



News

Features

Sports

the **VISTA**

December 2, 2014

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EDITORIALS

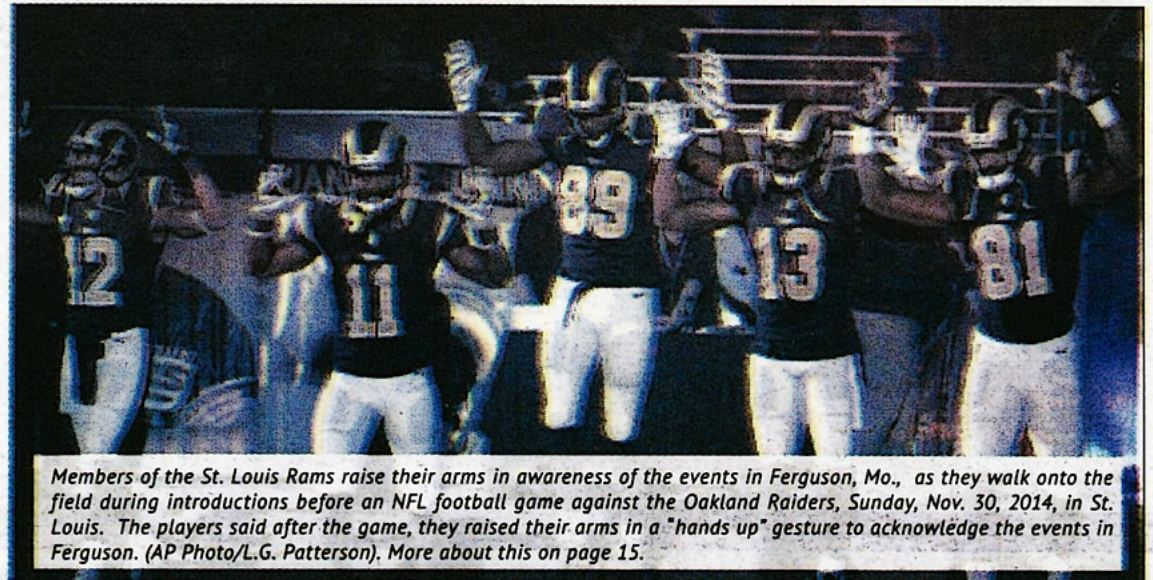
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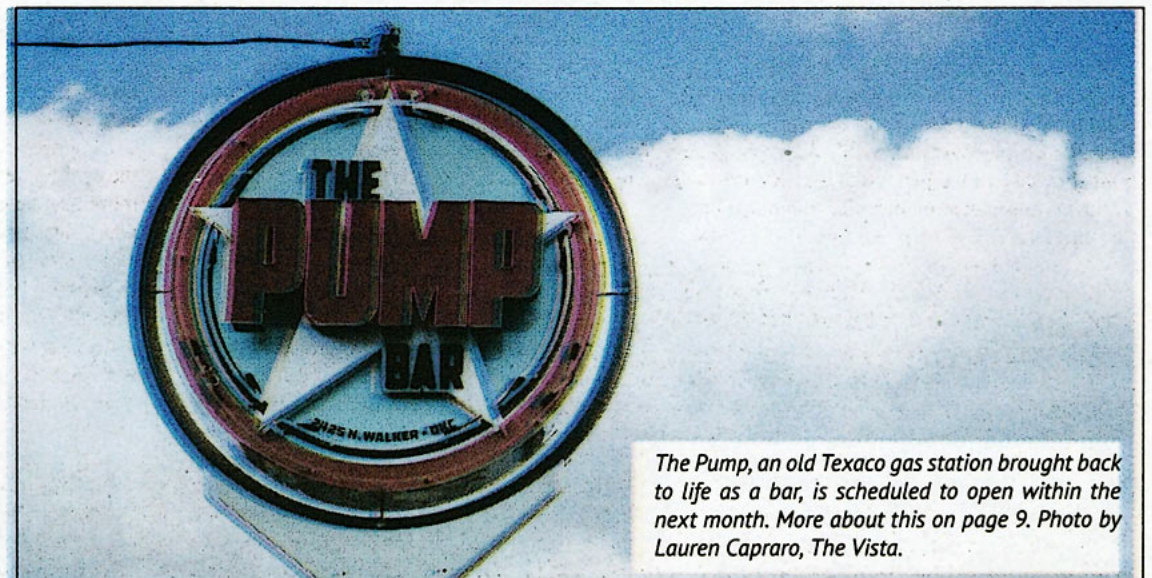
Members of the St. Louis Rams raise their arms in awareness of the events in Ferguson, Mo., as they walk onto the field during introductions before an NFL football game against the Oakland Raiders, Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, in St. Louis. The players said after the game, they raised their arms in a "hands up" gesture to acknowledge the events in Ferguson. (AP Photo/L.G. Patterson). More about this on page 15.

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ON THE COVER

The Christmas display in the Max Chamber's Library. Photo by Ryan Naeve, The Vista.



The Pump, an old Texaco gas station brought back to life as a bar, is scheduled to open within the next month. More about this on page 9. Photo by Lauren Capraro, The Vista.

Trying to Build a Bicycling Culture



Lauren
Capraro

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Staff Writer

Out of frustration and curiosity, The Vista staff decided to investigate the issue with biking culture in Oklahoma City. Bicycle commuting is steadily rising in cities such as Portland, Oregon, and Austin, Texas, while OKC is not known as one of the country's most bike-friendly cities; what's holding it back?

Battle Between Automobiles and Bicycles

Oklahoma City has a low population density, with the majority of residents driving vehicles. The 2013 American Community Survey data report showed that 0.2 percent of Oklahoma City's residents commuted on bicycle, which ranked the city 66 out of the top 70 largest U.S. cities.

One of the main problems with biking in OKC is the culture and mentality behind bicycling. Generally, people in automobiles do not want bicycles on the road.

Joe Stinnett, manager of Hideaway Pizza-Automobile Alley, has been riding his bicycle to work for two years and experiences the problem.

"I don't think Oklahoma City is bike friendly. The culture behind it is the problem. If more people would just get out and ride a bicycle, they wouldn't be mad at bicyclists. They would understand the bicyclist's perspective, because they would be one too," Stinnett said. "The city

is really doing its part. It's the culture. People don't respect the bicycle."

Steve Schlegel, owner of Schlegel Bicycles, a bicycle shop north of downtown, says that automobile drivers need to respect cyclists and in return, cyclists need to lawfully stand their ground.

"I have always considered Oklahoma City to have more of a rural mentality that believes that the bike is a toy, not a valid form of transportation. It belongs on the sidewalk," Schlegel said. "When we lead a large group ride, the thing we really stress is that cyclists have the right to be on the roadway, but we also need to be conducting ourselves in a lawful manner so that we command the respect we need."

City Doing its Part

The Oklahoma Bicycle Transportation Plan was formed in 2008 to develop a bike routes system, promote bicycling as a healthy activity, create a safe environment for bicyclists and promote the use of bicycles for transportation.

This plan includes designating approximately 200 miles of bicycle routes concentrated in the central part of Oklahoma City. Approximately 70 of the planned 200 miles of bike lanes have already been installed, and the city has approved

another 62 miles to be installed within the next few years.

These bike lanes have on-road signage depicting "sharrows," or "sharing-arrows," which are indicators painted on the street to inform motorists that bicycles may utilize the full lane.

Eric Dryer, assistant planner for Central Oklahoma Transportation & Planning Services, says the city is progressing with different projects designed to make biking a better experience in the metro.

"I think the city is working hard to expand the cycling network in OKC. I think we will see more bike lanes, especially downtown, and more bike routes and signage throughout town," Dryer said. "Most of the road planning and design here is based on how many cars the road can handle, and bikes are not incorporated into that calculation. I think with more people riding or with some data on how many people are riding, a case could be made for more bike lanes on more of our streets."

A Shift in Perspective

The city had a 67 percent increase of bicyclists from 2000-2012. With the increase of bicyclists, the demand for better biking infrastructure will rise.

"I think there's a shift in people moving downtown and realizing that biking is an awesome way to get around," Schlegel said. "I certainly feel like the infrastructure, locally, has taken a very positive turn. It's just going to take education."

Many bike-friendly events have been hosted in the OKC metro throughout the past few years, including Open Streets OKC, which shut down part of Northwest 23rd Street to encourage walking and cycling, and The League of American Bicyclists' annual "Bike to Work Day."

With more people in OKC engaging in bicycling for commuting or leisure, citizens will be more inclined to give bicyclists respect.

"What you're going to start seeing is drivers become riders, themselves. So they're going to become more educated to the trials and tribulations of a rider. I think they'll certainly be more respectful of it," Schlegel said.

If the demand for infrastructure continues to grow, the city may see more bicycles on the street than ever before. With education, cooperation, and respect, Oklahoma City has the potential to become a bike-friendly city.

The Great Divide

Divide



Ariana Muse
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Contributing Writer

The West watches in horror as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) plows through the Middle East. ISIS, a group of radical Sunni Muslims, has been taking over large areas of land in Iraq and Syria in order to build a caliphate; an Islamic state based on the most radical interpretations of Sharia Law.

The U.S. stands on the sidelines trying to decide when, if, or how they should get involved. Should the West defend innocent villagers facing slaughter, which would mean taking the side of a brutal dictator? Should it support the most radical terrorist groups of our time? The choice is complicated.

"That's easy to say about the Middle East, that it's complicated, but it's never been as complicated as it is now," said Josh Wood, who was a freelance reporter based in Beirut between 2009 and 2014, writing for publications such as The International Herald Tribune and Al Jazeera America.

Unfortunately, looking through our Western democratic lens, we completely misunderstand what's really going on in the Middle East. Without understanding the core of where the problem was first rooted, we will constantly be making mistakes when trying to "solve" this issue. The problem today is deeply entwined in the history of Islam.

"This goes back to the very beginning of Islam, the earliest days, after the prophet Mohammed's death. I mean there's this whole debate over who to succeed him," said Noam Stillman, the Schusterman/Josey Chair of Judaic History and director of the Judaic Studies Program at the University of

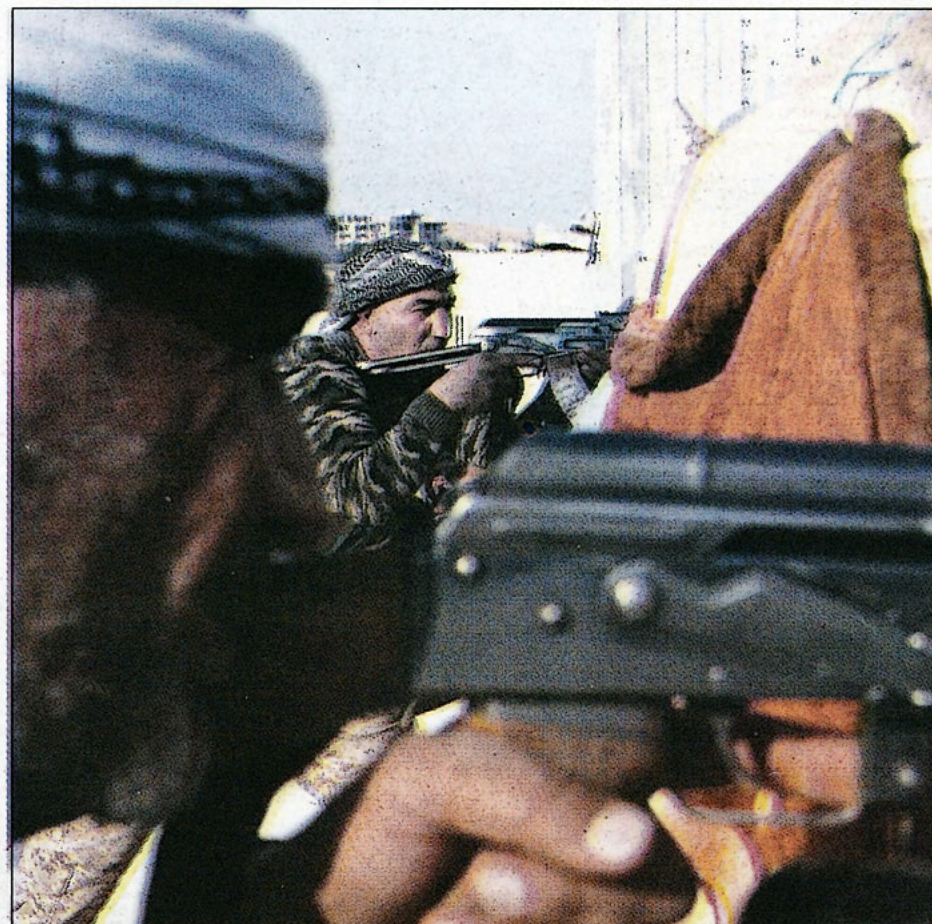
Oklahoma.

A relative of Mohammed, Ali, was in line to take power after Mohammed's death, an option supported by a group who would become the Shiites. However, another group, the Sunnis, had a different idea, which was to choose a current leader to take the reigns of the new religion. The Sunnis killed Ali and his entire family. The separation between the two groups, caused by the disagreement, resulted in a constant battle of power and can be attributed to why we have the current Sunni and Shiite conflict today.

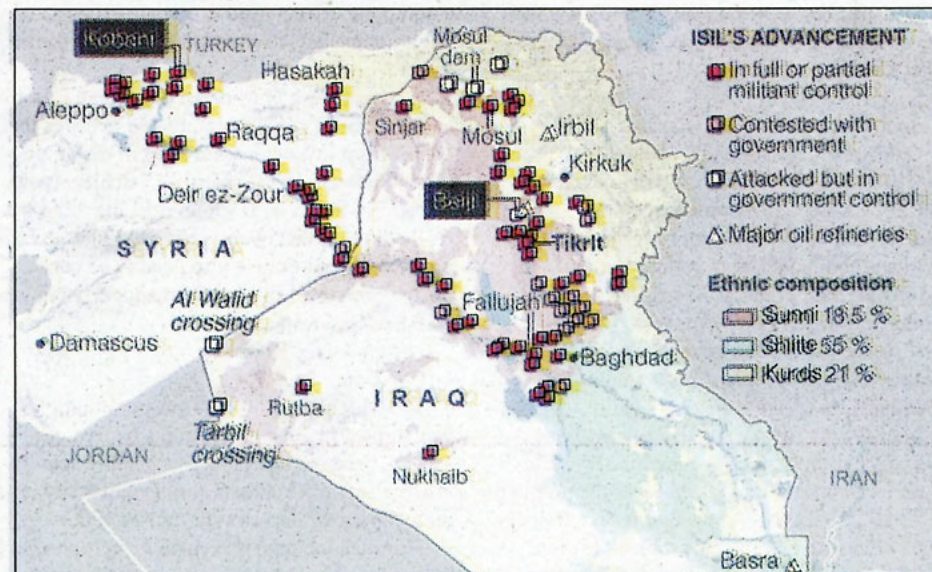
"The battle between the Shiites and Sunnis always existed and existed throughout the history of Islamic Caliphates," said Al Fadi, founder of the Center for Islamic Research and Awareness and a Fox News contributor. "What you are seeing today is just a glimpse of how ruthless this fight has been since 661 A.D. between the two sides."

Shiites reside mostly in Iran and Iraq, Iran being the only official Shiite country. There are, however, small populations that are scattered throughout the Middle East. They have many factions. King Assad, the king of Syria, is a Shiite from the Alawite tribe, for example.

Sunnis are the majority in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the region of North Africa. Sunnis also have different factions or tribes that vary in their degrees of radicalism. Moderate Sunnis prefer a secular government and defend their rule against the more radical Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, along with other countries in North Africa. A group of moderates, the



In this Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014 photo, fighters from the Free Syrian Army, left, and the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), center, join forces to fight Islamic State group militants in Kobani, Syria. Here, Kurdish fighters backed by small numbers of Iraqi peshmerga forces and Syrian rebels, are battling what they see as an existential battle against the militants who swept into their town in mid-September as part of a summer blitz that saw the group seize large chunks of territory in Syria and neighboring Iraq. (AP Photo/Jake Simkin)



Map shows the spread of the Islamic state across Iraq and Syria with ethnic borders on the map. Provided by Associate Press.

Kurds, identify themselves more tribally and are fighting the radical group, ISIS, also Sunni, in Syria and Iraq.

Most every conflict in the Middle East has its roots in the Shiite vs. Sunni divide, although some conflicts may also have moderate vs. radical origins.

"That doesn't mean that for long periods of time Sunnis and Shiites couldn't live together, but there's always been that tension, and it has flared up over the centuries," Stillman said.

In the West, society is generally homogeneous. Voters make decisions based more on the qualities and stances of the candidates than some sort of cultural identity. This is not the case in countries where long-standing, deep cultural and religious differences exist between large segments of the population, as in many countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. When strong tribal and religious affiliations exist, democracy tends to quickly become a one-party state. The larger population wins every election without contest. The natural prejudices of the majority commonly result in abuses towards the minority.

"Some of these countries got their independence in 1964, 1967, you know 30-40 years ago, so they're not politically mature [enough] to go through the process of democratization or [the] election process and so on so forth," said Imad Enchassi, the Imam of the Islamic Society of Greater Oklahoma City and a professor of Islamic Studies at Oklahoma City University.

When Saddam Husain, a Sunni, was removed and democracy was introduced, Sunnis lost power to the more populous Shiites. Sunni resentment towards Shiites over the loss of control over a large part of their traditional territory increased. U.S. troops kept Sunnis from intervening in this power shift for a time.

Once the troops were withdrawn, however, Sunni radicals from around the world came to fight and restore the balance of power in Iraq. Next door in Syria, Assad, a Shiite, started to repel Sunni tribes in their quest for independence. Sunnis watched as a smaller Shiite branch of Islam brutally killed their Sunni brothers. Therefore, ISIS came about to form a Sunni state in the traditionally Sunni areas in Iraq and Syria that were being controlled by Shiites.

Not all, however, are fighting a battle based solely on religious sect disagreement

or power struggle.

"Sectarian identity in the Middle East has also become quite like race, it's just something that defines you as a person that you can't change," Wood said. "So it would be like being black, white, or Hispanic, in the United States for a lot of these guys." They are not only fighting for their beliefs, but for their identity and people as a whole.

In many ways, the U.S. could be considered a pawn in the wider Shiite vs. Sunni conflict. U.S. policy toward Middle Eastern affairs seems to change depending on who claims to be fighting for democracy. However, supposed supporters of democracy can become tyrants overnight as is the case with ISIS.

"We definitely should not have gone in [to] Iraq in my opinion, we [the U.S.] were used by regional powers in order to get the Iraq in chaos, which it is now," Enchassi said.

U.S. policy ignores the fact that very strong religious and tribal loyalties win out over the cause of democracy every time.

"For instance in Syria for the most part we were pro those [Syrian] rebels, and those rebels happened to become ISIS, so now we're fighting our own people that we have trained, and our own people that we have given weapons to," Enchassi said. Enchassi went on to bring up the fact that the U.S. has not learned from the last time this very thing happened in Afghanistan.

"We can believe it's resolved, but until you address the core issues nothing is going to happen," University of Central Oklahoma President Don Betz said.

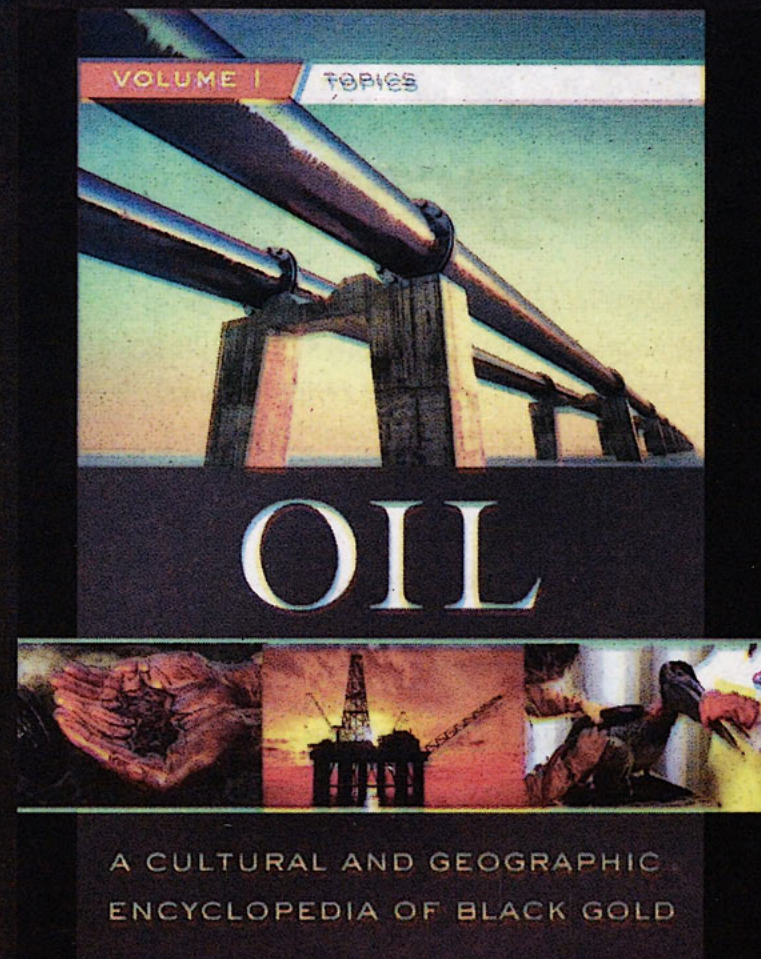
The Shiite vs. Sunni conflict won't be resolved anytime soon. Forgiving your enemies is not considered a virtue in Islam, but a weakness. As long as that is true, there can be no peace.

"...there are those that think this should be resolved tomorrow by the wave of a hand or the fly over of a group of jets, and then there are others that understand that these are very serious, significant forces of change that are underway," Betz said.

The U.S. will continually be militarily involved, according to Al Fadi, "The problem is, we will be dragged into it whether we like it or not if we have any interest in the region because if we let countries like Egypt and Saudi collapse, it will really backfire on us."

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Republicans worried about the future



J. Preston
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Editorial Writer

President Obama has issued an executive order on immigration, the biggest move on the topic in decades. There has been, as expected, backlash from the Republicans, but their motivation for that outrage is less about statesmanship and more about politics.

Obama's executive order essentially provides some amount of amnesty to about 4.4 million immigrants already in the United States.

This includes 4.1 million who are parents of U.S. citizens and 300,000 who came to America as children, according to ABC News.

It also shifts deportation efforts away from otherwise law-abiding individuals to criminals, allowing those immigrants a chance to achieve the American dream.

Immigration advocacy groups are elated, and Republicans are furious about this move.

When it really comes down to it, there is only one reason why this act upsets the GOP. They are not honestly worried about the governmental and legislative issues this might bring up; they are politicians, so they are nervous about what this means for future elections.

Republicans know that making it easier for these 4.4 million people to get documentation means there could be a huge number of new voters in the near future.

Only now do they realize that their stubbornness and refusal to compromise did not benefit them.

The Republicans are already at a severe disadvantage when it comes to the minority vote, and they are well aware that this will only solidify the Democratic dominance there.

Why is that an issue? Well, 4.4 million potential new voters could be damaging to their national politics. A Republican presidential

candidate has not won by that many votes since 1988.

The issue might rally the Republican base in the future, but that base is not as decisive as it once was. They won 59 percent of the white vote in 2012, but Obama secured 39 percent of white voters combined with huge majorities in every minority demographic, giving him a very decisive victory.

Republicans do not care about any precedents that this executive action establishes. All they care about is the fact that a relatively unpopular Democratic president won in 2012 by 5 million votes, and there may eventually be millions more in the Democratic corner.

It is unlikely they will change anything, but they know that new voters are going to support the party that gave them a chance, not the party that dehumanizes them and calls them "aliens."

Many conservative leaders refer to Hispanic immigrants in a way that suggests that they are slightly less than human, and now, they are upset that the evil-incarnate President Obama reached out a helping hand.

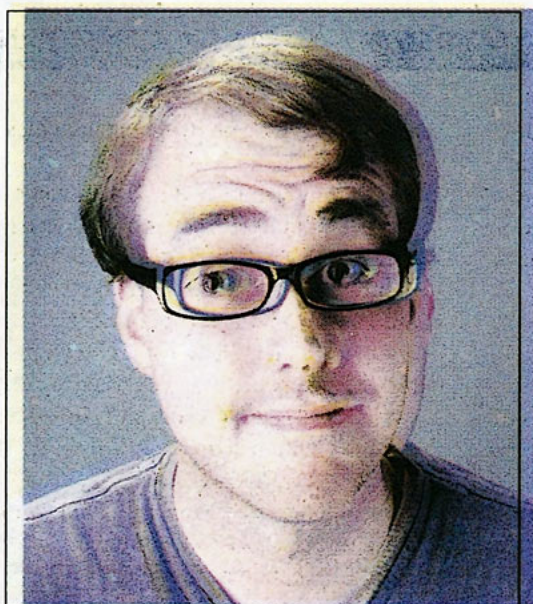
They complain that this does not allow the chance for a bipartisan immigration bill in the new Congress, but anyone who watches the news knows that Republicans are less than eager about compromising with Obama on anything.

After all, this is the party that filibustered and defeated the DREAM Act. The only reason they are upset about this turn of events is because now, Obama will get all of the credit for pushing reform, while they will be nothing more than the people who fought tooth and nail for the unrealistic goal of deporting all illegal immigrants.

SO LONG, AND THANKS FOR ALL THE FISH!

By Tyler Talley

TALLEY



MARKS

Endings are incredibly hard to get right. There is so much you have to say without overstaying your welcome while also wrapping everything up in a satisfying matter that rewards your audience.

You may have guessed at this point that this is my last-ever column with The Vista. I graduate in two weeks, and I am terrified. I am about to head off into the great unknown. Like many of you, I don't have the luxury of a job waiting for me right after graduation, so I will hunt desperately for someone out there to take a chance on me over the hordes of my seemingly more qualified competitors.

The future is scary because of uncertainty, but as related last week, there are definitely some guarantees. There will be life-affirming highs and soul-crushing lows.

The past four years have certainly been filled with a mixture of both. When I first got to Edmond from Duncan, I knew a handful of people, but for the most part, they were either too busy to give me the time of day or we didn't know each other that well. To say there were many lonely nights at the beginning would be a gross understatement.

I had worked so hard in high school to find my niche, and here I was back at square one. Being an antisocial introvert didn't exactly help in the matter either. Slowly but surely, however, I found a level of comfort with my new environment and myself. I found new friends. I've done things I never thought I would do and went places I never thought I would step foot. These range from little things to actually getting a kiss under the mistletoe to looking at the Eiffel Tower with my own eyes.

I started working for this paper last summer as a participation student. I had changed my minor to journalism and wanted to get my feet wet, so to speak. Did I ever think I would make it this far? Not really, then again, I never really allow myself to think for one second that I may actually be adequate at something.

Contrary to my long-held belief that I am terrible however, I apparently did something right and got hired on as a staff reporter. While perpetually frightening to me, given that the job requires you to talk to new people constantly, I fell in love with it, particularly feature writing. One of the greatest honors a person can receive is the trust to write someone else's story. It's something I do my best not to take lightly and recommend no one else take lightly either.

Eventually I was asked to take an editor position. Low and behold, here I am opening up to a group of complete strangers through a column week after week, something I never thought I would ever be able to do. And now this experience is at an end.

It's been a therapeutic experience to say the least and yet there is still so much I'd like to say. Like the relief I feel that I can curse, my adventures in being single or my obsession with the new "Jurassic Park" film. Sure, there are many that may not care what I have to say about anything, which is well warranted and granted, but for the small minority that do, I thank you. My deep thanks to our copy editor, who has made my ramblings sound somewhat legible and sane. As well as to the powers that be that gave me a chance to do this.

I am not enlightened nor am I wise, but if I successfully informed, related or even just entertained just one of you, then I consider all of this a win. I know my audience isn't exactly huge but hearing any feedback from doing this has been a reward in and of itself.

So here we are at the end of one road and the beginning of another. Just like the end of high school, I am about to begin again but this time it is the rest of my life. Alright, let's wrap this up before I start sounding too much like a Taylor Swift ballad. For those who still may have a bit more of school to finish, I wish you luck. For those on their way out like myself, we got this. Right?

I am Jack's anxious yet optimistic conclusion.





Youngsun
Yun

Contributing Writer

Students speak out about Ferguson

In recent days the nation's attention has turned back to Ferguson, Missouri. On Nov. 24, a grand jury decided not to indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson for the shooting death of unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown. The decision has come at an interesting time, when tensions are high during the holiday rush

and students are finishing their semesters. Across the country, vigils, protests, and riots were organized following the news and again Ferguson was ground zero.

The Vista asked UCO students to weigh in on the debate of the recent decision and their feelings about the racial issues America faces in the future.

"It is terrible what happened, no matter how anyone looks at it a life was lost. The reaction to Mike Brown's death is overboard though. My sympathy and prayers go to the family, but the riots are not helping anyone. The police are acting accordingly to the situation they are faced with. If people want to speak up for something there is a more peaceful way to do it."

Morgan Denny

Sophomore - Photographic Arts



In this Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014 photo provided by Johnny Nguyen, Portland police Sgt. Bret Barnum, left, and Devonte Hart, 12, hug at a rally in Portland, Ore., where people had gathered in support of the protests in Ferguson, Mo. (AP Photo/Johnny Huu Nguyen)

"I hope the protests in Ferguson bring awareness to the institutionalized racism built into the justice system. People like to believe that racism is a problem of the past but Ferguson has proved that it is still affecting people's lives."

Sonny Zeliff

Senior - Broadcasting

"It's like the Rodney King case all over again, and it is sad to see how far America has not come since then."

Naeemah Phanelson

Sophomore - Nutrition, Dietetics,
and Food Management

"I think there is not enough evidence to make a real decision. The protesters in Ferguson are not doing any good for their cause with their actions. People are saying the police response to protesters is too militarized, I think those people do not know what a real militarized response is and are not considering the damage the protesters are inflicting are causing the police to respond in kind. Also, the main reason this issue is so big, is because it is being made into a race issue, when it should be an issue on how police handle situations."

Chad Beckett

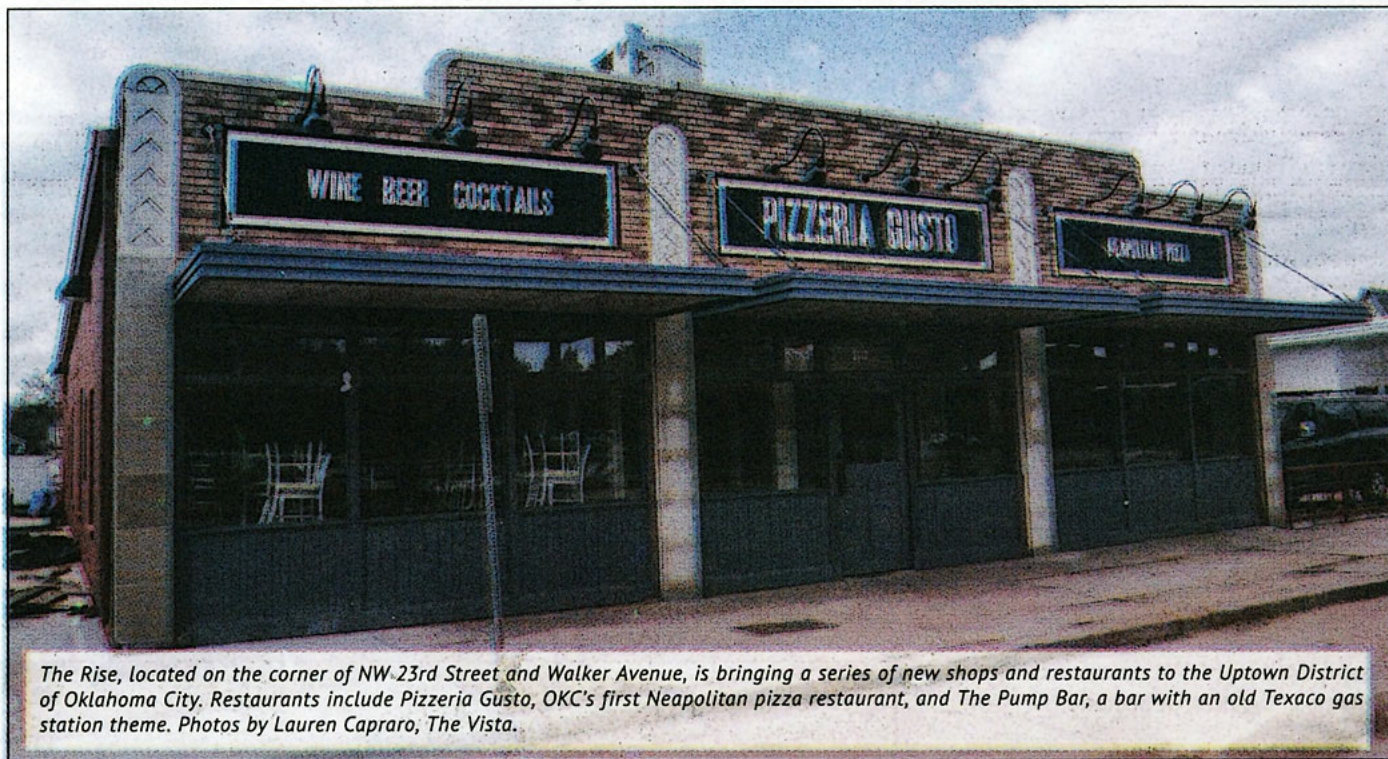
Sophomore - English



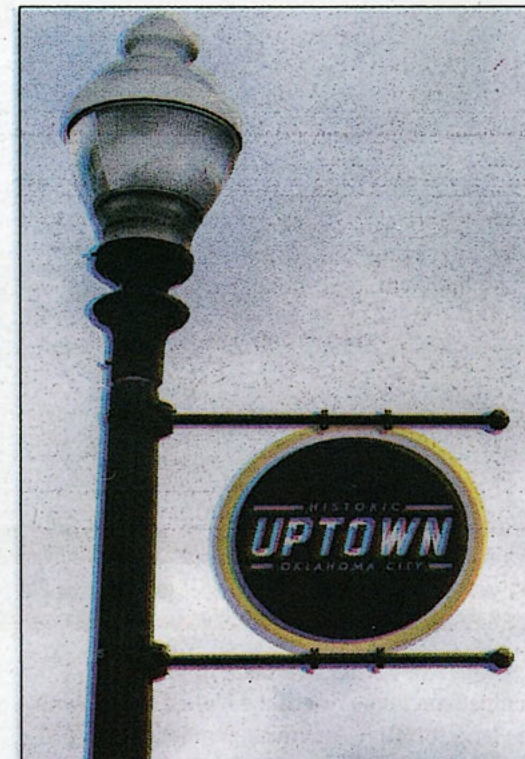
Lauren
Capraro
@laurencapraro

On The Rise: Uptown OKC expands

Staff Writer



The Rise, located on the corner of NW 23rd Street and Walker Avenue, is bringing a series of new shops and restaurants to the Uptown District of Oklahoma City. Restaurants include Pizzeria Gusto, OKC's first Neapolitan pizza restaurant, and The Pump Bar, a bar with an old Texaco gas station theme. Photos by Lauren Capraro, The Vista.



A once-deserted block on Oklahoma City's historic NW 23rd Street is acquiring several new retail shops, bars and restaurants within the next few months.

The new development, named The Rise, is located on the corner of NW 23rd Street and Walker Avenue. Developers and residents hope the renovation will help revive a once-thriving area of town.

The Rise will become a part of the Uptown 23rd district, which is already home to Cuppies and Joe, Tucker's Onion Burgers, Cheever's Restaurant and Big Truck Tacos.

"It's really a terrific area. The area is significant, from an OKC perspective. 23rd street is a major thoroughfare, positioned well between downtown, OCU and the capitol," said Johnathan Russell,

The Rise developer and president of Land Run Commercial Real Estate Advisors.

A few of the twelve tenants will include a fitness center, a teahouse, an Old School Bagel Cafe, a t-shirt design shop and an oyster bar. The shops will occupy what used to be the Hotel and Motel Furniture Liquidators store.

"It would have been faster and cheaper to rebuild, but what we could create would have more significance than a run-of-the-mill shopping mall," Russell said. "This way isn't the cheapest or the fastest, but overtime it will prove itself."

Since the 23rd Street area has mainly street parking, developers constructed a large parking lot behind the renovation.

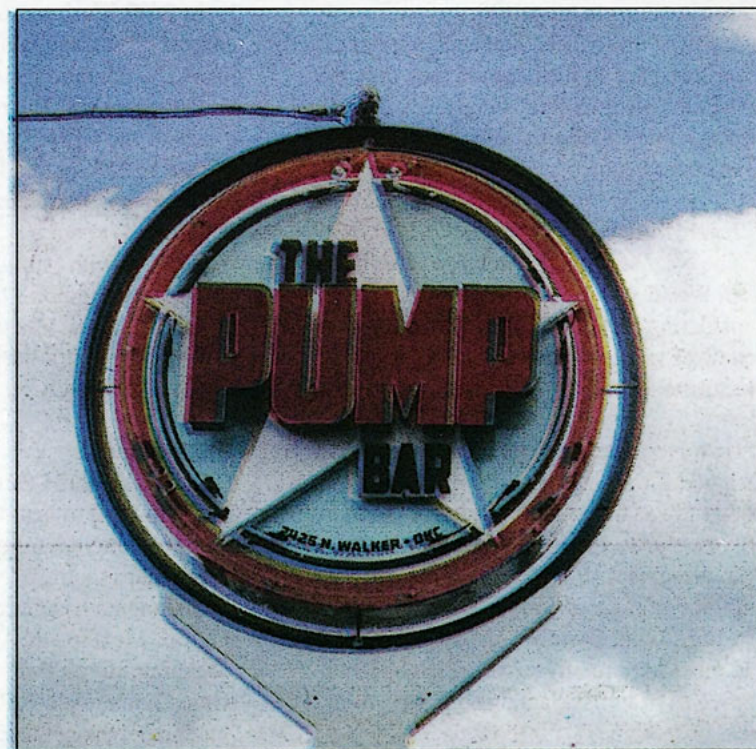
The first tenant of the develop-

ment to open is Pizzeria Gusto, Oklahoma City's first Neapolitan pizza restaurant, which opened mid-November.

The Pump, an old Texaco gas station brought back to life as a bar, is scheduled to open within the next month. Russell says all other shops and restaurants are scheduled to be open by spring of next year.

"There were a number of factors we were looking for. The project has enough size to have an impact on the surrounding areas. The project has a lot of magnitude with it," Russell said. "Long story short, the area has a lot of potential that was underutilized."

To find out more about the Historic Uptown 23rd District, visit <http://uptown23rd.com/>.

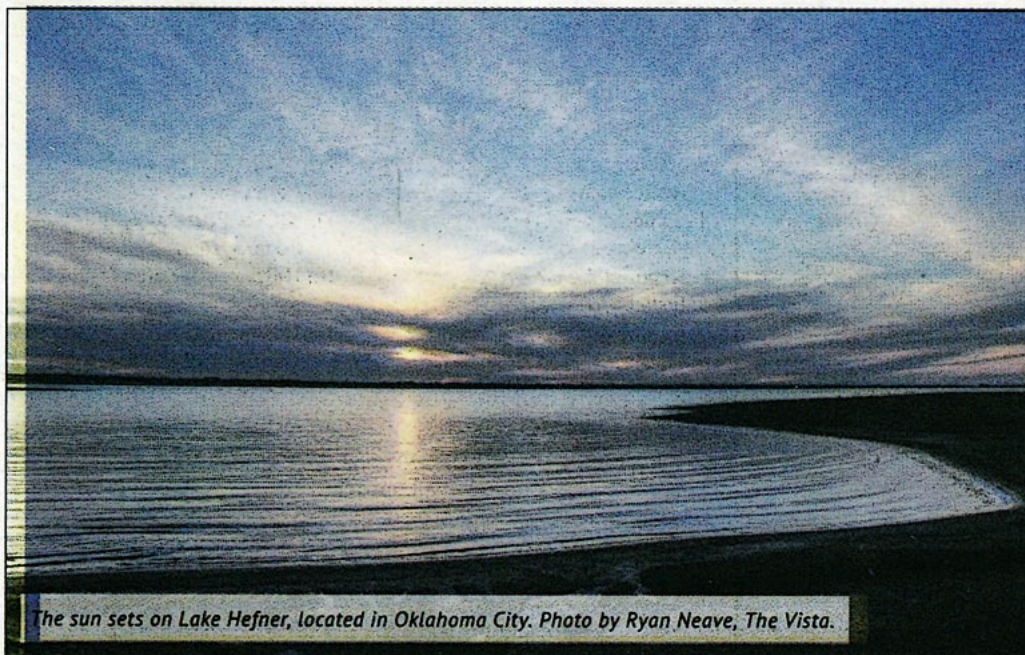




Adam Ropp

Staff Writer

Oklahoma Oddities



The sun sets on Lake Hefner, located in Oklahoma City. Photo by Ryan Neave, The Vista.

Oklahoma has its fair share of rarities in comparison to the rest of the United States, with the largest Native American population, the birthplace of Garth Brooks and the horde of the most tornadoes in the world.

Many of these facts, however, are not exactly secrets and are so well known they play into Oklahoma stereotypes. Therefore, we decided to post some Oklahoma trivia that most people have never heard.

5) Nazi Holders.

The Nazi atrocities, similar to most things from World War II, seem almost like fairy tales, considering their scale of epic proportions, countless media portrayals and locations of events that occurred outside of the mainland U.S.

However, many people do not realize that Oklahoma was an end to many of these events in that it was the main location for German prisoners of war in the United States.

In the spring of 1942, eight base camps were built at various locations including Camp Gruber, Fort Reno, Fort Sill, McAlester, Tonkawa and most importantly Alva, which became known as "Devils Island" and reserved for the most obsessive Nazi sympathizers.

It has been estimated that as many as twenty

thousand German POWs occupied camps in Oklahoma at the peak of operations.

4) Oil Giant.

In 2007, Cushing, Oklahoma became the largest oil storage facility in the nation and the world by containing 10 percent of the total U.S. crude inventory. The nickname "Pipeline Crossroads of the World" is something you would expect to belong to a location in Saudi Arabia, not a town in Oklahoma with a population of 7,826.

Anyone with familiar knowledge of Oklahoma history shouldn't be too surprised considering that Tulsa, less than an hour's drive from Cushing, was still deemed "The Oil Capitol of the World" merely 50 years ago.

3) Shoreline.

This Oklahoma fact seems so outrageous that you have to hear the explanation before you even attempt to believe it; even then, it still seems hard to grasp.

Oklahoma has more shoreline than the entire Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coast combined. Meaning, if you were to take the shorelines from Oklahoma's 200 lakes, all of which are manmade, they equate to 2,000 miles more shoreline than the Atlantic and Gulf shores.

2) Movie Stars.

Believe it or not, one in four Hollywood actors are from Oklahoma, placing us in the #4 spot for the top supplier of movie stars, following Texas at #3, New York at #2 and California at #1.

Among the long list of stars include:

Brad Pitt, Joan Crawford, Tim Blake Nelson, Kristen Chenoweth, Cleavon Little, Suzy Amis, Ron Howard, Vera Miles, Ben Johnson, Bill Hader, James Garner, Chuck Norris, Will Rogers and James Marsden among others.

1) Weird Laws.

Each state has laws that are so outrageous they're almost laughable, many of which are rarely known even to most law enforcement. The facts

still remain, however, that in Oklahoma you could be arrested for:

Allowing anyone inside your bar to pretend to have sexual relations with a buffalo.

Making "ugly faces" at dogs.

Not tethering your car outside of public buildings.

Placing tissues in the backseat of your car.

Molesting an automobile.

Having fish in a fishbowl while on a public bus.

Walking backwards in Oklahoma City while eating a hamburger.

Placing boots on farm animals or wearing your boots to bed.

Killing a whale in Oklahoma.

Having three or more dogs congregate without a permit from the mayor.



The entrance to Historic Ft. Reno in El Reno, Okla., off of Route 66. Photo by Aliko Dyer, The Vista.



A young rebel takes his chances walking backward while eating a hamburger. Photo by Aliko Dyer, The Vista.

Now Playing: Finals Week Playlists

Did you know that listening to music can help you study? Research shows that the right kind of music can help relax your mind and can lead you to improved concentration. This is perfect for completing homework, studying and preparing for an upcoming test.

Of course, some music works better than others, and it generally relates to the individual person. To highlight these differences, as well as provide readers with music that could help them study for next week's finals, The Vista editors have each compiled their own specialized "study playlist."

Stevie Armstrong

Editor-in-Chief

1. Home by David Nevue
2. Secrets by Dallas String Quartet
3. Porcelain by Helen Jane Long
4. Hide And Seek by Time For Three
5. My Heart Will Go On by Mike Strickland
6. Nearer My God To Thee by Fernando Ortega
7. Breathe by Greg Maroney
8. Lamentations Of The Heart by Philip Wesley
9. River Of Dreams by Dean Evenson & Soundings Ensemble
10. Waves Of Light by Deuter
11. Canon in D by Johann Pachelbel
12. Praise To The Lord, The Almighty by David Carnes
13. Rainsong by George Winston
14. This Is My Father's World by Chris Rice
15. Life And Death by Paul Cardall

Tyler Talley

Managing Editor

1. Your Song - Ellie Goulding
2. Apocalypse Dreams - Tame Impala
3. Murder In The City - The Avett Brothers
4. Swimming Pools (Drank) [Extended Version] - Kendrick Lamar
5. Instant Crush (feat. Julian Casablancas) - Daft Punk
6. To Build a Home - The Cinematic Orchestra
7. Theme from Jurassic Park - John Williams
8. The Oceanic 6 Theme - Michael Giacchino
9. In for the Kill (Scream Remix) - La Roux
10. Non, Je ne regrette rien - Edith Piaf
11. All My Friends - LCD Soundsystem
12. Hideaway - Karen O and the Kids
13. Da Mysery of Chessboxin' - Wu-Tang Clan
14. Hero - Family of the Year
15. Far Away - Jose Gonzalez

Sarah Neese

Copy Editor

Rick Lemon

Sports Editor

Aliki Dyer

Photo Editor

Daltyn Moeckel

Graphic Design Editor

1. Heart of Courage - Thomas Bergersen, Two Steps from Hell
2. Solomon - Hans Zimmer
3. My Name is Lincoln - Steve Jablonsky
4. Clair de Lune - The APM Orchestra
5. Dream is Collapsing - Hans Zimmer
6. Lily's Theme - Alexandre Desplat
7. Tessa - Steve Jablonsky
8. Cinema - Jason Evigan
9. Into the West - Annie Lennox
10. August's Rhapsody - August Rush Soundtrack
11. You Don't Dream in Cryo - James Horner
12. Sweet Child o' Mine - Taken by Trees
13. The Hanging Tree - James Newton Howard/Jennifer Lawrence
14. The Steward of Gondor - Howard Shore/Billy Boyd
15. Hoist the Colours - Hans Zimmer

1. Old Thing Back (Matoma Remix) - The Notorious B.I.G. (ft. Ja Rule)
2. High For This (Kygo Remix) - Ellie Goulding
3. Anchor (Lush & Simon Remix) - Tritonal
4. My Hood - Young Jeezy
5. Virus (How About Now) - Martin Garrix & MOTI
6. Begin Again - Knife Party
7. Invincible - Borgeous
8. Five Hours - Deorro
9. Mula Remix (ft. 2 Chainz, Meek Mill & Early Mac) - Big Sean
10. Where's Your Head At - Firebeatz
11. Hideaway - Kiesza
12. O.P.P. - Naughty By Nature
13. Stay The Night (Remix) - Zedd, Kevin Drew & Hayley Williams
14. Wasted (R3hab Remix) - Tiesto ft. Matthew Koma
15. Ignition Remix - R. Kelly

1. Skinny Love by Birdy
2. Home by Edward Sharp and the Magnetic Zeros
3. Lovers' Eyes by Mumford and Sons
4. Sweet Disposition by The Temper Trap
5. All You Never Say by Birdy
6. Let Her Go by Passenger
7. Buy Myself A Chance by Eli Young Band
8. Best I Ever Had by Gavin DeGraw
9. Love Sucks by Nathan Angelo
10. Guinevere by Eli Young Band
11. Tongue Tied by Grouplove
12. One Grain Of Sand by Ron Pope
13. If You're Gone by Matchbox Twenty
14. Iris by The GooGoo Dolls
15. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Radio if you really feel like stimulating your brain and nerding out.

1. If It Means A Lot To You by A.D.T.R
2. Ghosts n Stuff by Deadmau5
3. Just Like You by Three Days Grace
4. The Missing Frame by A.F.I
5. Make a Sound by Autopilot Off
6. Gamma Ray by Beck
7. Dance Without You by Skylar Grey
8. Bring Me To Life by Evanescence

9. Secrets by One Republic
10. Night Drive by Jimmy Eat World
11. Some Nights by Fun.
12. Lay Me Down by The Dirty Heads
13. Get Close by Call the Cops
14. Give Up by Close Enough
15. DJ by Amanda Blank

HOROSCOPES

December 2014 — Week 1



CAPRICORN
December 22–
January 19

Busy, busy, Capricorn. You've got a million things to do this week and not a lot of time to get them done in. Lucky for you, a couple of elves will show up to help.



ARIES
March 21–
April 19

All aboard, Aries. Friends drop by and invite you on an adventure. Cast aside your reservations and go. You deserve a little fun now and then.



CANCER
June 22–
July 22

Elegance never goes out of style. Keep that in mind for an upcoming event. The tide changes at home, and you gain the upper hand. Enjoy, Cancer.



LIBRA
September 23–
October 22

Gift exchanges are planned, and the shopping begins. Start with that little out-of-the-way place, Libra. There are many discoveries to be had.



AQUARIUS
January 20–
February 18

Kindness is key to getting through this week, Aquarius. Treat everyone as you want to be treated, and much progress will be made. A beloved item reappears.



TAURUS
April 20–
May 20

Ante up, Taurus. You know you want to be part of the project and you should be. You have a lot to offer. A monetary goal moves within reach.



LEO
July 23–
August 22

Yearnings increase, and a windfall makes it possible to fulfill many. Show your appreciation, Leo. News from afar makes you giddy. A project nears completion.



SCORPIO
October 23–
November 21

Uh-uh, Scorpio. You've pushed the envelope enough as it is. Step back and pass the reins to someone else. Cards bring cheery greetings.



PISCES
February 19–
March 20

Party invites arrive daily. You can't possibly attend them all, Pisces. Choose the best and leave the rest. A relationship comes full circle.



GEMINI
May 21–
June 21

Business and pleasure do not mix, except for this week, Gemini. Wine and dine is the way to go. A gift turns out to be a bit too much for you to handle.



VIRGO
August 23–
September 22

Mistakes are inevitable, Virgo. Attribute what happens to inexperience and move on. A long-lost friend returns. A grand welcome home party is in order.



SAGITTARIUS
November 22–
December 21

Psst, Sagittarius. A mentor is reeling. Find an activity to take their mind off their troubles for a while. A memo makes the next step clear.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

Classifieds

HOUSES FOR RENT

319 E Thatcher is walking distance to UCO. Rent by the room (5 bedrooms). As many as two people per room. All utilities, internet, and cable included. Would consider groups. Available January 1st. Call or text for more details at 405-590-7719.

1010 Jefferson is walking distance to UCO. This is a 3 bedroom @ 2 bath. Rent by the room or the house. Utilities, internet, and cable are included if rented by the room. Available January 1st. Call or text for more details at 405-590-7719.

Short or Long Term Leases considered.

Please contact: wheeler7@cox.net



Tutoring Central is a free-to-use service for UCO students, located in the N.E. corner of West Hall.

Get one-on-one help in: **Writing, Math, Biology, Chemistry.**

We are open: Monday through Thursday: 9 am to 9 pm
Friday: 9 am to 1 pm
Sunday: 5 to 9 pm

Visit our website for more information: tc.uco.edu
Or contact us directly: 974-2487

VISTA SPORTS



UCO GAMES THIS WEEK

TUESDAY:

- Women's Basketball at Southern Nazarene (5:30 P.M.)
- Wrestling at Ouachita Baptist University (7:00 P.M.)

WEDNESDAY:

- No Events Scheduled

THURSDAY:

- Women's Basketball vs. Lindenwood (5:30 P.M.)
- Men's Basketball vs. Lindenwood University (7:30 P.M.)

FRIDAY:

- Wrestling at Fort Hays State (7:00 P.M.)

UCO FACES OFF WITH SIOUX FALLS IN BOWL GAME

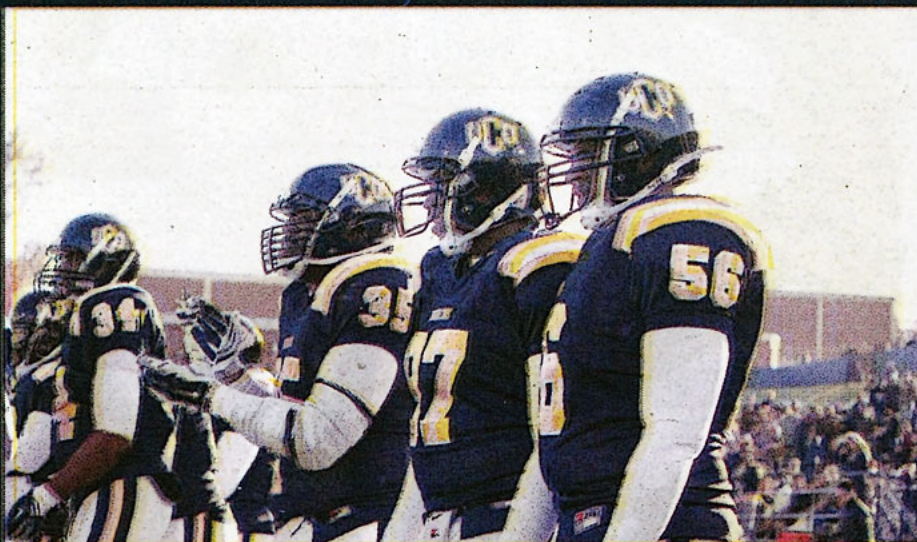
The UCO football team is going up to Excelsior Springs, Missouri this weekend to face off with the Sioux Falls Cougars in the Mineral Water Bowl. VistaSports writer Austin Litterell goes in depth on just exactly who the Cougars are, what they did to get to Excelsior Springs, and just what the 'Chos are up against in their last game of the year.

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ST. LOUIS RAMS MAKE STATEMENT DURING GAME

The St. Louis Rams defeated the struggling Oakland Raiders team 52-0 on Sunday afternoon in St. Louis. Their loudest statement however, happened before the game as several Rams players came out of the tunnel with their hands raised in the fashion made famous by protesters in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson, Missouri. The Associated Press examines the Rams protest and subsequent beatdown of the raiders.

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Who is Sioux Falls? Breaking down the Mineral Water Bowl



Austin Litterell

@AustinLitterell

Sports Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma will be in their first postseason game since 2003 when they play the Cougars of Sioux Falls University on Saturday afternoon. For UCO, this game is a reward for their fantastic season; however, Sioux Falls might be coming into this game with a chip on their shoulder.

The Cougars finished their season with an impressive 10-1 record and 6-1 in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate conference. The Cougars' only loss came at the hands of the number one team in Division II, Minnesota State Mankato. The Cougars are currently ranked 16th in the country but have cracked the top ten this season.

One thing both UCO and Sioux Falls have in common is that they both finished third in their conference, behind two really good teams. Sioux Falls finished second in the south division of their conference behind Mankato, and third overall behind Mankato and Minnesota Duluth. Both went undefeated in the regular season. The Bronchos, of course, finished behind Northwest Missouri State and Pittsburg State in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

The Cougars, as good as their season was, just missed out on a playoff spot by finishing seventh in the Super Region

Three Rankings. The selection committee passed over Sioux Falls for Harding University.

Turnovers will play a huge factor in the game on Saturday. Both teams are near the top in turnover margin this season. UCO has a plus-16 differential, while Sioux Falls has a plus-18 margin. The Cougars' defense leads the country with 23 interceptions this season. UCO has made tremendous improvement with turnovers this year, with only ten in 11 games. Hanging on to the ball against the Cougars' ball-hawking defense will be crucial if they want to end their season with a victory.

Sioux Falls is no slouch when it comes to finding the end zone. The Cougars put up more than 42 points per game in the regular season, and they showed extreme balance in doing so. The Cougars averaged 268.7 yards through the air, as well as 213 yards on the ground.

One player for UCO to watch out for is their quarterback. Luke Papilion is a dual-threat quarterback who can also make plays with his legs. Papilion is near the top of the conference in total offense.

The Mineral Water Bowl takes place in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, at Tiger Stadium. The game is set for a noon kickoff.

UCO defensive lineman Kenny Allen (92) and Nick Koenig (31) chase after Northeastern State's Running back during the Homecoming football game played on Saturday November 1, 2014 at Wantland Stadium. UCO will now play the Sioux Falls Cougars in the Mineral Water Bowl played in Excelsior Springs, Mo. on Decmeber 6, 2014. Photo by Ryan Naeve, The Vista.



St. Louis Rams defeat the Raiders 52-0 but make bigger statement before game

AP @AP

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Kenny Britt, Jared Cook and a group of St. Louis Rams pass-catchers made a statement before the game started. Then their teammates joined in for an entirely different kind of statement on the field.

Five Rams players came out of the tunnel with their hands up in a demonstration related to the unrest in the St. Louis area after a grand jury decided not to indict a police officer who fatally shot an unarmed teenager in the suburb of Ferguson.

In some ways, the silent gesture was louder than the team's dominant 52-0 victory on Sunday against the Oakland Raiders.

"Everything about the situation touched me because it could have happened to any of us. Any of us are not far from the age of Michael Brown and it happened in our community," said Cook, referring to the teenager who was killed in August. "We are part of this community. We are people of this community, so everything about it just touched me.

"I wouldn't want to be in any one of those guys' situations that it happened to."

A peaceful protest was held outside the Edward Jones Dome with the Rams (5-7) already firmly in control of the game. Rookie Tre Mason ran for 117 yards and two touchdowns — including an 89-yarder that made it 28-0 less than 19 minutes into the game — and added 47 yards receiving and another score on a 35-yard screen pass.

He and Britt also did the hands-up gesture — a reference to the claim by some witnesses that Brown might have had his hands up when he was shot — after his touchdowns.

"I don't want the people in the community to feel like we turned a blind eye to it," said Britt, identified by teammates as the orchestrator of the demonstration. "Let them know that we're going to sit here and we're going to support them.

"What would I like to see happen? 'Change in America.'"

Stedman Bailey, one of four receivers who took part in the pregame demonstration along with tight end Cook, had a career-high 100 yards

receiving. Shaun Hill threw for two touchdowns and ran for another, his first rushing TD since the 2008 season finale with San Francisco.

Trumaine Johnson had two interceptions, returning the second one 43 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

The Raiders committed five turnovers — including two interceptions by Derek Carr and an interception and fumble by Matt Schaub, who replaced him in the fourth quarter. But most of the damage was done before then, with Oakland going three-and-out on its first three drives, and St. Louis capitalizing for touchdowns each time.

Here is what else should be known about Sunday's game:

QUICK-START RAMS: The fast-starting Rams took their early dominance to another level. Already among the top NFL teams in first-quarter scoring margin with a 65-32 advantage, St. Louis scored touchdowns on its first five possessions and led 21-0 after the first quarter and 38-0 at halftime.

The Rams have built double-digit, first-half leads in five straight home games. They squandered a 21-0 lead against Dallas and a 14-point edge against San Francisco before closing out victories against Seattle and Denver.

The 38-point margin was the biggest halftime lead in Rams franchise history, surpassing the 44-7 cushion they had in a 51-21 victory against Green Bay on Sept. 21, 1980. That game represented the team's biggest first-half scoring output.

RUSTY RAIDERS: Given three extra days to prepare after their only win this season, the Raiders couldn't carry over any momentum from their 24-20 win against Kansas City last Thursday night.

The margin of defeat was the second-largest in franchise history. Only a 55-0 loss to the Houston Oilers on Sept. 9, 1961, was worse.

"I had my fair share of losses, but I guess my memory deleted all those other ones, like I hope it does this one" defensive end Justin Tuck said. "I can't think of anything of this magnitude."

Raiders coach Tony Sparano said he didn't see the blowout coming, and he wants his players to remember both the feeling after last week's victory and what it felt like to lose so badly.

"This hurts. This is bad," said Carr, who was 24 for 39 for 173 yards. "This is a bad feeling,

but we know it's really tough right now. Are we going to turn on each other? Are we going to hold hands? Obviously, we're going to stick together and see what happens."

The Raiders had only given up 50 or more points in five other games, including one each of the past two seasons. It was their first shutout loss since a 28-0 whitewash against Kansas City on Oct. 23, 2011.

"We got hit in the mouth and didn't punch back," receiver James Jones said.

OUT TOO LONG: Defensive end Chris Long returned to the Rams lineup after missing 10 games with an ankle injury sustained in the season opener. He logged two tackles, a fumble recovery, and his first sack of the season. He also pressured Carr on the first drive of the game when he started out standing up in the middle of the line instead of his usual spot at defensive end.

"It felt really good," Long said. "It's tough. You prepare for the season and then you've got to watch your buddies out there going through good and bad. I just was really happy to be a

part of it."

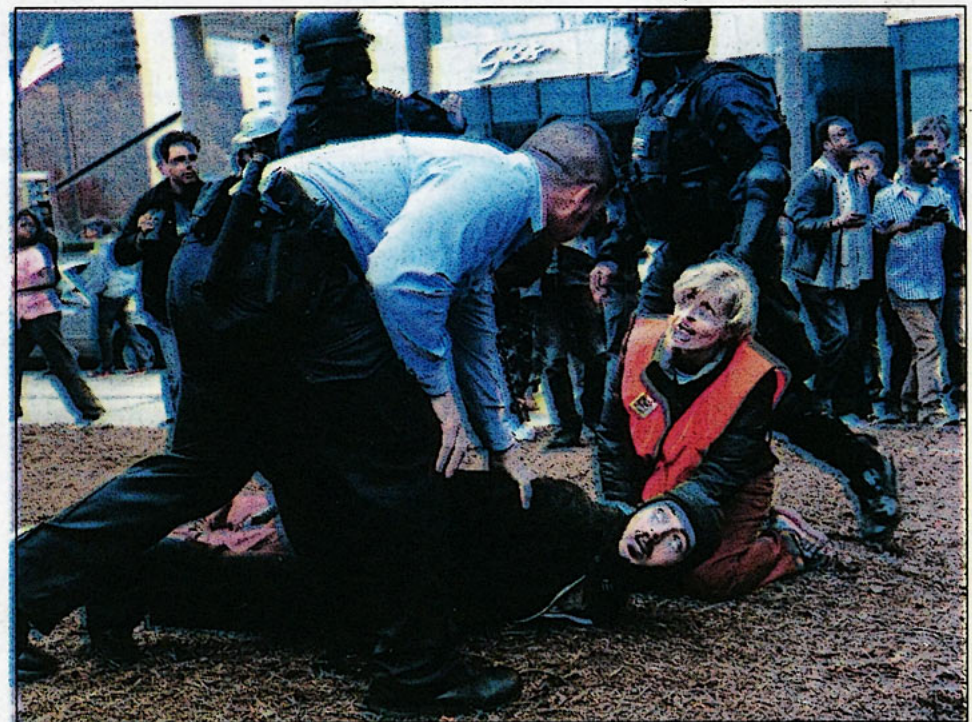
With Long back, St. Louis notched its first shutout since Dec. 17, 2006, also against the Raiders.

NO PROTECTION: Despite their nearly across-the-board struggles this season, Oakland had generally been solid at protecting its quarterbacks. The Raiders had allowed only 13 sacks through their first 11 games, with only Denver (12) giving up fewer.

The Rams bucked the trend by sacking Carr and Schaub six times. Robert Quinn, who led the NFC in sacks last season before a slow start to 2014, got to Schaub twice in the fourth quarter and knocked the ball out twice.

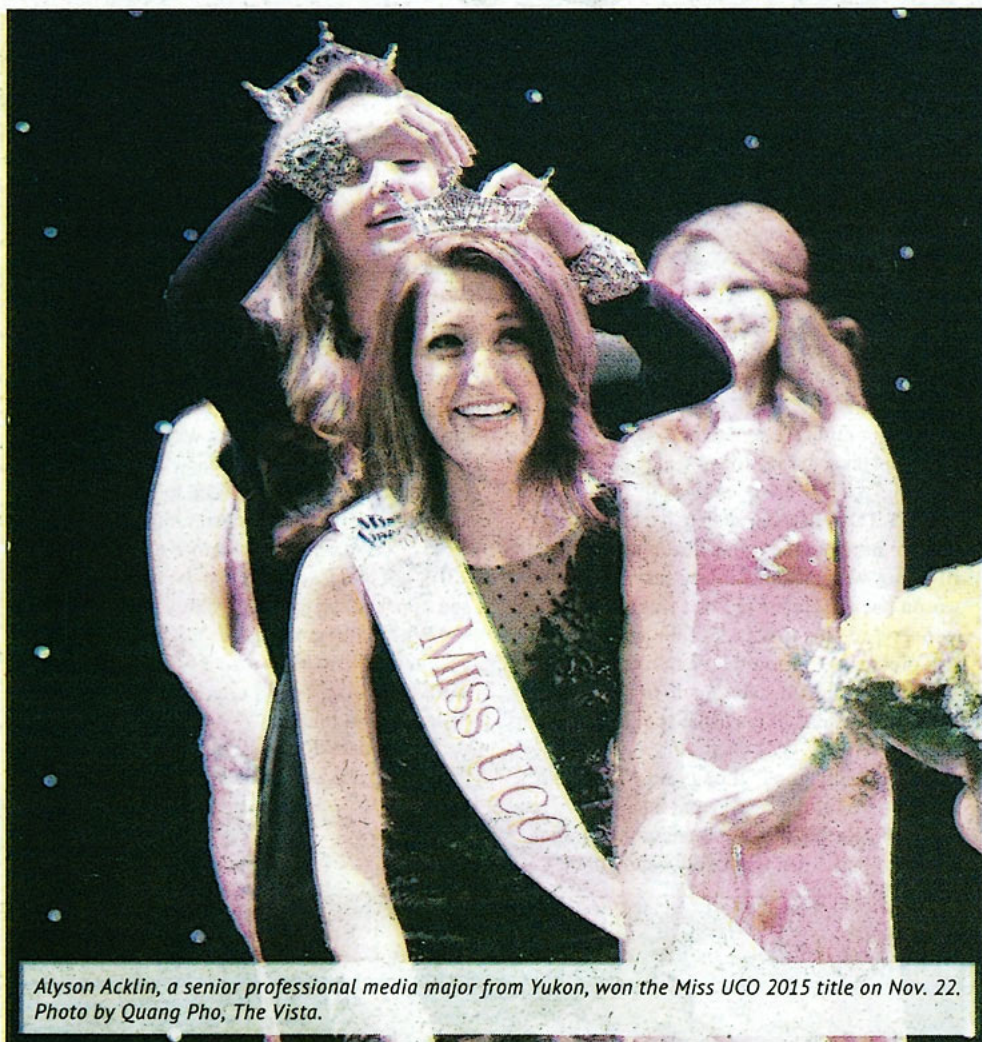
"When you're able to rush with one of the best in the business, it's a lot of fun coming to work every day," said Long, who pounced on Schaub's first fumble.

The Raiders' Kevin Boothe was able to cover the second one to allow Oakland the chance to punt.



A clergy member assists a protester as he is taken to the ground on Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, at Kiener Plaza in St. Louis. Protesters and police clashed following an NFL football game between the St. Louis Rams and the Oakland Raiders as protests continued following a grand jury's decision not to indict a Ferguson police officer in the shooting death of Michael Brown. (AP Photo/St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Laurie Skrivan)

Central Crowns their newest Queens



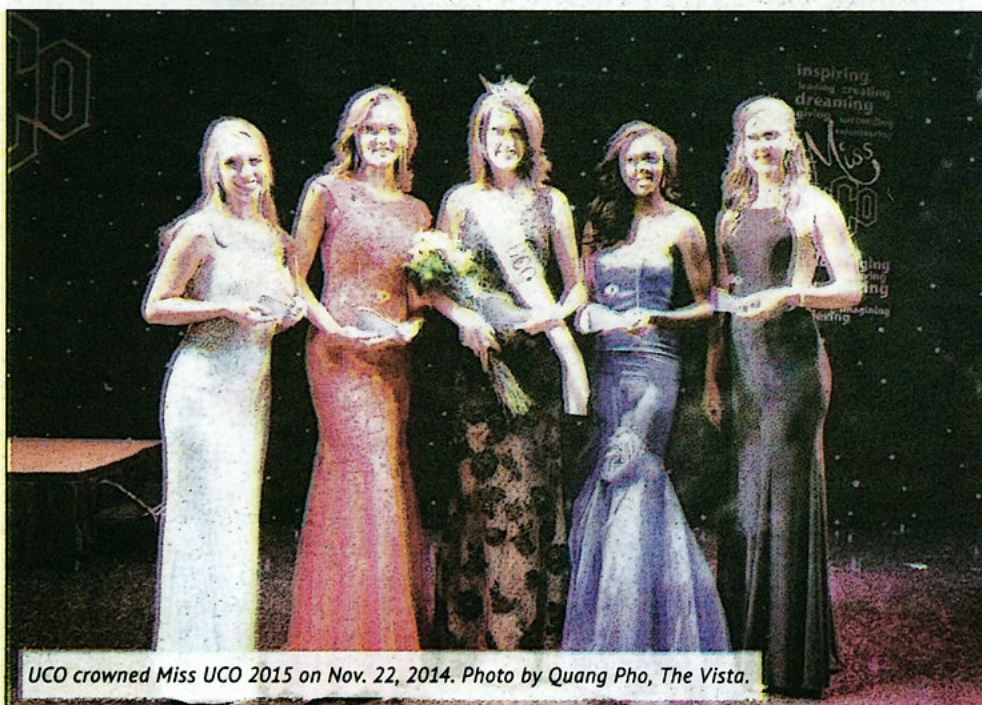
Alyson Acklin, a senior professional media major from Yukon, won the Miss UCO 2015 title on Nov. 22. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.



UCO crowned Miss Asian UCO 2015 on Nov. 15, 2014. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.



Freshman business administration major, Dawa Lhamu Sherpa from Kathmandu, Nepal, was crowned Miss Asian UCO 2015 on Nov. 15, 2014. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.



UCO crowned Miss UCO 2015 on Nov. 22, 2014. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.