



Michael Overall

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## Slope of culture erodes over time

In 1889, at the new French nightclub Moulin Rouge, chorus girls began kicking up their heels to offer tantalizing glimpses of fishnet stockings and layers of petticoats.

Parisians were so scandalized, they packed the audience night after night to see the vulgar display for themselves before condemning it.

A contemporary news account marveled at the dexterity of the dancers before suggesting that "we may presume they are at least as flexible with their morals."

In time, of course, the shock wore off and, soon after the turn of the century, the same Paris newspaper complained about the Moulin Rouge becoming a dull tourist attraction "that no longer provides a thrill for sophisticated gentlemen."

**High kicks and low blows:** The Can-Can went on to become a standard routine for cheerleader squads across America, where the young dancers dispense with the fishnets and the petticoats — and, for that matter, hardly bother to wear skirts either.

What once made a scandal, now makes grandma and grandpa proud.

Which brings us to the 2010 World of Dance competition in Pomona, Calif., where a troupe of 7-year-old girls recently bounced onto the stage wearing thigh-high stockings and what appeared to be frilly, pink lingerie.

No, I didn't forget to put a "1" in front of the "7." They were 7 years old.

A video of the bump-and-grind performance went viral on Youtube, and cable news channels quickly convened panelists to criticize such adult behavior by such underage students.

Naturally, no responsible newscast can disapprove of a video clip without looping it in heavy rotation. If you haven't seen it a hundred times yet, you've been watching too much Food Network.

The parents defended themselves in the press by suggesting that their innocent daughters were simply dancing the way people dance these days and wearing what performers wear.

Haven't you watched the MTV Awards lately? Or a Super Bowl halftime?

"Everybody's doing it," one father informed us, adopting an excuse that kids are supposed to try on their parents. Then the parents are supposed to ask about everybody jumping off a bridge, but the news anchor missed that obvious follow-up.

One of the mothers insisted that only somebody with a dirty imagination would see anything wrong with pre-pubescent girls wiggling around a stage in their underwear.

"People just need to get over it," she said.

**Change is coming:** Well, give us time. Cultural progress doesn't happen overnight.

When French designer Louis Reed introduced the bikini in the mid-1940s, respectable models refused to wear it on the runway and he had to find a stripper for the debut.

It took an entire decade for two-piece swimsuits to begin outselling the old one-piece among American teenagers. That's how long it can take for something to go from indecent to acceptable on its way to becoming child's play.

The problem in Pomona is that the parents got ahead of the rest of us on the slippery slope. Wait another decade or so and the World of Dance might look like a Sunday-school skit.

# West Tulsa dream about to come true

• Construction of South Haven's own community center should begin this fall.

BY MIKE AVERILL  
World Staff Writer

Willard Jones has been working to bring a community center to the impoverished South Haven neighborhood in west Tulsa for more than five years.

It appears there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

"We're making the impossible possible, the abstract concrete," he said.

Construction of the planned \$7 million, 20,000-square-foot community center should begin in the fall and will take 12 to 14 months

to complete.

"We are going to break ground this year," said Jones, pastor at Greater Cornerstone Baptist Church and executive director of the Greater Cornerstone Community Development Project, a nonprofit group, separate from the church, that is over the center.

The community center will be located across the Greater Cornerstone Baptist Church, 5610 S. 41st West Ave., and will include space for partner agencies to provide services like family and youth counseling, job skill

training, food and clothing distribution, mental health assistance, after school programs and computer and job training.

"People need these services and don't have transportation to get them. They don't have that presence here," Jones said.

Family and Children's Services is one of the agencies that will have a presence at the center.

"We're excited to collaborate with the center to provide clinical services for those in need in the area," said Whitney Downie, F&CS community-based services director.



Pastor Willard Jones stands in the field that will be the home of a new \$7 million community center across the street from his west Tulsa church. STEPHEN HOLMAN/Tulsa World

SEE CENTER A14

## Link is broken



Rhonda Johnson poses with a photograph of her late husband, Dr. Robert Johnson (seated), who died of ALS disease on Oct. 4, 2005. Johnson was the namesake of an annual Muscular Dystrophy Association golf tournament that no longer bears his name. SHERRY BROWN/Tulsa World

## Widow upset as golf tourney drops late doctor's name

BY DEON J. HAMPTON  
World Staff Writer

The family of a deceased Warren Clinic doctor is upset that his name is being removed from a golf tournament held in his honor that has raised more than \$120,000 statewide.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association in Tulsa is changing the name of the Dr. Robert Johnson Golf Classic, MDA officials said.

A new name won't be created. Rather, the tournament will be an MDA-sponsored golf classic honoring several families. The MDA informed the family of its decision in a letter earlier this month.

"It really upsets me," said Rhonda Johnson, 41, widow of Robert

### The Muscular Dystrophy Association's golf tournament.

**When:** Sept. 27 at Emerald Falls Golf Course in Broken Arrow.

To donate money or for more information, call 749-7997.

Johnson, 37, of Tulsa. "We put in a lot of work raising money. No one is happy with this. This was dear to our hearts."

Robert Johnson, who spent six years as an internal medicine doctor for the Warren Clinic, died in October 2005 from ALS.

More commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, ALS, amyotrophic

lateral sclerosis, is a disease of the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control voluntary muscle movement.

Robert Johnson's family, friends and colleagues, along with the MDA started the golf tournament in 2006 in Oklahoma City and raised between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

The next year, the committee raised roughly \$40,000 for the tournament, which had been expanded to Tulsa.

Committee members also raised thousands of dollars for the OKC tournament that year but aren't sure how much they raised. The MDA also couldn't confirm how much was raised that year.

Shortly thereafter, the MDA

changed the name of the Dr. Robert Johnson Golf Classic in OKC, making it a general tournament.

In 2008, more than \$40,000 was raised in the Tulsa golf tournament, followed by \$20,000 in 2009. Even less had been raised this year; however the committee had three more months to raise sponsorships.

Many organizations that previously donated funds couldn't donate the same amount this year, Rhonda Johnson, a mother of two, said.

Becky Wilkerson, executive director of the MDA in Tulsa, acknowledges that the committee isn't obligated to raise a specific

SEE HONOR A14

## Edmond sixth-grader new music industry model

• The Internet can hype new artists; a lasting effect is less certain, some say.

BY JOHN A. WILLIAMS  
The Oklahoman

OKLAHOMA CITY — The sudden rise to celebrity status of a 12-year-old Edmond boy has music industry experts and artists looking to social media like Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and YouTube to revolutionize the entertainment business.

Jay Shanker, an entertainment industry attorney with McAfee & Taft in Oklahoma City, said Greyson Michael Chance is an example of how the Internet can hype new artists.

Greyson, a sixth-grader at



Greyson Chance, who has become a YouTube phenomenon with his performance of "Paparazzi" by Lady Gaga, stands with a microphone earlier this month at Cheyenne Middle School in Edmond. NATE BILLINGS/The Oklahoman

Edmond's Cheyenne Middle School, is being compared to teen idol Justin Bieber in the press after a video of him singing Lady Gaga's "Paparazzi" became an instant Internet hit.

"The phenomenon is

that people will find something they like and want to talk about it and share with friends. Then you have created overnight sensations," Shankler said.

The YouTube video of Greyson singing at a recent

sixth-grade choir showcase was posted online April 28. By May 12, the video had drawn more than 1.4 million views, resulting in a call from the producers of "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" for an appearance.

Jeff Snyder, the director of the Music Business Program at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa., said Greyson has the talent and the looks to create a buzz among a significant segment of social media users.

"The demographic is 12-year-old girls. They still buy CDs. They still go to the mall, and they are rabid about whoever they happen to like," he said.

Scott Booker, chief executive officer of the Academy of Contemporary Music at the University of Central Oklahoma, said social media is

vital in launching careers but not necessarily for sustaining them.

"The Internet and social media are great for introducing artists to a vast number of people. What it's not great at is showing how the band or artists' careers unfold," he said.

Just as the Internet can take an artist from obscurity to sudden celebrity, Booker said social media can be manipulated to manufacture that popularity.

"Record companies promote their artists on social media and make it seem like it's fans that are doing the writing (on fan pages)," he said. "That's definitely something that happens. How much effect it really has is going to be, I believe, short-lived."

Snyder said he believes

SEE MUSIC A14



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## How can I submit an obituary for publication?

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**Hours:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday.

**Fax:** 918-583-3550. Funeral homes may fax free death notices to 918-581-8353 or call 918-581-8347 from 4 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

**E-mail:** Send photos and text for paid obituaries to: [tributes@tulsaworld.com](mailto:tributes@tulsaworld.com)

## Circle of Life

In an effort to honor those who have donated either organs, eyes or tissue, the Tulsa World is participating in the "Circle of Life" campaign sponsored by the Global Organization for Organ Donation (GOOD). If your loved one was a donor, please inform the funeral director if you would like to have the "Circle of Life" logo placed in his or her listing.

## Death notice policy

Funeral homes may submit free death notices by Internet, e-mail ([obits@tulsaworld.com](mailto:obits@tulsaworld.com)) or fax (581-8353) until 8 p.m. daily or by phone (581-8347) from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

## DEATH NOTICES

### TULSA

**Brown, Betty Ann** (McClintock), 88, homemaker, died Saturday. Services pending. Moore's Rosewood.

**Brown, Betty Zo**, 87, nurse aide, died Saturday. Graveside service 11 a.m. Tuesday, Memorial Park Cemetery, and memorial service 1 p.m. Tuesday, Boston Avenue United Methodist Church. Moore's Southlawn.

**Byrd, Travion L.** "Tray B.," 22, laborer, died May 18. Visitation 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday, Dyer Funeral Home, and service 1 p.m. Tuesday, Full Gospel Family Outreach Ministries.

**Love-Blayblock, Carrie L.**, 78, foster care provider, died Sunday. Services pending. Dyer.

**Monroe, Richard E.**, 78, systems analyst, died Wednesday. Service 11 a.m. Tuesday, Stanleys Funeral Service Chapel.

**Spain, Stephen P.**, 57, dog trainer, died Saturday. Services pending. AddVantage.

**Spaulding, Billy**, 82, McDonnell Douglas employee, died Friday. Service 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Stanleys Funeral Service Chapel.

**Stephens, Marie H.**, 79, homemaker, died Thursday. Service 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Antioch Baptist Church. Hutchins-Maples, Bristow.

**Wortham, Jaylon**, infant son of Dorothy Wortham and Joseph Love, died Wednesday. Visitation 10-10:45 a.m. Monday, Floral Haven Funeral Home, Broken Arrow, and graveside service 11 a.m. Monday, Floral Haven Garden of Angels, Broken Arrow.

### STATE/AREA

Funeral home, church and cemetery locations are in the city under which the death notice is listed unless otherwise noted.

**Bartlesville** — Eula Mae "Good-night" Beckett, 87, homemaker, died Friday. Service 2 p.m. Wednesday, Stumpff Funeral Home Chapel.

— Joy Yates Buell, 86, died Wednesday. Services pending. Stumpff.

— James C. "Jim" Gardner, 78, retired D.P. Bonham Transfer Co. employee, died Saturday. Services pending. Arnold Moore.

**Blackwell** — Mildred Clonts, 96, retired, died Friday. Graveside service 2 p.m. Monday, Blackwell Cemetery, Roberts & Son.

— Helen M. Dye, 81, retired, died Friday. Service 2 p.m. Tuesday, Roberts & Son Funeral Home Chapel.

**Bristow** — Lila Calvin, 96, retired nurses aide, died Saturday. Services pending. Schumacher.

— Joyleen Geller, 89, died Sunday.

### BIRTHS

(Tulsans unless indicated)

**Peggy V. Helmerich Women's Health Center**  
Beckie M. and John W. Bandy, Vinita, girl.  
Maria Barajas and Gabriel Ramirez, Chicago, boy.  
Veronica Bell and Corey Johnson, girl.  
Sherri and Jeremy DeGroot, boy.  
Chelsea Faulkner and Gerald Fullhart, Sand Springs, boy.  
Valeria Holquin and Fernando Holquin-Camacho, girl.  
Tonya Howell, girl.  
LeeAnna Jackson and Aaron Gonzales, boy.  
Sasha Jackson, boy.  
Felicia Munoz and C.D. Steidley, McAlester, boy.  
Rocio Padilla and Oscar Duran, girl.

Gabriela Perez-Magana and Jorge Bautista, boy.  
Katie Pierson, boy.  
Misty Springer and Michael Guardado, boy.

**St. Francis Hospital**  
Vanessa and Benjamin Baker, girl.  
Liz and Van Evans, girl.  
Sheryl and Nicholas Klenovich, Sapulpa, boy.  
Emily Thompson and Derek Morrison, boy.  
Amber and Jarrod Vanderslice, Sapulpa, boy.  
Jennafer Welch and Roy Kelley, Broken Arrow, boy.  
Heather and Jonathon Young, girl.

**St. John Medical Center**  
Mary and Justin Adkisson, Sperry, girl.  
Cindy Pridgen, boy.

**OSU Medical Center**  
Shandle Goff and Aaron Lane, boy.

Services pending. Hutchins-Maples.

— Yvonne (Ferguson) Wilkinson, 75, retired from the Air Force, died Sunday. Services pending. Hutchins-Maples.

**Broken Arrow** — Patrick B. Cicchino, 28, Blue Bell production worker, died Friday. Visitation 6-8 p.m. Tuesday and service 10 a.m. Wednesday, both at Hayhurst Funeral Home.

**Claremore** — Charles "Bud" Dollard, 78, retired Boeing employee, died Saturday. Services pending. Rice.

**Coffeyville, Kan.** — Bessie Leoma Mason, 93, died Saturday. Visitation noon-8 p.m. Tuesday and service 10 a.m. Wednesday, both at Penwell-Gabel Ford-Wulf-Brunns Funeral Home.

**Cushing** — Gloria Buckles, 76, homemaker, died Saturday. Graveside service 3:30 p.m. Monday, Fairlawn Cemetery. Davis.

**Henryetta** — Ronnie J. Berry, 64, died Sunday in McAlester. Services pending. Integrity.

**Jay** — Robert Maples, 70, died Saturday. Services pending. Worley-Luginbuel.

**Mannford** — Noland R. Dickey, 87, retired welder died Saturday. Service 10 a.m. Wednesday, First Baptist Church. Chapman-Black, Cleveland.

**Miami** — Patricia Ann "Patsie" Adams, 66, cosmetologist, died Saturday. Visitation 6-7 p.m. Monday and service 2 p.m. Tuesday, both at Paul Thomas Funeral Home.

**Muskogee** — G.C. Hefley, 87, retired construction electrician, died Saturday. Services pending. Foster-Petering.

— Mark Alan Lake, 59, millwright,

died Thursday. Service 1 p.m. Monday, Foster-Petering Funeral Home Chapel.

— Dennis E. Self, 64, national service officer, died Friday. Rosary 7 p.m. Monday, Foster-Petering Funeral Home Chapel, and funeral Mass noon Tuesday, St. Joseph Catholic Church.

**Okmulgee** — James David Workman, 92, glass plant worker, died Saturday. Visitation 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, McClendon-Winters Funeral Home, and service 2 p.m. Wednesday, Faith Baptist Church.

**Porum** — Karen Jo Lane, 66, died Saturday. Memorial service 1 p.m. Wednesday, Friendship Chapel Baptist Church. Shurden, Henryetta.

**Pryor** — John D. Pope, 73, died Sunday. Services pending. Stephens.

**Salina** — James Alberty, 89, died Saturday. Services pending. Stephens, Pryor.

**Stillwater** — Ben D. Staley, 74, electrical contractor, died Friday. Service 10 a.m. Tuesday, University Heights Baptist Church, and graveside service 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Resthaven Memory Gardens, Oklahoma City. Palmer Marler.

**Tahlequah** — Sandra Kay (Woodard) Heaslet, 55, homemaker, died Sunday. Services pending. Green Country.

**Wagoner** — Jesse Rains, 29, cook, died Thursday. Service 2 p.m. Wednesday, Church of God of Prophecy Shipman.

**Westville** — J.C. Nunn, 87, retired carpenter, died Saturday. Graveside service 2 p.m. Tuesday, Marlow Cemetery, Marlow. Roberts.

## Ex-Ohio lawmaker famed for sex and bribery dies

Former U.S. Rep. Donald "Buz" Lukens of Ohio, once a rising conservative star in state politics before a string of scandals abruptly ended his career, has died. He was 79.

Lukens died of cancer at a Dallas nursing home Saturday, said his sister, Lois Short of Springfield, Ohio.

Lukens was convicted in 1989 of paying a 16-year-old girl from Columbus for sex. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail fined \$500.

The scandal cost him the 1990 Republican primary, where he lost to then-state Rep. John Boehner, now the House minority leader in Congress.

### U.S.-WORLD DEATHS

Lukens resigned his seat Oct. 24, 1990, less than three months before his term was to expire, rather than face an investigation by the House ethics committee, which planned to look into allegations of sexual misconduct.

Lukens also was mired in legal trouble because of a scandal involving the now-defunct House bank, which benefited Congress members by offering unlimited penalty-free checking overdrafts.

Later accused of taking \$15,000 in bribes from two Cincinnati businessmen, Lukens was convicted on a felony charge of bribery in 1996 and sentenced to 30 months in prison.

Lukens denied that he ever exchanged votes for money.

A supporter of Barry Goldwater and an early, enthusiastic booster of Ronald Reagan, Lukens rose quickly as a Republican and conservative activist from southwest Ohio.

First elected to the House in 1967, he made an unsuccessful bid at the 1970 GOP nomination for governor. He was later appointed to the Ohio Senate and elected to Congress in 1986 and 1988.

### AP drama critic dies at 63

NEW YORK — Michael Kuchwara, The Associated Press' longtime drama critic whose thoughtful, fair-minded reviews made him beloved and respected in the theater world and influential beyond, died Saturday night. He was 63.

Kuchwara, who had held his position since 1984 and recently celebrated his 40th anniversary with the AP, died at Beth Israel Hospital in Manhattan of complications from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a lung disease that causes scarring. He entered the hospital May 10.

Ponder Henley, his brother-in-law,

— FROM WIRE REPORTS

## CENTER:

No federal, state or city money is going to the project, Jones said.

FROM A13

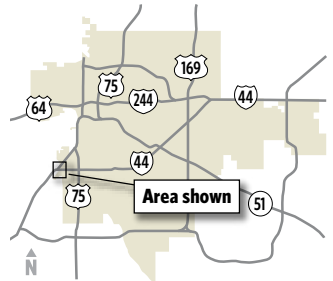
The center will also serve as a community shelter with generators and locker rooms.

"When the lights go out and the snow storm hits west Tulsa they'll have a place to go," he said.

There will also be a full-size gymnasium/performance hall with a basketball court and a stage with lighting and sound equipment.

While the center will be located in the South Haven area, it will be open to a larger part of west Tulsa from West 41st Street to the north, Arkansas River to the east, 71st Street to the south and the Turner Turnpike to the west.

Jones said no federal, state or city money is going toward the project.



DAVID HOUSH/Tulsa World

"This is the efforts of the philanthropic mindset of foundations, corporations, churches and individuals," he said.

Phil Lakin, executive director of the Tulsa Community Foundation, helped Jones get connected with a number of area foundations that plan to put their support

behind the effort.

"The services his organization will provide, in collaboration with other established nonprofits, are vital, especially in western Tulsa, in a neighborhood that has pulled itself up by the bootstraps," Lakin said.

The funding campaign is still in the quiet phase. An open, public, fundraising drive will begin in about 30 to 60 days.

Included in the funding are endowments for maintenance and operation of the center.

Jones started preaching 15 years ago at Cornerstone Baptist Church, which at that time had five members.

"It was a desolate place," he said. "This is an area that when the race riots took place, many people fled here. It should have been a haven, but in recent times, it became a haven for drug dealers and gang bangers."

During the mid-1990s Jones, who was on the Tulsa Habitat for Humanity board, and then executive director Gary Casteel decided to focus on the impoverished neighborhood.

Jones said they worked with the drug task force and were able to arrest a lot of the kingpins. That allowed for a lot of property to be turned over to Habitat to build on. He said that helped start a revitalization to the neighborhood.

"That brought a lot of pride to the community. People were no longer turning their heads. There's pride in ownership," he said.

Habitat has built 75 houses in the area, said Paul Kent, executive director of Tulsa Habitat for Humanity.

"I envision this being one of the best things to happen to that neighborhood since Habitat," Kent said of the community center.

"It will give families a place to gather and give kids a place to have after-school activities and really bring together a group of people in a way that doesn't happen without something like this."

For more information on the community center, go online to [tulsaworld.com/gccpd](http://tulsaworld.com/gccpd)

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## HONOR:

The MDA believes more will be raised if the tourney honors more families.

FROM A13

amount each year. However, she said, the MDA has a responsibility to maximize fundraising.

She said she believes the organization can raise more funds for ALS research by removing Johnson's name and honoring several families affected by the disease.

"We appreciate everything that they've (the Johnson family) has done," she said.

Wilkerson said the MDA wants to recognize and honor Robert Johnson and his family for establishing the tournament.

"We feel abandoned," said Debra McIntosh, Robert Johnson's older sister. "We consistently raised money and we had one down year."

She said she wonders how removing the face of the clas-

sic will help encourage more sponsorships.

"He (Robert Johnson) worked to save lives, but couldn't save his own," McIntosh said.

Rhonda Johnson said she and her husband were high school sweethearts. They wed after dating for seven years and were married for 12 years.

She said Robert Johnson grew up in Oklahoma City and was a star athlete and salutatorian at Heritage Hall High School. He earned a scholarship to Pomona College in California. After graduation, he attended University of Oklahoma College of Medicine.

Rhonda Johnson said he was nice, smart, loving and an excellent physician.

Relatives said they understand the MDA's stance on the change, but don't agree.

"I commend MDA, because it's a thankless job," McIntosh said. "But I do think somehow, with this tournament, they lost sight of how it came about and what it was trying to accomplish."

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## MUSIC:

Greyson's video has attracted more than 18.6 million views on the Internet.

FROM A13

Greyson might have received some assistance from other people in his quick rise to the top of social media.

"I was amazed at the marketing machine that appeared behind him. In my opinion, looking at everything that suddenly appeared, there is no way a 12-year-old kid can have the time to do all that," he said.

Shanker said major re-

cord companies, as well as independent musical artists, have realized they can sell songs and build careers with just a small audience of fervent fans.

"If your goal is to make a great living, satisfy your fans and your passion for making good music, most young artists are discovering doing it themselves using the social media as a marketing plat-

form," Shanker said.

Greyson's video has attracted more than 20 million views. A Facebook page started by fans has 77,000 members, and more than 62,000 followers have joined his Twitter page.

He appeared on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" on Wednesday.

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