

THOSE GOLDEN MOMENTS

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Golden Oaks Village celebrates a special birthday with a surprise guest from OK State University

By Elaine Johns, Director of Marketing, Golden Oaks Village

Pistol Pete, Oklahoma State University's Mascot, dropped in as a special request from the Long Term Care Administrator, Jill Hake. One of our residents is a big fan of OSU Football and all things orange. So to celebrate her special day, Ms. Hake invited Pistol Pete to attend the event. More than 100 residents and family members were in attendance. Pistol Pete wowed all the crowd arriving in style driving right into the common area and greeting all the residents.



Golden Oaks Residents Crochet Comfort Blankets

By Elaine Johns, Director of Marketing, Golden Oaks Village

Under the leadership of Eloise Bradley, residents began a crochet/knitting group in February, 2018. Members include Opal Gillenwater, Lavana Jeter, Shirley Stowers and Betty Sider. The group began by crocheting baby hats for newborn infants at Integris Bass Hospital in Enid. Their mission expanded to include St. Mary's Hospital and other local service organizations.

Needing more to do, the ladies began crocheting men's and women's hats for the Retired Senior Volunteer Organization. The "Santa for Seniors" program provides Christmas gifts for low income area seniors. The residents crocheted several hundred hats to give away in RSVP's Christmas packages to area homebound seniors. They are working on caps for the upcoming Christmas season.

Their latest project was created to provide parents of stillborn children with a blanket, handmade with love, that they can wrap their children in for pictures and/or burial. Parents are also given the choice to keep the blanket as a personal keepsake to remember their child. "Many grieving parents feel the need to have their baby's life acknowledged. Taking the time to make a blanket to give them shows the parents that we acknowledge that their baby was special and means something to someone other than themselves.", states Eloise Bradley. If you would like to help their ministry, you can contact Eloise at 580-249-2600



Residents sew valor quilts for veterans

Much more than a simple sewing circle, Patricia Jenkins is gearing up for an event to cloak veterans in large, warm, patriotic and hand made quilts. Five area veterans will be honored at the Legacy Award Ceremony, November 15th, at the Central National Bank Center Veterans Day with quilts finished by Patricia and her volunteer quilters. Jenkins and her group seek to show its appreciation for veteran's sacrifices by providing comfort that took considerable effort to produce, a patriotic quilt.

Patricia and the group have sewed and presented hundreds of quilts for all of Golden Oaks veterans. She also made a special presentation, to the family of a fallen airmen from Vance AFB, recently on Memorial Day during the annual Woodring Wall of Honor's Memorial Day Ceremony. The ladies of the Oaks Quilting Group have a passion for remembering and honoring our military members. We thank them for their ministry to remember.

With God, Goldie and Freedom, Nothing is Impossible

By Elaine Johns, Director of Marketing, Golden Oaks

Viola Cook followed in her mother's footsteps and became a rodeo performer. Her story is one of inner strength and adventure. She was told by her doctor, "Viola, you've had a severe accident and you're going home a cripple. You can feel sorry for yourself and have a miserable life or you can figure out how to work around it and you can have a happy life. Viola, the choice is yours." Her choice was to have not only a good life but an abundant life. At age six, Viola learned how to do trick riding on a horse. At age 8 her mother became disabled from a bucking horse, and Viola watched her mother live a miserable life. At age nine she moved to Enid, Oklahoma. At age eleven she started writing stories and found her voice with pencil and paper. By the age 15 she had won several rodeo awards. Then at 18 the accident Viola's bronco fell and crushed her left leg. Viola, at 18 years of age knew how to take an external event she had no control over and use her internal strength to control the outcome of the rest of her life. Not only has Viola had a happy life, she has had an exciting life. She has been to the white house and talked to the President of the USA, she has had a town declare a Viola Cook Day, she has been an outrider on wagon covered trail rides, she has been top billing at rodeos across the nation, she appeared in campaign ads for Governor Nigh, and her list of friends include names like Dale Evans and Loretta Lynn.

In her kitchen is a plaque that says, "God put me on this earth to accomplish a certain number of things, right now I'm so far behind, I will never die." Viola says that about sums up the way she feels. Viola, knew she loved horses and the rodeo and that is where she wanted to be. She trained horses to do tricks and for almost sixteen years she worked a rodeo somewhere across the great USA every weekend with her favorite companion, Goldie Ann.

Her act consisted of Goldie Ann drinking out of a baby bottle, riding a seesaw, high-stepping walk; balancing on her back, saying a prayer, and the end of the trail trick which involved balancing on a pedestal. Viola and Goldie Ann were always billed as a specialty act. Viola lost Goldie Ann at a rodeo in Rush Springs, Oklahoma when the platform slipped and the horse broke her left knee and right hock. Following the loss of her beloved horse, Viola began raising Paso Finos, an ancient, Spanish breed unique in their gait. In 1976 Viola was honored in her hometown of Miami with a Viola Cook Day commendation. In 1976 Gov. George Nigh commissioned her as a Honorary Lieutenant Governor for the State of Oklahoma.

Later that year, Viola served as the State of Oklahoma representative and was introduced to President Gerald Ford. They became instant friends and President Ford named her next foal, "Freedom", who grew to be a famous trick horse. Most people didn't know Freedom was blind and overcame his disability to become a great performer. He became her legs and she became his eyes. Together, they could accomplish anything. Viola went on to be a distinguished trail boss on the Texas Sesquicentennial Wagon Train. There were 130 horse drawn wagons on this ride, going 3,028 miles, with 300 riders for six months. The ride included the famous Chisholm Trail. This was the largest and longest wagon train in American history and was featured in Ripley's Believe it or not. Viola also was an actor in the famous Wagon Train movies. In her eighties, Viola still goes on these rides.

Viola is pictured with Rick and Larry Simpson with the beautiful silver saddle she used while performing in the rodeos. It is on display at the Simpson Museum in Enid, OK.



Golden Oaks Gears up for Annual Open House

By Elaine Johns, Director of Marketing, GOV

We are gearing up for the annual Open House at Golden Oaks Retirement Community. If you are thinking of retirement options, please consider attending our event and allowing us the opportunity to show you the amenities of retirement at the Oaks. So save the date and come have a tour and lunch on us! September 3, 2018, Labor Day Monday!



WE WANT YOU

TO VIEW OUR TOWNHOUSES - COTTAGES - APARTMENTS - POOL

OPEN HOUSE

SEPTEMBER 3, 2018 10 AM - 1 PM

We invite you to our "COME & GO" OPEN HOUSE
Golden Oaks Retirement Village
Labor Day, Monday, September 3, 2018 10 am - 1 pm

Open House home tours will be held from 10 AM to 1 PM. Free lunch and gift bag will be provided for those who register and tour the homes. Prizes will be awarded including a 2-night stay at the Myer Hotel in Branson, MO. Must be over the age of 55 years old to register.

- 10 AM - 11:30 AM Registration in our Chapel
- 10 AM - 1:00 PM Tours of our beautiful homes & apartments
- 11 AM - 1:00 PM Lunch in the Atrium

Lunch includes: Grilled Hamburgers, Baked Beans, Chips & Dessert

For further information contact: Elaine Johns 580-249-2600 or ejohns@goldenoaks.com

Save the Date!