

## Bottle openers



Photos by ADAM WISNESKI / Tulsa World

Above, architect Rand Elliott (right) and general manager Marty Doepke are surrounded by some of the 10,000 decorative pop bottles that line the glass walls of Pops, a roadside attraction being opened along Route 66 in Arcadia. Below, Loren Yensull paints the inside of a 66-foot-tall soda bottle that sits in front of Pops.

# New Route 66 site is bound to be pop-ular

► The futuristic gas station, restaurant and soda pop store is set to open in mid-August.

By **ANGEL RIGGS**  
World Capitol Bureau

**A**RCADIA — The Route 66 roadside attraction is being reinvented in Arcadia, the Deep Fork River-valley town best known for its iconic red “Round Barn.”

When Aubrey McClendon, chairman and CEO of Chesapeake Energy, came up with the idea to open a “cool” gas station near a tree farm he owns in the town, he teamed with Oklahoma architect Rand Elliott to design the project.

It wasn't to be just any roadside stop.

Elliott, whose work includes Clinton's Route 66 Museum and the recently debuted Oklahoma Heritage Center, designed the station with equal parts Americana, new age and soda pop.

“Often when people think about Route 66, they think about old, decrepit, decaying things — memories,” Elliott said. But, he added, the road “really is alive, there is so much to be said for it.”

Called Pops, the instant icon features a 110-foot canopy covering its store and futuristic gasoline pumps; 10,000 colorful, shimmering pop bottles lining its glass walls; and an eye-popping 66-foot-tall steel pop bottle sculpture — lit up a la Times Square.

Of course, there are also more than 400 different kinds of soda pop imported from all over the world.

Soda enthusiasts can even have cases of pop delivered to their doorstep using a one-of-a-kind kiosk that allows customers to mix-and-match their own personal case.

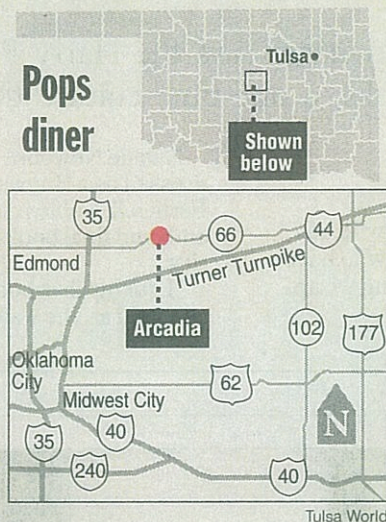
Pops' diner-style restaurant will feature everything from omelets to ribeye steaks and shakes to wine.

### Online

For more information on Pops: [tulsaworld.com/pops](http://tulsaworld.com/pops)



### Pops diner



Tulsa World

Though the station features plenty of Route 66 memorabilia, it's not as much a salute to the old Mother Road as a new flair on Americana charm.

The station is set to open in mid-August, but it's become such an attraction during construction that workers, concerned for safety, had to put up barricades at the parking lot entrance because so many people were stopping in for a sneak peek.

“We constantly have a slow pa-

### Museum facts

► Among the most unusual kinds of pop: soda made from dandelions or celery.

► Will feature 43 varieties of root beer, 50 varieties of cream soda.

► Sixty-six-foot-tall soda bottle outside features LED lighting.

► Will also feature its own Round Barn Root Beer.

rade of cars just driving by looking at the bottles,” said Marty Doepke, general manager.

He estimated that about 90 percent of the pops will cost less than \$1.25, and he's tried about 60 different kinds so far.

Doepke, whose background is in corporate dining, said he's met people from as far away as Norway who have stopped in to take a look.

“I've met people from all over the world just because of the Route 66 draw,” he said.

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