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TULSA WORLD

OU's Danny Okoye 'not satisfied' after strong spring game showing **SPORTS, PAGE B1**



Bill Haisten: 'Cha-ching!' Matt Pinto remains a Thunder staple **SPORTS, PAGE B1**



Krislyn Arthurs picking up her 'Honky Tonk PhD' with album release party in Tulsa **SCENE, PAGE A12**

President Trump says the United States will extend its ceasefire with Iran **NEWS, PAGE A3**

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

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PROJECT ANTHEM

META COMING TO TOWN



MIKE SIMONS PHOTOS, TULSA WORLD

Meta announced Tuesday that it is the company behind Project Anthem, a \$1 billion data center being constructed at Fair Oaks Innovation Park in east Tulsa. The AI data center is expected to be operational by 2028.

Tech giant says it will operate data center coming to east Tulsa

KEVIN CANFIELD
Tulsa World

Meta confirmed Tuesday afternoon what had become the city's worst kept secret: The tech giant will be the operator behind Project Anthem, the first data center to be constructed within the city limits.

"We're incredibly excited to be making this announcement today and to be locating this data center here in Tulsa," Gary Demasi, vice president of data center strategy and development for Meta, said in an interview with the Tulsa World.

Please see **META**, Page A4

LOOK: To see a flyover animation showing plans for Project Anthem at the Fair Oaks Industrial Park, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link. **NEWSVU**



Gary Demasi, Meta's vice president of data center strategy and development, speaks to reporters at a press conference Tuesday.

Odds shift for legal betting on sports

Lawmakers say they've reached a breakthrough with new legislation

STEVE METZER
Tulsa World

OKLAHOMA CITY — Odds may be getting better that Oklahomans will be able to bet legally on sports in the future.

Lawmakers who have been deeply involved in trying to pass legislation to legalize sports betting announced on Tuesday that they had reached a breakthrough.

Gov. Kevin Stitt has previously threatened to veto any bill that would grant exclusivity to tribes in administering sports betting in the state.

Sen. Bill Coleman and Rep. Ken Luttrell, both Republicans from Ponca City, said they're ready to advance a new version of a bill to legalize sports betting after securing support from key stakeholders.

"This is a big day for Oklahoma," Coleman said in a news release. "We're closer than we've ever been to legalizing sports betting."

He said the new legislation was the product of thousands of hours of negotiations that have taken place over a period of several years.

The lawmakers said the legislation was designed to support public education funding and economic growth. They noted that it had gained support from the Oklahoma City Thunder, a supermajority of tribes that are



Luttrell



Coleman

Please see **BETTING**, Page A8

Fort Smith pride exudes from local Thunder players

OKLAHOMA CITY — Jaylin Williams walked down Garrison Avenue last July, the guest of honor in his hometown of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and saw so many familiar faces.

A little cousin. His preschool teacher. His coach from the Boys & Girls Club. Thousands of people lining the main drag of the old town hard by the Oklahoma line. Williams

realized he didn't walk alone as Fort Smith celebrated Williams' NBA championship with the Thunder.

"It's just this family bond, that when I go back," Williams said of Fort Smith, "I'll never not appreciate it."

But Williams wasn't even walking alone in glory that summer day. Wasn't the only guest of honor. Isaiah Joe, another Fort Smith native, walked down Garrison Avenue, too, alternately

Please see **FORT SMITH**, Page A2



COURTESY, OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER

Jaylin Williams participated in a parade down Garrison Avenue in his hometown of Fort Smith, Ark., last summer after he and Isaiah Joe helped the Oklahoma City Thunder to an NBA championship. Joe and Williams were teammates in high school, too.

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