

# THE BAJA OKLAHOMAN

*Newsletter of the OU Club of Austin*

1905 Shadow Brook Circle, Round Rock, Texas 78681 • 512.431.2069 • December 2013

## *Snowy Soonerland scene*



Greeting cards sent out this year by University of Oklahoma president David Boren and Molly Boren offer this winter scene in front of Holmberg Hall, opened in 1918 on the Norman campus. The lawn in front of the

— *Photo by Allen King*  
hall features sculptor Allan Houser's 11-foot-tall bronze "May We Have Peace," which depicts a Native American holding a peace pipe.

## 2 watch-party sites set for the Sugar Bowl

Austin-area Sooners will gather on Thursday evening for Sugar Bowl watch parties at two sites, rather than the usual three places we enjoyed this fall.

The fun in the Clash of Crimson — Oklahoma vs. Alabama — will be enjoyed at Fado's Irish Pub, downtown at 214 West 4th, and on the northside at Blackfinn's Ameripub, in the Domain at 11410 Century Oaks Terrace.

The kickoff will be at 7:30 p.m. You might want to get there before that to find a good seat and get a head start on the evening's doings.

### *Inside . . .*

*New OU bookstore features latest in electronics, technology*  
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# 'NEATH A WESTERN SKY: New OU bookstore reflects today's expanding electronics, technology

University of Oklahoma students are seeing the new electronics age in living color these days at the Norman campus.

A new bookstore, called One University, has set up shop and is offering a widening variety of tools that should prove useful to students and faculty.

The store, located in the basement of the Oklahoma Memorial Union where the OU bookstore once stood, has drawn most attention since its opening for the work of its 3-D printers.

*The Daily Oklahoman* described a student standing wonderingly as he examined a crescent wrench that had just come out of one of the 3-D printers.

Another printer nearby was printing out a 3-D model of the Eiffel

## Campus notes

Tower.

In addition to the printers, the store also offers electronic textbooks and Google Liquid Galaxy, a hands-on digital exploration system.

**Study-abroad widening** OU now is one of 52 U.S. universities that have opened overseas campuses in 37 countries, according to a survey

conducted by the State University of New York-Albany.

OU-Arezzo in Italy was opened last year.

**Foundation income up** A revised investment strategy is being credited for a rise in returns earned by the OU Foundation's portfolio.

Five years ago the Foundation began concentrating on investments that earned above-median income.

That has produced a 14.3 per cent income rise in the current fiscal year, the Foundation reports.

## Wilkinson era at OU said ended by the JFK assassination

Bud Wilkinson's 17-season reign as head football coach at the University of Oklahoma probably was ended by the murder in 1963 of President John F. Kennedy.

Such is the theme of one the many news stories recently noting the 50th anniversary of the JFK assassination.

In an article in *The Tulsa World*, sportswriter John E. Hoover recounts what has become a lost bit of Sooner lore: that Wilkinson was so disheartened by the Kennedy death that he found himself unable to continue in coaching.

Hoover notes that this information is included in two books written about the OU football program — *Presidents Can't Punt* (1977) by George Cross, OU president during the Wilkinson years, and son Jay Wilkinson's 1994 book, *Bud Wilkinson: An Intimate Portrait of An American Legend*.

Jay Wilkinson confirmed to the Tulsa paper that what had happened to JFK was decisive in his father's leaving the OU post.

Bud Wilkinson and JFK had become friends and Kennedy had named the coach his head of the new President's Council on Physical Fitness.

Wilkinson was becoming close with both JFK and, even more, with the president's brother, Robert, Hoover reports. This developed despite

Wilkinson not sharing some of the Kennedys' political views.

Jay Wilkinson indicates that his father might have resigned as OU coach after the 1963 season even if Kennedy had not been killed.

The crime was, Jay said, "the last straw" that pushed his father away from coaching. No explanation is offered for what other factors might have led to the resignation but both the Cross and Wilkinson books are clear that the murder was decisive for the Sooner coach.

Two other possible motives for the resignation are included in the Cross book, quoting a statement that Wilkinson made to the OU regents in January 1964.

Wilkinson had recently taken on added family responsibilities. His brother had recently died and the coach was concerned for the well-being of his mother and for his brother's widow.

Also, his job with the physical fitness council was taking more time and attention than first envisioned.

In his book, Cross wrote that a few days after the 1963 season ended Wilkinson sat glumly in Cross' office saying he could no longer get himself 'in a proper frame of mind' to prepare for a football game."

The following month, Wilkinson resigned.

## The Baja Oklahoman

is a publication of the OU Club of Austin, a non-profit organization of University of Oklahoma alumni and other friends of the University in Austin and Central Texas. • Members are encouraged to submit material for publication. • An application for club membership appears on the club's website, as well as on the back page of this newsletter. Membership is \$25 a year; \$35 for a family.

### Club officers — 2012-13

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| <b>Watch parties:</b>      |                  |
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| Communications coordinator | Ellis Goodwin    |
| Scholarship chair          | Amy Rader Kice   |
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### Club website:

<http://www.ouclubofaustin.com>  
Webmaster: Craig Likes

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# Owen Field, Lloyd Noble upgrades discussed

## *Might change seating in south end zone*

What are being referred to as renovations to Owen Field has become more a part of the current agenda for the athletic department at the University of Oklahoma.

Regents recently discussed proposed work that might be done at the stadium.

Being considered are renovations to team facilities, infrastructure, disability seating, the press box, south end zone seating, suites, club and other premium seating options in all areas of the stadium.

It's uncertain at this point whether the proposed work might expand seating capacity at the stadium but it appears a distinct possibility, particularly in the south stands.

OU athletic director Joe Castiglione has invited Sooner football and basketball fans to participate in an online survey, offering their thoughts about Owen Field and the Lloyd Noble Center.

For the online addresses of these surveys, please see page 4.

Basketball: good starts Both the Sooner women's and men's basketball teams are off on the right foot this season.

The women stood 8-3 and were ranked 20th nationally and are regarded as challengers for the Big XII title this season.

The men were 10-1 but unranked and, with Texas, are regarded as surprises as Big XII play nears.

Tops in 10-win seasons This year's 10-2 regular-season record in football give the Sooners their 35th year of double-digit wins. That's the best in college football.

19 Academic All-Big XII Eleven OU football players were named to the Big XII All-Academic team this fall. Another eight were on the second team.

Two of the Sooners, Gabe Ikard and Seth Carter, were among five conference football players who posted perfect 4.0 grade-point averages.

OU and Kansas led the league in

## Sports notes

players named to the two teams.

On the first team (3.2 or better GPA) were Blake Bell, communication major; Grant Bothun, petroleum engineering; Seth Carter, energy management; Kass Everett, multidisciplinary studies; Caleb Gastelum, sociology; Brannon Green, communication; Nick Hodgson, zoology; Gabe Ikard, human relations; Trey Millard, psychology; Julian Wilson, communication, and Austin Woods, management.

On the second team (3.0 to 3.19 GPA) were Aaron Colvin, communication; Aaron Franklin, communication; Michael Hunnicutt, management; Cortez Johnson, multidisciplinary studies; P.L. Lindley, human relations; Durrion Neal, communication; Londell Taylor, communication, and Eric Striker, political science.

Ikard piling up honors Gabe Ikard, center for the Sooner football team, is amassing a fine collection of honors in recent weeks.

In addition to posting a 4.0 grade-point average and placement on the Big XII all-academic team, the senior from Oklahoma City has been named winner of some national athletic honors: the Associated Press' All-America second team, the Lee Roy Selmon Spirit Award, the Danny Wuerfel Trophy for community service and academic achievement.

Ikard graduated in May with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average while at the University. He is working on a second undergraduate degree

pursuant to a medical degree.

Fan tackled on Owen Field If you were watching on TV, you might have noticed a moment when the cameras swung away from the game.

While we watched shots of fans in the stands and other peripheral scenes, a state trooper was tackling a fan who had run onto the field.

Sacked was a 35-year-old Edmond man. The fan, who was listed in police reports as standing 5-8 and weighing 200 pounds, was tackled by Trooper Brian Orr, who played football at Central Oklahoma and comes in at 6-2, 240. Orr's more usual task on game days is to provide security for OU coach Bob Stoops.

"I didn't know what the guy's intentions were," Orr said later. "I was concerned for the fans and players.

"I just took off across the field to take care of the situation. But it did bring back a few memories of my college playing days at linebacker."

The fan was cited by campus police for disturbing the peace. He faced a maximum penalty of a fine of up to \$700 and the possibility of up to 60 days in jail.

Sims BBO in Detroit now Sooner football star Billy Sims barbecue restaurants continue to expand, and not just in Oklahoma.

There now are 36 outlets in four states, also including Texas, Missouri and Michigan.

This breaks down to 12 restaurants in the Tulsa area, 10 in and around Oklahoma City, as well as seven elsewhere in Oklahoma, one in Texas (at Texarkana), three in Missouri (Springfield and Joplin) and three in the Detroit area, where Sims played for the NFL Lions after winning the Heisman Trophy at OU.

## *Sooner wrestlers top OSU at McCasland*

Sooner wrestling coach Mark Cody's team won his first Bedlam match in three tries.

The match was reminiscent of olden days. McCasland Field House was sold out (3,355 fans) and was rocking as the no. 5 Sooners came from behind and eased the sting of a 40-3 loss earlier this season to the third-ranked Cowboys in Stillwater.

OSU head coach John Smith declined comment after the match and did not allow his wrestlers to speak with the media.

**OU Club of Austin**  
**1905 ShadowBrook Cir.**  
**Round Rock TX 78681**

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## Here are the addresses for OU's online survey

An online survey to sample OU fans' opinions as to future development of the Lloyd Noble Center and Owen Field (story, page 3) is being offered to Sooner fans.

The deadline to submit your views is Dec. 31.

OU athletic director Joe Castiglione has expressed the hope that as many Sooner fans as possible will participate.

The online questionnaires are available at:

[https://customintercept.com/Gate/universityoklahoma\\_lloydnoblecenter](https://customintercept.com/Gate/universityoklahoma_lloydnoblecenter)

and

[http://customintercept.com/Gate/universityoklahoma\\_gaylordfamilymemorialstadium](http://customintercept.com/Gate/universityoklahoma_gaylordfamilymemorialstadium)

### Calendar of events

| Event                                    | Date           | Time (tv)           | Where  |
|--|----------------|---------------------|--|
| Football watch parties<br>OU vs. Alabama | Jan. 2<br>Thu. | 7:30 p.m.<br>(ESPN) | Fado's (214 W. 4th) and Blackfinn Irish Pub<br>(11410 Century Oaks). <b>NOTE:</b> no party at the<br>Round Rock location this one time. (Story page 1) |
| Men's basketball:<br>OU @ Texas          | Jan. 4<br>Sat. | 7 p.m.              | Erwin Center, Austin<br>17th and Red River   |
| Women's basketball:<br>OU @ Texas        | Jan. 8<br>Wed. | 11 a.m.             | Erwin Center, Austin<br>17th and Red River   |

*Got any news?*

Please send tips to  
[goldsa@austin.rr.com](mailto:goldsa@austin.rr.com)



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