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Newsmakers: Aeronautics commission selects new officers, names chairman

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LaFortune

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Aeronautics commission selects new officers, names chairman

Kevin Potter, president of Bartlesville Radio, will serve as commissioner of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission after the group selected a new slate of officers for the next fiscal year.

Potter, of Bartlesville, will serve as District 1 commissioner on the board.

Tulsa architecture firm KKT hires Annie Hull to its staff

KKT, a full service architecture, interiors and engineering firm of 26 years, hired Annie Hull to its team of architects.

Hull began her career as an intern at Stern Projects in New York in 2014 and continued in New York with MADE Design Build. She earned a degree from Yale University in 2015.

Bob Hurley Ford wins 2016 President's Award

Bob Hurley Ford of Tulsa was recognized with the 2016 President's Award by Ford

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Motor Co. for excellence in automotive retailing by providing exceptional customer service and satisfaction.

Hurley, his management partners and his staff strives every day to get to know their customers, shake their hands and earn their trust. The dealership also won the award in 2010.

“Earning this award is a reflection of our entire staff’s commitment to delivering the best customer experience possible,” Hurley said. “We couldn’t be more proud to receive this recognition, especially since it comes from the people we value most – our customers.”

The President’s Award was established in 1998 and goes to dealers who exceed customer expectations in every department. It salutes top-performing Ford and Lincoln dealerships that achieve among the highest levels of customer satisfaction in both sales and service in automotive retailing.

Oklahoma Turnpike Authority names new executive director

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority named Tim Gatz, currently serving as the Oklahoma Department of Transportation’s deputy director, as OTA’s next executive director.

Gatz will begin his duties on Wednesday. He has served as deputy director of ODOT since May 2013 and has more than 25 years of service with the agency.

“Deputy Director Gatz is an incredibly knowledgeable transportation official and the best candidate to lead the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority,” said Albert “Kell” Kelly, chairman of the OTA. “His work with ODOT has been invaluable, and we believe he will have a seamless transition to OTA’s current initiatives.”

Gatz began his career with ODOT in 1990 as a drafting technician and worked his way up within the agency. In 2000, he became division manager of the project management division, where he was instrumental in the development of ODOT’s Eight-Year Construction Work Plan.

In 2006, Gatz was promoted to director of ODOT’s capital programs and information management, leading the agency’s coordination with county governments to develop and deliver the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges program. The program provides dedicated funds for high-priority county transportation projects statewide.

Library honors 1,000 volunteers; LaFortune wins service award

The Tulsa City-County Library honored about 1,000 volunteers at the 42nd annual Hearts and Flowers Volunteer Recognition Awards held at Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Road.

Robert J. LaFortune was awarded the Marcus R. Tower Service Award from the Bank of Oklahoma and the Tulsa Library Trust. The award, a crystal trophy and \$1,500 to designate to a library service or program of the recipient’s choice, recognizes those who have made a notable contribution to enhance the quality of library service.

As a city commissioner of streets and public property from 1964 to 1970, LaFortune played a role in developing the Port of Catoosa, the city’s freeway system and the funding to build the Performing Arts Center. He was there when the new Central Library opened in 1965 and served on the library commission as mayor of Tulsa from 1970 to 1978. In 1982, he joined the Tulsa Library Trust Board, serving as president from 1985 to 1986.

LaFortune is currently a member of the Tulsa Library Trust Board and serves as chairman for the Tulsa Central Library Renewed capital campaign.

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Billy Sims BBQ names Jennifer Gamble vice president of marketing

Fast-casual barbecue restaurant chain Billy Sims BBQ named Jennifer Gamble as vice president of marketing.

Gamble was recently vice president of marketing for Dallas-based Bennigan's Franchising Co., where she was instrumental in rebuilding the iconic casual dining brand. She developed and executed the international chain's marketing strategy, directed the design and rollout of new menus every quarter, oversaw multiple outside agencies and worked directly with each of the chain's franchisees on grand openings and local store marketing plans.

Prior to Bennigan's, Gamble served in key marketing positions at YUM! Brands' Pizza Hut subsidiary and FASTSIGNS International. She earned her a degree in marketing from Missouri State University in 1998 and graduated from the Elliot Leadership Institute in 2007.

President of local restoration company named to mayor's panel

Peter Grant, president of Grant Homes & Restoration, was nominated to the Tulsa Preservation Committee by Mayor Dewey Bartlett Jr. and confirmed by the city council, the Home Builders Association of Tulsa announced.

Grant will serve on the commission to work with residents, building owners, neighborhood organizations and city departments to protect and enhance the city's cultural and architectural heritage.

Grant holds several NAHB designations and has been involved with the HBA of Greater Tulsa for some time. He served as the Remodelers Council president and promoted informative and education programming and encourage sharing industry trends between remodeler and associate members.

He was named Remodeler of the Year in 2013 and 2014 and was named National Remodeler of the Month in May 2015. He also serves as HBA vice president/treasurer.



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