

# Local



JAY  
CRONLEY

## Now in theaters: the sound of sinuses

Time was, a person needed to have his head examined if he went to a popular first-run motion picture over the holidays.

People in the audience sometimes produce more dialogue than the people on the screen.

Anymore, you might need to get your lungs examined — and your eyes, ears, nose and throat.

**Play ball!** Some people think going to a movie is like going to a ball game.

You buy your ticket, you've paid your dues, you're entitled to vocalize your opinion.

There is no contract involved in purchasing a ticket to see a film; you don't sign your name and promise to keep your mouth shut.

Good manners are optional. There's worse than talking, now.

Talking only makes you temporarily crazy; change seats and you'll be all right.

Sneezing and coughing are worse than talking.

**Sick ward:** You can't interview the person next to the open seat in the movie theater.

But you can stand quietly for a moment and observe and listen.

Over the weekend, I sat in front of a man who sneezed and beside a woman who coughed.

The woman didn't begin coughing until after the previews had run their course and the featured attraction had started.

I moved as far as I could to the right part of my seat while leaning forward in search of the cleanest air.

The coughing fits came so suddenly that the woman was unable to cover her mouth at first and missed two or three coughs.

When she did cover her mouth, she did it with her bare hands, afterward putting the right on the arm rest between our seats.

Not letting a little cold hold you back from your appointed rounds is one thing.

But this is the flu season. A virulent strain is making the rounds.

The elderly and people with bad lungs could become seriously ill. People have died with this flu.

**The Big Chill:** Following a particularly big sneeze, I turned to look at the man one row back.

He sat with his eyes closed and not seeming to feel too well, his breathing scratchy.

When the woman with the cough saw that I was leaning far to the right, she leaned over the arm rest in my direction and whispered that she was actually much better and was on the mend.

After watching the movie for a few moments, this woman pulled a large coat around her shoulders and seemed to experience chills.

**Aisle be early:** You can't get to a movie too early over the holidays.

I would suggest getting to the theater even before the 15 minutes of previews of coming attractions begin.

Sitting on the aisle is even more important.

One, it's the quietest seat you can find.

Two, the aisle is probably the healthiest place in the building.

Jay Cronley 581-8362  
jay.cronley@tulsaworld.com

## Group offers plan's details to TPS

► A proposal includes part-neighborhood and part-magnet admission protocols for Carver and Washington.

By **ANDREA EGER**  
World Staff Writer

Proponents of making Booker T. Washington High School and Carver Middle School part-neighborhood, part-magnet schools unveiled the details of their proposal at Monday's

school board meeting.

Members of a new activist group called Tulsa Education and Community Heritage, or TEACH, said children in the schools' surrounding neighborhoods should have a right to attend, rather than compete for admission to the schools like all other Tulsa Public

Schools students.

Washington and Carver were all-black schools until voluntary integration efforts in the early 1970s introduced admissions-based magnet programs to attract students of other races.

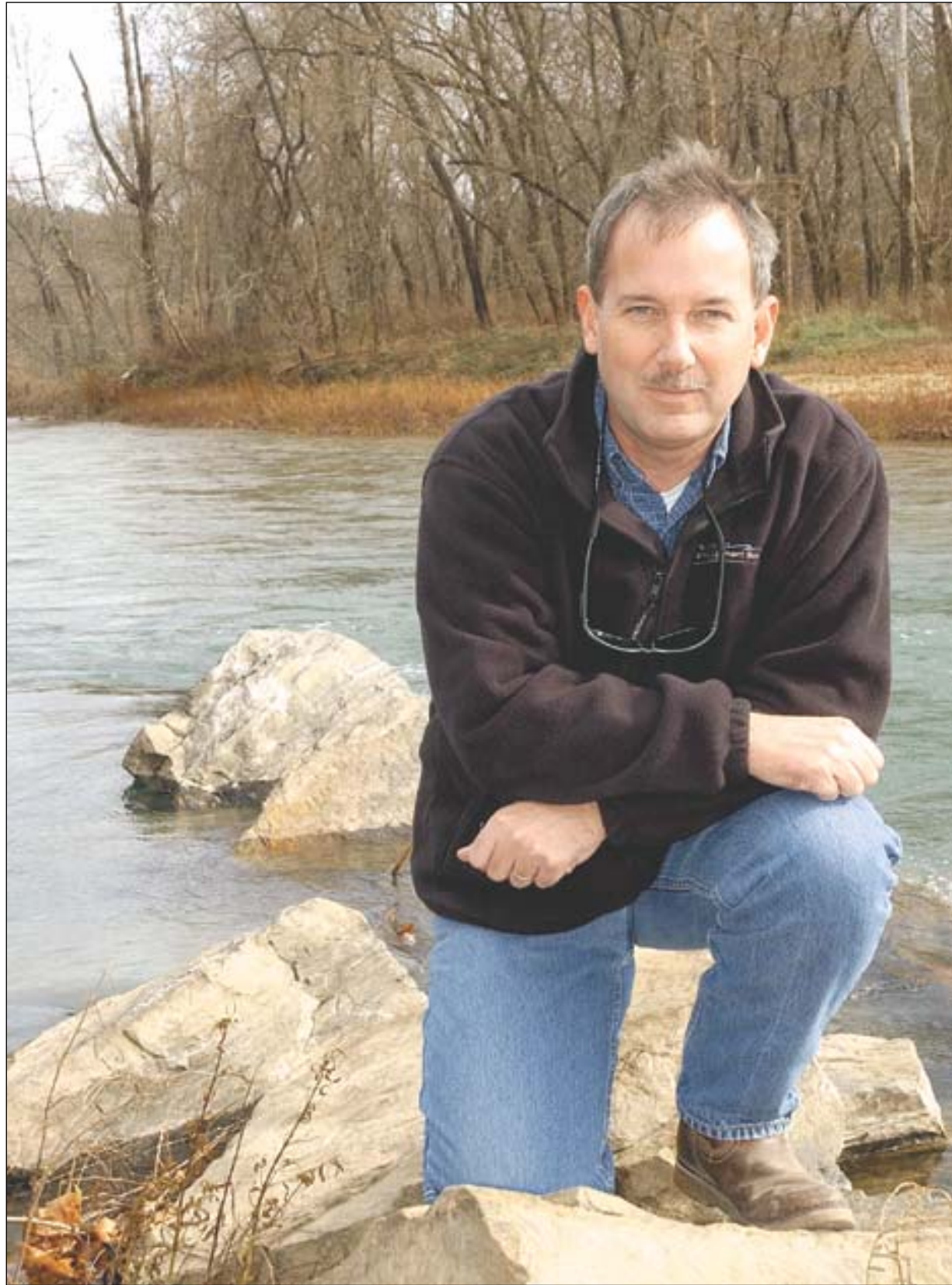
Tulsa Public Schools officials are ending the use of racial quotas in admissions because of legal precedents set by the U.S. Supreme Court, which prohibit the use of such quotas in

school admissions.

Members of TEACH, who include both black and white organizers of that 30-year-old voluntary integration effort, as well as state legislators and other community leaders, said giving preference in admissions to children who live in the predominantly black neighborhoods around Washington and Carver would help to end the un-

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## A river runs through him



A. CUERVO / Tulsa World

As administrator of the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission, Ed Fite has seen quite a bit in his 20-year tenure, from legal battles with the U.S. Supreme Court and the Environmental Protection Agency to dealing with drunks on the Illinois River.

## The unsinkable Ed Fite

► Two decades of work isn't enough for the scenic rivers advocate.

By **ROD WALTON**  
World Staff Writer

**T**AHLEQUAH — Ed Fite knows the Illinois River as well as some folks know

their family trees.

He can trace it from the spring at Hogeye, Ark., to where it backs up against the Tenkiller Dam and beyond.

Twenty years as administrator of the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission poured out that knowledge and more in a headlong rush.

He's rescued the stranded,

retrieved the drowned, dealt with drunks and sat in on the U.S. Supreme Court, all in the name of the Illinois and its tributaries.

He's gone from Young Fite to Old Man River.

"I took the job thinking I wouldn't be here two years, much less 10, much less 20," Fite, 46, said.

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## Justice chosen for court

► Muskogee County District Judge James E. Edmondson will succeed state Supreme Court Justice Hardy Summers, who is retiring after 18 years.

By **MARIE PRICE**  
World Capitol Bureau

OKLAHOMA CITY — Muskogee County District Judge James E. Edmondson was selected Monday by Gov. Brad Henry as the newest member of the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Edmondson will succeed Justice Hardy Summers, who is retiring Jan. 1 after 18 years on the high court.

"Judge Edmondson will be a tremendous asset to the state Supreme Court," said Henry. "He is a man of considerable experience, wisdom and integrity."

"Judge Edmondson will make an excellent and impartial justice. Throughout his career, he has proven himself a man of excellent prosecutorial skills and judicial acumen."

Edmondson, 58, is the brother of Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson.

"I'm thankful for the trust that Gov. Henry has placed in me and hope to earn the confidence of the senior members of the court and the people of Oklahoma," the judge said.

The thought of serving on the state's highest court was a recent notion for him, inspired mainly by the upcoming retirement of Summers, he said. He said Summers has known him since he was a baby.

"I think that if he had not shown some favor toward my applying that I would not have ever considered it," Edmondson said.

He said his lifelong dream had always been to be an attorney.

"Anything past that has been sudden inspiration," he added.

The incoming justice has been on the bench since 1983. He served previously as an assistant district attorney and an assistant U.S. attorney.

Henry also thanked Summers for his service on the court.

"I appreciate his many years on the bench," the governor said. "His sound legal judgment and dedication to the state of Oklahoma will be missed."

Edmondson was chosen from a field of three candidates whose names were submitted to Henry by the Judicial Nominating Commission.

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## Joint talks aimed at reviving state's economy

By **ROB MARTINDALE**  
World Senior Writer

State business leaders opened a dialogue with Indian tribes Monday in an effort to determine how they could join hands to bolster the Oklahoma economy.

Freddie Ferrell Jr., state board president of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma, noted that a Cherokee Nation study

shows that tribes, collectively, are the third-largest employer in the state, with a \$7.8 billion annual impact on the economy.

"What we have here," Ferrell said at Tulsa's Renaissance Hotel, "is the state of Oklahoma and 39 major corporations within the state."

"What we are hopefully doing today is bringing 39 chief executive officers to speak to the Department of Com-

merce about how we could work together for the betterment of all of Oklahoma."

Ferrell said Oklahoma has 38 federally recognized tribes and one that is recognized by the state.

"The economic impact is infinite. There is so much that could be done," he said, referring to the Cherokee Nation study.

Ferrell said the study showed that

tribes employ more than 15,000 Indians and non-Indians in Oklahoma.

He noted that tribes not only receive federal funding but operate a variety of businesses.

He said the joint effort between the tribes and the state is "in its infancy" and that additional meetings would be held in the future.

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