News for the Heart of the City

The City Sentinel

Volume 51, Issue 26 | June 27, 2013 — July 3, 2013 | www.city-sentinel.com | Ten Cents

Kathy McCallie, founder of Church of the Open Arms relocates

78-Year-Old Volunteer Honored

Property tax basics

"Man of Steel" review

Pet owners who enjoy the outdoors should take precautions that their furry family members aren't exposed to overheating in the hot summer months. Photo by Darla Shelden.

Keep safety in mind when enjoying summer with your pets

By Darla Shelden
Contributing Writer

This spring Oklahoma has experienced some seriously tumultuous weather and very soon the thermometer will reach triple digits. Pet owners who enjoy outdoor, summer activities often want their four-legged friends to come along.

"Just as a person takes heat precautions for themselves, they should do the same for their pets," said Dr. Joe Howell, interim director, Office of Veterinary Continuing Education at Oklahoma State University.

"Most people enjoy soaking up some sun, but the heat can take a toll on you and your pet," Howell said. "Heat exhaustion can be even more dangerous for animals than it is for humans. Dogs don't sweat the way humans do. They rely on panting to cool themselves.

"If an animal is confined to an enclosed space with poor ventilation, such as inside of a car or garage, it can quickly suffer from heat stress or heat exhaustion."

A study from Stanford University shows that even on a comparatively cool day of 72 degrees, a car's internal temperature will reach 116 degrees fahrenheit within 60 minutes. That can occur even if it is parked in the shade with the windows down slightly.

Fourteen states have statutes that make it illegal to leave an animal in a confined vehicle. Even without a specific state or local law, this action could still constitute animal cruelty under some circumstances.

Christy Counts, President at Oklahoma Humane Society said,

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Creative Writing Program hosts public readings at OCU, Edmond library

Staff Report

The Red Earth MFA program at Oklahoma City University will host two free, public literary readings in July as part of its summer residency.

Nationally recognized writers and Red Earth faculty members will give a reading at the Edmond Public Library at 6:30 p.m., July 16 (Tuesday). The residency's two visiting writers will give a reading at 7 p.m. July 18 (Thursday) at OCU in the University Center Great Hall. Books will be available for purchase and signing at both events.

The writers at the Edmond reading will include Allison Amend, author of "A Nearly Perfect Copy;" Lou Berney, author of "Whiplash River;" Kerry Cohen, author of "Seeing Ezra: A Mother's Story of Autism, Unconditional Love, and the Meaning of Normal;" Quraysh Ali Lansana, author of "mystic turf;" Kat Meads, author of "For You, Madam Lenin;" and Jeanetta Calhoun Mish, author of "Work Is Love Made Visible."

The Edmond Public Library is located at 10 S. Boulevard.

More information on The Red Earth MFA faculty and their publications is available on the program's website at www.okcu.edu/english/redearthmfa.

The readings at the OCU session will include the two visiting writers for the summer residency — Dawn Lundy Martin and Margo Rabb.

Martin's first full-length collection, "A Gathering of Matter / A Matter of Gathering," was selected by Carl Phillips for the 2007 Cave Canem Poetry Prize. Her second collection, "Discipline," won the 2009 Nightboat Books Poetry Prize. Martin also co-edited "The Fire This Time: Young Activists and the New Feminism," a book that describes and theorizes current activist work in the U.S. She is the co-founder of the Third Wave Foundation, an organization designed to "articulate a feminism appropriate to changing culture," and she is a founding member

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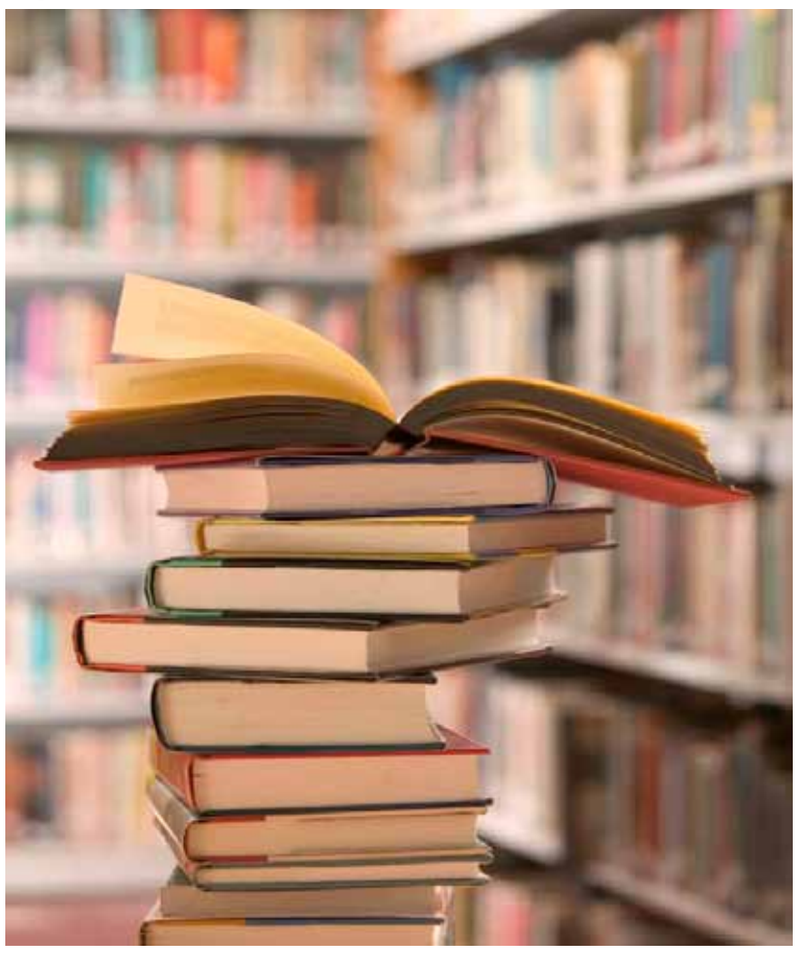

Demand for real estate and building trades highest since 2007

By Stacy Martin
Managing Editor

The real estate industry needs new blood to fill career openings for people willing to work hard for great income and who enjoy being their own boss, said Jack Werner, President and CEO of A to Z Inspections.

"And the need for people to fill these jobs is skyrocketing due to the storms that tore through central Oklahoma in May," said Werner.

The Werner group affiliates represent facets of the real estate industry, trade occupations, professional services and company owners who have flourished in the business for decades, he added.

"Last summer, distributors and employers posted signing bonuses for heat and air techs in the thousands of dollars," said Dennis Seagroves, President and CEO, Citywide Heating, Air & Refrigeration.

"Working in my field is gratifying," he added. "When people call me, they're usually distressed, uncomfortable and have a true need for personal attention.

"Citywide customers call again and again because we earn their confidence and trust. They know we'll do the job right and treat them with honesty and integrity."

Dad's Plumbing Co. owner Todd Feehan says he was astonished at just how many plumbers the metro needs – and doesn't have.

"A Master Plumber with the Oklahoma City Code Enforcement Division has reported that the metro has only about 50 percent of the plumbers it truly needs," said Feehan.

"Imagine how the demand for plumbers has grown now after the storms," Feehan concluded. "People will need us more than ever."

Feehan has found other ways to find satisfaction in his work. He has creative skills that have helped others.

"I really like finding creative solutions to help my customers" he said. "When I see a problem that requires a unique solution – and I can solve it – and that makes me feel I've made a real difference in their lives."

Feehan said one device he invented prevents handicapped people in electric wheel chairs from striking the toilet and dis-

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2013 Estimated Oklahoma Trade Occupation Pay

Occupation	Starting Pay	Possible Pay (Based on exp.)
General Construction Laborer	$22K	$55K
Plumbing Contractor	$27K	$86K
General Contractor	$27K	$91K
Electrician	$26K	$65K
Roofer	$21K	$50K
Realtor Assistant	$17K	$37K
Real Estate Agent	$24K	$85K
Cabinet Builder	$26K	$34K
Drywall or Ceiling Tile Installer	$22K	$52K
Floor Covering Installer	$19K	$62K
Tile/Marble Setter	$27K	$59K
Tile Finisher	$18K	$53K
Flooring Installer	$23K	$53K
Home Inspector	$24K	$68K
Heating, Air Conditioning or Refrigeration Mechanic/Installer	$22K	$52K
Concrete Finisher	$23K	$46K
Cement Mason	$23K	$63K

Source: marketrate.payscale.com

Editor's Note: Local industry experts said beginning pay represented in this chart is relatively accurate. However, demand for these services (after apprenticeship) has driven wages beyond that represented here.

All TapIt locations in Oklahoma City will be designated with a TapIt sticker and flyer near the entrance of the establishment. Photo provided.

YMCA partners with Transition OKC to support TapIt drinking water program

By Darla Shelden
Contributing Writer

The YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City, in partnership with Transition OKC and the local chapter of the Sierra Club, is making it easier for area residents to choose to drink water when they are on the go through a local network of water-bottle refilling cafes called TapIt.

Angela Jones, Director of Health and Wellness Initiatives at the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City said, "TapIt is a simple concept to get Oklahomans to drink more water while reducing reliance on bottled drinks that would otherwise end up in our landfills and streets.

"The YMCA is honored to be launching the TapIt program in Oklahoma City and has already seen great support and enthusiasm. We will continue to seek even more locally owned and operated eateries to serve as TapIt locations."

Jones continued, "The Y is focused on advancing the message environmentalists and public health advocates have been spreading for years about the importance of drinking more water for a healthy body, mind and environment."

As a part of the TapIt launch in Oklahoma City, a total of 2,500 reusable water bottles have been distributed to the community at the Y's 12 metro locations. People can refill any reusable water bottle at participating locations for free, regardless of whether or not a purchase is made from that business.

"Often times, a water bottle is a personal preference and therefore the Y would like to encourage others to purchase a reusable water bottle that fits their lifestyle and taste," said Jones. "We hope that the distribution of over 2,500 water bottles spurs others to make that investment in their health and environment."

More than 20 local cafes, eateries, and coffee shops have registered to be the first TapIt locations in Oklahoma.

Laura Massenat owner and operator of Elemental Coffee Roasters, a participating TapIt location said, "We want to make it easier for our community to drink more water and to choose to reuse instead of adding to our landfill.

"Carrying your own water bottle will open your eyes to how many times you grab disposables, use them once, then hit the trash."

Additionally, all 12 Y locations in the Oklahoma City metro area will become TapIt locations and allow anyone in the community access to drinking water.

"The mission of Transition OKC is to be a catalyst to resilience," said Vicki Rose, Transition OKC Co-Chair. "From that standpoint this program is really important because that is all part of having access to fresh water on a regular basis.

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Corrections Director Justin Jones discusses his resignation

By Patrick B. McGuigan
Associate Publisher

The outgoing director of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections says Oklahoma's historic Justice Reinvestment Initiative presently "is lacking what [former state House Speaker] Kris Steele brought to this endeavor."

Justin Jones, who is leaving his post in a few weeks, said that while in office, former Rep. Steele, a Shawnee Republican, was "someone in a position to effect change across multiple disciplines with the true passion and commitment in applying evidence-based research, data analysis and best practices in the criminal justice profession." Such advocacy, Jones said, "would enhance public safety while also being efficient with limited resources."

Steele now works as minister/director for The Education and Employment Ministry (TEEM) in Oklahoma City.

Asked directly about his reasons for leaving, Jones said, "It was time to start a new chapter in my life."

Jones answered questions from CapitolBeatOK after news of his resignation spread throughout state government.

When asked if "JRI" was presently falling short in Oklahoma, Jones reflected, "The best way to provide public safety is prevention, reducing recidivism and addressing key social illnesses that contribute to crime, such as addictions and mental illness. The Justice Reinvestment Initiative was designed to do this."

Jones told CapitolBeatOK there were a number of frustrations during his tenure: "One frustration has been the attempt to engage all stakeholders in understanding the value and the return on investment to ... Oklahoma in providing prevention that addresses the pathways that increase the likelihood of incarceration. This is coupled with convincing legislative stakeholders that reducing recidivism through evidence-based programming provides the best public safety by eliminating future victimization."

Jones continued, "Secondly, employees of the Department of Corrections are the most dedicated, unselfish public servants that, due to the nature of their work, are out of sight and out of mind from most of the public. You only hear about them when there is a disastrous incident."

Justin Jones

The agency's employees, he maintains, "do a yeoman's work in a very complex profession, but recognition for all they do is lacking, and difficult to achieve. ... Continued net inmate growth is frustrating as in many cases, this is indicative of a society's failure to respond to social illnesses that contribute to the likelihood of being incarcerated."

Concerning his plans for the future, Jones disclosed, "I will be looking for employment. I prefer to stay in Oklahoma, as I have a daughter and grandchildren here, but will also pursue other options as they avail themselves. I also plan on writing two books. One is a follow-up to a book I wrote in 2004 called 'Tales of the Caseload,' and the second one will be on leadership."

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Kathy McCallie, founder of Church of the Open Arms, relocates to Tulsa Seminary

By Darla Shelden
Contributing Wrier

Avid lover of the outdoors, Kathy McCallie is seen savoring life at Bear Butte State Park in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Photo provided.

After 16 years of service, Rev. Kathy McCallie recently gave her final sermon as Senior Pastor at Church of the Open Arms in Oklahoma City.

Members of the congregation, friends and family gathered to express their appreciation for McCallie's dedication and service and to wish her good luck on her new venture.

McCallie is joining the faculty at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa. She will be Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program and an Assistant Professor of Ministerial Leadership and Ethics.

As the founding pastor of COA, located at 3131 N. Pennsylvania, McCallie has mixed emotions about her departure.

"I'm very sad in many ways," she said "I love the people of the Church of the Open Arms. I think it's the coolest church I've ever been a part of, but I'm also convinced that this new position is a calling and it feels right.

"I think it will be good for the maturation and development of the Church of the Open Arms to have a new pastor. It's a normal part of a congregation's development."

The church also held a farewell reception to wish McCallie well with her future endeavors.

Scott Hamilton, COA Associate Pastor and Executive Director of Cimarron Alliance said, "I am truly grateful for the opportunity to work with Kathy over the past two and a half years. It has been an integral part of my own faith journey to work at her side.

"Kathy personifies what it means to be a pastor. It is for this reason that her leaving Oklahoma City is going to be felt by people who may have never even heard her preach."

McCallie said, "My most treasured accomplishment is the connection with VOICE, which is involved in civic engagement and faith based community organizing. I think that it is important for churches to stay connected with each other working on improving local communities and government accountability."

Kristen King, lead organizer of VOICE (Voices Organized In Civic Engagement) said, "I remember the first time I did a training session with some of the UCC congregations in town. Kathy made a presentation that talked about the importance of building an organization like VOICE, not just for now but for future generations.

"She understood the potential of this type of organizing to enliven people to put their faith into action and to give people power to act on behalf of their families, their neighborhoods, and their community."

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Chad Warmington to Head Statewide Oil and Gas Association

Staff Report

The Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association of Oklahoma has announced President Michael H. Bernard is retiring this month. Chad Warmington, currently Executive Vice President of the State Chamber of Oklahoma, will become the association's new president. Bernard will continue to serve for a transitional period and will remain on the Board of Directors.

Bernard first joined the Association almost 30 years ago, becoming President in 1993. Rand Phipps, Chairman of Mid-Continent said, "Mike has been the face of Mid-Continent for 20 years and has stamped the organization with his integrity, sense of purpose and deep understanding of the oil and gas business. He has dealt with countless challenging issues and guided many efforts that resulted in beneficial changes for the industry in Oklahoma. He also kept the organization strong during periods of significant industry consolidation and difficult economic times."

Warmington joined the State Chamber in 2010 to manage the political and government affairs operations for the statewide business organization. He previously served as Chief of Staff to three Speakers of the Oklahoma House, most recently Chris Benge. His duties included serving as the chief negotiator with the Senate and Governor on behalf of the Speaker, along with managing the $19 million House of Representatives budget and 200 member staff. Previously, Warmington served as field representative for former U.S. Sen. Don Nickles and a campaign manager for the Corporation Commission races of Dana Murphy and Denise Bode.

Warmington said, "The energy industry is one of our state's top economic drivers, and as the new President of the Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association of Oklahoma it will be my job to help the oil and gas industry continue to thrive in Oklahoma. I am excited to be a part of the team and look forward to bringing my energy and experience to this esteemed organization."

Chad Warmington

Phipps commented, "Chad understands the Oklahoma oil and gas industry from both the regulatory and legislative side and is uniquely qualified to assume his new position."

The Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association of Oklahoma was founded in 1917, making it one of the oldest petroleum associations in the United States. Today, the Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association of Oklahoma's member companies are oil and gas producers, operators, purchasers, pipelines, transporters, processors and service companies representing a substantial sector of the oil and gas industry in the State of Oklahoma.

VA announces first ever inter-tribal veteran Stand Down

By Darla Shelden
Contributing Writer

The Veterans Administration has announced its first-time partnership between the State and Tribes to host an inter-tribal veteran "Stand Down." The event will focus on Native American veterans who are homeless or living in overcrowded conditions.

Stand Downs are one part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to provide services to homeless veterans.

The event will be held at the Gordon Cooper Technology Center, One John C. Bruton Boulevard, in Shawnee, Oklahoma on Thursday, June 27, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Breakfast will be served at 7 a.m. and lunch at 11:30 a.m.

This is the first ever collaboration of services between six Tribal Nations, VA, State Office of Department of Veterans Affairs, HUD, and local communities. It will also be the first time the Oklahoma Homeless Program has held a homeless stand down in an area closer to the rural homeless veteran population.

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes, Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Sac & Fox Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma will be represented at the event.

(From left) Lenny Vile, Homeless Program Coordinator for the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center; Mary Culley, Specialist with the VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations in the Southern Plains and Eastern Regions and Joe Dudley, Social Worker for the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center prepare for the Native American Stand Down on June 27. Photo by Mark Hooten, VA Medical Media.

Members from the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center, DVA, along with participating tribe, non-profit organizations, veteran service organizations, and outside supporters work together to finalize the details for the first Native American Stand Down. Photo by Mark Hooten, VA Medical Media.

Transportation will be provided at area pick-up points for the Stand Down. No veteran will be turned away. Veterans are asked to bring ID (VA card or DD14) if available.

Representatives will be onsite at the event from Social Security Administration, Oklahoma State Department of Human Services, the United States Department of Interior, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, and other key federal, state and tribal partner organizations.

In 2012, the VA served more than 240,000 veterans who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless—21 percent more than the previous year. The goal of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is to insure every veteran has safe and stable housing.

Mary Culley, specialist with the VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations in the Southern Plains and Eastern Regions said, "Many state, tribal, local, and national or-

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COMMENTARY

Time to apply "The Oklahoma Standard" to Corrections policy

By Patrick B. McGuigan
Associate Publisher

State leaders boast, and rightly so, about what is called "The Oklahoma Standard" – the compassion, speed and effectiveness of responses to natural disasters like this spring's tornadoes and/or acts of terror like the Murrah Bombing in 1995.

Let's apply that standard to counter the financial time bomb that lies at the end of the state's unsustainable prison policies. Making the Oklahoma Standard work for prison reform is both practical and principled – a moral response to a legal problem eating at the fabric of our society.

Oklahoma remains disastrously lost in the mire of one of America's highest prison incarceration rates.

Now that Justin Jones, the director of corrections, has announced he is leaving, Gov. Mary Fallin and other state leaders should make a fresh start on implementing transformational policy changes enacted in 2012, and virtually ignored since then.

Justin Jones will leave his job at Corrections in a few weeks. That is no surprise, as the news comes after a rocky three-year relationship with Fallin and current legislative leaders.

Some conservatives faulted Jones for often seeking supplemental appropriations. He said he needed the cash to stay ahead of the state's burgeoning prison population (a number driven fundamentally not by his administration but by public policy in the form of "tough" sentences).

In recent months, Jones clashed with Fallin's budgeteers for, they asserted, hiding around $22 million in operating reserves. The disputed amount was closer to $6 million – but agency reserves are no surprise to anyone who regularly monitors government budgeting.

To his credit, Jones supports the "justice reinvestment initiative" intended to advance alternatives to incarceration. Given Oklahoma's unenviable record for the highest rates of female imprisonment – and top-five spots for male incarceration – this reform is overdue.

Our neighbors in Texas, no squishes on crime, have been among national pioneers in lowering incarceration rates. Under Gov. Rick Perry, the Lone Star State has pursued clear-eyed strategies that led, remarkably, to cancellation of prison construction in 2011-12.

Once upon a time, there might have been a rationale for quick resorts to long prison terms as the primary response to wrongdoing. When U.S. prison populations expanded about 30 years ago, research on effective alternatives was spotty or inconsistent.

However, since then laborers in the criminal justice vineyard have learned that early interventions (avoiding incarceration for non-violent offenses in the first place), treatment for first- and second-time offenders, and post-release supervision could flatten or reduce the numbers (and the cost).

Such efforts work -- when focused on redeemable individuals not yet settled into permanent lives of crime, yet at high risk for committing future crimes.

Obviously, for the most violent crimes, incapacitation remains a valid and moral response. But for many violations, including minor drug offenses, lengthy incarceration is ineffective. "Real time" information about factors that drive crime in the first place, and recidivism in the second or third place, can help policymakers to a more righteous job.

One thing that works is keeping a closer eye on past offenders once they get out of jail. That's why House Bill 3052, former Speaker Kris Steele's reform measure signed into law by Gov. Fallin, included explicit language requiring such supervision.

Yet Barbara Hoberock of the Tulsa World has found that a key provision of H.B. 3052 – the mandatory monitoring for felons after their incarceration – is being largely ignored.

In fact, statewide only nine offenders are getting that supervision, whereas 1,621 should be under post-sentence scrutiny.

It's time for a fresh start. Jones' departure means Mary Fallin and Oklahoma have time and a fresh opportunity to take a better approach, based on the successes in Texas and a handful of other states.

Gov. Fallin should insist upon, and the Corrections' governing board should conduct, a national search for an administrator with proven success in keeping the worst offenders locked up, while providing a path to re-entry for the non-violent and the salvageable.

In addition to Fallin's representative, any hiring committee should include public servants with actual experience in Corrections and advocates of data-supported, proven reforms.

The foregoing would be a practical step, and a way for Gov. Fallin and her allies, including Attorney General Scott Pruitt, to prove me and other analysts wrong in concluding that prison reform is being "slow-played" and deliberately gutted right now.

Oklahoma can do better, and it must.

In his commencement address at Harvard University in 1978, "A World Split Apart," Russian patriot Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn spoke truth to power when he said:

"I have spent all my life under a Communist regime and I will tell you that a society without any objective legal scale is a terrible one indeed. But a society with no other scale but the legal one is not quite worthy of man either. A society which is based on the letter of the law and never reaches any higher is scarcely taking advantage of the high level of human possibilities. The letter of the law is too cold and formal to have a beneficial influence on society.

"Whenever the tissue of life is woven of legalistic relations, there is an atmosphere of moral mediocrity, paralyzing man's noblest impulses."

Moral mediocrity is unworthy of Oklahoma's governing structures, including its prisons and jails. Mary Fallin should insist on excellence.

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Legislative Look

By Janet Barresi
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

This month, I attended two ceremonial bill signings at the State Capitol to celebrate legislation I feel is of vital importance to Oklahomans.

First, I must thank Rep. Jadine Nollan for championing House Bill 1756, which eases graduation requirements for profoundly disabled students. I became personally involved with this issue after several news reports highlighted the difficulties our most vulnerable students experienced in the first year of Achieving Classroom Excellence implementation. It was a pleasure to partner with Rep. Nollan to reach out to these students and their parents.

Achieving Classroom Excellence legislation requires that all students pass four of seven end-of-instruction exams to graduate high school. Profoundly disabled students are given an alternative form of the exam to accommodate for their individual disabilities, but they still must show proficiency. If a student is unsuccessful, he or she has to retake the exam or prove proficiency using an alternative method. This new legislation still requires a first attempt at the exam. If a profoundly disabled student is unsuccessful, however, the new law allows the local school district working with the Individual Education Plan (IEP) team to determine if the student has done enough work to meet the graduation requirement without further pursuit.

Civil Rights law requires that we not exclude any student from assessments, but this piece of legislation removes a burden for our most profoundly disabled students. For that, I am thankful.

The second piece of legislation ceremonially signed last week was House Bill 1989, the Student Data Accessibility, Transparency and Accountability Act of 2013.

This bill is the first of its kind in the nation and provides a model for other states in the area of protecting student privacy.

The law requires the State Board of Education to inventory and publicly post what student-specific data the state collects and creates a detailed data security plan and student privacy policies. It requires that we be clear about what we collect for what purpose and with whom the information is shared. It also gives the public the ability to comment on the data that is shared and to have a voice in changing the policy.

Student information, such as performance on assessments, is increasingly important as we move toward teacher and leader evaluation systems and greater accountability systems for schools, such as A-F Report Cards. Yet, we must ensure the privacy of our students. According to the new law, this department will share only aggregate data that does not show individual student information. This law further empowers us to restrict access to student information that previously was subject to open records requests.

In addition to these two bills, several other laws came from this year's legislative session that have an impact beginning this coming school year.

House Bill 1658 also will have an affect in the coming year. The bill changes the way the A-F School Report card is calculated. The changes made by the bill's authors increase the focus of student performance on state assessments and lessen the impact of other measures such as advanced coursework, graduation rates and attendance. After the initial report cards were issued last fall, we worked with school administrators and members of the public to address concerns regarding how the report cards were calculated. This bill takes many of those concerns into account.

One final bill I would draw attention to is House Bill 1233. This bill creates a process to allow provisional certificates to be given in the area of special education to alleviate the shortage of teachers in this area. Interested candidates would go through a boot camp to obtain this certification. We appreciate this effort to address a shortage in this challenging but critical area. Our special education students deserve teachers who are equipped to meet their specific needs.

This session was busy and productive for all our lawmakers. I appreciate their concern for students, parents and educators and the effect that a great educational system has on all of society.

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Publication No. (USPS 566-340)
Official Legal Newspaper for City, State and County of Oklahoma.
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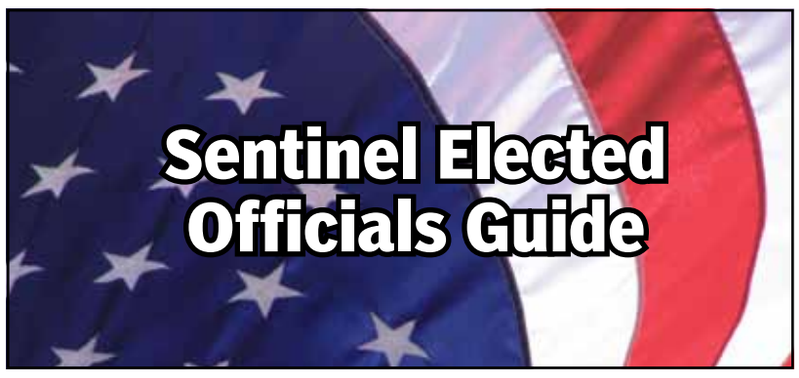

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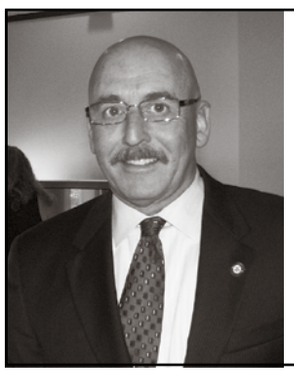

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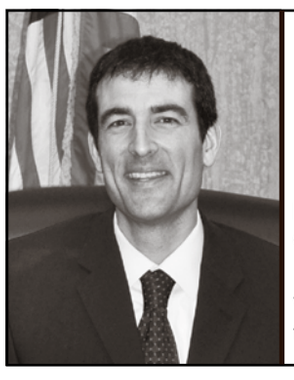

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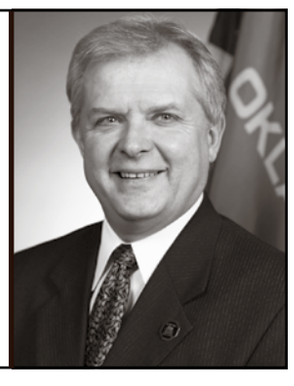

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YMCA partners with Transition OKC to support TapIt drinking water program

continued from page 1

"Also, we're concerned with developing community relationships and this kind of program plays a big part in that."

All TapIt locations will be designated with a TapIt sticker and flyer near the entrance of the establishment.

More than 20 local cafes, eateries, and coffee shops have registered to be the first TapIt drinking water program locations in Oklahoma. Photo provided.

The YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City, in partnership with Transition OKC and the local chapter of the Sierra Club, is making it easier for area residents to access fresh drinking water when they are on the go through a local network of water-bottle refilling cafes called TapIt. Photo provided.

William Schwartz, Director of TapIt said, "We are very excited to be in partnership with these great organizations in Oklahoma City. We look forward to seeing the program expand in the area and help many more residents not only stay healthy and reduce waste, but also save money."

TapIt supports the Y's larger effort to encourage a healthy lifestyle through the OK 5210 Initiative launched last October in partnership with the Oklahoma City-County Health Department.

The 5-2-1-0 slogan conveys the healthy living message by encouraging behaviors associated with healthy weight in children. This includes 5 or more fruits and vegetables, 2 hours or less of screen time, 1 hour or more of physical activity and zero sugary beverages each day.

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

In the Oklahoma City metro 12 Ys engage 151,000 men, women and children, regardless of age, income or background, to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support their neighbors.

Jones added, "Thus far, the registered TapIt locations have welcomed us with open arms and are thrilled to be a part of a movement that hopes will inspire Oklahomans to choose tap water whenever they are out and about."

A list of participating TapIt locations is available at www.ymcaokc.org and www.OK5210.org. For more information, visit www.Tapitwater.com.

Kathy McCallie, founder of Church of the Open Arms, relocates to Tulsa Seminary

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McCallie has long cared deeply about healthcare. She is the daughter of Dr. Boyd Shook, founder of the Manos Juntas Free Clinic in Oklahoma City.

"Kathy was particularly involved in our health care action team putting on seminars about the Affordable Care Act and to fight for Medicaid expansion," King added. "She was deeply moved by the death of Pat Proctor, who lost her job after being diagnosed with breast cancer and faced a nightmare of piecing together treatment without insurance."

McCallie believes her role at Phillips holds many valuable new opportunities.

"Being able to spend sustained time thinking about what kind of education and training pastors need in our changing times will be a priority for me," said McCallie.

"My job as the Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, a continuing education for clergy who want to further their education working in ministry settings, is important for developing depth and integrity in ministry."

Oklahoma City native McCallie holds a B.A. and M.A. in Philosophy from Oklahoma State University; a M.Div. from Perkins School of Theology at SMU; and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma.

Hamilton said, "Kathy has paved the way for future generations of LGBT Christians in our city to have a loving, embracing place in which to grow their faith."

Founded in 1997, COA is opened to all persons regardless of color, ancestry, age, gender, sexual or affection orientation, ethnicity, national origin, disability, familial status, or political perspective.

"I have known Kathy McCallie since she was on staff at Church of the Servant and I was in seminary at Phillips Graduate Seminary in the late 1980s," said Rev. Donna Compton. "She was then, and has continued to be, a dynamic, thoughtful, gifted teacher and preacher.

"Through the years, she has become an outspoken, fearless, and prophetic voice in our city, speaking up for the rights of GLTB people, but also speaking up for peace, for the rights of women, for social justice, for interfaith goodwill and cooperation - even in the face of some formidable opposition."

From left: Scott Hamilton, Church of the Open Arms Associate Pastor and Exec. Dir. of Cimarron Alliance; Rev. Kathy McCallie, former COA Senior Pastor; Mark Van Dorn, COA Past President; and Nathaniel Batchelder, OKC Peace House Director at the farewell reception for Ms. Callie. Photos by Darla Shelden.

As singing group "Dischord" practiced for an appearance at her final sermon after 16 years of service, Church of the Open Arms founder and former Senior Pastor Kathy McCallie prepared to leave the congregation. She is joining the faculty at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa.

McCallie says one of the moments that stands out in her mind is when the Ku Klux Klan threatened the church in 2002.

She recalled that the KKK sent email messages stating they were planning a parade in front of the church building when COA was co-sponsoring a conference on Homosexuality and Scripture.

"The event was highly visible on the news," McCallie said, "There were bomb threats. All four lanes of Pennsylvania Avenue were completely blocked. That was a very difficult time, but the way that everyone pulled together with support from the wider community is what makes it a memorable event."

Nathaniel Batchelder, Director of Peace House OKC said, "McCallie paid a high price for her commitment to universal human and civil rights. She had to resign as a United Methodist minister because charges were filed against her for performing commitment ceremonies for same-gender couples at the church she served.

"So she founded Church of the Open Arms, which was welcomed into the United Church of Christ denomination with the designation 'open and affirming'. McCallie's values are not a scandal in the UCC, which ordained its first openly gay minister in 1970. Open Arms continues as a social justice Christian church."

Mark Van Dorn, COA Past President said, "Kathy's gifts have been numerous as well as the blessings she has brought our church family. We are all thrilled for her and this next stage of her journey and wish her nothing but success."

An interim pastor will serve COA until a new pastor is chosen.

McCallie, a mother of three children, said, "All of my family members have said for some time that they see me in this type of teaching vocation. They're happy that I'm not moving clear across the country and I'm very happy that I'm staying in Oklahoma.

"I have great confidence in the leaders of the Church of the Open Arms and in our denomination. People should come visit. We have a strong future."

Hamilton said, "Kathy has married us, baptized us, buried us, and joined us in Holy Union. This city is better because of her and her presence will be felt for a long time."

Photo memories of Church of the Open Arms founder and former Senior Pastor Kathy McCallie were on display for congregation members and reception guests to take home as keepsakes.

Keep safety in mind when enjoying summer with your pets

continued from page 1

"Oklahoma can be a dangerous place for pets in the hot summer months. Even mostly indoor pets can be susceptible to heat stroke when left outside for short periods of time.

"Pet owners must be aware of the signs and symptoms of heat stroke. Beginning warning signs to watch for are excessive panting and salivating. Additionally, be aware of excessive thirst, red skin, pale gums, dizziness, lethargy and lastly unconsciousness."

Shade is a necessity for pets that live confined to a yard. Do not tether your animals and leave them alone outside. The leash or rope can become tangled and the animal could get stranded in the sun.

Make sure your pet has an unlimited supply of water. If possible every morning put ice cubes in a water bowl that cannot be tipped over.

Joggers who take their pets with them should keep in mind that over exertion in hot weather can cause pets to overheat quickly, especially long-haired breeds.

Emergency treatment for heat stress includes sponging the animal's neck and groin area with cool water until their body temperature is lowered.

Emergency treatment for heat stress includes sponging the animal's neck and groin area with cool water until their body temperature is lowered. Owners should contact their veterinarian immediately as further treatment may be needed. Photo provided.

Owners should contact their veterinarian immediately because the pet may require further treatment.

According to the ASPCA website, animals with flat faces, like Pugs and Persian cats, are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant as effectively. These pets, along with the elderly, the overweight, and those with heart or lung diseases, should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.

ASPCA also advises owners to leave pets at home during Fourth of July celebrations and to never use fireworks around pets. Exposure to lit fireworks can result in severe burns or trauma to curious pets, and even unused fireworks can be hazardous.

Some pet owners believe clipping a dog's hair coat will help pets stay cool during the summer months. However, Howell says some hair left on the dog can protect the skin and if the hair is clipped too short, the skin can burn.

Howell said, "I don't recommend across-the-board clipping of dogs, but those animals that have a heavy thick coat may need to have their coat trimmed.

"The coats of some animal's protects their skin and can actually trap cooler air next to their body and help keep them cool on hot summer days. Talking with your veterinarian would be the best way to get advice for your dog and its needs for summer."

As with children, it is advised to keep an eye on animals in and around swimming pools. Make sure one of the first things your pet learns is how to get out of the pool.

If you are going out on one of the many Oklahoma lakes with your pet, consider using a doggie life jacket.

Counts added, "Each year pets lose their lives from heat stroke in Oklahoma. Be sure to protect your pet this summer. It can happen very fast and is a needless tragedy."

For more information, visit www.aspca.org.

Never leave your pet unattended in a confined or enclosed space or car during the summer as they can quickly suffer from heat stress or heat exhaustion. Photo provided.

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Lenny Vile (right), Homeless Program Coordinator for the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center, makes rounds at the Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee, Oklahoma to ensure everyone is ready for the first Native American Stand Down. Photo by Mark Hooten, VA Medical Media.

VA announces first ever inter-tribal veteran Stand Down

continued from page 2

ganizations will come together to provide a safe and welcoming environment for Veterans living in tribal communities and surrounding areas who are homeless or living in overcrowded situations."

The Stand Down will offer a variety of resources and services that will include legal aid assistance, vocational rehabilitation service information, housing options, veteran benefits information and employment assistance services.

All veterans will have access to a wide range of health care screening services, including health assessments, dental screenings and eye exams. Event giveaway items will include personal care products, clothing, surplus items, blankets and boots.

"Leaving the military can be difficult," said Lenny Vile, Homeless Veteran Coordinator for the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center. "A lot of Native American Veterans isolate themselves and return to their tribes, and some go years without knowing the benefits that are owed to them. Our goal is to change that during the Stand Down."

The Veterans Administration has announced its first-time partnership between the State and Tribes to host an inter-tribal veteran Stand Down at the Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Photo provided.

Native Americans have served with distinction in the Armed Forces for more than 200 years. Currently, there is an estimated 21,000 Native American veterans in Oklahoma, and only 3,153 are enrolled to receive VA services.

Vile added, "In keeping with President Obama's and VA Secretary General Shinseki's plan to end Veteran homelessness in 2015, the OKC VA Medical Center is determined to meet this goal by reaching out to homeless Veterans wherever they may be, and providing resources and services through community partners, so that all Veterans have a permanent home."

The first Stand Down was organized in 1988 by a group of Vietnam Veterans in San Diego. Since then, Stand Downs have been used as an effective tool in reaching out to homeless veterans, reaching more than 200,000 veterans and their family members between 1994-2000.

For more information on the Stand Down and a list of pickup locations, contact Mary Culley at 405-626-3426 or Lenny Vile at 405-456-1708.

Creative Writing Program hosts public readings at OCU, Edmond library

continued from page 1

OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY

of the Black Took Collective, an experimental performance art/poetry group. Martin currently teaches at the University of Pittsburgh.

Rabb is the author of "Cures for Heartbreak," which was named a Best Book of 2007 by both Booklist and Kirkus. As M.E. Rabb, she published four titles in the Missing Persons YA series: "The Rose Queen," "The Chocolate Lover," "The Venetian Policeman" and "The Unsuspecting Gourmet."

Rabb's stories have been published in *The Atlantic Monthly, Zoetrope: All Story, Seventeen, Best New American Voices, New Stories from the South, New England Review, One Story* and others. They have also been broadcast on National Public Radio. One of her most recent essays, "Intensive Care," appeared in March 2013 in *The New York Times*. She received the grand prize in the Zoetrope short story contest, first prize in *The Atlantic Monthly* fiction contest, first prize in the American Fiction contest, and a PEN Syndicated Fiction Project Award.

The Red Earth MFA is a low-residency creative-writing program. Students and faculty meet for 10-day residencies twice a year, then students complete their semesters at home and send their writing and other coursework to their faculty mentor.

78-Year-Old Volunteer Honored as Oklahoma's Salute to Senior Service Winner

Staff Report

A 78-year-old Oklahoma City woman has been honored as the Oklahoma winner of the Home Instead Senior Care network's Salute to Senior Service® award.

Martha King is being recognized for her dedicated community service, including her work at Infant Crises Services. King volunteers in the Infant Crises Services office and aids in fulfilling the nutritional needs of 1,000 infants and toddlers each month.

As one of 50 state winners, King earned $500 for her charity of choice – donated by Home Instead, Inc., franchisor of the Home Instead Senior Care network and contest sponsor. King also will have a spot on the Salute to Senior Service Wall of Fame on SalutetoSeniorService.com where her nomination story has been posted.

Martha King

As a state winner, King now will be considered for the national Salute to Senior Service award.

The Salute to Senior Service program was launched last year by the Home Instead Senior Care network to honor seniors' commitments to their causes and communities.

"Martha represents so well the dedication and commitment that make senior volunteers such a value to their communities," said Jeff Huber, president of Home Instead, Inc. "She has proven once again that age is meaningless when it comes to making a difference. So many charities, nonprofit organizations and faith communities could not do the work they are doing without selfless volunteers such as Martha."

For more information about the Home Instead Senior Care network's Salute to Senior Service program, visit SalutetoSeniorService.com.

Newspaper reading adventures for little learners!

My Kid Scoop™

Vol. 6 No. 8 © 2007 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Designer/Illustrator

My name:

Learning Buddies: Spell your child's first name, using the lines to write large letters. Use an uppercase letter for the first letter in the name and lowercase letters to spell the rest. Have your child trace the letters with a finger, crayon or pencil.

Robot Shapes

How many □ can you find in the robot?

How many △ can you find in the robot?

How many ○ can you find in the robot?

My Rhyme Time

Robots rolling left and right,
Twinkling lights are shining bright.
It's a busy day in Robot Town,
No time to rest or shut down!

My Letters

R is for **Robot**

r is for **robot**

Learning Buddies: Read the two phrases aloud. Have your child read with you. Trace the uppercase and lowercase letter **R**. Say the letter as you trace it.

How many words or pictures can you find on this page that start with the sound the letter **R** makes in the word **robot**?

My Numbers

How many ? raccoons

How many ? ribbons

How many ? rolling pins

Learning Buddies: Trace and say the number. Read the questions. Touch and count to find the answers.

My Sentence

Learning Buddies: Read the first part of the sentence aloud. Ask your child to think of a way to finish the sentence. Write your child's words in the lines. Read the entire sentence to your child while pointing out that reading is done from left to right. Older children may want to trace all or some of the letters in the sentence.

Left Robots can Right

Sunday

Letter Identification

With your child, look through the newspaper to find pictures of things that begin with the same sound as the letter **R** in **robot**.

Monday

Math Play

Point to the number **3** in the newspaper. Have your child say the number and, if it's large enough, have your child trace the number.

Tuesday

Find the Circles

Look at the pictures in today's newspaper. With your child, look for things that have the shape of a circle. For example, a face could have the shape of a circle. Have your child trace each circle shape you find and say the word "circle" while tracing.

Wednesday

Find the Squares

With your child, look for things in newspaper photos that have the shape of a square. For example, a window could have the shape of a square. Have your child trace each square shape you find and say the word "square" while tracing.

Thursday

Find the Triangles

With your child, look for things in newspaper photos that have the shape of a triangle. For example, the roof of a building could have the shape of a triangle. Have your child trace each triangle shape you find and say the word "triangle" while tracing.

Friday

Uppercase and Lowercase

With your child, find and circle an uppercase letter **R**. Then, on the same page, find and circle a lowercase letter **r**. Connect the two with a line.

Saturday

Make a Shape Book

Make a shape book using newspaper pictures. Get three sheets of blank paper. Glue a picture that includes a circle shape on one, a picture that includes a square shape on the second and a picture that includes a triangle shape on the third.

Learning Buddy Sign Here

I have completed _____ activities with my Learning Buddy.

Learning Buddy's signature Date

Learning Buddies!

My Kid Scoop comes out once a week, but you can use the newspaper every day to prepare your child for success in school. Each daily activity focuses on a specific learning readiness skill.

Step by Step Success 1. Read the activity instruction aloud. 2. Show how to do the activity by doing it yourself first. 3. Ask your child to copy what you do.

Property tax basics from Oklahoma County Assessor Leonard Sullivan

Taxpayer's rights, remedies and responsibilities

Staff Report

Property taxes provide more revenue for local services in Oklahoma than any other source. Property taxes help to pay for public schools, city streets, county roads, police, fire protection and many other services, according to the Oklahoma County Assessor's office.

Property taxes are local taxes. County officials value your property, set your tax rates and collect your taxes, but state law governs the process.

How does the property tax system work?

To get an idea of your property's value, an internet search or a phone call to a Realtor can help pin it down.

Markets are driven by local conditions. Housing prices in parts of the county may suffer, while other parts thrive. That's the nature of the market.

The county assessor must notify property owners prior to any tax increase.

A property's market value is the price for which it would sell when both buyer and seller want the best price and neither one is under pressure to buy or sell.

Land used for farming and ranching is valued on its capacity to produce crops or livestock. Its appraisal is known as agricultural use value.

Your county's assessor must notify you prior to any increase in your tax rate.

What if you disagree with a property tax increase?

You may dispute the property value set by the county assessor. It's possible the dispute may be settled at this level.

If not, the next step is to appeal to the County Board of Equalization (CBOE) which settles any disagreements between you and the assessor about property values.

The CBOE sets a date, time and place for of your hearing. Arrive on time, and present an organized case about why the property tax is excessive.

Be on time for the hearing, organize and prepare your case. Once the board rules, it mails you a written notice. If you're still dissatisfied, you have the right appeal to your county's district court.

What if you fail to pay your property taxes?

It's expensive and risky to fail to pay property taxes.

Penalty and interest charges as high as 18 percent may accrue, depending on how long the taxes were unpaid. There is no cap on interest and penalty charges.

Delinquent tax notices are issued, usually repeatedly.

A tax lien likely can be attached, making selling the house problematic.

After several years, the property can be auctioned at a tax sale, unless the past due taxes are paid. You may be able to get it back by paying the new owner 100% of the back taxes, plus a hefty interest rate.

Editor's Note: This information is general; consult your county assessor's office for more specific guidelines.

Don't overlook impact of storm losses when filing for 2013 tax year

By Alan Switzer, CPA

The first question most of my clients ask me is usually not about taxes, especially this time of year. The first thing they usually ask me is "Have you chased any storms lately?" That's because storm chasing is my hobby. I love watching the clouds and motion and yes, even seeing a tornado. My twitter name is @stormchasingcpa.

However, I don't like to see what happened in Little Axe, Moore and Canadian County the past 2 weeks. But in Oklahoma it seems like those things are inevitable, even though most Oklahomans are very weather aware on days storms are predicted to occur. Personally, I suffered the wrath of the Moore's first monster (F-5) in May 3, 1999. It wiped out everything, but I wasn't home because I was out "chasing it".

Which brings me to the topic of casualties, like fire, flood, tornadoes, hail and even thefts, which can affect your now and in future tax years. Gains or losses from these events should not be overlooked.

The way casualties are handled on tax returns is affected by several factors, such as whether property is for business, personal use or income-production; insurance reimbursements; disaster declarations and FEMA or other grants.

This topic is too broad to cover every scenario, but if you suffer casualty losses, it's critical to review disaster issues with a tax professional.

Let's say you have a $100,000 rental property which has an adjusted basis to you of $60,000. Your adjusted basis is the amount you paid for the house plus improvements minus any depreciation that has been taken.

The property is struck by a tornado and is a total loss. There were no injuries.

If the insurance company only pays you $60,000, then you have no gain or loss. If your insurance company pays you $100,000, then you may have a gain.

Whether you have a gain or not depends on whether or not you replace the property and in the proper time frame.

If you replace the property within the proper time frame using the full $100,000 the insurance gave you, then you have no gain. If you don't replace the property then it's treated as if you sold the property for $100,000 and you'll have a $40,000 taxable gain.

You have 24 months from the end of the year that the casualty occurred in which to replace the property and not pay any tax on the insurance reimbursement. If a casualty occurs in 2013 then you have until December 31, 2015 to replace the property. If after this time you decide not to replace the property you will have to amend your 2013 tax return and pay the tax at that time.

If a hail storm damages your roof or other property, then a similar scenario applies. If there is no insurance, you have a deductible loss.

The deduction amount depends on whether it is your personal or an income-producing property (like a rental.)

If this is your personal residence and there is no reimbursement from insurance, then your loss is limited to 10% of your adjusted gross income plus $100. If this is a rental property then your loss would be the cost to replace your roof.

If you do receive insurance proceeds for the roof's replacement, you must spend all the insurance proceeds or you will have taxable income for the unused amount. The same time frame as mentioned above.

Some of these time frames for replacement of property are extended in federally-declared disaster areas.

Please remember to always create a back up set of records and store them in a secure place. Copy them, use a safe deposit box or scan them electronically. Documentation will prove invaluable after a disaster. It can be expensive and time consuming to reproduce and gather this information. And it's also smart to document the valuables you have with photographs and/or video.

Should a fire, flood, or other disaster happen, be sure to consult your tax professional before making decisions to determine the best outcome tax-wise.

Demand for real estate and building trades highest since 2007

continued from page 1

locating or breaking the commode.

Because of the lack of plumbers, he expects wages to soar in the coming years.

"I would not be surprised if wages exceed $30 per hour. The average rate for repair plumber may increase to as much as $170 an hour in the next few years," he predicted. "This is what it will take to encourage people to come into this trade."

Feehan's creative way to help the wheelchair-bound was recently honored by the Journal Record business newspaper. He has had it patented.

Electricity is an integral part of our lives, observed Will Johnson owner of HighPointe Electric.

"Electricity shapes the world we live in," said Johnson. "Like anything we do, you get out of it what you put into it," said Johnson.

"For me as electrical contractor, it is more than a job. It's my neighbor, the high school my daughter graduated from in El Reno, the restaurant where I eat, the WalMart where you shop."

The bigger picture really drives home the point of the need for tradesmen and real estate professionals.

Construction sector job openings now exceed 100,000 annually nationally - their highest level since 2007, according to the National Association of Homebuilders.

Werner leads several kinds of training courses sponsored by Oklahoma State Homebuilders Association.

As a public service, members of his groups and affiliates volunteer their time to encourage those seeking great careers.

They're taking it a step further by offering to let interested people job shadow them to learn about various occupations in greater detail.

For those willing to work hard, trades and professions offer careers that pay well and will be in great demand for a long time ahead, the group said.

"I have opportunities to educate the community about how critical a thorough inspection is," Werner said.

"I identify issues that could have cost my customers a lot of money later on. They realize they should never buy property without my service and they thank me again and again. I really like making that kind of contribution to the real estate profession."

The need for real estate professionals and tradesmen will skyrocket as central Oklahoma storm victims rebuild their lives, Werner noted.

"About eight of us spoke to 200 students at the Metrotech South campus recently to acquaint them with the tremendous opportunities in these professions," said Werner.

The A to Z Inspections hosts a monthly networking group 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. It features informative property industry speakers.

Speakers have included Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett and Ward 2 City Councilman Ed Shadid, who represents the Midtown, *The City Sentinel*'s core readership area.

"Working in the real estate industry is very fulfilling profession," said Brenda Seagroves, agent for Keller Williams Realty. "I love to sell historic homes especially for their beautiful craftsmanship, sturdy construction and convenient, Midtown locations."

Contact these professionals about exciting careers:

Jack Werner, A to Z Inspections, at 412-7861

Dennis Seagroves, Citywide Heating, Air & Refrigeration, at 816-0373

Will Johnson, HighPointe Electric, at 249-0611

Keller Williams Realtor Brenda Seagroves, historic homes specialist, 824-6566.

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ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY – 14 MONTH APPOINTMENT

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Oklahoma is seeking applicants to fill a temporary Assistant U.S. Attorney position in the Criminal Division, not to exceed 14 months, which may be extended. Applicants must possess a J.D. degree, be an active member of the Bar in good standing (any U.S. jurisdiction), and have at least one (1) year post-J.D. legal or other relevant experience. See vacancy announcement 13-OKW-909033-A-02 at www.usajobs.gov (Exec Office for US Attorneys). Applications must be submitted on-line. See AHow to Apply@ section of announcement for specific information. Questions may be directed to Lisa Engelke, Administrative Officer, via e-mail at lisa.engelke@usdoj.gov. This announcement is open from June 24, 2013 through July 5, 2013.

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"Man of Steel" – entertaining and often brilliant film-making

By Patrick B. McGuigan
Associate Publisher

"Man of Steel" from director Zack Snyder and producer Christopher Nolan dwells a good deal on the origins of Kal-El of Krypton, and this gives the film a deeper sense of mystery than the typical Superman fan might expect.

Russell Crowe brings gravitas and believability as Jor-El, father of Kal-El and husband of Lara (Avelet Zurer). A scientist, he anticipates the impending fate of his world and works with his wife to send their infant to a distant star and planet – ours – shortly before a kind of Judgement Day.

General Zod (Michael Shannon) is one of the best film villains of recent memory – unless Antje Traue as Faora, his subcommander, deserves that distinction. Scriptwriter David S. Goyer cleverly adapts the "phantom zone" – an eternal prison system that survives Krypton's destruction – as a key element in the story.

Clark Kent is shown, in flashbacks, as a child confused and sometimes overwhelmed by his developing powers. He is blessed with earthly parents who both nurture his intelligence and nudge him toward acceptance of the burdens that come with his awesome powers.

Diane Lane as Martha has perhaps the best performance arc of the motion picture, portraying a stable and loving wife and mother at several stages of life. Kevin Costner is spot-on as the farmer/father Jonathan. The pair are ideally cast in these roles, as loving adoptive parents with practical parenting skills and intuitive spirits.

The plot unfolds somewhat episodically, but Henry Cavill owns the part of the adult Clark from his first moment on screen. A wandering loner at that point, he is trying to find his way in a troubled world, uncertain about his unique strengths and internal vulnerability.

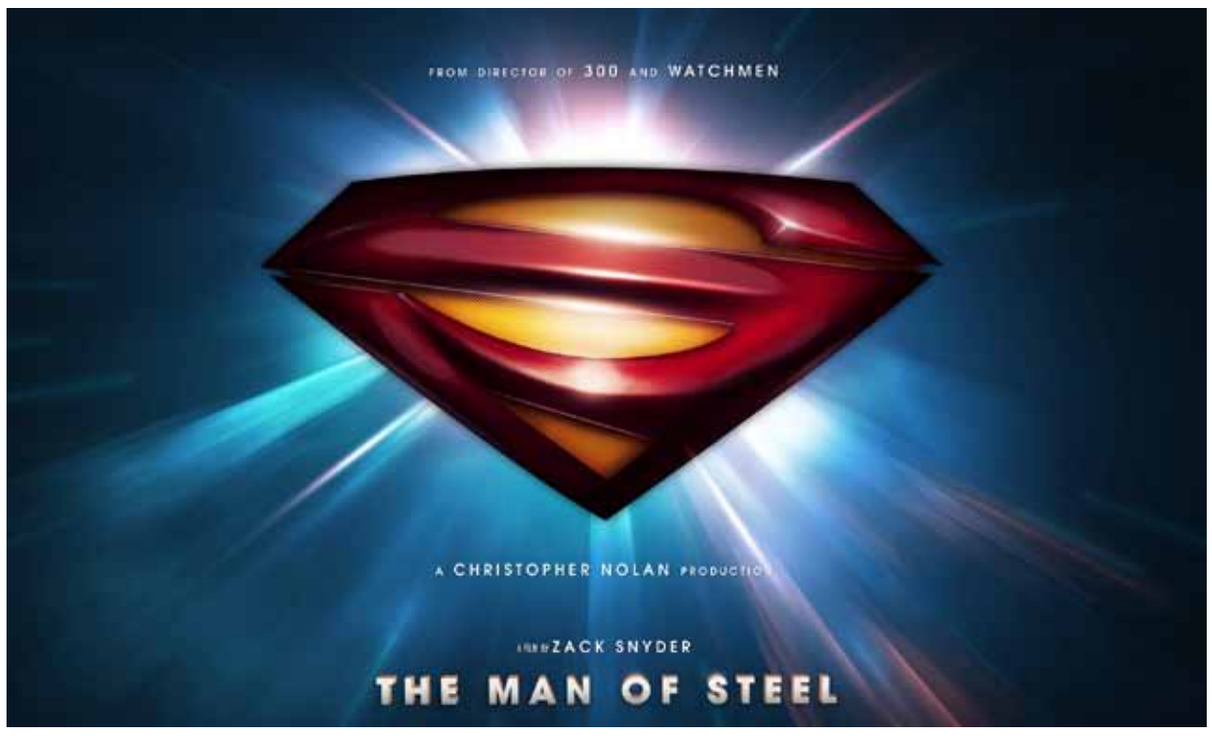
Amy Adams is deeply appealing as Lois Lane, a thoroughly modern reporter who begins to piece together stories of heroic rescues and nearly-Divine interventions that trace back to Clark and his hometown on the Kansas prairie.

Her boss, Perry White – as well portrayed by Laurence Fishburne -- is like many editors these days. He wants both professional credibility and enough sensationalism to pull "eyeballs" to the printed or posted words and images that inform, or misinform, modern consumers of news. The newsroom presented in this film is a believable place, with a young "Jenny Olson" among the Lois-wannabes.

The relationship between Clark and Lois begins warily, warming into a trusting friendship before shared danger leads them into romantic territory. When Zod, Faora and the rest of the phantom prisoners show up on earth, stuff hits the fan as computer-general images dominate the big screen.

A climatic battle sequence is visually stunning, approaching "Independence Day" levels of havoc from which, one assumes, it will take Metropolis some years to recover.

When Clark takes a job at The Daily Planet and is introduced to the staff by Fishburne's White, Adams as Lane is shyly feminine as she looks to the future.



Starring in "Man of Steel," are, from left: Amy Adams as Lois Lane, Henry Cavill as Superman and Antje Traue as Faora, subcommander of evil forces from Krypton.

Several excellent performers appear in supporting roles, including Richard Schiff, Christopher Meloni (of "Law & Order" fame) and Harry Lennix.

Bottom line: the reboot of the story line is successful, with hints of future adventures incorporating other familiar villains and heroes, in reimagined settings and plot lines. The film will serve as the jump start for a wave of films based on the characters in the classic DC Comics "universe."

This cinema comes in at 143 minutes. That length allows characters to develop and the alternative approach to the story to unfold.

Crowe, Costner, Fishburne and Lane lend not only dignity but also seriousness of purpose to the product, and the rest of the cast delivers respectfully. This is one of those movies in which the acting is uniformly solid, occasionally magnificent and admirably professional.

"Man of Steel" is highly entertaining and occasionally challenging. An exchange between Clark and a young Catholic priest touches on mission, purpose, faith and choice, respectfully raising the stakes in this well-crafted redo of the beloved "superman" stories.

In "Man of Steel," Henry Cavil portrays Kal-el, known in Kansas as Clark Kent, the secret identity of Superman. In this photo from the new film, presently the nation's #1 box office hit, Superman preapres to battle the evil General Zod of Krypton and his forces on the streets of Kent's hometown, Smallville.

The PG-13 rating is merited, as the story is simply too much for younger viewers. With that caveat, the film is recommended.

Streak planned for August 10 at State Fair Park

Staff Report

The 9th annual Midnight Streak, a 5-K run for the arts, will take place at 11 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10 at Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center, 3000 General Pershing Blvd. at State Fair Park.

"Midnight Streak is an important annual fundraiser for Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center which provides a family-friendly, festival environment for art enthusiasts, social joggers, and a competitive field for the more serious runners," said Joshua Maxey, Special Events Manager for Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center. "It is summertime in Oklahoma, so participants should come prepared for the summer heat, but with the late night start time it should be a little cooler."

Festivities begin at 9 p.m. and continue through midnight. The race will begin promptly at 11 p.m.

Food and beverage vendors will be available for all attendees. The exhibition Walking, Eating, Sleeping, will remain open past normal gallery hours for Midnight Streak attendees throughout the event. The artwork of Laurie Frick explores the intersection of technology and creativity as the artist herself adopts a daily regimen of self-tracking that measures her activities and body.

Registration is $35 until the day of the race, at which time registration will be $40. Registration includes a Dri-Fit T-shirt. Proceeds support Oklahoma Contemporary's mission to encourage artistic expression in all its forms through education and exhibitions. Register on-line at www.OklahomaContemporary.org or in-person at Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center.

More than 1,000 runners participated last year. The 5-K (3.1 miles) course is certified by USA Track & Field. Race logistics are managed by OK Runner and chip timing will be provided by DG Productions. Visit www.OklahomaContemporary.org to view the course map.

Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center: Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that encourages artistic expression in all its forms through education and exhibitions.

Founded in 1989 as City Arts Center by businessman and philanthropist Christian Keesee and Kirkpatrick Foundation Director Marilyn Myers, Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center offers contemporary arts exhibitions throughout the year, free to the public, as well as youth art camps, adult art classes and workshops, lectures and independent film screenings.

Grammy award-winning rapper Murphy Lee free rap concert July 17

Staff Report

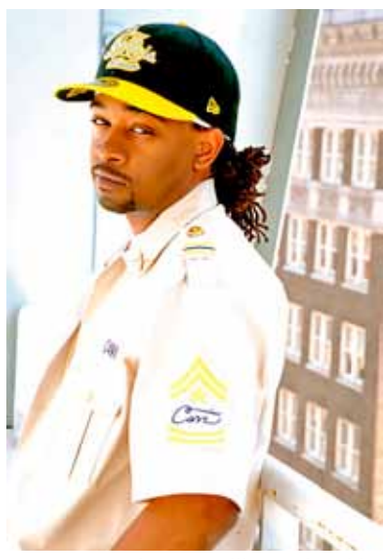
Grammy award winning rap musician Murphy Lee will give a free performance on the Vatterott College campus July 17, organizers said.

The venue address is 5537 NW Expressway. Lee headlines the outdoor concert along with other musical talents. The concert is open to anyone 18 years and older.

The 4-hour concert begins at 4 p.m. The lineup of performances opens with two local acts plus an ex'treme Institute talent contest winner.

The concert continues with appearances from DJ Sir Thurl, Christina J, Aloha, Doorway, Tef Poe, Mai Lee, JGE, Doughboy and Yak Boy Fresh, Indiana Rome and Saint Orleans, and concludes with St. Louis rapper Murphy Lee.

The music lineup for the concert features a diverse group of performing artists, representing music genres like rap, R&B and more.


Rapper Murphy Lee will stop in Oklahoma City as part of a 13-city tour. Photo provided.

Murphy Lee is a member of the hip-hop group St. Lunatics. Lee is a national recording artist and the Chief Executive of his recording label, U C Me Entertainment. He released his platinum-selling album Murphy's Law in 2003.

St. Louis breakout artist Tef Poe has opened for Lupe Fiasco and Big Boi, and performed alongside Common. XXL Magazine highlighted Tef Poe in March 2012, describing him as, "A Midwestern Nas with a pinch of Kanye, Eminem, 2pac and Ice Cube."

Christina J began writing and recording her own songs with Grammy Award-winning producer Jason "KOKO" Bridges of Basement Beats. She is currently is the process of creating her debut album.

Top 20 finalist of American Idol Season 4 Aloha Mi'sho (aka Aloha Mischeaux) adds her talent in the music lineup, with a voice that is often compared to Beyoncé's. Aloha released her debut album Badd in 2010.

JGE is a rap/hip-hop duo out of St. Louis, Mo. This internet pair includes Tab, nephew of Grammy Award-winning rapper Nelly.

Mai Lee is a pop, R&B and soul singer and songwriter. Her most recent single "Fitness" debuted last July and she released a mixtape in late 2012.

The City Sentinel "Arts Around the City"

Our event calendar of art-related events in and around the Greater Oklahoma City metro area

2013 Sunday Twilight Series Concerts, Devon Energy Myriad Gardens, concerts are free, from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. www.artscouncilokc.com/twilight-concerts

June 30th: Allied Arts Community Thank you

July 7th: Bread & Butter Band - Bluegrass

July 14th: OKC Ballet, Lifechange Ballroom, & Perpetual Motion - Dance Showcase

July 21st: Adam & Kizzie Variety

July 28th: Matt Stansberry & the Romance - 50's/60's Soul/Blues

Aug 4th: Edgar Cruz - Virtuoso Guitar

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