



LOCAL

Second time around

A man who previously served time in federal prison for bank fraud is headed there again for a second offense.

Please go to A-16



JAY CRONLEY

Holiday where kids are seeing, not herded

I spent part of the holiday in one of the most peaceful settings imaginable.

There were no drunks. There was no wireless communication, although I am a big fan of the Blackberry. I think everybody should have at least two Blackberries, three being the ideal number. A Blackberry is a handy portable e-mail machine. The prospect of being able to make small talk with only one person at a time is enough to cause a panic attack.

The perfect Starbucks or airport-gate experience would be to have a Blackberry taped to each knee and a cell phone with text-message capabilities attached to the side of your laptop screen.

Unfortunately, obsessive Blackberry use has begun to cause severe eye strain in certain cases. But don't worry too much. We can't fix human suffering in dust-poor countries. But we can probably fix people who need to e-mail somebody to see what they're doing, which nine times out of 10 is nothing.

Maybe you'll have Blackberry goggles full of big letters one day.

No names, please: Good manners were in evidence at the place where I spent some time over the weekend.

Sober surroundings? Appropriate peace and quiet? Exemplary behavior? This doesn't sound like *the lake*, does it?

Naming your lake seems to sap some of the fun from the experience. *The Lake* has it over *Skunk Lake* any day of the week. *Partying* has come to mean drinking alcohol. *The lake* stands for the place to be on a special occasion.

When last I was pulled whining and complaining to *the lake* on a holiday, I watched sports on television and never touched the water.

Peace and quiet: I was put in charge of taking two young boys to a movie for children this weekend.

An entire row of children was behind us.

A girl barely tapped the back of my chair with a toe, then she leaned down and whispered that she was sorry.

The movie was "Over the Hedge." It is about something relevant, which is more than you can say for most films for grown-ups.

"Hedge" is about animals and nature being sacrificed to make room for Cloned Estates, another bland housing addition.

Grown-up movies have indirect messages.

The message from "Poseidon" is: Don't go to cheesy remakes.

The message from "The Da Vinci Code" is: Don't fall for excessive hype.

Children behave much better than most adults at the movies and take home a better message.

Then one day the children will go wireless just like their moms and dads, and their imaginations will be infiltrated with chatter, just like *that*.

Jay Cronley 581-8362
jay.cronley@tulsaworld.com

Suburban schools astride boom

► In the face of massive growth during the past five years, districts are expanding and increasing their facilities.

By Kim Brown
World Staff Writer

The hallways at Bailey Elementary School in Owasso have become noticeably crowded, and the gymnasium can hold only one grade level at a time for assemblies.

But like many other suburban edu-

cators, Principal Mary Morris has learned to adjust to tremendous recent growth in enrollment.

Owasso Public Schools graduated a record 568 students last week, and its patrons voted in April to pass its largest bond issue ever — a three-year, \$36.25 million package.

Owasso peaked last year with a re-

cord 5 percent growth. That pace slowed this year to about 3.5 percent, but it still resulted in a total of about 8,300 students, according to an unofficial fourth-quarter count.

Of the 15 school districts in Tulsa County, 11 showed growth during the past five years, according to the latest data from the state Department of Education.

Owasso is the leader, with 20.24 percent growth from 2000 to 2005. Nearby Collinsville recorded growth

of 18.91 percent during that period.

Bixby Public Schools showed 13 percent growth, and officials there predict that the rate will keep climbing.

Enrollment is calculated from the most recent "average daily membership" numbers, which are used to determine state funding based on the average number of students in classes.

SEE BOOM A-17

Students raise mock-trial bar



STEPHEN PINGRY / Tulsa World

Lakeside Home resident Kelly (seated, foreground) answers questions from former resident April Phillips as Tulsa County Special District Judge Daman Cantrell and attorney Deirdre Dexter (right) drill them in courtroom procedures. The alternative school's mock trial team has seen increasing success since it began in 2004 and has built its participants' self-confidence.

Troubled youths realize success in the courtroom

By Bill Braun
World Staff Writer

Perhaps it should come as no surprise when Tulsa's Lakeside Home team does well in Oklahoma's high school mock-trial competition.

"Our joke is that our kids are comfortable in the courtroom," said Tulsa County Special District Judge Daman Cantrell, a co-head coach of the team.

"I am prouder of my involvement with the Lakeside group than anything I've been

involved with in my legal career," said Cantrell, whose resume includes work as a public defender, prosecutor and staff attorney for a federal judge.

Lakeside, a group home for children who have been determined to be delinquent or in need of supervision, was the first alternative school of its kind to compete in statewide mock-trial competition.

Lakeside, at 3333 E. Mohawk Blvd., provides counseling and therapy for more than 20 children

who are under the probation supervision of the Tulsa County Juvenile Court. Lakeside residents attend school taught by certified teachers associated with Tulsa Public Schools.

"The kids all have been involved in the juvenile system," Cantrell said. "They've made mistakes."

Because of confidentiality requests and their status as juveniles, some Lakeside team members are identified in this story only by their first names.

Mock-trial proceedings provide

students with a chance to model the courtroom roles of lawyers and witnesses.

Judges of the competition evaluate participants in multiple phases of a trial in such areas as presentation of arguments and familiarity with an established case.

The Lakeside team was founded a few years ago by Cantrell and Tulsa County Assistant Public Defender Marsha Rogers.

SEE TRIAL A-17

Tulsa, Creek Nation police to join efforts

By Nicole Marshall
World Staff Writer

A cross-commissioning agreement between Tulsa police and Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal officers is expected to be in full force by Aug. 1, authorities said this week.

Under the agreement, Tulsa Police Maj. Rob Turner said, Tulsa officers who are cross-commissioned will have "full law enforcement authority on Indian land owned by Creek Nation, and essentially what that means for us is the Creek Nation Casino."

The casino is at 81st Street and Riverside Drive.

Turner said the agreement also enables officers from the Creek Nation

Lighthorse Tribal Police Department to arrest non-Indian people on Creek land and to make arrests in the city of Tulsa.

Before the agreement, all tribal officers could do was cite a non-Indian suspect who was caught on their land and then turn him or her loose.

Tulsa Police Capt. Travis Yates said the department's policy writers and legal advisers met Thursday afternoon with legal advisers and leaders of the Creek Nation, including Tribal Police Chief Jack Shackelford.

The two agencies are now working to develop training and policies to govern the cross-commissioning agreement.

SEE POLICE A-17



ROBERT S. CROSS / Tulsa World

Runners pass a refreshment stop Monday morning on South Cincinnati Avenue during the Maple Ridge Memorial Day Run. Pamela Campbell (center) ran the drink operation with her husband, Ken Campbell, and their daughters, including Lauren Campbell (right), 3, and friend Lauren Gill (left), 8.

Somber holiday is also a time to make memories

By Sara Ganus
World Staff Writer

After many families commemorated Memorial Day weekend by decorating grave sites, remembering loved ones who have died and honoring the men and women who have served and died in the military, the holiday became something else: a time to welcome summer.

Whether that tradition involved heading to the nearest lake, taking the first summer swim or participating in a 5k run depended on the person.

Marcella Morton of Westville woke up early Monday to participate in the Maple Ridge Memo-

SEE HOLIDAY A-17

HOLIDAY:

Families and friends find a variety of ways to celebrate the holiday, with most involving recreation or relaxation.

FROM A-15

rial Day Run, an activity that has become her Memorial Day tradition.

"I don't plan anything else other than being here so I can be with my runner friends," she said. "It kind of kick-starts your summer running."

The 5k race began at 8:30 a.m. near Woodward Park. A 1-mile fun run and walk began at 8 a.m., and tricycle and bicycle races started at 9:30 a.m.

Sally Mulready of Tulsa and her husband attended the event so their three sons, ages 2, 4 and 6, could participate in the tricycle race.

For Mulready, this weekend was about capturing moments with their children.

"With little ones, we try to capture the summer in ways that say something, whether that's hanging out with family, a cookout or going to the

lake," she said. While cheering for her husband on the sidelines, Linda Wilson of Tulsa said she enjoys Memorial Day because, unlike Christmas, it's a holiday without pressure, which allows her to relax with family and friends.

"We're going to a movie, and I bet we haven't been to a movie in two years," she said.

Across the street, families enjoyed picnic lunches at Woodward Park, opting for relaxation over recreation.

"It's just nice to have this cool breeze and to listen to the leaves blow in the wind," Kathryn Kirt of Tulsa said as she ate lunch in the park with her husband, Chris Kirt.

He added, "Usually, Memorial Day is just a relaxing day like today has been."

Katherine Devonshire, 16, and Maggie Hepner, 15, both of Tulsa, also enjoyed lunch at the park, but fresh out of school, they were wishing they were somewhere else.

"I wish I was going to the lake," Devonshire said. "It's basically Tulsa's beach."

Hepner chimed in, "If we had the resources to go, we'd be there."

At Keystone State Park west of Sand Springs, plenty of families were barbecuing, fishing and swimming near the lake-shore.

"We're just trying to find a

fish that wants to sacrifice itself," said Bob Gaddis, a Tulsa man who had taken his grandson fishing.

Gaddis said he and his wife stay close to home but still like to get out of the house.

Kathleen Postoak, also of Tulsa, said being with her family — especially her grandchildren, who range in age from 4 to 13 — is most important to her on the holiday.

"It definitely means planning something for the kids to do," she said.

Lounging near the lake, Darin Camren, 23, of Cushing said that for him, one special thing about Memorial Day weekend comes to mind: "No work."

Back at Woodward Park, Richard Widdows, a father of two, said relaxing is what Memorial Day means to him.

His wife, Andrea Widdows, said that to her, it means "spending time with the family; slowing down and just enjoying each other."

But for their 11-year-old son Sean, one thing is even more important.

"Big Splash is open!" he said.

The water park at Expo Square opened for the season over the weekend.

Sara Ganus 581-8300
sara.ganus@tulsaworld.com

Colleges take on the 'Code'

► A controversial film and novel will be fodder for some Oklahoma professors this fall.

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma Panhandle State University plans to offer an elective class this fall focusing on the biblical and historic relevance of "The Da Vinci Code."

A Tulsa-area minister developed the course materials related to the new film, which is based on a best-selling novel by Dan Brown.

"There is so much that a student can learn about the evidence of Christ and Christianity inside 'The Da Vinci Code,'" said Sam Collins, a Church of Christ minister who teaches adjunct liberal arts courses at Oklahoma Panhandle State Uni-

versity in Goodwell.

The Christian Evidences class will provide an in-depth examination of the movie and its social, religious and historic relevance. However, Collins plans to debunk Brown's claims, including those that Jesus was not divine and married Mary Magdalene.

"It's pure fiction," he said. "I can show evidence and through the Bible that it is not correct."

Timothy Paul Jones, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rolling Hills, said he already has sold 70,000 copies of his "Answers to The Da Vinci Code" coursework series, published by Rose Publishing. Most are being used by churches, but the series is also appropriate for college classrooms.

"Whether students come out thinking that 'The Da Vinci Code' is true or false, they've been forced to think critically

and historically about the issues," Jones said.

John Harrison, a professor in Oklahoma Christian University's College of Biblical Studies, said he plans to add clips of "The Da Vinci Code" to the curriculum in his "Jesus: From Scriptures to Screen" class, which compares biblical portraits of Jesus with those created by Hollywood.

"The Last Temptation of Christ" and "The Passion of the Christ" are already part of the class.

Harrison said he tries "to use (movie) clips to show the basic questions, 'Does the film industry reflect our culture, or does it help to shape our culture? Will this shape people's ideas about religion or does it reflect people's ideas about religion?'"

He said his course also will rebut the claims made in "The Da Vinci Code."



A. CUERVO / Tulsa World

Students at Bailey Elementary School in Owasso crowd the playground during recess. The school district saw its student population grow about 3.5 percent this year.

BOOM:

Districts face difficulties in calculating the number of additional teachers they can hire.

FROM A-15

Audits are taken after all schools in the area finish the school year and are calculated during the summer, said Renee McWaters, assistant director of state aid for the state Education Department.

Owasso Superintendent Clark Ogilvie said people believe that Owasso is attracting residents because of lower housing costs.

"Houses in Owasso cost just as much as they do in Broken Arrow and Jenks. That's not the main reason people are moving here," he said.

"People do like what we're doing in the school system, but Owasso is still a very conservative town with strong values. People like that and want their kids to grow up in that environment."

But keeping up with the growth is a challenge, and Ogilvie said he is thankful that voters approved the bond issue in April.

It will provide money for a major expansion of elementary classroom space, as well as middle school additions and construction that eventually will double Owasso High School's size.

The school board likely will vote to redistrict some elementary school students to accommodate the new Barnes Elementary School, which is scheduled to open this fall.

"What we're going through is a balancing act and does not affect every school," Ogilvie said. "We're working on major construction. We'll build 36 classrooms at the elementary level."

He said patrons should expect a districtwide elementary redistricting in 2009.

About eight miles to the north, Collinsville's growth has redefined its school district, Superintendent Pat Herald said.

"What has happened here is we've got multitudes — hundreds of homes being built," he said. "It almost overwhelms us, because we know with each home being built means 1.5 to 2 kids per home. We're bracing ourselves."

Herald said the district has about 2,100 students, more than the 1,400 it had 10 years ago.

Like Owasso, Collinsville and Bixby have had success with passing bond issues in past years to build schools and classrooms.

Herald said Collinsville soon will open an early childhood building, complete with 18 classrooms for 4-year-olds and kindergartners. People are flocking to Collinsville because of its affordable housing and land, he said.

"People are looking now for acreage and for lots, and they're able to get them here much, much cheaper tax-wise than they can get in south Tulsa," he said.

Bill Coyle, Bixby's associate superintendent, said bond issues are enabling the district to build a fifth- and sixth-grade center to be opened in fall 2007. In addition, he said, the district plans to fund free full-day kindergarten for about \$350,000.

Bixby, which has about 4,100 students, recently hired a company to study the district's de-

mographics. The results implied continued growth.

Coyle said a new elementary school is not immediately planned but is on the horizon.

"We found that even though the north side of the (Arkansas River) is growing right now, the potential for growth where there are platted subdivisions is actually south of the river," he said.

"Ultimately on our long-range plan — about a nine-year plan — we have plans and have purchased land at 157th (Street) and Harvard (Avenue) for an additional elementary school with land even for a fifth- and sixth-grade center."

Growing districts also share concerns about hiring new teachers. Because school districts cannot pay for teachers' salaries with bond issue revenue, they have to tap their general funds.

Ogilvie said Owasso added about 15 teachers this year and 34 the year before. Bixby has hired 17 more teachers in the past two years, and Collinsville hired about eight more teachers last year, up from the five extra teachers per year it hired 10 years ago.

"It all depends on the level of funding from the state," Ogilvie said. "Sometimes we're kind of held hostage to the Legislature."

Morris said she and her staff at Bailey Elementary School have had to revise lunch schedules to accommodate students but that the staff has adjusted well overall.

"We had an awards assembly for every grade level," she said. "We didn't have enough room for kids in the gym. But it's kind of good in a way, because it allows us to give them more attention."

Kim Brown 581-8474
kim.brown@tulsaworld.com

POLICE:

Other tribes and law enforcement entities in the state have reached similar agreements.

FROM A-15

No decision has been made concerning how many Tulsa officers will be cross-commissioned. The Creek Nation has 28 members on its police force.

Some misinformation has been spread among some Tulsa officers about the agreement, authorities said.

Turner said Creek Nation police "do not expect us to respond to routine calls such as burglary from vehicles, theft and vandalism. They do not expect us to transport people whom they have arrested. They can do that themselves."

Tulsa Police Maj. Dennis Larsen, who commands Uniform Division Southwest, which has jurisdiction in the area of Tulsa

that includes the Creek Nation Casino, will attend squad meetings to provide police officers with facts about the agreement to dispel the rumors, Turner said.

"The agreement is advantageous to both parties. Chief Shackelford assured us the intention is not for us to take over their law enforcement duties," he said.

The types of situations to which Tulsa police officers will be able to respond include shootings and bomb threats.

Before the agreement, if a bomb threat was made at the casino, an FBI agent who works with the Tulsa Police Department's Bomb Squad would have to be available to go on Creek Nation land. With the agreement, the Bomb Squad can respond without the federal agent's presence.

With the agreement, Tulsa police officers can respond immediately if someone is shooting a gun on Creek Nation land.

"We can also conduct undercover investigations and intelligence operations on Creek Indian land if we need to," Turner

said.

The City Council approved the agreement between the Tulsa Police Department and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in January.

During Thursday's meeting, Creek Nation authorities listed several other agencies that had entered cross-deputization agreements with tribes before the Tulsa Police Department, Yates said.

"This has been done in numerous communities in Oklahoma," he said. "We are not breaking new ground here."

The Rogers County Sheriff's Office and the Cherokee Nation formed a similar partnership last year.

Before that, the Cherokee Nation made similar agreements in other counties, including Muskogee, Cherokee, Adair, Mayes and Sequoyah.

In 2004, Ottawa County commissioners signed a cross-deputization agreement with the town of Wyandotte and the Wyandotte tribe to allow local law enforcement officers on tribal land.

Nicole Marshall 581-8459
nicole.marshall@tulsaworld.com

TRIAL:

The Lakeside teens have outscored some of the state's larger schools.

FROM A-15

"I like to say we're the ultimate underdog," Cantrell said.

In Lakeside's first year of competition in 2004, "I was worried some of the kids might run away," he said. "We didn't win any rounds."

The next year, in 2005, Lakeside ranked 18th out of 55 teams.

This year, Lakeside placed 16th out of 50 schools and advanced to the quarterfinals of the state competition, Cantrell said.

The Lakeside teenagers outscored some of the state's larger high schools in the past two years, he noted.

For students, the benefits extend beyond the parameters of a courtroom experience.

Before getting involved in the mock-trial program, "I didn't have any self-confidence. I didn't realize what I could do," April Phillips said.

The program "changed the way I presented myself," she said. "It gave me confidence to stand up and talk to people."

Cantrell described Phillips as particularly adept at cross-examination and said she has received many "best lawyer" accolades in competitive rounds.

Phillips, who no longer is at Lakeside, aspires to go to law school.

"I can get there if I put my mind to it," she said.

Another Lakeside team member, Chastine, has been recognized in competition for her

'The Lakeside mock-trial team is one small way we are seeing a positive benefit in kids that could have gone the other way.'

Attorney Deirdre Dexter

Lakeside's co-head coach

standout performance as a witness.

When first approached about mock trial, "I didn't really want to do it," she said. "I tried it for a week, and I really started getting into it."

Another team member, Kelly, said he has learned a lot but at first was reluctant to take part in the program.

His advice is that "if someone tells you to do something that's going to benefit you in the future, just do it."

Attorney Deirdre Dexter, Lakeside's co-head coach with Cantrell, previously coached a state championship mock-trial team at Jenks High School.

In working with Lakeside students, "convincing them that they can really do it is a lot harder," Dexter said.

"I think the most dramatic change I saw was in their level of confidence in themselves," she said.

The training "helps them learn how to think on their feet" and develop language and life skills that will prove helpful in job interviews and other situations, Dexter said.

Cantrell said Lakeside benefits from a strong lineup of local attorneys who help the team and "have a lot of interest in helping these kids."

"Maybe you're awakening something that will turn their life around," he said.

Lakeside students don't have the curriculum advantages of some of the larger schools that they compete against.

Lakeside also doesn't have the number of extracurricular activities of typical high schools, and the mock-trial program provides a break from the residential routine, Cantrell said.

Lakeside treatment coordinator Tava Slocum said, "Our kids don't buckle under pressure. Our team just feels they are as good as anyone."

Fourteen students were members of this year's mock-trial team, including as a bailiff, timekeeper and alternate. Three of those team members were no longer Lakeside residents at the time of competition but could still participate under the rules.

"We hear so much the trouble these kids are getting into," Dexter said. "The Lakeside mock-trial team is one small way we are seeing a positive benefit in kids that could have gone the other way."

The state competition is sponsored by the Oklahoma Bar Association — in particular the Young Lawyers Division — and the Oklahoma Bar Foundation.

Bill Braun 581-8455
bill.braun@tulsaworld.com

Give Your AC the OK for Summer

up to \$1000 OFF

A Dave Lennox Signature System

FREE ESTIMATE! (SEE YOUR LOCAL OFFICE FOR DETAILS)

Air Comfort Solutions

743-2300 488-0300 621-4646

RICHARD NEEL

home

FURNITURE • RUGS • LAMPS

3742 South Peoria 918-742-4777

interiors

LIGHTING • DESIGN

