

THE BAJA OKLAHOMAN

Newsletter of the OU Club of Austin

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

Oklahoma-Texas tickets auction under way

Four tickets available; check our website

Two pairs of tickets to the Oklahoma-Texas football game on Oct. 12 are being auctioned by the OU Club of Austin.

Proceeds will go to the club's scholarship fund, which annually produces several scholarships for Central Texas high school seniors to enter OU.

Bids are being received via email and will be accepted until Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 5 p.m.

The auction is open to anyone, even those who are not club members. Bids for single tickets will not be accepted. At last check, the bidding stood at \$275 per pair.

Both pairs of tickets are in the lower deck. One

is in Sec. 36 (south end zone, near the tunnel), row 5, seats 1-2. The other is in the opposite end zone, Sec. 15, row 13, seats 19-20.

Fred Dupy and Greg Olds are making the four tickets available.

The winning bidders will be notified by email and phone soon after the bidding deadline.

If there is no response from the winners within three hours of notification, the club will then have the option of naming the next higher bidder as the winner.

To bid, go to the club's Internet website, located at www.ouclubofaustin.com

Watch-party fun!



— Photo by Janet Atwood

All three watch-party sites are humming these days as members of the OU Club of Austin get into the swing of the University's 118th season of football. Here, at Fado's Irish Pub downtown on 4th just east of Lavaca, are, from left, Manuel Ray Garcia, Jessica Benedict and Lawrence Cagigal. The club also gathers for game telecasts at the Marriott in Round Rock and at Blackfin Ameripub in the Domain. **Story, page 4.**

Scholarship winners enter OU with our help

Recipients of scholarships this year from the OU Club of Austin have been announced. Each received \$6,500 in assistance with tuition and fees for entering the University this fall.

The amount of the scholarships is the highest ever, each grant is \$1,000 more than in recent years.

The club provides \$4,000 for the school year, while the University chips in another \$2,500 in tuition credits.

Recipients this year:

<u>Student</u>	<u>School district (high school)</u>
Courtney Flores	Brentwood Christian
Aubrey Pawelka	Regents School of Austin
Leovardo Rogel	Austin (McCallum)
Zach Stolis	Round Rock

In addition, a previous year's winner, Wolfgang Hanft, received a \$1,000 grant to help him begin studies abroad. He was a 2011 scholarship winner from NYOS Charter School, Austin.

'NEATH A WESTERN SKY: The Pride battles the question of tradition vs. seeming improvement

Tradition is a tough nut to crack when it comes to such things as college football.

Justin Stolarik, the new director of the marching band at the University of Oklahoma, has learned that during his first few months in Norman.

Stolarik had decided that a change was in order for some of the Pride of Oklahoma's onfield performances. He was particularly interested in changing to some extent the band's fanfare at the beginning of its pre-game march into the stadium, just before the drum major struts downfield to lead the Pride.

He was supported in this by William Wakefield, OU director of bands. "I think President (David) Boren was interested in freshening up the performance," Wakefield told *The*

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Oklahoman. "He felt maybe the band performance had gotten a little bit stale."

Online campaign mounted Videos were posted online by fans showing rehearsals of some of the proposed pre-game changes.

Reaction was prompt and fairly unanimous. Emails were sent to Wakefield, Stolarik and other administrators. A Facebook group formed of Pride alums was laden with angry reaction.

For a few days before the 2013 football season kicked off, it appeared that tradition would rule, that the Pride's entrance and other time-honored practices would be the same.

Opener draws complaints But after the opening game with Louisiana-Monroe several dozen fans complained in messages to President Boren that there were changes.

Among those decrying the changes was Gene Thraikill, who for 30 years led the OU band.

Boren told *The Norman Transcript* that he feels the opposition to change is coming from a minority. He added that contributions to the Pride are somewhat ahead of where they were a year ago.

Opponents of the change have replied that an influential alum, perhaps a member of the Board of Regents, is insisting on the changes.

There the situation stands.

OU benefit concert: \$2 million The concert this summer at Owen Field raised nearly \$2 million to ease the lives of Moore area residents who were struck by tornadoes in May.

Proceeds from the eight-hour benefit are still being tallied. Some 60,000 people attended the event, the largest turnout for a concert at the stadium.

OU caring for artifacts The University recently assumed responsibility for two of 10 items listed on a state



SOONERBURGERS — Oklahoma City-based Sonic Drive-Ins have begun festooning their burger buns with the edible logos of customers' favorite colleges. However, a *Baja* investigative reporter, sampling local Sonics, found that the OU logo is, shall we say, unavailable in Austin. A temporary oversight, no doubt.

organization's list of endangered-artifacts.

The Oklahoma Cultural Heritage Trust maintains a list of items that are most in danger of being lost to history in the state.

OU has now taken responsibility for the care and preservation of:

- Twelve tons of organ player rolls manufactured by the A.P. Moller Organ Co. in the early 20th century, and
- Samples of Spiro lace recovered when OU began excavating the Spiro Mounds in eastern Oklahoma during the 1930s.

The mounds are all that remain of a society that existed in present Oklahoma from about 850 to 1450 A.D. The site is regarded as one of the most significant ceremonial places in the United States.

Preservation of the Spiro site was the result of OU archaeology professor Forrest Clements, according to *The Oklahoman* newspaper.

To prevent looting, Clements in the 1930s oversaw recovery of tens of thousands of artifacts that had come from all over North America.

Many of the Spiro Mound artifacts are on display at the Sam Noble Museum at OU's Norman campus or at the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, *The Oklahoman* reported.

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

President	Graham Kenney
Vice-president	Dan Hodges
VP-development	Fred Dupy
Secretary	Adam Kice
Treasurer	Jessica Benedict
Membership	Janet Atwood
Watch parties:	
Round Rock	Manuel Garcia
Pado's	Jessica Benedict
Blackfinn	Ellis Goodwin
Communications coordinator	Ellis Goodwin
Scholarship chair	Amy Rader Kice
College Fair chair	Amy Rader Kice

Club website:

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

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Improved communication = better defense

Defensive coordinator, players agree: great improvement in this area

A football defense that was just trying to get through a game, rather than one that was trying to win every snap.

That's the description of last year's Sooner defense offered by one of its members, OU safety Gabe Linn.

Linn added, "Quite frankly, we were soft last year."

Similar opinions were turned up by *Norman Transcript* sportswriter John Shinn.

Nickelback Julian Wilson summed things up this way: "Last year we gave a lot of plays away just off of mental busts and relaying the wrong call to somebody."

Defensive coordinator Mike Stoops agreed: Communication "is a big part of our defense. You have to communicate on any level."

Getting on the same page Lynn said that after last season ended members of the defense determined to be a defense where all were seeing the same thing.

"You see before plays" this year, Lynn said. "We're all looking at each other and talking to each other. And we take film a lot more serious and we prepare a lot more this year.

"Also, we're a closer group.

"Not just the secondary or the linebackers, the whole defense is closer. Some plays you might see a D-

Sports notes

tackle talking to a safety, or a linebacker talking to a safety. Whoever it is, everybody's communicating well."

Men's basketball 4-1 in Europe The OU men's basketball team is looking back on its five-game tour of Belgium and France as a success, despite a loss at the end.

"Everyone benefited from it, on and off the court," said coach Lon Kruger.

After winning four games against semipro teams, the Sooners went up against a pro team in France and lost. But in the loss, the Sooners found that after getting pushed around physically early in a game, they could respond in kind. They nearly overcame a big deficit, but lost, 80-70.

"We thought we were tough going into that last game," said forward Ryan Spangler. But, he went on, "the first half they started pushing us around everywhere. We didn't have an answer to it until halftime, when we started talking to each other. We came out and acted a little more tough and got back into the game.

The Sooners even took a five-point lead in the fourth quarter but were then outscored 17-2.

"But we showed signs of fight in the fourth quarter," said Je'lon Hornbeak

Did you know? Basketball star Wayman Tisdale's was the first jersey number ever to be retired at OU, in any sport. That occurred in 1997.

Also retired since then were the jerseys of two other men's basketball players, Alvan Adams and Mookie Blaylock.

No football jersey numbers have yet been retired. Moreover, the *Baja* is unaware of any other athletes whose numbers have been honored by retirement by the University — except for these three men's basketball stars.

OU women on ESPN2 The Sooner women's basketball team will have two of their games aired on ESPN2 in the season ahead.

These will be the Feb. 3 game in Norman with Baylor and the Feb. 16 game at Oklahoma St.

Baseball practices open New baseball coach Pete Hughes has made fall practices and scrimmages open to the public.

The sessions began earlier this month and will conclude on Oct. 24 with the ALS Awareness Halloween Game. The scrimmage will also be a fund-raiser to aid research into ALS, which also is known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease."

Two Sooners into Hall Wayne Baughman and Jimmy Harris were among seven inductees into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame last month.

Baughman, who wrestled for the Sooners in the early 1960s, won a national championship and was twice national runner-up. He also was on three U.S. Olympic and eight World Championship teams.

Harris posted a 31-0 record as OU quarterback in the mid-1950s and led the Sooner football team to two national championships. He also played a key role in OU's national record 47-game winning streak.

Local sheriff's work yields \$42,000 for OU ballerina's memorial scholarship

Thanks to the work of the local sheriff, the memory of an OU ballet student who died in a 1996 abduction and murder will be preserved.

Cleveland County Sheriff Joe Lester recently presented a check for \$42,343 to the OU Foundation. The money will help establish the Juli Busken Memorial Scholarship for students of ballet at the University.

A few days after completing her course work at OU, Busken, of Benton, Ark., was kidnapped from her Norman apartment in December 1996. Her body was discovered at a nearby

lake.

Sheriff Lester, who was Norman police chief at the time of the crime, said he became friends with the Busken family during the investigation and determined to do something in the OU student's name.

This June, he organized a golf tourney to raise money for the scholarship.

The first recipient of the scholarship is Sydney Gettel. Buskin's parents were on hand when the first Buskin scholarship was presented to Gettel last month.

OU Club of Austin
1905 Shadow Brook Cir.
Round Rock TX 78681

Forwarding services requested

Club's gatherings drawing big

It seems we wanted to get to know each other better. And, oh yes, follow Sooner football.

Crowds at the OU Club of Austin's pre-season barbecue and at subsequent

football watch parties have been probably the largest in memory.

This, despite — or because of? — our now having three venues for watching Sooner football on TV.

More than 100 Central Texas Sooners were on hand for the pre-season kickoff barbecue at Blackfinn Ameripub.

And the watch parties likewise are drawing big numbers.

There were another 100-plus at Fado's Irish Pub downtown for the season opener with Louisiana-Monroe

The West Virginia game attracted 45 to Blackfinn, and there were dozens of others at our other two sites, Fado's and the Round Rock Marriott for that, as well as for game no. 3, vs. Tulsa.

If you haven't been to the TV watch parties, give it a try. It's good to be among friends on such occasions, especially friends who consistently demonstrate such admirable, clear-headed, insightful belief systems.

Calendar of events

Event	Date	Time (tv)	Where
Football watch parties OU @ Notre Dame	Sept. 28 Sat.	2:30 p.m. (NBC)	Round Rock Marriott; Fado's (214 W. 4th); Blackfinn Irish Pub (11410 Century Oaks)
Football watch parties TCU @ OU	Oct. 5 Sat.	TBA	Round Rock Marriott, Fado's, Blackfinn
Football watch parties Oklahoma-Texas	Oct. 12 Sat.	TBA	Round Rock Marriott, Fado's, Blackfinn
Board meeting	Oct. 16 Wed.	6 p.m.	301 N. Congress Ave. suite 2000 (20th floor)
Football watch parties OU @ Kansas	Oct. 19 Sat.	TBA	Round Rock Marriott, Fado's, Blackfinn
Football watch parties Texas Tech @ OU	Oct. 26 Sat.	TBA	Round Rock Marriott, Fado's, Blackfinn
Football watch parties OU @ Baylor	Nov. 7 Thur.	6:30 p.m. (FS1)	Round Rock Marriott, Fado's, Blackfinn



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Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Cell phone(s) _____ Landline(s) _____

Email address _____

Membership dues: \$25/year • \$35 family ... NEW ... RENEWAL

Mail this form to the address below or join/renew online: www.ouclubofaustin.com

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