

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

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



*Another
investment in
Ponca
City!*

- SECTION J -

United CAP Has Served Area for 44 Years

United Community Action Program, Inc. (United CAP) has served north-central Oklahoma for more than 44 years and is one of 18 community action agencies (CAAs) in the state. The not for profit agency continues to promote self-sufficiency and support to individuals and families striving to become economically secure while investing in the future of the community. Two Kay County residents serve on the United CAP board of directors, participating in community decision-making.

Nationally, a network of 1060 agencies, serve approximately 7 million families, totaling 16 million low-income persons each year. More than two-thirds have incomes at or below the federal poverty guideline, according to the National Association for Community Action Agencies.

Locally, United CAP administers the following programs: Cimarron Public Transit System; Early Head Start, and Head Start. The agency also maintains 11 single-family rentals in Kay County, for low income individuals and families.

Cimarron Public Transit System

The rural, public transit system operates in Creek, Kay, Osage, Pawnee and Washington Counties, and is open to the public, providing curb to curb service utilizing a fleet of 70 vehicles. The local site is situated in the Ponca Plaza Shopping Center; retains a staff of 16 and utilizes a fleet of 13 ADA vehicles.

During the fiscal year ending in September, Kay County drivers traveled more than 303,000 miles to provide an estimated 35,000 trips. Half of the trips were provided to seniors and/or disabled riders.

Thirty percent of rides were provided to riders going to or from work destinations; trips to medical appointments comprised 30% of trips. Eleven percent of rides were education-related, and 29% of trips were provided for shopping, recreation, nutrition and other purposes.

CPTS continued efforts to expand technology. Almost every driver receives updated trip data using a mobile tablet with special software. The drivers have instant access to their trip information and enter data live. The process

has reduced data errors and staff time required for reporting and billing. Another step in going green includes reducing paper manifests and the introduction of CNG vehicles to reduce the carbon footprint.

Mobile surveillance technology is being tested in one local vehicle. Cameras are installed at several angles to assist in investigating issues and incidents related to the transportation program.

In August, a purposes built vehicle that exceeds ADA was added to the Ponca City fleet. The vehicle is the first step to transition to Compressed Natural Gas powered vehicles. It is anticipated that the vehicle will save the program in fuel and maintenance costs and aid in reducing the program's carbon footprint.

During any given day, Kay County drivers provide transportation to Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Enid, Bartlesville, Fairfax, Pawhuska, Pawnee and Stillwater. These trips provide access to medical appointments as well as intercity connection to airports and bus stations.

Locally, the transit program partners with: City of Ponca City, Sooner Ride; Developmental Disability Services Division; Department of Human Services - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Domestic Violence of North Central Oklahoma; Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and Northern Oklahoma Development Authority.

Cimarron Public Transit complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. For more information or to schedule a ride, call 718-0444.

Ponca City Head Start

United CAP has served toddlers and their families since 1969. In Ponca City, the Head Start Center is located at 407 South Ash. Head Start focuses on helping children develop early reading and math skills they will need to be successful in elementary school.

Head Start programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through improved access to educational, health, nutritional, social, and other services to enrolled children and their families. Children of low-income families, children

in foster care, homeless children and children with developmental disabilities are all eligible to attend.

A Spanish translator is available to assist in providing services to children and their families with limited understanding of the English language.

Head Start encourages parent involvement, providing opportunities for parents to volunteer and attend parent meetings. A few local program partners include: Kay County Health Department and Smart Start of Kay County.

The Kiwanis Club assists children by providing books for Raising A Reader book bags program. Additionally, the civic organization provides a Santa at Christmas. Members volunteer at the center on a weekly basis to read and use puppets to educate the children on character traits.

Enrollment applications can be picked up at the site. For more information call (580)-765-1173 or find the program on Facebook: Ponca City Head Start & Early Head Start.

Early Head Start

Two Early Head Start classrooms are housed at the Child Development Center located at 702 East Grand Avenue.

Early Head Start and the Pre-Natal Programs address the needs of low-income children under age three, as well as pregnant women. The prenatal program focuses on educating first or second time students or working moms about pre-natal care and what to expect throughout the various stages of pregnancy. Newborns of these moms are insured placement into Early Head Start within 6-12 weeks of birth.

Early Head Start provides a focus on helping infants and toddlers develop social skills, language skills, a love of reading, and very simple math skills (i.e. counting to 5).

Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Pre-Natal Program provide comprehensive child development and family services to economically disadvantaged children and their families.

Applications for Head Start/ Early Head Start and the Pre-Natal Program are taken all year and can be picked up at the local site. For additional information, call (580)-762-7522.



CIMARRON TRANSIT Sherry Blubaugh demonstrates the mobile tablet. Drivers have instant access to new trip information and are able to track ridership and mileage data live.

Mock Fashion Floors Located on West Grand

What started as a one-man-and-woman business in 1958 at their home has grown into a full-fledged family business. Bill Mock Fashion Floors and Interiors, Inc. started in the Mock's living room selling linoleum and ceramic tile and doing his own installation.

In 1966 they moved the business to the Waggoner building at 304 West Grand in Ponca City and expanded to include carpet in that year. New home construction was a growing business that continued to grow. Opportunity came about to lease Sanders Drug Store at 300 West Grand in 1970.

The Mocks, Bill and Charlene, have seen many changes over their 55 plus years in business. And the business has met many obstacles. In 1977, a water line broke flooding the store. A tornado broke out windows in 1992, and a fire destroyed the building in 1994. The family made the decision to rebuild the store and the new store was completed and opened in June of 1995.

Leaving the business in the capable hands of their two daughters, The Mocks began to enjoy traveling the U.S. in their bus. They have been in all 50 states at least once, and have made many friends along the way. Bill and Charlene were given a retirement

party in June 1998 and daughters Janelle K. Moreland and Joyce L. Edwards officially purchased the store.

Janelle and Joyce have managed and operated Mock Fashion Floors for nearly 58 combined years so they are no strangers to the floor installation business.

In June of 2008, Mock Fashion Floors officially celebrated their 50th year in business. Janelle is president and general manager; measuring jobs, setting up work crews and scheduling jobs at Mocks. She is a member of the Ponca City Soroptimist. She has been with the company since 1977. Janelle is married to Ray Moreland. He installs carpet and ceramic tile for the store and has 40 years' experience.

Joyce is secretary and treasurer, handling the accounts receivable and ordering desk. She has been with Mock's since 1984. Deborah Watkins completes the in-store staff. Deborah plays an important roll in serving customers and keeping the store in order. She has been with Mock's since 2001. Mike Watkins in the "Tile Man" for Mock Fashion Floors. He is a major addition in the ceramic tile, vinyl, formica, laminate, wood flooring end of the business. He has been with Mock's since the early 1990's.

Mock's have a wide variety of ceramic tiles for the walls and floors of any home or office-decorating project. Dependable work crews install such carpet brands as Coronet, Mohawk, Kraus, Milliken, Shaw and several other quality lines. Mock's offer wood and laminate flooring and the newest free-floating vinyl floors. Solid-surface and quartz countertops are available, realistic "wood-look" ceramic tile for easy maintenance and care. Vinyl flooring from Armstrong, Mannington and Tarkett as well as Formica and WilsonArt for countertops are also available. Experienced installers, quality products & service are a trademark of Mock Fashion Floors, said Janelle.

Most of their business is referrals and repeat customers. They've been in business long enough that they are doing people a second time around. "You treat the customer right the first time and they are going to come back" was Bill's motto.

For commercial or residential jobs, the staff at Mock Fashion Floors look forward to serving the community and surrounding area. Stop by and see the latest styles. Keeping the tradition set by Bill, the girls will continue to provide friendly service and quality installation as always.



SPANKY'S PUB is located at 1006 South Waverly in Ponca City and Marcus Leavell is the proprietor. Spanky's is a non-smoking establishment that offers cocktails, wine and a great selection of beer including eight on draft and many bottled microbrews and imports. Spanky's is open every day but Sunday and the pub will feature an outdoor patio next spring.

Standing Bear Foundation Grows

Started in 1994 by a small group of business and tribal leaders to address concerns about the perceived lack of recognition of Native American contributions to the area's culture, the Standing Bear Native American Foundation has continued to grow through a series of enhancement phases and educational programming.

Phase 1 of the project was the construction of a memorial park with a statue of Ponca Chief Standing Bear. The statue was unveiled and the park opened in 1996. In 2000, Phase 2 was dedicated in conjunction with the annual Standing Bear Pow Wow. Six tribal viewing courts and two orientation courts were designed to give tribal voice to tribal stories. A permanent pow wow arbor, Phase 3, was completed and dedicated in 2005. In 2007, Phase 4 - the Standing Bear Museum and Education building, was opened and has since been a popular attraction for community members, students and tourists.

This time last year we had just completed and dedicat-

ed the most recent phase of park development. The Osage Nation Heritage Trail was designated as an Oklahoma Scenic Byway in 2007. With one end of the byway in Ponca City and the other in Bartlesville (stretching along 70 miles of US HWY 60), it seemed appropriate for Standing Bear Park to become an interpretive center for that byway and the story it tells.

The basis for the designation was not only the beauty of the landscape along the trail, but the rich cultural story of the Osage people and that of the other tribes located in North Central Oklahoma. The Scenic Byway program was designed to showcase not only the areas immediately adjacent to the byway, but to draw visitors to the surrounding areas as well. Since the completion of this phase, traffic at the park and museum has increased dramatically.

The Standing Bear Museum and Education Center is also home to The Tribal Institute, a cooperative program between Northern Oklahoma College and the Standing Bear Native

American Foundation. By bringing together two institutions that have education as their primary mission, there is an opportunity to provide that education through traditional, as well as non-traditional methods, thereby participating in the preservation of a culture.

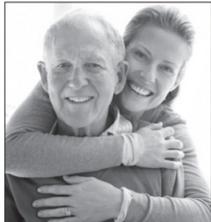
In May, 1879, Ponca Chief Standing Bear stood before Judge Elmer Dundy and, with his hand extended to the court, said "My hand is not the color of yours, but if I pierce it, I shall feel pain. If you pierce your hand you also feel pain. The blood that will flow from mine will be of the same color as yours. I am a man. The same God made us both." Those words, which won Standing Bear his freedom, guide us today as we remain steadfast in our commitment to the education of all people, and the unified vision of the multicultural group we represent.

The Standing Bear project is proud to partner with the six area tribes in an effort to educate those visitors about the Native American culture.

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Cherokee Strip Credit Union Celebrates its 80th Anniversary this year. Cherokee Strip Credit Union, formerly Conoco Employees (PC) Credit Union, was founded on Oct. 10, 1933 in Ponca City. 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 serving over 8,500 members. The credit union itself has over \$85 million in total assets and serves its members from two Ponca City locations.

We would like to thank our members for their support. If you live, work, worship or attend school in Kay County, you are welcome to become a member of the credit union family.

Phillips 66 Invests in Our Community

Phillips 66 is a growing energy manufacturing and logistics company. The company is the only integrated downstream company to combine leading midstream, chemicals, refining, and marketing and specialties businesses.

Phillips 66 acts as a responsible citizen in the communities where its employees live and work. These positive community interactions take place through charitable contributions, volunteerism, sponsorships, and civic leadership.

For Ponca City, Kay County and the surrounding communities this means that the company is committed to being a good neighbor and they will continue to support programs that provide sustainable community development, benefit the community and are consistent with the company's core values of Safety, Commitment, and Honor.

Phillips 66 supports Ponca City and the surrounding area through philanthropic giving and employee volunteerism. The key areas of investment are focused primarily in three pillars - Education, Health and Safety, and Environment. The company also provides assistance during the relief stage of major natural disasters and support community-based social services, arts and civic organizations.

Organizations receiving significant philanthropic contributions in Ponca City and the surrounding area in 2013 include: Land of Opportunity; Ponca City Public Schools; Native American Foundation; Attucks Community Alliance; United Way, including donations of more than \$150,000 from employee and retiree contributions; Civic and Arts, such as the

Marland Estate, Arts and Humanities, Arts Association, the Poncan Theatre, and Main Street; YMCA of Ponca City; Marland Mansion; Friends of Education; Ponca City School Foundation; Literacy Council; Safety, civic and arts and social services that include but are not limited to: Ponca City Police Foundation, Friendship Feast, CrimeStoppers, Ponca Playhouse, The Poncan Theatre, and Harmony House.

The company also provides more than \$11,000 annually for technology scholarships at Northern Oklahoma College as well as support to the NOC Foundation.

In addition to monetary donations, Phillips 66 Ponca City provides many in-kind donations to not-for-profit organizations, schools and volunteer fire departments.

Phillips 66 Ponca City employees, retirees and family members are also involved in the area, with volunteers serving in nearly all aspects of the community.

Special Olympics Oklahoma is a proud tradition for the company and employees. The company supports local athletes and for many years, employees, retirees and family members have worked each year at the summer in games in Stillwater.

Phillips 66 employees are active with the company's Partner in Education school, Garfield Elementary. Employees serve as in school mentors providing special one-on-one assistance for students. Various employee groups Adopt-a-Class and meet at least monthly with their classrooms. Employee volunteers assist with math and science projects, the annual rocket launch, Christmas assembly, teacher recog-

nitions, testing volunteers and end of year activities.

Employees form teams to support local fundraising events such as the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, the March of Dimes' WalkAmerica and the United Way.

Through the Employee Volunteer and Matching Grant programs, Phillips 66 has given more than \$250,000 to local groups and organizations having employees who serve on committees, boards and at special events in volunteer capacities.

The company's Employee Environmental Action Committee sponsors an annual grant program that is open to all Ponca City and surrounding area primary and secondary schools, public, private or home school associations and rescue organizations.

Grants given by the EEAC have provided area schools with teaching aids such as: rain-saver rain barrels, watering cans, can of worms package, rock lock raised bed systems, permanent recycling containers for classrooms, cedar barrels, gardening supplies for indoor and outdoor gardens, an indoor ecology lab, tree planting supplies, an ecology lab, bird houses, a weather station and an environmental science program.

Phillips 66, as a major sponsor for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day donates \$20,000, the location for the event and other company resources to this partnership with the City of Ponca City. Employees volunteer many hours to this event that is coordinated by the city of Ponca City. This community wide activity helps residents safely rid their homes of chemicals and other items while preventing their accumulation in the city landfill.

Additionally, Phillips 66 Ponca City supports local teachers' attendance at the National Science Teachers Association annual conference. Teachers are selected by their respective schools on a rotating basis and each year three to six teachers from the district attend this conference that is held at locations across the United States.

A partner with National Energy Education Development, Phillips 66 has presented and will again this year host a workshop that is open to area and teachers across the state. The company pays for the substitute teachers and attendees receive energy education kits that they can take back to their schools.

The Ponca City Refinery was happy and privileged to host the USA Swimming Foundation's Make A Splash Tour with Olympians Cullen Jones and Rowdy Gaines. In the words of Ponca City Mayor Homer Nicholson, "It was a great day in Ponca City." Mayor Nicholson proclaimed September 10 as Make A Splash Day in Ponca City. The Ponca City YMCA Family Center became a Make A Splash partner, receiving a \$2,500 grant from the Foundation to help teach children to swim. This simple act has the potential to save a child's life. Through this partnership, Ponca City children will now be counted among the more than 2 million, and growing, children Make A Splash has reached with swim lessons.

Phillips 66 encourages students to focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The Ponca City Refinery recently invited more than 1000 students from Ponca City and surrounding school districts to hear presentations around STEM

education and to visit the refinery. Students were given the opportunity to not only learn and ask questions about the world's largest portable crane, but to view it up close and personal. By preparing and encouraging students today, the company hopes to enable the United States to remain globally competitive in the areas of technology and science.

The Ponca City Refinery was selected by the Oklahoma Safety Council to receive this year's "Excellence in Safety and Health Award - Large Employer." The Oklahoma Chapter of the National Safety Council awards one company or employer each year to receive this award in, "Recognition for superb safety and health programs and culture." Phillips 66 is committed to operating excellence and safety, and protecting employees, the environment and the communities in which they operate drives everything they do.

Phillips 66 is committed to diversity and employees work together as a team to share knowledge so that both employees and the company can be successful. Phillips 66 Ponca City has very active site network groups who are actively involved on the job and in the community. Several examples of these networks are the Ponca City Black Employees Network, which is the model used by other Phillips 66 sites to develop their networks and the Hispanic Network, which has done substantial work with schools and with community outreach to help Hispanic students be more successful. All site network groups are open to any and all employees and are a contributing factor in facilitating a positive and productive work environment in Ponca City.

Cherokee Strip Credit Union Continues to Grow

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

Cherokee Strip Credit Union, (CSCU) is a corporation owned by and operated for the mutual benefit of all its members. The members of the credit union, through their share (savings) accounts, provide funds for loans that can be made to

other members. Proceeds from these loans, as well as earnings from other investments are then returned to members as dividends, interest and lower cost financial services. Cherokee Strip Credit Union is a not for profit cooperative with a mission statement to promote thrift and meet the financial needs of members through progressive financial services with stability and integrity.

Cherokee Strip Credit Union has expanded its membership to include anyone who lives, works, worships, or attends school in Kay County, and of course the employees of the 104 businesses previously associated with CSCU.

Cherokee Strip Credit Union offers almost any type of consumer and mortgage loan, certificate of deposit, IRAs, saving and checking accounts, debit cards, direct deposit, notary service, wire

Sounds Incredible Celebrates 34 Years

Sounds Incredible is celebrating 34 years of service to Ponca City and the surrounding areas. Established in 1979 by the same folks that own and operate it now, Sounds Incredible is Ponca City's most established Retail Mobile Electronic Store.

Fifteen years after outgrowing their shop on North 14th, Sounds Incredible purchased land and built their new building located at 2102 North Union.

Sounds Incredible has everything you need to make your car or truck sound the best. Professional installation is

available on the spot 6 days a week.

Featuring the best brands with the best service, and of course the best customers, has helped make Sounds Incredible a success for over 34 years. (That's like forever). They have been doing this for a very long time and are some of the best at what they do.

The business is open six day a week, weekdays until 6 p.m. and Saturdays until 3 p.m.

Visit the store at 2012 North Union or check them on the web at www.SoundsIncredible.net.

transfers, on-line banking, bill pay, cashier checks and safe deposit boxes.

We encourage anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in Kay County to become a member.

Please call Cherokee Strip Credit Union at (580) 718-4000 or visit our main branch at 1508 East Prospect in Ponca City, visit our website at www.cherokeestirp.com or Facebook for more information.

Tru-Line Stripping, Sealcoating, Family Owned for 13 Years

Carol Andrews and Rowdy Andrews have been owners of Tru-Line Stripping for the past 13 years. Tru-Line Stripping started out as a parking lot stripping business. In an effort to keep up with the needs of the community, crack fill and sealcoating was added to the business. They were then named Tru-Line Stripping and Sealcoating.

In order to maintain the appearance and quality of parking lots and driveways, they need to be crack filled and sealed routinely. Tru-Line crack fills with a rubberized hot pour crack sealant. The sealcoat is with a double layer of coal tar emulsion sealer. The stripping is also done routinely with quality high traffic paint. All products are applied using professional grade equipment.

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We are thrilled to be a part of downtown Ponca City! Bring the kids to our booth at the Halloween Carnival Thursday, Oct. 24!

Store Celebrates 102 Years

Brown's Shoe Fit is celebrating their 102nd anniversary this year. It all began in 1911 by Win Brown. Starting from a 9 foot wide start-up store in Shenandoah Iowa, to over 80 stores today, Brown's has been offering comfortable footwear throughout the Midwest. While the times have changed, the Brown's business has not. Mr. Brown always believed in offering opportunities for young business people looking to give back to their community.

The company has grown by developing partnerships with managers to create a solid business practice built on many of Mr. Brown's original ethics. Brown's Shoe Fit came to Ponca City in 1971 and purchased Earnest Brother's Shoe store. Brown's Shoe Fit was the 60th store for the company. The original owner/manager was Don Crawford, from then until July 2004.

The store was located at 305 East Grand for 25 years and later relocated to its current

location at the Ponca Plaza. Brown's Shoe Fit is the oldest shoe store in Kay County. Since late 2009, the store has been owned and operated by Jeff Schaffer. He started with Brown's in Kansas and later moved to Norman before taking ownership of the Ponca City store.

Since taking over the store, Jeff has expanded the already wonderful merchandise with more quality footwear that Ponca City area has come to know and enjoy for years. Some of those brands include: Clarks, Born, Keen, Dansko, Merrell, Sperry, Ugg and Brooks. Besides women's footwear, they also offer men's and children's shoes. With the addition of the state of the art shoe fitting technology of the 1-step Jeff and his staff can ensure proper arch, width and foot size.

Stop by Brown's Shoe Fit today and enjoy the quality, comfort, and service your feet deserve.



MIDAMERICA DOOR has come back stronger and a lot bigger than before the April 2011 storm that reeked havoc with their commercial and residential garage door production center at Ash and Hartford.

Company Stronger Now Than Before the Storm

By LOUISE ABERCROMBIE
News Business Editor

MidAmerica Door has come back stronger and a lot bigger than before the April 2011 storm that reeked havoc with their commercial and residential garage door production center at Ash and Hartford.

After surveying the damage the MidAmerica management team took the opportunity to put together a first class production plant adding 85,000 square feet, more than doubling the original space, for a total of an approximate 175,000 square feet. Working with Lambert Construction of Stillwater the management team developed a larger more efficient plant.

Now the company has room for storing inventory and more space for the equipment. The loading dock has doubled from four docks to eight. For the protection of their 115 employees, a large conference room that doubles as a super safe tornado room, large

enough for everyone is one of the many improvements. The advantage of the new building allows for all operations to be under one roof.

A home grown company, which began as Durfy Door, the management team of John Earnest, president, Carl Christensen vice president and CFO and Brandon Rutz, vice president of manufacturing, never considered moving the operation away from Ponca City. The company invested four and a half million dollars and built a bigger and better plant.

While the new construction was in process, the firm relocated the operation to two

large tent covered temporary buildings across Hartford Avenue and to the south and continued production. The firm's production was in the temp buildings, which cost \$600,000, for about 10 months. When the new plant was finished the equipment was refurbished and moved in with hardly a hitch. The company markets in 27 states, plus Mexico and Canada. Alabama is their biggest customer. The best season is the summer months.

Annually MidAmerica Door produces 140,000 units, which are shipped by common carrier. The company uses both foreign and domestic steel. Part of the trend is the American,

style which is a "barn" look door. Christensen said Pioneer Technology Center was helpful in training and that the company has assembled a solid base of employees, some of them have been with the company for a long time. Currently the firm runs four lines, some doors are high end specialties including insulation. Ponca City Development Authority provided funds for a retaining wall, where a creek ran through the property, according to Laurence Beliel, director of retention and expansion. A good corporate citizen, the company supports United Way and other community projects.

Manager Kenny Kissire

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THE BAG Lady Boutique and Salon is owned by Trina Liles-Sims, Traci Liles-McKee and Terron Liles.

The Bag Lady Is a Full-Service Boutique, Salon

The Bag Lady Boutique and Salon is owned by Trina Liles-Sims, Traci Liles-McKee and Terron Liles. The Liles Family has operated the boutique since 2010 and in 2011 they relocated their store to 205 E. Grand Avenue in historic downtown Ponca City. The Bag Lady is a full-service boutique and salon offering gorgeous clothing, quality handbags, fun jewelry, fabulous beauty products and indulgent beauty services.

Traci Liles-McKee is the resident stylist for the salon. She is a licensed cosmetologist with 15 years' experience in the beauty industry. She also holds her Master Instruc-

tor degree in cosmetology and is a former product educator for Matrix brand hair products. Traci takes appointments Tuesday through Saturday, or walk-ins to the boutique are always welcomed.

The Bag Lady offers sizes ranging for 0 to 22 and XS to XXL. They pride themselves on assisting their clients in finding their best look or that perfect gift. Shop brands like Brighton, bareMinerals, Fossil, Steve Madden, Tribal, Pureology, Matrix, Blu Pepper, Southern Tide, Big Buddha, JAG Denim, NYDJ, Wish and Ya Los Angeles.

The boutique and the Liles family are committed to

the Ponca City community. Through fundraising activities such as the Pink Party, which helps provide mammograms to underprivileged local women. The Bag Lady donates nearly \$5,000 annually to groups and organizations in and around Ponca City.

The boutique hosts events monthly in conjunction with Downtown's FINAL Fridays. Follow them on Facebook and Intstagram to stay up to date on the latest information concerning fashion shows, art displays and cosmetic parties each month at the boutique. Don't forget about their best sale of the year on Thanksgiving night from 6-8pm, and Black Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Bag Lady Boutique invites you to be their guest and allow them to extend their hospitality to you. See your downtown!

Stylist Joins The Bag Lady

The Bag Lady Boutique, 205 East Grand Avenue, has finished a major renovation and now has a resident stylist.

Traci Liles McKee is the stylist. The business has been renamed The Bag Lady Boutique and Salon which will continue to carry bare Minerals cosmetics in addition to Biologie by Matrix and Pureology Hair products.

Traci is a licensed cosmetologist and also holds her Master Instructors degree in cosmetology. Appointments can be made by calling the boutique at 580-762-8828 or contact Traci on her mobile at 405-202-2700. Walk-ins are always welcome. Clients can use the front entrance on Grand Avenue or the back entrance which has a parking lot on the corner of Second Street and Cleveland.



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2013 HAS PROVEN to be another exciting and busy year at Ponca Plaza Shopping Center. Ponca Plaza success in 2013 again speaks to the loyal regional customer base which it serves in the multi-state area as it has seen occupancy rates increase while the national norm has been one of decreases or status quo at best.

Exciting Year at Ponca Plaza Shopping Center

From new faces to new looks, 2013 has proven to be another exciting and busy year at Ponca Plaza Shopping Center.

Ponca Plaza success in 2013 again speaks to the loyal regional customer base which it serves in the multi-state area as it has seen occupancy rates increase while the national norm has been one of decreases or status quo at best. The current occupancy rate at Ponca Plaza is 97 percent.

The success of any shopping center depends on among other things the loyalty of its customer base

and its tenants. This loyalty is best indicated by the amount of leased space which has been renewed in Ponca Plaza during 2013. Five long term tenants comprising some 9,500 square feet of space have renewed their leases in Ponca Plaza during 2013.

Both the shopping center and tenants are aware of the ongoing need to remodel and upgrade their facilities and during 2013 plans for such activities have been formulated for near term future implementation by both entities. Parking lot improvements is the primary center upgrade

planned for the near future and several tenants are examining potential remodel plans.

The operational and leasing responsibilities have been passed to Charles Ziegenhain who on Jan. 1, 2014 will assume total responsibility for these functions at the center.

Charles a native of Ponca City has over 37 years experience in the commercial banking industry. He is a graduate of Ponca City High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Civic involvement has included

serving as director and finance committee chairman of the American Business Club, director and building committee chairman of the Kay County Council associated with Opportunity Center, director and finance committee chairman of the YMCA, director and chairman of the Economic Restructuring Committee for the Ponca City Main Street Authority.

Ziegenhain was a trustee of the Ponca City Economic Development Foundation, Inc. and a team leader for the United Way. He has served as chairman of the Presidents' Club and

chairman of the Ambassadors' Club for the Ponca City Chamber of Commerce. He has served on the New Industry and finance committees of the Economic Development Advisory Board and director of the Salvation Army. He is a graduate of the First Leadership Ponca City class.

Charles and his wife, Patti, are members of First Christian Church, where he has served as, deacon, board treasurer and vice-chairman of the Permanent Fund Trustees. They have two married daughters and two grandchildren, all living in Ponca City.

Smith Home Furnishings Adds New Product Lines

Smith Home Furnishings has recently added several new product lines to their showroom. A new La-Z-Boy Gallery hosts over 3,000 square feet of both motion and stationary seating, including La-Z-Boy's higher-end "Premier" seating collection. This new gallery allows customers to purchase products as shown, or special-order a custom piece with over 200 fabric options.

With furnishings boasting a life expectancy of over 20 years and an American Chiropractic Association endorsement, the new Stressless seating gallery has proven to be an important segment for the store. Designed with ergonomics in mind, this Norwegian furniture line appeals to those customers seeking premium comfort and support, with a modern yet surprisingly transitional design.

An Amish Furniture Gallery was also opened this year, hosting solid wood Amish-crafted dining and bedroom furniture. This heirloom-quality product allows for easy custom ordering in a number of different wood species and finishes. The best-seller in the lineup is an expandable table that starts at 54 inches round, then enlarges to seat up to 16 people.

Several other product lines have also been introduced at Smith Home Furnishings, including Sauder, iKidz by Ashley, and Intercon Solid Wood Furniture. Artisan and Classic Home feature one-of-a-kind rustic and hand-crafted furniture and accent pieces. All of these products and more can be viewed at the store's newly redesigned website, www.smithfurniturestore.com.

As the owner of a family-operated business for 38 years, Larry Smith continues to improve the buildings located at 2500 North Fourteenth Street and updating the facilities to provide customers with the best furniture selection in Northern Oklahoma and Southern Kansas. The new office spaces for sales and staff, a bright and cheery break room and the addition of a Clearance Center are some of the latest improvements completed. The day-to-day operations of the store are overseen by Larry and Charlotte Smith, along with 24 employees.

This family-owned business began in 1921 when W.J. (Jim) Tribble and his wife, Clara Campbell Tribble, established a mattress factory on South First Street. They later purchased property at 847 North

Union and built a 9,500 square foot concrete block building on the site. This building served their needs for nearly 53 years.

In 1974, when the Ponca City Mattress Company came up for sale, Robert and his sons, Larry and Roger, decided to buy the business and property. The name was then changed to Smith Home Furnishings, which continues to this date. In 1989, a large retail space at 417 East Grand, then known as the "Grand Galleria", came up for sale. This was originally the Montgomery Ward building, and was built in the late 1920's by E.W. Marland and architect John D. Forsyth. The building had undergone renovations, and had the space needed by the Smith family for their growing business. The building had three floors and a basement, plus the only glass-walled elevator in town, so it was purchased to house the business in its first downtown location.

The former Glenn Paris Furniture store building right next door came up for sale in early 1994, and the Smith family decided to purchase it and extend their selection of furniture, bedding and accessories. The building contained spacious areas in which to display

furniture, as well as contain the warehouse facility.

After remodeling and updating the building, it was opened in October of 1994, adding 10,000 square feet of showroom display area complemented by the charming atmosphere and architectural details of years gone by.

In early 2004, Smith Home Furnishings had an opportunity to purchase the property where they are now, on the busiest street in Kay County, North Fourteenth Street, and the family decided to make another move and locate their store there.

Previously operated as the Ponca Auto Mall, the building had everything the business needed to further grow and develop. There was lots of open space all on one level, good pickup and delivery areas, warehouse space and access to the busy North Fourteenth traffic. In response to the growth and opportunity to provide customers with the best furniture selection in Northern Oklahoma, a 10,000-square-foot warehouse was built just a few feet to the north of the store. This allowed more showroom space within the store, as well as modern warehousing equipment and facilities for receiving merchandise.

Every year, Larry attends several furniture markets to seek out the best furniture values for customers, and to offer up-to-date trends, styles and colors of furnishings and accessories for the home.

Larry Smith is a current board member and past president of Furniture First, a home furnishings and mattress purchasing cooperative representing independent home furnishings retailers across the United States.

Furniture First is headquartered in Harrisburg, PA, and is one of the country's largest retail furniture buying groups. It

has 180 company members and 380 retail locations nationwide. Furniture First helps independent retailers, like Smith Home Furnishings, to remain very competitive in terms of product lines, pricing and services. The store has been a member of Furniture First since 1998, and it has helped the firm to compete with national furniture chains. Through collective buying power and the sharing of the best business practices, Furniture First members have thrived in increasingly competitive markets. Larry is pleased to say that Ponca City is a great town in which to live and raise

a family, and he is proud to be a part of this community. It is "our hometown" to most of the Smith family. "We are committed to being the best furniture store in Northern Oklahoma and Southern Kansas. Customer satisfaction has been and will always be our number one priority," Larry said.

Smith Home Furnishings is open Monday through Saturday, and closed on Sunday. Larry, Charlotte and the employees of Smith Home Furnishings would like to invite everyone to come in and explore the expanded showroom and furniture choices.

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THE PROUD heritage of Albright Abstract & Title Guaranty is reflected in the professionalism of its employees — all of whom are licensed abstractors.

Albright Abstract, Title Has Deep Roots in Community

Albright Abstract & Title Guaranty's roots run deep in the rich soil of Kay County. Established before statehood in 1899 by P. H. Albright of Winfield, Kansas, this business icon proudly stands on the corner of Seventh and Main in the heart of historic downtown Newkirk — the county seat of Kay County.

The proud heritage of Albright Abstract & Title Guaranty is reflected in the professionalism of its employees — all of whom are licensed abstractors. Albright Abstract's employees have more than 163 years of abstracting and title experience to date. They are professional, friendly, courteous and knowledgeable with a "can do" spirit essential in today's busy world.

The company provides complete abstracting services, records search, title reports and gap checks. The company offers a courier service

to Ponca City, Blackwell and Tonkawa for deliveries and pick ups for their clients.

Albright Abstract & Title Guaranty has been a member of the American Land Title Association since 1907 with one of their past employees serving as President of that organization.

They have been members of the Oklahoma Land Title Association also since 1907 with several of their past employees serving as President of that organization. They are active participants in the community activities of Kay County.

Albright Abstract & Title Guaranty has an on-going relationship with Stewart Escrow & Title Company of Ponca City. Stewart closes the majority of real estate loans in Kay County working with the mortgage lenders on both commercial and residential loans. Stewart Escrow & Title of Ponca City continues to

appreciate their relationship with all local lenders through their twenty-one years of serving the citizens of Kay County. In addition to being the premier loan closer in Kay County, they also handle escrows and title insurance.

Stewart Escrow & Title of Ponca City is the agent for the two largest title insurance companies in the United States — Ticor Title Insurance Company and Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company.

Albright Abstract & Title Guaranty can be reached at 580/362-2525 or toll free at 1-877-362-2525. Their fax number is 580/362-3390 or visit them at the office located at 100 North Main, Newkirk.

Stewart Escrow & Title of Ponca City can be reached at 580/765-6806. Their fax number is 580/765-6850, and their e-mail is stewartesc@cablone.net. They are located at 1992 Lake Road, Ponca City.

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Noon Lions Club Serves Community Since 1922

The Ponca City Noon Lions have been serving the community since 1922 with a membership list like a historical census of leaders in the community dating back to E.W. Marland who was the club's first President up to current Mayor Lion Homer Nicholson. The Noon Lions is one of the largest and most active civic clubs in town with 100 members, all working to follow the Lions Club motto, "We Serve".

Lions are men and women who volunteer their time to humanitarian causes in their local and world communities. By conducting service projects and raising funds, Lions strive to help those in need; wherever need exists. The association has grown to an international network of one million three hundred thousand men and women in 202 countries who work together to answer the needs that challenge communities around the world.

In 1925, Helen Keller addressed the Lions at their annual International Convention, challenging them to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness". Since that time service to the blind and visually impaired has become one of the association's most significant activities. One child goes blind every minute and half-a-million children will have lost their sight by the end of the year. To combat this problem Lions International has raised over \$500,000,000 to stop all preventable blindness around the world. And most of the local Lion's programs are related to blindness and the visually impaired.

Local projects the Lions are involved in are as follows:

Lions ChildSight — The Noon Lions have embarked on a project to do free eye screening for ALL Ponca City children from six months of age to four. Prevent Blindness Oklahoma provides screen-

ers for this testing and uses digital cameras which do not require verbal response. They are able to determine six major areas of potential eye problems which, if caught early, can more readily be corrected. The Lions hope to reach 1300 Ponca area children in this age group. Free screenings took place at the recent OktoberFest and additional free screenings will be held at Goblins on Grand and at the YMCA's Healthy Kid's Day in the spring. Additional screenings are held at various Day Care Centers.

Last year the Lions screened almost 700 children and found over 60 that had some deficiencies and were referred to eye physicians.

For information on these screenings call Lion Dr. Kelly Campbell at 580-304-7918.

Visually Impaired Support Group — The Noon Lions initiated and supports this organization of visually-impaired citizens who meet the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. at First Christian Church. The group has their own officers and organize their programs and activities. The Lions provide transportation and aid at the meetings. In addition to regular meetings, the group has one or two annual picnics, and occasional out-of-town field trips. For information call Millie Stafford at 580-762-4249.

Eye Glasses for Children and Adults — Lions provide assistance to those who are in need of eyeglasses but due to financial hardship are unable to obtain them on their own. The club works closely with local optometrists who greatly discount the total cost of examination, frames, and lenses to such a degree that the Lions can reach a greater number of worthy clients. The Noon Lions spent \$15,000 this past year on this project and have spent over \$200,000 for eyeglasses for those in need in

Ponca City. They are aided in this cause by local optometrists. For information on this project call Lion Walt Finch at 580-762-6792.

Electronic Visual Aids — These units are hand-held or in-place electronic magnifiers that are loaned to recipients who have muscular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, or other low vision problems. Noon Lions have over \$12,000 worth of equipment on loan or available for loan. These units help the visually-impaired read, write checks, fill syringes and many other tasks that most of us take for granted. For information call Lion Danny Flewelling at 580-352-2172.

Juvenile Diabetes Support — The Noon Lions support local children with type one diabetes. They provide the school nurses with snacks to help the students with diabetes when they are in need.

The Noon Lions branch club and Northern Oklahoma e-Lions Club, hold an annual Lions Strides walk for Diabetes, which promotes awareness and also provided funds for the various junior diabetes projects.

The Noon Lions provide scholarships for those students in need, to the state Diabetes Camp Endres each summer. The club recently donated \$1,000 to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Collecting and Recycling Eyeglasses — Containers are placed in various locations around Ponca City to collect eyeglasses. Those glasses are collected, prescriptions identified and cataloged, and then distributed to needy in underdeveloped areas. Lion's-sponsored clinics are held where eyes are checked and proper prescription eyeglasses are then supplied. Noon Lions collected over 2,500 eyeglasses this past year for this humanitarian project. Used

eyeglasses can be donated at the drop box in the tag agency foyer, the drive-by drop box in the Hastings/University Center parking lot on north 14th, at ConocoPhillips or at Dr. Bill Stuever's office.

Cell Phones for Soldiers — The Noon Lions have joined forces with Cell Phones for Soldiers and Operation Pioneer Spirit to collect cell phones and accessories at their local eyeglass collection boxes. These cell phones are turned in to CPFS who in turn provides calling cards for Operation Pioneer Spirit to place in their boxes prepared for our soldiers in Afghanistan and Kuwait each month. The Lions have collected over 200 cell phones for OPS in the one year they have been in operation.

Mobile Health Screening Unit — An Oklahoma Lions-owned 18-wheel unit is made available to the Ponca City Noon Lions twice a year. This MHSU is used to check local residents free-of-charge for diabetes, glaucoma, high blood pressure, visual acuity, and hearing problems.

Diabetes Awareness and Screening — Several times per year the Noon Lions sponsor a

diabetes screening at different locations, including the Ponca City Health Fair and OktoberFest. Many blood-sugar problems have been detected and referred to physicians which have helped prevent future major issues.

Leo Club — The Ponca City Noon Lions sponsors the Ponca City High School Leo club for ninth through 12th graders. Several members of the Noon Lions serve as club advisors.

The Leos have several major community projects and Leo members visit Lions meetings to keep them informed of their service projects and activities. Leos also help the Lions with manpower for some of the Lions projects.

Other Projects — Lions are also involved with Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Festival of Angels, and sponsor high school students to Oklahoma Boy's State and to Girl's State. The club also provides two scholarships to Senior Leo Club members each year. Noon Lion members also are involved in the Adopt-a-Road project, help monitor testing at Ponca City High School, and in addition, help clean up Lake Ponca areas.

Oklahoma Projects — The local club supports two major projects of the Oklahoma Lions Service Foundation, the Oklahoma Lions Eye Bank and the Oklahoma Lions Boys Ranch. This is done through two major fund raisers, the White Cane Drive in the spring and the Cowboy Cadillac campaign, a statewide fundraising raffle for a new pickup in the fall.

Financial Support for Projects — In addition to the White Cane drive and Cowboy Cadillac campaign for state projects, local projects are financed by two major fundraisers. The Lions have a Western concert in the spring, and an Auction and dinner in the fall. Every other year the western concert is a benefit starring Ponca City's own Lion Les Gilliam, well-known award winner, including being named the Oklahoma Balladeer. These two projects help fund the local projects mentioned above.

If you would like to join the Ponca City Noon Lions in their service to the community please contact Ted Matson at telephone number 580-765-4170 or by e-mail at redmoose29@att.net.

Eastman Dedicated to Area

Eastman National Bank is 100 percent dedicated to the communities it serves. Eastman employees personally serve on the committees, councils, and boards of more than 50 local philanthropic organizations. That's what being a local community bank is all about.

The bank and its employees support projects with time and money ranging from annual events such as the Main Street Downtown Halloween Party and Cherokee Strip Cookoff, to providing ongoing monetary and volunteer support to the local United Way and its member agencies.

Eastman National Bank is a strong supporter of the Ponca City Area Chamber of Commerce and recognizes a responsibility and commitment to the greater good of our cities and their youth. That's why ENB has maintained a strong relationship with its Partners in Education, not only by being a Partner In Education Partner to Woodlands Elementary School, but also in supporting the educational programs for our students. If it is a local event, Eastman is probably involved.

Although giving back is an important facet to the business foundation, ENB also believes recognizing others making a difference in the community is equally important. Each month, the bank presents the Eastman Exceptional Citizen Award to a local citizen for his or her outstanding volunteer efforts. Customers and non-customers alike are chosen from nominations received.

The honoree is not only recognized, but a monetary contribution is made by the Bank to the organization of the honoree's choice. The pro-

gram was designed to honor individuals who unceasingly strive to make positive changes in the community, often times unrecognized by the greater population. If you happen to know individual(s) who fit this criteria, please feel free to send nominations to Natalie Waller located at the Downtown branch in Ponca City.

Another successful program recognizing others in the community is the bank's Local Artist Program. The walls of the Ponca downtown branch are adorned with the works of local artists. Working through the Ponca City Art Association, selected artists hang their art work at the Bank for three to four months at a time before changing out for another artist.

In the last nine years, Eastman has grown from \$44 million in assets to just over \$230 million today. In this time frame, Eastman has introduced many new innovative deposit and loan products. The most recent new product added to the line up is the ability to offer FHA, VA and Section 184 mortgage loans. Contact Troy Campbell or Shasta Scott to inquire about these new products or any of your mortgage loan needs.

In addition to the traditional banking products, Eastman has introduced several products to enhance and streamline of customer's banking experience. The products include internet banking, remote deposit capture, online bill pay, electronic statements and notices, and our new mobile banking application. Also, coming in the near future, Eastman will introduce a mobile application allowing customers to deposit checks using their smart phone. East-

man will continue to listen to our customers and look outward to insure our products and services are state of the art and meet customer needs.

Eastman completed its ninth year in Ponca City in mid-September and celebrated 120 years of operation in Newkirk with a hot dog feed on Oct. 4 at the Newkirk location. Ponca locations include the main branch at 222 East Grand Avenue and the North branch at Fifth and Prospect Avenue. Eastman has over 50 employees in Ponca City and Newkirk.

The bank's website is www.eastmannational.com and contains a wealth of information about the bank's product and service offerings as well as links to many community sites. Eastman can also be found on Facebook and has both an iPhone and Android app for mobile banking.



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- **Kids Special Time** *Tuesdays & Thursdays 9 am - noon, for infants thru 5-year olds*
- **KidZone Free after-school program** *Wednesdays 3:30 - 5:30 pm*
- **S.P.Y. (St. Paul's Youth)** *Sundays 5 pm, Wednesdays 6:30 pm*
- **Music Ministry** *Bell and Chancel Choirs*
- **Wednesday Family Dinner** *5:30 pm*
- **Bible Studies** *Women's and Men's, Wednesdays 6:30 pm*

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Wanda's Upholstery In Business 35 Years

Wanda's Upholstery at 207 West Grand has been in business in Ponca City for 35 years. The business does upholstery for auto motives, boats, commercial such as restaurants, car dealers, hospitals and hotels.

The business also recovers bus seats and airplanes. They can even fix motorcycle seats.

Other services are replacing or repairing headliners and car seats, as well as, recovering boat seats.

The business also recovers dinette chairs and loose cushions. They also do custom work.

The hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The phone number is 580-762-3336. Estimates are free.



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Conoco Museum Pays Tribute to Rich Heritage

In 2007 the Conoco Museum opened as a tribute to the rich heritage of Conoco. To date this world-class museum has hosted over 35,000 visitors from every state and over 50 countries.

In 2011 the Conoco Museum was awarded the Outstanding Historical Museum in Oklahoma by the Oklahoma Historical Society. The museum was cited for featuring remarkable artifacts, photographs and other material that were expertly displayed and interpreted.

Renowned museum designer, Haley-Sharp of Leicester, England undertook the conceptual development, master planning and exhibit design for this flagship museum. Presented to depict the growth of the company from its humble beginnings to international prominence; interpreted to reach all ages of visitors.

Cleverly designed to maximize the exhibit space, the six exhibit areas include over 20 flat screen TVs, three interactive kiosks with photos, videos

and games. Visitors begin their experience in the theatre with the feature film "Pioneering Spirit". Narrated by voice and TV personality, Bill Kurtis, this feature film educates the visitor on the innovative know-how and culture of the company and sets the stage for the continuing store and collections.

The six distinct collections within represent the many aspects of Conoco's operations, embracing Marketing, Leadership, Refining, Research & Development, social and family involvement and interaction. Touch-screen computers are integrated into the galleries to enhance educational exploration and inquiry amongst the visitors. For the personal touch, various videos show accounts and reminiscences of employees and retirees. Archive photos and film footage exploring all aspects of company life, is incorporated to enhance the varied IT and audio-visual programs.

Following the feature film is A Proud Heritage where visitors will

learn more about Isaac Blake, the founder of Continental Oil Company and E.W. Marland, founder of Marland Oil. A custom-created reconstruction of Marland's boardroom shows the lavish design and detail Marland was known for. Information follows on the 1929 merger, new "capsule" Conoco logo, and the challenges of the 1981 takeover bid.

In Ponca City Proud visitors learn about the sheep grazing the tank farm, Conoco's refinery and aviation division and women in the workforce during World War II. A computer generated video shows over 80 years of the progress and development of the Ponca City refinery from the preliminary design and layout of the original Marland Oil Refinery. Hands-on exhibits include a fractionation tower and computer touchscreen.

Generation to Generation gives a glimpse of the family atmosphere at Conoco through stories from Conocoans. In My Conoco Memories, visitors have contributed heart-felt

remembrances such as, "When I was a kid, I always thought Conoco was a cloud factory."

The spirit of innovation and technological achievements lies at the heart of Getting to the Future First. Visitors can experience the sights and sounds of working in a 1950s Research and Development laboratory and learn about the ground breaking technology, Vibroseis.

Setting the Pace shows the company's zeal for teamwork and the resulting achievements. Visit an outdoor Doodlebugger work site; learn about drillships, double-hulled tankers and tension-leg platforms.

Marketing Conoco shows examples of the company's award-winning marketing campaigns dating back to the early 1900s. Step back in time and watch retro 1970s Conoco commercials and see examples of Conoco-branded merchandise throughout the ages.

A hands-on 1940s replica gas station houses an operational gravity-

fed gasoline pump. With a few pumps of the handle, visitors can see how gasoline was dispensed long ago.

The Conoco Museum was built and designed to entertain and educate visitors of all ages. The "Scavenger Hunt" is a quiz designed to enhance an experience by encouraging visitors to seek the information throughout the museum. Children and families enjoy another publication, the Junior Ponocoan. The Junior Ponocoan is a wonderful color booklet designed to incorporate learning through a word search puzzle, Q and A, a crossword puzzle, "find this artifact", and other creative tools.

The Conoco Museum is located, directly across the street from the Phillip 66 complex at 501 W. South Avenue. This must-see museum is a great place to bring family and visiting friends and relatives. Regular hours are Monday-Saturday 10 am to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. To schedule a group tour call 580-765-TOUR (8687). Admission is free.

Otoe-Missouria Ventures Into New Industries

Red Rock, OKLA.—As the Otoe-Missouria Tribe deals with an increasingly competitive gaming market, tribal leaders continue to expand and diversify its economic portfolio into new industries while expanding others.

The Council Bluff Event Center & First Council Casino Hotel were built several years ago and both have continued to grow. More than 50 shows took place at the Council Bluff Event Center in the last year with acts as diverse as Larry the Cable Guy, BB King and Miranda Lambert.

The tribe also added bingo

to the gaming offered at First Council Casino. The Council Bluff Event Center doubles as a bingo hall on days when there are no concerts scheduled, giving the casino an influx of visitors and busses during the otherwise slower days of the week.

"As our business grows in this area, we will be able to provide more jobs for the community," Chief Executive Officer for Gaming Bruce Barnett says. "We truly believe in creating a highly positive and enjoyable environment for all our Team Members while providing opportunities to advance and constantly grow."

Beyond gaming, the tribe's other industries are growing as well. The 7C Land & Cattle LLC cattle company will soon be self-sustaining. The ranch has nearly 500 head of Angus cross cattle with the majority being Black Angus. There are 390 cows, 224 calves and 21 bulls. At the end of September the tribe sold 106 head of cattle.

"Our farm and ranch operation is doing better than we imagined," Tribal Council Member Alvin Moore says. "We have reinvested most everything into equipment such as tractors, implements, trucks and so forth needed to run a

farm. Most operations of this size do not become self-sustaining so quickly, but we have been very fortunate to be so close to this goal."

Additionally, the tribe decided to open a propane company called PK Propane to offer affordable propane gas to the local area. The company is located south of the tribal complex in Red Rock, but serves a 50 mile radius with more than 250 customers.

The tribe has also ventured into the alternative energy business by partnering with other tribes and PNE Wind to build a wind farm in Chillico. The wind farm will be operational during the first quarter of 2014. It will encompass over 3,000 acres and will generate power from 45 turbines. During the construction phase nearly 200 jobs will be created. Once completed, it will employ up to 12 maintenance workers. It is estimated that the project will offset the equivalent of 31,000 households' fossil fuel usage per annum.

In the last year, the biggest economic growth for the tribe has come from its online lending businesses. The tribe started its foray into online lending two years ago with the creation of American Web Loan. Building on the success of AWL, tribe created Great Plains Lending and Clear Creek Lending.

The Otoe-Missouria Tribe is a major employer in both Noble and Kay Counties. Between their many business enterprises and the tribal complex, the

tribe employs nearly 2,000 people contributing to the tax base of Northern Oklahoma.

The Otoe-Missouria Tribal was removed by the federal government from Nebraska to Indian Territory in 1881. The

Tribal Headquarters is located in Red Rock, OK. As of October 2013, there are more than 3,200 members of the tribe who live throughout the United States. To learn more about the tribe log on to www.omtribe.org.

Sunset Baptist Church Has Many Worship Opportunities

Sunset Baptist Church located at the intersection Greenwood and Ash, offers a variety of opportunities for worship. Sunday services include 9:30 a.m. Sunday school; 10:40 a.m. morning worship, 6 p.m. evening worship and TeamKid a Kids' discipleship program for grades one through six.

Wednesday services include the 6 p.m., adult prayer meeting; youth Bible study, children's choir and missions program for children grades kindergarten through sixth and Thursday 9-10:30 a.m., Mission Friends for potty trained preschoolers.

The church has an active senior adult group for ages 55 or older.

This group takes regular road trips. In the past year, they have been to Branson, Mo. and Eureka Springs, Ark. as well as, to the Jerusalem Archeological Artifact display.

The youth group for seventh through 12th grade students is involved in mission outreach. Within the past 18 months they have served at the Feed the Children food distribution facility in Oklahoma City and have worked at various church members' homes.

Lots of Free Play at Casino

Want to know which Casino offers more free play, match play, and food deals than any other Casino in the area? Two Rivers Casino has slot machine \$5 and \$10 match plays seven days a week! Two Rivers Casino also has \$5 and \$10 dollar free play deals happening seven days a week with a myriad of opportunities to gain these free plays. In a number of local convenient stores, Two Rivers has \$5 dollar free play and 50% off meal cards placed at the service counter of many Ponca City convenient stores.

Two Rivers is fantastic and entertaining a place to eat, enjoy a favorite drink, and to relax, not just to play the slot machines.

Two Rivers Casino Bistro and The Edge manager Jake Brown has 30 years' experience in the Food and Beverage industry and brings a myriad of ideas to bolster the value of the Two Rivers Casino Bistro Menu, as well as, enhancing the value of the in-house Sports Bar/Night Club "The Edge," complete with a state-of-the art dance floor and a VIP lounge sec-

tion. Upcoming and current promotions include: Sporting events such as pay-per-view UFC fights and NBA playoff games on the cinema-sized projection screen, live music DJ's, live bands, promotions to receive free dinners and other food items as a result of just playing the machines.

Oh, and by the way, everyone has to come see The River Monster Hamburger. It is the biggest, juiciest, tastiest, and the mightiest Hamburger in Oklahoma! The Two Rivers Casino Bistro has introduced this signature giant hamburger meal eating challenge to its menu. The hamburger is an eight-inch diameter, six pound Gourmet Jalapeno Bacon Cheeseburger served on a huge sesame seed bun with grilled onion served with two pounds of crinkle-cut French fries (choice of condiments, mayo, mustard, ketchup or barbeque sauce). A two person team will have 35 minutes to complete the challenge, and yes, that means nothing left on the plate, and with a record of 9-0, the River Monster is not for your average eater. Any Two Rivers guest

interested has to pay a \$28 dollar entrance fee for the price of the burger and fries and if the Monster Burger and all fries are completely eaten within 35 minutes (per Two Rivers Monster Challenge rules), the contestants will receive a full refund and win \$100 in free promotional play a week for a total of four weeks per contestant. Jake Brown, along with the new general manager of the casino Anthony Burris, brainstormed and collaborated on the idea of the River Monster Hamburger Challenge.

Two Rivers Casino brings to Ponca City, a different feel to gaming entertainment than the norm. Two Rivers Casino prides itself in being the most convenient small casino in the area. Why waste your time walking down a city block worth of aisles and aisles of slot machines? With the best Casino food and friendliest small casino environment in the area, The Two Rivers Casino encourages guests to come down and enjoy the food and sports bar environment. It is only 5 miles south of Ponca City on Highway 177.

15 Realtors at Century 21

CENTURY 21 Group One began operation in 1980 as Group One. In 1999 Group One was purchased by Johnny Leonard and the name was changed to CENTURY 21 Group One. CENTURY 21 Group One currently has 15 realtors and an office staff of 3. In June 2006, the office relocated to 525 Monument Road. Since it's beginning CENTURY 21 Group One has been the leader in the local Real Estate market. CENTURY 21 Group One has been awarded the coveted CENTURIION for 6 consecutive years and the Gold Medallion Award 6 years.

CENTURY 21 Group One's agents believe in marketing their Seller's property as is evidenced in the large number of Open Houses hosted each Sunday. Virtual tours, which provide a 360 degree look around a home, is a marketing tool our agents are able to take advan-

tage of on each listing. These virtual tours are then posted on Realtor.com and Century21.com as well as many other web sites. CENTURY 21 Group One is also on Social Media. All new listings and Open Houses are posted each week and our Facebook page. "Like us" to stay current in the Real Estate market! CENTURY 21 Group One is the only real estate company in Ponca City that publishes a quarterly, full color, Parade of Homes magazine to advertise

properties listed with our company. CENTURY 21 Group One consistently does more local advertising than all other Ponca City real estate companies combined. CENTURY 21 Group One is very proud to make available to the public a slide show presentation on CENTURY 21 Group One.com. In today's technology driven

market the more pictures on the internet, the quicker a listing is sold.

CENTURY 21 Group One currently has a local HUD contract allowing them to list and sell HUD properties for 3 counties.

CENTURY 21 Group One is very active in local events and a strong supporter of many local activities.

There are 750 websites that download the CENTURY 21 Group One listings. CENTURY 21 is the largest Real Estate Organization in the world, with the most recognized name in Real Estate, with 143,000 sales Associates and 7,800 offices. Whether you are a first time buyer or seasoned in real estate transactions, CENTURY 21 Group One is the only name you need to know. Contact us at 580-762-0400 or GroupOne@hit.net



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AN ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD turned out for the organizational meeting of "Guardians of the Ribbon Northern Oklahoma Chapter," nicknamed Pink Heals, in this Ponca City News file photo. The meeting was held Jan. 21, 2013, at the No. 1 Fire Station. In attendance were, first row from left, Don Hayworth and John Rhyne. Second row, Heather VanBuskirk, Carol Andrews, Angela Correll, Tamie Barnes, Nancy Schill, Kathie Jo Johnson, Crystal Bickford and Michael Hebert. Third row, Nikki Hodgson holding Hattie Soucek; Mary Rhyne, Cathy Cole, Marcia Caudle, Doris Love, David VanBuskirk, Donna Hingtgen, Mandi Morris, Russell Owens, Jason Johnson and John McClelland. Fourth row, Dereck Cassidy, Jake Pierce, Brian Dye, Stacey Rush, David Rush, Kevin Roe, Sherry Cable, David Hingtgen and Jordan Jones. Standing on the fire truck are Tommy Talkington and Wyatt Crabs. The group meets at 6 p.m. the second Monday of the month at No. 1 Fire Station. Everyone interested in supporting women fighting cancer of any kind is welcome to join Pink Heals. (News Photo/File)

'Pink Heals' Chapter Gaining Strength

The official name is "Guardians of the Ribbon Northern Oklahoma Chapter," but the group is better known by its nickname, Pink Heals. The youngest member of the international Guardians of the Ribbon organization is gaining strength in numbers and funding as it shares support for women with cancer and their families.

Pink Heals uses its signature pink fire truck and pink bunker gear-clad firemen to make home visits to cancer patients, share flowers, hugs and messages of encouragement. The cancer fighters and supporters are encouraged to sign the fire

truck as their message and signature becomes a permanent part of the truck's paint.

The group also brings the fire truck to area events as a way of calling attention to the event and to assist event organizers seeking to raise funds to help cancer-related causes. Pink Heals volunteers recently brought the fire truck to The Bag Lady Boutique's Pink Party in support of the store's benefit evening which raised funds for the Community Health Foundation's mammogram fund. Pink Out Nights at area high school football games also will get the Pink Heals chapter support. Firemen and the pink fire truck

will be near the football fields for cancer survivors, fighters and families to sign the truck. Pink Out Night organizers plan to solicit donations from football fans to benefit cancer screening funds.

Recently, the group christened the fire truck with the name "Hope" in recognition of a young Blackwell cancer patient who lost her fight with the disease. Of special significance is the fire truck's first career. It was assigned to Oklahoma City's Fire Station No. 1 in the heart of downtown. It was among the first emergency vehicles on the scene of the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building which killed 168 people, including 20 children. In recognition of this, the local Pink Heals chapter is planning to assign the number 168 to the truck.

Organizations wishing to invite Pink Heals volunteers to appear at their fundraising events may contact the chapter via email, pinkhealsoklahoma@yahoo.com. Anyone wishing to support women battling cancer is welcome to attend chapter meetings. The meetings take place at 6 p.m., the second Monday of each month at No. 1 Fire Station, Fifth and Grand.

For more information visit the group's Facebook page, Guardians of the Ribbon Northern Oklahoma.

Brace Books and More, Has Been Cornerstone of Area for 30 Years

This fall marks the 30th anniversary of Brace Books and More, Inc. In 1983, Jerry and Jean Brace opened a small 1000 square foot bookshop in Ponca Plaza. After relocating twice to a larger space and expanding the current location, the store now occupies 5000 square feet at 2205 North 14th Street, in the building with Hometown Furniture and Northern Therapy and Rehabilitation, Inc.

Brace Books and More remains a hot spot in Ponca City even after 30 years.

"Upon moving to Ponca City, residents regularly suggested a visit to Brace Books as a 'must-see' place to take our young family," said recent Ponca Citian Kristin Lyman.

To celebrate this anniversary, Brace Books will be offering special sales in November and December.

Fortunately, the name they chose 30 years ago included the words "and more", because they have continued to add not only more books, but a variety of other types of merchandise as well.

Beginning with the addition of toys and educational games, they soon branched out into gift items, an espresso bar, used books, and an expanded cooking department.

"The bookstore environment affords a wonderful opportunity for experimenting with product mix," says owner Jean Brace. "And because we had a strong customer interest in our large cookbook department, we began to add interesting kitchen gadgets, aprons, and cookware, and with each addition, saw an increase in our cookbook sales as well as the related items."

"Now we have enlarged the space to create what we call a 'cooking department' in the store. I would never

have guessed in the beginning that we would be selling cooking sauces, food choppers, or mixing bowls, but I think this kind of serendipity is one thing that makes our store interesting for our customers."

Most recently, the store has seen an increased focus on jewelry and fashion accessories. Brace Books also now offers a full service gift registry.

Frequent author autographing sessions, and special book related parties for children keep the 12 employees and two owners on their toes.

Open seven days a week and nights until 8 p.m., the coffee is always brewing, the background music is soft, and those who aren't in the mood for reading are encouraged to try out a new game or puzzle.

Children are always welcome at the interactive train play table.

As an online bookstore, Brace Books and More is available 24 hours a day. The website at www.bracebooks.com includes a book search engine, a shopping cart, a calendar of events, and current book news. Customers can use their credit cards to place orders for delivery to their address or request that their purchase be held for pick up at the store.

Customers who request it are kept informed about special events, author signings, sales, and special offers by means of an email newsletter.

These emails reach a customer base of over 7500 people all over the country. Their newest online presence is their Facebook page, offering book news, information about store events, and the increasingly popular Friday drawings for merchandise.

The special order desk, run

by assistant manager Sara Stewart, is able to access up-to-the-minute information on availability and shipping of books from half a dozen major book warehouses around the country. This is facilitating the accuracy and speed of processing special orders for books not stocked by the bookstore.

Other amenities include free gift-wrapping, a Book-er's Dozen Book Club, and a Frequent Sippers Club, which offer customers free books or beverages after they purchase 12.

This program was initiated the first year the store opened and continues to be popular with customers, who say they like the fact that the store records their purchases, rather than expecting them to carry a punch card.

From the first year, the store has offered discounts to educators, schools, libraries and churches. Like all local businesses, the Brace's respond constantly to numerous requests for donations to local institutions, charities, and projects. Jean Brace commented, "We pay particular attention to the requests that come from schools and libraries, because of their connection with books and reading. We can't contribute to every worthwhile organization that asks, but we never say no to schools or libraries."

The Braces and their employees stay connected to the larger world of bookselling by attending trade shows and bookselling conventions and through their affiliation with the American Booksellers Association and Regional Independent Booksellers Association.

With 30 years of commitment to customers and the community, Brace Books and More holds a prominent place in the past, present and future of Ponca City.

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Christmas Market Planned

First Lutheran Church and School, 1101 N. Fourth Street will hold Christmas Market Oklahoma on Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. until 4 on the square of the property.

Shirley Zimmerman, event coordinator, said last year's event hosted 2,000 visitors and 77 vendors. Also, eight church choirs performed.

"This year's event is already bigger and better," said Zimmerman.

"Several new things are

planned. Activities for children will go on all over the grounds. A Football Cave will be available since this is a big game day for Oklahoma and the finale will be a Community Christmas Carol Sing."

Zimmerman explained that originally Weinacht Markets began in Renaissance Germany and Austria and have become a mainstay of practically every German community in the month prior to Christmas.

"Several churches in Northern Oklahoma with Germanic roots recreate one of these craft and musical festivals the first Saturday in December," she said.

"The purpose is to create a Yule wonderland of sights and smells of the season. Arts and crafts, especially handmade ornaments, toys and personal items are sold.

The campus is transformed into renaissance Deutchland. Authentic German foods are sold along with local favorites.

With a "cookie walk" of homemade Christmas cookies enticing palates and other holiday goodies, this event should interest shoppers, lovers and families.

The music is an all-day concert of choirs and performers from Northern Oklahoma."

Booth space is \$25 and proceeds are used for scholarship funds at Lutheran School.

Both indoor and outdoor booths are available.

For more information call 580-761-4657.

Thanks To all who dropped by to see me this year. I appreciate your business.

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