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24 South County Leader Thursday, November 7, 2013 / JENKS COMMUNITY



SARAH "MAC" MCCALLION/SOUTH COUNTY LEADER

In mid-October all 17 members of IAFF Local 2567 filed a vote of no confidence in Jenks Fire and Rescue Chief Gary Friedel. As the fire fighters filed their grievances in a manner determined unlawful per their contract, Jenks City Council authorized the City Attorney to file an unfair labor practice complaint against the IAFF Local 2567 with the Oklahoma Public Employees Relations Board.

Council comes to decision in fire department issue

By Sarah "Mac" McCallion
Jenks News Editor
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Jenks City Council voted to authorize the city attorney to file an unfair labor practice complaint against the IAFF Local 2567 with the Oklahoma Public Employee Relations Board. According to Mayor Lonnie Sims at this time the city has no intention to file a claim.

The city council issue began when all 17 members of IAFF Local 2567 filed a vote of no confidence against Jenks Fire and Rescue Chief Gary Friedel for the regularly scheduled Oct. 21 city council meeting.

During that meeting it was presented the IAFF Local 2567 had gone through improper avenues of filing grievances against the chief. Council members voted, during the Oct. 21 meeting, to request more information from the fire fighters

member to vote no, stating he felt filing a suit was an improper response. Other council members expressed their vote of "yes" came as a result of concerns as to setting precedence to let employees behave in an unlawful manner.

"I think this puts [the issue] to bed," Sims told the *South County Leader* after the meeting. "The vote gives us the option to file a claim, but we have no intentions to do so at this point.

"This was an open dialogue to hear the firefighters concerns and let the chief respond, and I think we've done that. We are confident in both our firemen and our chief to move forward appropriately."

"I am very thankful council provided me an opportunity to share information about the status of our department and appreciate their valuable time on this important matter," Friedel told the *South County Leader*. "Now it's time for our de-



SARAH "MAC" MCCALLION/SOUTH COUNTY LEADER

OH BOTHER — Lexi Sugiyama attended the Jenks' Library "Story of a Costume Party" as Winnie-the-Pooh.

Story of a costume party

and give Friedel a chance to respond.

On Nov. 4, council members discussed the issue in executive session and came back with no vote. Council proceeded to vote yes to agenda item No. 27, "request to authorize the city attorney to file an unfair labor practice complaint against IAFF Local 2567 with the Oklahoma Public Employees Relations Board," in regards to the IAFF filing their grievances in an unlawful manner.

Councilman Mike Sharp was the only

partment to move past this and focus on the services we provide to our community. We have a talented group of firefighters that are eager to serve and work hard at finding better ways to serve our citizens.

"I am both optimistic about our future and hopeful this matter is behind us. It is an honor to continue serving this excellent community."

IAFF Local 2567 could not be reached for comment on the issue.

By Sarah "Mac" McCallion

Jenks News Editor

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The Jenks Library ended October, Teen Read Month, with a costume party.

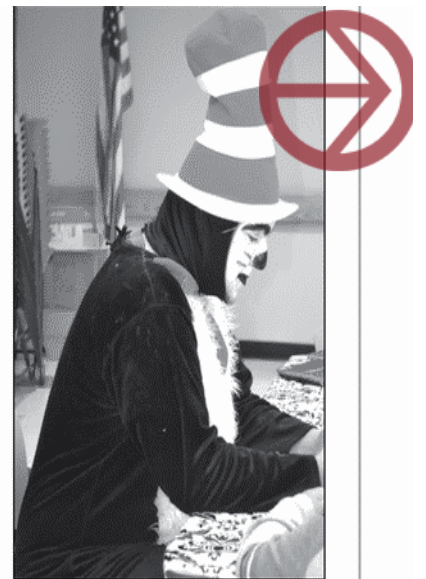
Teen Read Month began as Teen Read Week, a Young Adult Library Services Association initiative which began in 1998. According to Cheryl Newman, branch manager of the Jenks Library, libraries in Oklahoma liked the idea so much they decided to celebrate teen reading for the entire month of October.

"Why is it important to celebrate? For a lot of reasons," Newman said. "Teens have so many options for entertainment, so it's important to remind them to spend time reading for pleasure: it's free, fun and can be done anywhere."

"Additionally, research shows teens who read for fun have better test scores and are more likely to succeed in the workforce. There are so many possibilities that exist within the doors of the library and within the covers of books."

The Jenks' library event, Story of a Costume Party, was held on Halloween.

"It's one of our big events we try to have every few months," said Leah Weyand, the library's teen associate librarian. "We have a teen advisory board every month here at the li-



SARAH "MAC" MCCALLION/SOUTH COUNTY LEADER DR. SUESS — Guadalupe Jaimes came to the library's costume party disguised as Cat in the Hat. The event was part of Teen Read Month—a Tulsa City-County Library event dedicated to celebrate teens reading.

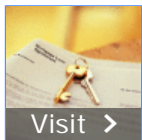
brary and we try to plan fun events too.

"The teens who come to the advisory board have a big say in what those events are. In December we are looking at a Pinterest craft party."

For information on teen events at the library, log on to TulsaLibrary.org or visit the library at 523 W. B St.

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