

Bill Haisten says the process begins for OSU's next football coach **SPORTS, B1**

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Sunday, September 7, 2025

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FX TELEVISION SERIES

LOVE LETTER TO TULSA



MIKE SIMONS PHOTOS, TULSA WORLD

Ethan Hawke is seen on set as crews film a scene from "The Lowdown" at a home on Archer Street just west of Yorktown Avenue on March 11. Set to premiere Sept. 23 on FX, the shot-in-Tulsa series from Sterlin Harjo stars Hawke in a role inspired by real-life citizen journalist Lee Roy Chapman.

'The Lowdown' features Easter eggs for locals, along with actors with Tulsa ties

JIMMIE TRAMEL
Tulsa World

Best guess: People everywhere may find something to love about "The Lowdown," a new shot-in-Tulsa series starring Ethan Hawke that premieres Sept. 23 on FX.

Not a guess: Tulsans who watch the show will be treated to "Easter eggs" from the city's history.

A sampling of "Easter eggs" after viewing screeners of the series' first five episodes:

■ A character is shown watching "Maz-eppa" on television. "Mazeppa" is a beloved local late-night TV show from the early 1970s that showcased antics from pre-fame Gaillard Sartain, Gary Busey and Jim Millaway (alias Sherman Oaks).

■ Hawke's character experiences a fishy misadventure near Lake Keystone. Keep an eye on background visuals and you'll spot an artifact reminiscent of Bell's Amusement Park, which operated at Expo Square until 2006.

■ Michael "Killer Mike" Render plays



Crews film a scene from "The Lowdown" earlier this year.

■ **More inside:** In an interview with Ethan Hawke, the actor talks about his experience working on "The Lowdown" and becoming a Tulsa resident. See **SCENE, Page D1**

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OPINION

Stitt attacks Tulsa while own house implodes

A week ago Gov. Kevin Stitt and his Oklahoma Highway Patrol didn't have enough officers to patrol Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Now, Stitt apparently has so many troopers he's sending them to Tulsa to arrest homeless people and watch contractors pick up trash on state properties.

Interesting turn of events. Obviously this is a politically motivated maneuver stolen from President Donald Trump. Stitt is joining the Republican Party chorus bruised over voters choosing a Democratic mayor, and he's upset the city may be settling a federal lawsuit with tribes over jurisdiction on municipal crimes.

Stitt makes his petty jabs — portraying Tulsa as a crime-ridden, "trash-filled" city where people are "forced to live in fear" — while his own house is imploding. His misrepresentations of Tulsa also attempt to distract from the deep problems in state agencies under Stitt's control.

The top reasons for homelessness are lack of affordable housing, lack of housing with social supports and scarce availability of mental health treatment. Last week, Stitt's Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services announced cancellations of more than 300 service contracts across the state.

Not only will homeless people not get treatment, but Oklahomans depending on those services will lose them. It could increase homelessness. Some mental health providers are on the brink of closure because of these cuts, and Tulsa will be hurt.

Also, two weeks ago, State Auditor Cindy Byrd released a report that questions \$93.4 million in federal pandemic funds, indicating the state may have to return \$15.7 million to the federal government for misspent funds by state agencies. She said Oklahoma Management Enterprise Services mismanaged \$21.8 million intended for rent assistance to keep Oklahomans from eviction.

Tulsa, like every American city, has experienced an uptick in homelessness in the past five years. The city isn't unique in this problem.

Yet, in 2023, Stitt disbanded the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness, a group created in 2004 to prevent and end

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Concrete plant site to go up for sale

After long wait, hopes rise for development of riverfront property

KEVIN CANFIELD
Tulsa World

Ask Joe Westervelt what went into preparing the old Mid-Continent Concrete plant site for sale and he'll send you a list of tasks a mile long.

That helps explain why, after eight

years of work on the project, he wants people to know that the 26.7-acre tract along the west bank of the Arkansas River is ready for a transformation that could have a ripple effect up and down the waterway.

"The fact that you've got a city-activated waterfront where you spent \$57 million roughly for a low-water dam and approximately \$27 million for the pedestrian bridge and amenities, and a more than \$400 million Gathering Place within a stone's throw of the property,"

Westervelt said. "When you look around our country, and you go in and see where communities have gone in and activated their waterfronts, usually it's exciting entertainment-type venues that populate them"

Westervelt, a longtime Tulsa developer, was hired by Mid-Continent Concrete's owner, GCC of America, to prepare the property for sale. Now that it's ready to hit the market, he's a firm believer that it could play a key role in helping complete the activation of the

Arkansas River near downtown while adding to the quality of life for the nearby Eugene Field Neighborhood.

"I would like to see something that is transformational to this area of the River Parks trails," Westervelt said. "I'd like to see something that complements what's been started at Gathering Place and Discovery Lab, and I'd like to see it produce adequate sales tax and revenue to be of benefit to our community."

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Weather
Nice, some sun.
High 82 • Low 59
FORECAST • A20

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