



**MARLAND'S GRAND HOME** was oil tycoon E.W. Marland's first mansion in Ponca City. This home was designed by architect Soloman Layton, who designed the state capitol, the governor's mansion and the Ponca City Civic Center. Complete with an indoor swimming pool, it was the site to see in Ponca City in 1916. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and houses several museum exhibits including a Native American collection, Daughters of the American Revolution and the 101 Ranch.

## Marland's Grand Home Creates New Guidebook

The Friends of Marland's Grand Home with the Marland Grand Home staff are introducing a new guidebook for the Marland Grand Home, a historic house museum located in Ponca City. The creation of the booklet was a joint project between the FMGH volunteers and the MGH staff.

The booklet, which compiles information about E.W. Marland and his family and related exhibits, will be used moving into the upcoming spring and summer tourist seasons. The booklet, full of colorful photos and memorabilia, will serve as a reference guide for the Marland Grand Home and its his-

tory, introduce the collections and exhibits, and gives contact information for the Friends of Marland's Grand Home volunteer group.

The Marland Grand Home was the first mansion home of E.W. (and Mary Virginia) Marland, founder of Marland Oil Company which later became Continental Oil Company then CONOCO. E.W. Marland provided the community of Ponca City with many wonderful gifts and legacies, and to the state of Oklahoma and its people as governor, he gave solid leadership and help through the Great Depression years.

The Marland Grand Home

located at 1000 East Grand Avenue, in Ponca City, can be utilized for special events, meetings, tours and educational ventures. Admission prices are \$3 for adults, \$1 for students and under six and Ponca City residents are free, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Special hosted tours can be scheduled by calling the MGH at 580-767-0427. For more information see the newly revised web site at marlandgrandhome.com.

In addition, the Marland Grand Home would like to acknowledge and thank the Phillip 66 Company and their donation to the printing of the booklet.

## House Passes Texting Measure

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Oklahoma House on Tuesday overwhelmingly approved restrictions on texting while driving, despite concerns among the measure's strongest supporters that they don't go far enough.

House members voted 96-2 for the bill, sending it to the Senate for debate and a vote. A similar bill is already pending on the Senate floor.

The bill by Rep. Terry O'Donnell, R-Tulsa, would make Oklahoma the 45th state in the nation to place restrictions on texting while driving. The measure would make texting and driving a secondary traffic violation, meaning police officers would have to initiate a traffic stop for some other offense before the driver could be ticketed for texting and driving.

Supporters welcomed the measure but said texting while driving needs to be a primary traffic offense in which a law enforcement officer can initiate a traffic stop, similar to speeding and running a stop sign.

"It's the best of a bad choice," said Rep. Cory Williams, D-Stillwater. Williams

and other lawmakers questioned why lawmakers would not support a stronger texting and driving measure.

"This bill does not empower our law enforcement officers to save one life," said Democratic Leader Scott Inman, D-Oklahoma City, who debated against the bill but voted for it. Inman said it makes no sense for a law enforcement officer to have to wait for an inattentive driver to cause a collision before he can write a ticket for texting while driving.

"That has got to change. We have got to get with the times," Inman said.

O'Donnell said he was asked to author the legislation by law enforcement organizations.

"They want this legislation," O'Donnell said. "It's a distraction that is at epidemic proportions in this state."

The measure marks the second consecutive year O'Donnell has authored legislation to ban texting while driving in the state. Last year, a similar bill died on the House floor.

A 2009 study on cellphones and distracted driving by the

Virginia Tech Transportation Institute found that text messaging increased the risk of a crash or near-crash by 23 times over a driver who wasn't distracted.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that 3,328 people were killed nationwide in distraction-related crashes in 2012 and that an estimated 421,000 people were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver — a 9 percent increase from the estimated 387,000 injured in 2011.

O'Donnell's bill would prohibit operating a motor vehicle while texting, emailing or using instant messaging on an electronic device while the vehicle is in motion. Texting would be allowed when a vehicle is stopped at a traffic light or railroad crossing, or for other reasons.

Lawmakers adopted an amendment that names the measure after Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Nicholas Dees, who was killed on Jan. 31 when a vehicle crashed into him and another trooper near the scene of a traffic accident on Interstate 40.

## Newkirk Considers Animal Control Ordinance Changes

By SHARON ROWEN  
News Staff Writer  
NEWKIRK — Brenda O'Neill is now officially a sister rescue to Dobe and Dogs Rescue which is located in Wichita, Kan.

"That means that they are going to oversee me until I'm ready to file for my own 501c3," said O'Neill. "I actually will have a binding adoption contract."

Carlene Hinton, owner of Dobe and Dogs Rescue, said she is happy to have O'Neill under her.

"We want to see change down here," said Hinton. "They need to get a building down here."

Hinton said her organization has assisted dogs in need all over the country and works closely with Operation Roger, a program that provides an adopted animal a ride with a

trucker to their new home.

"I have used them and they do not charge us anything but a gallon of water and bag of food," said Hinton. "These are God creatures. I just can't believe we brutalize them."

In late 2014, O'Neill began finding homes for dogs that were picked up by animal control and not claimed by owners.

After four months her good deeds were stopped after city officials claimed someone complained that she was over the three dog limit allowed by the city ordinance.

O'Neill raised concerns about the fact that the city owned animal facility is located on private property and not easily accessible to the public.

Since then city officials have discussed possible changes to the city's ordinance.

City manager Jason Orr said today the city is in the process of drafting a new ordinance that could include a permit that would allow three residents to house six dogs.

"We have some changes in the works and hopefully a new ordinance can be introduced at the next meeting on March 9," said Orr.

Orr said he hopes if the city decides to get a new facility the funding can be raised through private funding.

"I just don't think we have that in the budget," he said.

O'Neill said she feels the idea of a permit would be a step in the right direction.

"If that goes through it would be a step in the right direction," she said.

Hinton attended the Newkirk City Commission meeting Monday night and threatened that People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, (PETA) would come to town.

Teresa Chagrin, PETA animal care and control specialist, said today that PETA has not been alerted to the situation.

"We have no complaint and no one has contacted us about this situation," she said. "We often do reach out to city officials and provide ideas. Even if you handle one animal a year you should be prepared for it. There should be a good place for an animal to go. It does not help animals to create anger."

For information on Dobe and Dogs Rescue visit <http://dobedogsrescue.wix.com/adop-tadobe>.

Submissions are welcomed for inclusion in the weekly Mid-Week section, covering Southern Kansas and Northern Oklahoma. Send your releases, information, and photos to Mid-Week by emailing [midweek@poncacitynews.com](mailto:midweek@poncacitynews.com).

## Colored by Waves of Perception

Look up the symbols for the month of March and you are likely to find a Leprechaun, a pot of gold, a rainbow, St. Patrick, shamrock and all things Irish.

You are also likely to find quotes associated with the Ides of March and references to the weather.

The month of March heralds the spring equinox, which means that the Northern Hemisphere is transitioning between winter and summer. So, March brings us a change in hue and the opportunity to see a variety of colors after the dreariness of winter.

Color, while many of us think of it as a thing, it really isn't. Color is a perception. It is the result of light either being absorbed or reflected by objects, plants, surfaces, etcetra and how our eyes collect the light and how our brains interpret the signals from our eyes.

So, while we have multiple ways of describing a specific color such as green using a Pantone™, red/green/blue, or yellow/magenta/cyan system, color is just our brains analyzing a specific wavelength in the electromagnetic spectrum.

So, what is it that we are "seeing?" The electromagnetic spectrum is comprised of waves.

The waves of the electromagnetic spectrum are characterized by frequency (how many cycles per second or hertz (Hz)) and wavelength. These waves carry energy. The spectrum includes waves ranging in lengths of 1000's of meters — long radio waves to very short gamma rays (10-16 m).

Radio waves on the AM and FM dial range in lengths of 100 m to 1 m. Visible light or the waves that our brains perceive as colors typically have wavelengths in the 400 to 700 nanometer (nm - 10<sup>-9</sup>) range. The frequency of these waves are in the 430 to 750 terahertz (THz - 10<sup>12</sup>) range. Most are familiar with this range as the colors of the rainbow and use the mnemonic — ROY G BIV — to remember them, red (700-635 nm), orange (635-590 nm), yellow (590-560 nm), green (560-490 nm), blue (490-460 nm), indigo (460-440 nm), and violet (440-400 nm).

When all of the visible (meaning the wavelengths observable by the human eye) wavelengths are combined, we observe white light. Yet, we all have observed that white light can be "split" into the wavelengths that are observed in a rainbow. It is likely that you have observed this during a spring rain shower, using a glass of water, or may have even observed this using a piece of glass or a prism (triangular shaped glass or other material with flat surfaces).

Isaac Newton is responsible for the name, spectrum and the fact that we include indigo in our description of the rainbow. (You will



notice that the blue, indigo, and violet bands of colors are much narrower than the red, orange, yellow, and green. Scientists typically will leave out the indigo band to give us six standard "color" ranges.)

The intensity or strength of the color may also impact our perception of a particular wavelength. For example, a dim or low intensity orange-yellow might be viewed as brown while a high intensity one might be viewed as sunshine yellow.

What is happening that allows a raindrop, a glass of water, or a prism to separate the wavelengths? This is a result of refraction, the same phenomena that makes a pencil look bent when it is placed in a glass of water. The speed at which waves travel is related to the frequency and the wavelength, or speed = frequency x wavelength.

The speed is also impacted by the material in which the wave travels. You experience the same thing: The speed at which you can run in air is very different than the speed you can run in water.

Thus, when the wave hits the boundary between the water and air, or the glass and air, the speed of the wave will change, causing the light to "bend."

If we think of light as traveling in a straight line, the light will change its angle slightly when it reaches the boundary between the two materials. The angle at which it bends is called the angle of refraction and can be described mathematically as Snell's Law.

Because red and green light have different frequencies and wavelengths, the speed at which they travel is slightly different and thus bend differently when they hit the boundary between air and water, causing the white light to be separated into the individual waves that we see as the colors of the rainbow.

*Editor's note: This is a series of science-related articles by author Frankie Wood-Black, Ph.D., REM, MBA, to appear in the Mid-Week section of the Ponca City News. The author currently runs her own environmental consulting firm based in Ponca City, Sophic Pursuits, Inc., and also serves as a Physics Instructor and the Director for Process Technology at Northern Oklahoma College.*

## Education Board OKs Snack Sales

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Students can continue to sell unhealthy snacks at school fundraisers, the Oklahoma Board of Education has decided.

Board members on Thursday granted schools the ability to set local exemptions to the federal Health, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 that limits the sale of foods high in sugar or salt at schools.

The board previously agreed to allow each district 30 fundraiser exemptions per school site per semester for a period of 14 days each.

Board members said the regulation rollback lets local communities decide their health needs.

"This is truly an area that should be controlled at the local level," said board member Lee Baxter.

Brian Hunter, an Edmond North High School teacher, told the board students at his school raised more than \$600,000 to help children and adults with hearing loss through a fundraiser that included snack sales.

"We don't just sell salty, sugary snacks," Hunter said. "We didn't get to our goal just by that alone."

Hunter said the student fundraisers promoted health and wellness through a 5k run and basketball and soccer tournaments.

One critic worried about the

volume of fundraisers allowed by the board.

"Our public school system should be the center of learning, not fundraising," said PTA President-elect Brenda Heigl. "No school needs 420 days of fundraisers."

A registered dietitian who specializes in treating childhood and adolescent obesity said there has been a significant increase in groups selling unhealthy foods as a result of previous exemptions.

"We know that fundraisers are critical to fill the gap for supporting our school activities, however, healthy foods or non-food alternatives can be just as financially successful," said Sara Malone.

## Beams Put in Place



CRANE CREW members prepare to hoist into place the second of four 100-foot, 82,000 pound bridge beams for the new Turkey Creek Bridge located on L. A. Cann Drive near Kygar Road. The former bridge, believed to have been constructed in the 1930s, was functionally obsolete and had been deemed structurally deficient, according to City of Ponca City Traffic Engineer Mike Lane. He states the \$811,690 project is funded by the local street and road improvement half-cent sales tax. Northwest Crane Service LLC out of Oklahoma City provided the lift services, while general contractor for the project is Wichita, Kan.-based Wildcat Construction. Project completion is estimated by April 30, subject to weather. (News Photo by Rolf Clements)

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