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The Horizon

What's New at Shangri-La

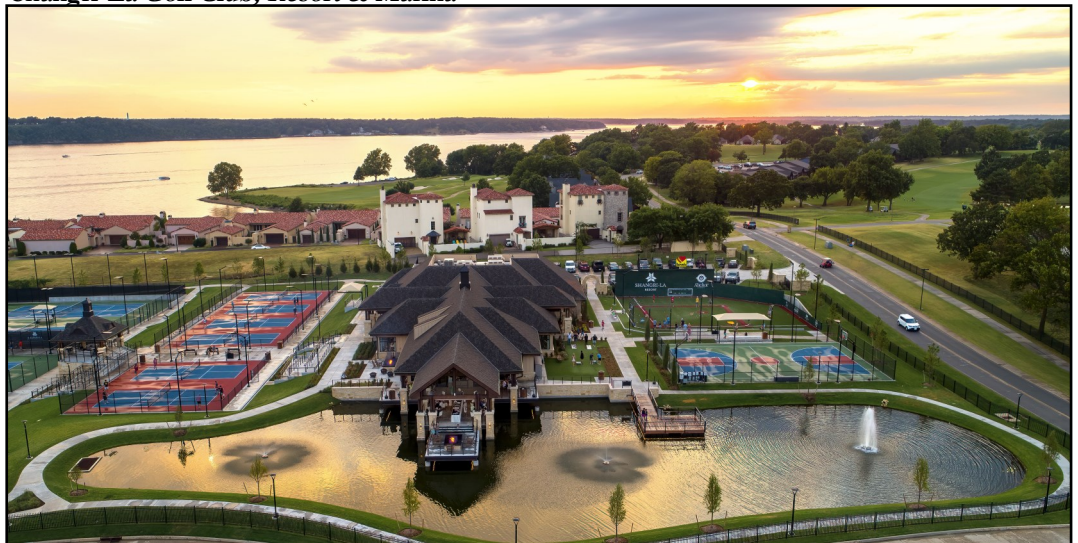


Volume 13: Issue 9

November 2023

Bedlam Party, Pickleball Tournament, Tuesday Trivia and a Huge Thanksgiving Weekend Highlight November at Shangri-La

*By Barry Willingham, President & CEO
Shangri-La Golf Club, Resort & Marina*



Before I get into the details of an exciting November calendar at Shangri-La, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for all the players and sponsors in our inaugural "Courage Under Fire Classic" golf tournament in October benefiting the Monkey Island Fire Department. This incredible team of first responders have risen to meet unimaginable challenges over the past few years. In the first year after the Monkey Island Fire District was created less than 20 years ago, they responded to 55 emergency calls. This year, they will respond to well over 1,000 emergency calls for fires and medical emergencies.

We are thrilled that our "Courage Under Fire Classic" raised more than \$15,000 to supplement the growing needs of the department, but they still need help to meet the growing needs of our growing community. If you are registered to vote in the Monkey Island Fire District, you can take one more important step for the future by VOTING YES Tuesday, November 14 to increase the millage for funding this great group of first responders. They are solely responsible for making Monkey Island the safest place to live in the Grand Lake area!

November is a Fun-Packed

Month at Shangri-La!

On the heels of record-setting months in September and October, a full calendar of fun kicks off the holiday season in November at Shangri-La. We'll kick off the month with a celebration of what may very well be the final Bedlam weekend. Coach Kerr kicks off Bedlam weekend with a Bedlam Pickleball Mixer Friday evening, November 3 at The Racquet Club. Saturday, November 4 is game day – and we'll celebrate at The Anchor with a fun Hooray Grill Tailgate Party and a big watch party at The Anchor for

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what may be the final OU-OSU game for a while. The Anchor is always the place to be for sporting events, but Bedlam Weekend will be extra special! It's probably a good thing Daylight Saving Time ends that night, because this party will be so big that we'll all be ready to set our clocks back and get an extra hour of sleep!

Bedlam weekend is also the weekend for great pickleball competition! The Mary Bulten Memorial Fall Open Pickleball Tournament is Saturday & Sunday, November 4-5. Men's and Women's singles competition will be held on Saturday with Mixed Doubles competition on Sunday.

Live Entertainment at Doc's

The musical fun never ends at Shangri-La, either. Jason Morgan leads the Thursday night karaoke fun at Doc's Bar & Grill every week (except Thanksgiving night) this month; and our featured Friday night live entertainment at Doc's is a year-round favorite. November entertainers include Kevin Price, Scott Musick, Rockwell, and Jon Moody.

Tuesday Trivia is Back!

Lee Lawson returns with the popular Tuesday Trivia competition at The Anchor this month. For our crowd of trivia fans, the time of year has returned for Taco Tuesday at Doc's, followed by Tuesday Trivia at The Anchor. The fun begins Tuesday, November 7 and November 14 before we take a brief break for the Thanksgiving holiday – resuming for a couple more holiday pre-season trivia nights December 5 and 12 prior to the Christmas holidays. We'll have a full schedule of weekly Tuesday Trivia beginning in January.

Thanksgiving is a Major Weekend at Shangri-La

Golf operations and the marina will be closed Thanksgiving Day, but will reopen Friday to make sure you have a full weekend of fun. The Summit Restaurant will also be closed Thanksgiving Day while we prepare for our popular Black Friday Seafood Buffet November 24.

We are already taking orders for our popular Thanksgiving-to-Go meals for those of you who want to spend the holiday at home, but don't want all the work of preparing a fabulous meal. Our culinary crew prepares everything you need for a perfect meal, handed off in reheatable containers, complete with instructions to make sure everything is perfect.

If you would rather not have the leftovers and dishes at your house, plan to join us at Doc's Bar & Grill on Thanksgiving Day for an awesome holiday buffet with turkey, ham, and every imaginable side-dish – complemented by Chef Julie's fabulous array of

desserts.

The Anchor Will Be Open for Thanksgiving Football Fun!

There aren't many venues available to enjoy what is arguably one of the biggest NFL Football Days of the year on Thanksgiving Day – but our crew will be waiting for you at The Anchor for a full menu of holiday football fun. Although The Anchor doesn't normally open until 4:00 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, Thanksgiving weekend is an important exception. Thanksgiving Day, we'll be opening The Anchor at 10:00 a.m. so you don't miss the first game – Green Bay at Detroit at 11:30. Hang around for Washington at Dallas at 3:30 and San Francisco at Seattle at 7:00.

Black Friday morning, The Anchor will open at 10:00 a.m. again, so there's no need to worry about where to be for the 11:00 a.m. kickoff of the OU-TCU game. Be back Saturday for the OSU-BYU game – and again Sunday morning to get ready for the Chiefs and Raiders at 3:30. If you've been looking for a fun spot to spend the holiday weekend, we've got you covered at Shangri-La!

Fall Arrival Means New Hours of Operation for Golf and Dining Venues

As cooler temperatures and earlier sunsets decrease the golf demand, we are giving the maintenance crews a little extra time to maintain the courses. The Championship Course is now closed on Mondays – and The Battlefield is closed both Tuesday and Wednesday. That schedule gives our crews a little extra maintenance time while assuring that there is always golf available somewhere at Shangri-La every day of the week! With the time change from Daylight Saving to Standard Time, golf hours change, as well. Golf course hours of operation at both the Championship Courses and The Battlefield are 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. with food & beverage service at the Turn House at the main clubhouse and Canteen at The Battlefield 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Doc's hours of operation are from 7:00 a.m. daily, closing at 9:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 10:00 p.m. Saturday & Sunday. The Summit Restaurant does not offer lunch service during the winter months, but dinner service is available Thursday and Sunday from 4:00-9:00 p.m. and Friday & Saturday 4:00-10:00 p.m.

Hours of operation at The Monkey Grind are 7:00 a.m.-Noon Monday-Thursday and 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Friday-Sunday.

The Anchor arcade, activity park, and sports bar normal hours of operation are

4:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 4:00-midnight Fridays. Saturday hours are 10:00 a.m.-midnight. Sunday hours are 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

The Racquet Club hours of operation are 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, and 8:00 a.m.-midnight Friday & Saturday.

Shangri-La Marina is closed Sundays, but is open from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Boat rentals are finished for the year, but late fall yacht charters are still available from the Ship Store this month. For reservations, call 918-257-6000.

It's a Great Time of the to Celebrate at Shangri-La

In addition to our big holiday schedule, we continue to host some great group events. We're kicking off the month of November with the Oklahoma Marina Association Annual Conference (November 1-2), followed by The Delaware County Children's Special Advocacy Network (DCCSN) "Ignite Change" banquet (November 11) and the "First Christmas Party of the Year" – the South Grand Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet (November 16).

If you haven't already booked your Christmas party at Shangri-La, spots are filling up quickly. Contact Dana Able at dana.able@shangrilaok.com to check available dates to join the holiday fun at Shangri-La!

I can't thank our valued members and guests enough for your continued support, encouragement and participation that enables us to constantly move forward to greater success. Your support is sincerely appreciated, and we hope to see you often through the winter months – anytime you have the urge to "Escape the Ordinary!"



Culinary Conversation

By Jonathan Moosmiller

Executive Director of Food & Beverage



Thanksgiving Dinner at your place or ours!

Doc's Thanksgiving Dinner 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Day – or order Thanksgiving-to-Go by November 19 for dinner at your house!

October was a fabulous month for the Food & Beverage crew with lots of groups, wedding dinners and receptions, some special banquet events, new hours of operation and new menus at Doc's and the Galley. With the arrival of November, it's time to kick off the holiday season with even more outstanding food & fun options at Shangri-La.

THANKSGIVING AT DOC'S...OR AT YOUR HOUSE!

Yes, Doc's Bar & Grill will be open Thanksgiving Day for a terrific holiday buffet for the entire family. Our menu selection includes all the holiday traditions – Butternut Squash Bisque, Shangri-La Salad, Roasted Turkey, Smoked Cajun Honey Ham, Sage-Cornbread Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Potato-Pecan Casserole, Green Bean Casserole, Roasted Buttered Corn, Cranberry Chutney, and Assorted Dinner Rolls, topped with a selection of Chef Julie's fabulous Holiday Desserts – all for \$30 per person (\$15 for children ages 3-12).

The Thanksgiving Buffet will be available from 11:00-7:00, and Doc's will close at 7:00 p.m. in order to allow a little holiday time for our staff, as well.

If you would rather enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday at home, we're happy to also take care of the cooking. Let our Culinary Team take the stress out of your holiday by allowing us to prepare a wonderful holiday meal for your family, large or small. The menu offerings include everything that is offered on the Doc's Thanksgiving menu including your choice of Pecan, Apple, or Pumpkin Pie for only \$65 for two people (\$30 for each additional person).

Thanksgiving-to-Go orders come complete with reheating instructions and reheat oven-safe containers. Orders must be placed by Sunday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m. for pick-up on Thanksgiving Wednesday or Thursday, November 22 and/or 23. You may place your order online or contact Jason Morgan at 918-257-7705 or email

jason.morgan@shangrilaok.com.

If you just want special desserts to complement your own Thanksgiving dinner, Chef Julie is offering some fabulous options – a 9" Bourbon Pecan Pie (\$35 – serves 8-10), 9" Pumpkin Pie (\$35 – serves 8-10), 8" Triple Layer Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Icing (\$60 – serves 20), 8" Triple Layer Peanut Butter Bourbon Chocolate Cake (\$60 – serves 20), 9" Caramel Pecan Cheesecake (\$60 – serves 12-18), or Double Layer Coconut Cream Pie (\$50 – serves 12-18).

To order any of these special desserts, contact Executive Pastry Chef Julie Morgan at julie.morgan@shangrilaok.com.
BLACK FRIDAY SEAFOOD EXTRAVAGANZA AT THE SUMMIT

The Summit Restaurant will be closed Thanksgiving Day to allow us time to prepare for one of our biggest events of the year – the Black Friday Seafood Extravaganza scheduled for Black Friday, November 24 from 5:00-9:00 p.m.

In addition to a Shangri-La Salad Bar and Shrimp Pasta Salad, our seafood buffet will include a Shrimp Cocktail Bar, Smoked Salmon, and Crab Salad Finger Sandwiches. All that is before you get to the Prime Rib Carving Station or our special entrees including Crawfish Fettuccine, Spanish Paella, Brown Sugar Glazed Salmon, and New England Stuffed Haddock complemented with Rice Pilaf, Roasted Red Potatoes, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, and Asparagus with Roasted Red Pepper. Don't overdo it, because Chef Julie also has a great selection of awesome desserts.

The Black Friday Seafood Extravaganza will be served from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at The Summit on Friday, November 24, priced at \$45 per person (\$20 for children under 12). Make your reservations early because this event is always a sell-out!

DON'T FORGET FESTIVUS!

Shangri-La members always look forward to the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving when we all enjoy "Festivus for the Rest of Us!" This fun event will once again include light appetizers, wine & beer, and great Christmas shopping specials and discounts at the Golf Shop Saturday, November 18, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. We all look forward to a great evening of fun and camaraderie at Festivus!

HOURS OF OPERATION FOR FOOD AND FUN

We will continue to have weekly live entertainment at Doc's. Jason Morgan leads the karaoke fun every Thursday night from 6:00-9:00 (except Thanksgiving). Friday night entertainers from 7:00-10:00 this month include Kevin Price, Scott Musick, Rockwell, and Jon Moody.

Doc's is open daily from 7:00 a.m., closing at 9:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 10:00 p.m. Friday & Saturday. Pizza menus are available daily from 11:00 a.m.-close. Our only change in hours of operation for the Thanksgiving holiday is a 7:00 p.m. closing of Doc's on Thanksgiving Day.

The Summit Restaurant has discontinued lunch service for the winter but continues to offer full dinner service Thursday-Sunday including dinner service open to the public on Sunday evenings (closed, as I mentioned, on Thanksgiving Day).

We know you have a variety of choices for dining, drinking, and entertainment – and we are always grateful when you choose to spend your time with us at our variety of Shangri-La venues. Please join us anytime you can. We're always cooking up something!

Dock Talk

by Mitch Whitehead, Shangri-La Marina Manager



Shangri-La Marina Manager Mitch Whitehead

The end of the season has come for boat and personal watercraft rentals. However, if you're still interested in some late fall yacht charters, we'll hang in there until the weather tells us otherwise. Call 918-257-6000 if you want to catch the beauty of autumn on Grand Lake with a cruise. Remember, Shangri-La members receive a 10% discount on all yacht charters, with the exception of Saturdays and holiday weekends.

IT'S TIME TO WINTERIZE – FOR BOATS AND THE MARINA, BOTH

It's that time of year. Cold weather is moving in on us, and we will be winterizing the water systems at the marina. Water will be turned off on the docks November 15 – and that means the pump-out facilities will also be inoperable. If you need to get your holding tank pumped out before winterization, you'll need to get it done before November 15.

If you haven't already done so, and your boat isn't equipped with bilge heating systems for winter boating, it's time to get your boat winterized, as well. Even if you plan to boat through the winter, it's still a good idea to winterize your water and waste systems to avoid any problem with freezing lines.

If your boat is in Shangri-La Marina, contact Nichols Marine at 918-257-5500 to schedule your winterization before the freezing temperatures sneak up on us. It's also the perfect time to schedule any service or repair work you might need to make sure your boat is ready when spring-time strikes.

SHIP STORE HOURS – OPEN SIX DAYS A WEEK

The dramatic season change will hit us all. Daylight Saving Time is coming to an end. Be sure to set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed Saturday night, November 4. Starting Sunday, November 5, we'll see those daylight hours coming to an end well before 6:00 p.m.

Shangri-La Marina is open year-round to accommodate the increasing number of boaters who like to take advantage of those inevitable nice days during the winter months. The Ship Store is open with supplies, gas, and diesel Monday-Saturday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

WE WILL BE CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY

If you plan on spending Thanksgiving on the water with your family, be sure to plan ahead and make sure your boat is ready to go. The marina will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23 to allow our crew some time to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with their families – but we'll be back on the docks to serve you with fuel Friday & Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend.

MARINAS FROM THROUGHOUT THE STATE ARE COMING TO SHANGRI-LA

We are excited to kick off the month by hosting our colleagues from marinas throughout the state of Oklahoma this month. The Oklahoma Marina Association Annual Conference is at Shangri-La November 1-2. It's a great opportunity to share information and ideas while getting updates from the Grand River Dam Authority, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other regulators and suppliers. We are particularly honored this year to host both Oklahoma Tourism Director Shelly Zumwalt and Oklahoma State Parks Director Sterling Zearley as featured speakers at our conference. There's a lot of business – but we also plan to show our counterparts that we have more fun on Grand Lake!

LOTS OF NEW SHIP STORE MERCHANDISE

With cooler weather, Lyn has laid out some terrific outerwear, including an awesome new line of Shangri-La Marina hoodies. We're still taking care of your snacks, beverages, and ice – and, of course, we have a great selection of apparel, caps, hats, and footwear, along with a full line of boating supplies.

FOOD AND FUN IS AVAILABLE BY BOAT YEAR-ROUND

Doc's Bar & Grill at Shangri-La is the only restaurant on Grand Lake that offers three meals a day seven days a week – and it's right across the parking lot from our courtesy slips. There's no need to continue posing those "what's available by water to get something to eat?" social media questions. No matter what day or what meal, the answer is – "Doc's at Shangri-La."

Doc's has a fantastic Thanksgiving Day buffet planned – so if you're out on the water for Thanksgiving, slip into the courtesy slips and make your holiday extra special! The weekly musical entertainment is a year-round offering at Doc's. Jason Morgan hosts great karaoke fun every Thursday night (except Thanksgiving). The November lineup of live entertainment on Friday nights at Doc's includes Kevin Price, Scott Musick, Rockwell, and Jon Moody.

As always, our marina team is here to serve you. We're always glad to see you; and we are here six days a week to take care of your fuel and all the supplies for your fall boating. If you have questions, contact us at 918-257-4898 or email marina@shangrilaok.com.



Staff Spotlight: Sandy Wagoner

by Communications Director Mike Williams



Sandy Wagoner: "I still smile when I round the curve at the Gallery and see the clubhouse. This is such a beautiful place to be. I feel very fortunate."

Everybody loves Sandy Wagoner! That's partially because you can't get a check from Shangri-La unless you get it from her! As the manager of Accounts Payable, Sandy has the unenviable task of sorting through invoices and paying roughly 2,500 bills for the resort every month. Her never-get-ruffled attitude and meticulous attention to detail make her the perfect person for the job.

A native of Morgan City, Louisiana, Sandy began her first stint at the accounts payable task right out of high school with a ten-year job at Tidewater Marine in Amelia, Louisiana. Following a marriage, divorce, the addition of two children to the family, and an on-again-off-again college career at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana, Sandy faced a challenge that would have likely ended the career path of a less determined and disciplined person.

"I was in a bad car wreck in November, 2019," she recalls. "I broke every limb on my body. My face was shattered, my shoulder was shattered. I was life-flighted to Baton Rouge, and actually died three times in the helicopter, and was in a coma after I got to the hospital."

The news from medical professionals was daunting indeed. They said it would take her at least three to five years of rehabilitation to regain the ability to walk and talk.

"I had to learn to do everything all over again. I have an aunt who is now a traveling nurse, and she stayed with me at home in a room set up like a hospital room. She was with me the entire time, and she is the reason I was able to beat the odds," she says.

"Within a year, I was able to walk and talk. That's a lot better than the 'three-to-five years' the doctors had warned me about; but I was afraid I still wouldn't be able to do anything of significance career-wise, but I got a job

as a receptionist at Amelia Bell Casino. That's where I met Josh.

"He was a boat captain at the casino, and we became friends. I was so self-conscious about scars all over from my wreck, I never thought I would be in another relationship. But Josh changed that. He is the other half of me," she laughs. "I'm the crazy, wild one. He's the calm, patient one. He reminds me how strong I am after all the things I've been through. He's definitely my biggest cheerleader."

In November 2021 – ironically two years to the day from the time Sandy first awoke from her coma in the hospital, she and Josh were married. Their move to Oklahoma came as a result of Josh's decision to start a Grand Lake area construction company, Lake Country Contractors, with his best friend Dave Dennis.

"I had been here for two weeks with absolutely no idea what I was going to do. I put my resume on Indeed.com, and I got a call from Shangri-La. I did one short interview on Monday and got called back for an interview with (Executive Chairman) Jason Sheffield and (CEO) Barry Willingham on Thursday. It was the longest interview I had ever been in, but before I even got home, they called and offered me this job.

"I do love it here," she adds. "Not having a core family here, I've built that core family with my team at Shangri-La. I still smile when I drive around the curve at the Gallery and see the clubhouse. This is such a beautiful place to be. I'm lucky to work here. I feel very fortunate."

Between the two of them Sandy and Josh have five children – two boys and three girls ranging in age from 13 to 25, and two dogs – Ellie and Oscar.

Sandy loves to read, garden, and cook. She brings lots of recipes with her from the deep South and admits that food is her "love language." She and Josh live in Grove, but recently purchased 23 acres of land near Wyandotte.

"I have a sign that says, 'I Work Here to Pay for My Land' and I'm not kidding," she laughs. "I want to build a house there, and I want animals. Animals have always been a part of my life, and I want to do that again. I just want to live out in the country with a few goats, my family and my animals, just sitting in the quiet reading a book.

"I've had enough drama in my life. I just want to live in peace."



Is this the real Jason Morgan? He brought one of his many personalities to host the Halloween party karaoke fun at The Anchor.

SLWGA News

Submitted by Cheryl Brecheisen

"Golf for the Cure" or "Playing in Pink for a Purpose" ... regardless of the catchphrase applied, September 25 was a special playday as the SLWGA women "pinked out" to raise funds as well as awareness for the ongoing, overwhelming fight against cancer. The heavy morning fog served as a surreal backdrop for the photos of the players each displaying an individual sign honoring a friend or family member who is currently on the front line of a battle with cancer. Event organizer Judi Barber reported that a total of \$1,180 was raised by SLWGA and donated to the local Integris Foundation. The day was a valuable reminder that we all are affected by cancer, and we can all play a small part in the fight for its cure.

Another event that signaled the approaching conclusion of the SLWGA playing season was the final playday at The Battlefield on October 2. The ladies always look forward to this monthly round of golf when the 18-hole and 9-hole players are mixed into teams and play a scramble format.

The winning team this month included Cheryl Brecheisen, Peggy Blair and Gaylyn Haynes. Following the round of golf, the women enjoyed lunch on the patio overlooking the spectacular gem that is The Battlefield! Special thank you to Linda Ballard and Susan Jones for the yummy cupcakes that were a perfect ending to a beautiful day. Linda and Susan have done a fantastic job as the 2023 sports co-chairs. They are tasked with organizing the formats, tee times, pairings, determining winners, etc... each Monday! (They just might be looking forward to a couple of months "off" before re-upping in 2024!)

The SLWGA Fall Brunch on Saturday, November 4 will mark the official culmination of the season. The membership meeting segment will elect new officers for 2024. Then individual awards for 2023 will be presented. In addition to the meal and meeting, members can order uniform pieces as well as pay dues for next year. Regardless of the level of one's golf skills and experience, SLWGA welcomes and encourages any Shangri-La members to come and join us in 2024!

"Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots; you get good breaks from bad shots—but you have to play the ball where it lies." Bobby Jones



SLWGA members recently joined forces to take on The Battlefield as the 2023 season will soon come to an end.



No, it's not a Barbie Party! Golfing for the cure and honoring friends and family members battling cancer are some SLWGA 9-hole players.



"Pretty in Pink!" SLWGA 18-hole players honored friends or family members battling cancer as they recently golfed for the cure.

Member Profile: Rami and Benée Masri

By Mike Williams



Rami and Benée Masri: totally committed to continued growth and development of the Grand Lake community.

Benée Masri has lifelong Grand Lake roots. She grew up at Grand Lake and graduated from Grove High School before furthering her education at the University of Oklahoma. Her grandfather, Don Young, was the first Golf Pro at the original Shangri-La Resort and helped build the original golf courses in 1970. Her father, Bob Corlett, worked with Charles Davis, the founder of the original Shangri-La Resort, and is the original founder of Shangri-La Realty, established 45 years ago. Ironically, it is her husband, Rami, who now heads up the iconic Island real estate company; and Rami's route to Grand Lake was significantly more circuitous.

His father came to the United States from Palestine in 1957 to study at Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State University). That's where he met Rami's mother, Sharon Myers from Wewoka. They married and moved back to Jordan where Rami was born. In 1970, civil war in the country brought the family back to Wewoka, Oklahoma, where Rami's grandparents lived; but in '72, they were on the move again, first to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia then back to Jordan. When the curriculum at the American Embassy schools ran out after the ninth grade, it was either off to boarding schools or move again. They moved again.

"Mom took my older brother, younger sister and me back to Norman, so I finished high school at Norman High and went on to OU," Rami says. "That's where I met Benée. We dated all through college, and married about three years after college, right here at Shangri-La, out on the point behind the old lodge. Our reception was at the conference center."

In 1999, the young Masri family was living in Tulsa with a plan to call Tulsa their home for life. Rami was traveling the world doing International Contract Training for different airlines and military forces on behalf of Tulsa-based Spartan School of Aeronautics (now Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology).

"My father-in-law was contemplating selling Shangri-la Real-

ty," Rami reflects. "I thought, 'Hey, if he sells that company, my children may lose that connection to Grand lake that was so important to us,' so I told Benée we needed to buy the company and move to the lake."

"I was a little reluctant," Benée recalls. "We had great jobs, I was very comfortable, the kids were in great schools, we lived in what I considered to be my dream home, and I had grown accustomed to the convenience of city life. I wasn't sure about moving back here. In retrospect, of course, I'm so glad we did. Life here is a little 'Mayberry-ish,' and I love that. There are a lot less social pressures on kids, I think."

There was no uprooting career plans for Benée, who continues to work for Kentucky-based printer manufacturer Lexmark International. She has only one client – but it's a good one. She is Global Account Manager for Wal-Mart, placing and managing printers in all Wal-Mart stores, offices and home office operations throughout the entire United States and most of the world. International work for Benée is spread around the world – China, South Africa, Chile, India, Canada, Mexico, and five Central American countries.

"It's not as exciting as it sounds," she laughs. "I just made a trip to Chile. I left on Wednesday, had meetings Thursday & Friday before flying home – but I made it to Norman in time for the Saturday morning kick-off. It was the first OU game for our little six-week-old granddaughter!"

For Rami, however, the career path change was dramatic. He got his Real Estate License and, in 2002, the family moved to Monkey Island.

"I started working as a salesperson for Bob (Corlett) in a small office across the street from our current Monkey Island location," Rami said. "We only had three agents, and I knew three agents were not going to cover the overhead of the new building we're in now."

"When I finally bought the company, I brought the national Coldwell Banker brand to the company, purchased several other real estate companies, opened a second office in Grove and another at a development on south Grand Lake, the Polo Club."

Rami also opened and operates Lake Locations, a Vacation Rental/Property Management Company, and a Concierge Service out of the Monkey Island office. He has also developed and built many custom homes on Grand Lake, but his development focus has now shifted to help meet a dramatic need throughout the Grand Lake area – short-term housing options, one and two-bedroom Class A apartments.

He is the founder of S.T.A.R. (Short Term Apartment Residences) Living. His initial project was the 72-unit Baycrest Apartments in Grove. He plans to break ground on a 96-unit Monkey Island property within the next three months (behind Dollar General) and has already hosted an organizational meeting for a similar project in Miami. His goal is to have S.T.A.R. housing facilities in place in Miami, Vinita, and Pryor within the next three years; but their home base of operations will always be Monkey Island – and Shangri-La Resort where they share so much history.

"The rebuilding of Shangri-La has had a big impact on the excitement and enthusiasm on Monkey Island," says Benée. "Eddy Gibbs has been a Godsend to this area. We cannot give him enough praise for what he has done."

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Anchor Activity

by Shaun Tune, Director of Anchor Operations



The Anchor crew was dressed and ready for the arrival of a record number of ghouls & goblins at the 2023 Anchor Halloween Party.

On the heels of our Spooktacular Halloween fun at The Anchor, we are gearing up for a very busy November. As we wrap up World Series Coverage, we're kicking off the month with "Bedlam at The Anchor." In celebration of what may be the last Bedlam game between OU and OSU (at least for a while), Coach Kerr starts the fun Friday evening, November 3 with a Bedlam Pickleball Mixer. Then Saturday, November 4 we'll have another great Hooray Grill Bedlam Tailgate & Watch Party for the big game. The Anchor is ALWAYS the prime sport for watching sporting events – but November 4 is going to be a really big day!

Mary Bulten Memorial Fall Open Pickleball Tournament

On Bedlam weekend, the Racquet Club will be especially busy. The Mary Bolten Memorial Fall Open Pickleball Tournament will be held Saturday and Sunday, November 4-5. Play starts at 8:00 a.m. with Men's and Women's Doubles competition Saturday, November 4, and Mixed Doubles competition on Sunday, November 5. Entry fee is \$50 per person.

If the weather doesn't cooperate, don't worry. The dome will be open for this fantastic tournament in honor of the late Mary Bulten, one of our most loyal pickleball enthusiasts. If you haven't already signed up for this great tournament, stop by the Racquet Club Pro Shop or email Coach Kerr at todd.kerr@shangrilaok.com.

Yes, We'll Have all the Thanksgiving Weekend Football Action – Including Thanksgiving Day!

The Anchor arcade activity park and sports bar normal hours of operation are now 4:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 4:00 p.m.-midnight Friday, 10:00 a.m.-midnight Saturday, and 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Sunday – but you don't have to worry about having nothing exciting to do for Thanksgiving!

Those hours of operation will *not* be in effect over the Thanksgiving Holiday. The Anchor will be open 10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Day for all the big "rivalry games" of the Nation-

al Football League – Green Bay at Detroit at 11:30, Washington at Dallas at 3:30, and San Francisco at Seattle at 7:15. Black Friday, we will be open from 10:00 a.m.-midnight so you won't miss the OU-TCU game at 11:00 a.m. As is normal for the weekend, we will also be open at 10:00 a.m. Saturday (OSU hosts BYU) and 11:00 a.m. Sunday (Chiefs at Las Vegas) on Thanksgiving weekend.

Tuesday Trivia Fun is Back!

For all our loyal trivia fans who have been in withdrawal over the summer months, Tuesday Trivia with Lee Lawson is back this month! Lee will host the Tuesday Trivia competition for two big nights, November 7 and 14 before taking a break for the Thanksgiving holiday. He'll be back for a couple of December nights of competition December 5 and 12 before breaking for the Christmas holidays – then it'll be an every-week event beginning in January. The competition starts at 7:00 sharp. Mark your calendar – and don't be late!

PGA Golf, College and NFL Football, NASCAR, Golf – Even Basketball!

NASCAR action wraps up on Bedlam Weekend with the NASCAR Cup Series Championship at 2:00 o'clock Sunday, November 5, but we'll have lots of college football every Thursday, Friday & Saturday. The NFL season is in full swing, too, with games Thursday, Sunday, and Monday (and yes, we have Prime Video for those Thursday night games).

A new season of PGA Golf is already underway and now – it's basketball season in the NBA. We'll have every OKC Thunder game on the sports screens for what looks to be a great season for our home state team.

It's a Big Month for Pickleball and Tennis Fun at The Racquet Club

There is a wide variety of November activity at The Anchor Racquet Club every week. We kick off the month Friday, November 3 with a fun S'Mores & Pours Bedlam Pickleball Mixer with a bar from 7:00-9:00 p.m. to kick off Bedlam weekend on the eve of the Mary Bulten Memorial Open Fall Tournament.

Pickleball drills are held Monday at 5:45 p.m., Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m., Thursdays at 5:45 p.m., Fridays at 9:00 a.m. and 5:45 p.m., and Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. (except November 4 when we host the Mary Bulten Memorial Fall Open Pickleball Tournament).

There are plenty of pickleball mixers, too - Mondays at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Level Up Mixer), Fridays at 7:00 p.m., and Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. (Level Up).

Tennis players are on the schedule, too, with open adult tennis drills Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday mornings at 11:00 a.m. We're not forgetting about younger players, either. We have Beginners Tennis Drills each Tuesday from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Middle School and High School tennis drills are held Tuesday evenings at 6:00, and Saturdays at 12:00 p.m.

Don't forget that fun Bedlam Mixer Friday, November 3 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Fun for the Entire Family

There are always plenty of entertainment options for the entire family – no matter what the weather. In November, we feature half-price arcade games every Wednesday – and half-price bar games every Friday. If you're not at The Anchor, you're not making the most of your leisure time! We are thrilled to be Grand Lake's total entertainment headquarters. I hope to see you soon at The Anchor!



We had a great turnout of “Lady Day Dinkers” for our inaugural two-day Pickleball Camp.



Colson Funderburk stole the show at The Anchor with his Tyrannosaurus Rex disguise.



Mia Miller and Tevanna Brackin took a break from the pumpkin painting to join in the karaoke fun at The Anchor Halloween party.



The Anchor is always the best place to catch your favorite sporting events. Don't forget the Bedlam Hooray Grill BBQ and Watch Party November 4.



Halloween fun isn't just for kids. The Racquet Club Halloween Costume Mixer was all about the big kids!



You never know what you might see at Shangri-La – like a collection of beautiful classic Duesenberg automobiles that accompanied a Duesenberg owners' group meeting at the resort.



Shangri-La President & CEO Barry Willingham stressed the incredible contributions of the Monkey Island Fire Department as he addressed players in the "Courage Under Fire Classic."



Shangri-La's Golf operations team in the "Courage Under Fire Classic" – Kenny Cole, Chad Dalton, John Lewis, and Ryan Dalton.



Former Broadway performer and Shangri-La member Ron Young opened the "Courage Under Fire Classic" with the National Anthem as members of the MIFD salute.



Golf Maintenance players also joined the "Courage Under Fire Classic" fun on the course – Zach Roach, Wes Jones, Ben Vernon, and Justin May.



Shangri-La Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a first class resort experience for our guests and members by consistently providing enjoyable recreation, a safe environment, and memorable vacation experiences. We strive to reach these goals by developing relationships, creating a sense of camaraderie and instilling pride through the delivery of exceptional products, a diversity of programs and engaging services.

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"It has impacted our entire family. Our boys really didn't play much golf until after they graduated from high school, but now they're addicted to golf because of the incredible development at Shangri-La – especially The Battlefield. They can't wait for any opportunity to bring their friends here to show them their 'home course.'

"It's not just the golf facilities at Shangri-La, though," she laughs. "My sister literally bought a house here because of the pickleball facilities at The Anchor!"

The couple raised all three of their boys at Grand Lake. All attended Grove schools and the University of Oklahoma. Bobby is now a petroleum engineer living in Oklahoma City and working for Tulsa-based Helmerich and Payne. Tarik con-

tinues to build on his OU roots as Sports Editor of the Norman Transcript. Trey is in Dallas working for the legendary McKinsey Consulting firm.

Somehow, both Rami and Benée find time and energy to give back to their Alma Mater, their community and their state. They maintain strong ties to the University of Oklahoma, and both have served on several foundation boards including the INTEGRIS Grove Hospital Foundation. Rami has also served as a member of the Grove School Board.

"Benée and I take great pride in our community," Rami says. "We are appreciative of the commitment shown by so many others, and we have been blessed by the incredible growth and development at Shangri-La and throughout the Grand Lake area. We want to do our part to give back what we can to help Grand Lake continue to grow and prosper!"



Shangri-La Hours of Operation

Golf Shop

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Championship Course Closed Monday
Battlefield Closed Tuesday & Wednesday

Turnhouse

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday
Closed Monday

Summit Restaurant & Buffalo Bar

4:00-9:00 p.m. Thursday & Sunday
4:00-10:00 p.m. Friday & Saturday
CLOSED MONDAY - WEDNESDAYS

Shangri-La Marina and Ship Store

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday
CLOSED Sunday

The Spa at Shangri-La

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday-Sunday

Canteen at The Battlefield

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Thursday-Monday
Closed Tuesday & Wednesday

Doc's Bar & Grill

At Shangri-La Resort Hotel

7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Friday & Saturday

The Anchor Activity Park

4:00-10:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
4:00 p.m.-midnight Friday
10:00 a.m.-midnight Saturday
11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Sunday

The Galley at The Anchor

4:00-10:00 p.m. Friday
11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Saturday
11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Sunday
CLOSED Monday-Thursday

The Monkey Grind

Monday-Thursday 7:00 a.m.-Noon
Friday-Sunday – 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Racquet Club at The Anchor

8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
8:00 a.m.-midnight Friday & Saturday