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IN APRIL

6 things to do in Norman in April



MEDIEVAL FAIR
Reaves Park
Step back in time at the Medieval Fair taking place from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday through Sunday at Reaves Park. Enjoy mirth and merriment with kings, queens, knights and fools as the kingdom comes alive.



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 SPRING GAME
Owen Field @ 1 p.m.
Get a preview of the 2018 University of Oklahoma football team at the annual Spring Game, kicking off at 1 p.m. at Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium.



OPEN STREETS NORMAN
North Webster Street @ 1 p.m.
Open Streets Norman provides a space to walk, bike, skate, dance, play and socialize with neighbors to increase activity and improve health from 1-5 p.m. Bring the whole family, including the dogs!



EARTH DAY 2018
Reaves Park @ Noon
The Norman Parks and Recreation Department presents family fun activities from noon to 5 p.m. that teach the importance of protecting Earth's air, water, forest, wildlife and resources.



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Safety in School



Relationships, Commitment at Center of Resource Officer's Long Career

School safety is at the forefront of many minds these days, but no one thinks about it more than Sgt. Joel Formby, a school resource officer with the Norman Police Department. Formby spends his days with scores of sixth, seventh and eighth graders at Whittier Middle School.

"I spend my days hanging out with kids," Formby said. "I am a parent of seven, and I consider myself a dad that just happens to wear a gun belt. When I am on the job, I feel like just another parent in the building. These are all my kids, and I will do whatever I need to do to protect them."

Formby has been with the Norman Police Department for 28 years, and most of that time, he has worked as a school resource officer.

"I am considered the old guy now," Formby said. "I really enjoy being around kids, and I've always felt there was a need for police in schools. It was an obvious fit for me."

Before joining the Norman Police Department, Formby was in the U.S. Air Force, serving as a military policeman.

"As soon as I got out of the Air Force, I applied with Norman PD," Formby said.

Formby says it's easy to misunderstand what school resource officers actually do. But he sees his role at the school in the relationships he has built with the students, school staff and parents.

"Often, we are seen as just people with guns, but middle school is a real hard time, and kids today face more challenges than I did way back when," Formby explained. "I want them to understand that someone cares for them, and I do all that I can and use all my resources to help them."

"I have an open-door policy," Formby said. "Kids come in my room for quiet time. It's a safe spot for them to hang out. They don't even have to say anything to me."

From hanging out in the halls and lunch room to sitting in on parent conferences, Formby wants to be a person that students feel they can confide in. It is with that in mind that Formby helped form a student group called Wednesday Warriors.

Formby and Jason Sanders, the middle school's sixth grade assistant principle, identified a select group of sixth grade boys they felt could benefit from some positive interaction. The Wednesday Warriors meetings provide a safe environment for the boys to be together, separate from their everyday pressures.

"We eat pizza, talk about grades and have community mentors," Formby said. "We talk about life skills and the boys share about their issues, and I help them make a plan. We have seen great results."

Because the success of the Wednesday Warriors program and Formby's years of experience, he is now expanding the program to students in seventh and eighth grades, as well.

"Students need to come to school and be able to focus on school. I think it should be a place to flourish," Formby said. "It takes a special kind of person to be a school resource officer." —

BSM

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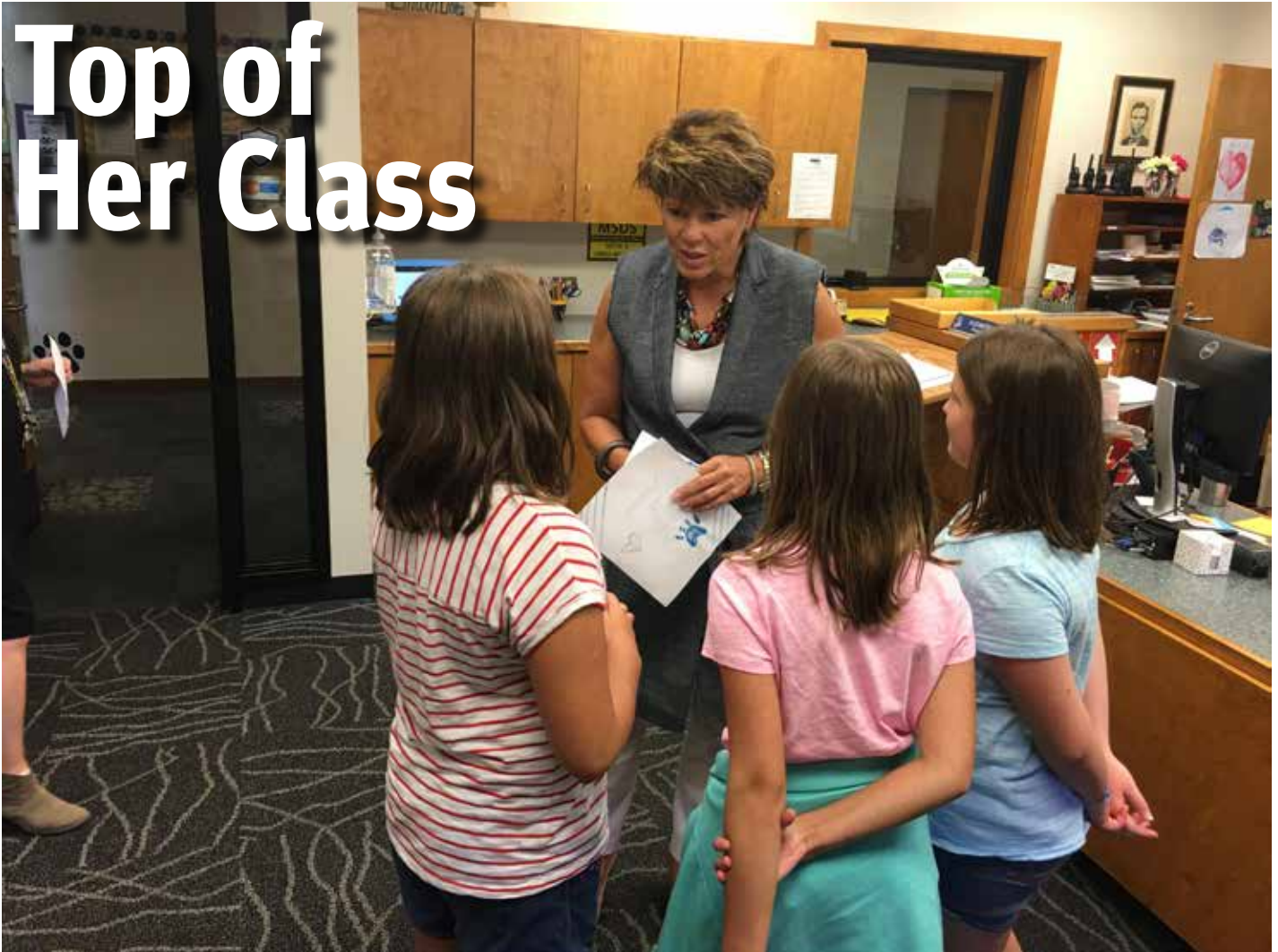
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Top of Her Class



Nashert Wins Statewide Recognition for School Board Service

Each year, just five people from across the state are named to the Oklahoma State School Board Association's All-State School Board. Norman Public Schools Board of Education's own Cindy Nashert was among those selected for the honor this year.

Honorees, who can be nominated by their superintendents or fellow school board members, receive \$400 for their districts to use for instructional materials.

For Nashert, the most exciting part about this recognition is that it came from her peers.

"I've been on the school board for five years. Some of our other school board members have 20-plus years, and so it was very flattering to come from

them," Nashert said. "Also, to look at the other recipients who won, they've been on their school boards so much longer, so I felt like that made it a little more special for me."

Nashert served as president of the board during her fifth year and recently began her second five-year term. The way the board is structured, members cycle through roles each year, reaching the president spot in the final year of their term.

As a mother of three children, who all graduated from Norman Public Schools, Nashert saw running for the board as a chance to show her appreciation for the district. A seat opened soon after her daughters finished high school, so she decided to run for the open position.

"It's such an interesting transition for a parent to no longer have their kids in school and to all of a sudden have that empty nest kind of thing," Nashert said. "I thought this would be a wonderful opportunity for me to give back."

In her role, Nashert said her favorite part has been being a "huge cheerleader" for the school district and having the chance to recognize both students and employees for their successes.

She realized the strength of those working in the district during last summer's superintendent search. Joe Siano retired after 17 years in the role and the board was tasked with finding a replacement. Out of 21 candidates, the group selected Nick Migliorino, who previously served as an assistant superintendent for the district.

"We've got some of the best professionals in our administration," Nashert said. "It was absolutely fascinating to go through the process and then to realize that the best candidate was right here in Norman. That was a great feeling to see and recognize we've got some outstanding people doing their jobs."

One issue that Nashert is passionate about is the lack of funding for education in the state, and she believes a five-year plan is needed to demonstrate that the state values its teachers as professionals.

"We are losing certified teachers and administrators are leaving the state because we are not taking care of these teachers, these professionals, who basically are to me a huge part of what molds the kids for the rest of their lives. As a school board member, I have this responsibility

to make sure that our voice is heard and we need to do something."

During her time on the school board, Nashert said she has become even more appreciative of the encouragement shown by the community, whether that is through bond elections or through sponsoring district functions.

"The thing that I think is standard for every community is they love their schools," Nashert said. "But, in Norman, I really see it in so many different ways. Other cities don't do it as well as Norman does."

Joining Nashert in receiving the 2018 school board honor are Les Pettitt of Bethany Public Schools, Debbie Biehler with the Chisholm Trail Technology Center, Jimmie Jarrell of Stratford Public Schools and Gary Percefull of Tulsa Public Schools. — **BSM**



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Service Spotlight

Drew Palmer



Norman firefighter Drew Palmer tried the traditional route. Go to school, graduate, and find a stable desk job, designing fire sprinkler systems for major retail stores.

But something about spending his professional life sitting in front of a computer just didn't sit right with him. Finally, after years of listening to his best friend from high school rave about his job as a firefighter in Glenpool, Palmer decided to take the leap and try his hand at public service.

When he received the job offer from the Norman Fire Department, Palmer, originally from Bigsby, loaded everything he owned into the back of his truck and made the move without a second thought.

Now, Palmer has been with the Norman Fire Department for more than five years and he couldn't be happier. He's thankful for the opportunity to be a helping hand in the community, and he loves the fact that there is no such thing as a "typical day" at work.

"We get calls about pretty much anything and everything you can imag-

ine," he said. "Anytime that people don't know what to do, they call 911 and it gets routed to us."

The fire department sees calls ranging from car accidents to house fires, from unexplained smells to water mains that won't shut off in the middle of the night. In the fire academy, firefighters receive training in a number of different fields, and they use every bit of that knowledge to tackle the variety of calls that they respond to each day.

"That was probably the biggest surprise to me during my first year working as a firefighter," said Palmer. "You form your perception of the fire department based on what you see on television and in movies, and once you actually get started it's surprising to see everything that you get sent out for."

Right now, Palmer is looking forward to playing in the Heroes on the Court basketball tournament, scheduled for April 22 at the Christian Community School Gym. Everyone is invited to cheer on Norman's first responders as they battle it out on the basketball

court. All proceeds help a local nonprofit, Loveworks Leadership Inc., which offers afterschool leadership programs to middle school students.

The fire department also helps the community by providing fire safety demonstrations for school classes and organizations, and the firefighters are always happy to show visitors around the fire stations.

The nature of the job and the numerous different, and even strange, experiences that Palmer has faced with the rest of his crew, have helped him form a strong bond with his fellow firefighters.

"With the long hours that we spend together and the crazy situations that we find ourselves dealing with around town, we end up forming friendships quickly," he said. "There are a lot of great people that work for the Norman Fire Department." — **BSM**



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Boyd Street Teacher Features

Teresa Lansford

Teresa Lansford, Lincoln Elementary's 2018 teacher of the year, is passionate about her students, empowering them through technology.

On any given day, you might find Lansford preparing for coding club, pulling out a 3-D printer for special projects or helping students chat with a children's author via Skype.

"It's a fun job, and I get to really make a difference with kids," she said.

Lansford enjoys the flexibility and variety of her job.

"No two days are ever going to be the same when you work with children," she said. "That's always exciting."

Lansford is in her 14th year as an educator, but she has worked with children throughout her life, from time spent as a babysitter to leading Sunday School classes and writing lessons

and skits for vacation Bible school.

Her decision to become a teacher grew out of a fascination for how people learn and a desire to make a positive impact in students' lives. Lansford received her bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in library and information studies from the University of Oklahoma.

Lansford said she is honored to be selected as her school's teacher of the year.

"It's an honor to know that the district really sees value in all the effort you're making. I think that Norman is very deliberate in supporting their teachers and allowing them to innovate and providing them resources to grow."

Lansford, a graduate of Norman North High School, said she remembers the teachers she had growing up who were innovative and passionate about their



work and she wants to model those qualities for her own students.

"I try every day to pay that forward and give my students the same great experience that I had." – **BSM**

Amanda Owens

Amanda Owens wants her students' first experience with school to be positive, the beginning of a life-long love for learning and she plays a vital role in that process as a pre-kindergarten teacher at Lakeview Elementary School.

"I feel like pre-k is their first experience with school," said Owens, who was selected as the school's 2018 teacher of the year. "I want them to come to my classroom and feel loved and enjoy learning."

Owens said she believes an important aspect of teaching is building relationships and trust with students.

"I feel like that's why I'm here, to make sure every kid knows they're loved because that's how you can get

them to learn," she said. "Building that trust and that foundation helps them become better students."

Owens is in her 14th year as an educator and said her grandfather helped influence her career choice. Her grandfather was a teacher, and when she'd go with him on errands, former students would recognize him and strike up conversations.

"He'd be so interested in what they were doing in their lives," she said.

She admired the role he played in his students' lives and in his community. Owens decided to pursue a career in early childhood education and graduated from the University of Oklahoma.

Owens said she's honored to be the



school's teacher of the year and cherishes watching her students succeed in school as they get older.

"I don't feel like it's work. I feel like I get to enjoy being around kids all day," Owens said. "I love it." – **BSM**



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OU Taps Business Executive to Lead University

Facing dwindling budgets, staff reductions, debt and an uncertain future of appropriations for higher education, the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents began their search for a successor to replace President David L. Boren, it is no surprise they found a leader who has sailed in rough waters before.

Regents Chairman Clayton I. Bennett introduced former business executive James L. Gallogly as OU's 14th president on March 26, describing him as a man with leadership qualities the university will value as it moves into the future.

"Jim's skill-set is a perfect match for this unique time in our history," Bennett said. "He is a builder, known for having strategic vision, for managing large and complex organizations and for mentoring and inspiring great teams to achieve results."

Speaking to a standing-room only crowd of hundreds in the OU Memorial Union Ballroom, Gallogly, 65, outlined an executive career of more than 30 years in the energy industry, highlighting the type of business and organizational acumen regents were no doubt looking for when they began their search last fall.

Gallogly began his career in 1980, joining Bartlesville-based Phillips Petroleum Corp.

In the early 2000s, he assisted with a merger between Phillips and Ponca City-based Conoco, a transaction that ensured the future growth and survival of both companies. The resulting ConocoPhillips Corp. immediately took its place as a Fortune 500 company and became one of the nation's largest oil and natural gas producers.

But his most defining accomplishment came after his career with ConocoPhillips.

After 29 years with the oil company, Gallogly joined LyondellBasell as chairman and chief executive officer at a time when the company was in Chapter 11 bankruptcy with more than \$20 billion in debt.

He told the audience of students, faculty, staff and media how he and his team guided the company out of bankruptcy in record time and successfully repositioned it as one of the world's largest petrochemical, polymer and refining companies.

"In a few short years, the stock price went from \$17 to \$115," he said. "We exited Chapter 11 quicker than any company, and we became investor grade quicker than any company. Our toughest competitor was Dow Chemical, and a few days before I announced my retirement, we almost equaled them in market cap," Gallogly told the audience.

In 2014, less than four years after he arrived, LyondellBasell reported revenues of \$45.6 billion and earnings of \$4.1 billion. Regent Chair Bennett said Gallogly is a world-class, in-demand, transformative leader that the university is honored to name as its next president.

Gallogly said he intends to build on the foundation established by Boren, who will retire on June 30 after serving 23 years as OU's president.

Boren is among America's longest-serving university presidents, and his retirement will come after completing 51 years of public service in the Oklahoma Legislature, as governor of Oklahoma, U.S. Senator and OU's president.

Under Boren's leadership, the University emerged as a "pacesetter university in American public higher education," with 31 major new programs initiated during his tenure. Since 1994, more

than \$2 billion in construction projects have been completed or are underway on OU's three campuses.

"I have known Jim Gallogly for many years," Boren said in a statement. "He is a person of exceptional ability and has been a committed supporter of the university. He truly loves the university and our students. He and his wife Janet will be worthy leaders of our university family."

Bennett called Gallogly a charismatic and inspirational leader.

"It's impressive to know that many leaders he's mentored and developed during his career have ascended to become CEOs," said Bennett, who also serves as chairman of the Oklahoma City Thunder NBA franchise and chairman of Oklahoma City-based Dorchester Capital Corp.

"He'll lead from the front, working with teams at every level and teaching in the classroom as he takes on his next major career challenge. While Jim may not come from academia, we know he'll draw skillfully on OU's world-class faculty, who will be critical in assisting him during this transition," Bennett said.

Gallogly received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs in 1974 and a J.D. degree from the OU College of Law in 1977.

"We aspire to greatness. Nothing less," Gallogly said during his introduction. "I will push very hard. I will ask a great deal. We know what that looks like on a football field, don't we?"

"We expect perfection, and we are going to have that same standard in every single thing we do at this university," he said. "We will work together as a team, and we will achieve great things, because we are Sooners!" — **BSM**

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NORMANITE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Nick Hathaway

The University of Oklahoma is a bustling academic and cultural hub of learning opportunity for thousands of students from across the nation, and Nick Hathaway is in the middle of it, clearing a path to all the benefits that OU has to offer.

Hathaway is OU's executive vice president with responsibilities in managing the university's financial affairs as well as more than 1,200 employees in nonacademic administrative areas. He works closely with President David Boren to coordinate projects and initiatives across the campus.

"The University of Oklahoma is an incredibly diverse, wonderful place," Hathaway said. "We have a lot of really thoughtful, passionate people on campus that are interested in serving students, and there are so many exciting things happening here."

Hathaway, originally from New Jersey, completed his bachelor's degree at Tulane University in New Orleans, then moved to Washington D.C. where he served as a legislative staffer for Boren, who was serving at the time as a U.S. senator.

He eventually moved to Norman to rejoin Boren's administrative staff at OU, and he went on to earn his master's degree in business administration from OU.

For the past 16 years, he has held the combined positions as OU's executive vice president and vice president of administration and finance.

One of Hathaway's main priorities is increasing retention and graduation rates for the university, and he has been involved with many related programs across campus. He's particularly proud to have played a leading

role in OU's switch to a holistic admissions process.

"In truly understanding someone's passion to be at OU and to graduate from OU, you've got to look at a lot more than just GPA, test scores and class rank," said Hathaway. "With a holistic admissions approach, we can look at a wide range of factors, and give different weights to more accurate predictors of student success. I think that's had a wonderfully positive impact on the university."

Hathaway is an instrumental part of OU's digital initiative, and has been proactive in promoting technological innovations at the university and helping it to adapt to a changing educational environment.

"I've been a champion of the digital initiative, which is basically embracing the role of technology in educa-

tion and understanding that it's likely to be a strong part of our future," Hathaway said. "It excites me that OU is, and has been, on the leading edge of exploring that."

Hathaway hopes to use this technology to better personalize each student's OU experience. He points out that students provide the university with an immense amount of information on their applications, and now, for the first time, technology provides a way for the faculty and staff to actually utilize this giant pool of data.

Student involvement in campus life contributes to the richness of the college experience, and this project aims to match students with opportunities that align with their passions and interests.

"I believe that we can help everybody find their place within the university in a personalized way, and I think that this program is how we're going to do that."

Hathaway operates on the belief that there's always something more that can be done to enrich the university community and provide more value to the students.

Hathaway has had a leadership role in the development of the five Partners Place buildings, Wagner Hall, Traditions Square Apartments, a partnership with OG&E for wind energy, and the establishment of OU's study abroad program in Arezzo, Italy, to name a small sampling of his efforts.

He is a member of the Norman Rotary Club and has served on the boards of numerous organizations within the university and the Norman community.

In 2017, Hathaway was the recipient of the Otis Sullivant Award for Perceptivity at the University of Oklahoma, honoring his contributions to the university and passionate commitment to the university's long-term success.



Hathaway lives in Norman with his wife, Nanette Shadid Hathaway, Crimson Club coordinator and director of the President's Leadership Class. They have three children

"There are so many great people here and great things happening here," said Hathaway. "I feel really fortunate that my life has put me in a situation where I can do what I love, and enjoy the benefits of being a part of the university community." – **BSM**

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Hungry to Help

Middle School Counselor
Opens 24-Hour Food Pantry



Jennifer Shepard, counselor at Irving Middle School, knows that hunger can be stifling. When the basic need for food goes unmet, learning can be almost impossible for students.

So, Shepard decided to do something about the problem.

She began working with Antioch Community Church, organizing and handing out backpacks filled with kid-friendly foods to students at Irving Middle School. The program has done a great job helping the students it serves. But, it became apparent that there was a need for something bigger.

"These kids have asked to take food home for siblings and neighbors," Shepard said.

Therefore, she began to grow the program beyond the school's doors and started a community pantry on school grounds. The aim of the new pantry is clear.

"We want to end hunger in east Norman," Shepard said. "We saw the need in the school and in the community

around us. My biggest goal is to build a relationship between the school and community in east Norman."

The outdoor pantry is designed to serve the community and is open 24 hours a day, throughout the year. Shelves are stocked with nonperishable food and hygiene items like towels and even socks.

Often, the nonfood items are those most in demand. Shepard said that the pantry is always in need of deodorant, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and towels.

"We want to give people a place to go if they need something, to bridge the gap for things you cannot get with SNAP benefits," Shepard said.

SNAP, a federal anti-hunger program, stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and provides food assistance to low income individuals and families.

The pantry's motto is "take what you need, give what you can." And, anyone can give.

The food pantry has truly become a community project, bringing different parts of the community together. Students from Irving Middle School help to keep the pantry clean and orderly, and a grant from Antioch Community Church keeps the shelves filled with food. Dr. David Biles, with Westwood Veterinary Hospital, built the pantry's structure, which he donated to the school.

"McFarlin Memorial United Methodists Church has also contributed by bringing their Mobile Food Pantry to the Irving Parking lot on the first Tuesday of the month from 5:30 – 7 p.m.," Shepard added.

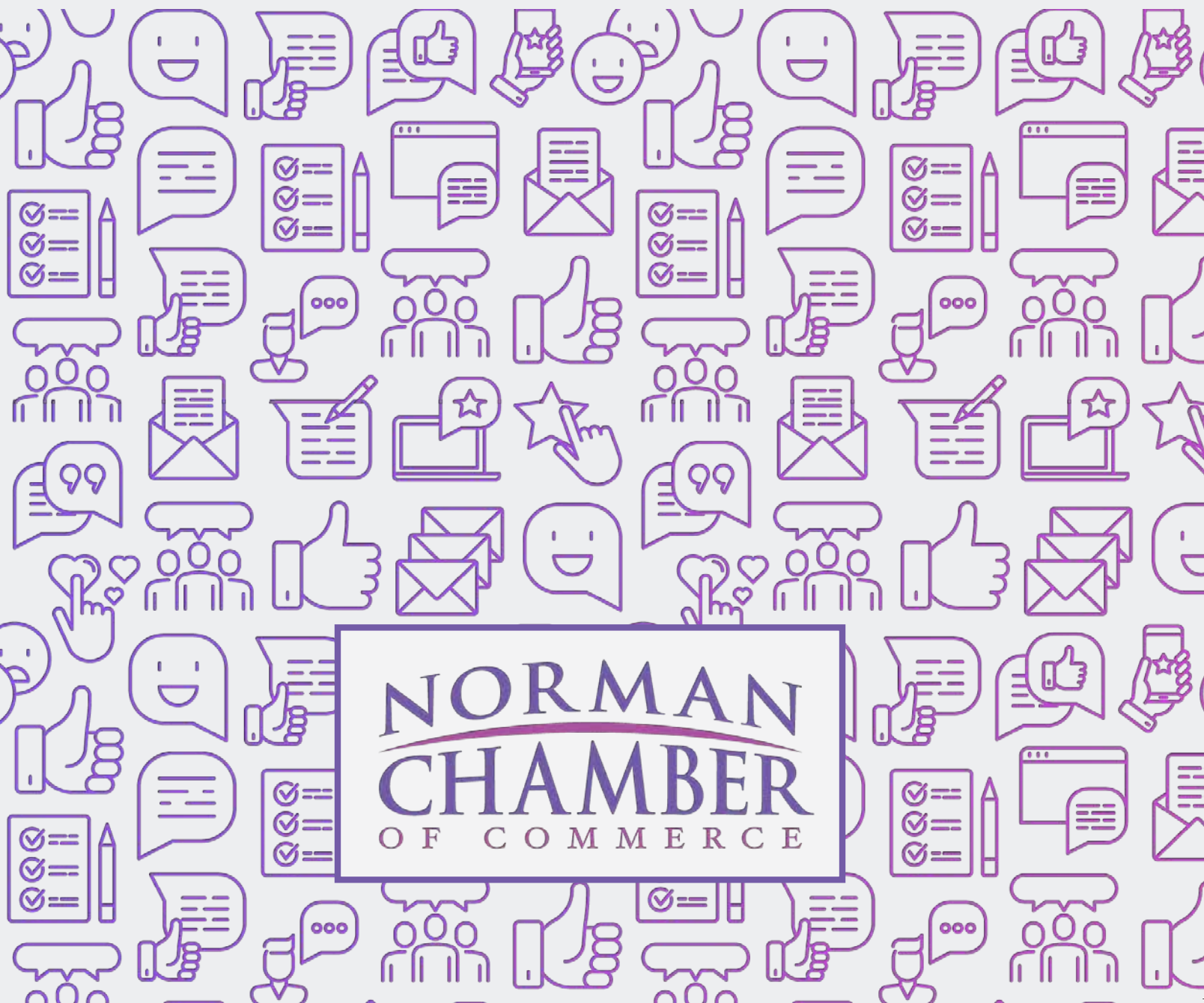
Giving is what made the pantry possible, and everybody can give, whether it's a donation or just time. For those looking to help or for those in need, the wheelchair accessible pantry sits right next to the library kiosk by the Irving Recreation Center on Vicksburg Avenue. – BSM

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Seeds of Knowledge

“City Girl” Wins Ag Teaching Award Through Hard Work, Passion

Johnnie Keel (center) holds a gift basket of teaching resources she received for becoming the 2018 Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year award. Assisting with the presentation at Truman Elementary in Norman are (left to right) State Ag in the Classroom Coordinators Audrey Harmon and Melody Aufill.



You might say Johnnie Keel’s focus is typical for a gifted resource coordinator in the Norman Public Schools.

She has about 145 third, fourth and fifth graders at Norman’s Truman Elementary School, and her students spends about an hour a week with her. She teaches them critical thinking and collaboration, and they cover a variety of topics such as weather, space, DNA, world population growth, sustainability, erosion, nutrition and cooking.

What sets Keel apart from the rest is that all her lessons have an unusual theme for a suburban school district like Norman. She likes to teach her students about agriculture.

As an artist might use paint and a canvas, or clay and a pottery wheel to express their creativity, Keel uses agriculture as the medium for teaching her young students about the world around them. Just as unusual is the fact that Keel is a city girl, born in Durant, but raised in Oklahoma City.

Graduating from Capitol Hill High School, located only minutes from downtown OKC, Keel has never lived on a farm, has never worked on a farm and didn’t even visit grandparents on

a farm. She describes herself as a city girl and almost apologizes for the fact that her considerable knowledge of agriculture comes through her years of teaching it, not doing it.

No matter, the 22-year veteran in the classroom is so good at what she does that she has been named the state of Oklahoma’s 2018 Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year.

Keel will be officially honored at Ag Day on April 10, during the annual celebration of agriculture at the state Capitol in Oklahoma City.

Keel said teaching is a second career that she began in the Moore Public Schools after spending 17 years working as a lease analyst in the oil industry. She had always wanted to be a teacher, but never had an inherent interest in agriculture.

She first became interested in agriculture after enrolling in a teaching workshop and learning about all the free curriculum and supplies that were available in agriculture.

“When you’re a teacher, free and cheap are good,” Keel said.

After 10 years of teaching in Moore, Keel moved to Norman, where she has been teaching for 12 years, and

agriculture curriculum has been a mainstay in her classroom almost the entire time.

When students first enter Keel’s gifted and talented program, few of them know much about where their food comes from or the role agriculture plays in producing the clothes they wear or the medicine they take. They think of farming as long days in the field without much pay, she said.

“Students are not that interested initially, but once they know more, they’re very interested,” she said.

She leads her classes through a broad variety of lessons, and they’re not afraid to get their hands dirty in the process.

They’ve grown tomato plants from seeds that were carried aboard the International Space Station, and they compared them to tomato plants grown from ordinary earthbound seeds. In the end, they didn’t see much difference between the plants, Keel said. But, they did learn a lot about how scientific research is conducted. They saw how important experimental design is when investigating differences in tomato seeds or any other subject of study.

Each fall, she holds an event called Pumpkin Palooza, when she uses pumpkins to teach her students how to estimate weight, measure, count and learn about the decay cycle. In the end, they make pumpkin pie in a bag.

Through their unit on wheat, they learn what a commodity is, and they learn how to make pasta.

"It may not have been the best pasta, but they liked it because they made it," she said.

They learn where wheat comes from and they learned how different cultures from around the world use it to make various types of bread.

They also learn about Oklahoma and all the agricultural products that are grown within the state, such as wheat, soy beans, sun flowers and hay. Keel said they all discovered this year that cotton is now being grown within the city limits of Norman.

"We are actually fortunate to have so many things that are being grown in Oklahoma," Keel said. "We feed the

world and the students care about those things."

Keel is one of the Norman school district's shining stars, said Kristi Gray, the gifted and talented program coordinator for Norman Public Schools.

"She is definitely one of the most passionate teachers that we have," Gray said. "From a supervisor's standpoint, she is one of those dream employees. This is who you want in the classroom."

Keel said she is honored to be named Ag Teach of the Year, but she hesitated, at first, to apply because she didn't think she was as qualified as other teachers who had grown up on a farm.

"Those people probably know more about animals and the struggles and



how ag can change," Keel said. "I don't have the experience. I have the passion, but not the experience."

Ultimately, Keel said she went ahead and applied because she knew she could win a trip to the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Portland, Maine this June. As the winner, Keel will have her expenses paid to attend, and she's looking forward to seeing a lobster farm and other things that are not common around Oklahoma. — **BSM**



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C-SPAN SPOTLIGHT

Norman History, Weather Research and Local Writers Take Center Stage in Cities Tour

It's easy to get caught up in the routine of everyday life in Norman, commuting to work, hauling the kids, trips to the grocery store, civic projects and community events. It all adds up, and we can easily lose sight of where we live and how Norman got where it is today.

As irony might have it, a national television network based in Washington D.C. has come to town to show a national audience what many of us have forgotten about or, perhaps, never knew in the first place.

The cable television public affairs network C-SPAN has included Norman on its national Cities Tour, which is featuring the historic and literary aspects of several small cities across the United States.

To see what Norman looks like when a national network shines its spotlight, tune in to C-SPAN2 or C-SPAN3 on the weekend of April 7-8. Cox Cable

subscribers can find those channels at 127 and 128, respectively.

Andy Rieger, Norman native and former managing editor of the Norman Transcript, was recruited to be the network's tour guide for a day, leading the crew on a trip that started at the very beginning of Norman's prairie history and ended up in the futuristic world of weather research.

He showed them the Norman Depot and told them about Abner Norman, the railroad surveyor who inadvertently named the town after himself while scouting a rail route between Arkansas City, Kan. and Gainesville, Texas.

Rieger showed them what Norman residents used to call North Base and South Base, and he told them about the U.S. Navy's former presence in Norman, turning much of the community into a training station for its pilots during World War II.

They drove around the massive

grounds that once comprised the mental health institution known as Central State Hospital, and he drove passed historic buildings downtown. Rieger and the crew toured Andrews Park and the sturdy structures built by the WPA more than 80 years ago.

No Norman tour would be complete without a trip through the Historic Campus Corner District, a stop at the Gaylord Family Oklahoma Memorial Stadium and a tour of Heisman Park.

Of course, Rieger found himself explaining the term Sooner, and its shady connotation back in the days of Oklahoma's 89er Land Run. But in Norman, we let bygones be bygones, and cheer for the Sooners of today, who happen to be pretty good football players.

He ended his tour with a drive south to the University of Oklahoma Research Campus, a modern-day, cutting-edge technology incubator

where science, research and entrepreneurialism converge to form a massive economic success story that OU President David Boren launched more than two decades ago.

C-SPAN's three-person crew only spent a day with Rieger, but its entire visit to Norman lasted the better part of a week. While here, they toured the National Weather Center and OU's Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. They also visited the university's Carl Albert Center, the Political Commercial Archives and the Western History Collection.

The crew interviewed Norman-based authors, such as Karlos Hill, Kyle Harper, RC Davis, Rilla Askew and Sarah Eppler Janda.

Norman is one of many stops on the network's Cities Tour. One recent stop was Shawnee, Okla. Others have included Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Lynchburg, Va., Newport, R.I., Fayetteville, Ark., Springfield, Mo. and Worcester, Mass.

C-SPAN coordinating producer Debbie Lamb said the tour is being organized in partnership with the cable providers that bring the network to viewers, and they worked with Cox Communications in their visit to Norman.

She said the Cities Tour project began in 2011, and their goal is to provide a look inside the unique history and literary life of selected cities across the United States.

Norman is a unique city with a rich history and literary culture as well as an enormous amount of research activity, Lamb said.

"I was absolutely fascinated by the amount of research and innovation that is going on," she said. "The weather research and the collaboration that



is going on was amazing.

"I was blown away," she said. "I learned a lot while I was there."

Lamb said the innovation, research and growth happening in Norman will make a lasting impression on C-SPAN's viewers.

She said segments from their visit to Norman will be broadcast throughout the first full weekend in April. After that, their Norman features will be available online at www.c-span.org/series/?citiesTour. — BSM

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THE ACE

Jake Irvin is the ace of the University of Oklahoma's pitching staff. The junior from Bloomington, Minn. has been the consistent Friday starter for the Sooners for the last two seasons, setting the tone with hard work and leadership.

We sat down with Irvin to visit about what brought him to Norman, his future in baseball, the Sooners' new head coach and the 2018 season.

Q. You have a new head coach this year. While Skip Johnson is a familiar face as your pitching coach from last year, how has the team handled Johnson's transition to head coach?

A. It's been a great transition. Coach Johnson is the same guy regardless of what roles he's in. He's been just as great as a head coach as he was as a pitching coach.

Q. Johnson is a passionate baseball mind, but he seems to care about players on a personal level. Is it more about baseball or personal growth?

A. I think it's a bit of both. He does love baseball, but his biggest thing is loving all the kids he has to coach and building a relationship with all of us. Regardless of what it is, he will dig deep to know all of us on a personal level. He's been great on the baseball side but even better on a personal side, getting to know all of us.

Q. Looking back, when did you know you could play baseball at the collegiate level?

A. I was a late bloomer. I didn't even start getting recruited until my senior year. I was lucky enough to pitch well my junior year and got some looks that summer. We went to a few showcases and a few schools saw me. I decided that Oklahoma was the perfect fit for me. My senior season, I realized that baseball was my thing, and I found myself working even harder.

Q. How has the support of your family played a role in your success?

A. I think that our love for sports and competitive natures is kind of the reason I push myself to work hard today. (My three brothers) pushed me to be the best I could be, and I love those guys every day for it. All my brothers are athletic. Family is everything to me. My parents are my biggest supporters and they are there every step of the way.





Q. You had so many opportunities to play hockey. How did the Sooners get you on the diamond in Oklahoma?

A. It was a struggle to keep me off the ice. I'm still a huge hockey fan today. Coach (Pete) Hughes saw me at a showcase in Kansas City. He brought me to Norman. I went back to my hotel room here in Norman and told my dad, "Hey I know you might like a few other schools but I'm committing here. Tonight." So, we got on the phone with Coach Hughes. I loved everything about Oklahoma and I still do. It's a great fit.

Q. There wasn't much of a learning curve for you. You basically were thrown right into the fire as a freshman.

A. I think I had the perfect freshman season. I faced a lot of adversity. I learned a lot. Because of that adversity, I got back into a starting role and became a complete pitcher. It's an experience I'm so thankful for, and it's made me a better pitcher today.

Q. The pitcher/catcher relationship, how important is it?

A. I don't think it is overstated at all, and it's the responsibility of the pitcher to build that relationship. We can't be around them all the time in practice. Off the field, it's our responsibility to build a relationship with those guys. I was lucky to have Renae (Martinez) last year, and he was an awesome human being, so that was an easy relationship to build. Now, we have four guys this year. They are all awesome guys, good catchers and easy to get along with.

Q. We have seen some incredible physical growth and overall success, but what is the biggest personal growth you've experienced as a Sooner?

A. Maturity. You're in college and there are distractions, stuff going on both on and off the baseball field. You want to be a part of it, but at the end of the day, you're here for baseball. In a year or two, I could be starting a career, so that's how you have to look at it.

Q. Do you find yourself having to get fiery with your teammates to fire your guys up?

A. I feel like I can be a confidence builder. Those guys know I'm competing for them, and they're going to compete for me. They're doing a great job right now. I pat them on the back and say we've got this.

Q. This Sooner baseball squad seems like a pretty loose bunch. How fun is this team and its personality?

A. We have a blast. I think that comes from the fact that we have so many older guys. Some of us have been here for three to four years. The younger guys have grown close to us, and they know our culture. It starts with the guys who were here last year to set the tone, and we definitely have a good time.

Q. You have a future in the MLB and some even say as a potential first-round pick. Do you find yourself getting caught up in looking forward to that?



A. Not at all. I think coach Johnson does a good job preaching a one pitch at a time mindset. Focus on the now. Take care of business now, and everything down the road will take care of itself. Once it's over, I hope I can look back and tell myself I gave it all I have.

Q. What are you following away from baseball?

A. Anything associated with sports. I'm a huge Minnesota sports fan, Vikings, the Wild you name it.

Q. What about the 2018 Oklahoma Sooners? Where is this team right now, do you feel good about it?

A. We obviously are a work in progress. We can be in a better record position, but it's better to go through that early in the year. Indiana has been on a tear since we beat them. But this adversity will build character. It's better to go through this now rather than later on down the road, and I think we're going to be better for it. – BSM

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- Create concrete, measurable goals. What do you want to accomplish? What's your time horizon? How much will your goals cost? Knowing the answers to these questions will help you and your planner decide on the steps you need to take to be successful.
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Peggy

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Japanese Breakfast to Draw Large, Outdoor Crowd on Main Street

Volunteers are busy clearing space for hit band Japanese Breakfast, scheduled to perform on Thursday night at the 11th annual Norman Music Festival, April 26-28.

Japanese Breakfast is the solo music project of Michelle Zauner of Oregon-based Little Big League. Traveling to Norman just days after they are scheduled to play at the famous California desert music festival, Coachella, the band is expected to draw a crowd so large it warrants an outdoor stage on Thursday night – a first in Norman Music Festival history.

“This band is just so lovely and experimental and a little bit odd and ethereal and I like them,” said Shari Jackson, Norman Music Festival’s executive director. “They are touring and now we get to have them, too. They’re getting really big so we’re going to have to make some big space.”

In the past, Thursday night bands have performed at Sooner Theater.

“Sooner Theater is a beautiful, historic venue,” she said. “But we didn’t want to lock anyone out of seeing them and also didn’t want to overwhelm that space or its staff. We’ll still be booking all of our indoor venues as usual.”

The Norman Music Festival is one of the largest free independent music festivals in the country.

“The major draw is that it’s free,” said Beau Jennings, a musical artist scheduled to perform at the festival. “I’m proud of the organizers for keeping that as a priority. I think it has benefited the community.”

National touring acts are feathered with local artists, offering great exposure to up-and-coming bands. More than 600 bands apply for the stages during an open call, but only around 300 spots are available.

“It’s a big job,” Jackson said. “We fortunately have a very talented team of people who are very in tune with the independent music scene.”

She said they pull from some of the best in independent music around the country, but still strive to keep the festival rooted in Oklahoma music.

“Oklahoma has an expansive music scene from all genres,” Jackson said. “We love to be able to showcase that here.”

The festival began in 2008. Back then, it was a one-day, one-stage event. It has since grown to a three-day festival. More than 100,000 people are expected to fill the streets this year.

“The first year we didn’t have a clue what we were doing,” said Kent Johnson, president of the Norman Music Festival’s board of directors. “But it turned out fantastic and has continued



to grow from there. We continue adding indoor venues and everyone in the community wants to be involved.”

Johnson said there are so many venues that if you stumble on something you don’t like, just keep walking to find something you do.

The festival is sponsored by the City of Norman, Oklahoma arts councils, the Kirkpatrick Foundation and various other donor gifts ranging from \$500 to \$20,000.

“It’s a true community effort,” he said. “We’re going to try to highlight how much the community welcomes this festival to honor all those who pitch in to help make it happen.”

In addition to live music, the family-friendly festival boasts art and food vendors, beer gardens, a kid’s area with bouncy houses and the Lion’s Club hosts a carnival nearby. It takes 15 board members who work year-round and more than 200 volunteers to keep the festival afloat. Anyone interested in volunteering can sign up at normanmusicfestival.com to work a shift and receive a free T-shirt.

“We’re committed to keeping it as a free and not a ticketed event,” Jackson said. “We like to think of ourselves as the little

festival that could. We’re slowly navigating the leap to national sponsors but doing it in a way to keep our local businesses at the forefront.”

As a way to give back to the community, vendors are partnering with a local nonprofit and will donate a portion of this year’s beer and merchandise sales. The nonprofit will be able to pass out information and educate the public about their cause.

Part of last year’s event was almost rained out, but they expect to make up for it this year.

“We didn’t have the successful festival we were hoping for in 2017,” she said. “So, we’re trying to be frugal with this year’s budget, but still put on the same high-level festival. Somehow, we’ve managed to stay within budget and present the best lineup of music we’ve had in 11 years.”

Festival goers can find the schedule online at normanmusicfestival.com.

“It’s a great spring time activity I look forward to each year, kind of the start of outdoor festival season,” Jennings said. “I plan to be there until they won’t have me anymore.”— **BSM**





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Red Rock Music Festival



Free Event Showcases Oklahoma Talent

Looking for some home-grown Oklahoma music? Artists from across the state will be on hand as an expected 7,000 music lovers attend the 37th annual Rose Rock Music Festival, May 4-6 in Noble.

Featured music ranges from country, blues and rock to classical and pop. Local favorite Etowah Road will kick off the event as the headliner Friday night at 7 p.m., and Grammy-nominated musician John Fullbright is scheduled to wrap up the event on Sunday.

"We like to display our Oklahoma talent," said Brian Houck, immediate past president of the Noble Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. "Almost all of our bands are native to Oklahoma."

In addition to showcasing musical artists from across the state, the three-day event is free for the public to attend and set to feature a car show, food vendors, parade, arts and craft vendors, pony rides, poker run, Great Plains

Amusement carnival, disc golf tournament – even professional wrestling.

"We're also adding an art walk this year," said Kim Adams, Noble Chamber of Commerce executive director. "Local authors, painters, photographers and more will be able to sell their art at the festival."

Known as the Rose Rock capital of the world, Noble has been home to the family-friendly festival since the 1980s. The all-outdoor festival's main stage is located in front of Noble's City Hall, just a few miles south of Norman.

"I'm a musician, and I like getting all these people together and bringing good music to the event," Houck said. "The artists we have and the mix of entertainment we have makes it unique. I enjoy the culture it brings to the city."

Houck said festival goers fly in from all across the United States to check out the artists.



"It's kind of a reunion," he said. "A lot of the bands know each other and play with each other in and around the state of Oklahoma and beyond. It's like a big music family."

Visit nobleok.org to see a detailed festival schedule. – BSM



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A photograph of three children in a swimming pool. In the background, a boy with yellow sunglasses smiles. In the middle, a girl with pink sunglasses and a braid smiles. In the foreground, a boy with blue sunglasses smiles. They are all leaning on the edge of the pool.

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Saving on Home Renovations



Is your kitchen in desperate need of a facelift? Bathrooms haven't been remodeled since Bush was in the White House? (We're not saying which one!)

With the warmer weather approaching, many homeowners are thinking of making minor and major household improvements. And for most, the cost will be prohibitive. The average kitchen remodel tops \$60,000 and a bathroom overhaul can run \$18,000.

No worries, though! With some careful planning and smart choices, you can shave thousands off the cost of renovations.

Here are seven terrific ways to save when remodeling.

DON'T DO A COMPLETE REMODEL

It's tempting to want to go all out when you're remodeling, but unless structural damage demands that a room or area be completely gutted, there's rarely a reason to start from scratch. Instead of knocking down walls, try to envision the outdated area with a fresh coat of paint, new light fixtures and some minor décor changes.

Is your kitchen a total blast from the past? Instead of giving it a complete overhaul, consider replacing the drawer handles and knobs, staining the cabinets and resurfacing the moldings. Perfecting old cabinets can be 50 percent less expensive than putting in brand new ones.

Potential money saved: \$30,000.

SHOP AROUND FOR A CONTRACTOR

Choosing a contractor is not a decision to take lightly. You'll want to find someone honest, professional and reliable – and willing to give you a decent price.

Don't hire anyone on the spot. Check out at least three different contractors before making your decision. Ask for references and meet with each contractor in person to get a feel for their character and professional conduct. Take note of whether they show up on time and their willingness to answer questions. Doing these simple tasks will provide you with important clues about their reliability. Be sure to ask your prospective contractor if they generally stick to their schedules or tend to fall behind. In this business, time is money, and a delay in a project's completion can cost you a pretty penny.

Finally, be sure to sign a detailed contract. The contract should stipulate the final cost and estimated timeframe for the project.

Potential money saved: several thousand dollars.

CONSIDER LONG-TERM COSTS AND BENEFITS

You don't want to choose the most expensive option for every remodeling decision you're going to make, but it often makes sense to pay more now if it'll save you big further down the line.

For example, if you're installing clapboard siding, you'll save in the long run by paying more for pre-primed and pre-painted boards. Using the more expensive prefinished claps means you'll need half as many paint jobs in the future.

Money saved: \$1,250 (for a 10×40 area).

PICK DECENT BUT MIDGRADE MATERIALS

Choosing the cheapest materials usually ends up costing more in the future. But that doesn't mean go with the most lavish and expensive. In general, it's best to go with the midgrade option whenever possible.

One significant area where you'll see this at play is in carpeting. Basic olefin and polyester carpeting will run you \$1 to \$2 per square foot, while wool costs upward of \$9 to \$11 per square foot.

Money saved: \$400 (for a 40-square-foot area).

BRING IN NATURAL LIGHT WITHOUT WINDOWS

Looking to add a splash of sunshine in your kitchen? Don't cut that gigantic hole in the side of your house just yet! Adding windows is a major deal and there are other, less expensive ways of bringing sunlight into your home.

Instead, consider installing a "light tube." This ingenious contraption slips between the rafters on your roof and works to funnel sunshine down and into the living space below.

Adding a double-pane window can run you \$1,500, while a light tube is only \$500.

Money saved: \$1,000.

LEND A HAND

You don't have to be super-handy to help out, and you can save money at the same time. You can easily do some of the demolition work yourself, paint some walls or even sand the walls to prep them for painting. If you think you're too clumsy for even these minor jobs, lend a hand with the cleanup at the end of a project. Why pay a cleanup crew \$200 a day to sweep up sawdust when you can handle a broom just fine on your own?

Money saved: \$200 a day or more.

INCREASE EFFICIENCY, NOT SIZE

If you feel like your kitchen is too cramped and you need to push out some walls to make it work, think again. You can easily reorganize your kitchen for maximum efficiency and save tens of thousands of dollars.


Replace large, clumsy shelves with pullout drawers that are equipped with racks for easy, aesthetic storage space. Upgrade your cabinets with lazy susans, dividers, pullout trays and more. Consider hiring a professional organizer to show you how to maximize the space you have. The organizer's fee and the money you'll spend on the specialized cabinets will still fall way below the cost of an expansion.

Money saved: up to \$60,000.

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RIVERWIND HOTEL



Oklahoma Hotel & Lodging Association Honors Riverwind for Service

Norman's very own Riverwind Hotel is among the best accommodations in the state, according to the Oklahoma Hotel & Lodging Association.

The hotel was recently recognized for its work at the Stars of the Industry Awards, a program designed to honor Oklahoma's outstanding hospitality professionals for their service and commitment to guest services and the industry.

The hotel, located at 1544 State Highway 9, received two awards, with Ronnie Krodel named Outstanding General Manager of the Year in the Small Property category and Heather Factor being honored as Outstanding Roomkeeper of the Year, marking the second straight year the hotel received the roomkeeper honor.

Krodel, who has worked at Riverwind for five years, said the hotel has submitted a nomination and won an award each year. This year, however, he was unaware that his boss had submitted his name for nomination.

"I always tell my boss and my staff it's not about me, it's about what you do every single day, and I honestly, I had no idea," Krodel said, adding that his boss gathered information under the guise of a company newsletter. "They started reading about how we got hit by the tornado... that he's very involved in his community and he coach-

es football and basketball. When they said that, I looked over at my boss, and he just started laughing. I was really shocked."

As winners in the state contest, Krodel and Factor will be submitted to compete in the national Stars of the Industry Awards, hosted by the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA). The national winners will be announced at the AH&LA Summit in Los Angeles in January 2019.

Krodel began working in the hotel industry in 1999 as a bellman, while in college. His original plan was to be a state trooper, but he ended up sticking in the hotel profession instead. During his time in the industry, he has "worked in every odd job that you can work in a hotel" and has been in a general manager role for more than a decade. He says that Riverwind is well known in the hospitality industry.

Staying at Riverwind provides a unique experience from other locations in Norman since the hotel is connected to a casino, Krodel said. Additionally, he thinks the hotel's hospitality sets them apart.

The key, he said, is how the staff deliver services every single day and how they treat their guests like family.

“Our staff, they have a passion. They have integrity. Every day they come and work together as a team, and I think that really sets us apart,” Krodel said.

Since he started working at Riverwind, Krodel said he has become more involved in the community because that is something that is very important to the hotel and casino, whether through sponsorships, volunteerism or hosting events on site.



Ronnie Krodel receives his award.

One popular community event hosted by Riverwind Casino is Beats & Bites, a summertime series of family-friendly evenings filled with live music, food trucks and vendors. This summer, Beats & Bites will host Oklahoma natives Jason Boland and Jason Young, among others. Festivities begin on select Saturdays at 6 p.m. and continue until 11 p.m.

“I learned it’s not just all about just the day-to-day operations,” Krodel said. “It’s really truly about giving back to the community and being more involved.” – **BSM**



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- July 7 – Restless Heart and Stars
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Wine, Grapes & the Environment

A week does not go by without someone asking me about sulfites or organic wine. So, I am going to try to shed a little light on the subject.

Let's start with sulfites. Sulfites occur naturally as part of the fermentation process. However, the Romans discovered that adding additional sulfites substantially extended the time the wine remained drinkable. Since, vintners have added sulfites. Today, very few "no detectable sulfites" wines are available, due to their low shelf life.

Regulations in the U.S. and European Union limit the amount of sulfite that can be present in wine, and the level at which wine can be labelled no detectable sulfites. The upper limit for sulfites is higher in the U.S. than the European Union.

Red wines and sweet wines have less sulfites added, because the tannins and sugars are also natural preservatives. Many consumers believe that organic wines do not contain sulfites, but this is incorrect. Organic wines contain no added sulfites.

Now, let's look at organic wines. Organic wines actually fall in two categories: wines made from organically grown grapes and those using organically grown grapes and are vinified without additional chemicals and segregated from any contamination. The label will bear a certification that

cannot appear without approval from the USDA and the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agencies. The U.S. and the European Union have very similar regulations for this designation.

Sustainably grown grapes are planted and maintained to minimize the environmental impact. Drip systems for irrigation, cover crops between rows, insects and animals (sheep and chickens), night harvesting and many other strategies are used to reduce the environmental impact of vineyards. However there are no specific regulations, several groups offer inspections and certifications. Each has somewhat different standards.

Biodynamic growing practices incorporate both the organic standards and sustainable strategies, following practices first established by an Austrian scientist in the 1920s, including planting and harvesting based on the lunar cycle and other astrological matters.

Many local retailers can help you identify wines that are organic, sustainably grown or biodynamic. Expect to pay a little more for these wines, but know that you are helping the environment.

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Kathy

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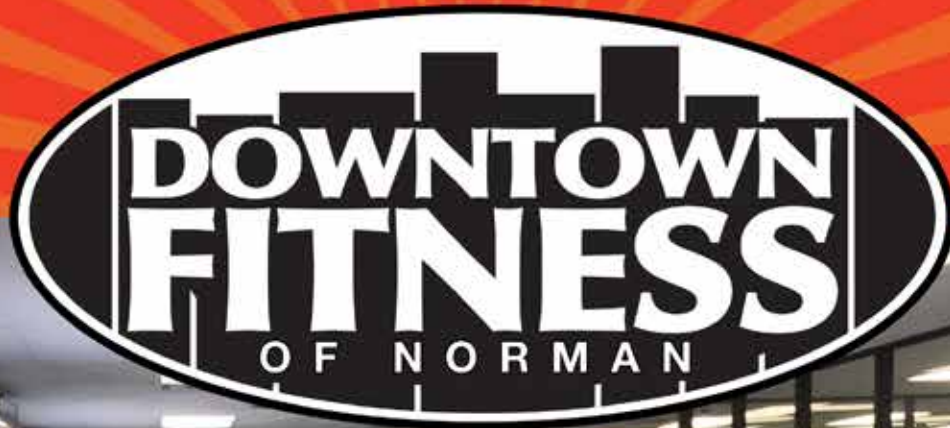
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Clean Fight

Hospital Sends Robots to Fight Germs at Norman Schools

We all know that a school is a place for learning. But, learning is hard to do when germs hit and absences begin to soar. Eleven germ-fighting robots rolled into local schools at the height of this year's cold and flu season.

The robot invasion came in the form of the XENEX LightStrike™ Germ-Zapping Robot, a UV disinfection robot that uses a pulsed xenon lamp to create intense germicidal ultraviolet light that quickly kills germs that cause serious infections.

For the past two years, Norman Regional Health Systems has used its own four LightStrike robots daily to enhance safety by disinfecting patient rooms and other hospital areas.

"Our germ-zapping robots are highly effective against the resistant pathogens that challenge our hospitals the most: *C. difficile*, MRSA, Norovirus and Influenza," said Matt Crowe, territory manager for XENEX.

Hospital officials recognized the benefits the robots could provide outside the hospital, as well. So, the two organizations teamed up to enlist an army of robots to be used at area schools to disinfect classrooms, restrooms and other areas where germs may lurk.

"If we could provide a robot in every classroom, we would've, but we did the next best thing and sent 11 robots to local schools to fight the flu," said Richie Splitt, president and CEO of Norman Regional. "As a healthcare provider, we've seen how illness can spread quickly, and we know that children learn better when they are healthy."

Teachers and administrators in the Norman, Noble and Moore schools were happy to be able to utilize the team of robots that Norman Regional was able to provide. The robots, along with 25 human helpers, were able to disinfect some of the hardest hit schools, including 221 classrooms, five cafeterias, 15 offices, 22 student restrooms, five gym-

nasiums and five media centers, in the Norman district.

"We appreciate Norman Regional Health System for their continued partnership and their commitment to proactively addressing student health," said Dr. Nicholas Migliorino, superintendent of Norman Public Schools. "This is just another example of how students in Norman Public Schools benefit from the robust support of our community."

While the extra robots were sent back to XENEX, Norman Regional returned its four robots to their homes at Norman Regional Hospital and the Norman Regional HealthPlex. Since June of 2016, when the germ-fighting robot program began, the health system has seen a remarkable reduction in infections.

"The hospital had seen great results. We wanted to share the robots' capabilities with the community," Splitt said.

— BSM

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Temperatures are beginning to rise, which means now is the time to think about your air conditioning to ensure your home is cool and comfortable all summer long. The average lifespan of an air conditioner is 12 to 15 years, but that number is changing, according to Brian Porch, owner of Norman Heat & Air.

“When you compare (your unit) to a car or computer, technology is changing so fast. It’s like having a 10-year-old car or a two-year-old laptop,” Porch said. “When repairs become significant, it may be a better investment to replace it.”

If you think you’re in the market for a new unit, Porch recommends choosing a top award-winning brand like American Standard and Carrier. Understanding the financial investment involved, Porch offers his customers a “No Lemon” policy with easy financing options, backed by a 100-percent satisfaction guarantee.

There are, however, some affordable ways to extend the life of an existing system and regular maintenance is an important piece of the puzzle.

“Have (your unit) cleaned and serviced every year,” Porch said. “Eighty percent of repair calls we receive are due to lack of maintenance.”

Dirty coils and dirty filters put a strain on the entire system, and that creates additional risk for breakdowns when Oklahoma temperatures soar into the 100s. Most prema-

ture failures can be avoided with an air conditioning tune-up in the spring and furnace tune-up in the fall, he said. Norman Heat & Air offers what he calls the Comfort Club.

“Comfort Club members save money on energy and repair bills and avoid system breakdowns,” Porch said.

But, these maintenance services address more than just your family’s comfort.

Often, heating and air conditioning equipment is installed in the attic, Porch said. When it leaks, the homeowner may have to pay to have a drain fixed, as well as ceiling repairs.

A Norman resident of 40 years, Porch started his family-owned business 10 years ago. Specializing in repair, replacement and maintenance of residential and commercial heating and air conditioning systems, Norman Heat & Air services customers in Norman, Moore and throughout the metro area.

Over the last decade, Norman Heat & Air has earned some prestigious accolades, including two Central Oklahoma fastest growing company honors and two Norman Transcript Reader’s Choice Awards, among others. Porch attributes his success to loyal, satisfied customers who help spread the word and build the company’s reputation of dependability, honesty and high quality.

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Out of the Box



Local Family Takes East Norman Schlotzsky's in Different Direction

Schlotzsky's in Norman will soon have a different look as its newest location is set to open later this month at 1000 Alameda Street.

The restaurant will debut a design that will be completely new to the Sooner state. With buzz words like modern, locally owned and fresh, the Jones family's east Norman Schlotzsky's will be stepping out of the fast food box when it opens for the first time on April 19.

"I have been in the restaurant business for a long time, and I am really excited about what we have to offer," said David Jones, president and CEO of Awesome Eats Enterprises. "You have never seen any Schlotzsky's like this in Oklahoma."

More than just a fresh look, the Jones family will be serving all the chain's favorites in addition to new options, including breakfast, street tacos, sliders and craft beer.

"We will be the first Schlotzsky's to have beer on tap in Oklahoma," said David Jones, Jr., Awesome Eats Enterprises vice president. "We will have four local craft beer options as well as big-name brands."

"We're very thankful for David and his team at Awesome Eats Enterprises, for bringing Schlotzsky's back to the Norman community. I'm sure that people will enjoy the new menu items and be impressed with all of the updates", Brian Farris vice president operations for Schlotzsky's.

Diners can kick back and enjoy a variety of seating options that offer perks like free WiFi, USB plug-ins, big-screen TVs and an outdoor patio.

"We are excited to offer a very modern approach to the college-town hangout," said Sarah Jones, who also serves

as Awesome Eats Enterprises vice president. "We want to offer a laid-back place where students can study, and families can enjoy a good meal together."

The restaurant will even have live music from time to time during the week, David Sr. said.

This Schlotzsky's location will serve breakfast, starting at 8 a.m. each day that patrons can top off with locally roasted coffee. Customers can also take advantage of delivery options through Uber Eats and DoorDash as well as call ahead and pick-up orders at the restaurant.

But, not everything is changing. The Jones family and their crew will still get an early start on their breads, made from scratch each day, and they will be serving their original sandwiches, flatbread pizzas and indulgent Cinnabon rolls.

"We take pride in our facilities and our food," Sarah said. "Fast, fresh and current, we offer a tasty, healthy menu with lots of gluten-free options."

Also, the restaurant is offering free Schlotzsky's sandwiches for a year to a lucky few of the guests who attend the grand opening on April 19.

The first 100 guests to purchase a six pack of Cinnabons will get cards they can use to receive free small original sandwiches for a year, David Jr. said. Those first diners can also enjoy live music and other fun merchandise giveaways during the grand opening celebration.

Schlotzsky's is currently hiring for their Norman location. Interested applicants can apply online at dljfoodsinc.com—**BSM**



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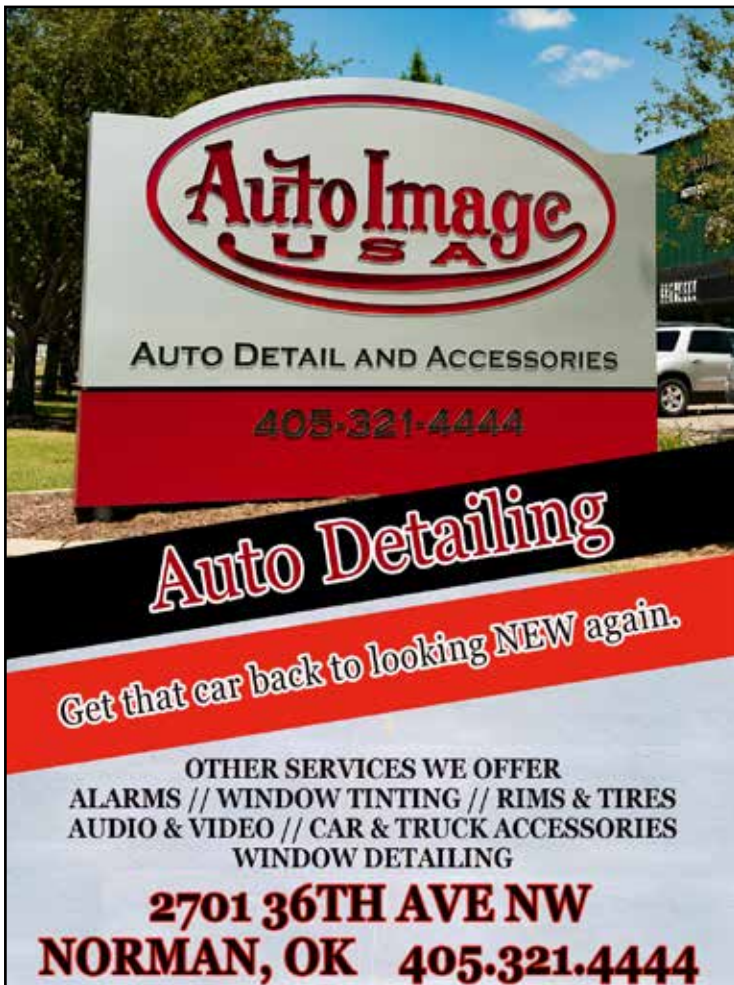
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Food Truck Parking Solution



Norman Dentist to Enhance Downtown Experience with Food Truck Sanctuary

As entertainment and events in downtown Norman have grown and multiplied in recent years, Norman dentist Gabriel Bird and other Norman Arts Council board members have observed a recurring problem. There never seems to be enough room for food trucks.

The Norman native has taken that concern to heart, and he is taking action by developing Norman's first food truck park adjacent to his new dental office now under construction at 227 W Main St.

He is building the park on the site of the long-abandoned Long-Bell Lumber Company, which served Norman's early-day home construction industry. The site was a blight on Main Street for decades, and Bird is now happy to redevelop it into something that will benefit the community.

"I love Norman, and was born and raised here," he said. "I've driven by that lot long enough to be sick of it."

However, in recognition of the lumber yard and its historic role in Norman, he's naming the lot TOLY Park, which stands for The Old Lumber Yard.

While TOLY Park's development will continue through much of the year, it will be functioning and operational in time for downtown Norman's 2nd Friday Art Walk on April 13 and the Norman Music Festival, April 26-28.

In fact, Bird is planning a grand opening and food-truck social event on April 13 at 4:30 p.m., just before 2nd Friday festivities get started.

Bird said his office and TOLY Park will be the first new developments built in downtown Norman since 1973, and he believes his park will help fuel downtown's continuing growth as an entertainment district.

The park will be large enough to accommodate up to four food trucks, and it will feature benches, tables and chairs to help patrons get comfortable. There will be shaded areas under giant umbrellas, arbors or trellises and there will be a free-standing building where people can purchase wine or beer.

TOLY Park's design is being modeled after parks he has seen in other cities, such as the Bleu Garten in Oklahoma City's Midtown District, known for its ambiance as a clean, entertaining venue

where patrons can find good food and a unique outdoor dining experience.

"We have all sorts of big ideas for all the things we can do out there," said Bird.

There will be music, and perhaps, even movie nights. But, he doesn't want the entertainment to be too loud or distracting.

He envisions TOLY Park as a destination point and another attraction to draw people to downtown Norman, and he hopes to help change the way people view downtown.

"We want people to come downtown to see what's going on. We want it to become a destination," Bird said.

Visit Norman Executive Director Dan Schemm called the new park an exciting development for downtown.

"Anything that brings people downtown is exciting, and this will fit in perfectly with the entertainment district that already exists," said Schemm, whose offices are downtown at 309 E Main St.

Schemm said the park helps give an end-to-end experience to downtown.



There are new breweries that have either opened or will soon be opening on the east side, and there are new restaurants, such as Tino's, The Winston and Neighborhood Jam on the west side.

"Downtown Norman already has so many things to experience, and the new food truck park just enhances what is already an amazing, must-see district," he said.

Bird, a 1998 Norman High graduate is in his 11th year of practicing dentistry in Norman. He said his plan to develop a food truck park was serendipitous.

When he outgrew his current office at 112 S Berry Rd., he chose the abandoned lumber yard as his new office location. The lot size was larger than what he needed for his 5,500-square-foot dental office building, so he decided to create a food truck park with the remaining space.

While it sounds like a step in the right direction, TOLY Park may not completely solve downtown Norman's food truck parking problem. But then again, food truck parking problems may be the kind of thing that growing entertainment districts don't mind having from time to time.— **BSM**



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Hal Smith Restaurants to Open Nostalgic Restaurant in Downtown Norman



Offering unique dishes and drinks seasoned with a touch of nostalgia, The Winston restaurant and pub will soon be opening in downtown Norman.

"The Winston is an exciting, new concept that sprouted from Pub W," said Brandon Kistler, the restaurant's managing partner. "Anticipation is building as we count down the days until our grand opening."

The contemporary establishment will open on April 17 at 106 W Main St. amid the bustling vibe of Norman's downtown entertainment district.

"The location is the perfect fit for the atmosphere we are striving for because it is in a historic but popular part of town," Kistler said.

The Winston is the newest addition to Hal Smith Restaurants' diverse line of restaurants.

"Winston is Hal Smith's middle name, so it has a special meaning to our team," said Zoe Mack, communications coordinator with Hal Smith Restaurants. "The Winston gathers inspiration from Winston Churchill, and the overall atmosphere will embrace both the modern and nostalgic."

In addition to the 3,000 square-foot interior, there will be a lounge and outdoor patio seating for guests to enjoy.

Whether for a night out with friends, dinner with the family or a glass of wine after a long week, The Winston will have plenty of options. The menu will feature familiar



pub-style dishes, spiced up with a modern flair, and boasts a sizable whiskey selection, craft cocktails and draft beer.

"We are excited to give our guests a wide range of choices that range from typical pub and comfort food as well as healthier salads and flat breads," Mack said.

Today Hal Smith Restaurants operates nearly 80 restaurants in seven states and employs more than 6,000 employees.

The Winston will be open 11 a.m. to midnight on weekdays, 10 a.m. to midnight on Saturdays, and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays.

For more information on the menu, grand opening events and more, visit thewinston.com and follow The Winston on Facebook and Instagram. — **BSM**

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What's in a Name?



Flood Avenue Honors One of Norman's Early-Day Builders

April showers bring May flowers" as the old poem goes, yet different concerns come to mind in a town like Norman, which was built so near to the Canadian River floodplain.

It seems a strange thing, practically daring fate for Norman to have a street named Flood Avenue. Newcomers might wonder if it is in commemoration of some great meteorological event. But, the road is named for one of the leading figures of early Norman, William Frank Flood.

According to Flood's grandson, James Flood, in records from the Cleveland County Historical Society at Lindsay-Moore House, Flood came to Norman a few years after the Land Run of 1889 as a contractor, specifically a bricklayer.

Born in 1866, Flood was from Tennessee, by way of Arkansas, and came early enough that he laid bricks on Main Street. Brick streets were only the beginning as Flood quickly added entire buildings to his body of work.

The Peoples Voice, a popular paper in Norman's territorial days, cites Flood as the winner of a contract to build the Tate house on Peters Avenue in 1896. The paper reported that work commenced at once, and it suggested the home would be one of the neatest residences in Norman.

As the building boom in Norman continued, Flood was in the midst of it, riding the wave to financial success and praise from locals.

In 1896, The Norman Transcript noted the new residence of W.J. Kelley, on University Boulevard, was being erected by Frank Flood. The newspaper article offered a positive commentary on the quality of Flood's work. Flood was hired to build homes for many early-day Norman residents, including university presidents and longtime OU professor Charles Gould.

Flood also diversified his work as his career went on. An 1899 issue of The Peoples Voice features a large wallpaper advertisement by Flood. Flood also turned to cement sidewalk construction. The Norman Transcript in 1910 called

Flood "a top-notch" in the sidewalk construction business.

Yet, construction was not Flood's only contributions to early Norman. He and his wife, Nancy, raised a family together in Norman, and he was active with fraternal organizations, such as the Masons and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, where he was elected the rank of foreman in 1898.

Flood's busy efforts seemed to catch up with him in the 1910s when his health declined. He decided to leave Norman and moved 80 miles north to Perry, where he opened a hardware store. Flood went ahead of the family to get matters settled, while Nancy Flood stayed behind to sell the house. In the May 6, 1915 edition of the Norman Transcript, an item in the personal announcements noted Flood's departure and encouraged the sale, calling their home desirable, modern and nice.

Yet the sadness was palpable. "Norman people will regret the departure of these estimable citizens, for they have resided a long time with us," the paper said. When Nancy Flood and the children left



for Perry a month later, the Transcript wished “them unbounded success in their new home.”

As the summer progressed, however, Flood’s condition worsened. Initially the Transcript said it was “a bad case of the grip,” an old term for the flu. By July 29, Flood’s health was front-page news, “MR. FLOOD’S CONDITION BAD.” He was taken to a hospital in Wichita for an operation. Comments were initially

hopeful, but the front page of the Sept. 23 Transcript showed a long article under the headline: “DEATH OF FRANK FLOOD.”

Flood passed away at his home in Perry, but his body was brought back to Norman for Masonic funeral services and burial in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

A week later, the Transcript reminded its readers that “The late Frank Flood left Nancy Flood and the children well

provided for. He owned some excellent property in Norman, including the buildings occupied by the post office and the university theatre and a fine residence on North Santa Fe.”

It was an impressive collective memorial to a man so dedicated to building up a town that memorialized him with a principal street, even if today’s drivers may not know the whole story behind the name Flood Avenue. – **BSM**



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