

## From the Publisher

# Launch Pad FT helps new businesses

Did you start a new business in 2016 or are you planning on starting one in 2017? If you even have a hope of starting a new business soon, The Launch Pad FT, part of the Francis Tuttle businesses center located in Edmond, has a great way for you to get started.



**Ray Hibbard**

They are offering some basic classes at their business incubator that are a must for new business owners or anyone with the idea of starting a business. These classes are a good way for you to get started or even back up and re-launch a business that is struggling to get going. You can count on them being candid and helpful in their approach.

The Launch Pad FT, OSBDC, REI Women's Business Center and SCORE are offering a must workshop. It is called Starting and Running Your Own Business. This is a four-hour workshop to help you decide if starting a business is right for you and, if so, what to do. Additionally, available federal, state and local resources to assist you will be discussed.

Topics include common start-up business questions, business plans, how to register a business in Oklahoma, analyzing and choosing business structures and basic business financial and sources of financing. They will be offering several dates for these workshops but the first one is Jan. 12 at the Francis Tuttle Business Innovation Center at I-35 and Covell. The next one is March 9 at Francis Tuttle Tech Center on Rockwell. This workshop basically happens every other month at one of the Francis Tuttle locations. The cost is \$20 and you can register by going to [www.REIWBC.org](http://www.REIWBC.org).

The Launch Pad FT will be hosting an event called Tax Strategies for Small Business or Can you avoid Death and Taxes? It will be held Jan. 19, 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at one of their popular launch and learn type programs. It will be at the Francis Tuttle Business Innovation center and participants are welcome to bring their own brown bag lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided. The seminar is free.

You have heard the adage about taxes and death. It's true, these are two things in life that we cannot avoid. However, many small business owners are not aware that the tax codes allow you to legally reduce your tax liability.

In this session, you will learn strategies for effectively managing your taxes. Learn how your choice of legal structure can affect your taxes as well as your capital structure. Learn ways to manage tax payments to avoid penalties and maximize cash flow. Learn about common business deductions, required record keeping and how retirement plans can be used to reduce your tax.

The guest speaker is Amber D. Hite, CPA, Director for Client Services at Larry K. Anderson, PC. Hite began working for Larry K. Anderson P.C. in September 2013 as the Client Services Director. After nearly five years in public accounting and more than 15 years as a Controller for various types of small businesses, she has a

broad perspective and unique qualifications to serve the firm's clients. Hite graduated from William Jewell College in Missouri with a bachelor's in Accounting. To reserve your seat or for more information, call Connie Hamett at 405-717-7730

The third program is set for Jan. 27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is a Small Business Administration sponsored event called Meet the Lenders. It is a small business lender/borrower matchmaking and resource event. You will be able to meet with 15 banks and other lenders to discuss your plans for seeking funding. Starting a business means using more capital than you probably planned for in the first place. It is also the reason most businesses fail. You need to have that capital in place to get through the first few years and then to grow.

Presenters will cover funding for business start-ups, expansions, modernization, working capital, refinancing and commercial real estate. It will be a one-stop forum for business owners and entrepreneurs to pitch financing needs to multiple lenders in scheduled one-on-one 15 minute sessions.

You will also be able to access business advisory services of invited resource organizations such as SBA, SCORE, Small Business Development Center, Women's Business Center, CareerTech Chambers of Commerce, FDIC, USDA and more. The location will be at the Francis Tuttle Technology Center, 2814 Progressive Drive, Cross Timbers Room, second floor. Prospective borrowers will need to go to a special web site to register. There is no charge for this event.

Our friend Fred Green is the director of The Launch Pad FT at Francis Tuttle. He has been located and working with the Francis Tuttle Business Innovation Center at I-35 and Covell even before it was finished being built. I have an incredible amount of respect for Fred and the work he does. Not only is his knowledge through the roof in this area but he has a great method of communication with clients of the Business Incubator on site.

Sometimes new business owners must have some tough love and Fred provides it in a constructive way. So many folks want to start their own business but many times they don't have a clue on how to run the "business" part of their business. Fred provides that expertise and resources for them.

I know all too well the trials and difficulties in starting a new business. Being experienced in your craft and an accountant to boot made it easier but we still needed plenty of help. Great mentors in my life bridged the gap of not having Fred and the Francis Tuttle Business Center around but now budding entrepreneurs have this great resource and should take advantage of it.

If I have totally confused you as to dates and registration for these workshops or for more information as to what is offered, you can go to [www.launchpadft.org](http://www.launchpadft.org) or call (405) 717-4947

### What is a dumpster fire?

Per *Time Magazine*, the American Dialect Society picked their "Word of the Year." Some or-

ganizations come out with such a thing before the end of the year but not this one which originated the annual selection like 27 years ago,

Their look back on the year FOR 2016 is "Dumpster Fire." It is used as a noun and describes an exceedingly disastrous or chaotic situation. "As a metaphor for a situation that is out of control or poorly handled, dumpster fire came into prominence in 2016," the organization wrote in a press release, "very frequently in the context of the U.S. presidential campaign."

My problem with their choice is that this really isn't a word. I would call it a phrase of the year but I get their point. I can't say that it is a bad choice given the 2016 political year we just went through.

Dictionary.com chose xenophobia. The word has two definitions on the site, both reflecting the fearful sentiments that aired during the Brexit vote, the American election, the debates over what to do with Syrian refugees, racially charged police shootings and even fights over which bathrooms' transgender people should be using in public. It is defined as fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign.

In addition to voting for a word of the year for the 27th time, the society also chose winners in several subcategories:

**Political Word of the Year:** post-truth—"belonging to a time in which facts matter less than beliefs and emotions"

**Digital Word of the Year:** @ (as a verb)—"reply on Twitter using the @ symbol"

**Slang Word of the Year:** woke—"socially aware or enlightened"

**Most Useful Word of the Year:** gaslight—"psychologically manipulate a person into questioning their own sanity"

**Most Creative Word of the Year:** laissez-fairyst—magical effect brought upon by laissez-faire economics

**Euphemism of the Year:** locker-room banter—lewd, vulgar talk (used by Trump to downplay Access Hollywood tape), euphemizing discourse about harassment of and aggression toward women

**"WTF" Word of the Year:** bigly—in a significant manner (from widespread mishearing of Trump's use of big-league)

**Hashtag of the Year:** #NoDAPL—protest construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline

**Emoji of the Year:** —fire (meaning "lit" exciting)

Let's all pray for a kinder and more gentle 2017!

(Ray Hibbard, publisher of Edmond Life & Leisure newspaper, may be reached at [ray@edmondpaper.com](mailto:ray@edmondpaper.com))

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## Art Contest

This is our new hidden art, Dancing Triangles, a stainless steel piece by Kevin Robb located at the entrance to Fox Lake Plaza on Second Street near I-35. The piece was originally purchased by Fox Lake Development LLC and partnering funds with Edmond Visual Arts Commission in October 2006. Darrell Davis, one of our city councilmen loves several of the art pieces in Edmond; however he picked Dancing Triangles as one of his favorites. "Dancing Triangles has the look of strength and power. When you look at it from different angles you get a different perspective. It is also a great entry piece on such a busy intersection at 2nd and I-35. Calm before the storm!"

Find Dancing Triangles hidden in our paper to be entered in a weekly drawing. Starting this week, please send all entries to [contest@edmondpaper.com](mailto:contest@edmondpaper.com) to be entered.



THE EDMOND PAPER

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