

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

A Supplement to The Ponca City News
Sunday, October 20, 2013

*Another
investment in
Ponca
City!*



- SECTION G -

Jack Bowker Ford Lincoln in Business Since 1950

Jack Bowker Ford Lincoln, 2415 North Fourteenth Street, has been in business since 1950 when Jack and Patti Bowker bought the Pawnee Ford Agency. In 1954 the Bowkers purchased the Howard Moses Dealership in Blackwell and operated it for six years.

The next move was to Ponca City, Jack's hometown. Jack and

Patti purchased the Parkinson Motor Company which was located at Second Street and Central Avenue. At that time the name was changed to Jack Bowker Ford Company. With limited parking downtown, the vast majority of new Ford inventory was stored on the roof of the building. An elevator would transport cars to the

street level for prospective customers to test drive.

In 1974 Jack Bowker Ford Company moved to its new location and facility on North Fourteenth. The new dealership included a 26,000 square foot building with a 35 stall service department and double deck parts warehouse. In 1979, after graduating from Oklahoma

State University, Cory Bowker returned to Ponca City to begin his career in the Ford business.

The dealership facility was expanded and remodel in 1996 and later in 2001 the Lincoln-Mercury franchises were added.

New Technology in automobiles have led to change at the dealership. Earlier this

year Adam Dickson, took on the responsibility of technology director. When a customer purchases a new vehicle they go over the items like Sync and My Ford/ Lincoln Touch, according to Cory Bowker. "Then we schedule a follow-up appointment to insure the customer understands all of the benefits of new technology

and are comfortable with it."

In 2011 the dealership upgraded their customer lounge to a luxury environment, according to Felecia Cowan, partner.

"This includes a business center with internet access, fax machines and more, much like a hotel business center." Other new services for Lincoln customers include a free car wash when your vehicle is in the service department for repairs or maintenance.

Both Ford and Lincoln customers enjoy the "Owner Advantage Rewards" program. This allows customers to earn rewards every time they bring their vehicle in the service department for non-warranty service or maintenance.

"We are proud that our service department has one of the highest "Fix It Right the First Time ratings within Ford Motor Company, said Cowan.

On Oct. 12, Ford Lincoln hosted its "Drive 4 UR School Event," according to Bob Banta, dealership salesperson. "We have raised over \$44,000 in conjunction with Ford Motor Company for the Po-Hi track team, Robotics team, basketball boosters, Po-Hi band and orchestra, Po-Hi soccer, Hi-Steppers, Quarterback Club and Po Hi Chorale Club."

After returning from a national Ford meeting in Las Vegas, Jay Layman, general sales manager was excited to see the new Ford lineup. The new 2014 Ford Fusion, C-Max, Focus and Escape will lead us into 2014 with outstanding styling, fuel economy and technology," says Layman. "As always our F-series truck lineup is second-to-none."



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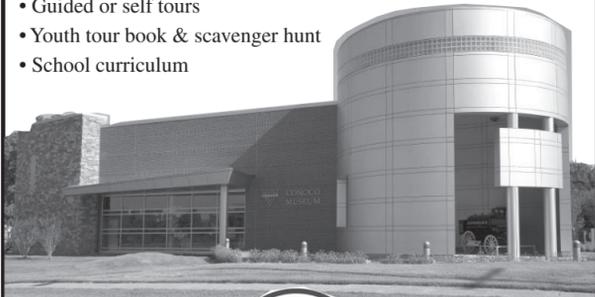
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UPS Store Has Served the Area for 19 Years

The UPS Store located at 522 North 14th Street has served the citizens of Ponca City and the surrounding area for 19 years with shipping, postal and business services. The store was first under the name of Mail Boxes Etc. and in 2005 became The UPS Store. Owners, Pam and Eddie Childs, would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the exceptional products and services offered at The UPS Store business service center ranging from packing and shipping and providing you with a mailbox with a real street address to being your one-stop source for printing,

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New at The UPS Store, to ease air travelers burdens are three luggage shipping alternatives, including a new luggage box that takes the place of a suitcase, to help reduce hassles of long lines, security searches and increasing baggage fees. "Not having to carry a suitcase while traveling is a great convenience. Even better is luggage awaiting your arrival at a destination or hotel," said Childs. "You can ship your luggage as is; place it in a box for shipment, or purchase a luggage box, eliminating the

need for a suitcase altogether. The owners say "We are in the business of saving people time and with shipping prices direct from UPS. We can save them money as well. At The UPS Store we are committed to providing personalized and convenient business solutions with world-class customer service." The UPS Store is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., closed on Sunday. For additional information, please visit us at www.theupsstorelocal.com/2543.



THE UPS Store located at 522 North 14th Street has served the citizens of Ponca City and the surrounding area for 19 years with shipping, postal and business services. The UPS Store is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., closed on Sunday.

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Chamber Staff, L-R: Rich Cantillon, President; Noel Black, Tourism Coordinator; Nancy Kruckeberg, Director of Finance; Chelsea McConnell, Membership Development Director

Your Ponca City Area Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization of citizens who are investing time and money in a community development program – working together to improve the economic, civic and cultural well-being of the area. Businesses, individuals and organizations are eligible to belong to the chamber of commerce.

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YOUR Ponca City Area Chamber of Commerce is working for YOUR success...

- With our existing businesses – through our Ponca City Business Council and the Ambassador's Club
- With legislative issues affecting our community – through the Governmental Affairs Committee
- With enhanced tourism business – through the Ponca City Tourism Bureau
- With shopping Ponca City first – that's every day!
- With infrastructure needs – through the Community Development Committee
- With our new citizens to Ponca City – greeting them as they enter our office or mailing our membership directory
- With attracting new business – contacts we make and contacts made to our website, phone & membership directory
- With Leadership Ponca City – creating the leaders for the future
- With the important health issues facing our community – through the Ponca City Business Council
- With the education needs for our children – through the Education and Workforce Development Committee and PIE Partners Program

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Mertz Manufacturing Celebrates 86 Years

Mertz Manufacturing, LLC celebrated its 86th year in the manufacturing industry in 2013. Mertz is building on its present success by focusing on a future oriented towards the production of high quality products, retaining and recruiting a skilled and dedicated workforce, instituting lean manufacturing principles and techniques to improve production processes and output, and expanding its current facility to meet the needs of future customers and orders.

The company began in 1927 in Ponca City. Originally owned and operated by Roy Mertz, the little, one-man machine and welding shop quickly became known for its manufacture of precision products. A perfectionist, Mertz, skillfully crafted metal fabrication orders for industry and public use.

After returning from World War II, Forrest and

Don Mertz worked under the watchful eye of their grandfather and in 1948 they purchased the company from Roy. Carrying on the tradition of excellence, the brothers eventually outgrew the shop their grandfather had founded and in 1968 they built a new plant, moved to their present location and became Mertz, Inc.

The plant has been expanded numerous times over the years.

In 1996, Forrest Mertz purchased his brother's half of the business, then in 2004 the name was changed to Mertz Manufacturing, LLC.

In mid-2012, Mertz finished and moved into a new facility at 2400 North Waverly. The building is 140 feet wide and 800 feet long and graduates in height south to north from 28 to 55 feet.

It houses the assembly process, paint and blast, inventory, shipping, and receiving.

Remaining in the existing facility at 1701 North Waverly are welding, layout, and administrative offices.

Mertz Manufacturing, LLC continues to design, fabricate and manufacture durable, innovative and high-quality parts and equipment for its loyal customer base. Its products include well servicing equipment and specialty trailers used in oil and gas production, and parts for large construction equipment.

Company President Steve Ballinger joined the company in 1988, became general manager in 1996, and President/CEO in 2009.

Ballinger enthusiastically explains the reason for the company's continued success, "We have many customers who have been with us for a number of years and have remained loyal to us even as we struggled through economic downturns. We also have new customers who will become repeat customers as long as we continue to produce the high quality products that have made this company what it is today."

Mertz Manufacturing, LLC has a distinct quality that sets it apart in the manufacturing industry. Its "job shop" approach to manufacturing capitalizes on its ability to produce large, complicated fabricated steel and aluminum equip-



MERTZ Manufacturing celebrates its 86th year in the manufacturing industry in 2013.

ment or components to its customers' specifications and satisfaction. Mertz has successfully been able to build upon an early foundation of superior quality in metalwork, solid reputation for business integrity, cus-

tommer satisfaction and character-based management to become a company that has been an industry leader for more than eight decades. The Mertz company motto that still prevails is simple: Safety. Quality. Quantity.

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Brian Hermanson Serves as District Attorney

As chief prosecutor for the Eighth District of Oklahoma, District Attorney Brian Hermanson and his staff of prosecutors are responsible for the ethical prosecution of criminal offenses.

A fundamental goal of the District Attorney's Office is to objectively and effectively review police and law enforcement reports and prosecute matters under the law, while achieving justice, minimizing trauma to victims and making sure that victims are treated

with compassion and respect.

There are 4 Assistant District Attorneys in Kay County, 2 Assistant District Attorneys in Noble County and a total support staff of 17 public servants working under the District Attorney's direction. They prosecute criminals, work on behalf of victims, collect restitution for victims, advocate for deprived and neglected children, and promote crime prevention and intervention. In addition, the office collects bogus check res-

titution for businesses and supervises probationary requirements for offenders. The District Attorney heads a Drug and Major Crimes Task Force which investigates the distribution and manufacturing of drugs along with investigating major crimes. Another function of the District Attorney is to represent County Officials and their office in all civil legal matters. These are a few of the many jobs Hermanson and his staff perform as ministers of justice.



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TS Fork Opens in Tonkawa

Tonkawa has seen a lot of recent activity on the corner of Grand and Main, and is getting ready to see more traffic in the future. In September the historic two-story red brick building became the home of TS Fork a farm to fork, opened as a destination restaurant.

"This is not your typical restaurant," says Chef Jeff Denton, the developer of the TS Fork concept

as well as the restaurant operator. "There is nothing like this concept in this part of the country. We have totally broken all of the rules of operating a local restaurant and have reinvented a much different dining experience," says Jeff Denton, who has over 35 years in the food business.

"Many people have asked me what the TS stands for in TS Fork", said Denton.

"I wanted a name that was descriptive of our restaurant. After kicking around a lot of different names, I came up with 'The Fork' to symbolize the Farm to Fork concept, but it was already trademarked by another organization. I still wanted to use the word Fork, so I decided to call it the The Salt Fork, because most of our food comes from the Salt Fork area, but I didn't want the word 'Salt' in the name of the restaurant, so I abbreviated the name to TS Fork," claims Denton who is a Ponca City native.

The concept is called Common Table and Plate cuisine, which features a set menu, at a set price, served at a specific time on large platters. "I know that this is different than what most people are used to having at a restaurant, but I really wanted to bring back the pleasure of dining, combined with fresh from the farm ingredients and all original recipes," says Denton.

Each menu is selected by Chef Jeff and will include a wide variety of foods including poultry, beef, pork, lamb and fish. All five courses will be selected to compliment each other and will feature fresh ingredients from the area.

The restaurant is open Friday and Saturday evenings. The five course menu begins at 6:30 p.m. promptly with appetizers, then soup, followed by a salad dish, then a special entrée with local vegetables, then completed with a special homemade dessert.

The cost is \$30 per person for the five-course meal. Beer and wine are also offered as well as other drink specials.

According to Denton, reservations are required because of the nature of the service and concept of the restaurant. "Because we have a set starting time and limited seating, we have to ask for reservations because this is the only way to plan for this type of event. People would be upset if they arrived at the restaurant and there were no seats available."

In addition to the unique cuisine and service, the project is also a collaborative partnership with The Tonkawa Development Authority commercial kitchen, the First National Bank of Oklahoma business incubator, Pioneer Technology Center and Salt Fork Restaurant Group LLC.

"This project is an incredible example of different organizations working together to meet the needs of the community, increase visibility of the attributes of Tonkawa, providing a market for local products and educate future business owners," says Denton.

Reservations are easy to make at TS Fork. They can be made at www.tsfork.com or by calling 1-800-928-1840.

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René's Stained Glass Shop Opened in 1999

René's Stained Glass Shop, owned and operated by René Vap, has been in business since 1999. They have in stock a very nice display of ready to purchase suncatchers, candle holders, lamps, night lights, and other home décor items for birthdays, showers or wedding gifts, or just that special something for you. They also sell supplies for your stained glass needs, including a large

selection of glass (several nationally known glass company's products in stock), and consumables such as solder, lead, zinc, patina and flux. They are now offering classes, call now for the next available opening. Class sizes are small for more one-on-one time with the student.

The business is located at 2751 Kildare Road (½ mile east of Kildare) and can be

reached at (580) 362-3548. No firmly set open hours, so you might call before you head out to the shop, but they can meet with you any day of the week for your convenience. Check out the business facebook page at Rene's Stained Glass Shop to keep informed about sale items, upcoming events, and class notifications. They also have a website at www.renestainedglass.com where

you can browse through all of their in-stock merchandise. All items, including sale items, can be viewed and ordered through the website to either be picked up in person or shipped.

The business specializes in providing quality stained glass for their customers, and they strive for 100% customer satisfaction. The business regularly creates custom designed windows, sidelights, transoms, doors and window panels, including commissioned work for churches. Several window and cabinet panels are in local homes that were highlighted in recent open house tours. They also construct stepping stones, and other home décor items that include, but are not limited to, lamps, bookends, candle holders, ornaments, suncatchers, angels, and other custom made projects. The business also does some repairs.

They are very excited about the recent addition of fused glass bowls and jewelry now in stock and ready for sale. The bowls come in a host of sizes and can be molded into a large range of shapes due to the variety of slumping molds available. The jewelry is made with glass fused together to make beautiful hand-made pieces that come in an endless variety of colors and can be made into a variety of shapes including hearts, rectangles, squares, wine glasses, teardrops, and crosses. These

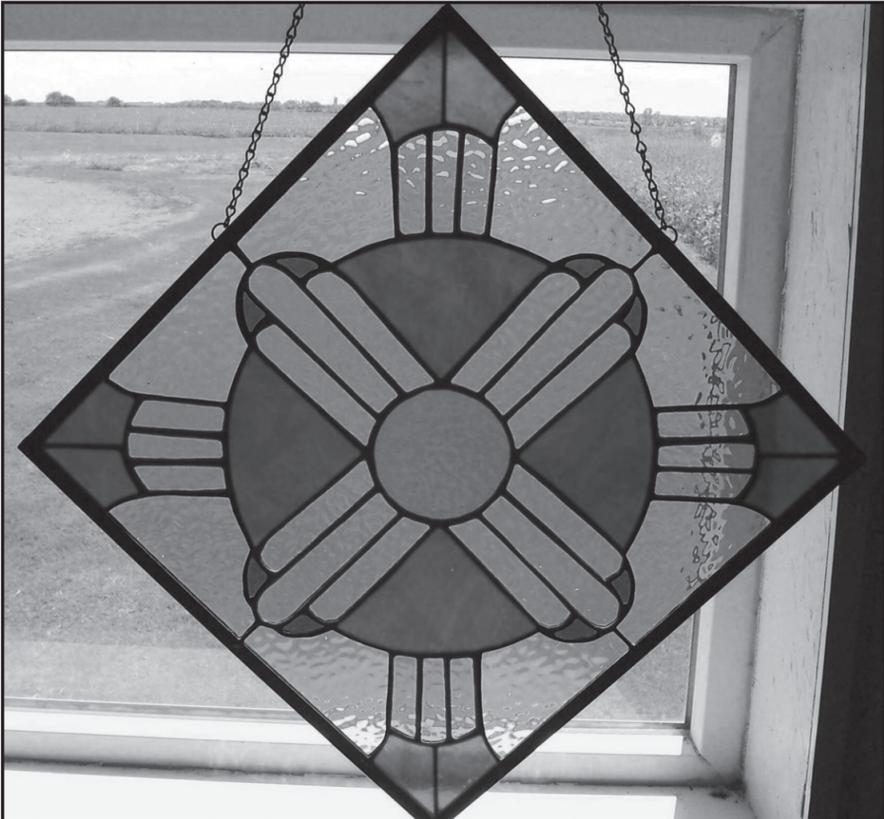
truly are one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces.

The expanded shop contains a lighted glass display to illustrate the variety of glass available for your project. This also assists the customers in choosing the perfect glass combinations that work for them in their particular situation. Shipping is available for your convenience.

They will custom design a

pattern to fit with the customer's idea concept, along with choosing the perfect glass combinations of color and texture to fit their needs.

The business looks forward to creating a specialized project just for you that you can either wear or are proud to display in your home, business or church. Or even better, take a class and make the project yourself.



TUCSON DIAMOND is the name of this glass piece by Rene's Glass Shop. Custom designs is just one of the services provided by the shop.

Ponca City Medical Center Earns "A" in Patient Safety by Group

Ponca City Medical Center was recognized earlier this year with an "A" Hospital Safety Score by The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit run by employers and other large purchasers of health benefits.

The A score was awarded in the latest update to the Hospital Safety ScoreSM, the A, B, C, D or F scores assigned to U.S. hospitals based on preventable medical errors, injuries, accidents, and infections. The Hospital Safety Score was compiled under the guidance of the nation's leading experts on patient safety. The first and only hospital safety rating to be peer-reviewed in the Journal of Patient Safety (April 2013), Hospital Safety Score is designed to give the public information they can use to protect themselves and their families.

"All of us at Ponca City Medical Center are honored to be acknowledged for our

uncompromising commitment to safety," says Andy Wachtel, chief executive officer at the hospital. "Our department managers and directors start each day with a 'Daily Safety Huddle' where we focus on significant safety and quality issues. This initiative keeps the well-being of our patients and employee's top of mind at all times."

"Earning an 'A' on the Hospital Safety Score demonstrates that this hospital has exhibited excellence in our national database of patient safety measures," said Leah Binder, President and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "I'd like to congratulate Ponca City Medical Center for its achievements and encourage the hospital to continue to put a priority on the safety of your patients."

Ponca City Medical Center was named one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals® by Thomson Reuters in 2011 and 2012,

which means that the facility is among the best in the nation.

The hospital also received the Joint Commission's "Top Performer" award in 2010 and 2011 making it one of only 244 hospitals that achieved the distinction two years in a row.

To see Ponca City Medical Center's scores as they compare nationally and locally, visit the Hospital Safety Score website at www.hospitalssafetyscore.org, which provides information on how the public can protect themselves and loved ones during a hospital stay.

Local hospitals' scores are also available on the free mobile app, available at www.hospitalssafetyscore.org.

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Community Health Foundation Partners for Health

The Community Health Foundation of Ponca City, Inc. has a long association with the residents and healthcare community of Ponca City and the surrounding area. The Community Health Foundation's mission is to support of the general well-being and healthcare of the citizens of Kay County.

The Community Health Foundation supports the capital campaigns of the Child

Development Center and of Hospice of North Central Oklahoma for their contribution and dedication to the populace of the local community.

The foundation supports the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma on two crucial programs which provide much needed nutrition to area children. These are the Backpacks 4 Kids program which provides nutritious food for children in need each weekend of the

school year and the West Middle School Food Pantry program which provides food for chronically hungry children.

Other programs in support of area youth the foundation assist are the Northern Oklahoma Youth Services "Start Right" Program, the Kay County Success by Six program, the Blackwell Youth Center ASAP program, the Blackwell Middle School Backpack food program, the YMCA Healthy Kids Day and the Ponca City High School 2M2L (Too Much To Lose) program.

This year the Community

Health Foundation continued with their education assistance for area healthcare professionals and students. The foundation made a three year financial commitment, with other area public and private donors, to support a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program which began this semester at the University Center.

Scholarships are a big component of the foundation's support to area students who will return to the local communities around Kay County upon graduation to work. The

foundation provides scholarships to local students who are studying for advanced degrees in healthcare related fields. Scholarships are also provided for continuing education for area healthcare professionals, Northern Oklahoma College Registered Nursing students, Pioneer Technology Center LPN students and University Center healthcare students. Area high school graduating seniors who will be studying in healthcare related fields are also awarded scholarships each spring. In total, over \$40,000 in scholarships

are awarded each year by the foundation.

Additionally, the Community Health Foundation supports a number of programs targeted to the adult and senior citizen populations of Kay County. They support the Community Clinic, YMCA Fun Runs, the Ponca City Medical Center's Diabetes Education program, and the Ponca City Medical Center's Senior Circle and Healthy Woman program. They are also sponsors of the Ponca City Senior Center, Senior Advisory Board's Successful Aging Expo each year.

The Community Health Foundation holds a limited number of fundraisers in support of their efforts. Their Annual Appeal letter reaches out to the community in early November. Their Guys and Grills fundraiser is held every June and has been a great success for the foundation. The funds from this event are used to support the many scholarship programs of the foundation. There are other donation options available to those interested. These include a Named Memorial recognition program and a Named Donation Plaque recognition program. These are both displayed on the Donor Wall of Fame within the Ponca City Medical Center.

The Community Health Foundation's Board of Directors is composed of local business people and dedicated community volunteers. Their Director, Wayne Foxworthy, can be contacted at P.O. Box 828, Ponca City, OK 74602 or by phone at 580-765-0581.

More Services Offered at Store

By LOUISE ABERCROMBIE
News Business Editor

Pat Holmes, owner of Affairs to Remember, 217 North Second Street, announces additional services will be available with Jay Ward, who has provided flowers for a number of weddings and other occasions.

He will be offering floral services from the business, 1 to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. These services will feature flowers for all occasions including weddings, funerals, parties and others events. Balloon bouquets are available also.



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New Facility Being Built for Cannon Honda



AN INTERIOR drawing of the new Cannon Honda.



A SCETCH of the exerior of the new Cannon Honda.

By LOUISE ABERCROMBIE
News Business Editor

Evidence the economy is alive and well in Ponca City is the willingness of established businesses to invest in new facilities. Cannon Honda, owned by Heather Cannon, going to more than double the space of the current dealership facility. Ground breaking for the major undertaking took place in August.

The new, 14,000 square foot facility is being built behind the current 6,500 square foot building, at 3415 North 14th Street. Rick Scott Construction is the general contractor. The project is expected to take about a year. Cannon, who knows the business from the ground up, says she believes in "shop Ponca City first" whenever possible.

A portion of the new facility will include nine service bays, a detail bay and a drive-thru car wash. The customer service area will include complimentary WiFi allowing those waiting for repair to work on their lap tops and iPads without missing a beat.

The dealership will feature two express bays for "no appointment needed

service" and a double lane enclosed service drive for faster and more convenient experience.

Cannon said, "We will continue to work on all makes and models." Also the drive thru will provide a car wash for every car serviced.

The state-of-the art dealership contains the newest corporate images from American Honda, known as Generation3. The only completed version is new in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Cannon points out there will be customers focused features throughout-work stations, 100 inch projected television, in the sales department, flat screen TV in the service waiting area, enclosed delivery area and a designated children's play space.

Cannon says, "The new facility goal is to enhance our exceptional service while continuing to provide the best product to Kay County and extended areas."

Cannon is the only woman owning a dealership in the Kansas and Oklahoma district. She knows the business well as she's been a clerk, finance manager, used car manager and new car manager.

She acquired the business with Swenson and a year later it became Cannon Honda in 2005. Since that time the dealership has continued to grow. The business has grown 27 percent over what it was in 2008. Less than five percent of dealerships are owned by women. Currently there are 17 employees and another three more are expected to be added with the new facilities.

A Jill of All Trades, on a

daily basis, may find Cannon doing one-on-one sales, financing, parts and service plus office work.

"Once the facility is complete, we will have additional space and expect to stock 25 percent more automobiles. The additional volume will guarantee that we maintain current competitive pricing."

The official greeter is Cannon's, Shih-Tzu Cadi, who comes to work every day.

HDC Transport Provides Shuttle to Bartlesville

HDC Transport, LLC was formed in July of 2008, by Heather Cannon. They daily shuttle service from Ponca City to Bartlesville for ConocoPhillips employees. The transport leaves Ponca City at 6 a.m. arriving in Bartlesville at 7:20 a.m.

It returns from Bartlesville at 4:30 p.m. arriving in Ponca City at 5:50 p.m. Monday through Friday. "Our goal is to make the daily trip as affordable and convenient as possible.

HDC runs two shuttles daily, one to Adams building the other to Bartlesville technology center.

In addition, HDC Transport offers private rental with a driver for weddings, private parties or group outings after 6 p.m. during the week and anytime on the weekends. The shuttle will take up to 14 people within 150 mile radius with reservations. For more information visit www.ride-hdc.com or call 580-716-8725.

Museum Exhibit Honors Women in Journalism

Now on exhibit at the Pioneer Woman Museum, 701 Monument Road, is "Breaking News: Oklahoma Women in Journalism," an exhibit created in partnership with the Oklahoma Historical Society. The exhibit highlights the careers of some of Oklahoma's most notable women journalists including journalist of local, regional and national recognition, all with Oklahoma ties.

Louise Abercrombie, Ponca City, who has reported local, state and international news for the Ponca City News for 45 years; Gerry Bonds, Oklahoma City, who began her television news career in Connecticut and in 1984, moved to Oklahoma to become a fixture in Oklahoma City news media; Pam Henry, Oklahoma City, who was the first female news anchor at WKY-TV, Channel 4 in Oklahoma City.

more, began reporting for the Muskogee Phoenix at the age of 15 and culminated her career as president of the Washington Press Club; Ora Eddleman, started her journalism career at 18, with the Muskogee Evening News, where she gained experience as a telegraph operator, proof reader, society and city page reporter, and editor. From 1898 to 1904, she served

as editor of Twin Territories: The Indian Magazine. Many more female journalists and their stories are featured in the exhibit, which will be on display through 2014.

Pioneer Woman Museum, owned and operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society, is dedicated to telling the stories of Oklahoma's pioneering women through exhibits,

educational classes and hands on experiences. The museum is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is adults \$4, seniors and students \$3, children \$1. For more information on programming at the museum call 580.765.6108 or visit www.pioneerwomanmuseum.com.

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Twyla was very friendly and helpful. She explained what to expect and what the treatments will do. Steve J.

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This was Awesome!!! An amazing experience. I'm so thankful to have been given a gift card to use and to be referred to Healing Hands Massage by Alicia. I don't know of anyplace like it, anywhere. I would recommend this as a gift to yourself or to anyone you care about. I've been looking at my calendar, looking forward to returning in the near future. Be sure to book early or in advance, her time is scheduled quickly. Melissa S.

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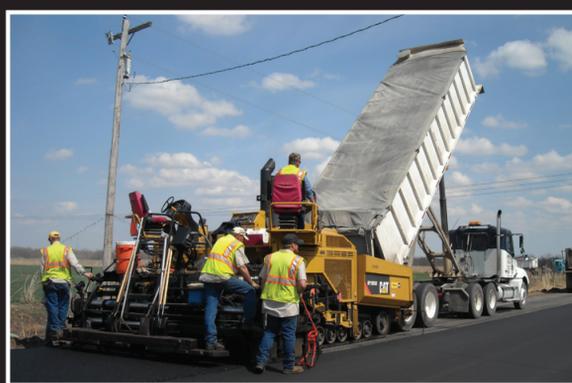
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