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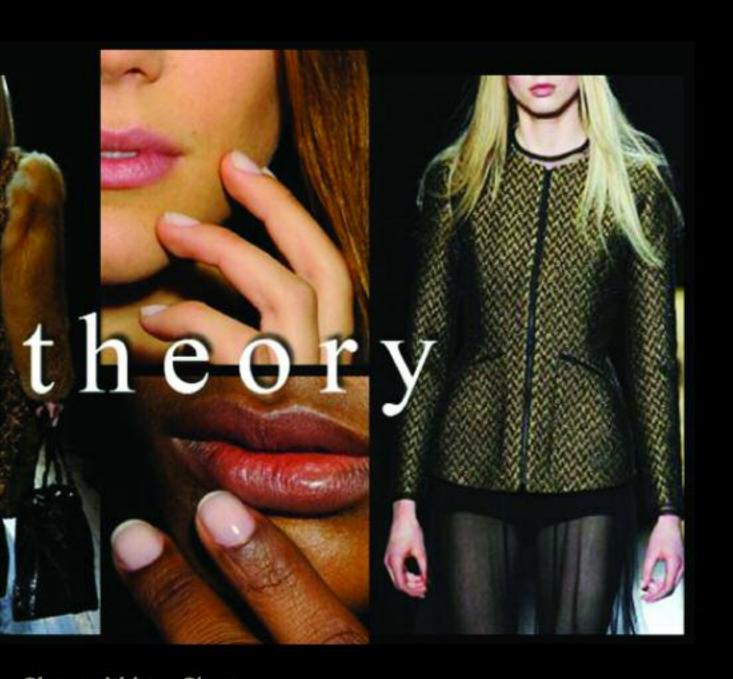
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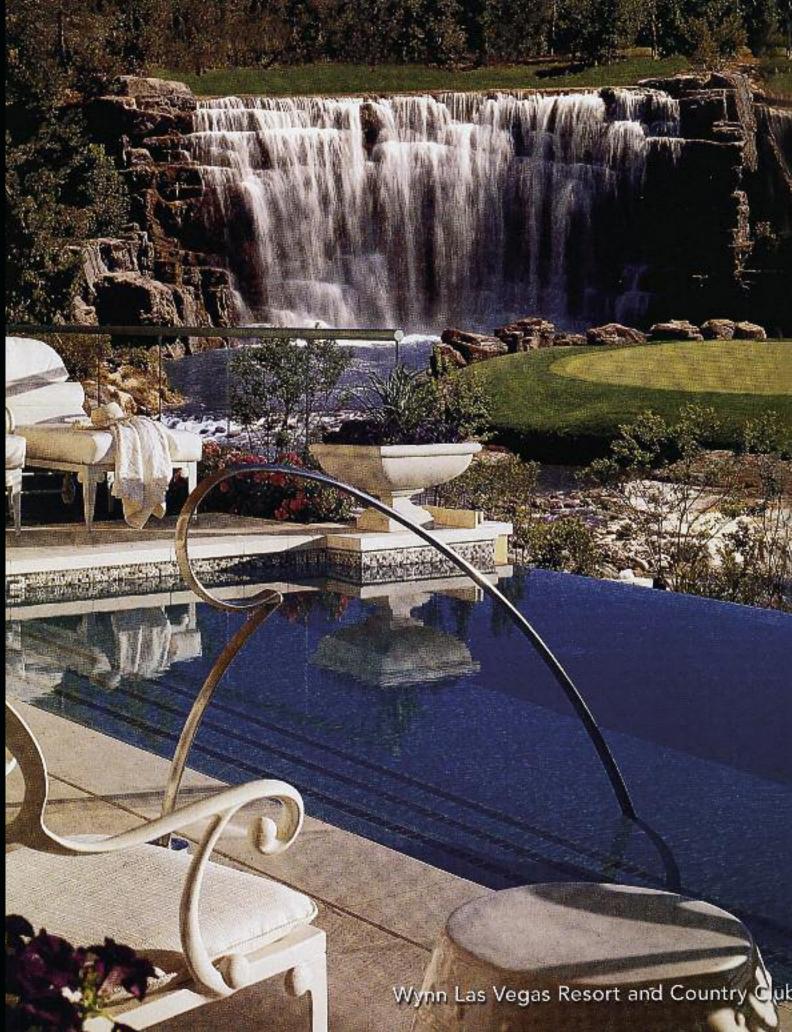








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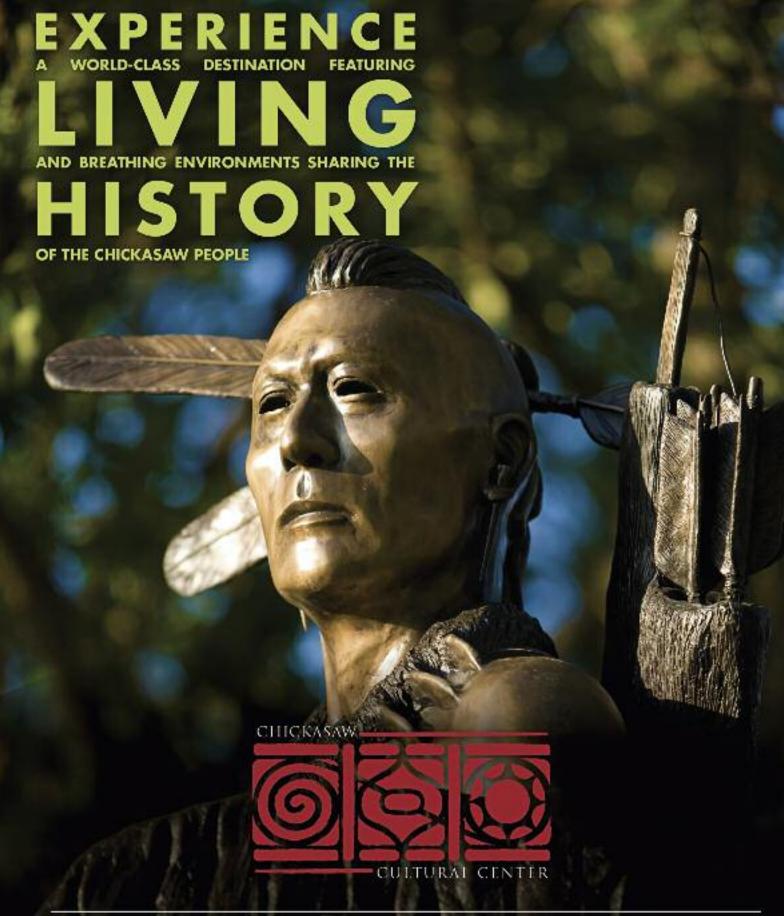
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In 2005, archaeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar, on behalf of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was digging into the northern section of the City of David when one of her colleagues spotted a small piece of clay lying in the dust. It had originally been made to seal a cord field around a papyrus scroll. The tiny bulla bore a three-line Paleo-Hebrew inscription: "Belonging to Yehucal, son of Shelemiyahu, son of Shovi." This was the seal of Jehucal.

In 2008, Dr. Mazar and her team were enlarging the dig, wet-sifting debris they had excavated just a few yards from the location of the Jehucal bulla. After washing away 2,600 years of dirt and dust from another seal, Dr. Mazar found herself reading "le Gedalyahu ben Pashur"—"belonging to Gedaliah, son of Pashur."

Rarely do science and the Bible converge as dramatically as with the Jehucal and Gedaliah bullae. Unearthed near the palace of Judah's king and scientifically dated to the time of Jeremiah, these artifacts resurrect the life and commission of one of the great prophets of scripture.

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Publisher's Note





"Like" us on facebook facebook.com/pages/ IonOklahoma-Online



follow us on twitter @IonOklahoma Welcome to ionOklahoma Online, a digital, lifestyle magazine and news & entertainment website. We are on the cutting edge of Oklahoma events, people and entertainment reporting.

I am excited to report that the ionOklahoma website has experienced a 85% increase in traffic compared to one year ago. Every month we are connecting with an ever increasing number of people in our state. During the 12 months ending July 31, 2012 Google Analytics reported that over 68,950 people had visited the ionOklahoma website, at www.ionok.com.

We at ionOklahoma are looking forward to another 30 Under 30 celebration! This fall, on October 18th, 30 young Oklahomans under 30 who demonstrate leadership qualities, participation in their community and who excel in their professions, will be honored at an awards banquet to be held at the Oklahoma City Petroleum Club.

Two months ago ionOklahoma created a special weekend edition called "Eye on the Weekend." This weekly email, going out to ionOklahoma subscribers each Thursday, is the perfect resource for planning weekend family outings. There are always 12 events listed, and all the details for each event are only one click away.

Another recent change we're excited about is our recent partnership, through the 5090 deals, with a national group buying company called Tipper, Inc. Tippr has recruited over 250 affiliate media partners across America and can bring many national cost saving deals and products to loyal ion subscribers and 5090deals followers.

We would like to extend our gratitude to our loyal followers, and let you know how much we enjoy covering the amazing people and events in central Oklahoma. If there is something you would like to see covered in ionOklahoma, we are all ears.

Sincerely, Don Swift, Publisher Sooner, Cowboy, Indian.

Country, Rock, Foodie.

Wanderer, Hero, Oklahoman.



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Sweet Milena

Beauty, Brain Power, Talent and Technique— All Part of the Superior Brand of the Govich Family Business

By Clif' Warren

hen Dr. Bruce Michael Govich arrived at the University of Oklahoma music department, he brought with him several years of successful teaching at Ohio universities and a well-defined musical pedagogy that is still proving highly successful with later generations of students. He certainly did not know it at the time, but Govich was already beginning to set up the family business. Now an on-going family musical dynasty, the latest Govich cast stars the musical theatre, film and TV star Milena, whose mother, Marilyn, and brothers, Mateja and Nicola, and sister-in-law Stephanie are continuing to burnish the Govich name.

The Govich reputation for excellence and success in the arts is spreading across Oklahoma in a constant flow as the family's students fill roles in entertainment venues on Broadway, the West Coast and lots of summer theatres,

as well as teaching academies throughout the country The flow is spurred on especially these days by the quite successful teaching of Marilyn Govich, Professor of Voice at the School of Music at the University of Central Oklahoma, and most recently by Mateja (Mat) Govich's voice students at the Lyric Academy and the University of Tulsa. Mat's wife Stephanie shares teaching duties with him with the musical theatre and dance students at Sooner Theatre's performing arts school in Norman.

Nicola holds up his end of the family business in the North in Minneapolis, where he dons character garb for his commercials work. He graduated college with a drama degree.

Much of the family success depends on the musical pedagogy Bruce Govich developed as a graduate student at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. There he studied under a famous mentor, Bruce Foote, well known for his singing on radio programs on WGN in Chicago.

At Illinois, Govich developed and championed special vocal science practices.



A Govich family photo. Left to right: Mateju, Milena, Marilyn, Bruce, and Nicola in his mother's lap.





Their proper application provided voice teachers with the techniques they needed to allow their students to perform with an assured adaptability, whether the musical aim was for oratorio performance, opera, concert stage, nightclub appearance, or their heading for Broadway. Govich worked out his voice science methodology in detail in his doctoral dissertation.

When Govich arrived at Oklahoma University, his teaching ideas offered a difference. He even taught a proper "belt" technique, destined to hit the back wall of the theatre.

This was indeed the right time—1968—and OU was definitely the right place, for it was just five years after Oklahoma's version of Broadway set up shop at Lyric Theatre at Oklahoma City University. Students from all the surrounding

colleges and universities wanted to audition for summer roles at Lyric. Many of them desired coaching and sought out the services of Dr. Govich, some of for graduate level study, even though he was already teaching overloads at OU.

Already OU had established its place with classical vocal procedures, earning praise especially for the internationally famous Joseph Benton from Sayre, Oklahoma, who when he sang at the epicenter for opera lovers, La Scala in Italy, was known as Giuseppe Bentonelli. With his worldwide reputation and matinee idol looks, when he taught at the university, nearly every singer wanted lessons with him.

After Benton, Dame Eva Turner, the noted British opera star, known for her bel canto perfection, spent the World War II years at the OU department, and a short time thereafter, teaching



her acclaimed technique.

Following Dame Turner's departure, Thomas Carey, later to wow the British in London singing the role of Porgy in the popular Gershwin opera, and his equally famous wife, contralto Carol Brice, joined the faculty. Professor Carey soon formed the Cimarron Circuit Opera Company. As a couple with active performance careers, the Careys, too, left a lasting imprint.

Over time, many of Bruce Govich's students won acclaim as well established singers, and they, too. settled in to teach voice themselves. Eventually he became known as a "teacher of teachers."

Interestingly, the voice science methodology Dr. Govich taught began first as a partial answer to his own dilemma. He had served in the Air Force during World War II and already had a first family with children to support by the time he went to graduate school. His operatic performances, though important, were limited, involving as

they did, long nights of rehearsal schedules and performance runs; still, his range of musical talents was wide: He studied conducting in a class guided by maestro George Zell; yet, in contrast, he earned extra money when he was serving in the air force and stationed near New Orleans by singing at O'Brien's in New Orleans.

Although Dr. Govich worked with many types of singers, he remained quite serious about one's respect for the arts, stemming from his Serbian background. Discipline, too, was of upmost importance. In a recent interview, Milena reported that she received a role in a high school musical and told her dad she would like him to go over some of the music with her. He told her to schedule an appointment with him.

"Oh, Daddy," she replied, turning on her charm.

"Schedule an appointment," was the repeated reply.

Lesson learned.

In 1973, when Bruce Govich married a

second time, he chose Marilyn Green Govich, as his bride. She had studied at OU with Joseph Benton and became acquainted then with her future husband. They fell in love, and as their wedding picture here shows, she was a gorgeous bride. Always slender, tall and innately elegant, she possesses an amazingly fluid soprano voice; her flawless alabaster skin contrasts beautifully with her dark hair.

Many patrons remember Marilyn Govich as a Lyric Theatre star across the years, even up to a lead role in this summer's "Call Me Madam." A particular high point in her performing career occurred when she starred in her lead role as Aldonza in Lyric's memorable production of "Man of La Mancha" in 1971.

Milena says of her mother, "She is the perfect person, not only as a parent. teacher and performer, but as a human being. She stays current in her profession and keeps herself together, a graceful and classy lady, and her students speak of her with such enthusiasm."

The current Govich generation began appearing in 1976, with Milena first, Matja four years later, and then Nicola in two years. From early on, Milena was a bright student, outstanding in her schoolwork and also a violinist, ballet dancer and singer. According to Bruce Govich's Serbian heritage, the arts bridged over to athletics; all fused. Even the boys were encouraged to take ballet for a while; they followed Milena's lead.

At the University of Central Oklahoma, Milena sailed through on scholarships with a double major in pre-med studies and performance, so bright she won over her professors in both disciplines ("My



Left: Marilyn singing the role of Aldonoza in Lyric's 1971 production of "Man of La Mancha."

Right: Scene from Lyrics 1971 production of "Man of La Mancha."

organic chem. prof even came to my recital.), and she aced the most advanced courses, all the while starring in university productions, at times with her good friend, Megan Osterhaus, currently in the Broadway production of "Mary Poppins." Playing violin in a string quartet provided her with spending money.

Milena spent summers at Lyric singing in the chorus and in ensembles. When she returned for her star turn in "Sweet Charity" this summer, she reported she was ecstatic working among and performing before people she had known and loved for years. She had high praise for Michael Baron, whose leadership at Lyric, she feels, is wide ranging and challengingly educational; also for brother Mateja, who the previous summer etched an indelible portrait of Tateh, the lead player and narrator of "Ragtime," and again for Mat as an instant pinch hitter for a role in "Call Me Madam" this season.

After numerous physical set backs, Dr. Govich passed away in 1998, the year before Milena's college graduation. Fortunately he had time to encourage his family to go on with their respective roles. Praised for her outstanding teaching of private lessons at home, Bruce Govich urged Marilyn to complete her doctoral degree at OU, and she was only a short distance away from that accomplishment and the security of keeping her family together.



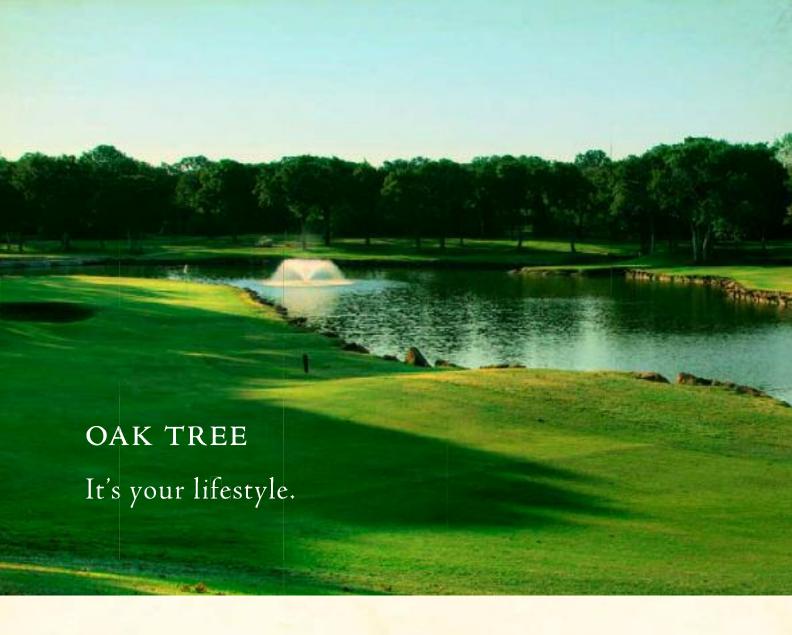
in New York immediately out of college. Straightaway, she nailed a lead in an international tour of the hit music of Andrew Lloyd Weber, followed by the key role of Lulu, not only singing and dancing, but playing the violin, before moving up to the lead role of Sally Bowles in the Broadway revival of "Cabaret." For a time Mateja performed in "Cabaret" with his sister.

A decade in New York and the East provided Milena with innumerable opportunities to expand her craft ("The Boys From Syracuse," "Good Vibrations," "Thoroughly Modern Millie"), and she married her husband, the composer, writer and film producer David Cornue, there in a lovely spring wedding in Central Park.

But Los Angeles beckoned with more and newer opportunities. Now Milena has seasons of important TV shows behind her, including continuing roles on such important series as "Law and Order," "Conviction," and "Rescue Me," as well as numerous appearances on other shows. With two small independent movies under her belt, Milena looks forward to a film in October that is being shot with a screenplay by husband David, who has occasions to compose music in L.A. non-stop. And Milena emphasizes, "There's no snow!"

Look for Milena's return here on the Sunday before Thanksgiving at the Civic Center to appear with the Oklahoma Youth Symphony Orchestra's anniversary production, the musical aggregation in which she played violin as a teenager.

The Govich family business is indeed flourishing.



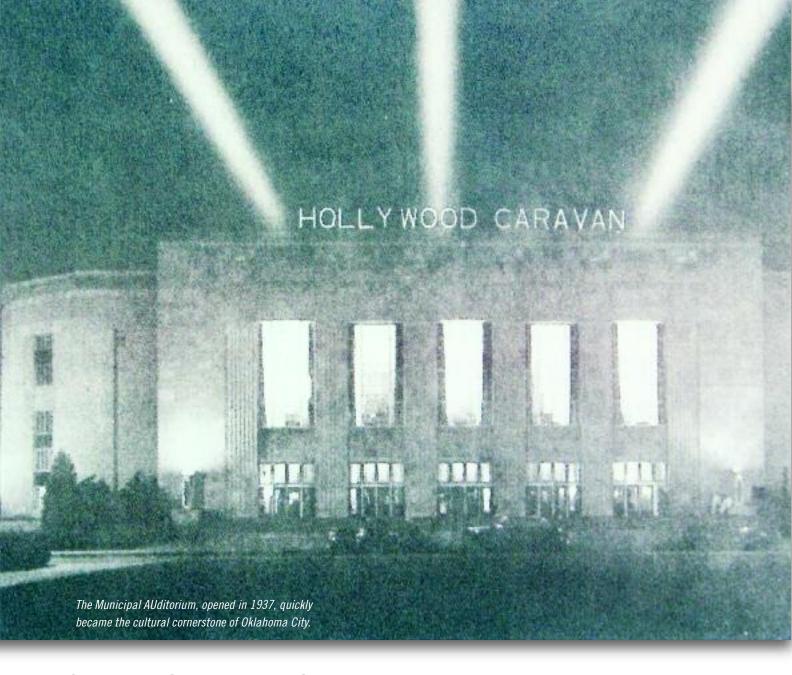
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Civic Center Celebrates Its History

By MICHAEL DEAN
with material from
"Civic Center Music Hall – A Golden Anniversary 1937-1987"
by DR. BOB L. BLACKBURN

n 1937 the crown jewel in the civic center was opened. And quickly the Municipal auditorium took its place as the center of cultural activities in Oklahoma city. That same year the Oklahoma City Symphony was organized and held their first concert in the newly opened auditorium.

MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM Outdoor summer concert on the Municipal Auditorium lawn. STARLIGHT CONCERT



Overholser Opera House. The new Municipal Auditorium was designed by architect J. O. Parr as a building that "could accommodate the various activities of a growing metropolitan city." Parr added that it would "provide a large assembly space for the greatest conventions."

Parr created a man auditorium that could seat 6,200 for a stage performance and up to 7,500 for a convention or sporting event. To make the new building multi-functional a wooden floor with metal bracing sloped toward the stage, while for events that needed a flat surface the bracing was dismantled and flooring removed converting the upper sections of the sloped floor into a third balcony.

Parr continued in his design of flexibility with the "Little Theater" adjoining the main hall with seating for 400 for local productions and recitals. And he included in the design the "Hall of Mirrors" on the second floor where 800 people could be seated for conventions and meetings without interrupting performances in the auditorium.

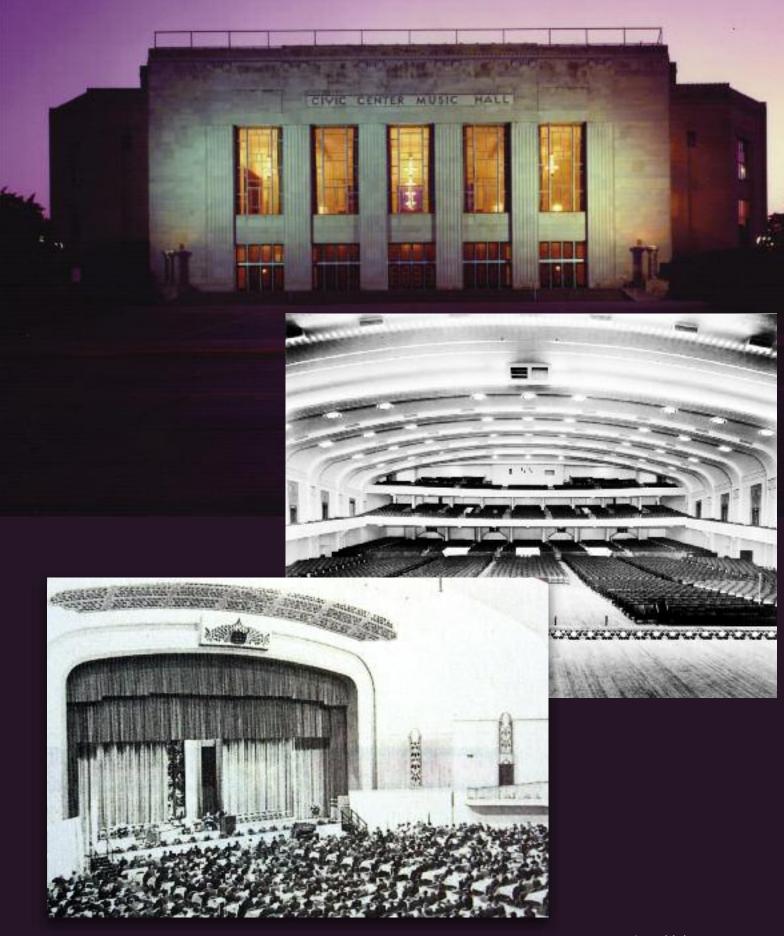
Oklahoma City now had a municipal auditorium of such

was the quality of the stage, lighting, and sound equipment. According to the first manager, the stage was the most completely equipped and technologically advanced stage west of the Mississippi River.

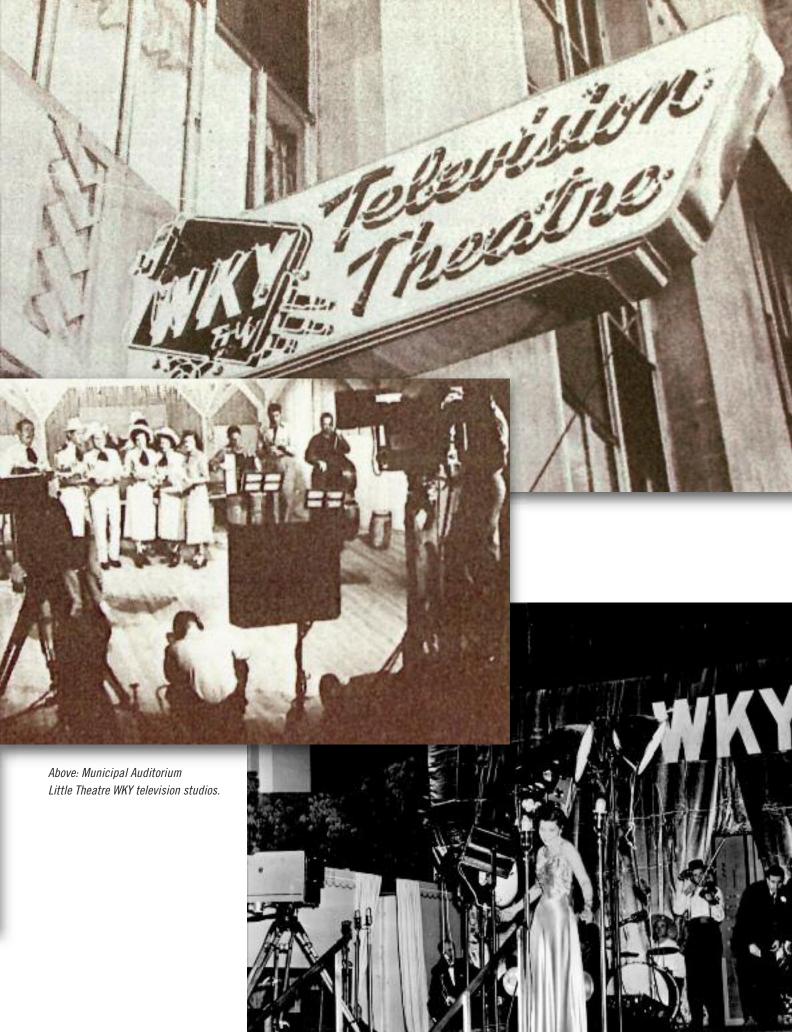
The first performance held in the Municipal Auditorium was a local production "Rhapsodic Rhythms" a musical revue in four acts presented by 25 civic, social, and study clubs in Oklahoma city to honor Joe Fitzpatrick a local singer who was leaving for New York to study voice. That event was held on Monday October 4, 1937. Later that month the Broadway production of "Tovarich" was held on October 18, 1937.

For many years the All College basketball tournament was held at the Municipal Auditorium. In 1938 the Golden Gloves boxing tournament was one of the first sports events held there.

In 1939 an early demonstration of the new fangled medium of "television" was held in Oklahoma City at the Municipal Auditorium. Sponsored by WKY radio, owner E. K. Gaylord believed and supported technological advances both in broadcasting and newspapers.







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ON CULTURE

Aces High

A ticket to this party is your 'ace in the hole' for a good time and a great cause.

by M. J. VAN DEVENTER

ou won't have to know a lot about kings and queens, aces and spades to attend "Ace High," a fundraising dinner and auction September 6 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

This is the inaugural occasion for an event that promises a variety of items up for auction. "Ace High" was planned in response to a frequent question Museum President Chuck Schroeder is often asked: How can supporters of the Museum have some fun, spend some money and capture a fabulous variety of treasures while helping preserve the heritage of the American West?

From Schroeder's perch in the museum's leadership saddle. he says, "Well, if it's held at The Cowboy we know it will be

fun. Donors have provided terrific items and experiences on which to bid. And all the proceeds will ensure the Museum can continue telling the story of the West to people around the world. It's a win-win proposition if I've ever heard one."

With both live and silent items up for bids, visitors will have a smorgasbord of things to consider. Two guitars, autographed by Reba McEntire or Garth Brooks, are part of the live auction.

Ever wanted to pretend you're an oil baron for a day? Then visit the oldest working well in Oklahoma and imagine it's all yours.

Travel packages include a week at an exclusive New York City condo near Times Square or perhaps you would prefer a week at a private guesthouse in Hawaii. Other vacation getaways include Jackson, Wyoming and Cabo San Lucas. Want to stay closer to home? Tap Architecture will take you







and your guests on a guided limo tour of some of OKC's most interesting downtown buildings.

Feeling sporty? Bid on an elk hunt on the UU Ranch near Cimarron, New Mexico or take a bass fishing trip for 12.

If you love being pampered, several spa packages are available. Like dining out at trendy restaurants? Bid on dinner for 20 at Vast, located on the 49th floor of the new Devon Tower downtown. Dinner is preceded by an Oklahoma City River Tour.

In addition to these bid possibilities, jewelry, personal trainers, private concerts, home décor items and restaurant gift certificates are also up for grabs. Keep abreast of new auction items daily by checking out the museum's web site at www.nationalcowboymuseum.org/acehigh

The evening kicks off with wine and dinner catered by Bruce Rinehart, owner of Rococo, who says his restaurant features a dining experience with an East Coast flair. In addition to a sumptuous meal that includes meat carving stations, he is also donating a dinner for six at the Rococo chef's table, which will give Ace High patrons a master class in culinary arts.

What to wear to this event? Western or business casual attire is welcome at the Cowboy Museum. Of course, cowboy boots and hats are standard fashion at 'The Cowboy.'

Reserve your table at Ace High by contacting the Museum at (405) 4789-2250, Ext. 219. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$125 per couple. ■

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Fall Fashion Twist

Classic standbys get a fun new twist with fresh, modern colors and fabrics.

by LINDA MILLER

hat's in store for fall fashion?

A feeling of luxury and sophistication. Inspiration from

menswear and the military. A page from past decades as well as a continuation of recent favorites such as peplums and color blocking. Renewed interest in classic and ladylike dressing, thanks to the style of a popular duchess. And let's not forget leather, lace, gold metallic, reptile prints and colors that remind us of cooler weather — dark teal, golden yellow and oxblood.

Cindi Shelby, owner of Ruth Meyers in Nichols
Hills Plaza, said the ladylike trend — the look
favored by Kate Middleton — continues to be one
of fashion's strongest statements. Ladylike extends
beyond dresses to skirts and pants. A pencil skirt is
still a wardrobe go-to, but it's updated for fall with a
high waist, techno fabric or texture. Wrap skirts offer a
modern feel plus they allow for easy maneuvering. Future
queen or not, isn't that what every woman needs?

Pantsuits were all over the runways and they've been given a more chic and polished look. Opt for a plaid or checked jacket for a nod to menswear, but keep the look from being too literal by layering with a silk blouse or a top with sheer or lace accents.

Theia gold sequin cocktail dress with silver accents, available at Ruth Meyers.

ION FASHION

Along with ladylike looks that nip at the waist, prints and patterns reminiscent of 1960s Carnaby Street in London add a touch of mod, said Rita Manzelmann-Browne, senior buyer for Miss Jackson's in Tulsa. Prints don't stop there either. Patterned jeans and pants tickled women's fancy earlier this year and they're back for an encore in houndstooth, lace jacquard and metallic.

Fall delivers several other trends and ideas. Supple leather comes on strong in dresses and pants. Lace dresses and skirts are more sexy than sweet. Many designers fell in love with winter white, but it will be interesting to see how many women wrap up in the look. Peplums and color blocking return. Digital prints play up a futuristic feel. Texture, color, prints and other interesting details give jackets the oomph they need to be statement pieces. Navajoinspired wraps, capes, sweaters and ponchos are all about comfort. Intricate embroideries, touches of fur, gold metallic and plush fabrics such as velvet add a bit of opulence. "There's a story of Baroque that kind of harkens to Elizabeth Taylor and vintage Versace," Shelby said

Gold metallic reigns in both apparel and accessories. While navy is heralded as the other black, plenty of other colors will add a spark to fall

> Vince Camuto faux leather-trimmed jacket, sleeveless blouse, skinny ankle pant and platform pump, available at Dillard's, Penn Square.



What's fall without a pair of great boots?



Oxblood bangles

wardrobes. Along with oxblood, the season's "it" color, look for eggplant, royal blue, cobalt, burnt sienna, teal, golden yellow and mixed greens from olive to emerald. Don't be surprised to see unusual color combinations such as navy and black as well as pink and oxblood.

Accessories continue to play an important role in dressing for fall with layers of necklaces, rings and bracelets, said Manzelmann-Browne. Handbags are architectural with some color blocking, and the cross body remains a favorite. In keeping with the ladylike trend, many shoes feature feminine details from polka dots to bows. Expect to see more kitten heels, too. Ballet flats aren't old news but a fresh alternative is the tuxedo slipper. And what's fall without a pair of great boots? Take your pick of boots from studded motorcycle styles to the ever-popular riding boot.

> So, get ready to embrace the old and new that fall fashion delivers.

Opposite: Rena Lange silk feather print jacket, V-neck blouse and ivory pants. Rena Lange wool pullover with silk insets and slim pants with grosgrain detail. Both available at Ruth Meyers.





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All Proceeds to Benefit Easter Seals Oklahoma



BY HEIDE BRANDES

here can you find a bacon cheeseburger served not just on a regular bun, but squeezed juicily between two glazed doughnuts? Where can you get a deepfried turkey testicles served with fiery hot sauce?

The food you may never find anywhere else is making appearances at The Great State Fair of Oklahoma, and this year, adventurous food warriors can try everything from beer-battered deepfried bacon to a deep-fried bacon brownie to frog legs and alligator on a stick.

This isn't your average gastro experience. Armed with as much imagination and deep-frying grease as you can imagine, food vendors at the 2012 Great State Fair of Oklahoma are offering the usual favorites like corn dogs and funnel cakes to the weird, the unique and the downright terrifying.

"It's hard to quantify exactly the attraction value of our illustrious fair food to our fairgoers; however, we do think it would be fair to say that practically every person who comes to the Fair is ooking forward to trying at least one tasty treat, even if that's not the primary focus of their visit," said Dana (Palmer) Murrell, director of Sales and Development for Oklahoma State Fair, Inc.



"Some of our more unique fair food this year will include Bacon Smoothies, Deep-Fried Bacon Dogs, Doughnut, Bacon Maple Cinnamon Roll, Deep-Fried Cheese Curds, Deep-Fried Strawberry Shortcake, Hot Beef Sundae (looks like a sundae but made with mashed potatoes, roast beef, gravy, served with a cherry tomato on top) and Really Mad Turkey Nads. Yes, these are turkey testicles."

According to Oklahoma City resident Kyle Golding, anything deep-fried and on a stick is going to be good.

"I go for anything that's deep-fried, on a stick or with bacon," said Golding, who admitted he draws the line at deep-fried butter. "The deep-fried mac and cheese on a stick sounds pretty good too. I think, like all things, you need to do it in moderation. If you tried to eat more than one at a time of this kind of food, it will make your stomach ill."

FABULOUS FOODS

Those with a less adventurous stomach can still enjoy the wide variety of favorite eats at the fair. The Good Life Hospitality Group of Oklahoma will serve such foods as pot

roast sliders, shrimp corn dogs and other snacks at the new Oklahoma State Fair Wine and Beer Garden, which is located in an upscale and landscaped area of the fair. The Good Life Hospitality Group owns the Norman eateries of Blu, Coach's Brewhouse, Blackbird Gastropub and The Library.

The Grand Slam Grill will serve up Cajun favorites like bourbonglazed bread pudding and gumbo, while Tolleson's Burger and Chili Shack will return with the Famous Juicy Lucy Burger, which was featured on the Food Network. Be prepared for a cheesy overload however, as this burger is made with an overload of American cheese oozing between two thin beef patties.

Anything a fairgoer could imagine being deep-fried can be found at the fair. Oreos, manicotti, peaches and cream, bacon dogs, cookie dough, peanut butter cup sandwiches — yup, they can all be found deep-fried and oozing with sin.

Are you a stick jock? Lucky for you, you can find deep-fried cookie dough on a stick from Aunt Edmoe's Cookies, alligator on a stick from Layne Concessions, battered and fried jalapeno pepper on a stick from Onion Blossom Concessions, Cajun sausage on a stick from Grand Slam Grill, deep-fried bacon-wrapped chicken on a stick from Fire and Ice

Concessions, a deep fried cinnamon roll on a stick from Sweet Shop and deep-fried mac and cheese, manicotti and mashed potatoes on a stick from Diventuri Concessions.

Everything goes better with bacon, so they say. Those who follow that mantra can bacon themselves to oblivion with everything from frozen chocolate-covered deep-fried bacon to a bacon smoothie (perfect for breakfast!), a bacon brownies, bacon dogs. bacon chocolate milkshakes and bacon cinnamon rolls.

"The selection process for food vendors and non-food exhibitors is by submittal of an application which includes photos of the proposed set up, proposed menu items and history/references/experience with other events," said Murrell.

"To give you a better understanding of the volume, through our commercial space sales office we issue a total of approximately 550 contracts each year which includes both food and non-food participants. Food vendors alone make up approximately 120 of those individually contracted locations. There are an additional



NEW FOODS FOR 2012

"Pork" abella Kabobs—We hollow out the mushrooms and stuff them with smoked Gouda cheese and skewer them. We them wrap the entire kabob in bacon. The kabob is then barbequed so the cheese melts and the bacon is crispy. Served with pita chips and hummus.

Chicken Kabobs— We make chicken kabobs with pineapple, bell peppers, onion, and garlic-herb chicken. The entire kabob is wrapped in bacon and barbequed. The bacon locks in the juices so the chicken doesn't dry out! Served with pita chips and hummus.

Steak Kabobs— We make steak kabobs with bell peppers, onion, and juicy steak. The entire kabob is wrapped in bacon and barbequed. The bacon locks in the juices so the steak doesn't dry out! Served with pita chips and hummus.

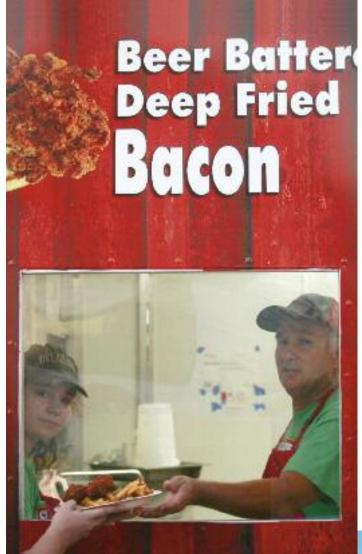
White Chocolate Covered Bacon—Since we introduced chocolate covered bacon in 2010, fairgoers have been surprised at how well the two foods complement each other. This year, we're introducing white chocolate covered bacon. We use crispy, thick cut bacon and dip in in white chocolate. We then put it in the freezer so that it keeps the consistency of a candy bar.

THE CLASSICS

Beer Battered Bacon- We use a huge, thick cut piece of bacon, dip it in our own beer batter, and deep fry it. Served with French fries. It's great in ranch or barbeque sauce!

Bacon-wrapped Chicken on a stick— We wrap bacon around a chicken tenderloin on a stick, batter it, and deep fry it. Bacon and Chicken make a surprisingly wonderful combination! Served with French fries.

Chocolate Covered Bacon— We introduced chocolate covered bacon at the OK State Fair in 2010, and fairgoers have been coming back for it ever since. We use a thick cut piece of bacon, dip it in a semisweet chocolate and sprinkle a bit of sea salt on top. We then put it in the freezer so that it keeps the consistency of a candy bar. This treat is the epitome of sweet and salty!



The Cornell Chicken, associated with the New York State Fair and Cornell University, debuted in 1946. These chickens were created to encourage Americans to eat more chicken because in the 1940s, chickens were mainly kept for eggs. But the Cornell Chicken was only 2-/12 to 3 ½ pounds, and the "broiler" chicken was born. Today, broiler chickens are among the most popular grocery items available for families.

At the Oklahoma State Fair, much remains the same, and early fair food also included taffy, cotton candy and farm food, but records are hard to come by.

"Although I feel certain it's getting much more 'creative' with each passing year and decade," said Murrell.

The fair will offer a coupon book this year, The Little Book of BIG DEALS. This book features a combination of both food and non-food deals that can be found at the fair this year, but offers are only good with a coupon.

For more information about The Great State Fair of Oklahoma, visit okstatefair.com.

25 concession stands brought in through our independentlyowned carnival operator, which means there are nearly 150 opportunities at the Oklahoma State Fair to make a hard decision about what to order."

A HISTORY OF HUNGER

Fair food has changed from the days of yesteryear. American fairs started in 1810, according to the Oklahoma Historical Society, by agricultural societies whose members discussed crops, livestock and land use. The main purpose was to educate farmers, but in the1840s, manufacturers began using fairs to exhibit new plows, planters and reapers. The food offered at these fairs usually came from the farmers showing off their crops.

The staples at the turn of the century were salt water taffy and cotton candy, but one traditional and common food we're all familiar with was actually "born" at a state fair.



40 ionOklahoma AUGUST/SEPTEMBER



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The Afters * September 17 * 7:30 pm
Elvis Extravaganza * September 18 & 19 * 7:30 pm
Pop Evil * September 20 * 7:30 pm
Morris Day and the Time * September 21 * 7:30 pm
Eddie Money * September 22 * 8:00 pm
Oklahoma Centennial Rodeo Opry *
September 23 * 3:00 pm

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2012 OKLAHOMA REGATTA FESTIVAL

T PAR A LET

he Oklahoma Regatta Festival
will take place Sept. 27-30 in the
Boathouse District on the
Oklahoma River. The annual
celebration of rowing, paddling and
family fun has become a tradition that
brings thousands to the Oklahoma River.
This year's event will include the
Oklahoma City University Head of the
Oklahoma, blu VIP Party, OGE
NightSprints, a family festival, and new
for this year, the Oklahoma Regatta Run.



The festival begins with OGE NightSprints on Thursday, Sept. 27, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. More than 40 corporate rowing and dragon boat teams will race in the 500 meter OGE NightSprints. The evening will begin with Paddle for the Cure, a dragon boat race benefiting the Susan G. Komen of Central and Western Oklahoma Affiliate. Teams of 20 people can sign up now to race in Paddle for the Cure. Learn more at headoftheoklahoma.org.



The OGE NIghtSprints continue Friday, Sept. 28, 6 p.m. to 10p.m. with OKC RIVERSPORT Corporate Rowing League 500 meter races and 200 meter canoe/kayak super sprints.



The annual OCU Head of the Oklahoma will start Saturday and will feature more than 1,000 athletes from across the nation racing in 2.5 mile head racing and the OGE NightSprints Saturday evening. Head of the Oklahoma racing concludes Sunday morning, 8 a.m. to noon.

Each evening will end with a fireworks show over the Oklahoma River.

Family Festival

Festival activities will be open Thursday and Friday evenings, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. RIVERSPORT Adventure activities during the festival include face painting, rock climbing, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, inflatables, and the new Extreme Air stationary jumper. RIVERSPORT Adventure Saturday passes are \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth ages 4-12; children ages 3 and under can play for free.

Children and adults will also be able to try various Olympic and Paralympics sports at the Olympic Experience. This free, interactive exhibit will feature rowing, kayaking, gymnastics and cycling.

Other festival attractions available on Saturday include a pumpkin patch, outdoor market, live entertainment, food vendors and a beer and wine garden.

Oklahoma Regatta Run

Registration is now open for the Oklahoma Regatta Run, a 5K race on the Oklahoma River Trails. The race begins at 4 p.m. Saturday at the Chesapeake Finish Line Tower. The \$25 entry fee includes a t-shirt and medals will be awarded in age groups. Participants can register for the run online at headoftheoklahoma.org.





Saturday night will also include the blu VIP Party presented by Devon Energy. Themed blu Galaxy, this year's event will feature delicious food, drinks, and live entertainment. Tickets are \$75 each and proceeds support youth athletes and Olympic hopefuls on the Oklahoma River. Tickets are available online at blu2012.org.

The Boathouse District is located at S.E. 6th St. and Lincoln Boulevard. For more information on the Oklahoma Regatta Festival, visit headoftheoklahoma.org.







AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ionOklahoma 45

2012 OKLAHOMA REGATTA FESTIVAL



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ION COMMUNITY

Her Only Hope

YWCA Oklahoma City launches \$15 Million Domestic Violence Shelter Campaign for the only women's shelter in central Oklahoma.

by M. J. VAN DEVENTER

October.

ince 1989, the YWCA Oklahoma City has provided a safe haven for women and children seeking shelter from domestic violence.

During that time, lives have been saved and changed, due to the work of the YWCA's dedicated staff. volunteers and community supporters.

In 2011, 396 women and children were served by the YWCA shelter, keeping it continually filled to capacity. When the YWCA shelter is at capacity, it becomes necessary to refer clients to other shelters across the state or help them develop a safety plan until immediate shelter becomes available.

Responding to this need, the YWCA launched a three-year \$15 million capital campaign this year to build a new 85-bed emergency shelter for women and Christina Baker children who are victims of domestic violence. Devon Energy responded to this crisis with the first \$1 million gift to be announced publicly at a YWCA press conference in June. A capital

campaign event September 25 will be followed by the observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in





Above: Renderings of the planned shekter

The statistics are staggering. But at that press conference, a survivor of domestic violence, Christina Baker, put a face on the numbers.

Baker said, "More than 20 years ago, I was forced to the YWCA Shelter for battered women by an abuser who inflicted mental. emotional, physical and sexual abuse on a daily basis. Thanks to a co-worker who was concerned and involved in her community, I was given the key to life. After learning of my situation, she handed me the number to the YWCA shelter, and then they stepped in and did what they do best; they gave lifesaving services. I am here today because of the YWCA."

Domestic Violence in Oklahoma: the numbers

STATISTICS TELL A CHILLING, heart-breaking story about domestic violence in Oklahoma. Consider these numbers:

- More than 25,000 incidents of domestic violence were reported in Oklahoma last year. Statistics also show 50 percent of abuse cases are never reported.
- In June, 2012, the OKC Police Department responded to 120 cases of domestic violence each week.
- Up to 65 percent of children in homes with domestic violence are physically abused.
- Oklahoma ranks 11th in the nation. for the number of women killed by men in domestic violence situations.
- In the past 12 years, Oklahoma had 1,007 domestic violence homicides.
- In 1/3 of those cases, children witnessed the murder.

Speaking at the press conference, Bill Citty, OKC Police Chief, said, "Breaking the cycle of violence is the key. The shelter is the only way to ensure the safety of victims. There's not a more needed project for saving, changing and improving peoples' lives affected by domestic violence."

The human cost of domestic violence is unbelievable. The annual, national cost of lost productivity due to domestic violence is estimated at almost \$8 million, with more than 7.9 million paid workdays lost each year.

Funds raised in the campaign will build a new emergency shelter, repurpose the existing shelter as an

extended stay shelter, renovate the east Oklahoma City McFarland facility and establish an endowment for future capital needs.

Equally as important, the new shelter will become a beacon of hope for the one in four women who will be a victim of violence in their lifetime. The campaign endeavors to break the cycle of abuse and empower abused women to rebuild new lives, free from violence.

Compassion for Victims

Guides Volunteer Campaign Workers

The current campaign to raise \$15 million to build a new YWCA extended stay facility for victims of domestic violence actually had its genesis in 1988.

Barbara Eskridge was chairman of the YWCA board at that time and she began urging Rita Moore and Wanda Swisher to serve on the board. They became co-chairmen for the fundraising campaign. At that time, the YWCA had a limited presence in downtown Oklahoma City and a small, very inadequate "safe" house where they tried to shelter women suffering the trauma of domestic abuse.

The shelter was as destitute as some of the victims it served. One day, Wanda and Rita paid a visit to see the shelter's condition for themselves. Rita opened a closed door by accident, found a young battered wife and an infant in terrible condition and, in that moment, Rita unlocked the door to her passion for caring about victims of domestic violence.

"It was a life changing moment," Rita recalled. "Wanda and I both realized then what domestic abuse was all about."

It was the 1980s. No one - men, women or children - talked about domestic violence. No one noticed that often the children who witnessed such abuse in their families grew up

to repeat this cycle of violence.

Rita and Wanda began to collect friends who would share their concern and passion. They enlisted the help of Lela Sullivan, who thought, "Well, this might be a way for me to learn about grant writing," a fundraising tool just coming into notice at that time.

Twenty-three years later, Rita Moore and Lela Sullivan are spearheading the latest campaign to raise funds to provide a new extended stay facility for the YWCA: Oklahoma City's domestic violence shelter program.

They are tapping many of the contributors who gave so generously for the 1988 campaign. "We hope we have been good guardians of their trust," Lela said.

"Our direction now is to help women and children flee from domestic violence situations," Rita added. "Most abused women return to their home, and a battering situation, at least seven times before they have the courage to leave."

"Most of these women have lost the power of self," Sullivan noted. "They need to know that life does not have to be about violence."

The existing shelter has made great strides in helping



The YWCA chairmen are (from left to right) Lela Sullivan, Kris Frankfurt and Rita Moore.

women learn how to apply for jobs, feed themselves and their children more nutritious food, and discover the power of their own independence, away from violence. During their shelter stay, their children are cared for and sent to school daily.

"Most of the shelters across the country offer only safety," Rita said. "Safety won't last. These women need mental tools to break free from domestic violence. Most of the children in those homes only know violence. More than 80 percent of the male children who watch such violence become batterers themselves. And young girls in those situations usually choose battering as a lifestyle. It's all they know."

The current capital campaign committee found their inspiration for the current fundraising effort in numbers. Last year, 326 abused women were turned away from the Oklahoma City YWCA shelter because there was no space available for

them. The proposed extended stay facility will provide bed space for 85 victims, but more could be accommodated using trundle beds.

In the 23 years since the first shelter campaign, Rita and Lela have noticed greater awareness of the domestic violence issue. Business leaders, men and women alike, are now witnessing the cost of domestic abuse in their own companies. Educators see the effects of domestic violence in their classrooms. The media is more willing to publicly tackle the problems that accompany domestic abuse and give space and time to the issue.

Rita and Lela note most shelters offer only temporary safety. "The Oklahoma City shelter is leading the way in Oklahoma and in our country by offering women and children the opportunity to break the cycle of violence," they said.

ion DINING

LINGUINE BOLOGNESE — Topped with pomodoro sauce and seared ground beef, finished with parmesan.

Ciao, Bella!

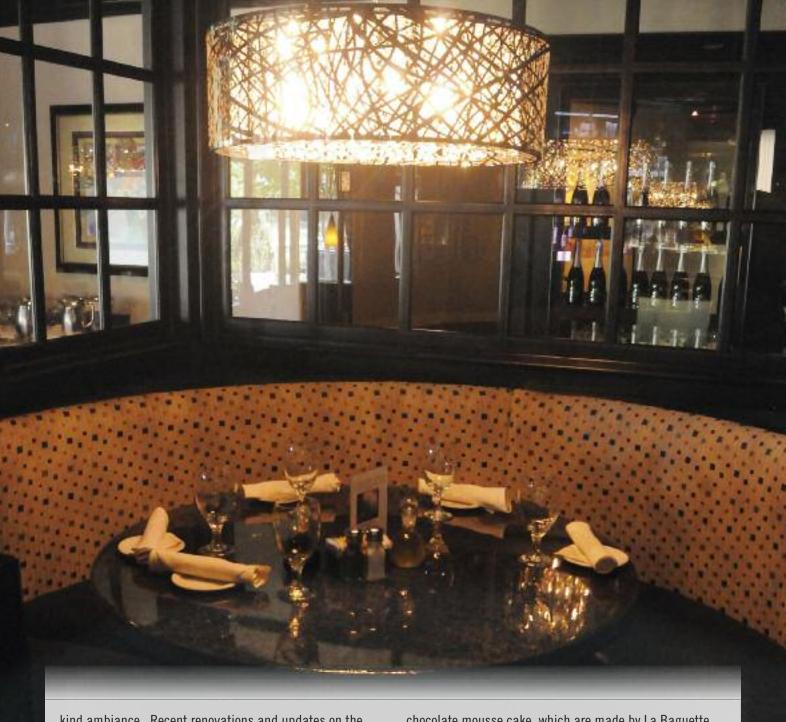
With the fresh menu and updated patio, Bellini's is serving up a big dose of fantastico

By KANNA DEUTSCH Photos by LAUREN WRIGHT

y parents used to have this wooden sign hung up above our kitchen counter that read, "If you're afraid of butter, use cream." The quote is a line from culinary chef Julia Child that they heard while watching reruns of her cooking show on PBS. Bellini's Ristorante and Grill is not afraid to use butter. Or cream. The chef's generously drizzle both onto each plate that is slid in front of you and then ask if you would like fresh Parmesan on top.

I dined at Bellini's for the first time a few weeks ago. The atmosphere of the entire restaurant is very meticulously crafted even in the hallway leading to the black wrought





kind ambiance. Recent renovations and updates on the patio include a circular fire pit. Can you say, romantic? Hello cooler, perfect-for-dining-outside weather, we missed you.

Bellini's has been in business since 1990 and won the Diner's Choice Award from OpenTable.com in 2010. Their signature cocktail is the Bellini, which is made with peach nectar, cognac, and champagne. All desserts are crafted in-house, save for the "sinsation", Italian cream cake, and

chocolate mousse cake, which are made by La Baguette.

One of their well-known desserts is the tiramisu, which the restaurant serves in a coffee cup. Celebrities, such as Paul McCartney, Mick Jagger, and Tori Amos have all sat at the coffee-colored booths, while enjoying the soft music that plays through the sound system overhead. Unlike the geese in the picturesque pond, penny-pinchers and dieters won't be flocking to Bellini's, but every once in a while, isn't it nice to "live and let die?"



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R

ion CULTURE

The Art of Golf presents a rare opportunity for Oklahomans to get a glimpse into the significance of one of the most popular sports in the world.

By DON SWIFT

ore than 90 Paintings, photographs, and featured artists are on display at _ the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, as part of their most recent exhibit, "The Art of Golf." Andy Warhol's portrait of Jack Nicklaus, Charles Lee's 1847 oil painting titled "The Golfers," and a painting by Norman Rockwell are a few of the pieces that are a part of the rich and culturally significant story of golf.

The Art of Golf exhibit was carefully planned and organized by the High Museum of Art and the National Galleries of Scotland and is one of the more unique exhibits available: encompassing history, sports and art. It is being recognized as the first exhibit devoted to the game of golf by a major American art museum. The Oklahoma City Museum of Art is the exhibits' second stop on it current tour of museums in United States.

Included is an historical timeline of over 400 years of golf-related images and artifacts;

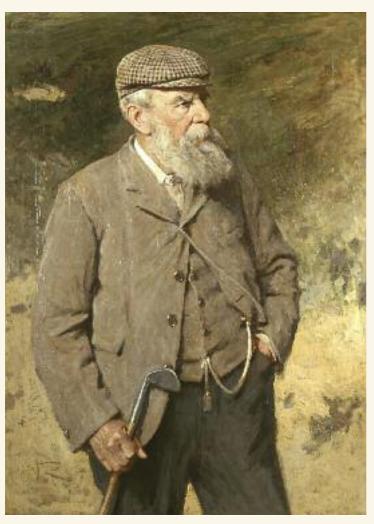




starting with the beginnings of golf in Scotland and following its growth in the United States and around the globe during the 20th Century.

There are paintings from the 17th century Dutch landscape depicting a game of "kolf." The aerial photographs by Patricia and Angus Macdonald, showcasing some of today's most wellknown Scottish golf courses, are breath-taking.

Dutchman, Hendrick Avercamp's 1630 oil painting entitled "Winter Landscape" is a rare opportunity to glimpse what everyday life might have looked like in the 17th century. According to Allison Amick, the Curator of Collections at the



Sir George Reid (Scottish, 1841-1913) Tom Morris, Sr., 1903 Oil on canvas, 60 3/8 x 44 3/8 in. Reproduced by kind permission of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews

museum, the Dutch are well known for depicting comprehensive landscapes and capturing important cultural details in their paintings.

"The Golfers," an 1847 oil painting by Charles Lee, is considered the greatest golf painting ever created. The painting portrays a crowd of fans watching a pivotal golf shot in an 1847 match, played on the Old Course at St Andrews in Scotland. Reproductions of the famous painting can be found at golf courses around the globe. This is the first time the United States has been host to this treasure of the sport.

Rembrandt, James McNeil Whistler, and Childe Hassam are



among the most recognized artists included in the exhibit. Another highlight: Harold Edgerton's series of stroboscope photos showing the perfect swing in motion by Bobby Jones, the golfer credited with promoting the game's international popularity in the 1920's and 1930's. The exhibit also includes antique golf balls, clubs, and clothing; further illustrating how the sport has permeated our cultural landscape so profoundly.

The" Art of Golf" will be on display at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art through October 7, 2012.

Left: **Norman Rockwell** (American, 1894-1978)
Old Man Tracy, of Tracy and Tracy, 1926
Oil on canvas, 22 x 36 in.
United States Golf Association Museum, Far Hills, New Jersey.
Reproduced by courtesy of the Norman Rockwell Family Agency, Inc.
Photo by Cindy Momchilov

Below: Charles Lees (Scottish, 1800-1880)
The Golfers, 1847
Oil on canvas, 51 1/2 x 84 1/4 in.
Scottish National Portrait Gallery
Purchased with the assistance of the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Art
Fund and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, 2002.



Photo: A. Reeve

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MUSEUM IN THE SKY

by DON SWIFT

n 1951, almost six years after WW II, Lloyd Nolen acquired a vintage, outdated P - 40 flying aircraft that had been flown in the war. Nolen purchased the P-40 Warhawk from Bill Marsh for a mere \$1,500. Acquiring it for sentimental reasons - he had been a flight training instructor during the war it required only a few minor repairs to fly it from Phoenix to his home in Mercedes, Texas. It would prove itself to be a sturdy, well-built machine that was just not ready to retire.

Nolen served in the Army Air Corps during the war and witnessed hundreds of USAAF students receive their wings. Many of these students went on to fly the "glamour" planes of World War II. One of these hot shot planes was the P-40 airplane, designed with a high performance combat engine, like many planes flown during the war. Nolen himself learned to fly in 1938, at the age of fifteen.

This P-40 he purchased in Phoenix was flown by several of Nolen's friends in the area near Mercedes, and turned out to be the catalyst for what later became the Commemorative Air Force. Other military pilots in the area also began purchasing vintage planes. Royce M. Norman was the first to purchase a P-51 aircraft.

On a Sunday morning in the fall of 1957, several pilots arrived at the airport to blast around the sky in Norman's P-51. They were surprised to find a sign painted on the side of the fuselage reading "Confederate Air Force," a name that suited them well; the group used it for the next 43 years.



The next year, Lloyd Nolen, Billy Drawe and Royce Norman were invited to fly their two vintage planes in nearby, small-town airshows. Soon after, during a couple of rainy days in June 1960, the pilots found themselves conducting their first unofficial meeting of the CAF. The main topic of discussion was the possibility of flying at other military bases around the country. It was at this meeting that the decision was made to pool their money and buy as many types of WW II fighters as they could find pilots to fly. Without realizing it, they had just

set the course that the CAF would follow for the next several decades and beyond.

The first annual CAF airshow was planned at Rebel Field in south Texas on March 10th 1963. The then Texas Governor, John Connolly, designated March 10th as CAF day in Texas.

The popularity of the first CAF show was overwhelming, resulting in the worst traffic jam in the history of the Rio Grande Valley. Spectator turnout for this first show far exceeded expectations: fifteen-thousand people flooded the airport and cars were backed up for 12 miles. The Confederate Air Force had arrived.

Since 2000, the CAF has continued to grow. In 2000, the organization's membership voted to change their name to the Commemorative Air Force. The new name took effect January 1, 2002. In 2005, the organization opened up their mission to include combat aircraft from all branches of the U.S. Military during any conflict.

Currently, the CAF boasts more than 160 aircraft and close to 9,000 members. There are 78 units in 28 states and four foreign countries. The five men who pooled their money in the 1950's for that first P-51 never imagined that that single plane would one day grow into one of the world's largest fleets



The late Dorsey Buttram, businessman and Colonel in the CAF Oklahoma Wing

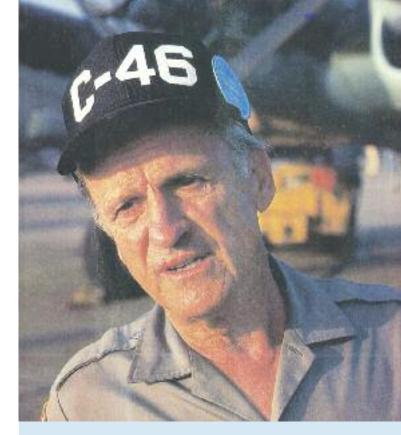
of older model planes.

The CAF is now headquartered in Midland, Texas where there is also a CAF Airpower Museum and CAF Hall of Fame. The Oklahoma Wing is located at Wiley Post Airport. It was founded in the mid seventies by Dorsey Buttram, Bill Dahlgren, and other pilots and instructors in World War II who had an insatiable love of flying.

The CAF pilots feel that these old war planes — restoring them and showing them off at airshows - are a reminder of a time when the American people were so caught off guard: leading up to the U.S. involvement in the war after that horrible day at Pearl Harbor. In a 1980 interview, Dorsey Buttram explained how much Americans love these airshows; that it's a part of our heritage and history and, hopefully, a reminder not to repeat mistakes of the past.

Today, Randy Buttram is following in his father's footsteps, continuing in the tradition as an active pilot in the CAF Oklahoma wing. When asked where the name Confederate Air Force came from, Randy explains that in the 1950's the U.S.





A HISTORIC LOOK INSIDE THE CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE GHOST **SQUARDON AND COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE**

Oklahoma Wing

The Confederate Air Force is a unique organization founded in the early 1950's. It has dedicated itself to the preservation of the world's greatest combat airplanes built between 1939-1945.

These airplanes represent a time when American technology and manufacturing capacity overcame the 10 year lead enjoyed by our enemies during World War II. These planes proved to be the weapons that contributed to the Allied victory in 1945.

The members of the Confederate Air Force created a flying museum, so to speak, of the historically significant aircraft from World War II. Their mission was to restore this outstanding collection of these fully operational aircraft to shed light on such an important time in the history of our country and of the world.







Military leaders in Washington D.C. had all but forgotten about the World War II war planes and the men who flew them. In the 1950's, when several retired pilots residing in Texas began restoring the planes, they referred to the military brass in Washington D.C. as Yankees and to themselves as the Confederate Air Force - or so the story goes.

The CAF Oklahoma Wing has approximately 30 active members and the group has always sponsored one of these historic war planes. They also participate in airshows around the country as often as possible.

As part of a tour this fall, a rare B-29 from WW II will make scheduled stops in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. This is a wonderful opportunity for Oklahomans to experience American history up close and personal, including a personal chat with David Oliver, the chief pilot commander of the flight crew. The complete list of tour locations, times and rides are listed on the Fall Tour Schedule Listing.

Tulsa Dates: September 28 – October 1, 2012 Oklahoma City Dates: October 2 – October 7, 2012



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ion community

Pho and Cherry Blossoms:

How the Asian community has shaped Oklahoma City

by KANNA DEUTSCH

changed my life forever," Holly tells me. She is remembering the days of lugging heavy textbooks in and out of one of the old lockers in sixth grade at Harding Middle School in 1981. She is remembering the mandatory alphabetical seating in classes, which placed her desk next to Ngoc Nguyen. It was the experience of figuring out the middle school years with Ngoc that Holly says eternally shaped her. "She became a true friend and was the first real friend I had from another country. She was one of the smartest, hardest working kids I ever met, and she went on to become the valedictorian of our senior class," Holly says.



Nguyen is just one of many whose family came from the Far East and settled in central Oklahoma. A large portion of the Asian community in Oklahoma City came here after the fall of Saigon, which marked the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Both individual and church sponsors brought thousands of refugees to the city from the civilian and military camps. Their appearance here in '75 triggered the birth of the Asian District, anchored on Classen Boulevard in between Oklahoma City University and the Paseo Arts District. Most are familiar with its famous landmarks: the "milk bottle building" and the Gold Dome.

Since the original influx in '75, Asian families have continued moving to Oklahoma City, changing both the landscape and culture of the city. In cases similar to Holly's, local schools have seen a shift in the ethnic landscape of their hallways. One student who has seen this shift first hand is Chris, a young Caucasian man who recently graduated from an area high school. He describes how his educational experience was made richer by meeting and making friends with kids from Asia. Chris attended a high school that was, at most, two percent Asian and a middle school where derogatory racial slurs were frequently murmured in the hallways. However, that two percent forever left their mark on not only Chris, but many other students in his high school. He recalls one Asian friend in particular, Xu, who encouraged his classmates to apply to out-of-state universities, schools they never would have previously considered; Chris attributes his current enrollment at Rice University as proof of that influence.

Aside from the academic changes he witnessed at his high school, Chris has seen changes in Oklahoma City society as well. "I think the recent influx of Asians to Oklahoma City has opened up the well-established white culture here. The Asian district on Classen Boulevard has become a destination as more of my friends shop at Cao Nguyen supermarket and eat at sushi bars and Pho restaurants. I think Oklahomans like the hints of Asian culture that are growing in the city."

Chris is not the only person to notice the changes taking place. Vivienne, who is an employee at Café Oasis, a







restaurant in the Asian District, has noticed Asian products like Pocky and Sriracha Sauce at Walmart - items which were not carried a few years ago. Vivienne, whose parents are immigrants from Taiwan, has grown up making frequent trips to the Asian District. "I used to come here every weekend when I was growing up with my parents and it's definitely grown a lot. It used to be just a couple restaurants and now it's huge ... A few years ago I didn't even know what pho was," she says, referring to the Vietnamese noodle dish.

Jennifer Clowdis, a secretary for several Asian-run businesses, including the Vietnamese public radio station, says that her personal experience here has "opened me up to

try different things, foods, try to understand their language, their religion." However, she says that the most valuable thing she has learned about is the work attitude exhibited in the office. "I learned a lot about them and how they work for absolutely everything they have."

she says. Maily Do, one of Clowdis' employers, and her siblings are examples of the work ethic Clowdis has observed. Like many other Saigon refugees, Do and her siblings were thrown into the public school system here as soon as they arrived, without ever having learned English. Since the English as a Second Language program did not exist at that time, they went to school during the day and learned English in the evenings while completing their homework. Do now oversees the Vietnamese public radio station. One of her sisters is an actuary, while another is a prosecutor. She also has three brothers, one of whom just retired from the air force, another worked as a naval commander, and the third is a petroleum engineer.

Besides the cultural influence, the Asian influx directly benefits the city's economy. Scott Beuch, a local attorney who has lived here for over forty years, has witnessed the birth and growth of the Asian community. "I'm sure they've brought in a lot of capital to the Oklahoma City area. They work and . . . are reinvesting their money into businesses." Beuch says that the immigrants have spread out from the Asian district and many take pride in assimilating to

Top: Some businesses in the Asian district
Bottom: Donny Ho, the president of the newly formed
Asian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma City.

American culture. "There are some people here that are very into community and building relations between the Vietnamese and Oklahoma community. They're a bunch of go-getters," he says.

Donny Ho, owner of Blue Diamond Studio and President of the newly formed Asian Chamber of Commerce, agrees. He adds that the growth within the Asian district translates to, "more income ... [and] more jobs for the community. Since they're spending more money on remodeling [there is] more money for the community," referring to the many recent remodeling projects in the district. The Asian Chamber of Commerce was recently started by Ho and other leaders of the Asian community to be a "resource to Asian businesses, their communities, and their leaders [as well as to] unify the Asian people and [we] will work together for the good of our community, cities, and state," according to the official website.

However, not everyone in the Asian community in Oklahoma City perceives the journey across the Pacific as having entirely positive consequences. According to Beuch, discord has accompanied many of the migrants here. He describes old rivalries between Vietnamese who had supported the communist government and those who did not. Beuch also says there is concern over too much assimilation. He says twenty years ago, "kids were usually valedictorians when they got into the system. When the family units become more Americanized, the children do too, and they become less successful." He has witnessed a shift in the value education holds within the family.

The cultural change the new immigrants have brought is easy to see all around Oklahoma City. While I wait at Saigon Baguette, I spot a Caucasian woman waiting patiently in line while wrestling with her restless young son. Standing beside them is a Caucasian university student reading the labels on the many Asian tea drinks lined up in the fridge. Both ask the owner about the sandwiches offered and admit it is their first time trying Vietnamese food. When I go to shop at Whole Foods, I notice the shirataki noodles next to the packages of mochi. At Cool Greens, a girl types on a laptop decorated with Japanese cherry blossom trees.

Right: Supermarket Super Cao Nguyen in the Asian district







ion design

Laughing in Flowers

"The earth laughs in flowers," goes the old saying. Revel in the bonhomie of Mother Nature with the lush and unique gardens on the Oklahoma Horticultural Society's annual tour.

by MJ VANDEVENTER

ake a collection of period homes, planted with unusual trees, shrubs and flowers, add a whimsical fountain and a turn-of-the-century rock gazebo and you have all the ingredients for a spectacular garden tour. "The earth laughs in flowers," goes an old saying, and your funny bone will certainly be delighted with the lush, unique gardens on the tour this year.

Below: A graceful group of water fowl are the centerpiece of a side-yard fountain area in Jim and Rosemary Keating's Edgemere home garden.

The Oklahoma Horticultural Society will sponsor its 2012 Garden Tour for Connoisseurs September 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with proceeds providing scholarships for students at area universities planning careers in horticulture and landscape design and architecture.

Six period homes in the Crown Heights, Mesta Park and Edgemere Heights areas are on the tour, along with the Employee Garden at Chesapeake Energy. Most of the tour sites are on the National Register of Historic Homes. All of the homes express an architectural style that was unique to the era in which they were built — the late 1920s and 1930s. All are within comfortable driving distance of each other.

THE CROWN HEIGHTS AREA

Jim and Rosemary Keating's traditional home exterior is complemented with a traditional garden design plan that





includes front paths, blue spruce, a desert willow, a smoke tree, Chinese hollies and crepe myrtles. A small sheltered back yard includes an intimate hexagon-shaped "room for two" gazebo and a fire pit. The landscaping is a blueprint for classic garden design, complementing the architectural design of the Tudor-style home.

Rebecca and Robert German's home features a charming rock and brick winding stairway leading to this two-story fairy-tale mansion. The home is surrounded by a massive oak, large pecan and Japanese maple trees. A sunken back lawn area — once a pond — leads the way to a stoneplaza that is now home to an elegant new pool and outdoor entertaining center. Don't miss the vintage red rock gazebo and the weeping deodoras, magnolias and mature Japanese maples.





Look for the second story retreat, where Rebecca and Robert relax and enjoy a magnificent view of the new pool and lush gardens.

Randy Marks and Sharon Astrin reclaimed their Tudor Revival style home and garden and tour visitors will find a true 'work in progress' garden. What they achieved in both the front and back bleak and dismal garden spaces is an exciting case study in xeriscaping. Using plants and trees that will thrive in Oklahoma's mercurial weather, they have added flagstone paths, walls and walkways, accented by playful metal sculptures. A variety of ground covers add texture and color interest. In season, the buffalo grass waves in the wind, creating a half-moon border near the front driveway.

A MESTA PARK OASIS

Carson and Marsha See's Georgian-style home is graced by one of the world's oldest Japanese maples, which presides over this garden that is full of natural and man-made surprises. An arbor of wisteria leads from the back of the home to a sheltered garden featuring an eclectic fountain fashioned of shells, glass and treasures found on the couple's travels. The circular fountain area and flagstone walkways give the garden a refined sculptural feeling. Several pocket gardens within the larger space suggest a tropical oasis. Sheltered areas make visitors feel they are enjoying the garden at a country estate. There's even a hidden garden area for al fresco cooking in this outdoor paradise.

CROWN HEIGHTS JEWELS

Rick and Susan Wymer's vintage home features landscaping that is a perfect combination of trees, shrubs, boulders, seasonal flowers and a dry river rock stream bed that winds and flows gracefully through the well-manicured front lawn. The back lawn continues the curving theme of the front lawn with meandering flagstone walkways and well-placed boulders. Like the front garden, the rear area is a study in varying heights with tall, stately old fir trees, Japanese yews, blue spruce, and deodor and Serpentine cedar trees. Landscaper Mike Lindsey created a dramatic, involved design that makes the small house suggest a much larger presence,

Left: The garden of Randy Marks and Sharon Astrin is a true 'work in progress'.





Above: Rebecca and Robert German's revamped back yard now features an elegant new pool and outdoor entertaining center. creating a stunning first impression.

maples to highlight the front garden. Look

Phil and Maggie Clayton's home already had a swimming pool when they purchased it six years ago, but there was no koi pond, a must for Phil, a connoisseur of koi. Now a well-stocked koi pond is beautifully landscaped and sheltered with a variety of specialty plants, including two gingko bonsai from Asia. The home's back and front lawns both feature a lyrical design theme, especially in the front lawn, where several half-moon shaped gardens with low plantings surround large mature trees shading this setting. Landscape designer John Fluitt used red leaf weeping peach trees, a four-trunk Nellie Stevens holly, a weeping Blue Atlas cedar and silver falls

Below: Relaxing spots in the garden belonging to Carson and Marsha See.

maples to highlight the front garden. Look for the stone pineapple sculpture near the front entrance — always a welcoming signature at this home.

THE CHESAPEAKE EMPLOYEE GARDEN

Now in its third year, the Chesapeake Employee Garden provides 65 plots of ground where 285 employees on 85 teams till, fertilize and nurture their spaces, hoping for a successful harvest this fall. Kat Goodwin, the employee garden coordinator, said, "This summer, the tomatoes garnered a lot of attention. The first year, we had no tomatoes."

There's always a "first" going on in the Chesapeake Garden. Goodwin notes several teams grew vertical this year. One team







Above and right: Phil and Maggie Clayton's koi pond, with a variety of specialty plants.

Right below: Rick and Susan Wymer's landscaping features a perfect combination of plantings and a dry river rock stream bed gracefully curving across front lawn

created an A-frame trellis for plump watermelons to rest on; on another trellis, fruits rest in mesh sacks. Miniature peaches and table grapes were other firsts in the perennial garden this year; 2012 was also a first for a good strawberry harvest.

A culinary herb spiral was a new attraction shared by all the garden members. They planted tarragon, oregano, chives, thyme, lemon balm, dill, basil, horseradish and Corsican mint, which tastes like cucumber. In a nearby plot, one team grew Armenian cucumbers, which could easily be mistaken for a slender, green and white striped slithering snake.

The teams enjoy the fruits of their labors, but a percentage of the harvest supplies fruits and vegetables for the local BritVil Food Pantry.

All gardeners use only organic gardening methods and compost is the key to their success. At the 2011 end of season garden party, awards were given for the "hottest" compost pile.

TICKETS ARE \$12 IN ADVANCE OR \$15 THE DAY OF THE TOUR at the tour locations. Tickets go on sale Sept. 1 at eight garden centers including: Farmer's Grain, Edmond; The Greenhouse, Norman; Marcum's Nursery, two Precure Nursery loations, TLC Garden Center, Wilshire Garden Market, and Wild Bird's Unlimited, all in Oklahoma City.







ION TECHNOLOGY

Picucle **HORSEPOWER** combined with will power is the name of the game with the newest revolution in bicycles. by KANNA DEUTSCH

he days of pedaling around on a bike under your own power and clothes-pinning a playing card in between the spokes of bike wheels are fading into the past. A new wave of bicycles has hit the road and they have electric motors to do some or even most of the work. As part of the new era of trendy fitness activities and the ever-increasing concern for the environment, a number of companies have began producing electric bicycles. With these new bikes one can pedal to work without breaking a sweat and they make it easier to climb uphill or ride over challenging terrain.

The bike's electric motors are battery powered and the batteries can be recharged at any standard electric outlet. Some of the bikes also use a technology called regenerative braking that recharges the battery when the brakes are applied, as they would be on a downhill slope. Despite the

motors, most states still classify these bikes as "standard," allowing users to purchase and enjoy them without a driver's license or insurance. Besides the benefit of multitasking one's commute with one's cardio, the sleek bikes require significantly less parking space and costly maintenance. Companies Nyce Wheels and Avadream offer compact models that collapse lengthwise into half their extended size. Other companies leading the world in electric bikes are Gepida, Pedego Electric Bikes, and Ultra Motor.

There are two different ways that the motor is used to assist the rider, with the low-end bikes using one of these methods and high-end bikes incorporating both methods. One method, called motor-assist, is for the motor to continually put power to the axil with the rider controlling the amount of help he/she receives. The other method, called pedal-assist, uses the motor only when the rider is peddling. Bikes running on this method generally have different levels so the rider may customize how much or how little help he/her wants on each ride. Sensors measure the amount of force the rider. applies to the pedals and signals the motor to increase its efforts as the rider increases his/hers accordingly.

While these bikes offer a number of great advantages, there



are still a few drawbacks and concerns for potential customers to consider. Along with these motorized wheels come steep prices, with 1,895 dollars landing on the low end of the price spectrum. Besides price, the motor also bulks up the bikes' weights by an average of twenty pounds. Almost all of the models currently available weight at least fifty pounds. Another concern regarding these bicycles is the limited range, as the battery requires periodic recharging. The actual range will depend on the type of terrain one is riding, the weight of the rider, and the assist level the rider sets. Most have a range of about 20 miles, just enough to

get to work or grab a carton of milk at Whole Foods. One model, however, boasts a range of 40 miles.

With the exciting emergence of these new eclectic bicycles and new advances for them on the horizon, it may not be that long before bicycles lift off of the horizon a la E.T. After all, the history of the bicycle is less than 200 years old, but in those 200 years, bicycles have progressed from "walking machines" to motorized machines. Comparatively, 190,000 years passed between the evolution of the first modern human and the invention of the wheel. It seems reasonable to say that progress has been made.

ON COMMUNITY Will Take Us There

The new bike-share program in downtown Oklahoma City is just one of the many innovative and progressive ideas that are helping to create a viable, vibrant community in our city center.

Story and Photos by LAUREN WRIGHT

Commuting to work, strolling through the arts district, peddling to grab a bite to eat in Deep Deuce, or simply to improve your health, Spokies can get you there. Spokies is the new bike share program currently stationed in several locations downtown, and is turning into a multi-use, convenient way to move around in the city center. The bikes are located at various stands where one can rent a bike for different time durations at different price points. Launching May 18, 2012, just a little over three months ago, Spokies brings a new, modern cool factor to the downtown area that is hustling and bustling with renovations, reconstructions and loads of progress.



wo-wheeled bicycles have been a mode of transportation dating back to the early 19thcentury, but in Oklahoma City it is being promoted as a green way to get from point A to point B. According to the League of American Bicyclist, Oklahoma ranks a very low 35 out of 50 states in the "bicycle friendly" category. The city is hoping Spokies will help change that.

The concept of Spokies came about abruptly. According to Jill DeLozier, marketing director for Spokies states, "The city of Oklahoma City received a federal transportation block grant for addressing transportation issues, and the Office of Sustainability recommended a bike share program to city officials." The marketing committee then had to decide on a name and came up with "Spokies." Within less than a year the program launched.

So far the memberships and riderships are growing slowly, but steadily. With this summer's record-breaking heat, it has not been pleasant to be outside for long periods of time. DeLozier explains that as the weather cools down they expect the bikes will be even more popular. Spokies can be ridden through a membership or just a daily ride fee. Annual Spokies memberships are \$75, a monthly membership is \$20, and a daily membership is \$5. Each membership gives the user



unlimited 30-minutes rides. For being so new, Spokies is getting off to a great start with an estimated 220 riders each month. The average length of a trip is around 12 minutes; mostly, riders are using them for a quick ride from office to lunch or home to office, as intended. There are currently six stations downtown that host the Spokies where they can be picked up or dropped off. Riders must sign a waiver before cycling, so riders need to be 18 or older for safety precautions. This system is a new and innovative way to get around town; a mode of transportation that is growing across the country.

It's a great start to getting more people active in the downtown area and reducing the pollution from gas vehicles. Seeing people riding bikes around downtown really adds to the vitality of the area. Programs like Spokies are popping up all over the country, and according to DeLozier, Oklahoma City was a frontrunner in the establishment of a bike share program. Spokies has been featured on national blogs and in multiple news articles, drawing attention to the exciting things happening in downtown Oklahoma City. Spokies is part of creating a better future for this city.

The community and users of the program really love the idea of a bike share, but with anything new, it takes some getting used to. The public is learning how to work the kiosks and

utilize different forms of payment. DeLozier states, "There is definitely a learning curve, but as a whole, the public response has been phenomenal and people are excited to see more bicycles on the streets." Because downtown Oklahoma City has a concentration of large corporations and businesses, more companies are approaching them about memberships for their employees. It's a practical way to get the city involved in a new local pursuit and promote healthy and sustainable habits.

This new and innovative way to travel is quickly becoming a staple to downtown Oklahoma City and encouraging many to do a little more pedaling and a little less driving. Jane Jenkins, President and CEO of Downtown OKC, Inc. states "Spokies is just one more example of the progressive ideas and programs being developed and implemented to improve the quality of life for everyone in Oklahoma City."

Be sure to follow Spokies on Facebook and Twitter to get the latest scoop via social media. Since no helmets are available for rent at this time, Spokies wants to encourage riders to wear helmets. Oklahoma City continues to grow and evolve, and Spokies is just one sign that our city is innovative and adaptable.

ion Places

Crossing the Threshold:

A Sojourn into the Woods of St. Francis

Photos and Story by HOLLIE NIBLETT

s we sit in on the rock wall overlooking the natural beauty of the grounds, Kay Adair shares the story of St. Francis of the Woods Spiritual Renewal Center. Her voice is calm, and her kindness and warmth is palpable. "I believe we are gifted with people we need to learn from – even creatures – horses, birds, dogs, cats. Even into the decade of the eighties." The youngest daughter of Senator Robert S. Kerr has been on this Earth going into her 82nd year.

"When my husband was exploring the land and came across the waterway, it was his spirit that told him it was the right place," says Kay, referring to her late husband, Bishop Robert Adair, when he was in search of the perfect location for St. Francis. After serving for many years as an Eastern Orthodox priest, Robert felt a spiritual calling to create a poustinia. In the Russian spiritual tradition, this is a simple place of shelter "in times of trouble, transition, or intense spiritual search." The bit of earth that makes up St. Francis of the Woods today is located just off Highway 33 in Payne county, Oklahoma, between Guthrie and Stillwater. The land is set among nearly 490 acres of pasture, woods, streams, small

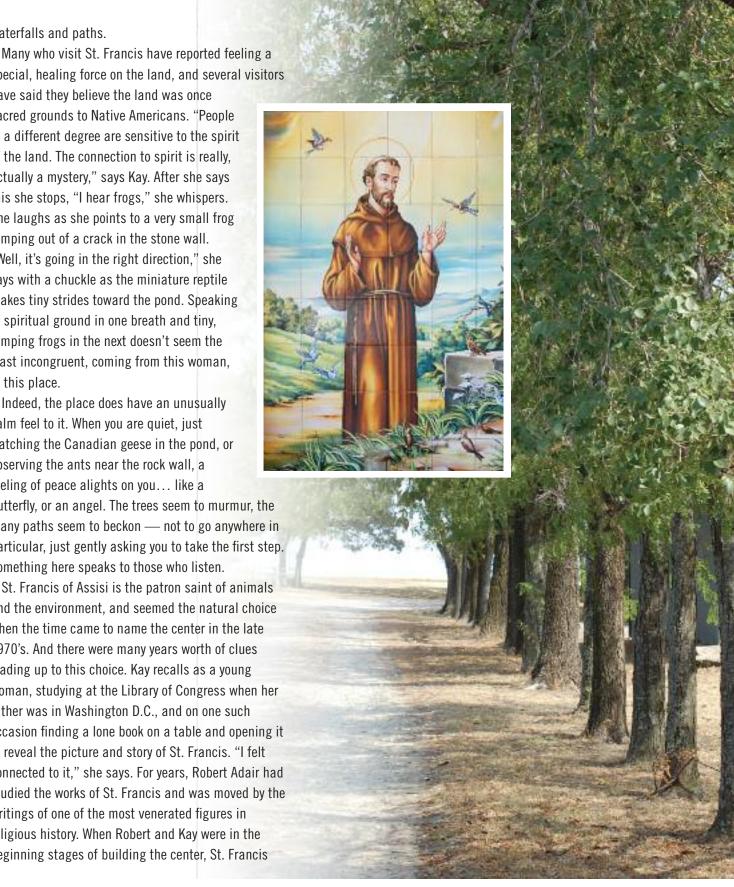


waterfalls and paths.

special, healing force on the land, and several visitors have said they believe the land was once sacred grounds to Native Americans. "People to a different degree are sensitive to the spirit of the land. The connection to spirit is really, actually a mystery," says Kay. After she says this she stops, "I hear frogs," she whispers. She laughs as she points to a very small frog jumping out of a crack in the stone wall. "Well, it's going in the right direction," she says with a chuckle as the miniature reptile makes tiny strides toward the pond. Speaking of spiritual ground in one breath and tiny, jumping frogs in the next doesn't seem the least incongruent, coming from this woman, in this place.

Indeed, the place does have an unusually calm feel to it. When you are quiet, just watching the Canadian geese in the pond, or observing the ants near the rock wall, a feeling of peace alights on you... like a butterfly, or an angel. The trees seem to murmur, the many paths seem to beckon — not to go anywhere in particular, just gently asking you to take the first step. Something here speaks to those who listen.

St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals and the environment, and seemed the natural choice when the time came to name the center in the late 1970's. And there were many years worth of clues leading up to this choice. Kay recalls as a young woman, studying at the Library of Congress when her father was in Washington D.C., and on one such occasion finding a lone book on a table and opening it to reveal the picture and story of St. Francis. "I felt connected to it," she says. For years, Robert Adair had studied the works of St. Francis and was moved by the writings of one of the most venerated figures in religious history. When Robert and Kay were in the beginning stages of building the center, St. Francis



continued knocking: he would appear as random gifts from friends and would pop up in the unlikeliest of places when they traveled.

To commemorate his respect for St. Francis, Robert ordered a tile of the patron saint of nature from Italy to be placed in the chapel. Robert and Kay felt strongly that the name would attract certain spiritual qualities, and that over time the people who spent time here would manifest those qualities in their lives.

There are several structures on the grounds of St. Francis. There is the

Learning Center, a twostory building that serves as the community hub, with a lounge, kitchen and large community space for meetings, workshops and meals; a manse, where the director of the center lives; four small cabins, laundry house, chicken house, work shed, a library and a chapel.

To this day, the presence of the tile of St. Francis in the entryway of the chapel is a physical reminder of the protective, spiritual force that seems to pervade these grounds. Undoubtedly, the saint is feeling right at home in this "chapel in the woods," a unique and organic building that seems to have been born from the woods around it. Inside, the chapel reflects the open and accepting spirit of the center: there are beautiful, handpainted Eastern Orthodox icons, a Methodist cross over a traditional Orthodox alter, a menorah, and an everburning candle. "The candle behind the alter is always lit. It represents the eternal spirit of God," says Kay reverently, as we take in the beauty of the chapel.

Currently, the services are held in the Eastern Orthodox tradition, and follow the liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, but Kay stresses that people of all faiths and beliefs are welcome here. From its beginnings, St. Francis was created for the purpose of allowing individuals to get in touch with God in their own, unique way. A place where people are free to question, disagree and discuss, and the

many workshops, classes and bible studies held at the center promote this free flow of ideas. The library is also a testament to this philosophy. What began as Robert Adair's personal library has grown into an impressive collection of literature on the history and practice of as many faiths as

there probably exist in the world. Those who seek communion with God through the intellect are abundantly fed here.

Each Wednesday St. Francis is host to a morning bible study followed by a community lunch in the Learning Center. Why do they come to St. Francis? What

Top: Chris Contreras is a recently ordained Eastern Orthodox priest and the director of St. Francis of the Woods.

Middle: The chapel at St. Francis of the Woods.

Bottom: The beautiful stained glass rainbow,
surrounding a Methodist cross, is hanging
above the ever-burning candle at the alter of
the chapel in the woods.



fellowship," says Jean bluntly. She travels to St. Francis from Guthrie each week to attend the Wednesday activities. Her twin sister, Joan, goes into a bit more detail. "I feel a kinship here. God wants us to fellowship with other people, no matter what their religious preferences are. He wants us to love each other just like He loves us."

Fellowship is a thread running through the spirit of the center. Kay's niece, Shari Kerr, also a board member, explains. "One of the elements of our mission is connecting with the local community. When people find St. Francis they are tickled. With the garden and eggs from the chicken

house — it's a very concrete connection to the people of the community."

The roads to St. Francis are as interesting and varied as the people who sojourn here. And once St. Francis makes the call, it doesn't stop until someone picks up the phone. Some souls are invited by friends or family, some participate in a local church retreat, some, like Director Chris Contreras, see it for the first time while driving by on Highway 33.

It was in the early 1980's when Chris first got wind of St. Francis, and not long after he drove by on his way to Tulsa. He felt very drawn to the place but didn't get a chance to stop and look around until more than a decade later, when he was invited by his coworker to the Saturday evening discussion group.

"At the time I didn't want to attend a group in regards to spiritual development. I thought it was more of a personal journey," says Chris. It took several more months of asking before he finally accepted the invitation and that's when he discovered how warm and friendly everyone was. He didn't return again for several more months and was amazed to find that everyone at St. Francis remembered his name and the details of his life.

By 2004 he was a regular at St. Francis, and when the director position became open, he was asked to apply and was hired. But it was the question he was asked a few weeks later, by one of the co-founders and board members', Dr. Shyam



The library of St. Francis is home to hundreds of books on spirituality and religion.

Kashyap that really floored him. After one of the regular Wednesday meditation sessions in the chapel, Shyam (pronounced "Sham") asked Chris if he wanted to become an Eastern Orthodox priest.

"It was startling," he says, describing how he felt at being asked that question. It was that same night, however, that Chris says he was reawakened to his spiritual calling. As a boy he had been raised in the Roman Catholic Church. In his own spiritual journey, he later became a Nazarene, then Methodist and afterward a Presbyterian. He now feels grateful for those experiences. "I saw many people who identify themselves as Christians. I saw a lot of common denominators, and only minor differences in beliefs." Chris answered the call, and in the fall of 2011 became an ordained Eastern Orthodox priest.

"St. Francis is a place where spiritual seekers from all walks of life can come to rest and grow in their spiritual development. That's what's special — people can meet others from varying faiths and different denominations," he says. When asked if he is satisfied, he says, "No. Content. At peace. Grateful."

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION about St. Francis of the Woods Spiritual Renewal Center, call (405) 466-3774 or email Chris Contreras at chrscntrrs60@gmail.com.

ion reviews

Story Buzz

with Malena Lott

Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn "Marriage can be a real killer."

READERS BEWARE: do not force your spouse to move from the big city to your hometown. Flynn's latest suspense novel, Gone Girl, is a chilling psychological thrill ride told in alternating points of view. We hear from the charming, handsome husband, Nick, who moved back home after losing his writing job, in real time, while then hearing his wife Amy's side of the story from her diary entries beginning back when they met until present day.

Did Nick kill his wife? Is Amy a psycho? Certainly those questions alone would keep us turning the page, but Flynn gives us more: the disappearance happened on their 5th anniversary, the date that Amy sends Nick on a scavenger hunt through town. He doesn't share the clues with the cops. Why? Is he afraid he'll get caught? While I was annoyed — and skipped over — the odd magazine-style quizzes Amy put in her diary entries (she used to write them for magazines) that's a small grievance in what is a captivating read. Are both characters unlikable? Yes. Do most readers not care for the ending? True. Is the book for everyone? Of course not. I typically don't read thrillers, but I do make an exception for psychological thrillers that go deep into character as this one does. My vote? Give it a try. It's well written with plenty of twists and turns and themes on marriage and perception versus reality.



PEGGY CHAMBERS

READING ROUND UP:

Oklahoma City author Lou Berney delivers an equal shot of humor and action in his second novel, Whiplash River, with well-drawn characters like Shake, Baby Jesus and Quinn. Fans of the TV show, Burn Notice, will feel right at home with Berney's world. You'll want to pick up Berney's first novel, Gutshot Straight, while you're at it.

Short on time? Oklahoma authors Jammie Kern and Peggy Chambers are two of the authors in Buzz Books' Stingers line, "Short works. Big Apocalypse Sucks:

Story." Kern heads up the Mythology High series about contemporary coming-of-age tales based on classic Greek myths. "Ryann in the Sky," her first ebook short, is based on Orion's tale while her Labor Day release, "Taylor on Lockdown," is a Jersey Shore-esque tale based on the myth of Talos. Chamber's series, *The Apocalypse Sucks*, is a humorous look at what could happen after a virus wipes out most of civilization. The first tale, "Bra Wars," has the protagonists on a journey to the mall for a new bra and lipstick.

Malena Lott is an author and the executive editor at Buzz Books USA. Her next novel, Something New, will be published in November. Connect with her at malenalott.com and buzzbooksusa.com and on Facebook and Twitter @malenalott.



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ION FASHION



NEARLY 30 YEARS AGO, Jane Webb wrote a business model for a small store her husband Mike wanted to open in Nichols Hills Plaza.

She had no experience in fashion or retail, but he said he wouldn't open the store without her so she put her marketing and advertising degree to work.

It was a smart decision for both of them.

Mike had grown up in the retail business. His parents owned The Webb, a popular store in Norman that started out selling women's shoes and later added clothing.

The young couple capitalized on the name and opened The Webb in Nichols Hills. A store in Dallas came next. They also operated a shoe department in a high-end specialty store in Houston and owned a Joan Vass store. They even brought the designer to Oklahoma City. They

even owned a Joan Vass store and brought the designer to Oklahoma City.

Jane's interest in fashion and retail grew and she developed a knack for knowing what customers wanted. Mike turned his attention to other endeavors. She moved the store to the south side of the Plaza, renamed it CK & Co., and slowly expanded as more space became available. They survived economic issues and Jane's battle with breast cancer.

"I got through it," she said. "I think you learn when you have some devastating blows. You learn you can pick your foot up and move forward and learn."

Then came the big decision to build a new store in the same shopping center where they first started three decades ago.





Above: Owner Jane Webb stands in her new store in Nichols Hills Plaza. Left: This is what shoppers see when they enter the new store.

"I just think in any business that maintains for a number of years you have to reinvent yourself because you don't want to become stale," she said. "Hopefully, that's what we're doing again. We're taking direction and seeing how the industry is changing and trying to react to the changes."

First, will you tell us about the new store?

We enlarged to 6,300 square feet to feature several separate shop-in-shops. It is well merchandised making for easy shopping. The store features Vince, Theory, Elie Tahari, Lafayette 148 and Tory Burch shops. We still carry many of the same lines as well as some new offerings. The store is modern with tall vaulted ceilings. A Venetian glass chandelier anchors the back of the store over a lounge for husbands to watch games while their wives shop.

Right, Top: The Lafayette 148 shop in the new CK & Co. store in Nichols Hills Plaza.

Middle: The lounge area is a warm and comfortable place for guys to hang out while women shop.

Bottom: Windows let in lots of light.

Any new clothing lines or additions to the mix?

We are offering more of a selection in the best of the best. We are always adding new lines to the mix while focusing on what we do best.

What feature or detail was an absolute must?

The shop-in-shop concept has not been done in Oklahoma City in specialty stores so we feel we are a pioneer in this concept. We have had great support with these designers and they are looking to our concept as a business model for future endeavors.

You and Mike built a new store and stayed in Nichols Hills Plaza. Was that always the plan?

I have always been loyal to Nichols Hills Plaza. This will be my 30th year in business. I live in the neighborhood and want to support the area. My plan has always been to stay in Nichols Hills Plaza. Mike has not been in involved in the store; however, he has a business consulting company, Business Savvy, where he helps start-up companies put together strategic plans and helps them raise capital. He has had an entrepreneurial nature all of his life. He encouraged me to go forward with this concept. His participation was to help with negotiation of the lease and design ideas.

How do you feel each morning when you walk in the door?

This store is about the next 30 years. It's inviting, fresh and modern, and offers shopping that will rival any big city. We have sophisticated shoppers in Oklahoma City and we have given them a reason to spend their dollars locally.







<u>ion</u> PEOPLE

The Second Annual 30 Under 30 Awards Banquet will be

held October 18, 2012 at the Oklahoma City Petroleum Club. We at ionOklahoma are looking forward to introducing the bright, compassionate and ambitious class of 2012 in our next issue.



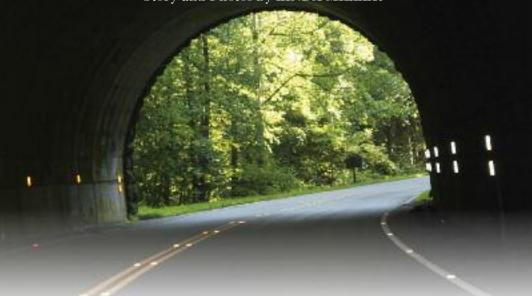
Inaugural 30/30 Award Winners

OCTOBER 2011

WINNER	COMPANY	WINNER	COMPANY
Bosé Akadiri	American Red Cross	Brian Kouhdari	Cole & Reed, P. C.
Trudi Baidoo	Verizon	Lacey Lett	KOKI-TV
Matt Beckham	Quibids	Christopher Lloyd	Lloyd Entertainment Media Group, Inc.
Mandi Briggs	Heritage Trust Company	Regan Lynn	Oklahoma City Thunder
Joleen Chaney	KFOR-TV	Elisa Milbourn	OK City Convention & Visitors Bureau
Ashlie Corneluis	University of Oklahoma Career Services	Lauren Nelson	Griffin Communications
Jay Doyle	A-Tech Paving	Wyas Parker	Chickasaw Nation
Kelli Dupuy	Sunbeam Family Services	Emily Rothrock	Science Museum Oklahoma
Taylor Fudge	Claims Management Resources	Chauncey Shillow	Santa Fe South High School
Dacia Harris	The OK Council of Public Affairs	Emily Sutton	KFOR-TV
Lindsay Houts	OPUBCO Communications Group	Lauren Toppins	Paycom Payroll, Llc
Blake Jackson	Chesapeake Energy	Evan Vincent	Crowe Dun Levy
Michael Jones	Scissortsail Creative	Emily Virgin	State Representative, District 44
Amanda Kirkpatrick	Heritage Hall	Rvan Waters	Creative Oklahoma

Driving the Dragon

Story and Photos by LINDA MILLER



Tunnels add to the fun of driving on the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina.

It was all about the roads.

Miles and miles of heart-racing twists and turns. Sweeping curves along the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway. A winding two-lane blacktop that climbs over mountains and descends through lush forests. Those are the roads around the North Carolina-Tennessee state line. That's what enticed a group of sports car enthusiasts to drive more than 900 miles one-way from Oklahoma City to Cherokee, N.C.

The object of our desire was Deals Gap or Tail of the Dragon, an 11-mile stretch of road with 318 curves. That's no typo. It's considered America's No. 1 road for motorcycles and sports cars, but plenty of other types of vehicles challenge the Dragon.

III PLACE



Banked curves, a constant elevation and no intersecting roads or driveways add to the appeal and, for some, the need for speed. But know that the road is routinely patrolled by law enforcement.

Driving the Dragon requires all eyes on the road and full concentration. This isn't the place to sightsee. Save that for the nearby Blue Ridge Parkway or the Cherohala Skyway, a 45-mile drive that goes up and over the mountains in North Carolina and dips down through the Tennessee forest.

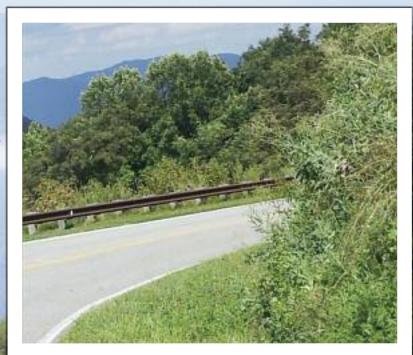
While the roads and stunning scenery are enough for some, the area offers plenty more to see and do. We stayed in Cherokee, a town that's steeped in American Indian history. Museum of the Cherokee Indian starts the history lesson at the beginning, some 13,000 years ago. With special effects and computer-generated imagery, it introduces visitors to the origins of Cherokee medicine, sacred festivals and the removal of the Eastern Band of Cherokees to Oklahoma Territory in a 2,200-mile trek along the Trail of Tears. The museum also includes exhibits and artifacts that showcase weapons, wardrobes, jewelry, carved masks, baskets, pottery, games, photos and manuscripts. Some spear points and axes on exhibit were used 10,000 years ago.

Cherokee history also comes to life at the Oconaluftee Indian Village with re-enactments, demonstrations and dances. Don't miss the council house, sweat lodge and ceremonial grounds. The village is open from May through October. An outdoor drama, "Unto These Hills," tells the story of the Cherokees with live music,

Sports car owners drive from hundreds of miles away just to challenge the roads near the North Carolina-Tennessee state line.

Background image: Mountains and clouds make a scenic backdrop as a car makes its way up a mountain along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Right: Stunning scenery and sweeping curves in North Carolina.



dances and authentic Cherokee regalia. The show unfolds in June, July and August.

In the mood to shop? The Native American Craft Shop, the Great Smokies Fine Arts Gallery and the Qualla Arts & Crafts Mutual Inc. offer the artistry of dozens of Cherokee bead masters, basket weavers, potters, artists, stone carvers and wood carvers.

Plenty of tourist-oriented stores line the two main streets, enticing shoppers with everything from T-shirts and souvenirs to fudge and moccasins. For those who prefer a different kind of action, there's a Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Hotel. Inside the hotel is Paula Deen's Kitchen. The chicken pot pie is a sure bet, and it's large enough to share.

Cherokee is a good starting point for exploring nearby attractions such as the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Clingman's Dome, a panoramic view from the top of the Smokies. The grand Biltmore House & Gardens in Asheville is about an hour east of Cherokee. Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, Tenn., are an hour away through the national park.

Come fall, the foliage should be a colorful palette of reds, yellows and oranges that can be seen for miles.

And don't forget to take a turn on those roads.

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