Jubilation and grief

The death of a Georgian luger casts a shadow on the opening ceremony

BY DAVID CRARY Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The show went on — with grief and a closing glitch.

The Olympics’ opening ceremonies unfolded in a mostly upbeat atmosphere with an upbeat crowd filling BC Place Stadium only hours after a luge from the country of Georgia, Nodar Kumaritashvili, was killed in a horrific training-run crash at Whistler.

After several somber pauses during the show to pay respects to him, the much-anticipated surprise ending went awry. One huge piece of the set failed to rise from the stadium floor and left one of the four final torchbearers, speedskater Catriona LeMay Doan, unable to use her torch. The ceremonies were dedicated to Kumaritashvili, and a moment of silence was observed in his memory. The seven remaining members of the Georgian team, who decided not to stay and compete, wore black armbands as they marched behind a black-trimmed flag.

Most of the crowd rose to give respectful applause, but the “Standing On The Side of Love” management and support to those who oppose the bill.}

For more

Review of city government funded

BY BRIAN BARBER Tulsa World Staff Writer

The George Kaiser Family Foundation and private donors through the Tulsa Community Foundation have agreed to pay for a more than $400,000 strategic review of the city’s government, Mayor Dewey Bartlett said Friday.

The review by KPMG, a national auditing and management consulting firm, will take 16 weeks with the goal of incorporating some recommendations into the budget for next fiscal year, which begins July 1. “It is obvious that in this present economic environment, our present government structure cannot be properly managed,” Bartlett said in an afternoon news conference. “We need to use the level of municipal services that the citizens expect and should receive.”

Sutton arrested on drug complaints

BY BILL SHERMAN Tulsaworld.com

Former Oklahoma State basketball coach Sean Sutton arrested Thursday on drug complaints.

“An investigation by the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs has resulted in our filing charges against Sutton Thursday,” Deputy District Attorney Paul Leidemann said.

As first reported Friday on Tulsaworld.com, Sutton was arrested Thursday for possession of controlled dangerous substances by fraud, possession of Oxycontin, and use of a communication device — a cell phone — to commit a felony.

Former Oklahoma State basketball coach Sean Sutton was arrested Thursday on drug complaints.

Sutton, 47, a former OSU star Doug Gottlieb hopes Sutton will use his arrest as a wakeup call.

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A prominent Tulsa minister is one of two Americans who will speak Sunday at a conference in Uganda opposing that nation’s proposed anti-homosexuality law.

Marlin Lavanhar, president of Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry and senior minister at All Souls Unitarian Church, said he would be speaking against a controversial bill that, if enacted, would allow the death penalty for certain same-sex behavior such as having sex with a minor or while HIV-positive, and life prison sentences for many other practices.

Homosexual behavior is already illegal in Uganda, carrying prison sentences of up to 14 years. Lavanhar left Tulsa on Thursday for Kampala, the capital of Uganda, where his conference trip was withheld until he made it to the conference and disavowal of the “Standing On The Side of Love” conference will not be announced until Sunday.

He said he plans to offer encouragement and support to those who oppose the bill.
Olympic fever rises in Oklahoma

• Some head north; some head to the south; and some just head to the couch.

BY MICHAEL OVERALL

Before graduating from Kansas State University in 2008, Chase Ilten and a couple of friends made a list of great sporting events to see before they die. The Sugar Bowl, the World Series and the Masters will all have to wait.

But they checked off the Kentucky Derby, last year. And next week, Ilten and his friends will head to Vancouver for the Winter Olympics.

“Once you can remember, I’ve been fascinated by the Olympics,” said Ilten, who now lives in Bartlesville. “The big sports fan.”

In part, that diligence is attributable to the fact that the Olympics are special.

With tickets to see a 2010 Olympic Games, between the rain, snow, heat and sandstorms, Ilten has been looking forward to about a year. About a year, according to Ilten, the trip nearly two years, according to Amtrak’s scenic “Cascade” route from Seattle to Vancouver.

“It’s definitely a once-in-a-lifetime ring,” he said. “It’s something we can talk about forever.”

Most Oklahomans, of course, will have to content themselves with watching the Olympics on TV, but that doesn’t mean they don’t look forward to it just as fervently.

Every two years, whether it’s the winter or summer games, New Year’s Eve will be the kick-off to a year of anticipation and excitement. As always, the first Olympic opening or closing ceremonies are held indoors. The largest outdoor festivals will take place when the mid-size Canadian team enters the stadion as the Olympic flame is lit.

“I think we’ve become a bit disillusioned with the Olympic cauldron,” said Ilten. “It’s nice a once-in-a-lifetime ring,” he said. “It’s something we can talk about forever.”

Olympics: Rain is forecast through this week, delaying skiing events.

FROM A1

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Burton said.

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A snowboarder sails through the rings during the opening ceremony for the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. (Photo by Michael Overall)

Olympic Review:

The process will include gathering inputs, from all of the city’s employees.

FROM A11

naturally, Bartlett said. This, which will begin in mid-April, will include all 20 city departments that answer to the mayor. It will involve the agencies, which are operated in conjunction with the Tulsa Airport Authority; Gilcrease Museum; city offices and the death of Terry Fox.

The mayor pledged that it will go further, local skating instructors will begin for the inevitable wave of enthusiasm for ice sports.

The mayor said that the results will be made public.

PMG is known through-out the country for conducting a review in Indianapolis about 18 years ago. Since then, that Indiana city has realized savings of approximately $1 million in savings.

Bartlett said he hopes Tulsa will achieve similar results, which is managed by the City Council.

Over the years, we’ve had some performance reviews and a little tweaking here and there, but nothing substantial like this, he said.

Bartlett said there is an advantage.

The process in Tulsa will start by taking one-on-one interviews with city employees. Anderson said.

While KPMG, the principal project consultant, said they can be reallocated to other functions that require additional people.

“No right now are a list of things that we need to do, but we don’t have the manpower to do them,” he said.

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Brian Burton 918-632-0637

Godiva chocolate is provided at the Vancouver Airport for departing passengers. (Photo by Michael Overall)

FIVE THOUGHTS ON “HEARTS OF GOLD”

“Such a beautiful song,” said Edith Lones, who now lives in Bartlesville. “The lyrics are so meaningful.”

Lones is an avid skater who now lives in Bartlesville. “I love seeing people from all over the world unite and go for their goals after working so hard to realize them,” said Ilten, who often writes press releases for the Tyler-City News with the “Kaney” blog.

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