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June 2022

Broadway in Bartlesville! 2022-2023 Season



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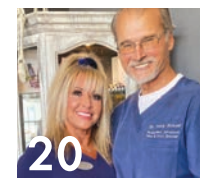
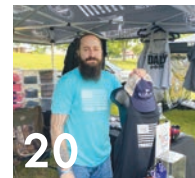


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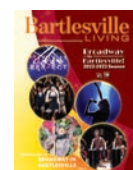
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About the cover:
Check out the new season lineup for Broadway in Bartlesville!
Design by Copper Cup Images



Teehee Tough as Nails on Crime

Special to Bartlesville Living

Johnny Teehee is running for election to the U.S. House to represent Oklahoma's 2nd Congressional District. He is on the ballot for the Republican primary on June 28.

When elected, Teehee will be the only Republican in Congress to have served as chief of police. He will be in the unique position to bring his firsthand law enforcement experience to that body.

"He will fight to secure our southern border, as he has dealt with the consequences of illegal drugs infiltrating our communities," according to his campaign website, www.johnnyteehee.com. He also understands the real consequences of the defund the police movement as they struggle to recruit new officers.

Teehee's story is one of triumph over obstacles, sticking to principles, and giving back to his community.

After returning from serving in Vietnam, Teehee's father turned to alcohol and his mother and stepdad turned to drugs. As a result, from the age of seven, Teehee was raised by his grandparents, both full-blood Cherokees, in a small home that shook when the train literally went through their backyard.

After high school, Teehee joined the local police force while going to college. He soon found himself recruited to Muskogee, where he has served on the force for 35 years, quickly rising through the ranks. In 2001 Teehee graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA, and in 2018 he was named Chief of Police in Muskogee, the largest community in the congressional district.



ogee, the largest community in the congressional district.

As the head of law enforcement, Teehee understands the importance of prevention. He helps lead the fight against crime using athletics, in particular football, as a way for local police officers to connect with youth. Even as Chief of Police, he continues to find time to coach high school football. His success and faith led to his being named the Fellowship of Christian Athletes All-State Football Coach for 2020-2021.

Teehee has been an active member of First Baptist Church of Muskogee for more than 30 years, serving on the International Mission Board, and teaching Sunday School. He and his wife, Kim, have six children and just welcomed their first grandchild.

Tough On Crime. Even Tougher On Joe Biden.

I've put my life on the line protecting my community from criminals. Now it's time to protect Americans and the American Dream from the liberals in Congress.

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Teehee CONGRESS

- Stop the Southern Invasion
- Support & Fund the Police
- Protect Parents' Rights & End "Woke" Policies
- Protect our 2nd Amendment Rights
- Protect the Unborn



Meet Johnny Teehee

Johnny Teehee is currently the Chief of Police in Muskogee. He has been a police officer for 35 years including being a graduate of the FBI National Academy at Quantico.

In addition to his law enforcement duties, Johnny is a high school football position coach for Vian High School. His success and faith led to his being named the Fellowship of Christian Athletes All-State Football Coach for 2020-2021.

Johnny has been an active member of the First Baptist Church of Muskogee for more than 30 years, serving on the International Mission Board, and teaching Sunday School. He and his wife Kim have 6 children and just welcomed their first grandchild.

Learn More About Republican Johnny Teehee at www.JohnnyTeehee.com | PO Box 1942 | Muskogee, OK 74402 | (918) 351-1322 | Info@JohnnyTeehee.com



Host a Gathering at Guns of Glory

by Deanna Evans

Aiming to have a blast? Book your next event at Guns of Glory, a business located in Dewey that features an indoor firing range and ProShop.

Guns of Glory is a perfect venue for a bachelor party, birthday celebration, military reunion, team building event, retirement party, and a great bonding experience. The venue can provide a place for friendly competition to fully immersive training.

Guns of Glory provides professional instructors in a structured environment and will customize the experience to meet your requests. Let them help make your ideas a reality.

Owner Daniel Dawson aims to provide a fun-filled, family-friendly environment for people to train and practice their skills with firearms. "We are pro-family, pro-Christ, pro-law enforcement, and pro-military here at Guns of Glory," said Daniel, who has surrounded himself with well-qualified, passionate instructors who have those same goals in mind.

Instructor Eric Fuson, an International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) national championship winner, said he is happy to be a part of the Guns of Glory team. "I'm really excited to be doing what I truly love, one-on-one sales and training with my customers," said Eric. "Recreational shooting and training are fun for the whole family."

Eric has more than 20 years of experience in the firearms industry in sales and customer service. He has achieved many high rankings in competition and has been a professional firearms instructor since 2004. He is classified by IDPA as a Distinguished Master, because he has "made a great personal commitment to reaching the very highest levels of skill and proficiency with a handgun," according to IDPA. To reach this level a competitor must have spent considerable time and effort at refining their abilities. As such, the requirements for being inducted into this classification are very stringent.

Eric has more than 70 state, regional, and national championship wins in IDPA and more than a dozen in the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA). "I am a passionate outdoorsman, hunter, and fisherman, and have also been active in archery, primitive arms, and shotgun competitions over the years, as well," said Eric.

He has held armorer's certificates for Glock, Smith and Wesson, Remington and Colt (1911 and AR15). Eric has two primary firearms that he uses. The first is the CQB Elite in 9mm and 45

with adjustable rear sight, fiber optic front, 30LPI checkering under the trigger guard, and a standard speed chute magazine well. The second is a custom-built STI 2011 with all Wilson Combat parts in .40 cal fixed sights fiber optic.

Guns of Glory offers several ways to shoot at their indoor range. They have just introduced their brand-new punch cards for either six- or 12-lane passes that can be shared with whomever the purchaser chooses and has no expiration date. These cards also bring great savings. The six-punch card gives you one free trip, while the 12-punch card gives you three. Single-day passes and annual memberships are offered for individuals and families, and discount memberships for heroes, teachers, and seniors. Hero Memberships include police, fire, EMS, active and retired military, CLEET Licensed Armed Security, educators, and seniors over the age of 70.

Guns of Glory's outdoor range will be opening in the summer.

Steel Grace, Guns of Glory's ladies only membership, meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month, with six-month memberships beginning at only \$75.

Individual membership is \$350 annually and includes the following benefits: No lane fees, 10 percent discount on Pro Shop purchases (excluding firearms, training, and rentals), and wait list priority. Family membership is \$450 annually and provides the same benefits as individual membership. It is applicable to all family members in the immediate household. Those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult member. Hero membership is \$300 and includes all the benefits of the individual membership.

The ProShop continually has new stock arriving and special orders being placed. They carry ammo, firearms, holsters and various accessories. Gift certificates are available.

Guns of Glory offers both private and group classes for various types of firearms and skill levels. Check out the complete list of courses on Facebook, at Guns of Glory, Oklahoma or even better, stop by and see them! Guns of Glory Proshop and Indoor Range is located at 427 S. Osage Ave., in Dewey. For more information, call 918-534-8758 between the hours of 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, or visit them on the web at gogok2a.com.

For more information about Guns of Glory, call 918-534-8758 or visit the website at www.gogok2a.com.



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RESPECT

Sunday, November 13, 2022

Broadway
= in =
Bartlesville!
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Chicago

Thursday, March 16, 2023



On Your Feet!

Saturday, February 4, 2023



Madagascar, The Musical

Thursday, June 15, 2023



STOMP

April 2023

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www.bartlesvillecommunitycenter.com

Dates and times subject to change.
Shows may contain language or adult situations.

Broadway in Bartlesville!

2022-2023 Season Tickets Now on Sale

by Deanna Evans

The Center for arts, events, and community has unveiled the 20th season of Broadway in Bartlesville! and season tickets are available.

"Each year, our audiences look forward to the latest traveling Broadway shows coming to the Bartlesville stage, and the anticipation of the new season announcement is always a big day for next year's ticket buyers," said Val Callaghan, managing director of the The Center and Unity Square.

"Something for everyone" is the goal of the five yearly productions, and this season is no exception.

The 2022-2023 Broadway in Bartlesville! season lineup includes the following shows: *R.E.S.P.E.C.T.* on November 13, *On Your Feet* on February 4, *Chicago* on March 14, *STOMP* on April 3, and *Madagascar the Musical* on June 15, 2023.

Season tickets are on sale now and range from \$115 to \$345 for all five shows in the line-up. Reserved seats for current season subscribers will be guaranteed until August 12. Single tickets will be on sale September 6. New orders will be processed after all current subscribers have the opportunity to renew and/or change their current seats. Submitting an order today is the best way to secure your place in line to open seats, once the new subscriptions begin.

R.E.S.P.E.C.T. - Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022, Rated PG

R.E.S.P.E.C.T. is the ultimate tribute to the legendary Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin. The elevated concert experience brings a community together with timeless music that speaks to the complicated human condition, honoring the impassioned and transcendent music of one of America's most beloved singer-songwriter. Rejoice while you are taken on an intimate musical odyssey guaranteed to get you up and out of your seat and dancing! The production journeys through Aretha Franklin's courageous life of love, tragedy and triumph starring a live band, supreme vocalists, and a night full of music by one of the greatest artists of all time.

On Your Feet! - Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, Rated PG-13

On Your Feet! Is the inspiring true story about heart, heritage and two people who believed in their talent - and each other - to become an international sensation: Gloria and Emilio Estefan. Now their story is an all-new exhilarating original musical, winning the hearts of critics and audiences alike. This crowd-pleasing show features songs like "Rhythm is Gonna Get You," "Conga," "Get On Your Feet," "Don't Want To Lose You Now," "1-2-3" and "Coming Out of the Dark." Prepare to be on your feet from start to finish!

Chicago - Thursday, March 16, 2023, PG-13+

There's never been a better time to experience CHICAGO, Broadway's razzle-dazzle smash. This triumphant hit musical is the recipient of six Tony Awards®, two Olivier Awards, a Grammy®, thousands of standing ovations and now the #1 longest-running American Musical in Broadway history. CHICAGO has everything that makes Broadway great: a universal tale of fame, fortune and

all that jazz, one show-stopping song after another, and the most astonishing dancing you have ever seen.

STOMP - Monday, April 3, 2023, Rated PG

STOMP is explosive, inventive, provocative, witty, and utterly unique — an unforgettable experience for audiences of all ages. The international percussion sensation has garnered armfuls of awards and rave reviews and has appeared on numerous national television shows. The eight-member troupe uses everything but conventional percussion instruments — matchboxes, wooden poles, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, hubcaps — to fill the stage with magnificent rhythms. Year after year, audiences worldwide keep coming back for more of this pulse-pounding, electrifying show. As the Boston Globe says, "If you haven't seen STOMP, GO! If you have seen it, take someone and share the pleasure!" STOMP. See what all the noise is about.

Madagascar the Musical - Thursday, June 15, 2023, Rated PG

Join Alex, Marty, Melman, and Gloria as they bound out of the zoo and onto the stage in this live musical spectacular. This smash hit musical features all your favorite crack-a-lackin' friends as they escape from their home in New York's Central Park Zoo and find themselves on an unexpected journey to the madcap world of King Julien's Madagascar. This brand-new musical from Dreamworks (*Shrek The Musical*) will leave audiences with no choice but to "Move It, Move It!"

The Center Trust Authority has presented the Broadway in Bartlesville! series since 2002. These shows feature national touring productions for audiences of all ages and bring quality entertainment to many people living in Northeast Oklahoma and Southeast Kansas. Broadway in Bartlesville! has offered plays, operas, musicals, comedies and singing groups that have entertained thousands of ticket holders over the years.

Previous Broadway productions have included such outstanding musicals as *South Pacific*, *Annie*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Cats*, *42nd Street*, *Cinderella*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Nunsense*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Colored Dreamcoat*. Also presented were fabulous shows by *The Ten Tenors*, *Straight No Chaser*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, and *Cirque Dreams*.

For more information or to purchase season tickets, call The Center box office at 918-337-2787. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is only open on the weekends and evenings during concerts and events. The Center is located at 300 SE Adams Blvd., in Bartlesville. You can also visit the Center's website at www.bartlesvillecommunitycenter.com.



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— Regent Bank CEO Sean Kouplen

Regent Bank Adds Manager

Alicia Rush the New Portfolio Manager

by Deanna Evans

Regent Bank's downtown Bartlesville branch welcomed Alicia Rush, of Copan, in May as a portfolio manager.

"Everyone here is great to work beside," she said. "They have all been helpful and welcoming. I look forward to building relationships with our customers and friends."

Rush has 24 years of experience in banking, as a loan officer, loan portfolio manager, teller, new accounts, and back-office operations. In her current role as a portfolio manager, she enjoys helping take care of loan customers, making sure they receive all the benefits they need. She helps to maintain accounts and update documents.

Rush is married to Jason and they have three boys, ages 15, 13, and four. She said they keep her busy. She loves spending time with them outdoors — flying kites, riding bikes, and playing catch. Her husband is a service writer for Honda of Bartlesville.

Regent's downtown Bartlesville branch opened its doors in the challenging year of 2020.

"We believe the greatest opportunity lies during the most challenging times," said Sean Kouplen, Regent Bank Chairman and CEO. "Regent Bank was a \$72 million asset community bank when we purchased it in 2008, and we experienced tremendous growth in 2009 and 2010. As we entered 2022, we surpassed a billion in total assets."

In Kouplen's eyes, that growth depends on supportive relationships, especially in hard times.

"During good times, everyone treats their clients well, and the business or individual has little reason to switch banks. When times are difficult, however, many financial institutions tend to become internally focused, and their customer service suffers. They do not support their clients when they need it most."

Regent specializes in combining state-of-the-art, online mobile



banking tools with a personalized approach, so customers get to know their banker by name. Those relationships have proven crucial during the economic uncertainties this year.

"This is where Regent Bank excels, because our executives are also small business owners, and we understand the issues they are facing. We have always supported our clients through thick and thin," Kouplen said.

The Bartlesville branch — at 422 S. Dewey Ave. — is in the hands of local community fixtures Hank Hamilton, Bartlesville market president; and Charlie Pilkington, vice president/lending.

Kouplen said Regent fits well in Bartlesville because the community values personalized service and community support.

In addition to the business sector, Regent also specializes in non-profit business banking. For non-profits, Regent offers excellent rates and no fees. The bank recently gave away \$50,000 to area non-profits as part of an effort to offset lost revenue during the Covid-19 emergency.

"Giving back to our non-profit community will always be significant to serve those in need," Hamilton said. "Regent focuses on community support, and our local non-profits are essential in helping various segments of the community, county and region. We felt the need to rally behind our non-profits and give back more when more was needed, so it was so fulfilling to be able to spread out \$50,000 across our bank footprint outside of our traditional support to non-profits. Whether it be products and services, financial support or associates giving of their time, Regent will continue to lead in working to better the non-profit community."

In addition to Hamilton and Pilkington, Bartlesville Regent Bank's team members include Jeannie Strachan as executive loan assistant, Trayson Stewart as branch manager, and Amanda Whitworth and Megan Spear as client service specialists.

Regent Bank has eight locations in Nowata, Bartlesville, Tulsa, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma City, Edmond and Springfield, Missouri.

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John M. O'Connor

A Conversation With the State's AG

by Deanna Evans

I recently had the privilege of meeting Oklahoma Attorney General John M. O'Connor. It was an honor he took time away from his busy schedule to speak to me and allow me to get to know him.

It was not the typical politician interview. I wanted to know what makes him tick, what his personality is, and what he believes.

"I don't have a desire to be a career politician," he said. "It's about a mission. It's not about a position or a title." O'Connor is passionate about serving God and the American people. "I don't want to hand this America off to our children and grandchildren," he said.

O'Connor was appointed as Oklahoma's 19th attorney general by Gov. Kevin Stitt on July 23, 2021. "The reason I accepted when Gov. Stitt called me and asked if I'd serve was because I want to fight for America's culture," O'Connor said. "I took the pay cut and opportunity to take the leadership in the state."

O'Connor has practiced law in Oklahoma for over 40 years. Throughout his career, he has primarily focused on civil litigation including complex commercial and insurance litigation. He has also served as outside general counsel for numerous businesses of all sizes. "The Oklahoma Attorney General is basically the lawyer for the State of Oklahoma," he said. "I felt comfortable being the lawyer for the people of Oklahoma."

"It feels like America is the crotchety wooden boat heading to a waterfall that it can't see," he added. "As Americans, we have the choice to surrender to a cultural demise or to fight. I've been a fighter all my life."

A Tulsa native, O'Connor has been married to his wife, Lucia, for 43 years. Lucia was born and raised in Buffalo, Oklahoma. She is a former Miss Oklahoma. Her career has been in marketing and public relations, and she was a promotions director for Discovery Land and also at KRV radio. She graduated from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa with a degree in radio, television, and film. They have four children and 10 grandchildren.

"We met at Oklahoma State University. It was love at first sight," said O'Connor, who is still madly in love with his soulmate. "She's got a heart for people that won't quit. I love that about her. I was drawn to her for the Lord and her heart for people."

O'Connor earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science/public administration from Oklahoma State University and a law degree from the University of Tulsa College of Law. When O'Connor first graduated from TU, he wanted to run for political office. "My wife knew that we wanted to build a family," he said. "She didn't want to be essentially a single mom, so she pointed at a spot in the carpet and said, 'When lightning strikes there, you



can run for a political office."

O'Connor and Lucia waited for their family to be grown before breaking into public service. "After 43 years, we are still crazy about each other and we volunteered for this public service to stand up for the values and principles that have made our nation great," O'Connor said. I told my wife to prepare for 40 days of character assassination based on lies out of my opponent's camp. Instead of telling the voters who he is, they are spending tons of money spreading lies about me. They are insulting Oklahoma voters with

their lies, and our hope and prayers are that the Oklahoma voters see through their lies."

O'Connor and Lucia are both passionate about serving God. "In college, both of us had moved from church-goers to people who love Jesus," he said. "We had gone from seeing religion as an institution to seeing the Gospel as a person. We got around some leaders who encouraged us to peel away our layers and get on the path to develop a relationship with Jesus, rather than just a member of an organization."

Oklahoma U.S. Senators Jim Inhofe, James Lankford and Tom Coburn have all nominated O'Connor to the White House for federal judgeships. In 2018, President Donald Trump nominated O'Connor as a candidate for United States District Judge for the Northern, Western, and Eastern Districts of Oklahoma.

In the 10 months O'Connor has served in the position of Oklahoma Attorney General, he has been busy. In his first week in office, he joined on behalf of the State of Oklahoma an effort to overturn *Roe vs. Wade* at the U.S. Supreme Court. "We are very excited with the possibility that the U.S. Supreme Court will conclude that there is no right to an abortion under the United States Constitution," he said. "That would be a staggering ruling for our nation. I'm honored to support Oklahoma's legislation prohibiting abortions in Oklahoma except to save the life of the mother."

O'Connor said he believes in America, the rights belong to *We the People*, not the federal government. "I have been the most aggressive AG in the United States against the Biden, Harris, Pelosi trioka. I've sued the Biden administration 15 times in my 10 months of public service," he said. "I've joined other AGs in criticizing Biden proposals 39 times in my 10 months in office. President Biden's latest ridiculous, unconstitutional threat is to withhold federal children's lunch money from our public schools in Oklahoma, if those schools don't embrace the transgender and Woke agenda," he added.

"In baseball if you bat 3 out of 10 you are in the hall of fame, but with kids, we have to bat 10 out of 10," said O'Connor. "We don't have the choice to surrender in our culture and alter its DNA."

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What Sets Lavers Apart?

by Deanna Evans



Training is everything when it comes to finding the best in aesthetic medicine and treatments for your skin, and Chris Lavers, PA-C, strives to stay on the cutting edge by continuously learning and training to be the best. Multiple times a year, Lavers, who owns Lavers Aesthetics along with his wife, Cory, travels to Florida to train at Village Institute of Plastic Surgery.

VIP was recognized by Med Aesthetics America as the "Top 10 Aesthetic Clinics" in the United States in 2021. Dr. Danny Soares, a double board certified facial and plastic surgeon, and Larry Blevins, PA-C, a national trainer in aesthetic medicine, both of VIP, launched the American Foundation for Aesthetic Medicine (AFFAM), a nonprofit organization created to advance education standards in the practice of aesthetic medicine.

Chris has trained directly under Blevins, who is the co-founder and lead instructor of the American Foundation for Aesthetic Medicine, AFFAM mentor, national injector trainer, and has been voted one of the Top 100 Aesthetic injectors in the U.S. Through AFFAM's dedication to teaching and research, The Villages' largest cosmetic surgery practice has helped advance the scientific growth of the specialty.

Chris' training with Blevins uniquely qualifies him as an injector. "It is important to strive to improve and learn from others," Chris said. "The demand for non-surgical treatments in medical aesthetics continues to evolve and I strive to stay up-to-date and provide the latest treatments."

Lavers Aesthetics offers a wide variety of treatments to restore your skin to a healthy, more youthful appearance. All are non-surgical and minimally invasive, providing affordable, convenient, and effective options to achieve desired aesthetic goals with little, if any, downtime. "We truly care about you and will work hard to help you achieve your aesthetic goals," said Cory. "We have years of dermatology experience and have worked with some of the nation's top experts, so we can provide a level of aesthetic excellence that is unique to Bartlesville."

Environ Skin Care

The Environ product line is based on varying intensities and levels of ingredients (Vitamin A, C, E, peptides, growth factors, alpha-hydroxy acids) to ensure safe at-home treatments to meet any individual's skin type, concerns, and lifestyle. What sets Environ apart from the rest of the multitude of skin care lines is its focus on vitamin A. Vitamin A is one of the best elements for anti-aging and reducing the effects of sun damage, but if used in the wrong form or strength it can cause redness, irritation, and skin peeling. That is why Environ has a step-up

system that uses the fat-soluble form of vitamin A known as retinyl palmitate. In this step-up system, retinyl palmitate is introduced to the skin in low doses which is increased as the skin begins to tolerate it. This method yields healthy, beautiful skin in a gentle way. You can learn more at www.environskincare.com.

IPL Laser treatments

IPL laser treatments target skin discoloration, rosacea, melasma and hyper-pigmentation, as well as acne, scars, broken blood vessels, spider veins and fine lines and wrinkles. These treatments use multiple waves of light to target and breakdown the unwanted spots in the skin. A handheld device is used to deliver light therapy.

"During the procedure, you may feel what some individuals have described as a feeling similar to an elastic band being 'snapped' on the skin," said Chris. "The length and number of sessions needed will depend on each individual's treatment plan."

Thread Lifts

Lavers Aesthetics also offers thread lifts to tighten and lift sagging skin. Dissolvable threads provide an alternative way to treat skin laxity on the face and body that has only been achievable in the past by plastic surgery. The cost is much more affordable, and since there is no downtime, this treatment is perfect for those who do not want to undergo surgery or who have seen little effect from skin tightening treatments.

A thread lift is a procedure that uses temporary sutures to produce a subtle but visible "lift" in the skin. Instead of removing the sagging skin, threads lift the skin, causing it to become smoother and tighter. They also promote collagen formation around the threads, positively influencing the overall condition of the skin. As we age, we produce less and less collagen. This leads to a reduction of skin thickness by 80 percent at the age of 70, but the effects of this process are seen for decades before. Threads are part of an effective regimen to correct the signs of aging.

Injectable Treatments

As always, Lavers Aesthetics also offers injectable neuromodulators such as Jeuveau, Botox and Xeomin for fine lines and wrinkles; dermal fillers such as Radiesse and Revanesse Versa+ for adding volume to the lips, cheeks, tear troughs, chin, and jawline; and non-surgical injectable body contouring for the treatment of double chin or other unwanted deposits of body fat.

These treatments alone or together can help to create a more youthful appearance and reduce the signs of aging. All are non-surgical and minimally invasive, providing affordable, convenient, and effective options to achieve desired aesthetic goals with little, if any, downtime.

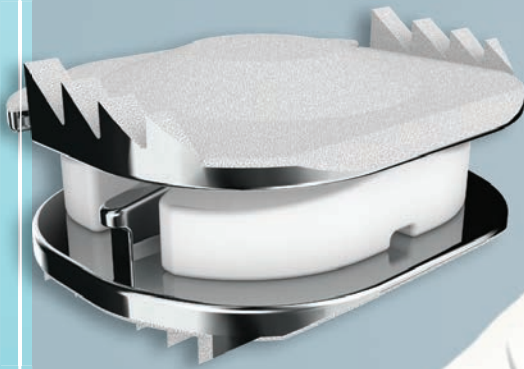
For a complete list of treatment options, please call their office at 918-876-4470. Follow Lavers Aesthetics on Facebook or

Instagram to stay informed about specials and new aesthetic treatments. Lavers Aesthetics is located at 5120 E. Frank Phillips Blvd. To make an appointment, please call 918-876-4470. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday.

"Mr. Lavers is one of the brightest minds in the aesthetic world. With almost two decades of experience in dermatology, he brings a unique perspective and expertise in skin health to the aesthetic realm. He has an artistic eye and creates natural-looking results, keeping him sought after by patients and esteemed colleagues."

— Larry Blevins, PA-C. Co-Founder & Lead Clinical Instructor, American foundation for Aesthetic Medicine

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SPINE &
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SPECIALISTS

A Good Head on Your Shoulders? Then You Need to Have a Good Neck, Too!

by Deanna Evans

Dr. Kris Parchuri and his team of medical professionals are passionate and committed to helping people live pain free. In addition to his Tulsa office, Spine & Orthopedic Specialists, Dr. Parchuri expanded his practice last year by opening an office here in Bartlesville.

Neck pain can be from an underlying medical cause that needs to be addressed. A neck injury can cause pain in the shoulder, head, arm, and/or hand. It can cause pain into the legs and other areas, as well.

Dr. Parchuri's true passion is helping to reduce or eliminate his patients' pain using the latest treatments available. He specializes in bringing the best possible procedure and treatment to every patient by connecting with them on both a personal and professional level.

If you are suffering from pain or a spinal injury, Dr. Parchuri provides a variety of treatments and procedures. All non-surgical treatment options will be exhausted prior to consideration of more invasive procedures. Physical therapy, patient education, and spinal injections are just a few of these options.

One surgical option, which is superior to fusion for two-level disc replacement, is the Zimmer Mobi-C cervical disc. The artificial disc is designed to maintain neck motion. The bone-sparing technology protects against bone chiseling with no invasive screws required. It is designed to allow motions similar to natural cervical spine motion.

According to Zimmer Biomet, Mobi-C is the first cervical disc approved by the FDA for both one and two-level disc replacements. The FDA has determined that the Mobi-C disc replacement is better than fusion after 7 years, for the two-level cervical disc replacement. Mobi-C had fewer subsequent surgeries after 84 months.

The center of rotation at each level of the cervical spine is variable and constantly changing. Mobi-C was designed to adapt to the instantaneous axis of rotation through its self-adjusting mobile core. It is designed to aid in motion similar to natural cervical spine motion. It moves with the spine.

Mobi-C's core is designed to create low stress at the implant to bone interface. There are no invasive screws, no bone removal for preparation and no additional operative steps. It is a one-step insertion with no drilling or chiseling needed.

If you are suffering from chronic or acute pain, you need the leading medical professional in Tulsa spinal surgery. Dr. Parchuri specializes in orthopedic spine surgery and pain management. With more than 13 years of experience he can help you reclaim your life.

While Dr. Parchuri specializes in treating spine-related diseases and disorders, his practice area also includes general orthopedics. He treats all types of fractures, as well as conditions related to the shoulder, elbow, hand, hip, knee, foot, and ankle.

Dr. Parchuri is a proud graduate of Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his orthopedic residency in Tulsa at Oklahoma State University Medical Center, followed by a spine fellowship at Texas Back Institute in Plano, Texas.

"We focus on more than just the problem," he said. "We focus on each patient as a whole and as an individual, giving you the attention you need and deserve to start moving forward in your life."

Take back what is yours — contact the office of Dr. Kris Parchuri. To schedule a consultation, call 918-286-3124 or contact them online at <https://sostulsa.com/dr-kris-parchuri/>.



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Welcome Doctor Ward

Bartlesville Welcomes New Dentist

by Deanna Evans

Dr. Jacob Ward and his wife, Alayna, are excited about their future, after moving and falling in love with our area.

"We are excited to make Oklahoma our home," said Dr. Jacob Ward, DMD, MBA. "People here are just really good, down to earth people. Everyone has greeted me with open arms."

Dr. Ward came to Bartlesville to take over Dr. Richard Clement's dentistry practice. Following Dr. Clement's retirement, Bartlesville Family Dental was purchased.

"It's an incredible opportunity and I am honored, because Dr. Clement has so many patients who have gone to him for decades," said Dr. Ward. "My dental assistant, Kim, went to Dr. Clement when she was a little girl and then worked for him for about 20 years."

Dr. Ward is a recent graduate of Roseman University of Health Sciences and attended their campus in South Jordan, Utah. "I love getting to know my patients. I like talking to them and making them a part of my family," said Dr. Ward.

When asked why he chose to become a dentist, he said, "It's perfect for me. There is an artistic part to being a dentist, and I'm artistic." He said he grew up always knowing he wanted to be in the healthcare field. It was in his blood. "A lot of my dad's family are in healthcare," he said.

Dr. Ward's father is an x-ray technician. His mother is a social worker and both of his brothers are nurses. He has aunts who are respiratory therapists.

Ward initially attended Brigham Young University as an undergraduate in neuroscience. It was during that time that Dr. Ward decided on dentistry. "I shadowed a dentist and within the first hour I had an 'Ah-Ha' moment," Dr. Ward said. "I just knew."

He started the dentistry program in 2018 and finished in April of this year with his Doctor of Dental Medicine and his Master of Business Administration degrees.

After finishing his undergraduate in 2013 at BYU, Ward started the dentistry program at Roseman in 2018, where they offered a DMD and MBA in business administration, finished in April 2022.

"I graduated at the end of one week and then we moved to Oklahoma the following week," he said. Dr. Ward and his wife moved to the area last month with their three children: Jackson, 7; Avery, 4; and Jasper, 1.

The couple visited the area last year in preparation for accepting the position at Bartlesville Family Dental and they immediately fell in love. "We were driving around and could totally see ourselves raising our family and being happy here," Dr. Ward said. "That was when we said yes to going to Bartlesville."



Dr. Ward grew up as a "military brat," he said. His parents met and married in the military. Ward was born in Washington, D.C. and moved to places in Southern Utah, Maryland, VA, Colorado, Wyoming, and even Germany, where he attended high school. He attended BYU for undergraduate studies and then went on a mission for his church in Baltimore, MD, where he learned to speak Spanish.

"I spent nine years total attending school in Utah, including the undergraduate and dentistry studies," Dr. Ward said. "I've lived on both coasts and other countries, but our family is excited to be in Oklahoma and to get to know friends here, who will become our area 'family.' Our goal is to provide a dental home where you and your entire family will feel welcome."

Bartlesville Family Dental is a dental practice dedicated to family, cosmetic, and emergency dentistry such as exams, cleanings, teeth whitening, veneers, crowns, bridges, dental implants, Invisalign, and more.

Dr. Ward and Bartlesville Family Dental is located at 1623 SE Washington Blvd., in Bartlesville. To schedule an appointment and to get to know Dr. Ward, please call 918-333-1576. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday. They are closed on Saturday and Sunday. Financing options are available.

Measure Success by Lives Saved

by Deanna Evans

A local nonprofit's vision "to enhance the life-saving capabilities of our first responders" is a noble one.

Project Tribute's Founder and Executive Director Jon Beckloff said, "Our mission is to raise awareness and funding toward serving our first responders. We conduct fundraisers with 100 percent of the proceeds or donated equipment going to our first responders in the field."

Project Tribute is transparent with their spending and everything that is donated goes towards saving lives. Project Tribute was founded in 2020 and received 501(c)3 status in March 2021. In addition to writing grants to purchase equipment, the nonprofit has an online retail store.

"It's important to us that 100 percent of your donation goes to the cause you want to support," said Beckloff, "so all the administration, marketing, and promotion costs are covered from our store. No donation to Project Tribute Foundation will ever be used for marketing purposes, so to cover those necessary costs, we have and will continue to develop apparel so that you can outwardly support our brave First Responders."

Proceeds from the store cover business overhead such as postage, webpage costs and salaries. The remaining funds from the retail store are added towards the first responder initiatives.

Project Tribute's website, www.projecttribute.com, lists the total amount of donations received, which today is at \$10,294.48, and the total amount that first responders have received from the nonprofit, currently \$12,570.12.

Beckloff said that so far, four lives of Washington County residents have been saved by the supplies donated by Project Tribute. "You just can't put a monetary value on a life that is saved," he added.

He said the most needed supplies donated to first responders are "bleed kits," or tourniquet kits. The 2022 goal is to distribute a blood loss control kit to every Oklahoma First Responder. "We need to raise roughly \$600,000 to achieve this goal," Beckloff said. "You can also send supplies from Amazon through a link on Project Tribute's website. \$40 purchases a single kit."

Project Tribute's website provides information for those who would like to apply for help and for those who would like to donate. The store is another way to offer support.

"Buy a shirt, help save a life."



Ask the Doc ...About Foot Problems

In this series of articles, Dr. Tracy Russell, D.C., the hand & foot Chiropractor in Bartlesville who has decades of experience, answers common questions relating to chiropractic care.



The feet act like springs when you walk, therefore if you lose the healthy alignment of your foot bones and joints, you may experience a health problem.

"We treat a lot of patients for various painful foot conditions through chiropractic foot adjustment," said Dr. Tracy Russell, D.C., The Hand and Foot Chiropractor in Bartlesville. "Most often it's flat-footed patients who are concerned with lower extremity health. A common misconception is that high arches are better than flat feet, but that's not the case."

Those who have high-arched feet are susceptible to developing serious foot problems and pain patterns. The need for chiropractic foot adjustments is equally important for high, rigid arches. High arched feet often develop various types of musculoskeletal disorders. Chiropractic adjustments can greatly relax the tension associated with high arched feet. Gentle chiropractic foot adjustments help improve foot function, shock absorption, and flexibility.

Summer is almost here, which means flip-flops and open-toed shoes will be coming out of the closet. "Although wearing flip flops may feel comfortable, that doesn't mean it's the best choice for your feet," Dr. Russell said. "To reduce the chances of developing a foot condition, you may consider wearing your summer sandals intermittently versus all day, every day."

One foot condition that constant flip flop wearing can lead to is hammer toes. Hammer toes is a condition in which the toes, normally the 2nd through 5th toe, become chronically bent and eventually very rigid. This condition causes pain at the ball of the foot and the toe joints. Flip flops lack support and can lead to structural foot problems. There is a thick band of tissue that supports the arches of your foot. The plantar fascia may become stressed and impacted by long-term use of flip flops. Maintaining healthy foot and arch alignment will help your feet function optimally and endure the added stress from open-toed footwear.

Dr. Russell has 28 years of successful experience in gentle, preventative healthcare and is an expert in the diagnosis and treatment of many different problems.

For more information, call 918-333-3363 to make an appointment with Dr. Russell at Russell Chiropractic Hand & Foot Clinic, located at 2523 SE Washington Blvd. You can schedule online using The Scheduling App, available by scanning the QR code. The ID for the clinic is ADWXLX. Register using the cell phone number on file with the clinic. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3-5:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 9-11 a.m. on Thursday. The office is closed on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.



Legislature Session Wrap-Up

by Judd Strom

Capitol Greetings! Generally, when I give updates, I give them from 'under the Dome'. However, that is not the case in this instance. The Senate and House of Representatives gavelled out 'Sine Die' on Friday, May 27. The action brought a close to the second session of the 58th Legislature of the State of Oklahoma.

Constitutionally, the Legislature (Senate and House of Representatives) convene every year beginning the first Monday in February and must wrap up work by the last Friday in May. We attend a four-month session. During that time, Capitol work begins on Monday morning and we work through the close of business on Thursday. I always say that nothing good happens in the Capitol after dark. Nevertheless, we work some very long days. Friday and Saturday we work 'in-district.'

For the second session of the 58th Legislature, when you consider four-day weeks, Snow/Ice days, 'Holidays' (often days they kick us out so the office can catch up), we were in session for 58 days. In that time, the Legislature considered more than 3000 bills and constructed a nearly \$10 Billion budget for the State.

This session we saw achievements that will enhance the lives of all Oklahomans. The Legislature focused on quality-of-life issues as we worked on the budget and with most other measures. It has always been my opinion that we, as lawmakers, should focus less on telling people what they cannot do or what they have to do, and focus more on effectively and efficiently providing the services that people expect from their government.

While I understand that there is a constant push from both sides for more or less government, I can easily say that somewhere near 95% of the correspondence I receive from constituents is due to a breakdown somewhere in expected services; whether those breakdowns be potholes/roads (infrastructure), crime (Public Safety), the teacher shortage (Education), or jobs/workforce (Commerce/Economic Development), etc., most of these problems can be solved by working with, regulating, and adequately funding the agencies that exist to provide for these services.

The constant balance we strive for at the Capitol is that balance between providing for expected services while maintaining a fair ask from the people we serve; Services vs. Taxation. I don't want to give up any more of my hard earned money than anybody else does. I would like to give less. I also don't want to fill my own potholes or patrol my streets at night. And so, as citizens just like you, we are always trying to figure out how we can do more with less or what we can do that will lend to more people joining the contributor pool so the liability is spread thinner amongst more contributors. We want you to make more and give less.

One way that we look at increasing the pool is to attract new business and workers to this State. Over the last 4 years we have worked to create various tax or development incentives to make our State a more attractive landing ground for people wanting to start a business or for companies that are considering or planning expansion. We have offered incentives for aerospace, manufacturing, heavy equipment, and technology companies among others. We don't want to just support the creation of jobs. We want to support the creation of good jobs with higher salaries and greater opportunity for upward mobility. We



want the businesses we attract to lend to the betterment of the community they land in. That means attracting companies that bring both white and blue collar jobs, lead to the creation of secondary service industries, and beget feeder or supply companies.

While, in the past, so many incentives have been offered as tax credits, the recent success of the Film Industry Tax Rebate has led to a new direction in offerings for potential industry. While credits can be extended but the returns never realized, rebates are based on actual performance metrics. Metrics that must be met before the rebate is applied.

I'm sure at this point most people have heard of Project Ocean. Project Ocean is easily the most ambitious attempt to attract an out-of-state entity to Oklahoma that I can remember. The company that the State wants to attract covers all of the desirable

bases: many jobs, high wage jobs, and long-term viability. The rebate offered to the company if they decide to come here is based solely on the number of real, proven jobs and so taxpayers the company creates. To receive the rebate incentive the company must create 500 jobs in the first year, maintain 1000 cumulative jobs in the second year, 2500 jobs in the third year, and four thousand jobs the in fourth and fifth years. If jobs metrics are met, a 3.4% of capital investment costs for that year will be extended to the company as a rebate. The rebate will be payable out of money saved and set aside right now rather than indebting future monies. If they do not meet the metric, there is no rebate.

While many people are opposed to incentivizing companies to come to Oklahoma, one of the biggest reasons I ran was because I was tired of watching brain drain. Brain drain is the term that best describes spending 18-21 years raising or educating a young person then watching them leave home or leave the state. When I came home from college, so many of my friends and family were gone. They lived in Dallas, Kansas City, Denver, or Austin. They went there because they thought they could afford a better life there. I wondered then what I could do to bring them home. I wondered then how much better off families would be if their children chose to live just down the road instead of at the other end of the interstate.

While the diversification of our economy has always been important to hedge against the sometimes violent swings, booms, and pitfalls of an economy reliant upon Oil and Agriculture, wouldn't it also be nice if that diversification resulted in creating the kinds of work that each of your children want to do? From industrial jobs to film, tech, marketing, media, or design... we're working on it.

Even with increased opportunity, it will always be hard to convince someone to relocate to or to stay in a place that is dangerous, unhealthy, or unlivable. And so, it has become of great importance to work throughout each session to address Public Safety needs, Infrastructure needs, Health and Mental Health needs, Education, and to support or respect the decisions of our subdivisions — our cities and counties.

If ever there is something that you would like to discuss, learn about, share insight on, or just give me a good cussing for, never hesitate to reach out. Your office at the Capitol is always open.

~ Judd Strom, State Representative for Oklahoma District 10 ~

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6801 Tuxedo Blvd	Bartlesville	3/1 \$599,000	Kim-Tate-Connor	918-335-7193
2110 Glynwood Dr	Bartlesville	PENDING	Carolyn Bolding	918-327-1133
2808 Roanoke Ridge Rd	Bartlesville	4/3/3 SOLD!	Barbara Hopper	918-335-7202
725 Kenwood Dr	Bartlesville	4/3.5/2 \$314,000	Carolyn Bolding	918-327-1133
3017 Lincoln Road	Bartlesville	4/3/3 \$279,000	Carolyn Bolding	918-327-3137
5719 Nottingham	Bartlesville	PENDING	Barbara Hopper	918-335-7202
4203 Tuxedo Blvd	Bartlesville	3/2/1 \$189,900	Kim Tate-Connor	918-335-7193
723 S Osage Ave	Bartlesville	SOLD!	Amos Radlinger	918-766-2361
228 Turkey Creek	Bartlesville	PENDING	Amos Radlinger	918-766-2361
3998 Lakeview Drive	Bartlesville	PENDING	Carolyn Bolding	918-327-1133
1705 Arbor Dr	Bartlesville	3/2/2 SOLD!	Carolyn Bolding	918-327-1133
1700 Melrose Pl	Bartlesville	\$147,000	Cindy Folk	918-559-9905

SURROUNDING AREAS

2523 S Owasso Ave	Tulsa	3/2.5/2 PENDING	Andrew Gordon	918-230-0864
247 S Maple Street	Nowata	SOLD!	Amos Radlinger	918-766-2361
10767 Burton Lane	Skiatook	3/2.5/3 PENDING	Carolyn Bolding	918-327-1133
21147 Hwy 169	Nowata	2/1/2 \$214,500	Cindy Folk	918-559-9905
324 S Cedar	Nowata	4/2.5 SOLD!	Charlene Bejcek	918-440-4763
939 N Ross Ave #2	Dewey	2/1/2 \$50,000	Carolyn Bolding	918-327-1133

RESIDENTIAL LOTS & VACANT LAND

4674 E Hwy 20	Claremore	94 Ac	PENDING	Keeli Droege	918-697-8509
S.E. Price Rd	Bartlesville	50 Ac	\$1,575,000	Janette Roark	918-907-1327
SE Barnett	Bartlesville	71.38 Ac	PENDING	Max Lutke	918-914-3813
N Hwy 75	Dewey	8.97	\$450,000	Max Lutke	918-914-3813
2708 Road	Bartlesville	80 AC	\$350,000	Carolyn Bolding	918-327-1133
N 3973 Drive	Dewey	5 Ac	\$83,900	Sydney Nichols	918-397-4505
N 3973 Drive	Bartlesville	25ac	250,000	Sydney Nichols	918-397-4505
Deerfield Addition II	Bartlesville	15 Lots	\$40-69K ea	Janette Roark	918-907-1327
2112 Turtle Creek	Bartlesville	1 Lot	\$60,000	Janette Roark	918-907-1327
Southport Drive	Bartlesville	9.18 ac	\$137,750	Janette Roark	918-907-1327
Southport Drive	Bartlesville	.40 Ac	\$39,500	Janette Roark	918-907-1327
S Wyandotte Ave	Bartlesville	3 Res. Lots	\$30K ea	Janette Roark	918-907-1327
Southport Loop	Bartlesville	Res. Lot	\$14,750	Janette Roark	918-907-1327

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

221 SE Frank Phillips Blvd	Bartlesville	Retail	\$900,000	Janette Roark	918-907-1327
2710 SE Washington Blvd	Bartlesville	1.02 Ac	\$299,000	Carolyn Bolding	918-327-1133
204 S Chickasaw Ave	Bartlesville	Business	\$299,500	Barbara Hopper	918-335-7202
312 Osage Avenue	Bartlesville	mixed use	\$130,000	Amos Radlinger	918-766-2361
217 S Choctaw Ave	Bartlesville	Multi-Use	\$105,000	Barbara Hopper	918-335-7202
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Hope

Why is it Important?



by Curt Landry Ministries

Hope is something we all need. It pushes us forward. Keeps us grounded. And generally, creates a place for joy to reside. However, while hope is certainly important, it can be difficult to allow it to grow and thrive in our lives; to live with hope.

Hope. What Is It?

Hope is often misunderstood. This is because if hope is based on emotions or circumstances it will go up and down, subject to the whirl around us or in us. Unsurprisingly, when this is the hope we expect, hope is easily labeled as “a feeling” or as being “unsteady.”

Alternatively, while the hope that God gives can include emotion and circumstance, it is not so easily swayed. It has a foundation based in the unshakable character of God, in our trust in Him; allowing confidence in the hope our God brings. Further, this trust opens the door to God’s peace, love, and joy that build upon that foundation of hope.

This is a firm foundation ... but do we realize that the free will God gives us allows us to build this hope even further?

Hope. Do Our Choices Really Increase It?

Our choices matter. By making good choices we can build hope. This is accomplished in part through our actions, which are a result of the thoughts, words, and heart attitudes we choose.

When negative, judging, or other destructive thoughts begin to take place in our minds, we have a choice. To entertain and encourage them. Or to realize that they are not in our best interests, dismissing those thoughts and instead allowing thoughts that will build deeper hope.

Similarly, in our words, heart attitudes, and actions we can make choices that build up rather than destroy, not only in our own lives, but in the lives of those around us. Choosing to follow God is the first and best step ... but choosing to maintain and build this relationship and faith allows for a positive pattern of action, thought, speech, and heart attitude—building hope.

Hope. How Do We Continue to Build It?

Trusting God, having our hope come from Him, and being mindful of our choices are all important steps. Related to these comes an important decision. To put our personal kingdom first — money, possessions, emotions, etc. — or to daily put the Kingdom of God first.

Matthew 6:33 says to, “...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” When we put God’s Kingdom first, then everything that we need follows... including hope. Hope that does not disappoint but brings with it God’s perfect love and plans for us.

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

— Romans 5:5

“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

— Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Are you looking for a place to help you understand your purpose and empower your faith? Be a part of the family at House of David. Visit www.HouseofDavid.com to discover how you can get involved and grow in your relationship with Christ.

Curt Landry, founder of House of David and Curt Landry Ministries, and his wife Christie, travel extensively, preaching and teaching about the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. Together, their passion is to empower families to live and leave Kingdom legacies and understand their own personal heritage.



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Water Needs Drive Utility Hikes



Current System has 98% Failure Rate

City Beat
Your city, your news

by Kelli Williams



Why is the City not using the remaining COVID money to help with the cost of fixing our water system? This would benefit all of Bartlesville, private and business.

The background: The City will receive a total of \$6.3 million in federal stimulus funding over two years through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), resulting

from the COVID-19 pandemic. The first tranche, or payment, was received last year. The second tranche is expected by the end of this year. The funds must be spent or committed by December 31, 2024.

During the budgetary process last year, about \$1 million was allocated per year over the 3.5 year duration to support increased wages for the City's essential workers as defined by the ARPA. After utilizing about \$3.5 million for this purpose, the City is left with approximately \$2.9 million. During a May 23 City Council workshop meeting held for council discussion on the proposed budget, possible allocation for the funds was discussed, including additional funding for the Stabilization Reserve Fund, to complete other priority capital projects and/or projects identified in the City's strategic plan, as well as for the operation and maintenance of the First Christian Church building and a mental health co-response pilot project between the City of Bartlesville and Grand Lake Mental Health.

What are those costly infrastructure needs? Well, here's a list just to start, but Water Utilities Director Terry Lauritsen points out this is based on what can be funded based on the current rate system. Ideally, \$750,000 would be invested per fiscal year on each of these items, Lauritsen said.

- Renovation of the Chickasaw Waste Water Treatment Plant — \$45 million
- Improvements to the Caney River Wastewater Pump Corridor — \$20 million
- Improvements to wastewater collection system — \$3.7 million
- Improvements to the water distribution system — \$3.3 million
- Replacement of equipment (pumps, motors, controllers) at the Water Treatment Plant — \$1 million
- Water reuse system — \$8.2 million (paid partially through grants)

Back to the future?

Since this system is millions of dollars and will need to be replaced every 10-15 years, and the Mueller system has been a near complete failure, has the City considered the alternative of hiring meter readers again?

In 2013, the City installed an automated meter infrastructure system for water meters that replaced existing, manually-read meters with meters that automatically read and reported data at predetermined intervals to the City. The cost of that system was \$3.8 million. The system has experienced a 98 percent failure rate with the meter transmitters, however, resulting in the replacement of the transmitters on 16,086 of the City's total 16,403 meters.

The good news: The cost of the replacements so far has been zero dollars because the meters were covered 100 percent by warran-

ty, which Mueller Water Products, the manufacturer of the system, has honored.

The bad news: The City will enter the pro-rated portion of the contract within the year, meaning the cost of continuing to replace transmitter nodes on the remaining meters is about to go from zero to about \$300,000.

Also problematic is, as is suggested in the question, the system is due for either an upgrade or replacement due to changes in technology.

This means the City needs to choose: Stay with Mueller Water Products and upgrade the existing system despite its 98 percent failure rate in the past 10 years, or replace it entirely with a new system from a different manufacturer.

Option 1: Keeping the Mueller system will cost \$350,000 to upgrade the backbone of the system, which conveys the information from the meter transmitters to the software.

"Until recently, Mueller stated the new system would be fully backward compatible, but they are now saying the system will not interface with earlier versions," Lauritsen said. "This means the City will have to operate and maintain two independent systems until all of the meter transmitters are upgraded."

The cost to upgrade all the transmitters to communicate with the upgraded system is around \$2.5 million, Lauritsen said. Also, there will be additional costs to manage the data on both systems, which is not yet known.

"The final blow is that Mueller will not put into the contract several items they have communicated to staff regarding the upgrade," he said.

Option 2: Replacing the system, which is expected to cost an estimated \$7.5 million.

"At the time that we contracted with Mueller, in 2013, there weren't many companies offering these services," Bailey said. "There are many more options now, and with companies that have very good track records with cities our size. We have a luxury now that we didn't have then, not only with more options but also the benefit of hindsight when it comes to contractual issues."

These factors combined brings City staff to recommend the council consider the replacement option instead of the upgrade.

So it's true that installing a new AMI system is a multi-million dollar investment, but upgrading that system once it's installed would be substantially less. Reverting to a manual system not only creates a labor cost for meter readers but also for maintenance and repair staff and support staff in the billing department. Another issue is finding that staff in the first place, as the City — along with just about everyone else in the world — is experiencing a labor shortage.

Also worth remembering is there were reasons other than work-force funding that prompted the City to switch to an automated system to start with. Automation allows water usage to be monitored on an hourly basis, making it much easier to detect and verify leaks that waste water and cost water customers money. In short, when an automated system works, it's a win-win for the City/taxpayers and utility customers.

No legal recourse

Have legal proceedings against Mueller been considered?

Legal action is not being pursued against Mueller Water Products because the company has honored everything it was contractually obligated to pay.