

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

A Supplement to The Ponca City News
Sunday, October 20, 2013



*Another
investment in
Ponca
City!*

- SECTION E -

Kaw Lake Association Plays Tourism Role

How do you improve the economic climate of an area? One way is through tourism. Oklahoma's third largest industry.

The Kaw Lake Association plays a major role in the tourism industry for north-central Oklahoma by marketing the many attractions, facilities and conducting events throughout the year. Not only does this non-profit organization promote the lake, but also many communities in Kay,

Osage, Pawnee and Cowley counties.

An award-winning publication, travel shows and the staging of events throughout the year keep this organization, composed predominately of volunteers, busy. Fall is the time when volunteers and staff contact businesses throughout the area to encourage them to advertise in the annual Kaw Lake magazine. A previous Redbud and merit award winner at the Okla-

homa Governor's Conference, this 48-page publication features fishing, hunting and articles on various communities in the area. Also included are area attractions and events. It is distributed through Corps campgrounds at Kaw Lake, Oklahoma Tourist Information Centers, chambers of commerce, local businesses, the Oklahoma fulfillment program, travel shows, and in response to requests to the Kaw Lake Association office.

Travel shows staffed by volunteers are another way the Kaw Lake Association spreads the word about tourism in our area. Each year booths are manned at the Kansas State Fair in September; Kansas Boat, Sport and Travel Show in Wichita in February; a Home Show in Enid in the spring and the WBBZ Spring Expo in Ponca City. Periodically the Kaw Lake magazine is also distributed at other shows in partnership with

Red Carpet Country, Northwest Oklahoma; Green Country, Northeast Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

Four events organized by the Kaw Lake Association and spread throughout the year provide an additional reason for people to visit our area. The third Saturday in January is the annual Ultimate Eagle Watch in Kaw City. With one of the largest numbers of bald eagles in Oklahoma, Kaw Lake provides a program coupled with guided tours to view eagles in their native habitat. Spring brings the Kids Focus on Fishing where children ages 5-12 learn about fishing and have the opportunity to compete with others on their team for prizes. Summer is KawFest. This "party on the beach" features live music, kids games, sand volleyball and more.

As a marketing association, the Kaw Lake Association also participates in various advertising programs and offers cooperative opportunities to area attractions and businesses result in a cost savings way for them to also reach potential visitors to the area. These include the Guide to Green Country, Red Carpet Country guide, Oklahoma Today, Oklahoma Travel Guide and various advertising programs in southern Kansas and western Oklahoma, the two primary areas targeted by the association.

Members also work to create a regional network of communities to promote tourism as economic development in northern Oklahoma and southern Kansas from an office on Lake Road, staffed by part-time executive director Kathy Tippin and several volunteers including volunteer bookkeeper Terri Buesing, several RSVP volunteers, a 22-member board of directors, and numerous other volunteers.

The organization markets the area including the surrounding communities of Blackwell, Braman, Burbank, Fairfax, Kaw City, Pawhuska, Pawnee, Ponca City, Shidler and Tonkawa in Oklahoma and Arkansas City and Winfield in Kansas.

"We are currently working on the 2014 magazine and ask anyone interested in advertising or having a membership listing to contact us," said Kathy Tippin, executive director.

Individuals and businesses support the association through memberships, advertising in the guide and partnering in advertising co-op programs.

"We serve often as the first call people make when inquiring about the lake and field calls about surrounding communities, their events and attractions," Tippin said. "We network with organizations in these communities and throughout Oklahoma and Kansas to provide accurate information to the inquiries and direct people where to go for additional information."

The Kaw Lake Association is a non-profit organization and receives a small portion of funds from the State of Oklahoma as a part of the multi-county marketing organizations fund based upon the amount of private sector money raised.

For more information about the Kaw Lake Association, please contact the Kaw Lake Association office at 580-762-9494 or 1-877-671-6985 or e-mail kawlake@cableone.net. The Kaw Lake Association website is www.kawlake.com.

The purpose of the Kaw Lake Association is to build a region-wide partnership of towns, businesses, service agencies, and local governments within the North Central Oklahoma Kaw Lake area. Its mission includes recruitment of a broad membership base, creation of a financial support system, addressing infrastructure needs, tourism development, broadening the business base, and marketing the region as a whole.

Affordable Care Information Offered

Affordable Care Act information sessions are set for Friday, Nov. 8 at Pioneer Technology Center Seminar Room. "ACA in a Nutshell" is the topic to be presented by Andy Adams, general counsel and owner of Adams Insurance Services. The sessions are slated for 9 to 11 a.m., and from 1 to 3 p.m., in the Pioneer Technology Seminar Room.

Registration may be made by calling the Ponca City Area Chamber of Commerce 580-765-4400. The event is open to Kay County area business owners, managers and Human Resource managers.

Sponsors are, University Center, Pioneer Technology Center, Ponca City Area Chamber of Commerce, Ponca City Main Street and Ponca City Development Authority.

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University Center Continues to Grow

The University Center was established in 1999 with an enrollment of 45 students, under the umbrella of Northern Oklahoma College known as the University Learning Center located in the basement of ConocoPhillips North tower.

"Today, the University Center at Ponca City is an independent Higher Education Agency recognized by the Oklahoma State Legislature to provide higher education offerings to the students of Northern Oklahoma. Now, in the fall of 2013 and located in the brand new facility at 2800 North Fourteenth Street, the UC has set enrollment records for the number of enrolled credit hours with over 2800 credit hours and nearly 400 students," according to Adam Leaming, executive director.

The UC provides a variety of degree options through accredited colleges in Okla-

homa including our most popular degree programs in Business, Education, Psychology, Accounting, Counseling, Criminal Justice, and the brand new Bachelor's in Nursing degree option.

The BSN degree is an exciting partnership between the Community Health Foundation, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Ponca City Regional Medical Center, and UC Foundation. This program has brought a full time instructor to Ponca City to provide educational opportunities to UC students in the classroom as well as in hospital clinical studies. The BSN program serves as a positive example of community and educational partnerships.

There are several degree programs and classes offered at the UC. Individuals can take advantage of the UC's full time academic advisor, Ellan

Edwards, as she can assist perspective or returning students in enrolling for classes that will work with the student's personal schedule.

Students have the option in enrolling in a variety of Associate, Bachelors, and Master degree programs that are designed to get students their degree in a time frame that works for the student. Classes are taught live at the UC either through live instruction, or interactive television (ITV). In the ITV classrooms, students can interact with the instructor and classmates at other sites in Oklahoma in real time. Students can also take advantage of student services at the

UC which includes staff members who can assist with communicating to off-site faculty members, proctoring exams, and sending and receiving bookstore materials.

Student financial need is a barrier for some individuals wanting to attend college. The Foundation assists the students who make a commitment to achieve their degree at the UC.

This past semester the UC Foundation has supported over 40 students with some form of financial assistance. In addition, the UC foundation recognized the importance of area high school students to get a head start on their col-

lege education.

The Oklahoma State regent's concurrent enrollment program for high school students affords eligible students the opportunity to take up to six hours of tuition free course work per semester. The UC Foundation wanted to provide further financial support for college fees or books by offer-

ing a \$100 scholarship in order for high school students to begin their pursuit of a college diploma. This semester we have 26 students taking advantage of this program.

The University Center continues to grow with the number of classes offered and students enrolled.

(See CENTER, Page 4E)

Spanky's Pub Opens

Spanky's Pub is a new non-smoking establishment, located at 1006 South Waverly. The newly revamped business was previously Sye's Tavern.

The main area has both bar stool and chair seating. An adjoining divided room features OSU/OU and Pro football happenings with large televisions.

Additionally a unique,

upscale quiet and private room with large television screens is available to be reserved.

The establishment features quality pool tables, quality mixed drinks, eight drafts plus specialty and bottled beers. Parking is available in the asphalt lot.

Marcus Leavell is the proprietor.



KIDS/HER REVIEW

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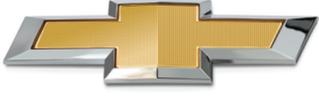
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Chapman Shoe Emporium In Business Many Years



CHAPMAN SHOE Emporium has been in business in Ponca City a number of years. The shoe store is located at 2601 North 14th Street.

Chapman Shoe Emporium, 2601 North 14th, has been in business for a number of years and plans on continuing the legacy for years to come.

Guy Chapman Jr., a graduate of Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa, with a degree in sociology, he turned to the shoe business when he didn't find many career opportunities in his field. It all began when Guy's older brother Harold opened the store and turned it over to Guy.

"My brother had about eight stores back then and he's the one that really got me

started in the shoe business. My business just grew from there," Chapman said. "No matter what town you're in, it going to sell if there's a need for the product and it's a good product."

In addition to this store, Guy had two other store locations, one in Arkansas City and the other in Enid, but decided to combine operations in Ponca City to help the immediate community.

Due to growing success, the store was renovated these past few years. The most recent renovation was the boot space

where Chapman's carries a great selection of boots, steel toe and non-steel toe. They carry top brands such as Dr. Matens, Wolverine, Red Wing and Justin.

Currently they offer all-

weather boots for men, women and children. Chapman's carries wide varieties including cleats, dance and casual/dress balancing comfort with affordability. They carry hard-to-fit shoes for men, women and children. Brands include Nike, New Balance, Puma and SAS. Some of the fad shoes may look odd, but Chapman said he sells quality.

"That's where I get my satisfaction," he said. "I know I'm not selling some junk product or something, that's not any good. It's fulfilling."

In addition to shoes, Chapman's carries purses, skateboards, and a variety of equipment and accessories.

"Chapman Shoes works with our clientele to find the best product for each individual's

need at an affordable price. We love what we do," said Chapman. "Every day is a good day and there is no business like the shoe business."

Guy and his daughters, Gabrielle and Cameron, appreciate the business of all their customers, including the government, tries and major manufacturers in Ponca City and surrounding towns.



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KidsCare Learning Center Open on Princeton Avenue

KidsCare Learning Center is located at 1304 Princeton Avenue in Ponca City. It is a two-star facility and is licensed for 59 children. KidsCare is locally owned by Sandra LeMonnier.

Sandra saw the need for a premier child care facility in Ponca City where children could grow and learn in a safe, friendly and happy environment.

She opened the facility in January 2000 which features a front entry security door. KidsCare's staff teaches the development of positive self-esteem and confidence in children. KidsCare believes a child's love for learning begins in infancy and continues throughout their life. We place an emphasis on developmentally appropriate preschool education.

The staff teaches the Fun-

Shine Express Curriculum from infancy through pre-school. The structure and level of learning activities are geared to the child's developmental level.

Themes are used to introduce information and learning takes place as a child explores and manipulates real objects and events in the classroom and outdoors. Developmental

Skill check lists are done twice a year showing parents their child's developmental progress though out the year.

The majority of the KidsCare's staff has been with KidsCare since it first opened its doors in 2000.

KidsCare is open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. through 6 p.m. For more information about KidsCare Learning Center please call 580-762-8300.

Center

(Continued From Page 3E)

It has never been easier to get the college schedule that works for you. Individuals interested in either beginning their college education or completing their education is encouraged to contact the UC at (580)-718-5600 or stop in at 2800 North Fourteenth Street. There are several resources

and programs available for individuals who wish to get started.

More information can be found at the UC website; www.ucponcacity.com, or find us on Twitter or FaceBook. Stop in the UC today to enjoy our beautiful facility and meet our personable staff. Welcome to your future at the UC!

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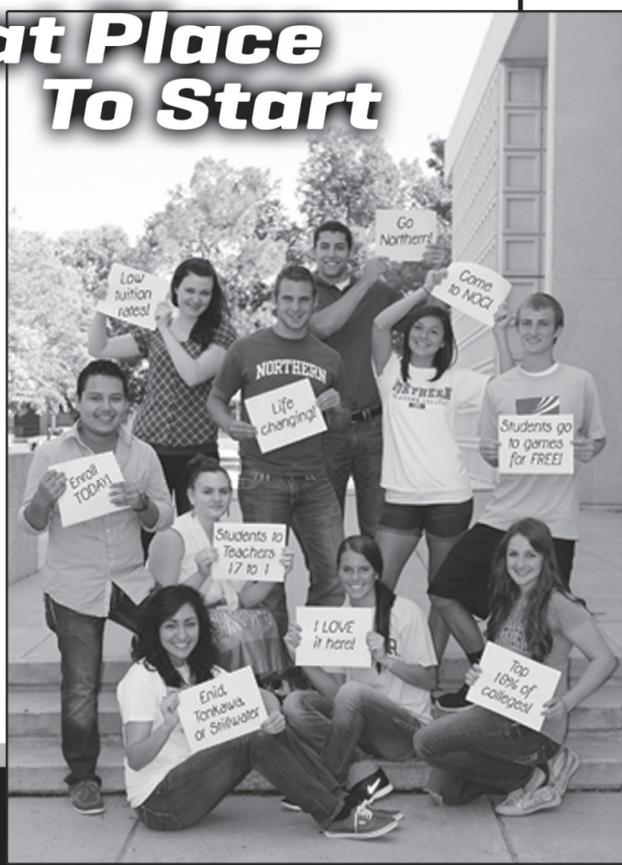
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Health Foundation Supports Community

The Community Health Foundation of Ponca City, Inc. is proud of its long association with the citizens and health care community of Ponca City and the surrounding area. The Community Health Foundation's purpose is to support of the general wellbeing and healthcare of the citizens of Kay County.

The Community Health Foundation completed its five year commitment to the YMCA of Ponca City in support of their new facility and pool during their current fiscal year. The foundation continues to support the YMCA's Health Kids event each April and the Moonlight Run in October.

The foundation has made a second, multi-year, commitment to the Child Development Center in support of their capital campaign. The foundation is pleased to have participated in the funding of the center's new campus and to support the programs they offer area children.

The foundation supports the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma on two crucial programs which provide much needed food to area children. These are the Backpacks 4 Kids program which provides nutritious food for kids in need each weekend of the school year and their new Food Pantry program which provides food for chronically hungry children.

Other programs in support of area youth the foundation assist are the Northern Oklahoma Youth Services Start Right Program, the Kay County Success by Six program, the Blackwell

Youth Center ASAP program, the Blackwell Middle School Backpack food program and the Ponca City High School 2M2L (Too Much Too Lose) program.

This year the Community Health Foundation continued with their education assistance for area health care professionals and students.

In addition to capital support for the University Center, the foundation made a three year commitment, with other area public and private donors, to support a Bachelors of Science in Nursing degree program to be held in the new facility this fall.

Scholarships are a big

component of the foundation's support to area students who will return to the local communities around Kay County upon graduation.

The foundation provided scholarships to five local students studying for advanced degrees in health related fields. Scholarships were provided for continuing education for seventeen area health care professionals, ten scholarships were provided to Northern Oklahoma College Registered Nursing students, seven scholarships were awarded to Pioneer

Technology Center LPN students and six were given to University Center students. Four area high school graduating seniors who are now studying in health care related fields were also awarded scholarships last year. In total over \$41,000 in scholarships were awarded this year.

The Community Health Foundation supports a number of programs targeted to assist the adult and senior citizen population of Kay County. They support the Community Clinic, The Ponca City Medical Center's

Diabetes Education program, and the Ponca City Medical Center's Senior Circle and Healthy Women programs.

Additionally, they are sponsors of the Ponca City Senior Center, Senior Advisory Board's, Successful Aging EXPO each year.

The Community Health Foundation holds a limited number of fundraisers in support of their efforts. Their Annual Appeal letter

reaches out to the community in early November. Their Guys and Grills fundraiser is held every June and has been a great success for the foundation.

The funds from this event are used to support the many scholarship programs of the foundation. There are also additional donation options available to those interested. These include a Named Memorial recognition program and a Named Dona-

tion Plaque recognition program. These are both displayed on the Donor Wall of Fame within the Ponca City Medical Center.

The Community Health Foundation's Board of Directors is composed of local business people and dedicated community volunteers. Their Director, Wayne Foxworthy, can be contacted at P.O. Box 828, Ponca City, OK 74602 or by phone at (580) 765-0581.



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Completely Quilted Grows at a Rapid Rate

Completely Quilted Bernina Sewing Center was founded in 2004 and is located at 315 East Grand Avenue in the Ponca City Downtown Historic District.

The business is family owned and operated by Suzy Taylor, Paul Taylor, and daughter Nancy Rathbun. They offer the highest quality in everything they endeavor. They feature the finest quality cotton fabrics, threads, notions, gifts, embroidery supplies, finished quilts, the latest books and patterns, sewing furniture, and the full line of the finest sewing machines on the market today, Bernina.

The business is open Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturdays they are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday is open sewing day at Completely Quilted, allowing customers to bring in their projects and work on

them at the store until late into the evening. Quilting and sewing classes are offered for all skill and experience levels, from junior-beginner to the most expert and intricate with exciting new classes and projects every month.

During the summer, Completely Quilted offered two week-long "kids camps" and each student learned to sew and quilt. During the camp, every student makes and completes their own quilt to take home, and it is truly amazing to see what they accomplish. In 2014 Completely Quilted will be offering a "Teens Camp," to accommodate the larger number of young quilters that are a mainstay at the store.

Completely Quilted's customer base has grown each of its six years at the Grand Avenue location. In 2013 they welcomed an additional

16 percent to their customer base, bringing the total regulars to 4,039. The number of local patrons grew to 47 percent of its base, with 53 percent of its customers residing outside of the Ponca City area. In addition to their regular customer base, the store brings in a large number of quilters from neighboring states with events. Completely Quilted is a charter member of the state wide quilting shop hop (that grew from 9 to 22 shops this year) and participates in multi-state bus trips throughout the year.

For those that don't sew and want to, Completely Quilted can get you started and help you through rewarding projects. For those that don't sew and want to learn, they can help. For those that don't sew and want a great gift for someone that does, they can help with that too. Additionally, they offer gift cards and a gift registry that is always a big success during the holiday season.

In addition to the store on Grand Avenue, Completely Quilted has an online store. They feature over 5,600 of their products for sale across the US and Canada with same day processing, and they have achieved a 100 percent satisfaction rating.

In addition to online shop-



COMPLETELY QUILTED is located at 315 East Grand Avenue. The website is www.completelyquilted.com.

ping, the site contains instructional movies that were filmed at Completely Quilted. The movies feature Nancy Rathbun, giving step by step instruction on how to quilt, appliqué, and other essential skills.

It can be visited at www.completelyquilted.com.

completelyquilted.com.

The service components of the business includes: sewing machine service and repair for all brands of sewing machines, knife and scissor sharpening, and long arm quilt finishing. Suzy Taylor performs the long arm quilting on her Gammill IQ long arm machine, with over 20 years experience in quilt finishing. The shop also pro-

duces commissioned heirloom and T-shirt quilts.

Bernina, the highest quality sewing and embroidery machine company in the world ranks Completely Quilted as an excellence dealer. This is their highest quality rating of all dealerships. Bernina produces the highest precision Swiss quality machines on the market today.

(See QUILT, Page 7E)



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Peachtree Landing Offers Emergency Shelter

The specific mission of Peachtree Landing is to offer temporary emergency shelter to homeless individuals and families while helping them to become self sufficient and a valued member of the community.

Thanks to the generosity and compassion of the people, churches and businesses of Ponca City, Peachtree Landing first began offering services on November 1, 1988.

Peachtree Landing is governed by a fifteen member board of directors. The day to day operation of the shelter is managed by five paid staff members. Volunteers are

the heart and the hands of the organization, giving assistance with programs and offering the homeless a positive reality of our community. The emergency shelter is funded through the Ponca City United Way, churches, organizations, businesses, individuals, two annual fundraisers, grants and private foundations.

Chronic poverty, coupled with physical and other disabilities, have combined with rapid changes in society, the workplace and the local housing market to make many people vulnerable to its effects. Whatever the reason for homelessness, food and shelter are

basic human requirements, responding to these requirements is where Peachtree Landing begins. While meeting the immediate need for food and shelter Peachtree Landing provides comprehensive case management for each homeless individual or family being served to assist them in their transition from homelessness to independent living. By partnering and collaborating with other community based service providers the Peachtree Landing staff is able to address each person's unmet needs individually.

Behind every homeless person is a story that shows how

close we all are to each other. The difference between the person on the street and the one who has employment and housing can be a few short missteps, a thin line of privilege, or a blown opportunity. In June 2012 a family, a single father with four children, traveling from Nebraska to Texas, then on to California with the promise of housing and employment, ran out of funds.

They were referred to Peachtree Landing from 2-1-1. After addressing the family's immediate needs for shelter, food and clothing, they were able to begin the transition from homeless to self-sufficiency. With the help of the

staff of Peachtree, the father was able to make contact with mainstream resources for food stamps, Sooner Care and SSDI. After staying at Peachtree Landing for seventeen days the family was ready to continue on their journey.

If you would like further information about Peachtree Landing and the services provided or are considering giving your time as a volunteer, please contact Terrie Hill, Executive Director, at (580)762-3208.

Credit Union Celebrates Anniversary

Cherokee Strip Credit Union, formerly Conoco Employees Ponca City Credit Union was founded on October 10, 1933, in Ponca City, Oklahoma.

It was the second credit union established in the state and continues to be a successful state-chartered credit union 80 years later.

Cherokee Strip Credit Union has grown from those first few Conoco employees to now serve over 8,500 members. The credit union itself has over \$85 million in total assets and serves its members from two Ponca City locations.

Quilt

(Continued From Page 6E)

The staff at Completely Quilted is certified with the Bernina sewing machine product line, repair/service, and the Bernina software product line.

Bernina revolutionized the sewing machine experience this year with a new line of sewing machines containing freshly patented technologies that move up the bar on reliability and ease of use.

Completely Quilted teaches free machine and software mastery classes for all new Bernina owners, enabling customers to capitalize

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Christina and Senator Eddie Fields with daughters (l to r) Tailor, Jacie & Tristan



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Grace Episcopal Church Has Come a Long Way

In 1898, a small group of Episcopalians, living in the Ponca City area, began meeting together for worship in the traditional manner of their church, using The Book of Common Prayer. This "unorganized congregation" chose "St. Andrew's Episcopal Church."

The Rt. Rev. Francis Key Brooke (a descendant of Francis Scott Key, composer of "The Star Spangled Banner") was Oklahoma's first resident Episcopal bishop. On June 15, 1900, he made the first "bishop's visitation" to the Ponca City congregation. The Episcopalians had

assembled at the Presbyterian Church for the visitation, and Bishop Brooke celebrated Holy Communion for them there. It was the first time that sacrament had been provided for the Episcopalians in Ponca City.

In 1902, St. Andrew's Church numbered seven families and all worship services were held in the Masonic Hall, located in the City Hall building at the southeast corner of Grand Avenue and Fifth Street.

During this time the Episcopal congregation, served by lay readers from the Episcopal congregation in Newkirk and other nearby communities, was formally recognized as a "mission church" of the Episcopal Missionary District of Oklahoma.

Episcopalians had plans to construct their own church building, and in 1914 a clapboard structure - referred to as the "Guildhall" - was erected on lots south of the City Hall at a cost of \$3000, with E. W. Marland serving the congregation as Senior Warden.

In 1923, the City Commission of Ponca City request that all who owned property in the block bounded by Grand and Central Avenues and Fifth and Sixth Streets sell their property to the city so that a new municipal center, to occupy the entire block, could be erected. The

church's lots were deeded to the city on March 7, 1923.

The Episcopalians then purchased two lots on Central Avenue and South Seventh Street and moved their Guildhall to that location. When moved, the building was turned so that its altar could be placed in the east end. Sometime during this transition, the name of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church was changed to Grace Episcopal Church.

In 1929, Grace Church Sunday services began to be broadcast over radio station WBBZ. Since the congregation lacked dedicated space for fellowship gatherings during this time, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Marland entertained fellow church members several times in their lovely home.

With the congregation now growing, parishioners began to plan expansion of their facilities. An architect was engaged to design a new Parish House and begin plans for enlarging and remodeling the Guildhall into a proper church building. The Guildhall was elongated twenty-seven feet and a narthex (vestibule) was added facing Seventh Street.

The Parish House, a 36'X72' structure facing Central Avenue, was erected east of (and connected to) the enlarged church. Because many parishioners were active in organizing Ponca City's Little Theater group, he Parish House was designed with a stage for rehearsals and shows. The Parish House was first used February 10, 1931. In 1935, the Rev. Gordon V. Smith became the first rector of Grace Church, and later became the Episcopal Bishop of Iowa. Ponca City Episcopalians held worship, education, and fellowship activities at the corner of Central

and Seventh until 1952.

On February 1, 1944, the Rev. Thomas O. Moehle became rector of Grace Church and continued in that position for 30 years. During his tenure, the church flourished and expanded, and plans for a new church building were envisioned. Lots were purchased, and architect J. Duncan Forsyth was engaged to design the new edifice.

The old church building, at Central Avenue and Seventh Street, was sold to the Bethel Temple congregation in 1951. Groundbreaking for the new church facilities, to be located at Grand Avenue and Thirteenth Street, was on April 15, 1951. In August of that year, the Parish House was moved to the new site and used for worship services while the new church was under construction.

To facilitate the moving process, the structure was split in the center and slowly moved along Ponca City's brick streets. Later, the Parish House was connected to the new church building, with administrative offices and other spaces for Sunday school classes added in 1954.

Grace Church continued to grow under Father Moehle's leadership. To accommodate the increasing attendance for Sunday school, the residence just north of the Parish Hall was purchased for classroom space, and was named "Grace House" - and soon land directly across Thirteenth Street from the Parish Hall was acquired for use as a parking lot.

In 1954, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW), sponsored the first ballroom dance classes in the Parish Hall for Ponca City youth. Each year until the early 1990's, young people from the

Ponca City community learned dance and social etiquette there.

A Moeller pipe organ, anticipated and planned for in the present church's original design, was installed in 1967. In the late 1970's, the "Stations of the Cross" were designed and sculpted in bronze by local artist Jo Saylor's, and have been added in the church's nave. A wooden reredos, functioning as an organ screen, has been constructed separating the sanctuary's altar area from the organ pipe chamber in the apse.

Following Father Moehle's retirement in 1974, the Rev. B. Franklin Williams became Rector of Grace Church, serving until the summer of 1978. The Rev. Lawrence Boyd was called to Grace Church in 1978 from the Diocese of Fond du Lac (Wisconsin). He returned to Wisconsin to become Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in the Diocese of Eau Claire (Wisconsin). The Rev. Isaac Mason served Grace Church during the interim before the arrival of the Rev. John Loving, who arrived from Virginia to begin his ministry as rector in late 1983. Father Loving accepted a call in San Angelo, Texas in April 1990. Serving during the interim before the arrival of the new rector was the Rev. Richard Allen. Having just completed his 20th year as Grace Church's rector, The Rev. Kenneth Armstrong came from St. Luke's Church, Ada, Oklahoma, on May 15, 1991.

Changes made during the 1980's include the construction of the columbarium Chapel of the Resurrection on the east side of the nave, dedicated in memory of Father Tom Moehle in 1988. Designed by parishioner Richard Winterrowd of Lewis Associates Architects, the Christian Education Center, with an additional small fellowship area, gift shop, library, and connecting cloister were added in 1997-98 for the 100th anniversary of the founding of the congregation. As was envisioned in the original plans, statues of the four gospel evangelists have been sculpted in Italy and installed in the pulpit niches. The landscaped courtyard formed by the completion of the physical facilities has recently become the home of our newest sculpture - a large, welcoming, bronze statue of St. Francis of Assisi, which will soon have an accompanying outdoor altar.

From a fledgling congregation of only a few dedicated Episcopalians in 1898 to the vibrant and active community it is now, Grace Church has come a long way in the last 114 years. As the apostle Andrew said to his brother, Peter, "Come and see." What you will find is a friendly, dynamic, caring congregation which really takes to heart and puts into practice their motto, "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You."

Businesses Share Building Downtown

By LOUISE ABERCROMBIE
News Business Editor

Two businesses located in downtown Ponca City, Farha Wholesale and Fowler Vending Corp., share a 14,000 square foot building at 208 South First Street, are doing \$2.5 million and \$1.5 million, respectively in sales annually. A large percentage of businesses in the Ponca City and northwest Oklahoma are served by the companies.

Farha Wholesale Company sells janitorial supplies, paper products, candy concession supplies, operates a coffee service and vending equipment. This company, and Cowboy Supply in Stillwater, is owned Ralph and Pauletta Beaty, and managed by their son Brad Beaty, who grew up in the business.

Brady and his wife Tina, are president and vice president respectively of Fowler Vending Corp. Brad graduated from Ponca City High School, and went to OSU intending to go into the cattle business. Then he decided to come back home and go into the business he knew well.

A lot of the vending machines in the beginning were cigarettes machines and decided to change with the times and went to vending machines for video games in 1970 to 1980, and then turned to full vending which has gone well. They are a member of Franchise Canteena the largest national vending service owned by Compass Group. Currently,

Fowler Vending is the fourth largest venter in the state and the only one in this area. Fowler has satellite operations, in Woodward, Alva and Stillwater

The business was located at First Street and Central Avenue until 1980. Then they moved to the former lumber yard location in 1980. Then they had a fire and they located down the street across from Cooper Cameron.

The company employs 15 full time and three part-time employees.

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Housing Authority Provides Assistance

For over 30 years, the Ponca City Housing Authority (PHA) has provided assistance for low-income families, the elderly and persons with disabilities. The mission of the Housing Authority is to provide decent and safe rental housing to the community. The Ponca City Housing Authority achieved the status of "High Performer" with a score of 97% for the last several years from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD monitors facility management, financial accountability, property inspection and resident surveys before determining a status and score.

The groundwork to establish public housing in Ponca City began in 1968. The construction of family unit duplexes was completed in 1975 and the elderly and disabled housing complex was finished in the fall of 1977.

The Ponca City Housing Authority operates two different programs: The Public Housing program and the Housing Choice Voucher program also known as Section 8. Currently these two programs provide housing to over

600 individuals within Ponca City. The programs are subsidized with funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Public housing in Ponca City comes in all sizes and types from single-family units to a high-rise apartment for seniors. The public housing program serves as landlord to 177 units it owns and leases to the public. The Section 8 program has 134 vouchers available for low-income families to choose and lease privately-owned rental housing that is safe, decent and affordable.

The elderly high-rise complex, Broadway Plaza is located at 201 East Broadway. A total of 104 apartments are available consisting of efficiency and one-bedroom apartments and a few one-bedroom suites. Broadway Plaza offers secure, simplified living for seniors, nearly elderly (over 50) and disabled persons living on fixed incomes. It is conveniently located just minutes from downtown Ponca City. The complex has indoor mail, laundry facilities, 24-hour video monitoring cameras in all public areas, 24-hour emergency maintenance per-

sonnel on call, elevators, fire alarm and sprinkler systems, and individual air and heating units. Each apartment is totally electric, equipped with range, refrigerator, smoke detector, mini blinds and carpet. The grounds are beautifully landscaped with a gazebo area and patio/grilling area to entertain. Other services offered are gospel band entertainment monthly, pot luck dinners, bingo night, movie night, game night, church services in the lobby, blood pressure, sugar and oxygen testing, pedicures, Friendship Feast van service, Meals on Wheels delivery, and Cimarron Transit service.

As well as the elderly complex, the Housing Authority has seventy-three single-family duplex units that are scattered at ten sites throughout the City. They can accommodate various size families offering one, two, three and four-bedroom units. These duplexes are located at N. Osage, N. Palm, N. 1st, N. Gary, N. Ash, S. Sunset, S. 6th, S. 9th, S. 10th and W. Grand. The Housing Authority is responsible for all maintenance and lawn care.

Major renovations have been in progress for the past three years on the scattered sites and the elderly/disabled complex. Scattered site units have been completely remodeled with new tile floors, bathroom vanities and tubs, kitchen cabinets, sinks and countertops, energy efficient windows, doors and storm doors. Washer and dryer hook-ups are available.

The elderly complex has just completed a major renovation project of its common areas. New canopies have been installed on the outside of the building with updated landscaping. The common areas have been completely remodeled with ceramic tile, carpeting, and all new furniture. The apartments are updated as vacated with new carpet, paint and tile. New mini blinds were installed the Fall of 2012.

The housing choice voucher program assists low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe and sanitary housing in

the private market of Ponca City. An individual is issued a voucher and is then responsible for finding a suitable housing unit where the owner agrees to rent under the program. Rental units must meet the minimum standards of health and safety as determined by HUD. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly by the PHA on behalf of the participant who pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program.

Anyone interested in the public housing and housing choice voucher programs must apply in person. They will need to meet the annual income limit guidelines set by HUD as well as have good landlord, police and national background reports. In public housing, deposits range from \$100 to \$250 and utilities must be set up in the applicant's name. To qualify for our family units, you must be working a minimum of 20 hours or going to school full time (12 hours a semester). Applicants are urged to return applications immediately to be included in the Housing Authority waiting lists.

The waiting period for the public housing program has increased this past year with a wait of six to eight months to be housed. There is an approximate waiting time of sixteen to eighteen months for the Section 8 program.

In 2011, the Ponca City Housing Authority and the City of Ponca City worked together to provide homes to Section 8 voucher holders from funds provided through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The City applied for a grant from this stimulus program and their application was approved. It allowed

the City to purchase several homes throughout Ponca City and completely renovate the properties. The City then decided the homes over to the Housing Authority to lease to Section 8 participants. All of these homes were leased as of Sept. 1, 2011.

The Housing Authority is governed by a board of commissioners who are appointed by the mayor. The current board members are Dwain West, Chairman, Todd Burlie, Echo Blanton, James Roland

and resident commissioner Evelyn Yancey.

Joey Bradford, Executive Director, says with the hard work of a professional, caring, and compassionate staff, the Ponca City Housing Authority brings the best housing and services to our residents. For more information, please call 580/762-4445 or drop by Broadway Plaza at 201 East Broadway and talk to Kristi Suttles, Section 8 Coordinator or Julie Cartwright, Public Housing Coordinator.

Dearing House Is Safe, Comfortable Place for Children

One of the best kept secrets in Ponca City is Dearing House Child Advocacy Center.

"Our biggest challenge is letting the public know about our services while protecting the confidentiality of the children we serve," explains Maggi Hutchason, executive director. "We are often told by clients, 'I didn't even know this place existed, but we're sure glad you were here when we needed you.'"

National statistics indicate that one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused by someone they know.

"These numbers are hard to grasp, but it helps us realize the extent of the problem," Hutchason said. "Unfortunately, children in Ponca City and surrounding communities fall victim to sexual crimes too. Many people are surprised to learn that Dearing House helps about 100 children every year."

Established in 2003 at 311 South Thirteenth Street and accredited by the National Children's Alliance, Dearing House is a safe and comforting place for children involved in sexual abuse investigations to come for interviews and assistance by specially-trained professionals.

Funded by state and federal grants as well as foundations and private contributions, all services at Dearing House are available free of charge.

"Our purpose is to eliminate further trauma to children by reducing the number of times they are asked about sexual abuse," Hutchason said.

"We work closely with law enforcement, child welfare and medical professionals, counselors, and prosecutors so that the focus is the needs of child victims and their families. Working as team results in child abuse investigations that are both effective and efficient."

In a recent evaluation by the National Children's Alliance, Dearing House was commended for doing exceptional work with a high level of cooperation and communication.

This summer, an AmeriCorps member joined the family advocacy team.

"Through the AmeriCorps program, we can add a full-time person to provide a continuous thread of support from the first time a child walks through our doors until the case is closed," Hutchason said.

"We are delighted to have Jessica Freeman on our staff and know that her expertise in child development and community resources will be well received by the families we serve."

AmeriCorps is a national service program that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in solving community problems. In exchange for a year of full-time service, members earn an education award that can be used to pay for educational expenses at qualified institutions of higher education, and receive a modest living allowance. "In times of reduced state and federal funding, an AmeriCorps Member like Jessica is a great benefit to Dearing House and this community. We are using this opportunity to expand our services to children."

Dearing House is one of 20 Child Advocacy Centers in Oklahoma and over 500 across the country.

The concept of Child Advo-

cacy Centers was developed by a prosecutor in Alabama over 20 years ago when he realized the additional trauma that investigations and questioning were causing to children.

Since that time, centers have included counseling and advocacy so that the child and family have support throughout the process of reporting, investigation and responding to abuse allegations.

For more information on the service of Dearing House or to learn how to support the program, please contact the center at 762-5266.



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