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Perhaps the check is also in the e-mail

Good economies can have a trickle-down result whereby at least some profit is shared.

Bad economies are about drips.

A few months ago, somebody called to ask if I would write a piece for an Internet site, being called instead of being flashed on a screen, a good start, so far as I was concerned.

Too much important business is trusted to e-mail.

My favorite button is delete. My favorite substitution, delete all.

Any e-mail addressed to two or more people, gone.

Most e-mails with unrecognizable names, gone.

Some hectic days, all e-mail, gone.

Anybody sending me an invitation by e-mail is apt to send this one the day after: Where were you?

Confirmations deserve live voices.

Getting the business: The article was to be about the writing business.

The site had advertising. Whatever that means.

Who doesn't shop online occasionally?

Who shops after being influenced by unexpected advertisements on a site?

Probably somewhere between some and more than you might think.

The money sounded real.

So I did the article.

Sent the invoice. Sat back and waited for the envelope with that wonderful heading above the name: Pay to the order of.

Waiting gamely: No check arrived after the standard courtesy period of 30 days.

Or the month after that.

So I called. No answer.

Then I e-mailed and heard back that there had been a delay because of a breakdown in the vendor bridge to the bank: Before I could be paid, the site had to be paid by a client who was late.

At this point in the e-mail discussion, I went to all-caps, the equivalent of raising my voice.

First off, I am no "vendor." Nobody who works solely with his or her heart or mind is a vendor.

Vendors carry stuff.

Next, I wanted my money.

I wound up calling the people who owed the people who owed me and asked that they please pay up.

They laughed and hung up.

State withdraws ME job offer

▪ The board's second choice comes with plenty of baggage, too.

BY RANDY ELLIS
The Oklahoman

OKLAHOMA CITY — A state board voted Thursday to withdraw its offer to hire Dr. Philip Keen of Arizona as Oklahoma's next chief medical examiner.



REJECTED

Dr. Philip Keen: The offer to hire Keen as Oklahoma's next chief medical examiner was withdrawn by a state board.

The appointment became controversial after The Oklahoman disclosed that Keen once hauled



SELECTED

Dr. Andrew Sibley: The Board of Medicolegal Investigations voted to offer the job to Sibley, who's been the interim chief.

an Arizona murder victim's body 100 miles in the back of his pickup.

After withdrawing the offer to Keen, the Board of Medicolegal Investigations voted to offer the job to Dr. Andrew Sibley, 48, who has been the interim chief medical examiner.

The board's selection of Sibley also is likely to be controversial because Sibley has been accused of sexually harassing employees in Oklahoma and Arizona.

Sibley has denied the allegations.

SEE ME A16

HIGH-TECH HERDING



Perry Collins works with a bison in a chute during a bison roundup Thursday at the Oklahoma Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. OSU students are tracking the herd's movements using GPS monitors. Photos by MIKE SIMONS/Tulsa World

Bison find greener pastures

▪ The herds will walk for miles to graze on fresher grass, but researchers want to know how they find it.

BY MICHAEL OVERALL
World Staff Writer

PAWHUSKA — Driving across the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve this week, an observant visitor will notice that the grass doesn't all look the same.

Some patches are old and yellowed, standing waist-high. Other patches look fresh and green, no taller than somebody's backyard.

Stretching to the distant horizon, the effect looks like a

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Watch a video of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve roundup.



tulsaworld.com/videos

patchwork quilt has been draped over the Osage hills.

"Fire is what does that," explains Jay Pruet of The Nature Conservancy. "Systemic burning mimics the way natural wildfires would shape the landscape, creating a mosaic of old and new grasses."

People notice. But so do bison, often walking for miles to graze on the fresher, greener grasses of a recently burned field.

What researchers can't quite figure out is how.

SEE BISON A16



A bison waits in a holding pen Thursday during the bison roundup at the Oklahoma Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. During the roundup, 2,700 head of bison are weighed and inoculated before being released.

Skiatook school board may name interim chief

▪ The school board is expected to approve the hiring when it meets Monday.

BY RHETT MORGAN
World Staff Writer

SKIATOOK — A former Enid school administrator with 44 years of experience in education is expected to be named the interim superintendent for Skiatook Public Schools, school board President Tim Allen said Thursday.

The hiring of Kem Keithly, who was superintendent of Enid Public Schools for 24 years before he retired two years ago, is pending the school board's approval, Allen said. The board will meet Monday night.

Keithly, 67, is scheduled to begin work Nov. 15, Allen said.

"For me, he (Keithly) was just very decisive, very direct and highly knowledgeable about the process of school finance," Allen said. "We were looking for someone who can come in and look at all of what we're doing and set us on the right path."

Following recommendations in



EDUCATOR

Kem Keithly: His educational career includes 41 years as an administrator in Oklahoma and Missouri.

a June report from a Tulsa County grand jury, the school board voted Oct. 11 to begin searching for a new interim superintendent to succeed Steve Williams, who remains under contract as the assistant superintendent.

The grand jury investigated alleged misspending by the school district and said in its report that it lacked confidence in Williams' ability to serve effectively.

Fallout from a state audit report also led to the resignation of Superintendent Gary Johnson, who was indicted by the grand jury on embezzlement and bribery charges.

The grand jury was convened after a state audit indicated that the school district paid Rick Enos — the owner of E&E Sales and

SEE SKIATOOK A16

Three with area ties inducted into Oklahoma Hall of Fame

BY DARLA SLIPKE
The Oklahoman

OKLAHOMA CITY — Six distinguished Sooners were inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame on Thursday.

The new inductees were recognized during a banquet and ceremony at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. They joined 635 other Oklahomans who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame since 1928.

The 2010 inductees include Edward F. Keller of Tulsa, Broken Arrow native Kristin Chenoweth and Tulsa native Michael C. Turpen, along with Robert A. Hefner III and Judy Love of Oklahoma City and Lew O. Ward III of Enid. Their photos and biographies will be added to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame Gallery at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum.

Honorees were selected based on their public service and other contributions to humanity and the state, nation and beyond, said Shannon Rich, president of the Oklahoma Heritage Association and Gaylord-Pickens Museum.

"Being inducted into the Hall of Fame is the highest honor Oklaho-



Tulsa native Michael C. Turpen (from left), Broken Arrow native Kristin Chenoweth and Edward F. Keller of Tulsa pose before their induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame on Thursday evening. MATT BARNARD/Tulsa World

mans can receive for their contributions to our state," Rich said.

Country music singer and guitarist Ty England also was honored Thursday as the 2010 Ambassador of Goodwill.

Edward F. Keller: Keller is the non-executive chairman of Summit Bank of Tulsa and a member of Mutual of Omaha Bank Holding Corp.'s

board of directors. He was born in Nowata and raised in Dewey. Keller played baseball for Oklahoma State University, where he received a degree in finance.

During his career, Keller worked at banks in Bartlesville, Blackwell and Claremore. In 1978, he became

SEE HALL A16

BISON:

GPS devices track the hour-by-hour, day-by-day movements of the herd.

FROM A13

How do the bison know? During the preserve's annual roundup this week — when all 2,700 head of bison are herded through a maze of cattle chutes to be weighed and inoculated — a graduate student from Oklahoma State University stood quietly in the background.

Brady Allred was waiting — and waiting and waiting — for just seven specific bison, each wearing a GPS tracking device on a necklace that was bolted around its neck at last year's roundup. When one of them finally came kicking and grunting down the chute, Allred used a screwdriver to remove the necklace.

Then, quickly downloading a year's worth of data into a laptop computer, he replaced the battery and clamped the device around the neck of another bison to collect data for next year.

The devices take a GPS reading once every 12 minutes, letting Allred plot the hour-by-hour, day-by-day movements of the herd.

It tells him that bison gravitate toward recently burned fields, almost like bees to honey.

"They will go straight to it," Allred said Thursday. "And they will find it very, very quickly."

Patch burns create a diversity of mini-ecosystems, some with young grass, some with older grasses, and oth-



A bison exits a chute Thursday as Perry Collins looks on during a roundup at the Oklahoma Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. MIKE SIMONS/Tulsa World

Tallgrass Prairie Preserve is open to visitors

To visit the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, turn north in downtown Pawhuska at the intersection of Kiheka Avenue and U.S. 60 and follow signs to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve for about 18 miles to the preserve headquarters. The preserve is open daily from dawn to dusk with no charge for admittance. The gift shop and visitor center is open from March through mid-November. Operated by The Nature

Conservancy, the preserve began in 1989 with 29,000 acres from the old Barnard Ranch north of Pawhuska.

The preserve, a two-hour drive from Tulsa, has since grown to 39,100 acres. But that's only a fraction of the 3.8-million-acre region known as the Flint Hills, straddling the Oklahoma-Kansas state line, with the largest remaining patch of tallgrass prairie on the continent.

Allred said.

"The cattle will do just as well, if not better," he said. "So ranchers can incorporate some conservation into their operations, and it won't affect the bottom line, financially."

But the questions remain: How do bison know where to find the recently burned fields?

Do they smell the fresh grass?

Do they follow the lingering scent of smoke?

Do they trace the paths of birds and insects?

"We don't know," Allred admitted. "It's a question that we're just beginning to ask."

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ers in between.

Each attracts a unique mix of birds, insects and other species, restoring the natural habitat that once sprawled across the entire Great Plains.

If cattle ranchers would adopt a similar system of controlled burns, the natural habitat might be restored far beyond the boundaries of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve,

SKIATOOK:

The school board is continuing to search for a permanent superintendent.

FROM A13

Austin Security, both in Oklahoma City — \$570,000 more for custodial supplies and security equipment than the district would have paid had

it bought the supplies directly. Williams also was cited by former School Resource Officer Rocky Davis for "unprofessional and unethical conduct" in a Sept. 16 letter to the Skiatook Police Department. Davis' request for reassignment to a patrol beat was granted Oct. 1, Police Chief John Lawrence said.

Keithly's educational career includes 41 years as an administrator in Oklahoma and Missouri, including 32 years as a superintendent, he said.

The native of Nevada, Mo., said he will serve only the balance of the current school year.

Skiatook is continuing its search for Johnson's permanent successor.

"I just thought I could spend a little time there and maybe help do some good," Keithly said. "I'm kind of looking forward after 2½ years off to getting back at it for a few months."

Keithly received his doctorate of education in school administration from the Uni-

versity of Missouri. He also has a bachelor of science in education from Central Missouri State University and a master of arts in education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Before going to Enid in 1984, he was the superintendent for four years each in Lee's Summit and Sedalia, Mo. He also was an administrator in Lamar and Joplin, Mo.

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HALL:

Three other inductees are from Oklahoma City and Enid.

FROM A13

executive vice president of First Oklahoma Bancorporation. Keller also has been chairman and CEO of Bank IV, BankOne Oklahoma and J.P. Morgan Chase Oklahoma.

He is a member of the St. Francis Health System board of directors. He has led a number of organizations, including the Oklahoma Bankers Association, the Oklahoma State University regents and the Tulsa Metro Chamber.

Keller also was chairman of the OSU-Tulsa board of trustees after he helped bring the public-supported research university to Tulsa.

He is married to Marilyn Keller.

Keller said his induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame was a recognition of what he has been able to do with the help of many others.

"I've always thought that individual honors were really made upon the shoulders of others," he said. "I come to this knowing full well that while I may be recognized, another hundred, perhaps thousands of people, made all this possible."

Kristin Chenoweth: Chenoweth is a Broken Arrow native and Oklahoma City University graduate who is known for her performances on stage, television and film. She won a Tony Award in 1999 for her role as Sally in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." Chenoweth later was nominated again for her performance as Glinda in "Wicked."

In addition to Broadway,

Chenoweth has appeared in a variety of television shows and films, including the television series "Pushing Daisies." She received an Emmy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in that show.

Chenoweth supports a number of charitable organizations and campaigns, including a national animal organization called Maddie's Corner. Her autobiography, "A Little Bit Wicked: Life, Love and Faith," was a New York Times best-seller.

Chenoweth said her induction into the Hall of Fame means as much to her family as it does to her.

"It's the biggest honor I've ever received because it represents my home, my family, my upbringing, my roots — things that I always want to get back to whenever I can," she said. "It's a gift to get to be back home to receive this."

Michael C. Turpen: Turpen, a Tulsa native and University of Tulsa graduate, is a former Oklahoma attorney general. Currently of Oklahoma City, he is a partner in the law firm Riggs, Abney, Neal, Turpen, Orbison and Lewis.

In 1975, the Oklahoma Bar Association selected Turpen as Oklahoma's Outstanding Young Lawyer. He was district attorney for Muskogee County from 1977 to 1982.

Former President Bill Clinton appointed Turpen to serve on the Kennedy Center board in Washington.

In 2009, Gov. Brad Henry

appointed him to serve on the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Turpen is president of the Lyric Theatre in Oklahoma City and a member of the boards of Allied Arts, the Oklahoma State Fair and the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum.

He is married to Susan Turpen.

His induction was "one of the highest honors in my life," he said, "because I get to share it with my mother, my wife, my family and my friends."

Robert A. Hefner III: Hefner is founder and owner of the GHK Co., an Oklahoma City oil and natural gas firm known for pioneering natural gas exploration in western Oklahoma. He started the company in 1959, two years after graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in geology.

Hefner has spoken to members of Congress, presidents and world leaders about energy policy. He helped to

found OU's Energy Center and serves on the boards of a number of state and international organizations, including the American Clean Skies Foundation.

Hefner and his wife, MeiLi Hefner, established a program called the Hefner Initiative, which funds trips to China for Oklahoma students and works to develop positive relations with that country.

His father, Robert Hefner Jr., and grandfather Judge Robert Hefner also are members of the Hall of Fame.

Judy Love: Love and her husband, Tom Love, also a member of the Hall of Fame, started Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores in 1964. She is secretary of the corporation and chairwoman of Love's Family Foundation.

Love serves on a number of boards, including those of the St. Anthony's Foundation, the Oklahoma City Museum of Art and the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. She has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement

ME:

Sibley is being offered \$30,000 more a year than Keen was offered.

FROM A13

The board knew about the accusations against Sibley when it offered him the job.

Sibley is being offered \$235,000 a year, which is \$30,000 a year more than the board offered Keen, according to Cherokee Ballard, a spokeswoman for the state Medical Examiner's Office.

Sibley said Thursday that he has not decided whether to accept the promotion, which is contingent on his passing an Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation background check.

The background check is more than just a formality. A similar check apparently is what prompted the board to withdraw its Sept. 16 offer to Keen, 67.

The withdrawal of the offer came after the board met in executive session for more than an hour to discuss Keen's OSBI background report and his potential employment. Board members would not discuss their reasons for withdrawing the offer, calling it a personnel matter.

The Oklahoman disclosed Oct. 10 that Keen was facing criticism in Arizona because of his testimony in a murder trial there that he had hauled the victim's body in the back of his pickup.

A report on the incident was one of the things that was expected to be included in the OSBI's background report.

Keen said Thursday that he was disappointed by the board's decision.

"I think it's Oklahoma's loss," he said. "I really do have something to offer. I wish them well. I don't wish them any harm, but I think they may have fumbled it."

Keen said he doesn't think his hauling a body in his pickup was why he didn't get the job.

"That was a nonissue, at least as far as I can tell," he said.

Keen said he was told that officials "were scared off by my litigation history."

He said he filed a lawsuit against Maricopa County, where Phoenix is located, after the county fired the administrator in the office where he was the chief medical examiner and reorganized the office in a way that he thought was illegal.

Keen said the county publicly agreed to settle the case but never paid a dime, and his administrator successfully sued for wrongful termination.

Keen said he filed a lawsuit against another county where he worked for recovery of attorney fees in a case in which the widow of a man who died in an airplane crash sued the county for mismanagement of a death scene.

Sibley, the board's latest chief medical examiner selection, worked as a forensic pathologist in Tucson before coming to work at the Oklahoma state Medical Examiner's Office in Tulsa in September 2000.

A former female co-worker in the Tulsa office complained of sexual harassment by Sibley during a state grand jury investigation last year, records indicate.

Previously, Sibley was accused in Arizona of harassing female employees at the Medical Examiner's Office in Pima County.

The Oklahoma state Medical Examiner's Office has been plagued by problems in recent years.

In 2009, the agency lost its accreditation with the National Association of Medical Examiners because of its small, aging Oklahoma City facility and other deficiencies. Legislators responded by voting to build new headquarters for the agency in Edmond.

Kevin Rowland, a former longtime chief investigator for the office, is set to stand trial in Tulsa in April on allegations that he raped a female co-worker. Rowland, who denies the allegation, was acquitted in May at an Oklahoma City sexual battery trial in which he was accused of lewdly touching a male co-worker.

The state's last chief medical examiner, Collie M. Trant, was fired in February after less than nine months in the position. He is suing to get his job back.

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