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Last show for one of the greats: Letterman

LAST SHOWS OF long-running series are usually emotional because they bring the viewer into the memories. They're like mile markers of a viewer's life — why, I was married to what's-her-name back when they did that fast-food routine.

David Letterman's last show Wednesday night was emotional in a different way. It wasn't sad. It was maddening because it was so good. It was hilarious. It was like the fried chicken commercials where the kids taste the crispy new recipe and wonder why they had been fed junk like fish and meatloaf all those years.

Since Letterman said he was quitting, he has been a new person, light on his feet, quick with the wit, with no forced smiles at the soap opera-type actors hustling science fiction movies, and weak applause for musicians seeming to bang garden tools together.

Letterman has never been more pleasant than he was on his last night; tellingly, the best film clips were 20 or so years old.

From the home office

Letterman's last "Top 10 List" was a flashback to the good old creative days. The list appeared to be his opinion of the top 10 entertainers in the world. Ten people had last-chance things to say to the host. As interesting as who was there was who wasn't: There was no Adam Sandler, no Will Farrell. There's another good memory.

Perhaps most surprising on the top 10 entertainer list was Jim Carrey, the human chameleon who can change shapes and images right in front of your eyes. His best movie is "Man on the Moon," the story of Andy Kaufman, a comedian who did performance art instead of jokes and died at 35 of lung cancer.

Carrey was almost a better Andy Kaufman than Andy Kaufman and should have won an Academy Award as best actor.

Early-years Letterman-type humor was evident on his last night when top 10 presenter Julia Louis-Dreyfus complained of being dragged onto another lousy last-show-of-a-series experience, the obvious reference to the "Seinfeld" clunker closer, the jail bit, which seemed to have been written on a bar napkin. And Seinfeld was on the top 10 stage Wednesday night.

The Dreyfus series "Veep" on HBO is the funniest thing on TV these days.

Hep me! Hep me! I been hyp-mo-tized

Had Letterman's show been this entertaining the last few seasons, they wouldn't have let him quit for a few more years.

Where has he been? Stuck in mean-spirited politics, hating Republicans like they wrote parking tickets on the side.

One thing that makes comics funnier is objectivity.

When you preach, you start sounding like the relative to avoid.

The feeling at the end of Letterman's run was a sense of melancholy because of flashbacks to such greatness.

Fallin gets bill against drilling bans

▪ Critics say it prevents local control, but backers contend statewide consistency in laws is needed.

BY BARBARA HOBEROCK
World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Senate on Thursday passed a bill prohibiting cities and counties from banning drilling within their boundaries.

Senate Bill 809 by Senate President Pro Tem Brian Bingman, R-

Sapulpa, heads to Gov. Mary Fallin for consideration.

The action comes after a dramatic increase in earthquakes in the state. The Oklahoma Geological Survey in April issued a statement saying it considers the majority of recent earthquakes, particularly those in central and north central Oklahoma, are likely triggered by

the injection of water into disposal wells.

The measure passed by a vote of 33-13, despite concerns that it would remove local control.

Sen. Bryce Marlatt, R-Woodward, presented the bill on the floor for Bingman.

"This is an effort to make sure we do have consistent laws across the state," he said.

Marlatt said the measure gives consistent laws to those who want to create wealth in the state and in-

crease tax revenues through oil and gas production.

Sen. Kay Floyd, D-Oklahoma City, rejected that argument, saying counties and cities have different rules regarding sales taxes, liquor and property taxes.

For more than 80 years cities and counties have coexisted with the oil and gas industry in a collegial manner, Floyd said.

The measure removes the rights

SEE DRILL A13

'THE VOICE' SINGER: FOOTBALL FIELD CONCERT



Corey Kent White, a Top 8 finisher on NBC's "The Voice," performs before his hometown crowd at Bixby High School on Thursday evening.

Photos by JAMES GIBBARD/Tulsa World

Hometown serenade



Hannah Rogers, who turned 18 on Thursday, takes a selfie while waiting for Corey Kent White to perform at Bixby High School on Thursday.

Contestant Corey Kent White welcomed back to Bixby

BY HANNAH COVINGTON ♦ WORLD STAFF WRITER

BIXBY — The last time Corey Kent White stepped on the green turf of the Bixby High School football field, he was a 16-year-old junior doing running drills with the wrestling team.

That was a lifetime ago. "This will be a much better memory on this field. I can tell you that," White

told the crowd during his "Corey Kent White: Coming Home" concert Thursday night.

White, who graduated from Bixby High in 2011, competed in Season 8 of NBC's "The Voice." He made it to the Top 8 before being eliminated in the show that

Watch a video

See scenes from Corey Kent White's concert in Bixby. tulsaworldtv.com

SEE COREY A13

Tulsa city officials lament mall project's move to Jenks

BY JARREL WADE AND RHETT MORGAN
World Staff Writers

The apparent move of an outlet mall project from Tulsa to Jenks came as a shock to city of Tulsa officials, who still hope to negotiate with the developers.

The plans, confirmed by Jenks leaders and a publication from the developer, shift construction of Tulsa Premium Outlets from a controversial location in west Tulsa near Turkey Mountain to land nearly ready for construction in Jenks.

While Jenks Mayor Kelly

Dunkerley confirmed the mall's new site Wednesday evening, Jenks city officials offered no comment Thursday, nor did the Indianapolis-based developer, Simon Property Group.

Tulsa city officials said Thursday they remain positive about another outlet mall project planned for east Tulsa but that the blame for possibly losing a major development to a suburb falls on many shoulders.

Three outlet mall plans have been floated for Tulsa-area loca-

SEE SIMON A13

Student leaves feather out of graduation walk

BY CURTIS KILLMAN
World Staff Writer

RAMONA — Honoring a Wednesday night federal court ruling, Caney Valley High School's graduation ceremony Thursday night was eagle feather-free.

Senior Hayden Griffith, an 18-year-old citizen of the Cherokee Nation and the Delaware Tribe, had sued the school district in an effort to have a symbolic feather hanging from her graduation cap.

Although Superintendent Rick Peters and Caney Valley High School Principal Debra Keil of-

fered to allow her to carry the feather, wear it in her hair or as a piece of jewelry during the ceremony, Griffith left the feather in the stands with her mother during the ceremony.

Once the caps were tossed and the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance" died away inside the gymnasium, Griffith sought out her mother in the crowd, added the extra item to her black mortarboard and, like the rest of her classmates, started snapping photos with friends and family.

SEE SUIT A12

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Councilors talk budget changes

• Unlike last year, they face growth rather than cuts.

BY JARREL WADE
World Staff Writer

Tulsa City Council members began a conversation Thursday about changes they'd like to see in the mayor's proposed budget before its adoption next month.

Unlike last year, when the city faced significant cuts, devising a 2015-16 fiscal year budget will be a simpler process because of growth.

"It's much harder to cut than it is to add," said Councilor Phil Lakin.

But councilors were not

without a list of items they'd like to see added to the budget — if money is available — before they give their approval.

On their list are increased mowing on public rights of way, additional tornado sirens, traffic signal timing and the conversion of several Police Department positions held by officers into civilian jobs.

Councilor Jack Henderson said he will not approve any budget that doesn't work to level off proposed increases to water, sewer and stormwater drainage fees.

Rate increases of 7 percent and 9 percent for water and sewer rates, respectively, are needed to pay for improvements to infrastructure,

Mayor Dewey Bartlett has said.

The rate hikes have long been discussed at City Council meetings, with proponents calling them necessary as pipes age throughout Tulsa.

"I cannot vote for a budget that has a 7- to 9-percent increase," Henderson said. "I represent people that can't afford to take big hits like that."

Bynum said the rate increases are necessary and should be scaled over several years to make up for bad decision-making in previous decades that under-funded infrastructure.

"There aren't any gold toilet seats over at the utility authority," Bynum said.

Lakin said he'd like to identify additional funding for mowing throughout the city.

The current budget has more than \$800,000 set aside for the mowing of city-owned property and public rights of way.

Lakin said about \$180,000 more is needed.

"It bothers me," he said about long grass along Tulsa's streets. "It's unsightly for our residents and visitors."

Discussion on exact figures and whether money can be found will continue at future meetings prior to the June 23 deadline for approving a budget.

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SIMON

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tions in the last year: Tulsa Premium Outlets, by Simon Premium Outlets; The Outlet Shoppes at Tulsa, planned for east Tulsa; and Cherokee Outlets, planned by the Cherokee Nation near the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa in Catoosa.

In terms of sales tax revenue that would go to city coffers, the Tulsa Premium Outlets development was projected to add \$4 million to \$5 million each year directly to the city budget — not including general boosts from 800 estimated jobs and other factors.

The previously proposed site of Tulsa Premium Outlets on private property near Turkey Mountain caused a swell of opposition from a group that said it would damage the Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness Area.

Clay Bird, director of the Tulsa Mayor's Office of Economic Development, said he doesn't fault the developers for having a "back-up plan." Nor does he blame residents, who have the right to oppose projects.

"The push-back that they got from the YMCA was a really big deal, from what I heard from them," Bird said, referring to Simon.

The site near Turkey Mountain is directly south of the Westside YMCA summer camp, which serves about 3,600 young people annually.

In a letter to city councilors, the YMCA of Greater Tulsa board of directors said it would not get behind the building of the mall there unless some of the board's recommendations were incorporated. The board's concerns include stormwater management and mitigation for trash, light, sight and noise.

With the protests by urban wilderness users, the YMCA's demands and a lack of support from the Tulsa City Council, Bird said he doesn't blame the developer for looking elsewhere.

"Given the pushback from the City Council and all the controversy surrounding their existing site, it's only wise strategy for them to have a back-up plan," Bird said.

Several councilors rejected the idea that they hadn't supported the project, saying they reached out to Simon officials to start a dialogue but were never courted or brought into the conversation.

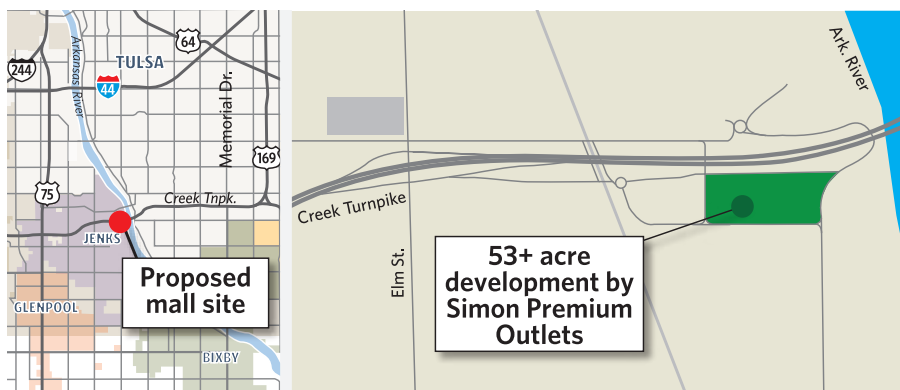
"When it came down to it, the City Council has the final say," Bird said. "They (Simon) just don't want to take that chance, especially if you are going to have the YMCA out there saying they are opposed to this."

Bird said he hopes there is still room for negotiations with Simon to bring the mall to Tulsa.

City Councilor Jeannie Cue, whose district includes the Turkey Mountain site, said the move to Jenks is not "a done deal."



A highway bridge frames the land in Jenks proposed for a Simon Premium Outlets mall. MIKE SIMONS/Tulsa World



Proposed outlet malls in Tulsa area

SIMON PREMIUM OUTLETS

Location: near Creek Turnpike on south side at Seventh Street, Jenks
Square feet: 325,000
Construction set to begin: September
Estimated completion: spring 2017
Number of permanent jobs: 800
Developer: Simon Property Group, Indianapolis.

Construction set to begin: unavailable
Estimated completion: 2017
Number of permanent jobs: 1,200
Developer: Horizon Group Properties, based in Norton Shores, Mich.

CHEROKEE OUTLETS

Locations: near I-44 and 193rd East Avenue, Catoosa
Square feet: More than 300,000
Construction set to begin: mid-2015
Construction finished: late 2016
Number of permanent jobs: 1,000
Developer: Woodmont Outlets, an affiliate of Fort Worth-based The Woodmont Co.

THE OUTLET SHOPPES AT TULSA/ADMIRAL CENTER DEVELOPMENT

Location: 129th East Avenue at Interstate 44, Tulsa
Square feet: about 350,000

Tom Neal, founding member of the Tulsa Urban Wilderness Coalition and member of its advisory board, said the news of the move has been exciting for coalition members.

"Eight months ago, people were saying we didn't have a chance in hell (to have the mall relocated), and now look at what's happened," Neal said. "It's unfortunate for the city of Tulsa from a tax revenue point of view, but I think it's probably much better for us regionally in terms of urban wilderness."

Bird said the loss of potential sales tax to another city reverberates in a number of ways.

According to a Simon Premium Outlets brochure created for investors earlier this month, the Jenks site will have 325,000 square feet space available for lease, with 90 stores to open

in the spring of 2017.

Tax revenue generated by the mall would be drawn, in part, from other communities as people from outside Tulsa come to shop.

With the development now planned for just outside Tulsa, Bird said the city would feel an additional sting as Tulsa residents take their money to Jenks.

It's good for the general economy but bad for the city of Tulsa, Bird said. "They (shoppers) can reap the same benefits," Bird said. "But the city of Tulsa loses out."

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Police body camera bill sent to governor

• It would allow certain video images to be withheld.

BY BARBARA HOBEROCK
World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Senate on Thursday passed a bill governing the public release of video from body cameras worn by law enforcement officers.

House Bill 1037 passed by a vote of 44-2 and heads to Gov. Mary Fallin for consideration.

The final legislation was considered a compromise among the media, law enforcement and prosecutors.

Senate sponsor David Holt, R-Oklahoma City, said law enforcement agencies in central Oklahoma would not use body cameras unless various interests were balanced.

"Body cameras are like a 24-hour reality show," Holt said. "The public doesn't necessarily want to see everything in the media and on the Internet that a body camera might capture."

He said unlike police dash cameras, law enforcement body cameras come into the homes and private spaces of residents. Dash cameras record what occurs in public, he said.

The measure allows for the release of body cam videos with some exceptions.

The video could be withheld if it depicts a death, unless it was caused by a law enforcement officer.

It also allows the redaction of incidents of great bodily

harm and severe violence, unless the acts were caused by law enforcement.

It also allows the withholding video of medical information that is not already public, nudity, minors, informants, sex crime victims, domestic violence victims and personal information about innocent people.

The measure also provides safeguards so law enforcement can complete an investigation.

"Some people won't be happy, but good public policy is rooted in realism and not absolutism," said Mark Thomas, executive vice president of the Oklahoma Press Association. "We believe this is a good faith compromise. If someone abuses that good faith, I assure you we will back next year demanding reform."

Other action: The Senate sent the House a measure that requires additional training for reserve law enforcement officers.

Senate Bill 526 by Sen. Ralph Shortey, R-Oklahoma City, passed by a vote of 26-21. It increases the number of training hours for reserves to 300 from 240. It also requires reserve officers to complete an additional 15 hours of continuing education each year.

The measure was filed following the April 2 shooting death of Eric Harris by Tulsa County Reserve Deputy Robert Bates, who said he mistook his own gun for a Taser. Bates has been charged with second-degree manslaughter.

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DRILL

FROM A11

of municipalities from restricting, limiting or preventing oil and gas drilling within their corporate limits, she said.

"That is local control at its finest," she said.

"This is not a bill to take away any local control," Marlatt said. "This bill is about local control."

It clarifies what cities and counties can do, he said.

Oklahoma Oil & Gas Association President Chad Warmington said SB 809 leaves jurisdiction over oil and gas production with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

"This bill was the most important oil and gas industry bill passed this session,"

Warmington said. "It was priority number one for the Oklahoma Oil & Gas Association to protect Oklahoma's oil and gas producers and mid-stream companies from having to deal with a patchwork of unreasonable regulations around the state."

Angela Spotts is the co-founder of Stop Fracking Payne County.

"It seems as though the Legislature and our governor are more concerned with protecting an industry versus the people they were elected to protect," she said.

Spotts said not one bill was introduced to protect her home from damage caused by earthquakes.

"It seems as though the industry is more important than the people," she said.

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11-year-old boy dies from 2005 abuse

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Police say an Oklahoma couple imprisoned after the abuse of their infant child a decade ago could face new charges following the death of the boy who spent his life in a long-term care facility.

Oklahoma City police on Thursday ruled the death of 11-year-old boy a homicide. They say he died Monday from severe head injuries he sustained as an infant in 2005.

The Oklahoman previously reported that a third of the boy's brain was removed because of the injuries.

Sgt. Jennifer Wardlow says investigators are considering new charges against the parents.

The father was sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty to child neglect in 2008. The mother was sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to permitting child abuse in 2007.

COREY

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aired April 28.

White remembers going to football games every Friday night when he was in high school.

"Coming back here to play and knowing that everybody is showing up to watch me play — it's wild and hard for me to believe," White said.

Hundreds of fans stood on the field and sat in the bleachers to hear him sing.

Hannah Rogers, 18, graduated from Bixby last week and nabbed a front-row spot at the concert.

It was her birthday.

"There isn't any place I'd rather be," Rogers said. "When I found out he was performing on my birthday, that was all I wanted to do."

Rogers followed White on "The Voice" and attended community watch parties with her friends.

She loves that White chose to come back to his hometown for a concert.

"Corey has such a hometown feel, and being from Bixby, that means a lot," Rogers said.

Delaney Brand, 16, drove 2.5 hours from Alex, southeast of Chickasha, with her cousin, aunt



Corey Kent White signs 10-year-old Kennedy Adams' T-shirt before his concert at Bixby High School. Photos by JAMES GIBBARD/Tulsa World

and friends to hear White.

"I've watched 'The Voice' forever, and obviously we all liked him from the beginning," Brand said. "Then when we found out he was from Oklahoma, it was even better."

Brand and her friends would re-watch White's performances each week on an iPad during algebra

class.

"I think he's a great singer, and also he's a Christian and tweets about his faith, which is awesome," Brand said.

Brand's aunt, Shelly Luna, often tells her niece that she's a bit "obsessed."

"Every time Corey tweets, her phone goes off," Luna said.



Corey Kent White, a top-8 finisher on "The Voice," performs at the Bixby High School football field on Thursday.

About midway through the concert, a cardboard sign emerged in the crowd. It read: "It's my dream 2 sing a song with u."

White told the crowd he used a similar sign at a Willie Nelson concert and got to sing onstage with the famed artist as a result.

The Bixby grad sang "Milk Cow Blues" by Nelson in honor of that sign and let a fan join him on stage

to sing Tim McGraw's "Live Like You Were Dying."

Sarah Albert, 11, knew the sign would work.

"I thought that if he could do that with Willie Nelson, he'll probably remember that and call me up to sing," she said. "I love to sing, and it's so cool that someone like Corey Kent White would want to call just a regular person up like that."

White's set list included a few original songs, as well as popular covers such as "Wagon Wheel" by Darius Rucker and "Chicken Fried" by the Zac Brown Band. The country singer opened the concert with "Jet Airliner" by the Steve Miller Band.

Bixby Mayor John Easton declared Thursday as Corey Kent White Day.

White said he owes his success to the people of Bixby.

"The response and support I've received from my hometown and how far they pushed me on the show — they're responsible for my career and for where I'm at."

As White closed the show, he thanked his fans once more for their support.

"Man, it feels so good to be home," he said.

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