot at upsetting teams and moving on to the next

rounds.

In 2015, the final game of the tournament featured the United States squad and their opponents, the defending champions, Japan. The U.S. won this final by a comfortable margin.

This year's reigning champions face a tough group and might not be able to reach the top spot in their group. That will make their road to the final harder.

I think there will be new up-and-coming competitors that might give the reigning champs a run for their money. Look out for upsets this year.

Varsity Tennis Update —

THE GIRLS' TEAM FINISHED 2ND AT REGIONALS, AND 3 OUT OF 4 ENTRIES QUALIFIED FOR STATE. ELLE KALCIK FINISHED 7TH AT STATE, WINNING THREE MATCHES. THE BOYS' TEAM SWEEPED THE 5A REGIONALS, WINNING ALL 4 ENTRIES. THEY ARE COMPETING AT STATE TODAY. GOOD LUCK & PLAY STRONG!

Draft surprises some NFL fans

By Jack Bluhm
STAFF WRITER

The 2019 NFL Draft took place on Thursday through Saturday, April 25-27. The draft kicked off at 8:00 ET, with the Arizona Cardinals on the clock with the first pick.

For the first pick, there were two main players that analysts thought could go No. 1 overall. Those two players were Nick Bosa and Kyler Murray.

Arizona needed a solid franchise quarterback, so the Cardinals turned in their draft card with Kyler Murray's name on it. For many fans, it wasn't a surprise that the Heisman Trophy winner went No. 1 overall.

But the shocks started early this year with a controversial 6th overall pick when the New York Giants were on the clock and needing a QB. Most people thought Dwayne Haskins would be the next QB drafted, but the Giants picked one that

shocked the country.

They drafted Daniel Jones, QB out of Duke University. Daniel went to the combine and performed well. He was invited to play at the Senior Bowl and performed well there, too. So maybe they saw something in him that the rest of the world didn't.

One of the highest-ranked wide receivers this year was D.K. Metcalf, who went viral after his workout videos graced Instagram. The Ole Miss WR is 6'3" and 228 lbs. Some thought he would be drafted in the first round or high in the second round.

But D.K. slowly fell and kept falling. He fell all the way to the late second round before the Seattle Seahawks chose him with their last pick in the second round. DK fell all the way to the late second round where the Seattle Seahawks drafted him with the last pick in the second round. Pick 64 is when he was welcomed to the NFL.

ABE AND KIRSTEN LEAD SOCCER TEAMS

Soccer season has just come to a close, and as we sit back and reflect on the year, there were players on both teams that really stood out in leading their squads.

Even though the teams did not win very many games, sophomore Abraham Khan and freshman Kirsten Clary helped the culture of the program by injecting infectious leadership.



By Brady Heinig

Abe Khan — Although Abe is very young, he is one of the fastest and most skilled players

on the team. Opposing attackers rarely got past him. He plays club for WSA, so he is used to playing against top competition week in and week out. Abe is a vocal leader out on the pitch, and he makes sure he leads by example as well. He will be a force to be reckoned with in upcoming years. Nice job, Abe!

Kirsten Clary — She is only a freshman, but she was easily one of the most skilled players for the Lady Ravens this year. She has an impressive soccer background and a lot of strength behind each of her kicks. Kirsten is very competitive, and although her team did not win this season, she hopes to change that in coming years through hard work and team chemistry. Way to go, Kirsten!

This is the last edition of MVPs for this year, and I have enjoyed writing this column. Check back next year when Jack Bluhm will be featuring the top athletes Riverfield has to offer.



Although they are young, they have definitely been leaders this year. PHOTOS BY LOGAN PAYNE

A&E/REVIEWS

ARE YOU GETTING A YEARBOOK?
EMAIL BROOKE KNIGHT!

3



Jessica and Chase make one last run for freedom. ILLUSTRATION BY PENNY MUSICK

THE CHASE EXPERIMENT *finale*

By Andrew Jordan
FOR ELISE WAGONER

Previously ... Just as Chase and Jessica thought they were about to escape, Will appeared to stop them ...

creative fiction

“Just leave me alone!” Chase yelled at Will.

“I’m not letting you go that easily,” Will said, starting to walk toward them with his pistol drawn.

“You’re fighting for the wrong side, Will!” Jessica yelled.

“So now I’m fighting for the wrong side? You’re delusional! We have the go-ahead from governments around the world. It’s right to improve the human race.”

“But is it *ethical*? He’s only a boy.”

“Doesn’t matter. What matters is that you give up the boy before you get hurt,” Will said.

Chase heard a faint click as Will pushed the pistol off safety.

“No!” Jessica said, now moving her entire body in front of Chase.

“Well then, it has to be done this way.” Will aimed his gun.

Bang.

A shot fired. Chase flinched, but as he looked up, he saw Will scrambling for cover. He looked behind them and saw people in military dress running down the hallway with their rifles firing.

“Come with us,” a familiar female voice said. Chase looked up at the woman’s face but couldn’t place her.

As they started to move down the hallway, a shot rang out and one of the soldiers beside them went down. They started to run, and as Chase looked over his shoulder, he could see Will and his two white armor-clad soldiers firing at the other soldiers.

“Just keep running!” Jessica screamed. They ran down the hallway and turned a corner as the sounds of gunfire rang out behind them. At the end of the hallway shined a bright light, the outside world.

“We’re going to make it, Chase thought as they ran out into the open world.

“He got away,” Will grimaced.

“I know that,” the Administrator said as he looked down the table at Will, who had his arm in a sling. “What I want to know is *how* he got away.”

“You saw the cameras. It was the dreamers. They were the ones who did this.”

“Yes, yes, I have eyes too. But what I want to know is how they found this base. And I will find out. What I need you to do is find the boy. Can you handle that, Commander?”

“Yes,” Will growled.

The Administrator walked toward the door but stopped next to Will. “The council is getting impatient, and you knows what happens when they stop believing in people.”

Will felt goosebumps rise on his arms as the Administrator walked out of the room.

“Dammit,” Will growled.

“So if you need anything, just tell us. We’ll keep in touch from time to time,” the man said, standing in the living room of Chase’s new apartment.

“Just, thank you so much!”

“It’s no problem, really,” the man handed Chase a card with a number on it. “If you ever change your mind about helping us, give us a call.”

“Will do,” Chase said. He shook hands with the man, who then walked out the front door.

Chase sighed as he made his way to his new bedroom and laid down on the bed, looking up at the ceiling. He closed his eyes and opened them to see blue skies. He looked around and saw the woman he was oh-so-familiar with.

“Hello, Chase,” the guardian said.

“Hello.”

“So, are you ready to begin your training?”

“My what?” Chase glared.

“Your training. Coming to this world was only the first step. You’ll know what to do next.” She smiled, and Chase’s blinked his eyes.

He opened his eyes — back to his bedroom ceiling. Looking over at the nightstand, he picked up the card. He dialed the number and put the phone to his ear.

“Hello Chase, it’s good to hear from you,” his sister’s voice said.

THE END (?)

MOVIE REVIEW: ‘Avengers: Endgame’

By Mason Malloy
STAFF WRITER

This is it. The last Avengers movie. And for those who have not seen the film yet, it was quite entertaining. It is rated PG-13.

“Avengers: Endgame” was one of the better movies I have ever seen. It had me confused during some parts, and entertained during others.

This film is very different than past films that show the Avengers fighting villains. The audience going into the film believes it is going to take place directly after the events of “Avengers: Infinity War.” However, it is a little more complex than that.

The Avengers run into a problem that throws off their entire plan, and they try to settle in to the new world after

Thanos snapped his fingers and wiped out the entire universe. They form a new plan of action and, once again, it is everyone versus Thanos.

Actually, this was quite a clever plan of the writers. For the first hour, there is not really much action. But toward the end of the movie is one of the most intense and awesome battle scenes I have ever seen on film. You will just have to see it for yourself.

Lastly, the ending. (Spoiler Alert: Warning, if you are a diehard Marvel fan, you will cry your eyes out.)

Overall, even if you are not a huge fan of Marvel but have seen “Infinity War,” I highly recommend seeing “Avengers: Endgame.” The special effects are phenomenal, and there is not a single minute of poor acting or screenwriting. I give this film 4 ravens out of 5.



PUBLICITY PHOTO: MARVEL



GAME REVIEW: ‘MORTAL KOMBAT 11’ IS GREAT!

By Logan Payne
STAFF WRITER

I had the opportunity to get “Mortal Kombat 11” on April 23, the first day it was released. At first glance, it was nothing special, to say the least.

The story mode gameplay was not interesting enough to keep pulling me back to finish the story mode. Also, it left out a lot of characters that consistent players of this game will miss dearly. But they also brought some characters back from previous versions.

The more I played it, the better it got. One thing I really did enjoy was the movement in which the characters fight.

The tutorial for this game was one of the best that I have found in all my years of playing since I was a kid. The game eases the player into the game very nicely, teaching them how to complete combos and perform more advanced moves as the tutorial progresses.

Now I have started playing online against other opponents, and this is where it really gets fun. You have the option to play

either ranked matches against more skilled players or “Kasual” matches. These do not matter as much as your record on ranked matches, the only thing that is important in online.

Another online feature is a three-game tournament where the players play a best-of-three match against each other. This can only be played as a ranked match.

I give this M-rated game 5/5.



CHECK OUT YUKATA SUSHI & GRILL

I had the opportunity to eat at Yutaka Grill and Sushi, and I was pleasantly surprised.

The restaurant is located in a very elegant shopping center at 6560 E. 51st St., and the layout and presentation of Yutaka gives it a great first impression.

the waiters and waitresses was few and far between, but it was fine considering they did not have to take any food orders.

Their all-you-can-eat concept really added value to the experience, and the meal was very well-priced.

There are many Asian buffets in Tulsa, but out of all that I

have been to, Yutaka was the most professionally presented and the best tasting.

I will most definitely be eating there again. I give it 4.5 out of 5 Ravens.



A TASTE OF TULSA

By Brady Heinig

Usually, when I hear the word “buffet,” I do not typically think of high quality food. However, this restaurant had very delicious Asian cuisine.

It was very busy for a Wednesday afternoon, so clearly others around Tulsa have enjoyed their experience here as well. The service from



Yutaka is not your ordinary Asian buffet. Their selections are high quality and professionally presented.

PHOTO: YELP.COM

OPINIONS/FEATURES 4

BIDEN LEADING DEMOCRATS

The race to become the 2020 Democratic nominee for President is shaping up to be a historic event with the field already at about 20 hopefuls and growing by the day.

Leading candidates such as former Vice President Joe



BIDEN

and 2016 primary challenger Sen. Bernie Sanders are mixed in with newcomers such as Pete Buttigieg and Beto O'Rourke, along with lesser known candidates like former Sen. Mike Gravel and entrepreneur Andrew Yang of "Yang-gang" fame.

According to several recent surveys, the candidate most likely to beat Donald Trump will likely be Biden, whose



CIVIL DISCOURSE

By Shashwat Singh

years of political experience and demeanor may help him with the electorate.

One of Hillary Clinton's pitfalls in 2016 was her lack of focus on actual policy propositions in favor of emotion.

According to Politico, Biden seems to be taking a similar stance, but

with one notable exception: more voters see him in a posi-

tive light than Clinton, who was bogged down by the Benghazi and email scandals.

Biden's contrasting personality with Trump could also give him an edge, as we saw from his first published campaign video that directly attacked the president's comments after the Charlottesville rally in 2017.

Biden could also carry voters in the Rust Belt and Midwestern states who flocked to Trump because of his economic policy. Polls from RealClearPolitics show that Biden could easily cater to these voters, especially those who are independent.

Ultimately, the race to the White House ends in an electoral college decision. With Biden's expertise and political history, Democrats hope he can shore up some of Hillary Clinton's vulnerabilities and take back the White House.



SANDERS

Live-action animations

By Noah Hall
COLUMNIST

For the past several years, we have seen a large increase in the number of live-action anime adaptations.

The main issues with these films are that, in most cases, the team behind the project either: 1) Doesn't research or have enough passion for the source material, or 2) The project is held back by the lack of a budget needed to create a solid movie.

Two great examples of this are the "Ghost in the Shell" adaptation from 2017 and "Fullmetal Alchemist" from 2018. Both were based on outstanding source material

but ultimately fell short due to pacing and development issues.

Both the original "Ghost in the Shell" and "Fullmetal Alchemist" had a large number of episodes and movies to expand their characters and flesh out their plots. But the movies at best got two hours for this, nowhere near a proper amount.

Live-action anime adaptations are often regarded as inferior as they don't compare to the source material or to typical movies.

But that might not always be the case, as we see in 2019's "Alita: Battle Angel."

While not an outstanding movie, the source material it was based on (the original work of the same name) came from

the 1990s. The movie had a proper budget, a director with heart, and research behind the project. It might not have set new standards, but as a step for live-action anime adaptations, it was a breath of fresh air.

With the success of that project, the probability of more higher quality live-action anime adaptations seems likely, rather than the disgrace previous projects often have been.

The importance of the next upcoming projects, such as the live-action "Cowboy Bebop" adaptation and others, will likely decide if we even see live-action anime adaptations in the future.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS SCANDAL MAKES NEWS

By Shashwat Singh
OPINIONS EDITOR

In a world that is becoming more competitive by the day, the college admissions process is something that has, until recently, maintained its credibility, especially at the level of Ivy League universities such as Yale.

But in the past few weeks, we've seen numerous universities and prominent families subject to federal scrutiny concerning affluent parents' (mostly successful) attempts to bribe their children's ways into these universities.

The college admissions process is flawed and needs changes to reward actual success instead of familial wealth.

The sad truth about the state

of college admissions today is that students who come from wealthy or influential families are often given a leg up in admittance.

Colleges are very focused on increasing their brand, and the easiest way to do so is to take children of alumni or already established families whose children will have a simpler path to monetary success, as described by Vox News.

This isn't to say that merit isn't rewarded by top-level universities like Yale, University of Texas, and USC. But it does show that these universities definitely take financial considerations into account when making admissions decisions.

Another part of the recent scandal is the manipulation of test scores through bribery and

hiring others to take the test for a given student. Multiple cases of such activity were found, but this has been going on for a long time. One particularly newsworthy situation occurred in 2011, according to an NYT report.

Ultimately, the best way for such actions to be curtailed is to either remove standardized tests from admissions decisions (something universities such as UChicago and George Washington are already doing) or increase scrutiny on proctors and test-takers.

As for the metrics used for student admittance to college, not much can be done. But hopefully the most recent FBI investigation and subsequent arrests will have some effect on how universities view their prospective student bodies.

Abe Khan working on new album now

By Mason Malloy
FEATURES EDITOR

Riverfield high school students have been waiting for the rapper AbeBabe to return, after his music blew up like crazy last year.

The rapper will return, but this time Abe Khan, a sophomore at Riverfield Country Day School, is prepared and has more than one person working with him.

His new album is called "End of the Game" according to Quinten Nokes, who works with AbeBabe's recordings.

Nokes said, "The album does not have an official release date, but it will be released in the next week or so."

According to Nokes, the album will contain eight songs. This will be the most songs AbeBabe has ever released at once. In the past, he has released only individual songs, so this effort is considerably more organized and professional.

Nokes said his favorite

song on the album is "probably 'Premium Transfer.'" I would take his word for it and give this one a listen.

While you're at it, give the entire album a listen. After hearing some of the material and watching Khan and Nokes record, I am looking forward to the album's release next week. You will find "End of the Game" on AbeBabe's Soundcloud.



Abe's rap career will get a boost from his new album.

PHOTO BY QUINTEN NOKES

RIGHT HERE IN RIVER CITY

Everything was going fine in the Tulsa area. People were going about their normal lives.

Two people went to Freedom Car Wash, at 26th and Harvard Ave., at about 7:15 on the morning of Sunday, March 24.

According to Fox News, they were vacuuming their SUV when a man walked up, jumped into the driver's seat, and drove off. The owner was in the passenger seat at the time, and she fell out the open door as the



By Ava Fritts

the vacuum cleaner and watched the events transpire.

The entire event was captured on multiple security cameras. Video can be found on multiple sites, as the crime made the national news.

The culprit was wearing a white jacket, a hat, a black shirt, and jeans. If you have any information about the man's identity, call CrimeStoppers at 918-596-COPS. The police are looking for him.

On April 4, a woman was arrested for driving the stolen SUV. No further information has been given.

... VIDEO CAN BE FOUND ON MULTIPLE SITES, AS THE CRIME MADE THE NATIONAL NEWS ...

crook backed out. Fortunately, she was not seriously injured. The man with her was standing in front of the vehicle next to

This is the final issue of
THE COMMONS
for this school year.

Look for us this fall for more interesting pages full of news, opinions, sports, arts & entertainment, reviews, and features. Thank you for reading!

The staff of **THE COMMONS**