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The Horizon

What's New at Shangri-La 

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February 2024

Super Bowl, Singo, Karaoke, Live Entertainment, and Grand Lake's Biggest Valentine's Party Highlight a Busy February at Shangri-La

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



It won't be long before The Battlefield is in bloom again!

Despite a few difficult weather obstacles in January, the Shangri-La team is off and running with another fabulous year already underway. February is an especially busy month of celebration and fun with a variety of events – Super Bowl LVIII, The NBA All-Star Game, karaoke, SINGO, Trivia, live entertainment and, of course, Valentine's Day with some very special opportunities for celebration at Shangri-La!

CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY WITH A VARIETY OF CHOICES

With Valentine's Day on a Wednesday this year, it's a ten-day celebration at Shangri-La Resort. The Summit Restaurant will feature Valentine specials both the weekend before and the weekend

after the holiday – but on Wednesday, February 14, Shangri-La members will enjoy a fabulous Valentine Wine Dinner at The Summit. This incredible four-course dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. and features a delectable menu highlighted by an entrée of Seared Wagyu Center-Cut Sirloin, Shallot Confit, Roasted Root Vegetables, Shaved Black Truffle and Pomegranate Demi, with each course perfectly paired with a fabulous wine selection. Make your reservations early for this special evening (\$150 per person).

If you would rather add live music and an evening of dancing to your Valentine celebration, make your reservations

for the ultimate party of the season - our awesome "Valentine's in Black & White Gala" in the Roosevelt Ballroom of the resort hotel Saturday evening, February 17. This evening of great food and fun is open to the public and features the incredible show band "Hook" as well as an incredible dinner including Pear and Strawberry Salad, a Dry-aged 6-oz. New York Strip Filet with a 3 oz. Lobster Cake, topped off with Chef Julie's Bailey's Irish Coffee Cheesecake Bomb for dessert. Featured wine and Champagne will be available, as well as a cash bar.

The "Valentine's in Black & White Gala" kicks off at 6:00

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p.m. February 17, with dinner served at 6:30 and dancing beginning at 7:30. Cost is only \$75 per person – but if you want to plan an all-nighter, there's an even better offer – admission for two to the gala, plus a hotel room for the night for only \$279 (additional hotel night may be added for \$129). For reservations to this awesome mid-winter gala, contact Jessica Moosmiller at 918-257-7764 (Jessica.moosmiller@shangrilaok.com) or McKayla Rutherford at 918-257-7779 (mckayla.rutherford@shangrilaok.com).

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

With the college football and NFL playoffs behind us, there's only one big football party left for the season. As the perfect complement to Valentine celebrations, I hope you will be sure to join us at The Anchor, Grand Lake's ultimate sports destination, for our big Super Bowl LVIII Party Sunday, February 11. Kickoff is at 5:30, but the party runs all afternoon, so be sure to come early and join the excitement as we crown the winner of the NFL's final game of the year!

It's a busy month for college and NBA basketball, too, including the OKC Thunder games, the biggest games from around the country, the and the NBA All-Star Game Sunday evening, February 18. We'll have coverage of the biggest OU, OSU, Arkansas, and Kansas games featured on the video walls at The Anchor.

FUN ALL MONTH AT THE ANCHOR

The Anchor isn't just about sporting events, of course. There's plenty of fun for the entire family seven days a week at Grand Lake's most popular recreation venue.

Director of Anchor Operations Shaun Tune hosts Winter Pool League fun each Thursday this month at 7:00 p.m. You're welcome to come watch the best players on the lake and cheer on your favorite team.

Tuesday night is Trivia Night with *Lee Lawson* (7:00 p.m.) every week – and *Jason Morgan* leads the SINGO musical competition each Saturday night (6:00 p.m.).

There's some extra-special fun early in the month as the Racquet Club hosts Ladies Fun Day pickleball fun on February 5 – and a Skinny Singles Tournament on February 10. COW Week Pickleball 101 Clinics are February 18 for Middle School & High School players as well as a second clinic for adult players. We're always thrilled at the opportunity to help this great Grove High School group with their important charitable fundraising efforts – and with our heated dome, there's no need to worry about the weather. No matter what the forecast, the weather is perfect every day at The Racquet Club.

FOOD, FUN, AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT DOC'S

Doc's Bar & Grill is a lot more than Grand Lake's favorite restaurant stop for

three meals a day, seven days a week. It's also headquarters for great entertainment and some special opportunities to enjoy some very special offerings.

In addition to our popular "Tacos & Tequila Tuesdays," we are also offering some wonderful Wednesday night Chef's Specials to help delight your taste buds with a little mid-week break. Doc's is also the spot for great musical fun. Jason Morgan hosts karaoke every Thursday night at Doc's beginning at 6:00 p.m. – and Friday night means live entertainment every week at Doc's. February's Friday night line-up includes *R. Jay Smith*, *Rockwell*, *Scott Musick*, and *Chloe Johns*.

DON'T FORGET SHANGRI-LAW GOLF!

With the arrival of winter weather, PGA Head Golf Professional Jerrod Neighbors has once again implemented our most popular winter golf special – Shangri-Low Golf. It's simple. Just watch the temperature and pay a price equal to the low temperature on the day you play. If the early morning temperature is 25, but the Mercury rises to 55 degrees in the afternoon, you'll enjoy a pleasant afternoon on the course and pay \$25 for 18 holes. The special promotion continues through February, allowing you to enjoy a high time of afternoon golf, but the price you pay is...Shangri-Low!

SPREADING THE NEWS!

Our Shangri-La team loves reaching out to others who may not be aware of the variety of fun experiences at Grand Lake and Shangri-La. Last month, we began the year with a booth at the Oklahoma Boat Expo in Tulsa. In February, we'll be supporting one of our very favorite charities at the Home of Hope Chocolate Affair (February 7 at Craig County Fairgrounds). February 23-25, we'll be exhibiting at the Kansas City Golf Show at the Overland Park Convention Center. Wherever there's a chance to tell our story, we love to spread the news!

EXCITING ADDITIONS TO SHANGRI-LA'S LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are excited to welcome two fantastic new team members to our Food & Beverage Department. I hope you had the opportunity to meet the leadership of our F&B operations at our afternoon meet & greet at The Summit January 26. If you were there for a couple of hours of hors d'oeuvres and camaraderie, I'm sure you are as excited about their plans for the future as I am!

Todd Rodemyer joined our staff as Director of Food & Beverage last month – and John Havens II joins the team as Executive Chef and Director of Culinary Operations.

Chef John actually joined Shangri-La in mid-December, making his debut with a fabulous Members' New Year's Eve Wine Dinner. He came to us from Steamboat Springs, Colorado where he served as Executive Chef for multiple restaurant operations at Steamboat Resort; but he also brings international cuisine experience, having served as Corporate Chef and Head of Culinary Operations in Saudi Arabia and throughout the Middle East.

Todd Rodemyer came to us from El Paso, Texas where he directed oversight of eight operating venues at the 351 room Hotel Paso Del Norte, a Marriott Autograph Collection Hotel. He also served previously at a Great Wolf Lodge Resort; but he is not without international experience, as well, including service as Director of Food & Beverage at the United States Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan where he was responsible for oversight of six operating dining facilities and a full service catering operations at the Embassy. I can't tell you how excited I am about the experience and unique ideas these gentlemen bring to Shangri-La.

This month, I hope you will also watch for an opportunity to welcome Ryan Snyder, Shangri-La's new PGA Director of Golf. Ryan joins us from Lake Worth, Florida where he served most recently as Director of Golf Operations for Concert Golf Partners. He also served as General Manager and Regional Director of Operations for Stretch Zone in West Palm Beach, Florida and Director of Golf Operations for Boca Raton Resort & Country Club in Boca Raton, Florida.

I hope you share my excitement for the addition of these talented gentlemen to our leadership team as we continue to raise the bar at Shangri-La as strive for the ultimate experience for our members and guests.

We have some exciting plans on our agenda for 2024, and our continued growth and success would not be possible without our incredible members and guests. Thank you for your support, your patronage, and your friendship through the years. We hope you will join us often at Shangri-La Resort as we enjoy 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

by Todd Rodemyer, Director of Food & Beverage

I am excited to join the outstanding Food & Beverage Team at Shangri-La; and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to meet many of our members during the “Meet and Greet” at The Summit on January 26. I had a great time getting acquainted. My first month on the job has certainly been a busy one. Executive Chef John Havens and I have been busy working with our team to put together some fantastic culinary events at Shangri-La venues for the month of February. I hope you will take a minute to mark your calendars and make reservations for some terrific events.

VALENTINE MEMBERS WINE DINNER

The Summit Restaurant is not normally open on Wednesday evenings, but we are making a major exception on February 14 to provide our members with the opportunity to celebrate Valentines Day with a very special Members’ Wine Dinner at The Summit beginning at 6:00 p.m.

We have an extraordinary menu for this event – a four course dinner with each course perfectly paired with an outstanding wine. We will start with Lovers Bruschetta paired with Jean Baptiste Adam Cremant d’ Alsace Rosé, followed by our Ocean of Love with Ahi Tuna Tatar, Hass Avocado Purée, Carrot Slaw, Tobiko, Pickled Ginger, and a Crispy Wonton paired with Margerum MS White Blend wine.

Our main course, Cupid’s Land Romance, included a Wagyu Center Cut Sirloin, Shallot Confit, Roasted Root Vegetables, Shave Black Truffle, and Pomegranate Demi served with Smith Story “Pickberry Vineyard” Cabernet Sauvignon.

Chef Julie is preparing an appropriately names dessert – Fall in Love Decadence – Bourbon Caramelized Pear Pavlova, Ginger and Brown Sugar Baked Meringue layered with Fresh Whipped Cream and Bourbon Caramelized Pears, complemented by Chateau Gravas Sauternes.

Entertainment for the evening will be provided by Terry Jordan. This promises to be a wine dinner to remember, but space is limited. Cost is \$150 per person and reservations are required.

VALENTINES IN BLACK AND WHITE SHANGRI-LA GALA

On February 17, Shangri-La will host a truly spectacular gala that is open to the public, and promises to be a fantastic evening of dining and dancing without outstanding musical entertainment from the legendary show band “Hook.”

Cost for the Gala is just \$75 per person including a great meal of Pear and Strawberry Salad followed by a main course including a Dry Aged Petite 6 oz. New York Strip Filet and a 3 oz. Lobster Cake, White Truffle Mashed Potato, Broccolini, Sherry-Demi Cream Sauce, and Remoulade served with rolls and butter.

Chef Julie’s Bailey’s Irish Coffee Cheesecake Bomb – a Bailey’s Irish Cream Cheesecake Ball, Chocolate Cookie Crumble, Warm Mocha Sauce, and Fresh Berries – tops off a fabulous meal to be followed by a great evening of dancing to the music of one of the region’s most sought-after bands. A vegetarian option is available. A featured Wine and Champagne selection will be available, as well as a cash bar. The party begins with cocktails at 6:00, dinner at 6:30, dancing and entertainment from 7:30-11:00 p.m. in our Resort Hotel’s Roosevelt Ballroom.

For reservations, contact Jessica Moosmiller at 918-257-7764 (Jessica.moosmiller@shangrilaok.com) or McKayla Rutherford at 918-257-7779 (mckayla.rutherford@shangrilaok.com).

If you would like to make a full night of party fun, hotel reservations are available for those attending the Valentines in Black and White Gala for only \$129. Dinner for two and a room for only \$279 (additional hotel night available for an additional \$129).

SEVERAL NIGHTS OF VALENTINE SPECIALS

Both Doc’s Bar & Grill will offer Valentine specials throughout the holiday period. Summit Sweetheart Specials will be available both the weekend before and weekend after the Wednesday holiday. We want to make sure you and your special one have the opportunity to enjoy all that Shangri-La has to offer no matter what day is most convenient for your celebration.

The Special Valentine menu offering is a four- course meal including Burrata Caprese Salad, Poached Prawn, A Petit Filet with Crab Cracked & Stuffed Lobster, Tri-Colored Fingerling with Cognac Butter, and your choice of a Salted Caramel Crème Brûlée Tart or Warm Hazelnut Fondue for Two (\$150 per couple). Terry Jordan will be at The Summit Restaurant to entertain from 6:00-9:00 p.m. on multiple evenings, February 9, 10, 14, 16, 17, and 18.



Shangri-La Food & Beverage Director Todd Rodemyer



Members Caryl and Mark Blanchat were among many members welcoming Executive Chef John Havens and Food & Beverage Todd Rodemyer at the Members’ Meet & Greet at the Buffalo Bar January 26.

AND SUPER BOWL SUNDAY AT THE ANCHOR!

The Anchor is undoubtedly THE place to be for Super Bowl Sunday on February 11 – and we want to make sure it is an extra special experience. The Galley will be open with our regular menu, but we are raising the bar with a special all-you-can-eat buffet (\$35) for Super Bowl Party attendees at The Anchor. Kick-off is at 5:30, but you’ll want to be there early to get the party started!

FUN ALL MONTH AT DOC’S

We are adding a Wednesday Chef’s Special to the weekly calendar at Doc’s Bar & Grill, adding to a jam-packed schedule each week. With Taco & Tequila Tuesday, Chef’s Special Wednesdays, Karaoke Thursdays, and live entertainment Fridays, there’s always something happening at Doc’s! Friday night entertainers at Doc’s for February include R. Jay Smith, Rockwell, Scott Musick, and Chloe Johns. I hope you’ll come join the fun.

I am proud to join the great culinary crew at Shangri-La; and I am excited about the future. I 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 any of our varied Shangri-La venues. We’re always cooking up something!

Dock Talk

by Mitch Whitehead, Shangri-La Marina Manager



Shangri-La Marina Manager with Nichols Marine owner Gary Nichols greeting guests at the Oklahoma Boat Expo in Tulsa.

After some tricky weather twists in January and the big January boat shows now behind us, we are looking forward to the Spring boating season – and we are already preparing with some off-season updating at the marina including a dramatic improvement of our Wi-Fi system for Shangri-La Marina slip renters. In the meantime, rest assured that we are keeping a close eye on things as we get through this these final few weeks of winter weather.

Shangri-La Marina is one of the few Grand Lake marinas that remains open throughout the winter months. The marina is open from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

MORE BENEFITS COMING EXCLUSIVELY FOR SHANGRI-LA MEMBERS!

I'm so excited to announce the formation of The Shangri-La Boat Club by Sail Grand – a club membership offered exclusively to Shangri-La Resort members to make rental boat access easy, quick, and with increased availability and extended rental times offered only to members of the Boat Club.

Your Shangri-La Boat Club Membership will expand the horizons of watercraft rentals, charters and parasailing far beyond what is currently available to those who don't own boats, but want the option of boat availability on an extended schedule with easy check-in.

Your \$1000 per year Boat Club membership offers personal walk-through orientations, training and safety instruction at your convenience. Our experienced crew will be available to make sure you are comfortable with the variety of watercraft offered by Sail Grand. As a member, you will enjoy express check-in and easy access to your preferred boat each time you utilize a rental to take friends and family on the water. You will enjoy advanced booking options with no prepayment required and will receive options for flexible extended rental times not available to others. Members will also be offered concierge service including staff refueling to make your check-in and drop-off of rentals totally trouble-free. Members will also have access to some very cool Shangri-La Boat Club apparel and accessories.

Cost is only \$1,000 per year, and requirements are minimal. You must be a Shangri-La member 25 years of age or older with a valid driver's license

and must sign the liability release form. That's it. That's all that is required for an entire year of easy access and trouble-free access to the entire fleet of rental boats, personal watercraft, yacht charters and parasailing adventures offered by Sail Grand at Shangri-La Marina – and with a 10% discount!

The Shangri-La Boat Club is a terrific amenity available exclusively to members. For more info, come by and visit, call 918-257-6000 or email info@sailgrand.com.

LOTS OF NEW SHIP STORE MERCHANDISE

With winter weather with us for a few more weeks, Lyn has laid out some terrific outerwear, including an awesome new line of Shangri-La Marina hoodies. We have a great selection of souvenirs, apparel, caps, hats, and footwear, along with a full line of boating supplies. If you're planning a late-winter trip to warmer weather, we also have huge discounts on swimwear and warm-weather items to take on your trip.

We are also planning for the spring season ahead. We have ordered some awesome new designs of spring and summer fashions with memorable designs and fun messages to memorialize all the trouble-free adventures available only at Grand Lake. We'll have even more great apparel and souvenir items that will soon be arriving at the Ship Store every day. Come check it out!

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. Every time we have a nice mid-winter day, social media platforms seem to fill up with the same question – "what's available by water to get something to eat?" 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, too. Jason Morgan hosts great karaoke fun every Thursday night, and the February lineup of live entertainment on Friday nights at Doc's includes R. Jay, Smith, Rockwell, Scott Musick, and Chloe Johns.

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! Lee Lawson hosts the popular "Tuesday Trivia" competition at The Anchor each week – and Jason Morgan leads SINGO competition every Saturday night from 6:00-9:00.

BOAT SALES AT SHANGRI-LA MARINA, TOO!

Boat shopping is one-stop shopping at Shangri-La Marina with the full line-up of boats from Nichols Marine. The full line of Chaparral, Bennington, Robalo, and MasterCraft boats is at your fingertips on the Nichols Marine at Shangri-La sales dock.

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 late winter boating. If you have questions, contact us at 918-257-4898 or email mari-na@shangrilaok.com.



SHANGRI-LA
MARINA

Staff Spotlight: John Havens II

by Communications Director Mike Williams



*John Havens II,
Shangri-La Executive Chef and Director of Culinary Operations*

For Shangri-La Executive Chef John Havens II, interest in a culinary career all started because he was a picky eater as a child.

"I would never eat what my mom made. One day she said, 'Well you go in the kitchen and make something for yourself.' I had watched my grandmother in the kitchen, and I thought, 'I can do that.' So, I did. I guess you could say I started out so I could eat – and it became a career," Chef John laughs.

Chef John was a military brat, but raised mostly in the Denver suburb of Lakewood, Colorado where he graduated from high school before getting serious about the food & beverage industry as a graduate of the School of Culinary Arts in Denver.

After a stint in Denver, John headed east to South Carolina where he worked as Chef for restaurants and catering companies at popular Hilton Head. From there, it was off to the nation's capital where he went to work for a catering company that handled events for the USDA, including everything from Christmas parties at the Smithsonian to gala events at the Kennedy Center. After a brief return to South Carolina, he had an itch to scratch.

"I got it into my head that I wanted to go to Iran," he recalls. "For some reason, I thought Saudi Arabia would be a good stopping off place. I didn't realize at the time that Saudi Arabia and Iran don't exactly get along.

"There was a guy hiring for a Mexican Food restaurant. I didn't find out until later that he didn't have any money," he laughs, "so I went to work for a company promoting Angus beef. Saudi and most of the middle east were using lesser quality Brazilian beef, so I traveled throughout the region giving demonstrations to restaurants on preparing dishes using Angus beef.

"There were some interesting times doing that," he laughs. "It got to the point I would go to trade shows and vendors would say, 'Hey, there's the hamburger guy.' I spent all that time in Chef training to be known as a guy who made sandwiches," he jokes. "It was pretty odd, but at least I had a niche."

Flying across Saudi Arabia late one night, an incident aboard an aircraft changed his life. He met a girl from India. The natural progression of a relationship in Saudi Arabia is nothing like such a process in the states.

"It's almost impossible to date in Saudi Arabia," John points out. "You're not supposed to hang out with women you're not related to. So, when we would go out, I always wore a chef's coat so I could point out I was an American Chef just learning local customs. Where there's a will, there's a way," he laughs. "Living in Saudi Arabia is like being water – you just look for a little crack in the dam and go through it! Since liquor is pretty much banned in Saudi, we even had to learn to make our own alcohol...but we figured that out, too!"

If dating is difficult, marriage in Saudi Arabia is even trickier but, again, where there's a will, there's a way.

John and his bride-to-be flew back to the states, visiting John's parents in Colorado.

"That went well, so while we were in the states, we got married and flew back to Saudi Arabia. With American paperwork, explaining our relationship was much easier."

John and his new wife Khumyani set up housekeeping with no issues. While still in Saudi, their son Flynn was born. He was diagnosed with autism, and the Havens decided to return to the United States to provide better educational opportunities.

First, it was back to home base – Colorado. Since John and Khumyani had spent the last 15 years in the deserts of Saudi Arabia, Khumyani was thrilled to see all the greenery of Steamboat Springs, and John immediately accepted an offer to serve as Executive Chef for multiple restaurant venues at Steamboat Resort.

Then came winter. When the greenery of Steamboat summer became 35 feet of snow, Khumyani was not nearly as thrilled.

"I had a recruiter call me about Monkey Island, Oklahoma," John laughs. "I said, 'What the hell? There are no islands in Oklahoma.' I thought the recruiter was pulling my leg. But sure enough, it exists; and here I am.

"It's been great so far. I met several members at the New Year's Eve Wine Dinner and some others at our Meet & Greet event on January 26. It's a challenge, for sure," he adds. "I haven't had a full day off since Christmas, but I'm really excited about some different menu options, Chef's Specials, and some additional food & beverage options we're looking at. Flynn is going to school at Grove, and Khumyani is happy that there's not 35 feet of snow here. I'm delighted to be at Shangri-La...and to learn there is, in fact, an actual Monkey Island!"



Working with State, Local, and Federal government is always important. Shangri-La's Director of Communications & Government Relations Mike Williams serves as Legislative Chairman for the Grove Chamber of Commerce. Pictured (from left) are Mike Williams, County Commissioner David Poindexter, State Representative Josh West, Grove Chamber President Amanda Davis, and Derrick Sisney and Crystal Campbell, Field Representatives for Congressman Josh Brecheen and U.S. Senator Markwayne Mullin respectively.

Member Profile: Gary and Becky Brock

by Mike Williams, Director of Communications



Gary and Becky Brock: Enjoying a resort is more fun than running one!

Gary and Becky Brock both grew up working at resorts – Gary on his family-owned resort on Grand Lake, and Becky at her family’s resort on Broken Bow Lake in Southeastern Oklahoma. Years later, they spend their time living the resort life again – at Grand Lake’s Shangri-La Resort.

Born in Pineville, Missouri, Gary’s family moved to Grove when he was eleven years old. He grew up working at the family-owned Blue Bluff Harbor Resort, then for Sam Williams at the Sports Center in Grove and, later, at another family-owned resort, Brock’s Resort.

Blue Bluff was a great winter fishing spot,” Gary says. “It had heated fishing docks early in the era of heated docks. So, I grew up working at resorts – and believe me, it was a lot of work!”

He also loved scuba diving, “mostly for unique treasures,” including a variety of lost overboard items – car keys, glasses, boat motors, even cars!

“The most unusual item I ever found diving was someone’s false teeth,” he laughs. “I never found any phones, though. I had quit diving by the time people started losing cell phones.”

After graduating from Grove High School, he went to college at Oklahoma State University and finished law school at the University of Oklahoma.

“I had grown up working my tail off at resorts. That’s why I became a lawyer,” he jokes, “and by going to both OSU and OU, I never lose a Bedlam game, either!”

After law school, he served in the U.S. Army for two years including a tour in Vietnam. When he came back from the service, a law school classmate invited him to join an existing practice in Southeastern Oklahoma, so he moved to Hugo; and Southeastern Oklahoma became his new home turf. He was appointed as a judge, then District Attorney – and ran unopposed for a full term as District Attorney before returning to private practice for twenty years, then returning to the District Attorney’s Office as 1st Assistant. In 2001 he was appointed as a Special Judge, a post from which he continued to serve Choctaw, Pushmataha, and McCurtain counties until his retirement in 2022.

Becky grew up as a self-described “oilfield brat.” Born in Longview, Texas, she spent her early years in east Texas before moving to south Louisiana.

“And I mean south Louisiana,” she emphasizes – “seventy-five miles south of New Orleans!”

The oilfield then took her family to Venezuela for five years before returning to the states to improve Becky’s educational opportunities when she was in the 9th grade. They moved to Broken Bow, Oklahoma where they, too, bought a resort – Mountaineers Cabins near Beaver’s Bend State Park on Broken Bow Lake.

“I know what working at a resort is like, too,” she laments. “I spent my high school years cleaning cabins and working in the store.”

After graduating from Broken Bow High School, Becky graduated from Southeastern Oklahoma State in Durant and pursued what became a 42-year career in education, eight years in Haworth, and the remainder in Idabel Public Schools.

“I taught Spanish,” Becky says. “I had a classroom for 30 years before I became a school Principal, but I still taught college courses for five years after that; so, I really had a classroom for 35 years. I loved, loved, loved teaching,” she says.

It was a combination of geography, Gary’s career in law, and a little politics that brought Gary and Becky together. Becky’s best friend was Gary’s secretary, both in his private practice and in the District Attorney’s office. She stopped by frequently for coffee – and a little legal advice at times.

“When Gary ran for the State Senate, my daughter and I both did volunteer work in his campaign. That’s when we really got together,” she recalls.

“I lost the election, but I got the girl,” Gary laughs. They have been together ever since. Until Gary’s recent retirement, the Brocks considered Idabel to be their “technical” home, but Gary retained his boyhood home on Grand Lake north of Grove, and they have always spent a lot of time on Grand. In 2017, they made the move to Monkey Island.

“We had joined Shangri-La Golf Club right after Eddy Gibbs bought it and began building new facilities. We were spending more and more time on Monkey Island, and I asked Becky if she had ever thought about moving there. She said, ‘yes – I’ve been thinking about that for a while.’ In 2017, we bought our home at Shangri-La Chateaus.” Until he retired, Gary made the 500-mile round trip between Idabel and Monkey Island to spend most weekends of the year at Grand Lake – oftentimes long weekends. Becky often spent weeks at a time on Grand, settling into the retired life ahead of Gary.

“Somebody had to stay at the lake and take care of things here,” she says with a hint of sarcasm. “Besides, I was smart enough to retire before Gary did. That should have some benefits. We’re at home here. We get withdrawals if we’re gone too long. We have to have our ‘island time.’”

Idabel is now in the rearview mirror for the Brocks. With Gary’s retirement, they are now officially fulltime Monkey Island residents – and they couldn’t be happier!

“We love the Chateaus. I had to live on the water,” Becky says. “I have to be able to walk out my back door and walk down to the water; and the people here are absolutely incredible. Within six months of living on Monkey Island, we had more friends here than we had after four decades in Idabel!”

Their cruiser is just a short golf cart ride away at Shangri-La Marina. Gary keeps up with his hobby as a ham radio operator, and both Gary and Becky love boating and golf with friends.

“I’m a social golfer, not a competitive golfer,” Becky asserts. Gary said he would like to play more than he does, but retirement has now given him the opportunity to spend more time on the course. Both are also competitive trivia players at the weekly competition at The Anchor.

If you find it unusual that two people raised in the resort business would end up spending the quality years of their life back in the midst of the resort life, there is a difference.

“We’re not working here,” Gary exclaims. “We’re now those people we spent our youth making happy. Believe me, there’s a big difference between working at a resort and living at one! We couldn’t be happier.”

Gary and Becky Brock have proven to be a couple with the perfect personalities to live their life full time on Monkey Island – where the fun never sets!



The incredible show band "Hook" will entertain for the Valentines Gala at Shangri-La Saturday, February 17.



R. Jay Smith performs at Doc's Friday, February 2.



Scott Musick will be at Doc's Friday, February 16.



Rockwell will entertain at Doc's Friday, February 9.



Chloe Johns wraps up the month at Doc's Friday, February 23.

Anchor Activity

by Shaun Tune, Director of Anchor Operations



"Tuesday Trivia" with Lee Lawson continues all month at The Anchor.

The Anchor is rockin'! We started the month of January with the biggest college football bowl games, the national championship, and exciting play in the NFL playoffs; but I don't know how we could jam more winter indoor fun into the schedule than what we have on the agenda for the month of February.

In addition to Jason Morgan's popular Thursday Night Karaoke at Doc's Bar & Grill, he will also be leading the fun each Saturday night at The Anchor with his popular SINGO competition beginning January 6. There's no need to register, just show up every Saturday night for some great musical SINGO competition!

The same is true for Lee Lawson's popular Tuesday Night Trivia competition. This fun event continues to be one of the biggest attractions each week at The Anchor. We also continue our Winter Pool League competition each Thursday night this month and, of course, we are now looking at another awesome month of pro and college sports competition at Grand Lake's most popular spot for cheering on your favorites.

February 11 is the biggest day of the year for the National Football League. It's Super Bowl LVIII – and The Anchor is the ultimate spot for a Super Bowl Party. We'll start the fun early in the afternoon with pregame food, fun, and great beverages including our regular menu choices from The Galley as well as a fabulous All-You-Can-Eat Super Bowl Buffet for \$35. Super Bowl kick-off time is 5:30.

Just one week later, January 18, we have another big Sunday night party planned for the NBA All-Star Game. Speaking of all-stars, the OKC Thunder continue to dazzle fans in the NBA – and every Thunder game is included in our line-up of NBA coverage. Add a schedule of college basketball coverage – especially in the incredibly competitive Big XII Conference, and sports fans have something for everyone every day at The Anchor!

IT'S A BIG MONTH FOR PICKLEBALL AND TENNIS FUN AT THE RACQUET CLUB

Coach Kerr has a jam-packed February with the indoor dome hosting a variety of fun events. We kick off the month with a very special "Ladies Fun Day" filled with lots of pickleball drills and fun Monday, February 5 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The \$100 registration includes all the activities, as well as lunch.

On the heels of a couple of fun "Skinny Singles Clinics," last month, the "Skinny Singles Pickleball Tournament" is scheduled for Saturday, February 10 from 1:30-6:30. We're not worried about winter weather for pickleball and tennis players. Our awesome dome is open for play during any kind of weather throughout the winter months.

Sunday, February 18, we have some fun events supporting the awesome Grove High School volunteers Sunday, February 4 with a couple of COW Week Pickleball 101 Clinics – a high school/middle school clinic from 2:00-4:00 and an adult clinic from 4:00-6:00. A couple of weeks later, March 2, we'll host the COW Week Pickleball Tournament! We're always excited about assisting this incredible group of high schoolers with their awesome charitable fundraising efforts!

Aside from those great events, there is plenty of fun on the calendar at the Racquet Club. Pickleball Drills are scheduled each Monday at 5:45 p.m., Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., Thursday at 5:45 p.m., Friday at both 9:00 a.m. and 5:45 p.m., and Saturday mornings at 9:00.

Pickleball Mixers are scheduled Mondays at 9:00 a.m. (except February 5 when "Ladies Fun Day" festivities fill the morning) and 7:00 p.m., Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Level Up), Friday evenings at 7:00, and Saturday mornings at 10:00 (Level Up).

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

Those are just the organized events on the tennis and pickleball courts. The Racquet Club is open for play 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 8:00 a.m.-midnight Friday & Saturday. Come join the competition and fun in the dome!

Fun for the ENTIRE Family

There are always plenty of indoor entertainment options for the entire family – no matter what the weather. Our arcade games and virtual reality games provide a great option for the youngsters. Our simulator bay offers LaserShot shooting and Trackman Golf. We also have more traditional games – ping-pong, pool, foosball, shuffleboard, and darts – so there's plenty of fun for the entire family.

The Anchor is open 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, and we are open to the public!

If you're not at The Anchor, you're not making the most of your winter leisure time! We are thrilled to be Grand Lake's total entertainment headquarters. I hope to see you soon at The Anchor!

Shangri-La Staff Appreciation Party and More!



Shangri-La Food & Beverage Director Todd Rodemyer, announces the winner of a PlayStation 5.



Jason Morgan kept the fun moving at the Shangri-La Staff Appreciation Party.



One great thing about a staff party at Shangri-La – there's never a shortage of food!



Prizes at the staff appreciation party included a variety of incredible offerings – from big screen televisions to PlayStation 5 games, and trips to resorts around the country.



Shangri-La Director of Sales Dana Able and Director of Communications Mike Williams were at Tulsa's Oklahoma Boat Expo spreading the news about Shangri-La. Next stop for the SLR team? The Kansas City Golf Show February 23-25.



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.

31000 South Highway 125
Monkey Island, OK 74331
P | 918-257-4204
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www.shangrilaok.com



Jason Morgan leads the SINGO fun every Saturday night at The Anchor.

Shangri-La Hours of Operation

Golf Shop

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

Championship Course Closed Monday & Tuesday
Battlefield Closed Tuesday & Wednesday

Turnhouse

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

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.-8:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
7:00 a.m.-9:00 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