Reunited
with
artwork 42
years later



Remains of
Lost
Destroyer
Found



PAGE 5

# SENIOR NEWS & LIVING

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Information for Oklahoma Seniors

Locally Owned and Published Each Month By Metro Publishing L.L.C.

May 2021

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Kara Sanders beams as she stands at the ramp that allows her daughter Michele entry to their home just weatherized for free by the Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma/Canadian Counties.

Story by Darl Devault, Feature Writer

hen Kara Sanders, 72, heard about a local program from her daughter Michele offering to weatherize their home for free in South Oklahoma City she wondered how much they would do to her home since 1968.

When the Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma/Canadian Counties' Weatherization Program was through she was impressed. She now offers the best testimonial by saying she is strongly recommending to her sister, Janelle Jones, 82, to apply for the free service for her home only a few blocks away.

Sanders is delighted with the completeness of the weatherization every time she turns on her hot water. "Before the workers put an insulating blanket around my hot water tank, I needed to run the hot water a while before it became hot," Sanders said. "Now my daughter and I are making the adjustment in the last few days to that wonderful feeling of instant hot water."

After the recent frigid cold snap in Oklahoma City where residents saw 17 and 14 degree below zero mornings, seniors have many reasons to consider applying for free help to weatherize their homes.

"Every program our organization offers strives to create permanent solutions for those in our community," said Jessie Thompson, executive director of Community Action Agency. "Weatherization is no different. These changes create lasting effects for our clients, including lower utility bills, eliminating

See SANDERS Page 2

# Del City's Armed Forces Day and Shriners Parade Returns May 15



The City of Del City and the Del City Chamber of Commerce are proud to announce the annual Armed Forces Day and Shriners Parade is returning on May 15. This long-standing tradition of nearly three decades is one of the largest of its kind in Oklahoma.

Dozens of parade entries have already signed up for what organizers are preparing as a record-breaking turnout. The parade will feature military vehicles, India Shriners, veteran groups, community organizations and more

The parade will start at 10 a.m. at SE 15th and Sunnylane. It will travel south on Sunnylane to SE 29th, where it will turn east and proceed to Vickie Drive.

Oklahomans of all ages are invited to line the streets in honor and celebration of the men and women serving in our armed forces.

Anyone who would like to take part in the parade is encouraged to fill out the application online at cityofdelcity.com/armed-forces-day-parade.

If you would like to participate in this year's parade or additional information, please contact Monica Cardin via 405-671-2815 or email mcardin@cityofdelcity.org.

#### SANDERS **Continued from Page 1**

health, safety and sanitary hazards to offer peace of mind to homeowners and renters alike."

Thompson was named executive director of the nonprofit, Community Action Agency (CAA) of Oklahoma and Oklahoma/Canadian Counties, Inc., in January 2020, after a 14-year tenure with the organization.

Mark Hall headed up the fiveworker crew spending three days making sure the Sanders' home complies with national standards as the agency's weatherization coordinator. The work is evident, even on the outside, where the workers replaced a big part of the rotting south exterior wall cladding to help close air leaks.

Hall emphasized they use computerized blower doors to detect all air leakage in the home. Then they decided which were the most cost-effective repairs.

For the Sanders home they added extra insulation in the attic. The licensed workers drilled and filled the walls with insulation. To seal a major air leak they also rebuilt the water heater closet to national standards and provided more insulation.

The workers installed new features in the home. They put in a bathroom ceiling vent and a kitchen ducted range hood that vents outside the home. Workers added tubing and a vent to allow the dryer to vent to the outside. To address health and safety concerns they also installed carbon monoxide sensors and smoke detectors.

The agency uses the national standard National Energy Audit Tool (NEAT) energy audit to guide how much work to perform on each home. This audit and compliance with standards are supported by two agency assessors visiting the home before the work and two inspectors visiting the home upon the work's completion. They coordinate to make sure the home is repaired to comply with national standards.

"I feel blessed, now my daughter and I don't have to worry about our home not being healthy and safe because we know it is sealed from any gas leaks." Sanders said. "The workmen were professional in showing respect for my daughters' privacy while they worked, since she is on oxygen with COPD while almost homebound here."

Now, multi-family homes, quads and duplexes are eligible to receive services, something CAA was not able to do in the past. CAA offers this program for homes and residents with disabilities and households with children under the



Kara Sanders signs off on the acceptance paperwork provided by inspector Steve Howard (right).

age of 12. There is an income save money by increasing energy requirement to apply. This program has proven to be extremely beneficial for senior residents in need in Oklahoma, Canadian, or Cleveland

In the big picture weatherization can lead to fewer hospitalizations and trips to the emergency room, especially for those with asthma. By sealing, caulking, and adding door and window installation insulation, Hall says the home is often twice as energy efficient. These efforts offer residents permanent solutions to help

efficiency. On average, residents save \$40 per month on utility bills after CAA's Weatherization program.

For information about the program see Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City & OK/CN Counties, Inc. (caaofokc.org)

If you are interested in receiving Weatherization Assistance, please complete this brief application. For more information or if you have questions, please call (405) 232.0199 to ask for Home Weatherization, or email wxsec@caaofokc.org.

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#### **OPINION**



#### Dear Savvy Senior,

A Social Security Perk for Older Parents

Senior News and Living Oklahoma - www.seniornewsandliving.com

I've been told that my two children, ages 14 and 16, may be eligible for Social Security when I file for my retirement benefits. Is this true? What can you tell me? *Viagra Daddy* 

Dear Viagra,

It's true. If you're age 62 or older and are still raising young children, there's a Social Security benefit strategy that can put some extra money in your family coffers.

Here's how it works. When you file for Social Security retirement benefits, your minor children can get money on your work record equaling half of what you would receive at full retirement age, now gradually rising from 66 to 67. Even if you were to take a smaller benefit by claiming earlier, your kids will still get half of your full-retirement age amount.

To qualify, your daughter - whether she's biological, adopted or a stepdaughter - must be unmarried and under age 18. Kids that are over 18 but still in high school, can collect too until they graduate or turn 19, whichever comes first. (Other rules apply to kids that are disabled.)

But that's not all.

Because one of your children is only 14, your wife (if you're married) can collect Social Security benefits on your work record too, and it doesn't matter if she's just 40 years old. The minimum age requirements to collect retirement benefits (62) or survivor benefits (60) does not apply when it comes to collecting benefits as the caregiver of a young child. The spouse's benefit, which is also worth up to half of your benefit, will stop when your daughter turns 16.

But note that there are limits to the amount of money that can be paid to a family. The Social Security "family maximum payment" is determined by a complex formula and can range from 150 to 180 percent of your full retirement benefit amount. If the total exceeds that, each person's benefit, except yours, is cut proportionately until it equals the maximum.

Here's an example of how

that's figured. Let's say, for example, that your full retirement age benefit is \$2,400 per month. That would make your family maximum benefit (according to the Social Security formula at SSA.gov/oact/cola/familymax.html) roughly \$4,200 per month.

Subtract your \$2,400 benefit from the \$4,200 family maximum benefit, which leaves \$1,800. That's the monthly amount that can be split between your two children - \$900 each. If your wife wants in on it too, the individual checks are smaller, at \$600 a piece, but the family amount is the same.

You should also know that minor children can collect up to half of a disabled parent's Social Security disability benefit. And if the parent dies, they will get a survivor's benefit, which is up to 75 percent of the deceased parent's basic Social Security benefit.

To learn more, see the SSA publication (No. 05-10085)

"Benefits for Children" at SSA.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf.
One Caveat

Social Security benefits for your kids may not be available before full retirement age if you are still working. In 2021, you will lose \$1 in benefits for every \$2 earned over \$18,960, except in the year you reach full retirement age. In that case, the earnings limit is \$50,520, with \$1 in benefits withheld for every \$3 earned over the limit.

If you lose your benefits, your dependents also lose theirs. You can recoup those payments later, but your kids can't.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

## **SITUATION UPDATE: COVID-19**

#### **COVID-19 Oklahoma Test Results**

Cases	447,393
*Total Cumulative Negative Specimens to Date	3,571,887
*Total Cumulative Number of Specimens to Date	3,989,170
Acute Care OSDH Licensed Facility Hospitalizations	181
Other Types of Facilities Hospitalizations	8
Provisional Death Count (CDC/NCHS)	8,230

- As of this advisory, there are 447,393 (115 new today) cases of COVID-19 in Oklahoma.
- 238 is today's 7-day rolling average for the number of new cases reported.
- Today's Provisional Death Count (CDC/NCHS): 8,230
- Additional hospitalization data can be found in the Hospital Tiers report, published evenings Monday through Friday.
- Register online to receive a notification when you're eligible to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine appointment at vaccinate.oklahoma.gov, or locate other vaccine opportunities at vaccinefinder.org.
- For more information, visit https://oklahoma.gov/covid19.html.

\*The total includes laboratory information provided to OSDH at the time of the report. As a result, counts are subject to change. Total counts may not reflect unique individuals.

\*\*\*The purpose of publishing aggregated statistical COVID-19 data through the OSDH Dashboard, the Executive Order Report, and the Weekly Epidemiology and Surveillance Report is to support the needs of the general public in receiving important and necessary information regarding the state of the health and safety of the citizens of Oklahoma. These resources may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be used in any way that would determine the identity of any reported cases.

Data Source: Acute Disease Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health. \*As of 2021-04-27 at 7:00 a.m.

Remains of Oklahoman' Storied WWII Destroyer Found in Pacific died from wounds floating in the ocean.

Story and photos by Darl DeVault

May 31st is Memorial Day and certain annihilation. Oklahoma's Commander Ernest E. Evans is in the news again 76 years after his heroism and death at the hands of one of the largest Japanese naval armadas put afloat during World War II. His valiant actions in the Battle off Samar against a vastly superior force earned the Shawnee-born native American the only Medal of Honor awarded for this rare surface-ship battle

Evans' ship, the U.S. Navy destroyer USS Johnston, was sunk in late October 1944 after he repeatedly hurled it against devastating firepower in the Philippine Sea. It was first found in 2019 after the deepest dive to a shipwreck in history. Only in the last month was it positively identified in a second dive by a different group of researchers.

Showing personal initiative, the brave commander was the first of a submarine screen of three destroyers defending six thin-hulled, lightly armed escort carriers loaded with planes. The Taffy 3 task force was attacked by an overwhelming 23-ship Japanese force coming to destroy the Leyte landing.

Upon first spotting the huge Japanese fleet and without orders, the Johnston threw out a smoke screen while sailing at flank speed against an enemy whose largest gun turret outweighed the U.S. destroyer. In a valiant action, Evans and his sailors were able to torpedo a Japanese cruiser while inspiring the other two destroyers to follow him against the enemy.

Evans received shrapnel wounds and lost two fingers when the bridge of his Fletcher-class destroyer was blown apart. The severely wounded U.S. Naval Academy graduate, who grew up in Oklahoma and graduated from Muskogee High School, continued to captain his damaged vessel in battle while shouting orders from the stern. The overwhelming Japanese force soon reduced the ship to dead in the water, and Evans and his sailors abandoned the sinking warship. The Johnston skipper was never found.

The Johnston crew's bravery in this action, part of the wider-ranging Battle of Leyte Gulf, is credited with convincing the Japanese fleet that it was attacking a much larger force of aircraft carriers. The Japanese commander ordered an unnecessary withdrawal, saving the vital jeep carriers of the Taffy 3 force from

The Japanese's four battleships, including the super-battleship Yamato, eight cruisers and a dozen or more destroyers were in route to attack the 200,000 American soldiers of MacArthur's 6th Army landing on the beaches of Leyte Island. The massive American armada assigned to defend this landing, the U.S. Third Fleet commanded by Admiral William "Bull" Halsey, had been lured away by empty Japanese carriers used as decoys.

In 2019, a few days past the 75th anniversary of the Battle off Samar, researchers from Vulcan Inc.'s research vessel R/V Petrel believed they had found wreckage from the engagement's famed Fletcher-class destroyer, USS Johnston (DD-557).

Images of twisted metal, a destroyed deck gun, a propeller shaft, and other less recognizable debris were posted to Petrel's Facebook page, with a video narrated by Rob Kraft, Vulcan's director of subsea operations, and Paul Mayer a submersible pilot with the team started by the late billionaire philanthropist Paul

In late March of this year, a crewed submersible filmed, photographed and surveyed the wreckage of the Johnston off Samar Island on two eight-hour dives. A Texas-based undersea technology company Caladan Oceanic made the identifying dive. Company founder Victor Vescovo, who piloted the submersible, released dramatic video of the shipwreck.

"Just completed the deepest wreck dive in history, to find the main wreckage of the destroyer USS Johnston," tweeted Vescovo, a former Naval officer.

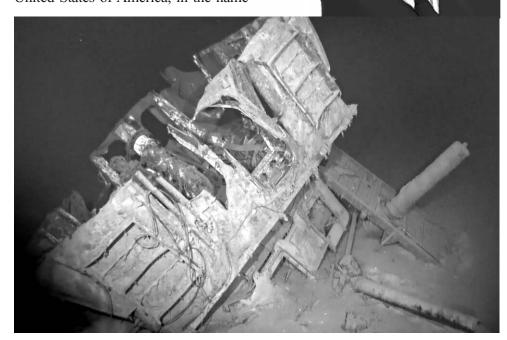
'We located the front two-thirds of the ship, upright and intact, at a depth of 6,456 meters (21,180 feet)," Vescovo reported. "Three of us across two dives surveyed the vessel and gave respects to her brave crew."

The expedition found the bow, bridge and mid-section of the Johnston intact, along with two full gun turrets, twin torpedo racks, and multiple gun mounts. The ship's hull number "557" is still visible, according to a statement by Caladan Oceanic.

The shipwreck is a well-preserved tomb. From Johnston's complement of 327 officers and men, only 141 were saved. Of the 186 men lost, about 50 were killed by enemy action and 45 later

Ninety-two men—like Cmdr. Evans got off before the boat sank in sharkinfested waters and were never seen again.

Evans' Medal of Honor citation reads in part: The President of the United States of America, in the name



Imagery of the USS Johnston previously taken by the RV Petrel.

of Congress, takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (Posthumously) to Commander Ernest Edwin "Chief" Evans (NSN: 0-70042), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. JOHNSTON (DD-557) in action against major units of the enemy Japanese fleet during the battle off Samar on 25 October 1944. The first to lay a smokescreen and to open fire as an enemy task force, vastly superior in number, firepower and armor, rapidly approached. Commander Evans gallantly diverted the powerful blasts of hostile guns from the lightly armed and armored carriers under his protection, launching the first torpedo attack when the JOHNSTON came under straddling Japanese shellfire. Seriously wounded early in the engagement, Commander Evans, by his indomitable courage and brilliant professional skill, aided materially in turning back the enemy during a critical phase of the action. His valiant fighting spirit throughout this historic battle will venture as an inspiration to all who served with him.

There were many other brave sailors and airmen from the escort carriers during those three hours of standing toe to toe with the biggest warships ever built. Besides the Johnston, the destroyer USS Hoel was also lost in the engagement. The captain of the USS Heermann, the only U.S. destroyer that remained afloat, became the first destroyer captain to survive engaging multiple battleships in a daylight battle. Only losing four sailors, Commander Amos Hathaway was awarded the Navy Cross for his skillful seamanship.

These actions by the destroyers and those of many other sailors and pilots of Taffy 3 saved the Navy from a near disaster. In addition to all earning Presidential Unit Citations, the sailors and pilots earned 22 Navy Crosses, two Silver Stars and two Bronze Stars for valor in the battle.

Evans was inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame in 2009. The following year the Oklahoma Historical Society published a longoverdue account of his life and heroics in a 2010 issue of the society's historical journal, The Chronicles of Oklahoma.

Lt. Col. (ret.) Steve Reagan of Norman, Okla., has been raising funds for a memorial bust of Ernest Evans to commemorate this Native American naval hero from Oklahoma. The bust is planned to be located in Muskogee War Memorial Park. Anyone interested in information on these efforts or who would like to donate for this memorial should contact Steve Reagan at (405) 312-2270.

# **OPINION**

# Therapeutic Foster Care changes the world, one child at a time

During my music therapy internship at a state facility for teens and adults with mental illnesses, I learned that many of the adults we served within the facility, who were there largely because they had been charged with crimes, shared the foster care experience of my teens.

Most of my teens had been through about 14 different placements by the time they got to our facility and had developed negative coping mechanisms due to their life experiences. No one had taught them how to process their emotions or trauma, which would come out in explosive tantrums. Like my adult patients, they also

had no one in their lives who was there just for them, but only staff who went home at the end of each shift. Can you imagine what being raised in an institution instead of a family and not having even one consistent parent could do to a person's psyche? It turns out, it gives you no way to learn about love and respect for others.

I decided I wanted to make a difference and break this cycle. I saw that trying to understand the "why" behind their coping mechanisms, connecting and showing unconditional love (especially after behaviors meant to drive you away) brought about significant changes, even healing. As soon as I learned about Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC), I knew I wanted to be involved.

TFC serves children in loving home settings instead of institutions, equipping foster parents to help children

work through the trauma they've experienced. TFC homes receive based trainings to help parents more intensive services - weekly family and individual therapy for the understand why children have child, an on-call team of therapists to help in times of crisis, monthly respite to give tired foster parents time to rejuvenate, and trauma-



Amanda Martindale is a Therapeutic Foster Parent with Choices for Life Counseling and Foster Care in Oklahoma.

See FOSTER Page 11

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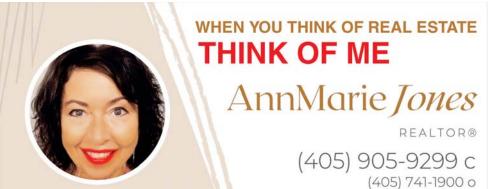
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# Giving 110 percent RN and staff enhance quality

By James Coburn, Staff Writer

The regulatory challenge of nurse practitioner. working in long-term care is what appeals most to Danielle Wolfington, RN, Golden Age Nursing Home. Promoting quality is her forte.

"I love a challenge. There's just something about having to deal with all the aspects of leadership," Wolfington said. "At the hospital you just kind of go with the motions. There's always a challenge here. There's always some way to promote quality. That's what I like."

She has worked at Golden Age for five years. As the assistant director of nursing at the Guthrie home she is in charge of infection control and quality assurance. Wolfington was previously MDS coordinator.

She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in December at Northern Oklahoma College. She is currently in the master's degree program for family

She worked a little bit at OU Medical Center, but was drawn back to long-term care.

She was only 16 when she became a CNA.

Today, you can see the smile in her eyes above her face mask as her admiration for coworkers shines through.

"I like the fact when I'm sitting in my office that I can hear my staff members talk to residents like they're very close to them," Wolfington said. "And the residents even reach for the staff member's hand and stuff like that when they are at the window visiting. They tell their families how much they love the staff. So, it tells me that behind the scenes, they are making a positive experience. You know how tough long-term care is right now. I feel that they do the best they can to try to make



There is a transcendent quality about Danielle Wolfington in that she always reaches for better solutions in patient care at Golden Age Nursing Home, located in Guthrie.

situations a little better."

Vaccinations against COVID-19 began for the residents and nursing staff on January 7.

"I think sometimes that we are too close, and it almost feels like, sometimes, that I am mad at my sister, she said with laughter," she

"But you come back the next day and it's like my family needs me."

There are always challenges and a way to promote quality of life. She strives to make her work personcentered, she said, with preferences. Wolfington is efficient when handling expenses.

Continued next page



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#### **GOLDEN Continued from Page 8**

"I don't so much like when surveyors come, but I like it when they say, 'Oh, you did good on that," she continued.

In 2019 The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL), the leading association for long term and post-acute care, recently held its 70th Annual Convention & Expo at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla.

"That's one thing I love to show — that you have pretty good processes and quality of life," she

One thing that touches her life in a painful way is the COVID-19 pandemic, she said. Coronavirus has changed Wolfington, she explained, because almost a year has past since residents have not been able to touch their families.

"It makes me very sad," she said. "It really does."

Indoor visits are prohibited, however, when the weather is nice, they are able to provide outdoor visits by using plexiglass booths to shield residents from possible contamination of coronavirus. They continue to do window visits with phones and have iPads to further facilitate the process. Nurses understand the human need of togetherness among families and loved ones.

Some nurses have worked 12-hour shifts day-after-day to care for the welfare of patients.

"They don't want their residents to be without. They don't want us to be short-staffed. They don't want the residents to get anything less than they normally get," Wolfington

Wolfington commends frontline of CNAs for diligent work when missing holidays, weekends, and family events in order to care for the residents. CNAs show up for work when scheduled and not spend holiday times with families.

"I know that sounds sad to say, but honestly I think that's pretty noble to do that."

She is frank when telling nursing students that long-term care is hard work, especially with the pandemic.

"But you help people that count on you, and they love you," she said. "And it's a really good feeling, so I do usually bring that up. I always tell them to reach for more. Go back to school — get promoted."

Little things in life build to help humanity when given with love. And love is not in short supply at Golden Age Nursing Home.



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# **COMMUNITY**

# Assisted Living Resident reunited with artwork after 42 years

Our Life enrichment coordinator, Laura Leehan is an avid collector of thrift shop art and her office has literally been transformed into a small art gallery. Two years ago she purchased an original painting of wild pink roses at the Salvation Army for \$17. Several weeks ago Laura took notice of a painting in a residents apartment that bore a striking resemblance to her pink roses.

Upon closer inspection she realized that the signature in the lower right corner of the painting, "Julie 79" was identical to the signature on her painting. She rushed to her office, grabbed the painting off the wall and could not wait to show Julie! Julie was

thrilled to see her long lost art work and told us that in 1979 she began painting flowers. It was a brief but prolific season for her as an artist and most of her work was sold or given away. I would not be surprised if there are more pieces out there that may just catch your eye at the neighborhood second hand store or garage sale! It was such a joy to see Julie reunited with her beautiful painting and when Laura offered to return it to her, she declined and insisted that Laura keep it.









# Eleven Fallen Officers FOSTER Continued from P to be added to Oklahoma Memorial



The names of eleven law enforcement officers and one canine partner who died in the line of duty in Oklahoma were recently engraved on the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Memorial in Oklahoma City. Their names will be dedicated during the 53rd Annual Oklahoma Law Enforcement Memorial Service, which is scheduled for the morning of Friday, May 7, 2021 at 10 a.m.

The Oklahoma Law Enforcement Memorial is the oldest state memorial honoring its fallen officers in the United States and was dedicated May 15, 1969. The non-profit memorial organization is totally funded by donations. Over forty percent of all the Deputy U.S. Marshals who have died in the line of duty in the United States died in what is now the state of Oklahoma and are honored on the state's law enforcement memorial.

Five of the officers, who died in past years, had not been added previously as the memorial was still researching their circumstances to confirm their death as line of duty.

The memorial is located on the west grounds of the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety Headquarters, 3600 M. L. King Avenue in Oklahoma City.

The eleven fallen officers and one canine partner being added are: Jesse Whitfield Morris, Deputy Sheriff, Washita County, died February 3, 1910;

John Sanders, Deputy Sheriff, Adair County, died September 14, 1915;

W. H. Corder, Deputy Sheriff, Ottawa County, died October 23,

Raymond Thomas "Buck" Boston, Sheriff, Montgomery County, Illinois, died July 23, 1947;

Dale Maloy Harbolt, Special Agent, ATF, U.S. Treasury Department, died June 7, 1976;

John Chukwydiut Okafor, Corporal, Detention Officer, Tulsa County, died April 15, 2020;

Craig Vincent Johnson, Sergeant, Tulsa Police Department, died June 30, 2020;

Jeffery Wade Sewell, Captain, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, died September 26, 2020;

Jerad Matthew Lindsey, Officer, Tulsa Police Department, died October 28, 2020;

Billy Dewayne Allen, Sr., US Dept of Defense - Ft Sill Police Department, died December 6, 2020;

**Lindal "Dewayne" Hall**, Chief Deputy, McIntosh County, died December 14, 2020;

Canine Oli, Muskogee Department, died July 1, 2020.

For more information on these officers or the other over eight hundred officers who have died in the line of duty in Oklahoma go to the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Memorial web site:

www.oklemem.com

# Continued from Page 6

developed these negative coping mechanisms and help reframe them in a more positive way.

As a TFC parent, I have seen my house walls torn apart because something I did unknowingly triggered memories of past abuse. As anger shifted to tears, I've had children melt into my arms and let me hug them as they deescalated from their meltdowns. I've seen them work hard to pay me back for damages after I didn't kick them out like so many had done before, and start to develop personal responsibility and a mutual respect for others.

As a TFC parent, I've seen kids and teens learn to identify the feelings underlying all of their anger. This has often been fear and sadness, which, when allowed to fester, become depression and anxiety. I've gotten to know my kids for who they really were and found them to be sweet, incredibly loving children who were just hidden underneath the walls they'd built to protect themselves. I got to truly connect to them in a way no one else had, and watch them learn to trust others.

Being raised in a home instead of a hospital or group home taught them what being a part of a family is like. They learned how to care about others and how their actions can hurt someone. They learned self-worth because someone was willing to love them instead of just focusing on their behaviors. I saw them excel in school, work and activities and start to make healthy relationships. These are things that don't readily happen in institutions.

If we want to make our society a safer place, we need to teach kids how to love. As a TFC parent, you can teach by example and be a part of truly changing the world, one child at a time.

It takes all kinds of people to serve children and help them become healthy and whole again. Why not you?

Amanda Martindale is a Therapeutic Foster Parent with Choices for Life Counseling and Foster Care in Oklahoma. To learn more about Therapeutic Foster Care or apply to become a certified TFC foster family, visit beaneighbor.ok.gov, or call 1-800-376-9729.

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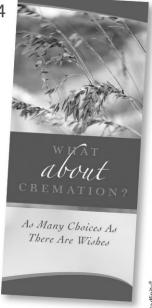
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#### TRAVEL / ENTERTAINMENT

# Santa Fe: Old and New Traditions

Photography and Text by Terry "Travels with Terry" Zinn t4z@aol.com

Anytime you hear the word Santa Fe , it has to conjure up images. And if you have visited there it must illicit emotions and memories as well. With travel plans still up in the air a safe bet is a car trip, which at times can be cheaper and more reliable. My first visit to Santa Fe was in the late 1970s, when I was breaking in a new car and exploring the great American West.

Of course, I traveled a long day's drive on I-40 West out of Oklahoma City , then took the highway 284 cut off at Clines Corners and entered Santa Fe on the Old Pecos Trail. That road soon turned into the Old Santa Fe Trail, where I drove along the narrow road with the old San Miguel Mission adobe church on my right and the famed Pink Adobe Restaurant on my left. The Old Santa Fe Trail offered a perfect first impression, as it was lined with atmospheric time worn structures, and not the modern franchise eateries and gas stations that hug the more traditional entry up north from Albuquerque, on Cerrillos Road.

I soon came into the parking lot of the relatively new, Inn at Loretto, replete in iconic Santa Fe adobe architecture. I was treated the next morning with a light dusting of snow and a hint of pinion in the air, as I pulled away from a town I'd hardly seen but ~ silently, subconsciously ~ vowed to see again. I have returned to Santa Fe many times since then and each time explored new venues with a salute to favorite places, which have become a traditional pilgrimage when visiting.

I can't recall why I chose a one night stay at this particular hotel  $\sim$  must have been its appealing architecture and perhaps at that time availability. This time I found myself walking past the Spa and the aroma of relaxation made me regret my time on this visit was too short. My stay at the Inn at Loretto in the 1970s, and in subsequent years has always been a pleasant tradition. This time was no exception.

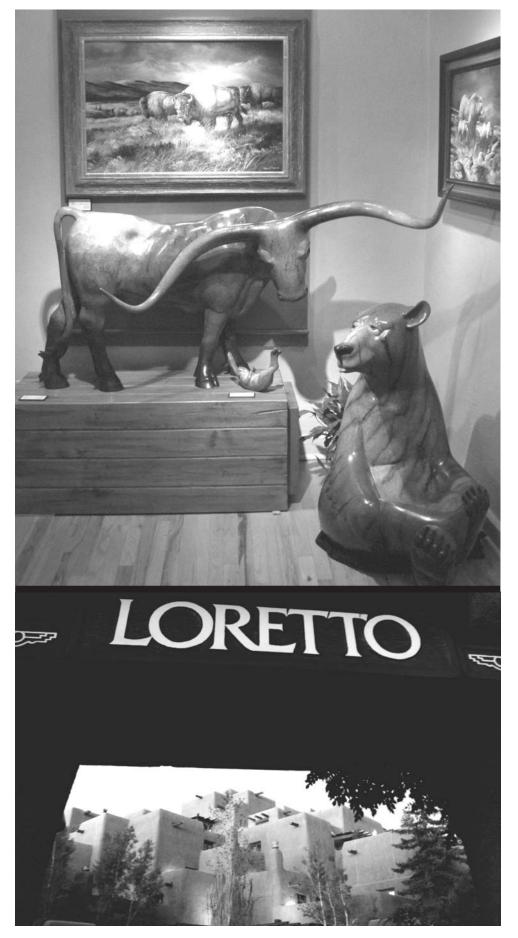
Old traditional haunts include: the La Cantina Bar at La Sena Casa where waiters turn into opera and musical theatre singers about every ten minutes; the Pink Adobe Restaurant with its fine and sometimes spicy gourmet productions; Jackalope on Cerrillos road with its affordable southwestern flared garden and household offerings ~ along with the best and freshest string of red chili ristras in season; and the old haunts along the Plaza with its Indian jewelry market and a variety of upscale fashion shops.

New traditional offerings include the Balconies at the Plaza restaurant, which until a few years ago was the traditional Ore House Restaurant with the best and meatiest tasting salsa anywhere ~ needless to say I miss it; the Carol Kucera art gallery filled with expressive movement in colorful paintings from the personable artist; and an always must see at the top of Canyon Road the special 822 Gallery of bronzes by Joshua Tobey. These two galleries a have now moved out of Santa Fe, with others occupying their places.

Upon this recent trip I discovered the Santa Fe pickup, a free bus that circles the old town area, and is certainly a boon and must for those wanting to wander down Canyon Road as it will drop you off at the top. While my most recent autumn visit was blessed with perfect weather, I have climbed the road in scorching heat and can testify that the art is much more appealing starting at the top and meandering down.

Other must visits is the New Mexico Museum of Art and the New Mexico History Museum/Palace of the Governors – both on the Plaza; and up on Museum Hill the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture and the Museum of International Folk Art . Of course a road trip out to Tesuque with its sculpture garden and the near by glass blowing gallery can be broken up with a respite at Bishops Lodge for libations and food with a dose of historical luxury. A Santa Fe visit is not complete without a stop at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum and a tasting at is elegant restaurant.

I'm not sure if it's the upscale art and fashion shopping, the authentic



New Mexican cuisine, the fresh atmosphere and the nearly unspoiled vistas, or the essence of its history that permeates the soul, which beckons a perpetual return. Probably it's all, and yet some indescribable something else that all visitors try to describe when remembering, Santa Fe.

For more information contact:

The Inn at Loretto – https://www.hotelloretto.com/ Joshua Tobey Bronzes: https://www.joshuatobeystudios.com/ and, https://www.santafe.org

#### **Mr. Terry Zinn - Travel Editor**

Past President: International Food Wine and Travel Writers Association 3110 N.W. 15 Street - Oklahoma City, OK 73107

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# OKC ZOO'S SIP AND STROLL EVENT SERIES RETURNS THIS SUMMER

Enjoy summer sunsets, cool cocktails and wondrous wildlife at the Zoo's annual 21 and up event series

Join the Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden every Thursday evening beginning May 6 through June 24, from 6 to 10 p.m., for the second-annual Sip and Stroll presented by COOP Ale Works, 1800 Tequila and Kraken Rum. Guests 21-and-older are invited to explore an outdoor path that spans the majority of the OKC Zoo to discover amazing animals from around world and delicious drinks along the way. The Zoo will host a special PRIDE Sip and Stroll event on Thursday, June 24, with exclusive drinks and

During this summer event series, guests can stop and enjoy one of six watering holes with two brand new locations. Each watering hole features custom cocktails inspired by the world's wildlife and wild places including Zimbabwe, Guatemala and Belize. Guests will also have an opportunity to learn what the Zoo is doing to protect and preserve the natural world through global conservation partnerships with the Wildlife Trafficking Alliance, Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International and Turtle Survival Alliance. Guests can also enjoy the full menu of tasty favorites available for purchase at the Lotus Pavilion and Best of

"We are really excited to host Sip and Stroll again this year after last year's success," said Jenna Dodson, OKC Zoo's events manager. "This series gives the 21-and-up crowd a unique way to connect with friends, while exploring the Zoo and learning about wildlife and conservation."

While the majority of the Zoo will be open for exploration, the giraffe loop and Oklahoma Trails will be closed for guest safety. As part of the event, guests will be able to purchase tickets to enjoy access to Flamingo Mingle, Stingray Bay and the Endangered Species Carousel.

Early bird tickets are available now for ZOOfriends members through Sunday, April 18. Tickets go on sale to the public starting Monday, April 19. Limited VIP admission is \$40 per person and includes early entry to the event, a special presentation, Stingray Bay and Explorikeet Adventure plus, access to DINO SAFARI, an immersive experience featuring lifesized dinosaurs. General Sip and Stroll admission is \$25 per person. Purchase admission early and receive \$2 off per person through Sunday, April 26, with the code SIPANDSAVE. Learn more about the event and purchase tickets at okczoo.org/ sipandstroll. Event entry times are spaced every 15 minutes to allow for maximum social distancing. Attendance is limited to 1,200 guests per night. Once checked in, guests are free to stay throughout the duration of the event.

Attendees can also pre-purchase a Drink Passport, good for one 5-oz featured drink sample at all six water holes for an additional \$30 per person. Additional beverages will be available for purchase, including domestic beer, wine, mixed drinks, soda and water. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at okczoo.org/sipandstroll. Sip and Stroll tickets are non-refundable and nontransferable, and the event will be held rain or shine.

Safari-fy your summer with Sip and Stroll! Located at the crossroads of I-44 and I-35, the OKC Zoo is a proud member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the American



Alliance of Museums, Oklahoma Adventure Road partner. Regular admission is \$12 for adults and \$9 for children ages 3-11 and seniors ages 65 and over. Children two and under are admitted free. Stay up-todate with the Zoo on Facebook,

Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, and City's Adventure District and an by visiting Our Stories. Zoo fans can support the OKC Zoo by becoming Oklahoma Zoological Society members at ZOOfriends.org. To learn more about these and other happenings, call (405) 424-3344 or visit okczoo.org.







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## TINSELTOWN TALKS:

# Ruta Lee put the 'pro' in professional

By Nick Thomas

While some entertainers are renowned for their personal and professional demands while working, Ruta Lee never aspired to be a diva. Acting nonstop in film, TV, and theater since the early 1950s, she tackled projects with professionalism.

"There was no time to throw fits because you had to work quickly as you rapidly went from job to job," recalled Lee from Los Angeles.

Off-screen tasks were also approached with her trademark zeal. In 1964, she called the office of the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev to secure the release of her 90-year-old Lithuanian grandmother held since World War II in a Siberian internment camp.

A decade earlier, Lee approached her first film role as one of the brides in "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" with similar resolve. "During the dance audition, the producers and director asked me to show them something folksy. Because of my Lithuanian descent, I danced up a storm with a polka and got the role."

She was paired with gifted dance partner Matt Mattox in the beloved MGM musical and remembers one rehearsal

"He lifted me high off a bench and I sprained my ankle when I landed. So I learned most of the choreography from a sitting position, but still managed to do most of the dancing in the big barn-raising number."

Many stories from the actress's career and life can be found in her April 5 autobiography "Consider Your Ass Kissed," the edgy-sounding title merely reflecting the genuine gratitude she feels for the people she worked with. She also celebrates a birthday this month, turning 86 on May 30.

A quick study, Lee learned an early valuable lesson in on-set protocol when she boogied her way into one



Ruta Lee and Alex Trebek, hosts of High Rollers - NBC.



Ruta Lee at far right front with the cast of Seven Brides for Seven Brothers - MGM.

of her first TV roles - a 1953 episode of "The Adventures of Superman."

"It was a short dance scene in a cafĭ and I decided to rehearse during lunch hour," she explained. "But when I plugged in the record player, someone grabbed me and said, 'you can't do that, you don't belong to the electrician's union!"

Lee went on to make hundreds of appearances in TV series as well as games shows such as "Hollywood Squares" and "High Rollers" (as Alex Trebek's dice roller), but westerns were a favorite (see www.rutalee.com). And while many cowboys chased her, only one came close to catching her off-screen.

"Most of the dating I did was for publicity purposes and never had any real romances with actors except Eric Fleming from 'Rawhide.' What a darling man, but the most he got was a goodnight kiss!"

Her serious relationships were always with businessmen, she says, not show business men. In the midst of her rising career, Lee met Texas restaurant executive Webster B. Lowe, Jr., and the couple soon married. They were together for 46 years until his death last year.

Lee has also been a tireless voice for charitable organizations such as the Thalians raising millions of dollars through her leadership role to support people with mental health problems, including returning veterans (see www.thalians.org).

And then there was that phone call to Khrushchev's office to rescue her Siberia-bound grandmother.

"Within 48 hours we were flying over to bring her back to America. So I've had an interesting life and I'm always involved with something. It's been a long, wonderful, and fruitful career."

Nick Thomas teaches at Auburn University at Montgomery, Ala., and has written features, columns, and interviews for over 850 magazines and newspapers and is the author of "Raised by the Stars: Interviews with 29 Children of Hollywood Actors." See www.getnickt.org.

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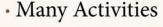
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# **OMRF** President Prescott to Retire

Stephen M. Prescott, M.D., who led the largest expansion in the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation's history, will retire as president.

Prescott, 73, made the announcement Tuesday at a meeting of OMRF's board of directors. Prescott was diagnosed with cancer in 2017 and said he was stepping down for health reasons. Since 2006, he has led the Oklahoma City-based nonprofit, which will mark its 75th anniversary later this year.

"The time I've spent at OMRF has been the capstone to a scientific career that has been immensely rewarding," said Prescott, a physician and medical researcher. "Î've been lucky enough to help guide this wonderful institution for 15 years. And nothing makes me happier than knowing the scientists of OMRF will continue the tradition of biomedical research excellence long after I've gone."

Under Prescott, OMRF has three times earned designation by the National Institutes of Health as an Autoimmunity Center of Excellence, one of only 10 in the nation. Three life-changing drugs born at OMRF have earned FDA approval, including the first treatment for pain crises caused by sickle cell disease.

With the addition of a 186,000-square-foot research tower that included a multiple sclerosis clinic in 2011, Prescott engineered the largest campus expansion ever at OMRF. He also successfully completed a \$100 million fundraising initiative that paid for that growth, then spearheaded the recruitment of more than 30 new principal scientists to fill the new labs and clinic space.

In rankings based on employee surveys, OMRF has earned a designation as one of Oklahoma's Top Workplaces every year since the contest began in 2013. That includes a pair of blue ribbons among large employers in 2017 and 2019. During Prescot's tenure, the foundation also received more than a dozen four-star rankings

- the highest possible - from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest evaluator of nonprofits.

"Dr. Steve Prescott's leadership of OMRF has been transformative, said Len Cason, chair of OMRF's board of directors. "As a scientist and as a person, he dared not just to think big, but to transform those ideas into action. He challenged everyone at OMRF to reach new standards of excellence, and then he followed through and made sure it happened."

Prescott was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2020. In his acceptance speech, he recalled how he'd been recruited to Oklahoma from the University of Utah's Huntsman Cancer Institute, where he'd served as executive director. "Len Cason told me that OMRF was the right place for me. He was right."

The executive committee of OMRF's board of directors will name an acting successor to Prescott soon. A nationwide search for a permanent replacement will follow.

"I've had the great fortune to live a charmed life. I've spent each day immersed in medical research," said Prescott. "When you do something you love, you don't work a day in your life."



Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation President Stephen M. Prescott, M.D., announced his retirement as the leader of the Oklahoma City-based nonprofit on Tuesday, April 27. A physician and medical researcher, Prescott has led OMRF since 2006 and in 15 years as president oversaw the largest expansion in the foundation's history.

#### CROSSWORD CORNER

1 Egyptian god with an ibis 61 Scream-evoking horror head

6 One who crosses the line 10 Blight-stricken tree

13 "Donnie Brasco" actress 63 Broadway orphan Anne

14 Flap

15 Corp. leaders

17 Lay to rest

18 With 42-Across, part of a psychologist's battery

20 Seven-time Wimbledon

21 Wisconsin city on the Mississippi

22 HDTV part, for short 24 They may be civil

25 Singing stars

27 "60 Minutes" regular 31 Strong brew

34 Deadly

37 West Point team

38 Prom adornment 40 Hear about

42 See 18-Across 43 Stella \_\_: Belgian beer

45 DŸsseldorf direction 46 Hard work

48 Bridge seats

50 \_\_ Zee: Hudson River

53 Divine fluid 57 Laszlo Kreizler, in a Caleb Carr novel

60 Nylons

film technique ... and a hint to what's hiding in five puzzle rows

64 US Open stadium

namesake 65 Surrealist Paul 66 Paragon

67 It may be gross 68 Barrie pirate

69 Leaders of industry

#### Down

1 Fried chicken choice 2 Painter \_\_ de Toulouse-

Lautrec

3 Two quartets

4 Jay Powell chairs it 5 That girl

6 Orchestra sect. 7 Not very friendly

8 "What \_\_": "Ho-hum" 9 Amazon crime series based on Michael Connelly

novels 10 Satellite

communications giant 11 Grazing sites

12 Soft shoes 16 That girl

19 Old PC monitors 23 Adidas rival 24 Yelp user, say

26 Brightest star in Lyra 28 River of Pisa

29 Gps. with copays 30 Ride-sharing option

31 Ballet divisions

32 Early movie mogul 33 Gaelic language

35 Take out \_

36 Island rings 39 Fox River, in TV's

"Prison Break" 41 Spot of wine?

44 Source of a homeopathic oil

47 They may be fake

49 Slangy nose

51 Chooses 52 Church song

54 Passport producer

55 Willow twig 56 Lively dances

57 "The Birth of a Nation" actress \_\_ Naomi King

58 A deadly sin

59 "If u ask me" 62 Shoebox letters

63 "Breaking Bad" network

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Answers on page 26

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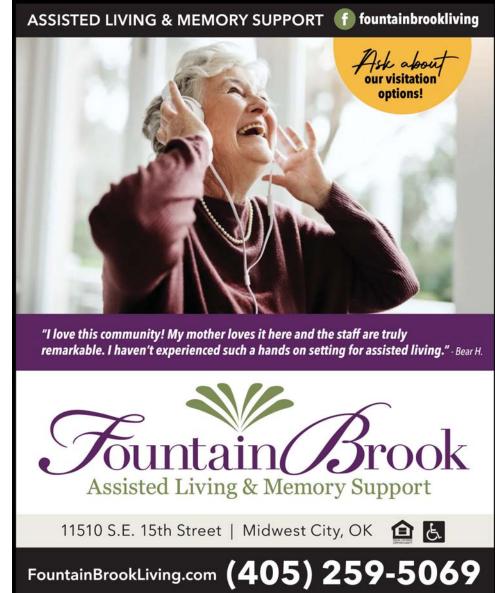


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# A WORLD PREMIERE AT LAST MAKES ITS DEBUT

## Covid-Delayed World Premiere of Choral and Orchestral Piece Inspires Community Collaborations, Multimedia Event on May 16

Canterbury Voices, Oklahoma's largest and oldest community chorus, will present an original commission, Of Perpetual Solace, featuring soloistcantor Lisa Reagan Love and the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, on Sunday, May 16, at 3:00 PM, at the Civic Center Music Hall in Oklahoma

The 45-minute work – in of the commemoration Anniversary of the Murrah Building Bombing - was written by Oklahoma composer Edward Knight and librettist M.J. Alexander for full orchestra, cantor, large chorus, chamber choir and children's chorus. The husbandand-wife team, who live within walking distance of the bombing site, drew inspiration from conversations with survivors.

Originally scheduled to premiere in March 2020, Of Perpetual Solace was postponed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and has been rescheduled for Sunday, May 16, 2021, at 3:00 PM. Canterbury, led by artistic director Dr. Randi Von Ellefson, reimagined rehearsals and

performances in light of the pandemic and found a way to sing again through the innovative use of specialized singers' masks developed by the Broadway Relief Project; socially-distanced rehearsals and safety protocols; a pared-down chorus; the OKC Philharmonic orchestra; and the power of video production, featuring clips from the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. Sibling audio/video team Matt and Pat Horton of Norman are the production team for this monumental project and helped Canterbury create this special presentation.

A large-scale, multimedia concert event, Of Perpetual Solace will also feature a 47-voice children's chorus and 18-member adult ensemble. "I feel I've been preparing my entire life to write this music," said composer Edward Knight. "It has been years in the making, and demanded that I tap deep into our shared human spirit to bring out the essence of what is good and important and lasting."

Due to strict health and safety protocols, six hundred socially-distanced audience members will be allowed into the Civic Center Music Hall, one-third of the normally 2,400 seats. The performance will also be offered as an on-demand streaming event from May 23 to June 20,

Of Perpetual Solace progresses from darkness into light - toward an to so many of us. It was written embrace of comfort, hope, and serenity. "This is the most ambitious commission by Oklahomans for Oklahomans, and we have undertaken in our 51-year history," Pam Mowry, Canterbury's offered to all who have dealt with Executive Director, said. "It is an epic work that has a profound meaning grief, mourning, and recovery."



Edward Knight consults with Randi Von Ellefson during OKC Philharmonic recording session.



INCOME BASED RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

# Mercy Oklahoma City Celebrates Return of Volunteers

In any given year, Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City's more than 300 volunteers log thousands of hours in service to our co-workers and patients. But for more than a year, almost all of those efforts came to a halt because of the pandemic. While some volunteers continued to knit baby caps for newborns from home and assist in vaccination clinics, most were unable to do the jobs they love. Now, as COVID-19 cases hit new lows, volunteers are eager to get back to work and serve.

"So many of our volunteers serve at Mercy because they truly feel they are called to do this work, and when they couldn't serve during the height of the pandemic, it was a real challenge for them personally," said Mel Henry, manager of volunteer services at Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City, recognizing their contributions during National Volunteer Week. "They are often the first and last faces our patients and visitors see as they come in and out of our facilities and they are dedicated to plugging in and helping wherever they are needed. They do so much, and we have missed them tremendously."

Mercy's volunteer program was put on hold in spring 2020 as the

continued next page



Ed and Joan Harper - 16 years of volunteering at Mercy OKC.





May 2021

#### VOLUNTEERS

**Continued from Page 22** 

pandemic began. A few volunteers were welcomed back in November, and more are returning feeling more comfortable after receiving their vaccination.

"Many of the jobs they did on patient floors before the pandemic are not available due to strict COVID-19 precautions, but these volunteers are so selfless that they always tell us to put them wherever they're needed," said Henry. "We've also been able to create new ways to serve throughout the hospital at screening stations, in the pharmacy and co-worker health."

Around 100 of the approximately 300 volunteers have already returned to service.

"Our volunteers are truly invaluable," said Jim Gebhart, president of Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City. "Many of our volunteers may not be able to return to our halls anytime soon, mostly because they have underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk for the virus. We are hopeful that others

in the community will step in to serve and sign up to volunteer."

volunteers include Mercy teenagers who want experience in the medical field, middle-aged people looking to give back, seniors who want to stay active and people with disabilities learning job skills. Volunteers commit to as little as one hour a month to as much as 40 hours a week. There are myriad ways in which volunteers serve.

"Studies have shown that when people volunteer, they improve physical health, reduce depression, increase self-worth and are likely to be more connected to their communities," said Dr. Katherine Garland, an internal medicine physician at Mercy who has long believed that volunteering is a prescription for happiness. "Benefits can be seen at any age, but older adults who volunteer one to two hours a week experience lower rates of depression and an increased lifespan."

To learn more about volunteering at Mercy Hospital Oklahoma City, click here to visit mercy.net or call (405) 755-1515.

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MAY

FREE: A Night In The Paseo The Paseo Plunge.3010 Paseo St., 405-315-6224 paseoplunge.org When: First Friday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m. Phone: 405-898-4215. Email: poeticcity16@gmail.com Poetic City is bringing poetry and music. Several artists come to bless the ears of the Paseo, and open mic will be available. Our fav Host Louisiana's Lady Kat will be in the building! Dj Chief Tr3 will be on the ones and two's creating vibes! Bleek is the event coordinator for all events and CEO of Poetic City. Sponsored

Online: Barbed Tales Podcast
Theatre Price: Free

Literati Press Comics & Novels &

owner Charles Martin.

Theatre Price: Free. When: Mondays, 6am Email: barbedtales@gmail.com anchor.fm/barbedtales **Barbed Tales Productions brings** theatre to the airwaves. Theatre for your ears. Due to the quarantine, live theater has to make adjustments so that we may still bring culture and entertainment to audiences. Barbed Tales Productions are taking steps to provide high quality entertainment. Creating podcast theatrical releases and online shows are a safe way to provide culture to our area. Season One explores video game reviews, D&D, Outlander fan fiction, and more. Under fifteen minutes episode.

**Blazing a Trail** 

1700 NE 63rd St. Oklahoma City When: Mondays-Saturdays, 10am-5pm and Sundays, 12-5 p.m. Continues through May 16, 2021. (405) 478-2250 marketing@nationalcowboymuseum.org Price: \$12.50 \* Senior and Children discounts available. nationalcowboymuseum.org/ exhibition/blazing-a-trail 2020 is the centennial for Women's Suffrage in the United States. For most of the West, however, suffrage was realized years or even decades before the rest of the country. Blazing a Trail explores why Western Women as a whole were more successful than their Eastern counterparts in achieving polling parity with men.

MAY

Online: Art Moves

When: Mondays-Fridays, 12 p.m. www.artscouncilokc.com/ art-moves Art Moves artists have adjusted from daily downtown performances to online streaming. Help us support our local artist by joining us weekdays at Arts Council Oklahoma City's facebook page for live-streaming performances and demonstrations from artist homes or studios! Art Moves is an Arts Council OKC initiative that provides free arts events each workday from Noon-1:00. Events previously took place in various downtown locations and may include artist demonstrations or musical performances. The daily line-up features a wide range of artistic mediums including musical and theater performances, live art demonstrations, short film

#### Paseo Arts District's First Friday Gallery Walk

selections, and more

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month, 6-10 p.m. peruse art
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participating business for a night
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refreshments and a variety of
entertainment opportunities.

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122 E. Main St. Norman 637-6225

downtownnorman.com
Second Friday of every month,
6 p.m. In keeping with the
CDC's guidelines to a safe
reopening, we will limit the 2nd
Friday Norman Art Walk to
a virtual broadcast experience
that celebrates art, artists and
our local businesses on Friday,
July 10 that we can all enjoy
from home. tour shops studios,
venues and galleries to view
visual art exhibits, hear live music
and more.

MAY

Ed Ruscha: OKLA

When: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Thursdays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Continues thru July 5 Phone: 405-951-0000 Email: info@okcontemp.org Price: Free timed ticket required. oklahomacontemporary.org/exhibitions/upcoming/ed-ruscha-okla

ruscha-okla You can now reserve your free timed ticket for Ed Kuscha: OKLA! This exhibition is a survey of works by one of America's most important artists, looking at the ways in which work throughout Ruscha's career was connected to his childhood in Oklahoma City, and his continued trips back there from Los Angeles. Featuring objects spanning the artist's 60+ year career that explore his relationship to Oklahoma, Ed Ruscha: OKLA presents iconic pieces such as Twentysix Gasoline Stations and Chocolate Room alongside newer, lesser-

**Find Her West** 

known bodies of work, including

two recent Drum Skins paintings.

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. 1700 NE 63rd St. OKC When: Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays, 12-5 p.m. Continues through May 16, 2021 Phone: 4054782250 marketing@nationalcowboymuseum.org Price: \$12.50 \* Senior and Children discounts available nationalcowboymuseum.org/ exhibition/find-her-west The American West is difficult to define and far more complex than stereotypes suggest. It is a destination, an experience, an idea, and for some even home. It has few boundaries and crosses cultures, geography, socioeconomics, gender, age, and eras. Photographs and other archival items from the Museum's Dickinson Research Center reveal this diversity. At its core, history is not about dates and events, but the people who experienced them. Not just the famous, but the everyday and ordinary. Look closely. These

faces and names are not fiction.

OCTOBER

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#### LOOKING FOR ROOMMATE.

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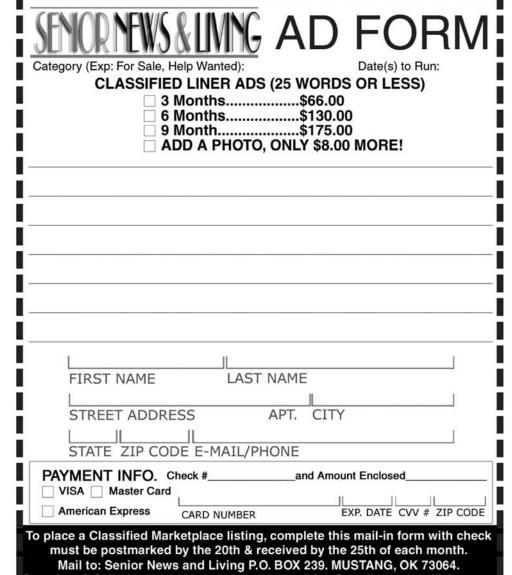


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Unscramble these four Jumbles,

one letter to each square.

to form four ordinary words.

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POSLI

CHLSA

COYDEM

ENKIOV

Colin' He's late.

JUST

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

BIG BEN WAS BEING CONSTRUCTED BY WORKERS WHO HAD -

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers next month)

**WILLOW** 

YEAST

The fashion designer retired at the top of her

career so that she could - GO OUT IN STYLE

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

When I saw him at the pub last night, he said he was

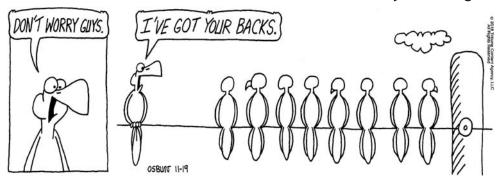
working today.

#### **Broom Hilda**



#### Animal Crackers

By Fred Wagner



# TRange SO THEY SAY ...

**BBT** here are over 58 million dogs in the U.S!

**BBT** Dogs and cats consume over \$11 billion worth of pet food a year!

**BBT** Fingernails grow nearly 4 times faster than toenails!

**BBT** Humans blink over 10,000,000 times a year!

**BBT** In the year 2000, Pope John Paul II was named an "Honorary Harlem Globetrotter."!

# Gasoline Alley

Answer here:

April

Answers

By Jim Scancarelli

GASKET



Jumbles: MOUND

Answer:



#### **OKLAHOMA ASSISTED LIVING ASSOCIATION'S** —UPCOMING— **2021 EVENTS**



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**NOV 5** | OKALA RCAL Administrator Certification Course

Event information may be out of date due to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Please confirm details with event organizers!

**Check Out our Website and/or Facebook for** additional events/dates or to enroll in classes.



Oklahoma Assisted Living Association 405-235-5000 **CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF BEING OKLAHOMA'S VOICE & PARTNER IN ASSISTED LIVING** REGISTER AT: WWW.OKALA.ORG

# Greg Schwem: I'm listening but you're only talking about the vaccine

I'll admit it: I'm a great eavesdropper. A professional eavesdropper even.

I've elevated myself to the pro ranks. Not only is my hearing excellent when I'm within the vicinity of your cellphone conversation or public banter, but I will go to great lengths to be near you if I feel I'm going to overhear something of interest.

I'm not stalking you; at Full disclosure: I'm a full-time comedian and author. stand-up comedian and most of



least I don't believe I am. Greg Schwem is a corporate stand-up

my material germinates from something I hear in passing from total strangers. A perfect example? The airline pilot, waiting for an incoming flight to arrive at O'Hare, telling the recipient of his cellphone conversation that he'd crave a "tall skinny blonde about now" Turns out he was placing a

I thought it was funny. So did the audience that evening.

Years ago, I was exiting Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino when a red Ferrari pulled up to the valet entrance. I paused, expecting to see a movie star or famous athlete emerge, engulfed in a sea of paparazzi flashbulbs. Instead, two males, who looked as if they had yet to experience the ordeal of driver's license renewal, exited.

I immediately made a beeline and went back inside, hoping to overhear something of interest. Certainly, two kids in their early 20s, and in possession of an automobile costing north of a quarter million dollars, would have SOMETHING interesting to say.

My plan disintegrated when the pair sat down at a bank of penny slots machines. I'm sorry but nobody playing penny slots has anything interesting to say. Most likely they are angry or depressed, perhaps because they blew all their money on a Ferrari.

Sadly, my penchant for eavesdropping is no longer fun. The reason? I already know what you're talking about.

The vaccine.

What else do we have to talk about? After a year without live entertainment, exotic travel destinations and succulent restaurant meals, what's left to share with our friends? Only our vaccine status.

Sometimes I don't even have to get within earshot to know this is the topic of conversation. If I see you pointing to your left shoulder, I know you just got the vaccine. If you are waving your arm in a circular motion, I know you experienced pain after receiving a dose of the vaccine.

Prior to the pandemic, if I heard a stranger saying, "just got my first one," my mind raced with endless possibilities. Your first what? Promotion? Social Security check? Online dating response? But I no longer need to guess. You just got your first shot, didn't you?

If I detect the phrase, "which one?" you can only be referring to Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson. If I hear "any issues?" I keep walking, because there's nothing funny about sticking around listening to anyone mention their flu-like symptoms, persistent soreness or 24-hour fatigue.

What's best for the country is the worst for me, when it comes to eavesdropping. As the vaccine becomes available to wider demographics, it's no longer just senior citizens who are discussing it. Millennials, Gen Z and, in some states, teens are comparing their vaccine experiences, much to my dismay. It's only a matter of time before I hear two toddlers adding words like "appointment" and phrases such as "lasting side effects" to their new vocabularies.

Don't get me wrong, America; I'm passionate about vaccination. So passionate that, if I overhear somebody say, "I'm still on the fence " I'm likely to stop and say, "Why are you hesitant? We have a chance to end this pandemic. GO GET VACCINATED." Oh, sure, there's a chance the recipient of my wrath could be talking about which highway commission candidate he or she is going to vote for in an upcoming municipal election, but I doubt

By the way, I have been vaccinated. But I'm not going to endlessly droll on about a single topic with everybody I've ever met or plan to meet.

That's why Facebook was invented.

(Greg Schwem is a corporate stand-up comedian and author of two books: "Text Me If You're Breathing: Observations, Frustrations and Life Lessons From a Low-Tech Dad" and the recently released "The Road To Success Goes Through the Salad Bar: A Pile of BS From a Corporate Comedian," available at Amazon.com. Visit Greg on the web at www.gregschwem.com.

You've enjoyed reading, and laughing at, Greg Schwem's monthly humor columns in Senior Living News. But did you know Greg is also a nationally touring stand-up comedian? And he loves to make audiences laugh about the joys, and frustrations, of growing older. Watch the clip and, if you'd like Greg to perform at your senior center or senior event, contact him through his website at www.gregschwem.com)

#### **NOTICE:**

## All Metropolitan Library System Open Saturday, May 1.

All 19 Metropolitan Library System libraries welcome customers to come in and sit and stay beginning Saturday, May 1.

Sit and Stay service includes computer use by reservation, study room use, browsing and limited seating to accommodate reading and Wi-Fi usage and copy/fax/scan use. Seating will be spaced to one chair per table. Computers are limited to two (2) sessions of one-hour each per day. Masks are required for all customers.

"We invite guests to continue to come in and use the library with more services available in this stage," Larry White, MLS Executive Director said. "With school out for most of the summer, we are glad to have more reading areas available for both students and non-students to use."

Online programs and events via social media continue to be very popular. Other online services available are LearningExpress and HelpNow for students, "Book-A-Librarian" for general library help, genealogy help one-on-one, Hoopla and Kanopy streaming movies and tv, JobNow for job and career help and more.

Hours to the public are Mondays-Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Fridays 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Saturdays 9:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m. and Sundays 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Curbside pickup hours are Mondays through Fridays 1:00 - 6:00 p.m., Saturdays 1:00 - 5:00 p.m and from 1:00 -6:00 p.m. on Sundays. For more information, contact (405) 231-8650 or at askalibrarian@metrolibrary.org





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