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BOYDSTREET
MAGAZINE



Features

- 14 A Legacy in Bronze**
by Kaylee Campbell
OU artist in residence casts Oklahoma history in bronze.
- 26 A Pretty Picture**
by Roxanne Avery
Norman arts study highlights substantial economic impact.
- 36 First Ride**
by Roxanne Avery
Motorcycle club fulfills child's dream with surprise visit.
- 40 Center of Attention**
by Jeff Provine
Barry Switzer Center expansion adds more luster to storied program.
- 57 Love on a Leash**
by Chip Minty
Norman veterinarian finds healing power in unlikely place.
- 84 Feeding the Hungry**
by Chip Minty
McFarlin mobile food pantry takes hunger fight to the streets.

- 08 Visit Norman**
by Stefanie Brickman
- 10 Service Spotlight: Detective Derrick Hopkins**
by Marla Freeman
- 18 Service Spotlight: Sergeant Chad Hacker**
by Catherine Poslusny
- 22 Boyd Street Teacher Features**
by Kaylee Campbell
- 44 Strong Performance - Bennie Wylie**
by Chris Plank
- 49 5 Tips for Raising Secure and Unspoiled Kids**
by Shannon Hudzinski
- 53 Eight Things NOT To Do When Selling Your Home**
by Steve Morren
- 67 Wine Time & Tops**
by Kathy Hallren
- 71 A Watchful Eye - Water Safety Tips**
by Lindsay Cuomo

- 62 Goat Tee**
by Tegan Burkhard
- 74 More Bank for Your Buck - RCB Bank**
by Chelsey Kraft
- 80 Schooling Spaces - Campus Lodge**
by Lindsay Cuomo

6 IN JULY

Go to VisitNorman.com for more!

6 things to do in Norman in July



July 1, 15 & 29

SUMMER BREEZE CONCERT SERIES
Lions Park @ 7:30 p.m.
Three July Summer Breeze performances! Brandy Zdan starts on the 1st while The Mulligan Brothers play on the 15th and Caleb McGee and the Underdogs finish up on the 29th.



July 4

NORMAN DAY CELEBRATION
Reaves Park @ 3 p.m.
The City of Norman celebrates the 4th of July each year with a variety of live bands, food booths, baby crawl contest, moon bounces, pony rides and much more. The fireworks begin at 9:45 p.m.



July 7

BEATS AND BITES
Riverwind Casino @ 6 p.m.
Riverwind Casino presents Beats and Bites at 6 p.m. Featuring a food truck festival and live music, Restless Heart will be performing live outdoors.



July 13

2ND FRIDAY ART WALK
Downtown @ 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, highlighting artists, arts organizations and businesses.



July 21, 27 & 28

GEORGE LOPEZ & DL HUGHLEY
Riverwind Casino @ 7 & 10 p.m.
Comedians George Lopez and DL Hughley will perform two shows in the Showplace Theatre at 7 and 10 p.m. July 28. Other performers include Keith Sweat on July 21 and Josh Turner on July 27.



July 23

NORMAN CONQUEST
JD McCarty Center @ 7 a.m.
The 23rd Annual Norman Conquest, presented by the Bicycle League of Norman, starts at 7 a.m. with routes of 10, 22, 46 and 64 miles. Register at www.bikereg.com.

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Service Spotlight: Detective Derrick Hopkins, Criminal Investigations Division

Popular television shows like *Law and Order* and *NCIS* make solving crimes look simple, often with unrealistic, Hollywood-exaggerated crime solving techniques. Fortunately, for the city of Norman, real heroes like Detective Derrick Hopkins with the Norman Police Department serve and protect residents with hard work, integrity and expertise to solve real crimes with real methods to keep the community safe.

Hopkins began his career with the Norman Police Department in 2006 as a patrol officer. He's been a detective for the past eight years in the criminal investigations division.

"Norman is very busy with a population of over 100,000 people," he said. "Officers are taking reports all day long. We aren't able to investigate everything, and often an officer can solve the matter themselves. The stuff that gets assigned out for investigation often takes a great deal of time, and those officers don't have time to do all the research and everything they need to put together a case."

Hopkins' primary job is to investigate major cases, with specialized training in homicides and officer-involved shootings.

"Obviously, that doesn't happen in Norman every day, luckily, which is a good thing, even though that's my specialty," he said. "I work with a wide variety of cases like larceny, burglary, robbery, things of that nature."

He said the job is mostly about problem solving. His favorite part is getting to know people through his investigations and being able to help them.

"You never know what you're going to encounter on a call out as a detec-

tive, and when you least expect it is when you truly make a difference in someone's life," Hopkins said. "Someone may have hit rock bottom and by just listening to that person, I can a lot of times identify a place that can help them with their problem. We don't have all the resources in house, but we have partnerships with places in the community. I can get them in touch with these places."

He said guiding people and giving them the assistance they need keeps him motivated to continue on the hard days.

"Sometimes, we'll get a call back a few weeks later just to say thank you or that they've gotten back on their feet," he said. "It's life changing."

Born and raised in Comanche, Hopkins said his interest in police work began as a small child.

"When I was in 6th grade we had the D.A.R.E. program at our school, and a police officer came to our classroom to talk to us," he said. "I admired the uniform, the badge and everything he stood for. I wouldn't say I knew I was going to be a police officer, but I was very interested."

In addition to his daily responsibilities as a major case detective, Hopkins is a polygraph examiner, a peer-to-peer mentor, an instructor at the Norman Police Academy, Oklahoma Highway Patrol Academy and the Citizens Police Academy, and he has received two Life-Saving Awards in his career. He is currently working through the process to become a lieutenant.

"I'm 12 years in, and still enjoying it," he said. "I love my job, and love showing up every day. I want to have a long career here. I love the community."



When he's not investigating, he volunteers at his church and likes to fish and camp with his family.

"This is a very stressful job mentally," he said. "It drains me. My family time is very precious to me. We're all on the same page, and it's good for us. It's my unwinding time."

Hopkins said the Norman Police Department's values are very important to him – integrity, accountability, mutual respect, service attitude and partnerships. He said they remind him of why he does the job.

"It's not just something that hangs on the wall and we go about our business," he said. "We strive to uphold them on a daily basis. We all have bad days, but we all have to keep ourselves in check that we uphold these values while we're doing our job."

Although it may not be Hollywood-esque, crime-show level drama, citizens of Norman are certainly fortunate to have a passionate detective like Hopkins on their side who gets to know the people he serves and protects and does what he can to better their lives.

"As a detective, I get to see things full circle. I get to know these people, help them solve their problem and see it through with them. It's a good feeling to see the end result." – **BSM**

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A photograph of two men standing in a modern kitchen. The man on the left is wearing a grey blazer over a blue shirt and is smiling while holding a large white blueprint. The man on the right is wearing a grey blazer over a light blue shirt and is also smiling. The kitchen background features white cabinets, a stainless steel microwave, an oven, a sink with a faucet, and a refrigerator.

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A Legacy in Bronze



OU Artist in Residence Casts Oklahoma History in Bronze

Whether they realized it or not, most Norman residents are familiar with Paul Moore's work.

With more than 150 commissions to his name, it's no wonder the sculptor is considered among the most prolific sculptors in America, with projects ranging from portraits to monuments.

"Most artists will do about 30 commissions in a lifetime. I've already crossed 152 commissions," Moore said, standing before a clay horse cut into pieces and mounted in his Norman studio in preparation of being molded and cast in bronze.

His work can be seen around the world in prominent museums, galleries, universities, embassies and other institutions, including the U.S. Capitol Collection, the Smithsonian, The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, and locally at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and virtually every corner of the OU campus.

As a fifth generation Oklahoman whose family tree has roots as far back as the Trail of Tears, Moore's art is just one way he has helped shape the landscape and stories of Norman and his home state.

"My big focus is on education and trying to raise funding for education; and trying to figure out how to help the artists in the state," Moore said.

Self-taught, Moore said he was just as surprised as anyone when, during the mid-1990s, University of Oklahoma President David Boren asked him to revive the university's figurative sculpting program after a 28-year hiatus.

Leaving his home in Santa Fe, N.M., Moore moved to Norman in 1997 to do just that. To date, Moore is only the second professor of figurative sculpture in OU's 129-year history.

"Since I'm locked in [the studio] all the time, I don't really think about how I affect other things," Moore said. "I do know that several of my students have gone off to be professional artists. I'm always in contact with them, and they're calling me up for advice. That's something I never had."

"I had a guy [Joe Beeler, co-founder of Cowboy Artists of America] give me

(this page) Photo by: Mark Doescher



one day of his life, which changed my life. That's the main reason why I came to OU, because that one day changed my life, and I just hope I can help other people out and give back to the art community."

In addition to helping his own students, Moore has also helped fund numerous scholarships, which have benefited student athletes, Spanish and Latino students, as well as students in the School of Art, through the sale of his sculptures.

"We did a 22-inch version of the Seed Sower which we sold. A hundred percent of the profits went into scholarship funding," Moore said. "In fact, through the sales of sculptures, (we have raised) probably close to \$400,000."

"Just recently, I did a small sculpture that we used to help promote the newly-formed Board of Visitors for the School of Art, and we were able to raise over \$50,000."

Moore recently celebrated his 21st year with the university, and in that time, he's made his mark in many ways, including scouting sites for new artwork and advising on just about everything connected to the arts such as museums, restoration and installation, among other things.

Not long after his arrival in Norman, Moore sculpted the Seed Sower, which has become one of the university's most iconic images, appearing at all three OU campuses as well as on the official seal, among other materials.

He also is the artist behind the OU seal that is displayed in the floor of the Stuart Landing in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, as well as countless statues, reliefs and busts around the Norman campus.

"Just recently, we installed the Bob Stoops sculpture and the President Boren sculpture. It's been an honor to be a part of honoring the giants of OU," Moore said.

Although Moore continues to teach at the university, he spends much of his time in his Downtown Norman studio, where he works with his two sons, Ryan and Todd.

"It's nice working with my sons," Moore said. "My youngest son [Todd] actually started working with me when he was 8. He comes in and helps out when he's not busy in the office. He's also my photographer and graphic designer, so he does a little bit of everything. And Ryan's a mold maker and the sculptor's assistant in here, and he's a great sculptor in his own right."

Moore and his son's have spent years working on a 20-year contract project to create the Oklahoma Centennial Land Run Monument, which Moore refers to as his Mount Rushmore.

"We used every trick in the book to pull it off," Moore said. "I worked at foundries in the early part of my career and taught myself enlarging. I'm glad I did that, because if I didn't have that experience, I couldn't have finished this project. Art is not instant gratification. There's a process that you have to really understand from beginning to end ... and that takes time and life experience."

"My life is sculpting," Moore said. "People ask, 'what do you do when you get home at night?' Well, you know, I lay down on ice packs and get myself going for the next day, and I normally have a sculpture at home that I'm working on. It's not a glamorous life. It's a lot of hard work. But I enjoy it."

Moore averages two to three land-run monument pieces per year. The monument sits on either side of the Bricktown Canal, south of Bass Pro in the southeast corner of Bricktown, Moore expects to have the project wrapped up in the next year, which would be one year ahead of schedule.

When complete, the monument will consist of 45 pieces, all at life-and-a-half scale, depicting the raw energy of the land run that helped settle Oklahoma Territory. It will rank as one of the largest bronze sculptures in the world. — BSM

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Service Spotlight Sergeant Chad Hacker



A lot of Norman residents might recognize Sgt. Chad Hacker from his days at Norman North High School. A coach and teacher for 10 years, Hacker had never really thought much about being a firefighter until one of his colleagues got a job at a fire station in Oklahoma City.

His friend couldn't stop raving about how great the job was, and Hacker, feeling the need for a change, couldn't help but take note. He started looking into the Norman Fire Department and has never looked back.

"I just couldn't sit behind a desk anymore. I'm not wired that way," says Hacker. "I've always been around athletics and been involved with team activities, so the fire department was right up my alley. Up here at the fire station, being around the guys for 24 hours at a time, it's like a family. We joke around and have a lot of fun, but we also know when to get serious."

Hacker has been a firefighter for eight years and a driver for almost two

years. As a driver, he's responsible for getting his crew to the scene of an emergency quickly and safely.

"I love being a driver," says Hacker. "It's one of the best jobs in the world. Sometimes I miss going in and fighting fires with the rest of my crew, but it's rewarding to see a bigger picture of the fire service in action."

In his job as a driver, Hacker's responsible for making sure that the firefighters get the water they need to put the fire out. At the scene, the driver of the first fire engine to arrive starts pumping water from the truck. The driver of the second engine stops at the nearest fire hydrant, ready to lay the hose and get more water to the scene of the fire.

The 500 to 750 gallons of water stored on each engine are typically used before the team connects the hose to a fire hydrant. That may seem like a lot, but with the high-water pressure needed to put out a fire, that large amount of water only lasts a few minutes.



"Firefighting is a rush of adrenaline like you've never experienced before. It's dangerous, but it's a calculated risk," Hacker says. "The department trains us very well to go in and make sure that we take care of ourselves while we're taking care of others."

After the fire is under control, Hacker is free to focus on the next part of his job — helping the survivors. "When we go out, we're seeing people on the very worst days of their lives," says Hacker. "I enjoy talking to people, so it's important to me to try to be a positive light in somebody's day. It can be challenging at times, but it's so rewarding."

Hacker lives in Goldsby with his wife, Denee, and two daughters — Camryn, 9, and Landry, 6. — **BSM**

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Boyd Street Teacher Features

Sally Salmons

First-grade teacher Sally Salmons got her start in teaching 15 years ago as a student teacher at Norman's Washington Elementary School, and she's been there ever since. Salmons comes from a family of Oklahoma educators, and she grew up valuing public education.

But it's reading that really excites her. In fact, Salmons chose to teach first grade because it's a special time in children's early education, when they learn to read and can truly take off in their development.

Tammy McGuire

Although her grandmother was a teacher and her mother worked for a school, Tammy McGuire didn't set out to follow in their footsteps. In fact, it was the birth of her son and a desire to make a difference for him and other kids that inspired her to teach.

Now, McGuire has 22 years of teaching under her belt, the last five of those years have been spent as a librarian at Norman's Wilson Elementary School.

In addition to teaching, McGuire serves as a crossing guard, and she makes a point of asking the students if they had a good day. One day, a third-grade boy respond-

ed by saying, "You know that I did, because I came to library today!"

"My first group of kids just graduated college," Salmons said. "To see it come full circle has been great. I've been able to have multiple siblings come through and been able to build relationships with families."

"The recent walkout reignited my passion to do right by these kids. I got into lobbying and joined the committee," Salmons said. "Norman parents were so supportive. It's nice to remember how much they care." – **BSM**



ed by saying, "You know that I did, because I came to library today!"

"I was just supposed to know that he enjoyed coming to library, and that that was a highlight of his day," McGuire said with a smile.

McGuire also recalled a recent encounter when she was asking students what kinds of waves they knew about. She said she was surprised when the kids responded with "light waves and sound waves."

"I love when kids surprise me with knowledge I don't know they have, or when they teach me something," McGuire said. – **BSM**



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A Pretty Picture

Norman Arts Study Highlights Substantial Economic Impact

The arts have a tremendous economic impact on the Norman community, and thanks to a recent study, the Norman Arts Council learned some interesting and unexpected details about that impact.

For instance, the amount of money people spend in the community when they come to an arts event is more than \$44 million annually, an impressive number considering the national average is \$19 million.

The compiled report, the Arts & Economic Prosperity 5, is a project of Americans for the Arts in Washington D.C., a national arts advocacy organization that advocates for public funding for the arts, particularly for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Erinn Gavaghan, executive director for the Norman Arts Council, has been involved with Americans for the Arts as well as Oklahomans for the Arts for several years.

"We partnered with them to participate in the study," Gavaghan said. "There were 341 study regions that participated across the nation. Oklahomans for the Arts partnered with Norman along with Greater Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Guthrie, Ponca City and Alva."

The study looked at two things: the impact of audiences on the economy and the impact of the organizations on the economy.

"In Norman, we had 24 of our arts organizations participate by conducting audience surveys at their events and provide their own financial data to the study," Gavaghan said. "What the study set out to do, and what it did very well, was to change the dialog about arts from that of a charity to that of an industry. An industry that employs people, promotes tourism and has an



economic impact on our communities." Between audiences and organizational spending, the arts industry in Norman had an economic impact of more than \$56 million, placing Norman well above the national medium on the impact in its community. The national medium is less than \$36 million annually.

In organizational spending in Norman, Gavaghan said she also learned art organizations spend a little less in Norman than the national average.

"We are very fiscally responsible in this community. We do a lot more because we are generating a huge economic impact with our programs, but we are doing it on a lower budget than the national average," she said.

The study also looked at job creation and found the arts industry supports 1,500 full-time equivalent jobs in Norman and directly employs more than 600 people full-time.

There's also government revenue coming out of the arts industry.

"We are contributing to our local government through tax collection to the tune of \$1.8 million annually," Gavaghan said. "What's interesting is that the Norman Arts Council is mostly publicly funded between the City of Norman and the State Arts Council, which makes up about 60 percent of our budget."

"In the year of this study, we received \$425,000 from the City of Norman through the arts portion of the hotel tax. We use that money to re-grant out to the other arts organizations in the community. For every dollar that the city put into the arts, the city received \$4.36 back."

The average spending at an arts event is \$44.21 per person, a really impressive number for a variety of reasons. Not in-

cluding event admission, this number takes into account transportation, a bar tab, meals, souvenirs, lodging, a new outfit, money paid to a babysitter, etc.

"What's really cool about that number is people who attend arts events in Norman spend more on average than any community except Oklahoma City, but only \$1.19 less," Gavaghan said. "We are \$5 more than the state average and \$7 more than what audiences spend in Tulsa."

The bottom line is that more than one million people are enjoying the arts in Norman, and they are spending money here at levels, which Gavaghan said, are pleasantly surprising.

"When you say Norman people often immediately think OU football is the biggest draw, when in fact, the annual arts audience is twice as big as the annual attendance at football games," she said.

Organizations were also asked about how many people volunteer for them and while volunteers don't have a direct economic impact in the community, they have a huge impact on the organizations themselves. In the fiscal year of 2015, there were 1,736 volunteers who worked nearly 56,000 hours for the year.

A national nonprofit advocacy organization called The Independent Sector attached a monetary value of \$23.56 to each volunteer hour in 2015. So, for all the people who volunteered for the arts in Norman, there was a \$1.3 million savings to the organizations.

"That's why we always thank our volunteers," Gavaghan said. "We talked about how our organizations work on very lean budgets. This is why our relationship with our volunteers is important and special to us." — **BSM**

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NORMANITE IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Zac Selmon

If you follow football at all, chances are you've heard of the Selmons. The family's impressive history with both Sooner football and the NFL is enough to make any outsider think that the Selmons probably live and breathe sports. All it takes is a few minutes of talking with University of Oklahoma Senior Athletics Director Zac Selmon to see that the real legacy of his family is built on the impact that they've made off the field.

Selmon credits his parents for instilling in him and his sisters the importance of servant leadership. A year before he was born, his mother, Kath-

ryn, started the nonprofit Food and Shelter for Friends. The Selmons had just moved back to Oklahoma and Kathryn was struck by the number of people in need around their neighborhood. Without a second thought, she started organizing the fundraiser that launched Food and Shelter for Friends. The organization, now simply called Food and Shelter, has served the Norman community for more than 30 years.

Selmon's dad, Dewey, and his two uncles, Lucious and Lee Roy, were defensive linemen for the Sooners in the 1970s before going to play profes-

sional football. His dad and uncles left a trail of athletic excellence wherever they went, but Selmon says that they were never as concerned with helping him improve athletically as they were with helping him grow up to be a good person.

"Of course, we love sports," says Selmon, "but I think what defines our family is the impact that we make on others, the time we spend with each other, and the love that we have for each other."

Selmon, however, is quick to admit that sports have been a part of his life for as long as he can remember. Growing up, he looked up to his older sisters, Shannon and Lauren, who were avid basketball players. Selmon remembers recognizing not only their athletic achievements, but also the impact that sports had on their lives.

"I wanted to be like my sisters. I saw how much they grew while playing basketball," he says. "Team sports can teach so many life lessons, whether it's about respect, working together, learning from failure or overcoming challenges. I was really drawn to that aspect of sports from an early age."

Selmon proudly displays his uncle Lee Roy's football jersey on one of the walls of his office. After playing football for OU, Lee Roy Selmon was the first pick in the 1976 NFL draft, to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"Lee Roy was a huge reason why I got into college athletics. Seeing how he carried himself every day was very inspiring. He taught me so many valuable life lessons. I put his jersey in my office, so it could remind me every day of why I'm in the business."

After playing basketball and football at Norman High School, Selmon moved to Winston-Salem, North Carolina to be a part of Wake Forest University's Demon Deacons football team. He graduated with a degree in religion and international studies in 2007. After he came back to Oklahoma, Selmon started working with the Sooner athletics program while getting his master's degree in education from OU.

"It's really fun for me to come to work at the university, knowing what everybody has put into this program — not only my family, but all of the great players that came through here."

In Selmon's current position as senior athletics director for administration and development, he's part of the strategic planning for the university. He also oversees fundraising efforts and heads up the college's cross country and track programs.

"As a university, we're in a position to lead the NCAA on a national level," he says. "We're able to have great dialogue and generate the resources to give our kids some great opportunities."

One of Selmon's main focuses outside of work is the Shine Foundation, a non-profit organization that he co-founded with his sister, Shannon. The idea for the Shine Foundation started when Selmon's older sister, Lauren, went on a humanitarian trip to Liberia, West Africa. At that time, Liberia had just been through a civil war.

During her time there, Lauren did some work at an orphanage called Rainbow Town, where one woman was doing her best to care for more than a hundred kids that had been orphaned during the war. When it came time to leave, Lauren had bonded with one of the children so much that her parents agreed to adopt the child, sight unseen.

Selmon soon followed in his sister's footsteps, first visiting Liberia when he was still a student at Wake Forest.

"The first time I went there, I was struck by seeing a country that had been through a horrific civil war, but through that you could see the beauty of the country and the strength and beauty of the people."

When a reporter wrote a story about the Selmon family for The Oklahoman, people started sending in checks to help the children of Rainbow Town. With that money, Selmon and Shannon started the Shine Foundation. The organization has many active projects in Liberia, including medical missions,

adult literacy programs and sending financial support to the orphanage.

To learn more about the Shine Foundation and get involved, visit shinefoundation.org.

Selmon lives in Norman with his wife, Rachel, and two daughters — Shayne, 7, and Rylee (who goes by "Meatball") 3. Shayne is already following in her grandmother's philanthropic footsteps. After her grandma taught her how to make soap as a fun craft, Shayne quickly saw the potential to use her creativity to help others. She started Shayne's Hope with a dream of "washing away" homelessness, child hunger and sickness. Her goal is to give away \$100,000 by the time she graduates from elementary school and she's already well on her way.

Selmon couldn't be prouder.

"Throughout all of our journeys, it's all about spending time with the people that you love and figuring out how you can make a positive impact on other people." — **BSM**

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First Ride

Motorcycle Club Fulfills Child's Dream with Surprise Visit

Although 9-year-old Ryan Scroggin will never be able to ride a bicycle, she is able to ride a motorcycle and thanks to The Horsemen Motorcycle Club, she recently fulfilled one of her dreams and went on her first ride.

Ryan told her mom when she grows up she wants to be in a motorcycle club and “get me a motorcycle.” She continued, “it would be perfect for me because my knees don’t bend, so I could ride one.” Her mom, Keke Farrar shared her idea on a Facebook post.

Ryan lives in Norman and has arthrogryposis, a rare and debilitating bone and joint disorder. She has had eight surgeries and will likely need more. When she wakes up every morning her back and ankles hurt, and her mom has to hold her up to take her into the bathroom to brush her teeth.

Smoke, a member of the Horsemen MC, said Farrar’s Facebook post caught the club’s attention and they organized Ryan’s surprise ride.

“Those of us who were free that day, along with another ride club, the #1 Stunnas, and some independent riders who heard about it, went over to Ryan’s house to share the love.”

Smoke said motorcycle clubs take particularly good care of sick kids and kids with disabilities. “If anyone puts something together for these types of kids, we are going to participate,” he said.

And all types of people show up. “It doesn’t matter what patch they wear



or if they wear a patch at all. We always have a soft spot for these kids,” Smoke said.

Ryan heard the motorcycles coming before she could see them, and she knew they were on their way especially for her. She became an honorary member of the club, and got her own “cut,” which is the black vest motorcyclists wear, signifying their club. She was also given shirts from other clubs.

The visit began with Ryan taking her pick of the bike she wanted to ride.

The first bike Ryan picked was the slingshot, an open-air three-wheel motorcycle roadster. After that ride,

she walked up and down the bikes and saw a shiny black and white Harley Davidson owned by “Tank.” She wanted to ride that one too.

Fellow Horsemen brother, “Radar,” helped her with her helmet and to hop on the bike.

“We took off and she put her helmet in the middle of my back and that’s where she stayed,” Tank recalled. “She never acted afraid; in fact, she acted like she’d been riding forever. She was grinning from ear to ear when she pulled her helmet off.”

Before the motorcyclists left Ryan’s home, she extended her hand to Tank. “I told her I don’t shake hands and

gave her a big hug," he said. He told her if she ever wanted to go on a ride again, her mom has his phone number.

The primary focus of The Horsemen MC's mission is mostly about riding for veterans.

"In a nutshell, what we do is travel to a different nursing home throughout Oklahoma once a month. Each chapter goes to a different one and spends time with veterans," Smoke said.

"We present veterans with a certificate that's similar to any award certificate in the military," Smoke explained. "We also present them with a printed picture of the seal of the branch of their service in a frame."

Smoke said Vietnam veterans never heard the words, "Thank you for your service".

"We are not a veterans' club but a lot of us are veterans – so that's our main focus," he said. "We have a chapter in Moore and Chickasha and split up to cover the whole state. I'd love to see us with chapters all over Oklahoma, so

we can cover more areas each month."

It has taken awhile to get around the whole state, but slowly The Horsemen MC are making progress. The club also takes on additional projects like Ryan's when they are able.

"There's some stuff we don't like to do but we need to," Smoke said.

About a week after Ryan's ride, The Horsemen MC rode in a funeral for a little four-year-old boy who passed away. Kylier Phillips, also from Norman, had a story similar to Ryan's.

"He loved motorcycles and race cars," Smoke said. "His dad is in the racing community, and we led the funeral procession just to be able to give him that one final ride."

"We were absolutely honored to give him his last (ride)," Smoke said. "Tank and I have ridden side-by-side at a lot of funerals. That one was one of the hardest we've ever done.

But anytime, anything for kids, we're all for it." – **BSM**

An advertisement for Signature Custom Pools. The top half features a photograph of a family (a man, a woman, and four children) playing in a swimming pool. The text "Swimming Freedom" is overlaid in large white letters. The bottom half contains the company logo, social media icons for Houzz, Facebook, and Twitter, a "Readers Choice Winner" badge, the website "signaturecustompools.com", and the phone number "405.256.8764".

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Barry Switzer Center Expansion Adds More Luster to Storied Program

The new south end zone addition at the Gaylord Family Oklahoma Memorial Stadium added 1,800 new seats, but some of its most impressive renovations are tucked away beneath the stands.

The Barry Switzer Center is now open to visitors.

On April 24, 1999, the original Barry Switzer Center was dedicated on the site in honor of the coach who was known at the time as the winningest coach in OU football history. He had led the Sooners to 157 victories from 1973 to 1988.

The space served as the focal point of OU football preparations with training facilities, locker rooms and offices, not to mention the program's extensive trophy collection. Expansion of the stadium meant expansion of the Barry Switzer Center, which held an open house on May 5.

Visitors to the center strolled along Lindsey Street onto the new park grounds where the practice field once was. Four titans of OU coaching history stand in bronze. They include the legendary Bennie Owen, who laid the

foundations of the Oklahoma football program and served as the most years as head coach; Bud Wilkinson, whose record 47-game winning streak from 1953 to 1957 has yet to be broken; Switzer, who came out of coaching retirement after OU to head the Dallas Cowboys; and Bob Stoops, who replaced Switzer as OU's winningest coach with 190 wins upon his retirement in 2017. Each of these four coaches won more than 100 games, a record number in any college football program.

The long, polished hall of the new Barry Switzer Center greets visitors with a tidal wave of awards. Up front are the seven national championships. The football-shaped glass sparkles under the lights. Seated just below these are the Big 12 trophies. A must-do photo opportunity for visitors is the "Take a Selfie with the Sooner Trophies" kiosk. Groups can gather around the display to snap a photo with a specially mounted camera, offering filters and the ability to text the photos to their phones.

Behind the national championship

trophies, a glass-guarded shelf shows off the enormous collection of championship rings. The opposite wall is packed with display cases for the many bowl trophies OU football has assembled over the years, each unique from the bronzed-helmet trophy of the Gator Bowl to the many bowls packed with oranges.

The Barry Switzer Center is more than just a trophy case, however. Informational kiosks about all aspects of the OU football program blossom at the touch of a finger. "All-Americans" serves up photos and details of each of the 162 first-team All-Americans from the program's history, dating back to fullback Claude Reeds in 1913. "Sooners in the NFL" showcases players who have gone onto professional league play after leaving their Oklahoma roots. Visitors may also learn more about the university itself in "OU: A Complete Education" to see the busy schedules of student-athletes.

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Strong Performance

New OU Strength Coach Brings Fresh Spirit to Sooner Football



A lot has changed in the Sooner football program over the past year, including the addition of Bennie Wylie as the new director of sports performance. In his short time in charge of the strength program, Wylie has made an immediate impact with his energy, passion and charisma.

Wylie was hired in January, but his relationship with University of Oklahoma head coach Lincoln Riley began years earlier, when the OU coach was a student-athlete at Texas Tech.

So, when the call came to join the Sooners, Wylie was ready and excited.

"It has been great watching him. From a 17-year-old athlete out of Muleshoe to this point in his career, I'm proud," Wylie said. "But it's not about strength and conditioning with us, it's about helping young men grow up and get to the next point of their career. For some guys, it's the NFL, others, it's coaching, and for some it's being a fireman."

Wylie spent seven seasons at Texas Tech in addition to stops in Austin, Knoxville and a stint with the Dallas Cowboys. He replaces Jerry Schmidt, who recently left OU to take a similar post at Texas A&M.

Wylie's move to Oklahoma has not only reunited him with other familiar names like Bedenbaugh, Simmons and McNeill, but the move also has allowed him to follow in the footsteps of his mentor, long-time OU strength coach Joe Juraszek.

Juraszek gave Wylie his first strength and condition job with the Dallas Cowboys in 1999, training the likes of Emmitt Smith and Troy Aikman.

"I've known about the legacy here and what's expected. Coming in, I've seen nothing less than what I expected: great young men who have done it right, who are very respectful and are willing to do anything and everything it takes to be great, and to win at a high-level year to year."

Wylie has had an immediate impact on the Sooner football program, overhauling strength and conditioning with a focus and detailed hands-on approach, working out alongside the athletes.

"It is all about mentality. These guys have to believe in the process. You hear that term a lot, but it's true. Trust the process," Wylie said. "We have to work harder and smarter than anyone in the country. That's what it boils down to. We have to make sure our guys are the strongest, fastest and best conditioned guys in the country. We have to make sure we're dominant in every aspect of the game."

His approach is already paying off as he has helped standout wide receiver CeeDee Lamb gain a reported 11 pounds of muscle.

He has also challenged several Sooners to become better leaders both on and off the field as well as inside the weight room.

"This is where it starts. This is where you build your identity as a team," Wylie said of the off-season. "This is where you forge those leaders. This is where you build that culture."

"You played great last year, but that's not enough," Wylie said. "Kenneth (Murray), last year, he was a freshman and played great, but now we need (him) to play great and be vocal. Tre (Norwood) was a young freshman that played awesome, but I need (him) to get stronger and faster. If you're not willing to pay the price today, you don't deserve to play in that crucial moment late in the game."

At the core of everything that Wylie does, he is developing a trust between himself and his players. He is developing a trust that in the biggest moments and the hardest moments, he is always looking out for what is best for his players. However, there must also be a sense of trust within the coaching staff as well.

"That's why I felt incredible when coach Riley called. It's all about the trust," Wylie said. "I'm his extension, his voice in the off season when he can't be around. I'm all the coaches' voices. That trust and connection is unique."

That trust development can be a little more challenging between coach and player. A dedicated family man, Wylie and his wife, Jen, have three children, 12-year old twin boys and a four-year old daughter. In a lot of ways being a strength and conditioning coach can be like being a parent, Wylie said.

"There is tough love, but it's always love," Wylie says with a smile. "But there are times when I have to back you down and take care of you. I'm not going to cut any corners. I'm giving you my very best."

"He's been a good breath of fresh air for our program," Riley said. "I've been really pleased. I think he brings a great mentality here, which I think is so critical for that position. I couldn't have hired anybody better." — **BSM**



Norman Public Library East - Coming Soon



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PROSPERITY POINTS ON INVESTING IN FIREWORKS



Nothing is better than fireworks on the 4th of July! Out of seemingly nowhere, bright colors explode in the sky, dazzling everyone who sees them. Then, almost instantly, they are gone. Some investments behave a lot like fireworks. Companies or concepts capture everyone's attention, and investors are exuberant. They rush to invest only to have the vivid displays disappear in smoke through poor business decisions or changes in consumers' tastes. You can take some steps to help your investments last longer than a hot summer night.

- Don't chase the latest investing trends. Usually by the time you notice it, the trend is yesterday's news to institutional portfolio managers. Additionally, there may be risks not yet obvious to most investors.
- Don't rush into the latest technology. Do you remember Commodore computers? Wait and determine who the industry leaders will be in new technology. Those companies are more likely to perform better over a longer period of time.
- Don't feel like you need to be invested in single stocks. An index fund gives you great diversification without high fees.
- Don't hold onto a dud for too long. If an investment was a mistake, don't add more money to lower your cost basis. Although dollar cost averaging is usually great, a single stock that isn't performing well might want to be sold.

Long-term investing success rarely involves flashy, bright explosions. Create a diversified portfolio that matches your risk tolerance level. Watch your fees. Then, enjoy a family night at real fireworks knowing your money is working to help you meet your financial goals.

Be Prosperous!

Peggy

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

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5 Tips For Raising Secure And Unspoiled Kids

As a parent, you want your kids to know you can provide them with all their needs, but you also don't want to raise spoiled children who feel entitled to their every whim.

How can you achieve that? To make things easier for you, we've compiled a list of five practical pointers for helping you reach your goal.

USE AN ALLOWANCE AS A TEACHING TOOL

Studies say 89 percent of parents who give their kids an allowance require them to earn that money through chores, but it's best if allowances are not granted as a reward. Instead, use them as a teaching tool. By giving kids their own money with no strings attached, you can help them learn how to manage their money and control their spending habits.

BOOST THEIR CONFIDENCE

Peer pressure is a lifelong struggle that may be strongest during the school-age years. Help your children make the right choices by fostering a sense of worth independent of material possessions. Boost their confidence so they feel good about themselves just for who they are.

SAY NO

It is crucial that you refuse your children's requests on occasion. Everyone needs to learn how to accept a no.

Say your daughter asks for a \$200 designer jacket she doesn't need. If you give in to her begging, you may be affecting her future choices and standards in two ways:

You have diminished the value of \$200 in their eyes.

You are raising their standards to a level you – or she – may not be able to sustain.

When turning down a request, don't mention money. Instead of saying: "We can't afford that right now." Try: "You don't really need that right now."

ENCOURAGE WORK

Kids who hold down a job are getting a head start on life as an adult. Encourage your child to look for a summer job, shovel snow for neighbors in the winter and accept occasional babysitting jobs. They'll learn responsibility, develop a work ethic and they'll start to value their money more.

MODEL GRATITUDE AND GIVING

One of the most important lessons you can give your children is to appreciate what they have and to give back to others. Use every available opportunity to model these behaviors for your children.



Make gratitude a family project by having every child share a part of their day for which they're thankful at the dinner table. Or, create a "Jar of Gratitude," in which family members drop small slips of paper describing something they're grateful for, to be read aloud weekly in front of the entire family.

Do the same with giving, bringing your children along with you when you donate old clothing or food. Allow them to watch you give money to your favorite charitable causes.

By helping your children develop these habits and essential traits, you'll ward off feelings of entitlement and raise kindhearted, giving adults.

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Ask an Expert



Eight Things NOT To Do When Selling Your Home



In real estate, there are plenty of market factors that can inhibit a sale, and they have nothing to do with the homeowner. Meanwhile, there are a handful of other roadblocks that have nothing to do with the market and everything to do with the seller. Here's a list of eight things NOT to do when selling your home and some simple tips to clearing the path to a faster sale and a higher price.

1) Don't price a home based on feelings rather than data.

Pricing a home right the first time is crucial, so be sure to research comparable home sales in your area and build a pricing strategy around that.

2) Don't keep all your stuff in your house.

Too much stuff can make a space seem cramped and detract from your home's perceived value.

3) Don't fail to spruce up the place.

Invest in making your home look nice before it goes on the market. A fresh coat of paint can improve a sales price by as much as 15 percent.

4) Don't use lackluster listing photos.

Hire a professional photographer. You'll be glad you did.

5) Don't assume that if you just list it, they will come.

After listing the home, sellers and their agents must get the word out through fliers, signs, online promotions and word of mouth.

6) Don't be inflexible with viewing times.

Be accommodating, especially in the first few weeks your home is on the market. Potential buyers are excited to see the new listing. Harness their enthusiasm and let them see it right away.

7) Don't forget to be polite when rejecting lowball offers.

Don't be offended at low offers. Be nice and say no thank you. It's never wise to burn bridges.

8) Don't go it alone.

A home is the most important asset most people own. Be sure you have an experienced professional by your side to ensure your home sells quickly and for the right price.

Norman native Steve Morren has been assisting clients in property management and sales for 25 years. His experience includes residential, commercial, multi-family and investment real estate.

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Love on a Leash



Norman Veterinarian Finds Healing Power in Unlikely Place

Bullying was an issue when Norman veterinarian John Otto was a kid.

Moving from school to school every year as his dad progressed up the leadership chain of the FBI, friends were hard to come by. So, Otto leaned on his English Setter, D.C., a reliable companion and a faithful source of support.

Sister Pauline Quinn had challenges of her own while growing up in California. A frequent runaway, she faced abuse in her home, and often, her dog was the only source of support and comfort she had.

Otto and Quinn both maintained their love for dogs as they followed their paths in life. Otto went to veterinary school at Oklahoma State University, and Quinn became a Dominican Sister in the Roman Catholic Church. Their love for dogs drew them both into prison programs that use inmates to train abandoned dogs to serve people in surrounding communities.

Quinn, 75, is renowned for establishing more than 100 prison-dog programs across the United States and in several other countries. Otto, 56, has been working with the Friends for Folks program at Lexington As-

essment and Reception Center since 1997, and in 2012, Otto reached out to Quinn at her home in Green Bay, Wis., and established a friendship.

Through that friendship, Otto says, he realized how much his work with the inmates and the dogs at Lexington had changed his life.

Quinn started the first known prison dog program at the Washington State Correctional Center for Women in 1981. The program was a way of helping inmates overcome the emotional trauma of being in prison as well as trauma experienced prior to incarceration. She remembered how a dog helped her cope with abuse at home, and she believed dogs could benefit others in the same way.

Under prison-dog programs, abandoned animals from shelters and rescue agencies are adopted by prisons and trained by inmates for a variety of purposes, ranging from companions and guides to search and rescue operations. Once their training is complete, dogs are adopted by individuals, institutions or government agencies.

The programs have many benefits. They save the lives of thousands of dogs that might otherwise be euth-

anized, and the programs are a low-cost source of trained service animals. Inmates get opportunities to serve and develop skills needed for success after they are released.

Inmates and their animals are together all day every day for up to two years, and they develop close bonds of love, friendship and affection, which have lifechanging impacts, according to Otto and Quinn.

Otto said he was reluctant to get involved in Lexington's prison-dog program at first. Growing up with a father in the FBI, he didn't have a strong desire to interact with convicted criminals.

But program founder Grant Turnwald, who was head of OSU's department of veterinarian medicine in 1997, persisted, so Otto prayed about it and finally agreed to visit the prison. Once he saw the program, he got involved.

"I've always loved animals," Otto said, "because animals were always my friends."

He didn't grow up with the same affinity for people, however, largely because of his experiences in school, being the new kid and being picked on.

But, he said his work with inmates and dogs at Lexington slowly changed him.

Otto said Sister Quinn showed him how those interactions have put people in a different light for him and how they have made him less judgmental and more empathetic. For Otto, animals have been a bridge to understanding and loving people.

For Quinn, the inmates are at the center of her ministry. The programs provide inmates with a way to heal by allowing them to give back to society, and it's a way for them to make amends for what they've done by helping people on the outside. The dogs are the tool that make all those things possible, she says.

"They're the magnets that bring people together," she says. "Prisons have lots of programs designed to help prisoners, but prisons aren't very good at bringing love into the situation. The DOC is about punishment, but they have to have love if they want healing to take place."

"The dogs are always around, in the cells and with their inmates in other areas of the prison. They bring a good feeling to institutions, she says, and sometimes, they'll even bring corrections officers and inmates together."

Otto and Quinn say there's an important bond between animals and inmates.

"If a pet doesn't trust, he won't learn, and if an inmate doesn't trust he won't learn," Otto says. "So, it's this relationship, this human-animal bond that gives an opening to love, sometimes for the first time in their lives."

The prison programs help inmates and dogs learn how to receive love and give love, and that's where the transformation takes place, Otto said.

"It's a beautiful thing. Without it, this program would not exist. It is the core and the essence of this program."

In a 2013 documentary called "The Dogs of Lexington," Otto remembers Marvin Perry, a convicted murderer, who trained several dogs, including a search-and-rescue dog named Star, which was later used to save people's lives. Because of his contributions, Gov. Brad Henry pardoned Perry in 2008, and Otto published a children's book about Perry and Star.

After Perry's release, he and Otto remained close friends until Perry died of Lou Gehrig's Disease in 2013.

Perry's journey went from a murder conviction and prison to leadership in the Friends for Folks program and a governor's pardon. It finally ended in a hospital bed at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center, Otto said.



Sister Quinn and her dog Pax meet Pope Francis.

It was an amazing journey, and it illustrates the power of the program, Otto said.

"It's what changed him, and it changed me. It made me a better person." – **BSM**



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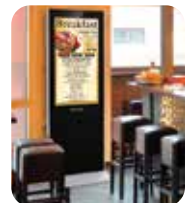
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Goat Tee

Caddy Shack Humor Leads to Unique Golf Clothing Brand, Goat Ranch Golf

When Eric Dissell, Sean Simpson and Josh Simpson get together, it's hard to know when the fun ends, and when work begins.

The three guys love golf, and they used to spend hours together at Westwood Golf Course, but they weren't always hitting tee shots. They spent a lot of time behind the counter serving burgers and beer or behind a mower, trimming the greens.

While their jobs may be different now, their close relationships haven't changed. They're now working together on a new venture, establishing Goat Ranch Golf Co., which offers a full line of golf apparel with a humorous twist.

"We're all golfers, so anytime we're golfing and something funny or something happens that we're like, 'Oh, we need to make a note of this, we're always texting each other saying, 'This would be a really good saying on a shirt,'" Sean Simpson says.

Most seasoned golfers know that the company's name is a riff on classic golf jargon. Dissell explains that while larger

courses with abundant landscaping budgets can keep pristine greens, smaller "goat ranches" have to stretch a tight budget to maintain tee boxes.

"The golf community knows what a goat ranch is," Josh Simpson says. "And they like the logo, and then they like the concept. It's kind of a novelty idea, and also a really cool hat."

Besides the inside joke embedded in the company's name, the clothing line idea itself originated as a joke between brothers Sean and Josh while they drove to a golf tournament. From there, the idea continued churning in Sean's mind, solidifying the moment he shared it with Eric, a greenskeeper by day and artist by night.

"He said, 'Man, can you do this? Can you draw this?' And I said, 'Yeah, I'll have it for you in about 20 minutes,'" Eric says.

With Eric's enthusiasm and artistic talents behind the idea, the trio decided to run full steam ahead with Goat Ranch Golf Co. Josh contributed his legal knowledge as a full-time lawyer, so the company could become official by the end of 2017, and the first hat design came out in February 2018.



Goat Ranch Golf



At first, the three co-founders made each t-shirt by hand, an arduous process that required simplified designs. Now, they are working with a local screen printer to bring their t-shirt ideas to life, as well as Norman-based collegiate apparel firm Top of the World to produce their embroidered hats.

"I think it gives us a little bit of credibility because it's like, 'Oh, this isn't some cheap one-dollar hat that they've ordered online and they've sewn on,'" Sean says. "It's a real national hat company making our stuff."

Aside from just-for-fun designs, Goat Ranch Golf Co. also sets itself apart with a more casual and affordable approach to golf apparel than the well-known, exclusive lines. Sean says their aim is to reach the everyday golf wear market, a largely untapped section of the golf clothing market.

"It's fun. It's different. You don't see a whole lot of stuff like ours around," Eric says. "And it's good for everyday wear, too."

At the moment, Eric, Sean and Josh continue pursuing their full-time jobs while devoting their spare time to Goat Ranch Golf Co. With a team of longtime friends all equally dedicated to their new pursuit, communication is easy, and bringing new ideas to fruition takes no time at all. Eric can draw new ideas during the day, and by the time Sean makes it home that night, he can create a digital file and send it off to the screen printer or Top of the World. From start to finish, t-shirts can hit the Goat Ranch Golf Co. website in a week or less.

"It's nice when you see your stuff outside," Eric says. "And for me as the artist, seeing your stuff on a hat, on a shirt, it's weird to me."



Since launching in February 2018, Goat Ranch Golf Co. has attracted attention from fans in far-reaching pockets of the country. Social media helped one Arizona golfer find this Norman-based clothing company before the team had even set up a PayPal, invoicing and shipping system. After this initial surprise customer, Goat Ranch Golf Co. has sent hats and shirts out to Kentucky and Florida, and a man from Moore remains their most loyal customer.

"My initial goal was to make 12 hats a month and have a website up by the end of the year," Sean says.

"We've kind of eclipsed that," Eric said.

Goat Ranch Golf clothing is available at the Westwood Golf Course and can be ordered online at goatranchgolfco.com.

– BSM



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By time and tops, what I really mean are labels and closures. The most commonly seen closure in the wine industry is still the natural cork, but the industry keeps seeking others, including synthetic corks, zorks, aluminum screw top, vino-locks and crown closures.

The Greeks and Romans used corks to seal barrels, amphoras and later bottles. But why replace a method with thousands of years of history? Ultimately, it comes down to money and security and each option has its advantages and disadvantages.

Corks are biodegradable, and they allow the wine to age properly. But, they are hard to remove, can taint the smell and taste and are relatively expensive, especially for high quality corks.

Synthetic corks have not been popular for several reasons. They are regarded as cheap, can be very difficult to remove and are almost impossible to reinsert into the bottle.

Zorks are a combination closure with a pull-off capsule. Zorks are very popular with consumers, but they're losing traction in the industry. Consumers like the easy open

with a satisfying pop and the fact that it can be easily used to reseal the bottle. However, expense is probably what is driving the industry away from this closure.

Vino-locks are those cute reusable glass stoppers that are easy to pull out of the bottle. The problem, however, is that they are very expensive for the winemaker.

Crown closures are more commonly known as bottle caps, like what you might see on a bottle of beer. Do they work? Yes. Are they cheap? Yes. Do they have consumer acceptance? No, even though every bottle of expensive champagne is aged under one of these caps until just before being shipped.

Screw tops are popular with many consumers, especially those who have had a bad experience with a cork. Also, screw tops allow wine to age properly. In fact, in at least one study done by a high-end French producer, screw tops perform well for at least a decade.

So, choose what you like best and what suits your life style.

Kathy

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A Watchful Eye



Dr. Kate Cook, pediatric hospitalist with Norman Regional Health System

Norman Regional Hospitalist Shares Water Safety Advice

Hot summer days are meant to be spent in the water. Whether splashing in a backyard pool, lounging in Westwood's new lazy river or skiing at Lake Thunderbird, there are a variety of ways to keep cool as Oklahoma temperatures soar.

But a fun day in the water can quickly turn tragic.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 10 people die every day from unintentional drowning and two of those people are children under the age of 14.

"Drowning is the most common cause of injury and death in young kids," said Dr. Kate Cook, a pediatric hospitalist with the Norman Regional Health System.

Perhaps even more alarming, for every child who dies from drowning, another five receive emergency care for submersion injuries that can result in permanent brain damage. As a pediatrician who specializes in taking care of kids admitted to the hospital, Cook has seen firsthand the impact of water-related injuries.

"These types of preventable injuries are so hard because of the guilt involved," Cook said.

Despite the staggering statistics, the good news is that with proper water safety practices, accidents can be prevented, and Cook says supervision is the key.

"Most accidents happen when there are lots of people at the pool and no one is watching," Cook said. "Even if your kids are good swimmers, they still need that supervision. A child who is drowning has to use all the energy they have to try to breathe, so they aren't able to call for help."

Since seconds matter, she suggests designating the important duty to one responsible adult. "This should be their sole job," Cook said. "And, someone should always be within arm's reach of nonswimming children."

There has been some scary dialog circulating about two relatively unknown conditions called dry drowning and secondary drowning. While these incidents are less common, the recent awareness of these conditions has created some cause for concern.

"Dry drowning and secondary drowning are different," Cook explained. "Dry drowning happens when water hits the vocal chords which can cause spasms, but no water actually gets into the lungs. Secondary drowning is where water does get into the lungs and irritates the lining of the lungs, causing more fluid to be produced over time."

The idea that something unseen and potentially dangerous could be happening inside a child's body makes awareness especially important. Look out for coughing, trouble breathing, irritability, excessive sleepiness and fever.

"If you notice these symptoms, it's a good idea to have your child checked out to make sure nothing gets worse," Cook said. "In fact, any child who has had a near drowning event should be checked out."

With the popularity of Oklahoma lakes and rivers, it's important to understand the additional risks that exist in natural bodies of water, including the murky waters, unpredictable landscapes under the surface and water craft.

"(Natural bodies of water) add a whole other element of danger, and injuries are more common for older kids in natural bodies of water," Cook cautioned. "Diving into water you can't see into and hitting something can cause a spinal cord injury, and there are boats and other water craft to be aware of. Kids always need to wear a life vest."

In fact, Oklahoma state law requires anyone under the age of 13 to wear an approved flotation device on vessels less than 26 feet in length, and life vest should be available for everyone on board.

Cook encourages parents to stay vigilant even as kids get to be better swimmers.

"Stay as vigilant at the end of the summer as the beginning. Even if your kids are better swimmers, they still need that supervision."

For more information about water safety and drowning prevention, visit www.cdc.gov/safekid. — **BSM**



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RCB Bank Opens New Location Packed with Customer Convenience

Customers of RCB Bank now have a third Norman location to visit for their banking needs, located at 2596 W Tecumseh Rd.

The new branch, which is more than 1,500 square feet, opened on May 7 and offers a variety of features, including a drive-thru lane. The new location is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday for the lobby and 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday for the drive-thru.

Additionally, customers have all-day banking access through instaBank and the location's Interactive Teller Machine (ITM).

The ITM is similar to an ATM and performs those standard functions, such as fund withdrawal and deposit, but it also includes the option to live video chat with a banker if assistance is needed, said Sarah Flatt, retail coordinator for the three Norman branches. The live chat feature is available between 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

From the drive-thru and lobby tellers to the ITM, convenience for customers was the key factor in the opening of

the new branch. The second RCB location in Norman is located on the second floor of a suite, making it difficult to access for some customers, Flatt said.

"This branch is so much easier for our customers to come into," she said.

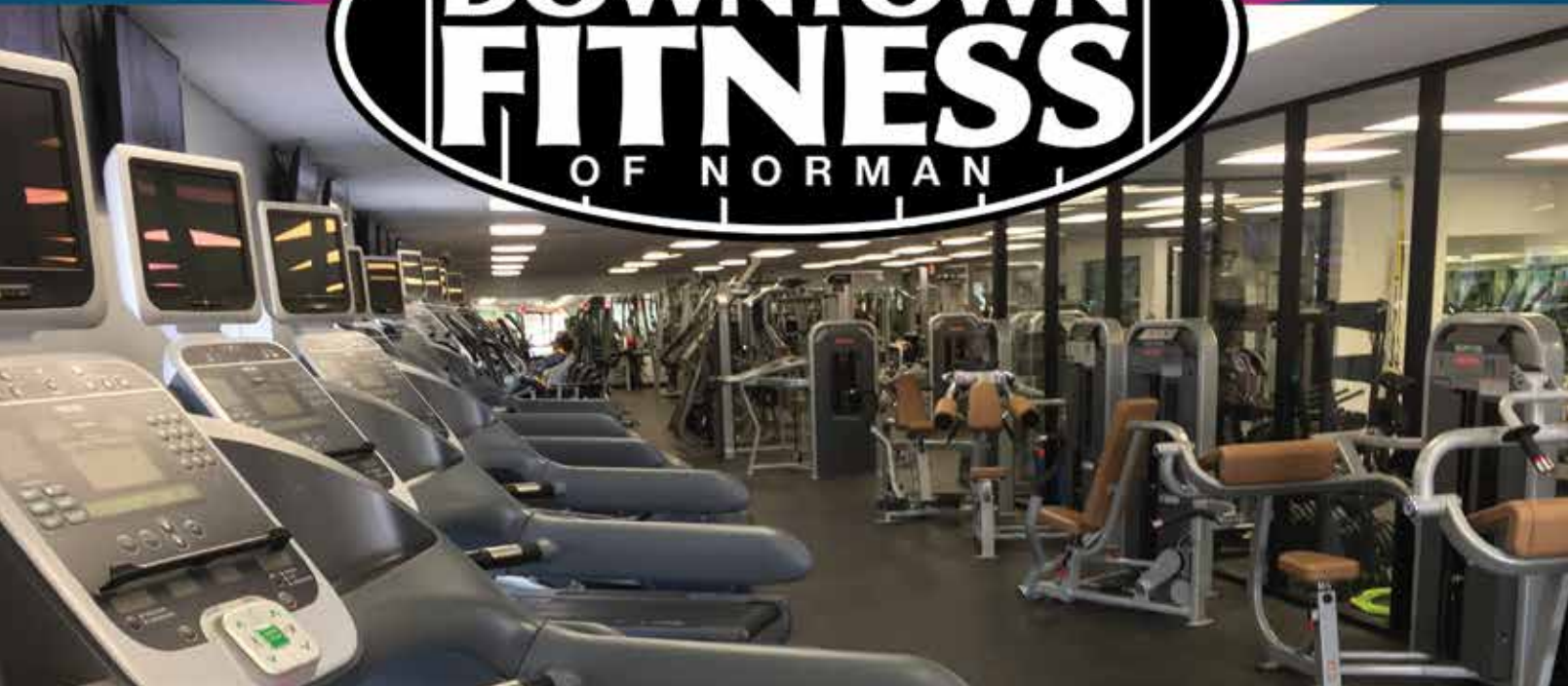
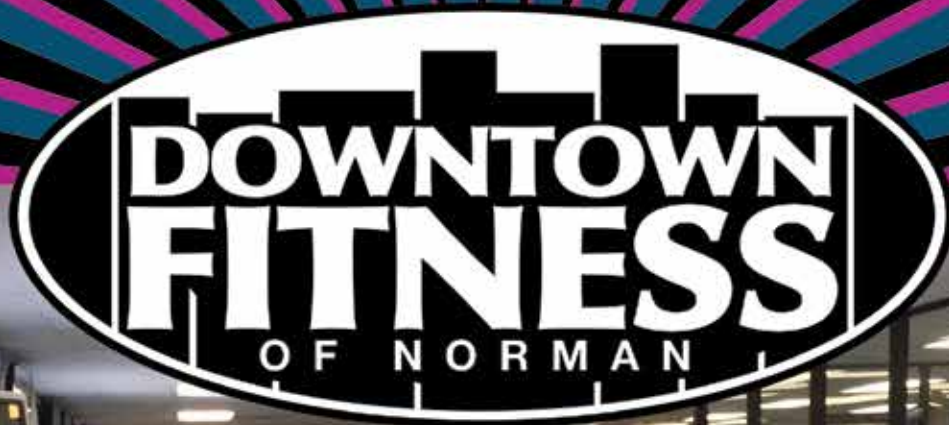
In addition to being an RCB employee, Flatt is also a customer. She said she has enjoyed the resources available, including the online banking system and optional text alerts for when her debit card is used, so she can stay updated on her account. It's a customer friendly bank, she said. RCB stands for "Relationships, Community and Boldness."

"From the standpoint of the customer, I love everyone that I've dealt with, and they are amazing people," Flatt said.

Currently, RCB Bank is running a summer consumer loan promotion, which features a 2.65 percent annual percentage rate on new and used cars, boats, RVs and utility vehicles. Financing is also included, and the promotion is available through Aug. 31. Learn more about this promotion online at RCBbank.com/LoanPromo. — **BSM**

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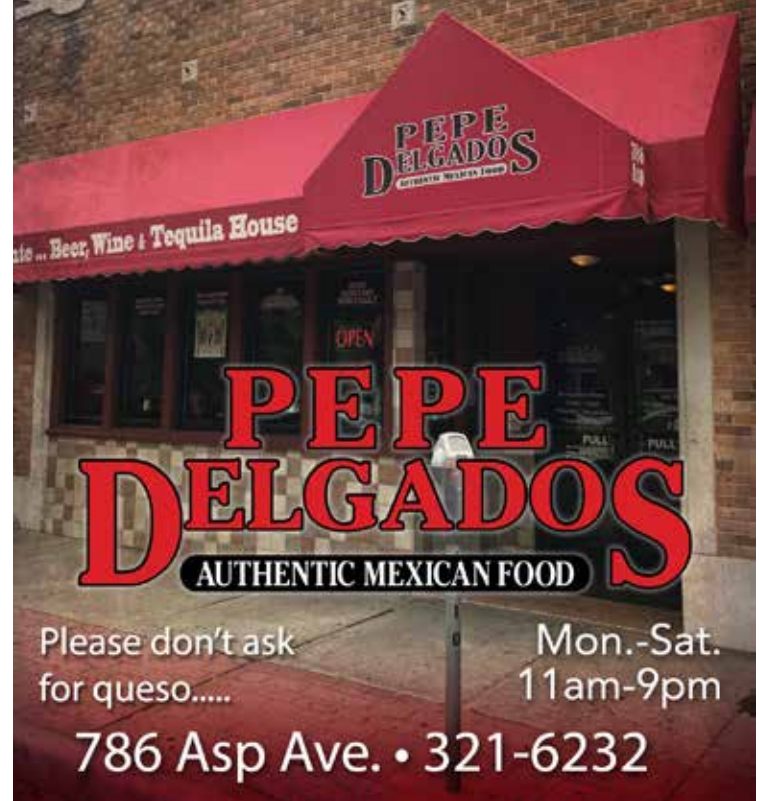
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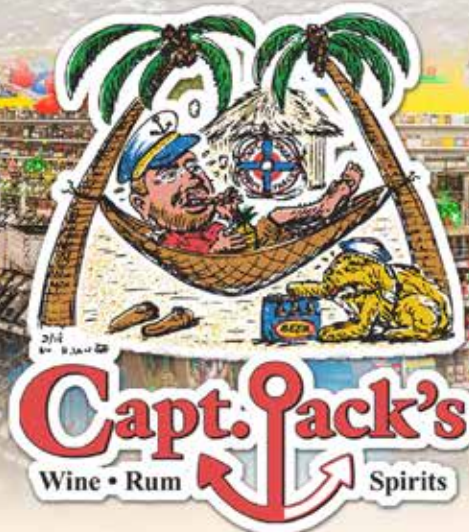


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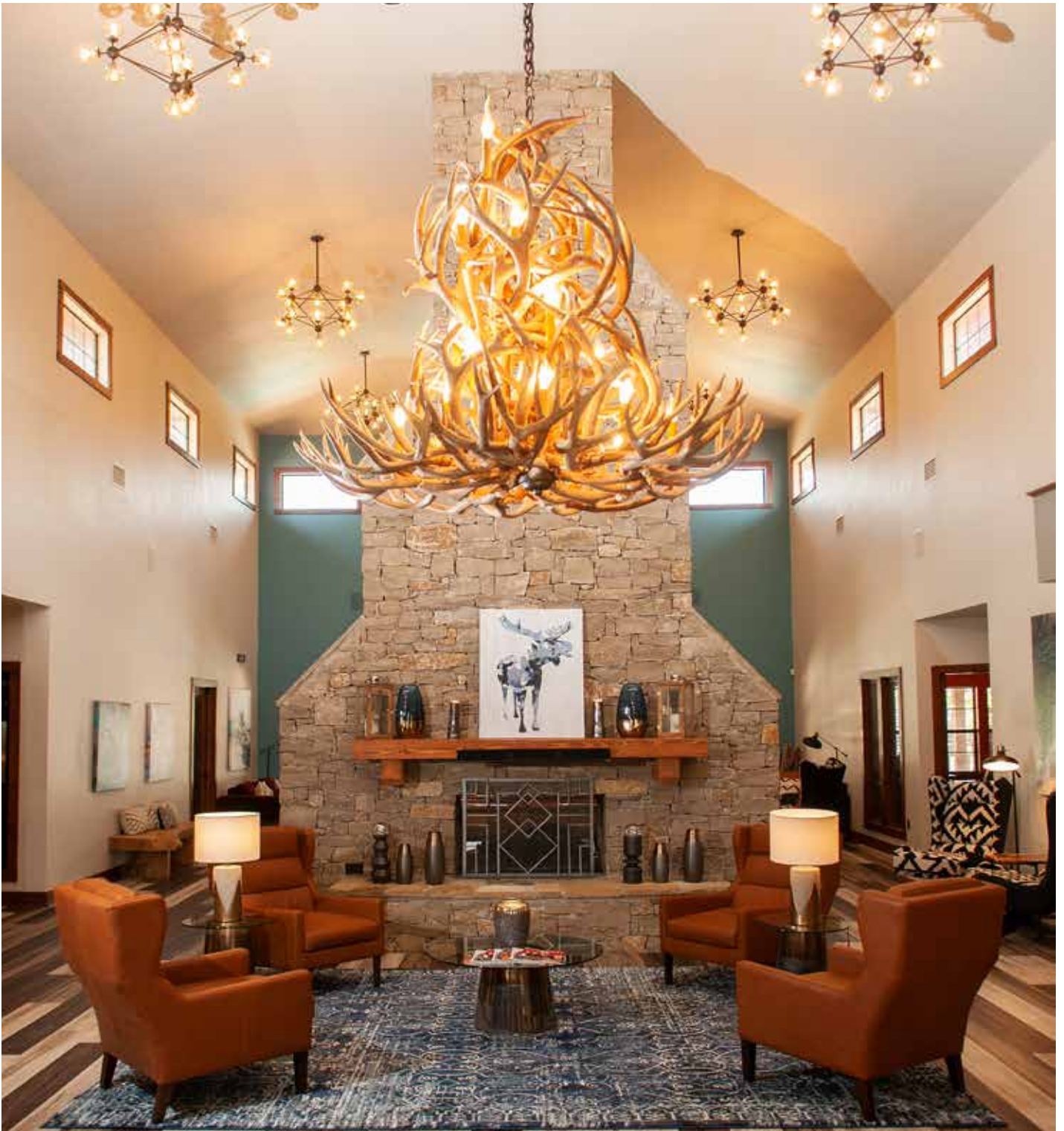
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Schooling Spaces

Campus Lodge Apartment Community Undergoes Upgrades

Photos by: Mark Doescher



Apartment living is an integral part of a college community, and OU students have a variety of complexes to choose from. Campus Lodge joined the east Norman landscape in 2004 and has been operated by The Collier Companies, one of the largest privately-owned, student-housing providers in the United States, for the past 12 years.

The Collier Company owns more than 10,000 residential units in Florida, Georgia and Oklahoma.

In an effort to maintain its high-end feel, Campus Lodge recently underwent some significant renovations, all aimed at enhancing their residences' experience.

"We're constantly doing upgrades to our community to ensure that our residents love living at Campus Lodge," said Courtney Spears, the apartment's assistant community manager in leasing.

The spacious complex underwent a property-wide paint project to freshen the original brown and orange exterior hues with a modern blue, green and grey color scheme. Each apartment got an upgrade on the inside as well.

"All the apartments now have a much more modern look with new leather-style furniture in the living room and bedrooms," Spears said. "And each got new carpet and wood-style flooring."

Additionally, the clubhouse received an extensive overhaul, with new flooring, furniture, lighting and décor.

"We wanted to give our entire clubhouse a more modern feel without losing the character," Spears said.

They also added new furniture to their resort-style swimming pool and new ping-pong and shuffleboard tables inside, amenities that compliment the other benefits of living at Campus Lodge including a poolside grill, 24-hour fitness center, study suites and an on-site CART stop.

"We offer high-end amenities at an unbelievable rate," Spears said.

Campus Lodge is currently offering leasing specials to sweeten their already competitive starting rates of \$414 a month. As the fall move-in dates are quickly approaching, these deals aren't likely to last long.

"We're almost fully leased for our fall move in," Spears said.

To learn more about Campus Lodge or to start the leasing process, visit CampusLodgeNorman.com.

"Of course, anyone is welcome to stop by in person for a tour or give us a call at 701-3500 and we can start the process that way too," Spears said.

The leasing office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

"If you sign the same day as your tour, we'll wave your \$50 application fee," Spears said. — **BSM**



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McFarlin Mobile Food Pantry Takes Hunger Fight to the Streets

They are young, old, married and single. They are unemployed, underemployed or working multiple jobs to support multiple children. They are black, white, Hispanic and Asian. Some are students while others are veterans or handicapped.

The one thing they all have in common is that they are hungry.

In Oklahoma, one in six adults and one in four children struggle with hunger, according to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.

McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church has been involved in the fight against hunger for more than 10 years, partnering with the Regional Food Bank to make food available to residents in Norman, Noble and Little Axe through its food pantry at 419 S University Blvd.

But, sometimes, food pantries staffed by volunteers open only a couple of days a week are not enough. Job schedules, limited transportation or childcare demands are some of the barriers standing between people and the extra sack of groceries they need to get them through the week.

A few years ago, McFarlin recognized the need to innovate. If the people could not come to them, the church should go to the people.

McFarlin Associate Pastor Wendi Neal said the church secured a \$41,751 grant from the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2016 and used the money

to buy a truck to deliver food to Norman neighborhoods four times a month.

McFarlin's main food pantry is only open Tuesdays and Thursdays during the workday hours. The mobile food pantry provides an opportunity for people to access food closer to their homes and after the workday ends, when schedules are more flexible.

Their food truck mission has been up and running for more than a year and a half, making rounds to neighborhood schools one evening a week, delivering paper sacks full of canned vegetables and fruit, peanut butter, pasta, rice, boxes of cereal, milk, meat and margarine.

The church acquires the food through regular deliveries from the Regional Food Bank as well as through donations from Target, Homeland and Aldi grocery stores.

Lead volunteer Richard Dennis said McFarlin's Mobile Food Pantry initiative was established through a partnership with four Norman schools. They include Adams Elementary, 817 Denison Dr.; Jackson Elementary, 520 S Wylie Rd, and Madison Elementary, 500 E James Dr. The list also includes Irving Middle School, 125 Vicksburg Ave. to serve Norman's east side.

Dennis said McFarlin volunteers pack the truck full of groceries in the late afternoon. Then, they head to one of the schools where they park from 5:30 and 7 p.m. and distribute sacks of food to a growing number of registered cli-

ents. The truck stops at Irving on the first Tuesday of each month; Jackson on the second Monday, Madison on the third Tuesday and Adams on the fourth Tuesday.

The truck is open to anyone living in Norman, Noble or Little Axe, and it is not necessary to be affiliated with one of the schools.

He said first-time clients fill out an enrollment form with their names and other contact information as well as information about the number of adults and children in their homes and household income.

The reception was slow at first, Dennis said. People didn't know what the truck was, and they wondered if the church might want something in return. However, McFarlin's partnership with the four schools has helped the program communicate with the neighborhood communities, and the list of clients has been growing.

Pastor Neal said the number of people the food truck serves has doubled since the school year began last August.

Some school sites are busier than others, Dennis said.

Jackson is the busiest, serving about 35 clients each month. Irving serves about 22 people; Adams serves about 20 and Madison serves about 10.

"We have really built up a foundation of trust with them," Dennis said. "Everyone is glad we're there and pleased with the service. They understand that we're there to help and not to proselytize or anything like that."

While there is no religious pressure, Dennis said the church is serving God through its mobile food pantry.

"Jesus told us to help the hungry and feed the poor. That's what we're doing," he said.

Faith is part of the outreach, he said. Volunteers lay "Why Jesus" pamphlets on a table for people to pick up if they're interested in learning more about Christianity. The books are printed in English, Spanish and Mandarin, Dennis said.

There are people who come and want to pray, so volunteers step aside and say a prayer with them, Dennis said. The prayers are usually about something that is going on in their lives.

"These folks are so appreciative," Dennis said. "Most of them are working poor. They're not trying to take advantage of the system. They are just trying to make it. Helping them is just really fulfilling to me," Dennis said.

McFarlin's Mobile Food Pantry is operated entirely by a corps of 65 to 70 volunteers, Dennis said. There are eight crews, doing jobs ranging from shopping at grocery stores for perishable items like milk and meats, to sackers and the delivery people who go to the sites.

They are a wonderful, dedicated group of people, Pastor Neal said.

"They are willing to be out there in the rain and the snow and the powerful Oklahoma winds because they want to be out there, and they don't want people to be without food," she said. — BSM

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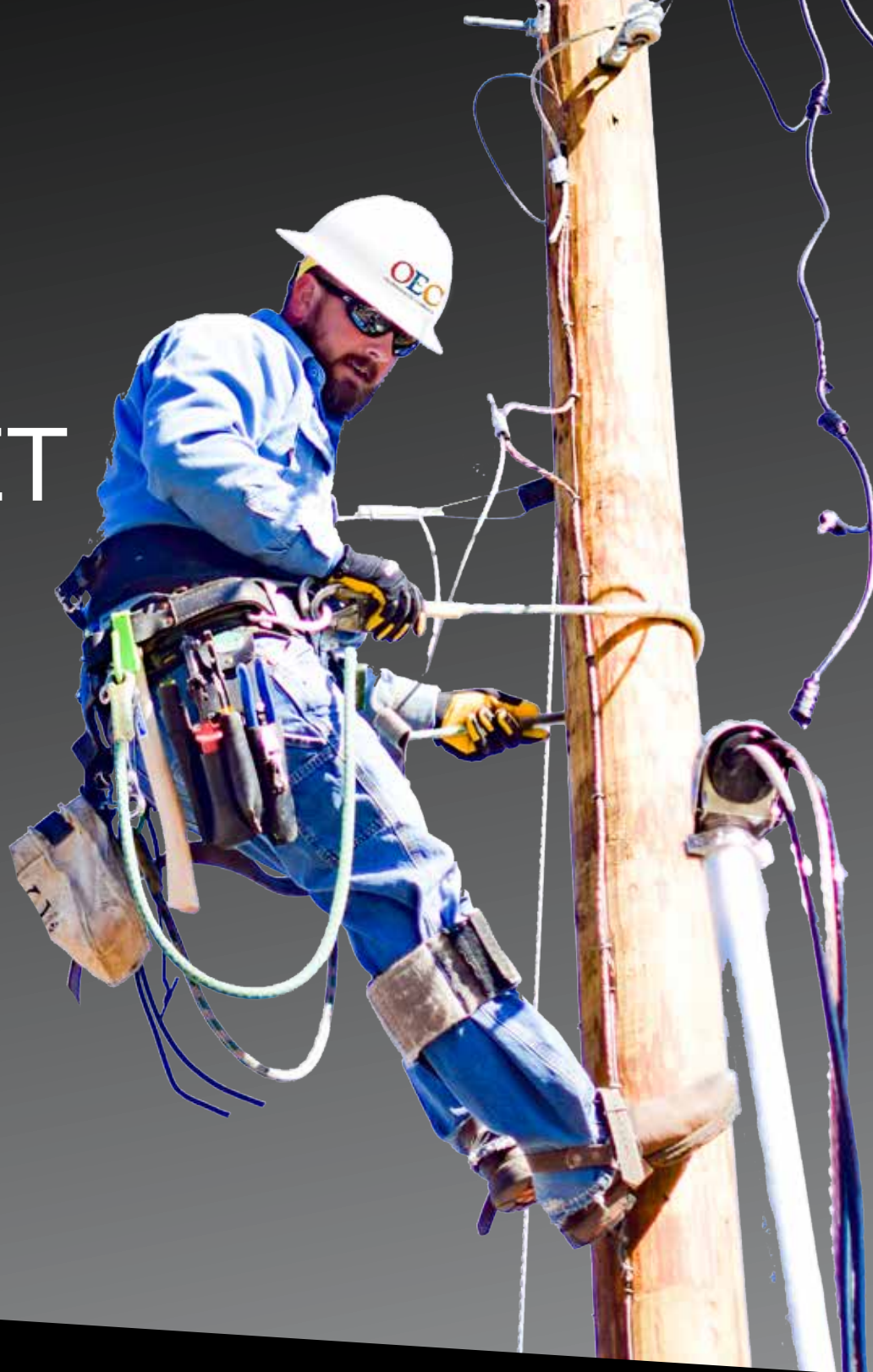
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