

# O • K • I • E

July 2008

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Southwest Oklahoma's Monthly News and Entertainment Magazine



## mCherry Lane m All American Pin-Up Girl

**INSIDE:** Medicine Park Birthday • Man Caves • At The Skate Park • Mental Upchuck



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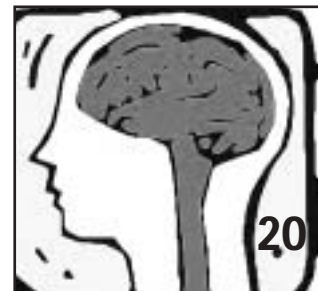
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Meet this Okie

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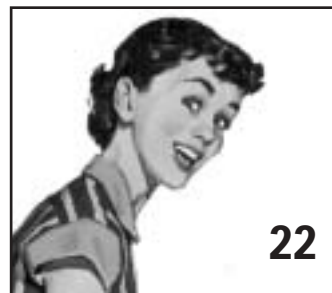
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## Note from the Editor

*Independence Day.* How many of you reading even know the reason this holiday, also known as the 4th of July, is celebrated each year? Of course you do (ahem

right?! It is a day honoring the acceptance of the Declaration of Independence on July, 2 of 1776 (I know right?! We celebrate the wrong day!). In a nutshell and in the simplest of terms, we the people broke up with Great Britain, changed the celebration date and the rest is ...well history.

So basically the 4th of July has evolved into a huge patriotic shindig celebrated in towns all across America with baseball games, massive fireworks displays, loads of good food like grilled dogs and burgers, fun at the lake, and just hanging out with friends and family. The patriotic folks here in our own town go all out to not only celebrate the holiday but they also go above and beyond to show their support and admiration for our troops. We are a community of proud flag wavers, aren't we?

Speaking of patriotic, we thought this would be a great time to introduce you to a local military wife that is doing her part to support the troops with the All American Pin-Up Girls. Take the time to get to know more about **Cherry Lane** and the dedication she has to our troops and to our community.

Also inside this issue of OKIE Magazine you will meet the talented creator **Muriel Fahrion**, the woman behind such beloved childhood friends as the Care Bears and Strawberry Shortcake. Yep, another talented Okie right here in our own backyard.

There is so much more packed inside these pages so get to it. Oh man! Don't skip over the wacky views of *Charles Schertle and Dave Roberts* - the MEN. Oh and the listing of events happening all over town and the ... nevermind just read it all for yourself.

Thank you for all your kind letters and comments. The staff of OKIE Magazine welcome your suggestions and comments. We love getting your press releases and story ideas too so keep them coming. We encourage your participation in this community publication by contacting us at 536-9500 or via email at [editor@okiemagazine.com](mailto:editor@okiemagazine.com).

*And remember, the next best thing to being an OKIE is reading about one!*

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# Cherry Lane

## All American Pin-Up Girl

By Valerie Pennington  
Staff Writer

Patriotism is the theme for the month of July here in the United States of America as we celebrate Independence Day and remember the people who have fought so hard for our countries freedom. Men and women have given their energies, talents and lives to protect the rights that many take for granted.

Freedom of expression is one thing that many people enjoy but rarely show their gratitude. Artists are free to express themselves by many different mediums, including writing for a local magazine, all because someone believed in fighting for a worthy cause: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

There are many ways to show gratitude for what the soldiers have done for us. Musical artists, actors and models have all shown their appreciation in many different ways including visiting wounded troops and sending care packages. These are practices that have been going on for many generations. People in the entertainment world have been showing their support by joining the military forces, going on USO tours and

even sending pictures, or Pin-Up art, of themselves to the troops. Pin-up girls were typically glamorous models or actresses like Yvonne De Carlo, Brigitte Bardot, Ingrid Bergman and Betty Grable that were considered sex symbols.

During World War II the pictures often helped boost the morale of the soldiers and give them something to look forward to and remind them of why they were fighting. Those same images were often painted on the side of military aircraft to bring the soldiers luck during their battles.

Many would think that the art of being a Pin-Up model is long forgotten but there happens to be a person here in Lawton, involved with a group who is carrying the tradition forward. Paige Teakell better known as **Cherry Lane** is the founder and a participant in the All American Pinups. There are currently two other women involved in the group and their main goal is to support the troops overseas by *raising money and sending care packages* to the soldiers who have nothing.



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"When the first boots hit the sand I started sending care packages and will continue to do so until every last troop is back on United States soil," Lane said.

Lane grew up accustomed to the military life because her father was in the Airforce and her grandfather was in the Navy. She was born in Dover Delaware and by the time she was 7 years old was stationed in Alaska where her father retired medically. She was taught at a young age that it was her patriotic duty as an American Citizen to support the troops and show them respect for what they were doing for the United States.

"I started writing to the troops when I was young," Lane said. "I remember my dad sitting me down when Desert Storm started and telling me that I needed to write letters to the soldiers thanking them for what they were doing."

After graduating she spent some time going back and forth between California and Alaska. When 9/11 happened she felt it was her patriotic duty to send care packages to the troops overseas. She went online and found addresses for soldiers that

would not receive anything because she knew that it would be a very difficult time for them.

"I sent at least 50 care packages at that time," Lane said. "I sent foot powder, baby wipes and things like that because the first troops had it pretty rough."

Lane didn't start her Pin-Up modeling until about three years ago after going to a car show in Tacoma, Washington. She was stopped by a gentleman taking photos because she was wearing a corset and a pencil skirt with her hair done in the fashion of the era.

"I was asked to pose with one of the old cars at the car show and a few months later I learned that I was featured in the Old School Rodz magazine," Lane said.

Lane has been featured in four magazines including Car Culture Deluxe and Old School Rodz as well as two newspaper articles. She enjoyed modeling and decided that she wanted to use her talent to do something worthwhile.

"I really thought that if I was going to do something positive with my modeling," Lane said. "Why not do it for a good cause and support the troops."

She started sending her photographs overseas and selling them at events to earn money to send out care packages.

Lane has experienced more positive feed back than negative.

In fact she has had several letters from troops and family members showing her gratitude for what she does. One of the fathers of a troop that she sent a package to drew her a picture of a slice of cherry pie with an American Flag as the top layer of crust stating that she was as All American as a *slice of homemade cherry pie*.

"As soon as I got that picture I went to my friends tattoo studio and had him put that on me," Lane said.

Her goal was to send out *at least 100 packages a month* but in order to do that she needed some more help. Lane started the All American Pinups an enlisted the help of two other ladies Little Lilly and Baby, who also do Pin-Up modeling.

"I am the founder of the All American Pin Up's and I wanted to find people that wanted to Support the troops and nothing else, not treat it like a dating service or anything like that," Lane said. "I wanted it to be clearly about supporting the troops and boosting their morale."

Lane and the other pinups have teamed up with *Operation United Forces HC* to host a benefit and car show the weekend of the 4th of July in Austin, Texas.

"I would love anyone in Lawton to get involved, anyone who wants to show respect for the troops are welcome to join this mission," Lane said. "It's always nice to have a community involved in a project they can believe in."

Showing ones gratitude is sometimes a difficult task. Many people don't realize that using their talents in a proactive manor is just as uplifting for the receiver as giving money can be. The All American Pinups are seeking people to get involved with the cause by donating time, money or talent. For more information one can contact Lane via e-mail at [allamericanpinups@yahoo.com](mailto:allamericanpinups@yahoo.com) or by visiting their website at [www.allamericanpinup.com](http://www.allamericanpinup.com)





# Medicine Park turns 100!

tence. It started out as a tourist stop and resort, often as a retreat for famous Oklahomans, Hollywood Stars and some notorious villains. After the depression it became somewhat of a ghost town. However, Medicine Park is currently thriving again with an abundance of life. Many of the older buildings have been restored and there are plans in place to reacquaint Medicine Park with the resort type atmosphere and get away that it once was.

Small town life can often seem rather mundane and boring but there is a community just northwest of Lawton that alters the idea of small town living. July 4th through 6th Medicine Park, Oklahoma, a place where many people have experienced the hospitality of a small town but the weekend bustle of the city, will celebrate its 100th birthday.

Medicine Park has been through many stages in its one hundred years of exist-

For instance the *Old Plantation*, once a booming business, closed for many years but recently reopened under new ownership. Medicine Park's *Bath Lake* swimming area has also been renovated within the past few years transforming it back into a popular summer destination for many families in the Southwest Oklahoma area. Many new shops have utilized the older buildings making Medicine Park a great place to purchase arts, crafts and other unique gifts.

The upcoming Birthday celebration promises to be an entertaining and family friendly event. More information on the history of Medicine Park and the upcoming events is available at [www.medicinepark.com](http://www.medicinepark.com).

## July 4

o 12:00 Old Fashioned Picnic at the ball field, games, music and fireworks at 9 pm.

## July 5

- o 10:00am - Wagon Camp at Hitching Post Park
- o 11:00am - Medicine Show at Hitching Post Park
- o 11:00 am to 4:00pm - Treasure Hunt Town Shops
- o 2:00pm - Medicine Show at Hitching Post Park
- o 5:00pm - Rubber Ducky Race at Bath Lake
- o 6:00pm - Marauders Shootout
- o Musicians performing throughout the day and evening at different venues around the Town

## July 6

- 11:00am Wagon Camp at Hitching Post Park
- 12:30pm Medicine Park honors outstanding citizens at Bath Lake,
- Old Fashion Ice Cream Social, Hitching Post Park
- 2:00pm Medicine Show at Hitching Post Park
- 3:30pm Marauders Shootout

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By Randy Pennington  
Staff Writer

# SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE AT HOME:

## Lawton-Fort Sill's Armed Services YMCA

Thousands of soldiers have passed through the gates of Fort Sill over the years, and in doing so, have found themselves residents of our local community, even if for a short while. For many new recruits, and young enlisted men and women, Lawton becomes their first "home away from home".

Lawton has a long history of welcoming military personnel to our area, and since 1941, the **Armed Services YMCA of Lawton-Fort Sill** has sustained its mission of providing charitable, educational, social, recreational and inspirational services to the military personnel and their families who are living in our community.

In the beginning, the ASYMCA of Lawton catered to the single soldiers by providing dances and social events; today, however, their services are designed to handle the needs of junior enlisted families through a wide variety of programs and events.

Offering both full-time and hourly childcare, the facility allows military mothers some flexibility in their schedules, making it possible to go shopping, run errands, make medical appointments or simply relax during the day, knowing their children are in a safe and trusted environment. A limited number of full-time slots are available, and the facility accepts children from six weeks old to first grade.

In addition, the ASYMCA recognizes the importance of personal time for mothers, especially those who are awaiting the return of their deployed spouses. Once a month, a *"Mom's Day Out"* is hosted, and for a very affordable rate, childcare is provided for the mother's from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. *"Friday Night Out"* is another activity that is designed to give both mom and dad a break once a month. Childcare services are provided from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., with advanced reservations, and rates in accordance with military rank are assigned, making it very affordable for the couples.

While it can be challenging for spouses who remain here, while their loved ones are deployed, the ASYMCA offers a support group called *"Hearts Apart"*, which allows spouses, friends and loved ones to gain strength through common activities and meetings.

And even with the best of intentions, the families of soldiers sometimes find themselves struggling financially. The *"Soldiers Closet"* is a collection of donated goods, including items such as clothing, toys, household items, furniture and appliances, freely offered for those families in need, ranging from E1-E5.

Also, the *"Food Closet"* has non-perishable food, and upon an approved referral from the appropriate military personnel, families may receive assistance when they are in temporary need. This same referral system allows families to receive financial assistance upon approval, through the ASYMCA's *"Comfort Fund"*.

Transportation for military families is offered through *"Operation Wheels"*, which provides free rides to and from Fort Sill for official appointments, visits or purchases at the Commissary. While reservations are required, military family members are able to utilize this service with one day's notice if availability allows. A *"Pizza Message Bible Study"* is conducted weekly, and provides free pizza and allows time to be spent on Christian study and scripture. No offering is taken during these meetings, and free childcare is also provided.

Located at *201 SW 4th Street* in Lawton, the ASYMCA is a federal recognized charity, and welcome any donations of food, household items or financial support. On a national level, the Armed Services YMCA serves more than 500,000 deserving people at its 29 different branches and outreach centers, and offer valuable services for the families of our military personnel. Long before BRAC and the expected growth of Fort Sill, the ASYMCA was there to provide much needed support.

Lawton has changed a lot since 1941, but the Lawton-Fort Sill Armed Services YMCA, and the generosity of the Lawton community, have kept compassion, love and hope, a constant factor in the lives of our military soldiers and families since the agency began.

***Welcome to Lawton,  
soldier...we salute you.***





# THIRD ROCK FROM THE SUN: PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S VISION

By Levi Pennington  
Staff Writer

President Dwight D. Eisenhower believed that ordinary citizens of different nations, if able to communicate directly, would solve their differences and find a way to live in peace. In 1956, he put those beliefs into action and created **People to People**.

The 34th president of the United States called a special White House conference of American leaders, who joined him in creating the People to People initiative. As a result, the People to People mission developed around personal exchanges and firsthand experiences with other cultures.

People to People organizes and promotes international and domestic journeys for students, athletes, and professionals. Journeys provide opportunity for elementary, junior high, and senior high school students to learn about the history, government, economy, and culture of the foreign and domestic destinations they visit. Junior and senior high school athletes have the opportunity to participate in international sports challenges.

Since 1962, People to People has taken thousands of young Americans across international borders. Venturing abroad or on our own continent, Ambassadors return home with a greater sense of what it means to be a good neighbor and a global citizen.

*President Eisenhower believed strongly in people working together to foster peace.*

He once stated, "The people want peace; indeed, I believe they want peace so badly that the governments will just have to step aside and let them have it."

The mission of People to People allows the selected Ambassadors to actually experience the cultures and lifestyles of different areas of our own country, but also those of foreign countries, as well. While the visits abroad take in the most famous of landmarks and allow students to enjoy sight-seeing, the agendas also include civic duties, visiting schools of foreign students, and overnight stays with host families, which allows the students to live the culture of their host country firsthand.

This writer was blessed to have been selected to travel abroad in 2006 as a member of an *Oklahoma Delegation of Student Ambassadors*. That experience will certainly stay with me for the rest of my life, and my experiences in Malta, France and Italy were life-changing. I was able to see how people in other countries lived, and I stayed with a host family in Malta for two days. Life is different there, and many of the things we take for granted here in the United States are simply not available in other parts of the world.

Simple things like hot water, air-conditioning and elevators are just a few of the luxuries that we found ourselves without; Nothing will make you appreciate life's blessings like having to wash your limited clothes by hand in a sink, because the hotel you're staying at has no laundry services!

I came back from that trip with a new view of our world. I understood how, even though our planet is large in some aspects, it is so small in other ways. After all, we're all people, with the same simple desires and necessities: good health, happy lives and peace. I think that President Eisenhower's vision was well-founded.

President John F. Kennedy said it best: "The nature of People to People activities is as varied as the individuals involved. The housewife whose recipe contains the yeast of kindness, the soldier whose arms embrace homeless waifs, the doctor who heals with humility, all assert a single theme-the power of people, acting as individuals, to respond imaginatively to the world's need for peace."

Once again, I have been blessed with the opportunity to travel as a Student Ambassador and represent the United States and People to People in other countries. I will be traveling to France and England this summer, along with other area students. I'm looking forward to my experiences abroad, and to being able to report in a future issue of my journey and its impact on my life.

In the meantime, if you're interested in learning more about the People to People organization, you can visit their site at [www.peopletopeople.com](http://www.peopletopeople.com).

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# Leif Johnson

## Capturing dreams and nightmares through art

By Ginger Hansen  
Staff Writer

Summertime is when everyone gets out of school and looks for a creative way to express themselves. Even if you're not in school, there are times when some people just want to find a way to let loose some of their creative juices. Painting is one way to get out what you want to express inside, because no application of it on canvas is wrong. Most people look to other artists as inspiration like the big names of Picasso, Dali, and Pollock. Abstract and Surrealist applications are a good way to not only work with a concept, but to express an emotion that otherwise would be bottled up. Art schools offer many solutions to polish up on these techniques, but some prefer the total Outsider application for their art.

Recently at the local Arts for All festival, many artists congregated to display their work. Many emerging artists who do not have portfolios or work to display also gathered to be inspired by the local works. One aspiring artist named **Leif Johnson** was in attendance and later spoke to me about the techniques he uses for his art in his off time. He expressed that he was introduced to Salvador Dali's work by a Lawton High teacher named Mr. Green. From his high school art class he learned that he could render his "dreams and nightmares" just like Dali. As time passed Leif would sketch drawings while he travelled the country for work. This hobby would help with his ideas to create paintings for friends and family.

One of his paintings incorporates his frustrations on how women "*hide their natural beauty by covering themselves up in a lot of fakery*," he says. Leif's frustrations are seen in a painting called "**Belie Con Lipstick**", in which he uses the title in French, Spanish and English. "Use it while you got it", is a motto he believes that women should live by and believes women like Kirten Dunst are "beautiful ugly girls". This painting is done in classic Dali style, because most of the Dali motifs are seen in many of his symbols and work themselves around the painting in bright colors.

If you are looking for a way to express yourself this summer, visit the local library and check out a book of your favorite style of paintings. Try to render them as close as possible by



sketching them out first then painting on canvas. Most people like Leif who do not have the time for art classes, but love to paint, use these techniques to express themselves without any limitations.

Eventually you can come up with original concepts and motifs that will be all your own. If you take up a summer painting project within the next few months, send it in to Okie Magazine to be showcased. I would love to see all the creative ideas you have!

Please send JPG images to [editor@okiemagazine.com](mailto:editor@okiemagazine.com).



# Muriel Fahrion

## The face behind some beloved childhood memories

By Angela Schertle  
Staff Writer

**I**t was a bright sunny day in June when Dar-lexi moved into my freezer. The freezer? I asked when I arrived home from work. My nine-year-old daughter Darby excitedly explained that she and her friend Lexi wanted to make a new friend, so they combined all necessary ingredients for making a little girl (water, sugar, spice and flowers) into a cup and put it into the freezer to create their new friend Dar-lexi.

While the ingredients for Dar-lexi may seem rather unconventional, many popular characters have been created for children using very similar ingredients. **Muriel Fahrion** - Medicine Park artist, business woman, and overall free spirit specializes in creating fun and unconventional characters for children and adults alike. Fahrion's most famous creation, **Strawberry Shortcake**, was created while working for the American Greetings greeting card company. Strawberry Shortcake has undergone many changes over the years, but she still remains a favorite among girls of all ages.

Fahrion was approached by executives at American Greetings to create a female character for a line of greeting cards.

"She was originally going to be only a greeting card," Fahrion said.

American Greetings already had licensing rights to several characters for boys when Fahrion was asked to come up with the concept for Strawberry Shortcake.

"I helped to create Strawberry Shortcake and thirty-six other characters in that line of characters and later helped to create the original **6 Care Bears**," she said.

Fahrion's team, *Those Characters From Cleveland*, was a subsidiary of American Greetings and was led by Tom Wilson the creator of Ziggy. Together the group developed lesser known, but no less charming, characters like the **Getalong Gang** and **Pinafore Pockets**.

Today Fahrion still dreams up lovable characters for promotional purposes for Big Rock Works, the business that she and her husband own. Fahrion's husband, Michael, works along side her constructing websites and graphic design formats around the characters Muriel creates. They've helped design characters for small businesses like Miss Razz the mascot of Elgin's Raspberry Leopard, and they've also worked with large businesses by creating characters like Skamper PD the prairie dog mascot for Comanche County Memorial Hospital's Spirit of Survival Marathon. The Fahrions also manage and contribute to the Medicine Park website ([www.medicinepark.com](http://www.medicinepark.com)) where viewers can find updated town information and even a blog written by Muriel herself to inform citizens about upcoming events and interesting information about the town.

"My son, who lives in California, called me and said 'mom you've got to start a blog.'" Fahrion said.

Photos by Freeze Frame Photography



Fahrión didn't stop at the Medicine Park blog. One of her newest characters, Lil' Iffi, has a website at [www.liliffi.com](http://www.liliffi.com). Lil' Iffi lives online in cartoon form and Fahrión ensures that her exploits are updated weekly so that children everywhere can hear about the character who is a lil' iffy about life.

"Lil' Iffi was styled after my daughter-in-law Nifer," Fahrión said. "She is a real individual and she has blue hair...sometimes. Overall, she's a real free spirit."

Individuality seems to be a common thread in the Fahrión household and is a vital part of the message she delivers to all of the children she comes in contact with.

"When I speak to school groups I always start by asking, 'does anyone ever feel weird?'" she said. "People who are creative often feel weird. But kids need to have fun and be creative. Sometimes, parents and other grown ups loose sight of that."

Fahrión said that part of her creative drive was inspired by her childhood.

"We had seven kids in our family and not a lot of money," she said. "This led to thinking creatively to entertain ourselves."

With the creativity comes curiosity. Fahrión has a zest for life and a curiosity about the world around her.

"I don't know how you can ever stop thinking," she said. "I'm always looking for ways to learn something new. I have decided that every year I want to do something that I've never done. When I was 61 I shot a gun for the first time for the *Medicine Park Marauders* street theater that my husband and I participate in. This year I decided to teach myself computer animation. People are multidimensional, you can do it all if you set your mind to it."

Pictured is Fahrión and her new character Lil' Iffi. visit them at [www.liliffi.com](http://www.liliffi.com).



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## **A Man In His Element: No women allowed!**

By Charles Schertle  
Staff Writer

**The single most significant gift from God, next to women of course, would have to be the Man Cave. Although men everywhere love women dearly, sometimes we need a break... and that is where the Man Cave come in.**

Man Caves are a *No-Woman-Allowed room*, a personal sanctuary if you will where men can escape from women and the demands of life. It is a fortress of solitude where men are free to indulge in anything and everything that a woman would not normally approve of anywhere else in the house. For example, my wife probably wouldn't approve of me hanging a Hooters calendar in the living room, but in my Man Cave anything goes.

Every man's definition of a Man Cave is different. For some, it is simply the garage or a work shed where a man can tinker on numerous projects (most of which they never complete) in complete privacy. For others the Man Cave is an attic space reserved for practicing the guitar. My Man Cave would be an elaborate completed basement fully equipped with a giant screen TV, entertainment system, pool table, wet bar, and wood paneling on the walls.

It would be a place to invite other men to congregate to enjoy a hand of poker or the big game. Unfortunately, my wife hasn't agreed to finance this endeavor, so for now I guess I will just go fishing.

The No-Women-Allowed clubhouse has been around as long as anyone can remember. Television shows such as *The Little Rascals* and *The Brady Bunch* both had No-Girls-Allowed clubhouses. A more recent and grown-up version can be seen on the hit TV show *Boston Legal* when the two main characters meet on the balcony at the end of the day to smoke cigars and drink scotch while discussing the trials of life

*Why are Man Caves so popular?* Personally, I think it is because women don't want banners of Baseball Teams plastered all over the house. Most women are actually glad when their man retires to his cave. Let's face it, women get tired of hearing about football stats. I may be off here, but in a man cave anything goes. That is what is so wonderful about them. You can practice your bank shot in complete privacy without the annoying distractions of a nagging woman reminding you to take out the trash. It is a truly wonderful place, a wonderland where a man can be a man. No rules apply. You can make your man cave as tasteful or tacky as you like. It is perfectly acceptable to leave your dirty socks laying around or even leave the toilet seat up. It is all up to you.

*You can create a world all for yourself.*

The best part about the Man Cave is that women can't really complain about them. They have their own caves too. Usually, it is the kitchen or laundry room. When they need an escape all they have to do is disappear and bake cookies or something, and we won't even bother them. I don't even go into the kitchen unless it is to get a beer, so my wife could be in there for days if she wished. The point is that Man Caves are a great places for men to go enjoy themselves or just to unwind in an environment that they create.

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# Mental Upchuck

## It's About Blowing Stuff Up!

By Dave Roberts  
Staff Writer



The month of July. It's a special month for many American's across this great nation. It's the first full month of summer. It offers the warmest bearable temperatures without the suffocation of humidity. It's a month of blowing stuff up in celebration of our independence from Great Britain.

It started as a holiday for those serving their country. On our first Fourth of July anniversary, General George Washington granted any man, enlisted or volunteer militia to be given a double ration of rum to commemorate the day. On the second year, 1779, Independence Day was celebrated on July 5th due to the 4th falling on Sunday. 1781 brought the official celebration as Massachusetts started the ball rolling by finally recognized July 4th as Independence Day, even though the term Independence Day wasn't used until 1791.

It's a holiday that was even celebrated by both halves of the states during the Civil War. Congress stepped it up, in the general slow fashion we're all accustomed to, by getting around to set up our now national holiday in 1870. However, it was an unpaid federal holiday. The type where you could take the day off to celebrate, but you would take a hit in the pocketbook for it.

After much deliberation due to complaints, Congress revised their original Independence Day legislation. The revisions included making the 4th not only a paid federal holiday, but a national holiday. A day much like Christmas in the sense that every store and business across the land would close for that day in honor of our achievement. Now it's not like that. Now it seems to mean big sales at department stores. Buy one get something free at the cell phone stores. Buy a new RV, get a free hot dog. Miles from what "holiday" actually insinuated.

It's a holiday that should be celebrated by every American. Why it's just UnAmerican not to celebrate! Whether the celebration is done with fireworks, picnics, or parades. Growing up, my family would gather for a baseball game in Kansas City. I remember those days like it was yesterday, but they seem so far away.

The family has spread across this great country now, losing touch for months on end, only gathering for the core holidays in November and December. It's inherently common across all walks of life. The family surrogate in most cases is close friends. An old college or high school buddy. Maybe a buddy from your social clan, such as church or privatized club. For me, this year it'll be the in-laws (sigh). It was an agreement I made with my wife. She and the kids get this holiday with her parents, I get to provide the food, décor, drinks, fireworks, and toys for the kids. *I feel violated.*

I know I sound like I am complaining about spending time with my family but that's not the case. You see I love the family and tolerate my in-laws but I have learned if I lay it on really thick and sweat a lot over the grill and just be an all around great guy for the day - that it gets me a few extra hours at the golf course! *It's the simple freedoms.* That's what the holiday is all about.

If you have a question or comment for Dave, e-mail him at [droberts@okiemagazine.com](mailto:droberts@okiemagazine.com).

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# Queen of the House

The sun is hot, the water cool, the tent is staked out, and the boat motors are roaring. Yes that can only mean it's time to go camping!! Now, I enjoy camping as much as the next sun-lover. My question is this... what is the best way to

keep your food safe and edible. We will cover basic information to keep you and your food safe so the **stay-cation** at the lake doesn't turn into an emergency room interruption.

**Meats:** There are a couple of things to remember here. Sandwiches wrapped and packed in "lunch boxes" or small "coolers" without ice or ice packs will not be so tasty and scrumptious looking 3 hours later after sitting while you've been swimming and having fun. At tops, food can be kept at 90 degrees for no more than two hours at that temperature. You must remember to have plenty of ice for you meats, certain condiments, and yourself. A trick is to freeze your water bottles and use them as ice packs and when they melt, you can drink from your water bottle. Never partially cook meat to take before you pack it for your camping excursion. This includes steak and hamburgers - *they must be fully cooked and kept cool.*

**Veggies & Fruits:** When you buy fruits that you are taking with you, you have two choices. If you refrigerate them before hand, they must be kept cold while you are camping. Why you may ask? Imagine your nice chilled fruit sitting in your tent while you frolic in the water. You come back and after an afternoon the skin of your sweet, delicious peach now looks like the wrinkles on an elephants legs. *Not enticing.*

If you are making a salad, wash and dry the veggies. Now, this may seem silly to mention, but a huge thing to remember is keep everything separate and clean as possible. Raw meat (especially poultry) is notorious from spreading bacteria to other foods. Juices dripping from the packages or your hands or even utensils are infamous for cross-contamination. Keep plenty of wipes and anti-bacterial soap available.

Also, a really simple thing to remember is keep your hot things hot and cold things cold.

Follow these simple ideas for a great summer camping experience.

*Have a tip, recipe or ideas to make the household less of a chore send it to [queenofthehouse@okiemagazine.com](mailto:queenofthehouse@okiemagazine.com)*

# Nonsensical Stuff

a mishmash of hilarity or somewhat amusing finds

## OKLAHOMA WOMEN

Three men were sitting together bragging about how they had given their new wives duties.

The first man had married a woman from Illinois, and bragged that he had told his wife to do all the dishes and house cleaning. He said that it took a couple of days, but on the 3rd day he came home to a clean house and all the dishes were washed and put away.

The second man had married a woman from Iowa. He bragged that he had given his wife orders to do all the cleaning, dishes and cooking. He said he did not see any results the first day, the second day things were a little better, but by the 3rd day the house was clean, the dishes were done and he had a huge dinner on the table

The third man had married a girl from Oklahoma. He boasted that he told her that her duties were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry done, and she was to have hot meals on the table for every meal. He said that the first day he didn't see anything. The second day he didn't see anything. By the 3rd day, the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye, enough to fix himself a bite to eat, load the dishwasher, and phone a landscaper.



## GO GREEN TIPS

By Angela Schertle, Staff Writer

As I placed the cap onto my gas tank the other day, I sighed and thought back to the good ol' days when gas was only 2.50 a gallon. Rising gas price have in turn raised the price of everything from toilet paper to cleaning products. Go green means a lot more now than just trying to play a small part in the preservation of the earth's natural resources. Although, preservation is a worthy goal, people who choose to Go Green are finding that the initiative offers as many personal benefits as it does global benefits. Among the most important individual benefits is the financial aspect of Going Green. The money saving benefits alone may be enough to convert even the most stubborn cynic.

One of the easiest ways to Go Green in your home is to look at all natural cleaning products. Sure, you can purchase the "all natural" products sold by your favorite chemical company, and while these products are undoubtedly effective, they do not offer the same financial benefits as some of your grandmother's homemade cleaning solutions. Known as "Grandma's witchcraft" in our family, these solutions often offer results that are as good as their more expensive counterparts. Baking soda paste made with water or liquid soap can be used to scour sinks, countertops, and bathtubs. White vinegar can be used to clean floors, windows and mirrors. The strong smell can be combated with just a few drops of essential oils. But remember to be careful with essential oils as they are very strong in their undiluted state. Using these tips can save the average family of four up to \$50 on their grocery bill each month.



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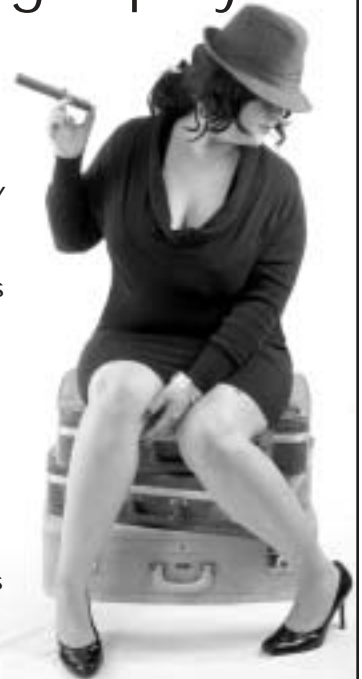
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