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Downtown **OKC** honorees named

For 28 years, Downtown Oklahoma City Inc. has honored the late Dean A. McGee for his dedication to the better ment of the area. A dinner named for his outstanding contributions serves as the setting for naming individuals who have

supported downtown Oklahoma City. The 28th dinner will be May 13 at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel, Tradition has been broken for this year's induction ceremony, with four individuals being recognized.

The traditional three awards and the recipients are Dean A. McGee Award for a lifetime of excellence in downtown Oklahoma City, Mayor **Mick Cornett**; Stanley Draper Award for community excellence in downtown Oklahoma City, Joel Levine; and Neal Horton Award for renaissance of a downtown Oklahoma City area, Tom Ward. And the traditionbreaker is the new President's Award. which will go to Steve Lackmeyer

Obviously, Cornett's career is as mayor of Oklahoma City and Levine has brought magical music to the city with the Oklahoma City Philharmoni

Ward brought new beauty to the downtown landscape and Lackmeyer has used his newspaper column to promote downtown, as well Midtown and Uptown.

Complimentary valet parking will be available at the hotel for those attending the black-tie event, which will begin with cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.

A highlight will be the showing of a special interview with McGee, who is quoted as having said emphatically: "Let's make downtown a people place."

Dinner reservations are priced at \$3.750 for a preferred table for eight guests; \$2,750 for a table for eight; and \$250 for an individual seating. For reser vations, email rsvp@DowntownOKC.com or mail a check payable to Downtown OKC Initiatives Inc. to 211 N. Robinson Ave., Suite 225, Oklahoma City 73102.

Celebrate Shakespeare

Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park will celebrate William Shakespeare's 450th birthday Wednesday on the second-floor rotunda of the state Capitol from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All of Shakespeare's 154 sonnets will be read, in order, for the enjoyment of all who pass by. The reading of the SonnetAthon is in its fourth year. Students of all ages will be welcome

Shakespeare in the Park also will be offering a camp session from June 23-27 for students between the ages of 13 and 18. Daily performance opportunities for all ages are planned.

Briefs

Demo done



Tulsa-based Flintco has completed demolition on two floors of downtown Tulsa's 135,000-square-foot Central Library, with two more underway, said Gary Shaffer, CEO of the 24-branch Tulsa City-County Public Library system. During a Friday tour of the construction site, Shaffer said he foresees a spring 2016 reopening for what had been the organization's busiest facilities. ity, with more than 400,000 visitors each year. The 49-year-old structure will retain the overhanging canopy and dramatic support columns designed by original architects Charles W. Ward and Joseph Koberling, while modernizing its environme tal systems and infrastructure. COURTESY PHOTO BY JOHN FAM

OU to present honorary degrees

NORMAN - Four individuals and University of Oklahoma commence

Wendy Kopp is being awarded honorary degrees at OU's 2014 com mencement cere mony set for 7 p.m. May 9 at the Gaylord Family -Memorial Stadium

in Norman Kopp is CEO and co-founder of Teach For All and founder and chair-

In addition to Kopp, honorary degrees will be presented to **Bill Anoatubby**, governor of the Chickasaw Nation: Gary A. England, longtime chief meteorologist with KWTV Channel 9 in Oklahoma City: Jesus E. Medina, a leader in establishing the head and neck cancer program at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center; and Bill D. Saxon. founder of Saxon Oil.

Transco pipeline fully subscribed

TULSA - Williams Partners said that its Transco pipeline system received binding commitments from shippers for 100 percent of the 448,000 dekatherms of firm transportation

capacity under its Dalton Expansion

The project would provide access to Marcellus shale gas supplies to customers in northwest Georgia.

"The Dalton Expansion Project is one of six large-volume projects Transco is pursuing to connect approximately 3.4 million dekatherms of natural gas from surging supplies in the northeast to high-value growth markets in the southeast." said Rory Miller, senior vice president of Tulsa based Williams Partners' Atlantic. Gulf operating area. "By year-end 2017, we expect to add more than 50 percent to Transco's system capacity with mainline expansions that

See BRIEFS, PAGE 5

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Briefs

BRIEFS

include the Dalton Expansion Project, Atlantic Sunrise, Leidy Southeast, Virginia Southside and others to meet the increasing demand for natural gas

in the region."

Transco delivers natural gas to customers through its 10,200-mile pipeline network whose mainline extends nearly 1,800 miles between south Texas and New York City.

The Dalton Expansion Project includes an expansion of Transco's mainline from New Jersey to points as far south as Holmesville, Miss., and a new 106-mile lateral pipeline from Transco's Station 115 to Murray

Calpine selling six power plants

HOUSTON - Independent power producer Calpine said Friday it will sell six power plants in the Southeast to New York-based LS Power for \$1.57 billion.

LS Power is buying the Oneta Energy Center in Coweta, Okla.; the Carville Energy Center in St. Gabriel, La.; the Decatur Energy Center in Decatur, Ala.; the Hog Bayou Energy Center in Mobile, Ala.; the Santa Rosa Energy Center in Pace, Fla.; and the Columbia Energy Center in Calhoun County, S.C. Oneta is the largest of the six power

plants, with capacity of 1,134 megawatts. Calpine expects the sale to close during the second quarter. It expects to gain \$100 million to its adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation

and amortization from the sale in 2014 The Houston company said it wants to focus on its plants in the western U.S., Texas and the eastern U.S. it still has four natural-gas-fired power plants in Arkansas, Alabama, and Florida and plans to continue pursuing contract and sale options for those facilities.

Restoration of building steps completed

SHAWNEE - St. Gregory's University in Shawnee said it has completed restoration work on the front steps of its historic Benedictine Hall, which was damaged by an earthquake in 2011

The magnitude 5.6 temblor rocked the tiny campus in central Oklahoma damaging the building that opened in 1915 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Since then, the campus community has embarked on a multiyear construction project to reconstruct the dam-

The front steps of Benedictine Hall were reconstructed down to the foun-

Harley Lingerfelt is vice president of Operations for St. Gregory's. He said campus officials are pleased the project was completed before May's convocation so graduating students can stand on the steps with their classmates to

Violinist Midori to perform in Edmond



Violinist Midori will perform a solo recital at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Armstrong of her longtime pianist, Ozgur Aydin, Midori began performing at the age of 11 whe she was asked to substitute at the last minute for the New York Philharmonic I Year's Eve concert in 1982. For information, visit www.armstrongauditorium.org.

Military Hall of Fame moves

OKLAHOMA CITY - The Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame has a new home at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. Created in 1999, the hall of fame,

operated by the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation, has been housed the past several years at Oklahoma Christian University but there was no available space to display photographs and information on the inductees

During the past year, the foundation had an opportunity to become part of the Oklahoma History Center, where there is a place to display the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame and its inductees, said Mai, Gen. (Ret.) Bradley Gambill, president of the

A kiosk containing information and photographs on the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame is now operational in the military portion of the third floor of the Oklahoma History Center, Gambill said.

Dan Provo director of the Oklahoma History Center, said this addition of the military heritage foundation increases the efficiency of the history center.

"The partnership is important because we can help keep the story of the Military Hall of Fame and people alive so people will remember and don't forget (the hall of fame mem bers)," he said.

Each year the volunteers of the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation have a banquet to induct former and current members of the armed forces into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame.

This year's banquet will be Nov. 8 at the Tower Hotel, formerly the Marriott Hotel, at 3233 Northwest Expressway.

Watonga prison lays off nearly 100 employees WATONGA - A privately run prison in

Watonga is laying off nearly 100 of its

The Diamondback Correctional Facility has been vacant since 2010 when the state of Arizona opted not to renew its contract with the prison. The prison is run by Corrections Corporation of America.

Eight months ago, CCA hired about 100 employees in hopes of getting a new contract with the state of California. But CCA spokesman Steve Owens said the company didn't win the contract.

Owens said most of the affected employees will be offered positions at the company's other facilities, CCA also operates the Cimarron Correctiona Facility in Cushing, the North Fork Correctional Center in Sayre and the Davis Correctional Center in Holdenville.

SW Okla, procurement seminar set

LAWTON - The Southwest Oklahoma Procurement Seminar is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 29 at Great

Plains Technology Center in Lawton. The seminar is being presented by the Oklahoma Bid Assistance Network Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Lawton-Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce and Great Plains, Red River, Western and Southwest technology centers.

Federal agencies, military contractors and other prime contractors including Fort Sill Altus Air Force Base Shennar Air Force Base, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Tulsa District, Corvias Military Living, Small Business Administration, Oklahoma Bid Assistance Network and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation will meet with participants.

Seminar registration is \$15 and can be made by calling the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce at (580) 355-

Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association to meet

GUTHRIE - The Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association's luncheon and quarterly board of directors meeting is scheduled at 11:30 a.m. May 9 at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie.

Capt. **Jerry Flowers** of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Investigative Services will be the luncheon speaker For information, visit www.ok cattlemen.org. - Staff reno

Norman company wins business award

NORMAN - The U.S. Chamber of Commerce named 1st Oklahoma Construction of Norman a Blue Ribbon Small Business Award winner.

The annual program selected 1st Oklahoma Construction from a record number of applicants across the nation for demonstrating exceptional business practices in strategic planning, employee development, community involvement and customer service.

The chamber will honor all of this vear's Blue Ribbon Small Business Award winners at the 10th annual America's Small Business Summit June 11-13 in Washington, D.C.