

Narconon pays 'finder's fees'

■ The facility's CEO says recruiters are paid to find rehab patients.

BY JARREL WADE
World Staff Writer

The CEO of Narconon Arrowhead told the Tulsa World last week the facility offers a "finder's fee" to find drug rehabilitation patients, which he said is a common practice among rehab facilities.

Narconon Arrowhead CEO Gary W. Smith said the facility pays



CEO
Gary W. Smith: He says the payment of fees is "not an uncommon practice" for rehab facilities.

finder's fees to about a dozen interventionists or "field representatives" on a regular basis.

"We're not the only program that does this," Smith said. "It's not

an uncommon practice."
Drug addiction counselors and former students of Narconon also confirmed they make tens of thousands every year from finder's fees and more from interventions. All said a finder's fee has no bearing on where they recommend a drug addict go for rehab.

The facility is under investigation following three patient deaths there in less than a year.

An investigation of Narconon by the Tulsa World also found a network of more than 200 websites.

It's not unusual for the families

of people addicted to drugs to turn to the Internet for help. Hillary Holten's family did it. Stacy Murphy's family did, too, according to family spokesmen.

Murphy, a 20-year-old from Owasso, and Holten, a 21-year-old from Carrollton, Texas, found their way to Narconon Arrowhead, a drug detoxification center rooted in Scientology.

Both women, "students" of the facility, died there before completing the program. Murphy died July

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Officer accused of robbing drivers

BY DAVID HARPER
World Staff Writer

A Tulsa police officer has been accused of taking money from Hispanic drivers, Tulsa Police Chief Chuck Jordan announced on Saturday.

Marvin Blades Jr., 37, was arrested and booked into Tulsa Jail early Saturday morning on a complaint of second-degree robbery, Jordan said at a press conference.

Jordan said Blades was arrested as part of an undercover operation that featured an Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs officer.

The chief said Blades is suspected of pulling over Hispanics and removing money from their wallets. He did not estimate how many times Blades may have allegedly engaged in such behavior.

Jordan said there is no indication that any other officers took part in such behavior. In fact, he said other officers played a vital role in pro-

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United in recovery

Community comes together to cope with disaster loss



Danny Cotner, of the Rogers Baptist Church chainsaw team from Claremore, saws a tree as volunteers remove debris, near Mannford, on Friday.



Disaster relief chaplain Norma Turner (left) and homeowner Joe Anaya, whose house was destroyed in the wildfire, hug after Turner gave Anaya an ashtray made by his now 15-year-old son when he was 5 years old. Other than the fact that the family survived, Anaya said the ashtray is the most important thing that remained from the wildfire. Photos by CORY YOUNG/Tulsa World

BY SUSAN HYLTON | WORLD STAFF WRITER

MANNFORD — Countless acts of kindness and generosity have poured out since devastating wildfires swept through Creek County on Aug. 3, destroying 376 homes and leaving more than 100 Mannford and Olive school children homeless.

Individuals, neighbors, businesses, churches and local, tribal, state and federal entities have emptied their pantries, closets and wallets because it was the right thing to do, but also because it made them feel better in

response to the human suffering they saw.

Some took in a family or abandoned pet. Others let homeless families stay in their personal travel trailers or provided meals.

Some gave thousands of dollars to the relief effort and challenged others to give more.

There were also plenty of hugs and prayers to go around.

READ THEIR STORIES ON A8.

What they saved

See portraits of evacuees and the prized possessions they saved from the fires. **D6**

SEE **LOAN** A4

Today High 87, Low 72



Showers, t-storm. **More weather on D10**

Get more weather coverage and check out our weather blog at tulsaworld.com/weather

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