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6 IN OCTOBER

Go to VisitNorman.com for more!
6 things to do in Norman in October



Oct. 7

GROOVEFEST

Andrews Park @ Noon

From noon to 9 p.m., the 32nd Anniversary Groovefest will feature live music as it seeks to raise awareness of human rights through arts, music and speakers.



Oct. 13

AVIATION FESTIVAL

Max Westheimer Airport @ 9 a.m.

The 12th Annual Aviation Festival and Open House takes place at the Max Westheimer Airport from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring displays, kids corner, Sooner Flight Academy and more.



Oct. 13

OKLAHOMA WINE WALK & BREW FEST

Brookhaven Village @ 2 p.m.

Frontier Country Marketing Association hosts the 6th Annual Oklahoma Wine Walk and Brew Fest featuring Oklahoma wineries and breweries at Brookhaven Village from 2-7 p.m.



Oct. 13

MIX ON MAIN

West Main St. @ 4 p.m.

The 4th annual Mix On Main will be located on Main Street between 24th Avenue NW and Mercedes with live music, food trucks, beer and wine gardens, disco golf, braid bar, beauty tent, pop-up shops and a Stock The Bus event benefitting Norman Public Schools.



Oct. 20

NATIONAL WEATHER FESTIVAL

National Weather Center @ 10 a.m.

The family friendly annual National Weather Festival, a free, open-house style event held each fall at the National Weather Center, highlights the many weather related organizations and activities in central Oklahoma.



Oct. 27

NORMAN FALL FESTIVAL

Walker Arts District @ 6 p.m.

The 6th annual Downtown Norman Fall Fest takes place from 6-9 p.m. along Main Street. With family fun including costume contests, safe trick or treating along with inflatables, the annual event is a family favorite.

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Service Spotlight: Kathy LaMar



It's no surprise that there are a lot of things going on in the chief's office at the Norman Police Department. It may seem like chaos at times, but there is one person who manages to always keep everything in order. Meet Kathy LaMar, Chief Keith Humphrey's assistant.

By policy, all correspondence and mail come through the chief's office, and LaMar is the first to get her hands on it. This may be on-the-job injury reports, personnel orders, memorandums of understanding and much more, including nonstop phone calls. But, LaMar doesn't mind. In fact, her favorite part of the job is the people.

"I love talking to everyone that calls the office," she said. "They just want someone to listen to them and that's just what I do. I learn something new every time."

Understandably, no day is the same for LaMar. Often, she brings a to-do list in the morning and leaves without even having the chance to revisit it. While she works Monday through Friday, LaMar says leaving at five o'clock never happens.

"I'm working until I get the phone call from my husband saying, 'Seriously?'"

LaMar enjoys working to help out the office as much as possible, and, thankfully, she has a boss who supports her at all times. She said Chief Humphrey is not one to stand over and supervise her, but she always feels comfortable going to him with questions, suggestions or to seek guidance.

"It's not just when I'm at work either," she said. "Chief Humphrey is always available for me 24/7."

LaMar's history with the police department is far from short. She first became interested in the field when she met her husband, who was a police officer at the time. His stories always peaked her curiosity, and although she had been in the medical field for 20 years, she started looking for a position that would satisfy her new interest. A position for parking service officer in Norman opened at just the right time, and LaMar took the position in January 1999.

After a couple of years of writing tickets, she was promoted to administrative technician in the training office where she scheduled required training and out-of-town travel for officers and kept track of training for all commissioned officers.

Eventually, NPD Chief at the time, Phil Cotton, selected LaMar for her current position in April 2006. He retired five years later, and Humphrey kept her on board when he took over in 2011.

LaMar and her husband are originally from Oklahoma City and only moved to Norman four years ago. After her short time here, she already feels it's her forever home.

"Based on what I know about the law enforcement here, there is not another city in Oklahoma that I'd rather live in than Norman."

She said her husband, children, grandchildren and faith are most important to her. The Norman Police Department is a close second.

LaMar laughs as she talks about what retirement might look like after having such fast-paced, fulfilling days at the office every day.

"I love my job. I don't know what my life would look like without it." — **BSM**

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Making A Difference

The Boys and Girls Club is one of the organizations that receive funding from the United Way of Norman's annual campaign

United Way Drive Supports, Strengthens Norman Community

Linda Pounds is grateful for the generosity and good works she sees from the United Way of Norman.

"We have supported United Way," Pounds said about her family. "I think they are so important in the community."

Pounds also has seen firsthand how the organization helps agencies in Norman. Her son, Andrew, is involved in Among Friends, an activity center for adults with disabilities. The nonprofit is one of 28 organizations that receive funding from the United Way.

"I feel like Andrew is really fortunate to have found this place, and I'm really fortunate to have found it," Pounds said.

The United Way's annual campaign is underway, raising money to assist partner agencies. The campaign is an opportunity for residents to come together to address community needs, said Daren Wilson, president and CEO of United Way of Norman.

"When someone gives to the United Way, their money is staying local and it's given to the 28 nonprofits serving our neighbors, our families and our co-workers that may find themselves in need," Wilson said.

This year's goal is to raise \$1.9 million, and the campaign will continue through the end of the year. Funds are raised through such efforts as workplace campaigns and individual donations, Wilson said.

The money then helps programs in the community that focus on education, financial stability, health and independence, playing a pivotal role in each program's operations, said Chris Bojarski, operations director at Among Friends.

"We wouldn't be where we are today if it wasn't for United Way," Bojarski said. "United Way has allowed us to grow so much."

Among Friends started in 2003 and offers a setting for adults with special needs to meet new people, build social skills and participate in activities. Individuals pay a monthly membership at the center at 1185 E Main St.

One of the activities available is a health and wellness class. Bojarski said United Way funding helped provide for additional space for the wellness program. United Way assistance also supports other initiatives at Among Friends, such as a space for the gardening and cooking program.

Bojarski said he believes Among Friends has made a positive impact in the lives of people with disabilities by giving them a place to gain friendships and enhance life skills.

Pounds said her son loves being a member. The 26-year-old has been coming to the center since 2014.

"He fit right in," she said of her son, who has Duchenne muscular dystrophy. "They became like a second family to him. My son's life would be much less full without it," Pounds said.

The United Way campaign not only assists programs for people with special needs but also supports initiatives that aid infants, students, people who are homeless, those dealing with a natural disaster and programs for senior citizens.

Giving to the campaign creates a lasting impact for the agencies, Wilson said.

"In our drive and in our campaign, every single dollar makes a difference."

For more information about United Way programs or to donate, visit www.unitedwaynorman.org. — **BSM**

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50 Years of Wildwood

Churches in Norman are far from scarce. While it may seem there is one on every corner, few have grown their roots in town as long as Wildwood Community Church. This year marks Wildwood's 50th anniversary, and there is no denying the church has strived and achieved to make itself a staple for many, not only in the community but afar, too.

Wildwood in Norman, located at 1501 24th Ave. NE, serves its congregation through "next generation" teaching and considers it a main draw to the church.

"Children are not the church of tomorrow but the church of today," Senior Pastor Mark Robinson said. "Students and children matter."

The church determined a number of years ago that the opportunity to reach the next generation would be its priority, and they have kept the mission at its forefront since.

In 2011, Wildwood added a 20,000-square-foot facility dedicated to their children. Robinson said it's been a great space to provide the desired programming and bring children and youth closer to Christ.

"Over time, the ministry has dedicated much of its time and resources to teaching the children and youth about God's word," Robinson said.

There are a variety of programs for youth including Awana on Wednesday nights, vacation bible school in the summer, as well as programming during the worship times on Sundays. Large groups for both middle school and high school students are also held during worship times. More than 400 volunteers dedicate their time to the youth and students at Wildwood.

Norman has proved to be a unique, yet beneficial location for the church, according to Robinson. Being close to the University of Oklahoma and Tinker Air Force Base has allowed them to share their message all over the world. Robinson said he is grateful for the opportunity to impact the world.



Sr. Pastor Mark Robinson

"Being in a college town like Norman, it's one of the more dynamic places in Oklahoma," he said. "People come here from all over and then they go from here to all over."

Today, Wildwood has more than 1,100 members, serves its neighbors through a variety of community outreach programs and supports two dozen missionaries in Central America, South America, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Middle East, Robinson said.

As far-reaching as Wildwood has become, the church's origins were humble, said former senior pastor Bruce Hess, who has been serving at Wildwood for 39 years.



The church started as a small Bible study that retired missionary Dick Gerbrandt established with University of Oklahoma students at a time when the nation was torn by demonstrations and protests over the Vietnam War, civil rights, gender equality and other issues. At first, they moved from home to home, finding meeting spaces in living rooms and garages. Less than a decade later, the church purchased its current location, the former Redlands Racket Club building on 24th Ave. NE.

"We love Norman and we think our geography matters," he said. "We're here for a reason."

Robinson is honored to serve such a unique community and hopes to continue growing and sharing its mission with many more. For college students, Wildwood hosts a free lunch on Sundays and during the meal, the college pastor gives a devotional. Small groups are offered during the week as an opportunity to connect and learn, as well.

"One of the great things about being here is we can extend our message to so many people in a way we couldn't anywhere else. It is definitely one of the ways we have been able to grow over the many years."

Wildwood has been at its current location in the Hall Park neighborhood since 1985. Prior to that, the church was housed at Rock Creek Road and 12th Avenue—its original location.

To find out more about Wildwood Community Church, visit wildwoodchurch.org. — BSM



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Service Spotlight Captain Danny Attaway

When you need emergency help—whether it’s for a downed power line, a structure fire, a car accident or any other crisis you can imagine—the Norman Fire Department can be there in a matter of minutes, jumping into action to stabilize the scene and protect public health. But who does the fire department call when they need backup?

That’s where Station 7, Norman’s rescue company comes in. The rescue team is the toolbox for the fire department, explains Captain Danny Attaway. They are specially trained to respond to the low-frequency, high-risk calls that a standard engine company may not be equipped to handle. This can include everything from trench collapse to tower rescues, including tornado damage, vehicle extrication and structural collapse.

If the rescue crew is first to the scene of a fire, they’ll run the call like usual, but when they’re second or third in they act as a rapid intervention team. They assess the structure and look for every possible exit route. Then, if there’s a mayday, the team goes in to

rescue any downed firefighters. Because of their specialized job duties, everyone at Station 7 is a paramedic or advanced EMT.

Captain Danny Attaway has been with the Norman Fire Department for 12 years and has been with the rescue company for two years. Attaway grew up in Norman, in a little yellow house on Main Street, down the road from the fire station. He can remember standing near Ponca Street with his mom, watching the firefighters riding down the street on the back of the yellow fire engines. Attaway would look up at his mother and tell her, “I’m going to drive that fire truck one day.”

Now, Attaway lives in Norman with his wife, Erin, a kindergarten teacher at Adams Elementary, and their two children. “I’m actually getting to do what I wanted to do, in the town that I wanted to do it in,” he said. “I’m very lucky.”

Before he started working with the fire department, Attaway served in the United States Marine Corps for eight years. After he got out, he began working in a hospital while he

went to school to be a paramedic. He then worked with EMSSTAT as a paramedic and even had the chance to be a medic for the Norman Police Department SWAT team.

Attaway’s first assignment as a company officer was with Station 7. When faced with the task of heading up this special crew, he looked back on his days as a Marine for guidance. He also gained valuable insight from his wife’s uncle, who spent his career as a firefighter with the New York City Fire Department’s rescue company. Attaway spent every spare moment he could find training to be the leader that the rescue company needed.

“I laid all my expectations out for the people on my crew, and they have consistently exceeded them,” he said. “I’ve been very, very fortunate during my time with the fire department. Being around so many great firefighters, who take so much pride in their work, makes me excited to come to work every day. And it’s not just this squad, it’s every engine company in Norman.” – **BSM**

This is a continuation of our series on public servants in Norman.

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: FALL FESTIVITIES

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Oct. 13, 2018, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sandy River Ranch,
3500 72nd Ave, NW
www.farmgirlfair.com/

The Farm Girl Fair was dreamt up by three gals to bring you an arts and crafts experience right here on the farm. Come and enjoy tasty food, crafty venues, traditional fair activities and live music. Sandy River Ranch will serve as a maker's meet to showcase one of a kind trade and talent. Each artist is chosen from among many talented and artistic applicants where he or she will showcase their own original work. Organizers seek to pluck the most creative and distinctive DIY inspired artists that can offer unique and clever trade.

AVIATION FESTIVAL

Oct. 13, 2018, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
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1700 Lexington Drive
www.ou.edu/airport/events/festival

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Westheimer Airport featuring aircraft static displays, kids' corner, Sooner Flight Academy hands-on hangar, exhibitors, seminars, aerial displays and a food truck corral.

OKLAHOMA WINE WALK

Oct. 13, 2018, 2-7 p.m.
Brookhaven Village, 3700 W. Robinson
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www.oktourism.com/winewalk/

Frontier Country Marketing Association will host the 6th annual Oklahoma Wine Walk and Brew Fest on Saturday, October 13 in the lovely and upscale Brookhaven Village, located at 36th Avenue NW and Robinson Street in Norman.

The Oklahoma Wine Walk and Brew Fest features wineries and breweries from across the state to sample the vast selections of true Oklahoma wine and beer. Wineries, breweries and merchants will set up underneath tents in a festival-type atmosphere scattered throughout the village allowing for a leisurely walk (not a 5K!) and ample shopping.

The Oklahoma Wine Walk and Brew Fest hours are from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., to taste delicious selections from Oklahoma wineries and breweries, listen to live music from Oklahoma entertainers and browse outdoor booths featuring genuine wine collectibles and made-in-Oklahoma products.

LEGACY FEST CAR SHOW

Oct. 13, 11am-7pm
Hollywood Shopping Center

Car and Bike show benefiting Thunderbird Clubhouse.

MIX ON MAIN

Oct. 13, 2018, 4-7 p.m.
Carriage Plaza, 2001 W. Main Street
www.visitnorman.com/events/mix-on-main-1

Mix On Main presents live music, food trucks, beverages, outdoor family fun and shopping.

NATIONAL WEATHER FESTIVAL

Oct. 20, 2018, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
www.ou.edu/nwc/visit/national-weather-festival

The annual National Weather Festival, a free, open-house style event held each fall at the National Weather Center, highlights the many weather-related organizations and activities in central Oklahoma. Visitors can view the National Weather Center's premier facilities including National Weather Service forecast operation areas.



DOWNTOWN FALL FESTIVAL

Oct. 26, 2018, 6-9 p.m.
Downtown Norman
www.normanfallfest.com/

The sixth annual Downtown Norman Fall Fest takes place from 6-9 p.m. along Main Street. With family fun including costume contests, safe trick or treating along with inflatables, the annual event is a family favorite.



MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PARADE

Dec. 8, 2018, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Downtown Norman
www.normanchristmasparade.com/

The 2018 Norman Main Street Christmas Holiday Parade will feature bands, floats and horses beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 8. Set in a festive spirit complete with a variety of Christmas characters, this annual holiday parade will also feature an appearance by the man of the month, Santa Claus. The parade takes place in Downtown Norman, stretching across Main Street beginning at Pickard Ave. Awards will be presented in each of the following categories: Best overall entry, Most unique entry, Best entry featuring children, Best entry featuring dance/movement, Best use of theme, & Best entry featuring music.

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Boyd Street Teacher Features

Sarah Brewer

In her 10th year of teaching, Sarah Brewer is the Whittier Middle School teacher of the year for 2017-2018, but more importantly, she is a molder of critical thinkers and future leaders.

An eighth-grade social studies teacher, Brewer got into teaching as a way to fulfill what she believes was her obligation to serve and better the community.

"I felt that by choosing to be a teacher I could act on this belief, affecting positive change in my little corner of the world," Brewer said.

Her inspiration for teaching social studies was inspired by her own history teachers whose stories helped her develop empathy and understand how the past has shaped our current society.

"Understanding the legacies of our history helped me to realize how I am connected to the world around me while profoundly shaping my world view," Brewer said.

She goes beyond simply teaching the facts and encourages her students to

become active members of society, empowering them to take on the world ahead of them.

"I work to help students develop critical thinking skills, create opportunities to recognize and wrestle with contradictions that exist both historically and in current society, form the ability to empathize with multiple perspectives, ask questions and cultivate a sense of obligation for serving the common good," Brewer said. "With these skills, students can then be empowered to transform their own communities, a possibility that continues to inspire me as a teacher."

Brewer has joined two colleagues who teach U.S. history to begin using Socratic Seminars to help students learn how to communicate productively through listening, understanding and finding common ground.

"Socratic Seminars provide students with the opportunity to have more authentic dialogue about the content they



have learned," Brewer said. "It is amazing to see them take ownership of the conversation and hear their interesting and unique perspectives."

Although it's encouraging to see her current students develop, Brewer said the most important moments of her career have been those when she's had the chance to reconnect with past students and to learn about how they've taken what they've learned in her class and put it into practice in their own lives.

"I love hearing about the passions they have chosen to pursue and how they intend to influence the world around them," Brewer said. — **BSM**

Scott Olsen

I never intended to become a teacher. In fact, after graduation from high school, I never intended to go to college. I wanted to play music, which I did for a while," said Scott Olsen. "After several years, I went back to school and fell in love with the study of history. My plan was to get my Ph.D and become a college professor."

From one extreme to another, Olsen landed in the middle, right where he was meant to be. This year marks his 20th year teaching at-risk and alternative education students, a calling he found during his first teaching job developing an alternative high school program in California.

"It was the first year of the program and I helped build it from the ground up," Olsen said. "I realized, almost immediately, I had a passion for working with at-risk and alternative education students. The rest, as they say, is history."

In the past two decades, Olsen has had many memorable moments, but knowing that he had an impact on his students' lives is the most rewarding part of what he does.

"Being an instrumental part in helping several kids be the first in their families to graduate high school stands out," Olsen said.

As you might imagine, teaching alternative education and at-risk students has its ups and downs. For Olsen, he's helped many kids to achieve success in their lives, but he's also experienced the harsh alternative, what he calls, "the tragic moments when you see kids on the news for all the wrong reasons."

Still, it all comes back to contributing to a student's growth, the privilege of watching them find success, and knowing that he played his part. This is what keeps Olsen coming back year after year.



Olsen was named the 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year at Norman Public Schools' Dimensions Academy, an alternative education program, where he teaches 4th and 5th grade students. — **BSM**



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NORMAN BUSINESS LEGEND

Norman Business Association Honors Long-Time Journalist Andy Rieger

Norman native and long-time journalist Andy Rieger spent most of his career editing copy, writing columns or teaching classes in the University of Oklahoma's journalism school.

Though he spent most of his career on the sidelines of Norman's business community, a lifetime of community advocacy has earned him a place among Norman's great business leaders.

Sales volumes, inventories and customer traffic were not his bag. Nonetheless, the former editor of *The Norman Transcript* was an advocate to local businesses and the Norman community as whole through his ongoing engagement, civic involvement and his love for Norman.

In recognition of Rieger's contributions, the Norman Business Association has named Rieger a Norman Business Legend.

"Always ready with a friendly smile, a thoughtful perspective or a corny joke, Andy has devoted his life to serving the Norman community as a journalist, teacher, civic leader and realtor," said Jim Hess, former president of the Norman Business Association.

As Norman's oldest business association, the NBA has recognized many outstanding leaders for setting a high standard of commitment and achievement in the Norman community, Hess said.

The club honored Rieger in a recognition ceremony at The Trails Golf Club in September.

The OU graduate's career began in the 1970s on the copy desk of *The Daily Oklahoman* and *Oklahoma City Times*. He later returned to OU to attend graduate school, teach journalism courses and lead the student newspaper. In the 1990s, he was co-owner and co-publisher of a weekly newspaper in Noble, and later he became managing editor of *The Norman Transcript*. In 2010, Rieger was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

The great grandson of an 1889 Land Run settler, Rieger is a contemporary pioneer who has had a front-row view

of Norman's remarkable growth. He grew up when Norman was just a college town. The interstate system was just being built, there were no corporate manufacturing plants and telephone calls to Oklahoma City were still considered long distance.

"Much has changed over the decades, and Andy has not only witnessed it, he's been part of it," Hess said. "During his 20 years at *The Transcript*, Andy guided coverage of the people and events that helped transform Norman into Oklahoma's third-largest city."

"Meanwhile, he spent years embedded in the Norman community, serving as president of the Norman Rotary Club, the Norman Chamber of Commerce and the Norman Business Association. He also served as chair of the annual United Way of Norman fundraising campaign," Hess said.

Rieger, 62, retired from *The Norman Transcript* in 2015, but he continues to teach at OU and write a Sunday column, frequently focusing on what he knows better than most, Norman and its history.

When he's not writing, he's selling homes as a member of Rieger Realty LLC, or he's on his bike, training for his next hundred-mile ride.

"As a writer, editor, teacher and realtor, Andy has been touching Norman lives in ordinary ways for many years," Hess said. "But, his extraordinary impact on the community is what makes him a Norman Business Legend."

Rieger joins a select group of legends the NBA has honored over the years. The list in-



cludes: Real-Estate Developer Jimmy Adair; Builder Gail Armstrong; Banker Jack Black; Businessman Ed Copelin; 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.

For brief bios of each Norman Business Legend, go to: normanbusiness.com. — BSM

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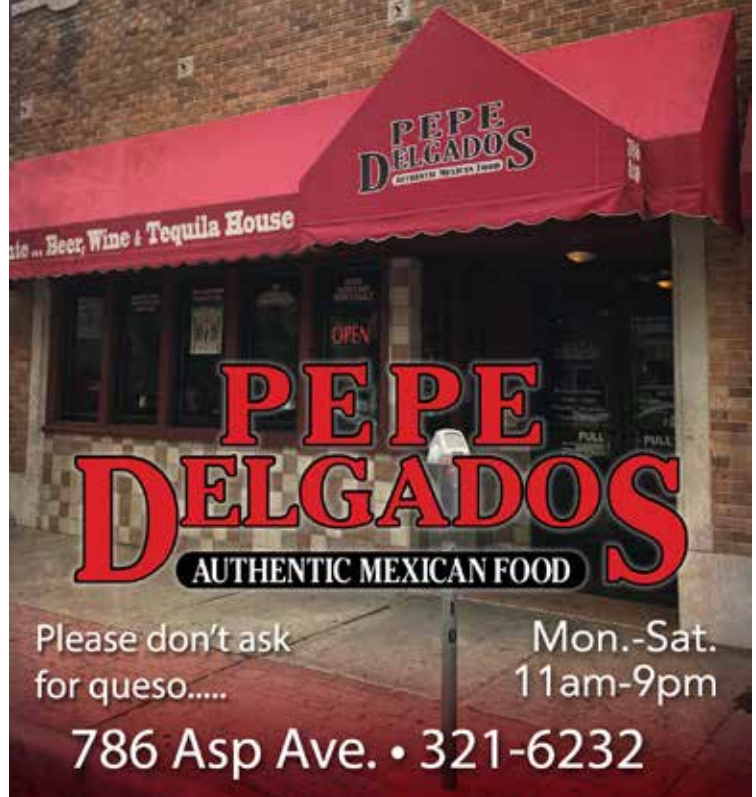
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NORMANITE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Kenny Mossman

Kenny Mossman started his professional career as an award-winning sports writer and editor for a Kansas newspaper. At the time, his job was a perfect fit. Mossman loved writing, and he thrived in the fast-paced world of sports news. However, as time went by, he started to miss one thing: being a fan.

While working as a journalist, Mossman had to remain unbiased when he discussed sports. After a couple of years, he started yearning for an opportunity to throw his full interest and support behind a single athletics program.

"As a journalist, I felt like I was touching sports, but I was still on the outside looking in," he said. "I wanted to be on the inside."

Mossman left his full-time job to go to Kansas State as a graduate student and work part-time as a graduate assistant. Within a year, he had a new job at the university as director of sports information, and, from there, his career in the world of college athletics took off.

Mossman eventually moved to Illinois State, where he served 10 years as assistant athletic director. In 2001, he moved to the University of Oklahoma to serve as the director of communications for the athletics department.

Through it all, Mossman never gave up writing. In fact, he wrote the *Oklahoma Football Vault*, published in 2008, and just finished an update focused on former OU coach Bob Stoops. The new edition of the book comes out this fall.

"Creating this book was a very fun, exciting experience. It was a real honor to be asked to write about OU football."

In his current role as senior associate athletics director for external relations, Mossman oversees areas of the athletics program that have an outward thrust, such as marketing, communications, licensing, graphic design and broadcasting. He helps manage the public face of the OU brand, and he influences the way people perceive the university.

The OU athletics department is recognized by people all over the world,

fostering a far-reaching visibility for the university while playing a significant role in people's first impression of OU. An important part of Mossman's job is making sure that that first impression is a good one.

"It's the responsibility of an athletics department to conduct itself in such a way that it represents the university accurately," he said. "We're such a focal point for attention, and we want to make sure that we're always putting our best foot forward."

The OU Sooners have had a strong brand presence through the years, and Mossman and his team work hard to maintain the brand's integrity.

"You have to hold the brand high and make sure that you protect it with everything you've got. There's been a lot of sweat equity that went into that through the years. We look to promote the brand and push it into new markets and new opportunities whenever we can," he said. "And by the same token, we make sure that we protect it from the places that might diminish it."

Mossman's love of sports started early in his childhood, and he knew at a young age that he wanted a career in the athletics industry. He attended college at Southwestern College in his hometown of Winfield, Kansas on a basketball scholarship, and though he knew that he wouldn't play past college, he still found a way to remain active in the world of sports.

"There's great value in the people who work in sports," said Mossman. "Athletics can bring together people from all different backgrounds. I think that builds a kind of mosaic in your life of appreciating other people and other elements of society. Passion for sports is the core that gets you all together, but then you end up building lasting relationships beyond that."

In his position, Mossman plays a part in the unseen mountain of careful work that goes into making each football game a genuinely enjoyable experience for fans. Most people would never imagine the level of behind-the-scenes production and organization that goes into every single game.

Right now, one of Mossman's primary focuses is figuring out how to spread the passion that people have for OU football to other areas of the athletics program. For example, OU has an incredibly successful gymnastics team but, unfortunately, that doesn't always translate into high attendance at every meet.

"Programs that achieve at a national level are still drawing

crowds that are less than what you might anticipate. Our main goal these days is to take that Sooner fan who loves OU football and make them a fan of three or four other sports as well."

In addition to his work with the athletics department, Mossman also teaches a sports public relations course in the fall and a sports revenue class in the spring.

"I love the opportunity that I've had to teach here on campus," said Mossman. "I can see why people choose it as a career pursuit. It's very rewarding. The student interaction is terrific."

He tells all of his students at the beginning of the semester that he is far from a traditional college professor. Mossman uses his courses as an opportunity to give students the practical knowledge that they will need when working in the athletics industry. By sharing his experiences with them, he teaches them what to expect from their potential careers after they graduate.

When he's not wearing one of his many hats in his jobs with the university, Mossman travels around the state for public speaking engagements with the Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He enjoys the chance to meet people all over Oklahoma and talk to students about a future in the athletics industry.

Mossman lives in Norman with his wife, Amy. They have four children. – **BSM**

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It's fall, and, in Norman, that brings plenty of activities and events. With milder weather, our wardrobes become cozier, there's pumpkin everything and prime shopping abounds as the holidays are just around the corner.

With the Sooners on a bye week Saturday, Oct. 13, there are plenty of other things to do in Norman.

"It's an event crawl," said Gina Mitchell, co-owner of Mitchell's Jewelry and a founder of Mix on Main. Multiple events will take place, including the Wine Walk & Brew Fest in Brookhaven Village from 2 to 7 p.m.; the Farm Girl Fair at the Silver River Ranch from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Mix on Main from 4-7 p.m.

"No matter what your family structure, there's something to do in Norman that day," Mitchell said.

The Main District is a shopping destination, the same as downtown Norman or Campus Corner, but businesses are just beginning to identify with that, Mitchell said.

"People love to shop local, and with so many locally-owned businesses in the Main District, there's a different level of service."

The original goal of the district is to promote shopping local. In addition to the Carriage Shopping Center, the district includes a chiropractor, retail shops, day spas, a hair salon, Sooner

Bowling, City Bites, Chick-Fil-a and many others.

"With the Main District providing a full shopping experience, a person can get a blow out at the salon, get something fabulous at one of the clothing shops, maybe check in on a barre class, shop at Occasions and get something to eat at City Bites," Mitchell said.

Mitchell refers to the area as the "sweet circle."

"I am a local business owner who only shops in Norman. I employ people who keep their money in Norman. That money is what pays for our firemen, policemen and all the things keeping our city vibrant. That's why we continuously brainstorm on how we can strengthen each other's businesses," she said.

One of the results of this partnership is the annual Mix on Main, first held in 2014. Although it rained every day the week before the first Mix on Main, the rain stopped at noon on the day of the event, and it was wildly successful, exceeding the committee's expectations.

"It was the perfect October evening," Mitchell said. "That's when we knew we could get a shopping district going in this area."

The second annual Mix on Main was more of a challenge. Attempts to plan around OU's game schedule moved the event to September.

"We did not enjoy that as much because it was hotter," Mitchell said.

This year, Mix on Main will take its usual spot in the parking lot beside Mitchell's Jewelry and continue down into Carriage Plaza. The food truck lineup includes Big Truck Tacos, Midway Deli, The Saucee Sicilian, That Pie Truck, Kona Ice and Mutts Amazing Hot Dogs. Attendees can enjoy beer and wine gardens and live music by The Fitzgeralds Band, Rewind Band, Truth Uncommon, Nobody's, The Terri Nevin Band, Greg Singleton and Brooke Hollow.

Families will be interested in the inflatables, a braid bar, Selfie Stars photo booth, henna tattoos, Pioneer Library Mobile Maker, a beauty tent, Sooner Bowling and more.

This year, "Mix on Main" designated a community partner, Norman Public Schools for a "Stock the Bus" event benefiting school pantries.

"People can bring canned food to an actual bus we will have parked in the lot and they will receive a card giving them discounts at the businesses participating in the Main District," Mitchell explained. "What a great way to get the food pantries stocked at both high schools."

Known as the "City of Festivals," for Norman, Oct. 13 is a great example of why. — BSM

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Frantic Fun Run

Annual Monster Dash Supports Junior League, Community Initiatives

Gather your ghoulish friends for a fast run or a slow walk at the 12th annual “Monster Dash.” The 5K and one-mile fun run start at 2 p.m. Oct. 21 at Reaves Park in Norman. The family-friendly event is organized by the Junior League of Norman, and it raises money for the league’s community projects, including programs for youth.

Costumes are encouraged as the event includes a costume contest, and there will be booths with activities for families to enjoy, said Erica Hendren, committee chairwoman for the event.

“It’s going to be a really fun afternoon,” Hendren said. “Come on out and have a good time, and help support the youth in our community.”

Last year, 350 runners participated in the event, and Hendren said the race keeps building in popularity.

“It’s definitely growing and picking up steam, which is great,” she said.

The costumes and cool autumn temperatures help make for a great event, said Judy Farris, who has participated in the race for a few years and loves wearing costumes to the event.

“I like seeing all the families all dressed up,” she said, adding that the event also features entertainment and fun activities for all ages. Farris said she enjoys the atmosphere and the race itself.

“The temperature is usually perfect running weather,” she said, adding, “It is a nice flat course.”

Hendren credits the work of league members and residents rallying to help the community for making “Monster Dash” a yearly success.

The event raises money for projects that help youth and other nonprofits in the community. The Junior League’s projects include “Baby Steps,” “Done in a Day” and “Food for Kids.”

The “Baby Steps” program assists teen parents as they complete their high school education. The partnership between Junior League of Norman, Norman Public Schools, Crossroads Youth and Family Services and Center for Children and Families includes an early Head Start program with early childhood education services.

In the “Food for Kids” program, Norman middle and high school students who need assistance with food receive backpacks of food every weekend from September to May. The program is offered in partnership with the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank and McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church.

To register for the race, visit runsiganup.com/jln-monsterdash. For more information about the league, visit www.juniorleagueofnorman.org.

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Refreshing Parks



Norman Forward Funding Many New Park Improvement Projects

The Westwood Family Aquatic Center was one of the first projects the City of Norman completed through the Norman Forward initiative voters approved in 2015. But city parks and recreation officials say it was only the beginning.

On the heels of the pool's highly successful inaugural season, city officials are already working on several more projects.

The lengthy list includes the city's network of athletic venues, which is getting a significant overhaul. Youth baseball and softball is to find a new home at Reaves Park. The shift will be completed in several phases to ensure

sports programs continue during the transition, said Jud Foster, director of Norman's Parks and Recreation Department.

"The first step is to move our facilities to make room," Foster said, referring to the improvements planned at both Reaves and Griffin parks. "There is a lot that goes into each timeline and they are all interconnected."

Once complete, Reaves Park is expected to have 15 baseball and softball fields, one of which is an accessible field, specifically designed for children in wheelchairs or with visual impairments.

"The Miracle Field will be one of only a few like it in the metro," Foster said.

Construction documents are being drafted and Foster expects those documents to be ready in four to six months. Once all three phases of the Reaves project are complete, Norman residents will enjoy more parking, a small splash pad and a fully accessible playground, in addition to the park's two existing playgrounds.

In the midst of the shuffling of the sports complexes, city officials are also working on several other city parks. An ad hoc group was selected to work on Ruby Grant Park in late August.

Foster said an important piece of each project's planning process has been community input. The department has utilized town hall meetings, neighborhood surveys and stakeholder groups to determine the community's priorities that shape each project.

"We are interested in creating what the community wants and will use," Foster said.

The 148-acre park is currently undeveloped and the citizen group is currently reviewing a plan approved in 2008 to help determine if those features still meet today's needs.

"The group was specifically selected and approved by the city council for their experience and involvement in

the community," Foster said.

Members also include a representative from the parks board and a member of the Norman Forward Citizens Financial Oversight Board.

Prominent features are expected to include multi-use trails, a disc golf course, cross country track, another fully-accessible playground, a dog park, picnic areas and a wildflower and native grass meadow.

Foster estimates that planning and preparation will take about nine months. Once construction begins, the park should be complete in 12 to 18 months.

In addition to these large-scale projects, several smaller parks are getting

an upgrade. In fact, Foster said every existing park will get some kind of renovation, such as new trails, shelters, landscaping or even a playground.

"We are really enjoying these projects because the community put a high priority on our existing parks," Foster said.

Work has been completed at Oakhurst and Sonoma parks, and staff is now preparing Andrews Park for a new skate park to be built in 2019 before they move on to Springbrook Park in the spring.

The pieces of Andrews' existing skate park have moved to Oak Tree South, Colonial Commons and Adkins Crossing.
- BSM

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PROSPERITY POINTS FOR FOOTBALL AND FINANCE



It's football season in Norman, OK, and most of us love college football just about as much as they hate organizing their finances. However, the two activities have more in common than you might think. They both require a good offense, a solid defense, and some effective special teams.

To play financial offense, you have to be proactive with your money. These steps include creating a budget, organizing your portfolio, and funding your retirement. Be careful you're your retirement need and risk tolerance make the same assumptions. Then, complete some tax planning to be

sure you are maximizing tax savings opportunities.

To play financial defense, protect yourself from risks. Using current and future cash flow, calculate and then purchase the correct amount of life insurance. Then, look into other appropriate policies like disability and long-term care. Create an estate plan and a list where all your assets can be found.

Finally, create a strong special team likely including a CPA, attorney, and CFP® pro. Only do business with financial professionals who are willing to serve as your fiduciary.

Although creating a financial plan isn't as much fun as the Saturday afternoon game, the outcomes really are more important—and that's a tough statement compared to a national championship! Boomer Sooner!

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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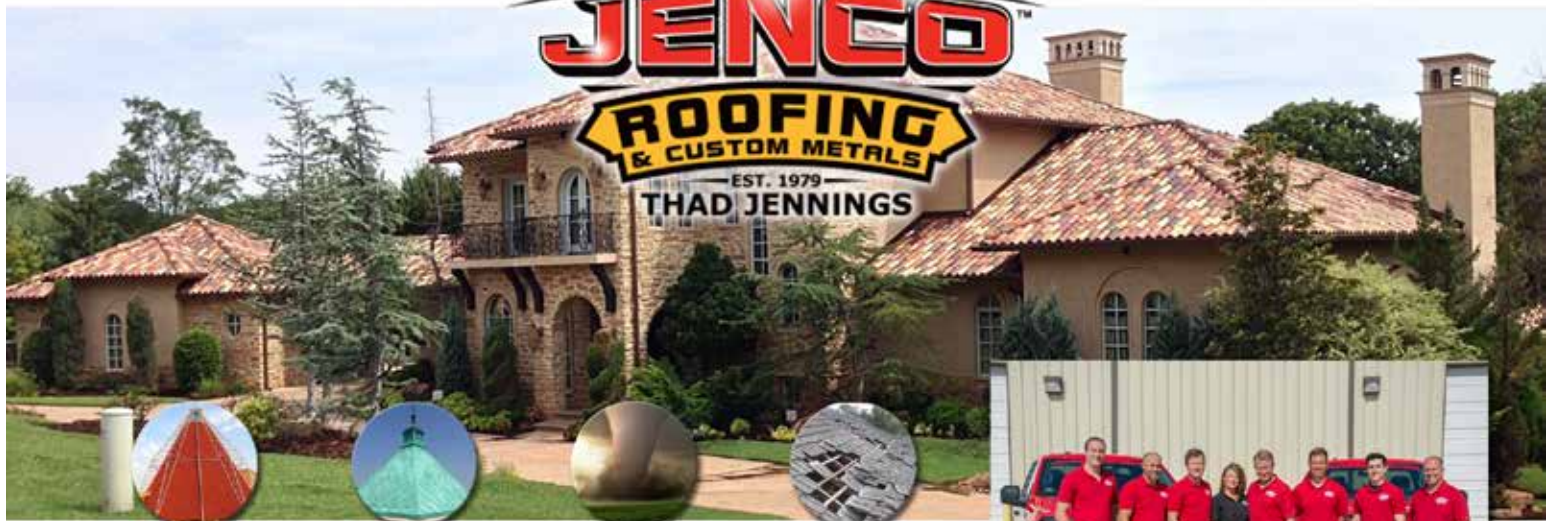
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Cycle of Success

Rotary Road Rally Bicycle Ride Helping Norman Students

How do you motivate kids to spend more time in school? Buy them bikes. At least that's one way they're doing it at several elementary schools in Norman.

So, how do you get the money to buy all those bikes? That one's easy. You organize a bike ride.

The Norman Rotary Club is in its third year of buying bicycles for students through a program designed to boost academic performance supported by a partnership with the Norman Public Schools. Since 2016 the club and the school district have worked together to improve attendance at several of the district's elementary schools.

Norman Rotary is funding its Rotary Success Cycle program through the annual Rotary Road Rally cycling event, said Craig Heaton, former Norman Rotary Club president.

The bike ride will be on Saturday, Oct. 20, leaving Norman's Reaves Park, 2501 Jenkins Ave, at 9 a.m. For children and families, there will be a 10-mile town tour through Norman's beautiful campus district and downtown area. For people with a more serious cycling habit, the Road Rally offers 34-mile and 54-mile tours through the rolling hills of southern Cleveland County, just as fall colors take over the rural landscape.

A Norman bicycle patrol officer will escort the town tour through several historic neighborhoods, along Main Street in downtown and across the University of Oklahoma campus. Other officers will assist with traffic control for the longer rides, which will venture as far south as Flat Armadillo Road near Lexington. SAG wagon support and rest stops will be provided along the way.

After the ride, there will be music in the park. Food trucks from Gaberino's, Midway Deli and That Pie Place will serve complimentary lunch to riders, Heaton says.

"Norman is a beautiful city, and Cleveland County is full of scenic rural roads that are perfect for cycling," he said. "The Road Rally offers a great opportunity for the Rotary Club to help Norman students as well as create a nice fall event for cyclists in Norman and surrounding communities."



Proceeds from the event support several Norman elementary schools where bicycles are used to encourage better student attendance. Students need to be in school to learn, so better attendance can lead to better long-term academic success, Heaton says.

"The Rotary Club uses the money to purchase about 70 bikes at cost each year from AI's Bicycles. We give them to students with excellent attendance," he says. "The bikes are raffled away at the end of every nine-week period. There are no purchases required by students. They earn raffle tickets through their attendance, so the more they're in school, the more tickets they earn and the better their chances of winning a bike."

Norman Public School Superintendent Nick Migliorino called the Norman Rotary Club an incredible partner

for the district.

"The Success Cycle program has contributed to higher attendance in several schools, which leads to improved performance in the classroom. We appreciate everyone who supports the ongoing success of the program."

The preregistration cost is \$35 for adults and \$15 for children, which includes the ride, a t-shirt, lunch and a \$20 gift card from Schlegel's Bicycles in Oklahoma City. Registration on the day of the event is \$40 for adults. For maps and preregistration, go to www.normanrotary.org. — BSM



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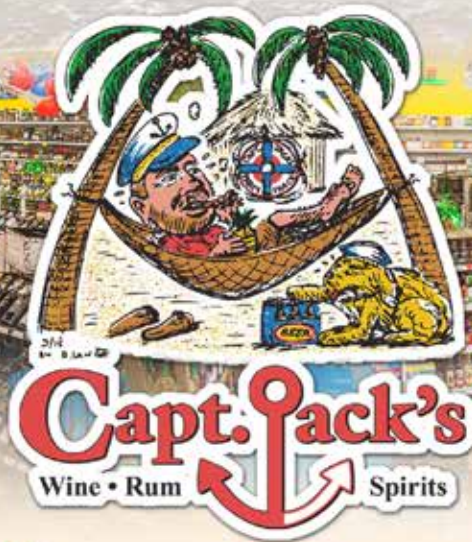
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SERVICE SPOTLIGHT: SHERIFF TODD GIBSON

Cleveland County Sheriff Todd Gibson doesn't like bullies. Driven by a need to protect and serve those who can't stand up for themselves, Gibson followed in his father's footsteps and chose a career in law enforcement.

"One of the things that draws me most to law enforcement is being able to stand up for people who can't stand up for themselves," Gibson said.

In his line of work, Gibson often encounters people who've lost hope. Being part of the solution is one of the most fulfilling parts of his job.

"When I had the opportunity to serve in a leadership role as the Cleveland County Sheriff, I knew it was a chance, not only to impact the lives of individuals personally, but to create a culture of caring in an entire agency where we deal daily with people in crisis, both in the field and at the jail," he said.

Taking over as sheriff in the midst of some challenging findings might have deterred some, but Gibson saw the opportunity to bring good out of those challenges.

"During my law enforcement career, I was the guy who was able to go in and fix problems," Gibson said. "I feel like God prepared me for this challenge. When I looked at what was going on in the Sheriff's Office, I immediately knew it was a leadership problem I could fix."

Once in office, he hired accountant Terri Allison. With her help, they cleaned up and reconciled the inmate trust account and multiple other accounts.

Transparency has been a cornerstone of the Sheriff's Office under Gibson's leadership.

"My confidence comes from a clean conscience and being a very straightforward person," he said.

Part of that confidence also comes from surrounding himself with the right people, including Undersheriff Blake Green and a strong leadership team.

"We've instituted a leadership training program to develop leaders at every level," he said. "By the end of 2018, every supervisor will have completed at

least 16 hours of leadership training, and the majority of captains will have completed the foundational leadership components of the Leadership Police Organizations Program."

The mission, vision and values Gibson and his team espouse were established as a group with input from all employees, but he realizes putting values into play starts at the top.

"My hope would be that we develop these leaders so that our employees are happy and feel like they are making a difference," he said.

Gibson is also working to bring new programs to the detention facility. Around 400 people are housed daily in the Cleveland County jail, often with little to do but worry about their problems. Gibson is working to change that.

"We hired a program coordinator to specifically work on putting life skills classes into the jail to help break the cycle of incarceration," Gibson said.

He also instituted Lexipol, a comprehensive policies and procedures system that reduces physical and financial risk.

Gibson said realizing not everyone starts from the same place in life allows him to work toward change from a position of compassion rather than anger.

Gibson's Cleveland County roots run deep.

"My dad was a Norman police officer and during my childhood he worked for the Norman Police Department and the Cleveland County Sheriff's Offices," Gibson said.

Gibson and his parents all graduated from Norman High, and his grandparents were small business owners in Cleveland County. His mom's side of the family came from Noble.

Gibson met his wife, Johanna, in college while studying criminal justice. She was a Moore High School graduate and grew up in Norman. They married in July 1996.

"She was a teacher. I was a police officer," he said. "Her mom was a 37-year teacher at Moore public schools, so education was always a part of her family."

As people dedicated to public service, the Gibson's have tried to instill those same values of service and caring in their four children.

"My strongest ethical components come from my wife and her influence on my life," Gibson said. "She is really a good person."

This is a continuation of our series on public servants in Norman.

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Creating A Buzz

Curtis Bolton Takes Place at Heart of OU Defense

When the Oklahoma defense took the field to kick off the 2018 season, fans saw a much different look than they did last year. The Sooners had to replace half of their starting unit.

But the new look is not only about personnel. It's also about attitude, intensity, and a good example of that new mindset is redshirt senior linebacker Curtis Bolton, one of this season's surprising key performers.

As the Sooners forced a punt on the first possession against Florida Atlantic's offense, the crowd roared with approval. The defense struck their first blow and right in the middle of every play was Bolton.

There wasn't much time to soak in the moment, though, Bolton said.

"College football plays so fast. You take a second and the game goes past you. I just tried to lock it in and pay attention to the coaches and trust what they have taught me throughout the week."

To get to this moment, Bolton has overcome a lot, including the loss of his father, who was his first coach and his biggest supporter. He died of cancer during his freshman season of high school.

"That was my superhero. That was my role model. He did a hell of a job when he was here, and it extended into the afterlife," Bolton has said. "I know he's looking down on me."

Despite losing his mentor and rock, Bolton continued to chase his dream of playing football at the highest level.

After enrolling at the University of Oklahoma in 2014, Bolton redshirted. He worked hard to find his place on the depth chart. Finally, an opportunity presented itself during his junior season. After playing mostly on special teams, some spot duty at linebacker and as a specialized pass rusher in previous seasons, Bolton was primed to play a key role for the Sooners in 2017. But, as luck would have it,

Bolton injured his ankle and ended up missing most of the 2017 season.

He never gave up, but he did consider that maybe his future would be brighter somewhere else. As a graduate transfer, Bolton could have been immediately eligible to play somewhere other than Oklahoma. But, despite all of the challenges, Bolton remained at Oklahoma.

"I like these coaches and trust my teammates," Bolton said. "I wanted to try to find my place in this great history and do it the best I can."

So far, the best he can do is exactly what the Sooner defense has needed. With his sole focus on the season opener, Bolton watched as Lee Morris broke through and blocked a Florida Atlantic punt. As Bolton fell on the ball in the end zone, he became the first to recover a blocked punt for a Sooner touchdown since 2002.

"It's always great when you end up in the end zone," Bolton said. "It's

not a feeling that I get to experience too often. I just knew something crazy was coming.”

When the season opener came to a close, Bolton had a team-high six stops, including a tackle for loss. He was named the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week.

His performance against Florida Atlantic was just the start. Bolton has evolved into one of the team’s leaders, and he has larger goals in sight for his senior season. There is still a long way to go for the Sooners this season, but Bolton’s drive and determination has had an impact on early defensive success.

“A lot of it was just hard work,” Bolton said. “It was the way that I was brought up. If I ran from this situation, I would find myself running from other situations in my life. I figured I would man up, and if it doesn’t work out, it doesn’t work out. And if it does, I was prepared for it.”

What makes Bolton such a relatable figure is his unfiltered honesty. He is transparent about his faults and honest about who he is.

“Me and coach (Mike) Stoops (have) an interesting relationship,” Bolton said. “In my younger years, I needed a lot of time to mature. I needed a lot of time to build my consistency. I think a lot of times he was frustrated, because he could see what I could become.”

“He’s just in so much of a better place. And maybe having it taken away and having to go through some of those frustrations led him back to being at a good point right now,” Head coach Lincoln Riley said. “He fought his way back. Things just had to shake out right, and he stuck with it. The kid deserves credit for that.”

Defensive coordinator Mike Stoops has been a first-hand witness to Bolton’s growth and determination.

“Buzzy continues to be a play maker for us,” Stoops said. “In any defense,

you have to have play makers. Buzzy is not scared. We’re playing with more velocity. Curtis gives us that.”

“You want to see all your guys do well,” Stoops said. “We’re as hard on them as anyone, but there is no one that cares about them, maybe outside of their families, more than we do. It’s good to see his hard work paying off.”

Bolton plays with a chip on his shoulder, but it’s not just from a personal perspective. It also resonates from a team perception as well.

“Everyone is just sick and tired of getting disrespected,” Bolton said. “We have worked so hard. We came out and put our best foot forward on the field. We wanted to make a statement and show our coaches, fans and the media that we can play good defense and continue that. There are a lot of things that we still need to clean up, but that’s what we practice for Monday through Friday.” — BSM

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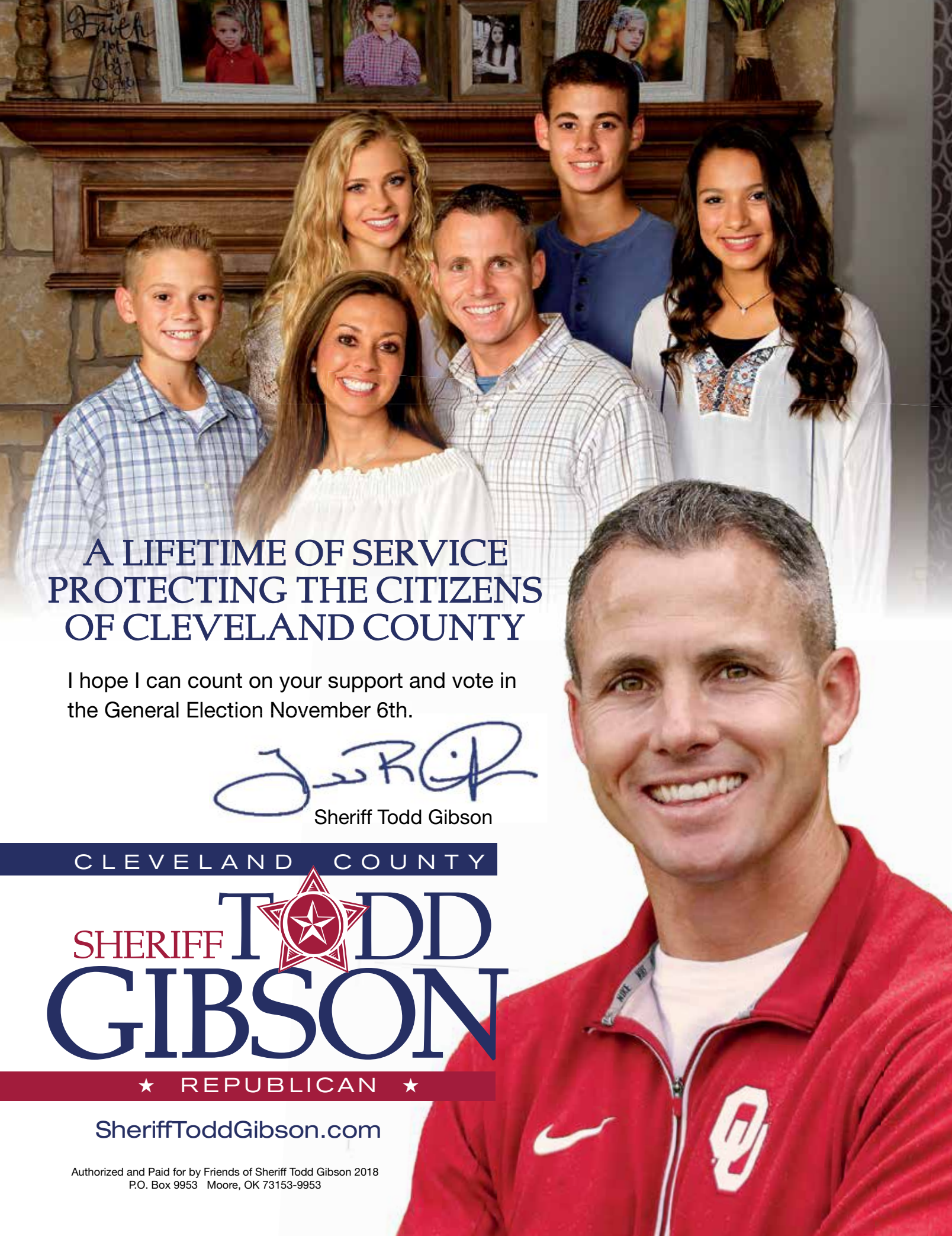


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Ask an Expert

Setting The Price when Selling Your Home

Selling your home begins with setting a price, and that could be difficult, considering a home is the most valuable asset most of us own. But, there are dangers in this decision, and those pitfalls could have lasting consequences. Here are some common myths to consider before beginning the process.

YOU ALWAYS MAKE MONEY WHEN YOU SELL A HOME

Generally, real estate will appreciate over time, but that's not a given, and the return will vary based on location. Don't assume you'll walk away with a profit until you've examined your local market.

PRICE YOUR HOUSE HIGH TO MAKE BIG BUCKS

While there may be a natural impulse to see how big a price you can get, be careful, because it's not likely to work. Most buyers are working with experienced agents who can easily recognize an overpriced house.

IF YOUR HOME IS OVERPRICED, IT'S NO BIG DEAL TO LOWER IT LATER

Homes that hit the market with unrealistic prices struggle to get back into contention because price reductions can send the wrong signal to wary buyers. Homes that have undergone one or more price reductions prompt buyers to think something's wrong with the house.

PRICING YOUR HOME LOW MEANS YOU WON'T MAKE AS MUCH MONEY

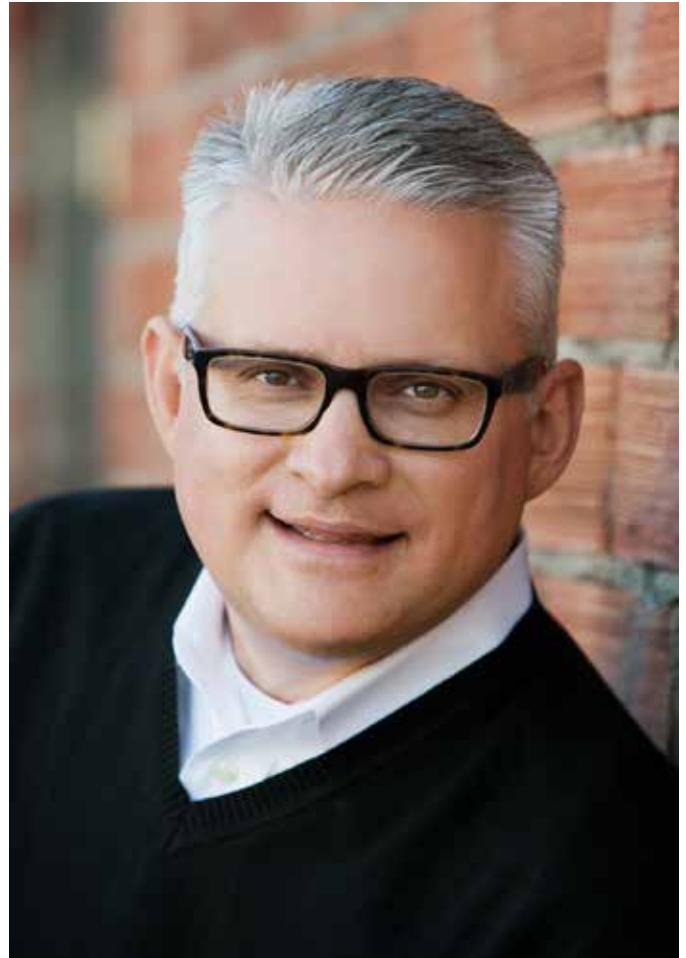
Not necessarily. Remember that lower prices tend to attract more interest. Higher traffic increases the possibility of a bidding war, which could drive your selling price much higher.

YOU CAN ADD THE COST OF ANY RENOVATIONS THAT YOU'VE MADE

That's not always true. It's rare that you recover the entire value of your investment. You can probably expect to get back about 64 percent of your home improvement money.

A PAST APPRAISAL WILL HELP YOU PINPOINT THE RIGHT PRICE.

Not so. Appraisals are only valid for a short period of time, usually about 60 days. Markets change quickly, so after a couple of months, an appraisal is no longer reliable.



YOUR AGENT MIGHT OVERPRICE THE HOUSE TO MAKE A BIGGER COMMISSION

Agents stand to gain very little by overpricing a house, and no agent would risk losing a sale for a negligible commission increase.

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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WHEN: Monday-Friday, After School to 6:00 PM

COST: Norman Y Members \$55 per wk/child, All Others \$70 per wk/child

SCHOOL'S OUT CAMP

SERVICE DATES: Oct 4&5, Nov 2, Dec 20 - Jan 4, Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 15, Mar 18-22, Apr 26

WHEN: 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM

COST: Norman Y Members \$35 per wk/child, All Others \$45 per wk/child



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Immunization records and a \$30 registration fee is due at registration. The Y is closed December 25 & January 1. School's Out Camp is not offered December 24 & 31. If minimum registration numbers are not met 5 business days prior to the beginning date of School's Out Camp, you will be notified of its cancellation and a full refund or credit will be issued.

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All You Need to Know About Buying a Used Car

Very few purchases are more associated with slimy salesmen and oblivious buyers than used car sales. It's almost a cliché. The used-car dealer's eyes glitter with dollar signs as he pats the clueless buyer on the back and watches him drive off the lot with a total lemon.

But buying a previously owned vehicle can also be a great way to save big on one of your most valuable possessions.

Follow these steps for a smoother ride!

STEP 1: WORK OUT A BUDGET

If you're paying with cash, your purchase will be fairly simple. You already have your spending cap and you know what you can afford. Just make sure not to spend it all on the car or you won't be able to cover your vehicle's insurance, registration, repairs and future maintenance.

If you're taking out an auto loan, your lender will determine how much car you can afford. Research a few lenders before making a decision and only take the car dealer's financing if it beats any other offers you have (but be sure to read any fine print). You may be pushed into taking out a larger loan, but be careful not to let your total monthly auto expenses top 20 percent of your take-home pay.

STEP 2: CREATE A TARGET LIST

Check out Consumer Reports or J.D. Power for reliability ratings on vehicles from the most recent model years. You'll find detailed reviews and lists of common trouble spots to note. Narrow down your choices to three or four model cars.

STEP 3: RESEARCH

When researching available cars, be sure to consider the vehicle's year, make, model and mileage. It's also a good idea to find out what the average asking price is for the car you want to buy.

With just a few keystrokes, you can get the skinny on your vehicles of choice. Visit Cars.com or TrueCar.com to get started.

Private-party sellers will likely offer the lowest price. However, these cars are not backed by dealerships, so you're taking a bigger risk with the purchase.

STEP 4: GET THE VEHICLE HISTORY REPORT

Once you've narrowed down your search, learn all you can about each vehicle. What kind of repairs or maintenance did it undergo? Was it ever involved in a collision?

You can get a detailed vehicle report on AutoCheck.com or Carfax.com. Ask the dealer if they have one available for review – policies vary, but many will gladly show it to you or email you a copy. If obtaining one on your own, you'll need the vehicle identification number (VIN) or the license plate number.

If everything checks out, set up an appointment to take the car for a test drive.

STEP 5: TEST DRIVE

Pay attention to these details as you try out your potential new car:



- Is there sufficient legroom and headroom?
- Is the ride smooth?
- How is the acceleration and power?
- Are the seats comfortable and adjustable?
- Is the "check engine" light illuminated after initial start-up?
- Do you have full visibility?
- Are the brakes working well and working quietly?
- Do all the lights (headlights, brake lights, turning signals, internal lights) work?
- Do the automatic window mechanisms and lock-door buttons work?

STEP 6: HAVE IT PROFESSIONALLY INSPECTED

Private sellers and most dealerships won't have a problem with you taking the car to a mechanic for an inspection. Having your car professionally inspected will only cost you about \$100 now, but it can save you loads of aggravation and lots of money down the line.

STEP 7: NEGOTIATE

Here's where the real fun starts! When negotiating a price, don't talk about monthly payments; talk about the price of the car. Make an opening offer based on the average price for your car and use all the information you've learned about your vehicle as bargaining chips. Be firm and don't sound desperate and you will end up with a fairly priced vehicle.

STEP 8: MAKE IT OFFICIAL!

You're ready to become the official new owner of your car!

If you're working with a dealership, you'll sign the contract in their financing office. You may be offered additional products and protection here, but make sure the price is worthwhile.

Don't be alarmed if you see extra charges tacked onto your documentation; things like sales tax and a license fee are standard in most states. If you're buying your car from a private-party seller, make sure the title and registration are officially transferred to you.

Remember, don't drive off the dealer's lot until you have insurance.

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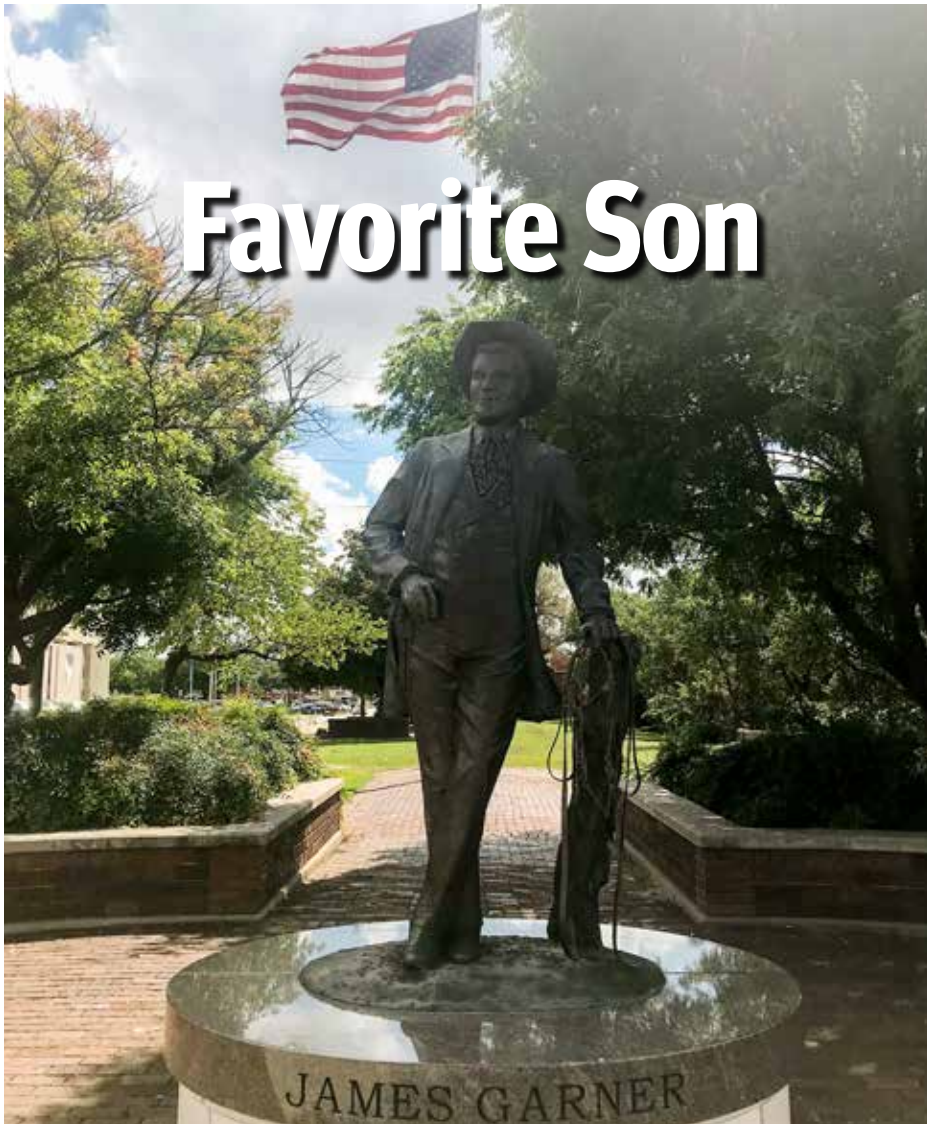
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Favorite Son

James Garner Carried Norman Roots to International Stardom

From his early life, no one might have expected much from James Bumgarner.

He was born in Norman in 1928, grew up through the Great Depression with his father, who ran a general store at Denver Corner east of town. After a series of failed marriages, his dad moved to California, leaving young James and his brothers to live with relatives.

He attended Norman High School, largely in the shadow of his older brother, Jack, who played point guard on the championship basketball team and was an all-state quarterback, according to James's memoir, "The Garner Files." Eventually, everyone in the family moved to California, except for Charles, the oldest brother, who stayed in Norman and spent his career as a

school administrator.

James Garner, who dropped the "bum" from his surname, was restless as a young man. His first stint in Hollywood was as a teenager, where he tried modeling but quit and returned to Norman.

He dropped out of school and became a Merchant Marine in 1944 to contribute to the war effort, but he never acquired his sea legs. Tired of chronic seasickness, he quit that, too, and returned to California. One menial job led to another. Ultimately, he joined the Army and served in Korea, where he earned two Purple Hearts.

The story goes that James Garner was back in Los Angeles, driving down the street when he saw a sign for producer Paul Gregory. Garner remembered Gregory as a coworker at a gas station from his teenage days in California and

went to reconnect. Gregory encouraged Garner to take a part in his latest Broadway stage production, *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial*. Garner, who described himself as "a hermit" throughout his lifetime, overcame stage fright by pure force of will. Famed actor Henry Fonda took a shine to Garner and became, as Garner said, the greatest acting teacher he ever had.

Garner left the stage to begin his on-camera acting career, first with commercials and then into films and television. He had no shortage of support, including speaking lessons from Charles Laughton and coaching from William Holden. Producer Roy Huggins watched Garner's self-effacing machismo, smooth posturing and comedic facial ticks in one of his television performances and decided to cast him in his upcoming western series, "Maverick."

"Maverick" would be Garner's first explosion of popularity as the titular gambler, using his wits, fists and luck to survive weekly adventures in the wild west. In its heyday, "Maverick" even beat out "The Ed Sullivan Show" and "The Steve Allen Show" in ratings. Like his early days of wanderlust, though, Garner never seemed to hold just one job. He was a working actor, moving smoothly between roles in television and film like few others. Garner would keep taking on roles for the next 50 years.

Garner was perhaps best known for his detective work in "The Rockford Files," which ran from 1974 to 1980. A glance over Garner's filmography shows a stunning range. He could do everything from military action films like "Up Periscope" (1959) to serious drama like "The Children's Hour" (1961) and romance in "The Notebook" (2004) to straight comedy in "8 Simple Rules" (2003-2005). As he grew older, he turned to voice-work that ran from the villainous Rourke in "Atlantis: The Lost Empire" (2001) to the Creator himself in "God, the Devil and Bob" (2000). Garner did not have to stretch much for his role as a racecar driver in "Grand Prix" (1966). He was fascinated with racing, and he worked to establish the American International Racing team in 1967. He drove the Indianapolis 500 pace car three times.

Even in all his stardom, Garner never forgot his roots. He returned to visit

family in Norman, and he would drop by Sooner Bowling. Occasionally, he would show up in western duds to give special chats at elementary school assemblies.

Garner attended Sooner football games through the years, and the University of Oklahoma recognized him with an honorary doctorate in 1995. Statewide, Garner was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1986, and, in 1990, he was inducted into the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum's Hall of Great Westerners.

The city of Norman commemorated Garner's hometown fame with a statue in 2006 at the corner of Main Street and what was renamed James Garner Avenue running parallel to the railroad tracks in downtown Norman. It seemed a fitting place to view a statue of Maverick, complete with an Oklahoma state seal for a belt buckle. Garner served as the grand marshal of the '89er Day Parade that year. In 2008, a stroke slowed down his impressive acting career, and, in 2014, he died at the age of 86. Norman residents left flowers at the statue in commemoration of his life.

Everyone who met Garner seemed to say the same thing about him: shocked that such a star would be such a down-to-earth, friendly fellow. Garner himself never shed the persona of a local boy, growing up tough and being grateful for what he had.

In a 2006 speech he gave in Norman during his statue dedication, Garner said, "It's sure good to be home. All these honors and plaques, the all-around friendship - well, they make me kind of ashamed of some of the things I used to do. I'm happy it's all turned out the way it has." - **BSM**

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Needing A Second Chance



Board Struggles with Uncertainty for Long-Time Animal Shelter

For nearly 30 years Second Chance Animal Sanctuary has been a transitional home for wayward pets, offering medical and daily care while they await their forever homes, but the shelter's future is uncertain.

"Norman has been so supportive, but we are in financial crisis," said Second Chance Board President Marilyn Butler. "We are in a very difficult position as, I'm sure, many nonprofits are. We have cut to the bare minimum, but shelters are expensive to run."

The board is exploring new opportunities to create awareness and to raise the money it needs to keep the shelter's doors open.

"Since we receive no city, state or federal funds, we rely solely on donations," Butler said. "We are looking for community partners and local businesses to commit to be long-term sustaining partners we can depend on."

When a dog or cat comes to Second Chance, the animals get a medical exam and vaccinations and they are often spayed or neutered. Those expenses, in addition to the cost of personnel and daily care, quickly add up and typically go far above the shelter's \$140 adoption fee.

"We are doing all we can to stretch our funds as far as we can," Butler said. "But we need more help."

One group that has stepped in to help is the Women of York, who made a two-year commitment to help the shelter. The group also has conducted drives to collect important items the shelter uses daily to care for the animals.

This month, with the help of local businesses, Second Chance is planning the Bark & Roll event at Hollywood Corners, 4712 N Porter Ave.

The community is invited to come out on Oct. 13 from 1 to 11 p.m. to enjoy live music from local bands and a barbeque dinner that starts at 5 p.m. Additionally, there will be drawings for cash, a silent auction and a raffle. Canine visitors can compete for a trophy and the title of best dressed in a doggie costume contest.

"We are also encouraging people to help us fill our van with items like bleach wipes, paper towels, detergent, cat litter, pet treats of all kinds, bath towels and fleece blankets," Butler said.

The shelter goes through a high volume of these consumable items each month, making such in-kind donations valuable to their bottom line.

Also, in October, Second Chance will host a benefit sale at 4601 W Main St. Shoppers can browse a selection of gently-used household items, kitchen appliances, furniture,

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Christmas décor and more, in a thrift-style sale that the shelter hosts four times a year. Another sale is planned for the first weekend in December.

There are many other ways Normanites can support Second Chance, including donating spare change at donation canisters at Qdoba and spirit shops around town, purchasing a "Paws for a Cause" sponsor placard that will be displayed at Second Chance events and signing up to be a volunteer at the shelter.

"We are trying to be very proactive to raise funds," Butler said. "We want to give the community lots of options to help."

The Bark & Roll event is free to attend. The barbeque dinner is \$25 per person. Proceeds from the dinner, drawing, raffle and auction will go directly to Second Chance. For ticket or donation information, call 630-7228 or 316-993-0091. Donations can also be made to stock the benefit sales by calling 630-7728 or 737-5432. - BSM



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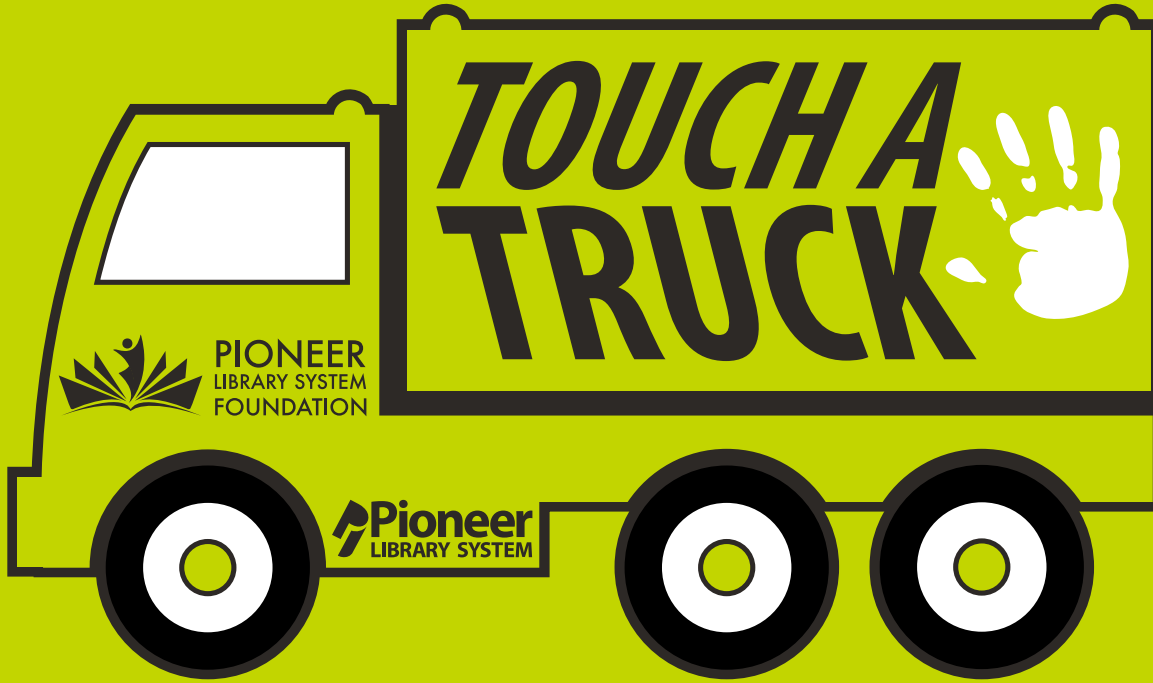
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Sweet or Dry but Why?

Customers often ask what causes the difference between dry and sweet wines. There are several factors, with the most upfront being the residual sugar remaining after the grapes have fermented. However, residual sugar is not the only component. Acid, tannins and several other complex chemicals that naturally occur in the wine affect the flavor.

Generally speaking, sweet wines have a lower alcohol content, since the fermentation process is stopped earlier. But, this is not always the case. Zinfandel grapes can produce a rich sweet wine such as Rosenblum Zinfandel. I recently tried a red blend produced by Cooper & Thief that offers an elegant but sweet jam flavor.

Italy produces several red wines that are light and fruity, making for the perfect complement to fall barbeque. Two other favorites are Roscato and Stella Rosa Rosso.

Moscato and White Zinfandel are well known as sweet white/pink wines. Riesling has also claimed its place as a sweet wine. Even with higher levels of residual sugar, Rieslings can be quite dry at times, due to high acidity in the

grapes. Wine makers like Pacific Rim and Chateau St. Michelle have removed some of the mystery by specifying the sweetness on the label.

German and Italian rieslings are not labelled so specifically. Pinot Noir wines produced in warmer regions tend to be slightly more fruit forward as well.

Sauternes is a great French sweet wine, a perfect dessert wine. Viognier with its strong floral bouquet can be semi-sweet. Viognier definitely requires some input from your merchant as to the character of each particular wine.

As you read this, Oklahoma is going through a major change in the state's liquor laws, resulting in some increased convenience when purchasing wine. It has also caused some disruptions in availability of some favorites. Likely, this will resolve itself soon. But be assured, your local liquor stores are doing their best to bring you the great products you love.

Enjoy,
Kathy

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Say Boo to the Flu



This year marks 100 years since a devastating influenza pandemic in 1918 claimed the lives of an estimated 675,000 Americans. It was the most severe pandemic in recent history, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), killing more than 50 million people worldwide. Influenza, otherwise known as the flu, remains a major threat to public health each year.

“During the 2017 flu season, we saw a record number of 179 pediatric deaths from the flu and thousands of hospitalizations,” said Dr. Kate Cook, medical director of the Pediatric Hospital Medicine and School Telehealth programs with Norman Regional Health System.

According to the Oklahoma State Department of Health, during last year’s flu season, in Oklahoma alone, there were 4,828 flu-associated hospitalizations reported between Sept. 1, 2017 through July 31, 2018.

The flu is a highly contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. The CDC says that during a typical flu season, five to 20 percent of the United States population falls ill with the virus. The flu is different from a cold and usually comes on suddenly. People who have the flu often experience symptoms such as a fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, chills, fatigue and headache. It is important to note that not everyone with the flu will have a fever.

Complications of the flu can include bacterial pneumonia, sinus infections, ear infections and worsening of chronic medical conditions like asthma and diabetes. Anyone can get the flu, even healthy people, and the CDC does point out those that are at the highest risk of developing serious flu-related complications are those 65 years and older, those with chronic medical conditions, pregnant women and children younger than five years of age.

While the flu is highly contagious, there are steps you can take to protect you and your family. The best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccine each year.

“The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends vaccination against influenza for all kids 6 months and older for optimal protection,” said Dr. Cook. “Around 80 percent of children who died from influenza last year had not received a flu vaccine. Antiviral medications, such as Tamiflu, are a potential treatment for the flu, but are not a substitute for vaccination.”

A recently published, CDC-backed study found that getting a flu shot lessened the risk of severe influenza among adults, reduced the risk of hospitalization and admission to the intensive care unit (ICU) and also lessened the severity of illness.

A common misconception about the flu vaccine is that people can become ill with the flu from the flu shot. Flu shots are made by either using flu viruses

that have been inactivated and are not infectious or made with no flu vaccine viruses at all like in the recombinant influenza vaccine. Common side effects of the flu shot are soreness, redness and tenderness or mild swelling at the injection site. Low-grade fever, headache and muscle aches may occur according as well. However, a flu shot cannot cause people to become ill with the flu.

“No one ever thinks their child will be the one who gets a severe, life threatening case of the flu,” Dr. Cook warns. “Don’t find yourself in a situation of regretting not getting the vaccine once it is already too late. Protect your family.”

Since the flu virus can live on hands and non-porous surfaces for up to 48 hours and on tissues and cloth around 12 hours, good hygiene practices are also encouraged to help avoid spreading the flu. The CDC recommends staying away from people who are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, staying home when you are sick and frequent thorough handwashing.

While the exact timing of the start and duration of a flu season vary, influenza activity typically begins to increase in October with peak flu activity between December and February, although it can last as late as May. Since it takes about two weeks after getting the flu vaccination for antibodies that protect against the flu to develop in the body, it is important to get vaccinated early in the season. The CDC strongly recommends that people get a flu vaccine by the end of October. — BSM

Silver Anniversary



Sooner Carpet Cleaning Celebrates 25 Years of Success

Twenty-five years ago, Jim Mitchell began cleaning carpets for a living and he named his business Sooner Carpet Cleaning. Over the years, the business grew, as did his family, but the two were never really separate.

“My husband started [the business] from scratch,” said Carrie Mitchell, Jim’s wife. “We were engaged when he started the business.”

Although Sooner Carpet Cleaning started primarily as a carpet cleaning company, this husband and wife team has added numerous services, certifications and specialties over the years.

“Carpet cleaning is a very seasonal thing. So pretty early, we realized it was important to diversify,” Carrie Mitchell said. “Not too long into the business, we started doing emergency water restoration and air duct cleaning. Once we started doing air duct cleaning, dryer vents and chimneys fit nicely with that too and required the same equipment.”

About five years ago, Jim Mitchell became one of only a handful of people, and even fewer businesses in the Oklahoma City area to earn Air Systems Cleaning Specialist (ASCS) certification from the National Air Duct Cleaners Association. The certification has been a game changer for Sooner Carpet Cleaning, making it possible for the business to do large-scale air duct jobs including corporate and government contracts.

Today, the business retains its original services and continues to serve Norman and the Oklahoma City area on jobs big and small, but also it has become a one-stop-shop when it comes to dealing with a water damage crisis, offering general contracting.

“A lot of times, when someone has a water damage crisis, we will see that project through to the end, including paint and everything,” Carrie Mitchell.

They are the primary restoration business for the City of Moore. They also have worked on a variety of Norman

businesses and apartment complexes. This year, when there was a water main break at the J.D. McCarty Center, flooding some 30,000 square feet, Sooner Carpet Cleaning was called to help with the clean-up.

The Sooner Carpet Cleaning team prides itself on taking care of people and providing fast, personal service.

“We answer the call in the middle of the night to come out,” Carrie Mitchell said. “We have one of our staff people answering the phones, or one of us. It doesn’t go to an answering service.

Now, after 25 years of building their business from a rented space, Sooner Carpet Cleaning is getting a place of its own.

“We just bought a piece of land where we are going to build our own building and move our business to,” she said.

Their new location is off State Highway 9 West, and the company broke



ground this summer. The new building will be double the size of their current location, and although it will be under construction during the busi-

ness’s official anniversary, it seems like the perfect way to celebrate such a momentous occasion.— **BSM**

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Norman Home Builder Found His Home in Norman



When Alan Cheshier first moved to Norman, he thought he would live in the community for about a year. Thirty-two years later, he still calls the city home for not only his family but also his custom home building company, Muirfield Homes, which he started in 1997.

After graduating from Baylor University with a degree in marketing and computer information systems, Cheshier took an office job but eventually realized that it was not the best fit. Growing up, he was used to working outside, particularly with a family landscaping company. In 1986, he decided to apply his marketing experience to the real estate business, joining a fraternity brother from Baylor and two other men in the home building business. Later, he started his own company.

Now, Cheshier and his team primarily build homes within seven different communities in Norman, but they also work in the metro area on a custom ba-

sis. One of their most recent projects was a three-story brownstone in the Deep Deuce neighborhood in Oklahoma City.

At Muirfield Homes, the staff aims to provide personal support and transparency to their customers, listening when they explain what they are looking for in a home in terms of layout, spaces to relax and entertain, storage areas and all the other key aspects of what makes a home. They also stay up on the latest trends and other concepts including energy efficiency so they can deliver the best to their customers, Cheshier said.

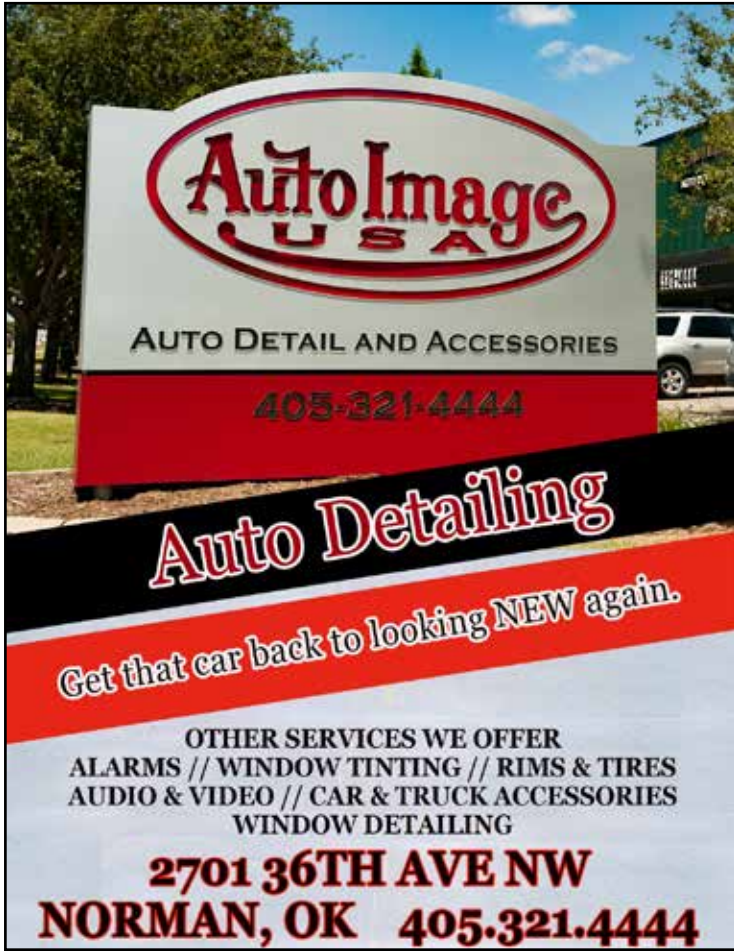
“First and foremost, when you’re our customer, you’re our customer as long as you live in that house, and we treat you that way,” Cheshier said. “If you need something 10 years after you move in, we’ll help you get it. Everything we do is about the experience customers have from the time that they meet us until whenever they move out of that house that we finish for them.”

At the end of June, Muirfield Homes moved into a new office location at 2405 Wilcox Dr. The office will soon feature an upstairs design studio, where customers can work with design staff to select tile, countertops, flooring, doors, plumbing fixtures and the other features. Selections can be stored in an electronic notebook for customers to have access to. The experience will extend beyond the virtual as there will be displays of various available selections to examine in person, Cheshier said.

Additionally, Muirfield Homes is in the process of building a new model home in the Vintage Creek addition. The home will highlight a new modern farmhouse series. Because they build homes at a variety of price points, the model will be appointed and fixtured so customers can see options that fit within their budgets, Cheshier said.

For more information about Muirfield Homes, visit www.muirfieldhomes.com.

– BSM



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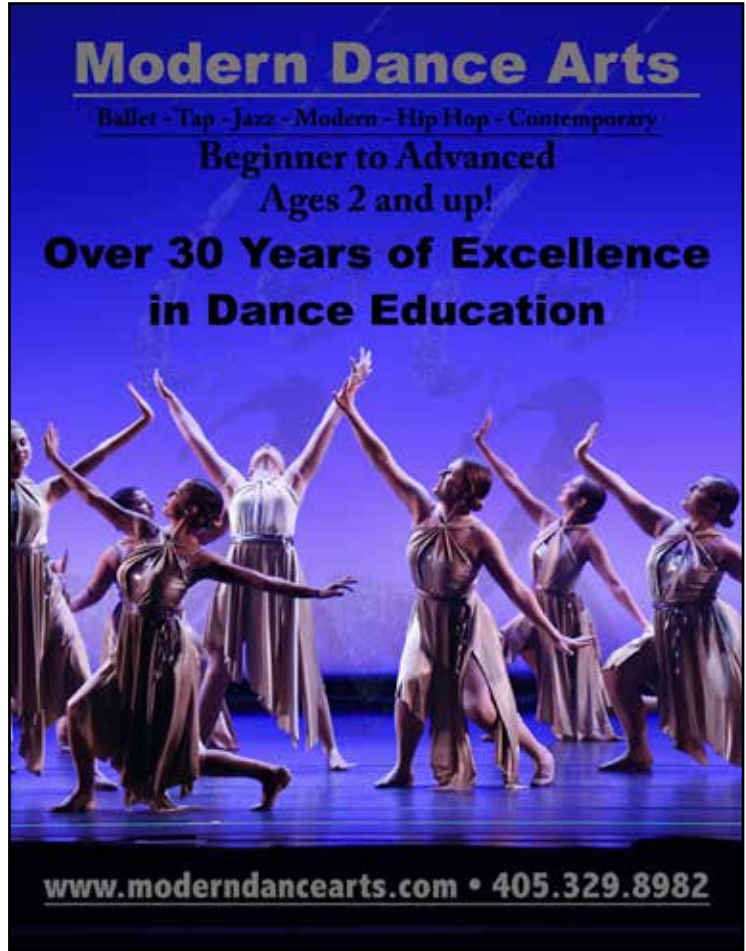
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Life's a Beach

Capt. Jack's Brings Sun, Sand and Festive Feel to Spirit Sales

Lots of people dream of retiring and going to the beach, so Teresa and Terry Sterling did just that.

But in their case, they never left Norman.

Looking for something to do in their retirement, the Sterlings took some advice from friends and opened a business. They thought a liquor store would be a good idea, and reasoned it would be easy to learn, so they established their place at 12th Ave. NE and Rock Creek Rd.

And, that's about when things got interesting.

They built a beach vacation into their 3,000 square-foot liquor store that they call Capt. Jack's Wine Rum & Spirits, 2400 12th Ave NE. Terry Sterling decided on the concept in honor of a true deep-sea captain and friend name Jack. Teresa Sterling stepped in as the decorator.

Lifeguard chairs with surfboards on the back are there to welcome shoppers as they're whisked away to shady shores once inside the store. The floor looks like a pristine, sandy beach that transitions into an ocean winding through a wide array of wine, beer and spirits.

To further the beach experience, the check-out area is a 21-foot beached boat.

Just about the time the Sterlings opened their business, the owner of Jester's Wine Beer & Spirits several blocks away decided to retire. Because of the store's proximity to Capt. Jack's, the Sterlings rented the space at 2405 N Porter to keep potential competitors at bay.

They named their new location Capt. Jack's, the Party Shack and opened it last fall.

"With that store being smaller at 1,400 square feet, we decided to make it look like a tiki hut inside," Teresa Sterling said.

The Sterlings have a strong commitment to supporting the local economy, choosing to hire locally-owned companies.

"We used only locally-owned companies to build our businesses, and we certainly hope people remember to shop local," Teresa Sterling said. "Locally owned businesses keep corporate money in the state which helps our economy."

Additionally, Capt. Jack's offers a five percent discount on liquor and a 10 percent discount on cases of wine for weddings and large events, for the day of your birthday and for military, police, fire and EMTs, current and retired. These discounts, however, cannot be combined and do not include beer. — **BSM**



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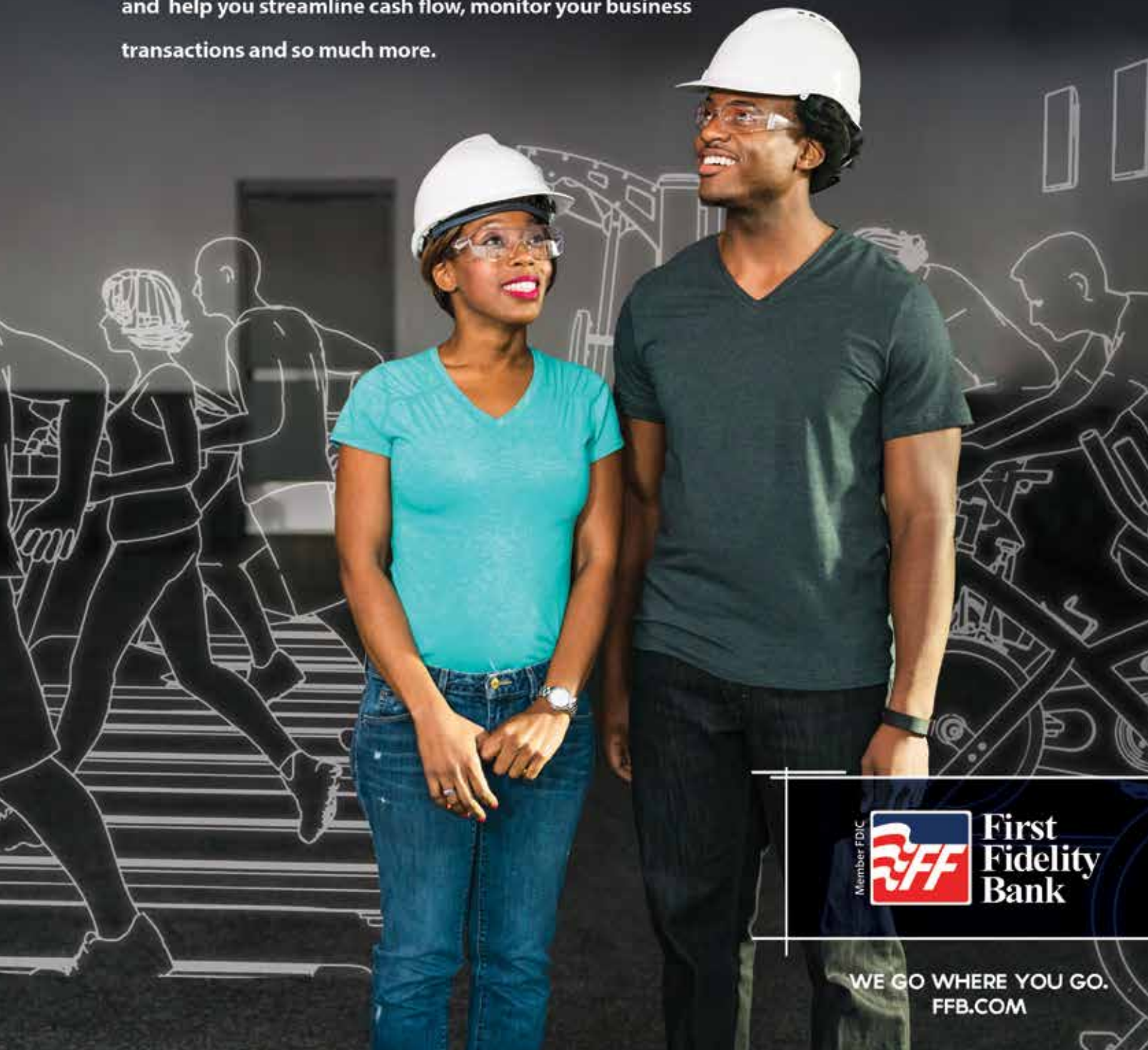


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