

BRIEFS

Cherokee language classes set to begin on Jan. 25

Cherokee language classes will be offered from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays beginning Jan. 25 at the Owasso Historical Museum, 26 S. Main St. Classes will be held for 10 weeks. The class is free but limited to 30 participants and registration is necessary. For more information, call 272-4966 or 272-3112.

Unity Center of Tulsa offers sessions on Jan. 24 and 25

The Unity Center of Tulsa, 1830 S. Boston Ave., will present a five-week class on prayer. The class will discuss prayer and help people develop affirmative prayers, the Rev. Ann Marie Davis said in a media release. Davis will lead the sessions. The class begins at 6:40 p.m. Jan. 24 at the Unity Center. Information is available by calling Davis at 582-8688 or going to www.unityoftulsa.com. The Unity Center of Tulsa will also offer classes on the North Medicine Circle at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 25. The classes will be an ongoing study group. The Medicine Circle is based on an Inca tradition. To learn more, call Unity Center of Tulsa at 582-6624 or Jodi Tuttle at 284-6683 or visit the Web site.

Staffers from MLB teams to present seminar Saturday

Chicago White Sox and Minnesota Twins baseball club staffers will talk at an upcoming seminar with area coaches, trainers and athletes to help prepare them for the upcoming baseball season. Clay Overcash of the White Sox club will discuss throwing guidelines and hold a throwing lab that will focus on strength and conditioning, including drills. Perry Castellano of the Twins club will cover strength and conditioning, with a special emphasis on youth.

Additional local speakers include Orthopedic Hospital of Oklahoma orthopedic surgeons and doctors: Brad Boone, Ty Boone, James Cash, David Nonweiler, Scott Rahhal and Michael Tanner, a media release states. The local physicians will review basic, functional anatomy and biomechanics of the shoulder and elbow. Seminar participants will also learn proper strength and conditioning techniques as well as appropriate biomechanics for safe and productive throwing by athletes. In addition, the physicians will discuss rehabilitation of athletes who have baseball injuries.

The Orthopedic Hospital of Oklahoma will host the presentation at its "Throwing Seminar: Training and Injury Management in Baseball" from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday at the hospital in the CityPlex Towers, 81st Street and South Lewis Avenue. People may receive more information by calling the hospital at 477-5041.

The local comedy troupe, the Comedy Clinic, will present a show in February at Brookside's Suede Ultra Lounge. The show, "You have to be this drunk ... to ride," will consist entirely of improvisation. "Actually, we had so many people over the years tell us that we have to extend the improv portion of our show, that we've decided to go all improv this season," said Ben Beckham, the troupe's director, in a media release.

The show is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at Suede, 3340 S. Peoria Ave.

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Spring Bird Fair flutters in on March 3 at Maxwell

Birds and bird-related materials will provide the focus for the upcoming Spring Bird Fair.

About 100 vendors are expected to present educational information, supplies, birds and materials, a media release states.

The Tulsa-based nonprofit bird club, the Oklahoma Avicultural Society, will host the event from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 3 at the Maxwell Convention Center, Seventh Street and Houston Avenue in downtown Tulsa.

Adult admission is \$2 a person. Children under 6 will be admitted free. Information is available by calling Mary Hill at 437-3343 or going online to www.okbirds.com.

China painters schedule Tulsa show for March 8-10

A free, public showing of hand-painted china objects will be in early March.

Artists and vendors from throughout the U.S. will attend the event as part of the state convention of the Oklahoma World Organization of China Painters, a media release states.

The showroom will be open from 2 to 5 p.m. March 8 and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 9 and 10. The event will be at the Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills, 1902 E. 71st St. in Tulsa.

Information is available by calling Joanie Allen at 742-5692 or Lois Higgins at 224-3063.

Practitioners promote yoga through marathon event

Yoga practitioners have the opportunity to participate in a promotion of the activity. A nationwide marathon began Saturday and runs through Jan. 28 in which 5,000 volunteers are attempting to complete 1 million sun salutes, a media release states.

The Tulsa-area Indian American community kicked off its effort in the marathon Sunday at the Hindu Temple of Greater Tulsa, 16943 E. 21st St.

Information is available by calling Hari Musapeta at 438-6270 or by sending an e-mail to hMusapeta@aol.com.



CORY YOUNG / Tulsa World

Second-graders Mayen Xiong (right) and Devon Smith exhibit the Great Expectations Program life principle of memorization by singing patriotic songs daily in class.

Earning greatness

Mills maintains status of Model School

By CORY YOUNG
World Staff Writer

Charlie Hollar does not know Mills Elementary School fifth-graders Brittney Bear or Cassidy Morgan.

But the two students are part of the reason he created the Great Expectations Program, a research-based educational reform model designed to empower teachers to expect the best from their students.

The girls are not like some children, who dread going to school.

Cassidy said her favorite subject in school is math.

"It's my best subject. At recess, I like to come into the library and work on my math," Cassidy said.

Brittany, who missed only three days of school last fall, did not like being at home.

"I was bored out of my mind. There was nothing to do," Brittany said. "I wanted to be at school."

Hollar, who has five children, said he noticed there were problems in the educational system prior to 1991 when he created Great Expectations.

He wanted children to have access to a better way of learning.

"I didn't feel like students, in general, were reaching their full potential.

In many cases, there weren't high expectations for students," Hollar said on Jan. 8, following an assembly that honored Mills Elementary School, 8200 N. 124th East Ave., for the second consecutive year, as a Model School.



Brenda Casey

A school earns Model School status when at least 90 percent of the teachers implement all 17 Great Expectations practices daily.

Brent England, an Owasso school board member, is impressed with the program.

"I wish this was around when my kids were in school," he said. "It's fantastic. I'm encouraging all seven of our elementary schools to be a part of it."

The program also is engineered to rejuvenate the excitement of discovery among students and teachers.

Mills Principal Brenda Casey, who also is an instructor for the program, is glad the school won the honor for two years in a row.

"What makes this year so exciting is the fact that we made Model School with 150 new students and 11 new teachers," Casey said.

The program focuses on several principals, including 'High Expectations for Students,' 'a Learning Climate Based on Mutual Respect between Student and Teacher,' 'Student Self Esteem,' 'a Belief that all Students Can Learn,' 'Positive Teacher Attitude,' and 'Highly Skilled and Knowledgeable Teachers Who Inspire and Enable Students to Achieve Success.'

Mills has participated in the program since 2000.

"Now, they assume more responsibility for their learning," Early said.

The program's emphasis aims toward making better, more accountable adults.

"It allows the students an opportunity to reach for higher standards and trains them to be respectful and responsible," Hollar said.

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Erick Martinez demonstrates how Energy Action Patrol members will write up infractions and post notices. The patrol members are fourth-graders at Sequoyah Elementary School.

RHONDA CLARK / Tulsa World

Students learn to conserve

By RHONDA CLARK
World Staff Writer

It's lights out at Sequoyah Elementary School.

The school's new Energy Action Patrol is a team of fourth-graders who will monitor Sequoyah and find ways to conserve energy.

This includes making sure lights are turned off when classrooms and offices are empty, thermostats are set within an approved range and leaky water faucets get fixed.

Rachel Mecom is a fourth-grader and the patrol's team captain.

"It's helping our school and I care about our school," Rachel said.

"It's an important cause. I thought it would be fun, and we will do interesting things."

The patrol's sponsor is Jerry Buchanan, a teacher's assistant at Sequoyah, 3441 E. Archer St.

"It's an awareness thing," he said. "I think the biggest problem we're going to have is with the thermostats."

Buchanan said the students applied for their positions. To be eligible for the patrol, students needed parental permission, must maintain a C average, and have a positive recommendation from their teachers.

There are 27 fourth-graders signed up. Six members and two alternates serve a three-week session, when new members

will be rotated into the patrol.

"The idea is to get as many students as possible involved," Buchanan said.

He said the main objective is to save energy and teach students that monitoring thermostats, lights and leaky faucets also saves money and natural resources.

"We have to get across the point that it's good for the school; that it saves the school money," Buchanan said.

"We're going to be studying what energy costs and how to calculate it."

Doug Howard, Sequoyah's principal, said during a Tulsa Public Schools principals meeting, administrators were encouraged to find ways to conserve and reduce energy consumption at their schools.

He said the Energy Action Patrol is a good learning experience.

"It's important to teach children good stewardship in caring for our natural resources and creating an awareness at a young age that is going to go with them for a lifetime," Howard said.

Planning for the program began in December 2006, and Howard said students received train-

ing when they returned to school after the winter break.

In the coming weeks, students will be placing reminder stickers beside light switches, making sure newspapers are placed in recycle bins, and hanging warning cards when they find infractions.

"They have a checklist they will go over every day," Buchanan said.

Workbooks provided by the National Energy Foundation are part of the learning experience. Buchanan said the students will also take their studies home and talk about conserving energy and resources with their families.

The response at school has been positive, Howard said.

"Teachers are already much more aware," he said.

"When I'm going down the hallways now and the room is empty, I'm finding doors closed and lights out, and that makes a big difference.

"I think it's a wonderful program. I'm excited about the fact that the children are excited about it."

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Charities remain busy post holiday

By SHAUN EPPERSON AND JEFF POSTELWAIT
World Staff Writers

Although the holidays are past, the work doesn't stop for charities south and west of Tulsa.

Various charitable outreach organizations are still collecting personal items, food and clothing to help people in their areas who need them.

The Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless, 415 W. Archer St., also needs donations of gently used or new clothing, as well as personal hygiene items, cleaning products, and snack food such as individually-packaged chips or snack bars, said Executive Director Sandra Lewis.

The center serves snacks twice a day to about 250 people, she said.

Lewis said donations of fresh fruit also would be appreciated.

The center is looking for volunteers — especially registered nurses — to work in its clinic, Lewis said.

"We absolutely could not provide the services in our clinic without the volunteers," she said. "It's critical."

For more information or to inquire about volunteer opportunities, call 583-5588 or go online to the center's Web site at www.tulsadaycenter.org.

The Bixby Community Outreach Center, 10 E. Dawes Ave., is collecting personal care items,

such as toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo, and other such products, said Kelley Maricle, the center's executive director.

"We always run low on the personal care items," she said. "Sometimes when summer hits, we're just out, so we're trying to plan ahead."

The center also needs blankets, comforters and afghans, Maricle said.

To inquire about assistance through the center, or for other information, call 366-9226.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.bixbyoc.org.

The outreach center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 9 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of each month.

At Tulsa's John 3:16 Mission, 506 N. Cheyenne Ave., gently used or new warm clothing as well as nonperishable food items are among the most-needed donations, said Director of Men's Ministries David Ganzert.

"This time of year, we're always looking for hats, gloves, socks and things like that," he said. "Warm clothing always is a major need."

School supplies and personal items also are needed, Ganzert said.

For more information or to inquire about volunteer opportunities with the mission, call 592-1186 or go to the mission's Web site at www.john316mission.org.

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