

FIREFIGHTER ARRESTED

An Oakhurst volunteer firefighter is accused of setting a grass fire that he then helped fight. **A13**



Jay Cronley

jay.cronley@tulsaworld.com
581-8362

Cat fishing is worth more than water

A lame economy can bring friends and neighbors closer together.

Somebody with a specific expertise is apt to volunteer a hand to save somebody a dollar or two.

It's not like swapping chickens for some ears of corn.

But sometimes favors are traded.

This sort of thing: If you'll watch the cats while I'm out of town, I'll water the yard the next time you're gone.

Swap some cat-watching in exchange for yard work?

Done.
Caterwaul: One cat needed to be let inside. This cat would be around the garage and would come to the back door.

If it wasn't waiting, then it would come when called.

When called?
Cat-watching is cat counting and cat feeding.

Cat calling is worth more than turning water onto a yard. And guess what? Only one person can call a cat successfully: its owner.

A stranger calling a cat is like a stranger jumping from behind the sofa with a cat container for a ride to the vet for shots.

Catonic: I first went to "watch" cats as a part of a neighboring swap plan at 5:30 p.m.

The temperature was about 40, the wind noticeable.

The out-back cat was not on the back porch.

"Cat," I called out in several directions. "Want some fish?" Nothing.

Inside, I placed cat food on plates.

One cat ate its food, then raced to the other plates and ate that food, as well.

I put out more food and picked up the cat that had eaten enough for a possum and took it to the living room.

Other cats joined us and sat quietly.

Nobody ate until I put the first cat down and he went to the kitchen for fourths.

"He's eating the last of your food," I said.

The other cats seemed not to hear.

Catcomb: That evening, I returned to let the cat in the back door at 7, 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30, first taking one flashlight, and the last two trips bringing a light for each hand.

I looked in the garage, behind the garage, on the garage.

After calling into the darkness for the cat, the last time I called into the neighborhood for anybody who might have seen the cat.

After a fitful sleep, I returned in the early chill of the next morning and discovered the cat sitting on the back porch with the other expression: irritated.

Witnesses tell of fatal crash



Andrew Allen Mathis, 25, appears in orange-and-white striped jail attire in court Monday. The uniforms, which have been used for only a short time, are worn by inmates facing serious charges, a sheriff's official said.

SHERRY BROWN/Tulsa World

▪ They describe how a murder suspect allegedly drove into a crowd of people, killing two.

BY BILL BRAUN
World Staff Writer

A man testified Monday that he was in the passenger's seat when Andrew Allen Mathis drove a car into a crowd of people in a Brookside parking lot.

Brandon Jones testified that Mathis said nothing from behind the wheel and did not apply the brakes.

"What are you observing?" First Assistant District Attorney Doug Drummond asked.

"Bodies flying across the car,"

Jones replied.

"What are you hearing?" Drummond asked.

"Bodies hitting the car," Jones said.

He was among a dozen witnesses who testified Monday at a preliminary hearing for Mathis, 25, who is charged with two counts of first-degree murder in the Nov. 1 deaths of Carlos F. Lopez, 30 of Midland, Texas, and Dennis L. Cox, 38, of Kimberling City, Mo.

Prosecutors allege that after a fight, Mathis intentionally drove a red Camaro into a group of people in a parking lot behind the former Delta Cafe at 33rd Place and Peoria Avenue about 2 a.m.

Mathis also is charged with five felony counts of assault and battery linked to nonfatal injuries he is accused of inflicting with the car on five other people.

Rajneel Naicker, a California resident who was in Tulsa on a business trip, said he went with Lopez to the Jewel dance club in Brookside on the night of Oct. 31.

Upon leaving around closing time, they saw a crowd gathered and a fight in a parking lot and saw Cox fall to the ground, Naicker said.

Lopez said, "We've got to do something," and got a first-aid kit from his truck. They went to Cox's side, where Lopez checked his pulse and they prepared to lift him, Naicker testified.

He said he heard screeching tires and looked up to see "a red bumper coming at me."

"There was chaos," he said, "people running all over the place."

Naicker said his knee and back

SEE **CRASH** A11

HAND OF FRIENDSHIP



Grimes Elementary School students Jayden Wright (left), 6, and Oein Dicks, 5, present gifts to a visiting Chinese principal, He Yue (center), during a special welcome assembly. Next to He are Grimes Principal Belinda Baldwin and interpreter Gordon Chang. JAMES GIBBARD/Tulsa World

Kids greet Chinese principal

▪ She will spend the week shadowing Grimes' principal as part of an OU-Tulsa project.

BY ANDREA EGER
World Staff Writer

Grimes Elementary School students gave a warm "Ni hao" to guest Principal He Yue on Monday morning.

He is one of seven Chinese school principals shadowing

local school principals this week through a project of the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa's Oklahoma Institute for Teaching East Asia.

"It's very nice to meet you. I'm very glad I can be here in the United States. I come from far-away China," He said with

the help of an interpreter at a special morning assembly organized in her honor. "I hope you all will come to visit us at our place, Chongqing."

The purpose of the principal shadowing project, which is sponsored in conjunction with the Confucius Institute at the University of Oklahoma's Norman campus, is to build partnerships and mutual understanding between school

administrators in Oklahoma and China and to create new opportunities for professional development, said Jessica Stowell, the institute's associate director.

The other schools in the principal shadowing project are Grissom Elementary School, Metro Christian Academy and the Union 6th and 7th Grade

SEE **PRINCIPAL** A11

Owasso named as state 'Boomtown'

BY RHETT MORGAN
World Staff Writer

OWASSO — A national online magazine has named Owasso the state's top "Boomtown" and among "America's Biggest Boomtowns."

BusinessWeek.com teamed with the Little Rock, Ark.-based Gadberry Group to select one city from each state as displaying the most growth since 2000.

Factors in the determination included "growth in households from 2000 to 2008 and from 2007 to 2008, the emergence in new neighborhoods, the average length of



EFFICIENT

City Manager Rodney Ray: He says Owasso leaders work diligently to create an environment that invites success.

residency, and the change in household income."

The Gadberry Group provides location intelligence services and

SEE **OWASSO** A11

Police foil burglary ring, jail teens

BY MATT BARNARD
World Staff Writer

Authorities broke up a burglary ring Monday afternoon and jailed three teenagers who police say have a history of breaking into houses — including while they were free on bond after previous arrests.

Detectives seized five stolen flat-screen televisions and more than 20 guns after staking out a house in the 3500 block of East Woodrow Place, Sgt. Brandon Watkins said.

Police arrested Ronnie Roach, 19, and two juveniles, all of whom have had numerous run-ins with police in thefts across town, Watkins said. "They are some of the most pro-



Cpl. Matt Hart and another officer carry electronic equipment from a house in the 3500 block of East Woodrow Place, where three burglary suspects were arrested Monday. Five flat-screen televisions and more than 20 guns were seized, police said. MATT BARNARD/Tulsa World

SEE **RING** A11