

Tulsa chocolatier works to improve life for veterans by Josh Gammon

Tucked into the heart of downtown Tulsa's Brady Arts District is a team of chocolatiers working to make lives better through sweet treats and veterans advocacy.

Bill Copeland owns Glacier Confection and spent years becoming an expert chocolatier in his own right.

"I spent the last 10 years, plus, learning as much as I possibly could: The science, the process, the retail and artistry of it. Then I decided to take some formal programs," Copeland said.

He travels all over the world to learn about chocolate.

"I studied at Ecole, which is a British Columbia company. I graduated from there with my basic professional chocolatier certification. From there, I studied in Belgium...and then I also went to France," Copeland said.

He plans to spend time learning in Italy next.

A few miles from the downtown shop is where Copeland and his team bring their creativity to life. In the Glacier Confection factory, it takes a minimum of three days to produce a piece of chocolate.

"There may be as many as ten steps to one piece," Copeland said.

Once the candy is complete, it is packaged and sent to the store where it will be enjoyed by happy customers.

However, that's not the end of Glacier's work.

"We pretty much started it to make a difference in people's lives, introduce them to European-style artisanal chocolate and also give back to veterans," Copeland said.

Copeland and his company support the Veterans Administration's "Coming Home to Work" program and the Folds of Honor Foundation.

“What we’re doing now is looking at a retraining program for veterans who want to develop careers in confection,” Copeland said.

He points out the stress-free environment that comes with working in confection as a benefit to veterans.

“You’ll be happy coming in, happy going out. That’s really important for a vet who has been in very intense situations with a lot of stress.”

The Glacier team is currently working on plans to open a new location in downtown Tulsa soon.

Revisiting 1995 & the Summer of Paxton

by Josh Gammon

Wakita, Oklahoma -

Population: 344

Founded: 1898

The population ticked up slightly for four months of 1995 when a Hollywood film crew rolled into town.

While there, they built up homes and businesses, destroyed them and left a lifetime of memories for residents of the Grant County town.

We're talking about 'Twister', of course. You don't have to tell anyone in Wakita that, but it's understandable why outsiders may have forgotten about the blockbuster film that introduced many people to the deadly storms that are a part of every Oklahoman's life.

'Twister' was released in May 1996 and became the second highest grossing movie of the year. With over \$241 million, it came only behind 'Independence Day' in the year-end tally. It featured a cast including Bill Paxton, Helen Hunter, Cary Elwes and Philip Seymour Hoffman.

We decided to visit the town and see it for ourselves.

It's not hard to miss Wakita. The entire town covers an entire area of less than half a mile. Lined up down main street you'll find the town's grocer, funeral home, antique shop and 'Twister' museum all in the same strip.

Yes, there's a museum and it's as great as you might imagine.

You might actually not imagine much due to the building's size. Make no mistake, there is no shortage of history and memorabilia housed inside.

Linda, the museum's curator and our tour guide told us stories about everything from the Hollywood destruction of the town to how Bill Paxton stole everyone's heart and was often seen tossing a football with locals.

It was the summer of Paxton.

She doesn't hear from him often, but he's been known to send a letter to the museum from time to time. He even donated a 'Twister' pinball machine made specifically for him by SEGA.

Shortly after we arrived, in walked a pair of travelers who wanted to see the museum too. Yolanda and Leslie were more than just curious travelers though. They were in the United States from the Netherlands and made a special detour on their cross-country tour of Route 66 to check out the museum.

Leslie is such a big fan of Twister that he has the movie's logo tattooed on his right arm. We spent some time talking to him and he was overjoyed to be in Wakita.

"I wonder how many visitors they get?" We asked while imagining a much smaller number than the truth.

Close to 24,000 from around the world. That's more than 1,000 visitors a year.

September 19 is the museum's 20th anniversary and they are pulling out all the stops. Storm chasers from the around the state will participate in a big parade. There will be food, music, giveaways and fun. 'Twister' is literally engraved into the town so they take the celebration seriously.

This place is just one of many that make Oklahoma unique. If we could find a touch of Hollywood in a town of less than 350, what else can we find?

[See this story on Medium.](#)

Tulsa Animals Welfare: Walk dogs, catch Pokemon **by Josh Gammon**

Tulsa Animal Welfare is making it easy for you to help an animal in need while getting your Pokemon Go fix.

The city announced on the animal welfare Facebook page that players can put their game time to good use by walking one of the shelters dogs while searching for Pokemon.

"Just come to the front desk, say you are here for the Pokemon dogs, and you're on your way," the post read.

They were even quick have some fun addressing the incorrectly spelled "Pokeman" in the graphic:

"Our proofreader shall be punished at the end of the day," the page responded in the comments.

The Tulsa Animal Welfare Shelter is at 3031 North Erie Avenue.

See this story on FOX23.com.