



CORY YOUNG / Tulsa World

Zack Canaday, 8, swims a couple of practice laps at Sungenet Pool, 6850 E. 54th St., in preparation for a children's triathlon featuring swimming, running and cycling.

## Triathlon draws young athletes from across state

By SARA PLUMMER  
World Staff Writer

At 8 years old, Zack Canaday has already competed in two triathlons and is training for his third.

His mother, Mona Canaday, said she encouraged her son to participate when he was 6.

"I knew he could do it," Canaday said. "He likes to challenge himself. He loves sports; he excels in them."

Zack said he plays soccer, tennis, baseball and basketball and also swims and runs. He said the triathlon was a good fit.

"I like to do all the events," he said, but running is his favorite. "That's the one I do the best."

The Ninth Annual Kids Triathlon begins at 8 a.m. Saturday at McClure Park Community Center, 7440 E. Seventh St. Children ages 6 to 15 are eligible to compete.

There will also be a triathlon workshop at 6:30 p.m. Friday at McClure Park Community Center. At the workshop, parents can register their children and review rules, regulations and safety procedures, while participants can get course maps and walk through the course.

Participants must also provide their own life jacket. Participants swim, bike and run on the long or short course. In the short course, the athletes swim 25 meters, bike one-half mile and run one-fourth mile. In the long course, they swim 150 meters, bike two miles and run one mile. This will be the second year Zack will compete on the long course.

"I didn't swim very good last year, so I'm practicing more this year," he said.

Canaday said she brings Zack to the pool at the Thornton Family YMCA to practice swimming longer laps.

"The pool at McClure is 50 meters (long)," she said. "That's a long way without resting."

Sue Price, youth sports coordinator at Tulsa Park & Recreation Department, said 136 children participated in last year's triathlon, and not all of them compete in other sports.

"It's a mixture. It's kids who participate in sports, and it's kids who like to ride their bike or swim," Price said. "It works for a lot of different types of kids. You don't have to be into athletics."

Canaday said being a spectator can be difficult. "It's all for the kids. The parents have to stand back and just watch. That's the hardest part," she said.

Price said the Tulsa Kids Triathlon is one of two held in the state each year.

"We get kids from all over the state. We get kids from out of state," she said. "They come in from all over."

Every child that participates will receive a medal, and there is a ceremony for those who place on each course, Price said.

"They stand on a podium and we put a medal around their neck. Parents and grandparents are flashing cameras," she said. "It's an accomplishment. They get a reward at the end of their trials. They get attention."

### KIDS FITNESS EVENT

**What:** Kids Triathlon  
**When:** 8 a.m. Saturday  
**Where:** McClure Park Community Center, 7440 E. Seventh St.  
**Cost:** Entry fee is \$25  
**For more:** Call 596-2527 or go to the Web site at [www.tulsaparks.org](http://www.tulsaparks.org).

## Public art endures all along Riverside

By DAVID SCHULTE  
World Staff Writer

For more than 25 years, River Parks Authority has let large blocks of concrete be turned into works of art.

The blocks are sewer and storm-water structures located along the east bank of the Arkansas River near Riverside Drive, said Janet Kendall, administrative manager of River Parks, 717 S. Houston Ave.

Since the early 1980s, the sewer and storm-water structures have been available for public artwork at River Parks.

"The first paintings just happened spontaneously," Kendall said. "It was just artists who went out there and saw it as a pallet that would look pretty with something

SEE ART PAGE 4

## Urban development plan meeting its goals

By MAISHAH ENGLISH  
World Staff Writer

It has been eight years since the Metropolitan Tulsa Chamber of Commerce unveiled its North Tulsa Urban Development Plan for residential, retail and industrial expansion, and many of the plan's goals have been met.

Retail development, an expansion of Greenwood boundaries and increasing business opportunities have occurred.

But there is still work to do, said Reuben Gant, the de-facto chairman of the Greenwood Economic Development Authority.

"I think someone, some entity, some person has to be willing to be first — stepping out there and being

the first to take that investment risk of making something happen," Gant said.

Gant said 10 percent of the city's buying power comes from north Tulsa, but only 4 percent of its retail is established there.

"Of course the community has a stigma which we need to overcome," he said. "Retail establishments make retail decisions based on statistics. But this is a cash community, and it is hard to track expenditures."

What he suggests to those considering investing in development is to track the foot traffic at retail sites in the area.

When the economic plan was created in 1998, one of the goals was to create the authority to develop concepts for growth and revitalization.

The development plan was the result of a study conducted by Hammer, Siler George Associates of Silver Spring, Md. The group made many recommendations to encourage renewal opportunities in the area.

One recommendation was to create an authority as a legislative body to develop a vision for the Greenwood area and plan for a Tulsa Race Riot memorial.

The authority responded to the plan, forming the Greenwood Area Redevelopment Authority Vision and Growth Strategy for North Tulsa, also known as GARA.

The Community Development Financial Institution was also created and administered by the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce to promote

economic development in the area. The institution was designated as a 501(c)3 in 1999.

"We did not create this redevelopment plan in a vacuum," Gant said. "We solicited the involvement of the community at large at town hall meetings."

### Shopping district designated

In 2003, contractors broke ground on land at the northeast corner of Pine Street and Peoria Avenue to build a 57,000-square-foot Albertson's market in Gateway Plaza.

"Approximately eight new retail outlets have opened in the Peoria center complex since Albertson's located there," said Dwain Midget,

SEE URBAN PAGE 4

## Traveling man



CORY YOUNG / Tulsa World

Otis Clark, the oldest living survivor of the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot at age 103, sits near the Big Five tablecloth of Africa's greatest wild animals he received earlier this month during a trip to Zimbabwe.

## Oldest living riot survivor spends later years on a mission

By MAISHAH ENGLISH  
World Staff Writer

Many people slow down with age, but 103-year-old Otis Clark just returned from a trip to Africa and is packing his bags to leave for Oakland, Calif.

"I am just following these young folks around," he said during an interview at his north Tulsa home.

Clark recently returned from Zimbabwe in the southern region of Africa, where he traveled with his goddaughter Gwen Williams on

a mission trip.

Clark was born Feb. 13, 1903, and is the oldest living survivor of the Tulsa Race Riot. He has lived through the Great Depression and the civil rights movement. He worked as a butler for Clark Gable, Joan Crawford and Charlie Chaplin in Hollywood.

"I was friends with Stepin Fetchit when I lived in California during the 1950s. But I was born in Oklahoma before Oklahoma was even a state. It was Indian Territory," he said.

While Clark has seen and experienced generations of change, it wasn't until he lived past

the century mark that he had the chance to visit Africa.

Williams affectionately refers to Clark as "Dad." The two have been traveling together for more than a decade on religious mission trips around the globe.

"He is my spiritual father. I have known him for 13 years. My father passed away in 1979, and 'Dad' is the only grandfather my daughter has known," Williams said.

Williams is the chief executive officer of

SEE CLARK PAGE 3



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During a recent rehearsal, Kathryn Michael, who portrays Dorothy, holds Fawn, as Toto, while singing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" in the Boston Avenue production.

## Rescue dog cast as Toto to go home

► SPCA dog lands role in the local production of "The Wizard of Oz" and may soon have a new family.

By RHONDA CLARK  
World Staff Writer

Her real name may not be Toto, but Fawn's story of survival rivals that of the little dog she portrays in a local production of "The Wizard of Oz."

When Troy Morden, who plays Uncle Henry in the Broadway at Boston Avenue production, wanted to find a dog to play Toto, he contacted the Tulsa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. He was told there were three possibilities.

"I went out there and fell in love with the dog when I saw it," he said of Fawn.

About two months ago, the terrier-mix was on a stretch of road when a passing motorist spotted the small, malnourished dog. The driver pulled over, thinking a car had struck the dog, and she took Fawn to the Tulsa SPCA.

"When she first came to us, she was very, very shy and would run and hide," said D'Ann Berson, operations manager at the SPCA. "She stayed that

way for almost a week or two."

Fawn, named for her blonde-colored, wiry coat, was soon accompanying SPCA volunteers on visits to area nursing homes.

"She is really popular in the nursing homes and small enough for the residents to hold," Berson said.

Fawn's final audition for the play was to meet Kathryn Michael, who plays Dorothy.

The high school junior from Jenks went to the shelter with her father, Terry Michael, who plays the Tin Man.

"I asked to take her home when we went down to see her, and I was half kidding because I knew that he would say no, and he did," Kathryn said.

But after some convincing from her mom, Amy Michael, and sister, Lauren, Terry Michael relented.

Jana Anderson, a drama teacher at Childers Middle School in Broken Arrow and the play's director, said the idea was to have the dog with Kathryn throughout the play's production. Anderson said the SPCA agreed to let the Michael family foster Fawn.

SEE TOTO PAGE 4