

A photograph of a boxing ring. In the center, a sign hangs from the ropes with the name 'George Foreman' written in cursive. The ring is surrounded by ropes and has several bright spotlights illuminating it from above. The background is dark, making the ropes and the sign stand out.

Features

News

Sports

the **VISTA**

July 23, 2014

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## EDITORIALS

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# Red Dirt Music rocks Zoo Amp

Kellye Tallent

*Contributing Writer*

OKLAHOMA CITY-The Zoo Amphitheatre will host Down in the Dirt on Saturday, August 2. The show features Turnpike Troubadours, Wade Bowen, Cody Canada & the Departed and Holy Moly.

Doors open at 3:30 p.m. and the show begins at 4:00 p.m. General admission tickets cost \$31.50, including fees, and VIP tickets are \$51.50.

The event name comes from the Red Dirt genre that will be represented on the stage. Red Dirt music is a genre named for the color of the soil found in Oklahoma, where the music originated. It is hard to define because of the diversity of its bands.

Chelsie White, an avid country fan who works for Cameron, an oil and gas company, explains what Red Dirt means to her.

"Most people classify Red Dirt as the indie scene of country music. It has several influences including rock, folk, bluegrass and country. I like that it sounds like so many things. I have eclectic tastes in music and Red Dirt meets all my needs."

The headliners, Turnpike Troubadours, are Oklahoma natives from Tahlequah. The quintet includes front man Evan Felker, R.C. Edwards on bass, Kyle Nix on fiddle, Ryan Engelman on guitar and

Gabriel Pearson on drums.

In an interview given for the Facebook page, Felker stated, "All the songs are about people we know. And yeah, some of them are probably about me to some degree – the guy who ticks off the wrong girl from Arkansas, and the guy who doesn't always like what he sees himself becoming. Mostly though, I think they're just honest."

"This music, at its best, can put into words what we have been thinking for our entire lives," Felker said, "And even at its worst, it gets people drinking beer and makes people happy. Either of those is fine with me."

Fans that don't drink can still expect a good time.

"Country shows are fun but can get a little rowdy." Event Security Guard Wesley Butts said. "We escort those who cause trouble out. We try to be nice and polite, but after 10 beers, some people don't want to be nice. We do everything we can to avoid escalating any situation that does arise. We want concert goers to feel safe while they enjoy the show."

Tickets can be purchased at [protixonline.com](http://protixonline.com) or at the box office the day of the show. The box office opens three hours prior to show time.

“

## “Campus Quotes”

”

If there was a movie about your life, who would you want to star as you?



“I think Liam Neeson would be cool!”

-Kalin March

Sophomore Philosophy and Political Science Major



“Oh Beyonce for sure.”

-Bria Bowler

Junior Marriage and Family major



“No clue at all, I really don't know.”

-Amber Landry

Freshman, Undecided Major



“Scarlett Johansson definitely”

-Addie Fraizer

Freshman Nursing major

# Joining the Armed Forces

Brittney Taylor

*Contributing Writer*

"People are always needed to join the United States Military to ensure the fighting force for America," said Ubaldo Alfonso Hernandez, a United States Army recruiter. Hernandez has served 15 years in the Army and enlisted at 17-years-old as an engineer. He also served in Iraq for two years.

After his time in Iraq, he became a recruiter for the United States Army and has been a recruiter for nine years. Hernandez served as a recruiter at many high schools in Oklahoma City, including Capitol Hill, Grant, Southeast, Santa Fe Charter School, Moore, West Moore, and Western Heights. He has also recruited at Oklahoma City Community College, the University of Oklahoma, and the University of Central Oklahoma. He has visited the UCO's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) department many times and has recruited four students from UCO into the United States Army.

"If you are in the ROTC program and earn your degree, you can be commissioned in the Army as an officer and have the privilege of leading soldiers," said Hernandez. Two students were active duty in the Army, and the other two were in the Army Reserves. He says many students that already attend college join the Army Reserves, because after their initial training, their duty is one weekend a month and two weeks for annual training. This allows many students to complete their degree while they serve their country.

According to Hernandez, there are many things to expect when joining the military. "There is challenging physical and leadership training, working with advanced technology, training for combat, and being in combat."

People will perform their job specialty, and work with quality, motivated individuals. Regardless of your job specialty, the military offers financial stability, health care, housing, 30 days paid vacation a year and a 20-year retirement plan. He said for college students one of the

main things is the college education money they will earn for their service in the military. The basic requirements for joining the military are being a high school graduate, establishing citizenship requirements, meeting basic medical and moral requirements, dependency, height, weight, tattoo and ear gauges requirements. These qualifications are determined by your recruiter.

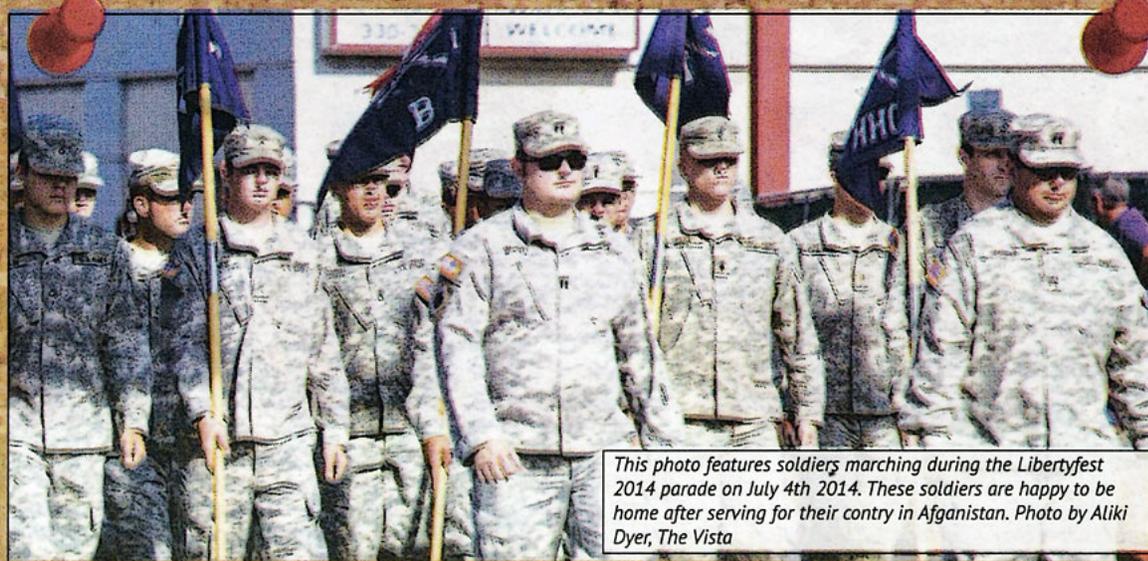
Next, an aptitude test must be taken and a qualified score must be met. This test is called the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). "The core of the test is math, paragraph comprehension, and vocabulary. The test is very important because it will determine what career fields will be available to the applicant," said Hernandez. He also says that a high score on the test does not guarantee the applicant a better job, it just means that there will be more career fields available for the applicant to choose from.

Applicants will then need to have a physical done and be medically approved by a doctor to make sure that they are physically fit enough to serve. After this, the applicant will meet with a highly-trained counselor to help them

decide what career field they want to pursue, depending on the availability. In his experience, the most popular career fields are infantry, combat, medical and communications.

Hernandez says if someone enlists into the Army, they enlist for a specific job and a ship date, and then, they will sign the Enlistment Contract and swear in. After someone swears in, they are considered a future soldier, and they wait for their ship date to come. Before future soldiers ship out, they are required to meet with their recruiters weekly to ensure they are always meeting their enlistment standards and to participate in future soldier training. The training includes fitness, land navigation, map reading, rank structure, the phonetic alphabet, and military time, just to name a few, said Hernandez.

The military can offer many opportunities. Hernandez said, "Just like any other major corporation, new people bring in new energy, and ideas that will lead the Army into the future."



This photo features soldiers marching during the Libertyfest 2014 parade on July 4th 2014. These soldiers are happy to be home after serving for their contry in Afganistan. Photo by Alike Dyer, The Vista

# Legendary actor James Garner dies at 86

Tyler Talley

*Managing Editor*

James Garner, aged 86, died of natural causes in his Los Angeles home this past Saturday. An Oklahoma native, Garner leaves behind a legendary career spanning over six decades.

Garner enjoyed an incredible film career in the 50's and 60's with standout turns in classic films such as *Sayonara*, *The Great Escape*, *Victor Victoria* and *Grand Prix* to name just a few. He received an Oscar nomination for best supporting actor in 1985 for his role in *Murphy's Romance*, playing a small-town druggist who becomes romantically involved with a single mom, played by Sally Field.

A well-renowned actor in his own right, Garner was also a contemporary and co-star of some of the most beloved actors and actresses in history such as Marlon Brando, Audrey Hepburn, Toshiro Mifune, Bruce Lee and Paul Newman.

To a younger generation, Garner is perhaps best known for his portrayal of the older Noah Calhoun in the 2004 romantic drama, *The Notebook*. He told *The Oklahoman* in 2012 that the film was one of his three favorites of his own films "because it was about everlasting love. I believe in everlasting love."

His talents were not limited to the big screen alone. Garner starred in two television shows: ABC's western *Maverick* and NBC's unconventional detective drama *The Rockford Files*. Both were hits and both are consid-

ered to be two of the best shows of all time.

A staunch supporter of the Democratic Party, Garner was one of several celebrities to join Martin Luther King, Jr. in the "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom." He was in attendance during Dr. King's iconic "I Have a Dream" speech.

Born in Norman, Okla., Garner would return to his hometown frequently to show support for The University of Oklahoma (OU) and the OU Sooners. He would receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the university in 1995. He would go on to donate \$500,000 in 2003 to the school's drama department.

Garner leaves behind his wife of 55 years, Lois, and their two daughters, Kim and Gigi.



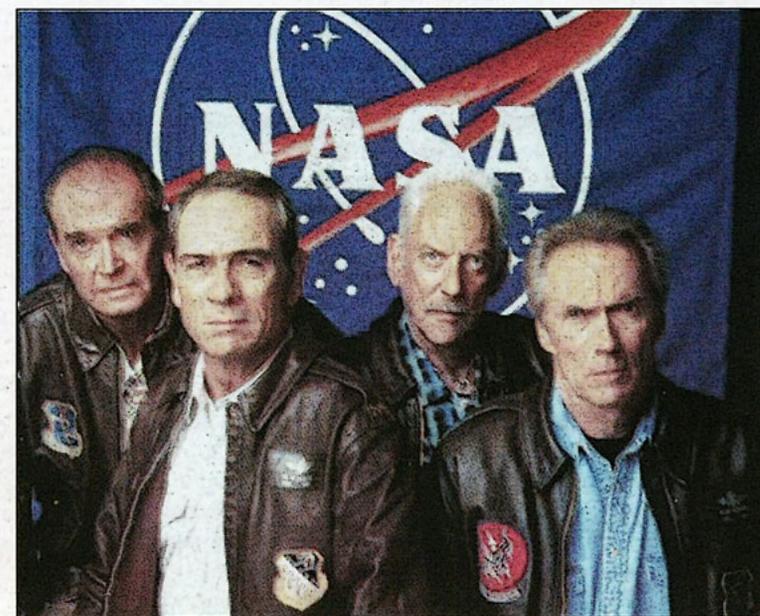
James Garner holds the 41st annual life achievement award backstage at the 11th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in this Saturday, Feb. 5, 2005 file photo taken in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, File)



FILE - James Garner (left) plays a scene for MGM's "Grand Prix," which has cars racing through the streets of Monte Carlo in this June 14, 1966 file photo. Actor James Garner, wisecracking star of TV's "Maverick" who went on to a long career on both small and big screen, died Saturday July 19, 2014 according to Los Angeles police. He was 86. (AP Photo/File)



Actor James Garner, right, and his wife Lois are shown in the Trans World Flight Center prior to boarding a TWA Jetliner enroute to London in this Feb. 21, 1964 file photo taken in New York. Actor James Garner, wisecracking star of TV's "Maverick" who went on to a long career on both small and big screen, died Saturday July 19, 2014 according to Los Angeles police. He was 86. (AP Photo/MGM, File)



FILE - From Left: James Garner, Tommy Lee Jones, Donald Sutherland and Clint Eastwood pose for Warner Brothers Pictures' "Space Cowboys" in this July 2000 file photo. Actor James Garner, wisecracking star of TV's "Maverick" who went on to a long career on both small and big screen, died Saturday July 19, 2014 according to Los Angeles police. He was 86. (AP Photo/Warner Brothers, File)

# Selling the Sun: Oklahoma's war on solar energy

J. Preston Drake

## Editorial

Renewable energy is the gateway to the future. From San Francisco to Berlin, it is agreed by everyone from climate scientists to fast food workers that fossil fuels have to go some day. Energy independence is a daily topic in American political discussions. Denmark and Germany lead the charge in green energy research and many American states discuss ways to encourage the growth of these industries. Oklahoma, however, has pioneered a renewable energy policy that has left the entire country dumbfounded.

Since April, Oklahoma's state government has been taxing the sun.

It does not take an astronomer to understand how absolutely asinine this is — sales taxes on food and water are one thing, taxation on a star is another entirely.

Technically speaking, the tax does not affect the sun, but it does institute an extra tax on the installation of solar panels.

According to Oklahoma Gas and Electric, only about 300 of their customers make use of rooftop solar panels or wind turbines. That constitutes 0.0375 percent of OGE customers; this is hardly a profitable tax base.

How does Oklahoma benefit from making it harder to reduce its own carbon footprint? And, how does the state legislature not understand the complete hypocrisy of this law?

Oklahoma's legislature consists of conservative Democrats and even more conservative Republicans. One of the main conservative talking points is how regulation hurts businesses, especially small ones.

Solar companies are only servicing 300 people in Oklahoma. If these businesses were any smaller, they would be selling lemonade out of roadside stands in the suburbs.

In a state where gas and oil

occupy such a pivotal position, it is already difficult for renewable energy companies to carve a foothold. The deck was already stacked against them, and the legislature just slipped Chesapeake and OGE a pair of aces.

Bear in mind that solar energy users do not have much of a way to store any power that they do not use. Any power created by solar panels or wind turbines is returned to the power grid, yet OGE has had the audacity to claim that those using solar energy are not paying their fair share to maintain the grid.

OGE argues that solar users on their grid pay less for the maintenance of infrastructure than other

customers. Perhaps, but is that not fair? The other 799,700 customers are all using power provided by OGE's coal and gas, while that paltry 300 are providing for their own energy needs while also giving back to the community.

Thanks to Fallin and both the Oklahoma Republicans and Democrats, solar users in Oklahoma must now pay to install their own panels, forfeit their extra energy to the grid and then pay a tax on top of that. This is absolute insanity that cannot be allowed to continue, unless our state government wants the world to see us as a backwards, regressive region of America.



In this May 23, 2009, file photo, Tony Grahame, director of Yavapai College's Residential Building Technology Program in Prescott, Ariz., stands next to a photovoltaic solar panel used to power Arizona's first true "zero-net energy" home in Chino Valley, Ariz. The house generates all the power it uses on-site. A lawsuit filed by two solar companies asks an Arizona court to overturn state tax officials' 2013 decision that homeowners leasing panels that produce electricity must pay property taxes. The interpretation said the homeowners' leased panels are subject to taxes like renewable energy generation equipment owned by large and medium-sized utilities. (AP Photo/The Daily Courier, Doug Cook, File)

# “Oh, The Places You’ll Go:” 7 Best Cities for Grads



## Washington D.C.

**Median Income for College Grads:** \$60,104  
Home to the White House, Capitol Hill and countless national landmarks, Washington D.C. doesn't seem like a big draw for young people. In reality, the city has the potential to be a goldmine for graduates, as it has some of the country's highest wages, the second highest in the country. There are many opportunities in government, of course, but also business, science and the arts. Those in search of a social lifestyle should take note as the city offers frequent networking events and a busy happy hour, not to mention the countless museums, monuments and rich history the city contains. While the nation's capital is one of the more expensive places to live, the rewards for those who make it are numerous.

1

Tyler Talley

### Managing Editor

As the summer draws to a close, many UCO students will also be finishing their terms as students, both undergraduates and graduates. The next step is to enter the workforce full time.

Many UCO students will stay in Oklahoma, but some will also be moving to new horizons, both within the United States and across the globe. Motivations could range from employment to the need for a change of scenery.

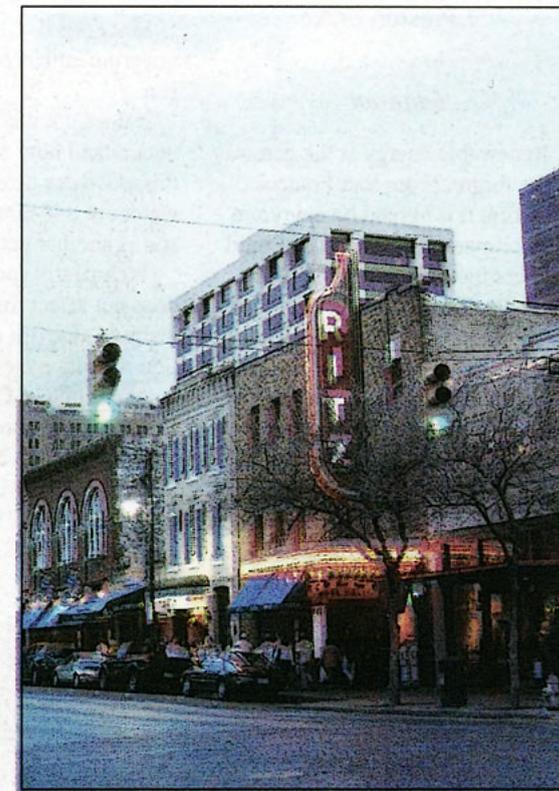
The question is, “Where is the best place to go?” Moving can be as nerve-wrecking as it is exciting. Before committing to any certain destination, it is important to study factors such as the average

cost of living and the availability of jobs in one's chosen field.

The unemployment rate currently stands at 6.1 percent according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, signifying an improving job market, but the question remains: where are the best places for new grads to go?

A new study by NerdWallet examined criteria for each major city in the United States - such as the job market, average income, affordability and percentage of young people - and compiled a list of the best places for new college graduates.

The site notes that graduates should be aware that the job markets in these cities are extremely competitive, since they are so popular for young people. This means that even scoring an interview for an entry-level job could be tricky.



## Austin TX

**Median Income for College Grads:** \$45,023  
Thanks in part to a thriving music and film scene, Austin is quickly becoming the cultural hub of the American South and attracting young people from all over the country, thanks in part to its unofficial motto, “Keep Austin Weird.” Ages 20 to 29 make up more than 21 percent of the overall population, as well the lowest unemployment rate out of all major U.S. cities. Major tech corporations, such as Dell and IBM, are located in Austin. The food scene is ripe, ranging from high-end flavor to delectable food truck treats. It ranked the second lowest on NerdWallet's Cost of Living Index, right behind Columbus, Ohio. Austin's rental vacancy rate is around 5 percent, showing that while new residents can find a place to stay, the demand for living space is high.

3

## Atlanta, Georgia

**Median Income for College Grads:** \$50,862

Home to Coca-Cola, Delta Air Lines and The Home Depot, Atlanta provides a range of opportunities for new graduates. The Georgia capital is driven by numerous industries including trade, transportation, business, government, education and health services. Like Austin, Atlanta is also a growing mecca for musicians and filmmakers.

2



## Seattle, Washington

### Median Income for College Grads: \$50,578

For any graduate looking to diversify their life, Seattle is the place for you. The city is a melting pot for a variety of cultures, housing numerous museums along with neighborhoods filled with all nationalities. Major companies like Microsoft and Boeing call the Washington capital home, but expect the competition for jobs to be fierce as Seattle is the most educated city in the U.S. More than 34 percent of Seattle's population hold a bachelor's degree or higher, according to CNBC. Perhaps the biggest draw to the city is its affordability. Because it is home to many universities, the food and entertainment is priced to people working on a budget.

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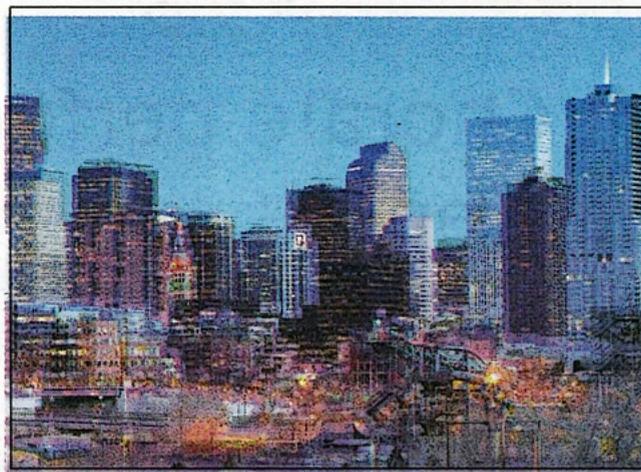


## San Francisco, California

### Median Income for College Grads: \$61,426

While it is incredibly expensive to live there, high wages and a strong job market make San Francisco an attractive destination for new college graduates. The median income for post-grads with a bachelor's degree is the highest in the country. Its major industries include technology, science, media and financial services. The city also houses the country's biggest tech giants, including Google and Twitter.

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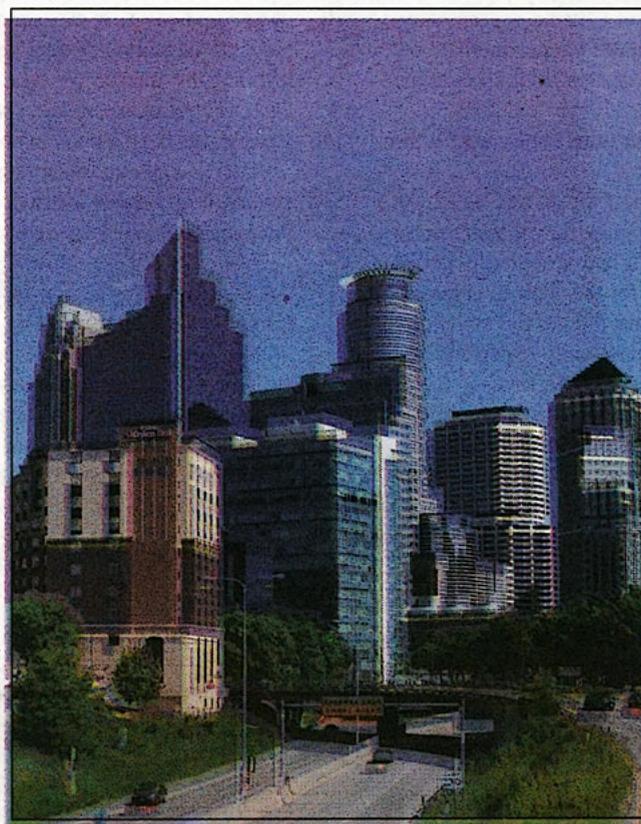


## Denver, Colorado

### Median Income for College Grads: \$48,133

Similar to Seattle, Denver sports a very educated population with a large percentage of its citizens holding a bachelor's degree. The Mile-High City has an about-average cost of living, with degree holders making above-average wages. The most profitable professions found in the area are in aerospace and aviation, broadcasting, energy and health care.

5



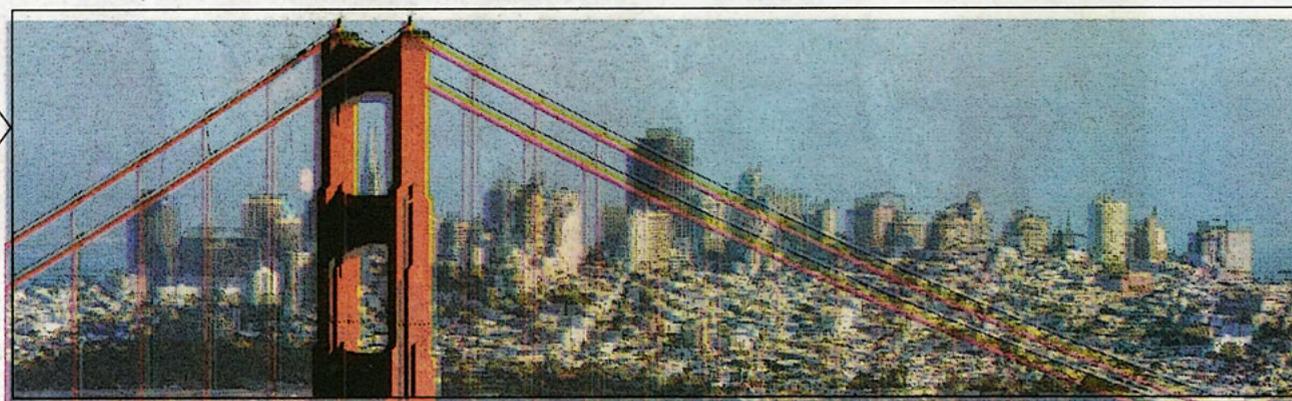
## Minneapolis, Minnesota

### Median Income for College Grads: \$46,525

Minneapolis is well-known for its status as a city with a unique down-home vibe. The friendly people are not the only draws to the midwestern metropolis. Nature lovers won't have to sacrifice their love of the outdoors as the city prides itself on its abundance of bike paths, lakes and hiking trails. Minneapolis is also the home to the most Fortune 500 companies per capita in all of the metro areas in the country, providing plenty of job opportunities. Along with an affordable cost of living and a reliable transportation system, the city is quite an attractive home for recent college graduates.

7

*Copyright Notice: 1. This photo features an ariel view of the Washington Monument in Washington D.C.. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andy Dunaway. 2. This photo shows the skyline of Atlanta. 3. The photo features Sixth Street at Sixth Street & Trinity Street in downtown Austin, Texas, United States. Photo by Larry D. Moore. 4. This photo showcases the Seattle Space Needle in Seattle. 5. This picture shows the Denver skyline at sunset. Photo by Larry Johnson. 6. This photo showcases the Golden Gate Bridge in the foreground with the city of San Francisco in the background. Photo credited to Shutterstock.com. 7. This photo shows downtown Minneapolis. Photo by AlexiusHoratius.*



# UCO Concert Chorale performs in Brazil this week

Terra Rhodes

*Contributing Writer*

The University of Central Oklahoma's Concert Chorale is performing this week in Brazil at the Fifth Annual Campina Grande International Music Festival along with renowned artists and groups from all over the world.

The UCO Concert Chorale is one of only four universities around the world that were asked to perform at the festival.

"I am well acquainted with the director of the festival, and he knows what kind of choirs I direct. We have been friends for 10 years or so and he's had the festival for five years and he's had an open invitation for me. The past years it just hasn't worked out for the choir to come out because our summers have just not been available. All the pieces kind of fell together this year so it is nice we have this opportunity to perform and learn," Dr. Karl Nelson, director of choral studies at UCO, said.

The UCO Concert Chorale will perform two pieces that were written specifically for the choir, one by UCO's composer-in-residence Samuel Magrill, titled "The Winding Ray," the other is a piece written by the director of the festival, Dr. Vladimir Silva. Other notable music

that the choir will perform will be pieces by English composer Herbert Howells and a madrigal by Clement Janequin.

"We have been practicing for the past couple of weeks or so, and everyone is very exciting about the trip. It's been fun to see everyone posting on

their Facebook how excited they are to go to Brazil. During this rehearsal process, we really reacquainted ourselves together and we really enjoyed learning the music. We had a performance for the Oklahoma Chorale Directors Association, and we also performed Dr. Magrill's piece at his Temple. It's been a good experience to get back together," Nelson said.

The UCO Foundation helped fund a portion of the cost of the trip, making it affordable for students to go on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure, traveling to Brazil, experiencing the culture.

"When we are in Rio de Janeiro we will be staying at a hotel that's right off the beach, from what I understand, and when we are in Campina Grande, we will be staying at a hotel provided by the festival. We are going to try to take in as much of the culture as we can, and we are going to be taking classes and rehearsing with some of the Brazilian students there in Campina Grande," Nelson said.

UCO's Assistant Professor of Voice Dr. Robert Glaubitz, who is well known for his website, The Aria Database, is teaching vocal master classes at the festival. Dr. Nelson is teaching choral conducting classes, while his wife Jena Nelson, director and drama teacher for Edmond North High School, is in attendance teaching musical theatre. The festival will run until Sunday.



The UCO Concert Chorale (pictured above) has been invited to perform at the Fifth Annual Campina Grande International Music Festival held in Brazil, July 20-27. Photo Provided.

# Christians on Campus participate in Summer Internship

Queila Omena

*Contributing Writer*

Students from UCO, OU and OCCC take part in a summer internship hosted by The Church in Oklahoma City, and learn to serve while also benefiting from the studies. The summer internship began on May 29 and will end on August 6.

"I think it's a great opportunity to preach the Gospel, meet students, and gain more of the Lord," said Nehemiah Kennedy, 17, OCCC student of Pre-Engineering.

The dedicated students work from Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., serving and ministering at OU, OCCC and UCO.

Interns get paid \$75 a week, when part-time students receive \$50 per week.

"We practice how to serve, and that's actually the most important thing. You know, we can learn a lot of knowledge, but serving is the best way for you to practice all these spiritual knowledge gains. We try to make people learn how to enjoy Christ," said Junfeng Liang, an OU Mechanical Engineering graduate.

A couple weeks ago, the college interns went to California for The Training, where Christians from all over the world meet to study the Bible.

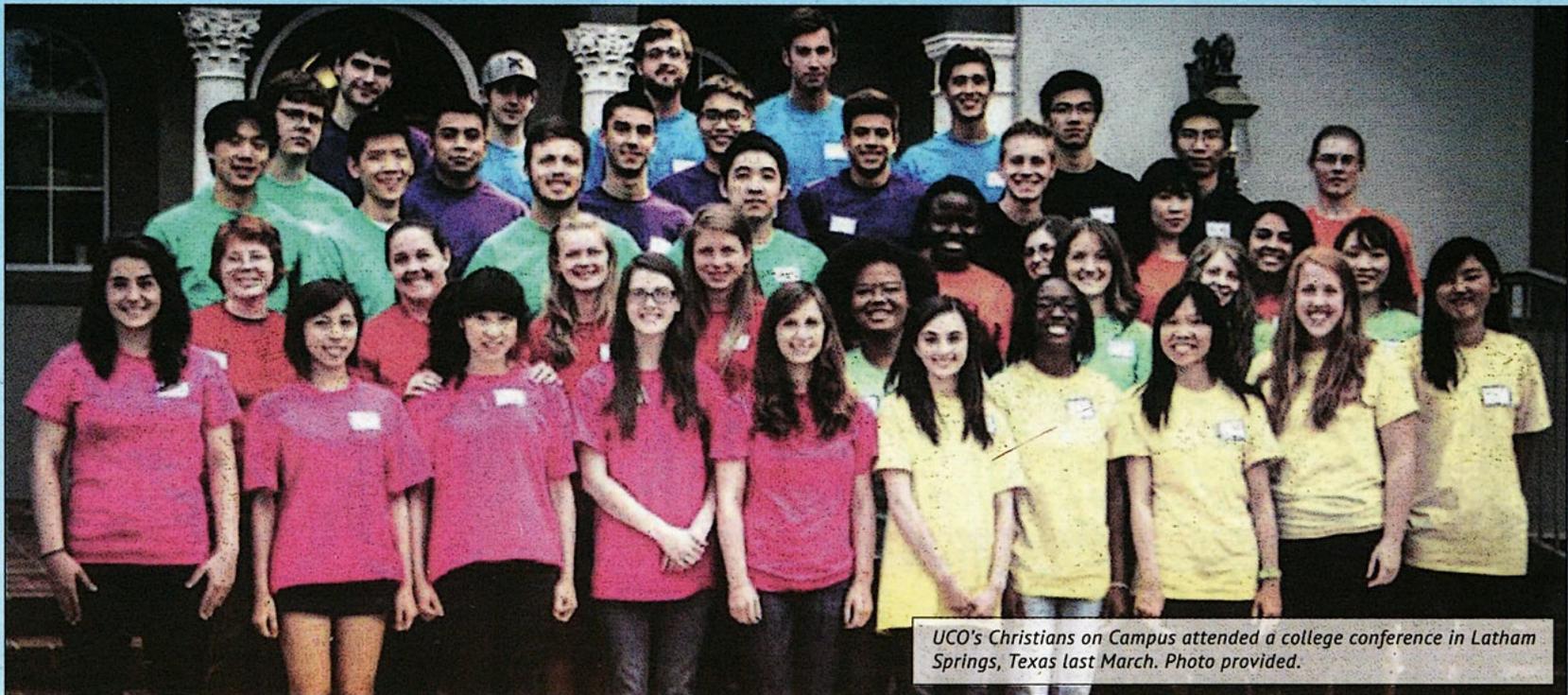
The Church in Oklahoma City paid for all expenses and accommodations for the trip. The Training held over 5,000 devoted Christians and covered the last 25 chapters of Genesis.

Christians on Campus actively worked for over 10 years, and always had the determination to participate in internships and conferences. They meet on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays for the Bible study, where they read the Bible and share experiences about their lives.

"They might have been Christians before, they might not have, but either way they weren't really able to experience the Lord very much. They were not able to pursue Him properly, but once they joined the club they were able to testify that they could pursue the Lord with other believers and really enrich their Christian life. That's a really good goal for Christians on Campus," Nehemiah Kennedy said.

For more information about Christians on Campus, visit the website <http://www.christiansoncampus.cc/oklahoma/>, or contact Mercy at [ucochristiansoncampus@gmail.com](mailto:ucochristiansoncampus@gmail.com)

For more information about The Church in Oklahoma City, visit the website <http://www.churchinokc.org/>.



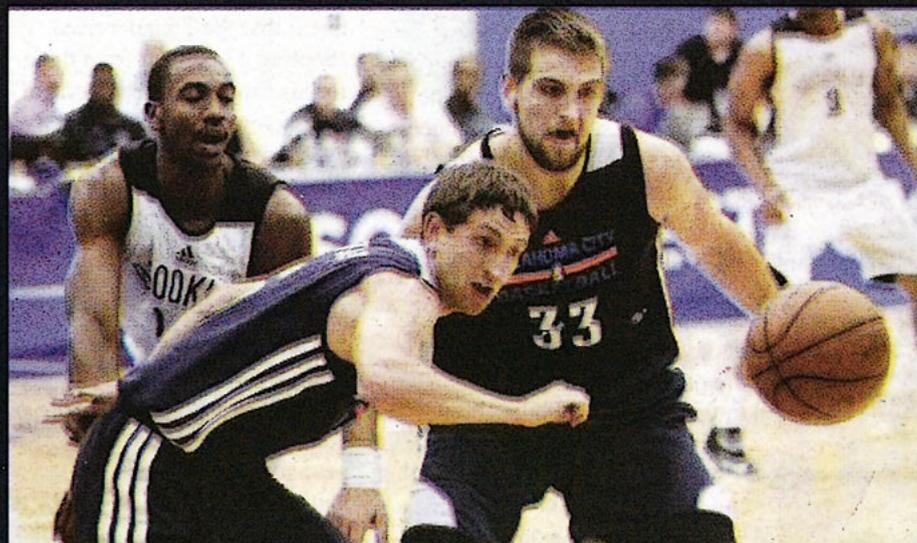
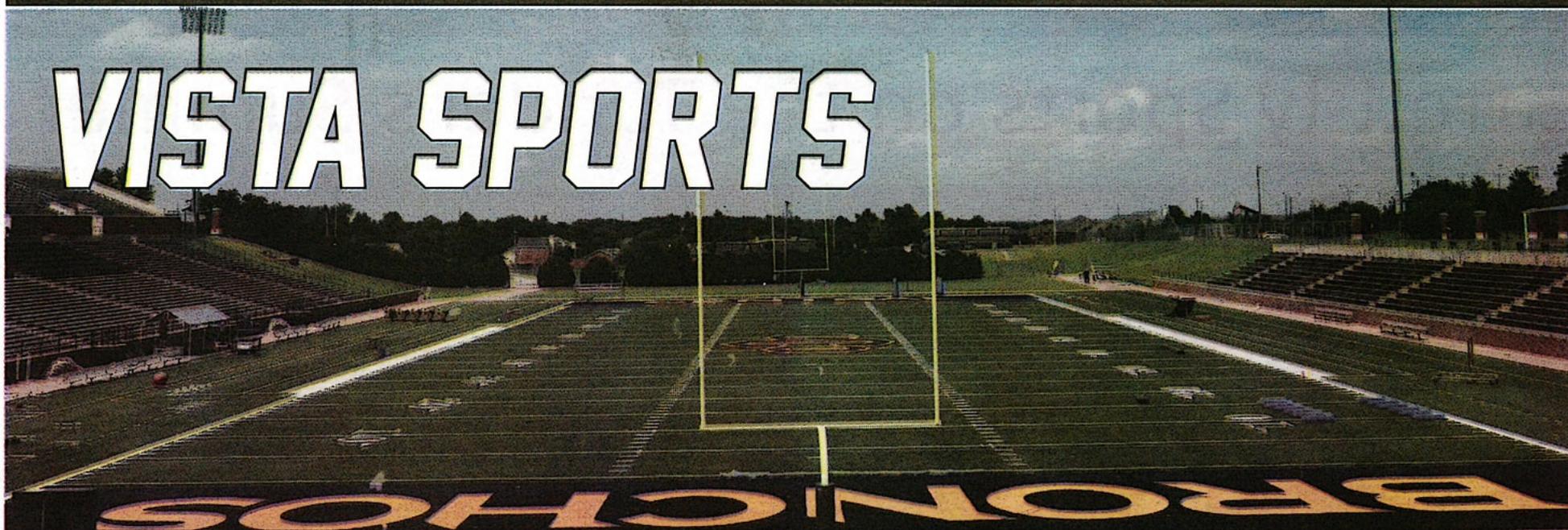
UCO's Christians on Campus attended a college conference in Latham Springs, Texas last March. Photo provided.

# Top ten snowcone flavors

Z A Y R R E H C S I D  
 B Z D C W V C O F O N  
 H L Q A W X U J O D W  
 B P A H L R T L P E K  
 L U Q C A O B Y D P I  
 Y Q B P K S C D X O E  
 O S P B R C I A R G D  
 U L J E L N H V N U Y  
 E V G R G E M E G I U  
 K I U C H H G K R T P  
 T U A A B N I U W R F  
 Z K O T W J N M M C Y  
 E N O L E M R E T A W  
 D R E A M S Y C L E V  
 C O T T O N C A N D Y

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1) Black Cherry | 6) Piña Colada   |
| 2) Bubblegum    | 7) Sour Apple    |
| 3) Cherry       | 8) Tiger's Blood |
| 4) Cotton Candy | 9) Watermelon    |
| 5) Dreamcycle   | 10) Wedding Cake |

# VISTA SPORTS



## **LOOKING BACK AT THE THUNDER'S OFFSEASON**

After a promising season in which the Thunder made it to the Western Conference Finals for the third time in four years they entered this offseason with a specific list of needs in order to get better and compete again for the NBA title. The Vista's Austin Litrell grades how OKC did this offseason and looks forward to basketball returning this fall.

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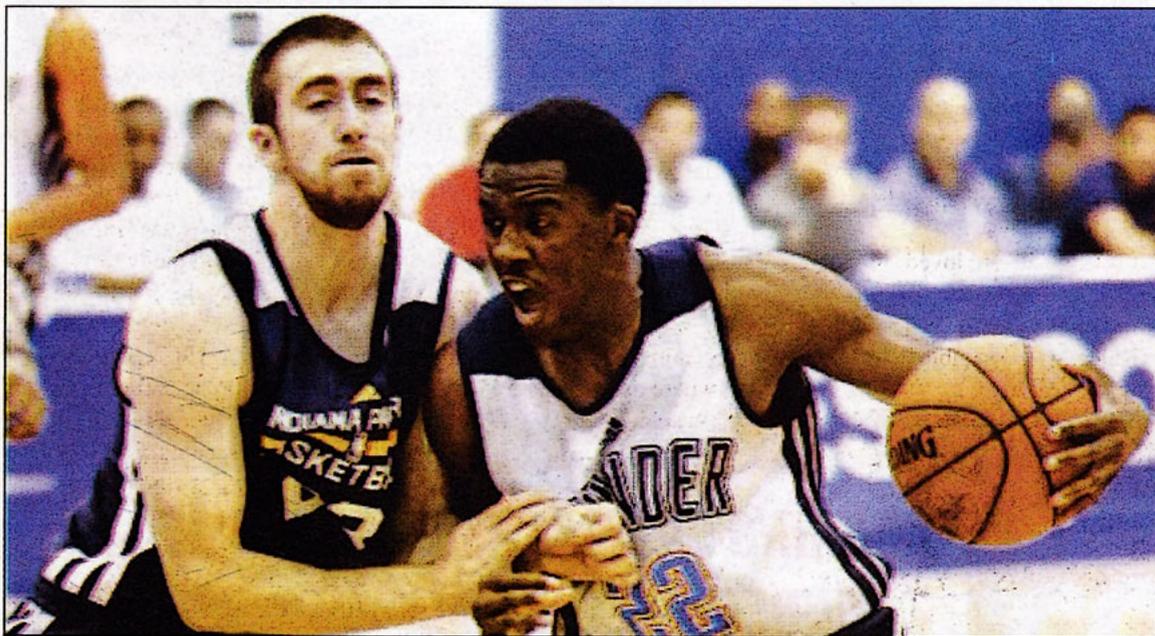


## **TOUR DE FRANCE HONORS WWI SOLDIERS ON 100TH ANNAVERSARY**

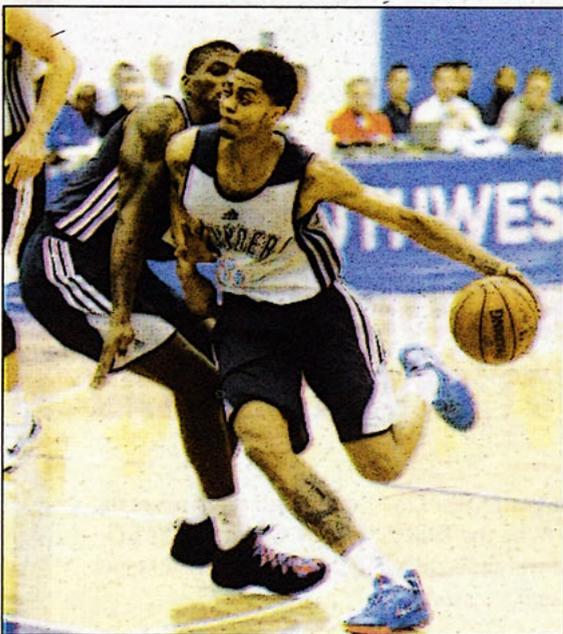
One hundred years after the onset of World War One Europe still remembers the carnage that the conflict left behind. With the Tour de France visiting many of the historical battlegrounds from the war they are using this opportunity to honor the sacrifice made by their relatives and ancestors.

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# Litrell-ly Sports on the Tunder's Summer



Oklahoma City Thunder's Semaj Christon (22) makes a move to get past Indiana Pacers' Jake Odum, left, during an NBA summer league basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Wednesday, July 9, 2014. (AP Photo/John Raoux)



Oklahoma City Thunder's Jeremy Lamb, right, drives past Indiana Pacers' DeQuan Jones during an NBA summer league basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Wednesday, July 9, 2014. (AP Photo/John Raoux)



Oklahoma Thunder player Kevin Durant arrives at the ESPY Awards at the Nokia Theatre on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, in Los Angeles. (Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP)

Austin Littrell

Sports Writer

In a summer of big names and big moves, the Thunder's off-season has brought little excitement to the fans from the questionable draft picks to losing out on Gasol. I would personally give this off-season a C for Sam Presti and the Thunder organization.

In reality, the Thunder is not far off from a title after being an overtime away from taking the Spurs to a game seven. They have been just a couple of pieces away from solidifying themselves as the best team in the NBA.

The off-season started with some questionable choices in the draft. Neither of the two draft picks filled the team's needs or impressed me. They are players built for the future, when the Thunder should be trying to win now.

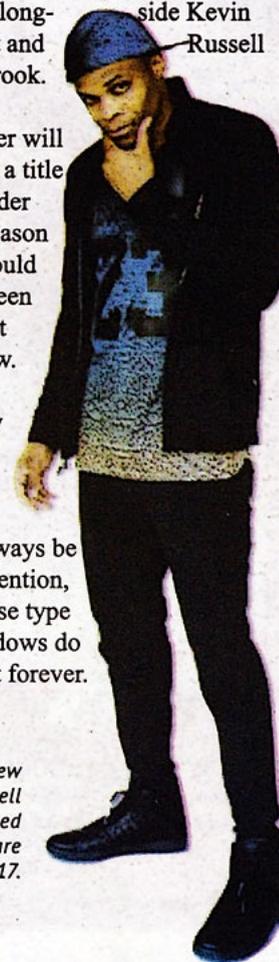
Mitch McGary is versatile, low-post guy, but he seems to be a Nick Collison 2.0 type of player. The problem is that we already have the first Nick Collison on our bench.

The same goes for the second first-round pick, Josh Huestis out of Stanford. He seems to be another Thabo Sefalosa or Andre Roberson. All three are strong on the defensive side of the ball but lack consistency on the offensive side of things.

With the possibility of Roberson starting next season at the two guard, the Thunder need to find a low-post scorer. At the very least, Steven Adams will have to start, because Roberson and Perkins on the floor will still have its struggles on offense, the same as when Thabo and Perkins were both on the floor.

Presti deserves credit, though, for going out and getting the top free agent on their list and nearly getting Gasol at a discount. Anthony Morrow can be the shooting threat that the Thunder need, shooting 43 percent from three for his career. While not one of the bigger names in free agency, Morrow can play. If Jeremy Lamb can get his act together, those are two potential weapons to go along—side Kevin Durant and Westbrook—Russell.

The Thunder will still be a title contender next season and would have been without Morrow. With a healthy big three, they will always be in contention, but these type of windows do not last forever.



Right: In this product image released by Barneys New York, Oklahoma City Thunder point guard Russell Westbrook wears items from his clothing line called Westbrook-XO-Barneys New York. The items are available at Barneys New York on Thursday, July 17. (AP Photo/Barneys New York)

# Tour de France honors WWI soldiers sacrifice

Greg Keller

*Associated Press*

PARIS (AP) — Before sunrise on June 28, 1914, a pack of cyclists set off from Paris on the 12th Tour de France. Hours later, an Austrian archduke stepped out in Sarajevo and was assassinated in the street, igniting the carnage of World War I.

Now, 100 years later, cycling's greatest race is paying special tribute to the millions who fought and died in what came to be known as the Great War. Several stages of the famed Tour de France will run this year along the war's killing fields, trenches and fronts in northern France and Belgium.

The 1914 Tour was the last before a five-year suspension due to the war. Of the 145 riders that day, 15 of them, including three Tour champions, would die in the fighting.

In all, an estimated 45 cyclists who had raced in pre-war Tours were killed in the 1914-1918 war, according to cycling historian Jean-Paul Bourquier.

The Tour itself has a complicated history with the war. Its founder, Henri Desgrange, joined in the warmongering, using his L'Auto newspaper to issue a lusty call for his countrymen "to go get those bastards."

"When your rifle butt will be on their chest, they will ask you for forgiveness. Don't let them trick you. Pull the trigger without pity," Desgrange wrote, according to Graham Healy's book "The Shattered Peloton."

After the war, Desgrange pledged to never let a German rider compete in the Tour, a threat that was never carried out.

This year's three-week Tour begins July 5 in Leeds, England, before crossing the English Channel three days later. Riders and fans will have several occasions to pay homage to war victims: Stages 5 through 10 largely trace the 400-mile (645-kilometer) long Western Front, from Ypres, Belgium, to the Swiss border near the north-eastern French city of Mulhouse.

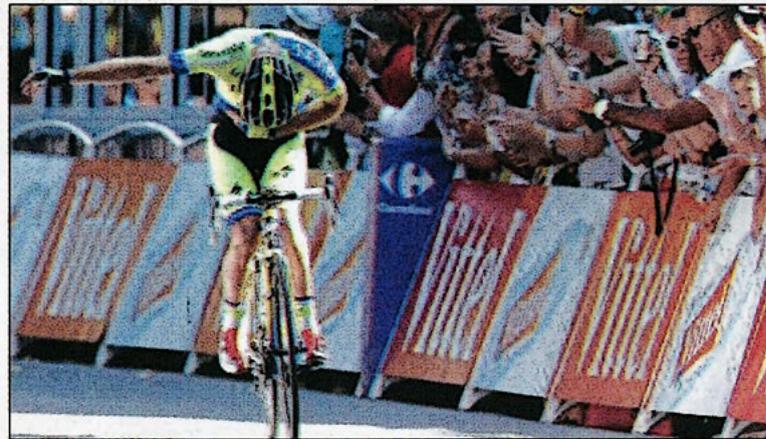
An estimated 5 million combatants died on this front during the war, the British government estimates. Most are still buried

there in immaculately landscaped military cemeteries or under farmers' fields in unmarked graves.

Stage 5 starts in Ypres, the killing ground immortalized by Canadian soldier-poet John McCrae in his poem "In Flanders Fields:"

"We are the Dead.  
Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn,  
Saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved,  
and now we lie  
In Flanders fields."

Riders will assemble that



Australia's Michael Rogers bows for cheering spectators as he crosses the finish line to win the sixteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 237.5 kilometers (147.6 miles) with start in Carcassonne and finish in Bagnères-de-Luchon, France, Tuesday, July 22, 2014. (AP Photo/Peter Dejong)



Spain's Joaquim Rodriguez, wearing the best climber's dotted jersey, Italy's Vincenzo Nibali, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, and Peter Sagan of Slovakia, wearing the best sprinter's green jersey, lead the pack during the ceremonial procession prior to the start of the sixteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 237.5 kilometers (147.6 miles) with start in Carcassonne and finish in Bagnères-de-Luchon, France, Tuesday, July 22, 2014. (AP Photo/Laurent Cipriani)

day within sight of the Menin Gate, a memorial dedicated to the 54,405 British and Commonwealth casualties whose graves are not known.

Not far from the Stage 5 start is cycling's iconic Kemmelberg Hill. As recounted by Healy, Frenchman Camille Fily, at 17 the youngest-ever Tour rider, was shot and killed around there late in the war while serving as a bike messenger. Among the many nearby war memorials is the Kemmelberg French Ossuary, where the bodies of 5,294 French soldiers lie buried.

The Stage 6 start in Arras takes riders near France's largest military cemetery, Notre-Dame-de-Lorette, where 40,058 French war dead are buried. Among them, most likely, is 1909 Tour champion Francois Faber of Luxembourg.

Less than a month after finishing ninth in the 1914 Tour, Faber enlisted in the French Foreign Legion. He was killed the following May during the Battle of Artois, just north of Arras. His body was never found, but a plaque in his memory can be seen in the Notre-Dame-de-Lorette church.

Faber won the 1909 Tour with a display of sheer dominance. He won 6 of its 14 stages, including five in a row — a record that still stands — and led the race from Stage 2 to the finish. He won despite breaking his chain a kilometer (about 3,300 feet) from the finish line in Paris. Carrying his bike, he ran to the finish line, where he was mobbed by fans.

Faber was offered a spot as his military unit's cyclist in 1915 but refused.

"I prefer to serve in the trenches. I know all about trench work and I have more chance of bringing down Germans there than as a cyclist,"

he said, according to Healy.

Stage 6 also takes riders along Chemin des Dames, a 30-kilometer ridge road and the site of one of the most disastrous French offensives of the war, where hundreds of thousands of men were killed in only a few weeks.

Two other Tour champions died near the route of Stage 7, from the Champagne town of Epernay to the northeastern city of Nancy: Octave Lapize, the 1910 winner, and Lucien Petit-Breton, a two-time winner in 1907 and 1908.

Lapize, who once famously called Tour organizers "assassins" for sending riders up impossibly steep climbs in the Pyrenees mountains, died when his biplane was shot down in a dogfight on Bastille Day, 1917, near the village of Flirey. This year the Tour will pass through Flirey on July 11.

Petit-Breton, who took part in nine of the first 12 Tours, was killed in an automobile accident while on an army mission near the front, which riders will trace on the way to Nancy.

Stage 7 also passes Verdun, a pivotal World War I battlefield where an estimated 300,000 French and German troops were killed — most ripped apart by the apocalyptic shelling that permanently disfigured the landscape.

Before the riders leave the battlefields behind and attack the Alps, one last, poignant reminder of World War I awaits. As they travel from Mulhouse to Besancon for the race's first rest day on July 15, the road passes close to the tiny village of Joncherey.

The village has a memorial to Jules-Andre Peugeot — a 21-year-old corporal killed in a skirmish with German troops on Aug. 2, 1914, making him the very first casualty on the war's Western Front.



the **VISTA**

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