

## Earth Day almost 50 years old



By **BAILEY RANKIN**  
*Student Reporter*

According to [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org), since the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, and the development of the Earth Day Network, supporters work year round to solve climate change, to end plastic pollution, to protect endangered species, and to broaden, educate, and activate the environmental movement across the globe.

Earth Day is now a global event each year with more than 1 billion people in 192 countries that take part in what is the largest civic-focused day of action in the world. It is a day of political action and civic participation. People march, sign petitions, meet with their elected officials, plant trees and clean up their towns and roads.

One easy way to contribute to Earth Day, or any other day of the year, is to recycle. However, living in small towns such as Alva could pose a problem considering there is no recycling center

in town or this county. The closest recycling center is in Kiowa, Kan., which is 26 miles from Alva, and even further for surrounding towns.

If one is willing to make the trip to Kiowa, they do accept materials such as: #1 Plastics – any color, #2 Plastics – no color, telephone directories, chipboard – cereal boxes, soda/alcohol cartons, frozen food boxes, etc., magazine/slicks – coupons/newspaper inserts, etc., cardboard – corrugated, newspapers – remove all slick paper inserts, office pack paper – no sticky labels or cellophane, white paper – no color, shredded paper, aluminum cans, tin cans, clear glass, green glass and brown glass.

Their hours consist of the first Thursday of the month from 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. One could also visit on the third Saturday of the month 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and every Tuesday from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Although recycling or picking up trash is what is commonly thought of when Earth Day is mentioned, they are not the only

options for participation. [www.conserve-energy-future.com](http://www.conserve-energy-future.com) gave a few ideas on how to celebrate Earth Day such as riding your bike or walking shorter destinations instead of driving cars, if you do have to use a vehicle, car-pool with friends. Making sure to turn off water while it is not in use and turning off lights as you leave a room are great ways to conserve energy.

That could mean tightening pipes to avoid leaks or turning off the air conditioner or heater when nobody is at home. As simple as it may seem, planting a tree or taking care of plant life around town could benefit the earth. In turn, taking care of nature creates a safe place for wildlife to rest that can help immensely as well.

Contact representatives or senators about a concern you may have over the environment. Stop drinking bottled water and buy a reusable bottle.

Finally, educate friends, family and anybody that will listen about your own personal cause and how to benefit the earth.

## Guthrie Scottish Rite Scholarship awarded

### Scholarship presented to education majors encourages future teachers

By **DOCKER HAUB**  
*Student Reporter*

Three Northwestern Oklahoma State University seniors were awarded the Guthrie Scottish Rite Scholarship on April 4.

The scholarship, given by the Guthrie Scottish Rite Charitable and Educational Foundation, is presented to education majors who are teacher candidates trying to complete their professional semester.

This semester the award was presented to Haleigh Brown of Yukon, who's majoring in elementary education, Caitlin Evans of Enid, who's majoring in English education and Karlton Riffel of Tampa, Kansas, who's majoring in agriculture education. The Guthrie Scottish Rite Charitable and Educational Foundation works primarily with children with language and/or

reading disorders. Recipients are chosen by members of the Teacher Education faculty who have reviewed all applications and voted for the candidate they felt was the best choice. For Caitlin Evans, being awarded this scholarship was monumental to her final semester. "It means the world to me because in the last five years I've faced what I thought were insurmountable odds," Evans said. "When I was 17, I had twin girls 10 weeks early during my senior year of high school, six months later I married my husband, who is a police officer in Enid. In 2017, we welcomed a baby boy. So, not only did I have three kids in three years, but I also went to school full time on a police officer's salary.

Scholarships like the Guthrie Scottish Rite scholarship have allowed me and my family to succeed. I will now graduate with my family by my side and

a proud Northwestern Oklahoma State University B.A.E by my name."

The Guthrie Scottish Rite scholarship has also played a key role in the other winner's lives.

"I am so thankful that Northwestern has these kinds of scholarship opportunities to offer," said Karlton Riffel, "Being a senior education major, it's tough to find the time to go to school, get your work done and also find the time to work a solid job. This scholarship makes it much easier for me to accomplish my goals." "I was honored to be chosen as a winner for this scholarship," said Haleigh Brown. "I know there were a lot of great applicants in the education program, and I'm so honored to have been picked as a winner by my instructors.

Northwestern has been nothing but good to me, and I can't wait to graduate and go out and make a difference in other people's lives."



Photo by University Relations

Dr. James Bell (far left) and Karen Koehn (far right) recently awarded three students with the Guthrie Scottish Rite Scholarship. The recipients are (left to right) Karlton Riffel, Caitlin Evans and Haleigh Brown, all senior education students at Northwestern.

### Inside

#### NEWS

• Campus police chief suddenly resigned - KALU AM station closed

Page 2

#### SPECIAL

• Roxie James and her Chamber of Secrets - a look at the life of professor James

Pages 6 & 7

#### ENTERTAINMENT

• Shazam! he is not your average kid - Horror movie thrills audience

Page 9

#### SPORTS

• Golf competes in GAC Championship - Softball has thrilling win in series

Page 10



# News



Photo by Charles Boldes

**Campus Clean-Up 2016.** This year in hopes to get students more involved, they have changed the name to 'Campus Beautification'. All volunteers should meet at 12:45 p.m. on the west side of the Student Center to receive instructions on the projects to be completed for the day.

By **DOCKER HAUB**  
Student Reporter

Northwestern Oklahoma State University will be receiving some new renovations on Thursday, April 18. Both students and faculty alike can take some time out of their day to help clean up the campus and add some new décor on Campus Beautification Day.

Northwestern's Staff Council recently changed the name of the day from Campus Clean-Up Day to Campus Beautification Day to help entice more participation from students and employees. "Campus Beautification has a more positive connotation than Clean-Up," Janet Valencia, Staff Council member, said. "It is more than just picking up trash and raking leaves. We are providing color and interest to our campus with flowers, plants and trees."

Dr. Mindi Clark, assistant pro-

fessor of agriculture, is responsible for growing and providing all of the flowers that will be planted on campus on April 18. She shares the enjoyment of nurturing and growing the flowers with her students in her horticulture class.

"We mainly grow plants that are local to the area and plants that can withstand the summer heat," Clark said. "For Campus Beautification Day, you'll see anything from petunias, vincas, sweet-potato vines, geraniums and various other plants that will look good in our campus flower beds."

"We grow all of the flowers in the greenhouse at the university farm, and on Campus Beautification Day, my students will be responsible for the transportation of the flowers and will deliver them personally to the campus," Clark said. "It's truly a beautiful thing, anytime you take an opportunity to serve others, I believe you also receive growth within yourself.

When the students get to use their own work to be able to give back to their campus and their fellow classmates, I truly believe it makes a difference in their lives."

All volunteers should meet at 12:45 p.m. on the west side of the Student Center to receive instructions on the projects to be completed for the day. Volunteers also should dress appropriately for outdoor work. Tools, gloves and trash bags will be provided; however, volunteers may bring their own tools and gloves.

"Campus Beautification Day, hosted by the Staff Council, makes a huge difference in getting the campus ready for Spring Reunion and our commencement exercises," said Dr. Janet Cunningham, president of the university. "I think that it also allows many different groups to come together to work for a common goal.

It's a bonus if we enjoy a nice weather day."



Photo provided

receiving many rather ordinary calls "I was workin

## KALV local AM radio station closed

By **NICK PERKINS**  
Student Reporter

KALV was an AM station and was originally the only station in Alva before Blue Sky Media bought it. According to Steve Valencia, Managing Partner for Blue Sky Media, KALV Blue Sky Media is a group decided to buy KALV and then buy an FM station, which was originally KRDR 105.7 the pulse, and make them into one company. KALV was originally what the Alva high school sports were broadcasted on, while Northwestern sports were broadcasted on KRDR.

One of the reasons that KALV was shut down is that it had a smaller broadcast area compared to the FM station. Another reason they decided to shut it down is because there has been a decline in the number of people that listen to AM stations. Also, the quality of the AM broadcasts are not as clear as FM broadcasts are.

Since Blue Sky Media decided

to shut down KALV, they have changed the FM radio station to classic rock hits. The name of the station is actually 105.7 classic hits. They also started broadcasting Alva high school sports on the FM station

This will give the Alva high school sports teams and the companies that sponsor them a chance to be heard by more with them being broadcasted on classic hits. 105.7. Most of the trouble with trying to broadcast both will probably arise during basketball season, when both schools are playing on the same night.

Some of the future plans for classic hits 105.7 is to try to get some more local programming on the air. They are also talking about trying to get some Sunday morning, religious programming, on the station.

"The more local programming we get set up in our FM, I think people will enjoy," said Valencia. "I think people enjoy local things that are occurring."

# Campus police chief suddenly resigned

By **KEVIN FORD**  
Student Reporter

You pull into the Coronado parking lot and accidentally hit a vehicle backing out of a parking spot, what should you do?

You should probably call campus police (580-327-8511). Campus police is located in the Student Center. Officer Ethan Kennedy is the interim chief of police. "Our main job is to ensure the safety of both students and faculty on and off campus," Kennedy said. Campus police is currently in the process of hiring a new chief of police.

Before Kennedy took over the position, Joel Johnson was the chief of police, but left the position during Spring Break. He declined to discuss his leaving, and university spokesman Steven Valencia said administrators do not comment on

personnel matters. Johnson is continuing to work with the National Crisis Intervention and Training Institute.

Campus police officers have primary jurisdiction in Enid, Alva and Woodward. Each campus has an outpost and 24-hour office availability. They also have jurisdiction on the connecting highways between the three cities. Campus police may assist the Alva Police Department and Woods County Police.

Campus police are also required

to answer calls from the Alva Police Department if they need any extra assistance. If an incident occurs on campus, campus police have authority to make an arrest. Though



campus police do not operate with a jail and a dispatch, it is otherwise a fully functional police department.

The most common calls that campus police receives regard parking lot accidents and hit and runs.

"Usually this time of semester, everything settles down,"

Kennedy said. Finals week is close and most freshman have been on campus long enough to pick up on the flow of the university. Demetri Wilson, now a project adviser for Student Support Services used to work for campus police. He recalled receiving many rather ordinary calls.

"I was working overnight and got a call from a student who just wanted to be escorted from the Fine Arts building to her dorm," Demetri said. Campus police currently has two full-time positions; however, a third position is still vacant.

Two part-time positions are also vacant. Along with the chief of police job, campus police is also looking for student workers.

Summer positions are needed and students who are interested may apply with student services or visit with the campus police office in the Student Center.

### ALVA VISION CLINIC



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# News

## What's up?

## AAUW Scholarship gives opportunity to NWOSU women

**TODAY**

**Campus Beautification/Clean-Up-Alva Campus**

Please contact Melissa Brown, Staff Council chair, at mbrown@nwosu.edu or (580) 327-8436 by Friday, April 12, with the names of students, faculty/staff members, administrators and club or organization members who would like to participate with this service project so that the Staff Council members will know how many volunteers to expect and make job assignments.

12:45 p.m.



**Soundscapes IV Choir Concert at Alva Bus Barn**

7 p.m.

April 25



**OBI Blood Drive**

OBI two-day blood drive in the Student Center. The blood donor goal for the Northwestern Spanish club-sponsored event is 50 blood units each day. This event is open to the public.

All donors will receive free health screenings, donor reward points and their choice of inspirational t-shirts in one of three colors: coral, sky blue or gray.

10. a.m. - 4 p.m.

Apr 23-24



**Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series presents 'Riders in the Sky'**

Student with ID- \$5  
General Admission- \$20

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

April 23

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
ALVA, OKLAHOMA BRANCH (2019)**



CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The recipient of the AAUW Scholarship shall be a woman who:

1. Is enrolled in and plans to attend Northwestern Oklahoma State University the following academic semester.
2. Has completed or will have completed at least 64 credit hours (junior status or above) by December 2018.
3. Needs financial assistance in order to complete undergraduate work.
4. Has a 3.2 or better overall grade point average.
5. Has participated in student activities and shows evidence of leadership qualities.
6. Is a potential AAUW member upon graduation from college.

**CONDITIONS OF SCHOLARSHIP:**

1. The AAUW scholarship will be awarded directly to the recipient.
2. If after being selected as a scholarship recipient, the student does not enroll at NWOSU, the scholarship will be awarded to the first alternate candidate.
3. If the student does not remain a full-time student at NWOSU while the scholarship is in effect, the amount of money awarded must be returned in full to the Alva Branch of AAUW.

**IMPORTANT: APPLICATION FORM:**




1. Fill in application in detail. Forms can also be downloaded from the AAUW Alva Branch website at <http://alva-ok.aauw.net/>
2. Give all affiliation and type of activities in each, include offices held, projects supervised, etc.
3. Solicit written recommendations from two previous faculty members to be returned to the AAUW Scholarship Committee by 5pm, Tuesday, April 30, 2019. Hard copies of the application can be turned into Dr. Jennifer Oswald (Education Center 105). Digital copies can be emailed to [jdoswald@nwosu.edu](mailto:jdoswald@nwosu.edu)
4. Enclose a copy of your current transcript (can be an unofficial copy).
5. All applications will be screened by the AAUW Scholarship Committee. If deemed necessary, three to five candidates may be selected as semi-finalists to be interviewed in person by the AAUW Scholarship Committee. The committee will select one person to receive the scholarship and one alternate.

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

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Shurfine gallon white milk	\$3.00	Strawberry shortcakes	\$1.29
Shurfine canned vegetables	59¢	8 oz. frozen coolwhip	\$1.19



# Campus

## Northwestern's annual Bahama Breakaway set for April 25

SPONSORED BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

# BAHAMA BREAKAWAY

APRIL 25  
4:00-7:30 PM  
ALVA SQUARE

OBSTACLE COURSE  
FROSTY JOE'S  
SAND VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT  
Teams of 6 girls/3 boys  
NO PETS ALLOWED

GAMES & PRIZES  
FREE FOOD  
CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT  
Teams of 2



Photo provided

**Bahama Breakaway 2017.** Northwestern Oklahoma State University students will be enjoying Bahama Breakaway on Alva's downtown square Thursday, April 25, from 4-7:30 p.m. Each year Northwestern's Student Government Association (SGA) sponsors this fun event for students before they dive into finals.

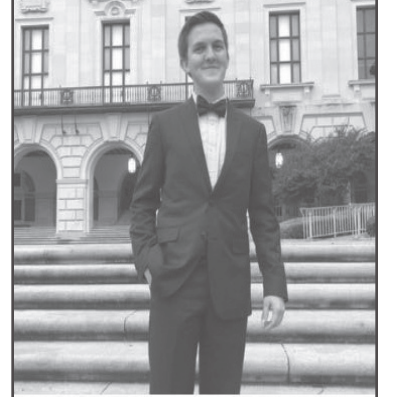
## Meet your newly elected NWOSU SGA officers

PRESIDENT: JORDAN HARRIS



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

VICE PRESIDENT: ETHAN SACKETT



Photos and graphics provided by NWOSU SGA on Facebook

## Concert series presents the 'Riders in the Sky'

By CAITLYN PRAY  
Student Reporter

Looking for a relaxing, cultural evening with a western flare attached? All interested need look no further than the "Riders in the Sky" concert series performance.

"For 38 years, Riders in the Sky have been keepers of the flame passed on by the Sons of the Pioneers, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, reviving and revitalizing western music," The Riders in the Sky press release said.

Don't let the classic country names fool you though; the band is said to still connect with modern listeners, all while still maintaining their genuine, western tune.

"While remaining true to the integrity of the genre, they have themselves become modern-day icons by branding it with their own legendary, wacky humor and way-out western wit, all along encouraging buckaroos and buckarettes to live life 'the Cowboy Way!'" The Riders in the Sky press release continued.

As one might imagine, such a group is not only welcome, but is eagerly sought after by members of the Alva community and region, according to Lawana Newell, instructor of music and organizer behind the concert series.

Newell credited Dr. Kimberly Weast, professor of theater arts,

with initially contacting and setting up for the Riders in the Sky to perform, though she also adds that such a band and concert series altogether would not be possible without sponsorship from the community, patrons and major sponsors such as the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Newell said that it is thanks to the community and such generous sponsorship that they are able to provide such enjoyed entertainment for their Alva listening community.

"They have been here before and people love them, so when she [Weast] connected with them and asked if they would be interested in coming back to perform in Alva, they were like, 'oh yeah, we would really love to come back and visit Alva again because it's a big appeal to the community,'" Newell said.

Fans of Riders in the Sky vary in the community from young fans of red dirt country to more mature folk who enjoy listening to the songs of their day. Dr. Kathy Earnest, assistant professor of English at Northwestern, is such a fan that not only enjoyed the band when they performed on the campus years ago, but was also able to acquire a signed, framed poster from the group, which she donated to the Enid Symphony Orchestra, according to Newell.



Graphic provided by University Relations

Still, this concert may be unlike any that previous guests have in mind. This concert tour that the Riders in the Sky are on isn't just a tour for them, but its an anniversary tour.

"They are celebrating a certain number of years of being together," Newell said. "I'm not quite sure how long the group has toured and been together, but their first public performance was 1977, so they probably didn't start touring until after that, so it's possibly 40 years."

Doors open to see the regional legends at 6:30 on April 23 in the Herod Hall Auditorium. Admission is \$20 for general admission or \$5 for a student, and all are encouraged by Newell and the fine arts department to attend what is known as a legendary experience for those who enjoy country western music.

Kelly Parler – Mayor  
Daniel Winters – Ward 1, Seat 1  
Connor Martin – Ward 1, Seat 2  
Christopher Eckhardt – Ward 2, Seat 1  
Brandon Sherman – Ward 2, Seat 2

Bo Hannaford – Ward 3, Seat 1  
Mary Hamilton – Ward 3, Seat 2  
Brian Wallis – Ward 4, Seat 1  
Randy Stelling – Ward 4, Seat 2  
Joe Don Dunham – City Business Manager

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The City of Alva is currently seeking to fill the following positions:

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- Airport Attendant
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**Benefits and Application Information**  
Starting salary for these positions differ and will depend on qualifications. Applications are available at 410 4th Street Suite I, Alva, OK or the City of Alva's Facebook Page and will be accepted until the positions are filled. The City of Alva is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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Letters must be turned in by noon on Monday 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. Please limit submissions to no more than 250 words. The editors reserve the right to condense or edit any letter for grammar, libel and space limitations. All letters submitted may not be used.

All letters represent the views of the author.

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# Editorial

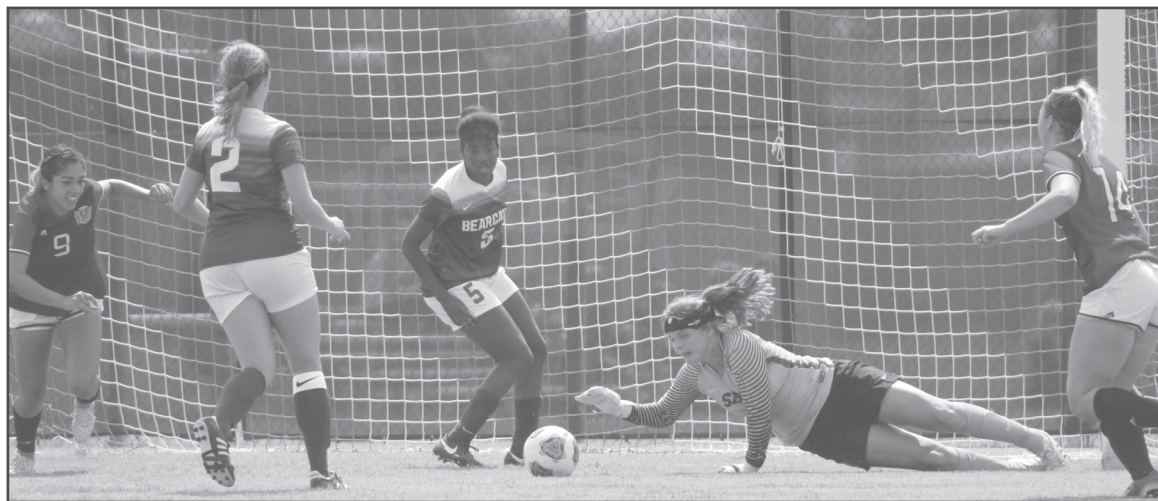


Photo by Connor Poage

## Is competition healthy?

By **MEGAN MAHARRY**  
*Sports Editor*

I can never remember not competing.

Growing up, I competed in every sport possible. I gained a lot of valuable experiences playing sports, being a part of a team and competing.

Competition is something that is important for people to experience. Competition helps people make progress. If everything in life was fair or easy, people would have no reason to be their best.

The concept of winning or achieving something motivates people to do their best work.

Introducing competition to kids is important. The idea of "everyone gets a trophy" does not always have the positive effect people may think.

There are people, especially parents when it comes to their children, who believe everyone should win a trophy just for participating. There is the issue that competition puts pressure on kids as well as the fear of failure and disappointment.

Of course we don't want to make kids who may not compete at the same level as other feel bad about themselves; however, by not recognizing those kids who are above the level of others, they receive no reward for their hard work.

Competition builds self-esteem and confidence. These are important characteristics to have throughout your life.

By competing in sports, for example, healthy competition is beneficial for athletes. Young



Megan Maharry

athletes learn the value of being a teammate and working with their fellow teammates as well as a strong work ethic.

If the score did not matter in sports and there is not a winner, the value players take away from the game lessens. When athletes know a win is at stake, it drives them to play their best and outwork the other team.

The win itself is the reward for all the work and practice the athlete has put in.

Taking away that victory and tearing it down to a participation reward has no beneficial gain for the athletes.

It often seems people are afraid of competition, as they are afraid of not being good enough or failing. Instead of looking at competition as a cut-throat idea, look at it as a way to better

yourself. Rather than worrying about winning, first worry about working your hardest and doing your best.

Then when you compete, whether you win or lose, you will learn what you need to work on to become better competition.

In an article on Leaderonomics, it said healthy competition is good for all. Dealing with wins and losses in any competitive arena is like getting an immunity shot against disease.

If we belittle the importance of competition, it does not set a good example for our youth.

In the real world, not everyone wins a prize, so why do we put such an emphasis on everyone is a winner?

Healthy competition is a crucial element in everyone's life.

### EDITOR'S (FRIENDS) RANT OF THE WEEK

By **BAILEY RANKIN**  
*Student Reporter*

Hello everybody! I am your substitute ranting-editor, Bailey Rankin.

Now let us talk about something fun today! Earworms.

No, an earworm is not fungal skin infection that you got that one time from that tattered old farm cat. An earworm is a song, or part of a song, that will not leave your head no matter how hard you may try. Sometimes it is a blessing... sometimes it is a curse.

I will be honest, I do not complain that much. If I do complain, it is usually to my mom, friends, cat and certain professors.

Besides those four or five people, you will not really hear me bad mouthing anyone or anything. That is until I get a certain melody or lyric stuck in my head.

As of right now, while I am writing this, that stupid Old Town Road/Take My Horse to the Hotel Room song is stuck in my head! At first, it was pretty funny. I would hum along to it and my brother would chuckle.

Then I learned some of the lyrics and would sing them around my friends who would then laugh and we would go about our day. But lately this meme is out of control. I hear the instrumental faintly as I walk along deserted hallways. I suddenly wake up in a cold sweat, in the middle of the night, with the words "I GOT THE HORSES IN THE BACK" echoing against the walls of my skull.

It's torture and I am about ready to give up.

Our generation is so powerful. We create new memes on the daily, but before we continue doing this, I want us all too collectively think about what we are sharing and making meme-able.

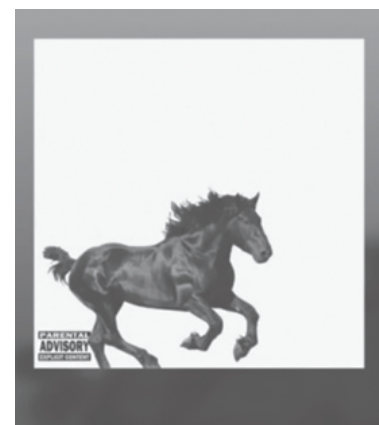
Just remember that you have a civic duty, or something like that, to ensure that Bailey is not annoyed by memes anymore.

Like someone's uncle once said, "With great power comes great responsibility." RIP Uncle Ben...

**Interested in writing?  
 Share your opinions!**

**Contact Michelle Willson**

**mdwillson99@rangers.nwosu.edu**





# Professor Roxie James and her 'Chamber of Secrets'

By KEVIN FORD  
Student Reporter

Here is something few people know; Roxie James loves the old school Power Rangers.

"The best Christmas present I ever got was the Power Rangers soundtrack," James said. James teaches English and writing for the English department here at Northwestern.

Who is Roxie James? Some may have seen her and Dawn Allen walk together on campus, but few know that the two actually have a routine together. They



walk two laps around campus between two and three times a week.

"We created a good routine out of it, considering how slow we were the first time we actually walked around the entire school campus," Allen said. So who really is Roxie James? Just an English professor, as one of her fellow English professors might say. However, she is probably the most popular comp teacher on campus, Dr. Kathryn Lane said. James is a great professor, and one who has a unique way of connecting with her students, she said.

James said her journey to Northwestern was very interesting. James had a five-day window from the time she was hired until the time she had to be in Alva, ready orientation. The English department was in need of a replacement, and James was contacted by phone and interviewed.

She mentioned that she had heard about the university before, but had no clue where it was located. After the hiring, she was told she had to depart Louisiana to come into Oklahoma and start teaching. The following day she booked her flight from New Orleans to Wichita. She had little time to pack and prepare her belongings, but she got it done in time for her flight.

Fast forward to her departure. She landed in Wichita late on the fourth day, the day be-

fore she had to be ready for her orientation. To her inconvenience, the airline had left her luggage in Houston, where she had a layover before continuing to her final destination.

"I was in the middle of nowhere without any clothes and toothpaste," James said. The instance was funny when she looked back at it, but at the time it was incredibly stressful, James continued.

However, one thing that is not stressful for James is that she's always guaranteed to have chocolate on her desk, Kathy Earnest said. Earnest works alongside James in the English department. "She values and cherishes her book collection, in particular her Harry Potter series," Earnest said. James said she loves the fantasy and young adult genres. James said where rules do not apply, the settings are limitless and there are no boundaries for



what is physically possible. She acknowledged the amount of freedom writers have in fantasy novels and science fiction type themes. "It was really the gothic genre that got me engaged into fantasy," James said. Edgar Allan Poe was a big impact on modern horror, she said. She enjoys reading his work, in particular "The Raven".

When it comes to non-fiction, James said it is a bit boring sometimes for her taste. "I like to escape our world for a more imaginary, free world," she said. This is one of the biggest reasons she prefers supernatural themes. "My life is full of weird stories," James continued, beginning when she was born. She was almost named Melissa as a baby. "Roxie" is a family name," she said. Her grandmother was named Roxie and her mother as well. "I also have an aunt named



Photo provided by Greg Minor

Roxie James

Roxanne, and a cousin named Roxie," James said.

Her mother wanted to name her Melissa. So how did she become Roxie? "First, my father followed the nurse when they took me to get weighed," she explained. When the nurses were looking for him to go with my mom to recovery, they realized he was with me. The nurse comes back to my mom and says Roxie and your husband are on their way, and my mom replied: 'Who is Roxie?' My mom told me how my father beat her to my birth certificate. In hindsight it makes me cringe, I do not see myself as a 'Melissa' at all," James said.

Another thing that makes her cringe is losing her book collection,

in particular her Harry Potter series. "I love my books," James said.

One of the other English professors knew James was fearless, but was surprised to learn a couple of things. James is terrified of snakes and airport security is a sneaky deal she has no trust in either. One thing that influenced James when she was younger came at a karate lesson. "My brother took karate classes when I was around 14 years old," she said. "I used to go with him just to keep an eye on him."

One day when she was sitting down watching her brother's karate practice, she got some company herself. An old woman sat next to her with the intention to have a conversation or so it seemed.

She was talking to her in a nonchalant way; however, she managed to never break eye contact.

"Every time I would act shy or look away or do some weird gesture, she would tell me directly; 'Don't brake eye contact,'" James said. She realized how strong her command for her attention was because of maintaining that eye contact. The woman was not interrogating her, but teaching her, that strong eye contact gave her a sense of seriousness that she could personally adapt as a strategy for communication. The lesson was simple; "Eye contact is key when you are trying to convey a message to another individual," James said. "I remember that moment stuck with me like none other did, and I use this technique when I try and communicate with people."

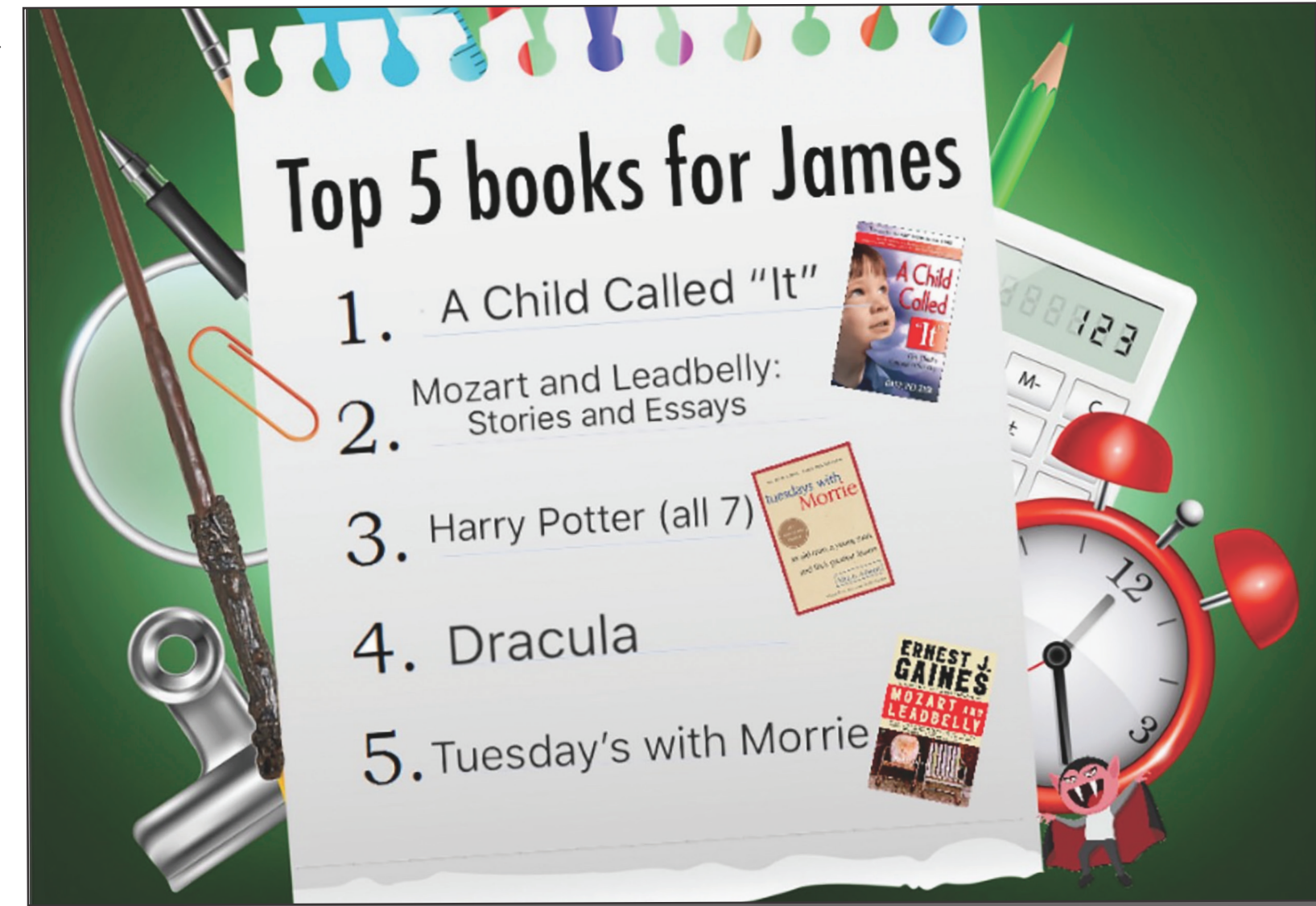
James said this lesson has taught her a lot about connection with people. "As a teacher you have to be able to personally get through to your students in a way that makes them feel like they can trust you," James said. She said it helped her get through college.

"Chemistry and math are as far from English as it gets," James said. "I would say I wanted to be an English teacher after I took calculus 2 at LSU. When I first got into college I wanted to be a pediatrician. I was taking my science and English classes for my pre-med at LSU. Of the two courses I took, English was more fun," James said. She graduated from LSU in 2006. She would later get her masters in English at Northwestern University at Louisiana. She finally got her PhD in English in 2014 at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Looking back on her life, James would give herself some words of advice.

"If I could go back 15 years and guide myself I would tell myself to save money and travel more," James said. She would say this because she wants to explore as much of the world as possible and she wishes she could have started on that as early as her first year in college. She said she wishes everyone could take time to travel and see different places.

"It is so beneficial for your mind, just like reading, to introduce yourself to a completely different atmosphere," James said.



Photos by Greg Minor

James said her journey to Northwestern was very interesting. James had a five-day window from the time she was hired until the time she had to be in Alva, ready orientation.



Looking back on her life, James would give herself some words of advice. "If I could go back 15 years and guide myself I would tell myself to save money and travel more," James said.



# Feature



## Easter and its significantants

By KEVIN FORD  
Student Reporter

The hunt is on, kids storm their gardens and houses with empty baskets, looking to fill them up with chocolate and Easter joy.

Easter is here, the weather is great and children are carrying on the many traditions of Easter. Brycen McClendon, senior health and sports science major shared some thoughts on the holy holiday.

"The significance of Easter is greater than we could ever imagine, it is the day that we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our lord and savior who died for our sins and rose three days later," McClendon said.

Easter is not as anticipated as Christmas in the eyes of the public, but within Christianity Easter is just as important as Christmas. Easter revolves around the fulfillment of god's promises and the idea of forgiveness.

Jen Oswald, Assistant professor of education said We enjoy the Easter bunny and egg hunts, kids and children get the chance to see the importance of renewal



and resetting.

"I look forward to Easter because it marks a time for reset and forgiveness," Oswald said.

There are several traditions during Easter. Egg hunts and Easter egg decorations. Easter fashion parades and Easter ham to name a few.

So, how does egg hunts and bunny costumes tie in to the traditions of Easter? "The egg symbolizes a renewal of life, it signals a time for a new start," Oswald said.

Throughout history, people go through rough stretches of trials and tribulations. Life comes at you many different ways, but

Easter is a time for people to pause and renew their mindset, setting themselves up for hope.

"The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the reason we are able to have a relationship with our heavenly father," McClendon said.

In some countries, they might push the idea of Easter too far as some people volunteer themselves as Martyrs. As Martyrs, they are crucified on a cross. The crucifixion is done to affiliate with the same pain Jesus Christ felt on the cross before his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Easter goes hand in hand with the peak of the spring season. The sunlight shines longer and brighter as Easter reminds us of the hope we have coming.

As Easter weekend approaches, remember the true reason for the season. Celebrate, celebrate the renewal of life, celebrate with your local church, celebrate with your siblings and be thankful for the things that make you happy.

Spend time with your loved ones, smile at one another, be grateful for what you have and appreciate your blessings. He is the reason for the season.

Happy Easter!

## Easter egg decorating

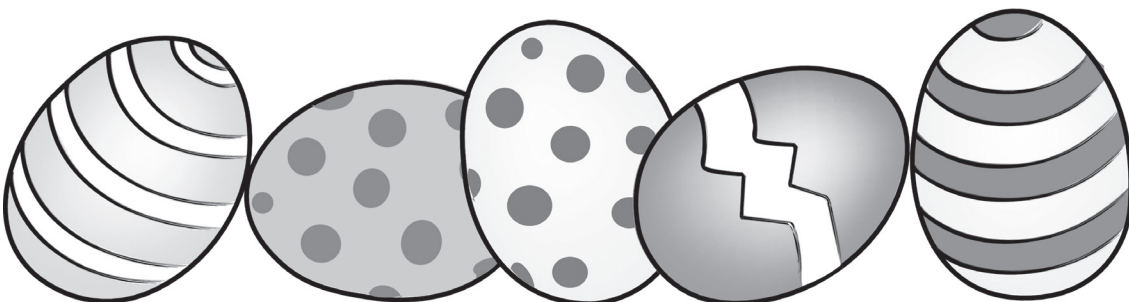
### You will need:

- 1 dozen boiled eggs
- 1 tsp sea salt
- 6 - 8 drops food colouring
- 1 cup boiling water
- ¼ cup distilled white vinegar
- 1 white crayon

Mix hot water, vinegar and food coloring in bowl. Draw designs on the eggs with crayon then let the egg sit in your liquid mixture (the longer you keep them in the darker the color will come out).

### Sound like too much work?

Buy an egg decorating kit from Walmart, and then follow the directions on the box.



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# Entertainment

## Shazam! is not your average kid

By PHILLIP HUDSON  
Student Reporter

Asher Angel plays Billy Batson, a foster child looking for his mother. The search brings him to Philadelphia where he is taken with five kids and two adults, all fosters.

There, Billy meets Freddy Freeman, played by Jack Dylan Grazer, a kid that loves superheroes. Batson later hops onto a subway when evading school bullies and a wizard brings Batson to his lair to give him powers. By saying the wizard's name, Shazam, Batson becomes an adult with super powers and must battle Mark Strong's character, Dr. Sivanna, who has released the Seven Deadly Sins to the world.

The movie is comedic. Giving a high school freshman powers like Hercules' strength and Mercury's speed leads both Batson and Freeman to get into several moments of trouble: electrocuting an ATM, knocking a bus over and buying beer. The film also has some mature themes like family. Batson is only interested in finding his mom and does not care to be a brother to the other foster kids, who are all welcoming to him.

Another theme is self value; Sivanna's arc is him proving that he is a force to be reckoned with and that he can take care of himself. Batson and Sivanna both view family differently and that pairing makes them compelling enemies.

Zachary Levi plays Billy when he is a superhero and his chemistry with the actor Grazer is



brotherly.

His chemistry with Strong is strong as well. Strong delivers a serious tone, looking like he views everybody as less than him. Levi is a big kid, and they bounce off one another in every scene they share.

One problem is that Sivanna is given the same powers as Billy, following the trend of "hero faces evil version of themselves" which makes a compelling story when speaking about character but when it is just about power sets like in "Ant-Man," "Dr. Strange" and "Batman Begins," it is not compelling. "Shazam!" does do the character version, but sadly it does the power version too

The Sins also needed some work. They are designed uniquely--Sloth being a big ball of fat with a huge mouth and Greed having four arms--but they are all gray. Their character designs could have been improved by giving them some color--Greed being gold with green markings perhaps.

Both issues are minor and do not affect the enjoyment of the film. It is PG-13, so some curse words appear and the scene with Sivanna in the boardroom with his dad would be a good time for children to go refill their drink or get some popcorn. It is a big, fun, mature film.



## Horror movie thrills audience members

By CHUY DOMINGUEZ  
Circulation Manager

"Us" follows a family confronted by a group of doppelgängers. The movie stars Lupita Nyong'o, Winston Duke, and Elisabeth Moss. Nyong'o and Duke play a couple who are taking their children (Shahadi Wright Joseph and Evan Alex) to their beach house along the Northern California coastline. Nyong'o's character is haunted by an unexplainable and unresolved trauma from her past.

In a trailer released on Christmas Day, four figures appeared at the foot of a driveway with the tagline "We are our own worst enemy."

If you've seen the trailers, you know "Us" centers on the appearance of the Wilsons' exact doubles in the family's driveway, which might lead you to expect semi-farical scenes in which the identical Not-Wilsons take their look-alikes' places or cause at least momentary (potentially deadly) confusion.

Apart from Adelaide's

double, the invaders have little in the way of personality — only pairs of scissors they aim to sink into their counterparts' throats.

Peele and his cinematographer, Mike Gioulakis, show their relish for the genre in the attacks, in how the doubles seem to rise up from the ground (you don't see how they got there) to envelop and then puncture their victims. **But I almost wrote "zombie attacks."** Although it's packed with mythically scary images, much of the movie plays like just another walking-dead splatterfest.

Peele saves the big reveals for the end, when they're effective but too late. In the ways that matter, the attackers are "them" and not "us."

This is the sort of movie that fans will re-watch to appreciate the fillips, the purposeful echoes, the bits of foreshadowing, and the performances.

Moss has little screen time, but she shows her genius as her character's murderous double. Watch her savor the act of putting on lip gloss: Her

eyes turn dreamy, and her smile spreads so wide it looks as if it will swallow her face. This is zombie Kabuki.

Nyong'o hits extraordinary notes. When she's the double, her voice is the whistle of someone whose throat has been cut, with a gap between the start of a word in the diaphragm and its finish in the head.

It's like a rush of acrid air from a tomb, further chilled by eyes like boiled eggs, fixed on nothing in this world.

The terrestrial Adelaide is more subtly scary; Nyong'o builds extra beats into the performance, lurches and ellipses that keep you from identifying with her too closely. Something's off — but what?

When the movie ends, you can rearrange the pieces in your head and appreciate the breadth of what Peele set out to achieve. Because when I finished the movie, I had to rethink literally everything.

I really like how they had many plot twists, but I think that story could have been better. I would give "Us" 3.5 out of 5 stars.

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Samantha!: Season 2  
Someone Great

#### Available April 20

Grass Is Greener

#### Available April 22

Pinky Malinky: Part 2  
Selection Day, New Episodes

#### Available April 23

I Think You Should Leave With Tim Robinson

#### Available April 25

The Hateful Eight: Extended Version  
The Ugly Truth

#### Available April 26

ReMastered: Devil at the Crossroads  
She-Ra and the Princesses of Power: Season 2  
Street Food  
The Sapphires  
Yankee



# Sports

## Softball has thrilling win in series

By **EMMA SPORLEDER**  
Student Reporter

Lady Ranger Softball faced the Lady Tigers of East Central University for their Great American Conference series Sunday afternoon in Alva.

Northwestern had 13 hits for the day with 11 coming from the second game of the series.

Jada Overby led the team with a 3-for-6 at bat, and she earned one of the only two hits in the first game.

Lindsey McElroy went 2-for-4 with two bunt singles in the second game while also scoring two runs.

Kalie Johnson was the only other Lady Ranger to have multiple hits, she went 2-for-7 with one run.

Alexa Moses sent one over the fence in game two earning her first

career homerun.

Six other Northwestern players earned a hit throughout the doubleheader.

Unfortunately, the Lady Rangers fell in both games to ECU. The final score of game one was 13-0, and game two's score was 15-6.

On Monday, Northwestern's softball team continued their series against ECU, the Lady Rangers had a combined 17 hits throughout the doubleheader with two returners leading the way.

Jada Overby continued hitting well as she went 4-for-6 with one run and she was hit by two pitches.

Morgan Kirk the senior from Augusta, Kansas also went 4-for-6 earning one run and one RBI.

Alexus Bailey, Lindsey McElroy and Jayden Flowers were the only others to tally two hits for their team.

Bailey also hit her third homerun of the season.

Kalie Johnson, Morgan La



Photo provided by Emma Sporleder.

The Lady Rangers next take on Southeastern Oklahoma State in Durant on April 19 and 20.

Neve and Taylor Russell all had one hit each.

Johnson, the freshman from Tecumseh, hit her first career triple, and Russell, the freshman from

Durant, hit a double to the fence.

Northwestern Softball split the doubleheader with ECU winning the first game 5-1, but the Lady Rangers turned around and beat

the Lady Tigers in game two 8-7.

NWOSU Softball moves to 6-38 overall for the season, and 6-30 in GAC play.

## Golf competes in GAC Championship

By **RANGER ATHLETIC DEPARTEMENT**

The Northwestern Oklahoma State University men's and women's golf are in action this week at the Great American Conference Championships at the Hot Spring Country Club in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

What was originally scheduled to be a three-day event, the tournament was shortened to two days due to heavy rains in the area on Saturday.

The teams were given an opportunity Sunday to play the course before playing 36 holes on

Monday.

Senior Brittani Casement has a solid opening 18 holes to pace the Ranger women with a 77, followed by an 81 in the second round to finish day one inside the top 20 with a 158.

Casement is comfortable at the Hot Springs Country Club as she holds the Northwestern single round low score in the GAC Championships with a 75 during the 2017 tournament.

Nikkole Donk fired a pair of rounds in the low-80's on the opening day for a 166 (82-84) total, followed by Rylie Eller (84-93) and Cassidy Pettigrew (92-87) who both carded a 177 on Monday.

Ashley Watts rounded out the scoring for the Northwestern women with a 92 and 87 in the two rounds.

In the men's side of the event, Parker Rehorn shot his lowest round of the spring in the opening round with a 75, followed by a 79 for a 154 total.

Teammates Tyler Berryhill (78-79) and Preston Ewing (81-77) aren't far behind him with a 157 and 158, respectively.

Colten Person put up rounds of 83 and 85 for a 168 and Coltin Stork closed the Northwestern scoring with a 93 to open the day, only to turn around and put up an 83 in the second round.



Photo Provided.

Golf rounds out their 2019 spring season at the Great American Conference Championship match.



Photo Provided.

By **RANGER ATHLETIC DEPARTEMENT**

Northwestern Oklahoma State University baseball redshirt senior Johnuelle Ponce was named Great American Conference Player of the Week, the conference announced Tuesday morning

The honor for Ponce comes following a blow-out weekend in a 2-1 series win over East Central. Ponce earned a .412 average (7-for-17) during the series, with 23 total bases and 12 RBIs.

The Puerto Rican launched five homeruns during the week, with three in the first game of the doubleheader Monday afternoon.

The Ranger centerfielder is only the tenth player in program history to hit three homeruns in a game, joining teammate Justin Bundy who had done it in the 2018 season.

Of Ponce's seven hits, five being homeruns, he also added a double which gave him a 1.353 slugging percentage for the weekend. With his bat as a threat, Ponce

received six walks on the day as well which gave him a .565 on base percentage and allowed him to score 9 runs during the weekend.

After yesterday's two wins, Ponce leads the league in home runs with 16 and RBI at 52, as well as fourteenth in the conference with an overall average of .360 sandwiched between Carlos Andujar's .369 average (12th) and Bundy's 0.359 average (15th).

It was the second time Ponce has received the conference Player of the Week honors, doing so on Feb. 20 of 2018.

Ponce joined Carlos Andujar and Colton Whitehouse as 2019 winners of the weekly award.

Northwestern was able to tally 46 runs on 50 hits over the weekend. NWOSU and ECU had a total of 37 hits in the second game on Monday, which tied the Great American Conference record for combined hits in a game.

Ponce and the Rangers will be back in action on April 19 and 20 as they play a home series against Southeastern Oklahoma State University.



# Sports

## Baseball steamrolls over ECU Tigers

By **LOGAN JONES**  
*Assist. Sports Editor*

Northwestern took on the Tigers of East Central University this past Sunday and Monday, taking two of the three games while putting up a ton of runs in the process.

The series was originally set to be played in Ada, but due to bad weather, it was moved to Glass Family Field here in Alva, with the Rangers still being the road team.

Game one started quickly for Northwestern as they were able to plate one run in the top of the first with an RBI double from Carlos Andujar. ECU would go on to score two runs and take the lead in the bottom of the second. The red and black would continue to fight, tying the game on a sacrifice fly by Jake Darrow in the fourth and even taking the lead again thanks to a solo home run by Johnnuelle Ponce in the fifth, bringing the score to 3-2.

However, one run was not enough to keep the Tigers at bay. ECU was able to tie the game



*Photo provided by Emma Sporleder.*

**Baseball next plays Southeastern Oklahoma State University at home on April 19 and 20.**

again in the bottom of the fifth and that is where the score stayed until the eighth inning. RBI hits from Bryce Donovan and Luis Mendoza gave Northwestern a 6-3 lead. But the Tigers just wouldn't go away. Some costly pitching miscues by the Rangers allowed ECU to gain momentum as they were able to

score five runs in the bottom of the eighth. The Rangers went down quietly in the ninth, sealing the 8-6 victory for ECU.

A double-header was scheduled for Monday afternoon, and Northwestern was looking for revenge. In the first game, the Rangers came out swinging as they racked up 18

runs on 17 hits while holding the Tigers to only two runs on 12 hits.

Ponce had a monster game, bashing three bombs over the outfield fence.

The senior is the 10th Ranger in program history to record three homers in the game, with teammate Justin Bundy achieving the

feat most recently at Fort Hayes State during the 2018 season.

Game two of the double-header was much of the same. After putting up three in the first and second innings, the Rangers put up a 10-spot in the third, giving them a commanding lead for the rest of the game. The Tigers tried to keep up, but the Ranger offense was running on all cylinders and there was little they could do. The red and black would go on to score 10 more runs, and after seven eventful innings, the final score read Northwestern 23, ECU 11.

Ponce continued his hot day at the plate, hitting another home run, giving him 11 RBIs on the day. Justin Bundy would also join in on the fun, hitting his eleventh home run of the 2019 season.

The Rangers move to 22-19 on the season and 11-15 in conference.

Their final two GAC matchups will be here in Alva when they take on the Southeastern Oklahoma State Savage Storm on April 19 and 20 and the Southwestern Oklahoma State Bulldogs on April 26 and 27.

## Football kicks off Spring Game



*Photo by Mariah Wyatt.*

**The Ranger football team played their spring game on Saturday.**



*Photo by Mariah Wyatt.*

**The Rangers will begin their 2019 season in September.**



*Photo by Mariah Wyatt.*

**The Rangers played offense versus defense.**



*Photo by Mariah Wyatt.*

**The Ranger football team wrapped up their spring activities.**



