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FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014

American Indian Cultural Center Faces Critical Moment

OCCC Unveils New Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater

Buffalo Lounge Shows Off Okie Talent at SXSW

Plenty Mercantile Makes Shopping Unique

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Mardi Gras on the Beach

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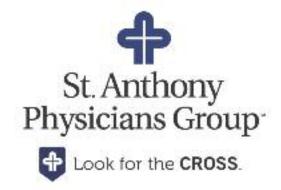
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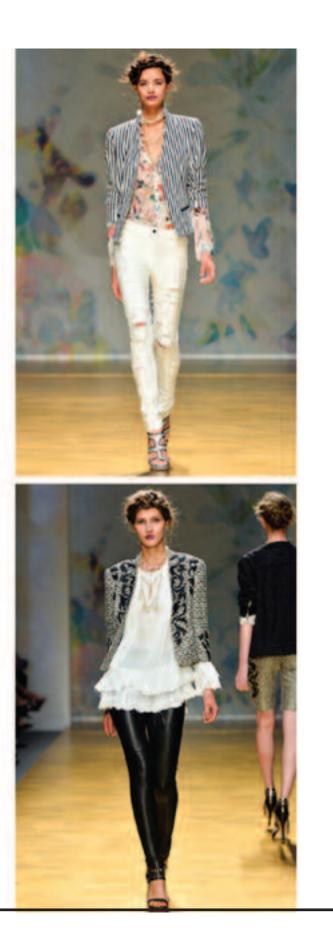
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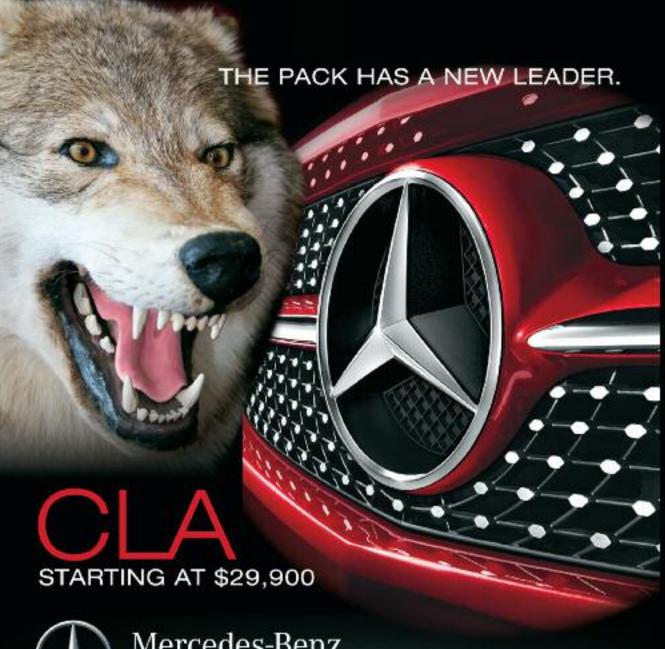
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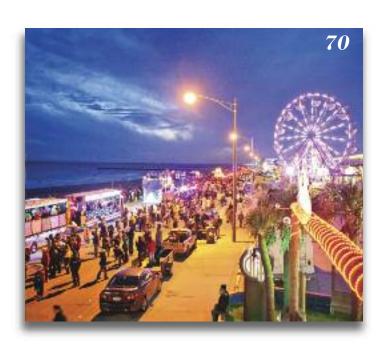
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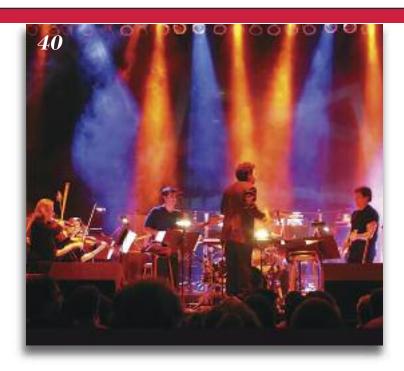
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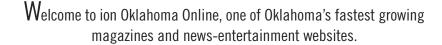
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Publisher's Note



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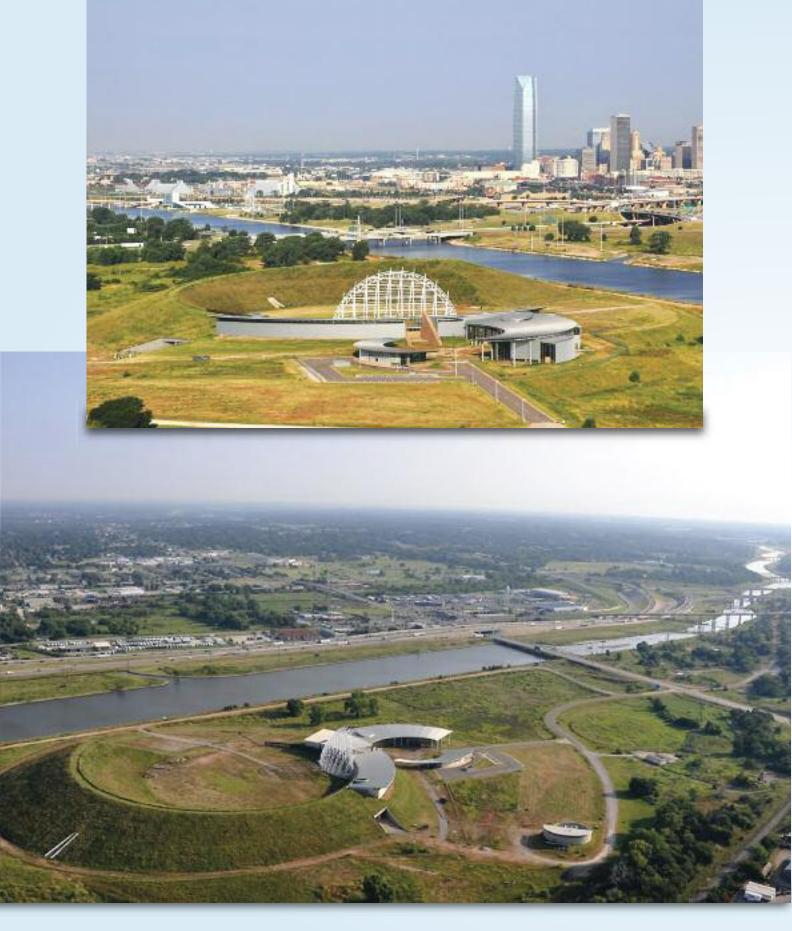
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AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER FACES CRITICAL MOMENT

After legislature votes on funding, AICCM can generate millions in economic impact

by Heide Brandes

wo decades after it was proposed and seven years after the start of construction, the \$170 million

American Indian Cultural Center and Museum (AICCM) may soon have new hope as the Oklahoma Legislature is set to vote on funding the center in February.

The grand vision museum in Oklahoma City is an ambitious attempt to honor and educate visitors about the state's 39 tribes. But the center, facing numerous road bumps and failures on the part of federal partners, is only half finished and short the \$80 million needed for completion.

In February, however, the Oklahoma Legislature is set to consider funding for the center, which is expected to generate more than \$3.8 billion in economic impact dollars. For the supporters and champions of the Indian Cultural Center, the vote has been a long time coming.

"Four years ago, Gov. Mary Fallin came out to hear an update about the center and told us we would have to raise private funds," said Blake Wade, CEO of AICCM. "She said we would have to raise \$40 million, which would be matched by the legislature for a total of \$80 million to completely finish the project. We raised that. We have not received the match yet."

Oklahoma lawmakers this year will consider a final funding plan to complete the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum. If successful, the state would









"The economic impact of this center will be huge"

> Shoshana Wasserman. director of communications and cultural tourism

allocate \$40 million in state funds to match existing \$40 million in private donations.

The state funds would be distributed over three years, and the proposed opening of the museum, located at the intersection of Interstates 35 and 40, would be 2017. Although a vote was planned for the end of the 2013 legislative session, which supporter Sen. Kyle Loveless said was set to pass, the measure was halted by the deadly May tornadoes.

"The economic impact of this center will be huge," said Shoshana Wasserman, director of communications and cultural tourism. "The cultural impact will be felt

for generations, as thousands of visitors, students and travelers will be able to enjoy a Smithsonian-quality museum and cultural center that honors the American Indian tribes and history of our state."

The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum project has benefited from three previous state bond issues totaling \$63 million, as well as \$14.5 million in federal funding and \$4.9 million and 250 acres of land from Oklahoma City. The AICCM will include the collective histories of 39 Native American tribes from all over North America that were relocated here as a result of federal policies.



According to a economic impact study by Applied Economics, the AICCM is expected to generate \$3.8 billion over 20 years. Additional, the 20-year state tax revenue projections are \$150 million and local tax revenues are \$177 million.

NAYSAYERS

The cultural center has had its share of road bumps, delays and retractors however.

"We've had some stiff resistance, due mostly to urban

legends," said Sen. Loveless. "People think the tribes need to put in, but we've had 100 percent participation from all the tribes. The tribes have been involved from the conception to now."

After Wade and Lee Allan Smith raised the \$40 million in private funds, opposition accused the center of abuse of funds. However, a state audit of the past 10 years showed that not a single penny was misused. Another complaint is that only Oklahoma City will benefit from the museum, which Wasserman says is untrue.



"This center will benefit every county in Oklahoma," she said. "It will serve as a gateway to other destinations throughout our state. People who visit here are looking for a niche experience, and that's cowboys and Indians."

In addition, because the center is 50 percent complete, the state faces a fiscal nightmare if it's not completed.

"It would be fiscally irresponsible to not finish it," said Wasserman. "We are asking for a \$40 million match to complete it. If it fails, then it will take approximately \$30 million to take down what's already built. Why not spend those funds to create a lasting experience for Oklahoma that honors our Native American culture?"

Along with fundraisers and supporters Lee Allen Smith and Barry Switzer, the AICCM is asking for the public to call their senators and representatives to support the completion of the world-class, Smithsonian-level museum.

"This center will be along the caliber of the Smithsonian," said Loveless, adding that the AICCM already as a memorandum of understanding with the Smithsonian for long-term loans of exhibit items. "Every hurdle has been met. Every question has been answered. It's time to finish this."

AICCM

Weaving together the unique perspectives and realities of Native communities with the ideas of optimism and resilience illustrates how essential American Indian people have been to Oklahoma and the U.S.

Oklahoma has a unique history that differentiates it from any other state in the nation. Visitors to the AICCM will hear first-hand accounts from 39 different tribal nations and will be immersed in cultural celebrations. events and activities.

The AICCM will include

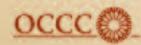
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ION COMMUNITY

OCCC Visual and Performing Arts Center Theatre





Views of the newly completed VPAC Center.

fter two years of construction, Oklahoma City Community College has unveiled the new state-of-the-art Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater (VPAC).

The new venue will host major cultural and performing arts events, in addition to the college's signature Performing Arts Series (PAS). Conveniently located in South Oklahoma City adjacent to I-44 and I-240, the addition of the new theater will allow the college to begin hosting Broadway-type shows, concerts, and larger productions than ever before.

It will also provide the community with a top notch venue for local arts, dance groups and other organizations. The newly constructed Inasmuch Foundation Art Gallery and OCCC's nationally-recognized film and video production program are also housed in the Visual Performing Arts Center.





When the theater opened this January, patrons and performers were impressed by the structure's towering floor-to-ceiling windows in the Sarkeys Foundation Atrium, and second- and third-floor lobbies that overlook the main entrance.

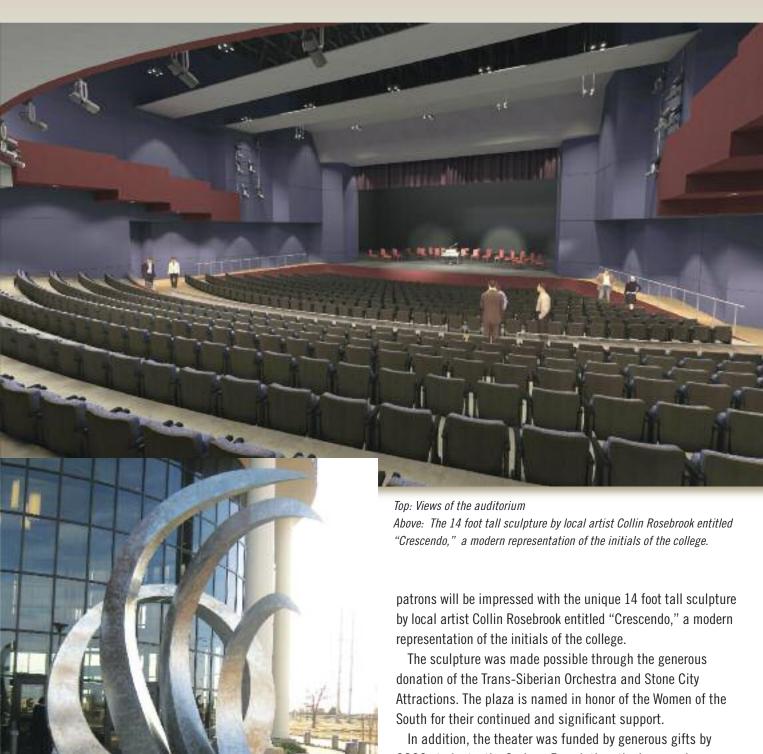
The theater features seating for 1,000, VIP box seats, an orchestra pit, state-of-the-art lighting and sound and a

digital movie projector, which allows the theater to function as a 7.1 surround sound movie theater.

The grand lobby can accommodate over 300 guests in banquet seating, and the facility features a warming kitchen for catered events. Parking for all events hosted at the theater will be free for patrons.

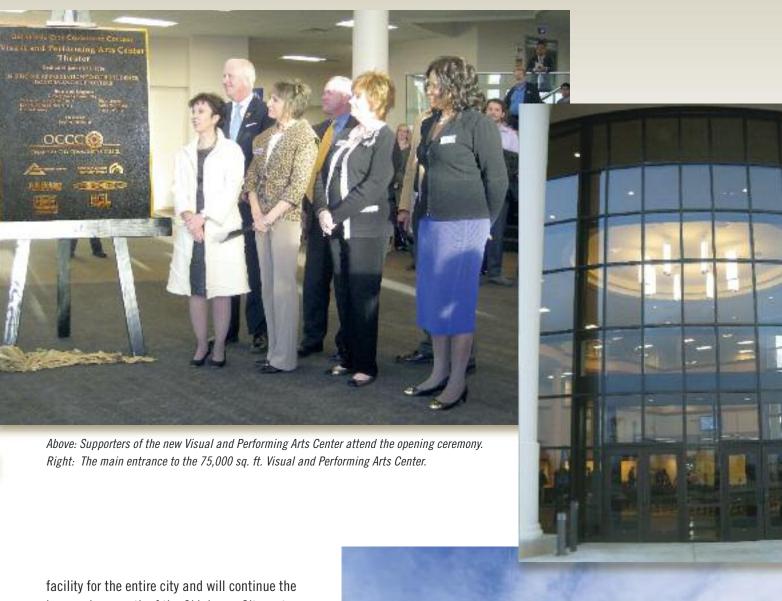
Outside of the theater in the Women of the South Plaza,





In addition, the theater was funded by generous gifts by OCCC students; the Sarkeys Foundation; the Inasmuch Foundation; donations from foundations, corporations and individuals; and OCCC capital improvement funds.

The construction of the theater is a part of the college's larger strategic goal to enrich the quality of life of the community through educational, artistic and recreational programs and events. The OCCC VPAC will be a premiere performing arts



impressive growth of the Oklahoma City metro.

OCCC's "Vision of the Future" project included the 75,000 sq. ft. Visual and Performing Arts Center.

The Arts Center's \$8,400,000 Phase I opened in the Fall of 2008, and dramatically enhanced the arts education at OCCC. In addition to general academic needs for staff and faculty, the 56,500 sq. ft. facility offered customized space for each division of the arts department.

The final component of the VPAC was the \$16 million Performing Arts Theater, designed to be the premier venue for major cultural and entertainment events in South Oklahoma City.





ormer OKC Thunder player and Oklahoma City-based artist Desmond Mason had the distinction of being the first artist to exhibit his work in the new Oklahoma City Community College Visual and Performing Arts Center.

The new Inasmuch Foundation Gallery, which is included in the new center, is designed to showcase art from students, faculty and other artists. Mason, who creates award-winning paintings featuring figurative and abstract expressionism and realism, was invited to be the debut artist.







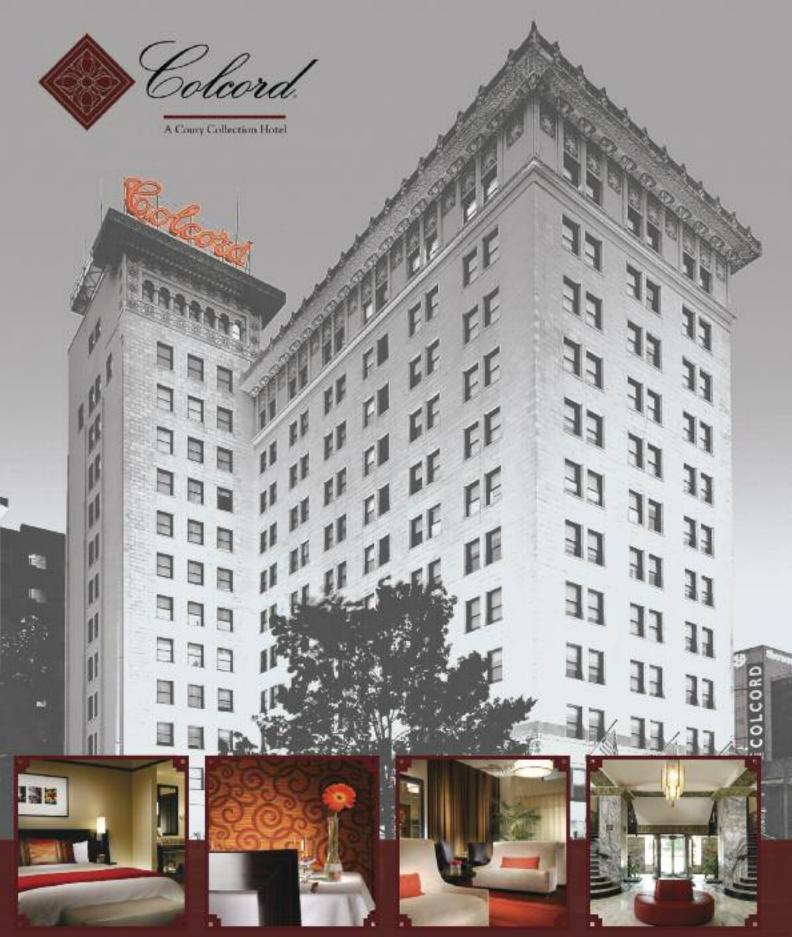




Mason partnered with Women of the South in the past to raise money for Oklahoma City Community College's new performing arts theater.

In 2009, Women of the South, an organization dedicated to enriching the South OKC metro area, worked to raise funds for the construction of the new theater, and is well on its way, said Mary Pointer, publicity officer for the group. Thirty percent of proceeds will benefit OCCC's venue.

"We've made tremendous progress so far, and we're really excited to have Desmond working with us," Pointer said. "His artwork is so vibrant and fresh. It has a lot of emotion behind it."



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ion EVENTS

BUFFALO LOUNGE AT SXSW

Oklahoma's big presence in film, music, interactive at SXSW Conference

by Heide Brandes

n March, when the national and global arts and interactive SXSW returns to Austin, Oklahoma will have a presence that few other states in the nation has.

With 72 countries represented, along with more than 65,000 people in attendance, SXSW is a set of film, interactive and music festivals and conferences that take place every March in Austin, Texas. It began in 1987, and the festival has continued to grow in size every year. In 2011, the conference lasted for 10 days, with SXSW Interactive lasting for five, Music for six, and Film running concurrently for nine days.

SXSW Music is the largest music festival of its kind in the world, with more than 2,200 "official" performers and bands playing in more than 100 venues. One of those venues, as well as one of the largest "presences" at the festival is Oklahoma's The Buffalo Lounge.

"The Buffalo Lounge's mission is to promote film, music and interactive from Oklahoma to the rest of the world," said Abby Kurin, one of the organizers of the Buffalo Lounge. "We are one of only a handful of states that organizes anything like this or that gets the audience we have."

The mission of The Buffalo Lounge includes providing filmmakers, musicians, and interactive companies opportunities to network and gain exposure in a fun, relaxed atmosphere that spotlights Oklahoma's progress in these industries.





while in Austin, The Buffalo Lounge is an event and an outlet both for Oklahoma artists and entrepreneurs to connect with supporters and audiences. A collaborative effort to spotlight Oklahoma filmmakers, musicians and companies, the Lounge attracted more than 50,000 visitors in 2012.

"The Buffalo Lounge began in 2010 when the Oklahoma Film & Music Office, the Idea Collective and the Greater Since then, more than 30 Oklahoma companies, agencies and organizations have participated in numerous events held by The Buffalo Lounge at a local Austin venue. In 2013, The Buffalo Lounge hosted four events at The 512, as well as a booth at the SXSW Exhibit Hall during SXSW 2013.

"2011 was a highly successful year for The Buffalo Lounge,"

said Organizer David Kittredge. "Our venue opening the music portion had a line out the door and down the sidewalk."

Musical artists like Graham Colson headlined the Buffalo Lounge events in 2011, and that year was the first time SXSW included interactive arts and companies into the mix. Whereas music and film took the spotlight in the previous years, the festival now centers around interactive and innovation.

"Across the board, the focus has been on start up companies, and with the help of i2e and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, we helped develop a program called Elevator Pitch to help start ups," said Kittredge. "The Pitch Competition last year was the largest we had. Companies develop a 90 second elevator pitch and we had angel investors who judged which pitch won."

Film also plays a big part of Oklahoma presence, said Ginger Roddick, the third organizer. In fact, the Buffalo Lounge kicks off the first event of SXSW.

"We invite members of the film industry to check out what's going on in Oklahoma with film, and we host a big event so people can learn about it," said Roddick.

The Buffalo Lounge hosted 411 Publishing and Entertainment Partners at the venue in 2013 for their first production incentives webinar. These webinars are filmed at Sundance Film Festival and Cannes Film Festival each year, so the organizers were excited about the addition to the Buffalo Lounge and SXSW.

"The entire idea of the Buffalo Lounge is to show the world how cool Oklahoma is," said Kittredge. "It's a great place to

> show others that there's a large amount of growth in these industries in Oklahoma. Everyone here can relate to the fact that Oklahoma has not been seen as an epicenter for film, music or interactive, but we can now showcase those industries and bring more of it to Oklahoma.

> "One of the biggest exports from our state in the past was of creative people," he said. "Now, Oklahoma is a great place to be. We now have a creative culture that's creatives in the state, we now have a strong front to



ion ART

SPRING PALETTE

OKC Museum of Art jumps into spring with new exhibitions

by M.A. Smith

pring is in the air. And what better way to celebrate the most colorful season than immersing oneself in the arts.

Starting next month, the Oklahoma City Museum of Art is

featuring several exhibitions to satisfy even a more selective palette.

Oklahoma residents can view stills from two of the 20th Century's more engaging photographers March 15 through June 1.

"Ansel Adams: An America Perspective" is a collection of 60 of the artist's most recognized scenes.

OKCMOA President and CEO E. Michael Whittington said the display focuses not only on his skillfulness as an artist but his accomplishments for bringing more awareness to nature.

Whittington also said Adams, born in 1902, revolutionized the photographic arts by creating what is known today as "straight photography" and considers him the first photographer to successfully brand himself with name and image recognition.

Another photography collection,

"Brett Weston: Land, Sea and Sky," was gifted by The Christian Keesee Collection's.

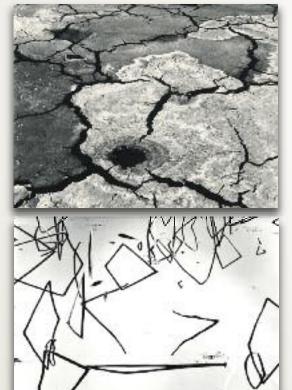
This exhibition will feature 150 photographs by Weston, particularly examples from his 1940 to 1985 adventures. The naturalist stills include mud. rock and ice abstracts.

Weston's popular travels to Baja California, Michigan, Florida, Alaska, Mexico and Japan also will be displayed.

"[Weston's] photographs form an important part of the museum's growing photography collection, and we are excited to expand our holdings of this important photographer's work and now share it during this outstanding exhibition," Whittington said.

An apparent inheritor of his father Edward Weston's artistic abilities, younger Weston started his career at 13 with his Graflex 3 ½ x 4 ½ camera.

In 1926, he started showing his stills at galleries around the nation. Weston has been honored with many distinguishing awards, including the prestigious 1929 "Film und Foto" exhibition in Stuttgart, Germany.



Above : Photography is art by Brett Weston.



An educational program also will be conducted during the tour, focusing on sculpting and Houser's history.

Other Houser events include a Drop-in Drawing from 2 to 4 p.m., May 3; Tiny Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon, May 20 and Making Memories from 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., June 9.

OKCMOA also will celebrate Houser's birthday from 1 to 4 p.m., June 28.

Born in 1914, the renowned Apache artist was the first child

Winter Sunrise, Sierra Nevada from Lone Pine, California, 1944. Gelatin silver print by Ansel Adams

born out of captivity. His parents were prisoners of war for more than 25 years, according to the website Celebrating Allan Houser.

The Oklahoma native started his career at 20 years old at the Studio School of Indian Painting at the Santa Fe Indian School.

His fame quickly took flight, and his work was featured in the National

Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and the Art institute of Chicago.



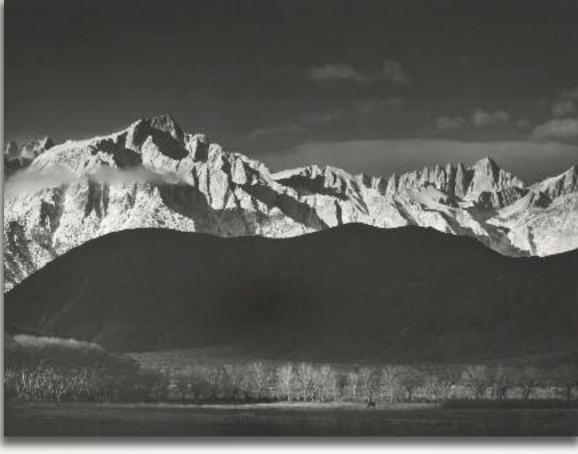
"Lisa Hoke, Come on Down," is the museum's most recent installation and runs now through April 13.

"Come on Down" is a full-wall mural, and depicts New Yorker Lisa Hoke's unique style.

Hoke used ordinary material one finds laying around their house – plastic cups, recycled paper and product packaging – and created a piece that measures 15 feet high and covers more than 150 feet of wall space.

"The visual beauty and title of this exhibition presents multiple meanings. Every one of these packages involve people sitting down and discussing, 'What's going to make somebody come on down and buy this?" Hoke said in a statement about her work.

"Color is the thing that makes my heart pound. It's not the logo; it's not the printing; it's the thrill of the color. And I can't really explain that. It just—it's a love mixed with over stimulation."



OKCMOA officials say Hoke started her career working with cast iron, automobiles and wire. Now she works with everyday products cast aside by consumers.

She has been featured in more than 20 exhibitions including the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, the New York Public Library, the Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University in New York City, the D'Amour Museum in Springfield, Mass., and the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Oklahomans can tour these features from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday or noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. The museum is closed on Mondays and major and national holidays.

Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors 62 and older, \$10 for children ages 6 to 18 and free for children ages 5 and younger. Discounts are available for college students and military with an ID.

OKCMOA offers tour discounts for groups with 15 or more people. For more information, visit the museums website at OKCMOA.com or call 405-236-3100, ext. 237.









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ONTRAVEL

Rooms with a view

Chickasaw Nation opens retreat and conference center

by Linda Miller



ne of the highest points in the Arbuckle Mountains offers more than a sweeping panoramic view.

It's home to the new Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center, a quiet yet beautifully appointed and amenity loaded center for corporate meetings, conferences, parties and retreats, as well as reunions, weddings, receptions and almost any other kind of group gathering.

And for individuals who just want to pop in for a tour, lunch or an overnight visit, that's a possibility too later this spring.

Built in 1994 as a diabetes and health improvement resort about 10 miles south of Sulphur, the Chickasaw Nation purchased the complex in 2012 and completely renovated it. Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center is in the heart of the Arbuckle Mountains.



Above: The great room has a fireplace, plenty of seating and can even be transformed into a dance floor.

Right: A large indoor pool is one of many amenities at the Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center.

The medical aesthetic was wiped away, replaced with warm woods and neutral colors that complement the natural surroundings.

Located on 1,750 acres, the center has 43 guest rooms and suites. "Every room has a gorgeous view," said Nick Starns, Artesian area general manager. Suites overlook Lake of the Arbuckles; standard rooms offer a mountain vista.

Other amenities include meeting and conference space with state-of-the-art technology, indoor amphitheater with 120 theater seats, great room common area, business center, restaurant and private dining room, full-service catering, pool, fitness center, hot tub, spa, and men's and women's locker rooms with showers and saunas.

A glass-enclosed executive board room seats 12 and



is arguably the best meeting space in the center. Perched on a cliff with spectacular views, it's almost like being in a tree house.

Reworked hiking trails make a trek outside easier and more comfortable for those who want to breathe in mountain air and get closer to nature.



Above: Guest rooms and suites are washed in soothing neutral colors.

Left: Suites are large and comfortable.

The center is the latest addition in a growing list of attractions in Sulphur and Davis. Nearby is Lake of the Arbuckles, Artesian Hotel, Casino and Spa, Chickasaw Natural Recreation Area, Turner Falls, Chickasaw Cultural Center, Bedre Chocolate and Treasure Valley casino.

"This center is part of our effort to develop new tourism venues and help promote economic development in this area," said Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby. "We believe the Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center provides an ideal destination for work, play, rest and relaxation."

Anoatubby was on hand for the official opening and ribbon cutting in mid-December, but the center opened

without fanfare several months earlier, affording staff an opportunity to fine tune operations before spring and summer bookings fill the calendar.

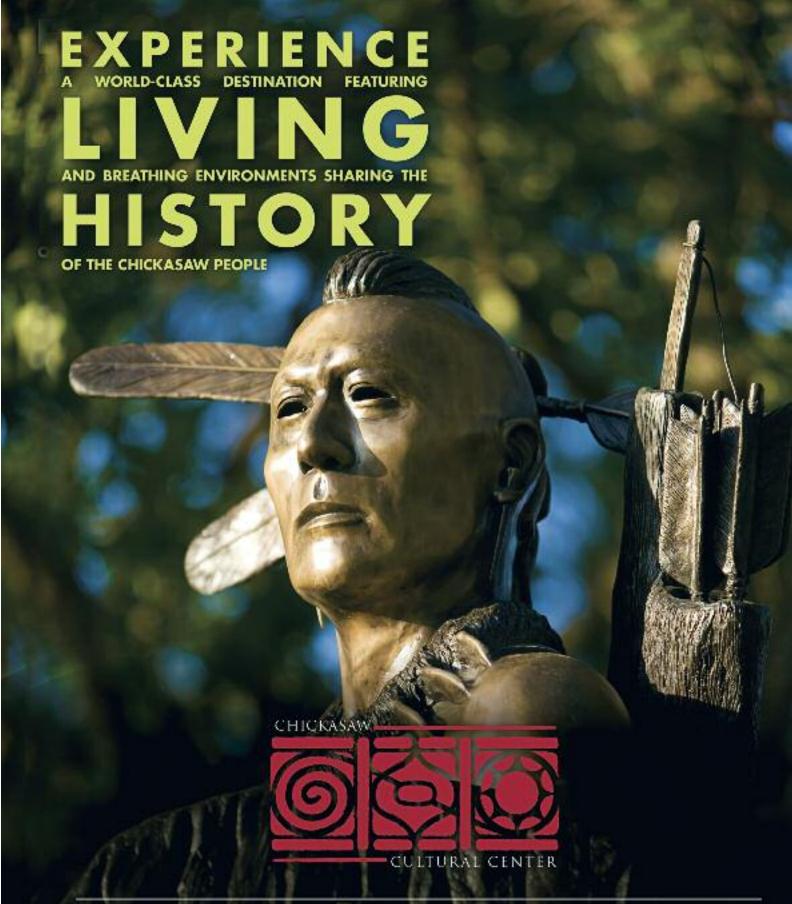
Initially, the center's intent was to focus on corporate, wedding and group business, but interest from nearby residents and others who have heard about the facility has caused a slight shift in plans. People have been asking about eating lunch there, spending the night and taking a tour, Starns said.

Moving forward, the goal is to broaden the options and make the center available for day travelers or locals eager to enjoy the food or overnight guests wanting a room with a breathtaking view.

These options are expected to be available this spring.

The view just got better.

Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center is at 4205 Goddard Youth Camp Road in Sulphur. For more information, call (855) 899-8260. ■



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ion Music





ROCK SYMPHONY

OKC Philharmonic Presents 'Music of Queen'

by M.A. Smith

or years, artists have claimed imitation is the most sincere form of flattery. Now, 1980s rock sensation Queen has been immortalized in an upcoming musical rendition of the group's popular music.

OKC Philharmonic will present Windborne Music's "The Music of Queen: A Rock Symphony" at 8 p.m. Feb. 21 and 22 at Civic Center Music Hall's Thelma E. Gaylord Performing Arts Theatre in Oklahoma City.

But this isn't your everyday classical music performance. Conducted and composed by Cincinnati native Brent Havens, the show is a merging of classical and rock n' roll.

"The Music of Queen" features a full orchestra and is complemented by a rock band. Las Vegas vocalist Brody Dolyniuk leads the group as the voice of Queen's original lead singer Freddie Mercury.

"When he came out to audition for the show, we knew immediately that he had something special. He not only knew the music, but he had clearly listened to every aspect of [Mercury's] performances," Havens said.

"His inflections were spot-on, and even the wailing rock sound had that [Mercury] resonance. Clearly, there will never be another Mercury," Havens said. "Close your eyes ... and you're going to get something very close."

The show also features an all-star cast, including Daniel Clemens, bass and vocals; Powell Randolph, drums and vocals; George Cintron, guitar and vocals; and Bart Kueblerd, keyboard and vocals.



Windborne's show also uses special lighting affects to simulate the feeling of attending a rock concert.

The group has successfully recreated the music of other genres and artists, including Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston and Led Zeppelin.

"We've successfully merged four different groups with the orchestra, and it seemed to me the next logical step in selecting a group was Queen. As always, we wanted to keep the foundation of the music as close to the originals as we could and then add additional colors to enhance what Queen personality and recreating it in a classical environment.

"The band is reproducing what Queen did live, as closely as possible within the constraints of personnel. And then having an orchestra behind the band gives the music richness, a whole new feel, a whole different sense of color but still [preserves] the wonderful music that they originally produced" Havens said.

Windborne's show also serves as an educational tool that helps draw rock fans to classical music and the symphony.

"As with our other shows, I'm sure there are people who are going to come out who have never seen their city's symphony orchestra, and this allows them to experience something new along with the music that they already love," Havens said.

Trained at the Berklee College of Music, Havens has composed music for various orchestras and television stations, including ABC, CBS and The Family Channel.

He also composed the music for Harley Davidson's 100th Anniversary Birthday Party Finale.

ION FASHION

Spring Awakening

Fashion tempts with color and prints

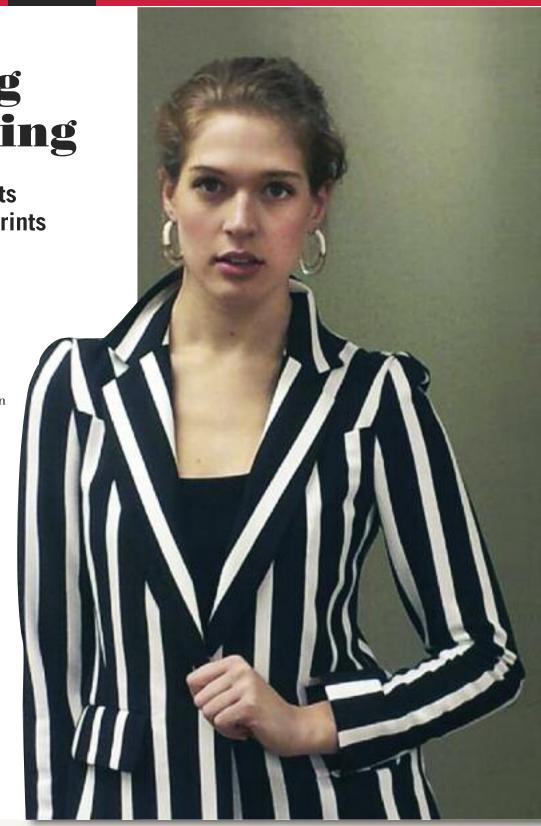
by linda Miller

Come on, warm weather.

After shivering through winter, the Ion Style team is looking forward to blooms, buds and green grass. And let's not forget what fashion has to offer — pretty pastels, bold black and white, '90s flashback, bomber jackets, artful prints, fun flats and sandals, lace, mesh, pleated skirts and, of course, the color of the year, Radiant Orchid.

Here's what we love for spring.

Black and white. It shows up in tiny checks, bold stripes and oversize florals. Yoana Baraschi black and white jacket from Ruth Meyers, Nichols Hills Plaza.





Orchid explosion. Pantone Color Institute named Radiant Orchid its color for 2014. This captivating color with fuchsia, purple and pink undertones is already showing up in fashion, beauty and home décor. Max Mara dress and bag on the runway.

Art fest. Art-inspired prints are a fun diversion from the onslaught of pastels and white on white looks this season. This Prada dress was shown during the spring runway show.





Eye popping. Long, lush lashes with exaggerated volume and impact are always in style. And that's exactly what Estee Lauder's new Sumptuous Infinite Daring Length + Volume Mascara promises to deliver. Available at department stores.



Flat-out fun. Flats are taking on a new look for spring and summer, with styles that go beyond the ballet. Jimmy Choo's "Terry," a multi-color flat available at Balliets.

ion sports



by Don Swift

ovember 17, 2009 was a special day in Oklahoma history. It was the day the Jim Thorpe Museum and Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame opened its doors to a new 30,000 square foot, one-of-a-kind, museum and event center. This outstanding organization honors hundreds of notable Oklahomans. With more than 11,000 visitors annually, the museum showcases Oklahoma's greatest athlete, Jim Thorpe.

The Jeaneen and Bob Naifeh and Bud Wilkinson event center is the home for different sports-related events annually. For example, the Jim Thorpe Award is given annually to the best defensive back in NCCA college football nationwide. The 2014 Jim Thorpe Award Winner is Darqueze Dennard from Michigan State University.

Also, another event is a Leadership Luncheon announcing the names of Oklahomans being inducted into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame.

The Induction Class of 2014 includes outstanding people who have made significant contributions to Oklahoma's rich sports history.

What makes the Oklahoma Hall of Fame so special and worthwhile?

It's the home to many of Oklahoma's greatest athletes who have been NFL Pro Bowlers, NBA All Stars, MLB All Stars, NCAA National Champions, Heisman Trophy Winners, World Series Champions, Super Bowl Champions and Olympic Medalists.

2014 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

J.C. Watts: A former U.S. Congressman, J.C. is Chairman of the J.C. Watts Companies, a multi – industry holding company headquartered in Washington, DC. with operations in Texas and Oklahoma. As chairman, J.C. provides strategic focus and program leadership to the firm's business engagements, alliances, and initiatives. J.C. has built a diverse business organization that includes Mustang Equipment (John Deere dealerships in Texas), J.C. Watts Holdings, private equity investments and Watts Partners, government and public affairs consulting company. J.C. was elected to the U.S. Congress from the fourth district of Oklahoma in 1994. He attended the University of Oklahoma until his graduation in 1981. While at the University of Oklahoma, J.C. quarterbacked for the Sooners, leading them to two consecutive Big Eight Championships and Orange Bowl victories. He was voted the Most Valuable Player in the 1980 and 1981 Orange Bowl games.

Leslie O'Neal: Leslie was a two time All-American at Oklahoma State University. He was runner-up as the nation's college top defensive player in 1985 and for the Lombardi Award. Leslie was a Big Eight Defensive Player of the Year and earned All-Big Eight honors all three years. O'Neal was fifth in all time tackles with 351, and tied for the 10th best season in OSU history with 134 in 1984. Leslie was first round draft choice of the San Diego Chargers in 1986 =, and was named NFL rookie of the





popular mayor, Mick Cornett. Known for his commitment to streets and public safety, his growing list of individual awards and honors include nods for urban design, health, sports, and the arts. In September he was named the State of Oklahoma's Mayor of the Year. Governing Magazine named him the public Official of the Year. Newsweek named him one of the five most innovative Mayors in the United States. And, Over Europe, a London-based organization that studies Mayors and their work, listed him as the

year after posting 82 tackles and 12.5

sacks his first season. He missed the

threatening knee injury, but returned

comeback Player of the Year. During

his career as defensive end, he was

next two seasons with a career-

in 1989 ti earn his first Pro Bowl

invitation. He was also named

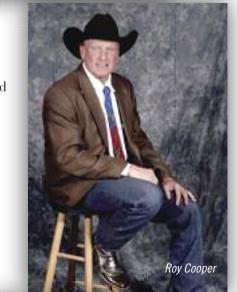
Second Best Mayor in the world, second only to the Mayor of Mexico City. Mayor Cornett was instrumental in the creation of the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame.



while attending Oklahoma Southeast High School. He was named All-State football quarterback in 1969 and Oklahoma Baseball Player of the year in 1970. He could have played either sport, yet he chose baseball and was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the first round of the 1970 draft. Darrell made his major league debut with the Brewers at age 19. In 1979, he became only the sixth catcher in major league history to score 100 runs and 100 RBI's, and is one of only two catchers to have 100 runs, 100 RBI's and 100 walks in the same season. Darrell finished his career with 188 home runs and a .247 batting average. Greater than his love of sports were God and his family. Darrell is survived by his wife Deanne, daughter Lindsay Porter-Wilson (John) and sons, Jeff and Ryan.

Gerald Tucker: Tucker was the head coach of the U.S. Olympic men's gold medal basketball team in 1956. He was a member Winfield High School's state championship teams in 1939 and 1940 and a two-time Helms Foundation Basketball All American at Oklahoma in 1943 and 1947. Gerald was also named the national player of the year in 1947. Tucker was also an AAU All America for the Phillips 66 Oilers in 1949 and 1950 and coached the Oilers to the 1955 AAU National Championship. In 1989, he was named to the Final Four all star 1940 team. In 2010, Tucker was inducted into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame. Tucker was presented the Naismith Award by Kareem Abdul Jabar. Gerald was a loving father and husband and helped people in many ways. He was the General Manager of Phillips 66 Plastics until his death in 1979.







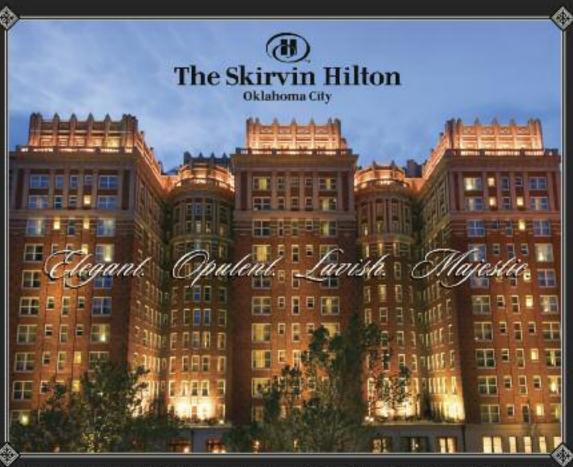
Roy Cooper: Following an impressive rodeo career at Southwestern Oklahoma State University that included a 1975 Collegiate National Finals Rodeo Championship, Cooper burst onto the professional roping scene in 1976 earning PRCA Rookie of the Years honors while winning the calf roping championship, as well as his first eight world titles. In a professional career that has spanned five decades, Cooper has won eight individual world championships, one of only 10 men in pro-rodeo to ever do so, and one of only three to hold multiple Triple Crown titles. Cooper became the first cowboy to break the \$2 million career earning mark and has won nearly every major rodeo across the United

States and Canada. Copper's career includes a record 32 National Finals Rodeo qualifications: a stunning 19 qualifications in Calf Roping and 13 in Steer Roping. Copper owns eight National Finals Rodeo area records and holds one of the fastest average times in history at the Steer Roping Finals. Copper's unparalleled ability with a rope earned him the nickname "Super Looper," and he has been inducted into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, and the Texas Cowbov Hall of Fame.

The Induction Ceremony into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame

for these outstanding inductees is scheduled on August 4, 2014 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage

Showcasing Oklahoma's rich sports heritage is the mission of the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame, a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization. Preserving the memories, starting with the positive lifestyle of the Legendary Native American, Jim Thorpe and many more Oklahoma Sports Legends, can be enjoyed by all Oklahomans and an experience people will not soon forget.



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ion DINING

Rococo's Northpark brings island feel to fine dining – famous crab cakes and all

by Greg Horton

ruce Rinehart, chef/owner of Rococo Restaurant and Fine Wine, built his "little island" on N. Penn and NW 28th in 2004, and for almost 10 years, that was Rococo. Rinehart said that regular customers never complained about the drive south from the May and Memorial area, but many hinted over the years that a Rococo somewhere near Quail Springs would be great.

In 2011, Rinehart had the opportunity to purchase the restaurant space at the north end of Northpark Mall. Three times larger than the original Rococo, Rococo Northpark occupies the spot where Tommy's served up Italian food and live jazz. Rococo Northpark is a fitting update for the location. Rinehart's and executive chef Jason Bustamante's "east coast style" menu includes enough pasta to keep the Italian lovers happy, and it includes nearly every delicious item from the original Rococo's menu.

Cruiseship style brunch.





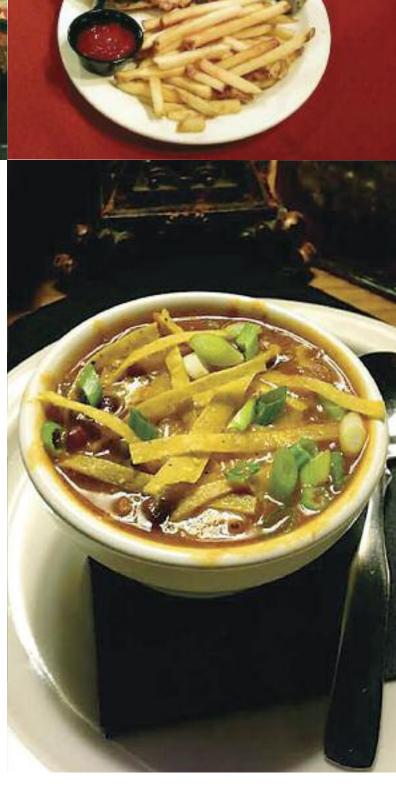
Above: Rococo brunch and Bloody Mary bar. Right top: Chicken saltimbaca. Right: Rococo chili.

However, Rinehart didn't want an exact duplicate of his little island; that, quite frankly, would be impossible. You simply can't recreate the same ambience in a building three times the size of the original, so Rinehart opted to create another unique island, this one admittedly larger. Intentionally or not, the distinctive feature of Rococo Northpark kind of plays off the island theme.

From the beginning, Rinehart planned for a cruise-line style brunch for Rococo Northpark. Rather than the more traditional approach at the Penn location, Northpark's brunch is big and sprawling. Stations, much like those on cruise ships, are scattered throughout the restaurant, featuring freshly carved meats, omelets made to order, fresh fruit, and peel and eat shrimp. It's a feast for the eves and stomach.

Rinehart has always cultivated a neighborhood hangout feel to the Penn store, so he brought that same approach to Northpark. The signature fireplace is there, as are the chairs and couches where friends can gather to eat, talk, and order wine or cocktails from Northpark's bar. The wine list is different from the Penn location, but still populated with excellent choices.

Regular denizens of the Penn store should not fret about one thing: the crab cake is still on the menu at Northpark.







The best crab cake in Oklahoma, made with Maryland jumbo lump crab meat and Thai chili cream sauce, is a Rococo fixture. It even has its own twitter account.

Both locations have a gluten-free menu, but Northpark also boasts one of the city's best (and only) vegan menus. It's incredibly rare to find this sort of commitment to vegan and vegetarian fare in fine dining, but Rinehart said he wanted to create dishes so that vegan and vegetarian friends would feel comfortable dining at his restaurant. The menu includes appetizers, entrees, and pasta dishes (made with whole wheat linguine).

Many of Rococo's signature items are on the menu, including cookies, oysters on the half shell, Love salad, and fishermen's stew. In other words, if you love the Penn store, you'll love Northpark, and if you have never been to either, both are fantastic.

Finally, part of what makes Northpark different is the availability of a large private dining room that is available for special occasions. Northpark also boasts two bars, one of which can serve the private dining room, and if you're a total food nerd, feel free to reserve the chef's table in the kitchen and watch the staff prepare your food from just feet away.

Left, top to bottom: Love salad, crab cake, pepperoni grinder. Below: Shrimp LesSaisons.



ion dining

West Brings Beauty into Restaurant Décor, Food

by Greg Horton

he Havnes brothers have been in the restaurant business since 1971, the year their father, Johnnie Haynes, opened the first Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler in Oklahoma City.

In 2007, the brothers decided they want to create a modern, upscale restaurant in the metro. They partnered with director of operations Janet Estes and executive chef Eric Smith to create West.

West opened in 2010, and from the beginning, it was clear that the Haynes brothers were doing something different, both in terms of cuisine and design. The interior is beautiful, featuring dark woods, black leather, a ponderous and prominent bar, and soft lighting.

The most arresting feature, though, is the vertical wine storage, a beautiful, glass case featuring separate temperature control for reds and whites. The storage takes up the biggest section of the east wall in the secondary dining room.

Wine is taken seriously at West, and so are cocktails. Andy Dixon is the beverage director, and he has one of the best trained bar staffs in Oklahoma City.

The by the glass wine list is also one of the metro's best, featuring wines handpicked by Dixon with an







eye toward mixing traditional tastes with contemporary wines. There is something for every taste.

Dixon rotates the list regularly, including the cocktail list, which changes by season, just like West's food.

Rather than change the entire menu, executive chef Eric Smith creates a supplemental seasonal menu each season. The base menu remains the same, and features some of West's most popular choices, including Johnnie's burgers, a grilled cheese sandwich designed for adults, and a \$20 burger that is the very definition of decadent.

The grilled cheese sandwich is made on Tuscan bread and includes three cheeses: herbed ricotta, goat cheese, and mozzarella. It's served with pesto, and you should absolutely have it with the Tomato Basil soup. It's everything you loved about the combination as a kid, but now made for your grown-up palate.

If a Johnnie's burger won't fill you up (seriously?), opt for the \$20 burger. The burger is a half pound of truffled, ground beef tenderloin, truffled mayo, and two quail eggs, cooked sunny side up.

It's enough to split, we promise, and the truffles create such a rich experience, you will likely need to split or get a box.

West is also one of the few restaurants in town to take vegetarian food seriously, and the menu has several delicious, creative options, including the wonderful Brussels sprouts salad, a puree trio of hummus and tapenade, delicious veggie plates, and excellent bruschetta. For the pescatarians, West's ahi tuna is arguably the best in Oklahoma City.

In addition to lunch and dinner, West has an outstanding brunch that includes both traditional and non-traditional options. The traditional breakfast includes two eggs prepared to order, bacon, housemade chicken sausage, biscuits and cream gravy, and roasted potatoes, which includes sweet potatoes. It's a hearty breakfast.

The pancakes are made according to Janet Estes's own recipe, and you will absolutely need a box for the leftovers.

West is open seven days a week, and brunch is served on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ■



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ION TECHNOLOGY

"Smart" Accessorizing with the Samsung Galaxy Gear

by Lance Maxwell

ver the past few years, Samsung has seemingly been at the forefront of the "smart" electronics revolution. From the introduction of the S-series of "smart" phones, to "smart" televisions, to a "smart" camera the Galaxy Camera – Samsung has helped pioneer the term. And so with that, we now have the latest Samsung "smart" innovation, the Galaxy Gear smartwatch.

The first thing you say to yourself when you slip the Galaxy Gear on is "Yup, this is what it has come to. I really am wearing a computer on my wrist." Of course, it feels less computer but rather more mini-TV and it definitely draws the attention of those who catch a glimpse of it for the first time. The feel of the watch can best be described as comfortable, light, and well built, as the components used do not make it cumbersome in any fashion. The band is crafted of a textured rubber and the HD display is housed in metal.

But what exactly does it do?

For starters, as of the day this article was written, the Galaxy Gear is only compatible with the Samsung Galaxy S4 and Galaxy Note 3 smartphones. Rumors have it Samsung will soon be expanding compatibility to include a slew of other Galaxy devices (such as the



Galaxy S3) but this has yet to materialize. No complaining here, however, as Verizon Wireless provided a Note 3 alongside the Gear for testing. The Gear utilizes Bluetooth to connect directly to your S4 or Note 3 and your Gmail account for contact and app integration.

In terms of functionality, there are a bevy of key features that might interest those looking for a device saving them from having to reach every five minutes into their pockets for a bulky smartphone.

The Gear's phone integration allows the user to place or receive calls from the watch itself. For incoming calls, simply swipe across the watch's display to answer the call. The speaker located at the bottom of the band provides ample volume to hear those on the other end and an integrated microphone means you can pull a page right out of Star Trek and talk directly into the watch. There are two options to place a call – either selecting from contacts or using the dialer.

In addition to making and taking calls, the Gear provides SMS functionality and also Email integration. Incoming messages fit nicely onto the small display, again making it much more convenient to read these immediately.

Along the band of the Gear a 1.9MP camera can also be found. An interesting feature no doubt, the "Memographer" as Samsung has labeled it, is designed for quick and easy capturing of images and video users might otherwise miss during the time necessary to locate their phones. Quality of photos is satisfactory, especially considering the form factor, and video can be shot in 15-second bursts - certainly great for those who frequently use Vine and Instagram. Photos taken with the Gear can be viewed with the included Gallery app and instantly sync with the tethered smartphone.

Although the list of applications specifically built for the



Gear is currently a short one, it is continually growing. Fitness fanatics have been especially targeted, as those who like to track their workouts will find apps like RunKeeper and Runtastic Pro having direct compatibility. Social media gurus will enjoy the Facebook and Twitter Quickview apps that sync

real-time notifications for things like Facebook chat messages and Twitter mentions - although both were found to be a bit buggy during testing.

Weather is prominently displayed, as the current temperature at the user's location has a permanent location on the Gear's home screen, and a tap on this screen leads to the 5-day forecast.

As with Windows 8 smartphones, the success of this device will heavily depend on the number of apps developed specifically for it. Fortunately, Samsung has promised more are on the way.

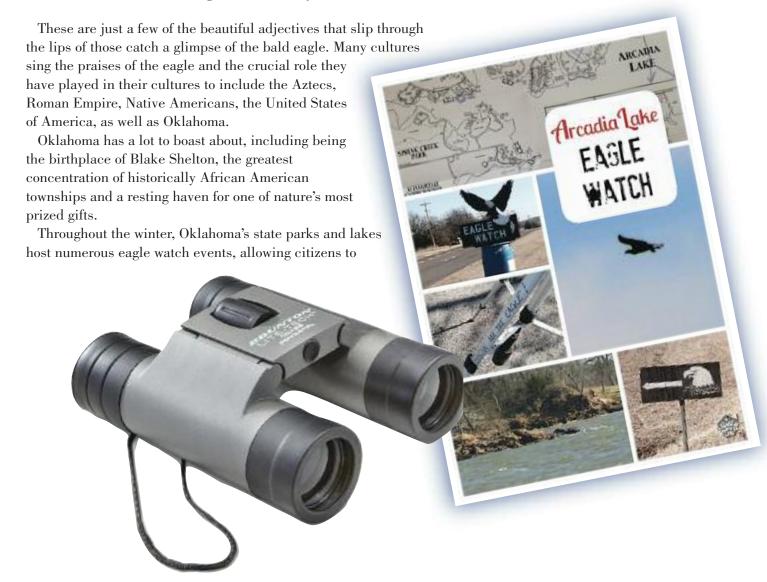
With that being said, the Galaxy Gear is another in the long line of Samsung "Smart" gadgets introduced to the market determined to carve out a new niche in electronic convenience. While it certainly feels a bit "green" in terms of development, with rumored updates and promised refinements there will be no surprise in seeing the Gear become a normal fixture on the wrists of tech enthusiasts.



FEATHERED GLORY

by Asa Leveaux

Majestic. Powerful. Beautiful. Graceful. Dignified. Symbolic.



view the sight of the bald eagle as it makes its winter home in Oklahoma.

Chosen for its imagery of freedom, the bald eagle has remained a constant reminder of everything that America was founded on and remains to be in the collective consciousness.

Americans were on the breach of not being able to enjoy this gift if not for the intentional preservation of the species. From 1918 to 2007, the eagle has been protected due to their decline in population. The most significant factor that assisted the eagle in being removed from the endangered species list by the Department of Interior was the 1972 ban on DDT, which caused harm to eagle eggs.

According to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, "Oklahoma is one of the top 10 states in the nation for winter eagle viewing." This fact is due to the bald eagles' migration patterns that vary from year to year. Oklahoma spillways and lakes serve as viewing for eagle wintering, and to ensure that a eagle watching experience is an unforgettable one, here are a few choice locations to enjoy.

The first stop to consider in central Oklahoma is Discovery Cove Nature Center at Thunderbird Lake in Cleveland County. Located off Highway 9, visitors find events from December to March that relish in the sightings of eagles.







The next local sighting area is located at Lake Arcadia near Edmond. The lake offers ample opportunities to see this great bird in action from Friday to Sunday at the Arcadia Lake Project Office. Remember that though the eagles have become a mainstay at these various locations, it's recommended to contact the staff before embarking on the journey.

Central Oklahoma has numerous lakes and waterways that offer views of the Southern Bald Eagle.

Catch other Eagle Watch events throughout the winter and spring: Beavers Bend State Park - Each Saturday through Feb. 22, head to Beavers Bend State Park to view the majestic bald eagle that makes the Oklahoma waterways their winter home. The tour meets at the amphitheater.

Sequoyah National Park – Through March 1, visitors to Sequoyah Wildlife Refuge in Vian can begin the tour by watching eagles from the refuge's webcam. The tour continues on a 25-person tour bus, and guests are encouraged to bring binoculars. Afterwards, make your way to Tenkiller State Park for more eagles and lots of loons, including the common loon, the red-throated loon, the pacific loon and the yellowbilled loon.

Kaw Nation Learning Center in Kaw - Travel to northern Oklahoma's Kaw City, located around Kaw Lake, for guided eagle-viewing tours. This event involves a day of activities in addition to the thrill of viewing the majestic eagles that winter in the area. During the Ultimate Eagle Watch, the history of the eagle and its habitat will be discussed, as well as the significance of the eagle to American Indian culture and customs.



Sooner, Cowboy, Indian.

Country, Rock, Foodie.

Wanderer, Hero, Oklahoman.



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ON COMMUNITY



by Heide Brandes

ccording to AAA, a driver is four times as likely to be in an accident while under the influence of alcohol.

Drivers who are texting while driving are 23 times as likely to be in an accident – that's nearly six times higher than drunk drivers. However, despite the studies and statistics, Oklahoma remains one of only nine states that does not have a law against texting and driving.

According to the Department of Motor Vehicles, Oklahoma's laws concerning driving and use of cell phones or other devices only pertains to those with a learner's permit. Those with a learner permit are banned from using hand-held cell phones or texting while driving.

The rest of the drivers fall under the "distracted driving" law, which is too vague, according to Chuck Mai, AAA public affairs.

"Distracted driving as a whole is a huge problem, whether that be messing with the kids in the backseat, fiddling with your iPod or texting," Mai said. "We have always worked to diminish all levels of distracted driving, but driving has never been as complicated as it is today."

Though any kind of distraction while driving is a problem,

texting is a "triple whammy."

"When you text and drive, you take your hand off the wheel, your eyes off the road and your attention away from driving," Mai said. "It's a domino effect, and it not only affects your life, but the lives of everyone else on the road."

What Oklahoma needs, he said, is a law that specifically targets texting while driving - it's a law that Oklahoma has failed to pass despite four years of attempts.



DANGEROUS HABITS

Using technology while driving has reached epidemic levels, and not just with texting. Drivers are increasingly checking their email, sending email, logging onto social media sites and more while operating vehicles. The statistics prove this level of distraction is creating danger on the roadway.

"In 2012, 11,174 drivers were involved in crashes where inattention was a factor," Mai said. "Of course, that includes all kinds of inattention, but texting while driving is at epidemic levels."

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety reported that teenagers may be the easy suspects, but they

aren't. In fact, teens text and drive less than adults in the 25 to 49 age range.

"That's encouraging because teens are not experienced behind the wheel yet, and we're glad to see that they aren't texting as much," Mai said. "But it's a disturbing trend with adults who don't seem to see the risks of checking their social media sites or texting. You're taking a chance every time, not only with your life, but the lives of others."

Stories of drivers killed due to distracted driving are many. In 2011, Lillian Propes, 16, a junior at Tatum High School,



died in Rusk County after she got a text message from a new friend. She was either checking the text or responding, the Department of Public Safety said, when she lost control of her truck, hit a tree and was thrown from the truck. She died at the scene.

Young adults may agree about the dangers of texting and driving, yet many claim they are better than others at doing so.

More than three-quarters of college student drivers have texted while driving, despite the fact that the majority of them said they recognize the act is dangerous, according to a new study from King's College in Pennsylvania. The Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention estimate more than nine people are killed and more than 1,000 are injured every day in the United States in crashes linked to distracted driving.

LEGISLATIVE ROADBLOCKS

Mai said having a law specifically against texting and driving would reduce such activity, much like drunk driving laws do. However, despite numerous attempts to pass such legislation, Oklahoma remains one of only nine states without a law.



In March 2013, he House of Representatives Calendar Committee voted to table an anti-texting and driving bill. In a NewsOK article, House Speaker T.W. Shannon, who has voted against similar legislation in the past, said he didn't support the bill, which would allow a fine of as much as \$500 for motorists caught using a cellphone to write, send or read a text message, instant message or email while driving.

"I haven't been a big fan of it," said Shannon, R-Lawton, is reported as saying.

"Leadership in the House is of the opinion that this is not a problem. They don't want to infringe upon drivers' rights with more laws and they feel it's not enforceable," said Mai. "Yet when I walk the halls of the Capitol as I have for the last four years, everyone has a story and everyone supports it."

Mai said the law could be enforced the same way DUI laws are. "How do we enforce DUI laws now? If I'm under the influence, unless I drive erratic or get into an accident, law

enforcement may never know," he said. "Does that mean we should do away with that law? No. Plus, you can usually tell when someone is texting and driving. The driving is erratic and you see that head bob going on."

In addition, Mai said driving is a privilege and a right. Just as drivers must obey traffic signals and speed limits, they should obey safety measures as well to protect other drivers.

"The vast majority of people I talk to agree that we need a law," said Mai. "We need everyone to contact their legislators and the House leadership. Okies are law-abiding citizens. If there is a law against texting and driving, they will obey it."

If not, Mai said, the legislature is just sending a message to motorists that it's okay to text and drive and more lives will be lost.

"This is a life-saving measure. We need to support it," he said.



GLAUCOMA & BLINDNESS

Why this degenerative disease requires <u>advanced</u> glaucoma expertise.



GLAUCOMA vision degeneration <u>starts</u> in the brain, advances to the optic nerve and affects the retina <u>last</u>. As a result, the elevated intraocular <u>pressure</u> and loss of <u>peripheral vision</u> are late arriving symptoms of GLAUCOMA disease.

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BOUNTY ON THE BAYOU

"Duck Dynasty" boosts tourism in Northeast Louisiana

by Linda Miller

uck Dynasty," a hit reality television series that focuses on guys who wear camouflage and beards, make duck calls, live to hunt and love their families, has made West Monroe and Monroe, La., a hot spot for tourists.



It's not unusual for the Robertson family's Duck Commander store and warehouse parking lot to be filled with cars from as far away as California and Idaho, especially during peak vacation times in the spring and summer.

While a visit to the store for souvenirs or a chance to see patriarch Phil, Uncle Si, son Willie or other Robertson family members around town may be the biggest draw to the area, the twin cities offer plenty of other attractions worthy of a road trip.

One of the most interesting, especially for those who've never seen a bayou, is Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors can spend a lot of time or a little exploring the scenic backdrop – swamp, marsh and wetlands, nature trails, wooden wildlife pier, arboretum, observation deck and mammoth trees draped with moss. On an early morning visit, fog settled over the area creating a landscape that was peaceful and a bit eerie at the same time.

Be sure to stop at the visitor center, a restored 19th century planter's house.

Monroe and West Monroe, situated on the Ouachita River, is a sportsman's paradise, but the cities also boast several museums, including the Northeast Louisiana Children's Museum, Northeast Louisiana Delta African-American Museum and Masur Museum of Art.

Another is the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum, a gem that's filled from corner to corner with exhibits that not only preserve the history of the area but the world as well. Memorabilia from the Civil War to the Vietnam era are displayed, along with personal items and first-person accounts from locals.

Housed in one of the last remaining buildings from World War II Selman Field Army-Air Force Navigation School, the museum also pays tribute to its own aviation history. During the war, the navigation school in Monroe was the largest in the U.S. and offered the



Above: A&E Photo – Phil Robertson, Jase Robertson, Si Robertson and Willie Robertson of "Duck Dynasty."

Left: The Duck Commander sign on the side of the building is seen often during the "Duck Dynasty" show.

nation's only complete navigation course.

One of the more prominent exhibits showcases Gen. Claire Lee Chennault and the Flying Tigers. Chennault grew up in Louisiana and made his home in Monroe after the war.



Photo courtesy of Monroe-West Monroe Convention and Visitors Bureau – The Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Monroe, La.

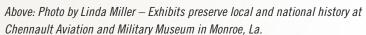
The area's aviation history also includes Malcolm S. Biedenharn, who helped found Delta Air Service in 1928.

Biedenharn is a prominent name in the Monroe area, and Joseph's story unfolds at the Biedenharn Museum and Gardens. Joseph Biendenharn, a candy confectioner in Vicksburg, Miss., was the first person to bottle Coca-Cola in 1894. He moved to Monroe in 1912, purchased a small bottling plant and became a key player in Coca-Cola history. The museum showcases the man and the drink.

A short walk from the museum is Biedenharn's home, furnished much as it was when his daughter, Emy-Lou, an opera singer prior to WW II, resided there until her death in 1984. The gardens include dozens of flowers and plants, and a nearby building houses a Bible museum with rare books.

Landry Vineyards, another well-known attraction, owes part of its success to being featured on an episode of "Duck Dynasty" in 2012. It didn't take long for outof-town visitors to come in, often referencing the show.





Left: Photo courtesy of Monroe-West Monroe Convention and Visitors Bureau — The Biedenharn Museum showcases Coca-Cola memorabilia, including the first delivery truck that delivered Biedenharn bottles filled with Coke in the 1890s.

Word is Phil Robertson's wife, known as Miss Kay, favors the Blackberry Merlot while Willie prefers the barrel-aged Cabernet Sauvignon.

Landry Vineyards offers tours, a tasting room and outdoor concerts. A large front porch beckons visitors to sit for a spell and sip Landry wines.

If you're interested, a Duck Commander Hometown Tour brochure features many of the local hangouts featured on the series.

Visitors also are flocking to new Robertson businesses. Willie, son of Phil and Miss Kay and chief executive officer

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of the multimillion dollar Duck Commander enterprise that inspired the reality show, recently opened Willie's Duck Diner in West Monroe, just a few blocks from the warehouse.

His wife, Korie, and oldest daughter Rebecca opened Duck and Dressing, a boutique offering fashion, accessories and home décor, in downtown Monroe in November.

If you're into shopping, check out Antique Alley in West Monroe. And, of course, there's always the Duck Commander store. The Robertson empire includes more than 2,000 products from underwear to chia pets to recliners. You can even buy a baby onesie with Phil Robertson's favorite saying — Happy, Happy, Happy.

A&E's "Duck Dynasty," filmed in the West Monroe/Monroe area, debuted in spring 2012 and is touted as the most popular non-scripted series on television.

Immediately, the show started boosting tourism. Visitors come to the Duck Commander store, and then want to see more in the area, said Sheila Snow, communications director for the Monroe-West Monroe Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The area saw an increase in tourism the first summer after the series debuted and then a huge swell during spring break 2013, she said. "It was phenomenal."

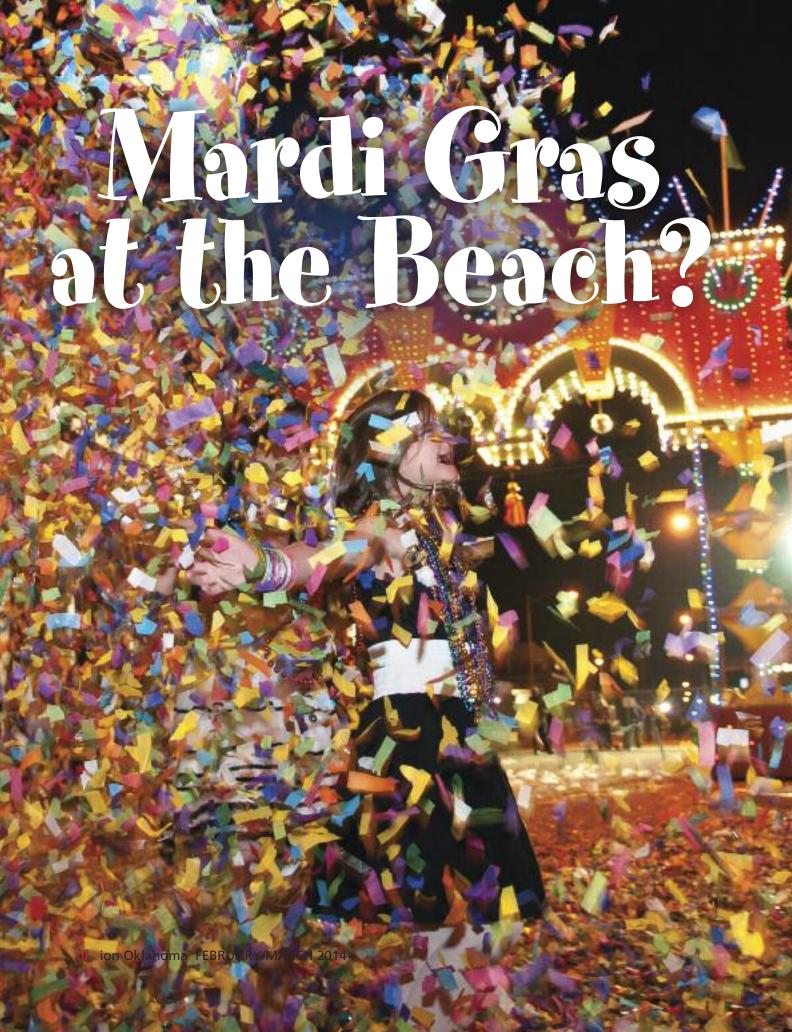
Visitors have come from as far away as Canada and Australia making the show's success and its impact on tourism far-reaching, Snow said.

So come to visit the Duck Commander store or in search of the beards, then discover what else West Monroe and Monroe have to offer.

For more information, go to the Monroe-West Monroe Convention and Visitors Bureau website at www.monroe-westmonroe.org.



Landry vineyards.



ion TRAVEL

Largest Mardi Gras Celebration in U.S. Offers Beachfront Revelry on the Texas Coast

kies don't have to travel all the way to New Orleans to celebrate Mardi Gras. If you're looking for a unique Mardi Gras experience in 2014, grab some beads and hit the beach.

Mardi Gras! Galveston, the third largest Mardi Gras celebration in the United States, offers the unique chance to experience sand between your toes and gorgeous beach sunsets while taking in the revelry and lavish parades known to dominate Galveston Island during carnival season.

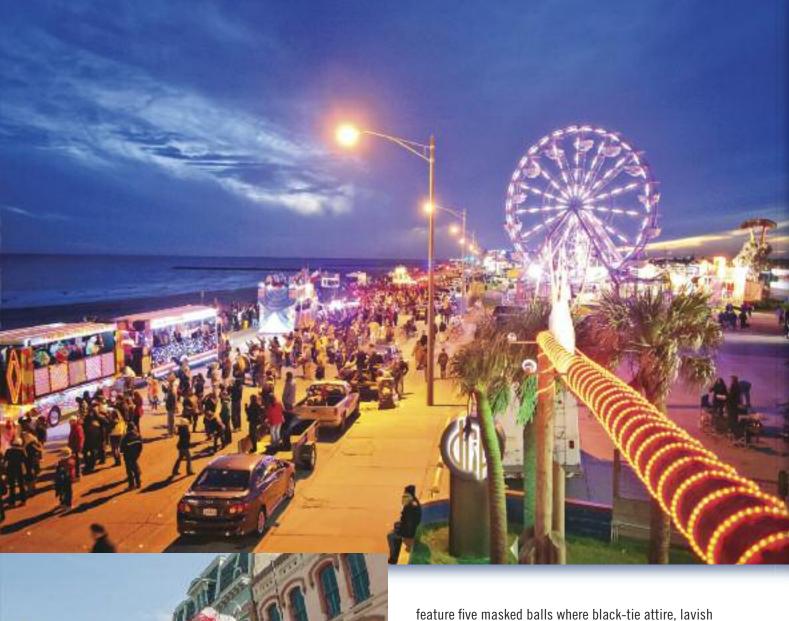
The island's 103rd Mardi Gras is expected to draw more than 300,000 attendees for 38 concerts, 24 parades, 20 balcony parties and five elegant masked balls.

And, this island-style Mardi Gras has plenty of personality. Find your Mardi Gras style with these Mardi Gras celebrations, to be held February 21 through March 4, 2014:

- Classic Revelry Galveston's historic downtown entertainment district will put you in the center of classic Mardi Gras revelry complete with big crowds and plenty of beads. Nearly all parades go through downtown, where you can enjoy the view from the street or from high above at a balcony party. Main concert stages are also located downtown, where the likes of Hot Chelle Rae, Neon Trees, Tonic and Lee Brice have headlined in recent years.
- Upscale Mardi Gras If you're looking to catch any of the colorful beads to be thrown from parade floats and downtown balconies, you don't have to stand in the streets to do it. Mardi Gras! Galveston's elegant side will

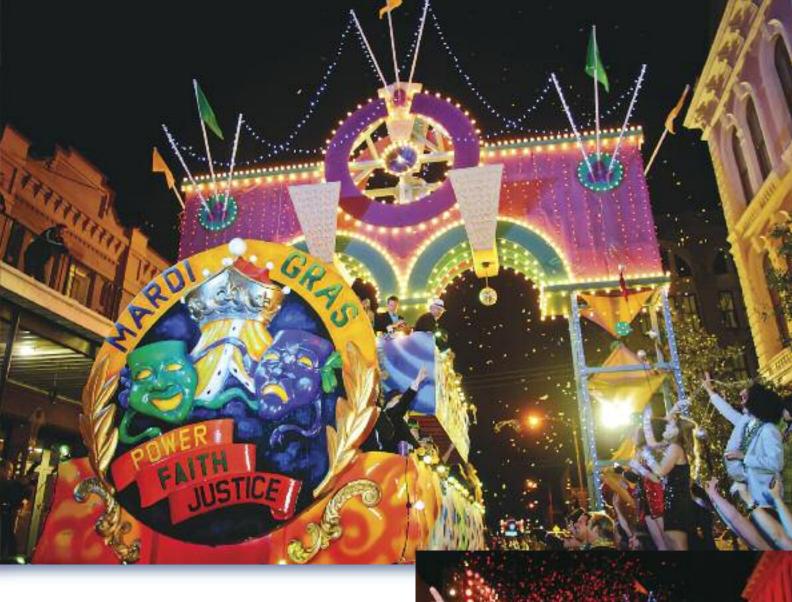






buffets, live performers, dancing and parade viewing invoke the evening festivities. Popular events include the Tremont House's annual Mardi Gras Ball & Parade Viewing Party and the San Luis Salute hosted by Tilman and Paige Fertitta.

- Family Gras Sunday, February 23 is Family Gras at Mardi Gras! Galveston, featuring live family entertainment, two kids parades, a kids coloring contest and the Jr. Jester Jaunt 1K run/walk. Donations will be taken at the gate to benefit The Sunshine Kids and Shriners Hospitals for Children. The family friendly activities will continue Sunday, March 2 with the Krewe of Barkus & Meoux pet parade and Mardi Gras Children's Parade on the Seawall.
- Electric Mardi Gras Electric Mardi Gras will return in 2014 for lovers of electronic dance music, with continuous



concerts, beat-thumping DJs and laser light shows on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the celebration. For more information on Mardi Gras! Galveston visit www.mardigrasgalveston.com.

Mardi Gras, the traditional festival of feasting and merrymaking that precedes the season of Lent, was first publicly observed on Galveston Island in 1867. Following a sabbatical imposed in 1941 by war and challenging times, Mardi Gras! Galveston was revived in 1985 by Galveston-born preservationist and developer George P. Mitchell.

The largest celebration of its kind in Texas and the third largest in the nation, Mardi Gras! Galveston brings the island's streets to life with parade viewers shouting for beads, lively tunes played by the colorful marching bands, and the infectious merriment that dominates the island for two full weeks.

$I \mid E \mid E \mid W$



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Pictured with dignitaries: H.E. Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the U.S., Mathilde Mukantabana; Charlene Lake, AT&T Senior Vice President Public Affairs & Chief Sustainability Officer; Hon. Mrs. Sultana Hakimi, Spouse of the Afghan Ambassador to the U.S.; Dr. Terry Neese, Founder/CEO IEEW; Mary Millben, Broadway Actess & Singer/Global Ambassador for Education Africa; Dr. Kevin Fegan, President, Northwood University Texas Campus

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Momentum Art Show Keeps It Young

For many artists, Momentum offers first chance to exhibit

by M.A. Smith

he Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition presents "Momentum," an art show designed exclusively for the state's young talent.

"For many of the artists featured in the exhibition, this is their first time showing their work to the public," Kelsey Karper, OVAC associate director, said. "When Momentum first began in 2002, it was developed as a way for young artists to get their foot in the door of the local arts community, without competing directly with established artists who may have many more years of experience."

Hundreds of artwork platforms were submitted for a chance to be honored as one of OVAC's Momentum Spotlight awardwinners.

This year's three honorees are Eli Casiano of Oklahoma City, Elliott Robbins of Midwest City and Katy Seals of Norman.

Each artist was awarded a commission to create a featured piece and \$2,000 to help fund the project.

Casiano plans to present a geometric sculpture that features effects and sounds, recreating what he calls the coalition's view of "society's obsession with an unachievable sense of pleasure."

Robbins is bringing a collection of narrative sculptures to the table. The scene depicts a young black loyalist in the American Western era.

Seals bear all in her comical piece representing divorce, which includes country music emblazoned on women's plussized bloomers.

"These artists create site-specific installations or new







bodies of work to debut at the Momentum exhibition. Additionally, an emerging curator is selected to work with the lead curator to select the artists and participate in the conversation with the artists during studio visits and exhibit preparation, Karper said.

"In 2008, we added the Momentum Spotlight component. It is their first time working closely with a curator. Artists often struggle with getting this kind of critical dialogue outside of an academic environment."

Nathan Lee and Samantha Dillehay join this year's group as guest curators. They will help the Spotlight artists polish their skills and prepare for the big showing.

Lee is a local artist and founder of Oklahoma's Inclusion in Art, an organization dedicated to advancing racial and cultural diversity in the arts.

Dillehay, this year's Momentum Emerging Curator, is a past

Spotlight winner and a professor in audio and video at East Central University in Ada. Okla.

Momentum will be held each night from 8 p.m. to midnight, March 7 and March 8 at the Farmer's Public Market, 311 S. Klein in Oklahoma City.

The show is divided into two segments, starting with a slow evening March 7 with Momentum: Downtempo. Momentum moves into a louder, faster paced experience March 8 with Momentum: Full Speed.

Guests can purchase tickets in advance for \$10 by going online to MomentumOklahoma.org or by calling 405-879-2400. Tickets also can be purchased at the door for \$15.

Free admission for gallery viewings will be available from 2 to 7 p.m. March 9-10 and Spotlight artists will lead discussions about their projects at 6 p.m. March 10.





urban<mark>kitchens</mark>...









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ion DINING

DEFEND AUSTRALIA! DRINK WINE

Aussie winemakers work to bust stereotypes of native wines

by Greg Horton

he new slogan is almost militaristic: Defend Australia! That's the rallying cry for a new generation of winemakers in Australia who are working very hard to overcome the stereotypes associated with their native wines.

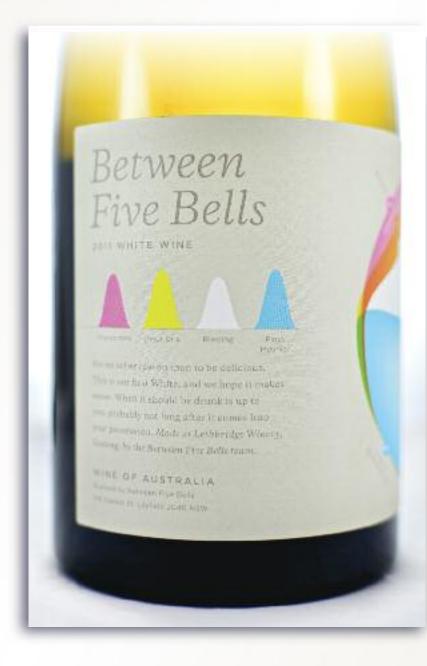
No country benefitted more from the ballooning interest in wine that occurred in the mid-2000s than Australia. except maybe Chile.

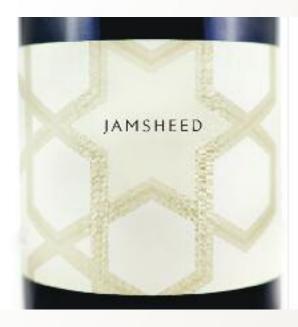
Driven by an near ravenous desire for critter label wines—Little Penguin and Yellow Tail, for example—the U.S. helped boost Australia's wine exports to 20 million cases in 2004.

Shortly after, the bottom fell out. Overproduction, heavy-handed winemaking techniques, and a suicidal obsession with wine ratings caused Australia's wine production and exports to plummet.

Rather than receive the critical praise that their massive, fruit-bomb style Shiraz had enjoyed for

Right: Between Five Bells White Cuvee. This 2011 blend of Pinot Gris, Pinot Meunier, Chardonnay, and Riesling is one of the best of the crop of new Aussie wines, possibly because the blend is fun and interesting and appeals to the inner wine nerd. The fruit is sourced from vineyards in Geelong in south Victoria, right on the edge of Australia's southeast coast. A \$60 white blend is a very hard sale, but this is worth every dollar. Complex, rich, layered fruit and flowers, and superb minerality—this is a white blend for people who love wine and food.





Above: Jamsheed Riesling. The 2012 Riesling comes from 119 year old vines in the Garden Gully Vineyard in Victoria near Australia's southeastern coast. This high-acid, complex Riesling is meant for food. It is intense and powerful, with notes of honey, orchard fruit, and citrus, and a delicious, lingering finish. About \$50 in retail stores.

Above right: Between Five Bells Red Cuvee. The 2011 is a blend of seven grapes, but it's almost 90 percent Syrah, with 4 percent each of Mourvedre and Grenache, making it a very Rhone Valley-esque blend. The winemakers cofermented a few white varietals with the reds, adding layers of complexity. Whereas some of the GSM blends can be heavy-handed, this one, though serious, is very approachable, with notes of tea, spice, and ripe black and red fruit. About \$70 in retail stores.

Right: **Timo Mayer Syrah.** The 2012 can be summed up easily. It is a remarkable wine. This is the very best of the Old World style made famous by great Rhone Valley Syrah. It just so happens this one is from the Yarra Valley, an hour outside Melbourne. Open it early and let it breathe. It will continue to unwind for hours, showing spice, violet, black fruit, pitch, and minerality. The near \$90-100 price tag is daunting, but this is a classic wine of superb quality, well worth the investment for a special occasion.

decades, consumers moved on to Chile and Argentina, countries closer to home that made big value reds with equal heavy-handedness and at better prices.

Quietly, the new generation of Aussie winemakers have adopted a new philosophy, and Ronnie Sanders, owner of Vine Street Imports, an importer that specializes in Australian wines, said the philosophy can be summed up in three words: balance, structure, and acid.

The cardinal sin of the mid-2000s Australian wines was that they were badly out of balance: too much fruit, not enough acid, too ripe, too one dimensional, and manipulated to the point that all character and structure were removed. It was drinkable wine, but it wasn't interesting.



Jauma Scyras Shiraz. The 2012 Shiraz—yes, they stuck with the Aussie name—is the perfect way to introduce new Australian Syrah/Shiraz. There is an Old World restraint to much of the new Syrah coming from Australia, and this one keeps some of the amazing fruit, dark berries especially, while practicing restraint. It should help consumers bridge the gap between the old and new Australian wines. About \$40 in retail stores.



Zonte's Footstep Sea Makeover Verdelho. This is one of the most affordable of the new Australian wines. coming in at about \$22 in retail stores. Verdelho is usually associated with Madeira wines made in Portugal, but made in this style, it's a different experience. From Langhorne Creek in southern South Australia, the vines are close enough to Lake Alexandrina that they benefit from the maritime climate. This juicy, crisp refreshing white is a very pleasant surprise, with notes of tropical and citrus fruits, and a zippy acidity that makes it perfect for light foods or patio drinking.



Beginning this month, those new Australian wines are available in Oklahoma, and the first batch is impressive.

You will spend more on these wines than you're accustomed to with Australian wines, unless you love Ben Glaetzer's big reds like Amon Ra, Bishop, and Wallace, or Relic from Standish, but the money is well spent.

The wines really are remarkably well balanced, with equal parts fruit, structure, and acid, and they are restrained at times, which is not something we are used to when discussing Australian wine.

Another factor that stands out immediately is just how fun some of the blends are. Australia has very little regulation in terms of what winemakers are allowed to do, so unlike France, where certain regions have to use certain grapes, Australian winemakers can experiment freely all over the country.

The new wines include grapes that we are all familiar with, as well as some that might be new for Oklahoma wine drinkers.

Syrah is still a popular choice, and yes, they have taken to calling their wines Syrah. It's a wise move, both because it distances them from the critter labels of the mid 2000s and because they really are made in a more Old World style.

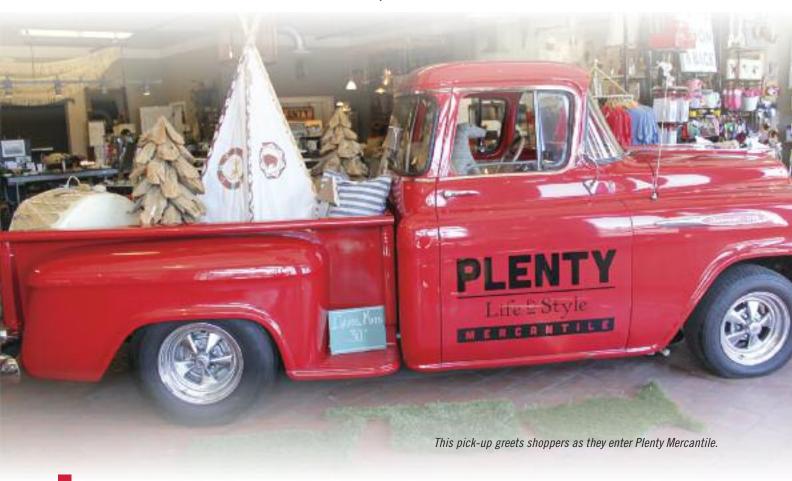
Two of the labels, Ochota Barrels and Samuel's Gorge, have been in the state previously. All the others are new. The wines were introduced at Will Rogers Theater, and they are represented in the state by Thirst Wine Merchants.

On the pages that follow, we are featuring a few choices that really stood out, but wine is at least partly subjective, so experiment to discover what you love.

ION BUSINESS

Plenty Mercantile **SHOPPING WITH PURPOSE**

by Linda Miller Photos by Linda Miller



n November 2012, Plenty Mercantile opened its doors and encouraged shoppers to come in and discover all it has to offer. And it offers plenty – from home décor to pet items to handmade totes and so much more you never knew you wanted or needed.

While the compelling assortment makes this shop worth a visit, even more enticing is its goal – to provide lifestyle and home goods that support community, both locally and globally. It is a shop filled with products that tell a story, one of artistry, conscientious development, texture and originality.

Owners Traci Walton, Brittney Melton and Chris England stay true to their mission to educate, stimulate, bring



awareness and nurture conversation about the importance of mindful shopping, as well as support the environment and community.

Plenty Mercantile in downtown Oklahoma City has become a favorite, and not just for locals. ION caught up with the owners who shared more about the store.

ION: First, what was the inspiration and concept for the mercantile?

Plenty: It was the perfect storm. Traci had just finished home schooling. Brittney had recently graduated with sustainability and entrepreneurship degrees and had been doing sustainability research for investors in Boston. Chris came with a design and branding background and had been family friends with Brittney and Traci for years. We knew we wanted to do something special — and do it the right way.

Every product has a story, and at Plenty we know the story. Each item is handpicked on its design, function and principle — and each enables us to live more intently. We fetch one-ofa-kind finds from all over the country and pair them with the latest responsibly produced goods.

From the beginning, entertaining and education were to be part of this adventure. We now have a 2,000-square-foot event venue on our rooftop and offer interactive workshops ranging from Manners Class to Floral Arrangements and Wine and Chocolate Pairings to Cocktails 101.

ION: Has it been a challenge to find products that meet your criteria?

Plenty: At first, it was daunting thinking "we can only buy this way" or "we can't buy that way," but we've actually opened ourselves up to goods that are much more unique and original by requiring a certain set of characteristics. The hunt has been prosperous. We've connected with makers across the world that have seen their idea become something tangible and each craftsman or company we find is even more connected to others like themselves. We get to celebrate that.

ION: What most surprises shoppers?

Plenty: Our goal is to show how mindful living can be both sophisticated and beautiful. People are often surprised when they realize all of our goods are either environmentally or socially responsible in some manner. With a 3,200-square-foot retail space, we're able to showcase the recent leaps in aesthetic and design of sustainable lifestyle goods.

ION: Great name. How did it come about?

Plenty: The word "PLENTY" was spotted by one of our founders on the binding of a cookbook many years ago and it stuck. When the discussion started brewing, the word entirely embodied what we were trying to capture. We hardly considered another name. When we hear the word "plenty," it's a heartfelt feeling of fullness, one that can't be touched by things.

ION: What drew you to Automobile Alley in downtown Oklahoma City?

Plenty: What didn't? We pulled up to 807 N. Broadway in our 1957 red Chevy pick-up with our logo already on it and fell in love with the facade, the open floor concept, and of course, the massive





warehouse. Little did we know, the building was the first home of the Oklahoma City Scott Chevrolet Dealership when Automobile Alley was in its heyday. We took that as a sign.

AA has blown us away. The camaraderie and the support of business owners, tenants, building owners and shoppers is just impressive. We have out-of-town guests comment on this area and the "energy" they can feel downtown — and we swear it gets even better every single day.

ION: How has the response been since you opened? Plenty: We've been utterly blessed. We opened the day before Thanksgiving 2012 and dove straight into holiday season with the support of this city. We've met the best people this year. We've grown to know families and guests have become friends. It must be those yellow doors, they attract the kindest people. Oklahoma City has a distinct sense of community. We've been gratefully welcomed into it.

ION: Anything new in the works this year?

Plenty: Yes! We debuted our rooftop event space late fall of last year and have been gearing up for quite a year. Several workshops are on the calendar and we are accepting reservations for private gatherings and weddings. The 2013 rooftop events were incredibly charming and we're looking forward to sharing more "big moments" with our guests.

We will soon be extending our crop of goods to remote guests. The process of launching our e-commerce capability for select items is underway. This year we've shipped goods to all parts of our nation — and even other countries. We're excited to remain engaged with our visitor guests and add to the ease of shopping local.

For more information, call 888-7470 or go online to plentymercantile.com.

American Heart Association Learn and Lives

eventy-seven Sweethearts will be presented Oduring the 33rd Oklahoma City Heart Ball, the most highly-anticipated fundraisers of

the year for the American Heart Association.

The Sweethearts are local high school students who participate in education and volunteer programs for the American Heart Association throughout the school year.

The evening of entertainment and dance also included a live and silent auction with valuable items donated by generous supporters.

The Sweetheart portraits are by W.L. Studios.



Claire Bizzell Abbott



Abby Marie Abraham



Allison Kamile Allen



Kayelee Marie Ayers



Olivia Ashton Beall



Chantel Anne Marie Beaudoin



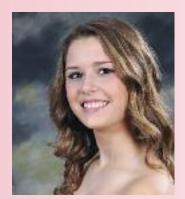
Adelaide Jane Bell



Emily Grace Boughan



Sarah Jane Brooks



Abigail Elise Cain



Claire Judith Cameron



Caitlin Rae Carlson



Elizabeth Anne Cassidy



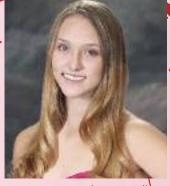
Katherine Margaret Cassidy



Grace Catherine Cloutet



Macy Parker Collison



Maren Amelia Cottrell



Katherine Jane Cox



Paige Sheridan Crowley



Hannah Elaine Cunningham



Salli Nicole Denner



Casey Marie Denny



Lauren Taylor Dobson



Isabella Slayden Dunning



Sydney Rachel Dye



Lauren Allison Elliott



Margaret Sue Fletcher



Catherine Claire Fraley



Grace Elizabeth Gandolfi



Grace Holly Griffin



Lauren Kathryn Hardberger



Morgan Faye Hennigan



Aubrey Jean Hermen



Marlee Michele Hill



Jill Elizabeth Hilton



Margaret Elizabeth Hirsekorn



Mikayla Ann Hook



Grace Elizabeth Huff



Camille Marie Jackson



Gabrielle Marie Jones



Ann Preston Joullian



Kylee Evaline Keller



Mackenzie Ann Kenney



Amanda Marie Kouri



Laurel Catherine Krous



Carsen Reece Kunzman



Amanda Elise Lewis



Mackenzie McClure Lilly



Victoria Ann Lynn



Delaney Elise Mayo



Carly Elaine McKenny



Morgan Danielle Meacham



Helen Eilene Milam



Pauline Phuong Khanh Nguyen



Erin Kelly Noble



Ann Marie Nordin



Dominique Elise Norman



Hanna Beth Northcutt



Chika Gertrude Nwanebu



Lauren Michelle Olay



Leigh Ann Perri



Kathryn Claire Puckett



Emily Grace Richards



Neeley Paige Russell



Caroline Claire Sanger



Brady Elizabeth Skinner



Lindsey Nicole Smith



Mia Ayslinn Solheim



Elise Laine Stephenson



Hayley Brooke Swan



Julianne Thrower



Avery Nicole Timberlake



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Kristin Nicole White



Madeline Anne Williams



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