

LEFT: Diners enjoy eating outdoors at Los Cabos Mexican Grill & Cantina. BELOW: Musicians perform at the amphitheater beside the Arkansas River.



Fun on the Riverfront

For an adventure that's as lively as a cruise on the high seas, ship out to this Oklahoma town at the water's edge. By **Les Thomas**

I doubt if Jenks, Oklahoma, can ever go back to being a sleepy little place again. It's having way too much fun pretending it's a cruise ship.

At least that's the way it looks this evening. A singer rocks on an outdoor stage. Lights dance on sparkling waters. Couples sway to the music and sip drinks at an open-air bar.

You can do just about everything in Jenks you can do on a cruise, except get seasick. Restaurants, shops, and attractions line the banks of the Arkansas River at the festive RiverWalk Crossing. So crank up the prairie schooner, and book passage to this town at the edge of Tulsa when

you're ready for excitement. You don't need a passport to enjoy it. Bon voyage.

Shop Like a Native Stroll along RiverWalk Crossing to see fascinating one-of-a-kind stores. If you forgot to dress for a tropical vacation, no worries. Step inside Island Nation, and you'll find a treasure trove of island-inspired apparel, art, books, gifts, and gourmet foods. Bring home a bamboo candle, a carved tiki, a picture of beautiful Caribbean waters, a surfboard rug, or a travel book on Tahiti. www.myislandnation.com or (918) 296-9801.

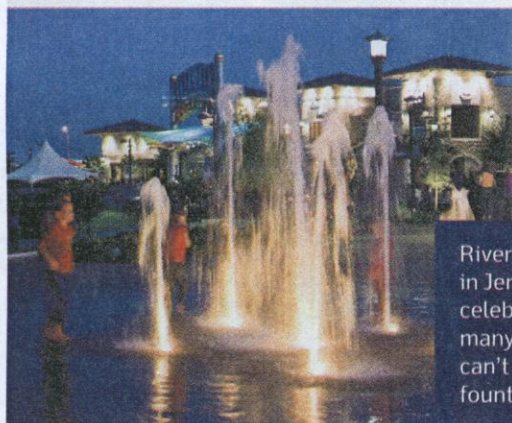
You can admire one of the best selections of handcrafted turquoise jewelry in Oklahoma at West Southwest Territory. www.wswterritory.com or (918) 296-0957.

Eat Like a Local Ask for an outdoor table, and catch some rays at Los Cabos Mexican Grill & Cantina. Have the ceviche (\$8.99). It's a huge serving of shrimp and scallops marinated in lime juice and tastes so fresh you'll think you're in Nassau. If you're in a party mood, ask for the house special, a sangría margarita

called a Boomer Swirl. Why not? You're on vacation. www.loscabosok.com or (918) 298-2226.

Play Like a Fish Sharks and stingrays prowl these waters. If you don't believe it, step inside the Oklahoma Aquarium. One of the best marine life centers in the South makes its home on the waterfront. It's loaded with hands-on activities families enjoy. Don't miss the frolicking otters, beavers, and the other wildlife in the new Hayes Family Ozark Stream exhibit. Tickets for adults cost \$13.95; ages 3-12 cost \$9.95. www.okaquarium.org or (918) 296-3474.

Party Like a Rock Star Musicians take the stage at RiverWalk Amphitheater for free concerts every Friday and Saturday night through the end of October. As many as 20,000 people attend. It's an eclectic lineup. To check the schedule, visit www.riverwalkcrossing.com, or call the RiverWalk Crossing office at (918) 296-7121, ext. 308. ●



RiverWalk Crossing in Jenks, Oklahoma, celebrates water in many ways. Children can't resist a dancing fountain.