



# Sequoyah draws raves

## Renovated lodge offers golf packages

BY KEN MACLEOD

Talk about an eye-opener. The first time Keli Clark with the State of Oklahoma Tourism Department walked in the renovated lodge at Sequoyah State Park, she couldn't contain her enthusiasm.

"I just yelled 'Oh My God,'" Clark said. "And it's been that kind of reaction from everyone who has seen it."

The 101-room Sequoyah Lodge was closed from last August 4 through Jan. 30, 2015, for what can only be described as a gutting.

"We tore everything out," said Michael Cooley, the food and beverage manager. "All the old flooring, carpet, blinds, curtains, wall coverings, every piece of furniture, it was all in a big pile in the parking lot. We took out the drywall because in the old days there used to be smoking in the lodge. We are now completely smoke and vapor free."

The new rooms are all completely redone with new furnishings including all new beds, chairs, furnishings, flat screen televisions and all new bathroom fixtures. The lodge was closed the year before for five months to install all new heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) as well as electrical. Between the two renovations, the state spent nearly \$8.5 million bringing Sequoyah up to a new standard.

The new décor is mid-century modern, designed to reflect the times of the original construction. Not only are the rooms and suites comfortable and tasteful, but the full impact can be felt in the open areas and meeting rooms.

The huge Sequoyah meeting room can now be portioned off with soundproof dividers, making it possible to serve lunch in one half while keeping the meetings going in the second half, if everyone is not distracted by the view of the sun setting over Fort Gibson Lake, or haven't already snuck out for golf, boating, hiking, tennis, horseshoes or one of the many other activities available.

The dining rooms are bright and airy with views out to the pool and courtyard. The kitchen has been completely retrofitted as well. Thanks to a relationship with the Cherokee Nation, all new historical artwork lines the hallways and a brochure is available for those who want to take a self-interpretive tour.

The lodge has nine meeting rooms overall and room for 900 guests. Besides rooms and suites at the lodge, the facility has 45 cabins, a house and a bunkhouse for rent. It has two different golf packages available. For more information, go to [oktravel.com](http://oktravel.com).



*Mid-century modern decor.*



*Artwork, furnishings add class to renovated rooms.*



*Meeting space with a view.*