

BOYD STREET



November 2017 • Issue 11 • Volume 16

Todd Gibson
Cleveland County's
Interim Sheriff


Young & Able
Sooner Men's Basketball Preview

Bronx Perry
The Scene Setter Kid

**Norman for
the Holidays**
Festive Shopping, Events &
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BY: CHRIS PLANK

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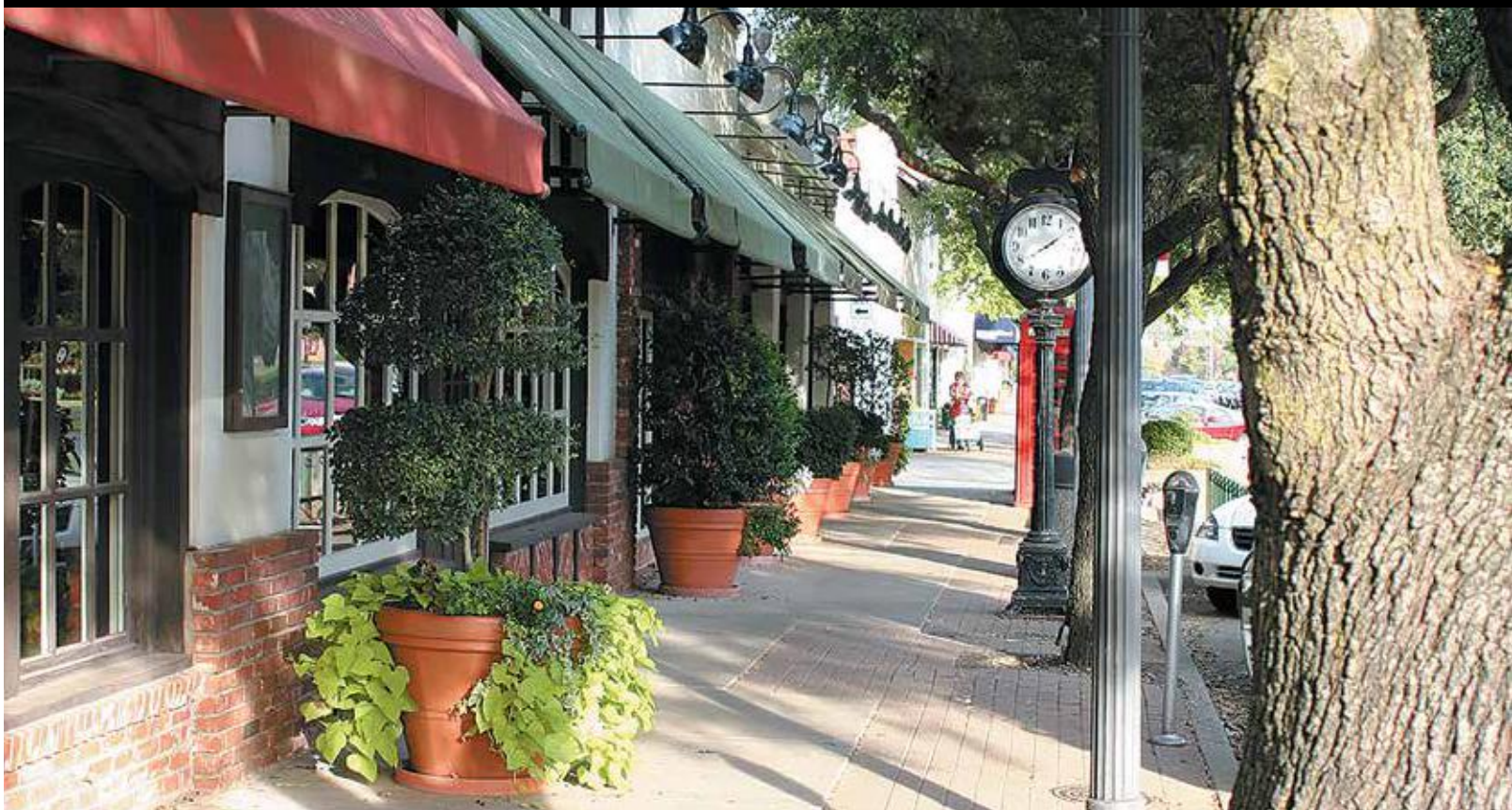
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IN NOVEMBER

6 things to do in Norman in November



SOONER WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Lloyd Noble Center, Nov. 3 @ 2 p.m.
The Sherri Coale-coached Sooner women's basketball team will tip off the regular season with an afternoon game versus Central Oklahoma.



2ND FRIDAY ART WALK
Downtown Main Street @ 6 p.m.
2nd Friday Art Walk is a monthly celebration of art taking place in Downtown Norman's Walker Arts District, presented by the Norman Arts Council that highlights artists, arts organizations and businesses.



SOONER MEN'S BASKETBALL
Lloyd Noble Center, Nov. 12 @ 2 p.m.
The Sooner men's basketball team, coached by Lon Kruger, tips off its regular season with an afternoon contest versus Nebraska-Omaha at 2 p.m.



WINTER WIND CONCERT SERIES: GOODNIGHT MOONSHINE
The Depot @ 7 p.m.
Goodnight Moonshine will perform at 7 p.m. inside The Depot as part of the Winter Wind Concert Series.



THE ROMANTICS IN CONCERT
Riverwind Casino @ 8 p.m.
The Romantics, known for many hits including "What I Like About You," will perform at the Showplace Theatre inside Riverwind Casino.



OKLAHOMA NUTCRACKER
Nancy O'Brian Center for the Performing Arts @ 2 p.m.
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Students Get Real-World Experience Running Apparel Stores

Students at Norman North and Norman High may not have a corner on the market when it comes to Timberwolf and Tiger gear, but one thing is certain.

The corner they do have is the best corner in town.

Students at both schools opened businesses this fall, filling merchandise orders, setting schedules, stocking shelves and calculating profits inside retail spaces that were created by recent school building expansions.

Students at Norman North opened their North Place store earlier this fall, while Norman High students opened the doors of their Tiger Text-Styles enterprise on Nov. 1.

Both stores are near learning commons areas, which are major hubs of activity for students at both schools.

It's all part of their participation in Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), which is an international nonprofit student organization that prepares students for college and entrepreneurship.

Students have been handling day-to-day operations and gaining real-world retail, marketing, advertising and sales experience.

The two stores are selling everything school spirit, from dad hats and funny packs to license plate frames and school supplies.

"Some students work in here during their class or during their lunch,"

said Janae Kitchel, a Norman North senior and second-year DECA participant. "We price merchandise. We work with the student body and see what they would want and see about getting those things in here. Plus, we design our own merchandise."

Part of the challenge is to be smart with what items they sell and then price them lower than competitors, but high enough to turn a profit, Kitchel said. The store's employees anticipate steady sales of hooded sweatshirts through the winter months as well as laptop covers.

Kitchel, who is currently enrolled in an advertising strategies course, said social media marketing, word of mouth and morning announcements have been helpful in generating business. The visibility that comes with their location in the heart of the school doesn't hurt either. The store will even stay open during sporting events, offering apparel and snacks in conjunction with the school's concessions stand.

Norman North's store also includes a coffee shop, while Norman High's cafe is located at a separate location in the school. Both coffee shops are staffed and maintained by Sodexo Food Service.

Jamie Wilson, Norman North DECA adviser, said the students will learn a great deal by running their own store, but the most important lessons will be organization and responsibility.

"I want them to know this is their store," he said. "They need to be responsible for cleaning it, making sure they're on time — you name it."

For years, selling homemade cookies was the main fundraiser for DECA students in the Norman Public School District. Catering to hungry students, the cookie program was a tried and true way to bring in cash and give DECA students experience in measuring profit and loss. The new stores will give the students experiences that are even more applicable to the real world, said Ashley Frazier, DECA adviser at Norman High.

The students are even learning about startup costs and how expensive it can be to launch a new business and build it from the ground up, she said.

"My kids that run the school store have gone through my marketing class and my business management class," Frazier said. "They've had the classroom experience and now it's just tying it together into the real-world experience."

Kitchel, who would like to own her own physical therapy center, said the most challenging aspect of business is managing others and setting their schedules because you have to depend on others to show up and do the job. But when it comes to the most rewarding aspect, Kitchel is quick to say it's the steady growth.

"We all went into this kind of scared; we didn't really know what we were going to do," she said. "We were kind of uneasy about it, but I think we've come a long way and we've been learning a lot." — **BSM**

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Christmas Store Helps Families in Need

This holiday season, the Cleveland County community will band together to help hundreds of low-income families experience the joy of finding the perfect gifts for their loved ones.

The Cleveland County Christmas Store is a place where people can donate new toys, clothing, food and to volunteer as a way of making the season a little brighter for families facing financial hardships.

"The store makes it possible for people that don't have a lot of funds to get their children Christmas gifts," says Nathan Thompson, business banker and assistant vice-president of Arvest Bank in downtown Norman. "The real fun part about it is that kids actually get to shop for their parents, too."

Nathan has been involved with the Christmas Store for about four years, and is excited to volunteer again this holiday season.

The community effort gives families a Christmas shopping experience, with shopping carts and rooms set up with brand-new toys and other gift items for a variety of age groups. Volunteers guide the families through the store as they pick out presents for each other. Hundreds of people around Cleveland County donate their time, money and

talents to help make this program a reality each year, he said.

Among the volunteers are people who benefit from the Christmas Store. The store asks that a member of each family donate at least two hours of their time to help prepare the store. This allows families to contribute to their own Christmas, instead of simply receiving donations.



Another important part of the Christmas Store is the Share the Shelf initiative, which Thompson is heading up this year. Share the Shelf helps make sure that families receive food, as well as gifts. The effort works in partnership with public schools in Cleveland County and sends fliers to the parents of elementary school children, asking them to send nonperishable food donations.

Participation has been outstanding, he said.

Thompson, and Arvest Bank, have Charles Hollingsworth to thank for their involvement in the program. Hollingsworth was the president of Arvest Bank in downtown Norman in the program's early days. Every year since then, bank employees have volunteered at the store, and the bank continues to sponsor the initiative.

"I really enjoy doing this," Thompson says. "It's so nice to see the gratitude on the parents' faces and it's really neat to see the children go in and get to pick out something for their parents."

The Christmas Store was created in 1970 to facilitate local giving during the holiday season. Action, Inc., a nonprofit organization, gave the program its start before turning over coordination responsibilities to a free-standing board of directors. The program is fueled entirely by volunteers and donations.

The Christmas Store accepts donations of new, unused items and nonperishable foods, as well as cash donations.

"They're always looking for donations," says Thompson, "and they're always looking for volunteers."

To learn more about how to donate or become a volunteer, or to see if your family is eligible for the program, visit christmas-store.org. – **BSM**

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Moving Art Forward

Westwood Park's sculpture "Splash" is scheduled to be installed the first week of November.



A gigantic 16-foot tennis ball has splashed into Norman as the boldly colored aluminum sculpture made its way from the studio of internationally known sculptor Mark Aeling in St. Petersburg, Fla. to its destination at the Westwood Swim Complex.

"Splash" was selected as the winning design from 155 applications as the first public art piece under the Norman Arts Council's "Norman Forward 1% for Art" program.

Part of the Norman Forward package reserved one percent of funding of certain projects for a public art component.

"The Norman Arts Council (NAC) began working on a proposal to the city to be the administrator of those 'percent for arts' projects within Norman Forward," said Erinn Gavaghan, executive director of the council. "Because the city doesn't have an art department, they were happy to contract with us."

When a project with the one-percent attached to it begins, the NAC works with the city and stakeholders. The arts council is currently working on three of these projects. The first was the Westwood Swim Complex with an art budget of \$100,000.

The second art project is for the new east library branch being built on Alameda with an art budget of \$30,000. Illinois artist James Johnson has been selected and will build a 14-foot tall sculpture made from Corten steel. The piece will relate to the design of the library.

The third project will be installed at the new central library branch with the largest art budget to date of \$230,000.

The NAC began the selection process on Sept. 1.

"When we select one of these pieces, we use a panel of people. We work very closely with the City of Norman and the design team including interior designers, architects, landscape designers and the community," Gavaghan said.

"We always include an arts expert, someone who is familiar with high quality work like an art historian, an artist, or someone who has a lot of experience with public art. We do that to make sure everyone has a voice in the process."

Each Norman Forward art project will serve a unique purpose and relate to the community in a different way. "For Westwood, when we started talking with the design team, the city and the people who work at Westwood, we found they really wanted the artwork to serve as a symbol for the whole complex and as a very visible way to get into the complex," Gavaghan said.

For the east library, the focus was to be something that responded to the natural landscape and setting of the library.

"That library overlooks this beautiful prairie land in east Norman," Gavaghan said.

The focus of the central library project is still being finalized. "When the project team came together, they decided this would be a fairly monumental piece of artwork," Gavaghan said.

The project team wanted to express the qualities inherent to libraries such as curiosity, learning and inclusiveness.

"When we begin looking at artists' proposals, we will see how that piece of art will fulfill that purpose in the community," Gavaghan said.

The artist for the central Library project will be selected in the spring of 2018.

As part of the process, artists respond to the Request for Qualifications. Hundreds of artists respond to the requests and the selection panel narrows them down to three finalists who are invited to Norman for a site visit to see in-person where the project is being built and where within that site the art will be located.

They get to ask questions of the architects and the people who work in that facility, and they have the opportunity to learn more about Norman. After the visit, the artists have about six weeks to design a specific plan for that budget and create a three-dimensional or computer model to present to the panel. The panel then has an opportunity to interview the artists about materials and the design and, from that interview, they select the artist.

The project is then given to the Norman Arts Council Board and the Public Arts Board for approval. The city then enters into a contract with the artist and work begins.

Depending on the size of the project, the period of work can be different. For "Splash", Aeling worked on his sculpture for nine months. For the central library, the artist will be given a little more than a year.

NORMAN BIKE RACKS

Norman residents can find a total of 35 whimsical bike racks around Norman.

Unlike the Norman Forward art projects, bike rack artists were not responsible for the fabrication, so the "Art with a Purpose" competition brought in more than just the professional artist. Bike rack designers could be anyone who had a really good idea, which opened it up to mature artists, young artists and even children.

"We have filled downtown Norman and Campus Corner and we are looking at other places bike racks are needed," said Gavaghan.

Eight bike racks being finished now will be placed around Lindsey Street with a couple going to the west side of Norman around parks and other locations with bike traffic.

The bike rack project was funded by Fowler Toyota with a matching grant from Toyota Corporate.

"It can seem strange for a car dealership to support a bike rack project; but that is not how Fowler sees it," Gavaghan said. "They chose to support this project (because) they believe biking is a big part of a healthy community."

McPherson Machine Shop in Newcastle manufactures each bike rack in heavy duty, weather-resistant metal at a cost of around \$2,000 each, depending on the intricacy of the design. — BSM



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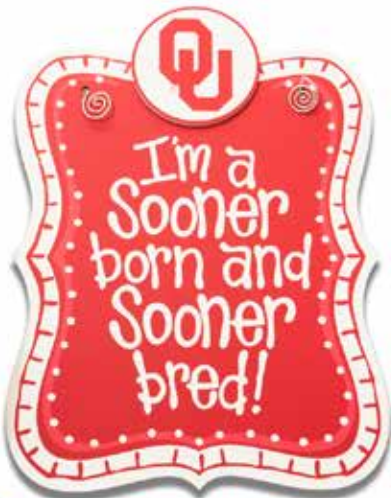


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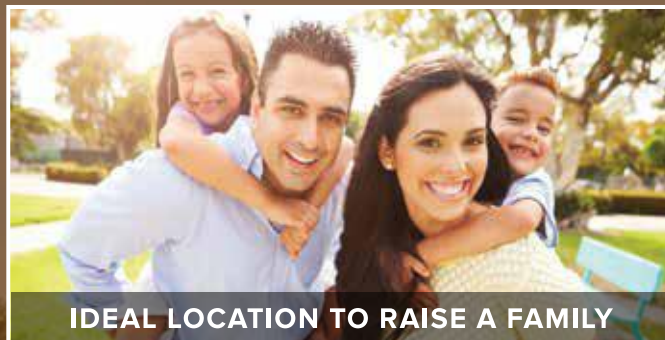
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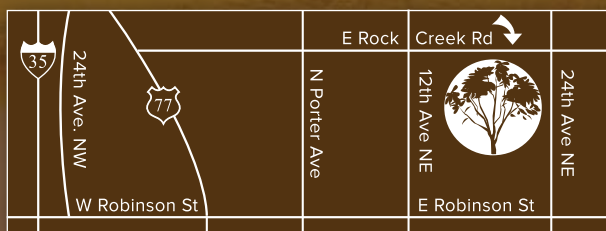
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NORMANITE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Jonathan Fowler

Jonathan Fowler pictured with his wife Natalie and their two children Winnie (left) and Ezra (right).

Before the Mile of Cars in Norman was a destination, Jonathan Fowler was working at his grandfather's Toyota dealership; delivering company mail, helping his mom in accounting and hanging out in the parts department.

"Grandpa would let me steer cars around the parking lot while he pushed the pedals," Fowler said. "I would watch while they made commercials. There was always something different going on around the dealership."

Despite his lineage in the car business, he decided in his teen years that the family business wasn't for him.

"I got really into music," Fowler said. "I didn't want anything to do with the car business, and that persisted through college."

He pursued a degree in Letters at the University of Oklahoma and poured his focus into other passions. He even spent a year working at a ski resort in Keystone, Colo.

However, his last semester at OU would be a key turning point for Fowler.

"I decided to work at the dealership for a few months to save up some money to get out of Norman," Fowler said. "And, in six months, I fell in love with the company. There were so many familiar faces still working here that I grew up around as a kid. Many still do."

After working for three years in different departments and learning all he could about the industry, Fowler was given an opportunity to open a new Volkswagen dealership in Norman.

"Volkswagen was a relatively new and unproven brand at that time," Fowler said.

But the Fowlers had already been through a similar situation when they began selling Toyotas in 1973, so Jonathan Fowler used those family experiences to reintroduce Volkswagen to the metro area.

"So much of my marketing strategy was based on what my grandfather did," said Fowler. "I would ask him for guidance and he would tell me stories about what drove his success. In the beginning, my grandfather was selling about 10 cars a month so expensive advertising wasn't an option. He had to get creative. He worked really hard to build relationships in the community."

Fowler followed his grandfather's advice and got creative. Leveraging

his love for the arts and blending it with the Volkswagen brand, Fowler helped form a program call VDUB Sessions in partnership with The Spy FM to promote local musicians and touring artists.

"I am a field musician at heart and that fit so well with the (Volkswagen) brand," Fowler said. "It was a genuine way to connect to our customer base and help local artists."

Fowler knows that music's impact goes well beyond selling Volkswagens. His involvement with the Norman Music Festival and the Norman Arts Council helped cultivate Fowler's vision for how the arts impact communities.

"My selfish love of music shifted," he said. "My perception grew as I got to see how much the arts can be an economic driver and transform a community."

"Art events bring people together," Fowler said.

He demonstrated that when he helped paved the way for Norman's first music festival.

It all started when he was invited to attend a planning meeting for what had been an old idea "that had been around for a while."

"As I looked around the room, I quickly realized everyone was there for a reason. They all had a skill set, a role to play," Fowler remembered. "As I looked around I realized we needed someone to do the fundraising. I was young and didn't really know what I was getting myself into, but I wanted to see rock stars come to Norman."

He came up with a plan to make his first pitch to his dad.

"He told me no," Fowler said. "So, I called Tommy Ferguson. I knew if I got Mr. Ferguson involved others would follow. When he wrote me that check, I felt like I had won the lottery."

The Norman Music Festival became a reality in 2008 and has continued to grow ever since. But, for Fowler, he discovered something in himself.

"It was a gamble that paid off," he said. "I found something I loved. I am very proud to have contributed."

Today, Fowler is the vice president of operations for Fowler Holding Co., serves as chair for the Board of Visitors for the Sam Noble Museum and sits on a steering committee for Plan Norman, a group that oversees the potential growth of Oklahoma's third-largest city and works to enhance the community's assets.

When he isn't working or volunteering, Fowler is enjoying his two children, Winnie, 3, and Ezra, 2, with his wife, Natalie, and is making plans to restore a historic home in central Norman.

"For the kid who grew up here and just wanted out, I am really proud to be a part of the Norman community," Fowler said. — **BSM**

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A New Digital Look for Norman Public Schools



Norman Public Schools' recent rollout of a new logo and website redesign is about more than just a switch from green and orange to shades of calm, cool blue. It's more than rearranging information on a homepage and launching a new mobile app.

With the district's digital facelift and logo revamp, it all comes back to Norman Public Schools' No. 1 priority: communication.

"Communication is the underlying piece to everything we do," said Superintendent Nick Migliorino. "We have a huge commitment to communication, and I think that's very evident with the logo, with the website and with the new app. All those pieces tied together should really exhibit our commitment to communicating to our parents, patrons and anybody else who wants to know about Norman Public Schools."

The new look was spearheaded by former Norman Public Schools Superintendent Joe Siano, who retired

from the post last summer, the district administration and Norman-based advertising and branding firm, Bold Multimedia.

With the district's previous logo and website, Norman North and Norman High's colors — green and orange, respectively — not only clashed, but fought for attention, said Alesha Leemaster, the district's executive director of communications and community relations.

"I felt we didn't have a cohesive brand as a district and the visual identity we had, not only was it not consistent across the board, but it forced competition between our two high schools," she said. "We needed to be more balanced."

The new website at normanpublicschools.org now features a more professional look, with two serene shades of blue at center stage — no green or orange in sight. The colors, Leemaster said, communicate what the district is all about: credibility, innovation and technology, just to

name a few key attributes brought forward by community members.

In fact, the community played a huge role in the rebranding by attending focus groups and offering up their perceptions and expectations for Norman Public Schools.

The homepage's large photo carousel rotates through photos of athletes, new teachers, STEM and arts programs as well as district news. The district used website analytics to determine which features needed to be made more prominent, and now parents, students and teachers will find it much easier to locate those high-traffic pages such as the parent portal, meal and nutrition information and academics and programming. The search function now is more user friendly, and it's easier to find on the homepage of all schools within the school district.

The district also made the language on the website easier to understand for those outside of the education realm by using words and terms an average website user would use.



And, when it came to the new logo, district officials wanted an update but also keep traditional aspects, too. Every stroke of the capital N set off to the left of “Norman Public Schools” is carefully thought out and symbolic, said Migliorino.

“The exterior (pillars) of the N represents our faculty and staff and the commitment we have to education — they’re holding things together,” he explained. “The (top) bold V line represents the community — they insert themselves into our school district and our students’ lives.”

The bottom, upside-down V represents district families, which Migliorino said are the foundation for students. The lighter N running through the center of the logo is the path the students take on their educational journey. It’s open-ended, which represents outside-the-box thinking and guidance for students without restricting them.

The district will also launch a mobile app that will act as a one-stop shop for students and families to find information on more mobile-friendly pages. The app also has the ability to act as a direct line of communication to district teachers, families and students through push notifications.

“All these things together give us the ability to put our best foot forward and show everyone all the great things we do,” Migliorino said. — **BSM**



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Interim Sheriff

“All I ever wanted to do in life was be in law enforcement.”

The new interim sheriff of Cleveland County, Todd Gibson, is proudly Sooner born and Sooner bred. Growing up in Norman, Gibson worked for the Norman Transcript as a paperboy when he was just 12 years old and at Reynolds Ford in High School, graduating in 1992 from Norman High School.

All Gibson ever wanted to do in life was be in law enforcement.

“My mom jokes she has one of my school assignments from second grade at Cleveland Elementary where I said I wanted to be a police officer,” Gibson fondly remembered.

While earning his associate degree from Oklahoma City Community College, Gibson met his future bride and says the only reason he continued his education at UCO in Edmond was because he was in love and would go wherever she went. Two years later, Gibson earned his associate’s degree in Criminal Justice.

When Gibson earned his associate’s degree in corrections, he didn’t think it would be applicable to his work now. Although an associate’s degree in Corrections doesn’t necessarily guarantee he has the ability to run a jail, it does give him a formal foundational education into corrections and jail facilities.

“I wanted an associate’s degree because I knew all the credits would transfer and now here I am at 44-years-old with a degree that lends credibility to some of the challenges I have ahead of me,” Gibson said.

In 1993, at the age of 18, Gibson joined the United States Air Force Oklahoma Air National Guard and was activated for a variety of tasks. He spent time at Tinker Air Force Base and in New Jersey as well as in Oklahoma

City as a member of the 137th Security Military Police unit. In his time with the unit, he served during the aftermath of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building bombing. He spent from April 19, 1995 through the month of May 1995 at the bomb site.

When Gibson was old enough to apply for civilian law enforcement, he easily transitioned and, in 1996, started as a police officer in Warr Acres. Gibson’s goal was always to come back home to Norman, where he would finish a more than 20-year career with the Norman Police Department.

“When I worked at the Norman Police Department, I worked in every division including patrol, the traffic unit and the detective unit for quite some time as well as supervised as a lieutenant, captain and division commander within the organization,” Gibson recalled.

Of all his accomplishments in his military and law enforcement career, Gibson said he is most proud of a single framed document on the wall in his office. “It’s my honorable discharge from the United States Air Force,” he said. “It’s something that reminds me of my honorable service to my country, to my state and to my community.”

When Gibson retired from the police department, he thought he was turning a new chapter in his life.

“My wife and family made many sacrifices during the years when I was on-call as a detective or the 16 years I was a member on the SWAT team and later selected as the SWAT team commander,” Gibson said. “If you would have asked me three months ago if I would be the sheriff of Cleveland County, I would have said ‘no.’”



Upon the unexpected retirement of the previous Cleveland County sheriff, Gibson was again presented with an opportunity to serve his community.

“My thought was, ‘I can make this better,’” he said.

And that is exactly what drove Gibson to apply.

“I am new to the whole arena of running a campaign; however, what I do know about is leadership and law enforcement and service. I look at this as another way for me to serve my community when it had a need,” Gibson said.

Gibson has all the rights and responsibilities of an elected sheriff and he is not waiting to fix problems.

“I’m very proud to say my first hire is an accountant,” Gibson said. “Because we are responsible for money that belongs to the citizens, I want all finances to be transparent.”

“I work very hard for my money and I know people work hard for theirs too,” Gibson continued. “They entrust us with their tax money. When I approve a purchase, that money is coming from the people of Cleveland County. I will strive to always remain cognizant of that.”

Gibson was quick to point out that, “the men and women who make up the Cleveland County sheriff’s department provide great service to the citizens.”

“It is my job to lead these men and women into the future, by continuing to build public trust, law enforcement transparency and being a good steward of the taxpayer’s money.” — **BSM**



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Roll Out the Red Carpet

for the annual Norman Assistance League Gala



(left to right) Libbi Holbrook, Valerie White, Katsey Johnson, Carol Bauman, Kris Booze, Amanda Wise, Jennifer Neary and Michele Webber

This year's Norman Assistance League Gala will be held at 6 p.m. on Nov. 18 inside Riverwind Casino's Showplace Theater.

Aligning with this year's Hollywood Game Night theme, attendees are encouraged to come dressed in their favorite Hollywood style.

The Norman Assistance League, an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, supports the community through various avenues, with the primary one being Operation School Bell, its signature philanthropic program.

The annual gala is the group's largest fundraiser, which benefits Operation School Bell. Through this program, the league is able to clothe more than 1,700 children from Norman and Little Axe Public Schools.

Kris Booze, Kelley Miller, Kristan Ringer and Nele Rogers are some of the Assistance League members on the committee for this year's Gala. Booze is serving as the Gala Chair

and called Miller, Ringer and Rogers her "three go-to sidekicks for everything gala."

The evening will include a pianist playing show tunes during a cocktail hour, a competitive live trivia game during dinner and both a live and silent auction. Banana Seat will be playing in the Riverwind Lounge following the conclusion of the gala. Auction items include a trip to Villa de Roja, Mexico, a cooking class with Kris Abbey of Abbey Road Catering and a Dallas Cowboys Legends signed helmet, among many others.

The Norman Assistance League started in 1974, and they hosted their first gala in 1975.

Originally the Christmas Tree Gala featured trees decorated with homemade ornaments that guests could purchase, Ringer said.

Eventually, the group moved to a holiday gala, and last year, did a "Roaring 20's" theme.



(left to right) Brandon Neary, Todd Booze and Scott Bauman

This year, the Assistance Leagues spent about \$125 per child through Operation School Bell.

However, Miller said the number of children who could use the aid is much higher. About 50 percent of the total student population in Norman and Little Axe schools qualify for the free and reduced lunch program, and that is a major factor of eligibility for Operation School Bell.

The goal, Miller said, is to increase the number of children they can help each year.

"The more funds we raise, the more children we can help," Miller said. "That's why we're passionate about our gala." — **BSM**



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Save Christmas for Hundreds

Every year there are children in Oklahoma who go without Christmas presents. Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) is trying to fill that gap with their Secret Santa Program.

The Secret Santa Program started in 1989 by CAB founders, Jaci Williams and Sue Durrett. As a DHS worker, Durrett saw first-hand children going without presents during the holidays. On Christmas day, 1988, she came up with the idea for a community program that would provide children in the Cleveland County Child Welfare system presents during the holiday. She went to Jaci Williams with the idea and they put it into action in 1989, providing wish lists for specific gifts for 69 children that year.

This was the start of Citizens Advisory Board, which now provides not only Christmas gifts to children in out-of-home care in Cleveland County, but has grown to provide for more needs such as food, gas, clothing and other basic needs.

Almost 30 years later, CAB and the community have grown the Secret Santa Program so much that over 700 children received gifts in 2016. Although CAB leads the program, community involvement is critical to the success each year.

As a community member, there are many different ways to get involved with the Secret Santa Program. Whether you are donating money

or physically shopping for the gifts, CAB needs help to continue to grow the program and provide gifts for more and more children each year.

On Nov. 6, the wish lists are made available to the community so that the shopping can begin. As a "community elf," as CAB calls it, you will be given a wish list to shop for a child in need.

Items are to be dropped off at 419 West Gray Street from Nov. 27 to Dec. 7, between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The entire community, elf or not, is invited to view the gifts and experience the impact that this program will make to children in need on Dec. 12 from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds.

For more information or to get involved with the Secret Santa Program, go to <http://cabok.org/cab-secret-santa/>.
— BSM



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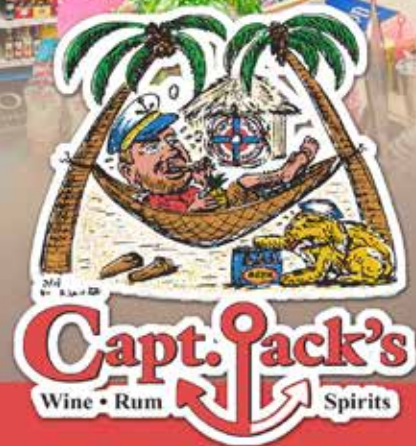
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Norman for the Holidays

Fall leaves are flying across Norman, which means Christmas holiday planning is already underway at businesses across the community.

So buckle up for a season of parties, events and shopping at local retailers, because Norman business leaders say the calendar is filling up fast.

From Santa sightings at the mall to a downtown Christmas parade under the lights, festivities should not be hard to find for families and friends this season. Meanwhile, the Norman retail community is joining with American Express to observe another Small Business Saturday as holiday shopping heats up just as turkey dinner leftovers cool down.

Visit Norman Communications Director Stephanie Brickman said Norman is rolling out a new plan for the community's annual Christmas parade, moving it from morning to night for an even livelier dose of holiday spirit.

Floats will be lit up as they move under Christmas lights that will be lining Main Street in Downtown Norman.

The parade will be Saturday, Dec. 9, starting at 5 p.m., Brickman said.

It will be a special evening, she said. The Sooner Theater's matinee of A Christmas Story Musical will be ending just in time for patrons to step outside to see the parade, she said.

But that's not all of what downtown Norman has in store for the weekend.

Traditionally, 2nd Friday Art Walk is held on, well, Fridays. But, in December, the event is being extended to Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8 and Dec. 9.

So, parade watchers and theater goers can cap off their Saturday evening by enjoying additional festivities at a variety of downtown shops, restaurants, offices, bars and concert venues that will hold events to celebrate the arts.

Meanwhile, across town, Santa Clause will be at Sooner Mall, said Lynn Palmerton, the mall's senior general manager.

Santa will arrive on Nov. 10, and will be there each day at various times until Christmas Eve, she said.

Palmerton said Santa has some special events planned during his extended stay in Norman. He will host a P.J. Night, when his fans can come visit while dressed in their pajamas. He also is hosting other themed events, such as, Pet Night, when patrons can bring their dogs and cats to have photos taken with the jolly old elf. Finally, Santa is scheduling an ugly sweater day, which Palmerton said would be a fun outing for office parties.

Meanwhile, on Saturdays and Sundays, there will be performances by choir groups and various musicians. Mall hours also will be extended through the season to accommodate shoppers.

For show times and details about Santa's events, Palmerton suggests

consulting the mall's website at: www.soonermall.com.

Sara Kaplan, the retail marketing coordinator for the City of Norman, said the community will be observing Small Business Saturday for a third year on Nov. 25.

The marketing program initiated by American Express has been adopted by the city, Visit Norman and the Norman Chamber of Commerce, she said.

This will be the third season for the program, and Kaplan said it continues to attract interest.

Through Small Business Saturday, Norman businesses that register are included on a Visit Norman app, which will link shoppers to participating businesses. The app will help retailers market and highlight various promotions they are offering to holiday gift buyers.

Kaplan said the community adopted Small Business Saturday as part of its Shop Norman campaign in 2015. They had about 25 retailers participate that year. In 2016, the number of participants doubled to 50, and she expects participation to increase again in 2017.

Kaplan said registration is open and interested shoppers and businesses can contact Visit Norman at 405-366-8095, the Norman Chamber at 405-321-7260, or they can call her at 405-366-5257. — **BSM**

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A quarterback has many important relationships that ensure his ability to perform, and for the overall success of the team. The timing between the quarterback and his wide receivers are a major part of every single passing play. Solid communication between the quarterback and coaches are necessary for an offense to perform at a high level. However, no relationship is more important than that of the protector of the quarterback's blindside. Over the last three years that connection at the University of Oklahoma has been among the best in the country.

Since taking over at quarterback in 2015, Baker Mayfield has thrown to 35 different receivers and had around 22 others run the football, but one thing has been the same. Every snap as a Sooner, Baker has had the same blindside protector. Orlando Brown Jr. has been the rock of the OU offensive line since the day he debuted as a freshman starting at left tackle.

"He has that mentality that he's not going to let anyone touch his guys," Mayfield says. "He's very protective. You gotta love a lineman having kind of a mindset."

The power and strength that Orlando possess has made him one of the best left tackles in college football and a potential first round draft pick in the NFL.

While many have read about the path that walk-on Baker Mayfield took to get to Oklahoma, many may not know about the challenges that Orlando faced getting to OU. To better understand how far he has come, perhaps his tweet on the day that Bob Stoops announced his retirement can help give perspective.

"You took a chance on a 380-pound kid with a 1.9 GPA on signing day. For that I am thankful for you and the opportunity. Love you Coach."

It was more than just grades and weight that had provided pitfalls for Orlando's path to success. When he

was 15-years-old, he lost his father. A former NFL Offensive Lineman, Orlando 'Zeus' Brown Sr. passed due to complications from diabetes at the young age of 40.

"The thing he always preached was, 'Be better than me,'" Orlando said. "Be better than I was, in all aspects of life."

But at 15 years old, as anyone could imagine, it was not always easy.

He had attended DeMatha Catholic School in Maryland before his father's death. Then he moved with his mother to Peachtree Ridge in Georgia, a move that allowed them to be much closer to family. With any move in life there was change and challenges, and Peachtree Ridge had a much different structure. He entered his final semester of high school with a 1.7 GPA and was well above his ideal playing weight.

"Honestly, I'm not a stupid guy," Orlando said at Big 12 Media Days this past off season. "But as you can imagine there were a ton of things that I

had to deal with personally throughout high school that I feel like made it harder for me to focus.”

The bad news continued for Orlando, his Tennessee scholarship got pulled after it was clear he wouldn’t academically qualify. Other schools backed off, but one offer stayed, the one from Bob Stoops and the University of Oklahoma. There was a plan in place for him at OU but it would not be easy, according to Stoops. He had to raise his grades. He would take a summer course to qualify. Then, he would join OU in August.

“He had [two ways] to go,” Oklahoma offensive line coach Bill Bedenbaugh said. “Either flame out and bust or become a really good player.”

Despite feeling he was ready and knowing he could compete, he ended up redshirting his first season at Oklahoma.

“I was really hurt about it because, like all people, we all go in telling our family that we’re going to play as a true freshman,” Orlando said.

Despite the disappointment of not playing as a freshman, the redshirt ended up being a blessing in disguise for Orlando. He developed a relationship with former Sooner and NFL standout offensive lineman Jammal Brown. Jammal Brown, who was a 2004 OU all-American and made first-team NFL All-Pro, knew Zeus Brown and became a mentor for Orlando.

“His dad passed, so he kind of came to me for a bunch of information when he came to Oklahoma,” Jammal Brown said. “I took a liking to the kid, because I (have) seen how hard he wanted to work. He’s the type of guy you want on your team.”

Through the belief that Bob Stoops and Bill Bedenbaugh had in Orlando and his own hard work and dedication, he not only won the job as the starting left tackle as a redshirt freshman, but has started every game since.

“He’s a talented kid.” Bedenbaugh said of Orlando. “Not just on the football field, which he’s really developed there, but off the field. Here’s a kid



who barely qualified, and he’s a 3.0 GPA. He’s a smart kid. Losing your father and then getting transplanted to a different state, that’s going to be tough on (a person).”

The awards continue to roll in for Orlando Brown Jr. Orlando was named the Big 12 offensive linemen of the year as a sophomore and mid-season All American by USA Today. For Orlando the ability to share the field with Baker is a special experience.

“Bake is a brother to me,” Orlando said. “We’ve been through a lot together, we’ve started the same amount of games here at OU. We play with a huge chip on our shoulder, obviously we’ve been through a bunch of stuff in our lives and it’s a blessing to go out there and play with my brother.”

Baker Mayfield will play his final game at Gaylord Family Oklahoma Memorial Stadium on Saturday Nov. 25

when the Sooners battle West Virginia. There is a good chance that Orlando Brown Jr will also be playing his last home game as a Sooner, as many project the junior to be a first round pick in the 2018 NFL Draft. It would only seem fitting that the two guys that have played together the most would go out together. – BSM

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Young & Able

The sound of basketballs dribbling, sneakers squeaking and rims popping filled the University of Oklahoma practice gym on July 31.

It was the first day of practice for a Sooner team that turned in a less than spectacular record in its 2016-17 campaign, yet the level of excitement coming from the stands was unusual for the dog days of summer.

It reflected a new level of optimism the Sooners and many of their most ardent fans were feeling as the team moved toward a brand new season.

But where did all that optimism come from, and how can there be so much excitement for a team that only won 11 games last year?

The answer is simple. OU head coach Lon Kruger got his man.

On Feb. 16, the entire Sooner nation held its breath as Norman North five-star point guard Trae Young announced where he would play college basketball. It was a moment that could totally change the trajectory of the program.

Kruger needed Young and got him.

It didn't take Young very long to showcase his skills for Sooner fans. Granted, it wasn't a regular season game, but OU's summer trip to Australia and New Zealand proved how special both he and this team can be when the regular season opens against Omaha on Nov. 12.

"Trae has adjusted very well," Kruger said. "He's a very skilled player, no doubt about that. He's played against a tough level of competition and knows what lies ahead."

An 11-day excursion down under gave the Sooners four games and an incredible once in a lifetime experience in early August. The team collected wins over the New Zealand Select, the Sutherland Sharks, the Sidney Kings and the Cairns Taipans. It was an experience that proved invaluable on the court, as the Sooners got a head start on the upcoming season.

"We're farther along because of the practice and preparation in July for the trip," said Kruger. "Then we had the four games over there, so without question, we're at a different starting point. It's allowed us to put more things in earlier and advance more quickly."

Since the trip to New Zealand and Australia, the excitement for this season has grown as high as it's been in several years. Sure, Young, the leading scorer in all four exhibition games, can be pointed to as a reason, but there's plenty more to be excited about.

Offensively, the Sooners look to be a high-tempo explosive offense and that all starts with Kameron McGusty.

McGusty returns as one of the conference's premiere guards. After an impressive freshman year, McGusty finished last season as OU's lead-

ing scorer, averaging 10.9 points per game, including 14.4 in Big 12 play. For his performance he was given honorable mention on the Preseason All-Big 12 Team.

Joining Young and McGusty on the wing, Rashard Odomes (10.1 ppg) and Christian James (7.9 ppg) are both entering their junior seasons.

Strong offseason performances from Odomes and James have Kruger confident they'll play a larger role. Sophomore point guard Jordan Shepherd (4.3 ppg) and sophomore sharp-shooter Matt Freeman (2.7 ppg) provide depth for the Sooners off the bench, which is something they lacked a year ago.

"There's a lot of enthusiasm," said Kruger. "The guys are doing a good job of moving the ball to each other. Obviously, we have a long way to go, but it's a good beginning and starting point."

True freshman Brady Manek may have been the biggest surprise in the offseason and will have a chance to make an immediate impact. At 6'9", his large frame brings versatility with a shooting range that opponents will have to respect. In the exhibition games, Manek showed he can also play above the rim with a ferocious dunk that ignited the OU bench.

Down low, the Sooners bring back two experienced forwards in Khadeem Lattin (8.4 ppg) and Jumani McNeace (4.4 ppg).

With 68 career starts, Lattin brings more career minutes than any other player on the roster. At times, he's been one of the premiere shot blockers in the Big 12. This year, Kruger hopes he can provide more of an offensive punch in his senior season.

Like Lattin, McNeace's offensive output needs to increase, but how he performs on the defensive end of the court may determine if he sees extended minutes.

Another newcomer Kruger is excited about is Hannes Polla. A four-star recruit, Polla hails from Finland, where he was a fixture on the U-20 national team. He helped lead the Fins to a 5-2 mark at the 2017 U20 European Division B Championship.

At 6'11" and 265 pounds, he'll be the biggest player on the roster, and perhaps, the most physical. Offensively, Kruger probably won't rely much on Polla in the paint, but he may end up being the biggest enforcer this team has.

All in all, this team has the talent and depth to make a run in the NCAA Tournament.

But that success will depend on whether the newcomers can adapt and become the key contributors they're expected to be.

There are no nights off in the Big 12, which will once again be one of the tougher conferences in the country. But, there's no reason this Sooner team can't flip the script from what happened a year ago. — **BSM**

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A basketball is suspended in the air near the hoop during a game, with a crowd visible in the background.

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A bowling ball is shown in motion, with a blurred background.

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A plate of food featuring chicken wings, carrots, and broccoli.

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Two men are shown cheering with their mouths open and hands raised.

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A go-kart is shown on a track, with a driver visible.

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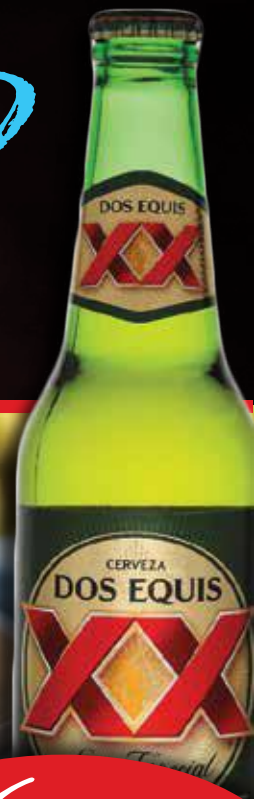


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Setting the Sooner Scene

Thanks to the creativity of Toby Rowland, the Voice of the Sooners, the Scene Setter Series is a University of Oklahoma football game day tradition. The series sets the tone for each game in a dramatic fashion, adding another level of excitement and intensity to the pre-game fanfare. With each edition, the Scene Setter highlights unique perspectives on match-ups, traditions and sports history, helping to create memorable moments week in and week out. The series has also created a few stars along the way.

Originally an audio production for the Sooner Sports radio network, it is now the final video piece played before kick off before every home game. Fans clamor for the early release just hours before kick-off.

For the biggest rivalry game of the year, OU vs. Texas, Rowland wanted to do something different. He had an idea required a bit of help.

"I had this idea of a little kid talking about going to his first OU/Texas game," Rowland said. "I texted TJ Perry, who is my radio partner. He has a 7-year-old son named Bronx."

Rowland laid out his plan to Perry, not knowing if he would welcome the idea of his son taking part in the process. But TJ was up for the challenge and so was Bronx.

"It was a long process that took about an hour and a half," Perry said. "He got frustrated several times. He said he was scared to let Toby down and was mad that he didn't sound like Toby. I had to explain that was the point. He wasn't supposed to sound like Toby. After a long run in studio, I listened to the play back and couldn't believe that the second take was his best."

In fact, most of the Scene Setter came from that second recording, Perry shared.

Rowland had some concerns as well, but it was of a completely different nature.

"On Monday, I sent the script and as soon as I did I was filled with fear," Rowland said. "I thought 'Oh no, maybe Bronx can't do it', that it wouldn't be what I was looking for and I would have to break this kid's heart."

But, there was no need to worry.

"The first phrase I heard him voice, it just almost drops you to your knees it was so cute," Rowland said. "He absolutely nailed it. Eric Guthrie and Theron Smith did one of their best jobs ever with the video. They really made it sing."

And, so the "Scene Setter kid" was born, telling Sooner fans about how he was going to be a part of everything his dad had told him about.

"I liked saying 'Today I get to see history!' and I liked being a part of OU football and the game," Bronx said.

Ironically, Perry and his wife Katie did not plan on taking Bronx to the OU/Texas game this year. But after the scene setter taping, there was really no other option but to take Bronx to his first ever Red River Showdown.

"It was like I said in the scene setter," Bronx said of his first OU/Texas experience. "It was like my birthday, Christmas and 4th of July all in one. It was loud and fun!"

The reaction to the Red River Showdown Scene Setter was special for Bronx and his family, too.

"I was so proud and amazed," Bronx's mother Katie Perry said. "I had tears in my eyes the whole time and couldn't believe how good Bronx had done. Our family is so proud... everybody shed a tear."

For the Voice of the Sooners, it will go down as one of his favorites.

"The reaction has been fantastic," Rowland said. "I'm happy for Bronx. Now he's got a cool little piece of Oklahoma history. He's the Scene Setter kid. A lot of people were moved to recollect their first OU/Texas memory, making for some great conversation that Saturday which lingered into the days that followed. Bronx Perry hit a grand slam. That little kid is a superstar."

You can find the scenesetter along with all of SportsTalk 1400's podcasts at <http://sportstalk1400.com/category/podcasts/>. — **BSM**

GOING THE DISTANCE

Scott Monnard is a Normanite to his core. It's where he grew up, it's where he went to school, it's home to his favorite sports team and, now, it's where he's celebrating his 20th season as the head coach for the boys' and girls' cross country teams at Norman High School. Monnard could have left town and made his legacy elsewhere, but he chose to stay. There's something to be said about loyalty to your hometown. It's a decision Monnard doesn't regret, and, for his program, it's one that has reaped a plenty of benefits.

"The grass isn't always greener," said Monnard. "I enjoy what I do. We've got great kids, great administration, great support in the district, so I feel like everything is in place to build a dynasty and that's that we're trying to do."

Monnard has built a legacy at Norman High. Earlier this month, Monnard was named the 2017 COAC Girls Coach of the Year. That shouldn't come as a surprise, seeing that the NHS girls' program has become one of the best in the state. They have five-straight Top 5 finishes at the state meet, three of those as state runner-up.

By early October, after an impressive start the season, Monnard elevated both his 6A girls and boys teams to the top spot in the state. A top ranked team is an incredible feat to accomplish with one team, let alone two.

"I'm incredibly blessed with great coaching staffs," said Monnard. "Scott Downard, who ran for me in the late 90s and early 2000s, and Emily Bonner, who is in her second year with us, I am just incredibly blessed with those two."

In Monnard's tenure at NHS, both

his boys and girls teams have a combined 16 Top 5 finishes at the state meet, 17 individual All-State runners and a 2011 Boys State Championship. Numbers don't lie, but a coach's successes aren't always measured in wins and losses. Sometimes, success should be measured by the impact that's made on the athletes' lives, especially at the high school level. For 20 years, Monnard has provided both to for Tigers' cross country program.

"I really love how invested he is," said senior Alisia Oviedo. "He can be funny and set people straight, all at the same time."

Monnard spent seven years in the U.S. Marine Corps before he became the coach at Norman High, but he is not exactly a drill instructor. His runners describe him as a caring individual, who sets high goals and gets the most out of his athletes. His students probably feel the same way as he serves as a teacher at Alcott Middle School. His goal is simple. He wants to 'help provide an environment where kids can be successful... and become great representatives of the program, school and community.'

In addition to his high school re-



sponsibilities, Monnard oversees the Jr. High track programs at Alcott and Irving Middle School.

They say to always leave something better than you found it and in a town that he's given so much to, Monnard couldn't name just one thing he likes best about Norman.

"There's really not just one thing. That would be selling Norman short," Monnard said. "There are great people and it's a great place to work and raise a family."

Here's to you, Scott. From everyone at Boyd Street Magazine, congrats to you for 20 years of excellence! – **BSM**

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Timberwolf Seniors (left to right): Megan Hanson, Lauren Kersey, Angel Robinson, Cat Gundy, Caitlyn Young, Malorie Dorney and Logan Matthews

If you took a peek inside the Norman North volleyball locker room before a match, chances are you would find a group of girls throwing dance parties, cracking jokes or playing games. Simply put, you would see a group of teammates having fun together.

"I probably couldn't tell you what it looks like, but it sounds like really loud trap music in the locker room," senior middle blocker Angel Robinson said.

"We dance a lot. We're all pretty outgoing and like the energy that it brings," senior outside hitter Cat Gundy said.

Ask any of Norman North's eight seniors and they will point to the chemistry this group shares as one of the biggest reasons for their sustained success. Robinson and Gundy's names pop up frequently when asked where the group's energy begins.

"Angel and Cat are definitely the life of the party. They both have big personalities," senior outside hitter Malorie Dorney said.

This group of Timberwolves danced their way to the winningest four-year stretch in Norman North history. They racked up 106 wins and notched four consecutive trips to the

state tournament, including visits to the state title match for the past two years.

Their success was built through years of playing together. Many of the seniors have been playing alongside one another all the way back to seventh grade.

"We grew tight friendships throughout the years," Dorney said. "They've been some of my best friends."

That atmosphere was extended to all of the girls in this senior class and the team as a whole. Gundy transferred from Mount Saint Mary after her sophomore season and was not granted a hardship waiver, which meant she played her junior season with the junior varsity team and played her first year with Norman North's varsity team this season. It didn't change the way the team adopted her.

"They really accepted me and brought me in as a sister on the team," Gundy said. "They welcomed me with open arms. They treat me like I've been here forever."

After grueling practices, the team would grab snow cones or stop by Olive Garden together.

"You see us on the court laughing, obviously we're close. Our close bond

is what's helped us stay together all these years," senior defender Logan Matthews said. "Even off the court, we all hang out. I think that helped us bond."

This season didn't close with the storybook ending that the T-Wolves had hoped. Instead, Norman North dropped a heartbreaking five-set thriller to Edmond Santa Fe in the Class 6A state championship match.

But, the legacy this senior class leaves behind is something special. They improved their win total each season and culminated with a 31-win season and an undefeated conference championship.

"Their legacy is branding the Norman North name and making it something," head volleyball coach Stephanie Kane said. "They've been huge role models for the younger girls. Everybody wants to play Norman North volleyball. The fact that I have girls that I haven't even met yet running up to me and wanting to be a volleyball player for our program, it's huge. They really put a definition into what Norman North volleyball is." — BSM



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Costume Shop Sets OU Stage

In the basement of the Fine Arts Center at the University of Oklahoma is a beating heart.

Not far from the bright lights, the music, the lines and the laughter is a small room, plain and ordinary where designers, stitchers and crafters are breathing life into the stage.

A crew of artisans, surrounded by a cadre of students, comprises the OU School of Drama Costume Shop. Established in 1927, it is the nation's second oldest collegiate costume shop, behind the one operating at Yale University.

Staffers are responsible for creating and manufacturing wardrobes for every major performing arts production on campus. From shoes to tiaras, they spend their days creating the clothes that define the characters and bring the stage to life for eight main-stage shows a year.

Considering each show has a cast of 30 to 40 characters, that is a full-time job, said Lloyd Cracknell, the Peggy Dow Helmerich School of Drama professor of costume design.

He said he and his staff of five try to keep their work weeks to 40 hours, but, in reality, the shop is open seven days a week as staffers and students continually cut, stitch, print and glue garments as the next show's opening date approaches.

They serve a broad list of clients, not just OU's drama school. They make the tutus, leotards and other apparel for the schools of dance and ballet. They make hats, pants and suits for the school of musical theater as well as the school of music. They also are in charge of hair and makeup for each production.

"We usually are working on two shows at once," said Christopher Harris, costume shop manager. "We're never finished. We're always working ahead of ourselves, just with the number of shows."



In recent weeks, his staff has been focused on *Noises Off*, a play that opened Oct. 20, and the Oklahoma Festival Ballet opening in early November. After that, they will be working on *Hansel and Gretel*, which will open the end of November.

Cracknell said they make about 70 percent of their wardrobes and they purchase items like blue jeans and other clothing they can't make any cheaper. Meanwhile, they draw from wardrobe storage rooms filled with costumes the shop has accumulated over more than 90 years of history.

Their collection is organized by decade and genre, while veterans on staff lean heavily on first-hand knowledge to keep up with the massive inventory.

OU's performing arts programs are set up to simulate the real world with fixed budgets for each production. The shop is a big part of every production, so Cracknell, Harris and their team work with students to keep costs low, just as the students will have to do in the professional world.

It's a fast pace, he said, and sometimes it's stressful to keep up with the schedule, especially when each production has dozens of cast members.

But he and Harris appear to thrive in the environment, surrounded by commercial sewing machines, cutting tables and cabinets burgeoning with fabric and

other supplies. Mannequins draped with half-finished garments stand by the ready while a floral spectrum of ballet gear hangs from the ceiling.

Cracknell refers to himself as an old man as he walks through the shop with the joy and enthusiasm of a 20-year-old. This is his second career. He came to OU to earn his master's degree in fine arts after a lengthy tenure in the world of fashion design, working in Melon, London and New York.

After completing his degree about eight years ago, he stayed in Norman to teach costume design and to work with Harris in managing costume shop operations.

Each year, Cracknell has three or four students in his program.

It's a small number, Cracknell admits, but the program is top quality, and the job market is healthy. That means that nearly every graduate he has had over the past seven years has either gone on to a master's degree program or they have entered the profession, working for theater companies, the television industry or universities.

"It's a very intense program with a very high standard," he said, "and we are committed to maintaining that standard."

— BSM



Theo's Marketplace

For nearly 50 years, business has been a family affair for the Crewsons.

Jerry, along with his wife, Teddie, and younger brother, Phil, have owned Theo's Marketplace since 1971. In fact, the then-named Now & Then Shoppe opened the same year Jerry and Teddie married and moved back to Norman.

The original store, located near the University of Oklahoma campus, was well known for antiques brought in from all over the country, Jerry Crewson said.

The store remained at its first location until 1984, when the family moved it to Brookhaven Village. Since 1991, it has been known as Theo's Marketplace, a name borrowed from the nickname Phil Crewson gave to his sister-in-law, Teddie.

Now, the Crewsons do business from their location at 3500 Bart Conner Dr., where they relocated to in January 2016. That 16,000 square-foot space originally served as a showroom for the business, but the family decided to move their entire operation to one location.

Theo's Marketplace carries a wide range of products and brands, including Stickley furniture and Dale Tiffany lamps.

The store continues to carry antiques and home accessories as well. To provide options to customers, the Crewsons make sure to stock a wide range of styles, with everything from farmhouse industrial to midcentury.

The Crewsons work with the University of Oklahoma, recently providing furnishings for Headington Hall, which is home to many of OU's student athletes.

Theo's Marketplace makes deliveries all over the state and even out of state, Jerry Crewson said, but the family's commitment to Norman is clear.

Throughout the years, the Crewsons have also owned some popular Norman restaurants, including the Service Station and Crispy's, Winchester's and Crosby's Cantina before deciding to focus on their antiques and furniture store.

The family makes a great team, with Teddie Crewson bringing an eye for buying accessories, Jerry Crewson said.

"She knows what she likes, and we try to stay different," he said. "We started in the antique business. In buying antiques, everything's different. There's hardly ever anything the same, so that kind of got us thinking that way."

"You have to be different today to compete. You've got to stay fresh."

The store is already in the holiday spirit, running a Stickley sale throughout the season and already sporting holiday decorations. Crewson said Theos will also have various specials during the holidays and will sell Theo's chocolates and gift baskets.

Approaching 50 years in business with his wife and brother, Jerry Crewson cannot imagine his days looking any different.

"I wouldn't want to be any place but Norman," he said. "I'm getting a little older, my daughters are older, and I've got grandkids, but I love walking into this store every day." — **BSM**

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PROSPERITY POINTS FOR THANKSGIVING



Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays because it has little stress. It doesn't come with an expectation of presents, and it focuses on food. Even though the Thanksgiving Day Parade ends with Santa's arrival in Times Square, more employers are giving employees the day off and beginning the crazy holiday season after midnight. The best thing about Thanksgiving, though, is its focus on being thankful.

After a horrible first year in Plymouth, Massachusetts, the Pilgrims created Thanksgiving, giving thanks to God for bringing them safely through the trying times. Maybe this has been a great year for you, and you have plenty for

which to give thanks, or maybe this has been an awful year, and you don't see any reason to be grateful.

There's a reason I wish you prosperity. Unlike being rich, being prosperous is within the reach of most people because being prosperous focuses on being grateful. Prosperity can be having family, friends, or furry companions that love you. Prosperity can be achieved through simple, inexpensive things, like a cup of coffee with a friend or a walk in the park. For years, I have said, "Prosperity is so much more than money." Your prosperity is your joy, and those things that bring you joy are also the reasons you have to be thankful. Take some time to look for the prosperity in your life.

Be Prosperous!

Peggy

The Fine Print: This article is educational, not investment advice. Investing is risky, and you can lose money. Talk to your financial team about any strategies before you implement them.

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A Grand Pirouette

Life has come full circle for Felicia Carter.

At 9 years old, the Norman native began her dancing career at Modern Dance Arts, 1423 24th Ave SW, in Norman.

The studio was established in 1984 by Maggie Mitchell, and now, Carter owns the business and serves as its artistic director.

As owner of the studio and not just a teacher there, Carter said she sees the students differently. They come in wide eyed, and full of dreams, and she can identify with them because her dreams were very similar.

When Carter started dancing, she instantly knew it was what she wanted to study and a way she could connect with people.

“Speaking isn’t what I do well. Writing isn’t what I do well. Playing an instrument isn’t how I can connect to people. I always felt like dancing was my thing.”

Initially, Carter planned on dancing professionally, but teaching the art soon became her focus. With a mother who was a school teacher, Carter said the craft was always second nature for her.

After she graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in modern dance performance, Carter and her husband, Jack, remained in Norman while he pursued his master’s degree.

Carter decided to find ways to use her dance background in the community and began leading the modern dance programs at Norman High and Norman North while also teaching some concurrent classes at Modern Dance Arts. Eventually, she took on more classes at Modern Dance Arts and focused on it completely before eventually purchasing the studio in 2016.

At Modern Dance Arts, they believe the best dancer is a well-rounded dancer. Thus, the studio offers many different styles of dance with the ability to progress in each style.

Classes offered range from beginner to advanced, starting with combination classes for children as young as 2 years old. The studio also teaches jazz, tap, hip-hop, funk and, of course, modern dance.

Modern Dance Arts also features an extensive ballet program that includes both junior and senior ballet companies. The classes are led by Danni Kelly, a veteran dancer who has led programs at Classen School of Advanced Studies for 20 years. She was also one of Carter’s teachers while she was growing up.

Regardless of what class a dancer is taking, they all will be associated with the annual year-end recital in June.

The dancers also take part in other performances throughout the year, including participation in the Norman Christmas Parade.

At the end of January, the studio hosts a works-in-progress performance, which is a mini recital for young dancers. Held without costumes, it is intended to introduce young dancers to what a performance is like.

Competition teams start in February and March. Additionally, each year, the company dancers take a Fall Break trip to New York City, performing a site-specific piece at a few places and taking Broadway dance classes.

“Modern Dance Arts is a place where you can come and learn the art of dance and learn how to express yourself in a fun, welcoming, safe environment,” Carter said.

“It just really is a community here, as in most places where there are groups of people growing up. There really is a nice community where everybody is helping each other, and it’s a beautiful thing to see.”

Modern Dance Arts is enrolling for classes now through January. For more information, contact the studio by phone at 329-8982, email at office.mda@coxinet.net or on Facebook at @ModernDanceArts. – **BSM**

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Seven Ways To Save On Thanksgiving Costs This Month



Thanksgiving means giving thanks for all the good in our lives. It also means stuffed turkey and gravy, cranberry pie and mashed potatoes. It's a time-honored tradition of spending time enjoying a delectable holiday meal while in the company of those we love.

It can also mean spending an awful lot of money.

According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, the average host cooking a Thanksgiving dinner for 10 guests will spend approximately \$50 on the dinner alone. Of course, if you're expecting more than 10 guests or you tend to overspend when hosting, your costs can easily top that amount. Between the turkey, ingredients for that luscious holiday meal and décor to set the ambience, hosting a Thanksgiving dinner is not cheap.

Looking for ways to cut back without compromising on the quality and festivity of your meal? Look no further! You know that here at OU Federal Credit Union we love to keep your wallet plump. That's why we've compiled a list of seven easy ways for you to save on your Thanksgiving costs this year.

VERIFY YOUR GUESTS' ATTENDANCE

Before you start writing up a spectacular menu or a detailed shopping list, check to make sure you have an accurate head count of the guests and family members who will be joining you for Thanksgiving dinner. You don't want to end up with a fridge full of leftovers. Verify that all who are invited are indeed planning on showing, and only then begin planning your menu.

FIND OUT WHAT YOUR GUESTS LIKE

While you're doing your inviting, ask for your guests' individual tastes. You don't want to forget that Great Aunt Martha is on a strict gluten-free food plan or that your cousin's spouse is a vegetarian. Aside from specialized diets, ask about particular foods your guests like to eat and those they won't touch. If something on your menu isn't very popular with your guests, skip it – even if you think it's an “obligatory” Thanksgiving food. This way, you won't slave over a pumpkin soup that nobody will touch or end your holiday meal with trays full of leftovers and lots of hungry guests.

MAKE IT A POTLUCK

Slash your spending and your stress in one step by answering an enthusiastic “yes!” to every guest who asks if they can bring something. Don't just say “anything's fine,” though, or you might have seven desserts. Instead, create a Google Sheet with your planned menu and let your guests input what they'd like to contribute to the meal. This way, they'll know exactly what you need, you'll know what they're bringing, and best of all, you won't be doing all the cooking yourself.

SERVE ON SMALLER PLATES

Most people will load up their plates to capacity, regardless of the plate's size. Curb the wasting at your table by using smaller dinnerware. Let your guests load up all the way without leaving half-full plates. They can always refill if they still want to eat more later.

DIY DÉCOR

You can set a beautiful holiday tablescape without blowing your budget; all it takes is a little imagination. Shop the local dollar store for discounted décor that still packs a punch, like colored vases, fake flower arrangements, and other centerpieces. Look for easy, inexpensive DIY ideas online. Finally, get creative by using things from around the house – or yard – as your décor. For instance, you can create a whimsical candleholder by affixing cinnamon sticks around a candle or design an autumn-themed centerpiece with leaves and pinecones from your own yard.

SHOP THE SALES

Grocery stores and shopping centers tend to run specials on turkeys and other Thanksgiving staples starting as early as Halloween. Plan your menu several weeks in advance so you can take advantage of these sales. Keep it flexible until you see the circulars and then base your dishes on the ingredients and produce that's cheapest. Also, be sure to shop around for your turkey! Supermarkets tend to have the best deals on the birds, with some even running free turkey deals when you spend a specific amount on other groceries.

COOK FROM SCRATCH

Most everything is less expensive – and tastes better – when it's homemade. Think gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing and apple pie. Start your cooking well enough in advance so you don't find yourself relying on too many convenience foods and paying the price both in cash and taste. Your wallet and your guests will thank you!

When you gather 'round the table with family and friends this Thanksgiving, you can be thankful for all the good in your life without feeling guilty over how much you spent on the meal. All it takes is a little planning!



The Biggest Bunch of Nuts in Oklahoma

It's November, and for many people in Norman, that means the pecan harvest is underway.

It is also the time for one of Norman's oldest family businesses to shine, Mason's Pecans and Peanuts, specialists in pecan shelling for a half century.

The business has been part of Norman since 1967, when Bill and Karen Mason saw a community full of people with pecan trees, that needed an easy way to shell the large quantities that fell each year.

The couple set up their house as a pick-up and drop-off point, and started taking giant batches of pecans to Ada to be cracked. The family put up fliers around town and before long everyone was bringing their pecans to the Masons' house.

Brett Mason – who took over after his father passed away about 12 years ago – was 7 years old when the business got started, and he can still remember his childhood home being suddenly filled, bursting with pecans.

"That year it really took off," he said.

People in the community seemed to be excited to finally have a local business to shell their pecans. Things went so well that Bill Mason decided it was time to officially get into



(left to right): Bree Mason, Billy Mack Sawyer (top), Skee Mason and Bill Drake Sawyer

the pecan-shelling game. The family moved to a new house on some land, bought three pecan crackers, a sheller and a blower, and converted their one-car garage into their very own pecan-cracking room.

They saw their first big harvest in 1969 and had to invest in two portable storage buildings after the pecans started overflowing from their house and cracking room. Bill and Karen worked around the clock to keep up with demand while Brett and his brother helped after school by sweeping the floors.

What started as a household operation quickly grew into a wide-reaching business, serving people from all over Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas.

"All we did back then was shell pecans," Brett says. It wasn't until the Masons built their current location – on SE 44th Street, just west of Riverwind Casino – in 1983 that they expanded their retail offerings. Karen made nut candies and desserts to sell from their new storefront, allowing the business to stay open all year instead of just during pecan season.

These days, you can find an assortment of nuts, candies, cookies, seasoning mixes and more when you visit Mason's Pecans and Peanuts.

Expanding the store's selection of merchandise was one of Brett's top priorities, and he puts a lot of effort into providing the best quality products for his customers.

"My parents' motto was 'The Biggest Bunch of Nuts in Oklahoma,' so I started bringing in every nut I could find," he said. "If we're going to be the biggest bunch of nuts in Oklahoma, we should have virtually every nut on the planet, done in virtually every way possible."

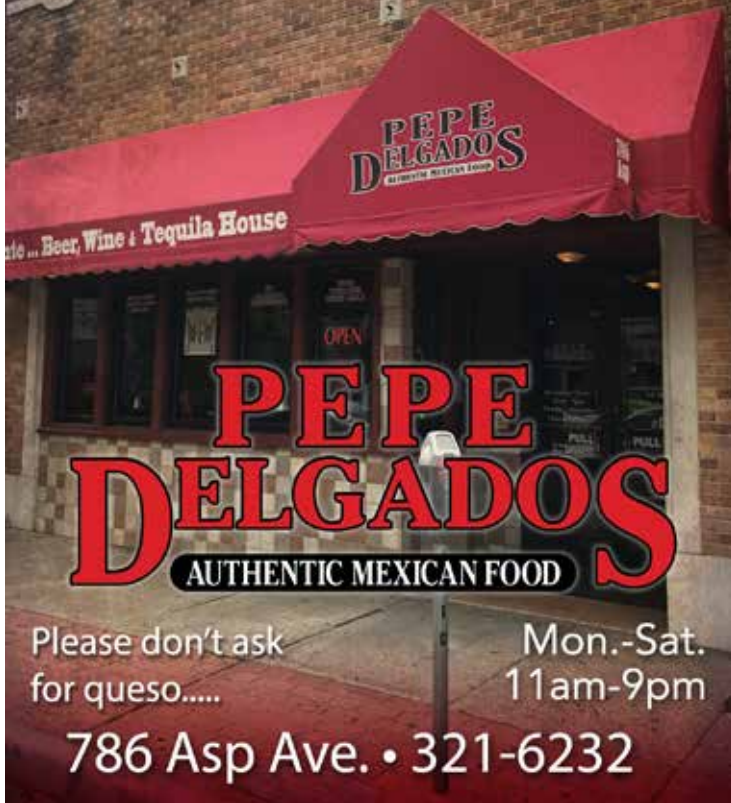
So now, when people bring their pecan harvest to be shelled, they can also treat themselves to some homemade nut brittle or fudge.

In addition to selling his new products at the store, Brett Mason also uses the nuts to give back to the community, and has donated countless gift baskets to local school and organizational fundraisers. He's also expanded and updated the Mason's cracking line.

Customers can bring their pecans to Mason's to be shelled any time after the harvest begins, all the way through June. For more information about Mason's services and products, visit www.masons pecans.com. – **BSM**

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Sparkling Wines for Sparkling Times

The holidays are coming and so are the parties, friends and relatives. So what better time to unravel some of the descriptive language on the labels of those sparkling wines. Champagne and many sparkling wines bear one of the following terms: Sec, Demi-sec, Extra Dry, Brut, Brut Natural. Sec is the sweetest, then demi-sec. Extra-dry (X-dry) is the middle of the spectrum. Brut is drier, and Brut Natural is the least sweet, having had no sugar added.

Now, you are standing in the store and faced by row after row of bottles. Some of this is simple. Sparkling Moscato with any flavor added will be sweet. Asti Spumante will be sweet, since it is made from a sweet grape. Prosecco comes in two styles, brut and no designation. Generally the brut is not as dry as French and Spanish brut, and less dry than Korbel, Chandon and other methode champenoise brut. Moscato d'Asti is a sweet, slightly fizzy wine. Domestic and Australian sparkling wines, not made in methode champenoise, are generally sweeter in each designation.

Armed with this information, you can choose for your friends and family with confidence. Make sure to chill the wine for at least twenty minutes in an ice water bath or one hour in the refrigerator before serving. If you want to "pop" the cork, make sure to ask if the bottle actually has a cork, more and more of the value sparkling wines have screw tops that resemble corks.

When opening a sparkling bottle with a cork, wrap the bottle in a towel, firmly grasp and turn the cork for control and to avoid injury to others or the light fixtures. If the bottle has been in a car immediately prior to opening, cover the cork with the towel when removing the wire, as it may "pop" without help.



Sparkling wine is always the perfect gift for your host. Remember, Oklahoma retailers still cannot chill your wine. So buy early.

Enjoy and be safe.

Kathy

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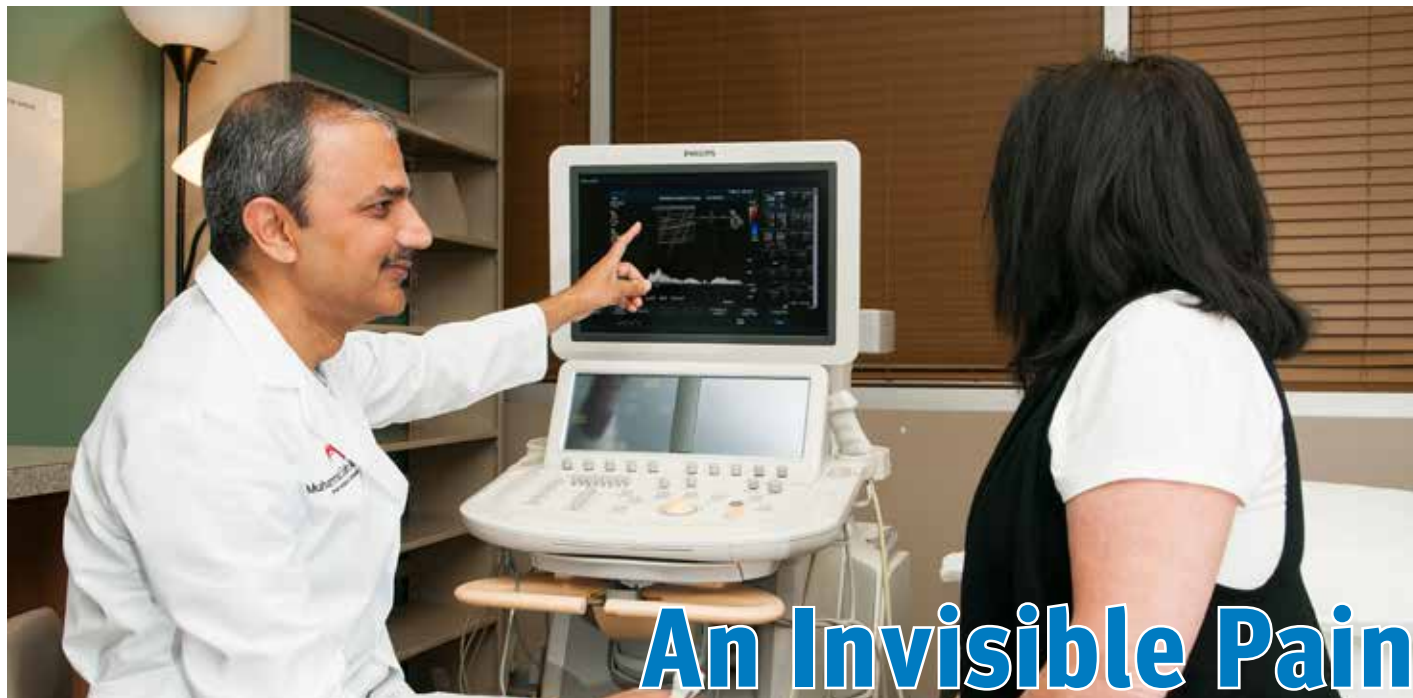
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An Invisible Pain

In her career as a nurse, Mary Quinton spent a lot of time on her feet, working hard to care for those in her charge. Tired legs are just part of the job. But, according to Quinton, the pain she was suffering in her lower legs had reached a debilitating point.

"I had been experiencing pain in my lower legs for several years," Quinton said. "The pain was getting worse, and I didn't know if I could keep working."

Using all the tricks of the trade, Quinton tried everything to relieve her pain.

"I wore compression stockings every day and elevated my legs when I got home, but it kept getting worse."

In her 60s, Quinton faced a difficult decision.

"I didn't know how much longer I was going to be able to work," she said. "I was nervous because my mother was treated for a venous disease and her recovery was very painful."

Worsening at night, the intense aching, burning and swelling Quinton was experiencing in her lower legs lead to many sleepless nights, she said. Despite her fears, she was motivated to find some relief and made an appointment to see Dr. Muhammad Salim, an interventional cardiologist

with Norman Heart & Vascular Associates' Vein Clinic.

An ultrasound confirmed she was suffering from a chronic venous disease known as venous insufficiency deep in the tissue of her calves.

"Symptoms of venous insufficiency can be quite debilitating and can affect patients' lives as much as someone with congenital heart disease," Salim said.

The body's circulatory system is composed of an intricate system of arteries and veins. Unlike arteries, veins contain valves that push blood back to the heart. When those valves aren't functioning properly, blood gets congested causing the painful symptoms Quinton was experiencing.

"I was suffering from invisible pain," Quinton said. "I didn't have any visible blue spider veins; you couldn't see anything on my calves."

Quinton is not alone. In fact, 25 million people suffer from some form of venous disease, according to statistics provided by Norman Regional.

"By 80, almost half of people will have this disease," Salim said.

Contrary to her mother's experience, Quinton was happy to learn there have been some significant advances in medical treatment options. What

once required a hospital stay with surgery and recovery is now an out-patient procedure with no down time, said Salim.

"In fact, you are encouraged to move right away," Salim said. "Venous treatments can be life changing in relieving a patient's symptoms."

Life-altering is exactly how Quinton described it as well.

"To go from severe pain at night to none at all, it really was a life changer for me. After five visits, I was pain free. It has been wonderful."

While heredity plays a large role, there are some other factors that play into a person's risk for venous disease. Age, weight and profession also increase the likelihood, as well as smoking. However, venous diseases can be present at any age, Salim said.

"Pregnancy can also cause damage in the veins and lead to problems," Salim said.

For those experiencing aching, burning, swelling or restless legs at night, Salim encourages a visit with primary care physicians. More information about venous disease and a self-assessment test to assess risk is available at www.normanheart.com. — **BSM**

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Holiday Gift Guide for Sooner Fans

With the holidays fast approaching, we've compiled a mini-gift guide to help make shopping for your Sooner fan easier than ever.

Balfour offers an array of OU ornaments. Starting at \$14.99, the ornaments are a fun addition to any Sooner fan tree, which wouldn't be complete without a Crimson and Cream tree topper.



Also in the spirit of Christmas, Balfour has OU ugly Christmas sweater fuzzy socks. These fun stockings make a perfect stocking stuffer.



For the fan that seemingly has everything OU-related, check out the Spirit Fingerz gloves. Retailing for \$18, these lightweight pom-pom gloves are a fun way to cheer for the Sooners.



Nike's sideline apparel is popular for game days. Typically around \$85 per item, shoppers can choose from hoodies, shirts, Polos and team-issued tees. Balfour also has a selection of women's OU fashion tops around \$35 each.

Whether you need a present for your parents, significant other or yourself, Whitney Seagraves of the OU Bookstore assures they have something for everyone this holiday season.



A tailgating wine enthusiast would love the Velour Wine Tote and Rubber Stopper Set, which totals \$32.

For the golfers, this gift set comes with OU poker chip ball markers, an OU divot tool and OU golf balls. The entire set sells for \$34.99.



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Two Men and a Truck Comes to Norman



Two Men and a Truck has been a growing moving business in Oklahoma City for several years and has now expanded to Norman, opening an office at 3152 Broce Dr.

Adam Mecke, the general manager of the Oklahoma area franchise, takes pride in the hiring practices of Two Men and a Truck.

The company's people make them different from the typical moving company, he said.

"We have full-time employees, not day laborers or temporary help. We do background checks and drug screens before employment," Mecke said.

Two Men focuses on the core value of integrity, he said.

On its website, the company calls itself a customer service company that happens to offer moving and packing services.

"We understand each service request is unique," the company says. "It doesn't matter if you are moving in state or out of state; everything we do is focused on making your relocation the best experience possible."

Mecke said the company does an in-home evaluation to get the most accurate information needed for job estimates, preventing any surprises when it comes to payment at the end of a move.

Mecke has been working with Two Men and a Truck for seven years and has nothing but good things to say.

His favorite part of the job is the interaction with the staff and customers.

"I like to see both customers and employees moving forward, whether it's making sure customers' moves go smoothly or ensuring our employees have a steady income and benefits like dental and vision."

Two Men and a Truck offers both local and interstate moves. The price of a local move is based on time. The clock starts once their truck leaves their Norman office and ends when it arrives back at the office.

Customers put down a deposit, but that deposit becomes a credit towards the final price, he said.

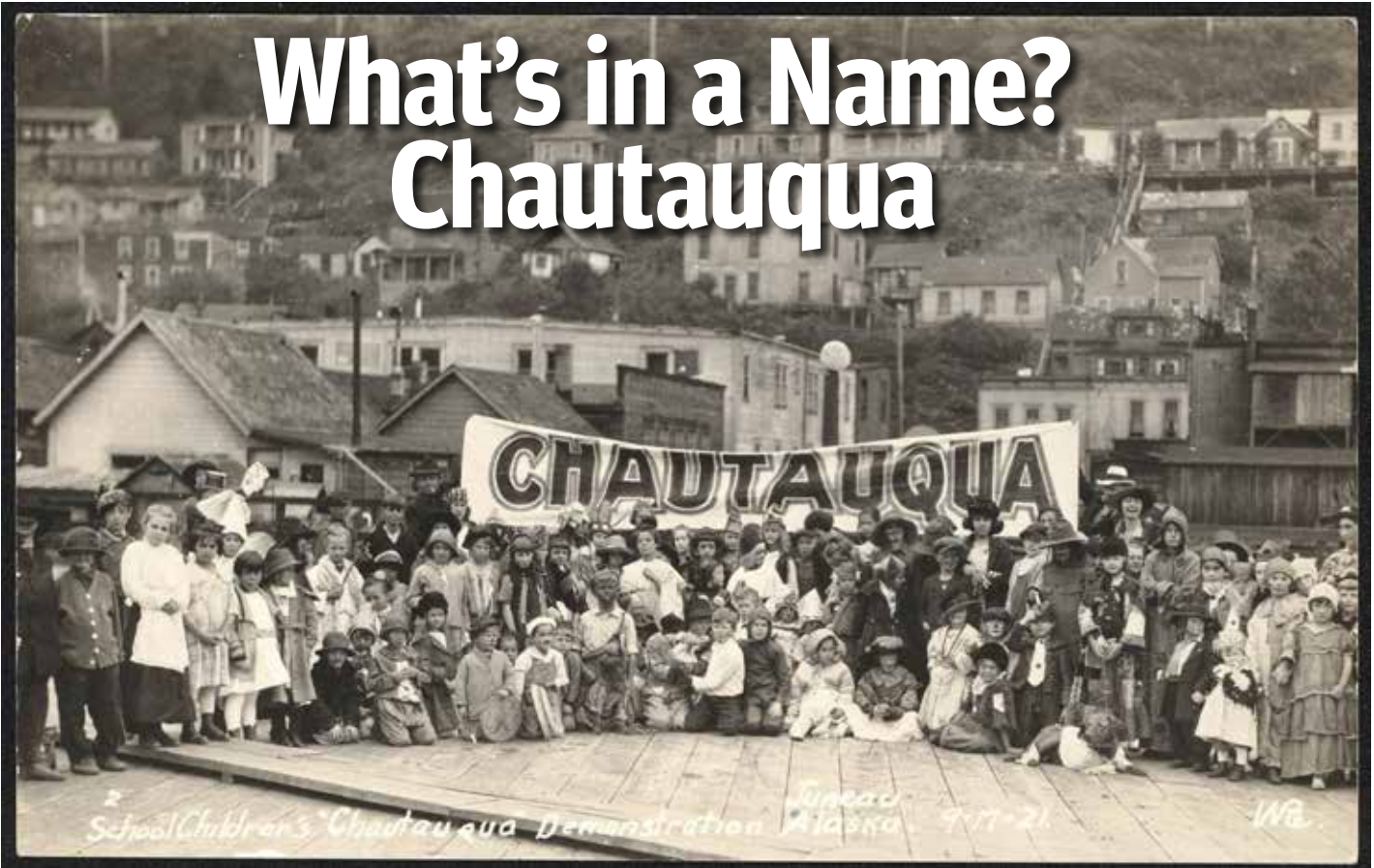
For interstate moves, pricing is a little different. It's based on weight and distance and they offer both binding and nonbinding cost estimates. No matter where you're moving to, you're going to get exceptional customer service, says Mecke. Quotes can be obtained both online, at twomenandatruck.com, and over the phone at (877)-263-6444. — **BSM**

Anyone planning to move should keep these tips in mind to make it as smooth as possible:

- Tell Two Men everything you're planning on moving – even the little things.
- Pack belongings into boxes beforehand and label them. This will make unpacking much faster.
- Be ready to go when the movers get there; if they are paid by time, customers don't want to waste any of it.
- See the new location ahead of time and have an idea of where belongings are going to go.



What's in a Name? Chautauqua



The streets west of campus have All-American names like Elm and College, but Chautauqua Avenue stands out as something of a strange run of syllables.

Although not as widely known today, “Chautauqua” was a bastion term for learning in the early days of Norman. Advertisements in the 1890 Norman Transcript invited residents to go as far as Winfield, Kansas to enjoy a Chautauqua until one would arrive in our own newly settled town.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, someone calling out “Chautauqua is coming!” would send locals into a frenzy of packing picnic baskets and blankets to attend these public lectures, often the only opportunity to hear news, ideas and entertainment firsthand before television or radios.

The phenomenon of the Chautauqua, an educational tent meeting in which speakers address audiences on a wide range of topics, got its origins at Chautauqua Lake in western New York State.

Methodist minister John Heyl Vincent opened an outdoor summer program to train Sunday school teachers in 1874 using tents as temporary classrooms.

People were so eager to join in on learning that businessman and inventor Lewis Miller teamed with Vincent to open a regular assembly for general education later dubbed the “Chautauqua Institution.” Speakers from around the country, even the world, would arrive by train to give lectures and performances.

The assembly at Chautauqua worked so well that other institutions across the United States began copying it to meet demand. Tents turned into more established buildings near rural rail links throughout the nation. Governing boards brought in speakers like Susan B. Anthony, Mark Twain, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Helen Potter.

Circuit Chautauquas brought their own tents, serving smaller towns and traveling from place to place with a regular panel of speakers. They rent-

ed a field and set up like a circus, except they brought learning instead of animals and daring acts.

With such a famous term applied to education, it is no wonder that early city leaders in Norman picked “Chautauqua” as one of the principle lanes in the growing neighborhoods around campus. Today, the street is surrounded by the Chautauqua Historic District, which became Norman’s first-designated historical district.

According to the city of Norman’s historic preservation site, most of the homes in the district were built between 1915 and 1935. The architecture and environment of the Chautauqua District represents a unique time period in Norman’s history.

Stately residences reflect the character of the university deans, faculty and other prominent individuals who played a role in Norman’s early development. The mature trees, which line the streets, reveal Norman’s dedication to turn a town on the prairie into a lush garden setting.



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For decades, Chautauqua Avenue has been the address to have for intellectual parties and discussions.

A search through newspaper archives shows an abundance of Chautauqua-minded gatherings, such as Mrs. C.M. Keiger's meeting on 'Social Purity,' which she held at her home in June of 1913.

Chautauquas were not all papers and stiff collars. The Cleveland County Enterprise recorded on July 6, 1911, that "a delightful entertainment was held upon the lawn of J.F. Denison's home, 444 S Chautauqua Ave. Saturday evening." The article reported that Denison hosted a small Fourth of July celebration for about 60 guests with music, bunting, flags, fireworks and lemonade.

The expansion of movie houses and the dawn of radio ended the Chautauqua era of American history, but a few historical Chautauquas still serve the nation today.

More often than not, familiarity with the name has been lost. Looking back to its origins, however, Chautauqua Avenue is a fitting name for a street running from the Jacobson House, rich in art and culture, to the science and study of natural history at the Sam Noble Museum. – **BSM**



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Del Rancho

Endures Through Construction



Most people who have lived in Norman for a long time have noticed the gigantic “Del Rancho” sign towering over Lindsey Street, and many have taken the opportunity to taste the restaurant’s famous steak sandwiches or hamburgers.

Del Rancho is an iconic business that has built a solid customer base over nearly 50 years of operation, and that customer loyalty is what helped the restaurant weather a resent storm of street construction along Lindsey.

For the first 33 years, Norman’s Del Rancho was owned and operated by Ron Kirkpatrick and his family. They grew their following with a menu ranging from the Stake Sandwich Supreme to chef salads, chicken sandwiches, pork chop dinners and shakes.

However, the restaurant changed hands in 2012, when Donna Porter bought the business from the Kirkpatrick’s.

“I’d known the Kirkpatrick family for quite a while,” she said. “I’d been working at Sam’s for a long time, but when I saw the opportunity to take over Del Rancho, I went for it.”

Porter barely had time to get used to her new venture before the challenges of road and bridge construction descended on Lindsey Street.

“The construction has been brutal for everyone with a business on Lindsey Street,” she said. “We have a lot of loyal customers, though, so we managed to survive it.”

The construction began less than two years after Porter took over the business, and it has been a challenge for businesses ever since. Though construction is nearing an end, road work remains, she said.

“Access in and out can still be pretty confusing and difficult,” Porter said.

“There are still a lot of cones in the way. We have our driveways back, though, so even though it isn’t perfect, things have gotten much better.”


Del Ranch has gone through some difficult times, but its long legacy in Norman has carried it through. The people of Norman spoke with their stomachs and their loyalty, and now Del Rancho is emerging victoriously.

Porter says the perseverance of her hard-working employees have helped them through the frustration.

“More than anything else, I want to thank the employees who have stuck around throughout all of this trouble,” she said. “There are four employees that we’ve had here since the beginning, and we are a family. They’ve stuck through all the construction troubles, and I always feel grateful for their positive outlook.” — **BSM**

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