

OUR Chisholm Trail Heritage Center NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2014

Our Mission: "To celebrate and perpetuate the history, art and culture of the Chisholm Trail, the American Cowboy and the American West."



Fireball Run Producer, JJ Sanchez, reviews script with local celebrity and board member Rick Rodgers, for the upcoming **Fireball Run Adventurally** event. Visit: <http://www.fireballrun.com> to learn more about this event.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Are you able-bodied? Can you heckle? What about directing traffic? Guarding cars and assisting at key stations within the Center?

Or maybe you'd prefer the aroma of a chuckwagon meal? These are just a few of the tasks we need your help with during Fireball Run, Tuesday, Sept. 30.

If you want to volunteer, please call our Executive Director, Stacy Cramer Moore, at (580) 252-6692 as soon as possible.



Revved up for Fireball Run

We are revved up for the arrival of 48 racecar teams!

As these teams pioneer their way across America's Frontier, one pit stop on their journey will be right here at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center on Tuesday, Sept. 30.

It's season 9 for the reality-filmed and livestreamed series, Fireball Run - the Most Epic Adventurally in America. Earlier this year, JJ Sanchez, Fireball Run's Executive Producer, and his crew, visited the Center for pre-production filming.

They've made two more visits for planning purposes. Board member Rick Rodgers even became a vocal celebrity. The drivers will be coming in from Ardmore.

Cars are expected to arrive between 10:15 a.m. and 11:45 p.m. and the public is invited to welcome and cheer on the race teams.

Drivers have a mission though, which is to help recover America's missing children. They follow a course, solve clues and more, while also getting a chance to discover points-of-interest, history and culture.

There will be photo opportunities and everyone is encouraged to come out for a couple of hours and show support for the drivers on their journey.

"We really need volunteers to help make this event a success and it is a chance for our members to promote their museum," Moore says.

The Snake River Gang and World's Largest Longhorn will be on the property, along with other surprises!



CTHC's Executive Director Stacy Cramer Moore, left, Fireball Run Producer JJ Sanchez, assistant producer Ritchie Catalan and CTHC board member Rick Rodgers discuss technical details during a behind-the-scenes production visit earlier this year.

Be sure to look for our upcoming events at www.facebook.com/onthechisholmtrail/events

EDUCATION

Our educators are STEAMED up this year to give students an engaging program during the interactive field trips which are Great Expectations Model School certified.

Incorporating the five principles for solid lesson activities - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math, the Center's education department will teach students how these components are necessary in their world.

Students will be having so much fun, they won't realize they are learning. Kicking off our school year is the Abernathy Boys program. It's a wild tale - but all true!

Entering the museum lobby, the children will see a 1910 Brush vehicle, and they will learn Louis and Temple drove one just like it across the country in that same year.



The children are amazed when they learn the Abernathy brothers were only 10 and 6 years old at the time.

Wolves play a big role in the Abernathy Boys "STEAMED" session. Students learn about the Science and nature of wolves. In the Art segment of the field trip, they will create a wolf using the cubism style (pictured above) and they will scavenger

hunt for geometric shapes hidden in art in our Garis Gallery of the American West. The geometric shapes also cover the Math segment of "STEAM." Handouts will reference English lessons and history. It's all about looking "into" the artwork and not just "at it."

Animatronics and our theaters figure into the Technology portion of the program.

In addition to all these elements, our exhibit "Okie Eclectic - The Art of Mikel Davison" will be open until Jan. 3. Students will get a chance to see and touch many pieces of this art show. Don't be surprised if they come home wanting to create something using old wood!

Teachers and homeschool educators should call Leah at 580-252-6692, or email her at leah@onthechisholmtrail.com to book a field trip.

My class said they loved everything, the campfire story was great, they loved the art lesson, now they want to learn more about sign language and hope to go to another art gallery. They never saw art like that before - opening eyes, opening minds-wonderful! Your staff is one of the best. All of your programs are very educational and age appropriate.

Pam Mindemann, Apache Elementary
2013-2014 Native American session



The 1910 Brush arrived at the Heritage Center Friday, Sept. 5 and is on loan from Leon and Sharolyn Wilson of Oklahoma City. Assisting Leon (in the Hawaiian print shirt) is Gerald Kierbow of Duncan.

An Okie reclaims his roots through art

Buffalo, birds and black labs inspire Duncan artist Mikel Davison.

So does Oklahoma history. Incorporating the everyday ordinary into his artwork, Davison combines the quirky personalities of animals, like his black lab, with the rich history of Oklahoma to create unique pieces – all with a story.

Carving cigar store Indians from 100-year-old fallen trees, finding reclaimed wood that becomes useful home furniture and décor, and cast-off windows for his canvases, Davison believes in using what is available.

The Alva-born native, now 57, gained his love of history from his father, and his creative inquisitiveness from his mother. But art didn't put him through school. It was basketball. It's what paid the bills. (He's 6'9") - In recent years though, he's found a way to do what he loves and manages to combine education, history, sport and art.

He and wife, Vicki, a superintendent at Empire Public School District, moved from their rural homestead at Empire, to another rural homestead, closer to Duncan. Buying the 35-acres of land on Beech Avenue, west of Duncan, allowed Vicki to stay in her school district, and Mikel to have a shorter commute to his job in Duncan. For both, education has played front and center in their lives.

Davison attended East Central University in Ada on a basketball scholarship, with hopes of getting an art degree.

"I was told you can't be an athlete and an artist. Basketball was paying and art wasn't. So I ended up going into education. I put the paintbrush down."

In his 30s, he returned to college – University of Science

"I look at all art to get inspired. You can see where I stockpile stuff. When I get an idea, I do something with it."

- Mikel Davison

& Arts of Oklahoma, to get his art degree. He dabbled in art, until about three years ago when he decided to really put his own personality and interests into the efforts. Every piece he creates is inspired by the piece he is working on, whether it is barbed wire found in his pasture, or wood and windows reclaimed from a dumpster.

Humor of Grackles

"I like grackles. The reason I like grackles, they're an immovable force. I don't know how many times I've walked out of Walmart and they are standing there, one-legged. They're like cockroaches."

It's the ordinary everyday things like that, in which Davison, finds inspiration.

Okie roots equal eclectic art

Looking around at his property, you see a jackrabbit created out of discarded barb wire – more uses for things found. During construction of their home, barbed wire fences were cut down. He was reeling it up and began thinking about a poem where the jackrabbits were roaming.

"I could 'see' them zigzagging all over the place and that's where he came



Okie Eclectic - The Art of Mikel Davison

Sept. 15 - Jan. 3, 2015

Artist Reception - 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Oct. 9



working on four or five projects at any given time. A cigar store Indian takes about 40 hours to carve and finish. Everyday items like metal pie tins become feathers on the piece. An old fringed rug becomes a seat on a chair.

Discarded outhouse boards become a hutch.

Soxy, the black lab

"She's subject to a lot of my paintings," he says of the dog who found him. Free reign over the land, her personality makes him laugh.

One of his favorite paintings is that of the dog, with a bluejay sitting on her head. The bluejay represents the weight of the world.

It isn't difficult to let go of the pieces, he says.

"It's meant to be shared. Like words. Hopefully someone will cherish it as much as I do. Perfection of a piece doesn't mean a whole lot to me. A good story isn't told in perfect English."

- Toni Hopper

from." He loves his Okie roots and everything it inspires – the history, the landscapes, the people and animals. Engaging his audience with the descriptive and passionate paintbrush of words - the artist, the teacher - becomes a storyteller of history.

"I can see the (Native Americans) picking the blackberries putting them in the pemmican. All that plays into my art, my thoughts, my life. I really want to be part of that."

In preparing for his first local show, he has spent the summer carving wood, painting and creating. Davison is constantly creating,

ON THE CALENDAR

Okie Eclectic - The Art of Mikel Davison
Opens Sept. 15, Reception Oct. 9

Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 - National Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept. 27, Smithsonian Magazine -
Free Day with coupon visit their site to get your ticket
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/>

Sept. 30 - Fireball Run
<http://www.fireballrun.com/>

Oct. 21-23 - Oklahoma Arts Conference, Norman
<http://www.arts.ok.gov/>

Visit [facebook.com/onthechisholmtrail](https://www.facebook.com/onthechisholmtrail) for details of
all our upcoming events



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Address Service Requested

Be sure to visit us!

- * 2013 Oklahoma Arts & Humanities
Non-profit of the Year
- * Oklahoma Redbud
for Outstanding Attraction
- * Top 10 Western Museum -
True West Magazine
- * 2012 Chickasaw Country's Best
Museum Award

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*The Chisholm Trail Heritage
Association is a 501c3
non-profit.*

*Your contributions to our
programs and exhibits are
tax deductible.*

*Consider the Center in
your estate and planned
giving allocations. [stacy@
onthechisholmtrail.com](mailto:stacy@onthechisholmtrail.com) or
580-252-6692.*