

Still thinking of Debbie

Musicians gather for memorial concert benefit

By JOHN WOOLEY
World Scene writer

The first time Jim Byfield met the late Debbie Campbell, she was on the road, coming through Tulsa with the Kandy Kanes, an all-girl rock 'n' roll band based in her hometown of Fort Worth, Texas.

"I found out later she was only 16 or 17 at the time," he recalled recently. "That was 35 or 40 years ago. We didn't become good friends until much later."

Campbell, who spent most of her life as a Tulsa resident, had a lot of good friends in town. Many of them, naturally, were musicians — including Byfield, who's reassembled his legendary band, the Brothers of the Night, to play in Saturday's memorial event. Proceeds will go to Reaching Hands, a nonprofit agency that helps frail and home-bound seniors.

Byfield's reconstituted group is set to end the show. Before that, it'll be a number of area singers taking their turns in front of Campbell's former band.

"Basically," said guitarist Pat Savage, "all of us who were Debbie's band are Mary Cogan's band now, so we're still hanging together, still doing something."

In addition to Savage, the group includes Spencer Sutton on piano, guest John Glazer on organ, Ron Morgan on bass and Chuck DeWalt on drums. DeWalt was also a member of the Brothers of the Night.

"We're just going to trot a lot of singers out there and have 'em do a song or two," Savage said. "Then, after the guest vocalists, the Brothers of the Night are going to come out and play for about half an hour. To me, that's a real high point of the night, to see those yahoos get back together."

The Brothers of the Night included some well-known Tulsa Sound names, including Walt Richmond on keyboards, Gary Gilmore on bass and Steve Hickerson on



A. CUERVO/Tulsa World file

The benefit is named in honor of Debbie Campbell, a Tulsa musician who died of cancer in March 2004.

guitar. During their late '70s-early '80s run, Campbell would often join them at various jobs around town.

"She'd book her own jobs and use us, or we'd invite her to work with us," explained Byfield. "She was a welcome member of our family, and we were a welcome member of hers. We counted on each other. It was a great time."

"From our perspective," added DeWalt, "she was a musician, not just a vocalist. Some singers love the stage and have the ego, but she was in it for the love of the music. She was able to relate to the musicians, because she loved the music like we did."

The Brothers of the Night

haven't played together since the mid-'80s, breaking up not long after they returned home from a tour of Europe. Richmond, Hickerson and DeWalt have stayed active in music, while Gilmore — who toured and recorded with Taj Mahal, among other artists — and Byfield play far less than they used to.

"I talked to Gary's wife about the show, and she said she'd never seen him so excited," said DeWalt of Gilmore. "You know, Gary always wanted to be a truck driver, and now it's kind of funny — he drives a truck for Little Debbie."

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concert DEBBIE CAMPBELL MEMORIAL BENEFIT

featuring appearances by Mike Drago, Jim Strader, Bill Snow, Bill Davis, Jim Sweney, Chris Campbell, Rusti Love, Tommy Tripplehorn, Andre Martin, Lori Duke, Janet Rutland, and a reunion of Rockin' Jimmy Byfield and the Brothers of the Night

When:
7 p.m. Saturday

Where:
OSU-Tulsa Auditorium, 700 N. Greenwood Ave.

Tickets:
\$10 at the door, with proceeds benefiting Reaching Hands

Sperry goes retro for Old West Fest

Country star **Ronnie McDowell** is the headliner for Sperry's 19th annual Old West Fest, dubbed "Happy Days and Star Nites" and set for Friday and Saturday

"We're encouraging people to dress in '50s style," says **Larry Briggs** of the Sperry Merchants Association, which is presenting the event. "We'll have some classic cars out here, and the Bop Cats will play twice: at 6 p.m. Friday, opening for Ronnie — who comes on at 9 — and again on Saturday morning at 11:30. If people want to come out in their classic cars, they can just drive in. They don't have to let us know."

Both acts play at the gazebo in downtown Sperry.

For more information, contact the Sperry Merchants Association at 288-7487. — J.W.

Jazz it up

The two Jazmo'z Bourbon Street Cafe locations in Tulsa, 1542 E. 15th St. and 8246 S. Lewis Ave., begin a series of "Jazz Brunch Sundays" this weekend, benefiting the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame. Both locations will feature live entertainment on Sunday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., with a portion of the proceeds going to the Jazz Hall. Scheduled performers this Sunday are **Gayle Williamson** and **Soundz Good** at the 15th Street location, and **7-Blue** on Lewis.

Jazmo'z owner **Ward Harrison** is also encouraging jazz-brunch patrons to bring in new or used musical instruments, which will be distributed by Jazz Hall members to kids in need. The instruments will be accepted at any Jazmo'z location, including the one in Oklahoma City's Bricktown.

The jazz brunches are scheduled to continue each Sunday throughout the rest of the year. — J.W.

Adieu, TRB

Tony Romanello, who is one of the premiere musicians in town, amicably broke up his popular local rock outfit, **TRB**, in May.

Rumors about why Romanello split up the band, which was an abbreviation of the Tony Romanello Band, have since spread like cockroaches.

"The oddest thing I've heard so far revolves around the notion that I am 'retiring' from music altogether. This is entirely false," he said in a recent e-mail interview. "Or that my fiancé told me she wanted me to quit the band. Ridiculous."

Really, it was just time for Romanello to take a break from music.

"It wasn't making me happy anymore and the whole reason that I got into music in the first place was because I loved it, and it made me happy," he said.

john & matt WOOLEY GLEASON



sounds like ours

"I didn't feel like I was giving my part for a healthy relationship in the band either, and that upset me. I didn't feel like I was improving. I just needed to get away for a while, so at the beginning of May, I made the decision to leave the band."

"For the first time in almost 10 years, I don't have any current musical plans, and I'm OK with that."

So what happens next? "I don't have any plans exactly on another release just yet so I can't really say what it will sound like," he said. "I hope it will be different, though."

To keep track of Romanello's progress, fans can check in on the artist's online blog at www.tonyromanello.com, which he's using to release material from his archive. — M.G.

On the moon again

After a year away, **Mary Cogan** returns to hold down Wednesday nights at the Full Moon, 1525 E. 15th St. Her first night back will be this Wednesday, when she and guitarist **Pat Savage**, keyboardist **Spencer Sutton**, bassist **Ron Morgan**, drummer **Chuck DeWalt** and multi-instrumentalist **Rick Morton** begin at around 7:30 p.m.

For the past year, Cogan's been working Wednesdays at Suede, with an acoustic detour for a few months at the now-defunct En Fuego. Before that, she and the band had been playing the weekly gig at Full Moon for some five years.

"When I stopped doing Suede, I wasn't getting home at 2 in the morning anymore," Cogan said. "My crowd's like me. It's an earlier crowd, and this is better for us." — J.W.

Great balls of fire

We're told that it's worth going a long way to see Tulsa Sound pioneer **Wes Reynolds** do his **Jerry Lee Lewis** show, and Tulsans have the opportunity to do just that on Saturday, when Reynolds brings the act to the Roxy Theater, 220 W. Okmulgee Ave. in Muskogee.

Starting at 7 p.m., it's a part of the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame's fourth annual Showcase Series. Tickets are \$12 from Soundworld in Muskogee, or at the door. — J.W.

Buffalo Bike Run

A little something for everyone

By JOHN WOOLEY
World Scene Writer

You'd be forgiven if you figured that the Buffalo Bike Run, set for this weekend just outside Miami, was an adult event. After all, it involves motorcycles and it's based at a casino.

But that's not right at all, says Steve Bashore, general manager of Miami's Buffalo Run Casino.

In fact, he pointed out recently, "A bike run can bring all different types of people into one area. There's a bike show for people interested in bikes. There's a carnival. There's live music. We've got monster trucks, the Globe of Death, motorcycle jumpers. We feel it brings something to the community for everyone."

The event begins at 5 p.m. Thursday — that's today — with the carnival and what press material describes as "the largest motorcycle show in the Midwest," with live music from former Claremore-resident-national-country-star Bobby Pinson at 8 and Red Dirt superstars Cross Canadian Ragweed at 9:30.

On Friday, the music begins at 6 p.m. with Brian Capps and the True Liars, followed by the Otis Watkins Band at 7:30, the

event BUFFALO BIKE RUN

featuring music from headliners Cross Canadian Ragweed and Bobby Pinson on Thursday, Head East on Friday and Foghat on Saturday

When:
5 p.m. Thursday, 9 a.m. Friday-Sunday

Where:
Buffalo Run Casino, 8520 S. U.S. 69A, Miami

Tickets:
\$15 per day or \$35 for all four days at the Buffalo Run Casino ticket office, (918)542-7140. Motorcyclists can enter a poker run, featuring celebrity riders including Evel Knievel and Lorenzo Lamas, for \$40.

classic-rock band Head East at 9 and country singer-songwriter Rich McCready set to begin at 11.

On Saturday, the live music begins at 1 p.m. with Cebon Tiger, followed by King Clarentz at 2:30, Blackwater at 4, Curtis Brown Band at 5:30, Ghost Riders at 7 and the veteran British blues band Foghat at 9, followed by Kill Creek at 11. The entertainment Sunday includes Charlie Horse at 1 p.m.,

Arkomo Rangers at 2:30 and Scott Keeton at 4:30 before the event closes at 6.

Saturday is also the day of the poker run, with participating riders going on a 90-mile motorcycle run and picking up a playing card at each of five checkpoints along the way. The rider with the best hand will win a bike autographed by famed daredevil Evel Knievel. Knievel is also scheduled to ride in the run — along with such celebrity riders as Dennis Rodman, Lorenzo Lamas, Billy Sims and Brian Bosworth — and make a couple of personal appearances on Friday and Saturday back at the event's headquarters.

"Evel's bringing in the rocket that he tried to jump Snake Canyon with, and all his other memorabilia," said Bashore. "Everything will be in the show-place part of the casino, our indoor entertainment center; and all ages are welcome there. You have to be 18 to get into the casino, but you don't have to go in the casino to participate in any of this."

For more information, call the casino or visit the website at www.buffalobikerun.com

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