

WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 6, 2004

www.tulsaworld.com

Midtown

COMMUNITY WORLD



Sing it, Sadie

Virginia Steward-Goodwin finds time in her busy life to take the stage at her coffee house.

Page 2

Wishing on a star

Girl's family, foundation get Sam Harris for fund-raiser

By HAP FRY
World Staff Writer

Visitors to the midtown Tulsa home of John and Jane Rohweder, more often than not, receive an unforgettable welcome from their 11-year-old daughter Anna.

With her pet golden retriever, Lola, right behind her, Anna emerges from behind the front door, extends her right hand and flashes a smile.

It is hard to believe the child has fought leukemia twice and went through a bone marrow transplant last March in Fort Worth.

Through it all, neither Anna's smile nor her will to live an enjoyable life has faded.

"Things are going great," said Anna, a fifth-grader at Grissom Elementary School. "I just stay positive and focus on what I'm supposed to be doing."

Now, Anna is trying to help other children with cancer to stay positive.

Along with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Oklahoma, Anna and her family will co-sponsor a meet-and-greet with singer/actor/writer Sam Harris

from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Suede, 3340 S. Peoria Ave.

A \$10 donation is encouraged at the door, with proceeds from the event going to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Oklahoma.

While Thursday's event is not a concert, Harris, a Sand Springs native, will announce that a portion of the proceeds from his annual Christmas concert series in Tulsa will go toward the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

It will be the fourth year Harris will perform a series of Christmas concerts in Tulsa, but is the first time he will perform three shows. Harris is scheduled to perform Dec. 17 to 19 at the Van Trease Performing Arts Center on the Tulsa Community College Southeast Campus, 10300 E. 81st St.

"I wanted to expand and really encompass what Christmas really is all about, which is brotherhood and giving," Harris said during a recent phone interview. "The Make-A-Wish Foundation really encapsulates what we should really want Christmas to

be about." After being diagnosed with leukemia at age 7, Anna received an opportunity to make her own wish through the foundation.

Anna and her parents went on a Disney Cruise two years later.

The experience helped Anna temporarily escape her battle against cancer, Jane Rohweder said.

"When you have a child who is



HAP FRY / Tulsa World

Make-A-Wish child Anna Rohweder, with her dog, Lola, is on a mission to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Oklahoma. Thursday night at Suede, Rohweder and entertainer Sam Harris will make an announcement regarding Harris' upcoming Christmas concert series this December in Tulsa.

going through treatments or has a life-threatening illness, one of the hardest things as parents is knowing that their childhood is passing by so quickly and is full of doctors, hospitals, medicine," she said. "The greatest things about Make-A-Wish for our family is that Anna is going to grow up, and she's going to be able look back and remember that Disney trip that we went on.

"The reason we want to continue to

support Make-A-Wish is because we saw how beneficial it was to Anna's physical and mental well-being," she said.

Since 1982, the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Oklahoma has granted more than 1,200 wishes to children coping with life-threatening illnesses.

SEE WISH PAGE 6

Sickle cell group sees stamp as aid in battle

By CORY YOUNG
World Staff Writer

How much would it cost to inform the entire country about sickle cell disease? Cheryl Freeman would answer: 37 cents.

Freeman, the executive director of the Sickle Cell Disease Association's Oklahoma Chapter, is urging local residents to buy the 37-cent Sickle Cell Disease Awareness postage stamp.

Freeman attended the dedication of the stamp last week during the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America's 32nd annual national convention in Atlanta.

The local unveiling of the stamp will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at the Rudisill Regional Library, 1520 N. Hartford Ave.

The stamp was made available to the public at post offices nationwide on Sept. 30. Ninety-six million stamps were issued.

"The stamps will go a long way to educate the public about sickle cell," Freeman said.

At the national convention, the Oklahoma chapter won the Sickle Cell Disease Association's Community-based Organization Educational Program Achievement Award, in recognition of its works in 2004.

The Oklahoma chapter, which began in Tulsa in 1971, serves 450 clients statewide, including 200 in Tulsa. Its offices are at 2764 N. Cincinnati Ave.

The chapter provides transportation to doctor visits, as well as help with medication and utility costs for the families of sickle cell patients and sickle cell trait carriers.

"When it's cold, and there is not enough heat a home, it can cause someone with sickle cell to have a crisis," Freeman said.

An inherited form of abnormal hemoglobin causes sickle cell disease. This causes the normally round and smooth red blood cells to become curved, or sickle shaped. The cells become hard and sticky, blocking blood flow and causing damage to organs. This causes extreme pain and other complications, including fatigue, jaundice, stroke, and anemia.

Treatments include antibiotics, oxygen, blood transfusions and bone marrow transplants.

Approximately 80,000 Americans have sickle cell disease, and more than 2 million Americans are sickle cell trait carriers, meaning they carry one copy of the gene for the disease. There is no universal cure, but given proper treatment, people can live fairly normal lives into their 40s and beyond.

Connie Fisher, vice president of resource development for the Oklahoma chapter, got involved with the association in 1995 after her son was born with the disease.

"I have a passion for the disease. A lot of people are not aware of how important this disease is and how fatal it can be. It affects everybody," she said. "It's a dis-



Courtesy



Sam Harris

While Thursday's event is not a concert, Harris, a Sand Springs native, will announce that a portion of the proceeds from his annual Christmas concert series in Tulsa will go toward the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

It will be the fourth year Harris will perform a series of Christmas concerts in Tulsa, but is the first time he will perform three shows. Harris is scheduled to perform Dec. 17 to 19 at the Van Trease Performing Arts Center on the Tulsa Community College Southeast Campus, 10300 E. 81st St.

"I wanted to expand and really encompass what Christmas really is all about, which is brotherhood and giving," Harris said during a recent phone interview. "The Make-A-Wish Foundation really encapsulates what we should really want Christmas to

be about." After being diagnosed with leukemia at age 7, Anna received an opportunity to make her own wish through the foundation.

Anna and her parents went on a Disney Cruise two years later.

The experience helped Anna temporarily escape her battle against cancer, Jane Rohweder said.

"When you have a child who is

going through treatments or has a life-threatening illness, one of the hardest things as parents is knowing that their childhood is passing by so quickly and is full of doctors, hospitals, medicine," she said. "The greatest things about Make-A-Wish for our family is that Anna is going to grow up, and she's going to be able look back and remember that Disney trip that we went on.

"The reason we want to continue to

support Make-A-Wish is because we saw how beneficial it was to Anna's physical and mental well-being," she said.

Since 1982, the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Oklahoma has granted more than 1,200 wishes to children coping with life-threatening illnesses.

SEE WISH PAGE 6

SEE TRAIN PAGE 4

SEE STAMP PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6

INSIDE / Page 4

- ▶ Rogers High School trainer enjoys helping athletes with injuries
- ▶ Student trainers remain an important part of the picture

ger back in place to stabilizing an athlete who has a spinal injury. Possibly most importantly, he helps athletes rehabilitate after an injury.

"I definitely don't feel under-appreciated here at Union," Newman said. "As a whole, though, I think we're kind of still looked at as water boys and water girls, and that all

we do is tape ankles. But our profession is about a lot more than just handing out water and taping ankles. We are in all sorts of areas in sports medicine. We are in clinics and we're in doctors' offices. We are licensed (by the Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision) just like a physical therapist or a dentist."

In 1981, the Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision began making it mandatory for all certified athletic trainers attain their license to practice in the state. That year, 15 athletic trainers were licensed in the state. In 1994, that number jumped to 83. Today, 217 certified athletic trainers in the state have their license.

With the increased amount of licensed and certified athletic trainers, several high school athletic programs have benefited.

In the greater Tulsa area, at least 16 high schools use the services of a certified athletic trainer, with football powers Jenks and Union having two on staff.

"Any successful football program has to have a full-time athletic trainer," said first-year Memorial football coach Mike Adams. "Everything goes so much more smoothly if you have one, and the players, coaches and parents feel a lot more at ease when one is around.

SEE TRAIN PAGE 4

Grounds for meeting

Midtown neighbors gather each month for a little coffee, friendship

By KAREN SHADE
World Staff Writer

It used to be about the cookies, but after four decades, a group of neighbors near 61st Street and Sheridan Road needs no excuse to meet for a little coffee talk.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's just (about) meeting the people and talk, talk, talk, talk, talk. It's fun," said Shirley Taggart.

Neighbors like Taggart make good friends for Pat Bartlett, who remembers being invited to a cookie party 45 years ago.

It started with the late Susie Van Valkenburgh.

"It was Mrs. Van's cookie party. She had one for the neighbors, and you were supposed to bring a friend. You brought three dozen cookies, and you took home three dozen cookies" exchanged between mem-

bers, Bartlett said.

Other people often were impressed, thinking that she would bake such a variety of cookies for Christmas.

"Then she (Van Valkenburgh) said, 'This is so much fun. We need to continue it, even if it's just four or five times,'" Bartlett said.

They became the Neighborly Nine and continued to meet over cookies and coffee. Soon, more neighbors were invited and started attending.

Over the years, the coffee party group has had about 35 members, said Taggart, also an original member.

Now, about 23 women are members, all looking out for one another, meeting



Joan Wyrrick

every month at a different house over coffee and doughnuts.

Sometimes a moderator has to take control of the more giddy conversations.

"And if somebody gets in trouble, I calm them down. I'm 'Madame President,' as they call me," said Joan Wyrrick. "I don't know how I got that title. ... I have to calm them down. Their mouths are going 90 miles an hour."

Wyrrick moved to the neighborhood 22 years ago and has been a member ever since.

"Once you move here, the only way you leave is when you die," Wyrrick joked.

After four decades of conversation, the group constantly finds something to discuss.

"You name it, we talk about it," Taggart said.



KAREN SHADE / Tulsa World

Shirley Taggart (left) and Cindy Anderson are regular members of their neighborhood coffee club meetings held monthly at each other's homes.

SEE COFFEE PAGE 6