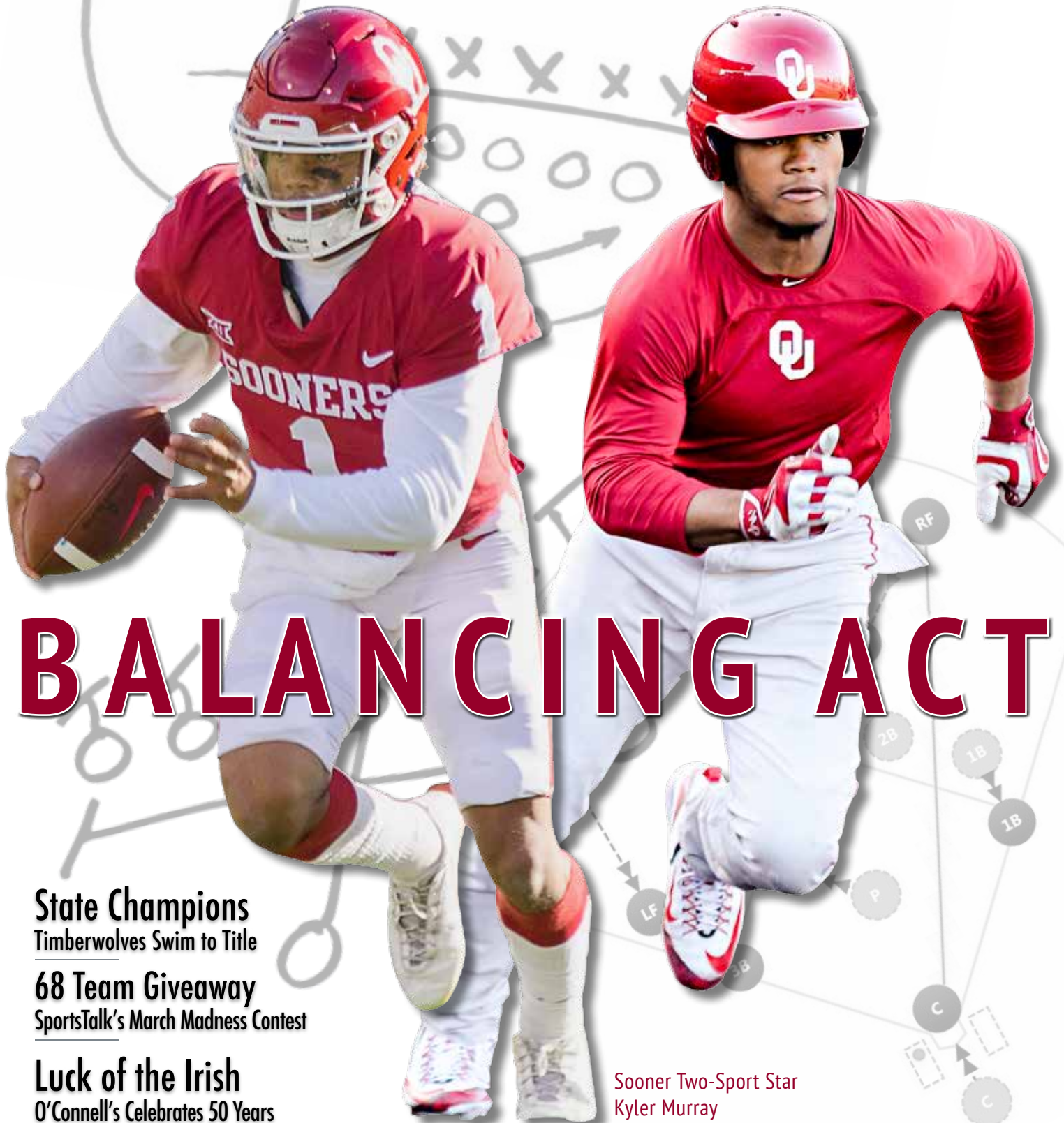


# BOYDSTREET

March 2018 • Issue 3 • Volume 17



## BALANCING ACT

**State Champions**  
Timberwolves Swim to Title

**68 Team Giveaway**  
SportsTalk's March Madness Contest

**Luck of the Irish**  
O'Connell's Celebrates 50 Years

Sooner Two-Sport Star  
Kyler Murray

# SECURE CHECKING

It helps protect your money, plus your family's identities. And it's FREE for 90 days\*.

	<b>SECURE CHECKING</b>	LifeLock	Identity Guard	ID Shield
<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$5.95/mo.</b>	\$29.99/mo.	\$29.99/mo.	\$19.95/mo.
Checking Account with Online Banking & More	●			
Family Coverage	● <sup>1</sup>		●	●
3-in-1 Credit Report	●	●	●	
Credit Score	●	●	●	●
Total Identity Monitoring	●	●	●	●
Fraud Expense Reimbursement	● <sup>2</sup>	●	●	●
ID Theft Resolution Service	●	●	●	●
Debit & Credit Card Registration	●	●	●	●

Call 1.833.6.SECURE or visit [FirstUnitedBank.com](http://FirstUnitedBank.com)



BANKING

MORTGAGE

INSURANCE

INVESTMENTS

MEMBER FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Not FDIC Insured Not Bank Guaranteed May Lose Value  
Not a Deposit Not Insured by Any Federal Government Agency

Requires additional activation procedures. <sup>1</sup>Family includes spouse; persons qualifying as a domestic partner under the provisions of any applicable federal, state or local law; children under 25 years of age; and parents of such natural persons who are residents of the same household. Website comparison of LifeLock Ultimate Plus, Identity Guard Total Protection, and ID Shield by First United Bank as of June 5, 2017. LifeLock.com, IdentityGuard.com and IDShield.com. <sup>2</sup>Identity Fraud Expense Reimbursement provided by subsidiaries or affiliates of Chartis, Inc. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions. \*Monthly service charge of \$5.95 waived for the first 90 days.

# HOT BANK

## SATURDAYS

SATURDAYS • 7PM - 11PM

WIN A  
SHARE OF **\$500**

SEE OFFICIAL RULES FOR DETAILS

# POINTS RACE

## WEDNESDAYS

WEDNESDAYS • 10AM - 10PM

WIN A  
SHARE OF **\$500**

[GOLDSBYCASINO.COM](http://GOLDSBYCASINO.COM)



 [AdventureRoad.com](http://AdventureRoad.com)  
Travel Partner

# 2 WEEKS 2 WIN A BENZ



**WIN A SHARE OF \$58,000  
IN CASH AND PRIZES**

**MARCH 31 • 7PM-12AM**



**THE OAK RIDGE BOYS**  
APR 7TH • 7PM



**RONNIE MILSAP**  
APR 13TH • 8PM



**GABRIEL IGLESIAS**  
MAY 18TH • 7PM & 10:30PM

RIVERWIND.COM



 **AdventureRoad.com**  
Travel Partner

# No Ordinary Banking Relationship

"Since 1992 when I began my career in home construction, I had always dreamed of having my own business. Eleven years later my dream became reality when I started building custom homes as C.A. McCarty Construction. I love working directly with my clients. I see it as a hand-in-hand relationship that allows me the opportunity to provide quality, individualized service.

I expect the same things out of my bank and I'm very happy with Republic. They make it a point to know who you are and what your needs are. I also like doing my business in places that have sound reputations and business practices. Republic is solid and a great community partner.

Together, for more than 25 years, I've had a great banking relationship with Republic. It's a great atmosphere and they do a great job."



Curtis McCarty  
C.A. McCarty Construction, LLC



REPUBLIC  
BANK & TRUST

(405) 360-5369 • [rbt.com](http://rbt.com)

Robinson at 36th NW • Main at University Blvd. • Lindsey at 12th SE  
805 N. Main St. in Noble • 11671 S. Western Ave. in Oklahoma City

Member FDIC

BANKING • INSURANCE • INVESTMENTS

EXPERIENCE

# AWESOMENESS

TRIVIA SUNDAYS // BINGO THURSDAYS // \$3 SHOT LIST  
\$2 COORS BANQUET // CRAFT BEERS // ARCADE // MORE



307 E MAIN ST • NORMAN, OK • 405.701.7035 • WWW.EATATTHEGARAGE.COM

# WE'RE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



SEE MENUS AND LOCATIONS ONLINE AT

[WWW.LOUIESGRILLANDBAR.COM](http://WWW.LOUIESGRILLANDBAR.COM)



ALL DAY SUNDAY  
**FRIED CHICKEN**  
SUNDAYS & TUESDAYS  
STARTING AT 5PM ON TUESDAYS

*join us for*  
**WEEKEND**  
**BRUNCH**  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY TIL 2PM

**WIND DOWN**  
**WEDNESDAYS**  
DIFFERENT BOTTLE OF WINE EVERY WEEK

**PINT NIGHT**  
**THURSDAYS**  
COMPLIMENTARY GLASSWARE

**CURBSIDE TO GO**

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER, CALL 405-701-5844  
*view our menu online at* [WWW.PUBDUB.COM](http://WWW.PUBDUB.COM)

AMERICAN



ALE HOUSE

3720 WEST ROBINSON AVE. | NORMAN | (405) 701-5844

[WWW.PUBDUB.COM](http://WWW.PUBDUB.COM)



# 36

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Mark Doescher

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Lindsay Cuomo

**SENIOR EDITOR**  
Chip Minty

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Mark Doescher  
Emilia Hart

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
Roxanne Avery | Stefanie Brickman  
Lindsay Cuomo | Morgan Day  
Marla Freeman | Kathy Hallren  
Emilia Hart | Josh Helmer  
Shannon Hudzinski | Chip Minty  
Chris Plank | Christian Potts  
Catherine Poslusny  
Jeff Provine | Sarah Rogers  
Alexis Trammell | Paige Uhr

**ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES**  
Tracie Gray - tracie@sportstalk1400.com  
Trevor Laffoon - trevor@sportstalk1400.com  
Perry Spencer - perry@sportstalk1400.com

**PUBLISHER** Randy Laffoon

**SPORTSTALK**  
MEDIA

Boyd Street Magazine  
2020 E. Alameda  
Norman, Oklahoma 73071  
Phone: (405) 321-1400  
E-mail: editor@boystreet.com  
Copyright © Boyd Street Magazine

Any articles, artwork or graphics created by Boyd Street Magazine or its contributors are sole property of Boyd Street Magazine and cannot be reproduced for any reason without permission. Any opinions expressed in Boyd Street are not necessarily that of Boyd Street management.

**BOYDSTREET**  
MAGAZINE



# Features

- 10 Animal Advocate**  
by Sarah Rogers  
Animal Welfare Supervisor Mark Bechtel is committed to people, animals.
- 16 Service Spotlight:**  
**Jeff Odell**  
by Catherine Poslusny  
Norman Firefighter says he has the best job in the world.
- 23 Normanite in the Spotlight:**  
**Gene McKown**  
by Catherine Poslusny  
Gene McKown's passion for helping others is electric and contagious.
- 42 Swim Champs**  
by Josh Helmer  
Swimmers bring home 6A state title for the Timberwolves.
- 62 68 Team Giveaway**  
by Josh Helmer  
SportsTalk Media's big event allows listeners to win prizes as their teams progress in March.
- 74 Luck of the Irish**  
by Paige Uhr  
O'Connell's Jeff Stewart celebrates 50 years of the iconic pub.

- 8 VisitNorman.com Calendar**  
by Stefanie Brickman
- 12 Norman Business Legend**  
by Chip Minty
- 18 Teacher Features**  
by Morgan Day
- 27 Raising the Roof**  
by Chip Minty
- 30 Sutton Wilderness Renovation**  
by Chip Minty
- 32 Beefing Up the Workforce**  
by Marla Freeman
- 45 Title Defense**  
by Chris Plank
- 48 Baseball's New Era**  
by Chris Plank
- 54 Reading Big**  
by Christian Potts
- 59 Beware of Banking Scams**  
by Shannon Hudzinski
- 71 Go Further With Food**  
Lindsay Cuomo

- 92 What's in a Name: Jimmie Austin**  
by Jeff Provine
- 78 ARIA Plaza**  
by Roxanne Avery
- 82 Tee Time in Norman**  
by Lindsay Cuomo & Alexis Trammell
- 86 Victory Family School**  
by Emilia Hart

# 6



Go to [VisitNorman.com](http://VisitNorman.com) for more!

# IN MARCH

6 things to do in Norman in March



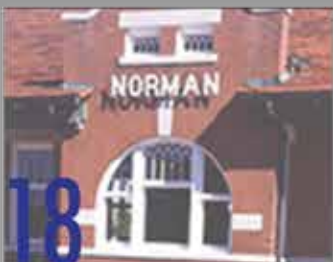
**PATTI LABELLE IN CONCERT**  
Riverwind Casino @ 8 p.m.  
Patti LaBelle will take the stage at Riverwind Casino's Showplace Theatre performing her signature songs. Other March performers include Easton Corbin, Aaron Watson, America and Gary Allan.



**WINTER WIND & JAZZ IN JUNE CONCERT**  
The Depot @ 7 p.m.  
Multi-instrumentalist and singer/songwriter Opal Fly will be the featured musician in a special Winter Wind/Jazz in June collaboration concert at The Depot.



**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.



**WHISTLE STOP CONCERT**  
The Depot @ 7 p.m.  
Southern Gothic folk musician Emily Scott Robinson and opening act Katie Williams will take the stage at The Depot for a special Whistle Stop Concert.



**SPRING BREAK ESCAPE**  
Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History  
During Spring Break, the Sam Noble Museum offers opportunities for exploration and fun on a budget with face painting, crafts, bird shows and science experiments.



**EGGSTRAVANGZA**  
Sam Noble Museum @ 4 p.m.  
From 4-7 p.m., Sam Noble Museum hosts Eggstravaganza, a spring party of Jurassic proportions with spring crafts, face painting, an egg hunt and more.



MARCH 23 & 30 • APRIL 6 & 13 / 4PM - 10PM  
START EARNING ENTRIES NOW

# TICKET to RIDE 5

WIN A TICKET - WIN A CAR

**\$140,000**  
TOTAL GIVEAWAY

2018 JEEP® RENEGADE  
2018 FORD® EXPLORER  
2018 FORD® F-150  
2018 DODGE® CHALLENGER



1-44 WEST | EXIT 107  
NEWCASTLECASINO.COM

ACTUAL MAKE, MODEL & COLOR MAY VARY

# Animal

## Advocate

Animal Welfare Supervisor Mark Bechtel  
is Committed to People, Animals



**W**ith more than 20 years of experience in animal management, working with various species from primates to aquatics, Mark Bechtel recently landed in Norman as the animal welfare supervisor.

It didn't take Bechtel long to realize that as much as he loves working with animals, he also has a passion for working closely with people and having a leadership role in animal management.

Bechtel began his career at the Kansas City Zoo, working as a keeper. He then moved to Florida to work at Walt Disney's Animal Kingdom. During his time at Disney, Bechtel was promoted into his first animal management role as a night zoological manager.

Bechtel came to Oklahoma about five years ago to work at the Oklahoma City Zoo as the curator of aquatics, life support and marine mammals.

When he and his family moved to Oklahoma, they settled in Norman and have called it home ever since.

"I really enjoy Norman and really en-

joy the community. I'm very happy to be in this role here at Norman Animal Welfare and to be able to contribute. It's very exciting for me," said Bechtel.

Even though he has been in numerous leadership roles, Bechtel is studying at the University of Oklahoma to earn his masters degree in human relations.

"I quickly found out that I could have a much bigger impact when I got into management and leadership," he said.

Bechtel enjoys being able to help others interact with animals. Not only does he get to help his staff and how they are interacting with animals, but he is excited to be in a position to help citizens and the community interact with animals as well.

"When people are working together and people are all moving in the same direction, and there's clear expectations and leadership, the animals benefit greatly," said Bechtel.

Bechtel is happy with the Norman Animal Shelter's policies, including the shelter taking in any animal and not euthanizing any adoptable animals, no matter the shelter's capacity.

He said Norman is very forward thinking with its animal initiatives.

When the shelter is over capacity, it will often host adoption events to encourage people to adopt the pets.

"We've been able to have a live release rate of well over 90 percent, which is outstanding," said Bechtel.

The Norman Animal Welfare Center is open Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. People are welcome during operating hours to come in and meet the adoptable pets, play with them in the yards and see if they would be a good fit for their family.

The adoption fee for most animals is \$60 and includes the spay / neuter, vaccinations, de-worming, heartworm, Lyme disease and Ehrlichia testing.

For those who want to help support the Animal Welfare Center, there is a volunteer program. Volunteers do anything from walking the animals, helping people looking to adopt and even folding laundry. The shelter could also use any pet supplies including food, toys, leashes and collars. — **BSM**

# OCCASIONS

FINE STATIONERY, GIFTS AND GOURMET

## **MACKENZIE-CHILD'S NEW "FLORABUNDANCE!"**



This durable set made of BPA-free melamine is perfect for all spring entertaining.

**MACKENZIE-CHILD'S**



2001 West Main Street • 405.217.8467 • [occasionspaper.com](http://occasionspaper.com)

# Norman Business Legend

From Bust to Legend,  
Norman Businessman  
Goes the Distance



Sometimes, opportunity can knock at the most unlikely times.

For Ed Copelin, opportunity came in the midst of Oklahoma's infamous Oil Bust. The odds of success seemed so slim in 1983, that he didn't even recognize it at first, and he tried to pass it to several other people before he woke up one night and realized what had just fallen in his lap.

That's when Copelin decided to purchase a small office supply and furniture store that was up for sale and re-establish it as Copelin's Office Center. It turned out to be the right decision. Copelin's has grown, expanded and evolved over the last 34 years and has become a stalwart in Norman's business community.

The Norman Business Association recently recognized Copelin for his success and for his community contributions, naming him a "Norman Business Legend," which places him among a prestigious roll of success stories, widely known for community service and business acumen.

"Ed has been a fixture in the Norman business community, not only as a successful retailer, but as a civic leader, a volunteer, a good friend to many and a role model for young entrepreneurs," said NBA President Jim Hess.

"Our club has recognized many outstanding Norman business leaders over the years, and Ed is another leader who sets the standard that our Norman Business Legends represent," he said.

"This honor is extremely gratifying and completely unexpected," Copelin said after receiving his award. "It is especially meaningful, coming from a group of businessmen and women that I respect and admire so much."

Copelin is a long-time member of the Norman Business Association, and more than 10 years ago, he proposed the idea of recognizing entrepreneurial and community achievement through a "Norman Business Legends" award.

"I never considered myself as a potential recipient, but I'm appreciative and honored," he said.

Copelin grew up in Western Oklahoma and spent two years in Denver, working in human resources for a home construction company. He moved to Norman in 1981 to take a similar job with TOTCO, an oil-field service company.

Eventually, he was laid off when the oil market collapsed, then joined Norman's American Exchange Bank a short time later.

That's where he was when long-time Norman businessman Jerry Laffoon contacted him, expressing an interest in selling Downtown Desk Set, a small office supply and furniture store Laffoon operated on Gray Street.

Laffoon asked Copelin to help look for a buyer. After several unsuccessful conversations with potential suitors, it dawned on Copelin that the business would be a good fit for him and his wife, Lin.

Meanwhile, the economy was terrible, and other office supply businesses were struggling, so there was no shortage of apprehension, Copelin said.

But, he eventually quit his job at the bank and dove into the business with Lin. It was not long before they moved their store to its present location at 425 W Main Street, where they continued to emphasize customer services and kept operations lean. Copelin's survived the slow economy, and today, it's a fixture near the corner of University Boulevard and Main Street.

The business has evolved over time to attract new customers in a changing market. Today, the store is known as much for its teaching tools and toys as it is for its office supplies and office furniture. Ed and Lin now share the family business with their three children, Jill, Chad and Brad.

Ed Copelin looks back on a lifetime of community service, including leadership positions with the Norman Chamber, the Norman Public Schools Foundation, Moore Norman Technology Center, the Norman Rotary Club, the Downtowners, Leadership Norman and the Norman Christmas Parade.

A Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church of Norman, Copelin has also served as campaign chair and board president for the United Way of Norman and has spent 14 years on the board of the Oklahoma Electric Cooperative's philanthropic program called Operation Round Up, providing grant money to organizations and individuals in need.

"It's important to serve in the community to get to know the community and the leaders in the community and to give back," he said. "It provides an opportunity to impact the community

in a meaningful way and to meet people that you wouldn't have had an opportunity to meet otherwise."

Scott Martin, Norman Chamber president and fellow Norman Business Association member, said Copelin was a good choice for the award.

"I can't think of a more deserving person," he said. "What Ed has created with Copelin's is just amazing. He's loved and appreciated throughout the community because of his giving heart."

"Sure, he owns and operates a local business, but he truly loves Norman and his customers, and it's reflected in his spirit. He's humble, energetic and encouraging. He's always uplifting, and it's hard to not be positive when you're around him."

"Copelin's is a bedrock of our local business community, and young en-

trepreneurs would be wise to seek Ed's counsel," Martin said.

Copelin has joined a select group of Norman Business Legends that the NBA has honored over the years.

The list includes: real-estate developer Jimmy Adair, banker Jack Black, attorney Harold Heiple, clothing retailer Maudine Holland, businessman Charlie Hooper, businessman and banker Pat Mayes, grocer O.T. McCall, real-estate agent and auctioneer Gene McKown, businessman Harold Powell, businessman and former Norman Mayor Dick Reynolds and economic developer Don Wood.

More information about past Norman Business Legends and the Norman Business Association is available at: [www.normanbusiness.com](http://www.normanbusiness.com) – **BSM**

# EXPERIENCE SOUTHWIND HILLS

WEDDING • OUTDOOR LOCATIONS | EVENT COORDINATION | IN-HOUSE CATERING | IN-HOUSE FLORAL | PHOTO BOOTH | HONEYMOON COTTAGE | HELICOPTER PAD



Southwind Hills

405.837.9482 | [WWW.SOUTHWINDHILLS.COM](http://WWW.SOUTHWINDHILLS.COM) | 466 SW 34TH AVENUE, GOLDEN, OK 73093 | 13 MILES SOUTH OF NORMAN

PHOTOGRAPHY



# SMALL BUSINESS. BIG IMPACT.

Let our team at Valliance Bank support your financial goals and help your business grow.



# CAMPUS LODGE APARTMENTS

## 4 BEDROOMS

*starting at*

# \$369

# \$300

# GIFT CARD

Prices subject to change.



Fully-furnished suite-style living with private bedroom & bathroom

Amenities include a resort-style pool, a 24-hour study lounge,  
a 24-hour fitness center, and more!

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!  
**WE CARE**  
COLLIERWECARE.COM



**FOLLOW US**



CampusLodgeApts

**TOUR TODAY AND RESERVE YOUR HOME!**

405.701.3500 | 1800 Beaumont Dr. | campuslodgenorman.com



Campus Lodge

## Service Spotlight: Jeff Odell



Firefighter Jeff Odell knew from his very first day on the job that he wanted to work there until the day he retired. Not many people walk into a new position with that degree of certainty, but, then again, not many people get the chance to join the Norman Fire Department.

Odell, who lives in Shawnee with his wife and son, was a full-time electrician before he became a firefighter. He went to night school to get his emergency medical technician certification, and he didn't stop applying for a place at the fire department until he earned his spot at the academy.

The hiring process requires an enormous amount of patience, a lot of different tests, both physical and written, and multiple interviews. Ask Odell if he'd do it all over again, and he'd say yes, in a heartbeat. Receiving the invitation to join the fire academy was one of the happiest moments of his life, and that excitement hasn't waned one bit. Odell will celebrate his two-year anniversary with the Norman fire department this July. "To say that this is the best job in the

world would be an understatement," he said. "It's truly an honor to be a fireman for Norman and for such a great department."

Once hired, Odell and the rest of his class began the four-month training process at the academy, involving physical conditioning, a great deal of studying and many tests over everything from building construction and hazmat awareness to swift water rescue. They also had the opportunity to learn about different parts of the job from experienced firefighters.

But the training continues long after the academy is over. The crews are constantly practicing and looking for new ways to become even better at their jobs. A typical drill might have them blindfolded to mirror the total darkness inside a burning building while searching for strategically-placed dummies or hooking up the air valves of a rescue pack to a downed firefighter. In situations like these, Odell says, communication and teamwork are key.

"Your heart's racing even though you know it's just a drill," said Odell.



"The training is what keeps us on our toes in a fire and gets us through the situation."

Once Odell got out in the field, he quickly discovered that reality was a lot more chaotic than training. He's thankful that all of the more experienced firefighters never tire of lending a helping hand to the rookies. They are always there to answer questions and lead by example, and the crew has become a second family to him.

"Having that friendship, getting to help people and looking forward to work every day, there's nothing better than that. These guys mean everything to me, and I'd do anything for them," said Odell. — BSM



EXPERIENCE

# "OUR SIGNATURE DIFFERENCE"



**FOSTER**  
SIGNATURE HOMES



NEW MODEL!  
4700 LAS COLINAS LN

2500 BOARDWALK STREET | NORMAN   
405-694-9294 | FOSTERSIGNATUREHOMES.COM

**PPL**

**P R E S T I G E**  
P R O P E R T Y L E A S I N G



SUITES ON BOARDWALK  
NORMAN'S PREMIER  
BUSINESS ADDRESS

2500 BOARDWALK STREET | NORMAN  
405-801-2267   
PRESTIGEPROPERTYLEASING.COM



**TOTAL**   
BEVERAGE SERVICES LLC  
Private Label | Coffee Service | Bottled Water

## PRIVATE LABEL

Brand your company or corporate event on a practical product the customers appreciate.

## PREMIUM ARTESIAN WATER

## WATER & COFFEE SERVICE

Schedule your Norman or Metro business water and coffee delivery service today.

2451 Van Buren Street  
Norman, OK 73072  
TotalBeverageServices.com



Your Company, Organization or Club  
Charitable Events or Donations Fundraisers  
**LOGO**  
Could be here!  
Special Events  
Corporate Sponsorships

**PARADISO**  
-BLUE-  
ARTESIAN WATER

# Boyd Street Teacher Features

## Dennis Wright

**D**ennis Wright got his start in teaching immediately after college as he subbed in fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms, but it wasn't until he led a kindergarten class that he realized his calling might be with a little younger crowd.

"I liked the age group, I liked the imagination, and I liked how enthusiastic they were about their learning," recalled Wright, now a 25-year teaching veteran. He teaches second grade — admittedly his favorite grade to instruct thus far — and was named Jefferson Elementary school's Teacher of the Year for 2017.

"The second graders are a little bit like little teenagers," said Wright, who earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education with an emphasis in language arts from Oklahoma Baptist University.

"They're moving from that egocentric stage where the whole world is about them and seeing, 'Oh, there are other people around here.' Their peers are becoming more important, and they start to realize, 'Not everyone likes me,' or 'Maybe I'm bugging this person.'"

Although his students are becoming more independent and ideological, they still have a great sense of imagination, which pairs well with Wright's teaching style as he makes lessons active, fun and full of movement. He also emphasizes parent involvement, learning about the students through their parents and getting those guardians involved in the classroom too.

Wright wants to see all his students find joy in learning and strive to be lifelong learners who respect and val-



ue other people and their opinions. Civility, he said, is a driving force in his diverse classroom.

"I like the mix here," he said. "Kids see kids very different from them and they learn how they relate to them, and that civility piece is very important to me. How they can get along and get things done as a team." — **BSM**

## Beth Grant

**I**n Beth Grant's pre-kindergarten class at Kennedy Elementary School, every day is a fresh start.

"There are always second chances; there's a new day," said Grant. "I want to start every day new, and I want learning to be fun and exciting. With pre-K, that age is so interesting because they're still so new. They think, 'Wow, this is going to be a great day!' and you could have only pulled out some markers and some papers, but they're excited because you're excited."

Grant, whose teaching career spans 20 years, was named Kennedy Elementary School's Teacher of the Year for 2017. The Missouri native found her passion for teaching children as a camp counselor and through participation in vacation bible schools and community

volunteer work. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Drury University in Springfield, Mo.

While Grant doesn't dwell on the past in her classroom, she also prides herself on being fair and setting boundaries and guidelines for her students. She's flexible in the day's lessons, "reading the room" to see what mood the children are in and what types of learning would be a good fit.

"Some days, people are cranky and haven't had enough sleep and need to be doing things outside — that's the luxury of a pre-K teacher," she joked.

Social in nature, Grant enjoys the collaborative aspect of her profession and the fact that her colleagues act as a sup-



port system for one another, serving as a sounding board for new ideas or workplace challenges.

"Teaching especially is a very high-energy job where you're sort of on 24/7," she said. "You need lots of energy and enthusiasm, but you have peers you can collaborate with and bounce ideas off of and kind of bear your heart to. It's important to have that support." — **BSM**



## We make virtual house calls.

Getting sick is never convenient, but we make getting well as convenient as possible with virtual doctor visits at your home, work or anywhere in Oklahoma.

Getting us all to a healthier place.



Norman Regional  
**VIRTUAL  
CARE**

[normanregional.com/virtualcare](http://normanregional.com/virtualcare)



NORMAN  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

# NETWORK with us

Meet. Mingle. Network. After Hours. Before Hours. Eat. Drink. Laugh. Build Your Brand. Come-and-Go. Three Each Month.

## March Networking Events

Thursday After Hours: March 8<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 7 p.m.

Business After Hours: March 13<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 7 p.m.

Business Before Hours: March 28<sup>th</sup> from 8 - 9:15 a.m.

For more information about our hosts and for future networking dates, check our online event calendar at [www.normanchamber.com](http://www.normanchamber.com)

Scan me in Spotify



# WORKOUT, BE HUMBLE.

# DANG, GET 20% OFF ALL FITNESS



**Store & Technology Playground**  
OKLAHOMA MEMORIAL UNION  
900 Asp Ave. Room 101  
M-F 9AM-5PM | Sat 11AM-3PM  
405.325.5001 or 405.325.1925



shop online 24/7 at  
[ou.edu/onestore](http://ou.edu/onestore)

- @OneUStore
- @OneUStore
- /onestore
- @onestore



# 3 FREE SESSIONS



500 West Main, Suite 300  
405-701-3416  
[youthperformance.net](http://youthperformance.net)



# NORMANITE IN THE SPOTLIGHT Gene McKown

If you ever get the chance to ask Gene McKown about his community service projects, you'll get to watch his eyes light up with the same sense of adventure that you'd expect from someone who just returned from exploring exotic lands.

His passion for helping others is electric, and contagious. When you hear him speak about his plans for the community, you can't help but find yourself wondering how you can get involved.

Over the past 50 years, the Norman businessman has made a name for himself in the real estate industry and has enjoyed success in a variety of other businesses as well. But his true focus has always remained the same: helping those in need.

"When you grow up in an environment where you were taught to help other people, it stays with you your whole life," says McKown, who fondly recalls his father teaching by example, sharing his family's food with people in need and volunteering him to take their tractor out to plow their neighbors' land.

"It's just in his nature to give back," said Liz McKown, Gene's daughter-in-law. "He sees a need and he's there."

McKown moved to Norman for law school in 1968 after getting a degree in animal science from OSU, but a few weeks before the start of law school, he took a job that would change everything.

He started working for a local home builder. It only took three months before he started building houses of his own. The houses were built and sold, and he couldn't wait to do it again.

But, what about law school? McKown decided to put his public speaking skills to use in a different capacity. He enrolled in an auction school instead, embarking on a decades-long journey as an auctioneer. McKown only participates in charity events, always donating his services and never failing to make sure that everyone has a great time. McKown estimates that he's done around 1,200 charity auctions, and he currently does around 20 to 30 each year.

"It's been a really fun hobby to have. I know the organizations raising money, and I know a lot of the peo-

ple donating money," McKown said, adding with a laugh. "I try and make them spend as much money as I can talk them out of. It's always exciting, and it's all for a good cause."

McKown is now entering his 50th year in the home-building industry. He's enjoying his work as co-owner of Ideal Homes, the company that he started in 1990 with his son, Vernon, and his partner, Todd Booze. As the largest home builder in the state for more than 20 years, Ideal Homes is known for their award-winning, energy-efficient houses and their focus on the communities in which they build.

Despite numerous accolades for his professional accomplishments, Gene McKown takes the most pride in the opportunities he's had to help people in need. His philanthropy has taken many forms through the years, and he never tires of finding new ways to use what he has – be it influence, resources or expertise – to help make Norman a better place for all of its residents.

"I enjoy raising money and helping the community, and you don't find many communities that are as benevolent and caring as Norman, Oklahoma," he said.

McKown just completed an impressive project with Food and Shelter Inc., working with organizations and individuals across Norman to build new administrative offices, an emergency shelter and 32 transitional housing cottages. He has been involved with the organization for more than 40 years and has always supported their mission of helping homeless and at-risk families in Norman get back on their feet.

He got the idea to help build the new homeless shelter when he was sitting in church, listening to his preacher talk about the importance of giving without hesitation. The note struck a chord with McKown, and the very next day, he went to the office of Food and Shelter's executive director, April Heiple, and told her, "I'm going to build you a homeless shelter."

Later that week, he spoke at a fundraiser and helped raise more than \$300,000 for the venture. After that, things

quickly picked up speed. McKown didn't slow down until he helped raise the \$3.2 million needed to complete the project, named McKown Village.

"It's the most exciting thing I've ever done," he said.

Right now, he's in the middle of another sizable philanthropic enterprise. This one involving the Salvation Army. They had outgrown their old children's center, and McKown didn't hesitate to step up to the plate. The Judy McKown Children's Activity Center officially opened in December 2017, and that was only the beginning. Up next on the list is a complete renovation of the current dorms, and the construction on an entirely new church.

"I love organizations like Food and Shelter and the Salvation Army because they try to lift up these people that have almost nothing financially, and give them a better opportunity

for their lives," said McKown. "When these people get on their feet and become taxpayers, it really benefits the whole society."

With the Food and Shelter project completed, and a three-year commitment to the Salvation Army winding down, McKown has plans for yet another adventure. He's moving full speed ahead on his newest project, affordable duplexes for senior citizens with financial need. He envisions a close-knit neighborhood, designed to make it easy for residents to socialize with each other.

For every project that he completes in the public eye, there are other behind-the-scenes moves that he's made simply for the joy of giving back. McKown has never been one for grand gestures. He's just here to help. It's as simple as that.—BSM

# the international pantry

Kitchenware, Gourmet & Gifts

*From Food to Gifts, We Make Easter Easy!*



## Easter Bunny Cakes

- 1 1/2 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 vanilla bean, seeded
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare bunny pan with butter and flour or baking spray. Set aside. In medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and salt. Set aside. In another bowl, combine milk, honey, lemon juice and vanilla bean seed. Set aside. In a stand mixer with paddle attachment cream butter and sugar together. Add one egg at a time and blend thoroughly after each. Add half of flour mixture, then half of milk mixture. Blend completely before adding the other half of flour and milk. Scrape sides of bowl and beat until fully incorporated. Pour evenly in prepared bunny pan. Tap gently on counter to remove bubbles. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until toothpick inserted into center of the middle bunny comes out clean. Let cool for 10 minutes before inverting onto a cooling rack.

Hours: Mon-Sat 10-6 | 1618 W. Lindsey | 405-360-0765 | intlpantry.com



# We Feel Lucky to Serve You!



April Butler  
HOA Manager



Teddi Clanton  
Realtor® / Operations Manager



Lisa Talley  
Broker / Owner



Melissa Thomas  
Commercial Manager



Courtney Stroup  
Accounting Administrator



Jillian Mueller  
Administrative Assistant



Denise Lacquement  
Administrative Assistant



Stormi Goodspeed  
Realtor®



Benjamin Dunaway  
Realtor® / Director of Real Estate



Ashley Richey  
Realtor®



Nathan Hayes  
Realtor®



Logan Frampton  
Realtor®



Jason Richardson  
Realtor®



Terri Standidge  
Realtor®



April Lee  
Assistant to the Dunnic Team



Debra Penrod  
Realtor®



# ARIA

## REAL ESTATE GROUP

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL | SALES  
LEASING | MANAGEMENT  
HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT**  
405.701.8881 | [www.AriaGroupOk.com](http://www.AriaGroupOk.com)



Libbi Holbrook  
Realtor®



Sarah Thomson  
Assistant to Goodspeed and Associates



Jeff Arnold  
Realtor®



Stephanie Harris  
Realtor®



Mindee Beverly  
Realtor®



Varhonda Smith  
Realtor®



Tisha Ford  
Realtor®



Melissa Colcord  
Realtor®

# Cheers to Good Friends!

Enjoy a Cold Beer and a Great Burger.




Kitchen Open Late  
35 different Craft and  
Domestic Beers

11am -2am Daily 769 Asp Avenue Campus Corner



## MASK DENTAL STUDIO DR. DEREK R. MASK, DDS

Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

   MASKDENTAL.COM 405.321.5143



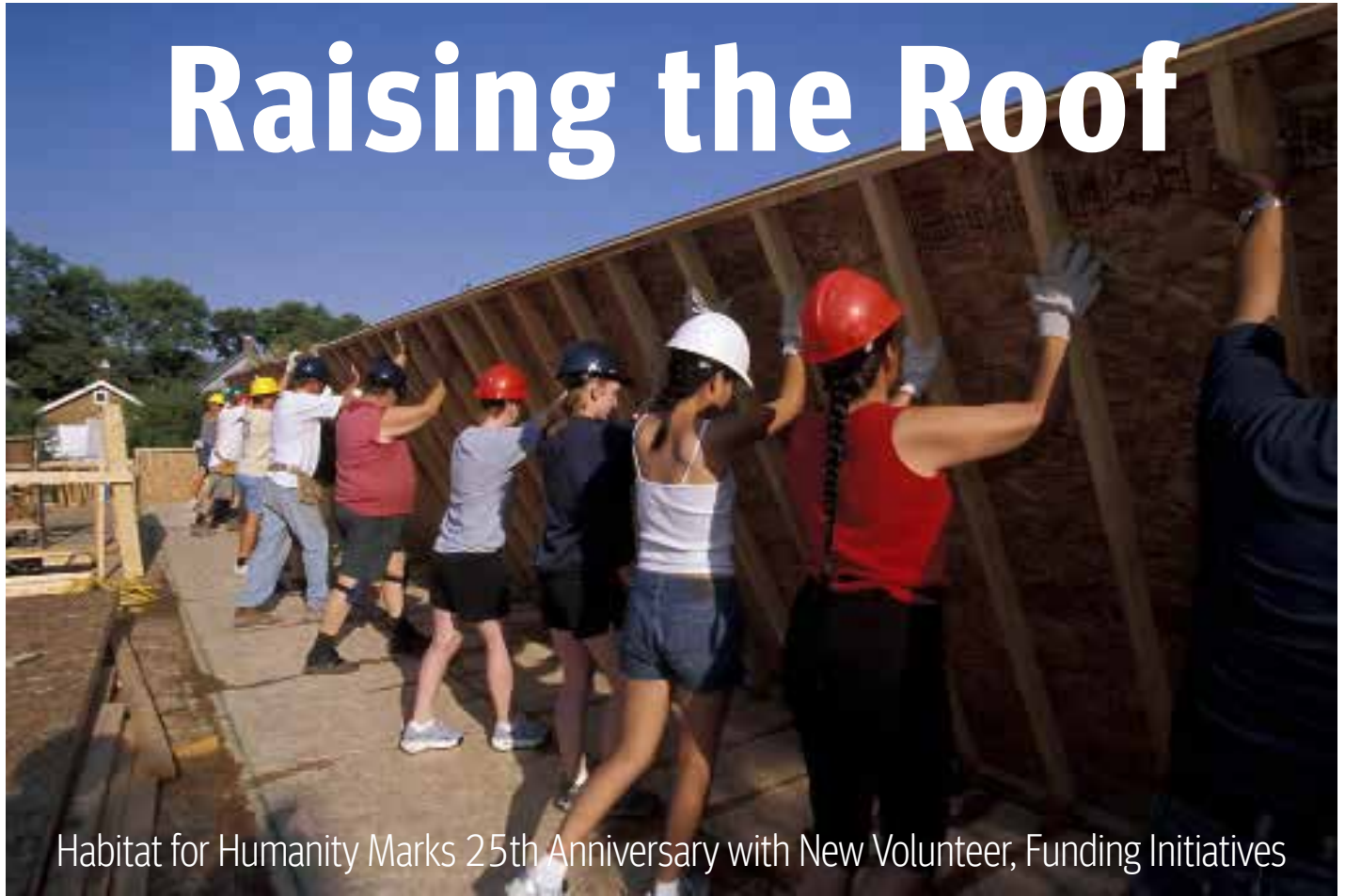
**TWO MEN  
AND A  
TRUCK**

"Movers Who Care."

**405.708.7707**  
**TWOMENOKC.COM**

Each franchise is independently owned and operated. | U.S. DOT No. 2634814

# Raising the Roof



Habitat for Humanity Marks 25th Anniversary with New Volunteer, Funding Initiatives

**D**on't feel comfortable walking around a construction site? Afraid of power tools? Hate ladders?

No worries. The Cleveland County Habitat for Humanity can still use your help. Not every volunteer needs to wear a hard hat and swing a hammer.

This year is the Norman-based nonprofit's 25th anniversary, and they have big plans for 2018 and for years into the future, said Deputy Director Andrea Marler.

It all starts at the agency's "Restore" at 100 W Main St., a former grocery store building converted into a retail outlet for new and used furniture, appliances, building supplies and much more. Later this month, the building will open its "Upcycle Center," a space where volunteers can do things like convert old doors into new bird houses and other types of creative manufacturing. It's intended for the crafty crowd, young and old; experience and tools are not required.

There is no formal process for volunteering at Habitat for Humanity, Marler said, just a brief orientation.

"All you have to do is come in and say, 'I've got a couple hours, and I'd like to help.' We'll put you to work. There's always something to do here," she said.

Whether volunteers are transforming junk into treasure in the Upcycle Center, moving used furniture or sorting donated books in the Restore, it's all about earning money that Habitat can use to build another house, Marler said.

Over the previous 25 years, Habitat has built 50 houses. It completed its last house in Moore last January, and it plans to break ground on its next house in Norman this spring.

Marler said the agency would like to build more than just two houses a year, but, on average, new Habitat homes cost about \$100,000, and they take four to six months to complete.

Before they start a new project, they

must have at least half of the funding in hand, which is why Marler is working hard to generate income.

The Restore is her bread and butter, collecting and selling everything from tables and toilets to desks and dishes. You need a rug? They've got them. Flooring? In stock. Lumber? Stacks of it. Lamps? They have plenty.

Customers range from college kids and bargain hunters, to do-it-yourselfers and landlords. They're all looking for stuff they can use, and they know Habitat is where they can get it cheap.

Marler said she's looking forward to opening the Upcycle Center where materials that could not be sold for much will be crafted into products that can be sold for much more.

"All the sales help with our overhead costs and they help us build houses," she said.

But retail sales are not the only way Marler is raising money.

Habitat recently wrapped up its first “Virtual 5k Race at your Pace” event. For a \$25 donation, participants could run, walk, bike, swim or treadmill their way through the distance of five kilometers. They had from Feb. 1 to Feb. 25 to complete the distance. Or, if they chose to, they could just imagine covering that distance and that counted too. In return for signing up and paying their donation, each participant got a medal, Marler said.

She is also looking forward to the agency’s 25-Year Anniversary Gala, titled “Circus of Dreams.” It is planned for 7 p.m., April 25 at The Mercury, 426 E Main St. in Norman.

Tickets cost \$50 per person and the event will feature food samples from local restaurants, live music, a silent auction, carnival games, a cash bar and a wine pull, she said.

Also, at the gala, there will be Habitat for Humanity homeowners to share in the celebration.

Marler said the agency also applies for various grants, such as a \$65,000 grant the Cleveland County Habitat recently received from Thrivent, a Christian-based financial institution. That grant money has allowed the agency to move forward with its next building project, an 1,100-square-foot home on Frank Street in central Norman.

Marler said she loves Habitat, its mission and its purpose, but funding is an ongoing challenge.

“We can have the best laid plans to lift people out of poverty, but without the funds we need, we can’t be successful,” she said. – **BSM**



## IN YOUR CORNER

At INSURICA, we’re proud to be a part of the phenomenal growth in this remarkable community, and we want to be a part of your growth as well. That’s why our network of insurance agencies offers unique solutions specifically tailored to your industry’s needs.

We specialize in you – so you can specialize in what you do best.  
To learn more, visit [INSURICA.com](https://www.insurica.com)



**INSURICA**<sup>®</sup>

3101 W. Tecumseh Road #202, Norman, OK 73072 | 405.321.2700

# CELEBRATING 33 YEARS OF COMMUNITY IMPACT

THIS MARCH, WE'RE LOWERING OUR JOIN FEE TO \$33 TO CELEBRATE THE YMCA'S 33 YEARS IN NORMAN

## SNAPSHOTS OF 2017 IMPACT

**\$160,664**

GIVEN IN MEMBERSHIP AND PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS

**1,768**

SWIM LESSONS GIVEN

**520**

SENIORS ATTENDING LIFT YOUR SPIRITS LUNCH

**1,051**

REGISTRATIONS FOR YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS

**100 +**

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS ATTENDING GIRLS NIGHT ART

**1,342**

VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED IN OUR NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIPS

**58**

CHILDREN RECEIVED GIFTS THROUGH THE ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

**3,000 +**

WISHING TREE DONATIONS



**NON-PROFIT PARTNERS:** Thunderbird Clubhouse • Able • Big Brothers/Big Sisters • OK Mental Health Center - PACT  
Norman Public Schools • Special Olympics • Norman Fire Department • Bridges • Foster Families of Oklahoma

CLEVELAND COUNTY FAMILY YMCA • 1350 LEXINGTON AVE • YMCANORMAN.ORG • (405)364-9622  
OFFER ONLY AVAILABLE AT THE CLEVELAND COUNTY FAMILY YMCA. OFFER VALID MARCH 1 - MARCH 31, 2018.

**LOCAL.**

**LOYAL.**

**LOOKING OUT.**

**OEC**

OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

YOUR TRUSTED ENERGY ADVISOR

WWW.OKCOOP.ORG

LINEMAN RYAN FRAZIER OF WASHINGTON, OKLAHOMA

# Sutton Wilderness Renovation

Improvements Open Natural World to More Visitors



**D**on't look now, but Sutton Wilderness isn't just for bird watchers anymore.

The Norman Parks Department is putting the finishing touches on a \$235,000 renovation project that is bringing the park into the mainstream, inviting everyone from nature lovers to trail runners.

The park has always been an island of quiet and tranquility amid a sea of urban hurry and hubbub, but recent improvements are making the woods accessible to everyone, even those in wheel chairs or pushing baby strollers.

"We're delighted with the way it has turned out," said Roberta Pailes, chair of the Sutton Wilderness Advisor Committee. "It's coming along just great. It's a place for people to relax, trail run or walk in a natural setting."

Pailes said her committee worked with city staff to submit an application for federal matching dollars to help cover the cost of improvements.

City Park Planner James Briggs said the work included removal of in-

vasive trees along the 1.3 miles of walking path. The city also improved drainage to help control erosion and graded the paths and covered them with crushed granite to reduce dust and make walking easier.

The parking lot has been doubled in size to accommodate more than 30 vehicles. There also is an asphalt path that is several hundred feet long, leading from the parking area to an overlook of the lake, providing accessibility to almost anyone, regardless of age or physical limitation. Soon, there will be interpretive signs throughout the park.

"We're hoping to make the natural world more comfortable and available," Pailes said. "We all feel a lack of contact with the natural world. There's a lot of asphalt around here. We could use a little green space."

Briggs said Sutton Wilderness has been in the city park system since 1979, and, for the most part, it has been intentionally left in a natural wilderness state in deference to the birds and other wildlife that call the park their home. Trails that existed

within the park had become overgrown and nearly impassable.

There are still unimproved trails, leading from the improved path to the lake, but overall, the park is highly accessible to families, school groups and retirees, he said. Despite the changes, it is still an urban wilderness that is a snapshot of what Norman looked like before development.

Pailes, who has been on the Sutton Wilderness Advisor Committee for about 30 years, said the improvements mark an evolution in their view of the park. Leaving the park in a wilderness state helped ensure protection of more than 200 bird species found in the park, and it benefited many other small, urban wildlife, such as opossums, raccoons, pack rats, turtles and other assorted reptiles and insects.

"There is already a significant increase in traffic," she said, "but the trail improvements serve to protect the park. It enhances the visitor experience, and it protects the habitat. So, the trails are a win, win for the critters and the visitors." — **BSM**



# Do You Like Washing Your Car Every Day? Join The Club.

**Our Unlimited Car Wash Club Offers You One Low Monthly Rate.**

Join the Unlimited Club at Okie Express and wash your car every day if you like. We have three packages to choose from and you can wash your vehicle at any of our 8 metro locations **including our new location in Yukon!** Visit [www.OkieAutoWash.com](http://www.OkieAutoWash.com) or see your attendant for details.

We're open seven days a week and can wash and wax your car, truck or SUV in about three minutes. Plus, our vacuums and floor mat cleaners are always **FREE** with any wash purchase.





# BEEFING UP THE WORKFORCE

MNTC has a Cyber Defense Class for High School and Adult Students

## Technology Center Prepares for Projected Workforce Shortage

Educational institutions across the state are ramping up programs to head off an estimated workforce skills gap brought on by growing business in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development estimates that by 2025, more than 45 percent of entry-level jobs will require industry certification or an associate's degree – up 15 percent from 2017.

College and technical school enrollment has decreased in recent years, despite the need for a more trained and educated workforce. Moore Norman Technology Center is one of 29 technology centers within the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, or CareerTech, that are currently at the forefront of a strategic plan to bridge the gap.

"Baby boomers are retiring in mass numbers each year," said Anna Aguilar, media and creative coordinator at

MNTC. "They take with them their technical skill set, and Oklahoma currently doesn't have enough trained, skilled employees to fill those jobs."

CareerTech, located in Stillwater, partners with the Oklahoma Works office to stay ahead of state industry and workforce trends. Oklahoma Works, coordinated by the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development, is designed to increase the wealth of all Oklahomans through facilitating quality employment for workers and ready availability of highly skilled talent for business and industry.

"According to the Oklahoma Works data, the most critical occupations on the list right now are qualified machinists, welders, LPNs, electricians, automotive technicians and other technical-based jobs," Aguilar said. "CareerTech can fill that gap by training qualified employees to walk right

in and fill those positions."

MNTC offers full-time career programs for students and adults in health and medical, business and information technology, technical skills and much more – jobs that can earn sometimes double or more than the current minimum wage.

Although projections indicate that 70 percent of the state's occupations will require a certificate, professional credential or degree in the next several years, only 40 percent of the workforce currently has such education and training. Even with the programs and courses available, one of the main barriers to obtaining this education is cost.

"That's where technology centers like MNTC can help," Aguilar said. "We're funded primarily by taxpayer dollars and offer an array of high-quality programs at minimal cost."

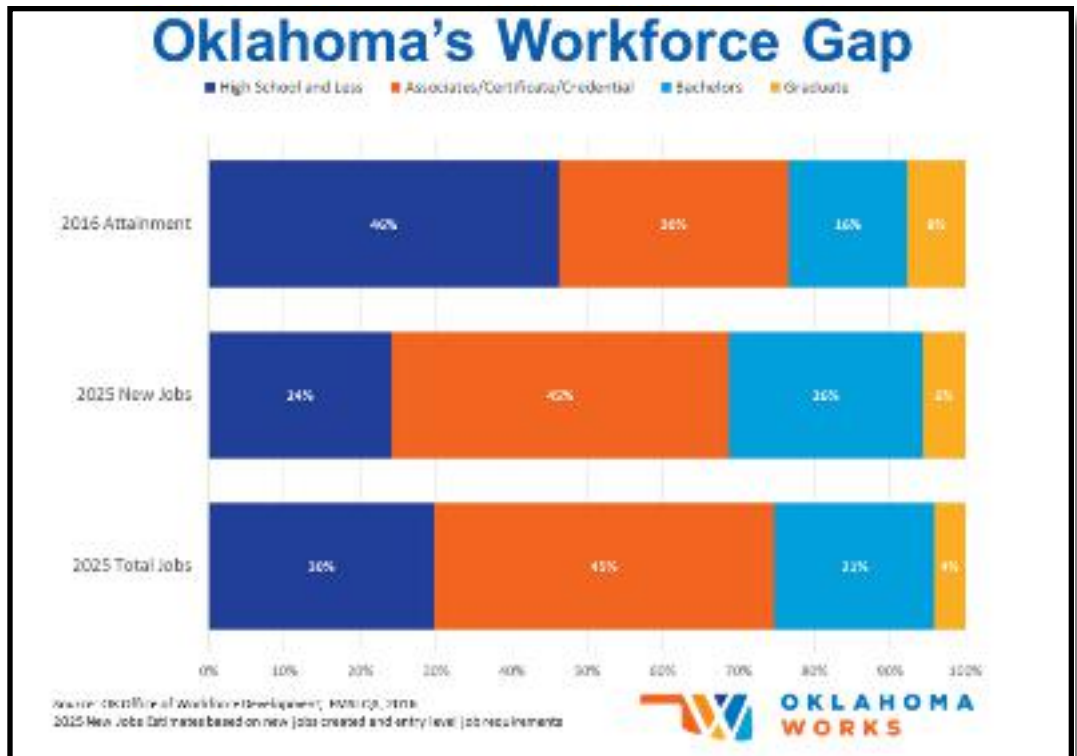


High school juniors and seniors can take concurrent classes at MNTC for free as part of their high school schedules, and tuition waivers are available to any high school graduate who starts a program before they turn 21.

“We truly belong to the taxpayers in our districts,” she said. “We’re blessed to have these programs in Oklahoma. Most states don’t offer opportunities like this.”

Learning a vocational skill can help springboard future academic endeavors because it offers financial independence while continuing education. Langston Edwards completed several welding courses concurrently before he graduated from Moore High School in 2017.

“I knew that welding was a skill I could use down the road,” Edwards said. “Learning and developing a trade helped me take on the next challenge. Now, I can get welding jobs and earn a better income while pursuing a college degree.”



Technical education is no longer only associated with traditional trades such as carpentry, plumbing, welding and mechanics. There is a long list of offerings at the state’s technology centers within CareerTech and the state’s community colleges that require rigorous academic components that help

meet the pending skill demands. “Our graduates and clients truly elevate our economy and community, and MNTC elevates careers and lives,” Aguilar said. “We may not give doctoral degrees, but we can definitely start these students on a path to find success much faster.” – **BSM**

**\$5 BUCK LUNCH**  
11-4 Daily

**1835 W. MAIN ST.**  
Easy access to parking from Mercedes Dr.!



WE'VE PROUDLY SERVED OUR CUSTOMERS FOR OVER 50 YEARS. NOW WE WANT YOU TO CONSIDER ONE OF OUR FAMILY DEALERS.

**fowlerauto**



# Fowler

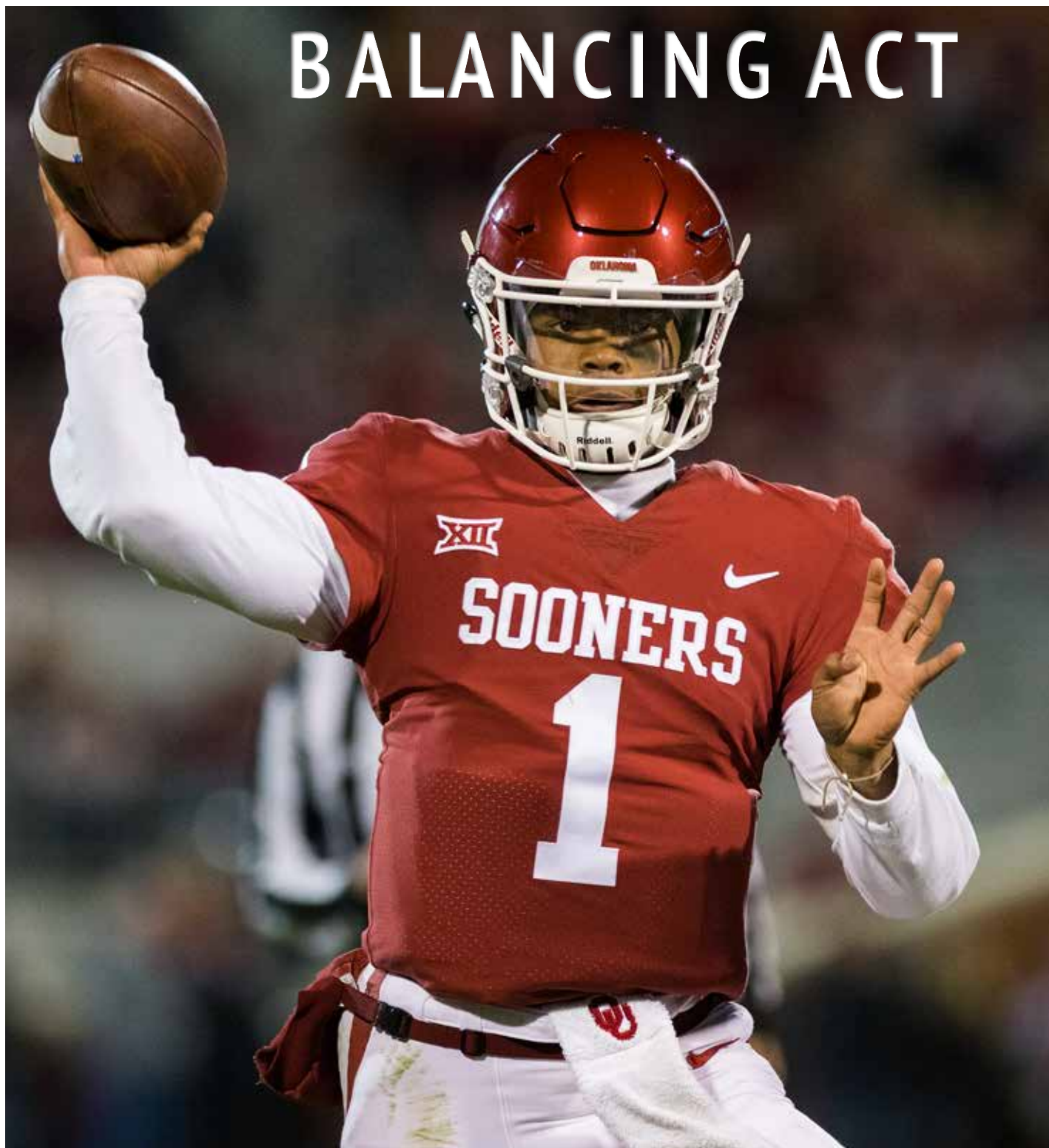
Automotive



OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1973  
PARTNERSHIPS FOR YOUR AUTOMOTIVE NEEDS.

[FowlerAuto.com](http://FowlerAuto.com)

# BALANCING ACT



**P**laying college football is hard. Playing college baseball is hard. Playing both while also balancing school is not only hard, it is virtually impossible for most.

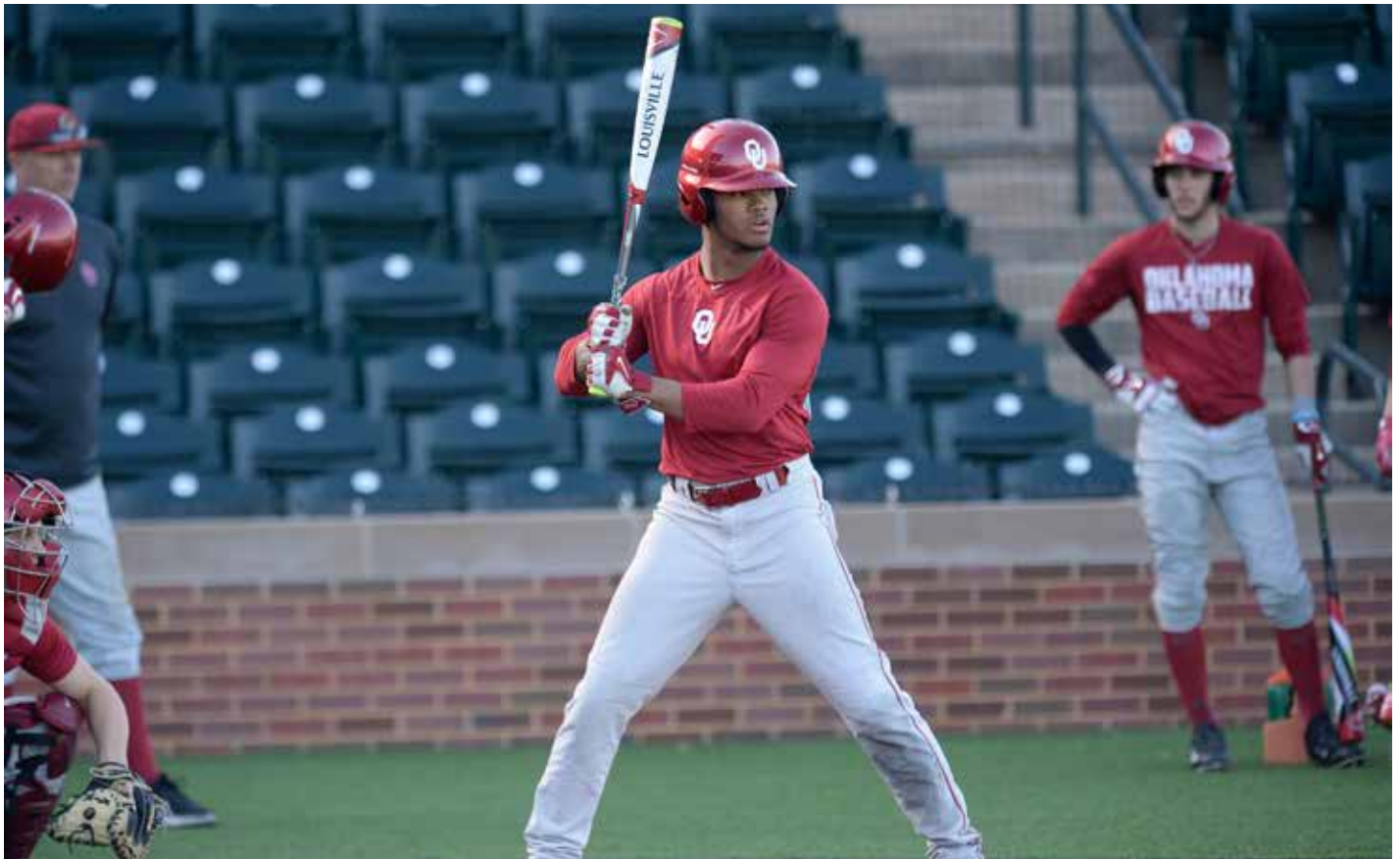
Whether it's from the lack of athletic ability or the strain of time manage-

ment, playing two sports in college athletics is incredibly rare, and doing so, especially at a high level, takes a very special athlete.

It's not about being the next Deion Sanders or Bo Jackson and it's not about drawing comparisons to Rus-

sell Wilson or Jameis Winston. For University of Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray, balancing several challenging endeavors is simply business as usual.

"I've been playing sports my whole life. It's what I do," Murray said. "If



I had a say, I'd be playing basketball right now. Just having options and being blessed to play baseball and football at a high level at OU, I don't take it for granted. It is definitely something I dreamed of."

### **ATHLETIC ABILITY**

Kyler Murray was a star athlete in prep school as he led Allen High School to three straight Texas state championships in football, while compiling a remarkable 42-0 record as the starter. During his high school career, he passed for more than 10,000 yards, rushed for another 4,100 yards and totaled almost 190 touchdowns. He was named the Gatorade National Player of the Year and could have attended any college in the country.

Murray was more than just a star on the gridiron. As a second baseman and shortstop on the Allen High School baseball team, Murray was viewed as a Top 50 prospect for the 2015 Major League Baseball Draft. His dual sport success made him the first high school athlete to play in both the Under Armour All-America football and base-

ball games. Despite the potential of a Major League Baseball career, as the draft approached, Murray opted out, deciding to continue with both sports at the college level.

Murray chose to attend Texas A&M University but decided to transfer after the football season his freshman year. With his Texas A&M experience behind him, Murray looked to make an immediate impact at OU, but the gridiron would have to wait until the 2017 season due to NCAA transfer rules.

Murray was able to showcase his athletic ability for the first time in a Sooner jersey during the 2016 spring game, averaging 22 yards per pass and completing 60 percent of his passes. He also averaged almost five yards per carry. Meanwhile, he made his first official appearance as a Sooner athlete on the baseball diamond last spring.

### **THE IMPACT ON THE DIAMOND**

Murray says the 2017 baseball season was a struggle. He had been away from baseball for a year and was splitting time between spring football and

baseball, looking for a rhythm at the plate, where he had only six singles in 49 at-bats. While he did have a team-high 12 stolen bases. Murray is looking for bigger things in 2018. Going into his second season as a Sooner, Murray said he is already more comfortable.

As Murray prepares to hit the diamond with new head coach Skip Johnson, there have been more changes than just the voice in the dugout. Murray has a new position, moving from left field to center field.

Left was harder for me with the angles and the wind and the way the ball comes off the bat. But for me, center has been a pretty smooth transition," Murray said.

Johnson is looking to Murray to be a difference maker for the Sooners in 2018.

### **THE GRIDIRON**

This past January, as Baker Mayfield was taking part in his final post-game media session, the Heisman Trophy winner was asked about the future for OU football.

"They're in great hands," Mayfield said. "They have the best coach in the country. Kyler is the best athlete in the country. They're going to be just fine."

In the opposite corner of the locker room, Murray was answering similar questions about the future.

"I'm fully preparing myself in every way, shape and form to be the quarterback of this team," Murray said. "Obviously, there's going to be competition. My job is to come in, get better every day and lead this team."

Murray's on-field performances last season have been encouraging. In mop-up duty against UTEP, he completed 10 of 11 passes for 149 yards and a touchdown. When called upon against Tulane, he responded with an 87-yard touchdown strike to Marquise Brown. When given the start against West Virginia, Murray responded with a 66-yard run on the first play from scrimmage.

With the balance of baseball and football, time management issues are a challenge. But Head Coach Lincoln

Riley has learned lessons from last season.

"I think there are some things we can do better," Riley said. "Honestly, I think it's a little bit different this year. When you're competing for a starting job, it's a little bit different. Skip and I have a great relationship. We'll continue to have conversations."

### THE BALANCE

The coaches have a solid plan. Murray has the athletic ability. But what is the biggest challenge for the Soon-er centerfielder/quarterback? Murray points to the clock.

"Finding the time to do school work is the hardest part of all of this," Murray said with a smile. "Baseball and football, they've done such a great job of making it easy on me that it's not hard from a time management perspective. School work is the roughest part of this."

He does try to stretch a few more hours in his day.

"I'm a night owl," Murray says. "Give me a good six hours and I'm set."

While playing baseball, Murray is also in the midst of off-season conditioning for football and even that is different this off-season. Benny Wiley has taken over as the new director of sports performance, and in Murray's eyes, it has helped him immensely.

"Coach Wiley is great. Everything he does is calculated," Murray said. "Everything we do in the weight room, there is a reason for it. I think he is a step in the right direction for going to a national championship."

But what about the fans? You know the group that may think it is impossible for the starting quarterback to play another sport, what about the naysayers?

"Well, I'm not the starting QB yet," Murray says with a wry smile. "They're going to do what they want to do, say what they are going to say. For me, it's baseball season and the focus is on this season. When football season comes, I'll be ready for it."

Murray has just one goal, and its winning championships at the University of Oklahoma. —BSM

Shop our online store at [www.crimsonproud.com](http://www.crimsonproud.com)



**READY FOR  
SPRING  
BREAK**

On Historic Campus Corner at  
792 Asp Avenue | Norman, OK  
405.321.6539

# BALFOUR OF NORMAN

WHERE YOU WILL FIND EVERYTHING SOONER!



# PHILLIPS 66 BIG 12 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

MARCH 2-5, 2018 • CHESAPEAKE ENERGY ARENA • OKLAHOMA CITY



## SEE THE BEST OF THE BEST GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

### SINGLE-SESSION TICKETS START AT \$10

**\$5 TICKETS FOR TEACHERS AND MILITARY  
AVAILABLE AT THE ARENA BOX OFFICE FOR  
ANY ONE SESSION**

### SESSIONS

FRIDAY, MARCH 2 (SESSION 1) | 6 & 8:30 PM  
SATURDAY, MARCH 3 (SESSION 2) | 11AM & 1:30 PM  
SATURDAY, MARCH 5 (SESSION 3) | 6 & 8:30 PM  
SUNDAY, MARCH 6 (SESSION 4) | 2 & 4:30 PM

### CHAMPIONSHIP

MONDAY, MARCH 5 | 8 PM



**FOR MORE TICKETS & INFORMATION:  
[WWW.OKCALLSPORTS.ORG/BIG12WBB](http://WWW.OKCALLSPORTS.ORG/BIG12WBB)**

HOSTED BY



# Pool Green?

## Come to us for the solution!

# Thompson Pool & Patio

1400 SW 24th Ave. | 405-364-1912  
ThompsonPool.com

Patio Furniture | Grills | Firepits  
Accessories & More

# TERRA

AT UNIVERSITY NORTH PARK  
Luxury Apartments  
Get One Month Free\*



## Amenities

- Wellbeats Virtual Reality Fitness Room
- State-of-the-Art Luxury Fitness Center
- Resort-Style Pool
- Outdoor Theatre
- Private Parking
- Life-Size Outdoor Chess
- Gated Community
- On-Site Dog Park
- 24-Hour Emergency Maintenance
- Grilling & Outdoor Lounges
- Smoke Free Building
- Free High Speed Gigabit Internet in all common areas

405.294.7435

2751 24th Avenue NW  
Norman, OK 73069  
www.TerraNorman.com  
info@nemangement.net

Professionally Managed by:



\*limited time only





**Stephenson**  
**CANCER CENTER**

*The* UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA



800 NE 10th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

Phone (405) 271-1112

Fax (405) 271-5797

[stephensoncancercenter.org](http://stephensoncancercenter.org)

## **OKLAHOMANS NO LONGER NEED TO TRAVEL OUT OF**

state to receive world-class cancer care. The Stephenson Cancer Center at the University of Oklahoma provides cancer care teams that are redefining patient-centered care in a new state-of-the-art facility.

As nationally recognized leaders in research and patient care, experts at the Stephenson Cancer Center are exploring new treatments and breakthroughs with advanced research and clinical trials right here at home.

The Stephenson Cancer Center annually ranks among the top three cancer centers in the nation for patients participating in National Cancer Institute-sponsored clinical trials, and it is one of 30 designated lead cancer centers in the Institute's National Clinical Trials Network.



# Swim Champs

## Swimmers Bring Home 6A State Title for the Timberwolves

The Timberwolves have not forgotten. Some of the Norman North boys' swim team arrived at the Edmond Schools' Aquatic Center for the state meet sporting tank tops with the FINA Swimming definition of a false start printed on the back and a picture on the front of an incident that cost them a state title last season.

A year ago, the T-Wolves were disqualified for a false start in the 400 freestyle relay during the 2017 state meet's preliminary race. They wound up losing out on a state championship to Jenks by just two points.

This time around, North was determined to avoid any mistakes and to capture what they felt should have been theirs a season ago. Buoyed by a 200 freestyle relay time of 1:36.23 that set a new state record, the Timberwolves topped Jenks 431 points to 415 and won their fourth state title in six seasons.

The team's swim coach, Kent Nicholson, admitted that last year played a part in getting his team geared up to perform.

"I think it was pretty motivating. It was painful for everybody involved last year," Nicholson said. "I don't know if

it changed what these kids were doing, because these are some pretty highly motivated kids. But when it came down to this meet, they were a little bit more focused than they might have been."

North had great performances across the board, including that 200 freestyle relay with David Logan, Alex Stamatina, Even Wagner and Nate McMillen. That same group also placed first in the 200 medley relay. The T-Wolves also got first in the boys' 400 free relay with Aiden Hayes, Daniel Wilson, Nathan Tucker and Jonathan Tang.

Individually, North took home first in a number of events: Tang in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:42.23, Hayes in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly with times of 20.83 and 49:14, McMillen in the 100 backstroke with a time of 53.03 and Stamatina in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 56.98.

There were a number of close finishes for the T-Wolves, too. Stamatina (1:54.39) finished second in the 200 individual medley. Wagner (51.10) and McMillen (52.77) were second and third in the 100 butterfly while Tang (46.51) took second in the 100 freestyle and Logan (53.52) second in the 100 backstroke.

"We won a lot of events and a lot of kids swam really well and scored really high," Nicholson said. "Those kids pushed hard."

North deserves the credit for not getting caught up in the results of their primary challenger in Jenks. It would have been easy to do after the way last year ended.

"The kids have got to do their own job," Nicholson said. "They can't get wrapped up in what anybody else is doing. We were trying to do our thing and they were trying to do theirs. We weren't really running into each other that much, but every single event the score changed and it was tight all the way through."

When asked about the emotions of winning the state championship and exorcising last season's demons, Nicholson said "relief, exhilaration."

On the Norman High side of things, Caleb Sullivan placed first in the boys' 200-meter individual medley with a time of 1:53.56. Sullivan also grabbed second in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 58.50.



"He swam his butt off," Nicholson said

All things considered, the state meet was a great showing for Norman swimming. It was a perfect ending, a championship with a slice of redemption. – **BSM**

Promote your products and services with the right signs and visual graphics.



**405.701.2890** [FastSigns.com/2040](http://FastSigns.com/2040)



- - 
  - 
  - 
  - 
  - 
  - 
  -
- More than fast. More than signs.®

# BELMAR GOLF CLUB

## YOUR PERFECT CLUB SELECTION

**GOLF**  
**DINING**  
**RECREATION**  
**WEDDINGS**  
**EVENTS**



# ilovethiscourse.com

1025 EAST INDIAN HILLS ROAD | NORMAN, OK 73071 | 405.634.0111

Come by  
and have  
a cup  
of coffee.



***BancFirst***  
***Loyal***

*To Oklahoma & You.<sup>SM</sup>*



WWW.BANCFIRST.BANK

MEMBER  
FDIC



# Title Defense

## Sooner Softball Looks to Join an Exclusive Club in Softball History

**D**uring a championship run forged through adversity, the path to get to Oklahoma City for the University of Oklahoma Softball team is neither easy nor smooth. Despite starting the season atop just about every pre-season ranking, the Sooners struggled to find their identity through the early part of 2017. The lessons learned from a rough start last year not only helped propel the Sooners to a National Championship, but also helped lay a mental foundation for 2018.

Last season, Oklahoma found itself in a tough spot as Big 12 season play approached. The Sooners dropped back to back games to unranked Cal Poly and were sitting at 23-7 on the season. The Sooners responded by winning 18 straight games and 28 of its final 29 games en route to a Big 12 regular season and tournament championship.

Even when they found themselves facing elimination four different times in the Norman Regional, the Sooners responded. As they had time and time again all season, they overcame adversity to earn a trip to the Super Regionals for the eighth straight year, eventually blitzing their way through the Women's College World Series for the fourth National Title in program history.

The core of the Sooners championship team returns. In fact, only one senior from last year's National Championship squad left. The Sooner senior class has won two National Titles. Those valuable lessons learned help shape the preparation in 2018. In her 24th season, Head Coach Patty Gasso noticed a difference immediately from the start of fall camp.

"With so many returners, they recognized they wasted their fall and had a very slow start last season," Gasso explained. "They're smart enough to know we're not going to let that happen again. They know there's a big journey and we're going to take a lot of blows along the way, but they are really anxious to get started."

The 2018 Sooners are built around an experienced group of six seniors, who have combined for 642 starts over the last four years. The Sooners return eight full-time starters, including their entire infield of the last two seasons and one of the most dominating pitching staffs in college softball.

Expectations are high, and experience is the key.

"What I know from experience is that experience is a difference maker," Gasso said. "The depth is making a difference because there's challenges and there's battles. You can see people elevating their game. It's almost too easy to coach because what else can I teach them? They know it. I just make sure they don't get sloppy."

A nation-high five Sooners have been named to this year's USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Watch List. Paige Parker (26-5 record; 1.43 ERA; 262 strikeouts in 210.1 innings last season) and Paige Lowary (16-3; 1.53 ERA; 122 strikeouts in 146.2 innings) combine for one of the most potent one-two punches in college softball. Returning starter and WCWS star Shay Knighten (.358 average; 11 home runs; 70 RBI; .575 slugging percentage), second baseman Caleigh Clifton (.356 average; .557 slugging; .528 on-base) and third baseman Sydney Romero (.339 average; 12 home runs; 59 RBI; .559 slugging) all find themselves on the Player of the Year watch list as well. The expectations are understandably high, but this year's version of Sooner softball has a lot to build on.

"We're showing a lot more maturity, a lot of discipline. They are very focused," Coach Gasso said. "We struggled last year with the repeat and pressing early last year trying to be something we weren't. We were trying to mimic what we did the year before. We have an extremely deep bench and that always creates greatness because you have battles throughout the field every day."

That depth has been bolstered. Reagan Rogers and Kylie Lundberg had exceptional off seasons and are primed for a larger role in 2018. When combined with the star studded 4-person freshman class, the Sooners' roster is littered with talent. But one name has stood out among the newcomers, Jocelyn Alo. Alo has been jaw dropping in the batter's box that she has already drawn comparisons to the greatest home run hitter in college softball history.

"I don't want to compare her to any of the greats, but I will," Gasso said. "She can swing it in a way like Lauren Chamberlain but maybe as a freshman with even more power."

In the circle, the Sooners changed the game last year. After riding Paige Parker to a title in 2016, the Sooners developed a true staff around Parker in 2017 and the emergence of Paige Lowary was an important factor for the title run. Mariah Lopez, who spent the summer with Team USA, and Missouri transfer Parker Conrad could help the Sooners pitching depth even more in 2018. For Parker, it's the start of a senior campaign that will mark the end of one of the greatest careers in Sooner Softball history. But the addition of Lowary last season may have been the biggest benefit for Parker both physically and mentally.

"She's helped me try to see the bigger picture of things and not be so nitpicky about all the small things," Parker said of Lowary. "She's definitely helped me a lot in that. I think from her experiences, she's learned to see the bigger picture, so she's helped me see it, just in life, in general."

Championship expectations are nothing new for Oklahoma. Oklahoma is well positioned to find itself in Oklahoma City once again in early June with the opportunity to join exclusive company in the world of College Softball. UCLA is the only team in softball history to have won 3-straight National Championships. The 2018 Sooners have the talent and the drive to join the Bruins in that exclusive club. — BSM

Oklahoma's  
COOLEST HANGOUT

BUD LIGHT

GAMEDAY HQ  
MULTIPLE SCREENS  
FULL BAR  
LIVE MUSIC  
OUTDOOR  
CONCERTS  
BIKE NIGHT

Hollywood  
Corners

4712 N. PORTER  
405-701-4990  
HOLLYWOODCORNERSSTATION.COM

**MN** MOORE NORMAN  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY SERVICES

Wednesday,  
April 18

8 a.m. | \$39  
to 4 p.m. | includes lunch

Focus on growing your business - from start-up to maturity - with this one day gathering of experts and peers. Gain valuable insights and access to vital resources, learn from key influencers and industry experts, and network with other business owners.

Moore Norman Technology Center | South Penn Campus  
13301 S. Pennsylvania | OKC, OK 73170

#GrowYourBusiness mntc.edu/GrowYourBusiness

GROW  
YOUR  
BUSINESS

SUMMIT 2018

**You can't afford a  
breakdown –  
neither can your  
furnace.**



**Our 18-point tune-up includes a  
“no breakdown” guarantee. If  
your heater fails at any point  
this season, the service is free.  
Can the other guys promise you  
that?**



**Call to schedule your \$99  
tune-up today!**

**405.823.9641**

**normanair.com**



**/normanairok**

## **PROSPERITY POINTS FOR STORM SEASON**



Oklahomans are used to storm season. We keep an eye to the sky, and we flip the radio or television to a local station if the horizon begins to darken. At those times, it's usually too late to create a financial disaster plan. So now, when the skies are blue, take a little time to create a financial disaster plan.

- Check your storm survival bag for batteries, drinking water, important medicines, and portable chargers, along with copies of all your important papers, insurance policies, and priceless photos.

- Read your homeowner's policy. You may need to add riders to your current policy for more complete coverage.
- Remember your homeowner's policy will not cover weather-related flooding. You purchase flood insurance through FEMA, and even if it is not required on your property, it might be appropriate.
- Earth movement is also not covered. Earth movement is most commonly mud slides or earthquakes, but earthquake coverage is complicated in Oklahoma because of the nature of the activity, and it may require a separate policy.
- Your insurance agent and financial planner should be your guides as you create a financial disaster plan. A few actions today could make your life less stressful the next time you hear the weather warnings.

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.

**Peggy Doviak**  
**Author • Radio Host • Speaker**  
**Certified Financial Planner™**  
Listen 8:00am • 1400AM • 99.3FM  
[peggydoviak.com](http://peggydoviak.com)



**DM Wealth Management, Inc.**  
**Financial Planning and Portfolio Solutions**

**201 E Main Street Norman, OK 73069**  
**(405) 329 - 8884 | [dmwealth.com](http://dmwealth.com)**



# Baseball's New Era

## Sooners Have Post Season Goals Under a New Coach

"We're looking at a draft year for nine junior pitchers. We want those players to be able to separate the season from the draft," Johnson said. "The more you have that concept, making it about the team, then the draft will take care of itself. This being my second year working with them as their pitching coach, I've seen guys make leaps and bounds."

Oklahoma's lineup is highlighted by senior Kyle Mendenhall and juniors Steele Walker and Brylie Ware. Mendenhall is the only four-year senior on the roster and improved at the plate last season launching five home runs. Walker wowed with Team USA this summer and was named a pre-season All-American after hitting .333 with 8 home runs and 51 RBI's last season. Ware was a first-team All-Big 12 selection last season along with Walker.

"I welcome (the leadership role)," Walker said of his personal need to lead in 2018. "I know what it was like being a freshman and looking for that guy that was solid every day and could produce on the field but also be there for you in a genuine way off the field. That's the role that I've taken on. It's something that I wish that I had as a freshman — just a guy who was genuinely there for you and genuinely cared for you, no matter how young you are. I have compassion for those guys and you can take them under your wing. They only get better when they are comfortable."

The Sooners welcomed 15 newcomers for the 2018 season with the addition of 13 high school and two junior college players. Four freshmen were selected in the 2017 MLB First-Year Player Draft. The class is OU's second top-20 recruiting class in the last three years. *Collegiate Baseball News* slotted the class No. 12 in the nation, while the Sooners landed at No. 20 by *Baseball America*.

But Johnson's head coach role will be among the most watched and followed story lines of this season. For Johnson, this is his first major college head coaching job, one

It's a new era, a new attitude and a new mindset for Sooner baseball. New Head Coach Skip Johnson welcomes back a talented roster that is driven to return the Sooners to the post season, including a pitching staff that has already had a year under Johnson's lead, an important factor for a run to Omaha. Depth across the entire roster has created competition at about every position on the field.

Coming off a 35-24 record in 2017 and a third-place finish in the Big 12, the Sooners return 20 letter winners from a year ago and all 59 starts made on the mound. Despite the new role for Johnson in the dugout, there is no question that the key to a successful 2018 campaign starts on the mound. Junior standout Jake Irvin and senior Devon Perez return to anchor the rotation, after stellar 2017 seasons.

"I know the transition a few years ago was tough for players. Having a familiar face that's been here is huge for us as returners," Irvin said of Johnson's promotion. "He works individually with each pitcher to develop them and make their personal art better. The way he individualizes each pitcher is awesome."

Familiarity is important but not just for the returning players. Johnson is focusing on team even though several Sooners prepare themselves for the next step.





# Now booking dream weddings

IN THE NEW EVEREST OUTDOOR PAVILLION

*Jimmie Austin*  
GOLF CLUB



Book your dream wedding by calling (405)325-6716



## The finest OU sportswear

*Jimmie Austin*  
GOLF CLUB

Visit our shop at 4 Ransom Dr, Norman OK 73019

that was a long time coming. But it also might be the perfect situation given his comfort with the roster and the program.

“The biggest advantage for me is to understand their personalities,” Johnson said. “That’s the intangible that we always leave out as coaches. If they play with their mind and their heart, I think that’s the separator for us.”

For returning starters like sophomore shortstop Brandon Zaragoza, the familiarity with Johnson helped to make the transition to a new regime easy.

“He was here with us for the whole season last year, so we’re just going off of his tendencies he had last year and just using that to our advantage,” Zaragoza said. “Now that we know who he is and what he’s about, we’re buying in to everything that he’s doing with this program.”

The Sooners will have solid opportunity to get off to a quick start this season. Despite going 1-3 in the season opening series at Myrtle Beach, Oklahoma showed incredible promise and excitement. With 25 of its next 27 games at home, the Sooners have a chance to generate some buzz around a program loaded with talent and filled with confidence. – **BSM**



# Stretch U<sup>®</sup>

UNLEASH THE ULTIMATE YOU!  
OF NORMAN

Let Stretch U of Norman get you back in the game

## Move Better - Feel Better

### Stretching

for People of All Ages & Abilities  
Improves range of motion, circulation, posture  
while reducing stress & muscle pain

“Stretching makes  
movement  
easier...plus,  
it feels great!!!”

405.421.2794



Proudly Serving  
Oklahoma  
Since 1998



1601 36th Ave NW  
Norman, OK 73072  
405.360.9700

Stanley M. Ward  
Woodrow K. Glass  
Brent L. Neighbors  
R. Ben Houston



Barrett T. Bowers  
Jonathan Irwin  
Geoffrey A. Tabor

# WARD | GLASS

ATTORNEYS

[wardglasslaw.com](http://wardglasslaw.com)



# HAVENBROOK

Funeral Home

## Norman's Premier Funeral & Cremation Service Provider

3401 Havenbrook St. | Norman | 405-329-0101

[HavenbrookFuneralHome.com](http://HavenbrookFuneralHome.com)





Hello,  
neighbor!

Cindy K Nashert Ins Agcy Inc  
Cindy K Nashert, Agent  
www.cindynashert.com  
Bus: 405-307-0500

Please stop by and say, "Hi!"  
I'm looking forward to serving  
your needs for insurance and  
financial services.  
Like a good neighbor,  
State Farm is there.®  
CALL ME TODAY.



1001013.1

State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

**NOW HIRING!** Journeyman  
Plumbers  
Needed Immediately

Competitive Wages  
Experience Necessary

**BOB**  
**USRY** & SONS, INC  
PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

405.364.1001



**M** **MILLENNIUM**

INSPIRED STUDENT LIVING

Luxury Apartments. Cheap Prices.



Live within 2 miles of the Lloyd  
Noble Center and all OU  
athletic facilities



Cheapest Parking Options in  
Norman

405.701.9999 • 900 E. Lindsey St. Norman 73071 • millenniumok.com

# Corkscrew Wine & Spirits

2319 West Lindsey  
Norman, OK 73072  
405-573-9273

GREAT SELECTION & SERVICE  
.....AND ALWAYS A HELLO!

Customers 55 & Older  
get 10% off Wine on  
Tuesdays & Thursdays



Our Leader,  
Kathie



Peter



Tom



William



Micah



Michaelene



Lee



Hunter

Road Construction  
Discount!  
10% off Beer and  
Cider on Wednesdays

**10% Off  
Any Wine & Spirit  
With this Ad!**

May not combine discounts



Lola



## THE TRAILS GOLF CLUB

**The Club of Choice!**

Contact us for  
**Memberships**  
**Tournaments**  
**Golf Outings**  
**Banquets & Events**

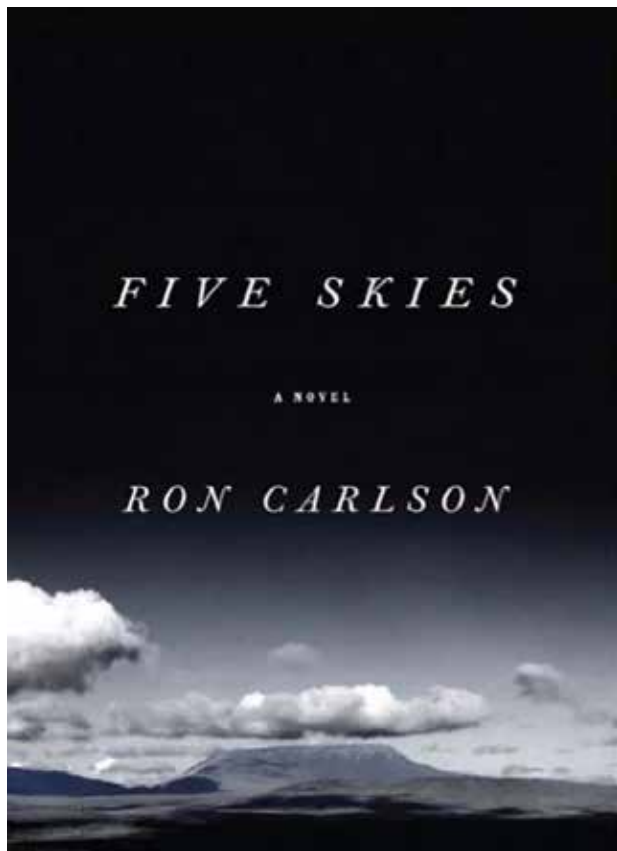
**Become a Member Today**  
**Call the Membership Office**  
**405-364-3790 • trailsgolf.com**  
3200 South Berry Road, Norman

# Reading Big

PLS Big Read Author  
to Lead Pair of Presentations



PLS Big Read presentations go throughout the Pioneer Library System's service area, including this 2016 event at Shawnee High School.



"Five Skies," by Ron Carlson, is the featured novel for the 12th year of The Big Read.

For a 12th consecutive year, the Pioneer Library System is celebrating reading throughout its communities via the PLS Big Read campaign.

The Big Read is a celebration of literature started by the National Endowment for the Arts as a way for communities to get together for activities centered around classic literature. The featured book selected by PLS representatives for this year is "Five Skies" by Ron Carlson.

Via the use of technology, this year's PLS Big Read featured author will be coming to the Pioneer Library System service area for a pair of presentations.

Carlson will present via videoconference, titled "A Conversation with Ron Carlson," at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15, at the National Weather Center, 120 David L. Boren Blvd, in Norman. Carlson will discuss the themes of his novel "Five Skies" and his writing process in general.

There also will be a Creative Writing Workshop presented by Carlson

from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 17, with the live stream airing at multiple PLS libraries. The Blanchard, McCloud, Moore, Norman West, Shaw-



nee, Southwest Oklahoma City and Tecumseh libraries will have the author's workshop.

"The opportunities in a novel are so different from those in a story," Carlson said in a review. "The world is

larger and requires patience in every way. The writing isn't full of sudden surprises, but discoveries that evolve credibly over time."

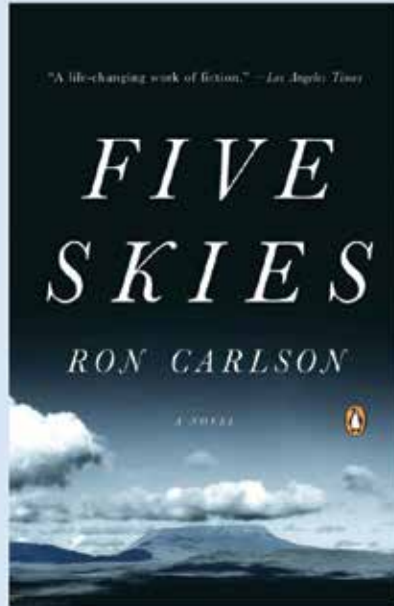
Carlson is a longtime and award-winning short story writer who wrote "Five Skies" after a break of about 30 years from novel writing. The library system will have activities geared around the book.

Since its inception, PLS has participated each year in the campaign, either as an official nationally-funded Big Read participant or strictly through local funding from organizations.

Sponsors for this year's activities are the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation, Norman Arts Council, Pioneer Library System Foundation and the Pioneer Library System.

Find out more by going online to the PLS Big Read website, [www.pioneerlibrarysystem.org/bigread](http://www.pioneerlibrarysystem.org/bigread). – **BSM**

# PLS BIG READ



*"Everything he'd put together for weeks was now loose in his heart and the pieces were sharp."  
—from Five Skies*

[pioneerlibrarysystem.org/bigread](http://pioneerlibrarysystem.org/bigread)



*Superior Orthopedic Care...  
Close to Home!*



Dr. Seethal Madhavarapu    Dr. Brian Clowers    Dr. Ted Boehm    Dr. Zakary Knutson  
Dr. Corey Ponder    Dr. Scott de la Garza    Dr. Richard Kirkpatrick    Dr. James Bond    Dr. Timothy Geib

405.515.8090

Oklahoma Sports & Orthopedics Institute

[www.OSOI.com](http://www.OSOI.com)

Design our  
25th Anniversary  
Shirt!



Cleveland County  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

Theme: Celebrating 25 years of  
Building Homes in  
Cleveland County

Finalists featured on CCHFH  
website and social media!

Submit Entries  
[director@cchfh.org](mailto:director@cchfh.org)

**Buying or Selling?**

Call Us for ALL Your Real Estate Needs!

**Dillard**<sup>TM</sup>  
**GROUP**

Real Estate Services

*#1 sales producing  
Real Estate Company in  
Cleveland County for over  
25 years!*

405.366.7707  
DillardGroup.com

**BUWICK GROUP**  
INVESTMENTS & INSURANCE



Greg Buwick  
President

Local Trusted Advisor

405.329.6000 | [WWW.BUWICKGROUP.COM](http://WWW.BUWICKGROUP.COM)

Securities offered through Leigh Baldwin & Co., LLC Member FINRA / SIPC





# GREAT NATIONS BANK

*Banking... the Way it Should Be!*

Money is not growing on trees, so let us help you with some of the best Certificate of Deposit rates in town!



Member  
**FDIC**

2200 E. Alameda St., Norman • 405.310.4900 • [greatnationsbank.com](http://greatnationsbank.com)


TRAVELING OUT OF THE COUNTRY OR GOING ON A MISSION TRIP THIS SUMMER?  
DON'T LEAVE WITHOUT YOUR VACCINATIONS  
FROM P&S PHARMACY



**PHYSICIANS<sup>AND</sup> SURGEONS**  
*Pharmacy*



Proudly serving Norman since 1971 as a full service pharmacy providing face-to-face service to our clients. P & S Pharmacy provides the highest quality and latest in prescription medication.

(405) 364-5222 | [pspharmacy.com](http://pspharmacy.com) | 900 North Porter, Suite 101 | Norman  



The Leaders in Allergy and Asthma Care since 1925

# Come see us at our Norman location at Medical Park West • 3580 R.C. Luttrell Drive



Dean Atkinson, M.D.



Richard Hatch, M.D.



Patricia Overhulser, M.D.



Shahan Stutes, M.D.

### *FIVE Convenient Central Oklahoma Locations*

**Main @ The Oklahoma Health Center**  
750 N.E. 13th, Oklahoma City

**Meridian Medical Tower**  
(Across from Mercy Hospital)  
13321 N. Meridian, Suite 100, OKC

**Edmond at Fisher Hall**  
3560 S. Boulevard, Suite 150

**Midwest City**  
8121 National Avenue

Mold/Pollen Counts: Website, Facebook  
Twitter @okallergyasthma



### **NORMAN HOURS:**

Mon, Tues, Thurs	7:45am - 5:20pm
Injection Hours	8:00am - 5:20pm
Wednesday Injections	10:00am - 5:40pm
Friday	7:45am - 11:40am
Injection Hours	8:00am - 11:40am

**Appointments**  
**405/235-0040**

**www.oklahomaallergy.com**

**LEGACY TRAIL**



**FREE GYM MEMBERSHIP!**



**LUXURIOUS WEST NORMAN LIVING**

**405.307.0154**  
legacytrailnorman.com

# Beware Of Banking Scams

**S**cammers never take a break. They're always dreaming up ways to con you out of your money. Recently, there's been a significant uptick in scams involving checking accounts at many financial institutions.

In these scams, criminals will utilize social media to connect with the victim.

They usually pose as representatives of a bank or credit union and milk the victim for sensitive information, like account numbers and passwords. Since the scammers are using the credit union's social media accounts, the victims often won't hesitate to share this information. When the scammers have what they need, they will proceed to empty the victim's accounts and then disappear.

Often, when the scammers receive a response from the victim on social media, they will redirect the victim to what appears to be the financial institution's website. The victim, thinking they are on the site they frequently use, will quickly input their username and ID, which the scammers will then use to empty their accounts or open credit cards in the victim's name.

Sometimes, the scammers will impersonate helpful member representatives who are seemingly looking to answer your questions. You're used to our representatives being helpful and always on call to assist you, so you won't see anything strange with the scenario.

Other times, the scammer may claim your account has been compromised and you need to immediately update your information. They'll be oh-so-helpful with this step. Until you share your information with them, that is.

Still other times, scammers will pose as representatives of a sweepstakes or some other contest that you've "won." All you need to do is share your account information and your passwords to be made into an instant millionaire! Except that, of course, you won't.

Don't be the next victim! Be aware and be alert. Here's what you need to know about this scam:

## CHECK URLS

Scammers are becoming increasingly more suave at posing as companies their victims are familiar with. You can check a site's authenticity by double-checking the URL on the web address. Make sure it matches your financial institution's site exactly. You can also check a site's security by looking for the "S" after the "http" on the web address.

## BE SUSPICIOUS

Awareness can be your best protection. It's easy for a scammer to pose as a member representative on social media, but if you're on guard, you'll spot these fakers. Is a representative claiming there are problems with your account when everything seems to be in order? Are they asking

you to share sensitive information through insecure channels? Is someone promising you've won a contest you've never entered? If things don't add up, it's best to opt out.

## REACH OUT TO YOUR CREDIT UNION OR BANK

It may be difficult to determine whether the people you're talking to are the real thing. If you think you're dealing with your financial institution, but things suddenly start looking fishy, there's a simple solution. Hang up or log out of whatever medium you're engaged in and call your financial institution immediately. This way, you'll know you've really reached us and you're not being scammed. Be sure to call this number and never use another number suggested by a suspicious-acting "member representative."

## IN CASE OF FRAUD, TAKE ACTION

If you suspect you've been taken for a ride, let your financial institution know as soon as possible. The sooner you catch a scam, the better off you'll be. We'll also be able to alert our other members and work on catching the crooks who've conned you.

It's also a good idea to let the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) know about the scam. The more information you share, the easier it will be for the feds to nail those scumbags. Contact the FTC at [FTC.gov](http://FTC.gov).

## PROTECT YOURSELF

It's a good idea to practice basic safety and protective measures with your accounts.

Here's how:

- **Safeguard account details:** Never share account information without being certain about who you are talking to.
- **Use good password hygiene:** Use complex passwords and change them often. Be sure to use different passwords for each of your accounts.
- **Choose extra protection:** Opt in for two-factor identification when logging into your accounts. That's an extra level of protection for you and another hurdle for scammers to scale.
- **Set up alerts:** Choose to receive an email or a text message when transactions on your account exceed your typical level of spending.
- **Monitor your accounts:** It's a good idea to check your accounts on a regular basis using online banking resources.

In most cases, you will be responsible for fraudulent charges on your account if you report them more than 60 days after your monthly statement is delivered.

Ask us about our discount for Police, Fire, Teachers and Military Personnel!

THE  
*Springs*  
AT GREENLEAF TRAILS



Located off of Tecumseh just west of Porter



Smaller Square Footage with Upscale Amenities

- Homes Range from 1600-2300 Square Feet
- Choose a Floor Plan and CUSTOMIZE to fit your needs
- Gated Community
- Yards Maintained
- Community Clubhouse with Workout Room & Pool
- Monthly Community Gatherings
- Pond



**Landmark**  
FINE HOMES

Model Hours: Thursday - Monday 1:00-6:00  
or By Appointment



[landmarkfinehomes.com](http://landmarkfinehomes.com) • 405.347.5991 • [info@landmarkfinehomes.com](mailto:info@landmarkfinehomes.com)

# Be Prepared



## CENTURION

CONSULTING GROUP

405.863.5233

centurioncg.net

Concealed Carry Classes  
Building Safety & Readiness  
Armed Aggressor Response  
Bomb Identification Response

Perfect for  
Businesses, Schools & Churches

Call Today

Mark Braley

20 Years Military

20 Years Law Enforcement

6 Instructors Available



TRAINING FOR BUSINESS: ARMED AGGRESSOR & WORK PLACE VIOLENCE RESPONSE

## YOUR MONEY HAS SOME GROWING TO DO.



## RATES AS HIGH AS 2.51% APY\*



## OKLAHOMA STATE BANK

### THE BEST BANK FOR YOU.

2122 W. Main St., Norman, OK 73069 | osbbank.com  
405-292-4453

\*APY=Annual Percentage Yield – Rates and promotional offers are subject to change or cancellation at any time. Rate shown is for a 5-year CD. A penalty may be charged for early withdrawal that could reduce earnings. Yield valid as of 2/6/18. Minimum deposit \$1,000. Other restrictions may apply.

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER Member FDIC

# 68-Team Giveaway



TJ Perry and Toby Rowland at the 2017 68-Team Giveaway

## SportsTalk's 17th Annual 68-Team Giveaway

**S**portsTalk Media Group is excited to welcome back the 17th annual 68-Team Giveaway on Monday, March 12 at Buffalo Wild Wings in Moore. This event gives listeners an opportunity to have their name drawn for one of the teams competing in the postseason NCAA men's basketball tournament affectionately referred to as "March Madness."

Depending on how an individual's team performs in the tournament, great prizes from SportsTalk Media Group's advertisers are awarded.

"The prizes are really important. It's like a giant community office pool at Buffalo Wild Wings," SportsTalk owner Randy Laffoon said. "People turn out to get a team, but they all want to know what they can win. It's a win for the advertiser and it's a win for the listener because they get free things if they draw the right team."

Buffalo Wild Wings is the perfect place to host the event thanks to its spacious complex. Show hosts from SportsTalk will be set up in the bar area atop a stage to announce teams beginning during the 1 p.m. hour of programming. Thanks to Buffalo Wild Wings' setup, families with kids don't have to be bashful about joining in on the fun and try to nab a team, too.

"The speaker system goes throughout the whole building, so we can have a lot more people than just in the bar area," Laffoon said.

SportsTalk program director TJ Perry has been a part of the event since its inception back in 2002. He acknowledged that it's the station's biggest event of the year, but noted its importance to SportsTalk's listeners, as well.

"It's the one time of the year that the loyal listeners to the station can all get together. It's almost like a family reunion," Perry said. "Many take vacation days to be there, because a lot of it starts in the middle of the day. They don't want to miss anything. People meet one another and save tables."

"It's just always been a special event," Perry added. "Regardless of what the prizes have been over the years, the event has become more about the togetherness, about friends getting together."

Longtime listener and caller Kurt Keeley echoed those sentiments. He is an event regular for many years and he was lucky enough to win an iPad one year.

"It's my favorite event, just the camaraderie of it," Keeley said. "It's always packed. I enjoy everybody getting together all in the same place for a couple hours, all of the on-air talent, hall of fame callers, people you may have never met face to face. That and its college basketball tournament time."

Toby Rowland, host of the "T-Row in the Morning Show" and Voice of the Sooners, said the event has really grown and he appreciates the opportunity to engage with listeners and callers.



"This is the one night where a significant percentage of listeners are all under the same roof at the same time," Rowland said. "It's grown and grown. I remember when it first started, we would give away multiple teams to the same people because we didn't have enough people to draft all sixty-eight teams."

"It's just fun," Rowland continued. "They've got wing sauce all over their face and they probably have had a couple of their favorite beverages. Everybody's excited about the tournament and the brackets being out and so we all get together to figure out who's going to win this thing." – **BSM**

**Air Duct Cleaning!**

*10% off any 2 Services.*

**Sooner**  
 Carpet - Air Duct - Chimney Cleaning  
 Water Restoration

**Certified by the NADCA  
 for Air Duct Cleaning!**

**405-329-8999 | SOONERCARPETCLEANING.COM**

**Transparency & Trust**



**Christian Brothers**  
 AUTOMOTIVE

**Nice Difference Warranty**  
 2 Years / 24,000 Miles  
 Whichever Benefits  
 You Most

**Locally Owned and Operated by Curtis & Becky Henning**

**March Special**  
**\$33 off with Coupon**  
**Any Service or Repair \$100+**

*Free Shuttle Service to and from Work or Home*

Must be presented at time of service. Not to be combined with other offers. One coupon per visit. Valid at Norman location. Expires March 31, 2018.

**405.701.1811 • 3050 Yarbrough Way, Norman 73072**  
**cbac.com/Norman**



*Step into your new home!*

*Let Cleveland County Abstract help in the process of buying your dream home!*



**WITH AGE COMES WISDOM.** Cleveland County Abstract is the only locally owned & operated abstract company in Norman, and just also happens to have the most experienced staff, over 115 years in business and full abstract services including:

- Abstracting
- Ownerships
- Title Insurance
- Closings
- Title Reports
- UCC Search



*OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE SINCE 1899.*

2460 BOARDWALK | 405.321.8680 | WWW.CCABSTRACT.COM



TRUST & WEALTH MANAGEMENT | ARVEST

## CONGRATULATIONS JANET WEDMAN!

We congratulate Janet Wedman, Trust Officer, CTFA, on her 10-year anniversary with Arvest. Thank you for your hard work and dedication! Janet's primary areas of focus are helping her clients build meaningful, comprehensive retirement and estate plans as well as personal trust administration. **Stop by to visit with Janet today.**

**Janet Wedman, CTFA**  
**Vice President, Arvest Bank**  
**Trust Officer**  
**9350 S Western Ave, Oklahoma City**  
**(405) 419-3718**  
**OK Insurance License # 101763**

Investment products and services provided by Arvest Investments, Inc., doing business as Arvest Wealth Management, member FINRA/SIPC, an SEC registered investment adviser and a subsidiary of Arvest Bank. Insurance products made available through Arvest Insurance, Inc., which is registered as an insurance agency. Insurance products are marketed through Arvest Insurance, Inc. but are underwritten by unaffiliated insurance companies. Trust services provided by Arvest Bank.

Investments and Insurance Products: Not a Deposit | Not Guaranteed by the Bank or its Affiliates  
Not FDIC Insured | Not Insured by Any Federal Government Agency | May Go Down in Value





# RIVERSTONE

## — HOMES —

NOW BUILDING IN THESE NEW ADDITIONS  
WINDSTONE • BROOKHAVEN • FOUNTAIN VIEW

EVAN NIXON

405.401.1937

EVAN@RIVERSTONEHOMESOK.COM

[WWW.RIVERSTONEHOMESOK.COM](http://WWW.RIVERSTONEHOMESOK.COM)



**2016 BUILDER OF THE YEAR**

BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL  
OKLAHOMA



# SMALL DEPOSITS, BIG RATES!

## 12-MONTH CD **1.40% APY\***

Balances as low as \$1,000

For more information, please contact our New Account Team at [newacct@frontier-ok.com](mailto:newacct@frontier-ok.com) or call Johnetta at 405.672.7831.

5100 SOUTH I-35 SERVICE RD | OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73129

405.672.7831 | [FRONTIER-OK.COM](http://FRONTIER-OK.COM)

**I-35, EXIT 123A**

Member  
**FDIC**



\*Annual Percentage Yield. Minimum opening and average monthly balances may apply. Rates effective as of 9/26/2017. Rate subject to change. Early withdrawal penalties may apply.



# PRIMROSE

*Funeral Service*

EST 1931

In our 86 years in the Norman community, we've learned a thing or two about family. Let us help yours when you need it most.

405.321.6000

[WWW.PRIMROSEFUNERALSERVICE.COM](http://WWW.PRIMROSEFUNERALSERVICE.COM)



# Malbec Madness

**M**arch may come in like a lion, but most people are thinking about green beer or a good beer for watching basketball.

But for those of you who want a change, let's talk about some flavorful alternatives. Malbec is a grape variety that likely originated in France and is primarily used as a blending grape in Bordeaux wine, and in some other Bordeaux style wines from other regions. The grape was introduced in Argentina in the middle 1800s and developed as a varietal, with premier examples originating from the high Mendoza region.

Malbec is also produced as a varietal in Chile, and more recently in California. Malbec is a full bodied red, with notes of strong ripe black fruit, frequently with the aroma of violet on the nose. Malbecs from Argentina tend to be lush than those from Chile or California.

While there is not a wine that is green, there is a light, pleasant wine called Vinho Verde from Portugal. This crowd pleaser is not too sweet, and most are slightly fizzy.

Want a wine to accompany a good basketball game? Well, how about by name, instead of type? Kick back and share a bottle of The Show, Playtime, Troublemaker, Sheep Thrills, Angry Bunch or Hob Nob.



Playtime and Troublemaker are red blends, but the others come in several varietals.

We all know this is a wine column, but there are so many new beers it is impossible to keep track. Here a few fun ones to try. An Irish Red beer or stout is perfect for St. Patrick's Day.

The same rule applies for stouts as red wine, chill them for a short amount of time to get the temperature down to 60-62°.

Enjoy a breezy and fun March.

Kathy

**DON'T FORGET THE GREEN**

**CELEBRATE WITH A GREAT SELECTION FROM JOE'S**

**GREAT SAVINGS!**

**GREAT SELECTION!**

**GREAT SERVICE!**

1330 Alameda St. • Norman • 405.364.9262


[www.JoesWinesandSpirits.com](http://www.JoesWinesandSpirits.com)

# We pay you to bank with us!

Ask about your Rewards Checking options.

## RCB BANK

*That's my bank!*

2 locations in Norman.  
3151 W. Tecumseh Rd.  
333 W. Boyd St. - *instaBank*   
RCBbank.com | 855.BANK.RCB

Some restrictions apply. Member FDIC



# Let Your Toes Out!



# hello spring

*Brown's* SHOE FIT CO.  

normanshoe.com

# Healthy smiles for life.



Sara K. Spurlock, DDS | Jennifer M. Jenkins, DDS | Susan E. Whiteneck, DDS

Dental Design Studio offers comprehensive dental care in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. We see our patients as friends and we want only the best for you and your oral health. Using the latest dental care techniques, our dentists and staff are here to create healthy smiles for life!

- Relaxed and Fun Atmosphere
- Individualized Care
- Latest Dental Care Techniques

**Schedule your appointment today!**



dental design studio

call (405) 321-6166

or visit [www.normamentist.com](http://www.normamentist.com)

561 Merchant Drive, Norman

# Make Your Neighbors Green with Envy

Signature   
Custom Pools

signaturecustompools.com



405.256.8764



Introducing our.

## CUSTOMER PORTAL

For your convenience, now you can: update your profile, make an online payment, check your account balance, check an order status, see your entire order history, schedule a pickup, and so much more at [www.waldencleaners.com](http://www.waldencleaners.com)!

**Honesty.  
Respect.  
Professionalism.  
Courtesy.**



**Julia D Chew Insurance Agy Inc**

Julia Chew CPCU CLU, Agent

701 Wall St

[www.juliachew.com](http://www.juliachew.com)

It's how I treat all my customers  
And you can be sure I'll always  
do my best to meet your needs.  
Like a good neighbor,  
State Farm is there. ®

**405-329-3311**

CALL ME TODAY.





## Go Further with Food

**A**fter the indulgence of the holidays and as the resolutions of the new year wane, March marks the celebration of National Nutrition Month. This year's campaign, sponsored by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, is "Go Further with Food."

"This annual crusade focuses on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits," said Julie Mallory, MS, RDN, LD, supervisor of Clinical Nutrition at Norman Regional Health System.

Norman Regional is kicking off the month with a recipe contest. NRHS employees are encouraged to share their best healthy recipes and winning recipes will be featured in their cafes.

"We will spotlight one winner each week," Mallory said.

To spread the word outside of the hospital walls, the hospital's social media outlets will be sharing a weekly "Knowledge Booth," highlighting healthy eating and recipes as well as tips for making smart choices.

NRHS's Facebook followers can learn about things like the benefits of small changes, food balance and portion control, all in the effort to help Normanites

improve their health through their diet. The heart of the campaign is really about how eating healthy is about more than the numbers on the scale, but using food as fuel for feeling good and being well. Eating healthy doesn't have to be a sacrifice, said Mallory.

"All foods can be enjoyed," she said, adding that meals should focus on nutrient-rich foods most of the time, indulging occasionally.

Instead of a bag of chips as an afternoon snack, have cut-up vegetables and hummus on hand for a flavorful crunch. Or, go with fruit paired with yogurt for your evening sweet snack. The key is to have healthy options within reach.

"Keep your refrigerator, freezer and pantry stocked with healthy food options," said Mallory.

But, big changes don't happen overnight. A healthy lifestyle is just that, a lifestyle. "Make small changes, get accustomed to them, then gradually add more as the months go on," Mallory advised. "Soon those changes will become a habit!"

For more healthy tips and recipes, follow Norman Regional Health System on Facebook all month long. – **BSM**



Asian Chopped Salad with Smoked Chicken and Citrus Soy Vinaigrette  
Yield: 4 servings

### Asian Chopped Salad:

- 2 c Shredded Cabbage
- 2 c Chopped Romaine
- 2 c Arugula
- 2 c Shredded Carrots
- 1 c Edamame Beans
- 1 c Sliced Almonds
- 1 c Mandarin Oranges
- ¼ c Chopped Cilantro
- 2 c Smoked, Rotisserie, or Grilled Chicken, shredded

Combine all ingredients except last three and toss well to combine. Combine the oranges and cilantro. Toss salad with dressing then grab a handful and place in the center of the plate. Take a quarter of the chicken and place on top of the salad, then a quarter of the orange-cilantro mix and place on top of the chicken.

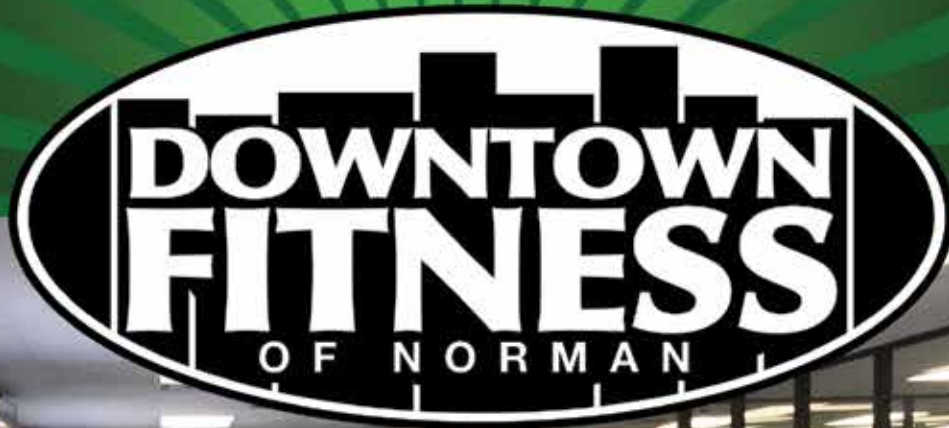
### Citrus Soy Vinaigrette:

- 1 tsp Fresh Grated Ginger
- 2 tsp Lemon Juice
- 2 tsp Honey
- 1 T Low Sodium Soy Sauce
- 2 T Cider Vinegar
- 4 T Vegetable Oil

Put all ingredients into a bowl, whisk to combine

# ST. PATRICKS DAY SPECIALS!

TWO CONVENIENT LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU:  
119 W. MAIN ST. (405) 801-2927 | 1610 W. LINDSEY (405) 801-2929  
OPEN 24 HRS + PERSONAL TRAINING  
+ FREE GROUP CLASSES + FREE TANNING & MORE!







**MONTHLY UNLIMITED WASHES  
& FULL-SERVICE WASHES  
STARTING AT \$18**

*Also, receive 10% off any Oil Change or Detail Service.*

1235 W. MAIN STREET - NORMAN, OK 73069  
405-321-5260 • WWW.CRUISEINAUTOSPA.COM



You said, "YES."

Now, let us help you  
create the Perfect Day.

**EMBASSY  
SUITES**  
by HILTON®

Norman - Hotel & Conference Center

2501 Conference Drive • Norman, OK 73069 • 405.364.8040 • [embassysuites.com](http://embassysuites.com)



A PREMIER OKLAHOMA USED CAR DEALERSHIP

**405.360.9292**

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

WITH OVER 35 LENDERS WE HAVE  
FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR ALL  
TYPES OF CREDIT



OVER 250  
LATE MODEL  
PREOWNED  
AND IN  
STOCK

[bryanscarcorner.com](http://bryanscarcorner.com)

ON THE CORNER OF 24TH AVE SW AND LINDSEY STREET



# Luck of the Irish

O'Connell's Jeff Stewart Celebrates 50 Years of the Iconic Pub

**W**hat started as a dive bar at the corner of Lindsey and Jenkins has evolved into a Norman staple celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. O'Connell's Irish Pub & Grille, now located at 769 Asp Ave. on Campus Corner, is a local favorite and, in no small measure, a direct byproduct of longtime owner and Norman resident Jeff Stewart.

It is his fun-loving and passionate personality that has allowed him to create and sustain a successful local icon like O'Connell's. Wearing many hats, he can be found in the kitchen, wiping down tables, shaking hands and pouring beer on a daily basis.

As he says himself, "I probably am O'Connell's."

In fact, it is Stewart himself who dresses up as a leprechaun for the pub's annual run – a kick off to the pub's large St. Patrick's Day celebration.

O'Connell's will host the 19th annual St. Pat's 8K Run on Saturday, March 10 at 9

a.m. Registration is \$35 per runner and all proceeds will benefit Special Olympics Oklahoma. Participants can pick up their packets Friday night at the complimentary spaghetti dinner, sponsored by Sysco.

Stewart is hopeful this year's participants will top its highest registration yet – 1,100 runners. For the first time in years, the run does not fall on spring break when students are out of town, which he says will make a significant difference in the numbers.

The race will be followed with free burgers and beer back at the pub, along with an awards presentation.

"It's going to be a really great year," he said. "I have a lot of fun out there, giving high-fives as they finish, and the police let me direct traffic, too."

It is the same enthusiasm and all out spirit of Stewart at the race that draws a massive crowd for the actual holiday.

Bagpipers, green beer and green eggs and ham start on St. Patrick's Day at 7

a.m. and for some, the fun cannot wait. Stewart arrives around 4 a.m. to get the restaurant going and often finds a line of anxious attendees down the block.

"We have marathoners. They are here before we open and stay until we close," he says. "Their goal is to stay all day."

The green beer will be flowing along with live entertainment, March Madness covering the TV screens and plenty of tasty food.

"Everyone is Irish for a day," Stewart said.

To commemorate the special anniversary, this year's theme is five decades of live music. Each decade will have an hour and a half set and end at midnight, but the bar will remain open until 2 a.m.

"It's exhausting, but it's my favorite day of the year," Stewart said.

For more than 40 of the 50 years O'Connell's has been in business, Stewart has owned and operated it – he has been at the forefront to see it evolve through its many transitions.

O'Connell's first opened in 1968 and Stewart acquired it in 1979. At the time of purchase, Stewart said the bar was dark, uninviting and did not appeal to college students. He started making updates to the building in 1983 and soon discovered what O'Connell's could be for the Norman community.

As Stewart proudly noted, it was at the original location that tailgating became a tradition at the University of Oklahoma.

"I personally invented tailgating in Norman," he said. "People started to come to O'Connell's to cheer on OU football and that was really special."

However, once the university started buying surrounding properties, Stewart decided to bring his pub to Campus Corner.

While it took some time to catch its breath and recreate itself at the campus location, the good beer, Irish Medallions and charm that Stewart has curated since the beginning remains the same.

Stewart said he receives calls weekly asking to move its location to Bricktown, Moore and even Edmond.

"All kinds of people are courting me to lease or build with them but no," he says, "Campus Corner is where it needs to be."

Aside from O'Connell's, Stewart also had success with Jockey Strap Saloon and Liberty D's, both bars once located on Campus Corner. In fact, Cross Canadian Ragweed was a regular band at Liberty D's, often filling in between headliners.

Despite his youthful origins in Oklahoma City, Stewart is inherently Norman with deep roots in the community. His businesses have been Norman fixtures for decades, offering the community an experience like no other.

"The experience of the guest is the most important," he said. "Good customer service is a must."

Although he does not have any children of his own, Stewart said he has proudly raised multiple generations of kids from his years in business, especially through O'Connell's.

Pointing at the staff in the background, "these are all of my children. We are a big family." — **BSM**



**Federal Credit Union**

[www.oufcu.com](http://www.oufcu.com)



## IT'S HOW SOONERS BANK!



Full menu of products and services, including **FREE** checking accounts, new and used auto, boat, motorcycle, and RV loans.



Mobile App with **FREE** Mobile Deposit.



Home equity loans and lines of credit.



Direct deposit and payroll deduction discounts.



Proudly Serving Our Community for 60 Years!

Independent | Assisted | Memory Care



*“Making new friends is the best part of my day.”*

*Rivermont is filled with opportunities to add fun and conversation to your life.*

*Chat with a friend over coffee in the Café, enjoy a stroll through one of our beautifully landscaped courtyards or share a meal in the restaurant-style dining room.*

*With Rivermont, you can have it all.*

**Call Today to Schedule Your Complimentary Lunch and Tour.**



www.legendsseniorliving.com

**Independent Living**

800 Canadian Trails Dr  
Norman, OK 73072  
**(405) 360-0606**

**Assisted Living**

750 Canadian Trails Dr  
Norman, OK 73072  
**(405) 360-6056**



**NEED PARTY SPACE?**



Book your birthday party, corporate/team building event or after prom party with us!



405.360.3634 • soonerbowl.com



**We Are Not Tex-Mex!**

Open Since 1991



**PEPE DELGADOS**  
AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD

Please don't ask for queso.....

Mon.-Sat.  
11am-9pm

786 Asp Ave. • 321-6232

# Orthodontics Exclusively

Drs. Timothy Shannon & Mark Revels



**Voted Best In Norman!**  
Board Certified Orthodontist  
State Of The Art Facility

[WWW.orthoexc.com](http://WWW.orthoexc.com)

CHILDREN • TEENS • ADULTS

**Call For  
Free Consultation**

2214 West Boyd      Norman, OK 73069      405-321-2735



Game Room      Computer Center

# Cobblestone Creek

Become a member!

Monthly \$75.00

Annual \$750.00

To learn more or to schedule a tee time

Call 294-0267

1350 Cobblestone Creek Dr      Norman, Ok

**Golf  
And The New  
Foot Golf**



# ARIA Plaza



## Companies Specialize in All Things Sticks and Bricks

In Persia, the word “Arya” means noble and honorable. In Norman, the word “Aria” means a group of dedicated and accomplished people who broke ground in February on the new ARIA Plaza, located at 3100 Interstate Dr.

ARIA was due for consolidation because the company’s various entities, which work in chorus around Norman, were spread among four different office buildings.

They built a new place two years ago on Flood Avenue for Precision Builders, ARIA’s general contracting company. The building included an office, a warehouse and a yard for heavy equipment. However, all the rest of the entities will be under one roof in ARIA Plaza, Sassan Moghadam said.

“We wanted a ‘headquarters’ where we could all work together with our different services we provide that complement each other.”

With the new ARIA Plaza, clients will get just that, one-stop shopping for all commercial and residential construction services.

Sassan, the founder of this family of businesses, is a Persian-born immigrant who came to the United States to study mechanical engineering at the University of Oklahoma in the late ’70s. Sassan’s career began while at OU when he founded Sooner Homes. He had success as a young

homebuilder and in 1984 he founded Precision Builders, a general contracting firm still thriving today.

Sassan later partnered with Joey Wishnuck, an experienced real estate developer, investor and builder. On top of his bachelor’s degree from the University of Oklahoma and MBA from the University of Central Oklahoma, Wishnuck earned a law degree from the Oklahoma City University School of Law. That experience in legal and finance helps clients when situations arise with banks, mortgage companies and insurance providers.

The name ARIA was selected when Wishnuck joined the group and noticed the many different partnerships and entities.

“He basically came up with the idea of having a brand that represents all of these entities and asked me for a name that would relate to my background and pay homage to my native country,” Sassan said.

Their hands-on development and construction experience along with a diverse combination of engineering and design skills is a unique offering to clients.

“We often say that we are, ‘All things sticks and bricks,’” Wishnuck said. “If someone is ready to build a new home, we have a solution. If someone is building or expanding



their commercial business, we have a solution. If someone is building a convenience store or restaurant, we have a solution. If a hospital group needs to expand or renovate, we have a solution. We can also help you buy a house, sell your house or manage your investment properties. We can do a full residential remodel or replace your roof."

Lisa Talley, Sassan's daughter, is the owner and broker of ARIA Real Estate Group and she also graduated from the University of Oklahoma. Her degree in business management led her to open the brokerage in 2004, offering sales and real estate management services for a variety of clients, including homeowner associations.

To learn more about ARIA, call 329-7979. – **BSM**

**DAS BOOT**

**March Madness on EVERY TV!**

Handcrafted Beer brewed to German Purity Laws of 1516 by Royal Bavaria Brewery

**HAPPY HOURS - 2:00 to 6:00 AND 9:00 TO MIDNIGHT**

**1 LITRE BOOTS OF BEER - 34oz**

**Happy Hour = Half Price Boots**

**229 East Main St - Downtown - Daily 11am to 12am**

[www.das-bootcamp.com](http://www.das-bootcamp.com) - 405-701-3748

**Growing Strong in Oklahoma Since 1975!**

**Marcum's Nursery**  
*Just Add The Sun!*

**IT'S TREE PLANTING SEASON!**

**Hurry in for the best selection of B&B Shade and Flowering Trees.**

**MarcumsNursery.com**

**Acres of Trees & Shrubs to Choose From!**

**Three Convenient Locations!**

**17550 S. Sooner Road  
Norman | 405.447.3100**

**I-35, Goldsby Exit 104  
Goldsby | 405.288.2368**

**SW 119th & Penn  
OKC | 405.691.9100**

# Prepare for St. Patty's!

3000 Sq. ft. of beer, wine,  
rum, & spirits for all  
your holiday celebrations!!

2400 12th Ave NE | (405) 310-6328



## ALERT ALL HEALTH NUTS!

GET  
HEALTHY WITH  
NUTS FROM:

## MASON'S PECAN AND PEANUTS

4913 SE 44TH ST.  
NORMAN, OK 73072  
SOUTH OF NORMAN  
AT I-35 EXIT 106  
405-329-7828  
MASONSPECANS.COM

Mason's  
PECANS &  
PEANUTS

Fresh Nuts • Chocolates  
Cookies & More



**STOP BY TODAY!**



**THIS COULD SAVE  
MY FRIEND.**



**SAVE  
SOME  
NALOXONE**

**EVERY LIFE IS WORTH SAVING.**

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health  
and Substance Abuse Services

**OVERDOSE REVERSAL KITS  
ARE NOW AVAILABLE.**

Naloxone can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Opioids include pain medications and heroin but not alcohol or other drugs. If you know someone who may be at risk, be prepared in case of an opioid overdose.

**You could save their life.**

**Visit [TakeAsPrescribed.org](https://www.TakeAsPrescribed.org) to find where you can get this life-saving kit today.**

# Tee Time in Norman



## Local Courses Teach Youth the Game of Golf

As spring returns once again, Normanites of all ages are eager to get outside. Parks and sports complexes are teeming with families enjoying the benefits of community recreation. Extracurricular activities are a great outlet for youth, offering a variety of ways to engage in individual and team skill building. While some might head toward the soccer or baseball field, others are hitting the golf course. Norman has a wealth of local opportunities for kids to take part in the game of golf.

“Golf is like the original Facebook. It helps you network,” shared Bobby Taylor, organizer of the junior golf program at Cobblestone Creek Golf Club. “Golf opened up so many avenues for me. It helps (kids) set goals, achieve things, believe in themselves and do well in school.”

Here is a look at several junior golf programs in the Norman area.

### COBBLESTONE CREEK GOLF CLUB

Taylor is a junior golf coach for two middle schools in the area and he runs the junior golf program at Cobblestone Creek in Norman. For Taylor, the size of the course at Cobblestone is what sets this program apart.

“The big deal about being at Cobblestone Creek is it’s a par three golf course, so it’s not too long for the children, and they are not in the way of adults and the adults aren’t in the way of the kids either,” he said. “It makes the kids feel like it’s their place.”

Cobblestone also offers tee boxes for all skill levels.

Cost is a concern for many families, as with any additional commitment added to the schedule. But Taylor offers six one-hour sessions at \$22 per class. Options can include one-on-one private lessons or clinics with up to 15 kids.

For information about Cobblestone Creek, visit: [www.cobblestonecreekgolfclub.com](http://www.cobblestonecreekgolfclub.com), and Bobby Taylor’s website, [OKJuniorGolf.com](http://OKJuniorGolf.com), is coming soon.

### OU JIMMIE AUSTIN GOLF CLUB

The youth golf program at Jimmie Austin offers junior golfers a wealth of specialized guidance. From their camps and clinics that introduce new players to etiquette and the fundamentals to time spent in their indoor hitting bays or with the Foresight golfing simulators, they are ready to help kids at any level of the game.

“We are trying to reach junior golfers where they are,” said Johnny Johnson, PGA director of golf and an instructor at Jimmie Austin. “We have so many different options for the community.”

The club hosts several camps and after school programs throughout the year and is one of only two in the state to offer PGA Junior Golf camps.

“We try to focus on keeping golfers involved throughout the year; spring, summer, fall and winter,” said Johnson. “Camps and clinics are a great way to gauge interest in the game of golf. Our indoor hitting bays and Foresight program help more advanced juniors progress all year.”

Jimmie Austin also hosts a PGA junior league and Ping Jr. Inter-club matches. For more information, visit [www.theougolfclub.com](http://www.theougolfclub.com) or [www.pgajuniorgolfcamps.com](http://www.pgajuniorgolfcamps.com).

### WESTWOOD GOLF COURSE

Budding golfers will feel right at home at Westwood Golf Course. In the spring, summer and fall, the course hosts a junior academy to help kids learn to swing, chip, putt and more. As kids learn the basic of the game, they are also learning important life skills.

“The academy teaches nine core values like honesty and sportsmanship that apply in the game of golf and to everyday life situations,” said Rick Parish, Head PGA golf professional with Westwood. “And, in turn, they are also finding a buddy to play golf with.”

The program ends with some friendly competition in the form of an academy tournament and a pizza party, complete with awards.

If your child is completely new to the game, Parish suggests giving one of their free clinics a try.

“We offer a free two-day clinic in June,” Parish invited. “It’s a great way to gauge interest before making any financial investment.”

Cost can be prohibitive when it comes to extra-curricular activities, but at Westwood, they can help with that.

“If a family can’t afford clubs, we do our best to make them available. If they are in need, we want to make the game available,” said Parish. “We have extras on hand that kids can use during clinics and academies. We have junior golf

clubs available to rent at any time and we have loaners to use at the driving range for free."

For more information on the course and clinics, visit westwoodparkgolf.com. Visit [www.thefirstteemetokc.org](http://www.thefirstteemetokc.org) for all the details about their First Tee academy.

### THE TRAILS GOLF CLUB

Junior golf at the Trails offers kids a fun way to learn the game and make memories that last a lifetime, said Alan Hager, head PGA professional at the club.

"Being introduced to a great game you can play a lifetime can really open doors," Hager said.

The Trails helps kids develop their game through clinics, academies and a PGA junior golf league. The formal program takes place in the summer, but the Trails takes part in spring and fall leagues with other area courses.

"We wanted kids to have the opportunity to play basically year round," Hager said. "It is fun and can be as competitive as players want to make it."

League play lets kids work toward PGA junior golf All Star honors with the chance to compete in the national finals.

"Our western Oklahoma team last year was just two matches from going to the finals," Hager said. "We love seeing our kids compete and have fun."

For more information on junior golf at the Trails, visit [www.trailsgolf.com](http://www.trailsgolf.com) or call the club's pro shop at 364-3790. - BSM



Home of the  
"Original"  
Sooner Swirl



6 point Lionshead Beer \$1.99 All Day Every Day  
Beer & Liquor specials & \$2.99 shots  
Check out our web site for other specials

Corner of Boyd & Classen • 329-3330  
[www.themont.com](http://www.themont.com) • Open Daily 11am to 2am  
Full Menu Served Until Midnight - Late Night Menu Till 1am

*Get away.*  
without actually getting away.



2801 E. State Hwy 9  
Norman, OK 73071



405.447.9000

# CELEBRATE SAFELY



**VIP LIMO**

Special Occasions



Night on the Town, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Sporting Events  
Group Parties, Proms, Graduations, Wine Tours, Casino Crawls.

BOOK NOW for St. Paddy's!

★★★★★  
**ViP**  
**Limousine**  
USDOT 542712

405-752-5466  
[www.viplimo.net](http://www.viplimo.net)

## Modern Dance Arts

Ballet - Tap - Jazz - Modern - Hip Hop - Contemporary

Beginner to Advanced  
Ages 2 and up!

Over 30 Years of Excellence  
in Dance Education



[www.moderndancearts.com](http://www.moderndancearts.com) • 405.329.8982

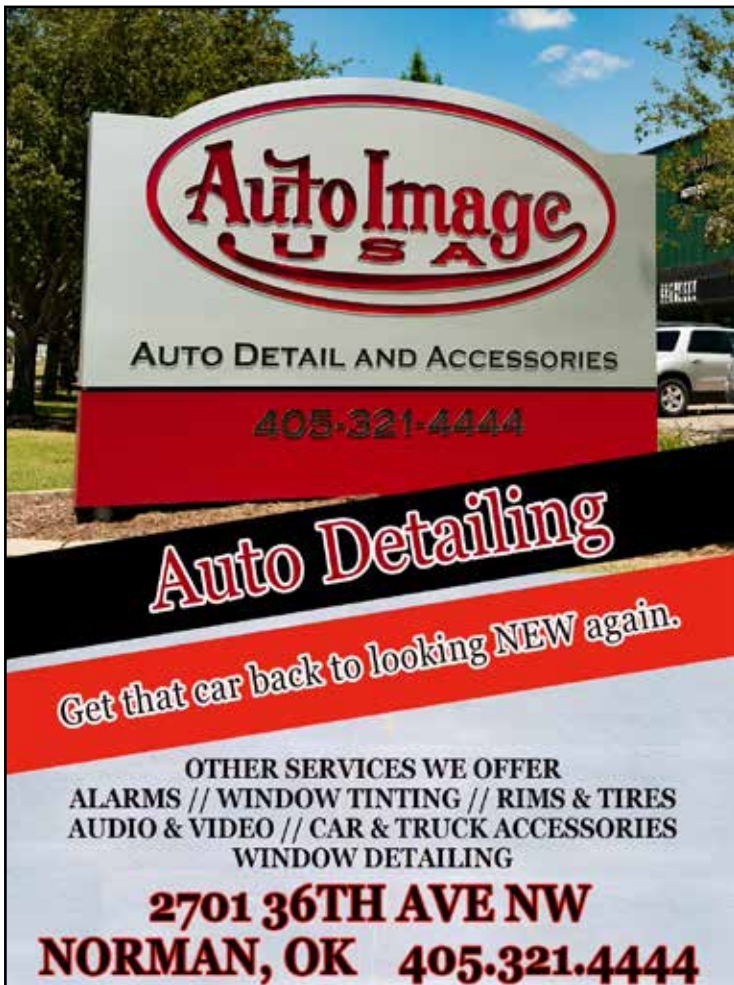
**PROVIDING TRUSTED TAX,  
ACCOUNTING AND  
BUSINESS SOLUTIONS  
FOR OVER 30 YEARS**



**Gray, Blodgett & Company, PLLC**  
**CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
AND BUSINESS ADVISORS**

**GB**  
cpas

629 24TH AVE SW NORMAN, OK 73069  
405-360-5533 [WWW.CPAGRAY.COM](http://WWW.CPAGRAY.COM)



**Auto Image**  
U S A

AUTO DETAIL AND ACCESSORIES

405.321.4444

**Auto Detailing**

Get that car back to looking **NEW** again.

OTHER SERVICES WE OFFER  
ALARMS // WINDOW TINTING // RIMS & TIRES  
AUDIO & VIDEO // CAR & TRUCK ACCESSORIES  
WINDOW DETAILING

**2701 36TH AVE NW**  
**NORMAN, OK 405.321.4444**

The *Best* in EVENT HOSTING





Weddings & Receptions  
Bridal Showers  
Business Meetings  
Business Conferences

507 E Main St  
Moore, OK 73160  
405-735-8900  
LynleeMae.com



**LYNLEE MAE**  
CHAPEL & EVENT CENTER



**PASSPORT**

**PLANNING TO TRAVEL ABROAD?**

If you're planning on leaving the country,  
then don't forget your passport.

**COME TO OU PASSPORT!**

\*Make sure you apply early

OU Passport accepts completed passport applications. It then forwards them to to U.S. Department of State, Passport Services section for an issuance determination.

**OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC**



**OKLAHOMA MEMORIAL UNION**  
900 ASP AVENUE, ROOM 127A  
NORMAN, OK 73019

405.325.3030  
OU.EDU/PASSPORT

MONDAY - FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8AM - 5PM	9AM - 3PM	1 - 4PM

# Victory Family School



## Church Establishes School, Secular Curriculum and Biblical World View

Inside Victory Family Church is a Christian-based school where everyone feels welcome, and most mornings, are greeted at the driveway by a smiling classmate.

While the curriculum is infused with Biblical teachings, the school teaches a secular-based curriculum, said Susan Kimmel, the school's head director.

Students follow a rigorous curriculum of reading and language arts, science, math, geography, history, music and physical education. They also study Latin, beginning in kindergarten, Kimmel said.

"Our Bible curriculum begins in pre-K. We want our kids to be able to stand in their faith when the time comes," she said.

The idea for a school began in 2015, as a casual conversation about education between Kimmel and Adam Starling, the head pastor at Victory Church.

Ultimately, it was established to embrace the culture of the church and to be committed to spiritual growth and academic excellence while incorporating a Biblical worldview.

Victory Family School shares classroom space with Victory Family Church at 4343 N Flood Ave.

Although there are several schools already in the Norman area, Kimmel and Starling felt that starting this school

would help satisfy a niche that had not yet been fulfilled.

Every school has its own culture, Kimmel says. There are many excellent schools in Norman and surrounding areas, but Victory Family School has created a unique culture that can meet the needs of many families in the community.

The format of Victory is a bit different from other schools in the Norman area. Each day begins with a worship-based assembly, chapel on Wednesdays and enrichment and parent-student celebrations on Fridays. Students have various responsibilities, such as serving as student greeter at the beginning of the day, or helping clean the cafeteria. Classes are capped at 15 students, and many of the grades are combined.

Kimmel says her faculty and staff is motivated, creative and highly qualified, offering a unique blend of research-based academic philosophies.

Under the program, students will not be assigned homework until sixth grade, and they spend time outdoors daily to encourage play-based learning.

Current research suggests that screen and technology time for young children should be limited, Kimmel said.

Young students should learn to think critically, develop positive social relationships with others, resolve conflicts and take part in hands-on learning activities before transitioning to screen time, she said.

Since the school's opening this past August, it has grown to more than 60 students, and is still growing. So far, the school consists of grades pre-K through fifth, but Kimmel hopes to add a new grade every year. In 2018-19, they plan to add a sixth-grade class.

"We began the enrollment process for 2018-19 about four weeks ago and have close to 30 applicants with many more calling and in the process of touring the school," Kimmel says.

Victory Family School currently employs eight teachers, who each have more than five years of experience and are all trained in science and math.

"Our teachers are committed followers of Christ and are all highly qualified," Kimmel said. "Their starting salary is more than most schools and districts in Oklahoma. We believe it's important for our teachers to feel valued – paying them a fair wage is one of those ways."

Kimmel is looking to hire at least three new teachers for the 2018-19 school year.

Victory Family Church was started by Starling and his wife, Kristy, as a vision for Norman residents to come together as a family, focus on Jesus and give back to the community.

The church is five years old and has been in its current location for three years. In that time, it has grown from 200 members to more than 3,500, making it one of the fastest growing churches in the United States, according to Starling.

In the short five years the church has been part of the Norman community, it has made a major impact through its many giving back efforts.

"We have given thousands of backpacks to kids in our



VICTORYFAMILY.CHURCH



community and tens of thousands of toys at our Christmas toy drive,” Starling said. “We just bought an SUV for a family that adopted three kids. We have a ministry that does church in the park for the homeless in our community. We also have a van that picks them up on Sundays.”

Starling is looking forward to the church’s upcoming Serve Day on April 21. On Serve Day, church members will be volunteering at several community facilities as well as hosting a barbecue for first responders in the community.

Worship at Victory Church is held every Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. For more about the church, visit [www.victoryfamily.church](http://www.victoryfamily.church).

To learn more about Victory Family School, enrollment and admissions, or to apply for a teaching position, visit [www.victoryfamily.school](http://www.victoryfamily.school) or call 310-2719. – BSM



Photo by: Emilia Hart

# MARCH MAJOR SALE



## UP TO 20% OFF!

That’s Major Improvement at Major Savings all before the first Major of the year! Contact GOLFTEC Moore and schedule a Swing Evaluation or TECFIT Club Fitting and save 20% to get started.

PROUDLY EMPLOYING



[golftec.com](http://golftec.com) | 405.225.3494 |

©2018 GOLFTEC - The PGA name, logos, and marks are a trademark of The Professional Golfers’ Association of America.

# GOLFTEC MOORE



# Oklahoma's Allergy A-Team!

405.607.4333



Amy Darter, MD



Jason Bellak, MD

# OkAllergy.com



Katie Ellis, PA-C



Rebekah Green, PA-C



Leslie Jump, APRN-CNP



L'tora Bryant,  
APRN-CNP



Jill Frost,  
PA-C

  
**OKLAHOMA INSTITUTE**  
of  
**ALLERGY ASTHMA & IMMUNOLOGY**

3261 24th Ave NW • Norman, OK 73071



Corner of Rock  
Creek & 36th  
West Norman

**405.701.8233**  
[thefallsatbrookhaven.com](http://thefallsatbrookhaven.com)

# PERFORMANCE FITNESS



**Private & Semi-Private Training**  
500 W Main St., Across from Sprouts • 405.701.3416

Your tax problems  
don't care who you are.  
But we do.



**Rod Polston**  
Founder & President



**Rachel Pappy**  
Partner



**Brenna Baggett**  
Director of Client Relations



**Whitney Craig**  
Director of Tax and Accounting



**Cami Buettner**  
IRS Enrolled Agent



**Victor Stapp**  
Attorney



**Justin Proctor**  
Vice President and Managing Attorney



**Jorge Diaz-Druel**  
Tax Manager



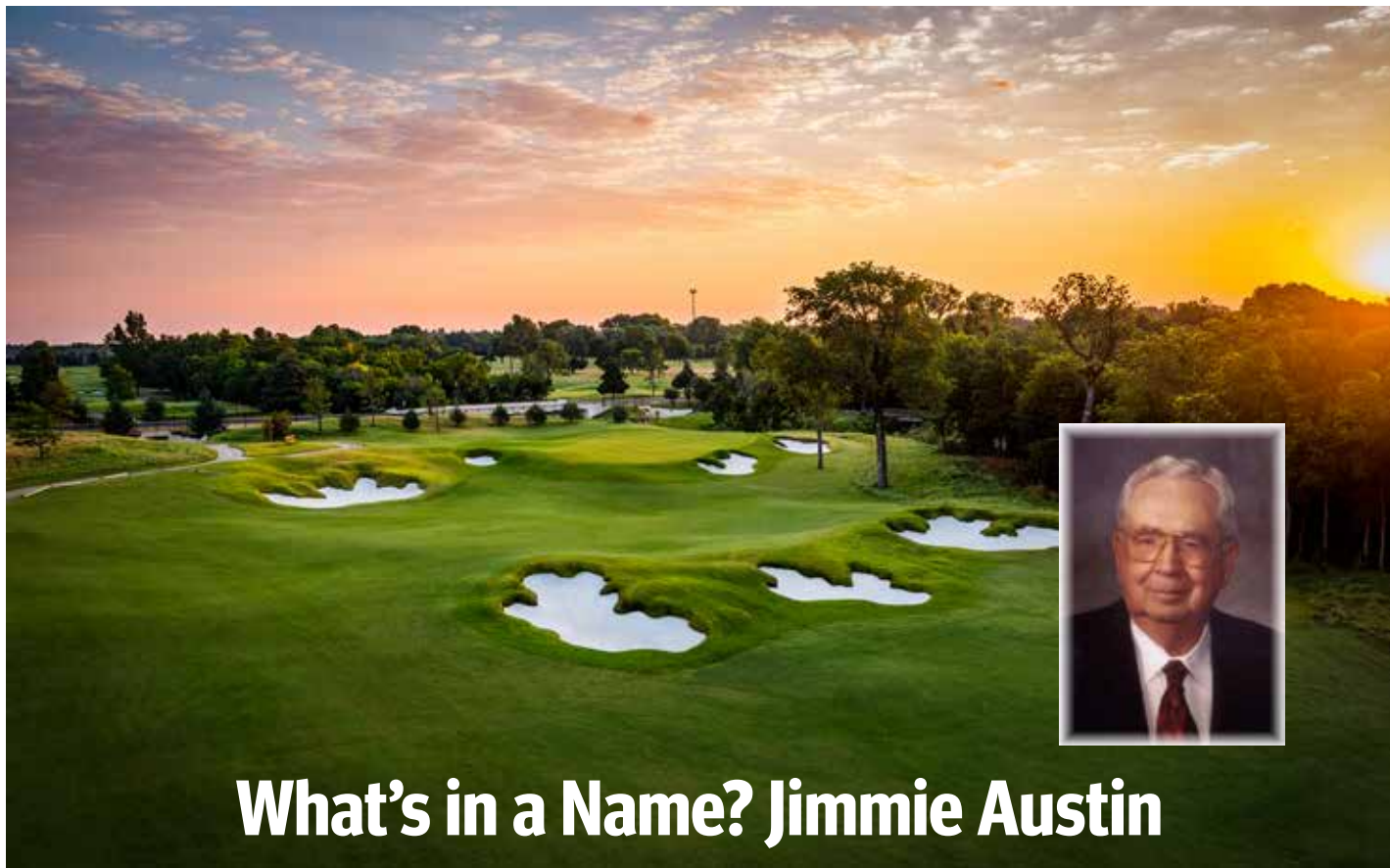
**Monica Hickman**  
Tax Consultant

Talk to the people at Polston, Oklahoma's largest tax resolution and accounting firm. We are your people – a team of over 80 attorneys, CPAs and financial analysts – fierce about helping you win back your financial freedom.



**Polston**  
Tax Resolution & Accounting

[polstontax.com](http://polstontax.com) // 405.801.2146 // 844.841.9857



## What's in a Name? Jimmie Austin

**W**ith rolling fairways and carefully manicured greens, the Jimmie Austin OU Golf Club is one of the premier golfing facilities in Oklahoma.

It has hosted numerous tournaments, including the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship in 2009 and the 2013 U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship. It also is a venue for the NCAA regional championships in both men's and women's golf. This level of excellence does not just happen; it requires years of dedication from a number of sources that may be a little surprising.

The University of Oklahoma and the sport of golf have a long history together, dating back to Bennie Owen's nine-hole course at the Duck Pond before World War II. Plans there were disrupted when the war effort came into full action, and Norman became a Navy town thanks to a training airfield that became the Norman Naval Air Station. While planes flew at "North Base," the area southeast of OU's campus became known as "South Base." It was more formally known as the Navy Air Technical Training Center, and served as a support

annex with barracks, a hospital, classrooms and recreational facilities.

After World War II ended, peacetime thoughts turned to growth at home and new developments. OU President George Lynn Cross worked with the Navy to expand South Base to help meet the university's needs, and in 1949, he announced plans to use a portion of South Base for construction of a new golf course.

Its designer was Oklahoma native and golf course architect Perry Maxwell, known for creating golf courses throughout the Great Plains and Midwest, even during the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. The OU course was completed in less than two years, opening in 1951, just one year before Maxwell's death.

Looking forward 45 years, the course was showing its age. Built during an era of lean rain, the course had little irrigation, and cracks were forming from erosion. According to Rodney Young, today's general manager and director of Club Operations, the course was long overdue for improvements in the 1990s.

It was shortly after David L. Boren arrived on campus, Young said, when the new OU president began building up the university, and that included the golf course.

Improvements can be costly, especially in the duteous crafting of a championship-level golf course. Fortunately, Boren knew just the individual to approach for a lead gift to get the ball rolling: Oklahoma oilman Jimmie Austin.

Jimmie Austin was born in 1917 in Seminole County, and at 12-years-old, he was already at work in the oilfields, driving a mule team, hauling equipment. After high school, he dedicated his career to the oilfields, eventually forming his own company and buying his own drilling rig when he was 34. It was the first of many as his business grew over 31 years, drilling an estimated 1,400 wells. In 1990, at age 73, he sold his rigs and oilfield equipment to settle into work with investments and cattle.

His sons, Paul, and, Jimmie Lynn, had been playing golf since high school, and eventually got their dad into the game, said Mark Austin, Jimmie Austin's grandson.

Mark Austin said it was later in life, but once he started playing, he took to it with a passion, and he enjoyed the friendships that formed around the game.

Grandson Guy Austin said that having a whole afternoon with another person proved to be an excellent way to learn about someone. "A business meeting might just be a few minutes, but four hours on the golf course teaches you a lot about the person you're playing with."

President Boren, also from Seminole, reached out to Jimmie Austin about improving the campus course. Jimmie Austin had contributed to the Seminole city golf course, expanding it from nine to 18 holes in 1975.

The match was a good fit since, as Mark Austin described it, his grandfather was "a big supporter and lover of the University of Oklahoma." Guy Austin noted that it was a continuation of his grandfather's dedication to helping athletics grow as he had always contributed to fundraisers and donated for uniforms.

General Manager Young said Jimmie Austin was proud to make the lead gift for improvements to the course.

"He wanted to be part of something big, and it was. They raised, I believe, \$67 million, altogether."

Renovations to the course began in 1996 under the direction of famed golf course architect Bob Cupp. Cupp delicately

balanced the history of Maxwell's design from five decades before, while updating the features for improved play and logistics. Soon, golf at OU was grander than ever.

"It's here for the university golf teams and the community," said Young, a certified PGA professional. "We work to keep our green fees reasonable to everyone, and we open our golf academy to the public."

Jimmie Austin passed away in 2007, but his namesake golf club continues to grow. A new master plan started a fresh round of renovations in 2012 with improved tees, a turf care facility and the Heatly House, an on-course restaurant for golfers to have a snack break or for diners to enjoy the view while they eat. Those were only the beginning.

"In the last four years, we've improved bunkers and added greens, moved six holes, redid the driving range and expanded the Everest Pavilion for weddings and events," Young said. "We've been busy!"

With the name of a lifetime worker, like Jimmie Austin, it seems only fitting to keep the golf course ever on the move toward bigger and better things. Yet, having eyes for the future does not mean the present is lost. Young said.

"We're always ready to have some fun and take care of our players." – **BSM**

**Veterans Discounts Available**

**Atlas Safe Rooms**

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

EF-5 TESTED EXCEEDS FEMA STANDARDS

**Why Atlas Safe Rooms?**

- Texas Tech Tested
- No Stairs
- Can't get trapped underground
- High Security External Lock
- Expandable / Relocatable
- Manufacturer Direct Pricing

**405-888-9797**  
**SOONER MALL**  
ACROSS FROM *Old Navy*

[atlassaferooms.com](http://atlassaferooms.com)

A photograph of a group of women in a gym setting, performing a workout with resistance bands. The scene is lit with a warm, orange glow. In the background, a digital scoreboard displays names and scores. The main headline is in large, bold, white letters.

# **SMARTER WORKOUT— FASTER RESULTS.**

*Our scientifically designed workout gets you leaner, stronger, fitter faster. It maximizes calorie burn while you exercise and increases your metabolism to burn calories longer. So you can be swimsuit-ready in no time.*



**WORK 1 HOUR. BURN FOR 36. • COACH-LED GROUP WORKOUT • FOR ALL FITNESS LEVELS**

**START BURNING WITH A FREE WORKOUT AT [ORANGETHEORYFITNESS.COM](http://ORANGETHEORYFITNESS.COM)\***

**OTF MOORE | 825 SW 19th Street | Moore, OK 73160 | 405.703.5259**

Orangetheory®, OTF® and other Orangetheory® marks are registered trademarks of Ultimate Fitness Group LLC. ©Copyright 2017 Ultimate Fitness Group LLC and/or its affiliates.  
\*First-time visitors and local residents only. Certain restrictions apply. \$28 minimum value. At participating studios only.

# Water • Mold • Storm



## YELLOW HOUSE ROOFING & REMEDIATION

- ROOFING
- REMODELING
- REMEDIATION
- MOLD REMOVAL
- HAIL DAMAGE
- RESIDENTIAL REMODELING
- WATER EXTRACTION
- MOLD TESTING

# 405-658-8394

YELLOWHOUSEOKLAHOMA.COM

# GROWING YOUR BUSINESS IS HARD WORK.

FFB is here to help. From treasury services to business financing, FFB's commercial banking experts are ready to partner with you. FFB will help you manage cash flow, oversee accounts through online banking, secure a business line of credit and more.



First  
Fidelity  
Bank

WE GO WHERE YOU GO.  
FFB.COM