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# FROM THE ARCHIVES

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— Bartlesville Area History Museum —

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## GIFT SHOP NEWS

Sunset Hill Stoneware Mugs are back in stock! Sunset Hill Stoneware, is an American company that handcrafts a blend of traditional pottery techniques with innovative technology to create exceptional pieces as unique as the individual who receives it. Get yours today at the Friends of BAHM giftshop!



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## BENEATH BARTLESVILLE: TUNNELS, LORE AND MYSTERIES BEHIND THE LEGENDS.



What lies beneath the streets of Bartlesville? What stories have been passed down through generations—and what can history actually tell us about them? *Beneath Bartlesville: Tunnels, Lore and Mysteries Behind the Legends* examines some of the intriguing stories, forgotten places, tunnels, shelters, and local legends.

From stories of underground passageways and hidden spaces to historic events that have taken on a life of their own, this exhibit takes a closer look at the history behind the legends. Visitors will have an opportunity to explore what has been documented, and where fact and folklore intersect.

This exhibit isn't about simply telling spooky stories—it's about asking questions, examining the evidence, and preserving the stories that have become part of our community's history and identity.

OCTOBER 9

JANUARY 8

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# COLLECTIONS CORNER

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— Casey Sullivan, Collections Manager —

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## Oklahoma Museum Association (OMA) conference

I was fortunate enough to attend the Oklahoma Museum Association (OMA) conference hosted in Edmond, OK over 3 days in September. The event allowed me many opportunities to grow in the museum world and learn more about the community of Edmond. Our very first excursion was to see the progress being made at “The Uncommon Ground”, Oklahoma’s first and only sculpture park with an expected completion date to be done by sometime next year.



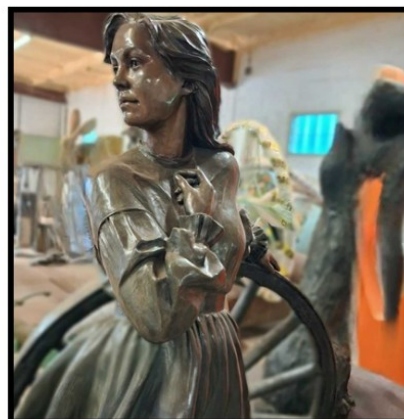
Shaun Perkins, director of ROMP (Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry) presents her session, “Low-Tech, High-Yield”. While all the presentations were informative and interesting, this one stood out to me as a favorite!



This bright orange feline will be featured, ironically, in the dog park at “The Uncommon Ground” park.

The attendees got an exclusive look at some of the plans and sculptures to be planted in the park (see left and below). The project is ambitious but amazing and already has extensive plans of support and untapped potential. We also were able to experience the Edmond History Museum, located in the old Armory for a fascinating tour of the exhibits. The second day was filled with lectures, stories, a fundraising auction, and networking.

Some of the topics included plans for continuing membership, lesson development for children, better utilization of phone cameras, and exhibit renovation for a small, living-history museum. Though not every story or theory will contribute to our mission at the museum, every session gave snippets of useful information. My gratitude goes out to OMA and the city of Edmond for hosting an excellent conference!



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# FROM THE ARCHIVES

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— Shayla Cummins, Museum Coordinator —

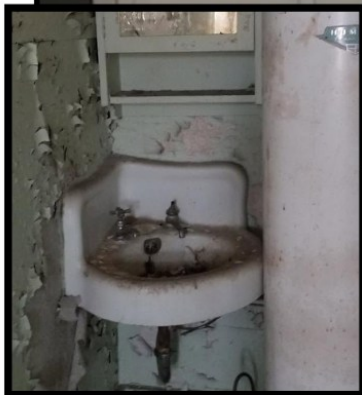
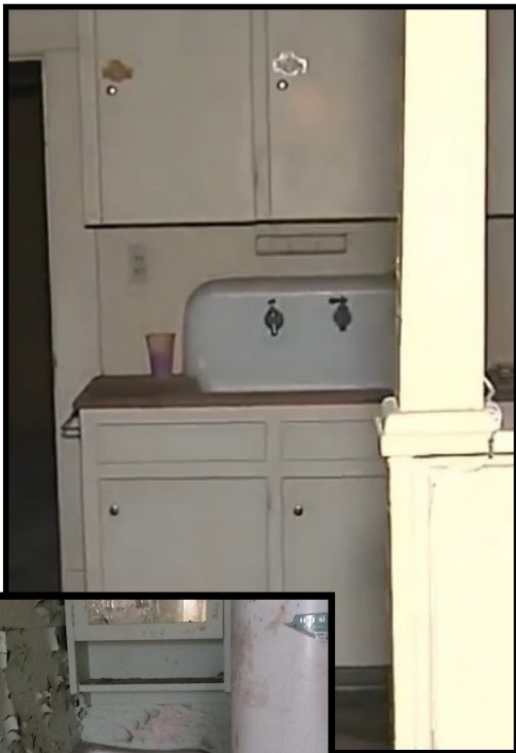
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I have always enjoyed urban legends, mysteries, and spooky stories! Our newest exhibit gives me the chance to dive deeper into Bartlesville's very own tales and I am excited to share them with museum visitors! If you like to explore, here are a couple of my favorites!



## GRAVITY HILL

Gravity Hill is a famous local legend and roadside attraction located just south of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, near the town of Ochelata. Found right where Gap Road and Moose Lodge Road meet near the old Matoaka Switch railway crossing, it draws thrill-seekers eager to experience a spooky phenomenon: if you park your car at the base of the hill and shift into neutral, your vehicle will mysteriously roll backward uphill.



## 311 SOUTH DEWEY AVENUE

Inside a commercial brick building on 311 South Dewey Avenue, is a secluded house that has sparked curiosity since its discovery. The mysterious house is a fully intact, multi-room residential home hidden inside a two-story commercial building. It features its own exterior siding, windows, and a complete original kitchen, all sealed away from the outside world. For the rest of the stories or more like these, visit the museum!

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# CELEBRATING HISTORY, ONE

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## July 16th

Our July "Lunch and Learn" event featured guest speaker, Department Head of History, at OSU, Richard Boles. Boles gave a wonderful and educational presentation on "African American and Native American Contributions to the American Revolution."

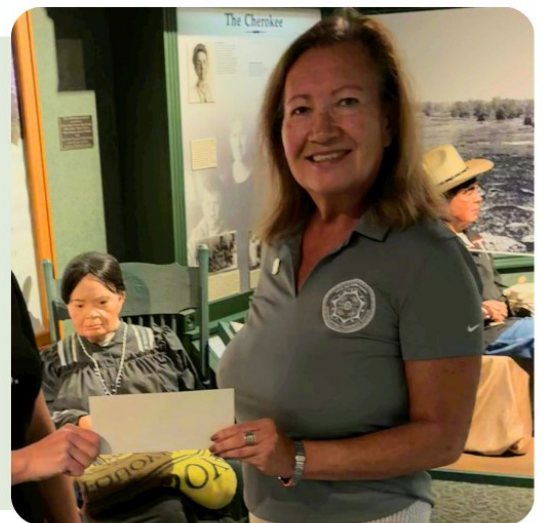


## August 20th

We had a packed house during our August "Lunch and Learn" event featuring guest speaker, Jake Tiger, a prominent historian and the Band Chief of the Thomas Palmer Band (formerly the Paskofv band) within the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.

## Thank You!

Cherokee Nation Tribal Councilor Dora Patzkowski presented The Bartlesville Area History Museum with a significant donation. This generous contribution underscores the Cherokee Nation's ongoing commitment to preserving regional history, fostering community education, and honoring the deep cultural roots shared across Washington County. We extend our deepest gratitude for your incredibly generous donation.



# EXCITING EVENT AT A TIME!



## Hillcrest 100th

We were thrilled to partner with Hillcrest Country Club in celebration of their landmark 100th anniversary. To honor this centennial milestone, BAHM curated two special historical exhibits that showcase the country club's rich heritage, community impact, and deep roots in Bartlesville's history. The museum would like to acknowledge great thanks to Gale Kane and her book, "Bartlesville Means Business," which was a huge asset in allowing us to curate these exhibits.



## September 17th

Tanya McCoy, pediatric nurse and American author, brought a crowd ready for spooky tales inspired by her book, "Oklahoma's Haunted Route 66!" McCoy shared chilling firsthand accounts, local folklore, and historical context behind Oklahoma's most haunted highway stops. Following the presentation, she hosted a live Q&A and book signing, where copies of Oklahoma's Haunted Route 66 were available for purchase.



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# IN THE KNOW WITH NOWLIN

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— Denise Nowlin, Education Coordinator —

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A native of Oklahoma and a long time Bartlesville resident, June studied art education at the University of Oklahoma. After her first husband passed away and her two children were grown, she began painting. She signed her artwork, "J. Floren", which was her first husband's last name.



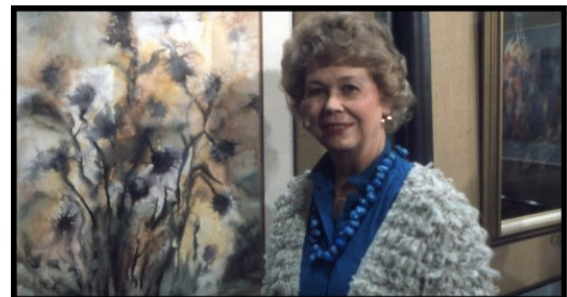
Mrs. Pritchard was a member of the Bartlesville Arts Association, even serving as the president of the organization for a time. She loved her community, and she loved sharing her art. Mrs. Pritchard passed away in 2019, just a few days shy of her 99th birthday.

## The Art of Giving: June Floren Pritchard

A few years ago, I met local artist June Floren Pritchard. Mrs. Pritchard painted with watercolors. Several of her paintings still grace the walls of various buildings in our community.



June got remarried to Jim Pritchard, a researcher at Phillips Petroleum. Together, they became well-known in town for their philanthropic endeavors. They were very generous to Oklahoma Wesleyan University, giving hundreds of students the opportunity to receive scholarships. This is how I originally became acquainted with the Pritchards, being one of the students who received one of those scholarships.



More information about the Floren artwork can be found at <https://www.okwu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Drake-Library-Paintings.pdf>

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**Opening of the BAHM new exhibit- "Beneath Bartlesville: Tunnels, Lore and Mysteries Behind the Legends".**  
Uncover Washington County's hidden spooky history.

9TH OCTOBER –  
8TH JANUARY

23<sup>RD</sup>  
OCTOBER  
1:00-3:00 P.M.

**Our Annual Spooktacular Halloween Walk** Goblins 10 years or younger, will be guided through BAHM where they can find candy stops and win spooky prizes at game stations.

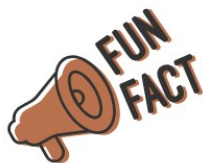


**Author Heather Woodward** to give a discussion on her book "Eerie Oklahoma,"

17TH  
NOVEMBER  
1:00-3:00 P.M.

22<sup>TH</sup>  
DECEMBER  
1:00-3:00 P.M.

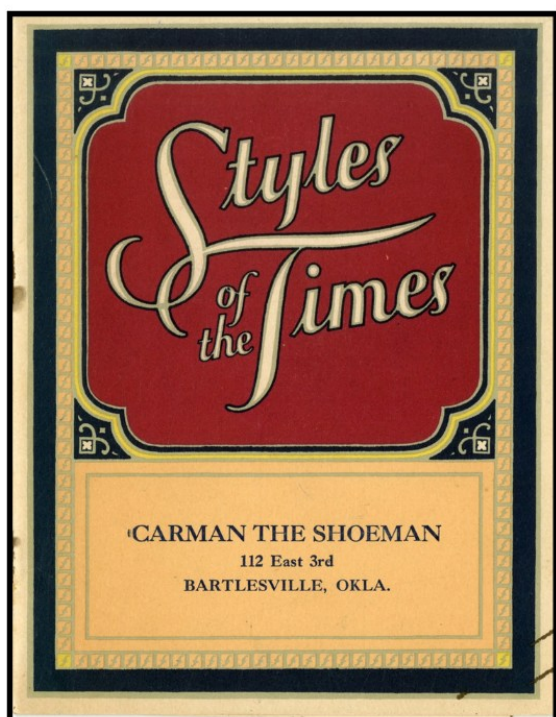
**Pictures with the Grinch** Clear your calendar quick and dust off your gear, for everyone's favorite green rascal will be here! On a crisp winter day, with the cheer in full swing, he's returning to see what new trouble he'll bring!



**Adding to the list of genius inventions by Oklahomans is the aerosol can. The first successful commercial aerosol can was developed in the 1940s by Robert H. Abplanalp, a resident of Bartlesville, who went on to start the Precision Valve Corporation.**

## DAY IN THE REGISTRAR LIFE

Kasey Werts, BAHM Registrar



"Carman the Shoe Man" was a shoe store located at 112 East 3rd St., in Bartlesville in the Lannom building. E.C. Carman opened the store in the early 1900s, offering men's, women's, and children's shoes. The head sales man was Ellis McGraw. Carman's had many locations over the years. They provided shoes to Bartlesville and the surrounding area for over 50 years. Thank you to Sharon Wilson for the 1924 Carman's shoe catalog.

### WHAT'S IN YOUR ATTIC?

Want to donate a family heirloom, antique find, photos or other materials?

Please contact Kasey Werts at (918) 338-4268 or kawerts@cityofbartlesville.org



### MUSEUM STAFF

DIRECTOR - KILEY CORTEZ  
 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR- CINDY YELL  
 COLLECTIONS MANAGER - CASEY SULLIVAN  
 MUSEUM COORDINATOR - SHAYLA CUMMINS  
 REGISTRAR - KASEY WERTS  
 EDUCATION COORDINATOR - DENISE NOWLIN

### VISITATION STATS

**VISITORS FOR 2026:** 1,039

**STATES:** AK, AL, AR, CA, CO, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, LA, MD, MN, MO, MS, NM, NC, NY, PA, OK, OR, RI, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI

**COUNTRIES:** CANADA, PUERTO RICO, GUATEMALA, SWITZERLAND, VENEZUELA,, FRANCE

### Bartlesville Area History Museum

401 S. Johnstone Avenue, 5th Floor

Bartlesville, OK 74003

**Phone** (918) 338-4290

**Web:** [www.bartlesvillehistory.com](http://www.bartlesvillehistory.com)

**Email:** [history@cityofbartlesville.org](mailto:history@cityofbartlesville.org)

**Past Perfect online database:**

[bartlesvillehistory.pastperfectonline.com](http://bartlesvillehistory.pastperfectonline.com)

### MUSEUM HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00am-4:00pm

Closed Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays

# SCAN HERE!



For more information  
on events, exhibits and  
to sign up for  
exclusives!

# FOLLOW US!



@BARTLESVILLE\_AREA\_HISTORY



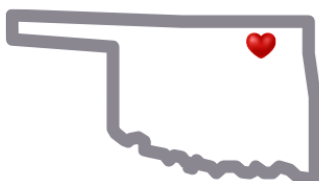
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**PROTECT. COLLECT. PRESERVE. SHARE.**



**AASLH**

American Association  
for State and Local History