

3 Blind Wines

Wine tasting competition to benefit YAC

The Yoknapatawpha Arts Council and Oxford's Tasting Society team up with local liquor stores to present 3 Blind Wines at the Powerhouse on Tuesday, Oct. 12.



KRISTIE
WARINO

"Oxford is a small town with a lot of flair, and 3 Blind Wines is great for people wanting to change things up a little bit, Catherine Cartwright, YAC public relations representative said.

3 Blind Wines is a unique event where teams of two people select three bottles of the same red wine.

"There are no rules on the type, kind, price or brand of red wine you choose. Bring

what you like," Cartwright said.

Guests attending the event order their wine from Pj's, Kiame's or Star Package stores and the wine they choose is picked up for them.

"All you have to do is show up, and your wine is waiting on you," Cartwright said.

Two of every team's bottles of wine are set out for tasting with the labels covered and the third bottle of wine is held as part of the auction prize.

"For wine lovers, the grand prize cannot be beat, Cartwright said. "The winner of the wine contest takes home all the other team's third bottle of wine and that could be an entire cellar of wine."

All of the proceeds from the 3 Blind Wines event benefit the Arts Council and the Oxford Tasting Society — both, non-profit organizations.

"The wine tasting is open to the public, and we hope everyone who is looking for a fun new event in Oxford will attend," Cartwright said.

Tickets are on sale at the Powerhouse for \$25 per team or \$20 for Arts Council and Tasting Society members. When tickets are purchased, the official rules and wine order forms will be available.

3 Blind Wines will be held from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 12, at the Powerhouse.

"Expect to try a lot of different wines and maybe even find a new wine you love, but never would have tried on your own," Cartwright said.

SACRED HARP SINGING



The village of Taylor, known for its juxtaposition of traditional life with modern and original arts, will host its 23rd annual all-day Sacred Harp singing on Sunday, Oct. 10, at the United Methodist Church. Singing will commence at 11 a.m. (after the 10 worship service), followed by potluck dinner and more singing until 3 p.m. The program is led by Warren Steel of Oxford. The Reverend Annette Ford and the congregation invite the public to attend and participate. Taylor United Methodist Church, with its resonant wooden floor and beaded wood walls, is an ideal location to hear this thrilling harmony, which is not accompanied by harps or any other instruments. For more information, call Steel at 236-5356 or visit www.mcsr.olemiss.edu/%7Emudws/harp.html.

Local artists represent Oxford outside city limits

By WAYNE ANDREWS
YAC Director

Electors loom on the horizon and the political advertisements talk of taxes, deficits and creating jobs. The creation of jobs being one of the big issues. There is always talk of investments for business growth, technology zones and biotech incubators. All of these are important but sometimes you need to look at what you are doing well and see if a little investment will allow you to maximize that effort.

Lafayette County has a multitude of small businesses that are all very important to the economic growth of our community. One group holds a unique position in that the majority of their business is outside Lafayette County creating a "trade imbalance" between Lafayette county and other states. It is our local artists. Our local artists are highly trained professionals whose work is created here then sold across the county; even around the world.

How important is this to Lafayette County? The Oxford Artist Guild has 70 members who are active visual artists each having been juried in based on the quality of their work. This organization does not account for all the artists in

our community. In a town with over 300 lawyers, having a guild of professional artists that is almost one third of that number shows how important artists are to our community. We have not even added in the writers, graphic designers and architects whose work is all based in art. Further proof of the importance of artists is that they are small marketing agencies for our community. Artists show, with the intent of selling, their work in galleries across the county generating both revenue for the region and tourism.

A current example is Katherine Rhodes Fields who will be featured at the Good Citizen Gallery in St. Louis. Her month-long show entitled "Scratch & Sniff" which opens Friday, Oct. 15, showcases her new work. Work rooted around growing up in Mississippi and which cross-pollinates traditional printmaking with

contemporary processes, such as photography, digital media and installation is being featured in a solo show in a gallery over five hours and two states away. Image how many artists vied for that

same wall space. Now, quantify the impact for our community. How much would it cost for our Convention and Visitors Bureau to buy a month-long ad in a newspaper in St. Louis? This one artist (just by doing her job) is marketing Oxford and Lafayette County. Now recall; there are 70 artists registered in the Artist Guild. What if each of them where showing somewhere — it is not a what if as many of artists

are present daily in a gallery in a major city.

Imagine when she sells a piece of her work. Fields' work is in demand. It already is in multiple print and permanent collections, including The

Mississippi Museum of Art, The William D. Merwin Collection of Contemporary Art in St. Louis, Amity Art Foundation Print Collection, Woodbridge, Connecticut and The Southern Graphics Council Print Archive. Five hours away someone is making a connection with our community because of the creative vision, talent and work of one artist. People may not travel five hours to tour a car plant but they will drive that distance to meet an artist, tour a studio or buy directly from the artist.

I'm not down on car plants, manufacturing jobs or industry of any sort. Yet, plants close, manufacturing jobs move overseas and the costs of industrial growth mean that big investments are not always on the horizon. Art as a business is good for the community. Strangely enough, art is one of those few businesses where more is better. If you add more restaurants to a community they seem to just pass business around. More restaurants do not mean more customers. Yet, more artists in town seems to create more art; in the form of shows, exhibits galleries and studios. This, in turn, seems to attract more people. Just ask Paducah, Ky., which is home to more than 20 studios and galleries that are enjoying the benefits of tourism from the arts.



Katherine Rhodes Fields