

'Apron Strings' exhibit to open at Chisholm Trail Heritage Center

By Jay Kiser
Special Contributor

DUNCAN — When it was first used is lost in history, but somewhere along the way the apron became a functional garment.

People in many cultures began using aprons to protect their clothing and skin from stains and marks, as well as avoiding hazards that could occur in the process of cooking, cleaning and other messy tasks.

Over the generations, folks also discovered that by putting pockets on aprons they could keep necessary small tools and accessories within easy reach.

As the popularity of using aprons continued to grow, the handy garments acquired a more aesthetic purpose by becoming an art form.

On Monday the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan will unveil "Apron Strings: Ties to the Past," featuring 51 modern and classic aprons that show the range of design and techniques apron-makers have used for self-expression.

This exhibit is one of the National Traveling Exhibition events that are available through the Mid-America



The Old Master, a cotton apron from the 1950s, is among dozens of items in the "Apron Strings: Ties to the Past" exhibit that will open Monday at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan.

Arts Alliance and Exhibits USA, said Stacy Cramer Moore, executive director at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center.

"We have hosted two other exhibits through these two companies, an exhibit called "Flow Water" and an exhibit

the period from the early 1900s in Italy; from the 1920s, during which elaborately embroidered cotton aprons were worn by upper-crust women, through the Depression and World War II period, when cotton bib aprons were popular.

The golden years of aprons were the post-war 1940s and 1950s. During the "June Cleaver Era," it was a time when commercial and intricately hand-decorated aprons were symbols of femininity and motherhood.

In the 21st century, artists continue using aprons to address changing attitudes about women and domestic work.

"We think this will be a timely exhibition," Cramer Moore said. "It's nostalgic and many of the pieces are beautiful in their own right as pieces of folk art."

"At the same time, the exhibit shows that aprons remain functional art and it's a style that is coming back."

"We've already had some good response and there are several large quilting clubs whose members are interested in seeing the exhibit."

Hours of the exhibit are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday. For information call 580-252-6692.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP



Zoe Martin, 9, works on a craft with her father Paul Martin during the Lawton-Fort Sill Art Council's March free children's workshop. The council will host its monthly free children's workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Art Center, 1761 NW Ferris. This month's activity will be various spring-themed crafts. The workshop is free and open to the public with light refreshments provided. Activities are geared toward elementary aged children, and parents must stay at the workshop with their children. Once supplies run out, the workshop will close. Parking is behind the Art Center. For information visit the Lawton-Fort Sill Art Council's Facebook page, Facebook.com/lawtonfortsillartcouncil.

STAYS IN BRIEF

Travelers to visit Branson in April

The Wichita Mountain Travelers will visit Branson, Mo., from April 27-29.

During the trip, participants will enjoy the shows of Shoji, Doug Gabriel, Moses and Showboat.

All meals will be included in the price, and breakfast will be provided by the hotel. Participants must pay for two meals while traveling. The trip will cost \$300 for a single person, \$400 per person for two and \$400 per person for three. Full payment is due at stamp. No refunds will be issued after April 24.

The bus will depart at 7:30 a.m. from the West Shepherd parking lot at Cameron University and at 8 a.m. from the Wichita Mountain Center.

Checks should be mailed to the Wichita Mountain Travelers, 305 NW Apache Drive, Lawton, OK 73807. They also may be dropped off from 8:30-9 p.m. Monday and from 1-4 p.m. Thursday at the Wichita Mountain Senior Center.

For information call 713-1902 or 429-3378.

Community feeding on Saturday

The Viola Prinsdel Court No. 33 and the Stuart Chapter No. 34 will host a community feeding from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday at Lemuel Hankey Park at Southwest 18th Street and Douglas Avenue.

The feeding is free and open to the public. The meal will include hot dogs, chips and drinks. Live music, face painting, arts and crafts and games will be on site. For information call 248-6397.

Comanche Nation to host fundraiser

The Comanche Nation Elderly Center will host a bingo fundraiser at 2 p.m. Sunday at the center, 1107 SW H.

Bingo will be \$15 for 15 rounds. The fundraiser is for the intertribal elder organization. Prizes will include \$50 cash and gift cards to local businesses. A concession stand will be on-site. For information call 215-9629.

Women's Auxiliary event set at hall

The Women's Auxiliary of American Legion Post 193 will host an Indian taco and garage sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Legion Bingo Hall, Southwest P Avenue and 11th Street.

Cost of Indian tacos is \$7, which includes a drink and

Arts Council Leadership program holds training

By Vicki Sams
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Each year, the Oklahoma Arts Council's Leadership Arts program trains about 20 individuals from across the state to become leaders and advocates for the arts in their communities.

Selected participants will attend four two-day sessions, in which they learn about the role of art in economic development, education and quality of life, according to artsall.org.

Lawton's own Sharna Diane Chestwood is serving as a member of the 2017 Leadership Arts Program.

After graduating from Cameron University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2002, Chestwood earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration in industrial engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 1986.

With a passion for both the arts and the sciences, Chestwood has experience as a licensed practical nurse, industrial engineer, project engineer, a product development specialist, a quality engineer and an accession per-

sonnel. Chestwood is arts coordinator for the Arts & Humanities Division for the City of Lawton, which she has held since 2004.

"Upon learning she received acceptance in the 2017 Leadership Arts Program, Chestwood said she was excited to expand her knowledge on the management end of the arts in order to better serve the Lawton-Fort Sill community.

"When you're at a local level, you see the arts within your community," she said, "but being able to have access to (state-wide networking) ... and to have those resources, it's wonderful."

Chestwood's interest in art traces back to her childhood because her family engaged in creativity.

"Going back to maybe five or six years of age, I had a great aunt who taught me how to crochet and how to knit," she said. "Being creative transcended over the years, and every time there is an opportunity to take an art class or to learn about an art technique, I've taken advantage of that."

Chestwood first began participating in local arts events when she joined

the Lawton Fort Sill Art Council as a student.

"Being a student intern there, (I) really became aware and appreciative of the mechanisms of doing an art exhibit, showing your art (and) helping out other artists," she said.

Chestwood said she later began exploring the management end of the arts.

"I took my engineering degree, plus my art degree from Cameron, and it just molded into a position to work on the management side," she said.

As a member of the Leadership Arts Council, Chestwood will work alongside other Oklahomans who also desire to see the arts and diverse cultures thrive in communities.

"They're (members are) from all over the state, all walks of life," she said. "We'll be learning what will help a community ... and a lot of it is usually the art as a tool."

For information about the Oklahoma Arts Council's Leadership Arts program, visit http://www.arts.ok.gov/Our_Program/Leadership_Arts.html.

Downtown Kiwanis to host Pancake Days this weekend

By Kaye Pennington
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The Downtown Kiwanis will flip pancakes, grill sausage and scramble eggs to help change the world one child at a time during its annual Pancake Days.

Pancake Days will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Great Plains Coliseum, 920 S. Sheridan. Tickets are \$9 in advance and \$10 at the door.

Meals will include pancakes, sausage, eggs and drinks.

Advance Tickets are available \$9 at the door

WHERE: Downtown Kiwanis Club

WHEN: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday

WHERE: Great Plains Coliseum, 920 S. Sheridan

Cost: \$9 in advance, \$10 at the door

Thursday evening at Liberty National Bank, BancFirst, Arvest Bank, First National Bank and Trust and the Great Plains Coliseum.

Funds raised will go toward the Downtown Kiwanis scholarship funds and other activities geared towards enriching community children. These activities include the Kiwanis Archery League and annual instrument annual fishing derby for the Boys and Girls Club, and its sponsorship of the Key Clubs at Eisenhower High School, Lawton High School, MacArthur High School and Elgin High School, along with the Builders Club at MacArthur and Elgin middle schools.

"We give back to the children in the community," said Heather Red Elk, Pancake Days chair. "We're all about helping those kiddos."

Days for more information, Downtown Kiwanis meets at noon every Thursday in the Prairie Building at the Comanche County Fairgrounds, 920

S. Sheridan. For information about Downtown Kiwanis or its Pancake Days, visit its Facebook page, facebook.com/LawtonKiwanis.



Help Lawton Proud spread the word about the good things going on in our city when you advertise in the Lawton Proud Special Section in The Lawton Constitution on Sunday, April 30. Lawton Proud consists of business and community leaders from a variety of organizations working together to positively promote Lawton. This Special Section will showcase our area's strengths including patriotism, natural beauty, education opportunities, the Arts, shopping, our 101 Things To Do list and much more. An additional 5,000 copies will be printed and used to promote Lawton and the Lawton Proud initiative throughout the year.

A community's reputation impacts the opportunities for its citizens now and in the future. We all deserve to live in a city that takes pride in its past, celebrates its present and cultivates its future. Join us in promoting pride in everything our city has to offer as we work together to build an even brighter future.

Call 580.585.5044 for details.

Publication Date: Sunday, April 30th
Advertising Deadline: Monday, April 10th



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