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Cop, law shows dull the senses

A person can take only so many bad cop shows on television. Then you'll go to a first-run movie theater and buy a ticket to whatever is playing next.

It's hard to say exactly when they ran out of good murder plots for cop shows, probably in Hitchcock's day. But that doesn't keep them from turning out police programs, one after the other, summer, winter, spring or fall, recycling ideas along the way.

Lousy murder plots aren't restricted to cop shows. Impossible killers show up on most of the programs about the law as well. Two new offerings where you'll know who did it, but will never buy how they did it, are due soon, one set in Oklahoma City starring Holly Hunter, the other starring Glenn Close.

About the only time you won't know who did it inside 10 minutes is when there are two guest stars.

'The Closer': The cop business that drove me to the summer movies is a series called "The Closer," the highest-rated show on cable television last week.

What gives me the right to review, or comment upon, one of the arts?

Well, actually, not all that much. There's no ideal background for a critic. Like baseball managers, some critics played the game; some didn't. Some actors can direct; some can't come close.

When discussing a TV show or a movie, certain things are universal, like good comedy. Originality always has value. But when something is just OK, or worse, up jumps a bias.

So if you love "The Closer," you're probably right and I'm probably wrong, because this show has two things going for it that drive me nuts: a hokey accent and confessions.

The main cop is a woman, and for some reason she does a syrupy Southern accent that occasionally causes her to resemble a channel catfish.

And, at the end of most of the episodes I have seen, obvious killers request lawyers, but forget all about it and then crack like a cheap mug just before the end.

Few confessions: Summer movies seem to start at income-tax day and run until about Halloween weekend.

At summer movies, you seldom hear anybody ask, "What did that mean?"

Summer movies are pretty much obvious and in your face, and are so loud through the speakers, it's hard to hear anybody ask anything.

I haven't been to a movie in months and arrived as "Transformers" was about to start.

In this one, they've come to get us. The problem being, we don't know who or what they are.

There's nothing simple like a monster slashing its way out of somebody's gut here.

Try something lame like confessing in a summer movie and you'll be pummeled, thrashed, stomped, strewn, pulverized, blasted, blistered, bonked and bewildered. And that's just the start of your trouble.

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Bixby seeks low-water dam, too

By SUSAN HYLTON
World Staff Writer

BIXBY — Officials here say a proposed \$277 million Tulsa County sales tax initiative to make some of the projects proposed in the Arkansas River Corridor Master Plan a reality is missing an important component: Bixby.

The initiative as proposed would include projects on 25 miles of the 42-mile corridor plan. Bixby Mayor Ray Bowen said it should be stretched about seven more miles to the "Garden Spot."

"Everything we're currently talking about fits into the 42-mile master plan. It's not like we're asking for something that's not there. It's so Bixby can fit into the plan," Bowen said.

Bowen said he and city officials are negotiating with the county and the George Kaiser Family Foundation, which would lead a \$100 million donation drive from the private sector.

"I've been advocating to get (Bixby) included, and that is going to happen. To what extent is still to be determined," County Commissioner Fred Perry said. "It remains to be seen if the river plan is going to go to a vote of the people or not. If there is one, Bixby should be included because they are a river city,

and they've done a lot of work and shown a lot of interest as it relates to the river."

A low-water dam that would create a more lake-like setting attractive for commercial development is one of the things Bowen would like to see in Bixby.

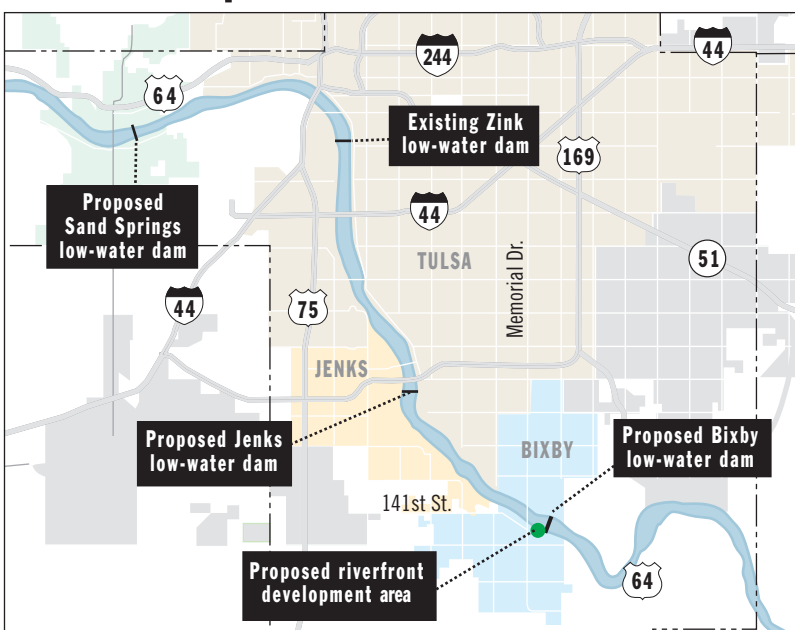
So far, the initiative includes low-water dams in Sand Springs and Jenks and improvements to Tulsa's existing Zink Lake dam near 31st Street.

The master plan does not consider a dam in Bixby feasible because of the effect it would have on water quality. But Jerry Lasker, executive director of the Indian Nations Council of Governments, said a Bixby dam could be considered feasible if a sand company were to relocate and Tulsa increased its level of wastewater treatment.

"You have to make sure the water you're damming meets water-quality standards, especially if you want to do some recreation in it," Lasker said. "When we look at all the dams in the phase-two study, Sand Springs and Jenks were the most feasible. But I think as far as the next dam after that, it probably could be Bixby."

Bowen said Bixby can overcome those obstacles because Holiday Sand & Gravel plans to move in the

River development



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near future.

"That's no longer an issue," he said. "We should be able to be included on any future studies for a low-water dam."

Perry said the initiative will not include a Bixby low-water dam and will stay within the \$277 million bud-

get, but it might have enough to cover the engineering studies. The allocation for land acquisition by the river possibly could be used to buy the sand company in Bixby, he said.

Other projects Bixby has in mind

SEE BIXBY A-24

WET PISTOLEROS: POISON PATRIOTS



STEPHEN HOLMAN / Tulsa World

Craig "Iggie" Pistolero Smith (left) and Lee J Pistolero of the band Gypsy Pistoleros get their picture taken Saturday at Rocklahoma by rock music fan Heberto Moreno of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. The British rock group made its U.S. debut at the Pryor music festival on Thursday and hung around to see some of the show themselves.

Concert nothin' but a good time

By MATT ELLIOTT
World Scene Writer

PRYOR — Lee J Pistolero of the rowdy English rock band Gypsy Pistoleros learned something at Rocklahoma.

"Snakeskin was waterproof, I thought," he said, gazing down at the ruin of his red reptilian boots, smeared with mud from Thursday's and Friday's rains. His leather pants were flecked with mud, as well.

His band played Thursday but stuck around through Saturday to soak up the ambiance of the festival, which was the band's premiere in

the United States.

The four-day homage to '80s rock has drawn thousands of fans from across the United States and other countries to the 440 acres where a massive metal stage has hosted acts such as Poison and White Lion.

Poison performed until 1:45 a.m. Saturday in a show that featured the group bringing military service members on stage from the audience. The band's front man, a paunchy Bret Michaels, ordered the sweaty, dancing and mud-smeared audience to salute the soldiers, who are "fighting for our freedom."

Music fans kept pouring into the Rocklahoma festival grounds Saturday. Some seemed too young to remember much about the 1980s, with its big hair, tight pants, bullet-belts and spikes. The festival had almost as many media attending as it had security guards, with radio stations from across the country and writers from publications including Spin and Rolling Stone.

Many of the older fans seemed to be more interested in reconnecting with their youth than hearing new material.

"I'll tolerate their new stuff," said

Jessica Thomas, who arrived Friday in an RV with Adam Kammerer. The two drove down from Kansas City, Mo., to see Poison, which is also performing Sunday night in their hometown, they said.

The two heard about the festival on a Top-40 radio station back home. At first, the DJs were joking about the festival, but the more they talked about it, the more the DJs seemed like they wanted to be there, Kammerer said.

As soon as they heard about

SEE ROCK A-24

Party platforms are useful guides

By RANDY KREHBIEL
World Staff Writer

Even the most ardent political activists admit that party platforms are like the fine print in a loan agreement.

Hardly anyone reads them until they wish they had.

"I just don't think people out there pay that much attention to them," said Oklahoma Democratic Party Chairman Ivan Holmes.

Maybe they should. The state party platforms — Democrats call theirs resolutions — adopted this spring lay out guiding

Online

To see the full text of the party platforms:

Democratic:
www.tulsaworld.com/dems

Republican:
www.tulsaworld.com/repubs

principles through the 2008 elections.

Theoretically, at least.

Though not binding on candidates, they reflect the thinking of the party regulars who elect party

officers, volunteer for campaigns and vet potential candidates.

Traditionally, said University of Tulsa political science professor Eldon Eisenach, "platforms would stress those things everybody in the party agreed on and suppress differences."

Alternately, Eisenach said, they sometimes "signal who the top dog is — who has come out on top in a struggle within the party."

Two years ago, such a struggle between Democratic officeholders

SEE PARTY A-24

Marlette is eulogized

By ZIVA BRANSTETTER
World Projects Editor

HURDLE MILLS, N.C. — In a sandstone church nestled among rolling North Carolina tobacco fields, Tulsa World editorial cartoonist Doug Marlette was remembered Saturday as a fearless foe to the pompous and a friend to many lucky enough to cross his path.

"I dedicate this eulogy to the love of Doug Marlette, my charismatic, untamable, fire-eating friend," said noted Southern author Pat Conroy.



REMEMBERED

Doug Marlette: His unflinching editorial cartoons lampooned politicians.

For more

Friends tell more Doug Marlette stories. G-5

A selection of Marlette cartoons. G-6

SEE MOURN A-21