

Students introduced to heroes

By Steve Mrazek
Steve Mrazek
smrazek@lawton.com

DUNCAN — It didn't happen in school, but a lesson learned by youngsters from Central High may be among the most important of all — that very ordinary people can rise to do extraordinary things.

Elementary schoolers who trekked Friday from Central High to the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan got to hear about people like Will Rogers, Wiley Post, Mike Larson and others who wouldn't have seemed destined for greatness when they were kids but who overcame long odds to become heroes in history.



From left, Central High students Ethan Brunnett, Wyatt Wagner and Timothy Pearson create art projects while taking part in a field trip Friday at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan.

Will Rogers

One of the most memorable stories was shared by name rather than Betty Elsie Rogers, wife of Will Rogers, portrayed by Heritage Center educator Edie Stewart. She told the boys and girls that a part of her famous husband's story often forgotten is that he was rather shy growing up, labeled "lazy" and "stubborn" by teachers, and that he struggled mightily to find his way before finally discovering his destiny as a rodeo showman, movie star and cowboy philosopher. He's perhaps best known for saying "I never met a man I didn't like," which she said has often been misinterpreted.

"What he meant was that when he met someone, he didn't judge them right away," she said.

Rogers believed that people deserved respect at least until they proved that they didn't, his wife said, and even though he became famous for offering his own observations on life, she said he also believed that people ought never to stop listening.

"Will never stopped reading, learning and listening," she said the children. "When you think someone you'd like to pattern your life after, you might want to think about Will Rogers."



Central High elementary schoolers Mack Lee and Allie Hale look to check off discoveries while taking part in an art scavenger hunt Friday in the Gatz Gallery of the West at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan.

Wiley Post

The youngsters also got to hear about Post, a friend of Rogers and fellow adventurer. He, too, struggled in school, even dropping out in the sixth grade. He lost an eye in an oil-field accident, was diagnosed with "chronic melancholy" (depression), and eventually had to serve a stretch at the state reformatory in Granite before finally rising, literally, as a pioneer in aviation.

He invented important things, like the "pressure suit" and altimeter that expanded horizons dramatically, and he became the first person to fly solo around the world.

Mike Larson

Another hero the children learned about was Larson, who as a boy was stricken by polio that af-



Mary Loney, right, opens a box of the Gatz Gallery of the West on Friday for youngsters on a field trip from Central High.

den, who also got to explore artwork in the Heritage Center's Gatz Gallery of the American West and even to create some art of their own, seemed to take the lessons from the heroes of history to heart. While Claire Hallam and Lily Taylor said it was just plain "cool" how Will Rogers could easily spin a 100-foot jasso or toss three jassos accurately all at the same time, they agreed that it's important to remember that things didn't always come easy for Rogers. The girls, and one of their classmates, Seth Torres, also were inspired by the story of how Wiley Post was able to overcome some very serious setbacks and other obstacles to find success in life.

"Wiley Post was inspiring because he had the problems that he had and still was able to do all the things he did," Taylor said.

THIS WEEK IN UPS

- Monday**
- Title IX Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee Meeting at the Shoemaker Center, 6 p.m.
 - Cleveland Elementary, book fair open 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
 - Crosby Park Elementary, circle dough fundraisers all week.
 - Eisenhower High, Ignition - Parade Minute.
 - Eisenhower Middle, Chess Club, 3:20 p.m.
 - Freedom Elementary, Daylight with Dads at the book fair, 8:15-9 a.m.
 - MacArthur High, JROTC Varsity Armed Drill Teams practice, 6:30 a.m.; Academic Team, NIS, Vex Robotics, JROTC Varsity Female Color Guard and PT Team practice, Stamp Team and Mac Forensics, 2:40 p.m.; Reading Intervention, 3 p.m.
 - MacArthur Middle, Book Club, 3:20 p.m.
 - Pat Henry Elementary, book fair open all week.
 - Pioneer Park Elementary, book fair open all week.
 - Sullivan Village Elementary, PIA Luncheon begins.
 - Tomlinson Middle, Oklahoma Prairie enrichment through Friday concert Mt. Gilbert or Mt. Harper for information; book fair open all week.
- Tuesday**
- Parent Teacher Conferences 4-7 p.m.
 - Cleveland Elementary, book fair open, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
 - Eisenhower High, West Texas Choir visit, fourth hour; ASVAB testing in commons area, noon.
 - Eisenhower Middle, Scrapbook Club and Academic Team, 3:20 p.m.
 - Freedom Elementary, Family Night at the book fair, 4-7 p.m.
 - Lincoln Elementary, group and individual photos taken today.
 - MacArthur High, JROTC Un-Armed Drill Teams and Varsity Male Color Guard practice, 6:30 a.m.; Key Club, Vex Robotics, JROTC Varsity Female Color Guard and PT Team practice and Mac Robotics Officers, 2:40 p.m.; FA meeting at UPS School Farm, 4 p.m.
 - MacArthur Middle, OSSAA Choir contest.
 - Pat Henry Elementary, Family Night at the book fair.
 - Tomlinson Middle, Family Night at the book fair, 4-7 p.m.
- Wednesday**
- Cleveland Elementary, book fair open 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
 - Crosby Park Elementary, fourth and fifth grades in Thunder Blue game.
- Thursday**
- Eisenhower High, Carl Albert Show Choir contest at MWC.
 - Eisenhower Middle, FCA, 8 a.m.
 - Freedom Elementary, Meetings with Mom at the book fair, 8:15-9 a.m.; third grade field trip to OKC.
 - MacArthur High, JROTC Varsity female Color Guard practice, 6:30 a.m.; FCA, 7:15 a.m.; Vex Robotics, Mac Forensics and Stamp Team, 2:40 p.m.; Reading Intervention, 3 p.m.
 - MacArthur Middle, FCA.
 - Pat Henry Elementary, fifth grade to STARBASE, fourth grade to OKC Thunder game.
 - Woodlawn Hills Elementary, class pictures taken today.
- Thursday**
- Parent Teacher Conferences 4-7 p.m.
 - Cleveland Elementary, book fair open, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
 - Eisenhower High, Teacher Talent Show, 9 a.m.
 - Eisenhower Middle, Military Child Club, 8 a.m.
 - Freedom Elementary, Family Night at the book fair, 4-7 p.m.
 - Lawton High, choir concert.
 - MacArthur High, JROTC Un-Armed Drill Teams and Varsity Male Color Guard practice, 6:30 p.m.; Vex Robotics, ASL Club, Native American Club and JROTC PT Team and JV Un-Armed Drill Teams practice, Stamp Team, Mac Robotics and Water Works meetings, 2:40 p.m.
 - MacArthur Middle, spring choir concert in auditorium, 7 p.m.
 - Pat Henry Elementary, fifth grade to STARBASE; Family Night at the book fair.
 - Tomlinson Middle, National Honor Society State Convention today and tomorrow in OKC; Family Night at the book fair, 4-7 p.m.
- Friday**
- Central Middle, Faculty/Student basketball game, 2 p.m.
 - Cleveland Elementary, book fair open, 9:30 a.m. - noon; PIA Middle Game Room, 1:30-3 p.m.; St. Patrick's Celebration assembly, 2:45 p.m.
 - Eisenhower Middle, Staff vs. Student basketball game, seventh hour.
 - Lawton High, Black History assembly.
 - Lincoln Elementary, fifth grade students to STARBASE.
 - MacArthur High, Resume Writing Workshop in auditorium through English classes; Chess Club and GSA, 2:40 p.m.
 - Pat Henry Elementary, fifth grade Kick Butts football game.

MEALS / Nutrition Center

The following lunches will be served March 6-10 at nutrition sites operated by the Delta Nutrition Program. Meals are subject to change due to unavailability or surplus inventory of food items, or special activities at individual nutrition sites.

Nutrition sites are H.C. King Center, 1705 NW 20th; Centenary United Methodist Church, 704 SW 13; Patizem Center, No. 4 NE Arlington.

MONDAY: Stewed pork roast, scalloped potatoes, spinach, whole bread, hot spiced peaches.

TUESDAY: Homemade pizza, green salad, whole kernel corn, chocolate mousse.

WEDNESDAY: Oven-fried liver, mashed potatoes, gravy, zucchini and tomatoes, wheat bread, mixed fruit salad.

THURSDAY: Chicken and noodles, steamed broccoli, steamed carrots, pineapple, upside down cake.

FRIDAY: Pinto beans, oven fried potatoes with onions, coleslaw, cornbread, strawberries and bananas.

Everyone's first and only...

Bladeless Laser Cataract Surgery

- Computer Guided Light Waves
- Bladeless Cataract Removal
- Improved Precision, Accuracy and Safety
- Lifestyle Lens Options to see clearly without glasses after surgery
- Medicare Approved Outpatient Surgical Center

Young Eye Institute
1001 19th Ave Southeast • Lawton, OK 73047
(580) 353-5860 • 800-228-4214
visit us on the web: www.youngeye.com