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# The Horizon

## *What's New at Shangri-La*



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December 2023

## College Bowl Season, Christmas Parties, New Year's Wine Dinner! It's a Month of Holiday Celebrations for Everyone at Shangri-La!

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



As we close out a fantastic record-breaking year at Shangri-La Resort, I want to offer my personal heartfelt "thank you" to our members, guests, civic groups, associations, corporations, wedding guests, and government entities for an absolutely unbelievably successful year.

The opening of The Battlefield 18-hole Par 3 course was a crowning accomplishment for 2023. This one-of-a-kind Par 3 Course has been featured in multi-

ple publications – *Golf Week Magazine*, *Golf Oklahoma Magazine*, *Texas Golf Insider*, *Destination Golfer*, *Midwest Golfing*, *Avid Golfer Magazine*, *USA Today*, *On The Links Magazine* (in both Texas and New Mexico editions), and *Club & Resort Business Magazine*; and has been successful far beyond our projections.

Our golf courses have been honored by *Golf Oklahoma Magazine* as "The Best Course

You Can Play in Oklahoma" and by *Golf Week Magazine* as "A Top Five Course in Oklahoma."

Our honors for the year weren't limited to golf, though. In addition to the resort being honored by the Grove Area Chamber of Commerce with their "Lake Life Award," The Anchor Activity Park was named the "Best New Attraction in Oklahoma" by the Oklahoma Travel Industry Association. It

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has been an incredible year, and I couldn't be more humbled by the reaction of our members, guests, trade associations, and the media reception to the hard work our team has put in over the last year.

As we look forward to a new year ahead, early scheduling of events for 2024 foretell an even bigger year on the near horizon. I couldn't be more grateful for our incredible team at each of the varied venues – and our loyal members and guests who have made it all possible.

#### **Holiday Season at Shangri-La**

On the heels of the holiday season kick-off with Festivus, Thanksgiving, and our annual Black Friday Seafood Extravaganza, we have a full slate of Christmas and New Year's holiday celebrations at Shangri-La throughout the month of December. There is literally something for everyone including two special Sunday afternoon holiday sing-along performances with the talented *Terry Jordan* in the hotel lobby December 10 and 17 (2:00-5:00 p.m.) *Andre Jones & The Showstoppers* will also perform at the December 10 event and *David Bridges & The Message* will join *Terry* December 17 as we enjoy two Sunday afternoons of "A Grand Lake Holiday Celebration." This two-day event is free and open to the public. Complimentary appetizers will be served and a cash bar is available.

Additional holiday celebrations include a special "Brunch with Santa" at Doc's Bar & Grill from 10:00-2:00 Sunday, December 10 preceding the afternoon "Grand Lake Holiday Celebration" in the hotel lobby from 2:00-5:00. We have also scheduled a terrific Christmas Party for the entire Grand Lake community at The Anchor Friday evening, December 15 from 6:00-8:00 including photo opportunities with both Santa and Mrs. Claus, an ugly sweater contest, and Christmas karaoke fun. The same evening Coach Kerr and his team will host a Racquet Club Christmas Pickleball Mixer from 7:00-9:00.

As you plan your own holiday entertainment, there's no need to worry about holiday baking, either. Executive Pastry Chef Julie Morgan and her team offer Christmas Desserts-to-Go – your favorite holiday pies, cakes, and desserts prepared for your holiday guests as only Chef Julie can do it!

We'll wrap up the holiday season, of course, with our enormously popular members' New Year's Eve Wine Dinner at The Summit. If you haven't already made reservations for this fantastic annual event, be sure to do so soon.

We have a busy holiday schedule of food and fun, but all Shangri-La facilities except the resort hotel will be closed Christ-

mas Day to allow our staff to enjoy the holiday with their families.

#### **Holiday Fun All Month at Doc's, Too!**

Doc's Bar & Grill continues to offer special menus and entertainment through the month of December. In addition to the December 10 "Christmas Brunch with Santa," our Taco & Tequila Tuesdays offer a weekly special December 5 and 12 to get you warmed up for Tuesday Trivia with *Lee Lawson* at The Anchor on those dates, as well.

*Jason Morgan* continues the Thursday night Karaoke Fun each Thursday night throughout the months – and Friday night live entertainment at Doc's for the holidays includes great entertainers throughout the month – *Kevin Price, Mark Gibson, Ryan Graham, JR Neal, and Scott Musick.*

#### **A Great Month of Sports at The Anchor**

December is one of the biggest sports months of the year. It is undoubtedly the biggest football month of the year at The Anchor Sports Bar. We'll have all the big conference championship games to kick off the month, including the Big 12, Big 10, and SEC Championship games all on Saturday, December 2. December 16 is the first college football bowl game, and we'll have all 43 games culminating with the National Championship Monday night, January 8.

The Anchor will be open until midnight New Year's Eve, and the New Year's Day watch Party at The Anchor starts at 10:00 a.m. with coverage of the Reliaquest Bowl, Citrus Bowl, and Fiesta Bowl, followed by the two National Championship semi-final games at 4:00 (Rose Bowl) and 7:30 (Sugar Bowl).

It's a busy month for college and NBA basketball, as well. We have all the biggest games including OU, OSU, Arkansas, and Kansas games, as well as all the OKC Thunder games featured on the video walls at The Anchor.

#### **Watch for Winter Golf and Pool Competition**

We never take a break from the fun at Shangri-La, no matter what the season! Our Winter Pool League will soon be scheduling dates for competition at The Anchor; and Ryan Dalton is putting together plans for a January kickoff of the Winter Pool League in the Simulator Bay at The Anchor. Winter Golf League slots are open to the first 12 members to sign up. Play dates next month are on four Wednesdays, with a 6:00 p.m. tee time in the simulator bay January 3, 10, 17, and 24. To sign up, contact Ryan Dalton at [ryan.dalton@shangrilaok.com](mailto:ryan.dalton@shangrilaok.com).

**Enjoy "The Dome" for**

#### **Pickleball & Tennis Fun in the Dome!**

If you're looking for some fun exercise options to keep those holiday treats from adding to your waistline, there is plenty of fun on the calendar at the Racquet Club. Our coaches will take a holiday break December 19-25 but, aside from those seven days, there is plenty of pickleball and tennis fun on the agenda.

Pickleball Drills are held each Monday at 5:45, Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., Thursday at 5:45, Friday at 9:00 a.m. and 5:45 and Saturday mornings at 9:00.

Pickleball Mixers are set for Mondays at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Level Up), and Saturday mornings at 9:00.

Tennis players have lots of options, as well, with Beginner Lessons each Tuesday at 5:00, followed by Middle School and High School drills at 6:00 and Adult drills at 7:00. Saturdays, Adult Tennis Drills are at 9:00 a.m. and Middle School/High School drills at noon.

There's no need to worry about the weather at Shangri-La's Racquet Club. Our huge dome provides comfortable indoor play no matter what obstacles the weather presents!

#### **Keeping Up with Linda Wall**

Many of our thoughtful and compassionate members have asked for an address to send a card or letter to Linda Wall during her absence from the resort. We now have a box at the front desk of the hotel for mail to Linda. If you would like to reach out to her, please drop your card or letter at the hotel, and we'll be sure she gets it. I know she will appreciate hearing from you.

#### **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

The holiday season is officially here. It is a wonderful time of year for all of us to pause and celebrate friends, family, and the blessings we all enjoy in this great country. At Shangri-La, we want to show our appreciation and gratitude to our members, guests, and the Grand Lake community with a variety of fun, relaxing holiday celebrations.

Thank you for your support, your patronage, and your friendship through the years. We hope you will join us often at Shangri-La Resort throughout the holiday season and as we begin a new year together. Our team is always here for you and your guests any time you have the sudden urge to Escape the Ordinary.

# Culinary Conversation



We'll have a selection of complimentary appetizers and a cash bar as Terry Jordan leads the Christmas Carol sing-along fun on two big Sunday afternoons at our "Grand Lake Holiday Celebration" – December 10 and 17 from 2:00-5:00 in the resort hotel lobby.

November was a terrific month for the Shangri-La Food & Beverage Team. We had a lot of catering for group events and holiday parties, as well as a fabulous turnout for our Thanksgiving Day Dinner at Doc's and the always-popular Black Friday Seafood Extravaganza at The Summit. So, with one holiday in the rearview mirror, we're looking ahead to a wild month of celebrations in December.

## A FABULOUS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT DOC'S AND THE HOTEL LOBBY

Mark your calendars right now because you don't want to miss the holiday fun December 10. Santa himself will be on hand at Doc's Bar & Grill for a fabulous "Christmas Brunch with Santa" from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 10.

We have a fabulous menu planned including an Action Station with preparation of Omelets and Eggs Any Style, a Carving Station offering Prime Rib and Glazed Ham with assorted rolls, an amazing Display Station with Shrimp Cocktail, Smoked Salmon, Fruits and a Cheese & Charcuterie Display with a variety of cheeses, olives, pickled vegetables, dried fruits and fresh berries – and all that is before you get to the main event! Our buffet will include Assorted Breakfast Pastries, Biscuits & Sausage Gravy, Steak House Hash, Mushroom & Feta Frittatas, Cream Cheese Baked French Toast, Applewood Bacon & Sausage Links, and Biscuits & Sausage Gravy. Still hungry? Executive Pastry Chef Julie Morgan is planning a wide array of assorted desserts to top off a fabulous meal. Cost is \$45 for adults, \$20 for children age 3-12.

### WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

When the buffet ends at 2:00 p.m., you'll want to stick around for the first of two Sunday afternoons of Christmas celebration in the Resort Hotel

lobby. Our incredible members Jack and Nancy Adkisson continue their sponsorship of two fun Sunday afternoons of "A Grand Lake Holiday Celebration" with Christmas carol sing-along fun with the talented Terry Jordan at the keyboards. This is a free event that is open to the public with a festive way to kick off the holiday season.

We'll offer complimentary appetizers and beverages along with an available cash bar. There are two Sundays of this great celebration – December 10 and 17 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. At the first Sunday celebration, December 10, Terry Jordan will be joined by Andre Jones & The Showstoppers from Grove High School for a special performance; and on December 17, he'll be joined by David Bridges & The Message.

Tune up your vocal cords and plan to join us both Sunday afternoons for the perfect "Grand Lake Holiday Celebration!"

### ORDER YOUR HOLIDAY DESSERTS

Nothing makes the holidays more perfect than fabulous desserts from Executive Chef Julie Morgan's kitchen. She has a wide array of desserts to make any holiday party perfect – or to top off your holiday dinner. Julie's offerings for this holiday season include a three-layer Christmas Red Velvet Cake (8" cake, serves 16-20) for \$60, a three-layer York Peppermint Patty Cake (8" cake, serves 16-20) for \$60, a nine-inch Eggnog Brulee Cheesecake (serves 12) for \$60, a 10-inch Double Layer Coconut Cream Pie (serves 12-18) for \$50, and a Croquembouche – a Christmas tree-shaped stack of caramelized cream puffs (12-16 servings or approximately 4 dozen cream puffs) for \$75. To order any of Julie's special desserts, contact her via email at [julie.morgan@shangrilaok.com](mailto:julie.morgan@shangrilaok.com).

### NEW YEAR'S EVE MEMBERS' WINE DINNER

One of our most popular member events of the year is on the final day of the year – our New Year's Eve Wine Dinner. We've gone all out again this year, preparing a very special five course dinner menu with the perfect wine pairings to ring in the new year.

Our wine dinner on New Year's Eve is served from 6:00-10:00 p.m. allowing you plenty of time to make it to your favorite spot for midnight celebrations after an incredible evening of fine dining.

Our menu for this year's celebration begins with a first course of Blue Crab Salad – Lump Crab Meat, Fresh Pineapple, Fresh Mango, Green Onion, Cilantro, Ginger, Lemon, Crostini paired with Carboniste Brut Rosé Sparkling Wine.

Next is the second course featuring a Gem Lettuce Winter Salad with Roma Tomato, Watermelon Radish, English Cucumber, Red Peppers, Lemon, Mint, and Garlic topping the Gem Lettuce and paired with Folktales Chardonnay wine.

The third course of Chili Gremolata Halibut – Grilled Halibut, Crushed Chili Gremolata, and Roasted Garlic Polenta – will be paired with Stewart Pinot Noir.

The main course features a Prime Bone-In Ribeye – Grilled Beef Tenderloin, Sautéed Wild Mushrooms, Fingerling Potato Coins, Charred Leeks, and a Charred Blood Orange Demi – perfectly paired with a Coquille Cabernet Sauvignon.

To top off a perfect meal, Chef Julie adds Black Out Cake – Black Cocoa Chocolate Cake, Fresh Berries, and Fresh Whipped Cream – capped with a Vermillion Red Blend Wine.

The \$175 per person cost of this festive event includes both the special dishes and the wine offerings. Make your reservations early, though. This event is always a sell-out. Enjoy.

### HOURS OF OPERATION FOR FOOD AND FUN

We will continue to have weekly live entertainment at Doc's during the month of December. Jason Morgan leads the karaoke fun every Thursday night from 6:00-9:00; and Friday night entertainers from 7:00-10:00 this month include Kevin Price, Mark Gibson, Ryan Graham, JR Neal, and Scott Musick.

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.

The Summit Restaurant offers full dinner service Thursday-Sunday including dinner service open to the public on Sunday evenings (except New Year's Eve).

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. We hope you will join us for our great holiday offerings. We're always cooking up something!



# Dock Talk

by Mitch Whitehead, Shangri-La Marina Manager



We were privileged to host the Oklahoma Marina Association Annual Conference at Shangri-La last month. Pictured are Shangri-La's Mike Williams, Vice-President of the Association, with Executive Director Lori Mosler and OMA President Judy Florida.

Winter officially arrives on the calendar at 9:27 p.m. Thursday, December 21 – but it has already arrived at Shangri-La Marina. The marina has been winterized. There is no water on the docks and pump-out facilities have been winterized for the season.

If you haven't already done so, and your boat isn't equipped with bilge heating systems for winter boating, it's past 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 you have been holding off to use your boat in the December 9 Christmas Lights Boat Parade, be sure you are scheduled for winterization immediately afterward. If you are not planning to winterize, please be sure we are aware so we can keep an extra eye on it when the weather gets unbearable.

If your boat is in Shangri-La Marina, contact Nichols Marine at 918-257-5500 to schedule your winterization. This is also the perfect time to schedule any service or repair work you might need to make sure your boat is ready when springtime strikes.

## SHIP STORE HOURS – AND OUR HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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. We will continue our six-day-a-week hours of operation throughout the winter - Monday-Saturday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. – with the exception of the two upcoming holiday weekends.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Shangri-La Marina will be closed Saturday-Monday, December 23-25 and again Saturday-Monday, December 30-January 1 to allow our crew some time to enjoy the holidays with their families.

## GET READY – IT'S BOAT SHOW TIME!

Boat fever began with the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show last month, and Grand Lakers are already getting the itch for newer and bigger options. Mark your calendars for the two biggest boat shows of the year – The Oklahoma Boat Expo at Tulsa's Cox Convention Center January 5-7 and the Oklahoma City Boat & RV Show at the Bennett Event Center at the OKC Fairgrounds January 12-14.

The Nichols Marine crew will be on hand with the biggest display of new boat options at each show – Chaparral, Bennington, Robalo, MasterCraft and a great selection of bass boats, as well. The big January boat shows provide a great opportunity to pick your favorites from all the Nichols locations – Shangri-La, Monkey Island, Tulsa, Norman, McAlester and Longview, TX.

## 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 souvenirs, apparel, caps, hats, and footwear, along with a full line of boating supplies. It's a great place to wrap up your Christmas shopping with some unique and memorable gifts.

## 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 posting 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."

The weekly musical entertainment is a year-round offering at Doc's. Jason Morgan hosts great karaoke fun every Thursday night, and the December lineup of live entertainment on Friday nights at Doc's includes Kevin Price, Mark Gibson, Ryan Graham, JR Neal, and Scott Musick.

## SPORTING EVENTS AND TRIVIA AT THE ANCHOR... BY BOAT!

The Anchor is also within walking distance of our courtesy docks with lots of indoor fun seven days a week, so plan to come join the fun – even by boat! With Winter hours of operation in effect, The Anchor doesn't open until 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, but the fun starts at 10:00 on Saturday mornings and 11:00 on Sundays – and great bar snacks are available from The Galley Friday-Sunday.

College football bowl season begins December 16 with full coverage of all 43 bowl games on the multiple sports screen. Add in NFL football coverage, NBA coverage, and college basketball coverage – and that leaves no doubt in your mind. The Anchor is THE place to be!

Tuesday Trivia with Lee Lawson is back at The Anchor December 5 and 12 before taking a holiday break for Christmas and New Year's. Trivia fun returns January 9 and continues every Tuesday night throughout the months of January and February – and you have access to all of it by boat at Shangri-La!

## ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS!

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 winter boating. If you have questions, contact us at 918-257-4898 or email [marina@shangrilaok.com](mailto:marina@shangrilaok.com).

## Staff Spotlight: Bogey

by Communications Director Mike Williams



*It's a Ruff Life for Bogey, Shangri-La's Director of Golf Course Control.*

Before you start longing for “a dog’s life,” perhaps you should take a look into a day on the job for a working dog. A workday for “Bogey,” whose title is either “Director of Golf Course Control” or “Golf Course Dog,” depending on his performance at any given time, involves fifteen miles a day of running the course, chasing geese, arguing with the other dogs on Shangri-La Golf Club’s canine crew, or working under the strict supervision of Golf Course Superintendent Justin May.

“Bogey is worth about \$3,500,” Justin laughs. “The \$50 I paid for him and the \$3,000 in vet bill since then.”

A rescue Border Collie, Bogey has seniority among the Shangri-La Golf Course Canine Crew. He’ll soon be celebrating ten years on the job at Shangri-La having joined the golf course crew as a mere pup in the winter of 2014 – and has worked like a dog ever since.

Like many employees in lots of places, Bogey doesn’t always stick to his assigned tasks.

“He checks the level in the water hazards,” Justin moans. “And he’s a regular at the Turn House trying to run quality control tests on the bacon; but he’s really supposed to be keeping geese off the golf course. That’s how he got the name ‘Bogey.’ Sometimes he just doesn’t stay focused enough to make things happen exactly like he should. Just like our players, when things don’t go exactly like they should, you end up with a bogey. That’s how he got his name,” Justin grins.

Bogey is a favorite with the staff and members at Shangri-La. He waits obediently on Justin’s golf cart while meetings are going on. In his younger years, Bogey was out of his seat and off and running the instant Justin fired up

his golf cart – always trying to stay ahead of Justin and leading him where he’s supposed to go.

“That’s where those vet bills came in,” Justin says. “He still works out like a pup some of the time. He starts and stops and darts and dodges so much, he has historically had some problems getting run over. But he’s always been right back at work.”

If you are not familiar with the four-legged “Director of Golf Course Control” job description, it involves working in the stifling heat and the crippling cold, year-round. Pay is embarrassingly low, but benefits are plentiful – all meals and snacks (including bacon) are provided, along with 100% paid medical and dental. Full room & board is paid, and transportation to and from work is provided daily. Breaks are provided for naps during the workday. Living expenses are provided including wardrobe care.

As Shangri-La’s golf operation has expanded over the past decade, Bogey has built a staff and assumed more of a supervisory role. “Duke” recently left the staff to undertake a new job at Rose Creek in Edmond, but Bogey has four remaining staffers. Onslow takes care of responsibilities on the “Old Blue” course including the task of making sure no golf balls remain in the native hazards. Birdie works the Heritage Nine, keeping golf cart seats warm and watching for intrusive geese. Ace takes on the same assignment on Champions Nine and Bear works in both Maintenance (making sure the shop floor doesn’t have crumbs on it and cleaning up leftovers in the break room) and Food & Beverage as both the official greeter and “bus dog” making certain there are no messy leftovers laying around.

In his supervisory role over the canine crew, Bogey is an experienced and capable leader, but he is a dog of few words. After enough snacks were found, we persuaded Bogey to share a few of his thoughts about life as a Golf Course Control supervisor at Shangri-La.

His favorite part of the golf course to search for those pesky geese?

“Ruff!”

How would he describe his job?

“Ruff!”

How about life as a dog under the guidance of Golf Course Superintendent Justin May.

“Ruff!”

If you’re on the golf course or around the club house, you will undoubtedly see Bogey. And yes, he accepts tips. Preferably...bacon.





# SLWGA News

*Submitted by Cheryl Brecheisen*

And that's a wrap! As the trees lose their leaves and the temperatures gradually fall, the SLWGA ladies closed out the 2023 season on November 4 with their annual awards brunch.

President Peggy Howard-Burgess thanked the many members who served on the board and chaired various committees and events throughout the year. The nominating committee then presented a slate of officers for approval for the 2024 season. The new board members are: President-Barbara Patrick, Vice President-Candy Couch, Treasurer-Carol Cable, Secretary-Cheryl Brecheisen, 18-Hole Sports Chair-Linda Ballard, 9-Hole Sports Chair-Susan Jones, Publicity-Peggy Blair and Kim Quillin, Member at Large-Melissa Scribner, Away Golf Chair-Judi Barber and Past President-Peggy Howard-Burgess. Many thanks to these ladies for their support and leadership!

Congratulations to the 2023 SLWGA "Performer of the Year", "Most Improved," and "Ringer" winners!

## "PERFORMER OF THE YEAR"

9-Hole Winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Susan Jones

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Jan Castelli

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Gaylyn Haynes

4<sup>th</sup> Place Tie: Debbie Hess & Peggy Howard-Burgess

18-Hole Winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Peggy Blair

2nd Place: Barbara Patrick

3rd Place: Judi Barber

4th Place: Cheryl Brecheisen

## "MOST IMPROVED"

9-Hole Winner: Jan Castelli

18-Hole Winner: Vicki Graper

## "RINGER" AWARDS

18-Hole Winners

Low Gross Tie: Linda Ballard & Ann Turner

Low Net: Vicki Graper

9-Hole Winners

Low Gross Tie: Susan Jones & Kim Quillin

Low Net: Becky Brock

Until next year.....Fairways and Greens!



SLWGA's Judi Barber presents a check to Grove High School Girls' Golf Coach Zach Trimble as part of SLWGA's support of the golf program.



(Left) Congratulations to Peggy Blair who was the "Top Performer" of the 18-hole group in 2023!

(Right) Susan Jones was named the SLWGA "Top Performer" in 2023 9-hole division.



## Member Profile: Shelby & Kira McDonald

By Mike Williams



*Shelby & Kira McDonald: Their love of Grand Lake resulted in Monkey Island business ownership.*

Shelby and Kira McDonald's lives have been intertwined since they were 15 years old – so intertwined, in fact, that each participated in the other's wedding ceremony. It wasn't until 2007, though, that they participated together in second wedding for both – this time as both bride and groom!

Shelby and Kira both grew up relatively close to each other, Shelby in Coffeyville, Kansas and Kira in nearby Edna. Shelby graduated from Field Kindley High School in Coffeyville, slightly altering his career plans due to an unsettling experience in a high school math class.

"I tentatively planned to become an engineer. I loved math until I had a bad experience with a math teacher. I just lost interest because I didn't want my life to be like it was in that class; so I dropped my engineering plans and turned my attention to construction," he says.

After attending welding school right out of high school, Shelby became a third-generation pipefitter. He is still a member of Local 441 in Wichita.

He worked jobs throughout the country as a pipefitter before returning to Kansas, accepting a job at Logan & Company, a thriving construction company established in 1985. The company is a general contracting firm specializing in heavy industrial jobs - refineries, power plants, mechanical work, heavy equipment, general contractors. After ten years on the job, he bought the company.

"My boss told me he was going to shut down the company," Shelby recalls. "Kira and I had just bought a house at Grand Lake. It wasn't a good time to be out of work, so I bought the company. It was scary at the time, but it's the best thing I've ever done."

"He can build or fix anything," Kira says with pride.

"If I only had the time," Shelby laughs. "Work interferes with my plans sometimes."

Kira grew up rodeoing and showing horses. After graduating from Labette County High School she went to Oklahoma State University.

"After a couple of years at OSU, my dad became ill, so I moved back home. Then life got in the way," she laughs. "I got married & had a couple of kids."

After life "got out of the way," Shelby and Kira married in 2007. Kira went back to school and got her teaching degree. After teaching Middle

School for eight years in Coffeyville, she took on teaching high school Algebra II, Honors Algebra II, and Algebra III in Parsons, Kansas.

"I love math. I love teaching, and I love my kids," Kira says. This year, however, will be her last as a teacher. This time, it wasn't just "life" that got in the way – it was "life at Grand Lake!"

"I had been coming to the lake for years to visit my sister," she says. "Then I got involved in a lot of stuff Joyce Duke was putting on at Shebang and Big Shots – the Kroakoff, Suckoff, Old Coots Talent Show – all of Joyce's wild events. She always persuaded me to perform with my two sisters. I obviously fell in love with the lake."

"Kira brought me to the lake," Shelby says, "and I fell in love with the area, as well. In 2014, we bought a house in Padley Point on Monkey Island, just two doors down from Kira's sister."

At one time, ironically enough, that first home they purchased at Grand Lake belonged to Larry and Joyce Duke. This year, the combination of Grand Lake's attraction and Joyce Duke's persuasion, the McDonald commitment to the lake became complete.

"We were out at Big Shots one night and we saw Joyce Duke," Shelby says. "She had just leased The Shebang, and she said, 'now, if you kids would just buy this bar it would be perfect.' I told Joyce to call me the next day when I hadn't been drinking."

"I was never on board with the idea. I want to make that clear," Kira says.

"Joyce contacted me the next day and asked me how serious I was," Shelby continues. "I showed her my phone where I had already typed up an offer."

In April, Shelby and Kira became the new owners of Big Shots Rhythm & Booze, perhaps Grand Lake's most popular night club.

"Shelby told me our lives wouldn't change because we had a manager at the club who could control it," Kira says. "I knew better. My parents owned a restaurant. I knew we would be married to it. We're both control freaks and I'm a perfectionist...so now...it's controlling us. I guess I have to be on board now!" she laughs.

Changes at Big Shots are already taking place. Nights of operation have already expanded to Thursday-Saturday instead of just Friday & Saturday. Entertainment has expanded to include karaoke on Thursday nights and live entertainment once of twice a month. A popular VIP room has been added for groups wanting more privacy and personal attention.

"I'm trying to raise median age of the crowd," Kira says. "I've started with the music... every third or fourth song is a country song. My goal is to make it where locals are comfortable. The young people will come in the summer, but we want people of every age to be comfortable. I'd like to start opening earlier in the evening, too. It's a process."

"Joyce Duke told us from the very beginning, 'you kids are going to have so much fun.' We asked her the other day about making money. She thought a minute, and said, 'you kids are going to have so much fun!'"

Shelby and Kira have lots bigger plans for Big Shots, too. They will begin a remodeling process this month,

Continued on page 12...



## Anchor Activity

by Shaun Tune, Director of Anchor Operations



*Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand to greet all-comers at the Annual Anchor Christmas Party Friday, December 15 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.*

December is a party month at The Anchor. I hope you will make plans to bring your friends and family to join us Friday evening, December 15 for our annual Anchor Christmas Party from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We will have treats, special discounts on our holiday drinks, an ugly sweater contest and plenty of opportunities for photographs with both Santa and Mrs. Claus, as well.

Our fun holiday drinks will be discounted significantly during the Christmas Party. Try our Yule Mule (\$4), Frost Bite (\$5) and Grinch (\$4). These discount prices are good only during the party, but the holiday drinks are available throughout the season.

For pickleballers, Coach Kerr also has a special Christmas Pickleball Mixer that same evening from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The fun doesn't end with Christmas celebrations, though. We also have a special holiday schedule for New Year's.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Anchor will be closed Saturday, December 9 from 8:30-11:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 16 from 6:30-10:30 for previously scheduled private parties.

Even though New Year's Eve is on Sunday, we know you'll want to come ring in the new year with us. So, instead of our normal 10:00 p.m. closing time on Sundays, we will be open until midnight – or later – on New Year's Eve.

We also have special hours on New Year's Day, even though it is on a Monday this year. Because New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday, the NFL has taken up most of the sports schedule so the biggest bowl games which are normally held on New Year's Eve will actually be played on New Year's Day this year. We will open at 10:00 a.m. Monday, January 1 and remain open until midnight to capture the day's college football bowl game action. New Year's Day games begin at 11:00 a.m. with the Reliaquest Bowl followed by the Citrus Bowl and Fiesta Bowl (both at noon). The two national championship semi-final games will wrap up the day with the Rose Bowl

kickoff at 4:00 and the Sugar Bowl following at 7:30. The National Championship game is scheduled for 6:30 on Monday, January 8. Plan to enjoy the entire New Year's Holiday Weekend at The Anchor!

**There's MORE! College and NFL Football – and Basketball!**

December is arguably one of the year's biggest months for sports – and The Anchor is the only place you can catch all the action, even if your favorite teams have overlapping schedules. Our two giant video walls and multiple smaller sports screens allow us to catch all the action for you.

Saturday, December 2 is the first gigantic day. The Big XII Championship game kicks off at 11:00 a.m. followed by Alabama and Georgia facing off for the SEC Championship at 3:00. The Big Ten Championship kickoff is set for 7:00. The PAC 12 Championship game is the night before – Friday, December 1 at 7:00.

The Championship games are just the beginning of a crazy month of college football at The Anchor. December 16 is the first college football bowl game, and we'll have all 43 games culminating with the National Championship Monday night, January 8.

NFL action is fast and furious throughout the month, as well. Every team is working hard to make the playoffs beginning January 13. We'll have all the critical games throughout the month including every Chiefs game and every Cowboys game.

The Oklahoma City Thunder are catching attention from fans throughout the country. The Anchor spotlights the Thunder games in addition to a variety of OU, OSU and Arkansas college basketball action.

**Tuesday Trivia Fun is Back!**

We had incredible turnouts for our first two nights of Tuesday Trivia with Lee Lawson last month; and we have two more nights of competition this month – December 5 and December 12 – before taking a holiday break for Christmas and New Year's festivities! Trivia competition will be held every Tuesday night during the months of January and February. Mark your calendar for the ten upcoming Tuesday Trivia Dates. Competition begins at 7:00 p.m. – and don't be late!

**Sign Up Now for Winter Golf League Play**

It's not too early for members to get signed up for this year's Winter Golf League. We don't worry about the winter weather for the tournament because all the action takes place in the simulator bay at The Anchor utilizing our awesome Trackman golf. Only the first twelve players to sign up will get slots in the tournament which Ryan Dalton has scheduled for four Wednesday nights next month – January 3, 10, 17, and 24. If you're interested in Winter Golf League competition, email Ryan at [ryan.dalton@shangrilaok.com](mailto:ryan.dalton@shangrilaok.com).

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

We're not worried about winter weather for pickleball and tennis players, either. Our awesome dome is open for play during any kind of weather throughout



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the winter months.

There is plenty of fun on the calendar at the Racquet Club in addition to the Christmas Pickleball Mixer scheduled for Friday, December 15 from 7:00-9:00. Our coaches will take a holiday break December 19-25 but, aside from that holiday week, there is plenty of pickleball and tennis fun on the agenda.

Pickleball Drills are held each Monday at 5:45, Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., Thursday at 5:45, Friday at 9:00 a.m. and 5:45 and Saturday mornings at 9:00.

Pickleball Mixers are set for Mondays at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Level Up), and Saturday mornings at 9:00.

Tennis players have lots of options, as well, with Beginner Lessons each Tuesday at 5:00, followed by Middle School and High School drills at 6:00 and Adult drills at 7:00. Saturdays, Adult Tennis Drills are at 9:00 a.m. and Middle School/High School drills at noon.

#### **Fun for the Entire Family**

There are always plenty of entertainment options for the entire family – no matter what the weather. If you're not at The Anchor, you're not making the most of your holiday season leisure time! We are thrilled to be Grand Lake's total entertainment headquarters. I hope to see you soon at The Anchor!



*Transitioning from golf season to prime time football season the SLWGA 9-hole group recently welcomed a special guest to their lunch gathering. T Swift has nothing on these Travis Kelce fans!*



*Shangri-La's "Courage Under Fire Classic" golf tournament benefited the Monkey Island Fire Department to assist in the purchase of a new truck. A \$16,000 check was presented to MIFD Chief Carl Tesreau. Pictured are Shangri-La President & CEO Barry Willingham, Executive Chairman Jason Sheffield, PGA Director of Golf Rob Yanovitch, Chief Tesreau, Shangri-La General Manager Lance Funderburk and Director of Communications Mike Williams.*





Ron Young and Gary Brock were on hand for Shangri-La's Festivus fun, enjoying some snacks and beverages.



Becky Brock was ready to take advantage of huge Christmas shopping discounts at Shangri-La's annual Festivus Party.



Jack Adkisson had a chance to catch up with PGA Golf Professional Jerrod Neighbors at Shangri-La's annual Festivus party.



Jim and Lori Gray were on hand to enjoy all the festivities of Festivus!



Bill and Marnie Pettit rarely miss a Shangri-La event – and Festivus was no exception.



## Winners of the Inaugural Mary Bulten Memorial Open Pickleball Tournament at Shangri-La Racquet Club

### Mary Bulten Memorial Fall Pickleball Tournament 2023

#### 3.0 LADIES' DOUBLES WINNERS



1ST- BRANDY ISABELLA & NINA  
2ND- JULIE LONDAGIN & CAROL MILANOWSKI  
3RD- CHRISTI MAHAGAN & KELLY STOCKMAN



### Mary Bulten Memorial Fall Pickleball Tournament 2023

#### 3.0 MIXED DOUBLES WINNERS



1ST- ART & STACY ROSETE  
2ND- ERIC ESPONGE & CHRISTI MAHAGAN  
3RD- DUANE & ELLEN DOUGLAS



### Mary Bulten Memorial Fall Pickleball Tournament 2023

#### 3.5 LADIES' DOUBLES WINNERS



1ST- AMY MCCURDY & JAMIE RAINS  
2ND- MARLA KIUNTOUPIS & LIZ CONE  
3RD- CHERYL KLAHR & ROBIN RUSH



### Mary Bulten Memorial Fall Pickleball Tournament 2023

#### 4.0 MIXED DOUBLES WINNERS



1ST PLACE-  
KUMAR KRISHNAN & MARLA KIANTOUPIS



### Mary Bulten Memorial Fall Pickleball Tournament 2023

#### MEN'S DOUBLES WINNERS



1ST- DANIEL COLLINS & BEN ALLISON  
2ND- ROBERT BELL & LARRY HICKOCK  
3RD- CHRIS MIZZE & CALEB WILLIAMS



### Mary Bulten Memorial Fall Pickleball Tournament 2023

#### 3.5 MIXED DOUBLES WINNERS



1ST- ROBERT BELL & KELLY MCCOMBS  
2ND- DAVE & ROBIN RUSH  
3RD- SHAWN & CHERYL KLAHR





## 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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including plans for an outdoor venue.

"We just want to keep the wheels on the bus until we can get everything put together like we want it," she adds. "We certainly have big shoes to fill. We don't want to embarrass Joyce Duke – or ourselves!"

The McDonalds have totally embraced the Grand Lake lifestyle. They joined Shangri-La as members in 2015, right after they purchased their first home at the lake. Shelby, who played on his high school golf team, loves sharing the incredible golf courses at Shangri-La with his buddies. The resort offerings have expanded dramatically since they joined the club in 2014.

"There was basically the clubhouse, the Summit, and Eddy's when we joined. The hotel wasn't even built. Now there are so many options – and our kids are in their twenties now, so they are really glad we invested here," Shelby says.

They purchased another home in Monkey Island's Hidden Acres in 2018; and their love of Monkey Island has now resulted in business ownership. They were attracted by the fun on the Island – now they're keeping the ball rolling.

This will be Kira's last year teaching. She plans to spend full-time operating and expanding the offerings at Big Shots. It's not that they don't make time to continuing enjoying the fun, though.

They love boating. They have both a Formula 400SS and a "renovated" tritoon boat.

"It has plexiglass for walls and a little diesel heater," Shelby explains. "In my opinion, winter

boating on Grand Lake is the best boating! Once people go out with us in the winter, they realize how great it is – the sun beating through the plexiglass windows with the diesel heater on while we boat down to Mooney's & get a burger. It doesn't get better than that! I didn't really start enjoying the lake until I was in my 40s. I wish I had started earlier, but I'm making the most of it now."

"We're making the most of what Shangri-La and Grand Lake have to offer," adds Kira. "Nobody ever said, 'man, I wish I had worked that Saturday instead of going to the pool!' What's not to love about Grand Lake," she asks rhetorically. "Once they're here, I don't know why anyone would want to leave!"



## 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

Sunday-Saturday – 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