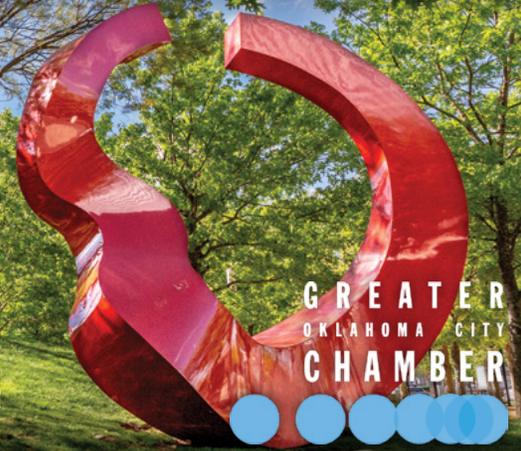


THE POINT



July 2019

www.okcchamber.com

Summer reading program challenges, helps young OKCPS students



For the third straight year, ReadOKC is challenging students to “Get in the Game” and read at least 20 minutes a day over the summer break. Every kindergarten through sixth grade OKCPS student who reads at least 1,580 minutes during the break will receive prizes and recognition in the fall. Students can record minutes read online through myON as well as the books they read by writing the minutes on their reading log. Participants can find the reading log and other information about ReadOKC at www.okcps.org/ReadOKC.

In the past, only elementary aged students were eligible to participate in the ReadOKC reading challenges. With the recent grade bands changes as a result of the Pathway to Greatness, fifth

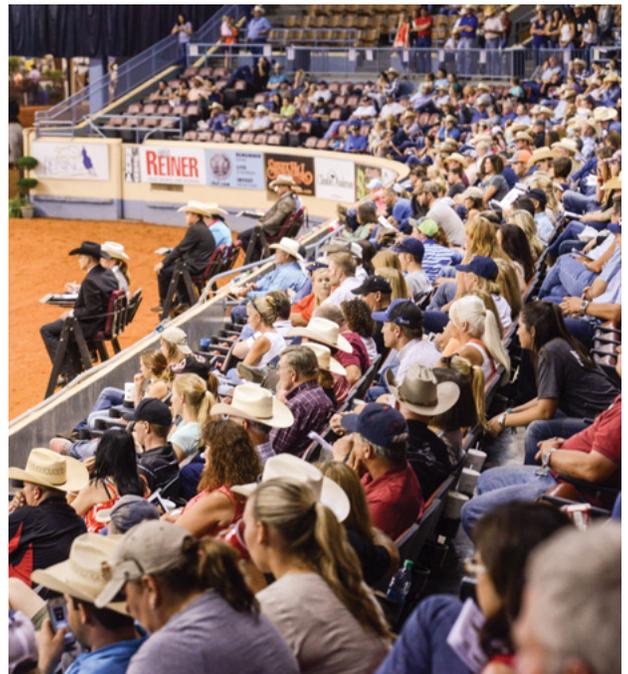
Continued on page 6

Horse shows are big business for OKC

Oklahoma City is the venue of choice for more than a dozen top national and world championship horse shows, attracting riders from across the nation and the world each year. Oklahoma City has held its standing as Horse Show Capital of the World since the early 1970s, and since that time the number of horse shows hosted here eclipsed those found in any other city. And thanks to ongoing investments in equine event facilities, that title continues to hold true.

“Our ability to repeatedly host major equine events in Oklahoma City is a pillar of the Oklahoma City hospitality industry,” said Mike Carrier, president of the Greater OKC Convention & Visitors Bureau. “The economic impact of horse shows in Oklahoma City is one of the many reasons that tourism is the third-largest industry in our region.”

In 2004, Oklahoma City residents voted to increase the hotel tax to finance a bond that paid for upgrades and improvements



Continued on page 7



Progress made, but still work to do on state-level Criminal Justice Reform

Despite broad-based support for impactful criminal justice reform at the state level, the recently concluded legislative session saw very little movement on the issue.

A bright spot was the passage of HB 1269, which will make the provisions of SQ 780 (reclassification of some drug possession and property crimes as misdemeanors) retroactive. It will do so by establishing an expedited commutation process for those serving felony sentences for crimes that are now misdemeanors.

“The bill also creates a simplified process for expungement of criminal records for those with old drug possession and low-level property crimes,” said Timothy Tardibono, executive director of the Oklahoma county Criminal Justice Advisory Council. “An estimated 500-800 low-level, non-violent inmates will get a second chance as a result of this legislation.”

HB 1269 was signed into law by Gov. Stitt on May 28.

In addition, the FY 2020 budget will provide \$20 million to reform funding for district attorneys (to make the budget less dependent on fines, fees and costs of offenders), \$10 million for mental health and substance abuse programs, \$1.5 million for the Women in Recovery diversion program and \$1.7 million to expand drug court options for non-violent offenders.

Governor Kevin Stitt issued Executive Order 2019-22 to form the Criminal Justice Reentry, Supervision, Treatment and Opportunity Reform (RESTORE) Task Force.

The 15-member panel will be led by Secretary of Public Safety Chip Keating. The RESTORE Task Force plans to come up with ways to reduce the state’s incarceration rate and enhance diversion programs.

Oklahoma has the number one incarceration rate in the country.

During his campaign, the governor promised to reduce the state’s prison population. With only one major criminal justice reform bill crossing his desk during this year’s legislative session, Stitt created this task force in the hopes of being more successful in 2020.

“When Oklahoma comes together as one team, we can create bold change that will offer our fellow citizens a second chance while also keeping our communities and streets safe,” said Stitt in a press release.

“My administration remains committed to changing our state’s number one incarceration ranking, which is why I created the RESTORE Task Force to begin preparing reform recommendations for 2020.”

The RESTORE Task Force will submit by December 6 criminal justice reform recommendations for consideration during the 2020 Legislative session. The Executive Order specifically calls for the task force to look at how to reduce Oklahoma’s incarceration rate, reduce the recidivism rate, and enhance and establish diversion programs.

“While these were certainly positive steps, much work remains on criminal justice reform and our efforts will continue next year for significant, incarceration-rate reducing legislation,” said Mark VanLandingham, Chamber vice president of government affairs and policy. “Key areas of reform that remain include supervision reform/revocation caps, revision of possession-with-intent-to-distribute laws and reduction of sentence enhancements for low-level, non-violent offenders.”

Leadership Notes

New tax credit helps OKC companies competitiveness

With the passage of HB 2759, state businesses now have a valuable tool to address an extensive statewide shortage of qualified software and cyber-security engineers.

The bill provides a tax credit up to \$2,200 annually for qualifying new employees who have received a bachelor's degree (or higher) from an accredited institution, or \$1,800 annually for qualifying employees who have been awarded a certificate from a technology center. To receive the credit, new employees must meet strict educational requirements and obtain employment in a qualified industry for a qualified employer.

An example of the shortage of software and cybersecurity engineers is found at Tinker Air Force Base, the state's largest single-site employer. The base has an immediate need for 1,100 such employees. Recently, a Pentagon official stated Tinker AFB must build software engineering capacity to meet the future needs of the Air Force. Apart from the critical need at the state's military installations, this new program will benefit businesses in aerospace, energy, agribusiness, banking and other industries which require an immediate, sustained effort to incentivize and grow this critical component of Oklahoma's workforce and economy.

Software development and cyber-security affects every economic sector. This means you and your company can now take advantage of this tax credit that allows Oklahoma to compete with states who already offer these types of incentives.

Sincerely,



Roy H. Williams, CCE
Chamber President & CEO



Roy H. Williams, CCE
President & CEO

VELOCITY
»» READ ROY'S VELOCITYOKC
STORY OF THE MONTH

"How to get involved in rowing"

VELOCITYOKC.COM/ROYSPICK

2019 OFFICERS

PERCY KIRK
Cox Communications
Chair

RHONDA HOOPER
Jordan Advertising
Immediate Past Chair

JOHN HART
Continental Resources
Treasurer

DAVID E. RAINBOLT
BancFirst Corporation
Corporate Secretary

CLAYTON I. BENNETT
Dorchester Capital
Vice Chair, Strategic Planning

TERESA ROSE CROOK
Communities Foundation of Oklahoma
Vice Chair, Education

CARL E. EDWARDS
Price Edwards & Company
Vice Chair, Innovation and Bioscience

DAVID HAGER
Devon Energy Corporation
Vice Chair, Forward Oklahoma City

STEVE HAHN
AT&T Oklahoma
Vice Chair, Membership

JUDY J. HATFIELD, CCIM
Equity Commercial Realty, LLC
Vice Chair, Military and Aerospace

BRADLEY W. KRIEGER
Arvest Bank
Vice Chair, Government Relations

BILL LANCE
The Chickasaw Nation
Vice Chair, Member Health Care Initiative

TOM J. MCDANIEL
American Fidelity Foundation
Vice Chair, MAPS Development

JENNY LOVE MEYER
Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores
Vice Chair, Marketing and Communications

J. LARRY NICHOLS
Devon Energy Corporation
Vice Chair, Strategic Planning

NATALIE SHIRLEY
National Cowboy & Western
Heritage Museum
Vice Chair, Convention and Visitor
Development

KENT SHORTRIDGE
ONE Gas, Inc.
Vice Chair, Community Initiatives

SEAN TRAUSCHKE
OGE Energy Corp.
Vice Chair, Economic Development

ROY H. WILLIAMS, CCE
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber
President & CEO

THE POINT!

ISSUE #5533 - July 2019

Editorial staff

David McCollum, Nate Fisher,
Cynthia Reid

Designer

Josh Vaughn

297-8900

thepoint@okcchamber.com

www.okcchamber.com

www.twitter.com/okcchamber

www.facebook.com/okcchamber

The Point (ISSN 1075-6264) is published monthly by the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, 123 Park Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to The Point!, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, 123 Park Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102 or e-mail thepoint@okcchamber.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$15 per year included in Chamber membership; nonmembers, \$25 per year within the U.S. Periodicals Postage paid at Oklahoma City. Advertising rates upon request. Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertising.

CONTENTS

5

State of Schools event will feature panel discussion on OKCPS challenges

8

Kings of Leon to headline OKC's MAPS3 park opening

7

July Chamber Forum takes a look at homelessness in OKC

10

Oklahoma's only passenger train service celebrates 20 years of rail service

UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDAR

July 9

Member Orientation

Time: 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Greater Oklahoma City
Chamber
123 Park Ave.
okcchamber.com/
orientation

July 17

Chamber Forum

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vast
333 W. Sheridan Ave.
okcchamber.com/julyforum

July 24

Megalunch

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The Skirvin Hilton
1 Park Ave.
okcchamber.com/
megalunch

August 2

Enlighten

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.
Walker Terrace
1300 N. Walker Ave., Suite 300
okcchamber.com/enlighten

August 13

Member Orientation

Time: 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Greater Oklahoma City
Chamber
123 Park Ave.
okcchamber.com/
orientation2

August 14

State of the Schools

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
National Cowboy &
Western Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd St.
okcchamber.com/schools

August 22

Chamber Forum

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vast
333 W. Sheridan Ave.
okcchamber.com/
augustforum



Chamber Golf

Calling all golfers! You've got two more chances to play at the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's 2019 golf tournaments. Enjoy the summer weather - now that it's stopped raining - with your colleagues and clients.

Tournament Dates

Aug. 12 at Twin Hills Golf & Country Club

(Only a few teams left for Aug. 12)

Enjoy 18 holes on what many believe to be Perry Maxwell's best example of routing. The course opened in 1923 and features 6,857 yards for golf from the longest tees for a par of 72.

Aug. 26 at Quail Creek Golf & Country Club

Play the newly renovated Quail Creek Golf Course, which received \$1.5 million in updates last year. Improvements include new TifEagle Bermuda on the greens and California white sand for the bunkers.

Team Opportunities

Four-person teams are available for \$1,350 per tournament.

\$1,750 Hole & Team sponsors receive increased recognition and the opportunity to meet, greet and network with golfers at a sponsored hole.

What's included in each tournament?

- 18 holes of golf in a scramble format
- Driving range and putting green privileges
- Golfer giveaways
- Hot breakfast
- Beverages and snacks on the course
- Lunch buffet with prizes awarded to the first-, second- and third-place teams in three flights

Email dwest@okcchamber.com or call 405-297-8875 with questions or to register your team. Visit okcchamber.com/golf for more information.

Special thanks to Signature Sponsor Insurica.

State of the Schools event features in-depth panel discussion from OKCPS leaders

At the upcoming State of the Schools lunch, attendees will hear from featured speaker Wellington ‘Duke’ Reiter, FAIA, senior advisor to the president, Arizona State University. Also you will hear from Oklahoma City Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Sean McDaniel and his team of high-level district leaders in a panel discussion about how the district is adapting to face its biggest challenges.

The discussion, which will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, will feature updates on the implementation of the Pathway to Greatness Plan, EmbraceOKC, the district’s equity policy and more.

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber invites attendees to bring school supplies to the event to benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Oklahoma County.

Tables of eight are available for \$1,500. Register at okcchamber.com/schools.

Panelists include:

- Dr. Sean McDaniel, Superintendent, Oklahoma City Public Schools
- Rebecca Kaye, Chief of Equity and Accountability, Oklahoma City Public Schools
- Dr. Jamie Polk, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, Oklahoma City Public Schools
- Jason Brown, Deputy Superintendent, Oklahoma City Public Schools

Special thanks to Signature Sponsor University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and Centerpiece/School Supply Sponsor American Fidelity Assurance Company.

SUPPORT **DEMOCRACY**
JOURNALISM
THE OKLAHOMAN

READ LOCAL  **Visit Oklahoman.com**

THE OKLAHOMAN 
We are more than a product—we are a service.

Summer reading programs (...cont'd from page 1)

and sixth graders at middle schools will now be eligible for prizes for their reading accomplishments. Middle schools are also going to start receiving Little Free Libraries, starting with six that will be installed at middle schools over the summer.

“A love for reading is the foundation of an excellent education,” said OKCPS Superintendent Dr. Sean McDaniel. “The ‘Get in the Game’ challenge has ignited a new passion for reading in students across the district. We have been thrilled to see the number of minutes read continue to rise during every school break since the ReadOKC program began. We hope to set another record this year!”

ReadOKC will host a series of events throughout the summer to promote literacy including Councilman Cooper reading to children at the Boys and Girls Club on July 2, and Superintendent McDaniel reading to campers at the OKC Zoo on July 12. When students return to school in the fall, ReadOKC will host events at every school to celebrate students’ accomplishments. The

top students and schools will receive special prizes.

“Taking a small part of every day for reading each day of summer break makes a huge difference when students return to school each fall,” said Mary Mélon, president and CEO of the Foundation for OKCPS. “Reading over school breaks is essential to decrease the summer slide and keep students’ minds active during their time out of school. Thanks to our incredible community partners – and our students’ dedication – ReadOKC is making a huge difference in our schools.”

Over the Spring Break, students read more than 2.1 million minutes - breaking the previous record of 1.8 million minutes from Fall Break. When school starts in the fall, ReadOKC is excited to celebrate the thousands of students who met the goal and continue to set higher records with every reading challenge. For more information regarding ReadOKC, contact Abbie Vaughan with the Foundation for Oklahoma City Public Schools at abbie@okckids.com or 405-604-5977.

Serving Foundations, Corporations, High Net Worth Families

Investment policy review/development

Asset allocation

Investment manager/fund selection

Performance reporting

Special projects or research



INVESTRUST
CONSULTING

(405) 843-7046

investrust.com



*“Independent and objective investment
advice focused on the long term.”*

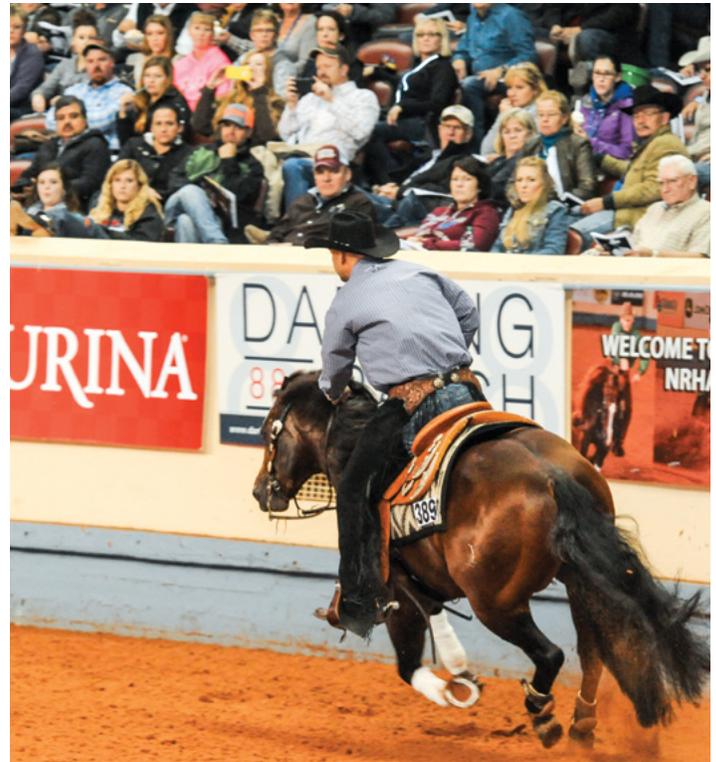
Horse Shows are big business (...cont'd from page 1)

to State Fair Park equine and livestock facilities. Providing top-notch showing facilities helps Oklahoma City retain current horse shows and pursue new shows.

Not only do Oklahoma City horse shows provide fun entertainment and a natural connection to Oklahoma City's western roots, but they also make a substantial contribution to the city's economy. In the 2018 fiscal year, Oklahoma City's horse shows lead to direct spending of more than \$170 million in the Oklahoma City market and brought more than 795,000 attendees to the area.

Over the past five years, an average of 836,000 horse show visitors have spent \$175 million each year in Oklahoma City hotels and restaurants, adding \$8.16 million to the city's sales tax coffers.

"Additionally, those horse show visitors have a positive impact on the local retail scene," added Carrier. "Horse show attendees spend a lot of money decorating their stalls and repairing their trailers. Not only do they have to eat, but their horses do, as well."



Horse shows generate more hotel room nights in OKC than any market except leisure and corporate travel.

July Forum features homelessness panel

At the July Forum, hear from organizations addressing homelessness in our community. Attendees will learn the factors that impact those experiencing homelessness in Oklahoma City, the current gaps in services and the ways that our community can collaborate to end long-term homelessness.

In 2019, there were 1,273 "countable" people experiencing homelessness in Oklahoma City, an increase of 900 over the previous year.

During the last four decades, the number of people on the street and the number of families losing their housing has steadily increased. During this time, a large number of public, private and faith-based agencies created their own programs to serve the homeless population.

Forum panelists will include representatives from City Care, The Curbside Chronicle and the Homeless Alliance. Register at okcchamber.com/julyforum.

Special thanks to Signature Series Sponsor Cox Business and Series Corporate Sponsor ADG.





An aerial view of the progress on Scissortail Park, which is scheduled to open this fall.

OKC's newest park draws closer to opening day, big events planned

Some have called it the Central Park of Oklahoma City. It's Scissortail Park, a \$132 million park located near downtown.

Located a block south of the Myriad Botanical Gardens, Scissortail Park will include a south half between Interstate 40 and the Oklahoma River with connection provided via the Skydance Pedestrian Bridge.

The 70-acre park will include gardens and woodlands, a 3.7-acre lake, a children's playground, fountains, cafe, boathouse, stage, dog park and a seasonal roller rink.

The north half of Scissortail Park is set to open in late September with a slate of concerts and performances.

The six-acre Love's Travel Stops Stage and Great Lawn, designed by architects Hans and Torrey Butzer, is a first-class outdoor performance venue and features a prominent stage with green room and capacity for small (up to 1,500 guests), medium (up to 10,000 guests) and large (up to 15,000 guests) events, including concerts, outdoor movies, corporate events and symphonic performances.

The venue can also accommodate festivals for up to 250,000 guests over multiple days and is adjacent to the future MAPS 3 Convention Center and Omni Luxury Hotel, and will be the entertainment heart of the park.

"In addition to music, we will have dance hopefully. There could be theater, talks, lectures, so we want to make this lawn area a cultural commons," said Maureen Heffernan, executive director of Scissortail Park Foundation and Myriad Gardens Foundation.

While the site is starting to look like an actual park, there is still much work to be done. Some of that work includes planting more green space. Park officials said 1000 trees will fill the grounds.

Though heavy rain this spring hasn't been great for construction, it's been fantastic for the growth of the many plants within the park.

"You'll notice more structures being completed and it's truly looking like a park with benches getting out, the details starting to happen. It's really coming together," added Herrernan.

Scissortail Park will celebrate its grand opening later this year, with a live concert by Kings of Leon Sept. 27 on the Love's Travel Stops Stage and Great Lawn. The staff at the Park Management Company, which also oversees Myriad Gardens, is planning several special events for the grand opening. More details about those activities will be posted at scissortailpark.org.

The park is expected to be a family friendly destination in downtown, which includes four-legged family members. Oklahoma City-based Butzer Architects and landscape architects Hargreaves Associates designed the park. It's being constructed by Downey Contracting in Oklahoma City.

Hans Butzer and his wife Torrey Butzer designed the park's buildings, which include an indoor/outdoor café, a boathouse, and the Love's Travel Stops Stage.

The café will be managed by The Social Order Dining Collective. The group has made a name for itself in the metro by operating The Jones Assembly, Fuzzy's Taco Shop, and Texadelphia in Oklahoma City, and Seven47 in Norman.

At the boathouse, there will be a grab-and-go concession stand, restrooms, and a large, shaded patio. Guest will be able to rent paddle boats to enjoy on the 3.7 acre lake. This area can be rented for parties or events.

There's also a children's playground with geometric dome climbers, a large fort with a tower and slides, plenty of shade, and public restrooms. The area is next to the interactive water fountains, making it a great spot on a hot days.

Pet owners can bring their four-legged friends to the half-acre dog park with water fountains and large boulders. The park will be divided into two sides; one for large dogs and one for small dogs.

A 6,400-square-foot event pavilion with a seasonal outdoor roller rink and covered picnic area will be located on the park's southeast corner.

The park also has an open activity spot where people can fly kites or kick balls, a woodland area with native plants and trees, and a lit pathway with two OKC Streetcar stops. It is the largest stop along the route. It can accommodate two streetcars at one time.



OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

MASTERS OF PURPOSE

MASTER'S DEGREES IN:

ACCOUNTANCY

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

THEOLOGY

ENGINEERING

COMPUTER SCIENCE

CYBERSECURITY

Advance your career with an accelerated **MAcc, MBA, MSE, MSCS** or **Graduate Theology Degree** designed for you, the working professional. The fast track program allows you to complete your degree in as little as one year! Choose an online program for most degree options.

OC.EDU/GRAD

After 20 years, Heartland Flyer still rolling down the tracks

Amtrak's Heartland Flyer is celebrating 20 years of passenger service. The daily service has carried more than 1.4 million passengers between Oklahoma City and Fort Worth during the past two decades.

The anniversary festivities will continue through Aug. 31, with celebrations and savings for passengers, including a 20 percent discount off Heartland Flyer tickets (3-day advance purchase required), limited edition Heartland Flyer 20th anniversary pins and shirts and National Park Service "Trails and Rails" Volunteer rides every Friday through Sunday through Sep. 2. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation also will be giving away Heartland Flyer tickets on social media.

The Heartland Flyer was started on June 15, 1999, as a joint venture between Amtrak and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, ending a 20-year absence of passenger train service from Oklahoma and North Texas.

The train connects to the Texas Eagle in Fort Worth, which provides rail service to major cities including Dallas, Little Rock, St. Louis, Austin and San Antonio.

On May 18, 1999, Amtrak started taking reservations for the "new" rail service between Oklahoma City and Fort Worth under the provisional name "The New Train." Oklahoma Senator Don Nickles conducted a contest asking Oklahoma children to name the new passenger train. During the contest, more than 300 children submitted 500 different suggestions. The winning name, "Heartland Flyer," was submitted by 11-year-old Katie Moore.

Recently, Moore rode the train with her family.

"It's been a long time. I'm obviously not a kid anymore and I have a family of my own now," Moore said. "I mean I'm so happy that it has lasted this long."

On June 14, 1999, the 11-car Inaugural Heartland Flyer headed north out of Fort Worth with dignitaries, including Sen. Nickles, Gov. Frank Keating of Oklahoma, Amtrak officials and mayors from each of the towns served by the Flyer. Thousands turned out to greet the



The Heartland Flyer departs OKC on its maiden run, June 15, 1999

new train with waves, smiles, banners and even marching bands.

After the first week of service, Amtrak said that the Heartland Flyer had carried 1,800 passengers. Riders continued to flock to the Heartland Flyer and, after one month of service, the Flyer carried almost 11,000 passengers.

Marc Magliari, Amtrak spokesperson, said not every service makes it to 20 years.

"People pulled together in the state transportation departments, here in Oklahoma and in Texas, worked together to make this train successful," Magliari said. "It takes communities working together, state DOTs and elected officials to have this kind of success. It's not easy, it's not universal, it's not simple, but it's possible and it happened right here."

Magliari said there is something special about this part of the country and Amtrak wants to show Oklahomans, Texans and others the beauty of each state.

Two years ago, Oklahoma's only passenger train line survived a last-minute budget raid attempt when a proposed state budget sought to take money out of the Passenger Rail Revolving Fund to help shore up a nearly \$900 million budget hole, which would have put the rail line in jeopardy.

But officials with ODOT were successful in convincing lawmakers to look elsewhere for the money and the state spent \$2.9 million to maintain the Flyer, which makes five stops in Oklahoma.

Texas contributes \$2.4 million for the Heartland Flyer.

While the state has had to work just to keep the Heartland Flyer operating in its current form, expansion continues to be part of the conversation.

“We’ve been talking for quite a while about improving the Heartland Flyer and one of the discussions include extending it up to Newton,” said ODOT’s Perry, referring to the Kansas town outside Wichita that is a stop on the Southwest Chief, an Amtrak line running from Chicago to Los Angeles.

Several proposals for extending the route of the Heartland Flyer have been made over the years. Expansion planning revolves around portions of the former Lone Star route and the state-owned route from Oklahoma City to Tulsa.

Amtrak has submitted its fiscal year 2020 grant request report and included a Heartland Flyer extension on its project list. This proposal would bring the line to Newton, Kansas. From there, passengers could connect to a major rail route that links Chicago to Los Angeles.

Extending the line north to Kansas would require additional state funding, but advocates believe it could actually make money for the state.

“Rather than being a terminal, they can make Oklahoma City and other communities on route destinations for economic development,” said Evan Stair, president of Passenger Rail Oklahoma and Passenger Rail Kansas. “Look at Guthrie and its heritage tourism industry. Look at the potential of amplifying state fortunes with the creation of a stop in Thackerville for the WinStar Casino and Resort.”

Amtrak officials said a northbound line may still be years away, but they believe there is demand for a connection between Wichita and Oklahoma City.

“We are currently running a bus from Newton to Oklahoma City every night and we never suggested that would be the end-all be-all,” said Amtrak’s Magliari.

The Chamber has consistently made expansion of passenger rail service a priority and supports continued

dialogue on extending the service to Newton, Kansas, which would connect Oklahoma City to Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and other locations on the Amtrak system.

“Passenger rail service is a key component of the development of the Oklahoma City intermodal hub and the future development of commuter rail throughout the central Oklahoma region,” said Mark VanLandingham, vice president of government relations and policy. “The Chamber works with the Oklahoma congressional delegation, the Oklahoma State Legislature, ODOT, the City of Oklahoma City, the Class 1 railroads and the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) to oppose efforts to reduce or eliminate state or federal funding received by Oklahoma to operate the Heartland Flyer Amtrak service to Fort Worth, Texas.”

“The Heartland Flyer continues to be a major transportation solution for connecting Oklahoma to rail options nationwide,” Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation and ODOT Executive Director Tim Gatz said. “We appreciate the support of Oklahomans and Texans for this line and look forward to opportunities to keep it growing in the future.”



Tim Gatz, secretary of transportation and ODOT executive director, presents Katie Moore with a 20th Anniversary ticket to ride the Heartland Flyer at a celebration in OKC. (ODOT photo)

Jet engine manufacturer expands OKC presence

Pratt & Whitney's (P&W) Oklahoma City expansion plans, announced at the Paris Air Show, are the beginning of likely more aerospace growth in the metro, said Roy Williams, president and CEO of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber.

The company announced it's making a multi-million dollar investment to upgrade its Military Aftermarket Services, which supports sustainment operations at Tinker Air Force Base's Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center. The expansion will create more than 100 jobs over the next several years. The company has six sites in the metro.

The high-paying positions are for engineers and other specialties that create the technology before it goes to the assembly line.

"Pratt and Whitney sees a lot of opportunities here in the long term," Williams said. "There are great trends occurring around Tinker and for them to capture it, they needed a stronger presence here."

P&W has been looking at its expansion needs for about five years, Williams said. In partnership with the U.S. Air Force, the company performs depot maintenance on F-117, F-119, and F-135 engines, in addition to special technology coatings operations. Under the partnership agreement with the Air Force, P&W provides the overall management, technical support, and materials management, while the Air Force provides mechanics and back shop capabilities.

Williams said with P&W's planned growth, he expects their suppliers will take note and consider expanding or moving to Oklahoma City.

Williams said it's important that Oklahoma City continues to expand its presence in the aerospace and aviation industry.

"Aviation and aerospace is one of many significant sectors of our economy," he said. "If we further diversify it, we'll be able to weather the downturns in other sectors, which adds strength to our economy overall."

LEARN. GROW. THRIVE.



At the Y, your child will participate in:



ARTS AND HUMANITIES



CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT



MUSIC & DANCE



HEALTH & WELLNESS



HOMEWORK & LITERACY



GLOBAL LEARNING



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



SERVICE LEARNING



SOCIAL COMPETENCE



CONFLICT RESOLUTION

REGISTER TODAY
for the YMCA
Before & After
School program.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCAOKC.ORG/BA

Businesses who join the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber are part of the largest coalition of businesses in the state and make the Chamber's work in the community possible. Each member level is identified on the listing below.

ASSOCIATE

Warriors for Freedom Foundation
Nonprofit / Service Agencies
Mr. Brett Dick 286-9920
730 W. Wilshire Blvd., Suite 114
Oklahoma City, OK 73116-7738
www.warriorsforfreedom.org

CORE

Andy Bunce, LLC / Culture Index
Business Development
Mr. Andy Bunce 509-0598
2600 Watermark Blvd., Suite 905
Oklahoma City, OK 73134-5115
www.andybunce.com

CORE

Clarion Inn & Suites Convention Center Near Bricktown
Hotels & Motels
Mr. Nikhil Patel 595-5030
2001 E. Reno Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73117
www.clarioninn.com/ok268

CORE

Consedine Consulting
Advertising / Marketing
Mr. Joe Consedine (918) 688-9238
1141 W. Sheridan Ave.
2209 San Marco Lane
Edmond, OK 73034-2350
www.consedine.com

CORE

Copart
Automobile Auctions
Mr. Geoffrey Gilardez 672-5674
2829 SE 15th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73129
www.copart.com

CORE

Crossings Community Clinic
Medical Clinics
Mr. Marquett Youngblood 242-5570
10255 N. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
www.crossings.church/clinic

CORE

Cruise Planners
Travel Agencies & Consultants
Ms. Marcie A. Murphy 286-5566
11112 North Villa Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
www.funvacays.com

CORE

Del Taco #1258
Restaurants
Ms. Lisa Jones 721-1974
6645 N.W. Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73132
www.deltaco.com

CORE

Engel & Völkers Oklahoma City
Real Estate
Ms. Sierra Snowden 205-5124
1138 N. Robinson Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73103-4924
www.oklahomacity.evrealstate.com

CORE

Farrow & Dewbre Orthodontics
Dentists - Orthodontists
Ms. Nicole Wayne 400-8069
8301 S. Walker Ave., Suite 103
Oklahoma City, OK 73139-9416
www.farrowdewbre.com

CORE

Kleinfelder, Inc.
Engineers - Consulting
Mr. Kirk Fraser 437-2597
4149 Highline Blvd., Suite 220
Oklahoma City, OK 73108-2097
www.kleinfelder.com

CORE

Metro First Realty of Edmond
Real Estate
Ms. Suzanne Backstrom 595-1343
2401 S. Bryant Ave., Suite 200
Edmond, OK 73013-6130
www.metrofirstrealty.com

CORE

Metro First Realty Shawnee, Inc.
Real Estate
Ms. Crystal Wagoner 464-2558
1601 W. Walnut St.
Tecumseh, OK 74873-2303
www.metrofirstrealty.com

CORE

Premier Solution Partners
Human Resource Services / Consulting
Mr. Ronnie Freeman 630-9406
7136 S. Yale Ave., Suite 204
11425 Lakeridge Run
Oklahoma City, OK 73170-2459
www.premiersolutionpartners.com

CORE

Suntech Heat & Air
Air Conditioning & Heating - Commercial
Mr. Mike Zuckerman 348-9743
3724 E. 2nd St., Suite D
Edmond, OK 73034-7322
www.suntechokc.com

Members Upgrade Their Support of the Chamber

The following member companies increased their investment in the Chamber, demonstrating strong support of the Chamber's efforts to drive the region's economy. To increase your investment, contact the membership division of the Chamber at 405-297-8949 or membership@okcchamber.com.

ADVISOR

JAN-PRO of Oklahoma City
Janitorial Services
Mr. Tony Craig 606-3300
1105 Sovereign Row
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
www.jan-pro-okc.com

ADVISOR

Staybridge Suites Bricktown / Downtown
Hotels & Motels
Ms. Arti Patel 602-8830
120 S. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
www.ihg.com/staybridge/hotels/us/en/oklahoma-city/okcsb/hoteldetail

ASSOCIATE

Del Taco
Restaurants
Mr. Alan Ward 848-3973
6161 N. May Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73112-4214
www.deltaco.com



GRAND OPENINGS

Congratulations to Chamber members on their recent Grand Openings! To see the schedule of upcoming Grand Openings or subscribe to the Grand Openings calendar, visit www.okcchamber.com/grandopenings.



Rural Sourcing
29 E. Reno Ave., Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73104



Crown Lone Oak
15400 Crown at Lone Oak Road
Edmond, OK 73013



Rustic Rose Barn
8540 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Guthrie, OK 73044



Costco Wholesale
13200 N. Western Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73114



 **KEYSTAFF**
Your Future... IS HERE.

**Locally
Owned &
Operated**

- Clerical •
- Light Industrial •
- Technical •

24 Hour Service • 7 Days a Week

(405) 942-8338

www.keystaffi.com

we have the service you need
VALIR.COM



**ESTABLISHING A HIGHER STANDARD
IN HEALTHCARE**

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Electricity Costs in Oklahoma Among Lowest in the Nation

Select Average Electricity Cost (Cents per KWh)

State	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Total
Oklahoma	10.61	8.11	5.42	8.2
Arkansas	10.28	8.51	6.07	8.26
Texas	11.01	8.26	5.35	8.38
New Mexico	12.88	10.19	6.15	9.59
Colorado	12.17	9.89	7.5	9.99
Missouri	11.63	9.47	7.33	10.03
Kansas	13.31	10.59	7.54	10.6
United States (Average)	12.89	10.66	6.88	10.48

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Information Administration, Annual Electric Power Industry Report (2017)

- Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E) ranks #1 in lowest retail rate for electricity, with an average retail price of 7.31 cents per Kwh, according to the S&P Global Market's Regulated Retail Price of Electricity. The report finds OG&E charged the lowest average rate in every category-residential, commercial and industrial.
- Moody's North American Business Cost Review ranks the Oklahoma City metro as #1 in Lowest Energy Costs out of metro areas over 1 million people.

For comprehensive Economic Indicators and Regional Data, www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators or contact Eric Long, Research Economist – 297-8976; elong@okcchamber.com



SPEND LESS. SAVE MORE.

Save on energy costs and reap the rewards. We have rebates, resources and energy-efficient upgrades available to help lower your energy use and save money on your energy bills. Learn more at oge.com/heep.

POSITIVE
ENERGY
TOGETHER

OG&E

© 2019 OGE Energy Corp.

Where do you find help when you're one in a million? **900,000** Oklahomans are in need of **MENTAL HEALTH** services.

Doing what's right isn't always what's easiest. But as part of the United Way of Central Oklahoma, you're not afraid of these questions. You're part of the answer. Raise your hand and stand with us. Give today at **StandUnitedOKC.com**

LOOK INSIDE!

- 5 State of Schools event will feature panel discussion on OKCPS challenges
- 7 July Chamber Forum takes a look at homelessness in OKC
- 8 Kings of Leon to headline OKC's MAPS3 park opening
- 10 Oklahoma's only passenger train service celebrates 20 years of rail service

 twitter.com/okcchamber

 facebook.com/okcchamber



LAURI DAUNOY
Perfect Plan Identifier *since 2010*

At Cox Business, we know a lot is riding on your success. That's why we don't just have Sales Reps, we have Perfect Plan Identifiers. Choose from a variety of fast, reliable Internet speeds, including gig-speed options. Plus, get voice solutions you can manage from any device, in or out of the office. It's all backed by 24/7 business-class support from dedicated specialists who know business. Switch today.

**You deserve more.
And you can expect more from us.**



SWITCH TODAY. | Call 405.286.5000 or visit coxbusiness.com

\$84/mo*
for 6 months with a 3-year agreement

50 Mbps Internet
One Voice Line
Unlimited Nationwide Calling



FAST, RELIABLE
INTERNET



FLEXIBLE
VOICE SOLUTIONS



24/7 BUSINESS-
CLASS SUPPORT

* Offer valid through 8/31/19. Add'l fees and other restrictions apply. © 2019 Cox Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.