

# Rehearsals in full swing

By NWOSU UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Many have been in rehearsals, building set, getting costumes and stage props ready as the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Fine Arts Department prepares for the musical performance “Nunsense: The Mega Musical” set for Feb. 22-23 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. in Herod Hall Auditorium on the Alva campus.

Tickets for this show will be available at the door and are \$5 for university and public school students with current IDs, \$10 for Northwestern employees with current IDs and \$15 for the general public. Groups interested in attending should contact Fine Arts Department Chair Kimberly Weast, professor of theatre arts and director of the production, at (580) 327-8462 or [kkweast@nwsu.edu](mailto:kkweast@nwsu.edu).

This musical will depict a hilarious talent show staged by five nuns from Hoboken, who were the only sisters to survive botulism at the nunnery after eating vichyssoise prepared by Sister Julia, Child of God.

Before all of the deceased sisters can be buried, Reverend Mother Superior buys a plasma TV for the convent - resulting in not having enough money to bury the four remaining sisters (which, by the way, are temporarily being stored in the freezer). The remaining five sisters parade their talents at a variety show staged to raise funds so that the last four of the dearly departed can be buried.

“We wanted to do something encouraging, uplifting and fun – all rolled up into one,” Weast said when explaining why she decided on this musical for the spring semester.

Karsten Longhurst, director of choral studies and instructor of music, is serving as the musical director while Connie Bryant, a December graduate from Cherokee, is serving as choreographer. Mickey Jordan, Iowa Park, Texas, graduate student, has designed the set, and Tori Hurley, Sheffield, Iowa, senior, and Weast are working with the lighting design. Weast also is working on costuming and the audio design while Nicholas Wygle, Noble junior, will run the audio board. Allie Smith, Hawkins, Texas, sophomore, is the Stage Manager. Members of the theatre production class helped build the set. Members of



Photo Provided

NWOSU University Singers will be taking part in the production, as will members of the university band who will be providing live, musical accompaniment.

Cast members in the production, their character names, hometowns and classifications include Chloe Henderson as Sister Mary Leo, Conway Springs, Kansas, freshman; Kenzi Winter as Sister Amnesia, Ft. Supply freshman; Michelle Penner as Reverend Mother, Cherokee post-graduate; Erin Hopkins-Davis as Sister Mary Hubert, Fairview senior; Ansley Elliot as Sister Robert Anne, Tecumseh sophomore; Allyssa Casey as Sister Mary Wilhelm Alta Loma, California, sophomore; Maxwell Archer as Brother Simon, Tulsa freshman; Zedan Borrie as Brother Luke, Blackwell junior; Michael Day as Brother Timothy, Okeene freshman; Erin Lehr as Sister Mary Louise, Alva graduate student; Katherine Blair as Sister Kim, Waynoka sophomore; Dr. Richmond Adams as Friar Virgil, assistant professor of English; Hurley as Sister Julia, Child of God; and Jordan as Brother Brendan.

University Singers in the production include Mikayla Carpenter, Clinton freshman; Katelyn Cutsinger, Vici junior; Zach Henson, Checotah freshman; Reginald Hinson, Bristow freshman; Madison Hofen, Alva junior; Mercedes Kirkhart, Alva sophomore; Erin Norrie, Enid senior; Aaron Pierce, Alva junior; Alexis Shaffer, Kiowa, Kansas, sophomore; Tori Witchey, Laverne



Photo Provided

Rehearsing a scene from the upcoming musical comedy “Nunsense: The Mega Musical” at Northwestern are Kenzi Winter, Tori Hurley and Erin Hopkins-Davis. The show will take place in Herod Hall Auditorium on Feb. 22-23 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 24 at 2 p.m.

freshman; Borrie, Day and Winter.

Members of the band include on trumpet - Dr. Marc Decker, assistant professor of music and director of bands at Northwestern; and Dr. Tim Maharry, professor of mathematics and chair of the math/science department; trombone - Brittini Taylor, Enid sophomore; alto saxophone - Jacob Steckbeck, Enid freshman; flute - Mikalyn

Stuber, Enid freshman; clarinet - Amanda Metcalf, Enid junior; piano - Susan Duell, adjunct instructor of music; violin - Greg Simpson, R.L. Simpson and Michael Simpson from Kiowa, Kansas; drummer - Darin Kearns, pastor of the Alva Friends Church; and bass guitar - Kyle Newland, former instrumentalist and singer at Northwestern originally from

Blackwell.

“The rehearsals for the pit are going really well,” Longhurst said. “We will be on stage playing live for the musical and a part of the show. We are thrilled to be working with Northwestern students, alumni and friends in the community.”

## News

- *Pets: Why we love them.*

## Editorial

- *Birth Control not just a contraceptive?*

## Inside Feature

- *What to do as a “Single Pringle”.*

## Entertainment

- *Peter rabbit review; is it controversial?*

## Sports

- *Baseball season opening games*



# News

## Nunsence: The Mega Musical is coming soon



Photos by Michelle Willson



Come support our Actors, Understudies and Swings as they preform Nunsence: The Mega Musical on Feb. 22 -24. Times for the shows are 7 p.m. on the 22 and 23 and a Matinee on the 24 at 2.

Aa: Director of Choral Studies Karsten Longhurst leading actors Maxwell Archer, Mickey Jordan and Zedan Borrie in a musical number.

Bbb: Director of Choral Studies Karsten Longhurst helping actors Ansley Elliott and Chloe Henderson with the opening number.

S: Actresses Michelle Penner and Erin Hopkins singing during a musical practice with Director of Choral Studies Karsten Longhurst

## NWOSU brings track and field to campus

By SAMI MCGUIRE  
Student Reporter

Northwestern Oklahoma State University has added a new sport for women, track and field.

Track and field is a spring sports and will be here by spring 2019. Northwestern has records of track and field from over 30 years ago, but it hasn't been an option for Rangers since then.

Although Northwestern is currently focusing on women's track and field they hope to expand to men's track and field in the future.

Preparations for the spring sport are

already in full swing. Jill Lancaster, head cross county and track and field coach, is already working on recruitment. Lancaster said they hope to interest current college students, but are focusing their recruitment efforts on high school students.

Lancaster said "There aren't really any opportunities in this area for female athletes to pursue track and field. It gives more opportunities. It will also help with our cross country program because you get athletes that do track and field and cross country."

Northwestern is always looking for ways to boost enrollment, and Lancaster said she thinks this might help.

"If you just get one person per event, all of a sudden we've encouraged a great number of students that also want to pursue athletics, to look at Northwestern as a choice," she said."

Track and field has 21 events: high jump, pole vault, long jump, triple jump, shot put, discus throw, hammer throw, javelin throw, heptathlon, 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, 400 meter dash, 800 meter run, 1,500 meter run, 3,000 meter steeplechase, 5,000 meter run, 10,000 meter run, 100 meter hurdles, 400 meter hurdles, 400 meter relay and 1,600 meter relay.

"Track and field is a sport that is, what I call, a three ring circus,"

Lancaster said. "There is so much variety and it attracts such a diverse athlete. You're not honed in to just one skill. You have so many athletes that maybe haven't ever experienced these events, and they will have an opportunity to try them."

Lancaster has experience in competing in track and field as well as coaching athletes. As far as coaching she was head coach most recently at Troy University, and prior to that she coached at the University of Oklahoma, Toleco University as well as being an assistant coach at University of Kansas and Kansas State University.

Lancaster also competed at the

high school and collegiate levels of track and field herself. She won numerous titles throughout both, and still holds the OU all-time school record for outdoor 400 meter hurdles with 59.03 seconds.

"Speaking from my own personal experience, someone gave me a chance," Lancaster said. "I ended up doing events I was good at in high school, but then I got steered into a whole new area. It gave me opportunities, it opened doors, just like education. You might think you know what you want but once you get in there you might go 'oohhhh I like this'. And when you like something, life is good."



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# News

## Students celebrate national pet day

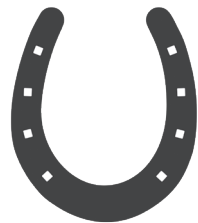
By **SABREENA BURKS**  
Student Reporter

National pet day is February 20, and there are many things to say when it comes to loving a pet, whatever it would be, a dog, a cat, fish or even a service pet. It doesn't matter whom or what the pet is as long as the owner loves and cares for it. Here are four students that have five things to say about what they love about their pets.



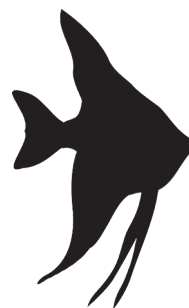
Casey Edwards, freshmen Biology Major talks about her horse Diaz

1. He brings me to my happy place
2. It's peaceful being with him
3. He is part of my life
4. A great listener
5. He loves me and he never leaves



Estrella Guardiola, a junior Health and Sport Science Fitness Management Major, talks about her dog Luna

1. She plays fetch
2. She isn't a barker
3. She is the perfect size, not too big and not too small
4. She is obedient
5. She loves to cuddle



April Burchfiel, a sophomore Biology Major talks about her pet fish

1. He's multi-colored: blue, purple and red!
2. He likes to hide in his plant
3. It's cute that he knows when I'm going to feed him
4. We have starring competitions
5. He's a great listener



*Photos by Sabreana Burks*

Patricia Pixler, a junior Psychology and English Major talks about what she loves about her cat Thor

1. Great for cuddling
2. He's soft
3. Plays hide and seek
4. He's sassy
5. He's a great friend.





# Editorial

## Birth control, not just a contraceptive

By **LESLIE WILLSON**  
*Columnist*

As most of you know, birth control is a contraceptive that can prevent pregnancy. A lot of girls are on it, but not always for the reason you may think.

Personally, I started taking it a year or so ago, and yes, while it may help prevent children for those who are not ready for them. Birth control has other benefits as well. It can reduce acne, reduce or prevent cysts in breasts and ovaries, reduce your chance of ovarian cancer, infections in feminine organs, reduce anemia, and help with pains concerning menstrual cycles.

I was having extreme problems with menstrual pain, and after going to the doctor, I realized I had other issues like polycystic ovary syndrome, and endometriosis, and one of the first steps they recommended was to start taking birth control. It helped reduce the pain, regulated my cycle, and helps manage some of the other symptoms. This was all news to me. Being religious, birth control is something frowned upon and looked at negatively. Mostly, because people think you're only taking it to have intercourse,



**Prevfem, like most birth control, is prescribed by the month. It contains 21 active medication pills and 7 pills with no medication.**

and prevent babies, but they are uniformed of the other benefits behind it.

I can honestly say taking birth control has changed my life for the better. There were times when my pain was unbearable. I wouldn't be able to go to school, and sometimes it would make me physically ill, and unable to get out of bed, but since starting it, I don't have those problems anymore. I can focus on my school work more, and not have to stress about how bad it will get

this time, or having to call into work, or cancel plans. Right now, for most states, in order to get birth control, you have to have a prescription. There is talk about whether this is right, or should be something people should be able to purchase on their own. At first, I thought it should be something anyone could get it, at anytime, whenever they needed it, but now, I feel differently. After going to the doctor, hearing about all the different kinds, different perscriptions, and different ways

of getting it, I think it's safest to go through a doctor and get a prescription. I understand that people take it for different things, and not everyone would want to go through a doctor sometimes, but there are so many different kinds, with different effects, how could you ever know exactly which one you should take without the help of a professional?

You could waste money and do trial and error buys, trying different ones until you got one you liked and worked best, or you can go to a doctor who knows the differences between them, and be on the right track a lot sooner. I would of never known where to begin if I didn't have help. And I understand that religious parents may be against it, while their kids may think differently and want to try it. That is hard.

There is a lot of controversy concerning this subject, and there's always two sides to every story. It's hard to have an opinion, when both sides have good points. For me, birth control helped me so much. I don't know where I would be without it. If you're considering it, inform your parents, see a doctor, and go from there. It could help you in more ways than you think.

### Positive Effects of Birth control

- Reduce Acne
- Regulate Cycles
- Reduce cramps
- Prevent Menstrual Migraines
- Reduce/prevent cysts
- Reduced chance of getting ovarian cancer

Information from parents.com

## One feels like the loneliest number

By **A.J. CARTER**  
*Columnist*

Much like Nilsson says, one is the loneliest number, especially when surrounded by people.

When I first arrived at college, I did not expect to make many friends right off the bat. Yet, to my surprise (and my family's), I made friends quite easily within the first month of the semester.

Even though I do have friends on campus, I still find myself feeling isolated and lonely. I spend hours in my room, my only companion being my laptop and Markiplier's screams of manly terror. I've watched so many meme/Vine compilations in the past five months they have become almost like a second language to me.

I lay in bed at night staring into the semi-darkness of my room, the only sounds I hear are from a nearby room watching Ella Enchanted. Queen never bothered me so much as it does at 12:30 in the A.M.

My teddy bear and triceratops named Wolf quietly converse in the corner of my bunk. They are apparently much more well-versed in politics

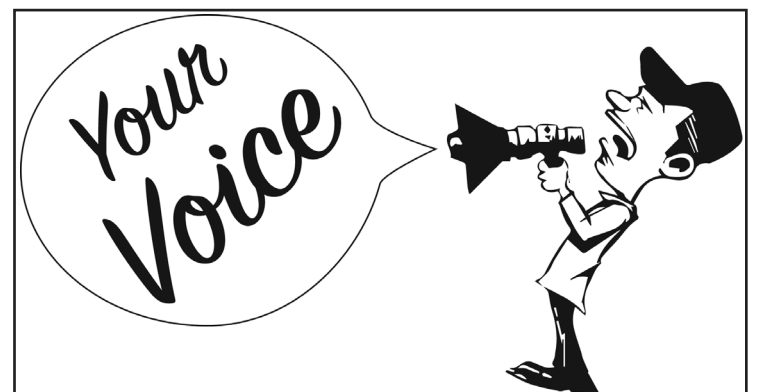
**"One is the loneliest number that you'll ever do  
Two can be as bad as one, it's the loneliest number since the number one"**

*-Harry Nilsson's One (1968)*

than me (I think they use my computer when I'm in class). My mind does not quiet.

I wish for a friend, in these hours between wishing for sleep and not being able to sleep. Someone to lay next to and listen to them exist. I miss my mother. I miss my cats at home. I miss the voluntary gifting of affection from something other than a blanket.

One is the loneliest number, especially in a crowd. So, here's a figurative toast to all the lonely people out there. You are not alone...except you are. But hey, you're not alone.

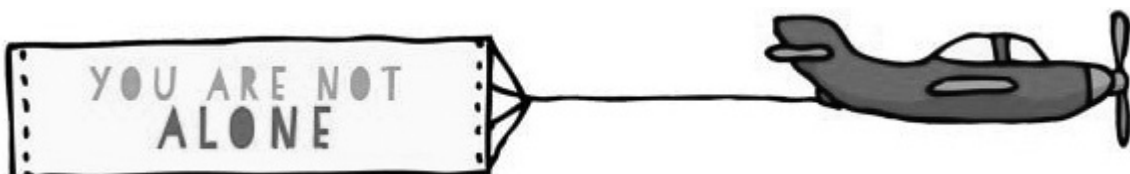


### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

T	A	U		I	C	B	M		C	H	A	D
A	S	S		P	A	R	A		H	U	G	O
G	A	S	P	E	D	A	L		A	G	O	G
S	P	R	U	C	E		I	D	O			
			P	A	T		G	A	S	J	E	T
M	I	M	I	C		A	N	Y		E	T	A
I	D	O	L		E	L	S		T	E	N	T
N	E	W		O	N	E		A	U	R	A	S
G	A	S	B	A	G		B	I	T			
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News office: Jesse Dunn Annex 232  
 Telephone: 327-8479; Fax: 327-8127  
 E-mail: [nwnews@nwosu.edu](mailto:nwnews@nwosu.edu)  
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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Letters to the editor shall bear the author's handwritten signature, hometown, classification, title, etc., address and phone number for verification and shall be kept on file. Unsigned letters to the editor will not be published.

Letters must be turned in by noon on Tuesday to the News office in JDA232. Letters via e-mail are acceptable as long as they follow the rules stated above and can be sent to [nwnews@nwosu.edu](mailto:nwnews@nwosu.edu). Please limit submissions to no more than 250 words. The editors reserve the right to condense or edit any letter for grammar, label and space limitations. All letters submitted may not be used.

All letters represent the views of the author.

# Other Voices

## Are we ready for bitcoin?

By **ADAM BEBB**  
*The University Daily Kansan*

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past couple of years, you've probably heard of the emerging cryptocurrency industry that's erupting across the world. This push to virtually eliminate paper currency has received serious backing from big-time investors, but, as the idea of owning some form of untraceable, electronic capital becomes more mainstream, regular middle-class people have decided they want their share.

Unlike how every fiat currency system works across the world, cryptocurrency has no central bank to regulate itself. Instead, it functions on a system of mining, which is basically a network of mathematical puzzles in which investors can "dig" for more bitcoin, furthering their investments. Although a laissez-

faire monetary system may seem attractive and even logical to some, we need the regulation that a system like the Federal Reserve provides to protect our finances.

Investors in a Japanese cryptocurrency exchange known as Coincheck learned this lesson quickly after \$530 million of users' investments suddenly disappeared last week. According to CNN, hackers stole from 260,000 investors, who are to be "partially reimbursed," as they plan to pull \$426 million from their own funds to only cover 80 percent of what was taken. The exchange is currently under government supervision until it can figure out how to improve its strategy to make sure this never happens again.

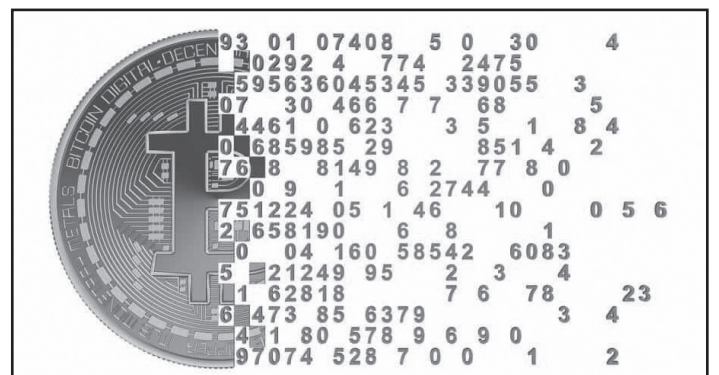
This heist surpasses the ravaging of the Mt. Gox exchange for \$400 million in 2014, which until last week had been the largest cryptocurrency theft to

date. It resulted in the exchange going bankrupt and leaving the affected users uncompensated, which should serve as a good indicator of Coincheck's future.

The failure of these exchanges are tangible examples of why some form of government oversight needs to happen if we ever want the universal adoption of cryptocurrency to become a reality. Although these heists aren't the apocalypse of virtual cash, they serve as examples of what can happen when you have

no regulation on crazy amounts of money sitting in an exchange.

The hackers and thieves who have shown that they can penetrate these exchanges know more about this industry than the people who hold shares, which should be concerning whether or not you've invested. Cryptocurrency is an evolving technology with huge potential, but the responsibility of regulating and protecting others' finances needs to be dealt with by the government, not tech entrepreneurs.



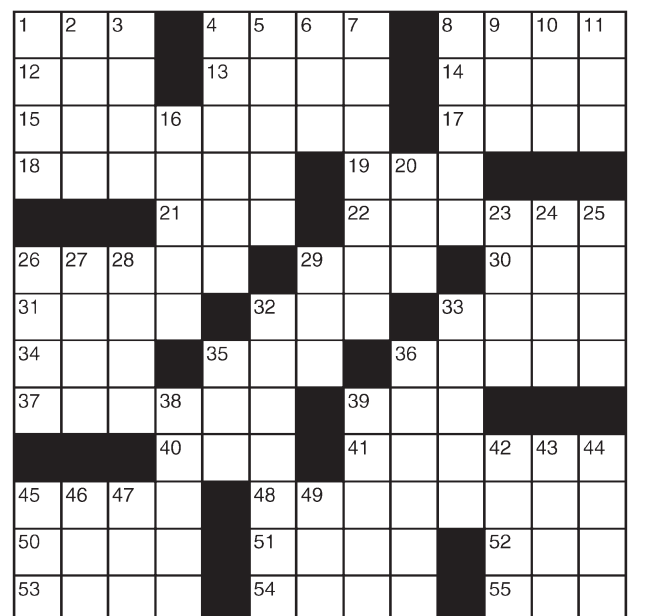
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Crossword Answers on page 4

### King Crossword

- |                                 |                            |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                   | 36 Emanations              | 10 Past                    |
| 1 Greek consonant               | 37 Big talker              | 11 Pooch                   |
| 4 Cold War weapon               | 39 Morsel                  | 16 Student                 |
| 8 2000 election scrap           | 40 Playwright Levin        | 20 Rotation duration       |
| 12 Fool                         | 41 Strong points           | 23 Scoff                   |
| 13 Law office worker, for short | 45 Not up and about        | 24 Sicilian spouter        |
| 14 "Les Miserables" author      | 48 1944 Boyer/Bergman film | 25 Makes lace              |
| 15 Accelerator                  | 50 Burden                  | 26 Chinese dynasty         |
| 17 Quite excited                | 51 Otherwise               | 27 Notion                  |
| 18 Tidy (up)                    | 52 Exist                   | 28 Neatens the lawn        |
| 19 Altar affirmative            | 53 Wrong                   | 29 Microbrewery product    |
| 21 Vanna's cohort               | 54 God, in Guadalajara     | 32 Betrothed               |
| 22 Flame from a burner          | 55 Doo-wop syllable        | 33 Rwandan tribe           |
| 26 Impersonator                 | <b>DOWN</b>                | 35 Scull tool              |
| 29 Whatever amount              | 1 Labels                   | 36 Grocery areas           |
| 30 Timetable abbr.              | 2 Pronto                   | 38 Hen                     |
| 31 "American —"                 | 3 Beatles' "Back in the —" | 39 — profundo              |
| 32 Golfer Ernie                 | 4 Poison antidote, maybe   | 42 "Zounds!"               |
| 33 Bivouac structure            | 5 West Point newbie        | 43 From one end to t'other |
| 34 Fresh                        | 6 Top supporter            | 44 Branch                  |
| 35 Individual                   | 7 Slanders                 | 45 Carte lead-in           |
|                                 | 8 Utter disorder           | 46 Acknowledge applause    |
|                                 | 9 Embrace                  | 47 Listener                |
|                                 |                            | 49 Foreman foe             |







JD Struxness steer wrestles with the help of Stockton Graves at the Guymon Pioneer Days 2017.



Tuf Cooper tie down roping at Guymon Pioneer Days 2017 held at Henry C. Hitch Pioneer Arena.



Conner Hamilton bareback riding at the Guymon Pioneer Days 2017. The Guymon Pioneer Days Rodeo is a week long celebration in Texas county that draws thousands of visitors each year.

TUF COOPER TIE-DOWN ROPING \$190,444	TIM O'CONNELL BAREBACK \$201,915	TY ERICKSON STEER WRESTLING \$163,151	KALEB DRIGGERS HEADING \$133,977
SAGE KIMZEY BULL RIDING \$237,152	JACOBS CRAWLEY SADDLE BRONC \$183,927	TIANY SCHUSTER BARREL RACING \$250,377	JUNIOR NOGUEIRA HEELING \$134,707

**Pro Rodeo Competitor Earnings 2017**

Graphic by Sami McGuire



Josh Frost, bull rider, overlooking the arena at the Days of '47 Rodeo 2017.

**Life's a rodeo and all you have to do is stay in the saddle.**  
-George Jung

Photos by Sami McGuire  
Page Design by Erin Davis and Baley Garza

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Specializes in event promotion. Provides video on social media, stories and photos.

# Rodeo media and money has changed through time

BY SAMI MCGUIRE

It's more like the Roman Colosseum than a rodeo arena. The stands tower up over the rectangle of dirt that the cowboys and cowgirls are to compete upon. Crowds fill the stands, waiting for a show of man versus beast—a modern day gladiator fight.

Flames shoot out metal cylinders behind the chutes where the bucking horses dance anxiously. Cowboys fidget with their gloves and bareback riggings, waiting for the Days of '47 Cowboy Games & Rodeo to begin.

This is the richest rodeo of the summer, their chance to make \$50,000 with two good rides at one rodeo. This will set them up to make the National Finals Rodeo in December for a chance to compete for a world title.

The cowboys in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association do not compete for points; they are ranked in standing based on money won. Although these are professional athletes, they do not receive a salary; they have to live off of their winnings.

That is where money and media come into play. The two aspects go hand-in-hand and have evolved over the years with the changing times to accommodate the cowboy lifestyle.

The Days of '47 Rodeo was a game changer for the PRCA world. It was held in Salt Lake City on July 19-21 and July 23-24. Each night cowboys and cowgirls competed against eight

other competitors; the top two rides or runs from each night would qualify for the final round on July 24, which is Pioneer Day, a Utah state holiday.

Each qualifying round paid around \$3,000 to win, and the final round paid out \$50,000 along with gold, silver and bronze Olympic-style medals. Some rodeos with large amounts of money added do not let cowboys count the money toward their PRCA standings. The Days of '47 Rodeo did, making it the richest rodeos of the season to count toward standings.

Tommy Joe Lucia, Days of '47 rodeo general manager, said "It was a very unique agreement with the PRCA this year, something that had never been done before."

Going into the future, Lucia has plans to improve upon the Days of '47 Rodeo by making it bigger and better each year.

"As time goes on, the prize money will increase," Lucia said. "In order to increase the prize money, you have to increase the number of people who purchase tickets and the sponsor involvement. So we have to do the things that increase the butts in the seats. Consequently what will follow that are more revenues, which will trickle down into the competitors' pockets."

Days of '47 Rodeo has raised the bar for rodeos, but not all rodeos have stepped up to this level at the moment. Although the payout has increased through the years, some aren't sure

that the payout has increased as quickly as the costs of rodeoing have.

Gary Ledford, a former PRCA calf roper, compared the costs of rodeoing in 1969 to now. "The first time I went to the NFR [1969], the go round paid \$365," Ledford said. "I bought a new truck that year for \$2,600. I won Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1971, and won \$5,000. I could buy two new pickups. Today when they win Cheyenne, you get enough money for about half a [pickup]. So that gives you an idea. The money is a lot better, but it doesn't buy as much."

In 2016's NFR, each round paid around \$26,000. Lane Livingston, PRCA calf roper, won the Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo this year and won \$16,095 throughout all the rounds and the average. In comparison to Ledford's win in 1971, Livingston would only be able to pay off around 23 percent of a new truck able to haul his trailer down the road.

Rodeo rigs have definitely risen in price, but it is hard to deny that money to be won hasn't increased immensely through the years.

Rodeo publicist Ted Harbin said: "The fact that we are paying out more per night at the NFR than the average paid in 1990 is telling. Back in the 1990s, Calgary Stampede Rodeo was a \$50,000 prize and now it is a \$100,000. The Timed Event Championship when it first started, the winner earned \$40,000, and now the winner is going to earn more than \$100,000.

Even at that level you are talking about life changing money."

One cowboy who has experienced life changing money in the past few years is Sage Kimzey, a PRCA bull rider.

Kimzey recently broke the regular-season, money-earning records in the bull riding. To break the record he won several non-PRCA sectioned rodeos. He won the bull riding at the American Rodeo, in Texas, as a qualifier, and earned \$430,000. He won \$100,000 at Calgary Stampede Rodeo. He won the Championship Bull Riding, which paid \$100,000 to the year-end champion. A PRCA sanctioned rodeo he won was Days of '47 Rodeo, which paid \$50,000. Heading into the first of September, he had won more than \$850,000 in the calendar year of 2017.

Because of Kimzey's bull riding resume, he is highly sought after for sponsorships. Many cowboys, rodeos and associations now have sponsors who help them pay to get down the road or put on events.

"Back in the 1990s when I first started, there were only a handful of contestants that had sponsorships," Harbin said. "Now you're not going to see many people at the NFR who don't have some sort of sponsorship. Sponsors can see the opportunities that allow for more one-on-one exposure. The reality is, if you have a patch for Wrangler on your shirt and then they focus in on your face on TV that patch may or may not be seen, but it is that personal relationship because cowboys are seen to be more personable. Approachability is key for these sponsors in having their message come across [in] the voice of the contestants."

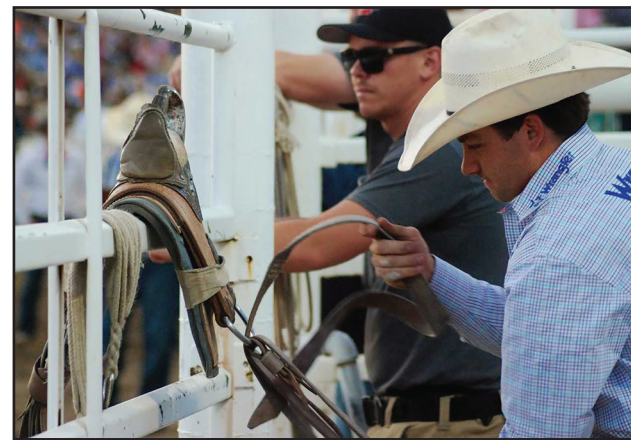
Sponsors rely heavily on media in the rodeo industry to help get their brands out to the public.

And in turn, rodeos rely on sponsors to help fund the events. The two aspects rely heavily upon one another and have both become a more influential part of rodeo as it evolves.

For rodeo to be a marketable sport the athletes need to be featured on media platforms. For the most part cowboys aren't ones to want to do a lot of talking.

Guy Ferrell, former PRCA judge and announcer, said the rodeo committees noticed the need of media presentation in the early 90s. "Rodeo committees said 'we need to teach these cowboys how to present themselves, because it is good for the sport,'" Ferrell said. "From a marketing standpoint, rodeo needs people who know how to market themselves."

Ferrell has experienced some of the training that cowboys received in learning how to present themselves to the media.



Wyatt Denny, bareback rider, at Pleasant Grove Strawberry Days 2017. Denny won the Days of '47 rodeo a month later.

"When I was at the Pro Rodeo headquarters, the committee would bring in the world champions and interview them, practice with them and teach the contestant how to talk on TV," he said. "That has made a lot of difference in the media coverage."

Considering cowboys are the main focus of rodeo media it is no wonder the PRCA has taught cowboys speaking skills.

Justin Shaw, PRCA media director, said they mostly try to highlight competitors, rodeo officials, rodeo talent and people inside the arena besides just competitors.

"We want to give the public a view into their life," Shaw said. "How they think, how they go about their business and what drives them to live this crazy, wonderful, rodeo, western lifestyle."

Shaw has been with the PRCA in media positions since 2011. In just those six years he has seen many changes made to the PRCA's media.

"When I first started we had to hand type the results for all 600 plus rodeos," Shaw said. "It was time consuming and it was very hard to do. It is automated through a computer now, so the website is updated right away. In the past a story would sit for a couple days and the website wasn't updated nearly as much as it should have been. Now we are keeping fresh content on our website daily."

With access to internet constantly at our fingertips, PRCA media has learned that social media is an extremely important platform.

"We have built our social media platforms up to a very high level," Shaw said. "We've expanded our reach in social media. We have a social media coordinator now who does a lot of creative things like memes, Photoshop and fun, light-hearted content, instead of just straight news reporting like we used to do on our social media."

The purpose of media is to help grow the sport and keep everything moving forward.

Most said they plan to keep on rodeoing and living the life. Many journalists were upset by this seemingly meek answer, but a true reporter could see that this is the passion that makes rodeo a lifestyle rather than just a sport.

As media moves forward, people in the rodeo industry hope the fan base increases.

Lucia said: "Fans care about a wild ride or a beautiful horse, and that is what we have to understand. There is a difference in what the fan wants and what the competition may dictate. There has got to be a balance that continues to allow for spectator growth."

More fans mean more money for the cowboys, more sponsors and more media coverage. More money in the industry keeps the western lifestyle alive in hopes that a cowboy will get to live the American dream one swing, spur or barrel at a time. This is what media hoped to catch a glimpse of in the Days of '47 Rodeo.

The media team surrounded the Days of '47 Rodeo winners. Journalists, CBS sports, Fox News and other media outlets waited anxiously to hear what the cowboy or cowgirl planned to do with their \$50,000 winnings.



# Feature

# 5 single pringle perks

By CAITLYN PRAY  
Student Writer

AN IDEA FOR A SINGLE INDEPENDENT FOCUS ON YOU, FOCUS ON YOUR WOMAN GOALS

## Have a "Galentines Day"

## You can focus

It's that lovely time of year again.

The grocery store shelves are lined with chocolates and candies of all kinds, red and pink hearts decorate every existing billboard and flyer and who couldn't notice the number of couples that roam around campus and town holding hands and letting the world know they've found their perfect half? It's a love-struck time of year.... but not for everybody.

The truth is that there are a lot of single people out there this Valentine's Day that don't have a beloved boyfriend they want to give endless cards and gifts and affection to, or a gorgeous girlfriend they want to take out somewhere special or do something nice to. Some of us are still single pringles this Valentine's Day, and despite what culture or peer pressure says, there is absolutely nothing wrong with that.

In fact, there are a lot of perks to being single that a lot of people don't realize (I don't think) when they've set their eyes on being a couple. Don't get me wrong, as a single pringle myself I can relate to noticing romantic and just sweet couples sometimes and think they really have something I'd love to have, but I'm also a firm believer that the single years are a blessing all of their own and a special time I don't want to waste obsessing over the next phase.

Being perfectly content and happy as a super single isn't always easy, but it is possible. If you're needing some encouragement or fun ideas to embrace your single-ness this Valentine's Day (or ever), here are seven perks I've come up with that can hopefully give you some inspiration and positivity towards actually loving your original, wonderful, lovely single.

That's not a typo! Though this idea is directed towards the gals, for you guys out there who want something fun, the idea is the same.



Throw an all-gals or all-guys get together sometime to just have fun playing games, watching movies or whatever you and your friends would like to do to just have an amazing time. I can personally vouch for this idea that it is a memorable event every time!

This reason may be a bit redundant. You can still be a very focused person in a relationship. I think there are some pearls of wisdom to be found in this point.



Lets be honest, in a relationship, it can be really hard to think straight sometimes, or not be persuaded to change parts of you or even your life course because you're very invested in your person.

It's great when single because you can focus on yourself and focus on some goals before be-

YOU'RE PROBABLY A LITTLE RICHER SINGLE.

## Be single save money

This may sound like the most selfish, horrible reason and one I would definitely not advise people to put too much weight on, but technically it is true.



Whether you're the girl or the guy, I am positive you're going to invest some cash in the relationship sooner or later.

This isn't bad, and there are a lot of couples I know that can stretch a dollar (or use none!) on their dates better than singles, but in a lot of cases, couples will spend more just because they want to have a memorable date and they are buying for another person than they might usually do if they were on their own.



BE HAPPY, LOVE YOURSELF  
Independence and freedom matters

As a single person, you really can do whatever you want (Though I highly recommend staying within laws and rational judgment, but that's your call).

If you want to save up to go on the study abroad next year, you can go for it! Want to try out for the basketball team?

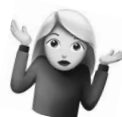


Shoot! You don't have to discuss it over with someone like you would if you're in a relationship and go over how that will affect you as a couple, but you can just do it.

With all that being said, I wish you the very best whether you're a single or a half of a couple.

The grass really is green on both sides of the fence, you just have to get out there and smell the heart-shaped roses!

A REASON TO BE HAPPY THAT YOU'RE SINGLE.



## You're not in a bad relationship

It seems obvious, but how many times have you heard someone say, "I wish I never started dating him/her"?

Some of us have had those relationships we badly regret afterward, and wish we hadn't even allowed them to start.

Even though you don't have a devoted admirer, at least you don't have a creepy stalker, scandalous flirt, verbal/mental abuser, or a badly strained

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# Entertainment

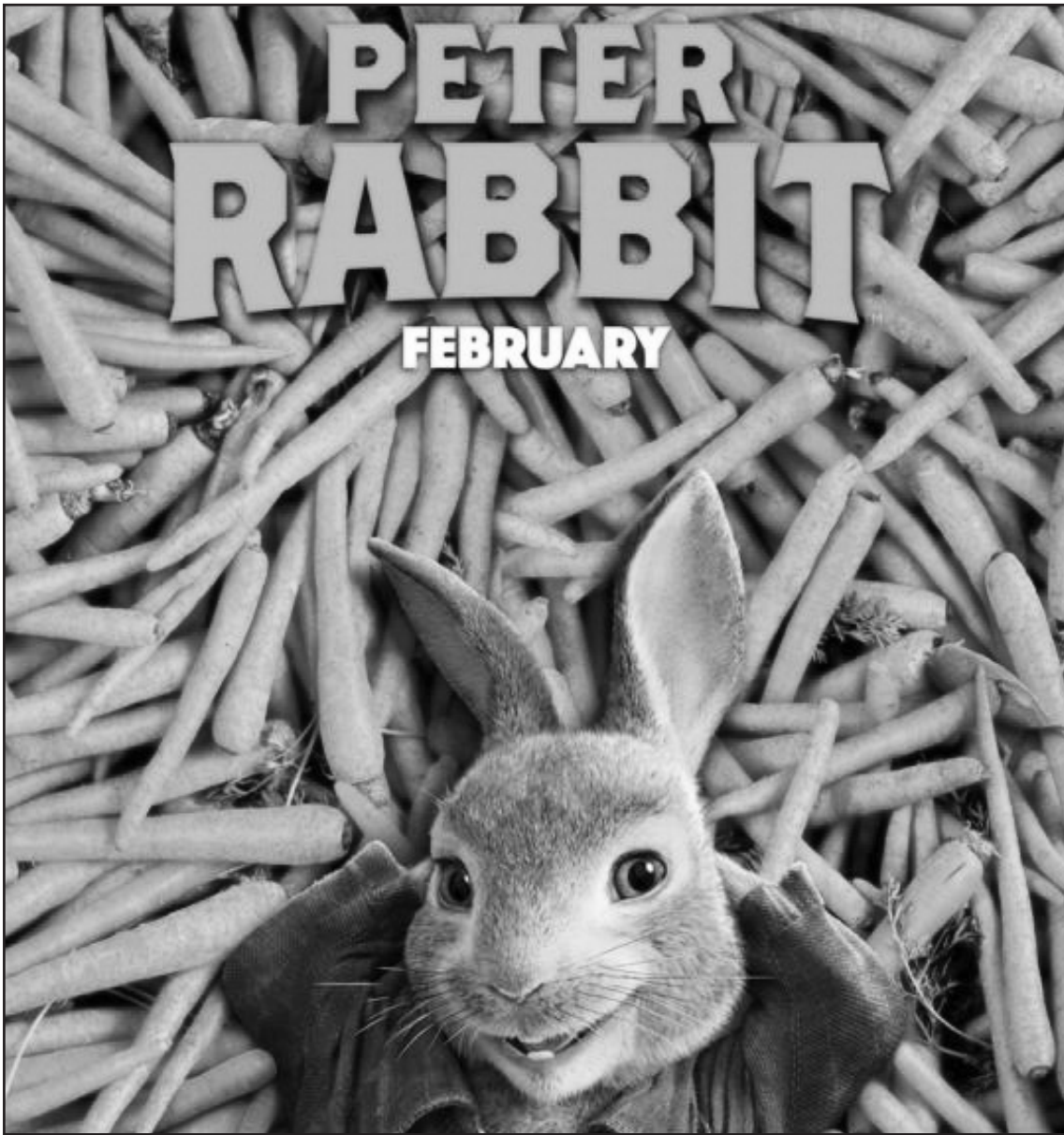


Photo Courtesy IMBD

Peter Rabbit tells the classic tale of a rebellious rabbit trying to sneak into a farmer's vegetable garden.

## 'Peter Rabbit' controversial

By **BROOKE MCELLEND**  
Student Reviewer

"Peter Rabbit" has just aired in theatres and already it's making headlines.



Sadly, it's for the wrong reasons. Out of all the movies lined up this year, this was possibly the last movie people expected to be controversial.

For those who have seen or will see the movie, you'll know which scene I'm talking about.

Many people are in an outrage over the scene, and have even gone so far as to boycott the movie while it was still in its opening weekend.

Others have brushed it off, not paying it any mind, but the ones that do are certainly wasting no time to make themselves heard, loud and clear.

Apart from the controversial scene, it's not a bad movie. Some say it tries too hard to capture the essence of the original Beatrix Potter tales that made Peter Rab-

bit famous. Others say it was a perfectly pleasant movie that was a joy to watch with the family.

There are those that say that it was even better than expected, particularly the scenes that were shown in the trailer as they were touched up and added too for the theatrical release.

Then there are those who refuse to see past one certain scene in the movie, and frankly that's a shame because the movie is far better than that one scene dictates. Peter Rabbit is a movie that's great for all ages. The jokes are on point, the voice work is impeccable, and there is so much personality and emotion involved

that it's hard to not get attached to the characters on the screen. Including the vile Thomas McGregor. Such a star studded cast for an all-around good movie.

Overall, it was a good movie that tries a little too hard at times to match up to the original tales. James Corden is amazing as Peter Rabbit, and Domhnall Gleeson is a pleasantly vile villain that meets his match in one Peter Rabbit.

It's great fun to see those two square up, even with the controversial scene that has many up in arms. It's a movie that's worth another watch, and great fun for the kids.

"Others have brushed it off, not paying it any mind, but the ones that do are certainly wasting no time to make themselves heard, loud and clear."

## '12 strong' tells 9/11 tale

By **LOGAN JONES**  
Student Writer

"12 Strong" tells the true story following the U.S. Special Forces team that were the first to be deployed in Afghanistan after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.



This movie is more than just the tale of the soldiers and their mission.

Despite some seeing this as just another true story war flick, 12 Strong shows the closeness and the brotherly bond not only between the U.S. soldiers but between them and the Afghani rebels. It can be seen throughout the film as there is little to no trust between the 2 nations but as time goes on, the forces begin to see each other as equals with a common goal.

The film also implements the difference between being a soldier versus being a warrior. Chris Hemsworth and his Special Forces team are described as soldiers who associated victory with life and will only go into battle if there is assurance that they will win.

However, the Afghani rebels consider themselves to be warriors who do not fear death and will even go into battle when there is no chance of winning.

The film, however, does have its fair share of problems.



Photo Courtesy IMBD

"12 strong" is based on events from September 11, 2001.

Not all of the main characters get fully fleshed out. The big names such as Hemsworth, Michael Peña, and Michael Shannon are able to develop their characters with their family lives back home as well as their inner demons. But the other members receive little to no development through the entire film.

12 Strong is absolutely a movie worth seeing. While it's not the greatest war-flick out there, it definitely does a good job of telling the true story of the horse soldiers and their role as the first Special Forces team to be deployed following the attacks of 9/11.

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"Black Panther"	"Fifty Shades Freed"	"12 Strong"
Starts Friday!	Friday	Friday
Friday 6:45-9:30	Saturday: 1:30-6:45-9:15	Saturday: 6:45-9:15
Saturday: 1:30-6:45-9:30	Sunday: 1:30-6:45	Saturday: 1:30-6:45-9:15
Sunday/Monday: 1:30-6:45	Feb. 19-22 6:45 nightly	Sunday: 1:30-6:45
Feb. 20-22 6:45 nightly	Screen 2/ R/105 Mins.	Feb. 19-22 6:45 nightly
Screen 1/ PG13/ 135 Mins.		Screen 3/ R/ 130 min.

Last night 6:45: "Hostiles"  
Coming Soon: "Peter Rabbit"  
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New Releases 2-13-18  
"Wonder", "Roman J. Israel" &  
"Ballad of Lefty Brown"



# Sports



Photo by Edward Raphael

Johnnuelle Ponce, a junior, goes in for a swing at the ball during the home game against Missouri State Lions on Friday. The Rangers lost twice on Friday, but had a victory on Saturday.

## Two strikes and a homerun

By RANGER ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Northwestern Oklahoma State baseball came out on the losing end of a doubleheader sweep at the hands of the Missouri Southern State Lions on Friday, falling 18-3 in game one and 6-2 in the nightcap.

### GAME 1

The Rangers managed to jump out to an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the third when left fielder Daschal Johnson manufactured a run with his speed, reaching on a walk before stealing second and advancing on a throwing error from the Lions catcher.

Just one pitch later, Johnnuelle Ponce drove in Johnson for the game's first run. But things would get ugly from there as the Lions hit their way to five earned runs off the Northwestern starter Ryan Marcoccia, making his first collegiate start.

Missouri Southern State put up six runs in the top of the fourth and never looked back. Northwestern countered another crooked number in the fifth with a two-run inning, but it was too little too late as the Lions had already built up an 11-1 advantage.

After catcher Brendan Kates reached on an infield single, Brock Randels lined a double to right field. Johnson followed that up with a double of his own, scoring both runners to make it an 11-3 ballgame. Missouri Southern continued to score runs in the sixth and seventh, eventually handing the Rangers a run-rule loss in seven innings by a final of 18-3.

### GAME 2

Sophomore Sean Rydell was on the mound for the night game of



Photo by Edward Raphael

GAC Pitcher of the Week Walker Wharton, a senior, pitches the ball during the Saturday game.

Thursday's doubleheader, and the right-hander impressed in his four innings of work, allowing just two earned runs while striking out five against the potent MSSU lineup.

After a lead-off walk came around to score in the top of the second, Rydell tossed a clean third inning before running into some trouble in the fourth.

Rydell surrendered a two-out RBI double to the Lions first baseman before an error by shortstop TJ Kasser extended the inning allowing Missouri Southern to take a 3-0 lead.

MSSU added another run in the fifth before Northwestern found their first bit of offense. Luis Mendoza broke up MSSU starter Seth Mesey's no-hit bid with a lead-off single, setting up a 2-run blast over the scoreboard in left by Ranger catcher Harrison Hull to cut the lead to just 4-2.

But the Lions answered right back in the top of the sixth with a two-run home run of their own,

handing the Rangers a 6-2 loss as they dropped both games of the doubleheader.

### GAME 3

The Northwestern Oklahoma State University Rangers fought their way to a 2-1 victory over the Missouri Southern State Lion on Saturday. Thanks to a gritty complete game performance from senior LHP Walker Wharton.

Last week's Great American Conference Pitcher of the Week held a stacked MSSU offense to just one run while striking out eight in Friday's series finale.

Coming off back-to-back losses to open the series, head coach Ryan Bowen sent Wharton (W, 2-0) to the hill in an effort to salvage the last of a three-game set with Missouri Southern. The 6'2 Texan needed just one hour and fifty-five minutes to hand the Lions their first loss of the season.

The Rangers landed the first blow in the bottom of the first when Jorin

two hits of the Rangers three hits while and driving in both runs. MSSU starter Corbin Osburn (L, 0-1) worked seven innings allowing just two earned runs on three hits, striking out 12 Rangers.

Osburn gave way to reliever Cam Bednar in the eighth who struck out three in his only inning. Pitching to both sides of the plate and changing speeds, Wharton was able to strand seven base runners including leadoff doubles in three different innings.

The fifth-year senior walked just one batter and struck out eight in his nine innings.

Northwestern's defense stepped up in a big way behind Wharton as they did not commit an error for the first time this season.

The lefthander kept his infield busy with a diving changeup that yielded 12 ground ball outs to a MSSU squad that hit a staggering 81 home runs a year ago.

The Rangers will hit the road for their next six games. The Rangers have games Friday and Saturday at Harding University.



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# Sports



## Lady Rangers split weekend

By MEGAN MAHARRY  
Sports Reporter

The Lady Ranger's basketball team took to the road to play in Arkansas Thursday and Saturday. The Lady Rangers had success of Thursday against the University of Arkansas-Monticello, but fell to Southern Arkansas University on Saturday.

The Lady Rangers defeated Arkansas-Monticello 70-62 on Thursday, which snapped their four-game losing streak.

The Lady Rangers had strong offense throughout the game, and it began early. They took an eight-point lead just five minutes into the first quarter. They held their lead all through the first quarter and late into the second.

The Lady Rangers took off in the second half once again, putting up a lead as large as 14. Arkansas-Monticello was never able to overcome the fire Lady Ranger offense.

Freshman Kinsey Neiderer lead the Lady Rangers with 21 points, knocking down six three-point shots. Freshman Selena McDonald totaled 16 points, going six-for-eight, and grabbing 12 rebounds.

Currently in a three-way tie for the eighth and final spot in the Great American Conference tournament with six games left to play in the regular season, the Lady Rangers dropped a crucial game on Saturday against Southern Arkansas, 84-64.

Southern Arkansas was one of the teams the Lady Rangers were tied with for the final spot in the GAC postseason tournament.

Southern Arkansas took an early lead the Lady Rangers were unable to overcome.

The Lady Rangers outscored Southern Arkansas 36-to-33 in the second half, but the large deficit from the first half was too much. Southern Arkansas shot a 55.2 percent, 32-of-58 from the field.

The Lady Rangers had 25 total turnovers for the game and were out-rebounded by Southern Arkansas by a total of 31-to-19.

Neiderer once again led the scoring with 17 points and three rebounds. McDonald also made double-digit scoring, earning 11 points. The remainder of the squad shot 40 percent from the field.

With only five games remaining in postseason, the Lady Rangers need crucial wins in order to make the tournament.

## Softball defeated in opening games, weather cancellations

By RANGER ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Northwestern Oklahoma State softball started its 2018 season off in the North Texas Softball Bash against Colorado Christian and Texas Permian Basin and took two losses on the day in games of 6-1 and 10-1.

The bats weren't quite able to get going on the opening day of the tournament as the Rangers were only allowed six total hits in both games combined. Two of the hits came from the bat of Madison McGraw, both in the second game.

Both teams came out a bit flat-offensively as it wasn't until the second inning that either team scored a run and it just so happened to be the Rangers on an error by the first baseman.

Katie Bell was able to reach first on a walk and just a batter later, was back in the dugout after scoring the opening run of the contest.

Madison Garza and the host of pitchers of Colorado Christian dialed it in following the score for

Northwestern, but the sixth inning would be the ultimate undoing for the Black-and-Red.

While working with a two-out inning, Garza seemed to be well on her way to getting out of the inning, but that wouldn't be the case as there were two hits and three errors by the Rangers that led to the big inning for the Cougars.

As the bats remained cold for Northwestern and going down without a run in the sixth, CCU was able to add three more insurance runs in their half of the seventh inning, making it a five-run advantage for the Cougars.

The Rangers proceeded to go down in order in the seventh to end the game in Colorado Christian's favor.

The second game of the day started out similar to the first as Northwestern was first to strike again, going up 1-0, but this time there were three hits on the Ranger side. It didn't take long for the Falcons of Texas-Permian Basin to take the lead away, tying it up at 1-1 on a Ranger error in the second.

The Rangers were held scoreless

in the second and third innings, but the Falcons went on the offensive for the second straight inning as they posted eight runs on the Black-and-Red.

UTPB got the bats rolling in a big way in the third inning as they lit up the scoreboard with eight hits as well as runs, putting Northwestern in an eight-run hole going into the top of the fourth.

Northwestern looked like they were going to take on a comeback of their own, getting two of their first three batters on base, but a smoked ball by Peyton Garrett was caught over the wall to thwart the threat, leaving the Falcons with a still sizable lead.

In the bottom of the fourth, Permian Basin tacked on another run to make it 10-1 contest while the Rangers went scoreless once again in the top of the fifth, leading to the 10-1 loss.

Due to bad weather the Saturday games were cancelled in Mesquite, Texas. The Lady Rangers next games will be at Arkansas Tech University on Feb. 23 and 24.



Photos Provided

Brandon Green, a senior, attempts to dunk ball.

## Men have victory, sit second in GAC

By MEGAN MAHARRY  
Sports Reporter

The Ranger men's basketball team played on the road in Arkansas against opponents the University of Arkansas-Monticello and Southern Arkansas University. The men claimed victory in both games.

The game against Arkansas-Monticello was on edge until the final buzzer. The Rangers held on to win the thriller 69-68.

The Rangers took an early lead, running their score up to as many as 12 points in the second half. Arkansas-Monticello worked to get within single digits late in the second half.

After a back and forth battle, the score was only separated by a point in advantage of the Rangers with seconds remaining.

Arkansas-Monticello had one last chance to take the win, but a missed jumper at the buzzer gave the Rangers the win.

Five Ranger men had double-digit scores on the game. The team shot 48 percent from the field, 25-of-52 shots made.

Senior Cody Halverson led with 13 points. Greg Minor Jr., A'keem Oglesby and Treyvon Andres all recorded 11 points.

The Rangers turned around to claim another victory on Saturday over Southern Arkansas, 65-63. The men are now on a four-game winning streak.

The Rangers found themselves behind by 11 in the first half, but battled back with an 27-5 run throughout the game shifted the momentum in their favor.

The Rangers went 11-for-12 and grabbed four steals in the beginning of the second half.

The Rangers took their own 11-point lead before Southern Arkansas fought back to make the game close in the narrowing minutes. A late Ranger three-pointer boosted their lead.

Southern Arkansas's last effort was a jumper to send the game into overtime, but it was quickly shut down as Andres swatted the ball away for a block.

The Rangers shot 52 percent from the field. Andres led the offense with 18 points, seven rebounds and three blocks. Minor Jr. recorded 12 points in the contest.

Brandon Green had three steals in the game, which put his season total at 36 steals, earning him fifth place in the GAC.

The Rangers currently sit ranked second in the conference, and travel to Oklahoma Baptist University next to take on the Bison.



Ride Rangers Ride





# Soccer helps with blood drive



*Photo by Ashley Strehl*

NWOSU Soccer players (left to right) junior nursing major Tiana Young-Mauchly, sophomore biology major Hollie Pankake, and junior nursing major Elia Garcia made phone calls, and welcomed students, staff, and community members as they came in to give blood.