

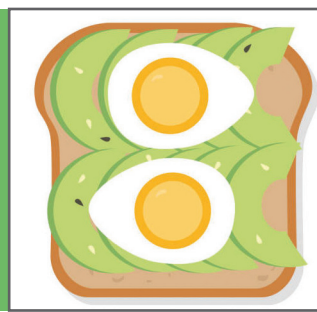
Profile

Read how one of Northwestern's assistant athletic directors went from Pennsylvania to Alva. Pages 4&5



Dorm Recipe

Looking for a delicious, dorm friendly recipe? Try avocado toast. Page 8



NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Oklahoma

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Presbyterians donate church

By ALLI SCHIEBER
Editor-in-Chief

The First Presbyterian Church of Alva donated its building to NWOSU last month.

The building will be used for Northwestern's fine arts programs to rehearse and possibly host concerts as well. The Northwestern Band have already started using the space for their jazz ensemble rehearsals.

Additionally, the band has been able to use the church's kitchen to serve meals during band camp.

They also had the leadership team cook a pancake dinner for the other members.

"We are just thrilled to be able to be down there," said Zachary Tolman director of bands. "We are so grateful to the Presbyterian members and this transition that is happening."

Tolman also said the universi-

ty has purchased them some new music stands to use at the church, and they are working on getting quotes for sound treatment for the walls as well as updating the sound system.

"It really will be a wonderful space and already has been," Tolman said.

While Northwestern currently has full ownership of the building, there are still parts of it that the church is using.

For example, the church is renting the montessori school, and the fine arts department is not using that part of the church currently.

The church also still has their Sunday service there for a small congregation of about 15 people that attend on Sundays.

Since the church is still actively using the building, the University is not changing the name of it right now.

The Presbyterian church has been in Alva for more than 100 years old, and the current building



Photo by Alli Schieber

Members of Northwestern's jazz ensemble practice in one of the rooms at the Presbyterian Church on Tuesday.

was built in the '60s.

"The church has always valued education," said Dr. James Bell academic vice president. "They have always valued the

arts, and the church still feels very committed to fulfilling a mission of giving back to the community."

Bell is a member of the Presbyterian Church and said the

other members are excited to see the building have a new life that aligns with their values of education, the arts, community and service.

Rangers get ready for fall sports



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Student athletes get fired up during the Northwestern fight song at meet the rangers night. The women's track and field team, holding up signs, took home the Golden Cowboy Hat trophy, which is rewarded to the team with the most school spirit.

See page 8 for a preview of the upcoming football season as well as how Northwestern soccer performed at its game Saturday.

Politics

Senator visits campus

By TARA OWEN
Senior Reporter

Northwestern Oklahoma State University hosted a community visit for U.S. Senator Markwayne Mullin on the Alva campus Thursday.

Students, faculty, community members, local 4-H and FFA members all gathered in the Ranger Room to get a legislative update and to ask questions.

Mullin has been in office since January 2024. Previously he served 10 years in the U.S. House

of Representatives.

Mullin attended the University of Missouri Valley. However, when his father became ill, he postponed college and took over his family's plumbing business.

Throughout the years, Mullin said, he and his wife, Christie, have been able to take the business to the next level by making the business; the largest in the region. Mullin is currently the only U.S. senator to also be a current business operator.

Mullin has spent much of his recent time flying and on the road at community conversations.

"When I got involved in politics, I found that there are important things out there that are not right," Mullin said, "and there are a lot of people that don't tell you all that is going on."

Mullin talked about the appropriation bills and earmarks and problems with those.

He noted that so many members want to just get their names



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

U.S. Sen. Markwayne Mullin speaks to an audience on Thursday.

on things. Mullin also took questions from the crowd and gave advice to future farmers and to college students to stay driven and knowledgeable.

For more information on U.S. Senator Mullin and his plans while in office, see Mullin.senate.gov.

"...I found that there are important things out there that are not right."

— Markwayne Mullin

NEWS

WHAT'S UP

SEPTEMBER 5-11

5TH

Woods County Fair 3 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Woods County Fairgrounds

6TH

Woods County Fair 3 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Woods County Fairgrounds

7TH

Woods County Fair 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Woods County Fairgrounds
Heartland BEST Robotics Kickoff 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at NWOSU campus

10TH

Woods County Sheriff candidate forum 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

11TH

OBI Blood Drive 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Student Center
O.I.L club meeting 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at EC 109

FREE LUNCHES

Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Bible Chair
Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at BCM
Thursdays 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Wesley House

Pool construction making a splash



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

A new building at the Alva pool is almost finished.

By **DERRICK GALINDO**
Senior Reporter

After a scorching summer, the Alva city's public pool will be open next year after nearly half a decade of closure.

The Alva public pool used to be a summertime attraction, but closed in 2018 due to inability to operate with modern health codes.

With every passing summer getting hotter and hotter, the lack of a pool for Alva showed.

Tyler Detring, president of Ascend Commercial Buildings who oversaw construction, said it was certainly a shame that the pool was closed for so long.

Detring also said the hardest part to building the new pool wasn't even constructing the pool, but getting funds for the pool.

Due to the size of the project

and the town of Alva's size, it'd be a big ask.

Detring said, however, the Alva community responded with overwhelming support.

While the pool itself is built from the ground up, there will be more than just a pool.

From climbing walls to a hoop for basketball; the new pool will have more opportunities for aquatic fun for Alva to dive right into.

Detring said I am looking towards Alva's future. He was happy to get a new pool.

"I'm a Northwestern graduate," Detring said, "and Alva's a real special place to me."

The pool will be located in the same location 1402 Flynn St. by Hatfield Park.

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2 Scoop Waffle \$3.99

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- 16oz \$4.99
- 20oz \$5.99

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- 20oz \$4.99

Lunch Menu

Sandwiches

- Warty Nod - (Meat & Cheese) based on a Crispy Bread... \$10.99
- Jimmy Ray - (The consistency of all the Jimmy Ray Sandwiches... \$10.99
- Club Sandwich... \$8.99
- Turkey or Pork or Roast Beef Sandwich... \$8.99
- Grilled Cheese Sandwich... \$4.99
- Grilled Cheese Croissant... \$5.99
- BBQ Sandwich... \$5.99
- Hamburger... \$5.99
- Bacon, Egg & Cheese Croissant... \$9.99

*Add Bacon to any sandwich \$1.00

Classics

- Hot Dog... \$5.99
- with chili and cheese... \$6.99
- On Pickle... \$1.25

Salads / Soups

- 1/2 Salad... \$6.99
- 1/2 Sandwich... \$5.99
- 1/2 Bowl of Soup... \$5.99
- Chili Salad... \$10.00
- Spinach Salad... \$10.00
- Ask for soup of the day

Yum! Come enjoy the fountain!

NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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classification, title, etc., address and phone
number for verification and shall be kept
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Monday to the News office in JDA232. Let-
ters via e-mail are acceptable as long as they
follow the rules stated above and can be sent
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sions to no more than 250 words. The editors
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for grammar, libel and space limitations. All
letters submitted may not be used.

All letters represent the views of the
author.

OPINION

Waiting for better temperatures

Wishing for rainy days

By ANAYENCI TENA
Guest Columnist

The semester has started and so far it is a good start, but the last months have been rough in terms of weather.

even though at northwestern we have plenty of shade, the temperatures throughout the daylight are very hot, and they do not make walking to your classes feel very comfortable or joyful at all.

I genuinely think that the weather this year has been worse than last year and lately, it is making me feel anxious.

Personally, my favorite weather is rainy, it makes it feel more comfortable and peaceful. rainy weather may not be the favorite

for other students, but in my perspective I see it as a good way to start your day.

My favorite thing about rainy weather is the sound of the raindrops falling and also the feeling of the raindrops once they hit you.

**My favorite thing ...
is the sound of
raindrops falling.**

Although rain is my favorite thing about the nature, I think for Northwestern the

best time of the year for beautiful weather happens during November. that time of the year may have freezing temperatures but I think it makes Northwestern look unique and iconic for Alva with all the snow surrounding town.

I think snow season is a time of the year where Northwestern is highlighted for the activities that can take place for example snow fights, or snowboarding.

Can't wait for snowy days

By LEONARDO ROBLES
Opinion Editor

It seems that the weather in Alva is very warm and now that the semester has started, we better get ready for some long walks to our classes under the high temperatures of the sunlight.

I enjoy warm weather because

it makes outside activities be more accessible, but it is sure not helping us when it comes to trying to have a field day or just a normal walk in the park.

I can't wait to have some snow or even rain during this semester.

I think NWOSU is ready to receive any type of weather to make it somewhat joyful for the students.

Summer can be brutal

By JESSE SCHROEDER
Assistant Professor

Regarding the weather, I am glad to feel the cooler temperatures, and now that we are in September, it is just a matter of time to have some cool air and clearer skies outside our homes.

I prefer warmer weather, but

lately our summers in northwest Oklahoma have been brutal making it very difficult for the staff and students to be able to enjoy the day.

I have been always ready for the cool down, but I hope we don't see much ice or snow this winter, mainly in our streets and highways.

My favorite things about campus

Auditorium renovation is great

By JESSE SCHROEDER
Staff Member

As far as improvements, there are always improvements to be made when it comes to a place as large as a university.

I think NWOSU does a good job of keeping up as best as can be.

I am very excited about the updates taking place in Herod Hall and in the auditorium. It is such a visible part of our campus, I'm glad to see it being freshened up.

Beyond the visibility of the space, the auditorium provides learning space for our fine arts students. It's important to keep those spaces updated.

A place for opportunities

By LEONARDO ROBLES
Opinion Editor

The Northwestern campus is the place where I come and do my education, and it is also the place where I work.

What I think of the campus is that it is a place where you find opportunities, and you are provided with resources that you might not be able to find somewhere else.

Something that may need improvement on campus could be the furniture in some of the buildings and dorms. It is remarkable that even though there are buildings that could use some remodeling and upgrading, it still does not stop NWOSU from providing important resources to its students.

At NWOSU there are numerous of activities to perform throughout the day.

If I'm not doing any of my assignments or working, I like to go to the Wellness Center or to the tennis courts.

I appreciate that NWOSU offers the athletes clean and well

cared courts for those who use them.

There are many spots around the campus where anyone can hangout or study, but my favorite spot on the Alva campus is the library.

I think the library is one of the best places in the campus, mainly for the access to a large amount of books, and the study rooms that also are available inside the building.

I wish I could see more students walking around campus throughout the whole day.

In the mornings, the campus seems very active, but once the majority of the students are done with their morning classes, the campus looks lonely and there are barely any students around campus.

I feel like the university is underrated when it is compared to other universities.

NWOSU has a lot to offer in terms of educational resources and diversity. Any student planning to earn a college degree will find that Northwestern Oklahoma State University can provide those resources.

Socializing at pavilion

By ANAYENCI TENA
Guest Columnist

The Northwestern campus is great, clean and a proper place to perform your education, but it could improve the drainage system since there has been a few problems with flooding throughout the last years.

One thing that is an issue for me is that the campus has too many uphill that make it difficult to traverse around the area.

The campus may not be perfect, but that does not mean that the Northwestern campus is not a fun place.

On the campus, anyone is still able to perform multiple activities for example tennis, pickleball, volleyball, or even swimming in the Wellness Center.

The favorite activity I enjoy doing at the campus is volleyball.

I think the best spot on campus is the gazebo [pavilion] near the coronado building. It is my favorite place to relax or hangout with friends.

I still thank Northwestern for providing us with a campus where all the students can perform the majority of activities they wish and also able to give us the resources we need for our educational purposes.

There is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.
John Ruskin (1819-1900)

From Philadelphia to Oklahoma

By KAROLINA JURSIUTE
Senior Reporter

Have you ever met someone who is a huge sports fanatic?

You could probably say yes, but have you ever met someone who watches his favorite sports teams no matter where he is or will find a way to watch the games no matter how?

If you know Andrew Santangelo, you might just know a guy.

A couple years ago, Santangelo and the radio guy Dustin Goodno went on a trip to Searcy, Arkansas, to do a radio broadcast during the Harding-NWOSU football game.

On the way back they stopped

However, his Phillies team lost, and he was upset.

Santangelo and Goodno ended up staying an extra night in Arkansas and drove back home in the morning.

That made it a fun, but long trip. Santangelo, the assistant athletic director of communications at Northwestern State University, is a guy that absolutely loves sports.

Santangelo had been in love with sports for as long as he could remember.

It has always been his life from the moment he wakes up to the moment he goes to bed.

He said his dad being a basketball coach had a lot of influence on who he is now.

He would record stats for the

volleyball game."

Santangelo does a lot for NWOSU coaches and student-athletes, and not everyone will realize that.

He and Piekarski have a mutual interest in sports, which has bonded their friendship at NWOSU.

They became friends just when Piekarski accepted the job at NWOSU and ever since they have kept in contact with each other every day.

According to friends Santangelo cares about his job, family, friends, making sure everything and everyone is good.

Without any question, Santangelo's parents are his role models and who influenced him the most, he said.

He has looked up to them from day one from everything they



Andrew and his family back row: Meghan, Luke, Mom, Dad, Natalia and Valerie, front row: Nick, Andrew and Zach.

at one of the sports bars to watch game two of the World Series because the Phillies were playing the Astros.

That's right Santangelo is a huge Philadelphia sports fan.

They didn't stay there for long because the sports bar didn't have the game on. Santangelo had Goodno drive to Buffalo Wild Wings, which is another sports bar, while he was watching the game on his phone.

They arrived at the sports bar, and it did have the game on, but the table that the waiters sat them down at did not have a good angle for the TV that had the World Series game on.

So, Santangelo asked for another table to get closer to the TV and the action.

games for his dad's team and that just made him fall in love with the statistics of sports.

"My passion for sports and wanting to work in athletics – having the ability to work in sports every day is a lot of fun and having the opportunity to promote the success of the student-athletes makes it a fun atmosphere each and every day to go to work," Santangelo said.

According to his friends, Santangelo is a great worker, loyal to his job, will help everybody before himself and he works relentlessly.

"Andrew devotes so many hours to NWOSU and NWOSU athletics," Alex Piekarski, NWOSU soccer head coach, said. "On days, especially if we have more than one home game, he's often here for 14 hours a day. He will run from a soccer game up to a football game,

taught him on how to be as a person, work ethics etc. He said he would not even be close to where he is today if it was not for them.

"I would say he's adventurous because it's not easy to leave from Pennsylvania and move to Oklahoma where you don't know many people," Goodno, said.

Santangelo said moving from Pennsylvania to Oklahoma without knowing anyone is one of the crazi-

"I THINK WHAT I MOST ADMIRE ABOUT ANDREW IS HIS LOYALTY"
— JON BINGESSER



Andrew Santangelo poses with his dog, Harper.

Photos Provided

est things that he ever did.

Graduating from La Salle College High School and going to Oklahoma State University with no previous ties is still wild to him sometimes when he looks back on it.

Another crazy thing that he did was eventually going home to move back to Oklahoma without visiting Alva or NWOSU before accepting the job.

Santangelo has a lot of great qualities and not many weaknesses.

"Courteous – Andrew is definitely one of the kindest people that I have come across," Goodno said, "I feel like he would do anything for just about anybody."

Santangelo does not have a lot of fears, but failure is always a concern he said.

Having to work in the communication side of things can get

stressful, because he always wants to give his best to the fans on social media.

For him, it is important to always stay on top of things and triple check everything. Having to promote to an audience, he wants to do the best he can to promote the athletic side of the university at a high level, he said.

Santangelo will do anything he can for anybody. He goes over to

his church and helps out with technology. He's always willing to help somebody out.

"He is willing to go above and beyond for everybody," Keith Wear, athletic trainer at NWOSU. "He's the first one to be at the sporting event making sure that everything is set up and ready to go."

One thing that would be surprising to know about Santangelo is that he sees movies at the theater

fairly consistently, but he does not watch any movies outside the movie theater.

When his friends try to quote something from some movie, he does not know what movie it is from unless he went to watch it at

assistance at NWOSU or even outside of it, Santangelo is the first person he calls.

Just the other day he gave Bingesser a ride to pick up his car from the tire shop, and he also volunteers to feed Bingesser's pet when he is

ments is being where he is today, he said.

Having accepted the role as an



the theater with the friends.

"I think what I most admire about Andrew is his loyalty," said, Jon Bingesser, the volleyball head coach at NWOSU. "And the fact that I always joke about him that he is pure of heart because he is such a good human being and nice genuine person, and those aspects are my favorite about him."

Anytime Bingesser needed any

out of town recruiting.

Santangelo is one of the people that you can rely on and is dependable, Bingesser said.

Santangelo's one weakness is that he will drop whatever he is doing, no matter how important it is, to help somebody with whatever, no matter how unimportant it is.

He has been successful in his life and one of his greatest accomplish-

assistant athletic director right after graduating with his master's degree in adult education – sports administration at NWOSU is a big accomplishment, he said.

This was especially big for him after struggling to find a job for so long after graduating with his bachelor's degree in sports management at Oklahoma State University.

"Honestly, [I] would not change anything," Santangelo said, "everything happens for a reason and is who and where I am today. Of course I have wondered how different choices might have changed my life. For example, if I never transferred high schools, or if I did not go to school at Oklahoma State, but I do not regret any of that, and that is why I am here today – from those choices and finding success and great people."

He still has a lot to accomplish, he said.

Being a strong family person growing up with four siblings, it would be nice to be able to raise a family of himself.

He also has a goal of visiting every MLB stadium one day so that would be a big accomplishment on his bucket list as well.

Santangelo's hobbies are mainly sports.

If you were to ask anyone, all his family and friends know that even after working in sports all day, when he gets home, sports will be on the TV or somewhere near him. Another thing he enjoys is reading, especially Stephen King.

Santangelo has over 70 different baseball hats. You will never see him without a hat.

"Every choice leads to a certain path," Santangelo said, "and in the choices and decisions thrown at me, this is what I chose."



Andrew at the Phillies spring training camp.

FEATURE

How can author create likeable protagonist?

Why do we like certain protagonists and hate others? Is it because of how attractive they look? Is it because of their backstory? Or is it because of the genre they're a part of? and why are some protagonists hated by their fandom?

Let's start off with "Star Wars," for example. Remember when the new movies came out and everyone hated Rey, calling her a "Mary Sue" due to her ability to use the force with little to no training as well as finding her annoying. Then some of the fans countered:

"Well what about Anakin? Isn't he a Mary Sue? Yet everyone loves him." But here's the thing: Yes, Anakin was a lot more powerful than most force users, but he still trained and had flaws.

Rey got everything handed to her and was loved by all the good guys instantly, and didn't have to give up anything. Anakin lost his mother, his friends, and even the

love of his life, who was one of the main reasons he went to the dark side: To find a way to stop her from dying from childbirth. He failed his mission as the chosen one despite trying his best, while Rey succeeds in restoring

... make them an all-powerful, unstoppable demigod who is loved by all ...

peace to the galaxy with little to no inner-character conflict.

Overall, one of the easiest ways to make a protagonist unlikable is to make them an all-powerful, unstoppable demigod who is loved by all and never wrong. No one wants to read a book, watch a movie or tv series or play a video game about a character who wins every fight they're in, succeeds with almost no adversity, is extremely powerful without really explaining why and is morally perfect. Why would they? There's nothing at stake, nothing that puts the protagonist in danger of failing. What's preventing them from achieving everything they want right away?

Another thing that can make a

protagonist disdained by the audience is their personality. Now, can you have a protagonist that's a jerk? Of course, you can. One of my favorite television shows is "House MD", and the main character of that series is a middle-age doctor who constantly makes fun of his coworkers and friends while partaking in objectively immoral activities, and he's one of my favorite characters of all time. And you know what that is? Because 1) he's charming with his insults, and 2) he does good things that show he's a good person.

If you're currently working on a book as you're reading this, I encourage you to reread and make sure your character comes across as likable. If they're supposed to be a jerk but have little to no charm or are overly mean, none of your readers will find them funny. There's nothing wrong with having a protagonist that's morally grey either. Again, as long as they are sympathetic or likable, your reader will have no problem relating to them in some way or shape.

My name is Kevin A. Kaumans, and I want to thank you for tuning into this week's column.

Stay Educated

WORDS WITH MR. KAUMANS



KEVIN KAUMANS

Annual County Free Fair starts Thursday in Alva

By TARA OWENS
Senior Reporter

The Woods County Free Fair starts Thursday. The fair will be at the Woods County Fairgrounds from Thursday through Saturday.

Exhibits must be dropped off by 5:30 p.m. on Thursday. The hours of the fair are 3-9 p.m. on Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday.

The free fair offers something for everyone. A few areas include sewing, photography, baking and many more exhibits, along with countless divisions of animals, plants and homegrown vegetables.

Susan Holliday, Woods County Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H educator, encourages all member of the community and Northwestern students to come see all that the free fair has to offer.

"We try to add new projects and areas for exhibitors to enter in to change it up each year," Holliday said.

A favorite aspect of the fair for many is the ice cream tasting. Holliday said the homemade ice cream contest is back this year. It will be on Thursday at 7 p.m. The prize for the first-place winner will be \$100.

Another activity that will be happening on Thursday night is the haybale decorating contest.

The haybales are provided, however, supplies are not provided. First place winner will win a gift card. "I love the haybale decorating contest," said Laura Radford, Woods County Free Fair vice president. "Last year we made a jack-o-lantern and had a great time."

College students are welcome to enter in any of the open categories at the free fair this year.

Chloe Bradt, Elementary Education major from Alva, has entered baked goods into the fair for many years.

"Baking is one of my favorite hobbies, and the fair is an amazing way for me to be able to do what I enjoy," Bradt said.

This year will mark the second year for the dog show at the fair. The classes include a trick class, obedience and costume. The dog show will be on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Prizes will also be given out to the winners of the show.

More information regarding the Woods County Free Fair, the fair books and entry tags can all be found at the Woods County Extension Center located on the first floor of the Woods County Courthouse.

Dad Joke of the Week:

*I went to a concert for just 45 cents.
It featured 50 Cent and Nickelback.*

First Friday

Student photography featured at Artwalk

The first Friday Artwalk event at the Runnymede. Runnymede in downtown Alva will feature photography of an Northwestern student.

Artwalk, sponsored by Nescatunga Arts and Humanities Council, is 6-8 p.m.

The first floor will display a photography exhibit by Ingrid Maldonado, mass communication major at NWOSU and photo editor at the Northwestern News.



Ingrid Maldonado

Second floor will hold rock painting activities. It included three rocks for \$10 per person. The painting is come and go through the evening. The rocks, bearing a positive message, can be taken home or placed around Alva Artwalk encourages participants to use #AlvaRocks and #Nescatunga so people can see who found the rocks and when it was found.

Maldonado said her "passions stem from a lifelong

love of arts, whether its drawing or singing. Capturing moments through the lens is my way of creating and sharing beauty with world. As a lover of all forms of art, I bring a creative and heartfelt approach to every photo I take whether it's for families, seniors, couples or brands. My image can be described as cozy, warm, intimated and connected to nature."

Dorm Recipe of the Week

Avocado Toast by Jady Chancey

Ingredients

- 1 ½ tsp olive oil
- 1 ½ tsp lemon juice
- ¼ tsp garlic powder
- ⅛ tsp ground pepper
- ¼ table salt
- 1 avocado

Appliances needed

- Toaster
- 4-in-1 egg maker (available from Walmart)
- Microwave

Step 1.

Cut the avocado into slivers and mash the pieces. While mash-

ing the avocado, add the olive oil and the lemon juice.

Step 2.

Add garlic powder, salt and pepper to the mixture. Mix well.

Step 3.

Toast the bread of your choice in the toaster.

Step 4.

Using the 4-in-1 egg maker, cook the egg in the microwave to desired style.

Step 5.

Spread avocado on toast and add the egg on top. Enjoy your toast!

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CAMPUS

New faculty

Chem prof speaks French, plays harp

By JAXYN CLOUD
Student Reporter

Dr. Adam Alber earned his doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of Oklahoma in June of 2024. At OU, Alber had all types of graduate teaching experiences. He was a teacher's assistant for six years. He has taught science classes to first semester freshmen all the way to last semester seniors. Alber started his journey with education in high school, teaching students music lessons.



Dr. Adam Alber

Q: What sold you on coming to NWOSU?

A: Well my P.I. [principal investigator], back in graduate school, knew Dr. [Jason] Wickham very well, and he had suggested that I come here because you guys really needed a new chemist. With my experience and my background, I figured that I'd be able to help you guys out, and certainly being so close by was very helpful with moving and things like that. So it seemed like a good fit at the time.

Q: What is one of the first goals you hope to accomplish here?

A: Well I always like to think that my primary goal is always education, is trying to help people understand chemistry and learn about science and STEM. For me, my primary goal is in education. I want to foster growth and learning in my classroom.

Q: What is your favorite class to teach and why?

A: I know my answer should

be organic chem, because that's what my background is in, but so far it has been very fun to teach chem for non-majors, as that allows me to be funny and joke around. I definitely have been enjoying teaching the chemistry for non-majors course but the organic chemistry really is close to home for me, so different passions in different directions, but I love them both.

Q: What is your superpower?

A: Being energetic in the morning, even though I am about to fall asleep.

Q: What is something most people don't know about you?

A: I've got a few. I am a dual citizen of the United States and Switzerland. I also minored in French. I've been speaking French for almost 20 years. I am also a harpist. I've been playing the harp for probably more than 20 years.

Coach loves murder podcasts

By INGRID MALDONADO
Student Reporter

Cali Griffin first attended Fort Scott Community College then came to NWOSU where she earned her degree in agriculture business. She coached the rodeo team at Fort Scott for about five years, took a break and then coached another two years. She is now the new rodeo coach at NWOSU.



Cali Griffin

Q: What sold you to coming to NWOSU?

A: The community and the school for sure. They kind of toured me around and I got to meet everybody. There's lots of places that support people, but the sport here is way different, everybody is so involved and wants everything to go so good here. Whether you're in athletics or whether you're just a student in a club or whatever it is, they want it to go well.

Q: What is one of the goals you hope to accomplish here?

A: Well, we obviously always have a goal of winning, because Stockten's done a good job at that, and we want to carry on

that tradition. I'm a big goal setter, so you know what I mean? I have goals for how many points I want the women's team to get this year, or how many points I want the men's team to get, but I mean, we're just trying to create great students who are great athletes, who are great people. So, that's kind of my main goal.

I guess if you want one main goal for the whole program, it would be to create great students, who become great people who great athletes are, who represent the college well and hopeful-

ly make the college almost for us. Obviously we want to take a men's team and women's team to the college finals, that's always the goal.

Q: What do you think is your superpower?

A: The ability to keep kids motivated. There's a lot of people in this world with a ton of talent who don't have a ton of motivation.

There's a lot of kids with a ton of motivation who maybe don't have the most talent, but usually those kids with motivation, they see somebody who cares for them whether they're super talented or not.

Those are the type of kids who go farther. If they have somebody who believes in them and kind of makes them believe in themselves, so I would hope being able to motivate people would be my superpower.

Q: What is something most people don't know about you?

A: Man, I'm a sucker for murder podcasts, I will listen to 4,000 murder podcasts half the time before I'll listen to the radio. So, I drive way too much. I'm a murder mystery fanatic.

New physics prof was cricket pro

Originally from Sri Lanka, Dr. Rasika Mohottige earned his bachelor's degree in physics and a master's degree in the field of condensed metaphysics before he moved to the United States to earn a doctorate in nanophysics and nanoscience at the University of North Dakota. He's taught at various universities including at Waldorf University in Iowa before moving to Alva.



Dr. Rasika Mohottige

Q: What sold you on coming to NWOSU?

A: The main thing is this is a state university, so I wanted to be a part of one of the state universities in the United States. That's the main reason. When I was in Iowa, I didn't have any classes like the physics minor. Then I found out that here, at Northwestern, there was a physics minor, and I have some opportunities to introduce a physics major. Another reason is Iowa is so cold. I

liked the environment and Alva is a small city.

Q: What is one of the first goals you hope to accomplish here?

A: I have a couple of goals. The first, right now we don't offer a quantum mechanics class, so

I'm talking with the department chair to offer a quantum mechanics class. That is my first goal.

Then my second goal, once we settle with all of the physics minor classes, I want to start a physics major here. The main reason is I like to do some research.

And the next thing I want to start is a nanoscience lab. That is not easy because to start a nanoscience lab, we need money. Right now, I'm preparing some grants and proposals to find some money to buy instruments.

Q: What is your favorite class to teach and why?

A: I'm teaching a classical mechanics class, and I like the class for various reasons. I can share my expertise with my students and show them how to use mathematics to express laws of physics. I want to show them the relationship between mathematics and physics, and then they can understand that mathematics is the language of physics.

Q: What is your "superpower"?

A: I am a research-oriented guy. I like to do research, and at the same time I like teaching too.

Q: What is something most people don't know about you?

A: Most people don't know I'm a good cricketer. I was a professional cricketer in Sri Lanka, and still, I play cricket. Cricket is a big part of my life. I love cricket. When I was in Iowa, every weekend, I drove up and down five hours, just for a game.

Have an idea for a story?
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SPORTS

Lady Rangers tie first home game

By **KAROLINA JURSIUTE**
Senior Reporter

Playmaker



Victoria Ruvalcaba
Lone scorer against Rogers State on Saturday.

Northwestern Lady Rangers soccer team finished their exhibition games marathon on Saturday in Alva with a 1-1 tie with Rogers State University.

The game started off slow and neither of the teams scored in the first half of the game. Both teams had good defense and played hard. Northwestern Lady Rangers would get close to the goal but then couldn't score.

Entering halftime, the score was 0-0.

Just after a few minutes, Rogers State scored their first goal to get in the lead 0-1. After that goal, the Lady Rangers were motivated to get back into the game. Some minutes later, #11 Victoria Ruvalcaba scored a goal to tie the game 1-1.

Soccer

Neither of the teams could come up with another goal, so the result remained tied until the end of the game.

"It was a really good learning and growing experience for us," said Alex Piekarski, the head women's soccer coach. "Credit to Rogers State. They played some different tactics, and it took us a little while to adjust to them, but I am really proud of my team. I thought we created a good amount of chances. We could have finished a couple more of

them, but I thought we created a couple really good ones, too."

Piekarski said the team will be working on putting together the full 90-minutes and increasing the depth of the team during the team practices.

"I thought we brought out a lot of intensity and great effort; we had some tough practices and just a lot of mixing in new girls," said Lady Ranger's goalkeeper senior Rachel Brown, from Pomona, California, majoring in biology health science. "We have 12 freshmen and one transfer, so it has been a challenge to integrate them with all of our returners, but I think tonight probably showed how hard we have been working."

Ruvalcaba said the first half went almost as the team had planned for, with subs coming in



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Cassidy Fitzgerald, No. 2, a sophomore biology-health science major from End, gets ready to kick the ball Saturday in an exhibition game in Alva with Rogers State University. The teams tied 1-1.

and making a difference.

"I definitely think that is what happened," said Ruvalcaba, a junior from Houston, Texas, who majors in biology. "We all worked together as the team, not getting the result that we wanted but definitely had some progress, and it is a good starting point for the season."

Both of the players said the team's goal for this season is to

get a lot of goals, work hard, have fun and make it to the GAC playoffs.

Piekarski said the team is really excited because they have a good balance of incoming players and veterans. The team has a really good senior leadership.

Piekarski agreed with his players that the main goal of the season is to make the GAC playoffs.

"To get back to the conference

tournament," Piekarski said. "We made it in 2021,2022 and we missed it last year, and we are really hungry to get back this year."

Lady Rangers travel to Nebraska on Thursday to play Wayne State College and will come back to play their first official home game against Pittsburg State University on Sunday at noon.

Find stats at riderangerside.com.

Football opens in Arkansas

By **ELY NOBLE**
Senior Reporter

After a disappointing 1-10 finish last season, the NWOSU Ranger football team is looking to turn the page with fresh leadership and renewed energy.

Head coach Ronnie Jones, a seasoned coach with a background in both college and the pros, brought in former NFL head coach Jerry Glanville as the new defensive coordinator.

"We are excited to go play a game and see where we are as a football team," Jones said. "We've got a great mix of young talent and experienced players, and our coaching staff brings a lot of knowledge and passion. I'm



Photo by Katelyn Findley

Ranger defensive coach Jerry Glanville works with players Tuesday.

really looking forward to seeing the Rangers turn our program

around and have the success on the field that past Rangers have experienced."

Alex Baxter, head strength and conditioning coach, said he has been impressed by the team's dedication during the offseason.

"The hard work and dedica-

tion from both players and coaching staff are starting to pay off," Baxter said. "The commitment to training, discipline and a positive mindset has transformed us into a stronger, more competitive team."

Baxter has also noticed marked improvements on both sides of the ball.

"On defense, guys are flying to the ball," he said. "On offense, they are flying around and running each route as hard as they can. Both defense and offense have shined throughout training camp."

The Great American Conference that the Rangers compete in has a challenging schedule, this year.

"We're looking forward to the challenge," Jones said. "The coaches and players have worked really hard, and I believe these efforts will show up on the field. The guys are hungry, and we're ready to compete."

This week in sports:

Football

- Thursday, 6 p.m. @ University of Arkansas Monticello

Soccer

- Thursday, 3 p.m. @ Wayne State, Wayne, Nebraska
- Sunday, noon vs. Pittsburg State, Pittsburg, Kansas

Ranger Rodeo

- Friday-Sunday @ Kansas State, Manhattan, Kansas

Cross country

- Friday, 8 a.m. @ Cameron University, Lawton

Volleyball

- Friday-Saturday @ Wichita Falls, Kansas

Women's Golf

- Wednesday-Sept. 10 @ Northeastern, Muskogee

Watch at 6 p.m. Thursday
youtube.com/weevilnation