

Briefs

Architecture group offers tour of historic homes

The Tulsa Foundation for Architecture is sponsoring a tour of Tulsa's historic homes to celebrate May as National Preservation month.

John Brooks Walton, author of three historic Tulsa homes books, will lead the May 6 tour, a media release states.

The tour, which will be limited to 30 participants, will depart from Walton's office, at 1717 S. Baltimore Ave., once the manager's cottage for the Manhattan Court Apartments, originally located at 11th Street and Boston Avenue.

"Among our stops will be the McFarlin-McCormack Mansion, where we will see the famous Wedgwood Room with its walls and ceiling originally decorated by the Wedgwood china factory in England," Walton said in a media release.

Other stops will include oilman Josh Cosden's Mission Manor and the Perryman home, currently undergoing restoration, among others.

The foundation requests a \$100 donation for each participant, and proceeds will benefit the foundation's ongoing programs.

Each tax-deductible donation will include the guided tour on a chartered bus, a boxed lunch, a copy of one of Walton's Historic Tulsa Homes books and a one-year membership in the foundation.

Information and reservations are available by calling Lee Anne Zeigler, the foundation's executive director, at 694-5001 or by sending an e-mail to laz@tulsaarchitecture.com.

Anti-smoking storyboard contest entries sought

The third annual Don't Start smoking storyboard contest is designed to help reduce youth smoking.

The contest gives Oklahoma elementary students the chance to produce a 30-second television public service announcement to show other kids and adults about the dangers of smoking.

Two grand-prize winners will have their spots produced by Cox Communications and shown throughout the summer, a media release states. Children and classroom teachers are eligible for cash and other prizes. Contest entry deadline is April 7.

The contest is sponsored by the American Lung Association of Oklahoma, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, Cox Communications and the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

The contest is open to students in public, private and home-based elementary classrooms.

Teachers who would like more information or would like their classrooms to participate can go online at www.bcbsok.com, call Christopher Barton at (866) 876-4376 or send an e-mail to cbarton@bcbsok.com.

Free day camps offered for breast cancer survivors

Two free day camps for breast cancer survivors and their friends and families will be offered in south Tulsa.

Twenty participants in each Camp Hope event will engage in activities such as making spring wreaths, making jewelry, taking nature walks, and receiving massages, a media release states.

The camps are scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 8 and 29 and will be held in the Hope Unitarian Church cabin, 8432 S. Sheridan Road.

The Northeastern Oklahoma Affiliate of the Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization will host the camps, which are funded by the Osteopathic Foundation, a media release states.

Information and reservations are available by calling 494-8808 or by sending an e-mail to bethy-me@sbcglobal.net.

Community focus

Music man

Luthier helps keep local fiddlers' instruments tuned up

By EMILY PRIDDY
World Staff Writer

Roger Harrison hates to break this to you, but that fiddle in your attic probably is not a Stradivarius, even if the label says it is.

"Over the years, a lot of mass-produced instruments have been made to look old from the start, and they carry labels of famous old makers, so people think they're going to have an 'Antiques Roadshow' moment, you might say, and we have to let them down sometimes," said Harrison, a luthier for Tulsa Violin Shop, 220 N. Main St.

Harrison builds, repairs and adjusts stringed instruments including violins, violas, cellos and basses.

Customer Virginia Pendleton appreciates Harrison's work — and his willingness to explain what he is doing.

"He seems to enjoy explaining all the little technicalities of what he's doing, which I appreciate," Pendleton said. "I have learned a lot from him about just the instrument and the little details that I would never know, and the average violin player would never know. ... He just knows every little nook and cranny of the violin."

Pendleton said Harrison communicates well with her daughters, Emma Jane, 12, and Marina, 11, who also play violin.

"He's always asking them what they're playing. If I'm busy talking to one of the other guys, they'll sit back there and tell jokes or something," she said. "Roger came to one of the girls' shows down at the Spotlight Theatre. We were in there for a repair, and they told him they were going to be down there, and he actually showed up and heard them playing on their newly repaired violins."

Harrison has plenty of experience working on children's instruments.

He learned his craft as a high-school student at the School of Music and Arts in New York City.

Working as an apprentice in the school's violin shop, he studied with luthiers Stephen McGhee and Andrea Hoffmann.

"I was working in that violin shop from ... '78 to '82, and then I decided to go to the violinmaking school in Salt Lake City," he said.

Harrison stayed in Utah until July, when Lynch hired him on the recommendation of a mutual friend.

Over the years, Harrison has repaired "everything from minor (damage) to total catastrophes," he said.

He held up a battle-scarred cello. "Here's a school instrument that's been bashed around a lot," he said. He gave the scratched-up instrument a hopeful prognosis: "Not dead yet."

While the cello will be repaired and put back into service, some instruments — and their owners — are not so lucky.

"I had one little girl that paid maybe 20 bucks on eBay and thought this thing was so pretty," Harrison said. "She was practically in tears as I told her that all that's left is to hang it on the wall, because it looks like a violin."

A violin may look pretty, but that does not necessarily mean it is a functional instrument, Harrison said.

"I often draw the analogy with cars: You can have a great-looking old car, but if it has no engine and transmission, it's not transporta-



TULSA VIOLIN SHOP

Where: 220 N. Main St.

Hours: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

For more: Go online at www.tulsaviolin.com or call 582-1942 or (888) 484-6546.

tion — it's just a piece of sculpture," he said.

Harrison said people are excited by the prospect — however slim — of discovering a violin made by Antonio Stradivari, the famous 17th-century luthier whose instruments sometimes fetch prices in excess of \$2 million at auction.

"The sort of generic term we use is 'Grandpa's fiddle,' and we see two or three of those a week," he said. "People attach so much significance to the thing, not only because it's a family heirloom, but because it's such a magical thing. ... It's almost an irrational attachment, but it's the same thing that keeps us all interested."

Prices for stringed instruments vary widely, Harrison said.

"A couple of weeks ago, in the same day, I worked on a cello that was worth \$300 and a violin that was worth \$300,000," he said.

The talent of the musician has the biggest impact on how an instrument sounds, Harrison said, but mechanics also come into play.

"I try to make it to concerts when I can, and if I hear a problem, I let people know, too," Harrison said. "So often, they blame themselves, when they're not aware that there's something mechanically wrong with the instrument, and it's really routine stuff, and they're just so used to it that they don't even



EMILY PRIDDY / Tulsa World

A row of student instruments hangs in the Tulsa Violin Shop (above left). Roger Harrison, a luthier at the Tulsa Violin Shop, said children as young as 3 or 4 can learn to play the violin using small instruments designed for little hands. Harrison installs a new bridge on a cello (above and below). The bridge holds the strings away from the body of the instrument.

realize what's happening."

Pendleton said Harrison has adjusted her family's instruments to make them easier to play.

She said the action — a term that refers to the distance between the strings and the fingerboard — affects the relative difficulty of playing the instrument. The fingerboard is the part of the violin against which the strings are pressed to produce different notes as the bow is drawn across them.

"If the action is really high, it's much harder to play, because your fingers have to work a lot harder," Pendleton said. "That can dramatically change the ease of playing the instrument. It lets you maybe play faster or just make it easier to play. ... The overall song would sound better to the audience, because you're able to play it easier."

Harrison enjoys helping musicians produce beautiful music.

"It's very challenging," he said. "There's something new to learn every day. It gets really rewarding to help a good player make music."



Events to watch

Community/Civic

Calligraphy Guild Meet The Calligraphy Guild of Oklahoma will meet from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Monday at the Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S. Peoria Ave. Open to the public. For more details, call 455-0654 or 592-3792.

Kiwanis Meet Kiwanis Club of East Tulsa-Broken Arrow will meet at 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Golden Corral, 7144 E. 21st St. Call 234-0420 for more information.

Civitan Meet Metro Tulsa Civitan Club meeting, noon Tuesday, Red Lobster, 51st Street and Yale Avenue. Call 461-0553 for more details.

Sertomans Meet Sertoma Club of Tulsa will meet at noon Tuesday at the First United Methodist Church, 1115 S. Boulder Ave. visitors welcome. For more details, call 760-9859.

Hosta Connection The first Hosta Connection meeting of the year will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Brookside Library, 1207 E. 45th Place. The program will be shade-loving perennials with a focus on hostas. To learn more, call 749-9461.

Exhibits

Three-Dimensional Art Color Connection gallery, 2050 Utica Square, will feature three-dimensional artists during the month of March. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 742-0515.

Family and Children

The Wave The Wave Youth Center is open to middle-school students, 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Southeast Free Will Baptist Church, 1801 S. Garnett Road. Students are invited to play foosball, air-hockey, pool, get help with homework or just hang out. All activities are supervised by adults. Call 232-7935 to find out more.

Comedy of Errors Book Club "The Book of No" by psychologist Susan Newman will be the focus of discussion from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Collinsville Library, 1223 Main St. For adults. For more details, call 596-2840.

Tutor Training The Rogers County Literacy Council will hold a tutor training session

from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday at the Will Rogers Library, 1515 N. Florence St. The session will present material for working with native and non-native speakers of English. Cost is \$15 for manual and handouts. To reserve a space, call 342-1745 or 277-4331.

Health/Exercise

Pilates For Seniors Progressive Pilates, Health and Fitness, 3023 S. Harvard Ave., will offer a core class at 10:30 a.m. Thursday and Tuesday. Work can be done sitting in a chair or standing briefly. To learn more, call 728-7447.

Step It Up YWCA Patti Johnson Wilson Center offers basic step aerobics, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Monday and Friday, 1910 S. Lewis Ave. For more details, call 749-2519.

Miscellaneous

Career Crossroads Southern Hills Baptist Church, 5590 S. Lewis Ave., will host a career crossroads from 6:15 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays. The event will include tools, practical guidance, and networking for a job search. Partici-

pants will receive a free workbook and computer analysis of their personality, skills and talents. For more information, call 743-8897.

Talent Show A Spring Thing Talent show will be held at 7 p.m. Friday at Unity Center of Tulsa, 1830 S. Boston Ave. Fiddlers, singers, poets and novelty acts will be featured. The event is free. For more information, call 638-1389 or 582-6624.

Fundraiser Breakfast Owasso Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 7180 will host an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. Saturday at the Owasso Community Center, 301 S. Cedar St. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children ages 6 through 12. To learn more, call 272-0927 or 857-2814.

Restoration Study The U.S. Army corps of Engineers will host an open house on the Joe Creek aquatic ecosystem restoration study from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Jewish Community Center, 2021 E. 71st St. To learn more, call 669-7181.

Calendar items should be submitted by 5 p.m. Thursday for the following Wednesday's publication.

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