

Festival lights the dark

By Traci Chapman

It is a different kind of festival than most, filled with light and serenity, a chance to bond with nature and reflect on simple beauty.

That event is the Water Lantern Festival, set for April 20 in Yukon's Route 66 Park. In its second year, the national event started with 34 participant cities in 2018, with about 130,000 taking part, organizers said.

This year, officials said they hoped to more than double both the number

of events and those taking part.

The highlight of the festival is the floating lantern provided to each attendee, which is lit and then placed upon the water.

The four-hour Yukon event will also feature food, music, activities and other vendors. Ticket prices include the cost of both removing lanterns from the water after the event and any other trash or debris left behind.

Gates open April 20 at 6 p.m., lantern design beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Lanterns will launch between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m., organizers said.

Coinciding with the weekend of the 24th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, organizers would gift 168 lanterns to families directly affected by the April 19, 1995, tragedy, event director Nate Sorensen said.

The festival was a perfect way to commemorate both the light and the dark events and happenings of life, he said.

"This Water Lantern Festival pro-

vides a way to share messages of life, love, remembrance, unity, and peace," Sorensen said. "It's a night to be remembered."

Ticket prices are \$35 until April 19, \$40 the day of the event. Yukon's Water Lantern Festival is set from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. April 20 in Route 66 Park, located at 9901 NW 23rd Street in Yukon.

For more information or to purchase tickets, go to www.WaterLanternFestival.com or email Support@WaterLanternFestival.com.

Cruise into Small Town Weekend U.S.A.

By Ryan Horton

Classic car and family fun lovers can celebrate everything small town U.S.A. has to offer right off of historic Route 66.

Hosted rain or shine, the Small Town Weekend cruises into El Reno this June to celebrate everything nostalgic on the local strip of Route 66.

Plenty of family fun is to be had during El Reno's Small Town Weekend celebration.

Numerous events will be held throughout the weekend, from the only legal drag race and burnout on Route 66 to grass car races and an open car show.

The Small Town Weekend is fun for the entire family with children's activities, festival food, vendors, live entertainment and more.

On Saturday, the car show will

allow guests to admire classic and modified cars, among other sleek vehicles. A closed route cruise on Route 66 in the evening closes out the day's events with more events lined up for Sun-

day.

The El Reno Cruisers is a car club passionate about cars and community. The not for profit was founded in 1991 and brings car enthusiasts out to Adams Park each year.



Cruise on in

June 7-9

Adams Park, El Reno



Oklahoma Craft Beer Festival set for May 18

Oklahoma Craft Beer Festival is a beer, cider and mead tasting event that focuses on producers from Oklahoma, the U.S. and around the world.

The ninth annual event is expected to bring in around 5,000 beer enthusiasts to sample over 300 beers from nearly 90 breweries.

The event is moving to the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds this year, and two sessions are available.

Designated Driver tickets are available for all sessions for FREE.

The VIP session (\$52) allows early access, 1-4 p.m.

VIPs receive shorter lines for pours of over 300 beer samples, a commemorative five ounce glass tulip.

The regular session (\$42) is from 6-9 p.m. and includes a commemorative tasting cup and access to one ounce samples of over 300 beers.