

# A place for reflection

**By Traci Chapman**  
Staff Writer

It's a site of remembrance, of honor, of terror, a precursor of what was to come and a site that exemplifies a time of innocence lost.

It might not be a place that first comes to mind when planning summer activities, but the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum offers visitors a place for reflection and education, a chance to not only remember the violence of April 19, 1995, but the people who never came back home that day and a future filled with determination others would not lose their lives in the same place.

"The memorial is such an important place, not just for Oklahomans, but for everyone who wants to learn more about the history,

## A site of remembrance

**WHAT:** The Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum

**WHERE:** 620 N. Harvey Avenue in Oklahoma City

**HOURS:** 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday

understand what happened and resolve that it cannot happen again," Melva Noakes said.

She knew the site – the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building – well. Noakes and her husband owned six day care centers in 1995, one of those America's Kids Day Care, housed on the Murrah building's second floor.

The thing that still most strikes her in remembering that sunny morning 23 years ago was the normalcy of it.

"It's still almost impossible to believe that a day like that could start out so normally – I mean there was no premonition, no feeling, no inkling of what was going to happen," Noakes said. "That

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-Alan Chapman

The Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum offers visitors a place for reflection and education, as well as a chance to remember the victims of the 1995 bombing.