



### GOOD CATCH

With kids, it's not the size of the fish. It's how many fish are in the net.

Scene D1

### SERVICE DOGS

Therapetics is looking for more puppy trainers.

Local A11



### COWBOYS WIN

OSU avoids a Sooner sweep with a 5-1 win on Sunday.

Sports B1



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MAY 11, 2009

# TULSA WORLD

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## Software to target stolen property

Police will use a new online system that will offer instant access to pawnshop transactions.

BY NICOLE MARSHALL  
World Staff Writer

A new online system that allows police to track pawnshop transactions will be good news for burglary victims and bad news for burglars.

The Business Watch International regional system is expected to be in operation, linking the Tulsa Police Department to area pawnshops, by the end of June, Sgt. Brandon Watkins said. The system could increase by 300 percent the amount of stolen property that is recovered from pawnshops, he said.

"We really believe it will have a great, positive impact for burglary investigations in Tulsa," Watkins said. "We will essentially be shutting off a source of funding for burglars, and it also benefits the pawnshops. They don't want to buy stolen merchandise."

SEE PAWN A4

## STAR SITES

## THREE CENTERS COMPLAINT FREE



Three- and 4-year-olds look at books after an afternoon snack time before going outside at the day care in the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Tulsa. Photos by MICHAEL WYKE/Tulsa World

## Funding sought for green ideas

Stimulus money could be used for Brady, medical sites.

BY SHANNON MUCHMORE  
World Staff Writer

Public-private partnerships in Tulsa are pitching ideas for energy-saving and sustainable projects that can be realized through grants from federal stimulus money awarded to the state.

They include a project to revamp the Brady district as a vibrant, energy-efficient community for residents and businesses, and proposals for equipment that would allow significant cost-savings for the Oklaho-

SEE GREEN A4

## Good child-care centers thrive in Tulsa area

BY GINNIE GRAHAM  
World Staff Writer

Free time grows into a peaceful rhythm in the classroom with 4- and 5-year-olds at Good Shepherd Early Childhood Education Center, 8730 E. Skelly Drive.

Three children work on puzzles, two girls make a bead necklace, some boys stack blocks and a visiting grandmother shares a banana in the snack area.

"We are not child care, we are educators," said teacher Dona Baldrige. "We are preparing our children for life."

A Head Start program administered by the Community Action Project of Tulsa County, Good Shepherd Early Childhood Education Center is one of three, three-star centers receiving no violations or complaints since January 2007, according to a Tulsa World analysis of state inspection and complaint reports.

The other two are Happy Hearts Academy, 1010 N. Yale Ave., and the Bethany Community School, 6730 S. Sheridan Road, which is a part-day children's program.

Four other Tulsa County three-star centers had fewer than two violations for minor infractions and no confirmed complaints

This is the second part of a two-day examination of state inspection reports of Tulsa County's top-rated child-care centers.

The Tulsa World found that among the 37 three-star centers, about 400 inspection violations were found and 23 confirmed complaints.

Of the inspection violations, about 19 percent were found on playgrounds, 12 percent for building maintenance problems, 7 percent for understaffed or overcrowded rooms, 7 percent for improper sleeping arrangements and 6 percent for out-of-date fire inspections or tornado drills.

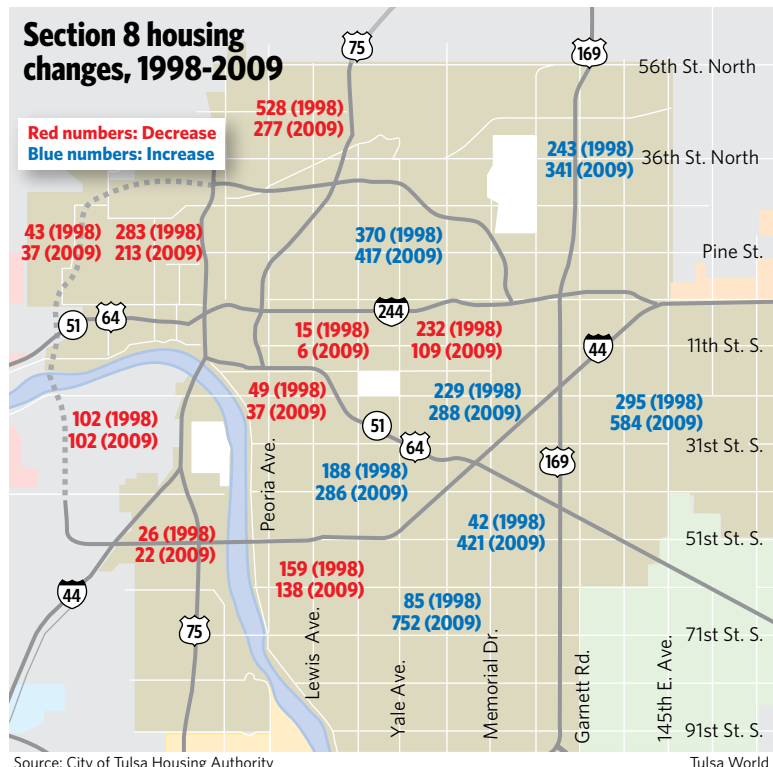
The confirmed complaints include hitting children with a ruler, treating head lice with hairspray without parental permission, yelling at children, running a red light while transporting children and having nearly 50 children on a playground with one staff member.

— Tulsa Community College Child Development Center, 7505 W. 41st St., Crosstown Learning Center, 2501 E. Archer St., Chil-

SEE CARE A8



Teaching assistant Nicholas Dubriwny (lower left) works with 4- and 5-year-olds on a puzzle at Good Shepherd Early Childhood Education Center, one of three top-rated centers free of any inspection violations or complaints.



## Section 8 housing shifts south, east

The subsidized housing follows grocery stores and jobs, an official says.

BY MIKE AVERILL  
World Staff Writer

Tulsa Housing Authority data show a strong shift in Section 8 housing during the last 10 years from the north and west to the south and east parts of the city.

"A lot of it has to do with people wanting to live in an area of town that's close to grocery stores and employment," said Chea Redditt, THA executive director. "A lot of the families don't have transportation so living within walking distance to those services is more appealing."

The largest increase in the south is in the planning district from Lewis Avenue east to Sheridan Road and In-

terstate 44 south to 91st Street.

In the east, the largest increase was in the area from Memorial Drive east to 193rd East Avenue and from Admiral Place south to 51st Street.

The housing authority is allocated 4,681 vouchers and has 4,540 leased units.

Of those leases, 2,621 are located east of the Arkansas River and south of Admiral Place, more than doubling the 1,294 leases in 1998.

There's also been an increase of more than 1,000 vouchers available for the housing authority to authorize in the last 10 years.

Terri Cole, vice president of assisted housing, said the largest increase in vouchers has been in the last three years due to property owners opting out of Section 8 and the I-44 expansion that brought down the Patrick Henry Apartments near 51st Street and Harvard Avenue.

There are 3,800 people on the waiting list for Section 8 housing and 1,000 on the waiting list for the Public Housing Program.

For people on the waiting list with preference — elderly, disabled or in a shelter for domestic violence — the wait can be six months to a year for Section 8. For those without preference the wait can be 12 months to 24 months, Cole said.

"There's definitely a need. We don't have the units available to fulfill the need of everyone who needs housing," Redditt said.

The Section 8 housing program is directly funded through HUD. THA could apply to different programs to expand the number of vouchers, but the problem is finding places to put people.

Currently there are 150 families

SEE SHIFT A4

High 69, Low 56

Showers and thunderstorms

Complete weather on B8



Ask Amy.....	D4	Dr. Gott.....	D4
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Road ratings

Find out where Tulsa ranks among cities with the highest share of roads in poor condition.

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**Tulsa Police Sgt. Brandon Watkins, a burglary detective, sits in his office with a week's worth of pawnshop business receipts. A new computer system will link police with area pawnshops, enabling officers to identify stolen property more quickly.**

MICHAEL WYKE/Tulsa World

## PAWN:

Pawnshops will enter their transactions into the system.

FROM A1

The cost of the system, which will provide real-time access to pawnshop transactions, is \$17,000, Watkins said. The Police Department sampled another system in 2007 that cost almost twice as much, he said.

Oklahoma law requires pawnshops to make available to law enforcement agencies detailed records of every purchase or pawn transaction.

Some pawnshops e-mail those records to police, but many shops mail handwritten slips to the Police Department. Some pawnshops send reports in monthly, and police can receive an average of 1,000 slips at a time from individual shops.

Information from each slip is to be entered into a police tracking system, but Watkins said he determined that only about 25 percent of the slips are being entered.

"It takes a while to physically enter each one," he said.

To deal with the backlog, a volunteer who types the slips into a police computer focuses on the ones for property with serial numbers. Those items have a better chance of being matched with property that has been reported stolen, police say.

"The system we had was better than nothing, but we needed something more beneficial to everyone involved," Watkins said.

The new system, he said, will be "beneficial to everyone except the burglars."

With the new system, pawnshops will enter information about each sale into their computers with the Business Watch International

software, and police will be able to obtain that data immediately.

Watkins said police will have a variety of uses for the data.

For instance, they can flag a stolen item to alert officers of any attempt to pawn it, enabling police to go directly to the pawnshop.

"This system has been known to catch people with murder warrants," Watkins said.

Although people who frequently pawn items are not necessarily selling stolen goods, transactions involving large amounts of certain types of property will send a signal to police.

Watkins said the system was able to notify Baltimore police that someone engaged in 60,000 incidents of pawning property in six months.

Police are also encouraging people to log their property and its serial numbers on Business Watch International's HomeWatch system, which is accessible through [tulsaworld.com/businesswatch](http://tulsaworld.com/businesswatch).

HomeWatch is linked to the pawnshop data-sharing system, Watkins said.

"So, for example, if you are on vacation and somebody breaks into your home, steals your property and pawns it, we will know you had a burglary before you know," he said.

Burglars also sell stolen property at consignment shops or secondhand stores and online on such sites as eBay and Craigslist. Police hope the new online system will deter thieves from taking stolen property to pawnshops.

"We are hoping to take away another market for burglars," Watkins said.

The system can expand to include pawnshops in the region as well as those in Tulsa, he said.

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## Launch for Hubble trip awaited

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — With a forecast of near-perfect weather, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope scientists and managers were euphoric as they awaited Monday's planned launch of shuttle Atlantis on the final trip to the orbiting observatory.

The anticipation was all the greater given all the years of mission delays. "To be within one day of it is remarkable, unbelievable and I have to persuade myself I'm not dreaming," a senior project scientist, David Leckrone, said Sunday.

Meteorologists issued an improved forecast, putting the odds of good launching weather at 90 percent, about as good as it gets. Only a slight chance of rain is expected at the emergency landing site in Spain.

Atlantis is poised to blast off with seven astronauts just after 1 p.m. CDT.

The 19-year-old Hubble needs new batteries, gyroscopes, cameras and other equipment that NASA hopes will keep it operating — at a higher than ever scientific level — for five to 10 more years.

Hubble has been left unattended

for seven years. It's the longest gap ever between servicing missions, created in large part by the 2003 Columbia disaster. A telescope breakdown last fall led to the most recent seven-month delay.

"We have seven years of accumulated maintenance work to do," the Hubble program manager, Preston Burch, said. "So you can imagine if you had a car and you were driving it every day for seven years and never took it into the shop. You would have quite a list of things to do on it."

The 11-day mission is packed and includes unprecedented camera repairs. Five spacewalks are planned.

A second shuttle, Endeavour, is at the other launch pad, just a week from rushing to rescue the Atlantis crew if necessary. All of NASA's other shuttle missions in recent years have been to the international space station, where astronauts could await a rescue. The Atlantis astronauts will be unable to get to the station, which is in a different orbit than Hubble. That's why Endeavour needs to be ready to go as soon as possible if Atlantis suffers severe damage during launch or by a micrometeoroid in orbit.

## SHIFT:

THA pays \$27 million yearly to 1,200 landlords.

FROM A1

with vouchers that can't find willing landlords.

The average income for a Section 8 family is \$9,791.

Cole said 51 percent of people in Section 8 housing receive Social Security and Supplemental Security Income and 25 percent are wage-earning workers.

The Tulsa Housing Authority subsidizes part of the rent based on income and pays the entire amount of the rent in some cases.

Annually it pays \$27 million to about 1,200 landlords.

One of the biggest appeals of Section 8 housing compared with traditional public housing is the anonymity.

"The public housing program keeps people isolated. Everyone living there is poor," Redditt said. "With Section 8 the kids don't have to grow up in a poor neighborhood. They can grow up and nobody has to know they're poor."

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## GREEN:

Oklahoma is due \$46 million for energy-saving projects.

FROM A1

ma State University Medical Center and a proposed specialty clinic in north Tulsa.

The proposals are competing for the state's \$46 million in allocation for energy efficiency from the America Reinvestment and Recovery Act, known as the stimulus package.

Officials should find out more within two weeks about which projects will make the cut. The ideas are evaluated on energy efficiency, job creation, carbon footprint reduction and how much can be gathered in matching funds, said Beverly Anderson, a consultant to the George Kaiser Family Foundation.

"Every single one of these (proposals) is very strong in these areas," she said.

The foundation helped develop many of the proposed projects and is behind the public and private groups that are prepared to provide matching funds and continued support for the programs, she said.

The overall costs seem substantial, but officials quickly discovered the importance of projects that leverage the funds, Anderson said.

"You know, \$787 billion is a lot of money, but when you start parsing it out for specific things, it isn't a lot," she said.

### Brady, OSU projects

The \$6 million Brady Village Green Sustainability Project would redesign the community north of downtown with solar panels, LED lighting and a ground source heat pump system. It would also use landscape development practices designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the area of about 1.5 million square feet.

The changes would cre-

### Public-private projects seeking stimulus funds

**Brady Village Green Sustainability Project**

\$350,000 in annual energy cost savings

**Asked:** \$3.4 million (with \$2.6 million match)

**Applicant:** Tulsa Industrial Authority

**Summary:** Creating of a walkable, energy-efficient community in the Brady District that would attract residential and business development

**OSU Medical Center Energy Conservation Improvements**

**Asked:** \$4.1 million (with \$3.3 million match)

**Applicant:** OSU Medical Center Trust

**Summary:** Replacing heating, cooling and lighting systems to provide at least

ate local jobs and encourage residential and business development in the community.

"It would benefit the local community there by significantly lowering their energy costs and their operations costs," Anderson said.

Jeff Stava, the chairman of the Tulsa Industrial Authority, which is applying for the grant, said it would create an innovative self-sustaining microcommunity.

"It's a real big opportunity for Tulsa to be a showcase community," he said.

The project would create jobs in engineering, construction and manufacturing, among other fields. It would also provide the city with more sales tax revenue from entertainment venues and restaurants, Stava said.

"We're actually going to start to harness those tax dollars, which is what the city needs," he said.

Another proposal would assist the OSU Medical Center with energy-efficiency improvements. The grant request is for about \$8 million including matching funds. It would be used to upgrade lighting, overhaul heating and cooling systems and provide an upgraded weatherization of the building, which was built in the 1940s.

The changes would save an estimated \$350,000 a

year in energy costs.

The medical center was at the brink of closure earlier this year before a public trust purchased the hospital, which is the primary location for indigent health care in Tulsa.

Anderson said the money the medical center saves would go back into equipment and training that would directly benefit the community.

"The benefit from cost savings at that facility are so dramatic and far-reaching," she said.

### OU-Tulsa Specialty Clinic

A similar proposal for the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa Specialty Clinic at Northland would allow for the building to be constructed with efficient heating, cooling and electrical systems. The ability to install the equipment is likely to save \$35,000 a year.

Anderson said that without the stimulus funding, the \$20 million building, planned for 36th Street North and Hartford Avenue, will be built with traditional systems.

"If they can get this little boost in the beginning, then they can save up to 30 to 40 percent in cost savings going into the future," she said.

OU-Tulsa President Gerry Clancy said the money saved would go directly toward patient care in the area, where specialty cancer and heart care is "virtually nonexistent."

Clancy said the potential for Tulsa to benefit from the stimulus package is enormous.

"We've just seen the first wave of stimulus funding possibilities," he said.

Another suggestion is for a low-interest loan to the Tulsa Economic Development Corporation, which would in turn lend the money to companies with energy sustaining goals. The TEDC would use this Green Loan Fund to offer attractive, low-interest capital for local industries that would use the premium to realize long-term energy cost savings.

When the loan is paid back, another company can receive the benefit, Anderson said.

"We would have a renewable renewables fund, if you will," she said.

Two smaller proposals involve providing \$600,000 to Community Health Connections for efficient equipment in planned construction, and \$2.8 million to retrofit Community Action Project Head Start Schools.

Anderson said the stimulus bill is well-written, and she predicts it will be effective. Foundations and individuals in Tulsa are eager to move ahead with the energy-saving projects they have proposed.

"I think they're all valuable," she said. "I think they're viable candidates for different reasons."

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