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EDITORIALS

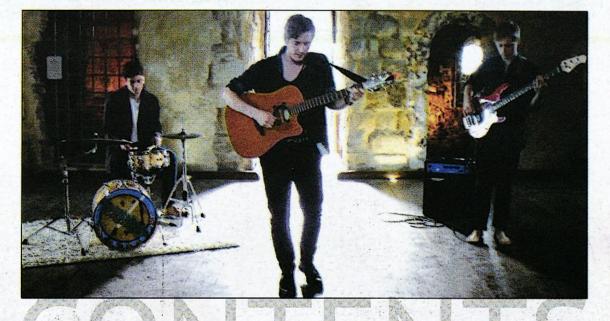
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The Vista encourages letters to the editor. Letters should address issues and ideas, not personalities. Letters must be typed, double spaced, with a maximum of 250 words, and must include the author's printed name, title, major, classification and phone number. Letters are subject to editing for libel, clarity and space, or to eliminate statements of questionable taste. The Vista reserves the right not to publish submitted letters.

Address letters to:

Editor, The Vista, 100 N. University Dr., Edmond, OK 73034-5209, or deliver in person to the editor in the Communications Building, Room 131. Letters can be emailed to vistauco@gmail.com.



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Metro Interns Call UCO Residence Halls Home for the Summer

Queila Omena

Contributing Writer

Central's new Summer Intern Housing Program accommodated interns from all over the world, with the hope of helping local companies and dedicated students throughout new experiences.

Interns for Chesapeake Energy, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF), Select Physical Therapy and the Oklahoma Health Department were accommodated in furnished two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartments on campus, with an easy access to metro workplaces and amenities. The apartments include cable television, wireless Internet and parking at no extra costs.

The successful program reached over 60 students this year, and UCO hopes to accommodate over 100 students in 2015. Several groups have already reserved their space for next year.

"About March, April... I started contacting some local business to see, you know, if they had interns and how many interns they had, and where their interns typically stayed, if they stayed at home. What we found out was that there are actually a lot of interns in Edmond area that are out-of-state. They don't have family here whatsoever, and they're basically on their own to find a place to live," said Jose Rodriguez, coordinator of sales and marketing at UCO.

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Jose Rodriguez explains that a lot of students wouldn't be able to move all their furniture just for summer or sign a three-month contract.

"We wanted to do something that was cost effective for the companies and for the students, because not all the companies pay housing for the students. Some give guidance to help with the housing, other students are on their own to pay for their stuff. We are able to provide all those things," said Jose Rodriguez.

Central's new summer Intern Housing Program wants to show students how dedicated the university is about education and work experiences.

UCO provides a safe and secure home with a set of policies for all students: no alcohol, no tobacco, no drugs, and no weapons.

Several companies have already thanked UCO for its discipline and dedication towards their students.

For more information about Central's Summer Intern Housing Program, contact Rodriguez at 405-974-2415 or jrodriguez16@ uco.edu. For more information about housing at Central, visit www.uco.edu/housing.



The photo above features the inside of the dorms that local summer interns are able to stay in. They are furnished and include cable television and wireless Internet. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.



This photo features the housing that summer interns are offered to stay in. Along with being furnished, they include parking around the buildings at no extra expense. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.

CAMPUS QUOTES

"Campus Quotes"

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What was your high school stereotype?

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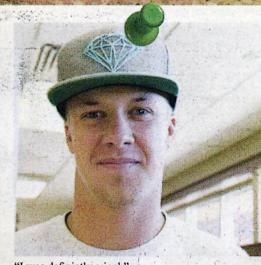


"I was probably a jock in high school" -Stoney Toothman Freshman, Wants to work in the medical field



"I'm not really sure what my stereotype was, I was just middle of the pack" -Marissa Mccomas

Freshman Kinesiology Major



"I was definietly a jock" -Dallas Jackson

Freshman, Undecided Major



"I was kind of everywhere, because we only had like 40 people in my class." -Anna Stutsman

Sophmore Nursing Major

Local Flavor OKC Venue Caters to Local Music Scene

Kellye Tallent

Contributing Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY- The Blue Note Lounge at 2408 N Robinson Ave will host a show including two ACM@ UCO bands on Thursday, July 17. The show starts at 10:00 p.m. and costs five dollars.

Zorch, Eureeka, and Ripple Green comprise the three acts. Eureeka goes on at 10 p.m. Zorch is next at 11 p.m and Ripple Green, who is headlining the event, begins their set at midnight.

"The crowd is really diverse at the Blue Note," said lead singer of Ripple Green, Joel Parks. "There is a good mix between young and old and the tastes of the crowd seem to vary greatly. It also has good sound."

Ripple Green is a trio built by three 21-year-olds who have known each other since childhood. Green is the lead singer and plays guitar and the piano. Lucas Gillette plays bass and contributes vocals. Tremaine Wade plays drums. According to Parks, the band came up with the name Ripple Green because "they are two words that represent the concept of our music; ripple is moving and fluid and green is always new and fresh and innovative."

The band has been playing together for 10 years.

"We became a band before we even had instruments," said Parks. "We're basically family. We started playing together at 10 or 11 and we had our first gig at 12 or 13. Our first show was actually a backyard show."

The trio grew up together in Duncan and then moved to the City together for school.

"We have always moved as a unit," said Parks. "No one's been in or out and that's how we like to keep it."

Most recently, they traveled together to study abroad in Guildford, England.

"Naturally our experience abroad has changed our approach to music and songwriting," said Parks. "Being exposed to all the different cultures and types of music opened our eyes. We've developed as a band musically."

While in England, Ripple Green spent time recording the third EP in their trilogy set.

"We want to release one track of the album sometime this fall," said Parks. "It's called 'Timepiece' and we feel like it's a good representation of our experience overseas."

In an article on oklahomarock.com, Ripple Green is described by Derek Brown of The Flaming Lips as "similar in feel to Red Hot Chili Peppers but stripped of the macho-ness."

"I saw Eureeka at the Performance Lab in April," said OSU-OKC junior Katherine Collins. "I'm excited to see them again and check out two new bands. I love going to live shows and supporting local music. I think that's what makes our city interesting. I'm looking forward to seeing what else this city has to offer me musically."

Ripple Green's music can be found at ripplegreenmusic.com. Eureeka's music can be found at reverbnation. com/eureeka. The Austin-based duo Zorch's music can be found at zorchband.tumblr.com.



COLUMN

White vs. Red By Stevie Armstrong

White versus red: we're talking about wine people. Over a four-day test with my generous wino friends, I studied their behavior after a bottle of white and red wine. They enjoyed being wined and dined, minus the dining part. To say the least, the results were quite intriguing.

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I've always heard wine gives a fun buzz, but there is a difference between a white wine buzz and a red wine buzz. So, I did my own little experiment to see for myself...and it gave me an excuse to laugh and make fun of my friends.

With a group of six, three females and three males, we observed the different behaviors between the cheap bottles of red and white wine we passed around. The first night, white wine was served. The second night was red, and the pattern repeated the following two nights. We figured four nights were enough for there to be an adequate amount of tests.

First, a little information about each wine. White wine is made with white grapes but without skins or seeds. Red wine is crushed with skin-on red grapes. Typically, red wine has a richer taste and white is thought to have a less appealing flavor, in many people's opinions. One of the most popular facts about red wine is the way it helps to prevent heart disease, as long as it's drunk in moderation. Moderation for a male is two drinks. Moderation for a female is one drink. At least, that's what most doctors say. Of course, my friends have a different opinion on what moderation is.

The first night, with the white wine, everyone generally had a mellow buzz. They were fairly calm, yet a couple of the girls threw out a few sassy comments.

The second night, with the red wine, was a bit different, but in a humorous way. As the sips of dark wine were being consumed, giggles came from the group. Silly jokes that are normally cheesy seemed funny, and commonly shy personalities turned flirtatious. Overall, the red wine night was a bit more active.

The following two nights relatively had the same results. I know that I'm not in any sort of expert position to give information on wine, except for the fact that I enjoy drinking it, but red wine seemed to be the preferred party wine. If you'd rather draw a bath and unwind at the end of the day, maybe white wine would do you well.

But, there's no rule that says that you can't drink both in the same night. If you do, just start with red wine and end with white. That way when you're buzz kicks in and you spill it, it won't stain.

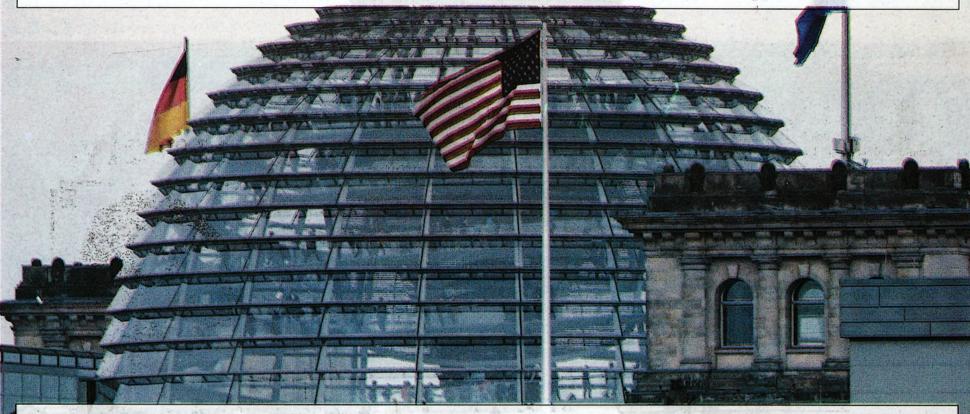
Sincerely, Stevie

Sincerely,



Stevie

Germans consider typewriters to prevent leaks



Josh Wallace

Staff Writer

As relations between Germany and the U.S. weaken under the weight of new spying scandals, a German politician suggests reverting to 19th century technology.

On Monday, the head of the German parliamentary committee investigating the National Security Agency's (NSA) activities within the country, Patrick Sensburg, said the committee has considered using manual typewriters to protect sensitive data from being leaked. "Unlike other inquiry committees, we are investigating an

ongoing situation. Intelligence activities are still going on, they are happening," Sensburg said, in an interview with German broadcaster ARD.

"And of course we have to keep our internal communication secure, send encrypted emails, use encrypted telephones and other things, which I'm not going to say here of course."

Sensburg's comments came after a series of recent scandals tied to investigations on U.S. spying. On July 3, a member of Germany's foreign intelligence agency, Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND), was arrested for allegedly selling information to the U.S.

According to reporting by Reuters, the 31-year-old suspect first made contact with the CIA in 2012. He was discovered in May when German intelligence intercepted an email where he offered to sell information to Russia.

A week later, word of a second suspected spy within the government came to light, as German authorities searched the home of a Ministry of Defense worker. The next day, the government responded by seeking the removal of a top CIA official. "The representative of the U.S. intelligence services at the embassy of the United States of America has been told to leave Germany," said Steffan Seibert, a government spokesperson.

On Sunday, German news magazine Der Spiegel reported that two politicians suspected their phones had been hacked. Roderich Kiesewetter, a member of the committee investigating the NSA, and Steffan Bockhahn claim that their phones had been tapped and that someone had been remotely accessing texts and emails.

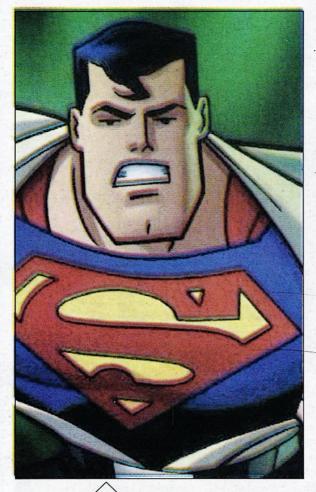
These recent claims come just shy of a year since it was revealed that the NSA had been monitoring German Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone. Evidence of the phone hacking came to light from documents leaked by former intelligence contractor Edward Snowden last year.

Sensburg's suggestion to move away from computers to typewriters would follow Russia's actions to safeguard information. In July 2013, sources within Russia's Federal Guard Service revealed plans to purchase manual typewriters in response to the leaking of documents by Snowden and WikiLeaks.

In this Oct. 25, 2013 file photo the American flag flies on top of the U.S. embassy in front of the Reichstag building that houses the German Parliament, Bundestag, in Berlin, Germany. Germany took the dramatic step Thursday of asking the top U.S. intelligence official in Berlin to leave the country, following two reported cases of suspected U.S. spying and the yearlong spat over eavesdropping by the National Security Agency. "The representative of the U.S. intelligence services at the United States embassy has been asked to leave Germany," government spokesman Steffen Seibert said in a statement, Thursday, July 10,2014. (AP Photo/Michael Sohn, File)

FEATURE

Rated "T" for Terrible: The worst video games ever



Tyler Talley

Managing Editor

A good video game can do many things; entertain, enlighten and even elevate the medium. Over the past decade, titles like The Last of Us, Portal 2 and Red Dead Redemption have redefined the place of video games in the culture consciousness. However, there are a number of games that do just the opposite. These are the stinkers; the titles that wasted the time and money of all of those involved.

I consider myself lucky to have avoided a good portion of flat-out terrible games that have come out in recent years. Being a college student means I lack both the time and money to play many video games.

That does not make me impervious to actually experiencing every bad video game on the market. Anyone who considers themselves fans of the video game medium has had an individual experience

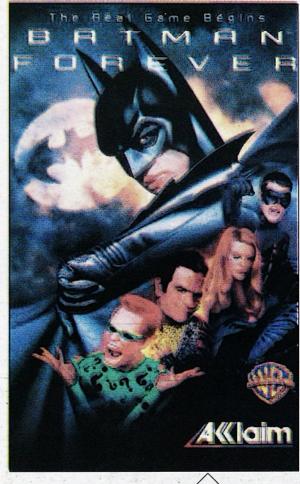
with a terrible game at some point. Brandon Snell, a UCO student and avid gamer, said that he has had his fair share of time spent playing more than one bad game.

"When a game is bad, I usually stop playing but sometimes I feel obligated to continue playing." Snell said. "The worst part about playing and finishing a bad game is usually the gross taste it leaves in your mouth. You don't feel accomplished. You just feel like 'OK, well that is finally over.""

What constitutes a bad video game? Like any other form of entertainment, there are limitless chances during a game's development for colossal failure.

"A bad game has one or more of these qualities: unoriginal art or gameplay, poor controls, a glitchy/ unfinished game feel and just general poor game design," Snell said.

I have attempted to limit the following list to games that I have actually experienced first-hand. These are video games that have infuriated, confused and downright frustrated me as I attempted to play them.



NINTENDO.64

Superman

Why it's terrible: Superman is a character that has never truly translated well into the video game medium. Unlike Batman, Superman is basically invulnerable, eliminating many threats and tensions that are necessary in making a game both fun and challenging. Developers have had to therefore "think-outside-the-box" when designing games around the Blue Boy Scout. The developers hit the jackpot when they got the bright idea for the main goal of Superman 64 to be flying through rings. Because isn't that the first thing you think of when Superman crosses your mind? Don't worry though, because these "ring races" are also timed to provide "fun" and "challenges." This game has become a legend. Its awfulness is almost beautiful. Forgive the comparison, but it may just be the Sistine Chapel of bad video games.

Batman Forever

Why it's terrible: Like Superman, the Dark Knight has also had a troubled past in the video game realm. Until the recent *Arkham Asylum* series by Rocksteady, there had never been a truly great Batman game, and the worst was without a doubt the movie tie-in, Batman Forever. UCO student Brandon Snell said he has vivid memories of playing the game as a child. "My brother and I wanted that game because it looked amazing, but when we played it, we were met with clunky controls and annoying enemies." Snell said. "The worst part is having to press some weird button combination to use the grappling hook to climb up into a hole in a ceiling that no one even knows is there. We never even made it past the first level for the longest time. I hate that game."

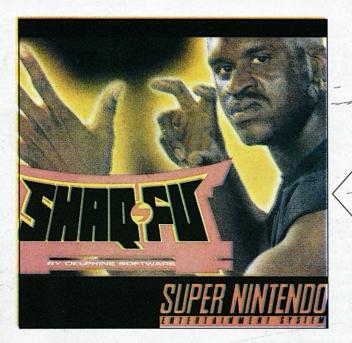
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FEATURE

PlayStation 3 XBOX 360.

Sonic the Hedgehog

Why it's terrible: Their have been over 50 games in the past 23 years staring the titular blue speed demon, but you'd be hard-pressed to find a title worse than this one. On paper, a Sonic the Hedgehog game should be easy to design, create and release. The premise is this simple: Sonic is fast so he must run from point A to point B as quickly as possible and avoid numerous enemies in doing so. Therefore, it is baffling to see a Sonic game made this badly. The designers thought it would be a great idea to not only make this game open world, but to also have three separate story lines staring three different hedgehogs, all of which handle terribly. Add glitchy controls and load screens that can last over 10 minutes and you have a game that serves as a textbook example of "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." 3





Why it's terrible: The title alone should spell trouble for anyone who was curious about playing this. Even those hoping for a game that is stupid but enjoyable will be disappointed. It's a bizarre miss-mash of both basketball and fighting games that pleases no one. The controls are absolutely atrocious and unresponsive. Most of the time you are just struggling to get close enough to your opponent in order to hit them.

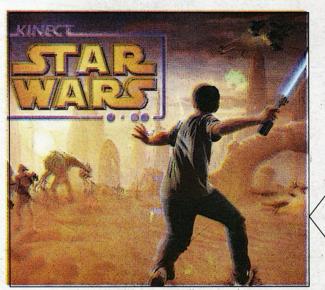
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4



Kinect Star Wars

Why it's terrible: This game represents all of the motion sensor-filled promise of Microsoft's Kinect system and the utter disappointment that came along with it. I have always dreamed that I would be able to play a game in which I would be able to control a lightsaber with my own hands. What *Stur Wars* fan hasn't? This game should have been a dream-come-true but was, instead, an utter disappointment with the lightsaber moments being hard to control and a minimal part of the overall gameplay. There are also several mini-games with the most notorious being a dance-off section that offers pop music retooled to be more "Star Wars-y." Oh joy.

Universal Studios Theme Parks Adventure

Why it's terrible: Have you ever thought to yourself, "I really want to go to Universal Studios WITHOUT going to Universal Studios!" Well, look no further, because the theme park has released a game that provides the Universal experience without any of the fun, excitement and memories but at least you don't have to wait in line.

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UCO Alumni donates to reopen Old North

Queila Omena

Contributing Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma Alumni Association donated \$25,000 to Old North, the oldest academic building in the state, in the hopes of restoring one of Oklahoma's oldest higher education buildings.

The building not only preserves history but also stretches forward for a better education.

"Old North has held a prominent place in this university's history for more than 120 years. Old North symbolizes the important place our university holds in this state.

Without Old North, we could not have grown to who we are today," said Anne Holzberlein, vice president for development and UCO Foundation executive director.

According to Lora Malone, alumni director at UCO, the restoration of the building represents everything that the degree represents.

"We are under the development umbrella but our mission really is to communicate and connect all graduates. Higher education, in my opinion, can be a major solution for a lot of our social and economic problems in this country. That's why the association felt it was important to invest back in that building. I think that's just a small example to our commitment to the university."

The campaign "Always Central" seeks to raise \$40 million in support of scholarships, teaching, programs, facilities and the future, including \$6 million designated for the interior renovation of Old North.

"We currently have risen just over \$38 million of our overall \$40 million goal, with only Old North left to complete. Once the Always Central campaign is complete, we then begin planning the next campaign for the university," Anne Holzberlein said.

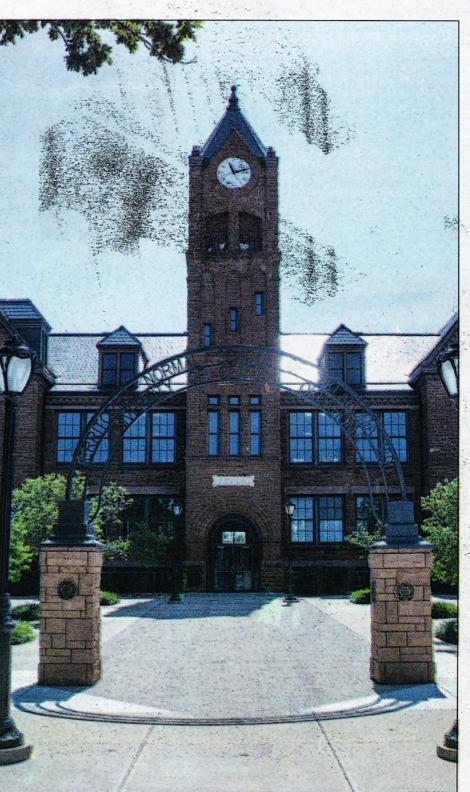
Old North closed in 2009, resulting in the loss of staff offices and classrooms, due to structural problems at that time.

UCO restoration of the building is divided in two phases, where phase one was funded through bonds, with the need of exterior repairs, an outdoor amphitheater, and the addition of a 16,000 square foot annex that incorporated fire exits, ADA entry, mechanical systems, electrical systems, bathrooms and other support spaces.

The second phase includes the interior renovation of the building, and relies on the support of alumni and friends.

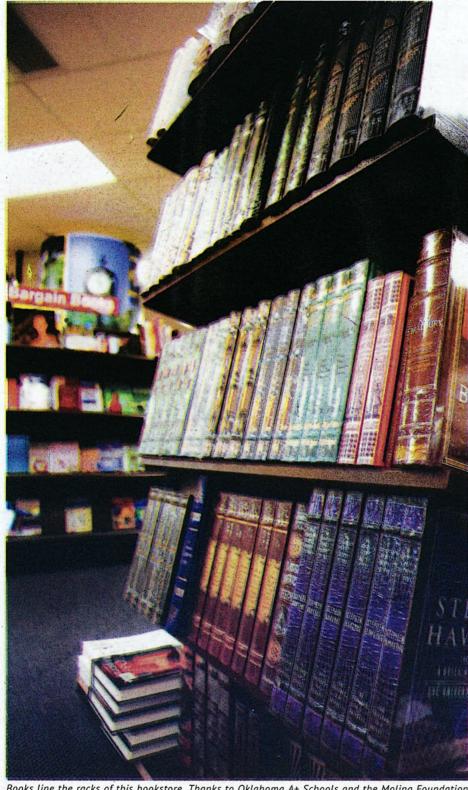
Once the funds are secured, they estimate it will take 24 months to complete the reconstruction.

"It is of significant importance that we acknowledge the sincere generosity of the UCO Alumni Association. It is their generous leadership that has allowed us to get one step closer to opening Old North's doors again," Anne Holzberlein said.



A \$25,000 donation from UCO alumn went toward restoring and reopening the historic Old North building. Photo by Ryan Naeve, The Vista.

Brand New books coming to OKC classes



Books line the racks of this bookstore. Thanks to Oklahoma A+ Schools and the Molina Foundation 10,000 brand new books like these will be distributed to Oklahoma Clty School students when they get back to class. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.

Terra Rhodes

Contributing Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma's educational research organization Oklahoma A+ Schools (OKA+) has partnered up with The Molina Foundation, accepting a grant that will put brand-new books in the hands of thousands of Oklahoma children.

One of the main ideas behind OKA+ and The Molina Foundation is to encourage children to read for pleasure. The goal is to give children a choice, not assuming what a child might be interested in reading. This grant will help support The Oklahoma Reading Sufficiency Act by improving literacy in our state, giving children quality books to take home and enjoy.

"We ended up with an approved grant that was over 10,000 books. It was very exciting to receive that. All of the books are brandnew, that are high quality titles, many from Disney and other supporting large publishing corporations, and so on, that contribute books to The Molina Foundation's warehouse for their purpose of distributing books to children to increase pleasure reading. They have a particular focus at The Molina Foundation on 'summer slump' so they really like to get books in kids' hands through the summer months because many kids just don't have home libraries," said Tyler Weldon, P.h.D., operations director of OKA+.

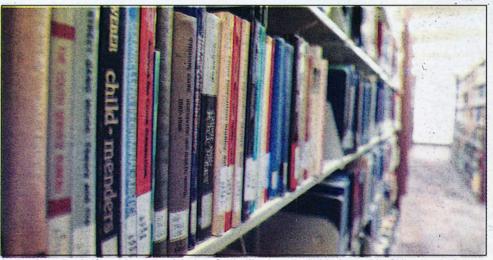
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The books will be distributed to children throughout the state in the pre-K to eighthgrade range. Some of the schools will gift the books when the teachers meet the families for the first time, books will be laid out on a table and children will get to pick one or two books to take home. Other schools will distribute the books by classrooms how the teachers see fit.

"When those books showed up we had quite a distribution effort on our hands! It came in about seven really large pallets. We got folks from our network to help us sort them by grade and reading levels and then got them boxed and distributed for our schools. We have most books boxed up, but we are in the process of delivering all of those books to those 13 schools, so it's very exciting! Maybe in the future we will be able to tap into the UCO volunteer organizations and so on to have a big book drive to help us package our books," said Weldon.

OKA+ offers schools continuous professional development, network of support, and research. The teachers coach schools to create an educational environment that gets kids excited about learning and produces better achievement.

The Molina Foundation is a nonprofit organization that is focused on reducing disparities in access to education and health. The foundation has worked with more than 1,000 schools, donating more than 2.5 million books.



Books sit on the shelfs waiting to be picked up. Books like these are being donated by Oklhaoma A+ Schools and the Molina Foundation to Oklahoma Clty students aged preschool-8th Grade. Photo by Quang Pho, The Vista.

GAMES

Nine Items to Take to the Pool

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1) Beachball	6) Sunglasses7) Sunscreen			
2) Cold Beverage				
3) Lounge Chair	8) Swimsuit			
4) Music	9) Towel			
5) Snacks				

SPORTS

VISTA SPORTS





Four years after the infamous "decision" made by Lebron James to take his talents to South Beach, a homecoming fit for a king is now happening. James announced in a decidedly more low-key way that he is returning to the team that he spurned. The Vista's Austin Littrell gives his take on The Decision Part Two and Lebron's journey home.

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GOLFERS PREPARE FOR THE BRITISH OPEN

As the PGA tour begins practice for the British Open, some contenders are taking their practice a little more seriously than others. AP Writer Paul Newberry goes in depth with Erik Compton, who after his gutsy performance at last month's US Open has seen his stature in the golfing world begin a meteoric rise.

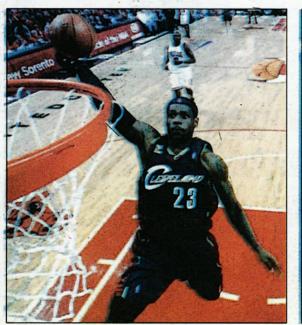


SPORTS

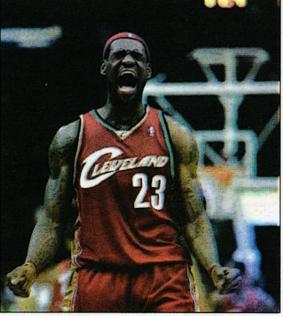
Littrell-ly Sports: Lebron comes home



FILE - In this June 7, 2011, file photo, Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade, left, Chris Bosh, center, and LeBron James (6) look on during a break in the second half of Game 4 of the NBA Finals basketball game in Dallas. James told Sports Illustrated on Friday, July 11, 2014, he is leaving the Miami Heat to go back to the Cleveland Cavaliers. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip, File)



FILE - IN this April 22, 2010, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James dunks against the Chicago Bulls during the second quarter of Game 3 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in Chicago. James told Sports Illustrated on Friday, July 11, 2014, he is leaving the Miami Heat to go back to the Cleveland Cavaliers. (AP Photo/Charles Cherney, File)



FILE - In this March 10, 2007, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James reacts to a shot made by teammate Anderson Varejao during the final seconds of the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Milwaukee. James told Sports Illustrated on Friday, July 11, 2014, he is leaving the Miami Heat to go back to the Cleveland Cavaliers. (AP Photo/Morry Gash, File)

Austin Littrell

Sports Writer

This NBA free agency period has been wild, to say the least. With many waiting with anticipation on decisions to be made, there was one decision that topped all of the others. What exactly was Lebron James going to do? Well, we got our answer. The prodigal son has decided to return to Cleveland, and he did it in a way that shows more maturity than the last decision.

We all remember the decision of 2010, with an over-the-top interview and James announcing that he was taking his talents to Miami. James was heavily criticized and deservedly so; the whole show was ridiculous and should have never happened. At least this time around, James knew that he had to do it differently.

The announcement was much more low key than in 2010. This time, it came from Sports Illustrated in a truly sincere letter from James. It is easy to see the growth and maturity that James has experienced since 2010. The decision was made relatively quiet, with the announcement coming when



nobody expected, instead of a set time. James deserves credit for the way he acted throughout this process and recognized that sometimes there are more important things than rings and money.

With a move back to Cleveland, LeBron is showing that his legacy is not the most important thing to him. He is putting his family and his home first, before anything legacy-related. He looks the polar opposite than he did in 2010.

He is also smart enough to realize that Cleveland will not win a title right away. Despite the odds, Cleveland does not have enough playoff experience, outside of LeBron, to make a serious run at the title right away, unless they get Kevin Love. The Cavs may not make it out of the East, which has suddenly become wide open.

LeBron certainly had an image makeover with everything. Not only did he return home, he showed the ability to forgive owner Dan Gilbert for the letter on the Cavaliers' website. Dan Gilbert also deserves credit for realizing that the letter was a mistake. There is a lesson everyone can take from this situation. Nobody is perfect and we all make mistakes. All in all, everyone comes out a winner in this situation. Cleveland gets the best player in the world back, and LeBron gets to return home.

Left: File- In this May 10, 2013 file photo, Miami Heat small forward LeBron James (6) reacts to his 3-point shot against the Chicago Bulls during the second half of Game 3 of an NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference semifinal, in Chicago. The three-team trade that gave the Cavaliers salary cap space to possibly land LeBron James is official. The Cavs and Boston Celtics confirmed the deal on Thursday, July 10, 2014, when the NBA moratorium on signings ended. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast, File)

SPORTS

It takes heart to compete in the PGA

Paul Newberry

AP National Writer

HOYLAKE, England (AP) — Erik Compton was chatting outside the clubhouse at Royal Liverpool when Ernie Els strolled up with some disappointing news. Turns out, the Big Easy won't be able to play a practice round with Compton on Tuesday.

Not to worry.

Els made other arrangements for the following day.

"I've got you the world No. 1," Els said, referring to Adam Scott and breaking into a sly grin. "That OK?"

The offer was fitting. Compton's stature is definitely on the rise since his inspiring performance last month at the U.S. Open, where the two-time heart transplant recipient tied for the runner-up spot behind runaway winner Martin Kaymer.

Arriving for his first British Open, Compton has the relaxed confidence of someone who truly belongs.

"I've played well this year," he said. "It wouldn't be a surprise to me if I played solid."

His amazing story — Compton underwent his first transplant at age 12, another 16 years later after driving himself to the hospital while having a near-fatal heart attack — is not as well known on this side of the Atlantic.

That's OK with Compton, who wants to be recognized more for the way he plays than what he's gone through away from the course.

Still, there will always be those who look at him as that guy on his third heart, and he's grown more and more comfortable with that role as well. Now that Compton has had significant success as a player, there will surely be more opportunities to spread his message of hope, to show the world that a life-threatening condition doesn't have to be a death sentence.

He got a sampling of that on Monday.

During a practice round with three-time British Open champion Nick Faldo and Matt Kuchar, Compton was hardly the center of attention. But on his way to the driving range, he was approached by a woman and her young son, who suffers from a heart condition.

"I picked him up and took a picture with him," the golfer said. "They were excited."

Compton is excited about the state of his game, as well he should be. Ranked 362nd in the world at the end of last year, he's climbed to 74th with by far the best season of his career. In addition to his performance at Pinehurst, he's got two other top-five finishes and nearly \$1.7 million in earnings — more than all his other seasons put together.

At 34, he seems to be just hitting his stride.

He can't wait to tackle links golf, especially with temperatures this week expected to be in the 60s and 70s — conditions that are much easier for a transplant recipient to endure than the brutal heat at Pinehurst. "I think it suits my game," Compton said. "Open golf is about making pars, and I'm good at creating sound pars. Sometimes, you've got to grind it out."

He certainly knows a thing or two about grinding.

After Compton underwent his first transplant, the medication required to make sure his body



Erik Compton of the US plays a shot off the 16th tee during a practice round ahead of the British Open Golf championship at the Royal Liverpool golf club, Hoylake, England, Tuesday July 15, 2014. The British Open starts on Thursday July 17. (AP Photo/ Scott Heppell)

didn't reject the new heart turned his face into roughly the shape of a pumpkin. The fresh-faced kid who had always been a good athlete — baseball was his first love — became the butt of jokes when he returned to school.

"All of a sudden, I was an athlete inside this body that looked like El Gordo. I had people calling me fatso." he recalled. "It was tough for a kid. I changed schools, kind of changed my identity."

Compton turned his full attention to golf, which turned out to be its own kind of lifesaver. It became his conduit to the University of Georgia, to the kind of life he wanted to live on the PGA Tour. Even after his second heart gave out, he kept plugging away, refusing to give up on his dreams while living with the reality that someday, in all likelihood, this third heart will give out, too.

"I'm not any more special than any other transplant recipient," he said. "If this (heart) lasts longer than the last one, that's great. It Right: Erik Compton of the US prepares to putt on the 15th green during a practice round ahead of the British Open Golf championship at the Royal Liverpool golf club, Hoylake, England, Tuesday July 15, 2014. The British Open starts on Thursday July 17. (AP Photo/ Scott Heppell)

will definitely fast long enough to play this game until I retire. "Then," he added, with a bit of gallows humor for a small group of reporters, "you get old. Who wants to be old like you guys anyway?"

Compton is playing in Britain for only the second time, and there are times he sounds very much like a tourist. He looks forward to hitting the pubs, having a beer with the locals, ordering up some fish and chips. He marvels at this quintessential English town, with his sturdy brick buildings and



narrow roads, hardly changing at all from one century to the next. "This town, for us, is like going to Disney World," he said, gazing out beyond the clubhouse. "This is what we see in the movies." When it comes to the golf, he sounds like an old pro.

In his head, Compton is trying to script another scenario where he's in the mix going to Sunday.

"Major championships are all about feeling comfortable and giving yourself a chance," Compton said. "Then you see what you can do on the last day."

