

## KHGG-AM 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Issues 2013

Water Park Development for Sebastian County- Voters in Fort Smith passed the continuation of a one-cent sales tax which included plans for a joint venture between Sebastian County and the City of Fort Smith to build and operate a water park at Ben Geren Regional Park. On Tuesday, October first, Sebastian County Judge David Hudson appeared on Arkklahoma today from 7:35am until 7:55am talking about challenges encountered since the election in May, 2013. Construction costs for the initial plans which government officials presented to voters have risen dramatically. Officials are trying to figure out how to conserve funds; whether to cut back on water park features, or make dimensions smaller, or find additional revenue and proceed with the project. Judge Hudson discussed the options and mentioned additional meetings will be held to resolve the challenge.

New CEO at Sparks Regional Medical Center- Charles Stewart is the new CEO at Sparks Regional Medical Center, which is owned by Health Management Associates. Mr. Stewart visited with Karen Pharis during Arkklahoma today on KHGG-AM Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> about his previous similar job in Missouri, and how he finds the health care business in Fort Smith. Stewart said although there may be many challenges in the health care field today, his job is to see that consistent good health care and health care innovations continue at Sparks Regional Medical Center and at Summit Hospital in Van Buren, also owned by HMA. He discussed the opening of the new billing/call center in Fort Smith which covers HMA accounts in five states.

20-year plan for UAFS- Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Fort Smith, Dr. Paul Beran visited with Bill Pharis during Arkklahoma Today on Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 7:35am until 8am regarding the new 20-year plan for the college. The Chancellor said a new fine arts building is in the works to be built on the corner of Kinkaid and Waldron Rd. and will house the arts department. The opening of the renovated and expanded Borem Library was discussed, as well as freshman housing and apartments on campus. Chancellor Beran also discussed the renaming of the year-old renovated Second Street theater in downtown Fort Smith to: "The UAFS Blue Lion Downtown."

Taste of Fort Smith benefits literacy in Western Arkansas- Lori Smith with the Fort Smith Altrusa Club visited with Karen Pharis on Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:40 until 7:50am about the upcoming Taste of Fort Smith to benefit seven different organizations in the River Valley dedicated to improving literacy. More than 35 restaurants and vendors have already signed up for the event which will be held at the Fort Smith convention center. Restaurants provide the free "tastes", while Altrusa sells the \$15. Tickets at the Chamber of Commerce and area banks. The group hopes to raise at least \$35,000 this year.

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Mulberry Turkey Run- Lisa Seiter with the Mulberry Police Department spoke with Karen and Bill Pharis about the upcoming "Mulberry Turkey Run." The run around the City of Mulberry is scheduled for Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 8am. Registration for the event can be completed by filling out forms available at the Quick Away convenience store in Mulberry and is \$25. Per person. Participants will receive a t-shirt. Funds raised for the event will be used for the Mulberry "shop with a cop" Christmas project. Last year 50 children benefited from this program.

Step-Families step-carefully – Certified Family Mediator Bob Collins appeared on Arkklahoma Today from 7:35am until 8:56am with Karen Pharis talking about the holidays and the stress they can cause for step families. He discussed ways for families to get along better during these stressful times, and talked about the free blended family support groups that will be meeting again after the first of the year at Harvest Time Church.

New Vision Drug Rehabilitation – The holidays can be a tough time for recovering drug/alcohol addicts and representatives from New Vision Rehab at Summit Hospital in Van Buren talked about the treatment options available today in rehabilitation. Director Chris Norwood and counselor Sheranna Ramey talked with Jessica Aaron from 8:10am until 8:30am on KHGG-AM's Arkklahoma Today. They talked about warning signs that a family member might be dependent on drugs, and how their treatment program works.

Christmas Honors- Honoring the men and service women at the National Cemetery in Fort Smith. Phillip Merry, city director and organizer of the event spoke with Bill Pharis during Arkklahoma Today Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7:35am until 7:55am. They talked about the need for volunteers on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> at the convention center. Individuals with pickup trucks and trailers are also needed to transport more than 13,000 wreaths from the convention center to the cemetery. Funds are also needed to purchase new bows. Volunteers are needed too, to place the wreaths on the gravesites.

Salvation Army Angel Tree – Captain Jaime Clay talked with Karen Pharis during Arkklahoma Today on KHGG-AM December eleventh about the need for Angel Tree angel goods to be returned for wrapping. Just over 1,800 names were submitted for Christmas help this year. Plus, there are over 500 "forgotten angels" who need help. Captain Clay discussed the need for bell ringers for the red kettle drive, and how the weather and shorter shopping season has played a negative role this year in the organization's biggest fundraising event. She asked for additional volunteers, and groups to unite to provide nightly meals at the Red Shield Diner. Because of the freezing temperatures, more homeless individuals have been helped by the Salvation Army, and they need funds to help carry out their purpose of helping those who need it most.

Young Actors Guild members Grace Andrews and Hunter Doohan appeared on Arkklahoma Today Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> to promote a first-time alumni produced production: "A Very Weasley Christmas" written, starring, and directed by Hunter Doohan and Grace Andrews. The two are currently in acting school in Los Angeles and have both landed roles as "extras" on various cable network shows. They talked about the December 20 and 21<sup>st</sup> performances at the Fort Smith Little Theatre to raise money for the Young Actors Guild, and how they formulated the plot and musical numbers for the show, as well as how the cast rehearsed for the show while each performer attended school out of state!

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KHGG-AM broadcast Van Buren high school Pointer football Friday nights in 2013.