

OKLAHOMA HALL OF FAME



Boren



Keating



Nichols



O'Connor



Prescott



Switzer

Hall of Fame presenters named

OKLAHOMA CITY — Seven individuals have been selected to introduce the 2008 class at the 81st annual Oklahoma Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony on Nov. 12.

The 2008 presenters are University of Oklahoma President David Boren, Brad W. Burgess, former Gov. Frank Keating, Larry Nichols, former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Stephen M. Prescott and former OU coach Barry Switzer.

Boren, a 1988 Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductee, will present Charles C. Stephenson. Boren, who has served Oklahoma as governor and U.S. senator, became president of the University of Oklahoma in 1994.

Burgess will introduce his brother, Bill W. Burgess Jr. Brad Burgess is the managing partner of Burgess & Hightower Law Firm and vice president of Vortex Inc., an investment corporation.

Keating, a 2005 Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductee, will present Carl R. Renfro. As president and CEO of American Council of Life Insurers, Keating is the representa-

Ceremony set for Nov. 12

The 81st annual Oklahoma Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony will be held Nov. 12 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Tickets for the event will go on sale in August. For more information about the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Heritage Association or Gaylord-Pickens Museum, please call Millie Craddick, executive administrator of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, at (405) 523-3203 or e-mail her at mc@oklahomaheritage.com.

man of the board in September 2000.

O'Connor will present Robert H. Henry. O'Connor was nominated by President Ronald Reagan as an associate justice of the Supreme Court and took her seat Sept. 25, 1981, becoming the first woman in history to serve in that role. She retired from the Supreme Court on Jan. 31, 2006.

Prescott will introduce Jordan J. N. Tang. Prescott became president of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in 2006. A leader in the studies of the basic mechanisms of human disease, he came to the OMRF from the University of Utah, where he founded the innovative Eccles program in hu-

man molecular biology and genetics.

Switzer, a 1999 inductee into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, will present Donna Nigh. Switzer has the fourth highest winning percentages of any college football coach in history. In 1973 he became the head coach at the University of Oklahoma. During the next 16 years he compiled an overall record of 157-29-4, winning 12 Big Eight Conference Championships and three National Championships.

Switzer was head coach of the Dallas Cowboys from 1994 to 1997, winning Super Bowl XXX in 1996.

The Oklahoma Hall of Fame is a project of the Oklahoma Heritage Association, an 80-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Oklahoma history and promoting pride in the state. Through its programs and the new Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum, in which all 621 Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductees are honored through high-tech exhibits, the organization strives to tell Oklahoma's story through its people.

Helmerich ends tenure on park, Gilcrease boards

BY P.J. LASSEK
World Staff Writer



LAUDED

Walt Helmerich: He has helped the city in many ways, officials declare.

Nature and art are Walt Helmerich's passions.

For the past 17 years as a member of the city's Park and Recreation Board and the Gilcrease Museum Trust, Helmerich has helped direct and often helped finance efforts to beautify, grow and add amenities to Tulsa's park system.

Following a Park Board meeting last week, Helmerich quietly told fellow board members that he had tendered his resignation.

"Walt Helmerich is a pillar of our community," Mayor Kathy Taylor said. "He and his family have for generations made this city and state a better place to live. I am thankful for his service."

Helmerich, 85, said he was waiting for the University of Tulsa to take over the operations of Gilcrease Museum before he stepped down.

"I feel Gilcrease is in good hands. I feel like the Park Board is in good hands with a great group of board members," he said.

The day he resigned, TU and the city announced the official beginning of the private-public partnership to take Gilcrease Museum to a higher level.

The Park Board members also serve on the Gilcrease Museum Trust.

Helmerich was first appointed to the boards by then-Mayor Rodger Randle.

He said the most interesting thing about his tenure was that "as a staunch Republican, I was appointed by three Democratic mayors and one Republican."

Former Mayor Susan Savage said Helmerich does everything quietly.

"He's been very generous with his time and funds to build the park system," she said.

Many of Tulsa's improvements are the direct results of Helmerich's support, ranging from the expansion of the golf courses and zoo to the management of Gilcrease Museum, she said.

"From my standpoint, he has a constructive view of how to solve problems," she said.

Susan Neal, who oversees the Park Department and Gilcrease Museum for the

mayor's office, said Helmerich's generosity goes beyond nature and art.

"He has always had a real focus on efforts that impact children," she said.

She pointed to the Helmerich Challenge Course at 1006 N. Quaker Ave., an effort by Helmerich and Henry Zarrow.

Whenever Helmerich sees a need, even if it is just for playground equipment, he steps in, Neal said.

"I was surprised at his decision to resign, but he certainly has the right to take a rest," she said.

Helmerich admitted that getting up at 6 a.m. for the Gilcrease Trust meeting and then the Park Board meeting was wearing on him.

Neal said it was important that the community understand that there "is not one sector of society that Walt Helmerich hasn't been a powerful influence."

"He has contributed so much not just in a financial capacity, but also in strategic planning."

Helmerich said his involvement with the park system began during the Randle administration when he partnered with the city to buy land along the east bank of the Arkansas River south of 71st Street. The acreage is now part of River Parks.

Helmerich said he has always enjoyed nature. For example, he said, when he bought the Utica Square shopping center, it had only 20 trees, but "I planted over 100 and know each tree and where it is located."

Helmerich also takes pride in the Senior Center at Centennial Park, an effort by the Park Department with financial help from him and Zarrow.

"It's a jewel," he said. Helmerich will continue to work every day as the chairman of Helmerich & Payne, he said.

P.J. Lassek 581-8382
pj.lassek@tulsaworld.com

Jenks school bond plan examined

BY NORA FROESCHLE
World Staff Writer

A proposal to change the bond structure at Jenks Public Schools to allow for really big bond issues — of \$100 million or more — met with curiosity and guarded optimism by many and with skepticism by at least one patron of the district.

Following a PowerPoint presentation by the district's bond consultant, Stephen H. McDonald, at a Monday special meeting, Anne McCoy, a member of the school board, said that for her as a patron, a three-digit bond issue might be daunting.

"If I saw a large sum like that, it would make me nervous," she said.

But according to McDonald's presentation, a \$132 million bond issue would enable Jenks patrons to save \$105.5 million over a decade or so, see major projects completed in two or three years and enjoy no increase in property taxes.

The estimates and figures all assume a 10 percent increase in construction costs due to inflation, which is where the big savings originate.

Board President Ron Bar-

Recent bonds total \$55 million

The largest school bond issue in Jenks Public Schools history thus far was for \$21.5 million and was approved by voters in December. Bond issues of \$19 million and \$14.9 million were approved in December of 2006 and 2005, respectively.

ber said later that the savings, although important, are not as crucial as the ability to house students more quickly than a traditional bond issue process typically allows.

"I don't believe we should make aggressive assumptions when we're communicating cost savings," he said.

"I think the savings is important, but the fact that you are getting into facilities that are needed is probably as important as anything else to our patrons."

The concept, which was not presented to the board for any action or vote yet, would allow the district to complete many projects at the same time, without the need for construction phases, or for multiple bond issues, to complete one large project.

Lloyd Landreth, who has been a member of the district's bond issue task force for years, favors the new bond structure.

"Absolutely. For a number

of years the district has put into place plans for new construction on a lot of new facilities, and by the time we get the money, we're already behind. This is an opportunity to get those projects online in a much quicker time frame," Landreth said.

Jeanne Dobson, a patron in the district, disagrees, at least for now.

"I think with the information I was given the other night, I could not support it. How do they know what we're going to need 10 years from now?" Dobson said later.

She said the numbers presented were too dependent on assumptions of growth of the district's tax base.

"What happens if the sun and the moon and the stars don't line up? And they may line up; I am for improving schools and taking care of our schools," she said.

The possible projects that could be on a lease revenue

bond issue put before voters could include a new fine arts center, a new intermediate school at the West campus; and classroom additions at the middle school and East and Southeast elementary schools, and a long-awaited new swimming pool.

"We have far exceeded our classroom sizes," Nancy McKay, the chief financial officer for the district, said during the meeting.

The Jenks school district has been adding more than 200 students per year for at least three years, and a recent population study by professors at Oklahoma State University projected that the district could have 13,000 students by 2022 if it grows at a moderate rate.

Administrators did not discuss a timeline for a possible lease revenue bond issue.

Barber gave the board's assent and support for continued discussion and research by the administration on the matter.

"I think there is a strong consensus of our board. I believe we're prepared to go forward," he said at the close of the meeting.

Nora Froeschle 581-8310
nora.froeschle@tulsaworld.com

Course teaches touting state tourism

BY ANGEL RIGGS
World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY — A new course aimed at teaching students how to promote Oklahoma tourism has been unveiled by the state's Department of Career and Technology Education.

The agency's new "Touring Oklahoma" curriculum provides CareerTech students preparing for hospitality and tourism careers with an in-depth study of Oklahoma's tourism potential and how best to market it.

"We thought it would be a hook to get people interested, if they could learn about the

state and along the way learn something about travel and tourism," said Craig Maile, who spearheaded efforts to develop the curriculum.

"Hopefully, people will come away learning more about the history of their community and their geographic community," he said.

The Touring Oklahoma curriculum includes a 424-page text detailing both the state's most-popular and little-known tourism hot spots by region and themes.

For example, the course's unit on Green Country, which includes Tulsa, focuses on the history of the area, plus agricultural, aviation, nature-

based and other events and destinations.

However, tourism enthusiasts don't have to head back to school to take the course. The \$30 "Touring Oklahoma" text is available, with a sample unit, on the agency's Web site, which can be accessed at www.tulsaworld.com/tourismtext.

The curriculum — part state history, travel guide and introduction to marketing — was originally intended for CareerTech's high school family and consumer sciences classes, formerly known as home economics.

However, Maile said that the curriculum's text would likely appeal to a wider audi-

ence, especially as people look at spending their summer vacations closer to home.

"The way it's formatted, with a magazine look to it, it lends itself to people outside of education using it," Maile said. "Initially it was for a high school class, but I think a lot of people could use it as a training resource or just for their own information."

"Every part of the state has tourism potential," Maile said.

"There are people who are interested in just about everything that goes on in your community."

Angel Riggs (405) 528-2465
angel.riggs@tulsaworld.com

War reporter set to speak at benefit

Ellen Knickmeyer, The Washington Post's bureau chief in Cairo, Egypt, who has reported on wars around the world, will be the featured speaker at a Tulsa Press Club fundraising luncheon July 30 at the Downtown Doubletree Hotel, 616 W. Seventh St.

Knickmeyer, who started as a copy clerk at the Tulsa World, will talk about her experiences as a war correspondent for The Associated Press and the Post.

Knickmeyer's mother, the late Naomi Knickmeyer, was the Tulsa World's state editor during the 1970s and 1980s.

Ellen Knickmeyer worked as a copy clerk at the World during college, and then took reporting jobs with The Daily Oklahoman and the AP. She worked through a series of AP jobs, eventually landing at its Rome bureau. From there she covered her first war, the NATO attacks on the forces of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in defense of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

She has since covered



TRAVELER

Ellen Knickmeyer: She has covered wars in Europe, Africa and the Mideast.

wars in Iraq, East Timor, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Congo, Liberia and Ivory Coast.

The Post hired her to head its Baghdad bureau after active conflict ended in the Iraq war. She is now the chief of the Post's Cairo bureau.

In addition to raising money for the press club and a journalism scholarship in honor of Knickmeyer at the University of Oklahoma, the event will be an educational opportunity for young journalists. Area journalism interns and students are invited to receive tickets to the luncheon and a separate meeting with Knickmeyer.


For more information about tickets or sponsorship, call the Tulsa Press Club at 583-7737.

Low Back Pain

I had back pain that just would not go away. I saw several doctors and did what all of them told me, but my back still hurt. Then I came upon this doctor who finally found what was wrong. He used new computer testing that was developed by NASA trained engineers. I'm better because of it and now he's offering it to you for no charge this week. Call Dr. Ryan at 742-6262 to schedule your free testing.
Keith G. Ryan, D.C. 3319 E. 46th St. Tulsa, OK 74135



Hicks
Brunson
Eyewear
in Utica Square
743-6478 • hicksbrunson.com

 **DIAMOND CENTER**
WHOLESALE PRICING
71st & Yale
493.1010