

## Smile of the Week



Photo by Angel Perez

Ag business major Chase Zook says he is smiling because his friends always accompany him wherever he goes.

## Inside

### NEWS

• Community members attend protest against Alva's medical marijuana ordinance **Page 2**

### CAMPUS

• Freshman Enrollment remains stable - Coronado Cafe hosts S'mores Night **Page 4**

### EDITORIAL

• Great expectations: "IT" - A hydration proclamation

**Page 5**

### MEET THE RANGERS

• Students attend annual 'Meet The Rangers' to support Ranger athletics

**Page 7**

### FEATURE

• Get to know a few of our Fine Arts students in choir and band

**Page 8**

### ENTERTAINMENT

• 'Interview with God' compels its audience - The theater is arsenic

**Page 9**

### SPORTS

• Soccer ranked No.7 in GAC preseason polls

**Page 10**

## Students attend Meet the Rangers to support athletics



Photo by Leah Darnell

Students clap along to the school fight song played by the Ranger Band at 'Meet the Rangers' on Sept. 3. A watch party will be held Thursday at 5:30 p.m. to watch and support Ranger football in the season's first game, which is against East Central University. See MEET, Pg 7

## Alva ordinance sparks controversy

By MCKAYLA HOLSON  
Editorial Editor

Tensions are running high in the Alva community over the city's medical marijuana ordinance.

Councilman Daniel Winters created a poll on Facebook that led to a discussion about the topic in the comments. The discussion involved those on both sides of the issue, but it seemed more people were opposed to the current ordinance and hoping for change.

Some of the top issues residents have cited with the ordinance are strict location restrictions, which limit where a medical marijuana business can open.

The current ordinance prevents marijuana retail establishments, commercial growing facilities, wholesale facilities, and storage facilities from being within 1,000 feet of a "private or public preschool, elementary, secondary, vocational or trade school, college or university; a library or museum; a public playground; a child care center; a place of worship or religious assembly; a public park, pool, or recreation facility; a juvenile or adult halfway house, correctional facility or substance abuse; a rehabilitation or treatment center; a residentially zoned district; or another medical marijuana or marijuana

establishment."

"It is almost impossible to locate in a commercially zoned area that is not within 1,000 feet of a residentially-zoned area in the city of Alva," Terry Hada commented on the post. "I think that is too restrictive. I lean toward any commercial zoned [sic] area being acceptable no matter what facilities for children are within 1,000 feet.

"We are talking about a legal business here, and at least in the beginning it is for medical purpose[s], though that could expand to recreational at a later date."

"I get wanting to fight this," Angie Braswell said. "But on the other hand, if you just find a place right outside of city limits, then your customers don't have to pay city tax. Ya [sic] really want to make a point that would make it."

Some people in the comments suggested the city is purposefully making it difficult for operations to start up.

"Obvious to me the location restrictions intentionally make it impossible, or as difficult as possible, to locate in Alva," Hada said in another comment. "Forcing location on the east edge of town or south edge of town would be in-



Photo by McKayla Holson

From left, Mark Mason, Samuel Marin, Will Lambert and Richard Cunningham protest against the ordinance yesterday at the courthouse.

tionally making it as expensive as possible to purchase or lease land when there are vacant buildings available in commercially zoned areas that would be much more economical. The intent is to make it prohibitively expensive to open a legal business."

A few commenters talked about how there are businesses in surrounding towns and areas, but that business in Alva are being denied by the ordinance.

Some commenters said the ordinance is not in compliance with state law, adding that the Alva ordinance is unduly restrictive.

"The ordinance is not in compliance with [State Question] 788," Michelle Demaree Gordon said. "... Please know that Alva patients need access to our meds just like Waynoka patients. It's a hardship on patients who have to leave town."

An inability to access medicines locally creates issues for patients who use medical marijuana. At a recent Alva City Council meeting, Michelle DuPree read a written statement made by Cindy DuPree. In the statement, Cindy DuPree listed medical issues that **See COMMUNITY, Pg 2**

# News

## COMMUNITY: Alva protests MMJ ordinance

### Continued from Page 1

she has. She went on to say that marijuana has helped manage her pain, adding that she is now able to stand for more than 10 or 15 minutes without crying. Cindy DuPree said her only problem with using medical marijuana as a form of treatment is that she cannot obtain it in Alva. She said she is unable to drive long distances, making it difficult to get the medicine that helps her.

### PROTEST HELD

On Sept. 4, citizens who oppose the current ordinance held a peaceful protest from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the lawn of the Woods County Courthouse in Alva.

People of all ages, backgrounds, and locations came out to advocate for medical marijuana rights.

Chris "Uncle Grumpy" Moe, a self-described citizen lobbyist, came all the way from Muskogee, Oklahoma to fight for medical marijuana patients.

"The reason why we came up is because of the \$500 restriction on the home grow," Moe said.

"The \$500 a year for me to grow in my own home is ridiculous," Cindy DuPree said. "It shouldn't even be in that ordinance."

Cindy DuPree said the next plan of action was to get a lawyer if the ordinance does not change.

"Four years ago, I was on 9,855 pills a year, all prescribed by the doctor," Moe said. "... I literally stuck a gun to my head. I was at the end of my rope, all because of prescriptions given to me by my doctor."

Another issue Moe discussed is that some police officers allegedly sit outside the homes of medical marijuana patients to perform DUI checks. Moe says this is wrong.

"It's not legal, it's morally corrupt," Moe said. "You may have to medicate just to get out the door because of the anxiety of the law enforcement sitting outside your

door. It's a conundrum you can't get out of.

"Reefer madness, at this point, is just a smoke screen for 'you haven't found my dollar amount yet.'"

Moe said the group plans to speak to businesses around Alva about the impact of the ordinance. He said he wants to make it clear to business owners that they will lose money if the law doesn't change.

"We're going to park a bus out here every Saturday, and we're going to load up every cannabis card holder who wants to, and we're going to take them out of town, with their money, and they're going to spend it at a dispensary in another town and come home," he said.

Michelle DuPree said the group will continue to advocate for change. The group has a closed Facebook group that people can ask to join called "Oklahoma Cannabis Project." Michelle DuPree said no sales will be made in the group, and that it is only for information.



Photo by McKayla Hollison

Peaceful protest rotest leader Michelle Dupree holds up her sign on Wednesday morning in front of the county courthouse in hopes of a change in the ordinance.

## Annual Woods County Fair starts Thursday

### A grand affair: 124th event will feature food and fun

By BAILEY RANKIN  
Student Reporter

The 124<sup>th</sup> annual Woods County Free Fair will take place at the county fairgrounds from Thursday, September 5 to Saturday, September 7.

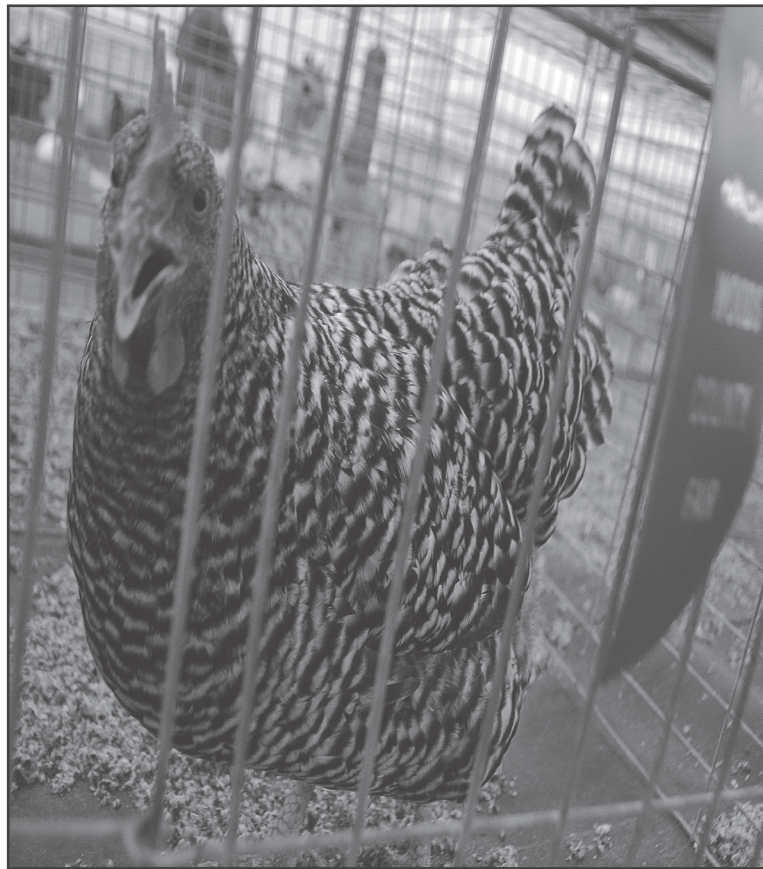
This year, the fair will offer numerous exhibits for the public to admire. Fair staff and local food trucks will serve food to fair-goers, and the Oklahoma-based red-dirt band "Ragland" will provide free entertainment Friday night at 7 p.m. Special guest Clay Davenport will join the band.

Any Woods County resident may enter exhibits into the fair at no cost by 5:30 p.m. Thursday. Categories for entries include but are not limited to: cultural arts, fabrics and fashion, photography, livestock, canning, and baking. The fair has separate divisions for 4-H and FFA entries.

Fair officials say they receive many entries each year, and some of those entries will qualify for the Oklahoma State Fair, which takes place Thursday, September 12 through Sunday, September 22.

Woods County residents may also enter livestock in the county fair. Owners may pre-register chickens, rabbits, calves, pigs, goats, sheep, and horses for competitions.

Poultry and rabbits will be judged on Thursday, and the judging of pigs, bucket calves, beef cattle, sheep, and goats will take place Friday morning. The horse show will be held Friday at 6 p.m.



File photo

In this file photo, an award-winning chicken is shown at the Woods County Fair. The 124<sup>th</sup> annual county fair will run from Thursday, September 5 to Saturday, September 7.

Vendors will open their booths Thursday at 3 p.m., allowing members of the public to speak with local businesses owners and independent entrepreneurs. This also gives vendors opportunities to promote their businesses or events to the public.

Several competitions will take place at the fair, such as the Oklahoma Home and Community Education organization's chili cook-off.

This is the first year the OHCE

will host the cook-off as a fundraising event for the organization. The first-place winner will receive a \$100 prize, the second-place winner will receive a \$50 prize, and the third-place winner will receive a \$25 prize.

The OHCE will sell the remaining chili for \$2 per bowl or \$1 per cup.

OHCE members will also sell pie for \$3 per slice. The event will take place in the Women's Building

at the fairgrounds starting at 6 p.m. Thursday.

Two other contests – the "Death by Chocolate" and "Junior Death by Chocolate" competitions – are open to anyone who has a great chocolate recipe.

Entries should be in place in the Women's Building by 5:30 p.m. Thursday. Adjudication of the goods will take place at 7 p.m.

According to the fair's rules and regulations, exhibits should not be removed early.

"The early removal of any exhibit, including livestock, will result in the loss of all premiums," the fair's events directory stated. "Premium checks will be voided 90 days after date of issue."

For a complete set of rules and regulations, visit <http://oces.okstate.edu/woods/2015-woods-co.-fairbook/2019%20Woods%20County%20Fairbook%20Final.pdf/view>.

The fairground complex is located at East 0160 Road in Alva.

### IF YOU GO:

Thursday:

- Poultry, rabbit judging
- Vendor booths open
- Food trucks open

Friday:

- Judging of cattle, sheep, and goats
- Horse show
- Vendor booths open
- Free concert
- Food trucks open

Saturday:

- Food trucks open
- Vendor booths open

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# News

## What's up?

**Tonight:**

**Ranger Football Watch Party**

SGA will be hosting a watch party for Northwestern students for the first Ranger football game in the south Coronado lawn. Rangers play at East Central University in Ada. Kickoff is 6 p.m.



**Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series - 3 Redneck Tenors**

The Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series will bring in the 3 Redneck Tenors to perform in the Herod Hall Auditorium. The 3 Redneck Tenors are a new breed in the "tenor genre" – their musical comedy featuring classically trained veteran artists is like Duck Dynasty goes to Carnegie Hall.

Sep. 10  
7:00 p.m.



**Sorority Recruitment for Delta Zeta and Alpha Sigma Alpha**

This four-day event is for all females on campus who are interested in Greek life on campus and interested in philanthropy and community volunteer activities. Student Center Ranger Room and Ballroom. \$10 per person for application fee.

Sep. 9 – Sep. 12  
6 p.m. – 11 p.m. **GO GREEK**

**South Hall Yoga Night**

All South Hall residents are invited to practice yoga in the lobby. Hang out with friends stretch and relax and enjoy yoga!

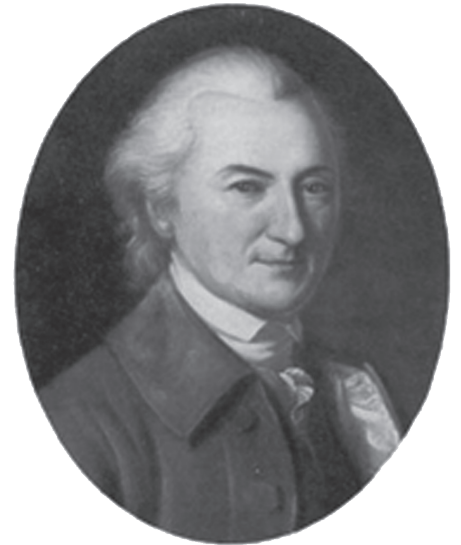
Sep. 9  
7:30 p.m.

**Processing of student financial aid begins Sep. 11**

## NWICS prepares for annual Constitution day on Sep. 18

CONSTITUTION DAY 2019

A CONSERVATIVE REBEL: THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHN DICKINSON, FOUNDER, FRAMER, SOLDIER, & EMANCIPATOR



**WHEN:** WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019, AT 12:00 PM

**WHERE:** NWOSU-ALVA CAMPUS (STUDENT CENTER — THE RANGER ROOM)

**WHO:** ADMISSION IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

The guest speaker will be Dr. Jane Calvert, the foremost authority on Founding Father John Dickinson (1732-1808). Calvert received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 2003. She is the director and chief editor of the John Dickinson Writings Project, and serves as associate professor of history at the University of Kentucky.

Her first book, "Quaker Constitutionalism and the Political Thought of John Dickinson," gives the first comprehensive analysis of Dickinson's actions during the American Revolution. Calvert is currently producing the first edition of "The Complete Writings and Selected Correspondence of John Dickinson," and she is writing the first full biography of his life.

Calvert has also written about religious liberty, Thomas Paine, and the Second Amendment. Her work on Dickinson is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Historic Publications and Records Commission, and other public and private institutions and foundations.

She was recently awarded an NEH Public Scholar Grant to work on Dickinson's biography.

If you have an event that you would like featured on our "What's Up?" section, contact us at [nwnews@nwosu.edu](mailto:nwnews@nwosu.edu). Include date, time and a short summary.

**Want an ad? Email Jayden Dillon at: [jadillon07@rangers.nwosu.edu](mailto:jadillon07@rangers.nwosu.edu). Or, call Jayden at: (580) 541-9507.**

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# Campus

## Freshman enrollment remains stable

By **BRYANT VENOSDEL**  
Student Reporter

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's freshman enrollment figures have remained steady, and concurrent enrollment numbers have increased since last year, according to NWOSU faculty.

"Our concurrent numbers have increased drastically, and that's where we are seeing a big increase," says Calleb Mosburg, Dean of Student Affairs. "Our freshman numbers will be about the same and our transfer numbers are a little bit down, but overall, we are still even."

NWOSU is not the only campus that is not seeing an increase in its student enrollment numbers. Matt Adair, assistant dean of student affairs, is noticing a trend among college campuses.

"Enrollment across the nation for college has been dropping down across the years, particular-

ly in male students," Adair said. "There are more women than men going to college right now, which is different than how it was back in the day. It has a lot to do with job opportunities, since you can get a trade job now no problem."

The campus dorms are seeing an increase in students, particularly with women, even with enrollment numbers remaining stable.

"Our female dorms are packed this year, but our men's dorms not so much," Mosburg said. "Economic factors play into it, but it has been an increase since last year."

The majority of NWOSU's incoming freshman are from the northwest area of the state.

"The numbers show that if two different colleges are in between another college, then a student isn't going to go that extra distance to go the other college, which is why we are still seeing a lot of kids from northwest Oklahoma here," Adair said.

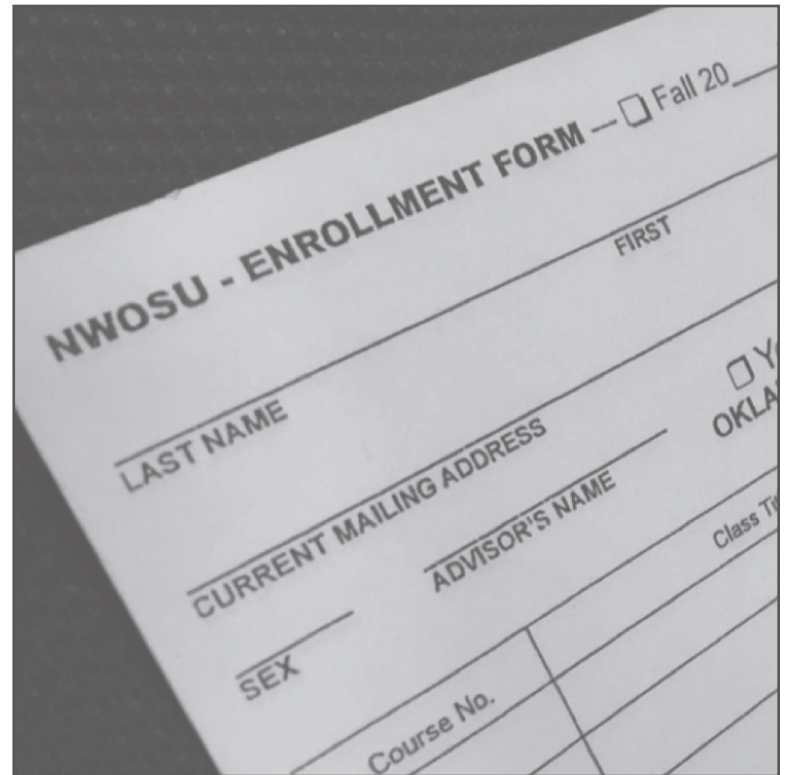
Student involvement in activities has gone up, faculty say. Dr. Kimberly Weast, chair of the Fine Arts department, has seen more students enroll and show interest in the Fine Arts this year.

"Marching band numbers have increased," Weast said. "So has the jazz band, which has almost doubled in size with, along with participation in theatre."

While participation for Fine Arts activities has risen, the number of people who are majoring in the programs has not increased.

"Students are coming out and getting involved, but the number of people who are getting a major in theatre or band has been stable or gone down," Weast said.

"It seems like, hopefully, we are on the rebounds with our enrollment numbers," Mosburg said. "And the students who are here know how good our student life is."



File photo

Freshman enrollment numbers at NWOSU have remained steady when compared to last year's numbers, but concurrent enrollment figures have increased drastically, according to NWOSU officials.

## NWOSU: 'One victim is too many'

By **ASHLEY WATTS**  
Sports Editor

Northwestern Oklahoma State University believes that one sexual assault victim is too many.

The university held its annual sexual assault seminar on Sept. 27 in Herod Hall Auditorium. All athletes and freshmen are required to attend the seminar to learn about the dangers of sexual assault. This year, more than 500 people attended.

During the seminar, which lasted approximately one hour, six different individuals spoke to students. Calleb Mosburg, NWOSU's Title IX coordinator, and Taylor Wilson, NWOSU's guidance counselor, led the meeting. Members of the law enforcement and medical communities also spoke.

Brandy Johnson, who works with Northwest Domestic Crisis Services in Alva, assists sexual assault victims. She said she hopes that no one will have to experience sexual assault.

"I would love to do this job for my entire life, but I would love even more for my assistance to no

longer be needed," Johnson said.

Sexual assault is something that happens daily, according to some of the speakers. One speaker, a criminal investigator with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, used a PowerPoint presentation to detail certain statistics about sexual assault. One statistic showed that, seven times out of 10, a sexual assault victim knows the person by whom he or she was assaulted.

***"I would love to do this job for my entire life, but I would love even more for my assistance to no longer be needed," victim's advocate, Brandy Johnson said.***

Presenters also discussed the repercussions of making "lewd" and "indecent" posts on social media. Unprofessional posts could cost an employee his job, and they could cost college students their

scholarships. Social media also makes it easier to track a person's location.

Two nurses from the YWCA of Enid, a pregnancy resource center, then spoke to the crowd. The nurses are called "SANE" nurses, as they are responsible for performing medical examinations on sexual assault victims. They discussed resources offered by the organization for sexual assault victims.

In the event of an emergency, contact the YWCA by calling 580-234-7644.

While it is mandatory for all freshmen and athletes to attend the seminar, not everyone made it this year. For those who were unable to attend the seminar, pamphlets discussing resources for sexual assault victims are available on campus.

"I feel that it is helpful to know the consequences that would occur if one were to act upon sexual violence, and [to be] informed of the resources that are available to see that they are not alone," Wilson said.

The sexual assault seminar is open to all students. It is held annually at the beginning of the fall semester.



Photos by Leah Darnel

## More s'mores, please!

The Coronado Cafe served up s'mores to hungry NWOSU students Aug. 28. In these photos, students line up to get a platefull of the tasty campfire treats. Cafeteria workers played a CD containing campfire sound effects to help "set the mood" for the evening, and they even decorated the serving table with red-and-white checkered table cloths to represent a picnic basket.



Got news? Tell us! Send your stories to us: [nwnews@nwosu.edu](mailto:nwnews@nwosu.edu).

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

Letters must be turned in by noon on 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.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

# Editorial

## Great expectations: IT

By: **BAILEY RANKIN**  
*Student Reporter*

I'm scared.

Yes, it is because I am going to see "IT Chapter 2" but it is not because of the fact that the film is a horror movie. I'm scared that I am going to be let down because of the high expectations I have for the new film.

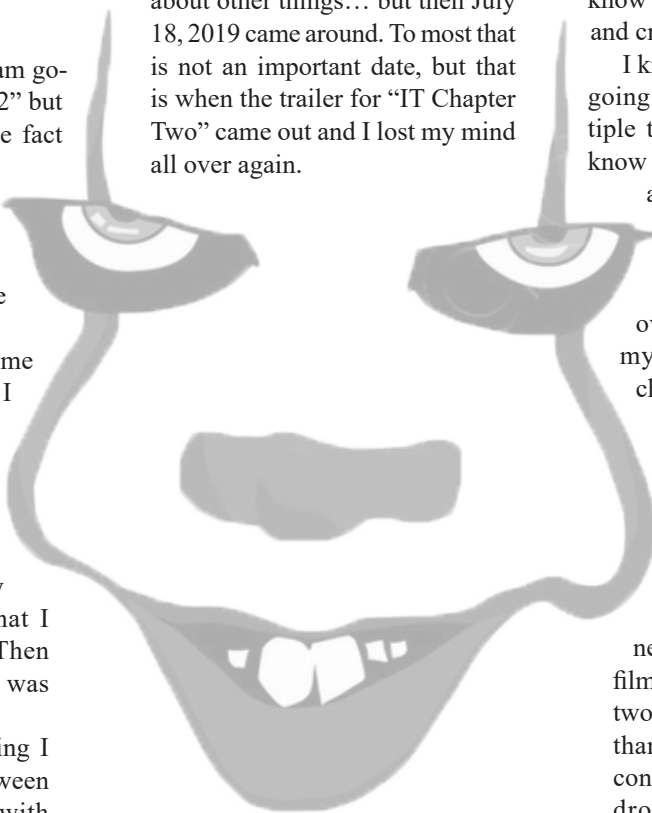
Let me give you some backstory as to why I am so ready to see this movie. When the first "IT" movie came out in 2017 I was very intrigued. I watched horror films but they were never movies that I actively sought out. Then I watched "IT" and I was hooked. "IT" was like nothing I had seen before. Between going to the movies with my family, friends and by myself I saw "IT" a total of four times... Whoops.

Why did I see "IT" four times you ask? To make a long story short...I saw the movie so many times because I have no life. Maybe it was the story line, maybe it was the cast of kid actors and I was impressed with their performance, maybe it was the cinematography or the directing of Andy Muschietti.

All in all it was my new favorite

film.

Eventually my obsession waned and I started watching and talking about other things... but then July 18, 2019 came around. To most that is not an important date, but that is when the trailer for "IT Chapter Two" came out and I lost my mind all over again.



Two months have passed and I can feel my anticipation growing. I'm excited for the continuation of a unique horror story. I'm excited for the terrifying performance from Bill Skarsgard as Pennywise the Dancing Clown. I'm excited to see fellow Oklahoman Bill Hader (one of my favorite actors) take the place of Finn Wolfhard as Richie "Trashmouth" Tozier (one of my favorite character in the film). If

you can't tell, I'm excited.

But I'm also nervous because what if it's not what I expect? I know everybody from the cast and crew worked hard.

I know no matter what, I'm going to see the movie multiple times in theatres. And I know there is nothing I can do about any of this, but the thoughts still linger.

I suppose what I'll have to do is get over it. I'll have to face my "fears", just like the character in "IT" do. I'll appreciate what has been given to me.

I'll enjoy my favorite parts and deal with the parts I maybe don't appreciate that much. I'll enjoy the new aspects of the second film instead of compare the two frame for frame. I'll be thankful that the film was continued instead of being dropped like some other sequels.

In short the moral of the story is being thankful for what you had and what was given to you. Also, be appreciative of what is coming. Be hopeful not nervous, and just because you think you might not like something, don't miss out on the opportunity to try/see something new.

Hey who knows? Maybe I'll see "IT Chapter Two" five times this year.

## EDITOR'S RANT OF THE WEEK

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

Good afternoon, evening, morning, or whenever you may be reading this, to my readers, friends, peers, fans... ah who am I kidding, I don't have any fans. Like Slim Shady, I'm back. Better than ever? No not really, but I'm ready for another fabulous year here at NWOSU.

You guys should know, this is my senior year, which means, yes I am FINALLY GETTING OUT!!! Unfortunately, it also means I am stressed to the max.

Sort of like in high school, everyone keeps asking me what I'm doing after graduation. That question was scary enough for me back then imagine how petrifying it feels now. I'm not going to college. I'm going into the... dun dun dun... REAL WORLD.

Guys, I have to be an adult, and wear pants. Am I ready? I'll be straight up with you. I'm not. So if you see me around campus, just, please don't ask me what I'm doing because there is a good chance I will start crying and leave you feeling very confused.

One thing is for sure, over the course of this year I am going to remain hopeful and work hard.

I don't want to look back and think man I wasted my senior year of college worrying and letting that worry get in the way of my goals.

I work hard in particular for this newspaper. Although some employers look past it, this makes me look like a dedicated worker and strong spirited woman.

So, the main thing I am going to work on is staying focused on my baby, this newspaper. I know that sounds kind of creepy... but I've really dedicated three years to this newspaper and I will dedicate one more.

We have some new staff members on our team that give me great hope for the paper after I'm gone. I'm glad I'll be able to look back and say that I planted that seed and taught them everything they needed to know.

Most of me may be scared for the future, but a part of me is ready. College is fun and all, but I'm ready to get out and start my life. You know, get married, have kids, all that crazy stuff.

I can't wait to start a new chapter of my life. It's scary but exciting, you get it.

I know I'll be able to say that NWOSU prepared me to the best of their abilities. I have a great support system here between my friends, professors, co-worker's, and peers. I think they really all want to see me succeed.

Hopefully I can come up with enough ideas to write my rants this semester.

**"No one who dies here ever really dies."**

*- Mrs. Kersh*

## A 'hydration proclamation'

By: **MICHAEL SCHOENEICH**  
*Columnist*

I, Michael Schoeneich, declare this document the "Hydration Proclamation."

Students of NWOSU, citizens of Alva, residents of Oklahoma, people of the world and entities of the universe alike, listen up.

Grapes are 90% water. That's right, 90%. Do you know what happens to a grape when it is deprived of succulent moisture? Correct again, it dries out. Becoming a shell of what it formerly was, so plump, so sweet, into a bitter, downright putrid snack

that even children refuse to enjoy.

So, audience, what will happen to you if you withhold yourself of the replenishing and delicious beverage that is water? Well, you might end up like the horrid raisin. Half a gallon is not too much to request my peers consume a day.

To put the amount into true perspective, it takes just eight glasses of water to hydrate your body, and your body shall thank you, I guarantee. Two 32-ounce cups from any convenience store, maybe even filling that fancy YETI Rambler you bought twice and taking a swig from the nearest fountain would do the trick.

It's not as hard as applying for

a student loan, it definitely doesn't cost as much either. So I, personally, ask you, my peers, will you be raisin-ified? Or will you remain a beautiful grape?

I know I intend to keep my hydration up, and I not only request, but I demand you do the exact same.

**So, audience, what will happen to you if you withhold yourself of the replenishing and delicious beverage that is water?**

# Editorial

## Education: Pay isn't the only problem

### Oklahoma's teachers deserve more respect

By: **JORDAN GREEN**  
News Editor

By 1 p.m. Monday, this college freshman had already finished his classes for the day. After they were over, I sat down to chat with one of my professors.

"How are your classes going?" he asked.

"They seem to be going well," I replied. "Biology will be my hardest class, though. I'm not a 'science' guy. And I only had one certified science teacher in high school."

"That sounds like something you need to talk about," he said.

He's right.

The situation I lived through as an Oklahoma high school graduate is not at all uncommon. Every day, thousands of students are sitting in classrooms staffed by non-certified teachers — right here, where the wind comes sweeping down the plains. Instead of being filled with teachers who have traditional certifications, many classrooms across the state are led by teachers with "emergency certifications." Basically, if you have a college degree of some sort, you can get

such a certification and become a teacher. These certifications are granted by schools desperate for someone to show up and provide students with some semblance of an education.

Even though things have changed a lot in Oklahoma education over the last year, the number of emergency certifications continues to grow. According to a recent study by the Oklahoma State School Boards Association, the state of Oklahoma — which has become known as one of the worst states in the nation for edu-

**"Every day, thousands of students are sitting in classrooms staffed by non-certified teachers -- right here, where the wind comes sweeping down the plains."**

cation — approved a total of 3,038 emergency teacher certifications last year.

That's 3,038 individuals who

are not trained in classroom management, developmental disabilities, or even basic learning concepts — and they're teaching our children. They taught me.

Before I go any further, let me say that I am grateful that someone wants to come into our schools and teach. It is a noble thing for people to step into the classroom in order to fill a void, but good intentions can only go so far when it comes to educating our future leaders.

The reason that we have so many emergency certifications is because we have so few certified teachers in the state. For years, Oklahoma has offered its teachers salaries far lower than those of surrounding states. But despite measures to raise pay and increase classroom funding, our state is still "bleeding" teachers.

An August study from the OSSBA shows that teacher recruitment in Oklahoma is still weak across the state. For the study, the OSSBA spoke to school officials at 305 districts. Of all those who responded to the survey, 49% said teacher recruitment is just as difficult as it was last year, before pay increases were funded. A slightly smaller number — 38% — said teacher recruitment was worse.

Only 12% said it was better.

And no, those results are not merely the grumblings of frustrated school administrators who are angry at the state. The OSSBA's study showed that the state will have nearly 600 teacher vacancies this year. Schools couldn't even find emergency certified teachers to fill those jobs. That's up from 494 vacancies last year, per the OSSBA's data.

In short: We still can't get teachers. But teachers received pay raises last year and this year, so what gives?

Perhaps it's not all about money.

We're going to have to continue increasing teacher pay, no doubt. But we're also going to have to work to change the stigma surrounding our state's education system. For so long, Oklahoma has been known as the "worst of the worst" for education. We are changing that, but people don't see it. And why would they? For the last several years, the word "education" in the Sooner State has been tied to budget cuts, emergency certifications, and — in some cases — poor student outcomes.

It's not a well-kept secret, either. The national spotlight is

still shining on the challenges our schools face, and that kind of attention is disheartening to educators. No matter how hard they work to improve our school systems, many people will still have a negative view of their work. How demoralizing is that?

Then you've got the fact that so much of the entertainment industry has little to no respect for education. How many movies and TV shows have you seen where teachers are portrayed as failures? And how about the stereotypes surrounding "nerdy" kids? They never look cool.

Hollywood isn't helping anyone, and movies like "Bad Teacher" are merely compounding the problems we face in Oklahoma. Still, we have our own demons. If you don't value your teachers by paying them a respectable wage, you produce students who become legislators that don't know any better. And yet we wonder why we're still groveling around in the metaphorical wastebasket in which we have been tossed for so many years.

Low teacher pay is still an issue here. But a lack of respect has just as much to do with the problem.

## In poetry:

### THE DARK CASTLE

By: **COLLIN ZINK**  
Columnist

There is a castle on the hill,

That only appears on the night of thrill.

Who lives in the castle it is unsure,

Some say it's a vampire, some say it's just lore.

What happens in that castle it is surly a mystery,

Perhaps you should look at history.

One thing is for sure about the "Dark Castle,"

Whoever goes in, never comes out.

**"Education's prurpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."**

**-Malcom Forbes**

**"People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing- that's why we recommend it daily."**

**-Zig Ziglar**

**"Education is the passport to the future, for tommorow belongs to those who prepare for it today."**

**-Malcolm X**

**"Wanting to be someone else is a waste of the person you are."**

**-Kurt Cobain**

# Campus



Photos by Leah Darnell

SGA hosted "Meet The Rangers" Tuesday. Students attended to support Ranger Athletics. The event had games, free shirts, a drawing for gift cards and a performance by the Ranger Band.



President Janet Cunningham speaking at the event on the Ranger Football Field.



NWOSU Color Guard performing their routine to Dr Who's "I am the Doctor".



SGA President Jordan Harris announces each of the sports and their coaches.



Freshman Jarrod Barnett throws a bean bag.



Freshman Amari Gibson kicks a football at the 15 yard line.



SGA handing out free t-shirts to the first 350 students at the event.

# Feature

## Meet some Fine Arts students



**Colton Reed**  
Junior  
Math major

**Q: What is your voice part, and why do you like it?**

A: "I am a base and I really like it because it is comfortable for me, if I was a tenor I would have to sing in my falsetto voice and I don't think it's as pretty as my lower notes."

**Q: What part of being in choir this semester are you most excited about?**

A: "Probably the singers concerts because I recently joined singers and I've been in singers before but I had to drop it last semester so I'm pretty excited to get back into it and start singing the better pieces because that's always super challenging and pretty fun."



**Dakota Rutherford**  
Sophomore  
Vocal Music Education

**Q: What's your voice part and why do you like it?**

A: "I sing Bass, to me it is nicer to sing in the lower range, it feels better in the voice and it can be more enjoyable to listen to. Especially doing solo pieces compared to a soprano who are just singing loud and hitting high notes, it is nice to have a lower tone in the mix to mellow things out. There are five basses in Singers Group this semester out of 18 total singers and I am the section leader for the basses."

**Q: What part about being in choir are you most excited about?**

A: "Having that many more friends to know, also singing with other people is a great experience and is the best feeling in the world to me. Singing at a "Made in The USA" concert will be my favorite piece we do this year."



**Tyler Cronister**  
Junior  
Criminal Justice Major

**Q: What instrument do you play and why do you like it?**

A: "I play the tenor drums, aka the quads. There is one other quad player in an eight-person drum line. I started wanting to play the drums in high school, but the school didn't have enough money for any, so we just started banging on barstools and trash cans. Somehow, we caught the eye of the news and a few donations later, we had a drum line in high school and the drums are what I enjoyed playing the most so I decided to continue playing drums in college and for a band outside of college."

**Q: What part about band are you most excited about this semester?**

A: "An exciting thing about band this year is that there are almost 60 people compared to last year of about 40. The concert I am most excited about playing is a Queen show later in the semester. Right now, we are practicing marching and the songs for pregame and halftime."



**Abie Reim**  
English  
Freshman

**Q: What instrument do you play, and why do you like it?**

A: "I play the flute and I enjoy it because it helps me to build up stamina with my breath because its one of the instruments that requires the most lung capacity."

**Q: What part of being in the band this semester are you most excited about?**

A: "Im really excited about marching season because that's my favorite part of being in the band, concert season not so much because it's not as active I guess"



# Entertainment



Photo by Michelle Willson

Sophomore Dakota Retherford, who plays Mortimer Brewster, and Freshman Adria Lujan who plays Elaine Harper rehearsing a scene together.

## ‘Interview with God’ compels its audience

By ANGEL PEREZ  
Student Reporter

An Interview with God is a smart and compelling indie drama. When a reporter arranges to interview a man, who claims to be God, the interview takes a strange turn that causes the reporter to do some soul searching and questioning of his faith.

David Stathairm gives an excellent performance as God and the script does a good job at addressing theological issues without going into the minutia of Church dogma.

Some of the acting is a bit stilted and the plot's a little underdeveloped, but the heart of the film is the interviews, which are incredibly engaging and thought-provocative. "An Interview with God" challenges audiences to look beyond the surface and to question what faith truly is.

I am a Christian so I love faith based films. This one was different than most I've seen. It really tackled such issues as salvation and free will. It made me think and apply what I watched to my own beliefs and faith.

I like how the answers to the interviewer's questions are never answered directly. God knows the interviewer has the answers and lets him figure a lot of these questions on his own. Very thought provoking and I enjoyed the movie.

What would you say to God if you could ask him anything? "An Interview with God" explores this question as war journalist Paul Asher (played by Brenton Thwaites) sits down over three days with a man who claims to be God (David Statherian).

Asher is at a low point in his life. His wife had an affair and left him and he is dealing with trauma from reporting in Afghanistan. His faith in God is being sorely tested.

Stathairm plays the God Christians might expect. He loves us, He wants what's best for us, but He's also not going to give us all of the answers.



As the viewing audience will intimately understand, Asher finds himself frustrated and confused when talking with God even though they are face to face!

One of the movie's most emotional scenes is when God tells Asher he is "just about out of time." Asher gets angry at being told he will die soon, but he says no when God asks if he would like to know the exact time and date.

When asked later why he told Asher about his pending death, God says that he thought a journalist would appreciate deadlines.

God's best lesson to Asher comes just before God departs. He says, "I hear it all" when it comes to prayers of suffering and pain. He tells Asher people should "look to each other, and that's where I'll be." He explains: "Sometimes, the miracle is you."

At the end of the movie, Asher says that he was praying to God, but not listening. This lesson comes out of left field. So, does his sudden appreciation for life after his third interview with God.

Dramatically and inexplicably, Asher forgives his wife's transgressions, steps away from suicide, and is no longer troubled by his war experience even though these deeply spiritual and psychological challenges are little-addressed.

The viewer is left to assume

**What would you say to God if you could ask him anything?**

that he will likewise magically transform himself from the self-absorbed man whose drive for work and theology drove his wife away to a selfless husband.

But even if this miracle takes place, the viewer has no idea how it will happen. It doesn't ask the viewer to consider what we would do if we met God face-to-face here on Earth.

It doesn't challenge us to care more for our spouses, or to consider how difficult war is for those in it. Even contrary to its marketing materials, An Interview with God doesn't provide a template for how we the viewers should converse with God.

The message of the film is that ultimately you've got to seek the truth for yourself and weigh up the evidence before coming to a conclusion.

## The theater is full of arsenic

Rehearsals start for NWOSU's first production

By AUSTIN MORTON  
Student Reporter

Aunt Martha and Aunt Abby may give off the impression of being harmless and carefree, but as their nephew Mortimer soon finds out, that is not exactly the case.

Things quickly escalate when Mortimer's brother, Jonathan, returns home under strange circumstances, and with something about him feeling a little...off.

"Arsenic and Old Lace" will be the first theatrical performance to hit the NWOSU Alva campus this fall. The show is being directed by Graduate student, Mickey Jordan. "Arsenic and Old Lace" is set in 1940 and centers on the Brewster family.

When asked why he picked this particular play, Jordan said that it is well written, it is still continually fresh and funny. He also said that even for how over the top it is, it is still very relatable.

Even though he is enjoying directing "Arsenic and Old Lace", he admits that there are some difficulties that come with it.

**"It is very well written, for something over 80 years old, it is still continually fresh and funny."**

**-Mickey Jordan**

With the cast as large as it is, Jordan says that getting everyone together at the same time for rehearsal is particularly rough. He also says that casting comes with its fair share of difficulties.

Dakota Retherford, vocal music major, plays the character Mortimer in "Arsenic and Old Lace." He says that he has enjoyed working with Mickey in the past.

The first collegiate play Retherford participated in was "Anti-Social" and appeared in a scene, which was also directed by Jordan.

Retherford says that he enjoys acting because it reminds him of playing pretend as a kid, and that acting is just playing pretend for grownups. He says that it is also a good way to connect with people.

"Arsenic and Old Lace" will be hitting Northwestern's Herod Hall Auditorium on October 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

### Editor Correction

Last weeks Entertainment page contained an error.

Richmond Adams gave the Lion King movie 2.5 out of

5 stars and not 4 out of 5 stars like was shown in the

picture.



# Sports



Graphic provided by riderangerside.com

This years poll rankings. The Lady Rangers kick off play Sept. 5 against Oklahoma Christian University.

## Soccer ranked No.7 in GAC preseason poll

By NICK DILL  
Student Reporter

The Northwestern Oklahoma State women's soccer team has been ranked number seven in the GAC preseason poll.

The Rangers will be coached by first-year head coach Eric Solberg. The first home game for the Rangers will be on Mon, Sept. 9th. Kickoff is set to start at 6 p.m. The Rangers will be facing off against Texas A&M University-Commerce.

The first conference home game will be played on Thurs, Oct. 10th. The game will begin at 4 p.m., and the Rangers will face off against Ouachita Baptist. I sat down and interviewed head coach Eric Solberg, and asked him about his expectations, and goals for this upcoming season.

Solberg said that the girls came in fit, and that he feels confident about preseason training. His mot-



Eric Solberg

to has been to trust the process. He said the goal is to make the conference tournament and contend for a championship.

Solberg and his team are ready to get the ball rolling Sept. 5th with the first official game at Oklahoma Christian.

"One thing I talk about is being uncommon together. We have to be uncommon to the history of the program, and to other teams."

Solberg said. "We have to go above and beyond. Playing together for one another. Staying together and staying united even when we face adversity."

Solberg also mentioned that the players have to trust their teammates and coaches. He said staying together is key.

The transition into his first year has not hindered Solberg's spirit. He said the transition went smooth. "Fortunately I took over a similar situation with my first head coaching job at East Texas Baptist University before I came here," Solberg said.

He said there is a core group of returning players that are good and talented players. He was able to bring in a couple of players that can help drive our program forward and contribute in a positive way.

Solberg said 13 states plus Canada are represented on the team, and mentioned that he really wants to take the program forward.



Photos by Angel Perez.

Freshman Peyton Taylor



Junior Brittany Cirnigliaro



Sophomore Alissa Carlsson



Photo provided by riderangerside.com

The 2019 NWOSU mens golf team pose in front of the ranger statue.

## Men's golf ranked No.10 in preseason poll

By ANDREW SANTANGELO  
Athletic Communications

The Great American Conference released their annual preseason coaches' poll this afternoon. The Northwestern Oklahoma State men's golf team looks to improve on a last place finish in 2018.

The Rangers will enter the season ranked 10th in the conference in the 2019 Great American Conference Preseason Coaches Poll, receiving just 11 total votes.

Defending GAC Champions Arkansas Tech, received nine first place votes and 81 overall votes, while Southern Arkansas received one.

Northwestern capped off a promising 2018-19 campaign with a disappointing 10th place finish at the 2018 GAC Championships with a three-day total of 944 (317-318-309). Northwestern finished 30 strokes behind the nearest team.

However, despite the rough end to the season, the Ranger golf team showed some potential that head coach Tim Lauderdale will look to use to turn around the program.

"We are really excited about the talent we have in our returners this year and recruited hard to bring in

a group of guys who are hungry to play at the NCAA D2 level," Lauderdale said. "We are looking to improve and expect to finish better than we did last year. The GAC is full of extremely tough competitors with several going on to represent the Central Region at the regional and national tournaments. We know what we are up against and look forward to battling it out this year."

The 2019-20 Rangers figure to be composed of multiple new faces as coach Lauderdale added five new players to the program, joining five from last year's team to complete this year's roster.

The 10-man roster will give coach Lauderdale multiple options when selecting his five-man traveling team for tournaments.

The new-look Ranger squad will hit the links for the first time on Sept. 8-10 in the GAC Preview at Lake Hefner Golf Course in Oklahoma City.

Northwestern will then host the 2019 Ranger Invite at Meadowlake Golf Course in Enid, Okla. on Sept. 15-17, before rounding out the fall with tournaments in Wichita Falls, Texas on Oct. 13-15 and Arkadelphia, Ark. Oct. 20-22.



Graphic provided by riderangerside.com

This years 2019 GAC golf preseason poll. The new-look Ranger squad will hit the links for the first time on Sept. 8-10 in the GAC Preview at Lake Hefner Golf Course in Oklahoma City.

# Sports

## Women's golf starts season in MO

By **ASHLEY WATTS**  
*Sports Editor*

The Ranger women's golf team gear up to play in their first tournament held on Sept. 3-4 in Kansas City, Missouri.

### Golf

After graduating three seniors the women's golf team added five newcomers to the team this year.

Joining the sole returner, Ashley Watts, are three transfers, Madison Masch, Mackena Tennyson and Cali Taylor, and freshman, Samantha Friday and Angela Egger.

"We are a totally different team going in to this year," said head coach, Tim Lauderdale. "We added more players to the roster than we have had previous years which

has sparked the completion level at practice and we have only been able to be on the course for week."

In the Great American Conference preseason poll, that came out earlier this week, the Lady Rangers were ranked No.9.

"The women's team did not finish last in a single tournament last year and we don't expect that to change this year," Lauderdale said. "It's a tough conference to play in, no doubt, but we are excited to see how these girls come together and compete."

"I am excited for this new group of girls and I'm excited to see how they perform in their first golf tournament of the season," said Nikkole Donk, graduate assistant for golf.

After the Central Region Preview, the Lady Rangers will head home to host the Ranger Invite on Sept. 16-17 at the Meadowlake Golf Course in Enid.

The men's team will hit the links for the first time on Sept. 8-10 at the GAC Preview held at Lake Hefner Golf Course in Oklahoma City.



Photo provided by riderangerside.com

The 2019 womens golf team. Women's golf will head to Kansas City to compete in the Central Region Preview on Sept. 3-4.

## Up next for Ranger sports

### Football @ East Central University

6 pm Sept. 7 @ East Central University



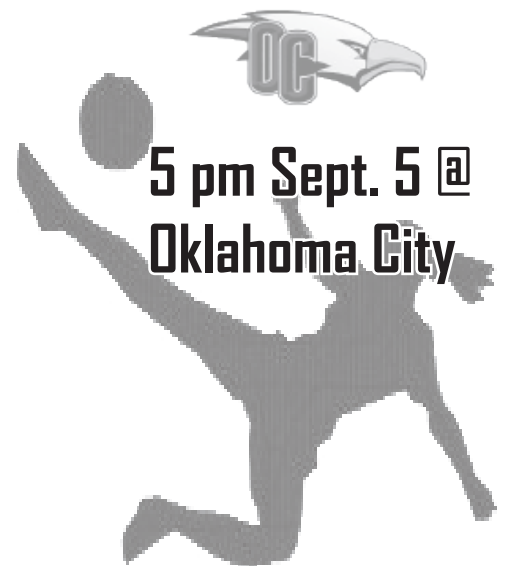
### Volleyball

Sept. 6-7 @ Kathleen Brasfield ASU Invitational in San Angelo, Texas



### Soccer @ SW Baptist

5 pm Sept. 5 @ Oklahoma City



### Men's and Women's Cross Country

8 p.m. Sept 7 @ Edmond, Ok



### Men's Golf @ Great American Conference Preview

Sept. 8-10 @ Lake Hefner Golf Course in Oklahoma City



# BCM hosts annual "Pancake Howdy"



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**Top Left:** Students mess around after filling their stomachs at the annual Pancake Howdy feed

**Bottom Left:** NWOSU faculty members and volunteers serve students pancakes

**Top Right:** Students enjoy each others company during the Pancake Howdy at the BCM

**Bottom Right:** Caleb Mosburg and Dylan Siler present the giant pancake for Siler to eat for the pancake eating challenge

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