



THE OKLAHOMAN

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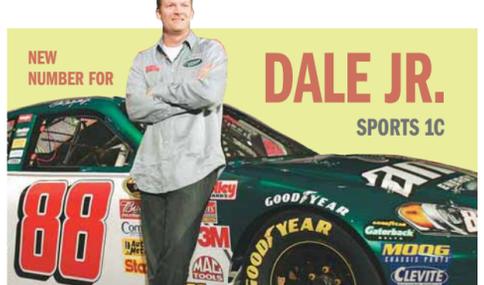


HOW YOU CAN HELP THIS DOG
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WILL FUEL BECOME A MONEY HOG AGAIN?
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NEW NUMBER FOR DALE JR.
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Don't wait for flu shot this year

With ample supply, officials launch drive.

By Jim Killackey
Staff Writer

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday urged people to get their flu shots as soon as possible because of a low vaccination rate last flu season.

"Americans and health care professionals should rethink traditional vaccination season by seeking vaccination whenever it is available in their communities and use every opportunity to get vaccinated throughout the fall and winter months, into the New Year," said CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding.

CDC data released Wednesday showed not enough of the people who need flu shots the most actually get them, including one in five babies and toddlers.

About 33 percent of 50- to 64-year-olds are getting vaccinated, the CDC said. Only 71.2 percent of senior citizens reported getting a flu shot in 2006.

No shortage of flu vaccine is expected in the United States.

In Oklahoma, supplies of flu vaccine are trickling in, although the state Health Department won't receive all of the 332,780 doses of adult and children's vaccines it ordered until Oct. 1, public health authorities said.

That supply then will be shipped to 90 county health de-

See **FLU**, Page 3A

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More: Important facts on flu and vaccinations



A \$125 million expansion at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation includes an eight-story research tower.

Health: Governor says hundreds of positions expected from OMRF plan

How research will boost jobs

\$15 million check launches center's expansion

By Jim Stafford
Business Writer

Gov. Brad Henry provided the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation with a \$15 million head start Wednesday on an ambitious \$125 million expansion plan that includes an eight-story research tower and 300 new jobs on the Oklahoma Health Center campus.

The governor presented a \$15 million Oklahoma Opportunity Fund check to OMRF President Dr. Stephen Prescott in a ceremony attended by scores of foundation employees, state officials and first lady Kim Henry, who serves on the not-for-profit foundation's board of directors.

"This will provide the seed capital to jump-start the project," Gov. Henry said. "We believe we will recoup this investment very quickly."

In his remarks during the check presentation ceremony, Henry said the state's investment would create "at a minimum 600 new jobs." He was later asked about the discrepancy from the 300 jobs listed in a handout for a news conference announcing the award.

"Well, I'm very optimistic about this project," Henry said to laughter from the audience. Prescott responded by saying "the governor just gave us a stretch goal."

See **OMRF**, back page

Ready for the big screen



BY PAUL B. SOUTHERLAND, THE OKLAHOMAN

Third-grader Jacob Escamilla, 8, squints while taking the vision exam during health screenings at Eugene Field Elementary School in Oklahoma City. Nurses began checking students' health Wednesday at Eugene Field, Capitol Hill and Lee elementary schools, and at Webster Middle School. More than 28,000 students were tested districtwide in similar screenings last year. Nursing students help conduct the screenings, and dental hygienists check for cavities. See **story**, Page 13A.



Could state safety law curb four-wheeler fun?

By Julie Bisbee
Staff Writer

WAYNOKA — For David Shepard, the ritual of taking the family out on four-wheelers to watch the sun set over the dunes at Little Sahara State Park could be a thing of the past.

Shepard, an all-terrain vehicle enthusiast from Rector, Ark., usually drives 14 hours to bring his family, including his 70-year-old mother, out

on the dunes near Waynoka. But after Nov. 1, Shepard may be looking for a new spot for the family four-wheeler vacation in a state that doesn't have a rule that "outlaws kids and families."

Under a new law that takes effect Nov. 1, passengers will be prohibited from riding four-wheelers on public land that are not specifically made to carry more than one person. The law also makes it mandatory for riders under 18 to wear helmets. Young

See **LAW**, Page 2A

Little Sahara Sandfest drew thousands in all types of sports vehicles. Inset: A young sandsport enthusiast wears an accessorized helmet.

BY BILL WAUGH, THE OKLAHOMAN

total coverage
NEWS9 The Oklahoman NewsOK.com

1 Online at NewsOK.com

Video, photos: See footage of exciting, high-flying ATVs, a park ranger explaining the new law, and some of the 12,000 people enjoying Sandfest, plus a still-photo gallery.

At state fair, every 'our' counts, while strangers are rare



No doubt about it. I ask some odd questions.

Go ahead and add this one to the list.

Who is "our"?

The slogan on the Oklahoma State Fair Centennial Expo's Visitor's Guide reads "Proudly Celebrating Our State's Centennial."

To tell the truth, I knew exactly who "our" was before I arrived at State Fair Park. "Our" is you and I — Oklahomans, long-time or fairly recent, young or not-so-young, from the metropolitan or the rural areas.

But "our" is broad, so I wanted to narrow it to a couple of names and faces.

The first "our" was Wendy Price. The pony-tailed 18-year-old senior from Fletcher High School was wearing a pink hoodie bearing a John Deere logo and what I'm sure was an unforced smile. I found her back in one of the barns

See **PAINTER**, Page 3A



Wendy Price

Age 18, of Fletcher.



Bill Hisle

Age 61, of Ada.



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A WEATHER



Partly cloudy

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TODAY'S PRAYER

Purify us with Your living water,
Lord. Let us only see ourselves
in Your image. Amen.

total coverage
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More: Complete coverage of the fair, including schedules. Keyword: **State Fair**