

# The Building Block

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An e-newsletter of the J. D. McCarty Center for children with developmental disabilities

## Gutter Dance 13 is win/win for bowlers and Camp ClapHans

Gutter Dance 13, presented by the Bob Stoops Champions Foundation, was held Thursday, May 19, at the Sooner Bowling Center in Norman. The Gutter Dance is a charity bowling event that supports the operations of our Camp ClapHans program.

Twenty-three teams, along with a host of corporate and lane sponsors, netted \$10,355 from the event, all of which goes to Camp ClapHans.

"The McCarty Center is a state agency," said Greg Gaston, hospital spokesman, "but Camp ClapHans was built entirely with donated money. And now we operate the camp entirely with donated and raised money."

The Gutter Dance provided a lot of opportunities for participants to walk away a winner. Strike prizes were given to bowlers who made a strike with their first ball when a color pin appeared in their rack. Prizes were given to the team with the most creative bowling shirts, door prizes were drawn after the event and team trophies were presented.

Since Gutter Dance I, it has been the tradition of the event to recognize the last place team for their effort and participation. "It's like we've always said," said Gaston, "you don't have to be a league bowler to participate in this event. You just need to like to have a good time. So we recognize the last place team who represents those who want to support a good cause and have fun even if they don't bowl often, or at all."



**Proudly displaying their last place bobble head trophies are (l-r) Crystal Vazquez, Amanda Lennert and Tara Harris with their kids Edison Felty, Conner Vasques and Ashlyn Reynolds. Not shown is Edna Hulley. They bowled for OrthoCare Services' Peter Pan & the Lost Boys team.**

The last place bobble head trophies went to OrthoCare Services' Peter Pan and the Lost Boys with a total pin count of 466. The team was made up of Edna Hulley, Tara Harris, Amanda Lennert and Crystal Vasques.

In third place with 1,089 pins was Peyton's Body Guards. Team members were Chris King, Pat King, Jacob McClain and Matt Powers.

Tiffany's Restaurant, a consistent top three finisher in the Gutter Dance, placed second with a total pin count of 1,195. This year's team consisted of Donnie Hicks, Robert Kent, Jerry Dover and Ian Hicks.

The 2016 Gutter Dance champions were the Energy Inspectors with a total pin count of 1,450. Team members were Ryan Autry, Andrew Cook, Chris Autry and Erick Howard.

The winner of the most creative bowling shirts was the team called Nerdy Nurses. This team was comprised of Heather Terpening, Jill Floyd, Jennifer Giamelle and Sheila McMichael.

The big prize of the evening went to the individual bowler with the largest number of strikes for the two lines bowled.

**See Gutter Dance 13  
Continued on page 2**

# Gutter Dance 13

This year's winner of a 4-day/3-night trip for two to Branson, MO, was Chris Autry from the Energy Inspectors team. Autry rolled 12 strikes with an additional 9 spares to win the evening's big prize. The trip was provided by corporate sponsor Reynolds Ford.

In addition to Reynolds Ford, other corporate sponsors were Johnny Carino's Italian Restaurant, Clark Construction, Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Norman Family Dentistry and Republic Bank and Trust.



Gutter Dance 13 champions were the Energy Inspectors. The team had a total pin count of 1,450. Team members were (l-r) Ryan Autry, Eric Howard, Chris Aurtry and Andrew Cook.



The Tiffany's Restaurant team from Noble is consistently in the top three finishers of the Gutter Dance. This year they finished in second place with 1,195 pins. Team members were (l-r) Robert Kemp, Jerry Dover, Donnie Hicks and Ian Hicks.



In third place for the Gutter Dance 13 charity bowling event with 1,089 pins were Peyton's Body Guards. Team members were (l-r) Jake McClain, Pat King, Chris King and Matt Powers. Shown with her body guards is Peyton King.



Lauren and David Higdon, members of the Pin Heads team watch the action on the lane in this year's Gutter Dance 13. David is an occupational therapist at the McCarty Center.



Chris Autry won the 4-day/3-night trip for two to Branson, MO, with a total of 12 strikes, plus an additional 9 spares. The trip is courtesy of corporate sponsor Reynolds Ford.



Jimmy Longenbaugh, a member of the 40 et 8 of Oklahoma, prepares to make his roll during the Gutter Dance held at the Sooner Bowling Center on Thursday, May 19. The 40 et 8 of Oklahoma are the original founders of what is now the J. D. McCarty Center for children with developmental disabilities. The McCarty Center is in its 70th year of serving families from all over Oklahoma.



McCarty Center RN Jeanie Vanbuskirk and her daughter Mason volunteered to hand out strike prizes during Gutter Dance 13.



Cara Taylor, director of Speech-Language Pathology at the McCarty Center, shows off the team shirt for "It's a Sher thing." Former Commissioner Joe Sher sponsors the Speech-Language team each year and this was their way of honoring him.

## The Building Block

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# 21st annual Norman Conquest set for Saturday, July 9

*64-mile loop to honor fallen cyclist Michael Grimwood*

“Conquer the heat! Conquer the hills!” is the rider’s yell for the Bicycle League of Norman’s 21st annual Norman Conquest bicycle tour.

According to Jerry Puckett, Norman Conquest chairperson, it’s the choice of routes, the organization and support of the event that had Bicycling Magazine naming the Norman Conquest one of the 50 best rides in America in 2012. The ride has just gotten better since then.

This year’s Norman Conquest will be held Saturday, July 9. The ride will begin and end at the McCarty Center. Start time for the ride is 7 a.m.

Proceeds from this event will once again benefit Camp ClapHans. It is a residential summer camp for children with developmental disabilities ages 8 to 18. The BLN has been supporting Camp ClapHans since 2008.



This bike is getting a pre-ride tuneup before last year’s Norman Conquest.

There are three ways to register for this event. You can register online by going to [www.bikereg.com](http://www.bikereg.com); or you can register Friday evening, July 8 from 5-9 p.m. at O’Connell’s Irish Pub at 769 Asp Avenue on Campus Corner in Norman; or you can register at the McCarty Center, 2002 East Robinson, Norman, the morning of the ride from 5:45-6:45.



The flying pig riding jersey is just one of the many interesting jerseys you’ll see at the 21st annual Norman Conquest bicycle tour on Saturday, July 9.

Entry fees for the 2016 Norman conquest is \$35. After June 29 it’s \$40. The town tour is \$10 per rider or \$30 with a Norman Conquest T-shirt. All entry fees include a hot catered lunch after the ride, a 21st anniversary Norman Conquest T-shirt and a “carbo loading” pasta dinner at O’Connell’s on Friday night. The pasta dinner for non-participants may be purchased for \$10. A T-shirt is not guaranteed if registering after June 7.



Professional massage therapists await riders to rub out the kinks after conquering the heat and conquering the hills of the Norman Conquest bicycle tour.

Puckett wants to remind riders that there have been some changes to the event from previous years. First is the addition of a fifth route. In addition to the family friendly town tour, the hilly 22-mile ride, the very hilly 46-mile trek and the seriously hilly 64-mile challenge, there is now a 10-mile “taste of the hills” route. The “taste of the hills” made its debut in 2014 and was an immediately popular route choice.

“This additional route was developed in response to our less experienced riders request for something more challenging than the town tour,” said Puckett. “These riders didn’t feel they were ready for the 22-mile ride, but wanted to sample a little more challenging route. Thus, the ‘taste of the hills’ was created.”

Beginning this year, the 64-mile route will be known as the Grimwood Loop in memory of fallen cyclist Michael Grimwood. He was killed August 22, 2015, by an

**Continued on page 4  
See Grimwood Loop**

# Grimwood Loop

inattentive driver on U. S. 77 Highway south of Purcell while he and Puckett were returning from a ride to Pauls Valley. Grimwood was a longtime Norman area cyclist.

"I rode with Mike for two and a half years," said Puckett. "We put in about 5,000 miles together on bikes. Mike had been a rider for 20 years and I bet he logged over 20,000 miles in that time. The Norman Conquest was his favorite ride."

The start time for the ride is 7 a.m. The start of the ride will be staggered based on the ride route. The Grimwood Loop riders will start first, followed by the 46, 22, 10 and town tour riders. There will be an approximate 5 minute delay between groups.

"We want to remind riders that the Norman Conquest is a ride and not a race," Puckett said. "We have something for all interests and riding levels."

The Norman Conquest is supported by rest stops along all routes, as well as mobile mechanical support and SAG vehicles. The routes are well marked and maps are available at the registration tables Saturday morning. Besides a hot, delicious meal with air conditioning at the end of the ride there will also be free massages for riders and door prize drawings, including a drawing for a bicycle.

For riders coming from out-of-town, a block of rooms has been set aside at the Marriott Conference Center at the National Center for

Employee Development at the special rate of \$89 per night for July 8 and 9. Reservations include a complimentary 3 p.m. check out. Located at Hwy 9 and 24th Avenue SE, the hotel has easy access to the McCarty Center. Reservations may be made by contacting the hotel directly at 405.447.9000 and identifying yourself as a part of the BLN 21st annual Norman Conquest group.

The BLN supports and encourages the growth of recreational bicycling in and around Norman by organizing ride events, supporting bicycle safety and educational activities, participating in local government planning for improved bicycle access and emphasizing the healthful and social aspects of cycling. For more information visit [www.bicycleleague.com](http://www.bicycleleague.com).



**These riders from last year's Norman Conquest are riding what is now called the Grimwood Loop, a challenging 64-mile trek through eastern Cleveland County that proves Oklahoma is not flat. The Grimwood Loop is named in memory of fallen Norman cyclist Michael Grimwood. The Norman Conquest was his favorite ride.**



**Randi Wilkie, a McCarty Center speech-language pathologist and rest stop volunteer, mixes a fresh batch of Gatorade for thirsty riders at the rest stop at the farthest point out on the 64-mile Grimwood Loop.**



# Camp ClapHans is open for business

Season four of Camp ClapHans is well under way as kids with special needs ages 8 to 18 find their way to the camp grounds. Some are returning for their fourth season, others are making it to summer camp for the very first time in their lives.

This year's camp theme is the Olympics in keeping with this summer's Olympic games in Rio.

Campers will participate in all sorts of games and activities as a nod to the summer games. At the end of camp each camper will receive a summer champion certificate for their participation in the Camp ClapHans summer games.



Camp ClapHans runs from Sunday afternoon to Wednesday evenings. The first session of camp began June 12. The last session of camp will end July 20. There is no camp the week of July 4.

# Camp ClapHans fun & games season four



Camper Ari Gunnarsson (left) and camp counselor Allison Marx perform a skit in front of the Camp ClapHans Olympic rings



Emily Nelson breaks into her most glamorous model's pose while riding Little Joe. Leading the horse is equine volunteer Allison Maurer. Emily's side walker is camp counselor Meghan Causby.



Kaylynne Ackerson (right) squares off against her brother Cameron for a round of Olympic nerf fencing.



Brighton Squires enjoys a cool dip in the pool on a hot day.



During the hot days of camp there were plenty of opportunities to cool down with something tasty. Here Gracie Whitmore enjoys a cool snow cone on the front porch of the camp's multipurpose building compliments of Eskimo Sno.



Koner Rodgers came to camp this summer ready to ride. He even helped brush the horses before the morning ride.



Cameron Ackerson works on his artwork.



Camper Lindsay Nixon (left) plays soccer with camp counselor Kyla Beasley.



Courtney Spoon busts a move during a line dancing session.



Gregory Ford shows off his Frisbee skills with a one hand, no look catch during one of the camp's Olympic events.



Oliver Gatch (center) takes a spin around the lake. Providing propulsion for the canoe are counselors Preston Court and Emily Snedden.



Street Eats visitors were entertained by "Tasty Bang" during the OT Month "Street Eats" food truck event.



Hundreds of people from the metro area visited the first annual OT Street Eats event at the McCarty Center.



One of many children visiting Street Eats is greeted by a princess.



Ballon artist David Murray creates a balloon animal for a Street Eats attendee.



An inflatable castle proved to be a popular place for kids attending the OT Street Eats food truck event at the McCarty Center.

# A delicious day

Hundreds of people convened at the McCarty Center in April to chow down on some tasty treats.

The hospital's occupational therapy department hosted the "Street Eats" food truck festival on April 16 that drew residents from the metro area, as well as out-of-state guests.

The event featured 11 food trucks, live music, face painting and an inflatable for kids. Activities also included an open house and tours at Camp ClapHans, the McCarty Center's summer camp program.

The event also celebrated "National Occupational Therapy Month."

"I'm really pleased with the great turnout we had for our 'Street Eats' event," said Becky Koehler, a certified occupational therapy assistant and a coordinator of the event. "I think it was successful in bringing the community together, while celebrating OT month and it all happened at the McCarty Center."

"We couldn't have done it without everyone that came together to volunteer," Koehler said, adding, "We hope to make it an annual event."



Murphy's Cook Shack was one 11 food truck vendors providing a wide variety of food selections during the OT Street Eats event.



Melodee's Soul Food & Creole was serving up some good food truck cuisine at the OT Street Eats.



Direct Care Specialist Mark Hise performs for the visitors during the OT Street Eats celebration of Occupational Therapy Month.



La Gumbo Ya Ya was another great food truck vendor providing a delicious choice of eats during the McCarty Center's OT Street Eats celebration.

Left: Direct Care Specialist Kerry Flannary chooses the 'Phill Me Up' food truck from the many choices available during OT Street Eats at the McCarty Center.