

THE BAJA OKLAHOMAN

Newsletter of the OU Club of Austin

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OU 1st baseman from West sees hometown damage

Oklahoma first baseman Kolby Carpenter has had his mind things other than baseball recently. And no one on the Sooner baseball team objects.

Carpenter is from West, just north of Waco, where an explosion at a fertilizer plant devastated much of his hometown recently.

Carpenter took solace from the fact that his parents live a few miles southwest of town but his best friend's father was one of the 14 killed in the blast. The explosion was felt for miles and registered a 2.3 on the Richter scale, the equivalent of a mild earthquake.

"I couldn't say or do anything to prepare him for what he was going to see," said OU coach Sonny Golloway after Carpenter dropped by his office to say he was going to make the four-hour drive back home.

Carpenter wasn't sure what to do after the blast. But then his friend in West texted him that the friend's father, Kenneth Harris, a Dallas firefighter, had been killed.

"Right there, I decided to go home," Carpenter recounted. "They were really close to our family and we've been long-time friends with them. I thought it would be best if I went home to be with him."

Golloway asked Carpenter to drop by his office before he left Norman for West. The coach wanted to be sure his first baseman was emotionally stable enough to drive. Reassured, he sent Carpenter on his way but considered having someone go down later to West to drive Carpenter back to Norman.

Golloway said he regretted that West was no nearer Norman "so we could do something to help out however we could. Just to let West, Texas, know the Oklahoma Sooners are thinking about them."

Scholarship applications set for evaluation

Club leaders will review, then award four \$5,500 in grants

The end of April marked the deadline for Central Texas high school students to apply for this year's round of scholarships that will be granted by the OU Club of Austin.

Since 1998 the club has been making the grants. The first year the club awarded two scholarships, for \$1,000 each. Because of rising contributions by club members, four scholarships now are granted each year, each worth \$5,500.

The University of Oklahoma contributes \$2,500 for each of these; the OU Club of Austin, the balance.

Need football tickets?

There may be a bit of hope if you find yourself needing a couple of football tickets this fall.

A member of the club is making his two season tickets available—free—to OU Club of Austin members.

Details of how this will be handled are being worked out but a weekly drawing probably will be involved.

Plans will be announced soon, so stay tuned.

The tickets are on the west side, five yards into the north end zone (Sec. 9), some 50 rows up.

Calendar

• **June 4, Tuesday, 7 p.m.** — Sooner Caravan in Houston, Lakeside Country Club, 100 Wilcrest Dr.

• **June 5, Wednesday, 7 p.m.** — Sooner Caravan in Plano, Gleneagles Country Club, 5401 Park Dr.

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Lineman Lane Johnson 4th athlete chosen

Six OU football players drafted by the NFL

Led by offensive tackle Lane Johnson, the fourth pick overall, six Oklahoma players were taken in the recent National Football League draft.

Also drafted were: quarterback Landry Jones, fourth round; receiver Kenny Stills, fifth; receiver Justin Brown and defensive lineman Stacy McGee, sixth, and defensive end David King, seventh.

This brought to 363 the number of Sooners who have been drafted by the pros over the years. The first was tackle J.W. Wheeler, a second-round choice of the Packers in 1936.

The most Sooners taken in one draft occurred in 1988, when 13 from OU were picked.

Forty-three of those Sooners were first-round choices, including three players who were the first to be drafted in their respective years: quarterback Sam Bradford, 2010; running back Billy

Sports notes

Sims, 1980, and linebacker Brian Bosworth, 1987.

Jefferson not drafted The surprising turn in the NFL draft for OU was that All-American safety Tony Jefferson went undrafted.

Jefferson, who entered the draft after his junior season, has announced that he has signed a free-agent contract with the Arizona Cardinals.

Other Sooners also going the free-agent route are safety Javon Harris (Arizona), punter Tress Way (Chicago), cornerback Demontre Hurst (Chicago) and defensive tackle Jamarkus McFarland (San Diego).

Wilkinson era player dies Dick Heatly, one of coach Bud Wilkinson's early football stars, has died at 83.

A walkon from Mangum, Heatly was a halfback and punter who helped OU win 31 straight games and was on the Sooners' first national championship team, in 1950.

He served as a fighter pilot during the Korean War. He then returned to OU to coach the freshman football team.

He went on to become an assistant coach at Iowa St. and Washington and was a finalist for the head coaching jobs at OU and West Virginia.

After leaving coaching he worked for a company that sold airplanes and served briefly as a private pilot for golfing great Arnold Palmer.

Hand-Jones drafted OU women's basketball star Whitney Hand-Jones has been drafted to play pro ball for the San Antonio Silver Stars.

The 32nd player chosen in the draft, Hand was drafted despite having hurt both her knees in separate mishaps.

"I'm very grateful to San Antonio to consider me under the circumstances," she said.

In 2010, Hand suffered an injury to her right knee that required 401 days of rehabilitation. Then, this January, she injured the other knee. That led to

her saying her playing days were all but over.

But her record at OU was too tempting for the pros not to give Hand another chance.

Although playing in only 104 games during her time at Norman, Hand stands 19th in OU career scoring, 11th in career assists. She also averaged more than five rebounds per game.

Steve Davis (1953-2013) The deaths last month of Sooner quarterback great Steve Davis and a friend, Wes Caves of Tulsa, has been attributed to power failure in the private plane which crashed near South Bend, Ind., recently.

A memorial service was held in Tulsa, where Davis had been living in recent years. As the family entered the First Baptist Church in downtown Tulsa, "The OU Chant" was played on a piano, as well as a few notes of "Boomer Sooner."

Seated on the same row as Davis' family were two Heisman Trophy winners from OU, Steve Owens and Billy Sims, as well as Switzer and former All-American linebacker Brian Bosworth.

Davis led OU to national championships in 1974 and 1975 and was 32-1-1 as OU's quarterback.

Barry Switzer, for whom Davis played, recalled that Davis was lightly regarded as a quarterback at Sallisaw and was recruited as an athlete. He was the last Sooner signed to a scholarship in early 1971.

Davis' status changed sharply, however, when the young man caught Switzer's eye one day during a freshman game. Switzer has since recalled turning to offensive coordinator that day and saying the Sooners might have just found a quarterback.

Bo Davis, 31, eulogized his father by noting a recent article referring to Steve Davis as a legend.

"He probably hates it," Bo said of his father, "but I agree with it. He's a legend because he taught me how to ride a bike, how to break in a new baseball glove and how to throw a spiral."

The Baja Oklahoman is a publication of the OU Club of Austin, a non-profit organization of University of Oklahoma alumni and 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. Membership is \$25 a year; \$35 for a family.

Club officers -- 2012-13

President	Fred Dupy
Vice president	Dan Hodges
Secretary	Graham Kenney
Treasurer	Jessica Benedict
Membership	Janet Atwood
Watch parties	(vacant)
Communications co-ord.	(vacant)
Scholarship chair	(vacant)
Student recruitment chair	(vacant)

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'NEATH A WESTERN SKY: Accrediting agency rates OU as a leading research university, intent on quality

The University of Oklahoma has been evaluated as "one of the country's leading public research universities that is committed to quality in its research, instructional and service missions."

This was the recent finding of the Higher Learning Cmsn. of the North Central Assn. of Colleges and Schools

OU moves up in green power As the University of Oklahoma nears being 100 per cent reliant on wind power later this year to meet its needs, the school now has moved into the no. 2 spot nationally among college green-power purchasers.

The standings are compiled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The University will accomplish full

Campus notes

greenpower with the completion before 2014 of the OU Spirit Wind Farm in northwest Oklahoma. The farm will be the home of 44 wind turbines.

OU prof leads the 89ers Recently retired longtime OU architecture professor and alumnus Bob Goins, who grew up in Norman, led the way for the city's annual 89er Day parade this year.

Held to observe the anniversary of the land run that opened what is now

central Oklahoma to European settlement in 1889, the parade made its way down Norman's Main St.

The parade had begun 11 days before at Lawton as a caravan headed to Norman to observe the first of the state's six land runs conducted between 1889 and 1901.

Goins rode in a carriage (no fringe on top, however) as marshal. He told *The Norman Transcript* that "this is a little like Mayberry" of the classic TV show, "The Andy Griffith Show."

He explained that "the guy that has the carriage and the horse has been my barber for 35 years. If that isn't Mayberry, I don't know what is."

Boren: US has begun short-changing higher ed

EDITOR'S NOTE: OU president David Boren wrote this for the editorial page of *The Norman Transcript* a couple of weeks ago.

By DAVID BOREN
President

The University of Oklahoma

Especially in Norman, the home of a great university, we should pay attention to a trend that gravely threatens America's future. Step by step, public higher education is disappearing across our nation.

Our dominance in higher education is our greatest asset as we compete with other nations.

While the U.S. has less than 6 percent of the world's population, most surveys indicate that we have 85 percent to 90 percent of the world's greatest colleges and universities.

Students from all over the world flock to America to obtain their college degrees

It is not a coincidence that our greatest period of economic growth came at the end of World War II. Real incomes of ordinary Americans almost doubled.

This growth came as the percentage of our population going to college increased 500 percent because the G.I. Bill of Rights provided a free college education for those who served in the war effort.

It wasn't until President Lincoln

signed the Morrill Act in 1862 that public higher education really began to develop in the U.S.

In 1800 with a population of five million, there were only about 1,000 Americans enrolled in colleges. All of them were at small, expensive, private institutions.

As affordable public higher education developed, college enrollment kept growing and reached over 20 million by 2010.

Now with almost no public debate, we are reversing course. Our budget decisions are causing the dismantling of our system of public higher education. In state after state we are reducing financial support for public colleges and universities.

We are transforming great public universities into more expensive private universities which receive small amounts of public support.

In Oklahoma, the share of the costs of university budgets being paid by students and their families has doubled while the state's share has fallen rapidly.

When I first came back to OU to be president [in 1994], the state provided 32 percent of the university budget. Now the state provides 15 percent and the support is falling. The OU Medical School receives less than seven percent of its budget from the state.

State appropriations for higher education in Oklahoma are now \$100 mil-

lion lower than in 2008.

In addition, \$200 million in uncontrollable cost increases, like health insurance, have also been absorbed by Oklahoma colleges in four years without help from the state.

This comes at a time when a new report by Battelle Technology Partnership, commissioned by Oklahoma's State Chamber of Commerce, demonstrates that the economy benefits \$5 for every \$1 invested in higher education.

The result of declining state support for public higher education and cost shifting to students is threatening America's role in the world.

In only a decade we have dropped from first place to 12th place in the percentage of our young people going on to college.

The impact on American jobs and our ability to compete is clear for all to see. In addition, democracies like ours function well only when we have informed and well-educated citizens.

Continued disinvestment in public higher education gravely threatens our future.

Oklahoma can demonstrate important national leadership by increasing appropriations for our public colleges and universities this year. Public higher education must not be allowed to disappear.

There is no time to waste. It is time for all Oklahomans to speak out!

OU Club of Austin
1905 Shadow Brook Circle
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Sculptor of Billy Vessels statue planning his biggest work

Shan Gray is an Osage tribal member who is from Bartlesville, now living in Edmond.

He also is a sculptor. Two of his works stand today in Norman — that of OU Heisman Trophy winner Billy Vessels and that of James Garner, the movie and TV star (and OU benefactor) who was grew up on a farm that lies today beneath the surface of Lake Thunderbird.

Gray also has sculpted larger-than-life bronzes of three of Oklahoma's six Miss Americas — Jane Jayroe (1967), Susan Powell (1981) and Shawntel Smith (1996).

His work has been cast at foundries in Pawhuska and Norman.

His most ambitious project, however, lies just ahead, if plans are realized. That would be the erection of a bronze statue near Sand Springs that would honor Native Americans.

Titled "The American," the statue's top would soar more than 200 feet above the Osage Hills.

At that height, it would be taller than the nation's tallest, the Statue of Liberty (151 feet), and the state's tallest, both in Tulsa — the Golden Driller (75 feet) and the Praying Hands (60 feet), the nation's fourth and seventh tallest, respectively.

Gray's work would feature a Native American man holding an eagle with

a 103-foot wingspan.

An elevator would lead visitors to a gallery two-thirds of the way up the monument, where visitors could survey the countryside through the forehead of the statue.

Originally planned for a site a few miles northwest of downtown Tulsa, supporters found fund-raising below expectations and also discovered the need for a 300-acre site on which to locate the work. Such a site, some three miles west of the proposed Tulsa site, was found near Sand Springs.

Last fall, Sand Springs voters approved a two-cent increase in the local hotel/motel tax and other fund raising is going better than before.



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Membership dues: \$25 a year • \$35 for a family NEW RENEWAL

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