

Families facing increased stress

► Child development expert T. Berry Brazelton says communities can do more to help parents.

By **GINNIE GRAHAM**
World Staff Writer

American families are undergoing unprecedented stress and need support such as stronger family leave policies from employers, better child care and quality pediatric attention, according to a noted physician and expert in early child development.

Dr. T. Berry Brazelton explained how communities can relieve pressure on working families during his talk Tuesday at a Leadership Forum sponsored by JumpStart Tulsa.

"Parenting today is a real, major endeavor, and one I don't think we are supporting in this country," he said.

In 1990, Brazelton finished a two-year research project as part of a national commission studying environments of families and children.

"We realized we are one of the least family- and child-oriented countries in the world. It has not gotten better," he said. "Parents are having to deal with increasing stress each year, and it is not being paid attention to in this country. That is the most tragic aspect."

Brazelton has written more than 40 books and more than 150 scholarly papers on parenting and child development. He continues his research at Harvard Medical School.

His experience and research led to the



STEPHEN HOLMAN/Tulsa World

Dr. T. Berry Brazelton demonstrates for a Tulsa audience Tuesday how he interacted with a newborn chimpanzee after his neonatal research was adapted to chimpanzee research.

development of Touchpoints, a preventive outreach program that trains professionals to better serve families with young children.

At the presentation, short films were used to show how babies respond to different types of visual and audio stimulation. In one, a 2-month-old baby imitated his moth-

er's facial expressions. When she left and then returned with a deadpan expression, the baby tried 15 ways to get a response.

Brazelton said it showed the powerful bond between the mother and baby and how it affects behavior. He showed it many times to members of Congress to secure the Family and Medical Leave Act, which provides some guarantees for working parents after they have children.

"This film got us parental leave," Brazelton said. However, he noted, "We didn't get the three months paid. We have to go to work for that because three months is critical to the baby and the parents. It is what parents need to know their baby and what to do with their baby's different behaviors."

He said the pressure on working mothers has strained families. Mothers are expected to perform successfully at work and at home with little extra support, he said.

"This to me is some sort of desertion" of the mothers, Brazelton said.

Other stresses include a feeling of isolation in parents, media such as video games targeting children, subpar medical and child care, a lack of understanding of different cultural child-rearing methods and a plethora of books on parenting.

"Parents today feel everyone knows how to raise their kids but them," Brazelton said. "Truth is, parents have always been told by aunts, uncles and grandparents how to raise kids. It's not new. We've just classified it as research."

Ginnie Graham 581-8376
ginnie.graham@tulsaworld.com

Racehorse owners seek review of purse ruling

By **KEVIN CANFIELD**
World Staff Writer

The Oklahoma Quarter Horse Racing Association has asked the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission to reconsider its ruling regarding simulcast purse splits at Fair Meadows.

The commission ruled in April that Fair Meadows should split its simulcast purse revenues 80/20, with 80 percent going to the Thoroughbred Racing Association of Oklahoma, and 20 percent going to the quarter horse association, which represents quarter horse, Appaloosa and paint owners.

Joseph Bocock, an Oklahoma City attorney representing the quarter horse association, said Tuesday that quarter horse owners question two aspects of the ruling.

The first, he said, is that in making the ruling, the racing commission — not Fair Meadows — was the first to set the track's purses.

According to state statute, the racing commission can "review and approve purses" but not be the first to establish them, Bocock said.

In addition, he said, the commission was not given adequate information to make its decision.

A complete review of the data would lead to the unmistakable conclusion that the simulcast purse splits should not be changed, Bocock said.

Ron Shotts, director of racing at Fair Meadows, said the track will base its 2007 purses on the commission's original ruling until it hears otherwise.

Last year, the track split its simulcast purse revenues 50/40/10, with 50 percent going to the thoroughbred association, 40 percent going to the quarter horse association and 10 percent going to Appaloosa and paint owners.

Racetracks use simulcast revenues as one source of funding to establish purses for their live races.

Fair Meadows' live racing season begins June 7.

The racing commission's next regularly scheduled meeting is May 17.

Kevin Canfield 581-8313
kevin.canfield@tulsaworld.com

Computer group gathering more units

► A Nebraska group's founder is in Tulsa to restock.

By **GINNIE GRAHAM**
World Staff Writer

The founder of a Nebraska nonprofit group that revamps computers for charities is visiting his counterpart in Tulsa to restock after starting a project in Africa.

Larry Yost of the Superior Pawnee Computer Society in Superior, Neb., started the organization nearly four years ago after meeting Don Singleton of

Helping Tulsa, which has refurbished more than 1,700 computers in two years for schools, churches and other charities. It started about seven years ago in conjunction with a local boys ranch and became a separate nonprofit group two years ago.

Yost met Singleton after having computer problems and receiving a recommendation from an Oklahoma friend to contact Helping Tulsa for support.

"When Don told us he is doing this to teach the love of giving, I said instantly that we have to do this," Yost said.

The Nebraska group has grown to have volunteers in the

state's major cities and several rural areas. Yost said Omaha has a large Sudanese population, and many churches have missions in Africa. Recently, the organization shipped 8,000 units of computer components and books to southeast Africa.

Two former Omaha residents are in Africa to teach the people to use, maintain and repair the computers. The computers will be used in schools, Yost said.

He said he was inspired to do this work after the death of his daughter in 1992.

"I wanted to do something to forward the world in her honor," Yost said. "She wanted to

do something for the world, so she would want us to do this."

Because so much equipment has been sent for the African project, the Nebraska group is low on computer supplies to continue its local charity work.

Helping Tulsa is replenishing the tools and supplies to the Nebraska organization.

"We are extremely proud of the work done in Nebraska and are more than willing to give another load of machines so they can continue," Singleton said.

Ginnie Graham 581-8376
ginnie.graham@tulsaworld.com

TRANSITIONS:

FROM A-10

St. John Medical Center

Chandra Froese and William Baker, Inola, boy.
Heather and Jeffrey Beller, Coweta, girl.
Jessica and Jess Henry, Pawhuska, boy.
Connie and Don Leach, boy.
Teresa and Lyle Payne, Henryetta, girl.
Natalie and Garth Renfrow, Owasso, girl.
Beth and Paul Schaefer, Mannford, girl.
Kellie and Paul Tourigny, girl.
Lincoln McClelland and Jesse Williams, girl.

OSU Medical Center

Aschlie Feary and Nick Meryhew, boy.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

(Tulsans unless otherwise noted)
Dawn Bennett, 35; Dwayne Thompson, 36.
Courtney Billups, 22; Adam Johnson, 22.
Rebekah Boerger, 31; Charles Silver, 31, both of Cleveland, Okla.
Alecia Crutcher, 25; Nathan Crawford, 25, both of Owasso.
Dusty Drummond, 37; David White, 48.
JoAnn France, 48; Tony Ward, 47, both of Sand Springs.
Linda Garcia, 21; James Gaddis, 23.
Sara Jacomine, 21; Ryan Roddy, 20.
Ebony Johnson, 28; Bryant Hampton, 34, of Springfield, Ill.
Misty Kupfer, 21; Graham Howard, 23.
Kristi Kuzilik, 27; Steven Acosta, 24, both of Broken Arrow.
Riki Morales, 41; Dean Funderburk, 46.
Kendall Mullins, 20; Michael McLitus, 23.
Cherie Neal, 23, of Okmulgee; Robert Howard, 24.
Jennifer Presley, 23; Blake Simpson, 24.
Julia Spencer, 22; Brian Rogers, 20, both of Bixby.
Kimberly Thompson, 20; Jeffrey Yates, 21.
Angela VanDever, 23; Mitchell Williams, 23.

DIVORCES

ASKED

Alexander, Monisha v. Keenon.
Bernal, Javier v. Matilde Garcia.
Carreon, Rocio v. Roberto.
Casey, David v. Darlene.
Elam, Karen v. Freddie.
Farmer, Amanda v. John.
Ham, Christopher v. Donna.
Holt, Collin v. Deanna.
Howell, Rachel v. Michael Jr.
Lofton-Wartson, Alesha v. Kevin Wartson.
Martin, Pamela v. Richard.
Ramsey, Scott v. Rhonda.
Tabor, April v. Chad.
Williams, Gary v. Eunice.
Willis, Wesley v. Verna.

GRANTED

Billue, Marsha from Steven.
Cortez, Alberto from Elsa Banda.
Fielder, James IV from Sarah.
Harwood, Edith from Kevin.
Jackman, Julia from Steven.
Lewis, Rebecca from Brian.
Miller, Christine from Robert.
Peck, Angela from Robert.
Perez, Tia-Lisa from Joel.
Robinson, Yolanda from Kelley.
Terrell, Paula from David Oates.
White, V. from J.

LOCAL

Park Department honors volunteers

The Park and Recreation Department handed out its annual Council Oak Awards on Tuesday.

The awards recognize outstanding volunteer contributions to the city parks by individuals, corporations and nonprofit organizations.

Individual recipients were Gary and Carol Berryhill, Eleanor Davy Carmack, Keith Goddard, Bruce and Brenda Magoon, and Susan Sinor.

The Pearl District Association and the Tulsa Rose Society were the nonprofit organizations recognized for their contributions to the city.

The corporate award was presented to Cox Communications for its contributions at the Tulsa Zoo.

CAPTC grant to help lower-wage workers

The Community Action Project of Tulsa County has received a \$140,000 grant from the Families and Work Institute to work with local employers to increase the number of lower-wage employees enrolling in publicly funded work supports.

The Supporting Work Project is to establish partnerships to help workers access publicly funded programs such as housing and heating assistance, child-care subsidies, tax credits, Medicaid, Sooner-Care and food stamps.

The goal of the project is to provide workers enough support to move toward economic stability and into the middle class.

The Community Action Project will conduct an 18-month project with about five employers in Tulsa. The nonprofit organization expects to reach at least 8,200 lower-wage workers.

Free hearing, speech, vision screenings set

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and four local agencies will hold free vision, hearing and speech screenings for adults and children.

Appointments may be scheduled between 3:30 and 7 p.m. May 10 at Kendall-Whittier Elementary

School, 2601 E. Fifth Place, and May 24 at Eugene Field Elementary School, 2249 S. Phoenix Ave.

The annual screening event is designed to raise awareness and promote treatment of communication disorders during May, which is Better Hearing and Speech Month.

In addition, a fun, interactive presentation on the importance of protecting hearing, called "Dangerous Decibels," will be presented from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Bell Elementary School, 6304 E. Admiral Place, and from 5:30 to 7 p.m. May 17 at Skelly Elementary School, 2940 S. 90th East Ave.

The events are locally sponsored by the Tulsa City-County Health Department, Tulsa Public Schools, SoonerStart and Total Source for Hearing Loss and Access.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Monica Bein at the Tulsa City-County Health Department at 594-4843.

Monte Cassino has middle school principal

Monte Cassino School has announced that Mary Whelan, the dean of students at Booker T. Washington High School, is its new middle school principal.

Monte Cassino's search committee conducted a 10-month national search before choosing Whelan, who began working at Washington in 2002.

"I am delighted at this opportunity to listen to and support the Monte Cassino middle-school community in this highly academic environment," Whelan said.

Whelan began her career in education at Immaculate Conception Grade School in 1983 and worked in the Jenks and Union school districts before going to Washington High School.

Monte Cassino School, 2206 S. Lewis Ave., is a Benedictine community school owned and operated by the Benedictine Sisters since 1926 and is made up of an early childhood learning center, an elementary school and a middle school.

From staff reports

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For more information call the Tulsa World: (918) 732-8185

