



Freda R. House Named Pushmataha County Director

Freda House, a 13-year veteran of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, has been named Director of the OKDHS office in Pushmataha County.

“As a life-long resident of Pushmataha County, Freda knows the people as her friends and neighbors and dedicates her time to helping the community,” said Alice Foran, OKDHS Area IV Director. “I know that Freda will



Freda R. House

work hard in supporting the local staff as they continue to address the needs of the people of Pushmataha County.”

House began her career with OKDHS as a social worker before serving as a social services specialist. She was later promoted to social services supervisor.

“The vision I have for Pushmataha County is for our peo-

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Director Named to Cabinet Post



Director Howard H. Hendrick accepts the appointment of Cabinet Secretary of Health and Human Services at a press conference with Governor Frank Keating and the Director's wife, Tracy.

On Monday, January 28, 2002, OKDHS Director Howard H. Hendrick sent this message to all employees:

Today, Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating announced my appointment as Cabinet Secretary of Health and Human Services to oversee 13 state agencies, including OKDHS. I will remain director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, and I will remain in my office in the Sequoyah Building.

While I have added responsibilities to the Governor and to state government with this new appointment, I remain fully committed to the mission, vision, values and guiding principles all of us at the Department of Human Services have worked so hard to put in place in the last three-plus years.

Thank you for all you have done to make my responsibilities as Director enjoyable. We have accomplished a great deal together, and I have every confidence that we will continue to do so.

OKDHS son carries Olympic torch

A Wagoner High School student with strong ties to OKDHS carried the Olympic Torch during its journey through Oklahoma on its way to Salt Lake City.

Josh Grace, a 17-year-old senior at Wagoner High School, carried the symbol of the Olympics for a quarter-mile stretch on Lincoln Blvd. near the Oklahoma State Capitol on January 11.

Josh is the son of Sandy Grace, a day care licensing worker in Wagoner County, and the nephew of Debbie Grace, a child welfare supervisor in Rogers County.

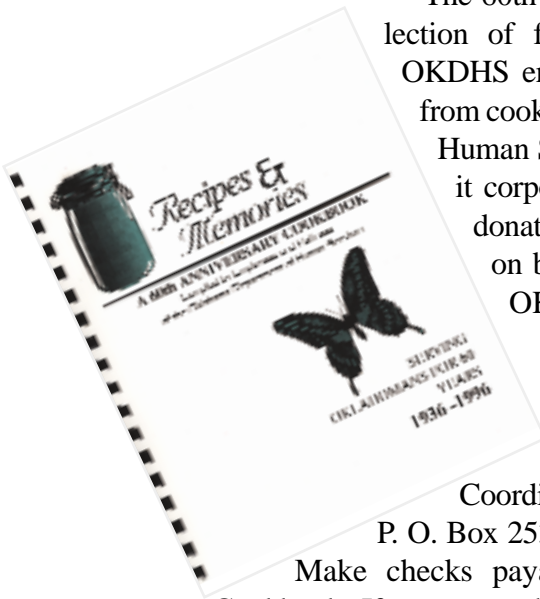
Josh was nominated to take part in the torch run by his father, David.



Josh Grace

“I was amazed and so happy to be chosen for such an honor,” Josh said.

Thanks for the memories.... and the wonderful casserole



The 60th Anniversary Cookbook is a collection of favorite recipes garnered from OKDHS employees and retirees. Proceeds from cookbook sales benefit the Oklahoma Human Services Foundation, a non-profit corporation that receives tax-exempt donations and submits grant proposals on behalf of Oklahomans who need OKDHS services.

To buy the cookbook through interagency mail, please send a \$10 check or money order to: Karen Jacobs, Volunteer Coordinator, Administrative Services, P. O. Box 25352, Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

Make checks payable to: OKDHS Anniversary Cookbook. If you want the cookbook sent to your home address, add \$2.50 shipping and handling.

InfoNet features property projects

Information on property projects throughout the state can now be viewed on the OKDHS InfoNet.

The Facilities Information Management System (FIMS) of the Office Support Services Division is the gateway to information on OKDHS property projects.

The link to the FIMS site is on the InfoNet home page in the line of options below the OKDHS logo. Or, go to <http://s99web01/fims/>.

At the FIMS home page, icons on the left side of the page lead to:



Property Management Unit (PMU), which includes the Property Management Space Status Report and the Property Management Maintenance Report;

Facilities Management Unit (FMU), which includes links to Current Projects Status and Current Project Photos;

Architectural/Engineering/Planning Unit (A&E), which provides the Current Projects Report and the Current Projects List. The



projects list includes architectural renderings and floor plans of projects, and, for some projects, provides viewing of an interactive three-dimensional model of the project.



Keeping His Promise - Oklahoma County 55C Director Roosevelt Milton keeps his promise to ride a donkey around the parking lot if 55C employees reached their 2001 fund-raising goal of \$7,500 for the Oklahoma State Employees Charitable Contributions Campaign. Milton's 55C staffers led OKDHS offices in central Oklahoma in OSECCC fundraising for the second year in a row.



Learning About Food Drives — Students at Owen Elementary School in Tulsa held their first Holiday Food Drive during the past season of giving. More than 1,100 items were collected and boxed to brighten the season for those in need. Showing off some of the items collected are, from left, Director Howard H. Hendrick, who stopped by the school to congratulate the students on their efforts to help others, Deborah McHugh, Principal Corsair Thurman, Kala Sellars, Stacy Goswick, Samantha McKnight and 5th Grade Teacher Denise Smith. Mrs. Smith is the wife of Al Smith, Director of OKDHS Human Resources Management Division.

Dust off your dictionaries: Get ready for regional spelling contests

Older Oklahomans who are good spellers may want to start practicing for regional spelling bees this spring in preparation for the spelling bee at the State Conference on Aging. The conference is held each year in May for Older Americans Month.

Most of the 11 Area Agencies on Aging are planning regional events, said Kim

Older Americans Month Spelling Contest - May 8

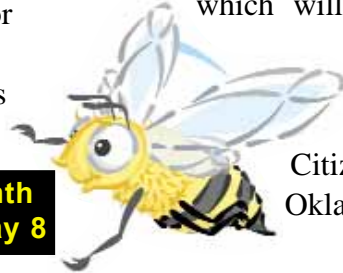
Rose, director of the KEDDO Area Agency on Aging, coordinator of the statewide spelling bee. Spellers who are 60 years or older are eligible to participate. Older persons interested in participating should contact their local area agency by calling 1-800-211-2116, a toll-free statewide num-

ber, to ask for local spelling bee information.

First and second place winners of the local contests will have all their expenses paid for participating in the statewide contest which will be held in

Norman on May 8,

Senior Citizens Day in Oklahoma.



Noted writer

and Oklahoma historian Pendleton Wood, Oklahoma City, has been invited to be the word caller at the state contest.

For more information contact Kim Rose, director, KEDDO Area Agency on Aging, 1-800-722-8180.



Symposium to View Elderly Housing Issues

“The Future of Housing Older Americans” will be the topic of a one-day symposium to be held in Oklahoma City in March.

The symposium will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Friday,

March 15, at Mercy Health Center, McAuley Conference Center, 4300 W Memorial Road.

Issues to be addressed include current legislative action, federal Housing and Urban Development programs,

Medicaid waivers for assisted living, and model elderly housing programs.

Keynote speaker is Robert Mollica, senior program manager for the National Academy for State Health Policy, Portland, Maine. His presentation will include an overview of acute needs relating to senior housing, assisted living Medicaid waivers, and the expanded role of residential care.

Current and future legislative issues in Oklahoma will be discussed by a panel.

The symposium is sponsored by OKDHS Aging Services Division and Mercy Health Center.

For information contact Darlene Sapp, Aging Services Division, at (405) 522-6240, or darlene.sapp@okdhs.org.

AdvoCasey focuses on foster care

The Annie E. Casey Foundation’s policy magazine, AdvoCasey, devotes its fall/winter issue to youth in transition from foster care to adulthood. The AdvoCasey Index offers data to illustrate that young people who spend their adolescence in foster care often face severe problems in early adulthood.

The publication examines the gaps in New Jersey’s efforts to support teens in transition and the results of Los

Angeles County’s bold experiment to assist this population.

This issue also profiles four programs AdvoCasey deems “worth watching.” The programs are in San Antonio, Cincinnati, Baltimore and Connecticut.

The magazine includes an interview with Gary Stangler, director of the new Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative.

AdvoCasey is online at www.aecf.org/publications/advo Casey/newindex.htm

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ple to lead self-sufficient, prosperous and fulfilling lives,” said House. “I’m looking forward to working with community partners and OKDHS staff to develop resources to help our people attain this vision.”

House graduated from Antlers High School and earned her bachelor’s degree in accounting from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant.

House is currently serving as the President of the Pushmataha County Salvation Army Service Unit. She is a member of the local

Federal Emergency Management Agency Board and the Pushmataha County Chamber of Commerce where she has served as Secretary. House is currently attending the Southeast Leadership Program, a program that teaches leaders in the tri-county area about resources in their communities. House is an active member of the Finely Church of Christ.

House’s husband of 20 years, Ray, works for the Pushmataha County District One. They have two children, Ty, 17, and Samantha, 11.

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