

Wiser'n barn full o' night-school owls Former Tulsan compiles and designs a 'Redneck' manifesto

By **MARK BROWN**
World Design Editor

Unlike with, say, Hank Williams Jr., take off Jaimie Muehlhausen's hat and shave his beard and you might just recognize him. He's a Tulsa Memorial grad, class of '79, who also played a little baseball at Oklahoma State University.

Though any familiarity may end there, keep looking and you'll see him all over the place. A West Coast graphic designer, he's drawn logos for Slim Jim and Hershey's, and produced a textile design for a line of Playboy clothing. Plus he's also got a slew of projects that are less ubiquitous but no less impressive.

Newest of them all is a book, "Redneck Words of Wisdom," a 144-page cheat sheet for conversational redneck. It's a snazzy hardcover — the author designed it himself — of 500-some sayings under 33 chapter headings, such teasers as "Multigenital Animals," "Measure Twice, Cut Once" and the alluring "That's Just Pathetic," which offers this nugget:

"He'd steal the bride off a nightmare." Translation: He's got sticky fingers.

Like any good redneck, Muehlhausen tends to double up on jobs. He's got his hands in so much these days that it's probably a good idea to just list them, him being a hometown boy and all. How does he get her all done?

Said Muehlhausen: "Yeah, I don't sleep as much as normal people do."

Enter the Jaimie Muehlhausen file. All quotes are his.

Home: Vista, Calif. Between Los Angeles and San Diego. "North County, it's known as." He moved there in 1987. A few years earlier, he'd moved his sister, Jill, to college at San Diego State. He called his dad and said he might just have to follow baby sis out west. "All the little beach communities back then, it was so inviting. Now it's completely overgrown. It might be time to move on, actually."

Family: He's on his second marriage, has a 17-year-old

Online

Any idea what "If it harelips every cow in Texas" refers to? Muehlhausen doesn't either. E-mail your own batch of wisdom to redneck@tulsaworld.com. We'll post a best-of, and keep it PG.

Barbed quips

It gets kind of potty-mouthed at times; it wouldn't be redneck if it didn't. But here are five pieces of wisdom worthy of printin' on a Sunday:

"Two can live as cheap as one if one don't eat."

"That'll go over like a pregnant pole vaulter."

"He's all hat and no cattle."

"That girl is as ugly as homemade soap."

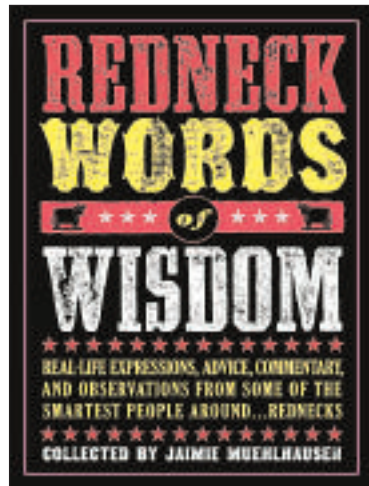
"It's hotter than hell and half of Georgia."

daughter, Josie, plus "a 4-year-old (Stella) and a 2-year-old (Milo)." His wife, Jessica, is from South Carolina. Good redneck country.

First art job: Airwalk, a board-sport footwear company. In the heyday of that popular gear company, he handled "every creative aspect." Airwalk had barely launched. "They had this idea they could market shoes for skateboarders." He dropped his other job pronto. "I was working for 7-Eleven. Literally, in a 7-11 store. My dad owned some in Tulsa and he got me the job. I took a \$6,000 payout to go to Airwalk."

First art director job: Snowboarder magazine, for about six years. Then onto Bikini, a culture magazine from the publishers of Raygun. But it was Skateboarder magazine where he met the great Tony Hawk, then just a little hellion on wheels. (See "Big Break" below.)

A wave of dog coms: Before the dot com boom went bust, he helped build a host of a surfing Web sites — Swell, Monster-skate, Crossrocket and Surfline. Surfline.com even won a few Webby awards. "It's where all the surfers go when they wake up. They come to see the wave



Redneck Words of Wisdom

COLLECTED BY

JAIMIE MUEHLHAUSEN

(Chronicle Books, \$12.95)

forecasts all over the world."

Big break: Joined Tony Hawk Inc. in 2002 as creative director and brand manager. Tony Hawk is a big deal. "He's still the face of skateboarding. If he were competing now, he'd be winning. He's still that good." Hawk, for the uninitiated, invented the "900," a skateboard move that involves more airborne rotations than a big-league curveball.

Tony Hawk is Wayne Gretsky on wheels. The Tony Hawk video game has sold more than a billion copies worldwide, Muehlhausen said. There's even a Hawk clothing line via Kohl's department store. "He's an industry — the face of action sports. What you call *extreme* sports." (To see a proper "900," go to tonyhawk.com and click on the video button.)

Men Who Look Like Kenny Rogers: "It all started as a joke. I was out with some friends and this guy walked past us on the street. I said, 'Hey, check it out: It's 'The Gambler.' I thought at the time it would make a great art installation. Then two years later the Web came along."

He found inspiration — didn't we all? — in the mullet sites of the mid-'90s. "I sent the link to



Courtesy

In 2001, former Tulsan Jaimie Muehlhausen created a popular Web site called "Men Who Look Like Kenny Rogers." It took off.

five friends and it snowballed. I remember laughing out loud when I got a hundred hits."

Then he got 16,000 in one day. "Kenny Rogers" made Time, People, National Enquirer. "Jay Leno had Harry Shearer on one night and he said it was the funniest thing he'd seen all year." (menwholooklikekennyrogers.com)

Muehlhausen music: He fronts a band called Jensen and the Smallpox Mountain Boys. Jensen music is alt-country. "No Depression kind of stuff," he said, citing the magazine of Americana and roots music. He

records Jensen out of his house. Trade secret: "There really aren't any Smallpox Mountain Boys."

On a guy who sort of looks like Kenny Rogers: Jensen once opened for Leon Russell at the Belly Up Tavern in Solana Beach, a hot, San Diego-area live spot. "For people on their way up, and people on their way down." After the gig, he went backstage to meet Russell. "I wanted to shake his hand. I told his manager I was from Tulsa. He said, 'Holy —, don't mention Tulsa, he'll freak out. He hates Tulsa.'"

The book: Tony Hawk's

brother, a writer, had a signing party and Muehlhausen met his editor. He let go with a redneck phrase. Then another. "She said, 'That's a book.' Four days later, I had a deal. Until then, redneck was a spoken-word thing. Nobody had written it all down."

And that's how you take a Web project to print. "Also, the cool thing now is, I'm going to design some books for Chronicle. It couldn't have worked out better."

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at the library

Children's author to receive award

Mark your calendars for Aug. 24, 2007, as world-renowned author Kate DiCamillo is coming to Tulsa to accept the Tulsa Library Trust's 2007 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature.

An enchanting, gifted storyteller, DiCamillo is the author of several works for children and young adults, including "Because of Winn-Dixie," a Newbery Honor book; "The Tiger Rising," a National Book Award finalist; and "The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup and a Spool of Thread," winner of the 2003 Newbery Medal.

DeCamillo recently completed a

series of early chapter books about a pig named Mercy Watson who is fond of toast, and her newest title, "Mercy Watson Fights Crime," was just released.

She won the 2006 Boston Globe Horn Book Award for "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane," the tale of a porcelain rabbit.

Teachers can help prepare their students for DiCamillo's visit to Tulsa by attending the Tulsa World's teacher workshop for "Mr. Henry's Books" from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 20, at Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.

Award-winning teachers and media specialists will present classroom

lessons and activities focused on DiCamillo's "Because of Winn-Dixie." Workshop participants will receive 35 free copies of "Because of Winn-Dixie" to give to their students. Plus, one lucky teacher will win a classroom visit by DiCamillo while she is in Tulsa to accept the Zarrow award.

The workshop is recommended for fourth- through eighth-grade teachers. Teachers must be employed by a school district within Tulsa County. Cost to attend the workshop is \$10 and includes refreshments, materials, newspapers and the teacher's guide.

Registration forms for the work-

shop will be available from the Tulsa World starting Dec. 10. To register by phone, call the Tulsa World Educational Services office at 581-8592.

DiCamillo will receive the Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature at 7 p.m. on Aug. 24, 2007, at Central Library, Fourth Street and Denver Avenue. The award consists of a \$7,500 cash prize and an engraved crystal book.

The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation funds "Mr. Henry's Books." For more information about "Mr. Henry's Books" or the Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature, call 596-7977.

Melinda Adwon, chairwoman of the Tulsa Library Trust's 2007 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature event, prepares copies of Kate DiCamillo's "Because of Winn-Dixie" to give to area teachers who attend the "Mr. Henry's Books" teacher workshop in January.



SHERRY BROWN / Tulsa World

Magical Mitford

Fans get chance to meet bestselling author Jan Karon; Quilts book documents story of state's history

Nationally recognized author Jan Karon is best remembered for her series of books on the fictional town of Mitford, N.C., featuring a delightful roster of inhabitants whose adventures keep readers coming back for more.

Tulsans will have a chance to meet Karon during a book signing Sunday from 2-5:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 5231 E. 41st St. However, she will sign only 300 books.

The Mitford stories, which center on Father Tim Kavanagh, an Episcopal priest, bring together the timeless values of neighborliness, religious faith and a sense of community.

Fans were delighted to learn Karon will follow the Mitford books with a new series, launching in 2007, focusing on Father Tim and his wife Cynthia.

In the meantime, Karon has compiled "The Mitford Beside Companion," a tome that allows

readers to revisit some of their favorite stories in Mitford, or hear Uncle Billy's jokes, read some of the best scripture quotes, or work Mitford crossword puzzles and try recipes.

100 years of quilts

Author and quilter Judy Howard of Oklahoma City has compiled "Centennial Stitches: Oklahoma History in Quilts" (Dorcas Publishing, \$39.95) as part of the state's historical celebration.

Howard will sign copies of her book at two locations Saturday. From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., she will hold a quilt show, storytelling and book signing at Material Girls, 4734 S. Peoria Ave.

From 2-4 p.m. she will do the same in Broken Arrow at the Book Place, 732 W. New Orleans, Suite 136.

The quilts in the book bring with them personal stories. There is an eagle appliqued quilt

with a top made in the 1860 by actress Kristen Chenoweth's great-great-great grandmother and given to her Civil War soldier son before it was later brought to Indian Territory during the 1889 land run.

There is a quilt designed by Oklahoma sculptor Willard Stone as well as one made for the Tulsa Centennial, filled with appliques and real items symbolizing the city, made by Betty Fisher of the Green Country Quilt Guild.

There are a pair of red tulip quilts made by the wife of "Alfalfa Bill" Murray, the first speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 1907 and later governor of the state from 1931-35, and an appliqued butterfly quilt by the Jenks High School class of 1929.

The book is filled with more than 100 color photos of quilts celebrating state history, people and events. From hand-me-

downs that came with tales of family to brand spanking new quilts designed by 7-year-olds, this book is a look at history from an unusual perspective.

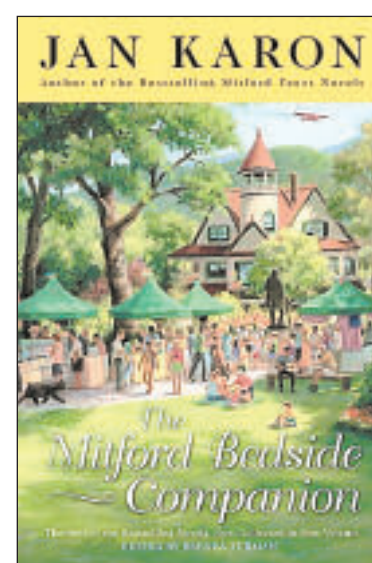
Formatting a manuscript

Author Sandra Wagner, an expert in technology management, will conduct a workshop on using Microsoft Word to format a manuscript at the meeting of Romance Writers Ink, at 1 p.m. Saturday in the North Hall Conference Room, Room 260, on the Oklahoma State University-Tulsa campus, 700 N. Greenwood Ave.

Workshop participants will discover what editors and agents expect in readability and how to automate their work using templates and shortcuts.

Wagner will share the secrets of using styles, spell check, auto correct and auto text to save time and keystrokes.

The meeting is open to writ-



ers. For information, e-mail: jackiekramer7@netscape.com.

Tulsa's public art

Tulsa architect John Brooks

Walton will discuss his latest book, "The Artwork of Tulsa: A Centennial Collection" and sign copies during an event set for Nov. 12 at Philbrook Museum of Art, 2727 S. Rockford Ave. Walton will talk from 2-3 p.m. with the signing continuing until 5 p.m.

For the book, Walton sought out familiar and unfamiliar works of art located on public properties. He also gives the story behind the selection and design of each piece.

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