

# **10 TIPS**

FROM THE NEWS MEDIA TO DRAW

# **BETTER RESPONSE**

*Tulsa Night Writers 2018*



To make it to the top of Page 1, you need

- **Strong Headline**
- **Strong Image**
- **Strong Lead**

*Tulsa Night Writers 2018*



LEADER/TIM CARMAN

### Desperate search

Oologah Lake rangers and Northwest firefighters search the Hawthorn Beach area for a missing 8-year-old boy on Sunday. Northwest Fire has invested in water rescue equipment and training because the lake is important to the community.

# Tulsa boy drowns in lake tragedy

By JOHN M. WYLIE II

Editor

An 8-year-old Tulsa boy on an outing to Hawthorn Beach disappeared from his family Sunday afternoon and drowned.

Authorities said he was first noticed missing shortly after 2:30 p.m.

His body was located just after 6 p.m. by the Northwest Rogers County Fire District's water search and rescue team using sonar in nine feet of water.

Trooper Gena Gillis of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Marine Enforcement said the child was not wearing a personal flotation

device.

In keeping with OHP policy, his name was not released because of his age.

Besides OHP Marine Enforcement Troopers Gillis and Brian Gage, Northwest and the Corps of Engineers, those involved in the search included officers from

the Rogers County Sheriff's Office and at least one officer from the Oologah Police Department.

A local pastor served as a chaplain/counselor for the boy's family at authorities' request while the search and rescue were conducted.

An advanced life support

team from OTEMS ambulance provided medical support on scene as needed.

The search marked the second time in 48 hours during the holiday weekend that Northwest had issued a general alarm for all available firefighters to assist in a

See **Tulsa boy**, Page 2

*Tulsa Night Writers 2011*



*Cutline under photo*

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See **Tulsa boy**, Page 2



*Tulsa Night Writers 2016*



LEADER/FAITH WYLIE

Big 3  
Title  
Cover  
1<sup>ST</sup>P



### Saving lives

Rescuers carry a six-year-old survivor up the Oologah Dam embankment to a waiting OTEMS ambulance for treatment as Northwest firefighters work to free the driver. Medics provided preliminary treatment while the two were trapped in the wreckage for about 45 minutes. The boy was taken by Air Evac air ambulance to St. Francis, while the driver was transported by OTEMS to St. Francis. A 32-year-old Collinsville woman and an 11-year-old boy were ejected during the wreck and perished.

# Driver arrested in double fatality

## BULLETIN

By JOHN M. WYLIE II

Editor

Eric Steven Coager, the driver in a double-fatality crash Saturday on Oologah Dam, was booked into the Rogers County Jail at 8:52 p.m. Tuesday night on two complaints of first degree manslaughter and

vit that Coager was driving his Pontiac Firebird towards Oologah Saturday at a speed so excessive that it missed the sharp curve on Oklahoma 88 leading to the dam, went off the road, and overturned a number of times before coming to rest at the bottom of a steep cliff.

During the wreck,

Oologah-Talala EMS personnel to reach them said Coager had an odor of alcohol on his breath.

Medical personnel at St. Francis who treated Coager made the same observation, Floyd's affidavit said, and two described the odor as "strong."

"One nurse described Coager as mildly combat-





GAH, OKLAHOMA, BIRTHPLACE OF WILL ROGERS

34TH YEAR • NO. 19

## v playground ning for park

**DENS**  
ground equipment the town park will be built at a special town Board meeting.

ment will be from Bears in New York. It is estimated at \$100,000 including

will install the Power Play to dash pad in the company will integrate and present designs to the

Board members discussed funding for the projects. The town allotted \$455,000 for demolition, ground work, construction and equipment for the site around town hall.

The splash pad will be built in phases. Phase one of the splash pad is estimated to cost \$85,000 to \$115,000.

Mayor Mat Shockley said the playground would be completed first because it can be used throughout the year.

The board also discussed installing split rail fencing around the park rather than a chain link fence.



ok planned for park  
dered a new playground village for the park.  
will be customized to Oologah's site.



LEADER/FAITH WYLIE

### Saving lives

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Eric Steven Coager, the driver in a double-fatality crash Saturday on Oologah Dam, was booked into the Rogers County Jail at 8:52 p.m. Tuesday night on two complaints of first degree manslaughter and one complaint of causing a great bodily injury collision while driving under the influence of alcohol.

The investigating trooper's affidavit and jail records show he was being held without bond on the felony charges as of 4 a.m.

The penalty for each count of first degree manslaughter is a minimum of four years up to life in prison upon conviction; the third complaint carries a penalty of one to ten years in prison upon conviction.

At press time no formal charges had been filed in the case. Coager, 34, had an initial court date set for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29.

Trooper Andy Floyd said in his arrest affidavit

that Coager was driving his Pontiac Firebird towards Oologah Saturday at a speed so excessive that it missed the sharp curve on Oklahoma 88 leading to the dam, went off the road, and overturned a number of times before coming to rest at the bottom of a steep cliff.

During the wreck, 32-year-old Angela Dawn Brown was ejected from the front passenger seat and died at the scene.

Rear seat passenger Aden W., 11, was ejected from the rear seat and taken to St. Francis Hospital, where he died later Saturday.

Passenger Dathan W., 6, remained at St. Francis Tuesday night where he was being treated for incapacitating injuries. Coager was also treated for injuries at St. Francis and was arrested at 8 p.m. Tuesday, records show. All four occupants had Collinsville addresses, the affidavit and records show.

Dathan and Coager were seat-belted and trapped in the wreckage. The first

Oologah-Talala EMS personnel to reach them said Coager had an odor of alcohol on his breath.

Medical personnel at St. Francis who treated Coager made the same observation. Floyd's affidavit said, and two described the odor as "strong."

"One nurse described Coager as mildly combative and appearing altered as he reluctantly followed commands. The nurse also described that Coager admitted to drinking whisky when asked about drinking or taking drugs," the affidavit added.

Floyd concluded that Coager was driving on a public road "while under the influence of intoxicants and in an unsafe manner when he lost control of the vehicle and crashed. This crash resulted in the death of Angela Brown and Aden W. The crash also resulted in the great bodily injury of Dathan W."

Through an intermediary, the family asked that the names of the injured boys not be made public, but they are contained

in the affidavit which is a public record.

The first names have been widely disseminated on social media but to comply with the family's wishes only a last initial has been used by the Leader since the last names have not been previously disclosed publicly.

A complete account of the accident, including details on the heroic rescue and emergency medical treatment work at the scene and information on the victims, was completed just an hour before the arrest. That account is on Page 3.



ERIC STEVEN COAGER

## LEAD PARAGRAPH

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# Metro & region

A9 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2018

## Bixby rape case moved to juvenile court



Former football players Colten Cable (clockwise from top left), Will Thomas, Samuel Lakin and Joe Wood are charged with raping a teammate. TULSA WORLD FILE PHOTOS

### Youthful offender case is formally dismissed; case filed in Juvenile Bureau

By Samantha Vincent  
Tulsa World

The Rogers County District Attorney's Office, in accordance with a Tulsa County judge's ruling last month, formally filed juvenile petitions against four former Bixby football players who are accused of raping a teammate last year.

Court minutes indicate that the youthful offender case against Colten Cable, Samuel Lakin, William Henry Thomas and Joe Wood was

dismissed Monday morning and transferred to the Tulsa County District Court Juvenile Bureau for further proceedings. The dismissal, according to the minutes for each teenager, is pursuant to Special Judge April Seibert's Sept. 10 ruling that granted the four juvenile status.

Although the teenagers continue to face prosecution, the case will likely — unless a judge says otherwise — reach a resolution out of the public eye. Rogers County First Assistant District Attorney Brian Surber said he couldn't comment on the matter beyond what's in the court minutes but noted that his office chose not to appeal Seibert's

decision on juvenile certification. Defense attorney Paul DeMuro, who represents the Wood family, also declined to give specifics on the situation. However, he said multiple psychology professionals and Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs employees have already recommended that the teens receive outpatient treatment with no jail time if they're convicted.

Seibert previously made a finding of probable cause regarding the rape charge, but the legal process apparently will now start over.

When asked what happens next in the case, DeMuro said: "Now we

» See Bixby, page A11

Tulsa Night Writers 2018





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*Tulsa Night Writers 2018*





Oklahoma State center Jeremy Wilson, taking the field against Iowa State on Saturday, is the only Cowboys offensive lineman who has started all 10 games this season at the same position. The lack of continuity has contributed to the line's struggles. (WRT/SCOTT TIGHE)

# STILL SEARCHING FOR A **FIX**

BY MARK COOPER • TULSA WORLD

STILLWATER — For once, Oklahoma State thought it had it figured out.

The offensive line, a position group criticized for so many years, was one of the reasons to be optimistic about this team in the preseason. Coach Mike Gundy said he would be “shocked” if, by Oct. 1, it wasn’t better than it has been recently. Combined with an embarrassment of riches at running back, Taylor Cornpoole would have stability around him as he settled in at quarterback.

“I would say now, if I was a gambling man and I was to bet on it,” Gundy said Monday, “then I would have

Coach Mike Gundy insists Oklahoma State’s problems along the offensive line are fixable

Now is that October, as Oklahoma State tries to get back on track following two losses in three weeks, focus turns back to the offensive line. Gummel has improved over the past few weeks, throwing eight touchdown passes. But in the 44-42 loss Saturday to Iowa State he was, as Gundy put it, “running for his life from Day 1.”

Through six games, Oklahoma State has surrendered 18 sacks. It gave up 24 in 13 games all of last year.

Oklahoma State at Kansas State  
7 p.m.  
Saturday  
(ESPN, FTAQ, 91.5 FM)  
  
Gummel and center Brad Lashlee have perhaps proved more difficult than anticipated. But Gundy said he still believes in the group GSU is putting on the field and believes the issues can be resolved.

“They’re doing some things that they shouldn’t

## Subhead

**Coach Mike Gundy insists Oklahoma State’s problems along the offensive line are fixable**

## Lead paragraph

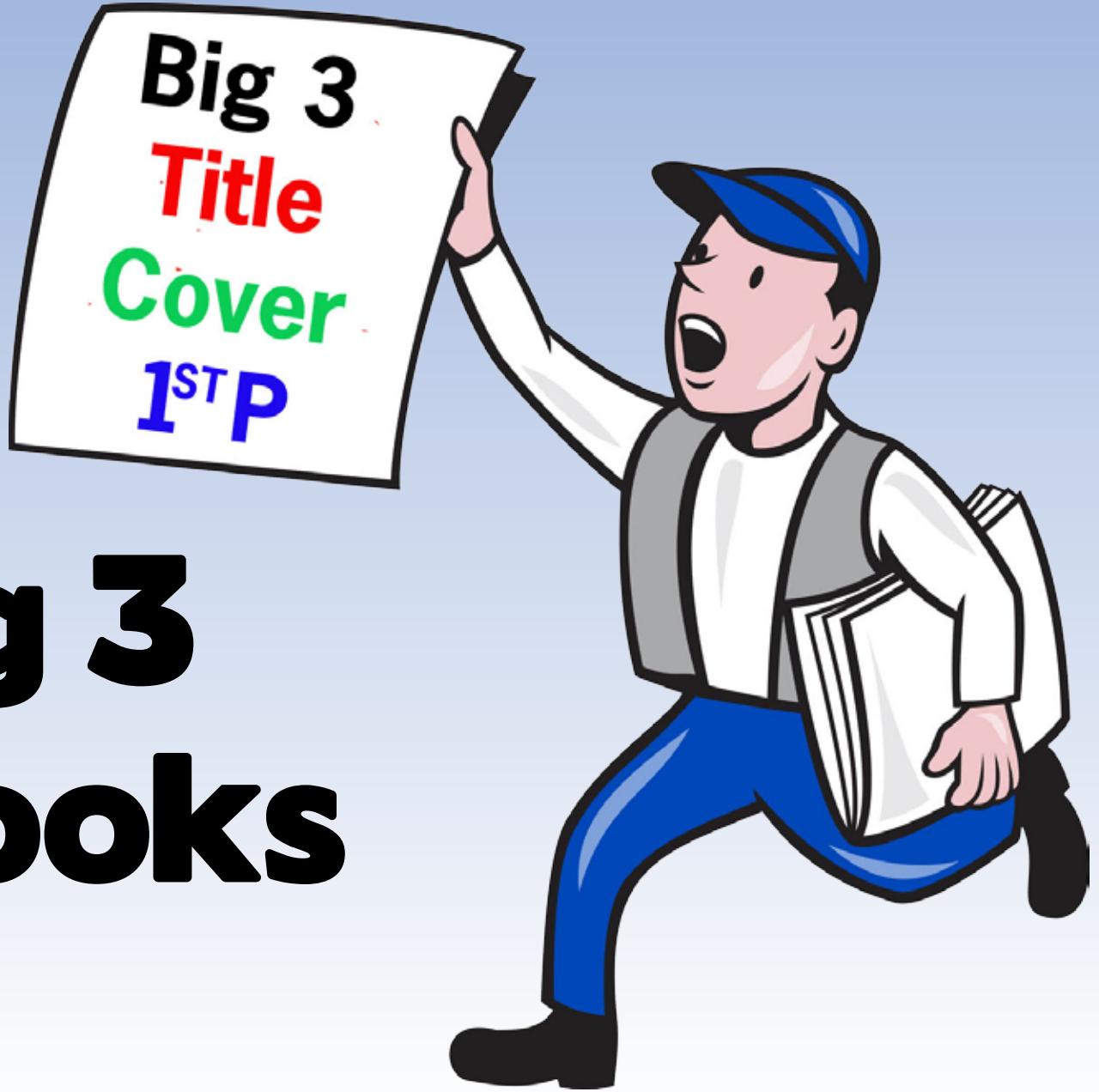
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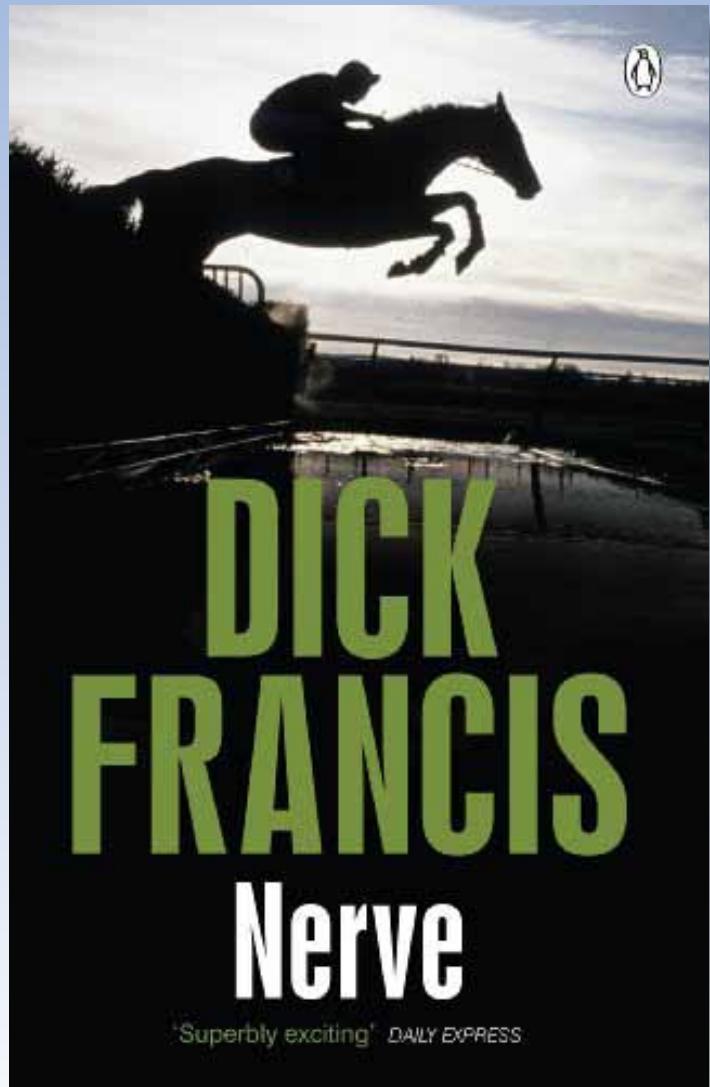


*Tulsa Night Writers 2018*

# **Big 3 in Books**



*Tulsa Night Writers 2018*



Art Mathews shot himself, loudly and messily, in the centre of the parade ring at Dunstable races.

I was standing only six feet away from him, but he did it so quickly that had it been only six inches I would not have had time to stop him.

He had walked out of the changing-room ahead of me, his narrow shoulders hunched inside the khaki jerkin he had put on over his racing colours, and his head down on his chest as if he were deep in thought. I noticed him stumble slightly down the two steps from the weighing-room to the path; and when someone

Rob Finn's winning streak made him one of the most sought-after steeplechase jockeys. But his subsequent collapse in form surprised no one more than himself.

As word spreads that Finn has lost his nerve, he discovers a well-managed campaign to discredit certain jockeys; in his own case, a plan assisted by horse doping.

But to find the culprits behind it, Finn will have to use all his cunning and racing know-how .



*Tulsa Night Writers 2013*

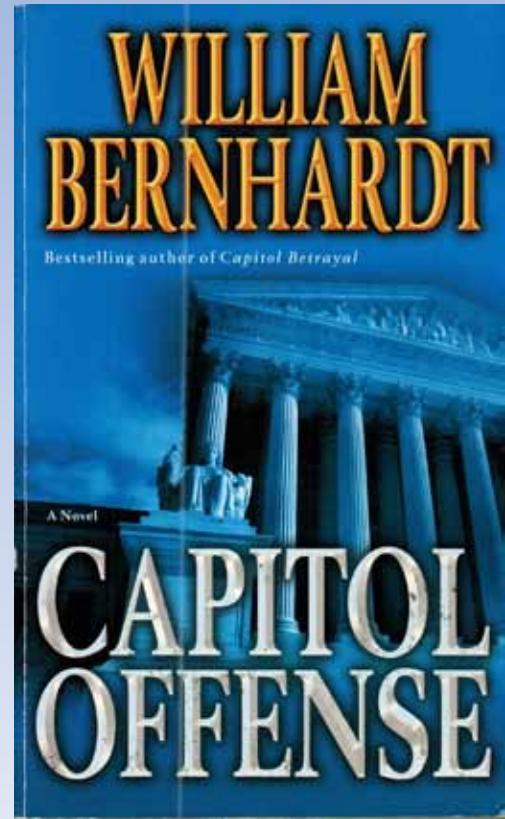
## *Opening Paragraphs*

I DIED THREE days ago.

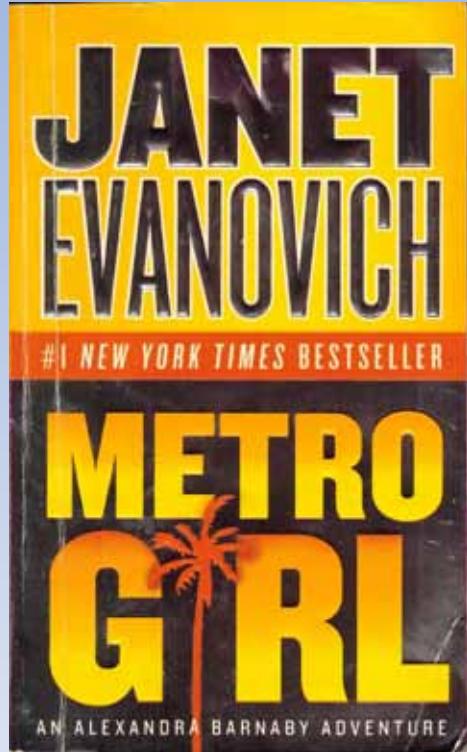
I never saw it coming. It had been a difficult day at the hospital, shocking even—but when was it ever different? St. Benedict's is one complication after another, especially in my line of work. There are too many patients, too many bureaucrats, and too few happy endings. Midday, I took a long stroll through the children's ward just to hear the high-pitched voices raised in song or play. Even when there is great pain, the young always seem capable of mustering optimism and innocence, two qualities I see too infrequently.

## *Blurb*

Insane with grief, Professor Dennis Thomas blames Detective Christopher Sentz for the death of his wife and wants to kill him. In fact, Thomas shares his revenge plans with Ben Kincaid. Then someone fires seven bullets into the police officer. Against all advice and going on instinct, Kincaid decides to represent the troubled professor, who faces a charge of capital murder.



*Tulsa Night Writers 2013*



Alexandra (Barney) Barnaby roars onto the Miami Beach scene in hot pursuit of her missing baby brother, "Wild" Bill. Leave it to the maverick of the family to get Barney involved with high-speed car chases, a search for sunken treasure, and Sam Hooker, a NASCAR driver who's good at revving a woman's engine.

**ONE**

Just because I know how to change a guy's oil doesn't mean I want to spend the rest of my life on my back, staring up his undercarriage. Been there, done that. Okay, so my dad owns a garage. And okay, I have a natural aptitude for rebuilding carburetors. There comes a time in a girl's life when she needs to trade in her mechanic's overalls for a pair of Manolo Blahnik stilettos. Not that I can afford a lot of Manolos, but it's a goal, right?

My name is Alexandra Barnaby, and I worked in my dad's garage in the Canton section of Baltimore all through high school and during summer breaks when I was in college. It's not a big fancy

- 1



*Tulsa Night Writers 2015*