

Meet the people
who build Tulsa.
Work & Money,
A7



See the
winners of the
July Blazing
Hot Bingo
contest. **A3**



TULSA WORLD

City sales tax revenues flat for
past three years. Metro, A9

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2018

FORECAST: MOSTLY SUNNY, HIGH: 88, LOW 75. **A2** | TULSAWORLD.COM | \$1.00

Owasso, Bixby lead in tests

SCHOOLS • But area
scores show downward
trend with new standards

By **Andrea Eger**
Tulsa World

Owasso and Bixby led Tulsa-area school districts in student proficiency for 2018, while the Tulsa and Liberty districts came in the furthest off state averages on most tests.

Still, a Tulsa World analysis of just-released results for the 2018 Oklahoma School Testing Program shows most local schools' results reflect the state's downward trend in the second year of higher academic standards.

Amy Fichtner, who just became Owasso's superintendent after three years as assistant superintendent there, said the state has adopted a growth model for how to measure student achievement rather than a punitive one and teachers and schools need to adjust.

"We have really focused on *not* focusing on the test," she said. "We have talked more about the new standards. We have asked our teachers to determine the main objectives that need to be accomplished during the year and we have let our teachers relax and focus on the standards."

This was the second year that public school students across the state took new state tests aligned with Oklahoma's new, higher academic standards, which were implemented in 2016-17.

Parents should expect reports on their child's individual state test results some time in September, state officials said, and schools will get their first report cards with student growth factored in by the end of 2018-19.

» See Testing, page A4

EDUCATION • First public Montessori school in Oklahoma is poised to open



Stephanie Jones, a pre-k and kindergarten teacher at the renovated Emerson Elementary School, sets up a math learning station on Tuesday. The building, at 909 N. Boston Ave., is the state's first public Montessori school. **MATT BARNARD/Tulsa World**

Facilitating learning

By **Samuel Hardiman**
Tulsa World

The hallways at Emerson Elementary School are clear. The walls haven't yet seen the coming thousands of touches by children's hands.

But a week before the school reopens at 910 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. as the first public Montessori school in Oklahoma, work continues until school starts.

Stephanie Jones' prekindergarten and kindergarten multiage classroom shows signs of the controlled chaos that will come with the school year. Jones spent Tuesday and the days before putting the room together, even though teachers weren't required to report until Thursday.

The first day of classes is next Wednesday, and for Montessori teachers, the room is everything. Its design must support the hands-on, individual-learning model of the school. And so Jones worked even before her contract started to get her room ready for TPS' new experiment.

As Jones sat on one of tiny chairs scat-

» See School, page A4



Tulsa Public Schools Superintendent Deborah Gist (right) leads Principal Diane Beckham, Facilities Director Sue Ann Bell and Director of Schools Erick Greene into a classroom at the renovated Emerson Elementary School in Tulsa on Tuesday. **MATT BARNARD/Tulsa World**

“It's everything. It's respectful to kids. It's tailored to each child. It's hands-on, and it's real life.”

Stephanie Jones, pre-k, kindergarten teacher

Montessori at Tulsa Public Schools

What is Montessori?

Montessori is a child-centered educational approach developed by Maria Montessori in the early 20th century.

Hallmarks of Montessori education include multiage classrooms that encourage student-to-student learning, student independence within limits, an aesthetically pleasing classroom environment and respect for other people and the environment.

Source: the American Montessori Society.

How will it work in TPS?

Emerson will begin with Montessori for prekindergarten through second grade and then expand until it reaches sixth grade.

Law enforcement addresses panel about medical marijuana

By **Samantha Vicent**
Tulsa World

OKLAHOMA CITY — A host of law enforcement agencies urged lawmakers to provide guidance on responding to State Question 788, telling a working group the measure has insufficient protection

against the proliferation of a black market and creates legal conflicts for prosecution.

The Oklahoma Department of Public Safety, Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, and the District Attorneys Council, along with deputy chiefs from Oklahoma City and Tulsa, took part in a

three-hour legislative working group meeting on Wednesday.

"This is medical marijuana, not recreational," said District 8 District Attorney Brian Hermanson, who represented the DAC and oversees cases in Kay and Noble counties, of the situation.

Hermanson and the others

described reservations they had with the state question, calling for a plan for addressing such areas as marijuana intoxication while driving, home grow, possession outside residences and consumption in the presence of children.

Tulsa Police Deputy Chief Jonathan Brooks told the

working group that "There's so much confusion in every group that you talk to" because of statutory conflicts created by the passage of SQ 788.

The Tulsa County District Attorney's Office has said that those conflicts mean State

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COMING SUNDAY

The Tulsa World's 2018 football preview explores why area players — from youth leagues to former Super Bowl champions — still love the game.

You'll also get full position-by-position breakdowns for OU, OSU and TU, class-by-class high school previews and state-wide high school schedules.

Get it all in Sunday's
Tulsa World and online at
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Rebuilding Together Tulsa gets new name, stays on mission. **METRO, A9**

LOTTERY

Pick 3: 0-8-6 | Cash 5: 1-7-15-18-25
Powerball: 12-15-28-47-48 16 x2
(\$40 million)
Lotto America: 6-9-29-32-36 6 x2

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