

STAFF

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Floyd and Homer Collins, played by Garrett Haley and Quinn Herron perform a duo in UCO's College of Fine Art's and Design's production of Floyd Collins. The plays were held on April 23-26 in the Mitchell Hall Theater. Photo by Ryan Naeve, The Vista.

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ON THE COVER

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2015! We know that you will continue on to do great things in your professional careers, but never forget where you came from. You are and will forever be Bronchos. Photo by Cooper Billington, The Vista.



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The Vista is published as a newspaper and public forum by UCO students, semiweekly during the academic year except exam and holiday periods, and only on Wednesdays during the summer, at the University of Central Oklahoma. The issue price is free for the first copy and \$1 for each additional copy obtained.

EDITORIALS

Opinion columns, editorial cartoons, reviews and commentaries represent the views of the writer or artist and not necessarily the views of The Vista Editorial Board, the Department of Mass Communication, UCO or the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges. The Vista is not an official medium of expression for the Regents or UCO.

LETTERS

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.

STREETS OF OKLAHOMA



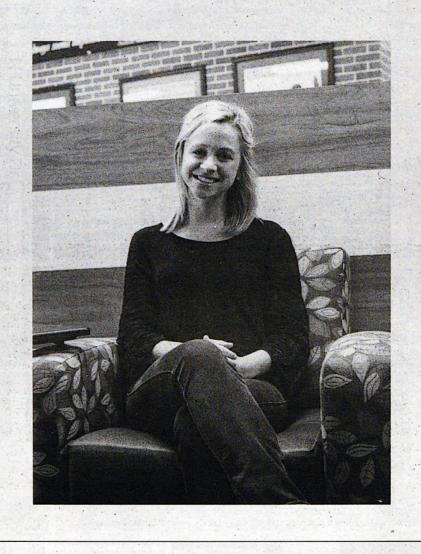


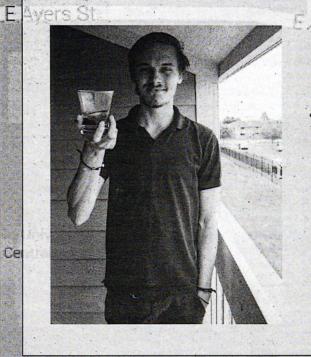
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"Fitness and exercise is something that's really big for me. It really boosts endorphins and I find myself working out at least five times a week ... running or just lifting weights. Just to help me de-stress and feel better about myself."

- Ashley Huston





"Look up the story of the ant and the cicada. Don't ever be the ant."

(ifi

- Julien Walker



"We're both from the Ivory Coast. We want to change the perceptions of Africa in people's minds. Like [that] Africa is a country, not a continent. And we want to promote the diversity of the African Culture." - Eva Amegboh and Evrard Koffi

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Dayspring Church of Christ

UCO Liberal



High school students visit UCO in record-breaking numbers

The 2014-2015 school year has been a record breaking one for the Campus Tours and Events Office at the University of Central Oklahoma, with over 7,500 student visitors through in the fall 2014 semester alone.

The number is up from the Fall 2013 semester by over a thousand students. The 2013-2014 school year saw over 11,500 visitors, and with the large number of students attending this semester's events put on by the Campus Tours and Events Office, that number is expected to be well exceeded.

Attendance at every event put on by the office has been up from last school year's numbers, and registrations are still pouring in for daily tours. "I think a lot of it has to do with the programs we put on that are aimed at high school juniors and younger students," says Tours Representative Gina Hickey.

"Kids are looking into colleges earlier and earlier, and being able to come to a scavenger tour as an eighth grader and then the next year going to the events aimed at high school freshmen and sophomores makes an impact on the way they feel about college and going to UCO."

Allison Fannon, the coordinator of Campus Tours and Events, thinks that the Student Ambassadors themselves have a lot to do with the successes of the office's programs.

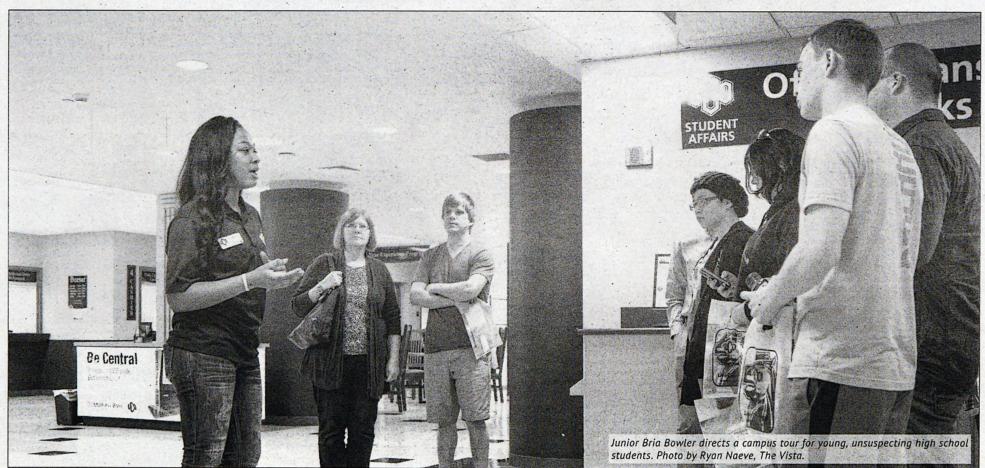
"I think they play a very important role because they can to connect with a student in a way that I can't," she said. "The ambassadors are able to share their own Central story as they work registration tables, direct people to their desired destinations and give campus tours, and that really changes the way a lot of students look at school."

Tours are given everyday and can range from one visitor to as many as 50 on large group tours. They usually run about an hour and 45 minutes, and are geared toward high school juniors and seniors. Spanish tours are also offered.

When the office saw an increase in younger students visiting the campus, they devised a less day to day detail version of the tour called a scavenger hunt. Since the age group for the scavenger hunts varies from first grade to sophomore in high school, the hunts are divided into three categories: elementary, middle and high school scavenger hunts.

In addition to tours and scavenger hunts, the office puts on events such as Edmond College Night, when representatives from over 50 colleges set up booths to speak to high school juniors and seniors, High School Counselor Day, three Central Close Up days for very interested seniors, Diversity Day, Trio Day for high school and transfer students, Transfer Advisors Day and VIP Day for high school juniors.

One thing's for sure, rain or shine, sleet or snow, there is probably a tour group somewhere on campus experiencing Central for the very first time.





UCO graduate falls ill and turns to internet for help and support

Genie Bowechop, a 2010 University of Central Oklahoma graduate, is in need of help for medical and living expenses after being diagnosed with Wegener's Granulomatosis disease this past January.

To help Bowechop, her family

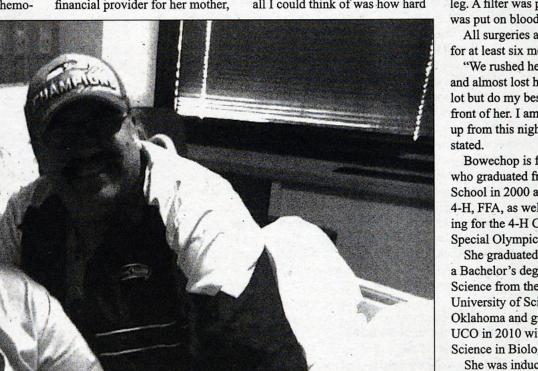
has set up an account at www. gofundme.com/geniebowechop

The disease is very rare, and according to Bowechop's family, it has attacked all of her organs including her lungs, kidneys, eyes, liver and sinuses, which required Bowechop to receive five chemotherapy treatments, seven plasma exchanges, two blood transfusions, high doses of steroids, 15 daily medications and weekly doctors visits.

Bowechop has worked the same job for 10 years and was the sole financial provider for her mother,

who is recovering from several shoulder surgeries. Now due to her illness, it is undetermined when or if Bowechop will be able to return to her job.

"When she got sick and I almost lost her in January 2015, all I could think of was how hard



she worked for us and how no one should out live their child" said Melody, Bowechop's mother.

April 1-6, Genie was hospitalized again, this time with pulmonary embolisms in both lungs and multiple blood clots in her right leg. A filter was put in and she was put on blood thinners.

All surgeries are now on hold for at least six months.

"We rushed her back to the E.R. and almost lost her again. I cry a lot but do my best not to do it in front of her. I am waiting to wake up from this nightmare," Melody

Bowechop is former girl scout who graduated from Minco High School in 2000 and was active in 4-H, FFA, as well as a volunteering for the 4-H Clover buds and Special Olympics.

She graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Science from the Chickasaw University of Science and Art of Oklahoma and graduated from the UCO in 2010 with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology.

She was inducted into the Beta Beta Beta-Psi iota Chapter Science Honor Society and was the Inter tribal Heritage Princess for three years.

"Genie is a young hard working woman and I want, like most parents, the best for my child. If I could trade places with her I would. I don't want her to worry about me, but she does."

Genie Bowechop poses at the hospital where she received treatment after being diagnosed with Wegener's Granulomatosis. Photo provided.



Project SPEAK presents No Zebras; No Excuses



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Taylor Favell

Contributing Writer

Project Speak put on No Zebras; No Excuses, a lecture featuring Steve Thompson, the country's foremost expert on sexual assault and harassment, at the University of Central Oklahoma's Constitution Hall in the Nigh April 23.

Thompson has been a natural figure on the subject of sexual assault, sexual harassment and stalking for years. He was a martial arts instructor at Indiana University when the university asked him to teach self-defense classes to educate the public in assault avoidance.

Two months after the sexual assault avoidance class started, one of Thompson's students was brutally raped. He was called to the hospital to see her the night it happened.

"It was April 12, 1973 that my life was forever changed. When I got to the hospital and saw the woman I was in shock. I had never seen someone so badly beaten," said Thompson.

After he held her while she cried he said he remembers her looking up at him saying, "I failed you, I did every move that you taught me, why didn't it work?"

Thompson said the event had such a strong impact on him that it changed his entire life.

The next year after that event was a hard one for Thompson. He had marriage problems, among other things, because of the trauma of the event.

He devoted himself to studying the why and how of sexual aggression. He went into prisons around the country and interviewed rapists.

As a former athlete Thompson said he knew to defeat your opponent you must know your opponent.

During his lecture at UCO he educated the students, faculty and staff that filled the Constitution Hall on what he called "the zebra mentality."

"We have got to eliminate the zebra mentality. The zebra mentality is synonymous with the bystander," said Thompson. "When zebras are attacked in the wild the other zebras in the pack will stand by and watch instead of helping defend the victim zebra."

Thompson encouraged the audience to use their voices if they think or know someone is being abused.

"You end the zebra mentality by noticing, interpreting and taking action," said Thompson.

He also explained the difference between judgement and responsibility. He said the world is quick to judge the victim by what their wearing or their mistakes that lead to their assault, instead of putting the responsibility on the offender.

"We need to start holding rapists accountable and stop judging the victims for their behaviors. It doesn't matter what someone does, says, wears or how they behave, no one deserves to be raped," he said.

Just in case there was any confusion on what sexual assault is, Thompson defined it for the audience.

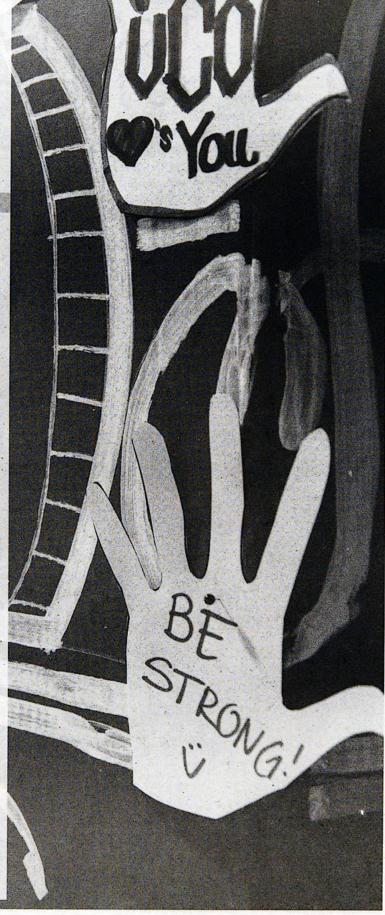
"Sexual assault is anytime, anyone does anything of sexual nature where there is not consent. Consent cannot be given or withheld when one is drunk. People use alcohol or drugs to gain control."

His unique approach is a result of over 28 years of research and street experience involving hundreds of interviews with survivors of offenders. He has presented over 1,500 programs dealing with sexual assault, stalking, relationship violence, workplace violence and harassment throughout the country.

For more information on Thompson, the program or to get help with a sexual assault situation go to www.nozebrasandmore.com.

For immediate help if you are in imminent danger of sexual abuse go to http://www.uco.edu/ wellness.

Before and after the No Zebras; No Excuses event, attendees were able to write messages of support to victims of sexual assault. Photo by Ryan Naeve, The Vista.



NEWS

Who is worthy of becoming the next Buddy the Broncho?



Chase Reeser @ chasertheprince

Contributing Writer

The University of Central Oklahoma is looking for the next Buddy the Broncho, and it could be you. The UCO spirit teams will be holding tryouts for the esteemed mascot position Sunday, May 3 at 3:30 p.m. inside Hamilton Field House.

They are searching for two spirited Bronchos for the position, and those selected will receive a scholarship.

The current Buddy the Broncho, graduating senior Matt Frech, enjoyed his time as Buddy, but could not pick just one favorite experience during his time in the fuzzy horse head.

"With each event, it seems like there is something new and crazy that makes for a really great story," he said. "But the thing I will remember above all the great stories is the smile that Buddy can put on people's faces. It is a feeling like no other to see people light up the way some do just because of Buddy Broncho."

Before trying out, students need to fill out a form found on Orgsync by Friday, May 1.

The tryouts are open to all students of UCO, incoming or continuing. Other than having enough school spirit to turn even the meanest Broncho hater into a number one fan of the oldest institution of higher learning in Oklahoma, there are a few more requirements for being Central's mascot: the student must have a 2.5 cumulative GPA as a graduating HS senior or a 2.5 cumulative and semester GPA as a current UCO student.

Buddy is responsible for inciting massive fandom at any and all sporting events, so if you're thinking about trying out, it's important to be athletic and able to run, dance, jump and work in the Buddy suit.

There is a height requirement as well, Buddy needs to be between 5 feet 8 inches and 6 feet 2 inches tall.

When trying out there is no need to come prepared with a skit or activity, all of the instructions will be given the day of. Comfortable clothing and tennis shoes are recommended.

Fun fact about the mascot: Buddy made his first appearance in the October 3, 1932 issue of The Vista, and it was not until 1979 that the live mascot was commissioned and debuted at Homecoming.

If you have any questions about the tryouts or about Buddy the Broncho in general, contact Kay Robinson, coordinator of Campus Activities, at krobinson21@uco.edu or 405-974-2363.



Do you have what it takes to be the next Buddy Broncho? Try outs will be held on on Sunday, May 3 in the Hamilton Field House. Try outs are open to all students, and the two bronchos chosen will recieve a scholarship along with the honor of calling themselves Buddy the Broncho. Photo by Ryan Naeve, The Vista.

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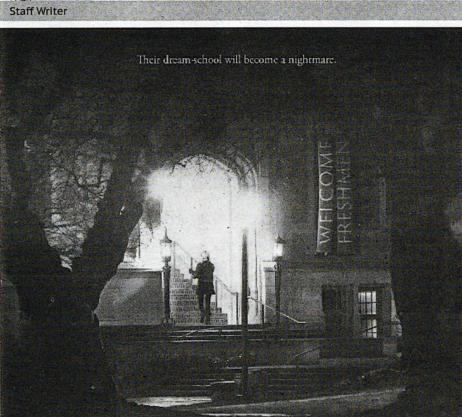


Oxford

Project Speak and the School of Criminal Justice screens "The Hunting Ground"



(@ laurencapraro



ROM THE ACADEMY AWARD-NOMINATED SILMMAXERS THE INVISIBLE WAR

THE HUNTING GROUND

INC. S. STREET

The University of Central Oklahoma School of Criminal Justice teamed up with UCO's Project SPEAK, to screen "The Hunting Ground", a 2015 documentary about sexual assaults on college campuses, last night in the Nigh University Center's Constitution Hall. The screening was free and open to the public, and was followed by a panel discussion.

"The Hunting Ground" features former University of North Carolina students Annie Clark and Andrea Pino, who were both raped on campus. Despite retaliation, harassment and pushback, the pair's fight for justice led to a Title IX complaint against UNC.

The documentary debuted at Sundance Film Festival this January, and has received critical acclaim.

UCO School of Criminal Justice joined with UCO's Project SPEAK to make the screening possible. Project SPEAK is an organization that is designed to support, promote, educate and advocate for knowledge about domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and bullying.

"This particular documentary was picked, because here at UCO we want to let students know that this is an issue across all campuses, but that at UCO we do our best to protect and support our students," said Michelle Stansel, Prevention & Advocacy coordinator for Project SPEAK.

"It's a discussion that needs to happen, one that is imperative for our student body to witness and be a part of."

The documentary follows undergraduate rape survivors pursuing both education and justice, while exposing a system of institutional cover-ups, victim-blaming and denial.

"Sexual assault survivors in the audience should be aware that these accounts may trigger their own memories of being attacked. In addition, the raw emotions of the young women whose cases are the main focus of the film are palpable, and the audience should be prepared for that--they may want to bring tissues,"said UCO Criminal Justice professor, Dr. Shawna Cleary.

A panel discussion following the film will address awareness of sexual assault on college campuses, a discussion of response efforts, policies and resources available to students at UCO, bystander intervention and how the state of Oklahoma ranks in the area of sexual assault.

Panelists at the discussion following the film will include Andrea Edmondson, rape prevention and education coordinator for the Oklahoma State Department of Health; Adrienne Martinez, Title IX coordinator for UCO; Brad Morelli, J.D., senior legal counsel for UCO; and Stansel DeWade Langley, Ed.D., director of Central's School of Criminal Justice and former director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, will serve as emcee.

"Sexual victimization on college and university campuses across the U.S. has been documented by studies for decades, but instead of addressing the issue head-on, the consistent reaction by those universities has been to ignore the problem, whitewash it or, even worse, blame the victims," said Cleary.

For more information about "The Hunting Ground," visit www.thehuntinggroundfilm.com

To learn more about Project SPEAK, visit www.uco.edu/student-affairs/vpp

To learn more about UCO's School of Criminal Justice, visit www.uco. edu/la/criminal-justice.

The official motion picture promotional picture of "The Hunting Ground": Photo provided.

Association of Latin American Students host Brazilian barbeque on campus

Ariana Muse @ arianamarie93

Staff Writer

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The University of Central Oklahoma's Association of Latin American Students hosted a Brazilian Barbecue at the UCO International House on March 26 to share their culture and food with the students of UCO.

Brazilians usually have cookouts for special occasions or just for fun. For most holidays, a barbecue is the way they celebrate.

They usually always have these sorts of cookouts or celebrations on Sundays. Cooking the different kinds of meat is treated almost like an art because of the special care and time they put into preparing the meat.

Brazilians are known for the way they cook and serve the meat. Usually the meat comes out of the kitchen in large chunks on large skewers and the waiter shaves off pieces with a huge knife right onto your plate.

The waiters keep bringing more and more meat because there are so many different kinds of meat, and the way each is prepared is different too.

Members of ALAS prepared the meal and they bought the "picanha" at The Meat House in

Edmond.

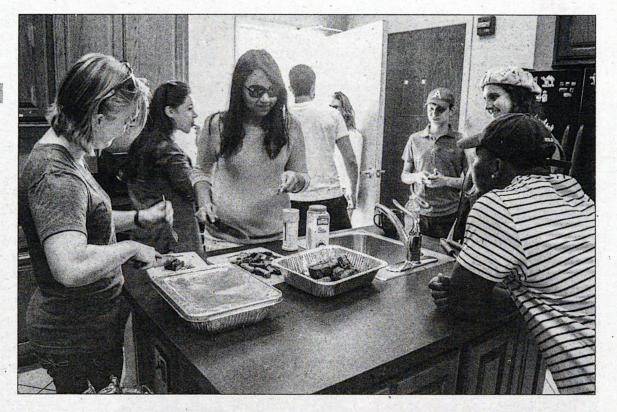
"Picanha, in Portuguese, is the top sirloin cut in a different way in order to keep the fat layer of top sirloin. This fat layer give an special flavor to the beef," said Franciele Nornberg, a member of the association.

"I think it's really important when American students learn how different countries or different cultures work. I think it's a great opportunity for them to get to know more about different countries, different cultures," said Wanderley Vital de Sousa Jr., a sophomore from Brazil studying food engineering at UCO.

The event took place outside, where tables and chairs were set up and good music was played as well. Volleyball, soccer and basketball were played while the food was cooking.

Rice was offered, as well as many different kinds of meat, veggies, bread and soda-- all in all making it a delicious meal and a wonderful time.

"UCO is a great university because the university offers lots of opportunities for international students, and I like it," said Sousa.





Top: Several attendees to the Brazilian Barbecue prepare food in the kitchen. The Barbecue was held at the UCO international house on Saturday, April 25. Photo by Cooper Billington, The Vista.

Bottom: Several international UCO students play with a soccer ball at the Brazilian Barbecue. Photo by Cooper Bilington, The Vista.

National Free the Nipple movement finds student support on the campus of UCO



Chase Reeser @ chasertheprince

Contributing Writer

The national movement Free The Nipple is getting quite a bit of support from well known artists, celebrities, women's equality groups and even students at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Free The Nipple is a movement born out of the 2014 film, "Free The Nipple." The film follows a group of young women walking topless through the streets of New York City protesting censorship laws in the U.S., specifically those outlawing female toplessness. One student in particular is doing her part to raise awareness for the cause.

MayGthecat, a junior General Studies major, became involved with the movement after being introduced to it by an Instagram post from Miley Cyrus last year.

"I wanted to be apart of it when I first saw it, but I had to make it okay with myself first. Being secure in my body and being able to enjoy the same freedom as men was awesome and I wanted other people to feel the way I felt," she said.

As the website says, "Free The Nipple is a film, an equality movement, and a mission to empower women across the world...The issues we're addressing are equal rights for men and women, a more balanced system of censorship and legal rights for all women to breastfeed in public."

The argument is that female breasts have been sexualized and must be hidden from public view to protect the innocence of society. Girls are taught from early ages to cover their chests to protect them from unwarranted advances.

"It might not seem like a big deal to people but when you're told from when you are younger that you have to cover up a part of your body because other people would be offended," she continued, "and I have to cover myself to protect me from people who would hurt me just because I have boobs, it's a big deal."

MayGthecat is a supporter of the organization through social media and raising awareness of the issue locally by attending events wearing only colorful pasties to cover her nipples and writing #FreeTheNipple on her body.

"This, to me, is the biggest step I can take to open people's eyes for equality with Free the Nipple."

The movement is working to fight female oppression and censorship through social media, the 2014 film and by building a grassroots campaign not only in the U.S., but also around the globe. It has gained support from a number of influential celebrities, including singer/actress Cyrus, and actresses Liv Tyler and Lena Dunham.

Though it is currently legal in 33 states for women to be topless in public, most cities and towns have ordinances which nullify the legality. Furthermore, even New York City, located in a state where toplessness is legal for both genders, and with its own pro topless laws passed in 1992, women can be and are arrested for showing their breasts in public, though not charged.

Most of the penalties are minor fines or less, but of course each city and state's law codes vary. In Louisiana, for example, an exposed nipple could cost a woman \$2,500 in fines and up to three years in jail.

While state law does not legalize female toplessness outright, it does not necessarily make it illegal. Oklahoma is one of 14 states with ambiguous laws on the topic, so much is left up to city codes.

The municipal code of the City of Edmond has a relatively standard definition of nudity, as "the showing of the human male or female genitals, pubic area, or buttocks with less than a full opaque covering;". It is then further explained that nudity also includes "the showing of the female breast with less than a full opaque covering of any portion thereof below the top of the nipple,"--exactly the type of phrase that the organization wants to erase from law books.

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Becoming a part of a controversial movement leads to attention, but not all of it is positive. Many shame those supporting the movement as 'sluts', but MayGthecat isn't bothered.

"People will and do say what they want to say about me not wearing a top in public, and most of the time it's not nice, but if I can help someone else feel comfortable in their own skin and fight for equality at the same time, all those negative vibes won't stop me from doing it again."

The film "Free The Nipple" is available to watch on Netflix.

For more information on the movement or the film, go to www.freethenipple.com or you can follow them on Twitter @Free-TheNipple. For more information about local events, follow Maygthecat on Twitter @maygthecat.



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What to do over Summer Break



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Queila Omena @ gueilaomena

Managing Editor

The best part of the year has come to many college students that dedicate their hours to endless studying, revising, writing and staying focused on their degree. It's almost summer break, and we are more than ready for it.

t's time to pack your school supplies, and take a trip to visit your grandma in North Carolina. It's also the time to ride your blue bike outside, while taking advantage of the bright sun and the warm weather.

Visiting some friends over the weekend and having a picnic at the park all are great ideas for summer adventures. Write them down.

Summer break it's great; it's a time to sit back and relax for a while. But don't go forgetting all you learned in school the previous semester.

According to the National Summer Learning Association, all young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in activities during the summer. Research shows that students typically scored lowered on standardized tests at the end of the summer.

I understand that summer break means complete freedom from responsibilities at school, but you don't have to let all the hard work go undone. Stay focused even outside of school.

There are many ways students can engage in activities while they are on break, and power their brains to work even better. Students can rent books for free at the library, and enjoy a ride into the

unknown.

They can write a novel over the break, or have responsibilities towards the chores at the house. Some students prefer to take intersession classes, or summer classes as well. It's a good way to stay focused while still being able to relax and have a night out with some friends.

If you are staying local during the summer, you should invest in some classes and get some school hours out of the way.

School is here to help and motivate students to do better in life, and achieve greatness. It's incredible that schools have implemented summer classes over the break, promoting activities on campus and assisting whenever they need.

Don't forget to be active. Research also shows that students not only lose academic knowledge during summer break, but also have the tendency to gain weight over the relaxed break. There are many ways to stay active, and to be engaged with school activities as well.

Take your dog to walk a couple times a week, or take a martial class that you are interested in. Use your time with productive activities that will help you prosper.

College years will fly by, and opportunities might not be the same. It's important to take advantage of what your school has to offer, and be fully committed to your classes.

But don't forget to have fun.

Photo used with permission from CreativeOutlet.com

FEATURE

OPINION

Editor-in-Chief

Winds of Change? Or just another storm?

Rick Lemon @ lemon_rick

The city of Baltimore has had a dark cloud of tension over their town for the last two weeks. Monday afternoon, that cloud erupted into a full blown thunderstorm.

The tension started when one Baltimore citizen, 'Freddie Gray, was arrested under ambiguous circumstances on the morning of April 12, with the best explanation for his incarceration being that he "made eye-contact with an officer and took off running," issued by the city of Baltimore.

Gray would later be found to have suffered a severe spinal cord injury that would cause his death on April 19-- an injury that he apparently received while he was in police custody and hidden from public view.

Freddie Gray is just the latest victim in what has become the increasingly public

issue of fatal encounters between black men and police officers. Just last Tuesday, a Tulsa reserve sheriff's deputy pleaded not-guilty to second-degree manslaughter in a case where he was caught by his own body camera shooting the suspect when he accidentally mistook his firearm for his Taser gun.

What has developed during these instances of police violence and the public outcry that has followed has been a disturbing trend however. A trend of increased violence is out of proportion and out of control with the justifiable outrage at perceived police brutality.

The fides have turned on what was perceived in Ferguson, Missouri as peaceful protests and marches that led to extreme police response. What was being reported in Baltimore yesterday was a storm of riots and looting that resulted in a State of Emergency being issued by the Governor of Maryland and the National Guard being deployed to restore order.

Public outrage over what is one of the more vivid and brutal, if not mysterious, cases of police misconduct in recent history is a good thing. Justice is deserved and will be delivered for Freddie Gray and his family, but public outrage cannot turn into public destruction-- doing so undermines everything that the movement to end police brutality stands for.

What is needed by this grassroots movement trying to shine light on a decadesold issue of mistreatment of black men by police officers is a voice of reason-- a strong leader to show the way. Right now there is only a national movement that travels the country like a cloud.

It is an idea, a dream without a physical manifestation showing itself whenever an issue arises and another black male loses his life under conspicuous circumstances. If however this idea wants to establish itself and truly start standing up to wrongdoings, someone must step forward from the storm and give the nation a face and a voice to rally behind.

Until someone steps forward, a storm will continue to rage around the country. The problem with storms however, is that they might tear down existing structures, but without someone there watching, those same structures quickly can, and will, be rebuilt.



A demonstrator raises his fist as police stand in formation as a store burns, Monday, April 27, 2015, during unrest following the funeral of Freddie Gray in Baltimore. (Algerina Perna/The Baltimore Sun via AP)



A protestor faces police enforcing a curfew Tuesday, April 28, 2015, in Baltimore. A line of police behind riot shields hurled smoke grenades and fired pepper balls at dozens of protesters to enforce a citywide curfew. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

CLASSIFIEDS



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UCO Women's golf wins third straight MIAA championship



Joshua Palmer @ JoshuaPalmer

Contributing Writer

Having captured the past two MIAA championships, the University of Central Oklaoma's women's golf team claimed the school's third conference title in a row on Wednesday.

The Bronchos won the 10-team tournament by an incredible 32-shot margin. Lindenwood University came in second place, while Northeastern State finished third.

It is Central Oklahoma's ninth team championship in 11 competitions so far this season.

Freshman standout Marla Souvannasing earned her fourth individual championship of the golfing season with a final score of 228, two shots ahead of second-place. She has secured a top-10 finish in every tournament this year except one.

UCO senior Bethany Darrough placed third with a 235, and Bronchos golfers Katie Bensch and Daniela Martinez each had a total score of 236, good for fourth place.

The women faced considerable adversity in the tournament, especially on the first day. High winds altered many shots, and the rough weather caused most of the athletes' scores to shoot up.

IAA CHAM

Central Oklahoma held a one-shot advantage at the end of the day-- a lead they would maintain for the rest of the week. Martinez found herself with the best score for the Bronchos, a 76, that put her two shots behind the leader for the individual title.

The second round went much smoother as the Bronchos cut down nine strokes from their first-round total. Souvannasing and Darrough led UCO this time around, scoring a 76 each.

The good team play extended Central Oklahoma's lead to 13 strokes. Martinez remained two shots behind the individual frontrunner, but Souvannasing's round brought her within three shots of the leader.

The final round took place on Wednesday, and the Bronchos devoured the competition with their best team score yet. The team earned a 32-shot win by shooting eight less strokes than their second round.

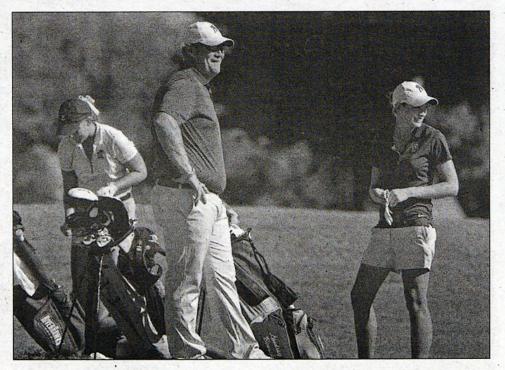
Darrough shot a solid 75, and Bensch pitched in with a 77 on the final day.

Souvannasing accentuated her great play with the lowest round of the entire tournament, a 71 on a par-72 course. The remarkable comeback gave her the individual championship by two strokes.

Central Oklahoma now takes a three-tournament win streak into the NCAA Division II Central Regional. The Regional will begin on May 3, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma



Marla Souvannasing has had a stand out freshman year for the Bronchos and that continued in Kansas over the weekend at the conference tournament. Photo used with permission from BronchoSports.com



UCO head coach Michael Bond talks with senior Lindsey Bensch at the tee earlier this season. The Brochos clenched a regional berth this past weekend. Photo used with permission from BronchoSports. com

SPORTS

What is on the horizon for the Oklahoma City Thunder organization?



Ryan Fields @ RyanFields92

Contributing Writer

The Oklahoma City Thunder has parted ways with head coach Scott Brooks. Moving on from Brooks may have been the right move, but it is still a risk.

A risk the Thunder were willing to take to try to win a championship.

Firing Brooks came as a surprise to some and was seen as inevitable to others. Brooks' lack of both creativity and structure on offense, led to mind boggling shot selections in late game situations.

Pair that with bad defensive fundamentals, stubborn player rotation and some bad luck with injuries-- a change in leadership was needed.

What now?

The future of the two superstars, Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook, has never been in more peril. The key to keeping the two in Oklahoma City over the next few years may fall on who GM Sam Presti chooses to hire as the next lead man on the bench.

The all-conservative Thunder have become increasingly active over the past year. Presti is putting all his chips in the 2015-2016 season hoping that a new coach will lead to a championship, which will also lead to Kevin Durant recommitting to the Thunder for the future.

The next man to sit where Brooks sat for seven seasons has a big task at hand. He must earn the trust of a roster that was adamant about defending Brooks before the firing.

He has to get along with the powerful personality of Russell Westbrook, who just happens to be a Top five player in the league and a key to success in OKC.

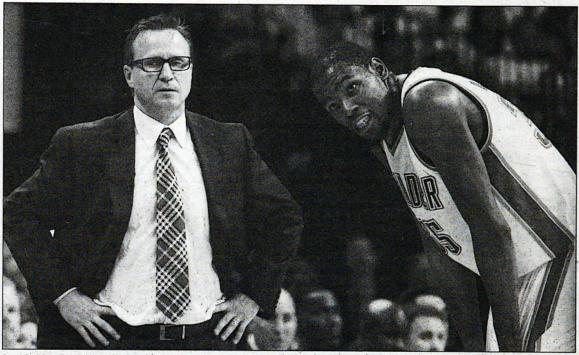
If Brooks was fired in part for his lack of late-game offense creativity and defensive philosophy, then the new guy must fill that void. Fair or unfair, the comparisons will be made to Brooks pending the success rate of those end-game moments.

Championship or bust. The new coach, likely a coach with zero NBA head coaching experience, will be expected to win a championship.

Take one of the deepest and most talented rosters in the league, two top-five players with plenty of playoff experience and anything less than a championship is a disappointment. Not an easy assignment for a first year coach just trying to figure out the NBA season as a whole.

First year success for a head coach is not unheard of and there two examples this season. Steve Kerr and David Blatt, two first year NBA head coaches who have their ball clubs right in the thick of the championship hunt.

Although we do not know who the next head coach will be, it better be the right guy. If not, this may be the end of the Thunder as we know it.



In this May 31, 2014, file photo, Oklahoma City Thunder coach Scott Brooks, left, and forward Kevin Durant pause during a break against the San Antonio Spurs in the second half of Game 6 of the Western Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series in Oklahoma City. The Thunder fired Brooks on Wednesday, April 22, 2015. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)



In this Feb. 25, 2015, file photo, Oklahoma City Thunder coach Scott Brooks gestures to his team during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers in Oklahoma City. The Thunder fired Brooks on Wednesday, April 22, 2015. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki

SPORTS

Extra time with Emily: The Oklahoma City Marathon celebrates it's 15th year.



Emily Hahn @emilyjhahn

Oklahomans and others affected by the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal building have come together to remember and honor the lives lost 20 years ago.

One way Oklahoma has honored the tragic event is with the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon. This year was the 15th year of the race and there was a record turn out.

You would be hard pressed to not know someone who was participating in any part of the race whether it was a runner, volunteer or donor.

But what makes the Marathon such a wonderful event?

It's the fact that when faced with adversity, Oklahomans respond with the Oklahoma Standard. Strangers helping strangers and treating them like family in time of need. People give countless hours of their own time to make sure others needs are met.

The race to remember is a constant reminder of the Oklahoma standard. Thousands of volunteers help runners on race day and before to ensure the experience is a positive, safe environment.

In this year's race, that is also a Boston Marathon qualifying race, 43 of the 50 states were represented, seven different countries and 14,000 runners-- plus almost 900 relay teams. To say that the Oklahoma City memorial is a part of our state, and the people in it, would be an accurate description.

To some involved, it might have just been a race, but to a lot, the race meant that together we were striving for a more positive future for our state, and also to make it known that out of all the chaos and brokenness of April 19, 1995, life and hope have come to our state.

I was too young to remember the events of that day, but the stories I have seen from survivors, and families who lost loved ones that day makes me hate that anyone would do such a senseless thing.

One thing we as Oklahomans can all do is pay homage to the victims by visiting the beautiful memorial in downtown OKC, by participating in the Run to Remember, and by making sure we do all we can to prevent breeding hate.

Feeling inspired to run? I myself must admit telling my best friend that if I ever sign up for a marathon to check the state of my. mental health, but after seeing Oklahoma come together and run in the Race to Remember, I think I'll do it next year.

You can do it too.

Only 362 days, better get to training.

TOP: Oklahoma native Camille Herron signals three as she crosses the finish line with her third win in the women's division of the event, in Oklahoma City, Sunday, April 26, 2015. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

BOTTOM: Racers begin the 15th annual Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon in Oklahoma City, Sunday, April 26, 2015. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)





SPORTS

Men's Golf peaking at the right time as season comes to an end.



Ryan Fields @ RyanFields92

Contributing Writer

With the weather always being so unpredictable in the Sooner state, some schools in the state might find it hard to find time to hit the links and get adequate practice time. This isn't the case for the University of Central Oklahoma's men's golf team.

Despite the rainy weather we have had in the state during April, the Broncho golf team has earned a spot in the NCAA Division II Men's Golf Championships. The Bronchos will travel to Lemont Illinois May 4-6 for the Central/ Midwest Regional.

The Broncho men's golf team had an excellent 2015 season, ranked 16th in the country, and they racked up five tournament wins and three other top-five finishes in 11 events. The Bronchos will head to famous Cog Hill Golf Country club, with 19 other schools to compete in the Cen-

tral/Midwest Regional.

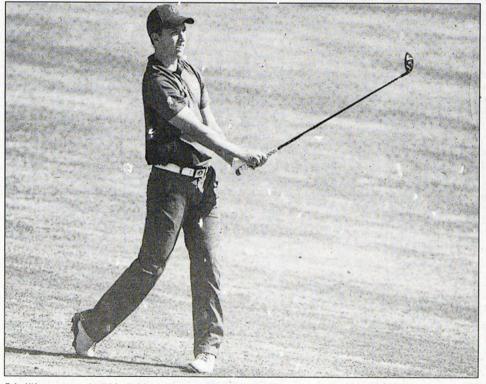
Cog Hill has hosted many PGA Tour events, and for a few years it was the stop for the BMW Championship one-leg of the Fed-Ex Cup Playoffs. It is a very challenging course, and the Bronchos will need to be on their game if they want to play well.

There will be three other regional tournaments going around the country, and the top-three teams from each regional tournament advancing to the Championship Finals May 18-22 in Conover, North Carolina. This is the time of year when all those long days on the putting green and range will payoff with a chance to move on and play in the finals.

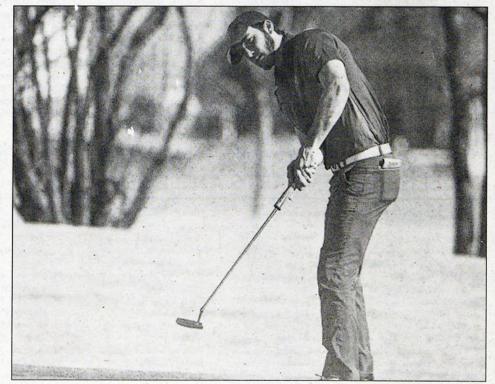
The Bronchos have been led by Junior Eric Kline, who birdied the first playoff hole to capture the individual championship and lead UCO to a runner-up finish in the MIAA golf championships. Kline shot a final round 74 to end up with a tie with Central Missouri's Travis Hayes with a three-round total of 221.

Then, he eventually beat him on the first playoff-hole at Alvamar Golf Club on the 10th hole.

It has been a great year for UCO sports, with a Hockey National Championship, Chris Watson winning the National Championship in wrestling and being named NCAA Division II Wrestler of the Year. The UCO men's golf team wants to get into that action, and with strong play in Illinois they just might have the chance to bring some more hardware home back to Edmond.



Eric Kline captured and individual championship and helped lead the Branchos to a second place finish in the MIAA conferece tournament over the weekc 'd. Photo used with permission from Branchosports. com



Alexander Hughes puts earlier this season for UCO. The No. 16-ranked Bronchos have enjoyed a stellar 2014-15 campaign with five tournament wins and three other top-three finishes in 11 events. Photo used with permission from Bronchosports.com

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