

Santa Claus is coming

By **GREG MINOR**
Student Reporter

The holiday season is among us again. Christmas is not only a time to be shared with loved ones, but a giving time of year. Everyone doesn't get to have the ideal Christmas as others, so organizations around campus step in to spread some holiday cheer.

The men's basketball team wrapped presents for children of all age groups. Serving as one of the "secret Santa's," Michael Sion, freshman basketball player, said, "I really enjoyed the experience last year. It felt good to help wrap some presents for the kids because a lot of people can't afford to buy the best for their children, I feel good to be able to do my part to help."

Giving back to the community is a priority for the Rangers. This event takes place just past the softball field off Goldbug Boulevard. This will be the second time the Rangers participate in this Christmas event. Not only is the men's basketball team will be out participating in "Toys for Tots", but the Art Society's Holiday Store going to spread holiday spirit throughout the community.

The Art Society hosts its ninth annual Holiday Store event this year. The store will take place on

Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Ranger Room inside of the student center.

Angelia Case, sponsor, said, "What we do is send letters through the school system to all the elementary kids, so parents at home can explain it. We offer a place where kids can come and shop for their family members, their dogs, and their cats."

Kids from all over town create a shopping list and a budget upon the event. Dena Walker, professor of mathematics, greets all of the children and their parents as they enter the front doors. Walker has dressed up over the past 3 years to show her spirit for the holiday. "Just have a good time with the kids and make it fun for them," Walker said. Students and faculty volunteers escort kids through the store and help them find the special gifts they would like to give to someone they care about for Christmas.

"It more fun watching the kids pick stuff out and having our volunteers help them keep track of their budgets," Case said. "You see the kids really considering things."

Although some kids attempt to buy the "hot chocolate slime" for their parents, there are many items available for them to choose from for a reasonable price. The prices vary from 50 cents up to \$15.

After the kids are finished shopping, their parents can walk them right next door to take photos with the face of Christmas: Santa. First meeting Santa for some kids can be a challenge but Valarie Case, who is the photographer, helps make them feel more comfortable. "I absolutely love to take pictures of the children when they come in to see Santa Clause," Valarie Case said. "Their faces just light up." Kids of all ages are welcome to get their picture taken with Santa. "At the end of the day on that Saturday, we made a lot of people happy," Angelia Case said.

For this month, the Art Society also has their campus food pantry going on. All students and community members are welcome to donate cans and other packaged goods. These donations help those less fortunate during the holidays.

There will be boxes available during the first Friday art walk downtown on Dec. 7 from 6-8 p.m. at the Runnymede Hotel and on Dec. 8 at Herod Hall Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

Although these organizations do their part to help in the community other organizations do their part as well, this is an opportunity for you to spread some goodness during the holiday season.



Photo by Ashley Watts

Christmas is coming up and the library has its Christmas tree up.

Studying for finals, the 20 steps

By **CAPRI GAHR**
Student Reporter

If you are looking for an A in your classes, now is the time to make it happen.

Final exams are ready to be taken by NWOSU rangers in just a few days. Students are finishing up the last homework due for classes and beginning to prepare for those final tests that will help determine their grades.

Study stations on campus will see an increase of students utilizing them to make that last run to help their final grades. Websites like purdueglobal.edu, gocongr.com, topuniversities.com, usa-today.com and princetonreview.com have all made lists that are to help students cram in a semesters worth of information in just a few days.

Here are 20 proven ways to boost your memory and help study for finals that are commonly agreed on by top websites focused on getting the best informa-

tion to the US student body.

1. Speak out loud instead of simply reading.
2. There are many ways to integrate a reward system into your habits so you learn how to study for exams more efficiently.
3. The best way to test if you really understand something is to try to teach it to someone else.
4. Drawing diagrams will help you to visualize information, which would be hard to describe.
5. Times New Roman is the fastest font to read.
6. Documentaries are an entertaining way of learning an entire story into a short timeframe. This will help you remember key details from a story.
7. Making flash cards is a good way to remember and test your knowledge.
8. When your brain is working, you need to take regular study breaks to help your brain absorb more information but also to keep you motivated and focused when you are working. Take a short break after 45-50 minutes study

as your focus and concentration will become impaired after this period, anything new after 1 hour 30 minutes does not get assimilated.

9. Studying in a group can help you collect new insights to enhance your learning experience.
10. It's been proven that exercise can boost your memory and brainpower. Research from the University of Illinois provides evidence that about 20 minutes exercise before an exam can improve performance.
11. You don't need just one study space. A well-stocked desk in a quiet place at home is important, but sometimes you need variety. Coffee shops, libraries, parks, or even just moving to the kitchen table will give you a change of scenery, which can prompt your brain to retain information better.
12. While many teachers provide a study guide, creating your own can help you understand the material better. Outlining the important information you need to

learn can be helpful, both in creation and to refer to during your studies.

13. If you always start ahead of schedule, you'll never be cramming the night before an exam.
14. If you think about and create actual exam questions, you will likely become more familiar with what you need to study and, in the meantime, familiarize yourself with the type of language that will be on the exam. Draft potential exam questions and quiz yourself so that you can set expectations of what you need to focus on.
15. Evaluate and reorganize your notes into what's important, outlining important concepts, formulas dates and definitions so they're easy to understand.
16. Switching up your subjects is a helpful way to learn everything for your exams while preventing burnout on one topic.
17. Create a system that allows you to color code material that's going to be on the exam by what's most important, less

important, etc. This will help you focus on the most pertinent information and prioritize the material.

18. Create mnemonic devices, such as acrostics, rhymes or acronyms, to help you remember information.
 19. Listen to calming music, stretch or breathe deeply, this way you can avoid stress and release negative thoughts.
 20. Study in a distraction-reduced environment. Turn off your cell phone, TV and email notifications.
- These tips can be mixed and matched various different ways to help support your own learning style. Consider these ideas before cramming for that next test. Make it a priority to utilize and maintain healthy studying techniques so you can prepare for those finals.



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News

New year - old memories

By **MCKAYLA HOLSON**
Student Reporter

New Year's resolutions and Christmas memories are on the minds of people around campus as the holiday season quickly approaches.

According to Sarah Pruitt, a writer for the History Channel, resolutions have been around for thousands of years.

Pruitt said that it began with ancient Babylonians who would make promises to gods to repay debts and return any objects they borrowed.

Pruitt said that ancient Rome also held similar practices. They offered sacrifices to the deity Janus, who was believed to symbolically look backwards into the previous year and ahead into the future and made promises of good conduct for the coming year.

In today's time, people usually make resolutions to themselves and not gods. These resolutions also tend to focus on improving the body and mind. Many people say they will work out more and eat healthier for their resolutions.

Unfortunately, not all people keep their resolutions. According to an article by Carolyn Gregorie, a Huffington Post writer, only eight percent of people actually keep their resolutions.

The extremely low number could be because of overly ambitious goals. Some people set goals such as working out five days a week, quitting sugar, quitting drinking soda and many other goals that would take more time than a resolution can give.

Creating a practical goal can be beneficial in succeeding at your resolution. Start the year over and work towards the bigger goals throughout the year.

Michael "Seth" Cudd is the

director of bands at NWOSU. Cudd directs the marching band, concert band, and jazz band. He also teaches multiple music related classes.

Cudd is working on his PhD in composition at Rutgers University and one of his resolutions is to finish his dissertation. Cudd said that he is close to finishing.

Cudd said that this is really his only resolution for the New Year.

On the topic of the New Year, memories were brought up.

One of Cudd's favorite Christmas memories occurred in 1987.

Cudd was seven years old and his mom had just married his stepdad the month before.

Cudd was originally an only child but his stepdad had two kids. Cudd, his brother and his sister received a brand-new, original Nintendo for Christmas. It was an upgrade from his Atari.

Cudd said that it was a special Christmas.

Since that first Christmas, Cudd and his family have played video games as a tradition. This tradition varies from the traditional tradition of watching movies or playing board games.

Cudd remembers playing games such as Mario Brothers, Duck Hunt and the original Zelda.

Holiday traditions allow families and friends to become closer to one another. Cudd's special tradi-

tion allowed him to bond with his family in an enjoyable way.

Some families have other traditions such as watching movies, opening a present on Christmas Eve, having a special dessert and others.

A tip for starting a Christmas tradition is to just do it. Try an idea out and see if it sticks. If it works, stick with it. If it does not work, try again. Family traditions do not have to be traditional. Just enjoy your time with family.

Consider creating Christmas traditions this year or think about traditions that you may already have in place.

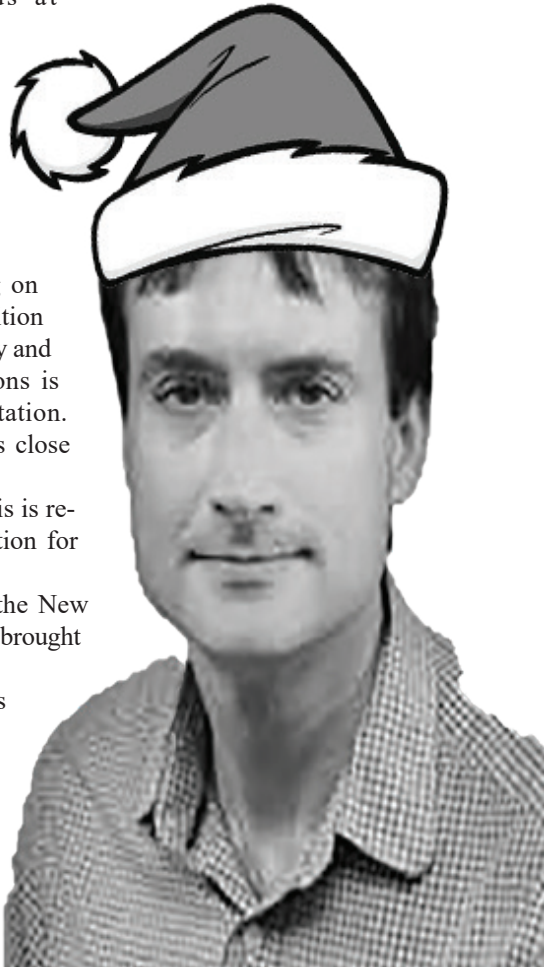


Photo by University Relations

Holiday Gala & Tree Lighting in 2017

Live stream raises money for charity

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Computer Science program raised \$125 for Child's Play Charity during their annual 24-hour livestream on Friday, Nov. 30 and Saturday, Dec. 1.

The computer science members of the program gathered in Shockley Hall in the Bill and Billie Buckles Computer Science and Robotics Labs. They played games such as League of Legends, Fortnite and Overwatch some of the games were played in teams and others as single players.

Child's Play Charity website states that it is "A game industry charity dedicated to improving the lives of children with toys and games in our network of over a hundred hospitals worldwide."

There are two ways to donate: You can give money, or you can go to the map on the website and pick

a hospital. It will then redirect you to an amazon wishlist full of toys you can send them directly.

Child's Play works with hospital staff members to find out what toys the children want and then they make a



wishlist out of it.

The video was streamed at https://www.twitch.tv/nwosu_esports you can still find the link to donate under the video screen. Just click on the green controller with the white cross.

Choir to preform holiday gala Saturday

By **LOGAN JONES**
Assistant-sports Editor

Northwestern Oklahoma State University Department of Fine Arts will present its annual Holiday Gala at 7.p.m, December 8, in Herod Hall Auditorium with the tree lighting ceremony to follow.

All are welcome, as admission is free and open to the public and the Herod Hall doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

The Gala will feature works and performances by the Northwestern Concert Choir, Chorale, University Singers, Symphony Band and Jazz Ensemble.

To finish, the choir and band will join to perform a holiday sing-along to conclude the concert.

After the concert, the audience will then be invited to gather on the Herod Hall lawn where the choir will sing a small verse before University President, Dr. Janet Cunningham performs the traditional



Photo by University Relations

Holiday gala and tree lighting in 2017

lighting of the tree at the Bell Tower on the North side of campus.

The music groups are under the direction of Karsten Longhurst, instructor of music and director of choral studies, and Michael Seth Cudd, instructor of music and di-

rector of bands.

Both Longhurst and Cudd said they think it will be a fun concert and encourage the campus and local community members to attend and show support for the choir and band members as well as get into

the spirit of the Holidays.

Those attending the Holiday Gala also will have an opportunity to make a non-perishable food or monetary donation to the Campus Cabinet, Northwestern's soon to open food pantry for its students and employees, prior to entering the auditorium.

The Campus Cabinet will allow for both Northwestern students and faculty alike to have free access to necessary items that the individual may not have the monetary means to acquire them.

Besides monetary donations, the campus food pantry is predominately looking for "dorm-friendly" type non-perishable foods such as canned meat, soup, fruit and vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, breakfast foods, crackers, macaroni and cheese, rice or pasta, tomato sauce, Ramen noodles, instant potatoes, box meals, single-serving foods and non-frozen microwaveable meals. Personal hygiene items also will be accepted.



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VISION SOURCE



What's up? *A very English resolution*

By **PATRICIA PIXLER**
Student Reporter

Fine Arts Christmas Karaoke Party

Come one, come all! Join us in the Ranger Perk to celebrate the Holidays with a night of fun! Party will include karaoke, ugly Christmas sweater contest, and dirty Santa game!

Tomight @ 8 p.m. in FA

Holiday Gala

Celebrate the holidays with the Northwestern bands and choirs in the annual Holiday Gala in Herod Hall Auditorium. This festive concert will end with the annual tree lighting ceremony.

Dec 8 @ 7 p.m.

Fall Commencement

Fall Commencement will take place in Percefull Fieldhouse. A reception will follow in the Student Center Ballroom.

Dec 9 @ 3:30 p.m.

Holiday Tuba Concert

Northwestern hosts it's second annual Holiday Tuba Concert in Herod Hall Auditorium.

No admission.

Dec 10 @ 6 p.m.

Christmas break Dec 14 - Jan 14

Have a great Christmas break!!






If you have an event that you would like featured on our "What's Up?" section, just contact us at nwnews@nwosu.edu.

Include date, time, and a short summary.

Attention all Ranger Students!

Community Rewards Cards are now available at any of three locations:

- Ampride
- Ranger Mart
- Lite N Nite

See cashier inside to get started earning points! it also benefits the schools in Alva!

covered in blood. While everyone knows the Disney version, the version for the class is from France in 1700's. James said she hopes to introduce students to another side of the tales they grew up with as children.

Another passion of James's is popular culture. Currently James and the chair of the English, foreign language and humanities department, Dr. Kathryn Lane, are working on a special topics journal collection. "It's about criminals as heroes," James explained. "It's grown so much."

James plans to work on the journal collection over break and next semester as both she and Lane want to expand the project. "We received many more submissions than we expected," James said.

A yearlong resolution for James will be to attend more academic conferences in 2019. In the past, James has attended the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association, the British Women Writers Conference and the Midwest Modern Language Association conferences.

James said she plans to go to more conferences as she enjoys learning and meeting more academics like herself.

James's main per-



sonal resolution for the upcoming year is to find a new book series. One of her favorite series is the "Harry Potter" franchise. James said she enjoys the fantastic element to the works and hopes to find another series in the same style. Preferably, James said she would want the series to be young adult fiction, as she enjoys the genre as well. Yet she mainly hopes to find another series in fantasy. "It's the magic," James said. "The fantasy. I love it."

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A helping hand in a time of crisis

Photo by Docker Haub

The addition of a post office made Alva one of the only towns in Northwest Oklahoma to have a post office and gave an opportunity for more business to come to town.

By **DOCKER HAUB**
Student Reporter

Alva: 125 years Part 3 of 4

In 1935, three men slept on the top floor of Northwestern Oklahoma State University’s administration building, often referred to as the “castle on the hill”.

It was a peaceful night until a loud noise and the smell of smoke quickly awoke all three men.

The second floor of the building had fallen out and the skyline had erupted in a small explosion,

but the men didn’t panic. They quickly climbed out of the window and onto the roof. As they did, they could see a fire truck making its way onto the lawn of the campus.

Relief quickly turned to worry as the fire truck had a malfunction with its ladder, and the ladder

wasn’t capable of extending all the way to the roof of the building.

One of the men was smaller than the other two, and so they were able to drop him down onto the ladder, but the other two men remained on the roof.

The firemen and the man that was dropped on the ladder quickly came up with an idea; they could use ropes and curtains from Herod Hall to repel the other men down from the roof.

After providing the two men with the ropes and curtains, the two men repelled off the roof and

safely to the ground moments before the infamous castle on the hill collapsed.

This was unknown information until about 7 years ago when John Barton, a former employee at NWOSU, was doing some research in the Northwestern library and a letter from 1972 fell out of the book he was reading.

This letter was written by one of those three men. “It had to have been destiny,” Barton said, “what were the chances of me finding that letter in that book? It had to have been destiny.”

The “burning of the castle on the hill” was both a devastating and revolutionary event for NWOSU. After the castle burned, this gave an opportunity for the WPA (Works Progress Administration) of Alva to provide the campus with some renovations.

The WPA was a government-funded administration throughout the late 30’s and early 40’s. They helped to provide jobs for millions of people and helped to improve many communities throughout America. Alva was one of those communities. In 1936, the state had already acted to provide NWOSU with most of the funding to replace the fire-razed administration building. The WPA had reportedly been expected to donate \$175,000 to \$300,000 to aid in the rebuilding.

The goal was to build the biggest building on any college campus in the state, and be comparable to any building at the University of Oklahoma.

After the plans were appropriated, it was decided that three new buildings would be added to the campus: the Jesse Dunn building, a science annex, and a training school building.

These buildings, although they all don’t have the same names, are still used on campus today.

The science annex is now known as Carter Hall and the training school building is now known as the Education Center. The WPA was also responsible for a new baseball field, tennis courts, trees, other landscaping projects and paving most of the sidewalks throughout the campus.

John Barton, who was a student at NWOSU from 1960 to

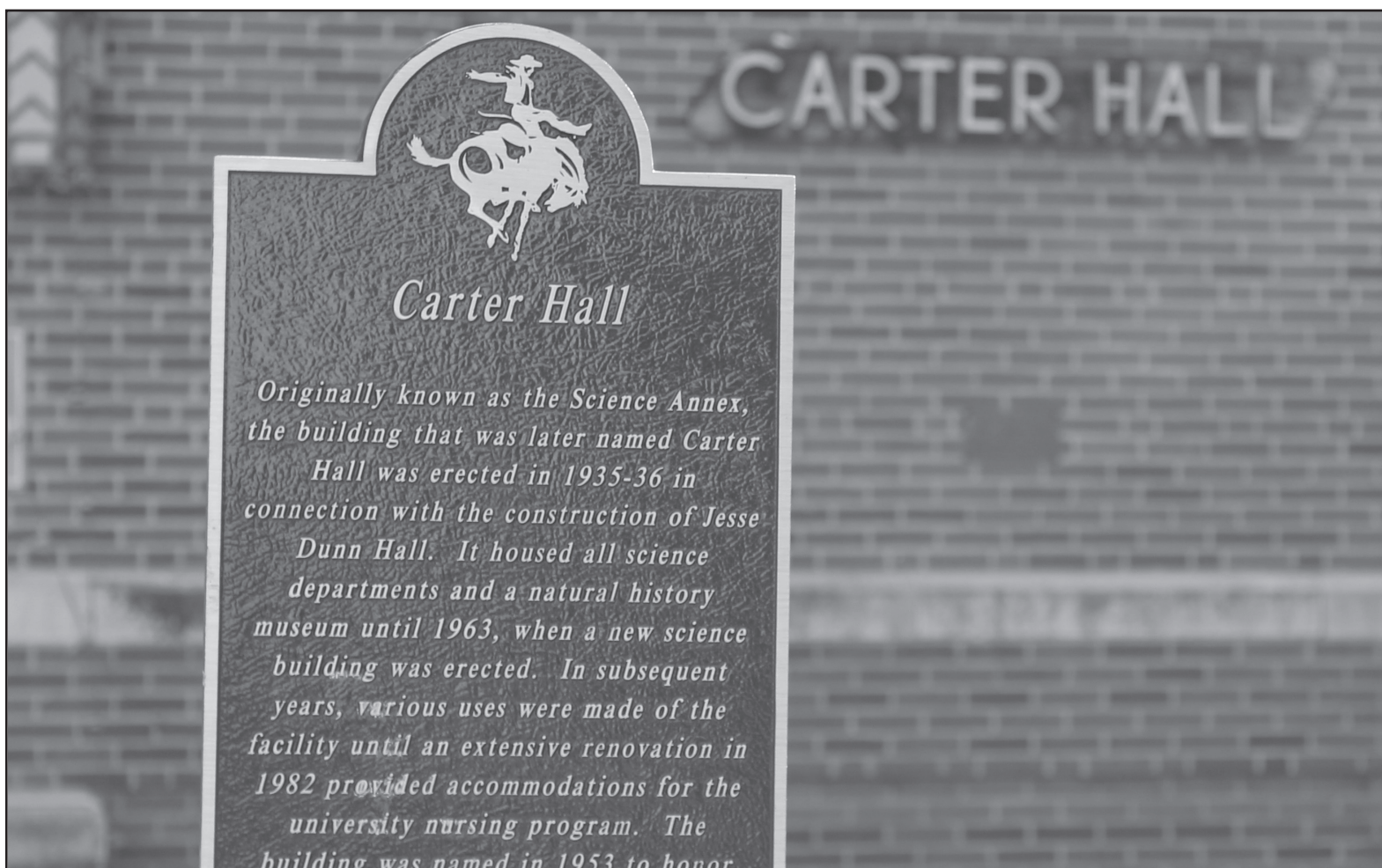


Photo by Docker Haub

The science annex is now known as Carter Hall and the training school building is now the Education Center.

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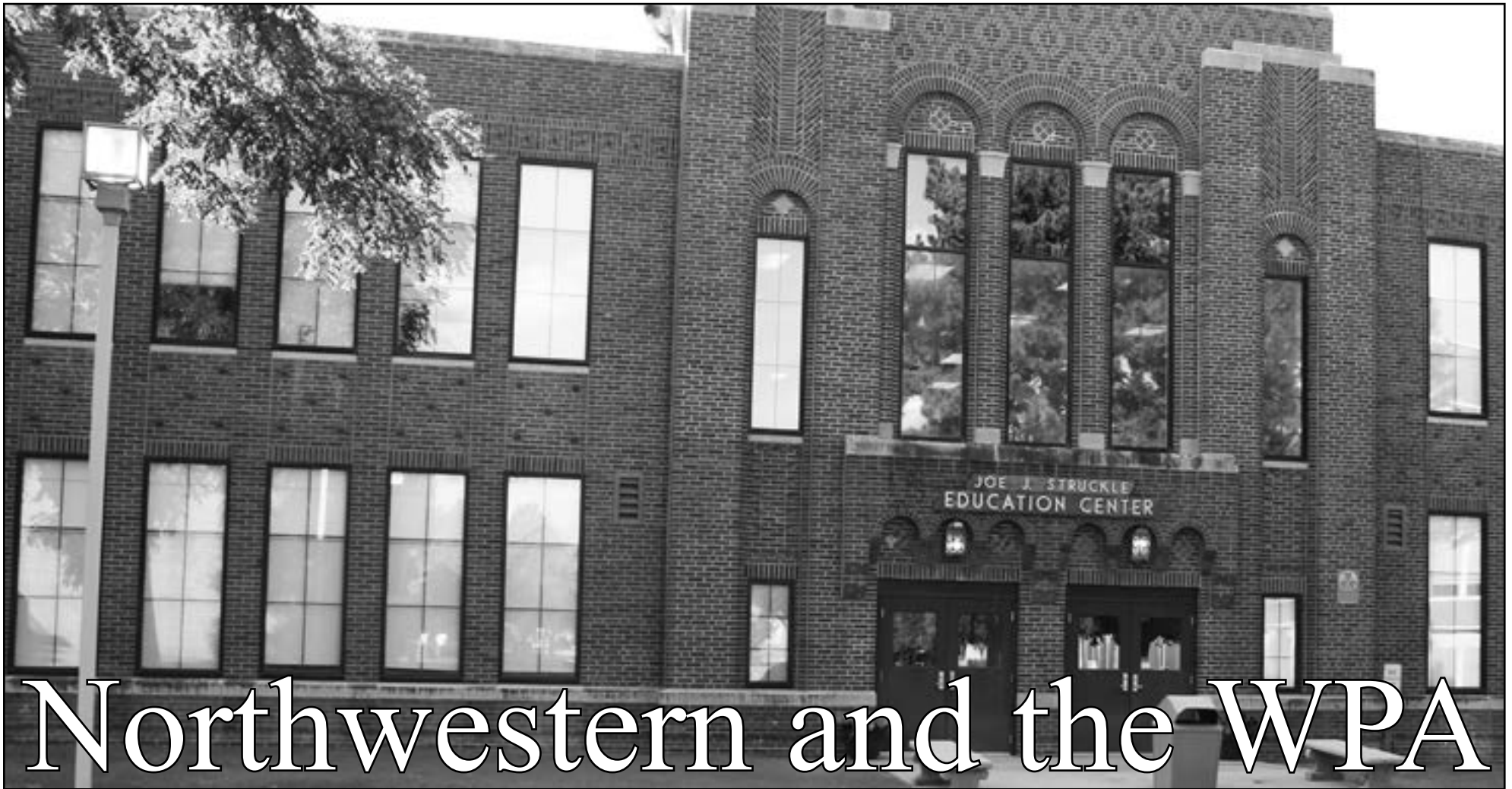


Photo by Docker Haub

The WPA was also responsible for a new baseball field, tennis courts, trees and other landscaping projects on campus. The WPA had reportedly been expected to donate \$175,000 to \$300,000 to aid in the rebuilding.

Continued from page 4.....

1964, and later a speech instructor and a dean at NWOSU, knows just how important those additions were to the campus and how significant the “burning of the castle on the hill” was.

“It was a horrible thing when the castle burned in 1935,” Barton said, “Of course, Jesse Dunn and Carter Hall have been very useful and beautiful parts of Northwestern, but can you imagine if the castle was still here? People would travel from all over to come see it if we still had it.” The campus wasn’t the only part of the Alva community

that saw an impact from the WPA. In 1936, the whole city of Alva saw some change.

After the Great Depression, many communities throughout the country were in desperate need for sources of employment and renovations. The Alva post office was one of the first renovations the town received. Built in 1936, with the help of WPA funding, the post office was an important part of helping Alva connect with the rest of the world. At the time, the postal service was one of the only sources of long distance communication.

The addition of a post office made Alva one of the only towns in Northwest Oklahoma to have a post office and gave an opportunity for more business to come to town. Also built in 1936, was the Armory, a historical part of Alva.

Part of a WPA project, the Armory was used by the Oklahoma National Guard for more than 45 years. Throughout the years, these units were deployed in World War II as well as the Korean War.

Larry Parker, who is Deputy Board Clerk for the Alva school board, recognizes the significance

of the Armory. “It’s something that Alva should be proud of,” Parker said, “not every town has the opportunity to help out the military, but Alva did for many years, that’s pretty neat.”

After the National Guard no longer required the Armory, the local school district put it to good use. It is still used today by the school district as an effective place to park the local school buses, which is why it is referred to as the “bus barn”.

The other addition to the community was the public swimming pool.

Every community needs a place that allows the younger population to have some fun, and this is exactly what the WPA helped to bring Alva. Although it is currently closed, the swimming pool has been a great place for families and friends to go during the summer time and enjoy time together while cooling off from the summer heat.

The WPA helped to provide back to the communities of America, in a time when people were in dire need of a helping hand and a positive light.

Whether it was new light poles, new buildings, new streets or even new sidewalks, almost every single community in America saw the aid of the WPA.

It’s hard to think about what would have become of Northwestern after the administration building burned down if the WPA had never become involved.

Without the federal funding and all the workers, Northwestern may have never seen the renovations that provided the University with a spark to keep growing, expanding and improving as a college.

Fortunately, that never became a reality. Instead, the students and faculty of Northwestern get to utilize and enjoy the effects of the WPA that are still seen at Northwestern today.

Whenever someone takes a walk through the campus, they are taking a walk through the history of Northwestern. These same effects bleed into the community as a whole.

Whether it’s on campus at Jesse Dunn, or downtown at the post office, these WPA projects helped to paint the picture for what Alva is today.

They are also a symbol of pride, companionship and patriotism. Sometimes, something has to be burnt to the ground, in order for something better to come out of the ashes.



Photo by Docker Haub

Whether it’s on campus at Jesse Dunn, or downtown at the post office, these WPA projects helped to paint the picture for what Alva is today.

NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Official Newspaper
Northwestern Oklahoma State University
 Published weekly throughout the school year except during examination periods and holidays and distributed to students and staff.

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 The News is printed by the Alva Review-Courier

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All letters represent the views of the author.

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Editorial

We're almost done

By **PATRICIA PIXLER**
Student Writer

We're almost done. December is an odd time; so many obligations come up at once, whether they are for family, jobs or projects. Oh, the projects. This December has been particularly interesting as it's my last December as an undergraduate. I've been thinking of what that means a lot recently. I'm still not sure exactly what it means. It means I will have graduated next semester. It means some of my friends are graduating this semester. I've finished my last August, September, October and November as an undergrad. I've celebrated my last Thanksgiving as an undergrad. It means I am almost (almost!) done with a particularly long and stressful semester. It means I'm almost done. Being almost finished with my undergrad is bittersweet. I'm excited for the end to be near and for the future possibilities, but I worry about what is

next after graduation. I'm sure we all worry about what is next. Is it a career? Is it graduate school? Is it slumping back to parents, unsure of what to do next? Is it staying in Alva? Is it moving out to a city? Is it getting married? Is it having children? The thing about "what is next" is that it can be any of those. Perhaps it is even all of them. We don't know what path we will follow. There will be graduates who have their entire lives mapped out, color-coded along the way. There will be those stumbling through actions and decisions. There will be those somewhere in the middle, having a vague idea or goal in mind, but winging it along the way. There will be those who are happy to wing it, and those who will be stressed by it. There will be those who are happy to color-code and plan, and those who simply can't do so. And it will all be okay. That's the thing I've been struggling with lately: knowing it will be okay. There was a lot

of doubt I could do everything I had planned and wanted to do this semester. There's a lot of doubt that I can achieve anything after I've graduated and left. But this semester proved I can do it. It was a bit of a "If I can survive this, I can survive anything" semester. And here I am: I'm almost done. We're almost done. Maybe you're graduating. Maybe you have a semester left like I do. Maybe you're student-teaching in the spring. Maybe you're just really glad the semester is coming to a close. The point is, we're one step closer. Not a day, not a month, but an entire semester. That's exciting. It's terrifying, too, but hold onto the exciting. Be proud of yourself. You did it. No matter what this semester has looked like for you, you have nearly finished it. There are no more worries. There is a month of break to look forward to. A time to not worry about school or to do homework. No tests, no finals. We're almost done.

EDITOR'S RANT OF THE WEEK

By **ASHLEY STREHL**
Editor-in-Chief

And so, the semester ends and this will be my last column for the semester. I wanted to give you all a little bit of motivation since next week is finals week. I know I need the motivation, so I guess I will share it all with you too. I did some research on google and found this inspirational story on www.wealthyorilla.com, here it is: "As a group of frogs was traveling through the woods, two of them fell into a deep pit. When the other frogs crowded around the pit and saw how deep it was, they told the two frogs that there was no hope left for them. However, the two frogs decided to ignore what the others were saying and they proceeded to try and jump out of the pit. Despite their efforts, the group of frogs at the top of the pit were still saying that they should just give up. That they would never make it out. Eventually, one of the frogs took heed to what the others were saying and he gave up, falling down to his death. The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die. He jumped even harder and finally made it out. When he got out, the other frogs said, 'Did you not hear us?'"

The frog explained to them that he was deaf. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time."

"Moral of the story: People's words can have a big effect on other's lives. Think about what you say before it comes out of your mouth. It might just be the difference between life and death."

So, with this in mind, use words of encouragement next week, not only to yourself but to others as well.

A simple "Good luck on finals!" can really brighten someones day and motivate them to do their best on their tests! Good luck guys, and thanks for reading.

#Finals

Hannah Lawson @H_Law20 · Dec 3
 When you read the first question on your final and you know it's over. #finals



3 Retweets, 16 Likes

Brock Hime @CoachBrockHime · 15h
 @NWSU students, as finals approach, I wish you well. May the force be with you. Study hard but study smart. Watch Netflix/Hulu for 45minutes for every 15minutes of studying done. #RRR #studytips #finals #exams

5 Retweets, 11 Likes

Finals survival kit:

- The two pencils that are thrown in the bottom of your bookbag.
- All your crumbled notes from the semester.
- Tissues to wipe away your tears.
- The calculator you forgot to charge. So you are just praying it does not die during your final.
- All the artificial energy that your body can stand.

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Feature & Entertainment

Favorite Christmas movies

By TAYLOR ALEXANDER
Student Reporter



Jessica Reeve
sophomore

Both of the “Miracle on 34th Street” movies and anything Hallmark.



Chris Chauncey
freshman

“Nightmare Before Christmas”



Jake Lee
freshman

“Christmas with the Cranks”



Sara Wilson
sophomore

“How the Grinch Stole Christmas”



Katrina Betz
senior

“The Grinch” (2018)



Review



‘A Star is Born’ is an emotional and tear jerking movie

By MEGAN BROWN
Student Reporter

!Spoiler Alert!

“A Star is Born,” directed by Bradley Cooper, was the fourth rendition of this classic film. It is an attention-grabbing and tear-jerking movie from start to end.

Cooper and Lady Gaga delivered a strong emotional performance throughout the film. The storyline provides a high degree of complexity that keeps the viewers attention.

This movie touched on important world issues and displays them in an accurate manner.

The film is based on the original movie released in 1937 that starred Janet Gaynor and Fredric March.

It begins with a well known musician Jackson Maine, played by Bradley Cooper, about to go on stage for a performance. The first few minutes already gives insight into the struggling artists world.

Meanwhile, Ally, played by Lady Gaga, is working in a job she hates while writing songs and performing on the side. She is constantly receiving criticism from her boss.

After Maine’s big show, he is shown being dropped off in a bar. The viewer soon finds out that it is a drag queen bar. Maine is having some drinks when Ally begins to sing. This was the beginning of their journey.

They spend the evening together and Maine becomes determined to keep her in his life and make her a star. Ally is quick to put up a wall and declines Maine’s offer to attend his show.

Soon Ally realized it was a mistake and makes her way to his

performance where Maine invites her to sing on stage. This started a viral trend, her.

Throughout the film it becomes obvious that Maine has an alcohol and drug problem, this troubles Ally.

Ally begins to tour with Maine and begins to become a star herself. She soon has an agent and a career of her own. This results in a change in appearance for her and even a slight change in character.

After some ups and downs, Maine proposes to Ally with a homemade wedding band and they are married within the day.

Over the next few months, Ally’s career continues to soar and Maine continues to struggle with substance abuse.

Ally is nominated for Grammy Awards and is excited for the awards show. It becomes clear that Maine is intoxicated during his short performance on stage and barely manages to make it to his seat.

Maine manages to humiliate himself and his wife on the most important night of her life. This create issues between Ally, her family and Maine.

Maine finds his way into a rehab program in hopes of salvaging his marriage. Ally sticks by his side through these struggles.

Ally’s last performance is scheduled and Maine had promised to be there and to stay sober.

The camera cuts to Ally waiting for her husband to show up but he never does. She sends someone to him and the findings are devastating.

The ending of the film is emotional and personal. Gaga brings the role of grief to life with every lyric.

Favorite Christmas traditions

By TAYLOR ALEXANDER
Student Reporter

Dr. Kathryn Lane English professor: **Dineo Heilman** Graduate Adjunct:

Ever since I was a kid, my mom has made a pan of fudge. She only ever makes it at Christmas. She had this bowl we called the fudge bowl. So, me, my sister, and my niece and nephew all get together and make it. Cooking it and being all together in the kitchen is probably my favorite.

When we were kids my dad would put shaving cream on each one of the branches [of the real tree] before we’d wake up. Then the heat of the house would make the shaving cream expand, so the Christmas tree when we’d wake up would be dripping with white, so it looked like it had snowed.

Abbie Haskins
Student Support Services:

Every year my uncle buys all of the nieces and nephews pajamas from Eskimo Joe’s to wear on Christmas. I’m 24 and I look forward to them every year.

Taylor Wilson
Counselor:

I used to watch “It’s a Wonderful Life” every Christmas, but I don’t have one right now. I’m going to make one for this year.

Mickey Jordan
Graduate Assistant:

My favorite tradition is Thanksmas, which is not really Christmas but not really Thanksgiving either. It’s a vintage party, all about the ‘50s and the ‘60s. It’s good clean fun, and that’s what I love about it.

Sports

Men's basketball opens conference play with No. 5 SNU

By **LOGAN JONES**
Assist. Sports Editor

The Ranger Men's Basketball team played three marquee matchups this past week against fifth ranked Southern Nazarene, Oklahoma Baptist and Newman University.

Overall, the men went 1-2 over the course of the three games.

NWOSU opened up GAC play against the SNU Crimson Storm, falling 80-67.

The men got off to a slow start as they trailed by 12 points only eight minutes into the game.

However, midway through the first half, the Rangers found their stride, going on a 15-0 run, giving them a 27-23 lead with five minutes remaining.

The Crimson Storm would retake the lead 3 minutes later, but the Rangers would go into halftime trailing only by four.

Despite their efforts in the first half, Northwestern just couldn't keep up in the second.

Southern Nazarene would lead by as much as 16, and ultimately won the contest, 80-67.

The Rangers' top scorers on the day were junior A.J. Jones with 14 points, redshirt-senior, Joseph Moorner with 13 and Bryce Cashman who scored 12.



Photo by Ashley Watts.

The Rangers return to conference competition on Dec. 8 against Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

The red and black returned to Percefull Fieldhouse on Saturday to take on the Oklahoma Baptist Bison, looking to even the score.

After a rather slow first half and trailing by the score of 29-25, the Rangers fought their way back into the game.

Northwestern erased an 11-point Bison lead before Moorner made not only the play of the game, but the play of the Rangers young season.

The redshirt-senior drained a

three-point buzzer-beater giving NWOSU the lead and the win at 78-77.

"I knew JJ (Moorner) might have a little bit of magic in him today" said head coach Shawn Dirden after the win. "I got a text from his father earlier this morning and he told me that JJ's sister who he hadn't seen in a long time was coming to watch him play. I think that gave him an extra push tonight."

Moorner finished the night with

23 points, four assists and four rebounds.

Other standouts include Treyvon Andres who scored 15 points with six rebounds, and Bryce Cashman who was a perfect 5-5 from the floor with 14 points.

The Rangers' returned to the home court again on Tuesday to face opponent Newman University.

The Ranger men came out on the losing end of a close 67-62 final score.

The Rangers and Newman battled it out during the first half.

The Rangers were trailing just behind Newman for the majority of the first half.

The Rangers trailed by as many as 10 during the first half.

Despite the 12 turnovers Newman totaled in the first half, they lead with the lead at halftime, 39-36.

Northwestern dominated Newman in most of the stat areas in steals, assists and blocks.

The red and black also outscored Newman in points off turnovers and points in the paint.

The second half saw scoring close like the first half.

The Rangers and Newman traded off leads and were only separated by two or three points.

In the end, though, the Rangers couldn't quite take hold of the lead and ultimately fell 67-62.

Three Rangers found themselves with 12 points at the end of the game: Josh Peck, Treyvon Andres and Bryshon Bryant.

Peck lead with 8 rebounds while Bryant and Andres had 6 and 5 respectively.

The Ranger men look to redeem themselves as they next travel to Durant, Oklahoma to face opponent Southeastern Oklahoma State University on Nov. 8.

Tipoff is set for 3 p.m.

Salas works through final season

By **MEGAN MAHARRY**
Sports Editor

Audrey Salas is a senior health and sports science major with a minor in sports psychology. With finals approaching, Salas is preparing for her final spring semester in Alva and at NWOSU.

Salas was born in Pomona, California and raised in Moreno Valley, California. She began playing soccer at age four and her talent led her to play this season as a Lady Ranger here at NWOSU.

Growing up, Salas played club and high school soccer. During her club career, she played on an all boys' team, but didn't fail to hold her own.

Salas first began her collegiate career at San Bernardino Community College. She played for two years before transferring to NWOSU.

While at San Bernardino, Salas and her team competed in high level competition in the quarter-finals in 2016. Salas said she and her team played the No. 7 ranked team in the nation, and that team went on to win the national title that year.

Salas said playing at that high level was intense and she really enjoyed it.

Once her time was up, Salas took on a new level of competition as she committed to play here at NWOSU.

Leaving sunny California for dusty Oklahoma was an adjustment, Salas said. She said it was



Photo Provided.

Senior Audrey Salas will graduate in May.

lonely and a culture shock.

"It was different, but the girls made it worthwhile," Salas said.

Salas has been a part of the NWOSU soccer team for two years and despite having to redshirt last year, she was a critical player for the Lady Rangers this season.

Salas played the majority of her games in the midfield position. Her tactical skills and ball handling abilities earned her Second-Team All Great American Conference Honors.

Reflecting back on her final season, Salas said she wished she could have done more; however, she doesn't regret anything.

"I wasn't fully capable of reaching what I wanted to reach,"

Salas said.

Her advice for next year's team is to work on communication and not bring drama onto the field. She said they need to have more energy on the field and more passion for the sport.

Upon graduation in May, Salas said she plans to return home to California and attend UC San Diego or San Diego State to obtain a Master's in occupational therapy.

She said she would eventually like to work with animals or little kids.

Salas said she has enjoyed her time at NWOSU.

"I love all the random things we do," Salas said. "When we play ultimate frisbee or indoor in the armory. Random activities."

Smith, Driskill earn All-Region Honors



Photo Provided.

Redshirt junior Dakota Driskill, linebacker



Photo Provided.

Senior Horatio Smith, wide receiver.

Sports

Women's basketball jumps into conference competition

By ERIC SCOTT
Athletic Communications

For the second time in as many seasons, the Northwestern Oklahoma State University women's basketball was victorious in their conference opener as a defensive effort by the Lady Rangers was key in a 63-54 win over the Southern Nazarene Crimson Storm.

Northwestern improved its record to 3-4 overall and 1-0 in Great American Conference play with the victory, while the Crimson Storm remain winless at 0-5 and 0-1. The Lady Rangers are back in action Saturday afternoon when Oklahoma Baptist visits Percefull Fieldhouse. Tipoff is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Southern Nazarene's 54 points was the fewest the Crimson Storm has scored in a game this season, including a loss to former No. 1, Central Missouri.

Of the Crimson Storm's 24 turnovers on the night, 19 were steals by the Lady Rangers. Kalea King, Jakeria Otey and Deja Beechum each had four steals, Bailey Brown and McKenzie Billy had two and Kyleigh Leverich picked up one take-away.

On the offensive end of the floor, King and Brown continued to roll with 23 and 22 points, respectively. The pair are averaging 22 points each over the past three games.

Southern Nazarene held on to a 38-27 lead at the break, but the Lady Rangers dominated the third quarter as they outscored the Crimson Storm 22-6. King kicked off the quarter with a three-pointer to set the tone in the stanza and Brown was outstanding in the paint with four layups.

Brown had seven rebounds behind a team high nine boards from Billy, a new career high for the senior.

Northwestern finished the game with 16 fast break points and had an outstanding 21 points off turnovers.

It was a steal that led to a transition basket at the 1:22 mark of the third quarter to put the Lady Rangers on the high side of the score for the first time since the opening minute of the game. Beechum was able to pick the pocket of Kennedy Gillette to set up a Brown layup to put the home team up 43-42.

The Lady Rangers continued to control the game as the two teams went into the final ten minutes of play, stretching the lead to 15 with just under three minutes to go



Photo by Ashley Watts.

The Lady Rangers next face Southeastern Oklahoma State University on the road on Nov. 8.

when Jade Jones found Brown on the fast break for an easy two.

With under seven minute to go, the Crimson Storm looked as if they would make a late push. However, Billy hit a three from left wing to stifle any hopes by SNU. Jones picked up one of her five assists in the game on the basket.

Billy finished with six points, as did Presley Payahsape. Jones added three points, Beechum had two and Otey finished with one point. Abby Niehues was the lone double-figure scorer for Southern Nazarene with 17 points and pulled down 10 rebounds. She also added six blocks and two steals to her line. A late run by the Northwestern Oklahoma University women's basketball team wasn't enough Saturday afternoon as the Lady Rangers fell at home to Oklahoma Baptist, 92-83.

Northwestern (3-5, 1-1 GAC) found themselves down by 12 with just over three minutes to go, only to cut the OBU (4-3, 1-1 GAC) to five with a little less than a minute remaining in the game.

The late push by the Lady Rangers was started by a pair of jumpers in the lane from Deja Beechum and a put-back layup off the fingertips of Bailey Brown. In the final minute, Jakeria Otey pulled up from behind the three-point line in transition to make it a two possession game at 88-83.

However, the Lady Bison hit their free throws late to solidify the victory.

Northwestern has an opportunity to close its three game home stand on a high note Tuesday evening as they host Newman (Kan.) at 5:30 p.m. inside Percefull Fieldhouse. Otey led the Lady Rangers in the scoring column with 21 points. Kalea King notched another solid performance with 17 points, including 6-for-10 from the floor and perfect in her two three-point attempts, and Brown turned in her fourth double-digit performance in as many games.

Not only did Otey lead the black-and-red in scoring, but she had a team high five steals and finished with six rebounds, the same total as Brown.

Jade Jones dished out six assists to go with her nine points, Beechum and Bailey Forell had five points each and Sami Williams was 2-for-2 from the floor for four points. Presley Payahsape and McKenzie Billy rounded out the scoring with three points.

Shooting percentages were nearly identical between the two teams as Northwestern hit 53.4-percent to OBU's 53-percent from the field and both teams shot 33-percent from long range. It was the rebounding battle that was won by the visitors on Saturday with 38 boards, including 15 on the offensive end, to the Lady Rangers' 29 rebounds. The Lady Rangers opened up the game with a 17-2 advantage in the first five minutes of the ballgame. Unfortunately, the Lady Bison stampeded back in a big way to close the first quarter as they outscored NWOSU 25-9 to

hold on to a one-point lead heading into the second.

OBU's lead was eventually stretched for 13 with 3:54 to go in the second quarter before King answered a Mia Cherry three with one on the Lady Ranger end of the floor. That started a 9-0 run to close the first half and make it four-point ballgame at halftime down 44-40.

The 40 points NWOSU scored in the first was its highest first half total of the season. Northwestern came out in the first minute of the third quarter rolling with six straight points from Otey, one of which was an answered to a Lady Bison basket.

OBU seemed to have all of the momentum heading into the final stanza when Forell drained a three from the left corner to cut the game to 70-60 after three. The two teams battled through much of the fourth quarter before the Lady Rangers began to make their late move with three to go.

The Lady Rangers were home for yet another game against Newman University. They took the win 68-52.

The Lady Rangers were dominant, leading for the majority of the game.

Sophomore Bailey Brown had an outstanding game with 25 total points. She was 16-18 at the free throw line.

Kalea King also racked up points on the court with 20.

The Lady Rangers next face Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Oklahoma on Nov. 8.

2019 softball schedule set

By ERIC SCOTT
Athletic Communications

With fall workouts completed, the Northwestern Oklahoma State University softball gears up for the upcoming season as the Lady Rangers have released their 2019 slate.

Head softball coach Jill Webb-Devries and Northwestern softball will jump start the season February 15-17 when they take part in the Edmond Regional Festival II, hosted by Oklahoma Christian. Game times and opponents at the opening tournament are still to be determined.

It will be a new look Northwestern softball team when the Lady Rangers host their first game of the season at home against Cameron on February 19.

The 2019 team consists of 18 newcomers, including one transfer, one sophomore, two returning juniors and seven seniors.

"We are looking forward to the schedule that's been assembled for the Spring," said Coach Devries. "We feel like the tournament to open the season and games against Cameron is a great opportunity for our young players to get acclimated to the college game before the rigors of the GAC schedule begins the next week."

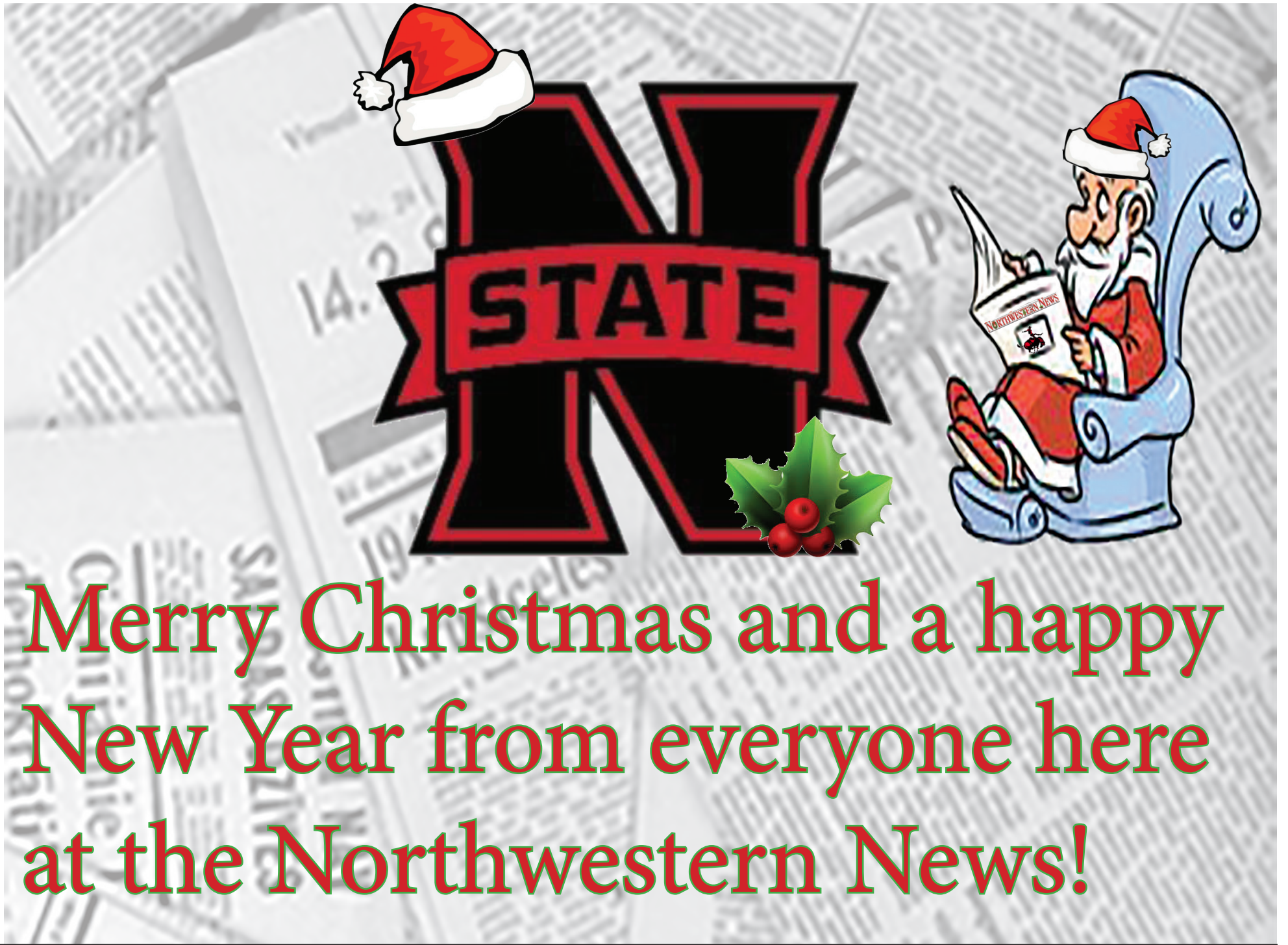
The Great American Conference schedule gets going in week two when the Lady Rangers travel to Shawnee, Oklahoma to face Oklahoma Baptist for the first four-game set of the season, followed by a road trip to take on defending GAC champions and national semifinalist Southern Arkansas to start the month of March.

After four home games against Arkansas-Monticello and a road showdown at Henderson State, Northwestern heads to Cameron for two games on March 18 and Midwestern State for a doubleheader the next day for the remaining two non-conference matchups.

The first doubleheader against rival Southwestern Oklahoma State is set for March 26 at home, with a return trip to Weatherford, Oklahoma two weeks later on April 9.

The final three weekend series for the Lady Rangers will be against East Central (April 12-13) at home, Southeastern Oklahoma State (April 19-20) on the road and Southern Nazarene (April 26-27) comes to Alva to close the season.

After falling just short of the eighth spot in the GAC Tournament last season, the Lady Rangers are poised for their first ever trip to the league championship tournament in Bentonville, Arkansas.



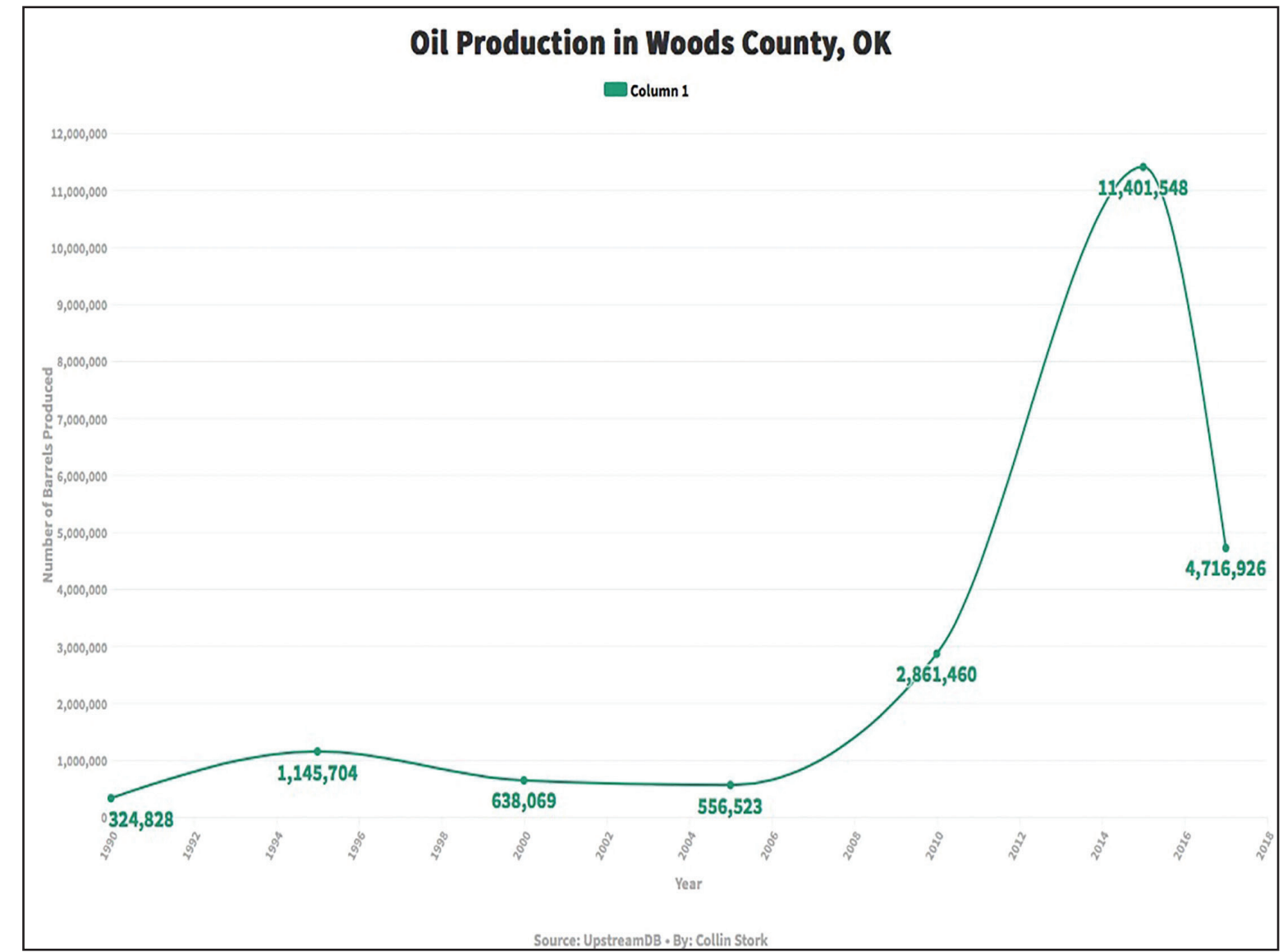
Merry Christmas and a happy
New Year from everyone here
at the Northwestern News!



The growth and decline of the Alva oilfield

Horizontal drilling and fracking in Eastern Woods County.

Photo by Collin Stork



Source: UpstreamDB - By: Collin Stork

By: COLLIN STORK
Student Reporter

Alva: 125 years Part 4 of 4

The oil field is a movement filled industry that requires its workers to follow the flow, this causes towns to fluctuate in size and income. These towns that are surrounded by this flow have continually grown and shrunk since the first well was dug. One of these towns is Alva, Oklahoma, a small community in northwest Oklahoma and also the location of Northwestern Oklahoma State University. Alva has a rich history in the field and has the felt both the boom and the bust of this fast paced environment.

In the early 1920s, crude oil was found in Woods County around the Alva area, the population when these wells were drilled was around 4,000 residents. Once the first boom hit, the population shot up, the population grew by more than 1,000 people in 10 years because of the new discovery. This amounts to a 30 percent increase and Alva was the center of attention for the western part of the state. These wells were known as wildcat wells because there was no research done to prove the existence of oil below the surface, therefore companies would pick a spot and begin to drill. Once they hit a certain type of formation, they would either stop because they missed the petroleum reservoir and had to start a new well, or continue into the reservoir and strike oil. These wells started out few and far between, but once a few of the wells struck, more research was piled into the geology of the area and they could pinpoint the locations to drill.

In the 1940s, natural gas

was discovered in the same area as oil and another boom struck. Natural gas was being used to heat homes, fuel ovens and stoves and generating electricity. Population again saw about a 30 percent increase, this time shooting over 6,000 residents in the early 1950s. Natural gas is a byproduct of crude oil production because in a petroleum reservoir, the space not occupied by oil is occupied not by oxygen, but gas. Companies began drilling for natural gas as a precursor to oil to have solid evidence of a reservoir below the surface. They came to realize however, that natural gas doesn't always mean oil, therefore natural gas became a separate entity in the search for fuels.

Penn Square Bank played a large part in the purchasing of leases throughout the early history of drilling in Oklahoma. In the 1960s, Penn Square, which was a small shopping center bank in Oklahoma City, figured out a system of originating lots of loans for leases and selling them to upstream banks who were looking for loans in the oil patch. This would come back to bite Penn Square because they were handing out more money in the form of loans than what the owners of the properties paid for the oil and gas leases.

Jumping ahead to the 1970s, another boom hit when companies began to develop the art

of fracking oil wells. Fracking was a more efficient way to drill wells where a well is injected with liquid at a high pressure to force open existing fissures and draw oil or gas out at a higher rate. This culminated with the failing of Penn Square Bank and other bigger banks, making it easier for companies to extract oil faster with less employees and therefore, operate on less money. When this happened in the late 70s, the oilfield was set back because of the bank's failure to continue to write loans for oil and gas leases. To avoid this with a population decline as workers were forced to move off to other areas to find work.

These stripper wells that were fracked early on however, are still producing oil because of the low volume they extract. They are still being bought and sold as the leases are up, but the companies that drilled them have been making sure they keep this production up, even though none of them produce more than five barrels of oil per day.

Salt water disposal was developed in the 1990s and companies began to profit off of this at a high rate. Oil wells in northwest Oklahoma have large quantities of salt water when they are fracked and therefore, a need was created to dispose of the volume of waste water. Deep zones that have been depleted of oil take water on a vacuum because of the impending implosion from the lost structure that crude oil provides. This called for extra workers to flow into the area to help in this disposal process thanks to Spatial Energy which was started by John Spatial from Stillwater, Oklahoma. This company, along with many others, is still in

business today and new salt water disposal areas are created frequently once oil has been pumped from a reservoir.

Other liquids were also brought produced by natural gas wells about the same time, these include propane, ethylene, ethane and butane. All of these liquids that are found alongside natural gas are worth as much, if not more than natural gas itself. Propane and butane are used much the same as natural gas was back in the 40s and 50s, for cooking and heating.

Ethane is used as a stocker to produce more ethylene, which is widely used to create polyethylene plastic, but is also used in agriculture to force the ripening of fruits and crops. When these liquids were found alongside natural gas, lease prices skyrocketed and the pumping of natural gas was brought back to life.

In the early 2000s, the oilfield picked back up to match the gas field, horizontal wells were developed and workers were flowing in to help in the new process. These wells were no more than 500 feet deep and fracking was perfected with this new type of well. Down-hole MWD (monitor while drilling) bits were also developed around this time and a new technology took over.

These new bits were controlled by telemetry and computers processed this information in real time so the drillers could control where they drilled and took the guesswork out of well locations. Chesapeake Energy came onto the scene and began to buy up wells around this area and leased these wells. One of the founders of Chesapeake then left the company to start his own,

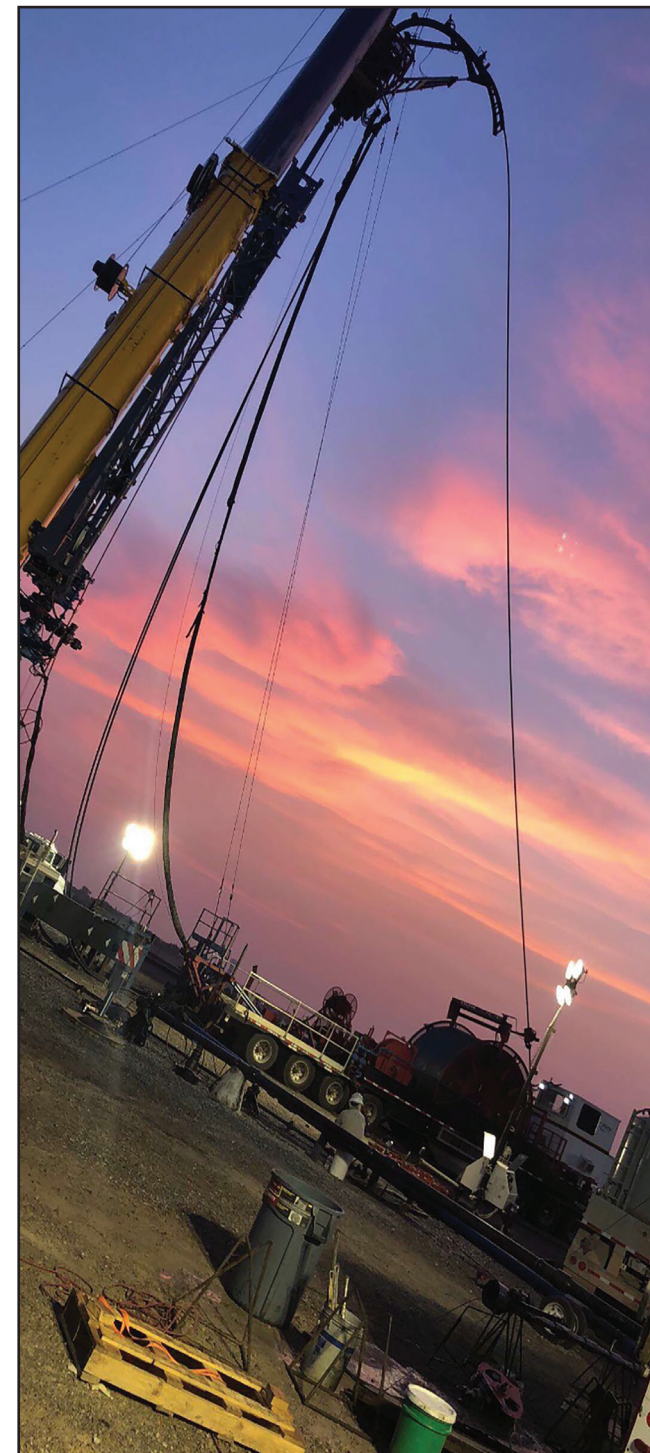
Sandridge was formed and began competing with Chesapeake for acreage and the number of wells in the area. This created the big boom in this area when the population shot up again and Alva was riding the wave. Big money came into the area as the two companies battled for control of the region and new wells were drilled to deeper zones. Area native Bill Buckles described this time as the 'Golden Era' for Alva.

"That's when the hotels were built, the population exploded, people didn't have a place to stay," he said "people in rural areas had mortgages on their farms and ranches for three generations and they were able to sell minerals and leases and pay them off... It changed everybody's life."

These golden years were short and sweet, only lasting about three or four years. The price of oil and gas dropped drastically in 2007, Sandridge declared bankruptcy in 2014 because of the low prices. Chesapeake has been on the edge since the drop of prices and almost all leasing has stopped. A new private company called BCE Mach was started by Sandridge's founder after he was fired and has been slowly buying leases in the area to hopefully get the oil fever started again.

Better markets overseas are demanding natural gas and the liquids that come with it and this area is a historical hotspot for these resources.

Predictions show another boom for natural gas in 2020, so the Alva area may be in for another wave of workers bringing hope to what was once a thriving oil and gas community.



Wire line operators surround the downhole rig to supply MWD bits and other accessories



Fracking water lines and pumps in a high danger zone.



Stripper well site in Southern Woods County.

