

# Worker credit law worries some county officials

By SUSAN HYLTON  
World Staff Writer

A new law that allows county employees who previously worked for the state to transfer service credit into the county retirement system has some county officials worried about costs.

"We only receive the employee contribution and don't receive an employer contribution and no interest either," said Tulsa County Retirement Board Chairman Sherril Williams.

The Retirement Board is seeking an attorney general's opinion to determine if the new law is constitutional and whether they have to approve all transfer requests.

"It concerns me that we weren't involved in the crafting

of this legislation," said Retirement Board Vice Chairman Tom Trimble. "If it's left up to interpretation, we need to ask them to pay a contribution equal to the 10 years they expect to get."

The law was written by Rep. Chris Benge, R-Tulsa, and Sen. Jerry Smith, R-Tulsa. But some county officials apparently did have involvement with the new bill.

Benge said that county commission deputy Paul Wilkening, who serves on the retirement board, along with the county's lobbyist, Mandel Matheson, approached him about writing it.

Williams said the law dealing with transfers was added on at the "11th hour," while Trimble, who was the Retirement Board chairman at the time, was out of

town and it was too late for the board to take any action.

Benge said the bill does not include the transfer of the state's contribution because of the very low county employee contribution requirement — \$1 a year.

"I guess what was related to me by the county is the employees only make a \$1 contribution and they accept all liability beyond that. That was kind of the rationale for the county accepting that transfer. Had we tried to transfer the state contribution, I doubt we would have been able to pass it," Benge said.

Williams said that should have been a red flag.

The employee contribution that would be transferred from the state would be a lot more than the \$1 county employees

currently contribute, Wilkening said Friday. State employees contribute a minimum of 3.5 percent of their annual compensation.

The county contributes 10 percent of an employee's annual salary toward retirement, which is the maximum allowed by law.

Wilkening also said that the new bill is not perfect because it does not require the state's contribution to be transferred to the county retirement system.

"If (the state retirement system) says no, we won't play along, then I'd like to repeal this bill. If we don't get full portability this session, I'd just as soon repeal this thing, because it's not fair to us," Wilkening said.

There are several county employees who have previously

worked for the state, including Wilkening and Treasurer Dennis Semler, who are former assistant district attorneys, and Lewis Long, a 12-year veteran of the Oklahoma Senate.

The board, however, has only received one transfer request to date. Douglas Ressler, associate director of personal health services for the Tulsa City-County Health Department, asked the board to transfer 15 years of service with the state to the county's retirement system.

Ressler was a nursing supervisor with the state Health Department from 1978 to 1995. He has worked for the county since 1995.

Ressler said he wanted to take advantage of the new law so he could have one retirement in-

stead of two. He also said, however, that it would be an unfunded mandate if the county would have to match the state's contribution for all the years a person worked for the state.

Trimble said the district attorney's interpretation of the law is that the board has to accept anyone who applies. However, the board is unlikely to take any action on the request until it receives an opinion from the attorney general, he said.

"We just want to be clear before we take any action," he said.

Susan Hylton 581-8313  
susan.hylton@tulsaworld.com

## Top Vision 2025 donors announced

By CURTIS KILLMAN  
World Staff Writer

Banks and construction-related businesses were among the top contributors to the Vision 2025 campaign, accounting for about 25 percent of the \$760,607 given by supporters of the county sales tax initiative.

Contributions from those areas amounted to more than \$180,000 of the total collected, according to campaign paperwork filed by Citizens for Greater Tulsa.

Two construction firms, Manhattan Construction and Flintco, were among the top contributors. Records indicated the two gave \$25,000 and \$21,500, respectively.

Bank of Oklahoma and F & M Bank contributed \$25,000 and \$15,000 to the effort.

Voters approved the \$885 million Vision 2025 initiative Sept. 9. The measure will fund dozens of capital projects, economic development initiatives and provide business incentives.

The Tulsa Metro Chamber of Commerce, which coordinated the fund-raising effort, was listed as the top donor, according to filings with the State Ethics Commission. The chamber gave \$40,000 in what was described as in-kind personal services.

The in-kind contribution was for professional services, Metro Chamber President and Chief Executive Officer Jay Clemens said. Supporters spent \$757,820 on their campaign.

Radio and television advertising accounted for \$226,699 of the total amount spent. The campaign spent another \$229,507 on personal services.

Additional contributions and expenditures may be reported in future filings, Clemens said. Meanwhile, a Vision 2025 opposition group reported spending \$9,994 on its campaign.

**Citizens for Greater Tulsa**  
Contributions over \$200 received between Aug. 27 and Oct. 17.

**\$40,000:** Tulsa Metro Chamber, (in-kind).

**\$25,000:** SBC.

**\$21,500:** Flintco.

**\$10,000:** Boeing Co., Sparks, Chesapeake Operating, Stillwater National Bank and Seminole Transportation.

**\$8,000:** AGC of Oklahoma-Building Chapter.

**\$6,000:** Sharp Mortgage

Co.

**\$5,000:** Gemstar-TV Guide, Sunoco, Cherokee Nation Enterprises, Trizec, Leinbach Co. and Spirit Bank.

**\$3,000:** John Bumgarner.

**\$2,500:** Matrix Architects and Corrections Corporation of America.

**\$2,085:** Doubletree Hotel Downtown.

**\$2,000:** Intervest, Int'l Truck & Engine Corp. and Arkansas Valley State Bank.

**\$1,465:** Hilton Southern Hills.

**\$1,000:** Burt B. Holmes, Team Insurance Group, Valor Telecommunications, Paul Michael Coury, First National Bank Broken Arrow, Matrix Program Management, Davis Affiliates Inc., Bauer & Associates, Perry Hood, David Gibson Inc., Howard Custom Homes LLC, Tulsa Dynaspan Inc., RAM Energy, Nelson Nissan-Mazda and Lamar Outdoor Advertising (in-kind).

**\$750:** Blue Bell Creameries.

**\$665:** Hawthorn Suites.

**\$500:** Kinslow, Keith & Todd, First Fidelity Bank, James Shirley, Lightner Heating & Air, Bixby Telephone Co., Chuck Patterson, David and Janet Schmidly, Boesche McDermott, Craig & Keithline, Jack Santee, D.C. Bass & Sons

Construction, AEP/PSO, Moyers, Martin, Santee et al., Terry L. Davis Co., Joe Williams, Bill Mizener, Homes By Classic Properties, Dolores Murry, Bland Pittman, Consolidated Construction, Pinnacle Properties, Frontier Homes LLC, Sterling Homes Inc., Sterling Joint Venture Inc., National Realty LLC, J&S Properties, Hollywood Homes GP, Hollywood Homes Inc., Hollywood Investments, Bali South, Residential Development, South Park Self Storage, Bank of the Lakes, Virgil Mayabb, Valley National Bank, Jean Chognard, Dr. James Rodgers and Sisemore Weisz & Assoc.

**\$350:** Howard Tackett.

**\$300:** Glenpool Chamber, Preview Magazine, Tulsa National Bank, Southcrest Hospital and Hide-Away Ironing Boards.

**\$250:** Doc's Food Stores, Leland Alexander, M&M Lumber, BancFirst, Steve Davis, Walter & Assoc and Speedway Chevrolet.

**Tulsa County Coalition**

**\$2,300:** Mike and Linda Oxley.

**\$250:** Jim Hewgley III and A.J. Solow.

Curtis Killman 581-8471  
curtis.killman@tulsaworld.com

## Bosnia massacre survivors to sue U.N., Dutch

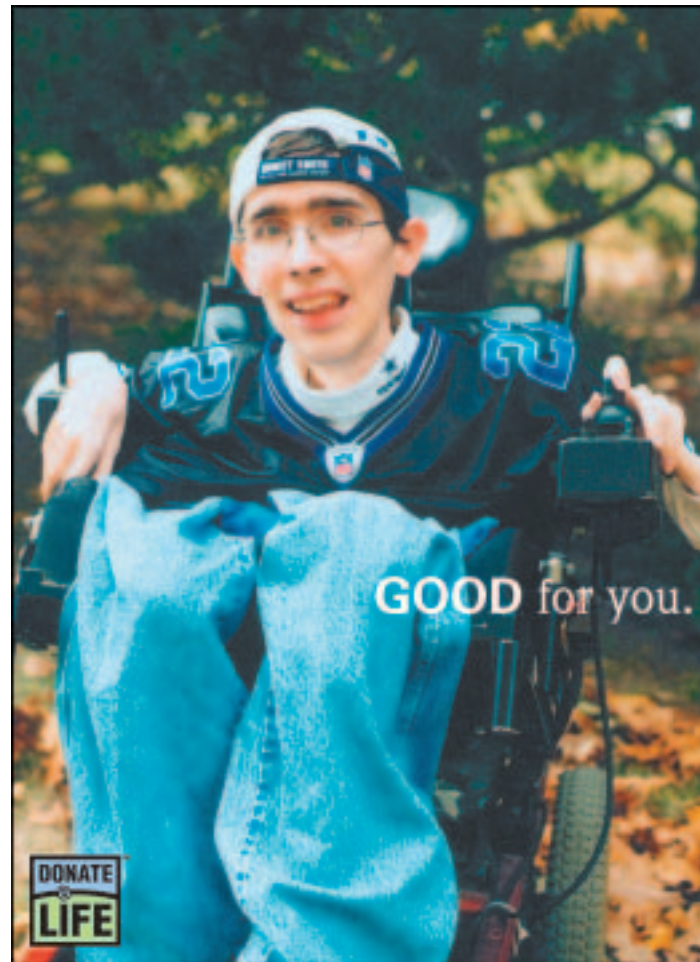
SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Families of those killed in the worst massacre in Europe since World War II will sue the United Nations and the Dutch government for failing to

protect the victims, a lawyer said Saturday.

The families assert that the U.N. and Dutch peacekeepers didn't do enough to protect civilians in Srebrenica in July 1995,

when Bosnian Serb troops overran the area and killed some 8,000 Muslim men and boys.

So far, authorities have exhumed about 5,000 victims from mass graves across Bosnia.



**Our son, Nathan,** died of muscular dystrophy at the age of 24 1/2. He was an Eagle Scout and later helped his brother, Allen, teach other scouts. He was also a volunteer and mentor for athletes at the Special Olympics. Nathan was a fan of the Dallas Cowboys and their cheerleaders, and, when he had his picture taken with them he thought he had already died and gone to heaven. We decided to donate when Nathan died because he was such a caring person. It was just like Nathan to want to do that.

Please make your decision to donate life, and then tell your family!

The Global Organization for Organ Donation, GOOD, is a not-for-profit dedicated to raising public awareness for organ, eye and tissue donation. Please visit us at [www.global-good.org](http://www.global-good.org) or by calling 918-745-6637 or call the Oklahoma Organ Sharing Network 1-888-580-5680 ext. 120 or ext. 123

©GOOD for life.

ADVERTISEMENT  
**MEDICAL NEWS**

### Weight Loss Puzzles Doctors

ATLANTA, GA — Doctors were surprised when two separate studies found that a natural dietary supplement could help cause significant weight loss.

Although not conclusive, both studies found that patients receiving the formula called Bio-Rex 3000®, lost more than twice as much weight as those in a control group on the same fat reduced diet. Neither group was instructed to decrease the amount of food they ate or to increase their exercise levels. An article published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* says that you don't have to decrease the amount of food you eat to lose weight, provided that you limit the fat.

According to a spokesperson for Phillips Gulf Corporation, the exclusive North American distributor of Bio-Rex 3000, the company is considering additional studies in order to get federal approval to make pharmaceutical claims. Currently, weight loss claims for the Bio-Rex 3000 supplement are limited. However, with the requisite approval, the company could say that Bio-Rex 3000 decreases sugar cravings, increases metabolism and interferes with the body's ability to produce excess fat.

Bio-Rex 3000 is currently available as a dietary supplement and plan in pharmacies and nutrition stores or by calling 1-800-729-8446. [www.hcdsales.com](http://www.hcdsales.com).

Bio-Rex 3000 is available at: ©2003HCD

**mays**  
DRUG STORES  
**Drug Warehouse**

Author's Note: This statement has not been evaluated by the FDA. Bio-Rex 3000 is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.

# Be a Winner!

## Come by & see us at Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market

Stop by the Tulsa World Prizemobile for your chance to win Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market Gift Cards!

**This week we're at the Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market located at 6606 E. 81st Street**

**Wednesday, November 12, noon to 5pm**  
**Thursday, November 13, noon to 5pm**  
**Friday, November 14, noon to 5pm**

**Register for a pair of December 14th New Mexico State vs Tulsa Basketball Tickets!**

Everyone 18 years of age and older is eligible for these drawings. Whether you're a Tulsa World subscriber or not, when you see the Tulsa World Prizemobile STOP for your chance to win! Giveaways may be cancelled due to weather. Complete rules available at event or Tulsa World Offices.

**TULSA WORLD**  
tulsaworld.com

**SEARS**

**-CORRECTIONS NOTICE-**

In the Friday 11/07 Sears Preprint on page 8, and the Sunday 11/09 Sears Preprint on page 4, we advertised the Koss DVD player at \$34.99 and the Sony Duel Deck 57463 at \$179.99. The sale price of the Sony Duel Deck 57463 is \$170.99. Unfortunately, we cannot honor requests to sell the Sony Duel Deck 57463 at \$34.99.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our customers.

AMERICA'S BEST-SELLING PREMIUM CIGAR PRESENTS

## MACANUDO.

American Passion Tour.

**Tulsa's Autumn Tour**  
You're Invited To This Exclusive Event

**Thursday, November 13**

Food & Refreshment  
Prizes & Giveaways

**FOGUE & BATES CIGARS**  
6929 E. 71st St  
488-0818  
71st & East of Sheridan

Call for Details