

# THE SEED SOWER

OU Facilities Management Quarterly Newsletter



## Message from the AVP

*Celebrating a Safe and Successful Summer!*

*It's been a long, wet, and incredibly productive summer, and I wanted to take a moment to recognize the outstanding work of our facilities team. Your dedication and tireless efforts have kept our campus safe, functional, and beautiful.*

*A special thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Safety Rodeo—a tremendous success that showcased your commitment to safety, teamwork, and excellence. Events like this remind me of the strength and unity within our department.*

*With students returning in just a few short weeks, we're in the final stretch of summer preparations. Let's finish strong and continue building a campus environment we can all be proud of. I want to hear from you! If you have ideas, feedback, or suggestions to help improve the department or work smarter, don't hesitate to reach out. Send me an email or call/text at (405) 294-2530—your voice matters.*

*Thank you for everything you do to support the OU community!  
Be Safe,  
Matt*

*Matthew C. Rom  
Associate Vice President for Facilities Management*

## UPCOMING DATES

### FOURTH OF JULY

July 4<sup>th</sup>

### TEAM MEMBER OF THE QUARTER NOMINATIONS DUE

July 7<sup>th</sup>

### PANHELLENIC MOVE IN

August 7th-8th

### FRESHMAN MOVE IN

August 18th-19th

### FALL SEMESTER BEGINS

August 25th

### FIRST FOOTBALL GAME

August 30th

### LABOR DAY

September 1st

Have an idea for the next quarterly newsletter? Email  
Facilities@ou.edu with your idea!

# FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS



## TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### Chris Ebert, Plumbing Shop



Earlier in the semester, Chris went above and beyond in locating a failed water valve on campus. This was a large undertaking and required many hours of review, all while ensuring there was no disruption to our OU community. Chris successfully identified the source of the leak within the tunnel system and acted swiftly, coordinating with our trusted partners to repair the line with minimal downtime to campus operations.

Thank you for your hard work, Chris!

## NEW HIRES

### LANDSCAPING/GROUNDS

Steven Clark | May 5  
Michael Cox | May 5  
David Clouse | May 5  
Tucker Craig | May 17  
Brian Coxen | May 17  
Ethan Sayadeth | May 17  
Chelsey Arney | May 17  
Pooja Komusani | June 2  
Nathaniel Adams | June 2  
Joel Nkangi | June 2  
Devine Kalekyezi | June 2  
Benjamin Henniges-DuChene | June 2  
Matthew Loveless | June 5  
Travis Grinnell | June 14  
Alex McCann | June 16  
Greg Beller | June 30  
Chase Davis | June 30

### FACILITY SERVICES

Tristen Feller | Apr. 19  
Mikeal Roberts | Apr. 20  
Brandi Duncan | Apr. 21  
Jessica Lamb | Apr. 22  
Amanda Dempsey | Apr 21  
Raquel Mejia de Ramirez | May 23

### MAINTENANCE

Tryston Shepherd | May 19  
Marc Douglas | June 16

### PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

Blake Thompson | May 19  
Tsega Tilahun | May 19

### UTILITY SERVICES

Kristopher Stewart Apr. 7  
David Olanite | May 19

## WELCOME



## MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

### 1 YEAR

Rhonda Thompson | Apr. 22  
Dominick Potter | Apr. 29  
Cooper Black | Apr. 29  
Ricky Joslin | May 4  
Danny Poco | May 6  
Samuel Ratcliff | May 10  
Hayden Lingle | May 20  
Natalie Smith | May 21  
Michael Woods | June 3  
Shirley Wiggins | June 16  
Grant Eason | June 28

### 5 YEARS

Greg Moser | June 7

### 10 YEARS

Maria Schlactun | Apr. 20  
Stephanie Cunningham | June 1  
Jason Lane | June 8  
Cameron Noah | June 15

### 15 YEARS

Israel Schumpert | May 22

### 25 YEARS

Gary Campbell | June 20

### 40 YEARS

Robby Dodd | June 4



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# QUARTER 2 AWARD WINNERS

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**Q2**

## **LEAD/SUPERVISOR AUSTIN ROESLER**



**AUSTIN IS A SUPERVISOR IN THE PLUMBING SHOP. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 19 YEARS.**

“

*Austin has gone above and beyond identifying and correcting issues on campus. He always keeps close communication with team members and our department.*

”

**Q2**

## **CUSTODIAL SHIRLEY WIGGINS**



**SHIRLEY IS A CUSTODIAN FOR CUSTODIAL SERVICES. SHE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 1 YEAR.**

“

*Shirley is always offering to help out other areas when needed. She always has a positive attitude, is an extremely hard worker, and is dedicated to the team.*

”

**Q2**

## **UTILITIES MICHAEL RAY**



**MICHAEL IS AN IRRIGATION TECHNICIAN FOR UTILITIES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 19 YEARS.**

“

*Mike has taken on several new responsibilities which has given him an opportunity to learn and improve his skills, but also to ensure the success of the shop. Through this, he has also demonstrated FM's core values.*

”

**Q2**

## **MAINTENANCE CHRIS EBERT**



**CHRIS IS A SENIOR PLUMBER FOR MAINTENANCE SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 1 YEAR.**

“

*Chris has gone above and beyond helping to solve projects on campus. While doing so, he has been able to maintain steady relationships with outside contractors and communicate quickly to leadership.*

”

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# Team Member of the Quarter

Q2

## FACILITY SERVICES KYLE ARMON



KYLE IS AN INVENTORY ASSOCIATE FOR FACILITIES SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 2 YEARS.

“ Kyle has been able to maintain a positive attitude, show patience through problems, and has been willing to help in any way throughout the recent expansion of the inventory warehouse. He works diligently to serve our FM team to the best of his abilities. ”

Q2

## LANDSCAPE JUSTIN JONES



JUSTIN IS A SENIOR LANDSCAPE AND GROUNDS SPECIALIST FOR LANDSCAPE AND GROUNDS. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 14 YEARS.

“ Justin leads by example for his work ethic, staying on task, and holding himself and others accountable for using PPE and proper equipment. He is a great employee and a crucial part of his team. ”



Nominate a Team Member for  
Employee of the Quarter

Scan the QR code for the nomination form  
or email Jessica Shinabery at [jshinabery@ou.edu](mailto:jshinabery@ou.edu)





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# FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

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## UTILITIES STEP COMPLETIONS



Jason Alvarado  
Step 3, Maintenance Mechanic

Shelby Rubrecht  
Step 6, Maintenance Mechanic

Dakota Hill  
Step 1, Maintenance Mechanic

Javier Contreras  
Step 3, Maintenance Mechanic

## PROMOTIONS

Congrats to the following team  
members on recent promotions!

Bradley Dixon  
Landscaping & Grounds, Assistant Director

Timothy Kreun  
Access Control Specialist

Michael Ray  
Irrigation Technician

Austin Roesler  
Plumbing Manager



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## KUDOS KORNER

### Aaron Brown and Matt Jewell

Aaron and Matt are amazing people, they came in and got the job done fast and just how we wanted it. Super friendly!

### Samuel Cooper

I found him to be really knowledgeable and experienced in his field...In addition to his technical knowledge, he is very personable and has strong communication skills. Even today when I spoke to him, he listened carefully to me...

### Aaron Brown, Matt Jewel, Timothy Kreun, and Kyle Leffler

I just wanted to say thank you for the wonderful guys you always send. We love working with facilities management! Everyone is always friendly and patient as we figure out where furniture is going to go. They always stay around a little longer to help us if we want to move or rearrange, and they are calm even when it gets frustrating trying to figure out how to move in the bigger pieces. Four guys came this morning...they were all wonderful - 10/10 kudos from our office staff to yours!

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# FEATURED ARTICLES

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## FM Celebrates Staff Week 2025

Facilities Management team members took part in several events during Staff Week 2025. At the Awards Ceremony, 47 FM employees were recognized for their years of service and retirements. Their dedication and commitment to the University of Oklahoma continue to make a lasting impact—thank you!



Pictured Above: (left to Right) Michael Ray, David Kizer, Alex Loftus, Brandon Marlow, and Jason Reeves at the Union for Breakfast with Staff Senators.



Pictured Above: (left to Right) Alex Loftus, Brandon Marlow, and Jason Reeves pose at the Breakfast on April 21.



Pictured Above: Electric Supervisor, Chris Angie enjoys fried bread at the Picnic and Ice Cream Social on April 25.



Pictured Above: Plumber, David Kizer with the University community.

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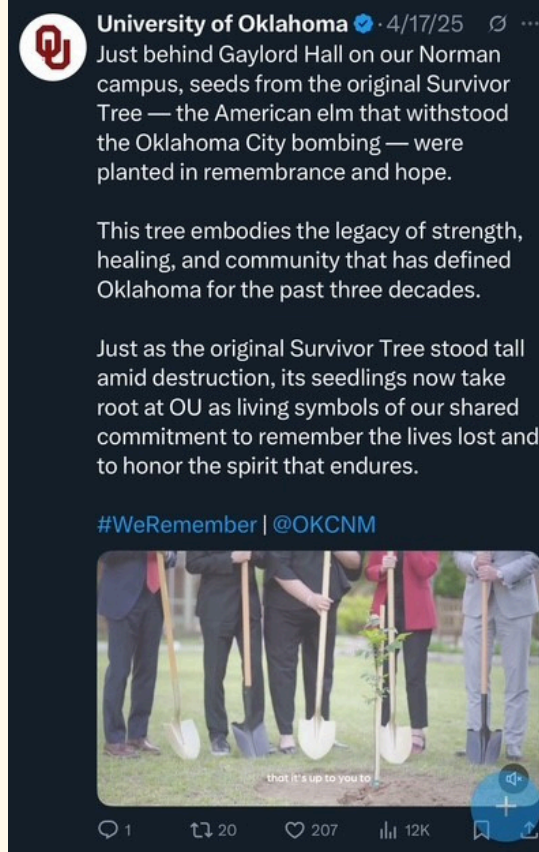


# FEATURED ARTICLES



## FM Shines on OU Socials

Check out recent OU posts showcasing the beauty of our campus.





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# FEATURED ARTICLES

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## Above and Beyond on the Job

Members of the Roads and General Maintenance shops were honored with “Above and Beyond Operations Coins” for stepping in when a contractor unexpectedly left a jobsite. Acting swiftly, the team took over the concrete pour, preventing costly waste and keeping the project on track. Their quick response not only saved university resources but also demonstrated outstanding teamwork and dedication.



Pictured Above: (Left to Right) Chris Thompson, Charles Phillips, Glen Gordon, and Randy Kinsey



Pictured Above: (Left to Right) Kyle Leffler, Glen Gordon, and Will Stephens

## FM Warehouse



Pictured Above: (Left to Right) Dan Alinger, Jeremy Erb, Samuel Cooper, Crystal Noah, Colton Walker, Syndy Petross, Logan Kuhn, and Brenna Hibbs during annual inventory counts.

The Material Management warehouse at 705 officially debuted in January 2025. Since then, the team has processed over 900 special order purchase orders, 500 inventory purchase orders, 1,000 pick tickets, and 2,000 counter releases. The entire warehouse, including over 4,511 active bins, were counted at least once prior to annual inventory counts. In the last week of June, the Material Management team combined efforts with other Facilities Management team members to perform the official annual count.



Pictured Above: Dan, Jeremy, Crystal, and Logan of the Material Management team.

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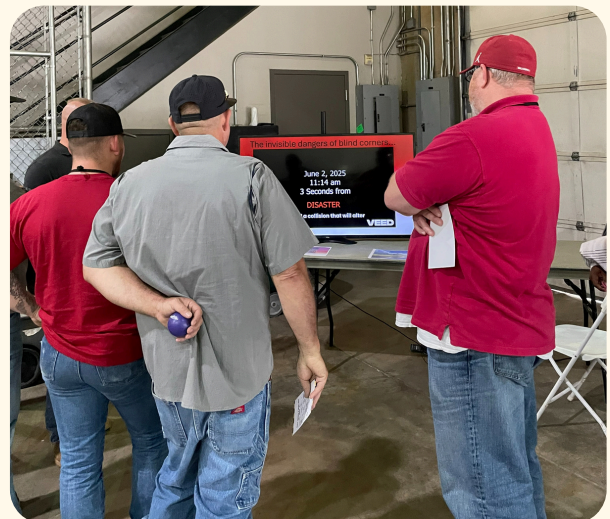
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# FEATURED ARTICLES

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## Safety BBQ Brings Food, Fun, and Awareness

Facilities Management team members gathered for the annual Safety BBQ, celebrating our commitment to workplace safety. This year's theme, "Don't Dismiss a Near Miss," highlighted the importance of reporting and learning from close calls. A big shoutout to the Elevator Shop and Custodial Dining teams for winning Best Table. And a huge thank you to the Events and Recognition Committee for organizing another successful and meaningful event.





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# FEATURED ARTICLES

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## Campus Projects

Check out projects from this past quarter.



Pictured Left:  
Carson Engineering  
Fountain upgrades.  
Kudos to project  
manager Larry  
Cater; Chris Walsh,  
David Kizer, and  
Austin Roesler from  
plumbing; architect  
Bill Cooper; and  
engineers Korey  
Wheeler and Scott  
Welch

Pictured Right:  
Custodial Services  
stripped and wax  
the Barry Switzer  
Lobby of the  
Memorial Stadium.  
The floor refinishing  
took over 200 hours  
and 40 gallons of  
wax to complete.  
Pictured Below:  
Entrance to the  
North Oval is being  
revamped from  
multiple shops  
within FM.

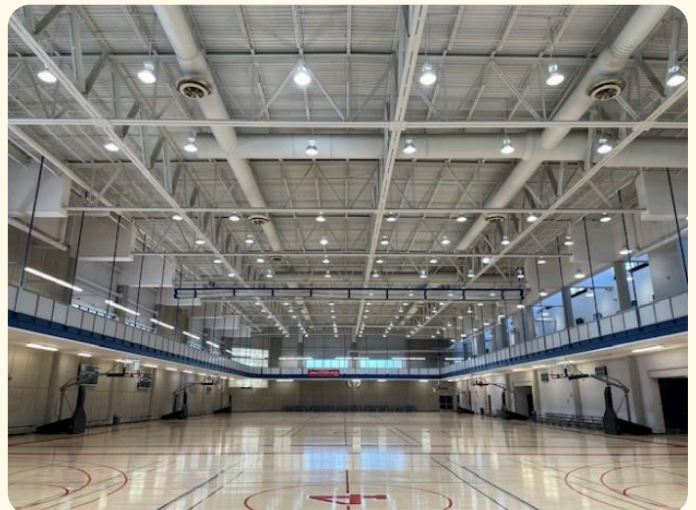


## Sarkey's Fitness Lighting Upgrade

The Electric Shop recently wrapped up their first summer project at the Sarkeys Fitness Center. The goal was to upgrade the lighting by replacing all of the old 400-watt metal halide lamps with energy-efficient 150-watt LED bulbs. 140 of them total. To do this, the shop removed the existing fixtures, took out the ballasts, and disposed of them in an environmentally responsible way. The system was then converted to a direct-wire setup, which will lead to significant energy savings over time.

Since the lights were located above the four south basketball courts, the shop had to rent two 40-foot man lifts to reach them. To protect the hardwood floors, the team laid down thirty sheets of  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood, carefully moving them along as the lifts were repositioned from one fixture to the next.

Thanks to the crew's hard work and coordination, the project was completed four days ahead of schedule, resulting in significant cost savings on the installation. Rod Strickland, Jonathan Harper, James Lane, and Logan Tougas all did an outstanding job getting this done safely, efficiently, and ahead of time.



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# HR UPDATES

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## SAFETY UPDATES

### Safety Day – Don't Dismiss the Near Miss

The 2025 Annual Safety Breakfast and Barbeque was held on June 5. This year's challenge was for teams to find identify and creatively present near misses within their department. Congratulations to the Elevator Shop for your winning presentation. Everyone's participation is greatly appreciated! Only through your engagement, participation, and support can we make the work we do on campus as safe as possible.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Safety Champion

Congratulate Marta Morgan (carpentry shop, pictured below) when you see her. She completed the Safety Recognition Program in May!



## HR UPDATES



### Cornerstone and Annual Evaluations:

There may be some questions about the FY26 Staff Merit Salary Program here are some common ones:

1. *Where do I find my merit tier assignment for 2024?*

This is located on your 2024 Evaluation in Cornerstone. Just following these easy steps:

- Log into OU Cornerstone website- [cornerstone.ou.edu](https://cornerstone.ou.edu)
- Click on the three lines in the upper right-hand corner.
- Select Profile>Annual Reviews>Click on the down arrow next to "Annual Review - CY2024">Click "Print Review."
- Scroll to the last page and find your Merit Tier.

2. *Are there specific eligibility requirements?* Here is the website that includes the eligibility criteria:

<https://hr.ou.edu/FY2026-Staff-Merit-Salary-Program>

3. Be sure to check your email for updates from the Central HR office regarding updates and official communications.

### 2025 Goal Check-in

While you're in Cornerstone, now is a great time to check-in on your 2025 goals. Here's how:

- Click on the three lines in the upper right-hand corner.
- Under the Performance section, select Goals.

From there, you should see your current goal period (01/01/2025 – 12/31/2025). You can click into each goal to add comments about your progress. You're also able to upload up to three attachments per goal, which can be especially helpful when reflecting on your accomplishments during self-reviews in December.

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### Did you know?

Legend says that if you walk under it, you won't graduate on time. Students normally walk under it after graduation.