

# Ring in the New Year!

## TCD President Named Citizen Of The Year

**2005-06  
Board of Directors  
Twin Cities Development**

<b>President</b>	<b>Owen Palm</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Stan Walker</b>
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	<b>Joe Schon</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Brenda Darnell</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>John Harms</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Brent Holliday</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Steve Olsen</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Paul Reed</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Bob Unzicker</b>
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Rawnda Pierce</b>
<b>Project Development</b>	<b>Mike Sarchet</b>
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	<b>Kristy Petersen</b>

**Star-Herald**  
January 1, 2006

In just five short years, Owen Palm has accomplished what some would say is a lifetime of business success. When he took over the 21st Century Equipment John Deere Implement in Bridgeport in 2000, there were 35 employees between the Bridgeport and Alliance stores. Since then, he and his partners have built quite an enterprise, expanding the John Deere stores to include Ogallala and Sidney locations with a total of 100 employees

and creating a fast-growing chain of farm supply stores called The Mercantile, with some 200 employees spread over 10 locations.

For his many contributions to western Nebraska's economy, Palm has been named the Star-Herald's Citizen of the Year.

Twin Cities Development Director Rawnda Pierce knows Palm well as the president of TCD's board of directors and also as someone who has invested in



*21st Century and Mercantile CEO Owen Palm poses on the stair landing leading up to his office at the 21st Century building in Bridgeport. Palm serves as president of TCD for the*

this area. "He brings a lot to the table," she said. "The thing I really admire about him is he's a very intelligent busi-

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## Village of Morrill Joins TCD

The Village of Morrill is the newest addition to TCD's governmental members. Morrill leaders approved joining the group at their December 6th board meeting. Prior to the approval, a Town Hall meeting was held and TCD officials met with interested citizens and discussed ideas and concerns in Morrill. As a result of

that meeting TCD was recommended by several community members, and others wrote letters to the village office afterward.

Tammy Cooley, village of Morrill clerk and treasurer, was reported by the Star-Herald as saying "Sometimes an outsider that isn't here all the time can help us see

what we have. We kind of feel like we have to look at the whole picture."

Morrill joins Scottsbluff, Gering, Terrytown, Bayard, Mitchell and Bridgeport as members of TCD.

### 2005 in Review

- KSTF reduces news staff coverage
- Murdoch's opens in former Scottsbluff Sunmart building
- George Risk Industries expands in new Gering location
- Allo Communications comes to Scottsbluff/Gering
- Packerland Packing closes
- Marky's Meat Market opens
- Alco retail store closed
- Chicory plant roasting facility begins operations
- Trinity Steel expands operation
- WNCC's Harms Advanced Technology Center moves to new facility
- John McLellan Jr. Expressway opens for highway traffic
- Sunmart in Gering closes grocery store
- WESTCO acquires Jirdon Agri Chemicals
- Valley Bank opens first bilingual branch
- Allan C. Landers soccer complex completed
- Fastenal relocates to new Gering facility
- Donald E. Overman Terminal at Western Nebraska Regional Airport has grand opening
- Heritage Health Care starts new construction of health care facility
- Valley Airways to expand operations and add limited flight service to Lincoln
- Hardee's Restaurant closes
- Bluff's Dash-In opens in old Hardee's location
- Prairie Pines Quilt shop moves to Gering location
- Scottsbluff County Jail announces new Gering site
- Aurora Loan Services expansion announced. New building to be built by WNCC.

## President...continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

ness person, and he could be anywhere, but he chooses to be here and he loves the community."

Pierce said she knows how valuable the Mercantile stores are to the communities they serve.

"This has been a big impact for them," she said. "The fact that Owen was able to put everything together has made a big impact on western Nebraska as a whole."



Scottsbluff/Gering Chamber of Commerce representatives presented Rawnda Pierce, Bill Trumbull and the TCD Board with a plaque and a held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the relocation of TCD's offices to the Harms Advanced Technology Center.

## New Board Members for TCD

During the Annual Business Meeting held October 20, 2005, at the Harms Advanced Technology Center, a nomination and election for the TCD 2005-2006 term year took place.

Board member Steve Olsen recognized board members Owen Palm, Dewey Zerr and Bill Trumbull going off the board and their efforts throughout the last year. Nominations to fill the vacancies were Owen Palm, Brent Holliday and Brenda Darnell.

Brent Holliday is the President of Nebraska Transport Company (NTC), which employs approximately 265 employees company-wide. Brenda Darnell is Senior Vice President of Escrow Administration for Aurora Loan Services. She has been with ALS since May 1998.

New officers for 2005-2006 are as follows: Owen Palm-President, Stan Walker-Vice President, and Joe Schon-Secretary/Treasurer.



New TCD President Owen Palm looks on as past President Bill Trumbull is presented with a clock and thanked for his leadership over the past year. Pierce stated the clock represents "time" spent assisting the director and giving direction to the board.

## Aurora Loan Services Expanding Company to add 150 new jobs

The Scottsbluff City Council approved the largest economic development funding request to date at its December 19, 2005, meeting. Aurora Loan Services will receive \$1.8 million in funds

during the next three years, with additional funding in state tax incentives.

The funding is being used to acquire the company's existing facilities on 5th Avenue and Beltline in Scottsbluff.

Expanding operations in Scottsbluff will add a minimum of 150 new employees over the next two years. The company has guaranteed current employment levels,

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## PLEASE JOIN US!

# Nebraska Alumni Celebration and Career Fair in Denver



The Annual Nebraska Alumni Celebration will be held April 1, 2006, in Denver. Readily available Nebraska jobs in a variety of industries, as well as services and assistance for those interested in business start-ups or expansions in Nebraska, will be showcased.

On November 20, 2004,

the first annual Nebraska Alumni Celebration and Career Fair was held and was a huge success. The job fair featured 75 Nebraska communities, organizations from across Nebraska, and businesses such as Cabela's and Union Pacific.

According to Richard Baier, Nebraska Department of Economic Development Director, "while other states have many people, but not enough jobs to go around, Nebraska is facing a gap in the number of qualified

workers available to fill positions in a range of industries. Furthermore, there are a large number of workers who are approaching retirement. The demand for new staff to replace those planning to retire in coming years presents a challenge for businesses and communities across the state. As the need to recruit new workers grows, the department has focused its first efforts on attracting former Nebraskans back to the state."

**So, where do you fit in? TCD will be compiling a**

**list of available jobs in the community to hand out to career fair participants. If your business has openings that you would like to submit, contact our office or e-mail us with the job description prior to March 1st. We hope we can assist in finding qualified individuals for the positions you need to fill.**

**Perhaps you or someone in your business would like to join us at the career fair and meet potential candidates firsthand. Call TCD if you are interested in attending.**

## Aurora Expands... *continued*

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and the additional 150 new employees must be retained for a minimum of five years.

Lehman Brothers, the corporation which owns Aurora Loan Services, has agreed to purchase 12 acres near Western Nebraska Community College's Harms Advanced Technology Center to construct a new facility.

Once the new building is con-

structed and Aurora relocates, the current facility located on Fifth Avenue will be deeded to the City of Scottsbluff. Rick Kuckkahn, Scottsbluff City Manager, said the city will examine potential uses for the property, which could include selling it to another business, housing city services, or other possible uses.

Western Nebraska Commu-

nity College President John Harms stated that funds from the real estate purchase will be used to construct new college dormitories. He anticipates adding facilities for an additional 125 to 140 students.



Current Aurora Loan Services location on Fifth Avenue

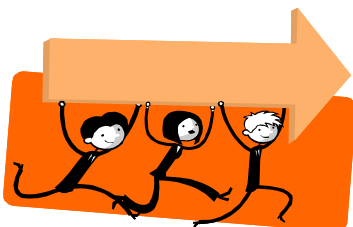
## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

TCD would like to welcome the newest members:

C S Precision  
Kawasaki Korner  
Tax Express

Team Chevrolet  
Thompson Glass  
WESTCO

Village of Morrill



One Community - One Voice

**TWIN CITIES DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**Rawnda Pierce, Executive Director**

**2620 College Park**

**Scottsbluff, NE 69361**

**(308) 635-6710**

**twincitiesdev@wncc.net**

**Visit Our Web Site at [www.tcdne.org](http://www.tcdne.org)**

## THANK YOU, TCD MEMBERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

21<sup>st</sup> Cent. Equip dba Merchantile  
A&L Inc.  
ABC Nursery  
Action Communications  
Advance Services  
Agromac International  
Alliance Data Systems (Orcom)  
Allo Communications  
AllTel Communications  
Ameri-Co Carriers  
Arby's Restaurant  
Ashley Furniture  
Asmus Brothers Real Estate  
Aulick Industries  
Aulick Leasing  
Baker and Associates  
Bare Manufacturing  
B&C Steel Corporation  
Brannan's Homes Ltd.  
Broadway Office Centre  
Bytes Computer Solutions  
Carr-Trumbull Lumber Co.  
Century 21 Home Team Realty  
Chaloupka, Holyoke, Hofmeister,  
Snyder & Chaloupka  
Charter Communications  
Chicory USA  
City of Bayard  
City of Bridgeport  
City of Gering  
City of Mitchell  
City of Scottsbluff  
Connecting Point  
Contryman Associates P.C.  
Coplumatic Systems  
C.S. Precision  
Dana C. Cole and Co., LLP  
Douglas, Kelly, Ostdiek, et al  
Fastenal  
First National Bank  
First State Bank  
Fisher Roofing Co.

Floyd's Sales and Service  
Foree Tire  
Fred A. Lockwood & Co.  
Gering Courier  
Gering Memorial Chapel  
Gering Conven. & Visitors Bureau  
Gering Public Schools  
Gering Valley Plumbing & Heating  
Gilbaugh Insurance Agency  
Hampton Inn & Suites  
Heggem Construction  
Heilbrun Farm Industrial Auto  
Hergert Milling  
Heritage Health Care  
Hiner Lease Co.  
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites  
Horizon's West Medical Group  
Ideal Linen Supply  
Independent Plumbing and Heating  
Indigo Wireless  
Infinity Construction  
Inventive Media  
J.G. Elliott Co.  
Jolliffe Funeral Home  
Kawasaki Korner, Inc.  
KDUH Television  
Kelley Bean Co.  
Kent News Agency  
Kinder Morgan  
KNEB Radio  
Kosman, Inc.  
Kovarik, Ellison, Mathis & Weimer  
P.C.  
Kriz-Davis Co.  
Kurt Manufacturing  
Landmark Real Estate  
LBE Company  
Lincoln Nat'l Life/Overman & Assoc  
Linwel  
Magnolia Homes  
Manpower  
M.C. Schaff and Assoc.

Meat Shoppe, Inc.  
Medical Imaging Associates  
Midtown Building Supplies  
Midwest Auto Supply, Inc.  
Monument Inn & Suites  
Moranville & Associates  
National Drinks, Inc.  
Neal Smith – State Farm Insurance  
Nebr. Business Dev Center  
Nebraska Machinery Co.  
Nebraska Public Power District  
Nebraska Transport Co.  
Nebr. Workforce Development  
North Platte Natural Resources  
Northfield Retirement Communities  
Northwest Pipe Fittings, Inc.  
Oregon Trail Plumbing and Heat  
Overland Storage  
Pahlke, Smith, Snyder, et al  
Panhandle Anesthesia Associates  
Panhandle Concrete Products  
Panhandle Coop Association  
Paul Reed Construction  
Performark, Inc.  
Physician Partnerships  
Platte Valley Companies  
Print Express  
Quality Water Solutions – Culligan  
Quick Care  
R&C Welding  
Reganis Auto Center  
Regional West Medical Center  
Re/Max-Sandstone Real Estate  
Rusch's Construction  
Russell's Excavation & Construction  
Sandberg Implement  
Scb/Gering United Chamber of Com  
Schmidt's Carpet  
Scotts Bluff County  
Scotts Bluff Co. Board of Realtors  
Scottsbluff Country Club  
Scottsbluff Days Inn

Scottsbluff Ford LLC  
Scottsbluff Orthopaedics  
Scottsbluff Public Schools  
Scottsbluff Vision Clinic  
Security Financial Life  
Simmons Olsen Law Firm PC  
Simon Contractors  
Smith Systems Transportation  
Sprint  
Star-Herald  
Stylite Lighting  
Super 8 Motel  
Tax Express  
Team Chevrolet  
Thompson Glass  
Tier One  
Trim Line Draperies  
Trinity Steel  
Tri-State Roofing  
US Bank  
Valley Airways  
Valley Bank and Trust  
Van Newkirk Realty  
Village of Morrill  
Village of Terrytown  
Walker Farms, Inc.  
Weathercraft Roofing  
West NE Claims Service  
Westco  
Western ENT  
Western Heritage Credit Union  
Western Nebr Community College  
Western Nebr. Regional Airport  
Western Pathology Consultants  
Western Sugar Company  
Western Surgical Group  
Wiedeman Financial Services  
Womens Center