



FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

AREA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Stillwater News Press

PERKINS-TRYON.....0	
CUSHING.....7	
FAIRVIEW.....19	BARNSDALL.....54
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\$1.00

Saturday, August 26, 2017

stwnewspress.com

## INSIDE TODAY



Q5: Turning Point Ranch Therapeutic Riding Center saddles up for orientation. **A2**

## SMILE OF THE DAY



**Patrick McDonald** is smiling because he's always happy.

Nominate a smile: Send us photos of someone smiling and it could be our Smile of the Day. Send to readers@stwnewspress.com

## WEATHER



**Hi: 88 Low: 66**  
A thunderstorm in the afternoon.  
- More on **B8**

## TODAY'S POLL

www.stwnewspress.com  
What do you consider to be the City of Stillwater's most pressing capital improvement needs?

## QUAKE TRACKER

Oklahoma leads the nation for most earthquakes. Here's a look at the latest quakes.  
**FRIDAY**  
Time Site Mag.  
1:52 p.m. Helena 3.2  
11:16 a.m. Helena 2.8  
**THURSDAY**  
No quakes reported.  
**WEDNESDAY**  
5:45 p.m. Langston 2.8  
4:47 p.m. Stroud 2.5  
1:03 p.m. Edmond 3.3

Daily News Press



Vol. 109 No. 201

# Shooting video requests quashed

## Footage captured on GoPro

By **Tim Ahrens**  
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Judge Phillip Corley sustained a motion Friday that makes evidence, including a video recording, exceptions to the Open Records Act in the

case of bail bondsman Chasity Dawn Carey shooting and killing her client Brandon Williams. Carey, 41, is still being held in Payne County Jail without bond but could see it reduced after her defense filed



**Chasity Carey**

of first-degree murder in Williams' death. Carey

a motion in Payne County District Court. She faces up to life in prison, with or without parole, if convicted

called 911 on Aug. 9 and told dispatch she had just shot a man at her office in downtown Stillwater. The investigation led to Carey's arrest shortly after the shooting, when SPD's investigation determined Carey had not shot Williams in self-defense as she previously claimed.

While Carey's son was being interviewed by an SPD detective, the affidavit reads, he said he had a GoPro camera in the corner of the office that had recorded the incident. Carey told SPD officer Kyle Bruce she knew her son had recently purchased the camera and "had been playing with it in the office"

See **Quashed**, Page A5

# Help from my friends



MICHELLE CHARLES/STILLWATER NEWS PRESS

**Friends of Stillwater Community Center member Ann Houston (right) talks with Stillwater Mayor Gina Noble Friday evening during the group's first event, Music on the Porch.**

## Community Center group shows improvements

By **Michelle Charles**  
mcharles@stwnewspress.com

Things are looking up for the Stillwater Community Center, thanks to a dedicated group known as the Friends of Stillwater Community Center.

The organization held its first event Friday evening, featuring local musicians, in the Community Center's refreshed dining room and event space.

Members were there to show off improvements that include new appliances and cabinetry, fresh paint, new ceiling tiles, bathrooms that meet standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act, an upgraded heat and air system, new tables and chairs and art installations on the wall.

The work was made possible by private donations and support from the Stillwater Community Foundation and the Alene Brown



MICHELLE CHARLES/STILLWATER NEWS PRESS

**Project Heart senior nutrition program director Janet Verner expressed her pleasure with changes in the dining hall and efforts to maintain the community center's sustainability. Project Heart feeds up to 75 seniors in the dining hall each weekday and also runs a mobile meals program from the kitchen. "It's taken a lot to get us here and keep us going," she said.**

Foundation, Friends of SCC president Nancy Beckstrom said.

The Friends of SCC will gradually get some of the money it put into the dining hall back, through an agreement with the City of Stillwater.

The city will reimburse

up to half the cost of improvements over time from revenue generated by leasing the dining hall and event space.

The group already knows what it wants to do with the money. Stillwater Community

See **Friends**, Page A2



COURTESY OF OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Chief of OSU police Leon Jones (right) smiles as Chief Public Safety Officer Michael Robinson promotes Jones during a ceremony Aug. 18. Jones has served in various roles with OSUPD since he first accepted a position in the department in 1994.**

# Joyous induction

## Jones, 22-year-vet, sworn in as OSU police chief

By **Tim Ahrens**  
tahrens@stwnewspress.com

Leon Jones didn't plan on going to college when he was younger, nor did he have much of an idea of what college was like.

He grew up in New Boston, Texas, a town of 4,628 people at the time – the closest college was Texarkana Community College, about 30 minutes away from his hometown. He played football as an offensive guard and defensive tackle in high school, and despite his hopes to become a football star, it didn't become reality.

That didn't stop him from discovering Oklahoma State University, where he was sworn in as the police department's new chief Aug. 18 after he took over the office Aug. 1.

"When I first graduated high school, I went to work at Wal-mart – I graduated and decided, 'I'm not going to college,'" Jones said. "Wal-mart started transferring me

around different places, ended up in Enid, Oklahoma. I worked there for a year and then got offered at the one here.

"I got to work with the police department quite a bit, and I decided, 'That's where I need to be.' So I started applying (to join the police) – to be honest with you, I didn't realize how college campuses operate. I knew OSU, but that's all I knew. When they did offer me the job and I accepted, it opened up a whole new world of what I saw."

Jones, who accepted a position with OSUPD in 1994, now holds an associate, a bachelor's and a master's degree in criminal justice and is a 2005 graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy. But his real achievement comes in the form of being sworn in as chief, a promotion from his most recent position as patrol captain.

See **Chief**, Page A2

# Arrest made in Cushing bank robberies

## Man in custody Tuesday; heists occurred July 31, Aug. 17

By **Kieran Steckley**  
ksteckley@stwnewspress.com

A man has been arrested in connection to two bank robberies in Cushing.

Cushing resident Lucien Brown was taken custody on a federal complaint of bank robbery, according to a press release. The arrest occurred Tuesday night.

Prior to being turned over to the U.S. Marshals Service, Brown was interviewed by a federal agent at the Cushing Police Department and transferred to the Payne County Jail, according to the release.

Although Brown was arrested in connection to both robberies, the cases are still under investigation.



**Lucien Brown**

a \$1,000 reward for information that leading to an arrest.

"The arrest came as a result of citizens and law enforcement working together," Tully Folden, Cushing chief of police,

said in the release. "I would like to thank, members of the FBI, Cushing Police Department, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and Payne County Sheriff's Department for their countless hours given, thus far, during these investigations."

The Cushing Police Department posted to its Facebook page Aug. 17 that a robbery occurred shortly after 3:30 p.m. at the Bank of the West, located at 421 E. Main St. in Cushing. A white

man standing at about 6 feet and described as in either his 20s or 30s entered the bank and then escaped with an undisclosed amount of money along with another undescribed suspect in a getaway vehicle.

On July 31, a suspect robbed the Bank of Cushing after he walked in and handed a note to the teller demanding money.

News Press reporter Tim Ahrens contributed to this report.

Twitter: @Kieran\_Steckley

AROUND OKLAHOMA

**Freedom soon for ex-Tulsa reserve deputy who killed suspect**

TULSA – Oklahoma corrections officials say a former Tulsa County volunteer sheriff's deputy sentenced to four years in prison in the fatal shooting of an unarmed and restrained suspect will likely be released from custody in mid-October.

Department of Corrections spokesman Mark Myers said Friday 76-year-old Robert Bates' projected release date is Oct. 13. Corrections officials say offenders accumulate credits toward early release through good behavior and participation in certain programs.

The former reserve deputy shot Eric Harris on April 2, 2015, while working with Tulsa County deputies during an illegal gun sales sting. Bates said he mistook his handgun for his stun gun.

Bates was convicted in April 2016 of second degree-manslaughter in the case and sentenced to four years in prison. He has appealed his conviction.

**Federal judge upholds overhaul of liquor laws**

OKLAHOMA CITY – A federal judge has upheld a voter-approved overhaul of Oklahoma's liquor laws that will expand wine and strong beer sales to grocery and convenience stores.

U.S. District Judge Robin Cauthron on Thursday dismissed a lawsuit filed in December by the Retail Liquor Association of Oklahoma.

The lawsuit alleged that the new liquor guidelines violated the constitution's equal protection clause and tried to block them. Association officials have not said if they will appeal.

State law currently allows wine and strong beer to be sold only at licensed package liquor stores. But the law approved in November would allow grocery and convenience stores to also sell wine and beer beginning Oct. 1, 2018.

Among other things, Cauthron ruled that the state can legally regulate liquor differently than wine and beer.

**Man riding tricycle struck, killed on Oklahoma road**

MOORE – Authorities say a man pedaling an adult-sized tricycle was struck and killed in an apparent hit-and-run in Moore early Friday.

Moore Police Department spokesman Jeremy Lewis says the man's tricycle had reflectors and lights on when the collision occurred on Southwest 19th Street. Lewis tells The Norman Transcript that a witness reported seeing a white truck hit the man.

Lewis says that according to the witness, the truck didn't stop and continued on to Interstate 35.

The victim's name has not yet been released. Lewis says authorities believe surveillance video could aid in the investigation.

- AP

Coming up for Turning Point Ranch

Rachel Royston, program coordinator for Turning Point Ranch, talks about the organization's new home, its upcoming volunteer orientation and how you can help people with disabilities live fuller lives.

**1 Is the riding center settling into its new home on Country Club Road?**

Yes, we are getting settled in. We are so excited and beyond grateful. Not sharing a facility means we're not limited in when we can use the arena anymore.



Rachel Royston

**2 What can you now do that you couldn't do before?**

Now that we have our own location, we're expanding into programming for adults. We also have a couple of miniature horses we're using for mobile programs. One of the Rotary clubs is coming out Saturday to install a sensory trail for our riders that has things like mail boxes, gates, bridges and a xylophone made of 2-by-4s.

**3 Tell us about your need for volunteers.**

Our biggest need is for people to walk alongside the riders and play games with them. We have 45 students who each need 1-3 volunteers, depending

on their abilities. We get some students who return from the previous year, but we still need about 100 volunteers a semester.

**4 What are the qualifications?**

Absolutely no experience is necessary. You don't have to be a horse person because we train everyone to do it the Turning Point way. We believe in developing our volunteers. Some aren't horse people when they start but actually become horse people. We love our students but their schedules can be extremely variable. We could really

use some volunteers with set schedules who are available during the day.

**5 When is your next volunteer orientation and how can people find out more about it?**

We're holding our fall volunteer orientation 6-8 p.m. Monday at Turning Point Ranch, on the east side of Country Club Road just north of Sixth Avenue. Look for the white rail fence. You can find more information at turningpointriding.org or by calling 405-269-2225 or by emailing volunteer@turningpointriding.org.

- Michelle Charles

Friends

Continued from Page A1

Center Foundation president Larry Stein revealed the next phase of improvements will focus on increasing the community center's curb appeal by making repairs, painting the exterior, removing overgrown shrubs and refreshing the landscaping.

The groups estimate that will cost \$30,000.

The Stillwater Community Center Foundation, a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization, is taking tax-deductible donations to support the ongoing

work. Friends of Stillwater Community Center was founded in 2016 by sisters Ann Houston and Nancy Beckstrom with Stillwater Community Singers director Judy White.

The organization's goal is "To ensure the accessibility, affordability and sustainability of the Stillwater Community Center for use by the citizens of Stillwater and the surrounding area."

For more information on becoming a member or making a donation, go to [scfriends.com](http://scfriends.com), follow Friends of the Stillwater Community Center on Facebook or follow @scfriends on Twitter.

Twitter: @mcharlesNP



MICHELLE CHARLES/STILLWATER NEWS PRESS

Stillwater's community center at 9th Avenue and Duck Street is undergoing improvements thanks to the efforts of an organization called Friends of Stillwater Community Center. The group has refreshed the dining hall to make it usable for events and now plans to turn its attention the exterior.

Chief

Continued from Page A1

"I am pleased to announce the selection of Leon Jones as chief of police for the campus," said Chief Public Safety Officer Michael Robinson in an Aug. 1 release. "He has served the department and the campus community for more than 20 years and will make an excellent

chief to lead the department and continue its dedication to provide a safe environment for our students, employees and visitors on the Stillwater campus."

Jones said the biggest difference he has encountered in his several weeks on the job has been being able to own every decision he has made, compared to having one man to answer to when he was captain. Now he leads the 33 officers and 10 civilian

employees who make up OSUPD, but in some ways he doesn't feel like he's reached the top.

"Twenty-two years (of service), I always tell everybody I always wanted to be in this position," Jones said. "In the 22 years I've been here,

it's almost like applying for the job and going through an interview every day.

"I love it up here; it just seems like I fit in this environment. The different places I've been to in the past before I got here, Enid - it's not

as social as Stillwater, Oklahoma. When I got here, everybody was friendly, nice, and just like they wanted you to be in this environment. I'm glad it worked out the way it did."

Twitter: @ahrens\_tim

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