

Tea for Two celebrates 81 years

BY DONNA ROBBINS

OSU Cooperative Extension
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Osage County Home and Community Education Groups would like to invite you to their annual "Tea for Two." Together

we are celebrating 81 years of OHCE service to our families, communities and the state of Oklahoma.

The fantastic work this organization has accomplished over the years has truly made an

impact on the history of our state and will continue to do so in the future. OHCE is seeking to expand membership to our friends, neighbors, families, and other community groups so OHCE will continue far into the

future for our children and our children's children.

Please join us on April 9th at the Osage County Fairgrounds in Pawhuska, at 11:00. There will be a guest speaker as well as a "make and take"

craft. A light lunch will be served and there is no cost. Please bring a friend and be ready to have a great time. We are looking forward to seeing you!

RSVP Donna Robbins at the OSU Extension

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"Teen Team" summer volunteers needed at Skiatook Library

By From staff reports

Teens who love books, libraries and technology are encouraged to volunteer at their local library this summer as a member of the Teen Team.

Tulsa City-County Library is currently accepting applications for Teen Team volunteers for the 2016 summer. Applicants must be 13-15 years old and capable of volunteering several hours a week at their community library. Duties include assisting

librarians with activities associated with the children's summer reading program.

Interested teens should return their applications to the branch where they would like to volunteer. A librarian will schedule an interview, determine a convenient schedule and set a time for training. Applications are available at each TCCL location or by downloading from <http://teens.tulsalibrary.org/tccl/teen-team>. Please return your application by May 1

for consideration.

All volunteers receive an official 2016 Teen Team T-shirt to wear during their shift, as well as a certificate of achievement from TCCL's CEO at the end of the summer.

Teen Team is perfect for those who enjoy libraries and are looking to gain work experience, organizational skills and meet people of all ages. Over the years, Tulsa City-County Library has hired many former Teen Team mem-

bers once they are in high

school. During the 2015 summer, nearly 400 teens volunteered more than 12,000 hours and helped make the children's summer reading program a success.

For more information on joining the Teen Team or other volunteering opportunities at TCCL, call the AskUs Hotline, 918-549-7323, or visit your community library.

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Senate Review by Senator J.J. Dossett

BY SENATOR J.J. DOSSETT

I'm grateful that no injuries were reported in our district after a tornado destroyed and damaged homes in Owasso and other nearby communities. Our office has been in communication with local and state emergency personnel who are assessing the extent of the damage. I'm appreciative of the work they do, as well as the first responders who assisted after the storm moved through.

This serves as a reminder that this time of year in particular, we

all need to pay close attention to the weather, and be proactive about preparing for the possibilities of severe storms. That includes having an emergency kit packed that includes flashlights and batteries, freshwater, a first aid kit and a weather radio and batteries. It's also important to know where you'd go in the event of a tornado—whether it is a safe room or underground shelter in your own home, an interior space away from windows, or another location.

What people may not

realize is that while tornadoes and lightning can cause injuries and death, the deadliest weather risk is actually flooding. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood waters.

Despite warnings about "turn around, don't drown" as well as signs and even barricades, far too often, people decide

to drive on through. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol conducted more than 110 water rescues last year—but that figure doesn't include rescues made by local and county responders.

The problem is, not only does driving into flooded roadways put the driver's life at risk—it also puts the lives of passengers as well as police, fire and other rescuers at risk.

This session I'm the

Senate author of HB 2249 that targets people who drive around, damage or remove barricades or other traffic control devices used to close sections of roads or highways because of flooding. If convicted it would be a misdemeanor with a fine of at least \$1,000. If the person has someone in the vehicle who is 18 or younger, the fine is a minimum \$2,500 and up to a year in jail. In addition, the individual would have to pay for the cost of the emergency response and the cost of repairing or replacing any damaged

or loss equipment. They would also be liable for any damage to property or injury or death.

The bill has been approved by the Appropriations Subcommittee on Public Safety, and will next be considered by the full Appropriations Committee.

I welcome your comments on state government and the issues before us. Please feel free to contact me by writing to Senator J.J. Dossett at the State Capitol, Room 521-A, Oklahoma City, OK, 73105; call me at (405) 521-5566.



Dossett