

## How To

Learn how to get into reading in this weeks how to column  
Page 9



## Sports

Romane Lacoste named GAC Golfer of the week for week 16  
See how Golf did over Spring Break on Page 12



# NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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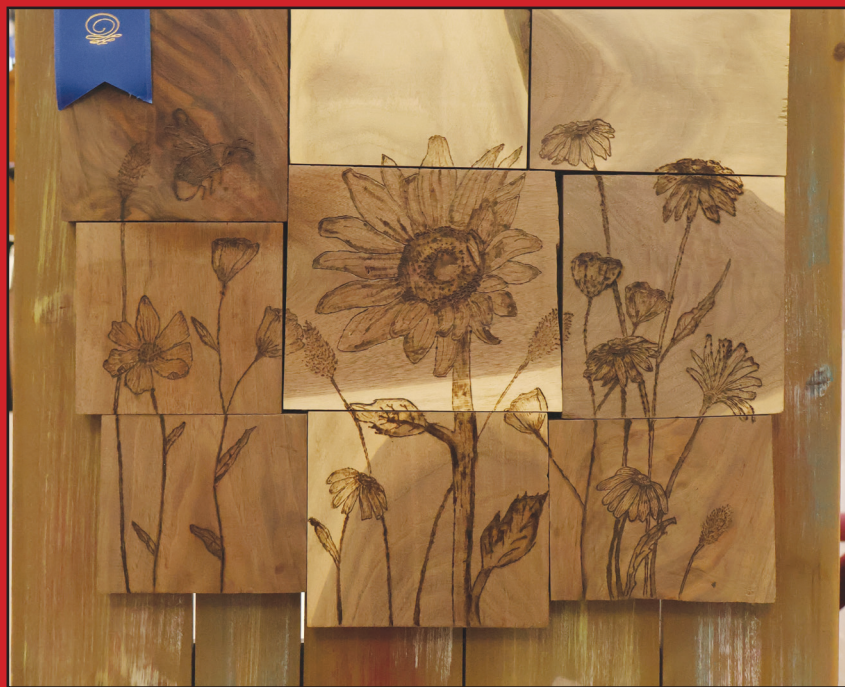
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## National Art Society art show winners

Left, "Consider the Wildflowers" by Alaina Pierce won first place in the miscellaneous category for students and also received the People's Choice award. Right, "The Student" by Elayna Warrington won first place in the works on paper category for students. All award-winning artwork will be for the Winners' Show which will take place April 4 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Runnymede.

See student category winners on page 10.



## How Oklahoma legislation affects college students

By ALLI SCHIEBER  
Editor-in-Chief

Oklahoma legislation has several bills that they are looking at and passing through to the House of Representatives.

This is something that college students may not realize is going on right now or may not care about, but these bills affect them too some more than others.

There are several bills however that are being passed that directly affect college students.

One bill that was passed by the Oklahoma Senate on March 17 was a name, image and likeness legislation which directly affects college athletes. Senate Bill 490 allows NCAA schools to have revenue-sharing agreements with student athletes.

Each NCAA institution will have a \$20.5 million annual salary cap for athlete compensation.

This will be funded through conference distributions, advertising, sponsorships and ticket sales.

The new salary cap will go into effect on June 30.

In an article from the Oklahoman, Sen. Todd Gollihare, R-Kellyville said that as college athletics evolve it is important

for Oklahoma to take proactive measures to keep up with national changes.

"This is a pivotal moment in the history of collegiate athletics, and Oklahoma is standing at the forefront," Gollihare said via the Oklahoman.

On Tuesday, two other bills passed the senate that affect college student, Senate Bill 991 and Senate Bill 942.

Senate Bill 991 defines antisemitism while Senate Bill 942 requires the State Regents for Higher Education develop and enforce policies that prevent antisemitic acts at public colleges and universities.

This bill has had a lot of support among people and is a response to concerns that Jewish students, faculty and families have had in Oklahoma.

Another bill that advanced on Tuesday was Senate Bill 484 which states that new homeless shelters cannot be built within 3,000 feet from any school.

This bill, however, does not apply to youth shelters or domestic violence shelters.

The legislation will not close existing homeless shelters and does not apply to shelters operating within churches.

While those bills may or may

not affect NWOSU they do affect other universities in Oklahoma.

Which could affect friends or family members of NWOSU students so it is important to know them as well.

Senate Bill 841 however, could affect students at NWOSU. This bill is the Strong Readers Act and is designed to enhance literacy education and ensure that future educators get training in the science of reading.

This could affect early childhood, elementary and special education programs at NWOSU.

The bill directs Oklahoma State of Regents for Higher Education to integrate science-based reading instruction into those programs.

Senate Bill 758 was also approved and while it may not affect college students, with the exception of education majors, directly it is still one that affects education.

This bill is designed to eliminate virtual school days except for emergencies.

It will require that the State Department of Education authority to audit school records to verify that students do attend the virtual days they have.

If less than majority of students attend then the district will

have to add an additional in person day.

The State Department of Education will also have to publish an annual report that details emergency virtual day usage by June 30. This will begin in 2026.

Senate Bill 670 awaits approval of the full senate but it would require medical doctors, osteopathic physicians, physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to receive an hour of continuing education in integrated behavioral health care.

Those providers will have to include an evidence-based mental health screening to patients either during or before their primary care visit.

Senate Bill 364 passed the senate and is meant to prohibit punishments that cause physical pain such as hitting, paddling, spanking and slapping as a form of punishment to students with disabilities.

Oklahoma National Guard members will be able to receive Career Tech tuition assistance if Senate Bill 31 gets passed.

This will help members of the Oklahoma National Guard gain an education.

Senate Bill 231 if approved will help families and students financially by adding more back-

to-school items to be exempted from taxes during tax-free weekend.

Some of these items include sportswear, school supplies, school art supplies, instructional materials and computer supplies.

It will also make tax free weekend run from the first Friday of August through the following Sunday each year.

Senate Bill 640 moves to the house for consideration if approved it will change the distance required between marijuana facilities and school entrances from 1,000 feet to 3,000 feet.

It will also make the same changes between marijuana facilities and places of worship.

This bill will reinforce Oklahoma's commitment to keep schools and places of worship free of influence.

Bill 640 is a response to parents and community leaders being concerned about the increased visibility of dispensaries and grow facilities near schools and places of worship.

The legislative sessions are scheduled to end on May 30 and it is important for students to be made aware of the bills that are passed in case they do affect them even if it only affects them in a small way.

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# NEWS

## What's Up?

March 27-April 2

### 27

- Writer's Roundtable meeting 5:00-6:00 pm at VH 200
- SGA Presentation Night 7:00-9:00 pm at EC 109
- PLC Interviews

### 28

- PLC Interviews
- O.I.L Meeting 12:00-1:30 at Library room 221
- OSSAA Regional Speech

### 29

- Student Government Association Applications due at 5:00 pm Applications should be printed and brought to RH 131

### 31

- PLC Interviews
- Choir concert 7:00-8:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church

### 1

- PLC Interviews
- Sexual Assault Awareness Week
- Deadline to apply for NSA

### 2

Free Lunches  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Tuesday at Bible Chair  
Wednesday at BCM  
Thursday at Wesley House

- Meet the Candidate Night SGA 7:00-8:00 pm at Ranger Room

NSA Art Show March 3 - April 1  
in J.W. Martin Library

## March Madness proves that anything is possible

By EMMA GOTT  
Student Reporter

The one time of year when your perfect bracket is ruined by a team you've never heard of and somehow, you love every moment.

The madness that is the NCAA basketball tournament has officially begun. Every spring, the NCAA basketball tournament takes over the nation. From office pools to living room gatherings, March Madness creates excitement unmatched by any other sporting event.

The unpredictability of the tournament captivates fans as 68 college teams compete for the national championship. For many, the chaos begins with filling out brackets. Some rely on statistics, carefully researching team performance, while others pick teams based on mascots or jersey colors.

No matter the method, the fun lies in the uncertainty. Despite careful planning, upsets are an essential part of the tournament, creating madness.

The tournament is known for its "Cinderella stories" which are lower-seeded teams that shock the country and make unexpected runs. One of the most memorable moments in recent history occurred in 2022 when Saint Peters University, a NO. 15 Seed upset NO. 2 seed Kentucky, 7 seed Murray State and 3 seed Purdue, to make it all the way to the Elite 8.

They made history, becoming the first No. 15 seed to make the Elite Eight in the men's NCAA

tournament. This is a prime example of what march madness is all about.

The tournament's one-and-done format adds to its unpredictable nature. Unlike regular season play, where teams have multiple games to recover from a loss, March Madness calls for peak performances every game.

A single poor performance can send a favorite team going home, adding to the drama of each matchup. The emotional stakes are high, with every game bringing intense moments, from buzzer beaters to half-court shots. The passion on the court is incomparable and fans feel every moment of the tournament's highs and lows.

For many, March Madness is more than just basketball, it's a tradition. Friends, family and even strangers gather to watch the games, creating a sense of unity across the country. But it's not just the games that make March Madness special.

It's the collective experience. For three weeks, Americans from all walks of life are glued to their screens, sharing excitement, frustration and disbelief over the tournament's twists and turns.

Conversations in offices, bars and classrooms revolve around brackets and predictions, keeping the spirit of March Madness alive.


As the tournament progresses, some fans will watch their brackets fall apart in the first round, while others will see their picks advance. Regardless of the outcome, the magic of March Madness remains.

See March Madness, Page 3


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# NEWS

## New Non-Profit will benefit Alva community

By **JESSICA SCHIEBER**  
News Editor

Bridge 2 Hope is a Non-Profit organization.

“If a person comes in and they need help paying a bill, we have a paper that they would fill out. And then I can send out a message to others and say this is what we’re looking for or I could say, this person has a specific need. Maybe the refrigerator just broke, and they don’t have one, and I can put that out to reach all these different people instead of them trying to find a fridge.” Tani Tanio the director of the clothing exchange in Bridge 2 Hope told me.

It will be able to help people with filling out applications, finding clothes, and they offer a getting ahead class from 5:30- 7:30 pm on Mondays. This class last 16 weeks and if you have a child they offer childcare as you are taking the class.

Bridge 2 Hope started so that everyone had easier access to help and rather than having to go from resource to resource or church to church Bridge 2 Hope provides all the help you could need.

Pastor Sheryl White explained that “we’re working on a job board and resources. We’re trying to connect with all the resources



Photos by Ingrid Maldonado

The clothing racks at Bridge 2 Hope’s clothing exchange showcase different clothes for men and women and shoes that are available to anyone in need.

available in Woods County and when people come in, we plan to be able to help them fill out applications to do different things. That’s not going to start till May.”

Anyone who is in any sort of need is able to go to Bridge 2 Hope and they will help with anything.

When a person comes in with

a need the people at Bridge 2 Hope will send out the need to others and it is a way for the entire community to help build one another up.

Bridge 2 Hope wants to be seen as a hand up and not a hand out. If you are looking to donate to Bridge 2 Hope you can send a message to their Facebook where

they have their hours posted. If their times don’t work for you, you are able to leave your donations by the door to the building. They accept clothing, shoes, belts, and purses.

They are accepting donations year-round.

They are still trying to figure out all of their hours but they are

currently open Monday 1:00-4:00, Thursday and Friday from 1:00-5:00 and Saturday from 12:00-5:00. They may be open with afternoon hours in May.

The team at Bridge 2 Hope are always looking for volunteers to come help out. The team are also looking for passionate people to join their board.

## Why celebrate women’s history month?

Women’s History has been celebrated in the United States since 1980 when President Jimmy Carter declared National Women’s History Week. In 1987, Congress designated March as Women’s History Month.

This year, the month’s theme has been “Moving Forward Together! Women Education and Inspiring Generations.”

Charity Lyon, an adjunct speech teacher at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, said it is important to remember women’s history.

“Women are created unique and bring gifts, talents, and abilities to the world that add so much depth and beauty,” she said. “Women have contributed to history an immeasurable amount, both behind the scenes and as innovators at the forefront. No matter the types of contributions women make, whether it’s staying at home and raising children or leading in the workforce, women share important aspects men are not designed to contribute. So recognizing women and encouraging them to be who they were created to be, no matter what that looks like, encourages other women to build on the foundation of those before them and all humanity to appreciate how valuable women are. Our world would be a much less interesting and beautiful place without women.”

Lyon also pointed to a quote

**IT’S A FEMININOMENON**

- 1.) Taylor Swift an American singer and songwriter
- 2.) Rosa Parks an American activist in the civil rights movement
- 3.) Joan of Arc a Patron saint of France who fought during the Hundred year’s War
- 4.) Harper Lee the author of To Kill A Mocking Bird
- 5.) Caitlin Clark an American basketball player for the Indiana Fever

by singer-songwriter Stevie Nicks that sums up the challenges women face in getting the recognition they deserve: “When you grow up as a girl, the world tells you all things that you are supposed to be: emotional, loving, beautiful, wanted. And then when you are those things, the world tells you they are inferior: illogical, weak, vain, empty.”

Dr. Roger Hardaway, a history professor at NWOSU since 1990, said: “I think the history of anyone is important. Since women make up more than half of the population of the United States, we should recognize the contributions women have made to U.S. history and not ignore them.”

Harmonie Hughes, an elemen-

tary education major, also said women’s history should have the status it deserves.

“Women’s history is important because it recognizes the hard work of women, inspires future generations and promotes equality,” she said. “It helps us understand the past more and reminds us of the progress made and the work still needed for gender fairness.”

The official proclamation declaring Women’s History Month, signed by President Donald Trump on March 6, says this designation for March is to “honor American women from all generations and all backgrounds who have been integral to our prosperity and productivity, and who has made an indelible mark on the soul and heartbeat of our nation.”

Trump specifically touted the “brilliant and talented female trailblazers” in his administration who are leaders in many areas such as business, foreign and domestic policy, and national security.

“Today and every day, America’s daughters ignite the dreams and develop the character of our next generation. Their contributions to America’s excellence are worthy of praise and recognition, now and forever. ... I call on all Americans to celebrate the exceptional women in their lives and around our country,” the proclamation concludes. — Tra’von Johns contributed to this story

## March Madness heads into the Sweet 16

**Continued from Page 2**

It’s a time when everyone feels connected to the drama unfolding on the court, whether their team is still in the tournament or they’re simply watching for pure excitement from the underdogs.

With upsets around every corner and unexpected heroes rising to the occasion, March Madness proves once again that anything is possible. For fans, both casual and die hard, the tournament is an experience that never disappoints. It’s a ride full of highs, lows and unforgettable moments that will linger long after the final buzzer.

This year the NCAA has had more attention on the women’s bracket as well as all of the attention on the men’s bracket compared to past years. Last year however, there was more of an emphasis on the women’s bracket because of players in it like Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese. These females have gone and joined the WNBA.

With the rise of women’s sports tournament games like the NCAA March Madness tournament raises a lot of attention to these females. This females are playing with even more emotion than ever because now they know there are so many eyes on them.

Leading into the Sweet 16 on the men’s bracket the teams are BYU, Alabama, Maryland, Florida, Arizona, Duke, Arkansas, Texas Tech, Ole Miss, MI State, Kentuck, Tennessee, Michigan, Auburn, Purdue, and Huston. These teams have fought hard to be in the top 16 and the battle will only grown tis weekend.

On the women’s league the

Sweet 16 include UNC, Duke, Maryland, South Carolina, LSU, NC State, Ole Miss, UCLA, Notre Dame, TCU, Tennessee, Texas, Oklahoma, UConn, Kansas State, and USC. Like the men’s team these girls are fighting tooth and nail to get to where they are.

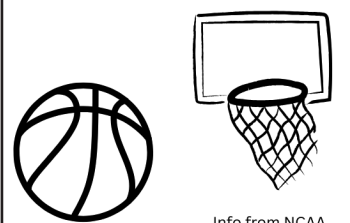
Over the month of March these teams really put themselves to the test playing thier best games every game. This causes some players to get injured and others to not be able to meet their expectations.

March Madness really brings out the most in every single player and it brings out big emotions to the fans who are watching. Either die hard fans or casual fans who were trying to get the best bracket when something goes wrong the fans are quick to blame.

### March Madness previous winners

Men’s Basketball: 2024 UConn, 2023 UConn, 2022 Kansas, 2021 Baylor, 2019 Vigrinia

Women’s Basketball: 2024 South Carolina, 2023 LSU, 2022 South Carolina, 2021 Stanford, 2019 Baylor



Info from NCAA

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All letters represent the views of the author.

OPINION

Trump attempts to end war

By CHRISTIAN FRANKLIN
Opinion Editor

In a stunning turn of events, former President Donald Trump played a pivotal role in brokering an agreement that would bring an end to a decades-long war.

According to Times of India Trump said Russia wants to end the war with Ukraine but they could be dragging their feet.

For months, Trump has been quietly reaching out to world leaders and key military officials, pushing for a peace process that many believed was impossible.

On Tuesday Trumps vision became reality when Russia and Ukraine agreed to "ensure safe navigation, eliminate the use of force and prevent the use of commercial vessels for military purposes in the Black Sea," according to the White House.

Trump, known for his unpredictable and bold tactics, proposed a high-stakes summit between the leaders of the warring nations. Against all odds, they agreed to meet, and Trump's dip-

lomatic team worked tirelessly to craft a framework that balanced the interests of both sides.

With his signature no-nonsense approach, he used both carrot and stick, offering economic relief and security assurances in exchange for a ceasefire and a path to long-term peace.

The breakthrough came when Trump presented a comprehensive peace deal that included disarmament measures, a phased withdrawal of foreign military forces, and a significant trade package designed to rebuild war-torn economies.

World leaders were stunned by the results. Critics, who had long dismissed Trump's foreign policy as erratic, were forced to concede that his unconventional methods had yielded tangible results.

The historic agreement not only promised an end to the fighting but also set the stage for future cooperation between once-hostile nations.

The signing ceremony, held in a neutral city, marked the end of one chapter and the hopeful beginning of another, with Trump



From Pixabay

standing at the center, claiming his place in the history books as the man who ended the war. While many celebrated the peace deal as a triumph of diplomacy, others questioned its durability.

Experts warned that the underlying issues of the conflict were far from resolved and that the fragile truce could easily break down if not carefully managed.

Trump, however, remained optimistic, vowing to hold all parties accountable through eco-

conomic incentives and diplomatic pressure.

He promised that, under his watch, the world would see the emergence of a new global order, one where strong leadership and direct action would replace endless negotiation. As the world looked on, it was clear that this was not just the end of a war, but the start of a new phase in international politics, where the unexpected could become the new norm.

Any team can make it to Final Four

By CHRISTIAN FRANKLIN
Opinion Editor

March Madness has been filled with exhilarating matchups and unexpected outcomes, with Auburn, Michigan, Ole Miss and Michigan State emerging as the top contenders in the South region.

Auburn has looked dominant, dispatching Alabama State and Creighton with ease, and they are set to face Michigan in what promises to be a high-stakes showdown.

Meanwhile, Michigan State has been impressive, surviving close games against Bryant and New Mexico, and is now primed to take on Ole Miss, who has been firing on all cylinders after impressive victories over Iowa State and North Carolina.

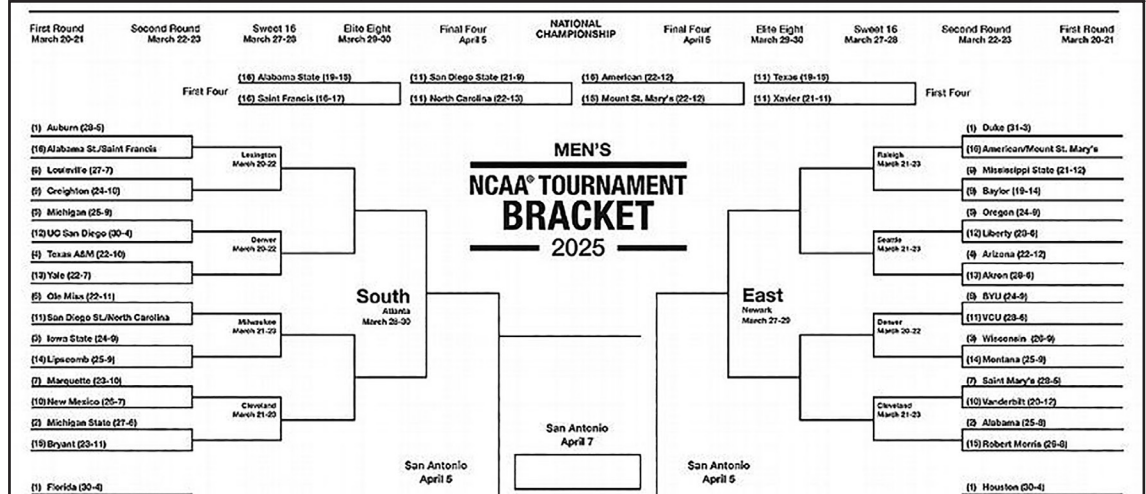
With strong performances from key players and a deep roster, each of these teams has proven they have the talent to go all the way, but the road to the championship is far from smooth.

In the East region, Duke has been showing why they're a perennial powerhouse, with dominant wins over Baylor and Mount St. Mary's, and now face off against Arizona, who narrowly defeated Oregon but has looked formidable all tournament.

Alabama, who has played with intensity, has taken down Robert Morris and Saint Mary's, and now faces BYU.

Duke and Alabama are both

poised for a deep run, but they Houston on Friday. sas, Ole Miss, Michigan, BYU.



From NCAA bracketprintout

will have to contend with the rising threats from teams like Auburn and Michigan State in the South region.

As the tournament progresses, it's clear that any of these powerhouse teams could emerge victorious, but the true test will come in the Final Four, where only the strongest will survive.

With every game being a battle, the chance to take it all the way is still up for grabs.

In the Midwest and West regions, the competition has been just as fierce, with several underdogs making surprising runs.

Arkansas who is ranked No. 10 took out No. 7 Kansas and No. 2 Saint John's in the West.

While in the Midwest, No. 12 McNeese shocked fans when they defeated No. 5 Clemson however, they lost to No. 4 Purdue.

Purdue is set to take on No. 1

With each team hungry for a spot in the Final Four, the intensity is reaching new heights, and every possession becomes critical.

It is called March Madness for a reason and is still anyone's game at this point.

After this weekend it will be narrowed down to Elite Eight and then the Final Four games will take place April 4 with the championship game taking place April 7.

According to USA Today the Duke Blue Devils and Florida Gators are the favorites to win the championship however, anything can happen.

Other than the favorites, Houston, Auburn, Tennessee, Alabama, Michigan State and Texas Tech are top contenders.

Then there are the long shot teams which include Arkan-

Purdue, Kentucky, Arizona and Maryland. Arkansas is the lowest seed still in the bracket being ranked No. 10 in the West.

All four No.1 teams still remain in the bracket and only one No. 2 seed is out of the tournament so far.

All four No. 1 seeds have only made it to the Final Four since the NCAA expanded the tournament to 64 teams back in 1985.

That happened in 2008 when Kansas, Memphis, UCLA and North Carolina all advanced to the Final Four.

Fans can expect the last couple weeks of the tournament to be unpredictable.

As the tournament narrows down, the unpredictability of March Madness continues to captivate fans, proving once again that in college basketball, anything can happen.

# OPINION

## Southwest ends free checked bag policy

By **CHRISTIAN FRANKLIN**  
*Opinion Editor*

March Madness has been filled with exhilarating matchups and unexpected outcomes, with Auburn, Michigan, Ole Miss, and Michigan State emerging as the top contenders in the South region.

Auburn has looked dominant, dispatching Alabama State and Creighton with ease, and they are set to face Michigan in what promises to be a high-stakes showdown.

Meanwhile, Michigan State has been impressive, surviving close games against Texas A&M and New Mexico, and is now primed to take on Ole Miss, who has been firing on all cylinders after impressive victories over Iowa State and North Carolina.

With strong performances from key players and a deep roster, each of these teams has proven they have the talent to go all the way, but the road to the championship is far from smooth.

In the East region, Duke has been showing why they're a perennial powerhouse, with dominant wins over Baylor and Mount St. Mary's, and now face off against Arizona, who narrowly defeated Oregon but has looked formidable all tournament.

Alabama, who has played with intensity, has taken down

Wisconsin and Saint Mary's, and now faces BYU after their victory over VCU. Duke and Alabama are both poised for a deep run, but they will have to contend with the rising threats from teams like Auburn and Michigan State in the South region.

As the tournament progresses, it's clear that any of these powerhouse teams could emerge victorious, but the true test will come in the Final Four, where only the strongest will survive.

With every game being a battle, the chance to take it all the way is still up for grabs.

In the Midwest and West regions, the competition has been just as fierce, with several underdogs making surprising runs.

Kansas has lived up to expectations with commanding victories over Miami and Purdue, setting up a thrilling clash with Tennessee, who has played with grit and determination after knocking off Xavier and Illinois.

In the West, Gonzaga has showcased its elite offense, overpowering Colorado and Marquette, while Houston has battled past Kentucky and San Diego State to secure a marquee matchup against the Bulldogs.

With each team hungry for a spot in the Final Four, the intensity is reaching new heights, and every possession becomes critical.

As the tournament narrows



From Pixabay

down, the unpredictability of March Madness continues to captivate fans, proving once again that in college basketball, anything can happen.

Southwest Airlines recently made a significant change to its baggage policy, introducing a new fee for checked luggage that has caused considerable frustration among travelers.

For years, Southwest had been known for offering two free checked bags per passenger, which was a major selling point

for many customers.

This policy helped set the airline apart from its competitors, making it a preferred choice for budget-conscious travelers who valued the lack of baggage fees.

However, starting this spring, Southwest has implemented a new charge for all checked luggage, regardless of size or weight.

This move has left many passengers feeling disappointed, especially those who have grown accustomed to the airline's more lenient approach to baggage.

Frequent flyers, in particular, are voicing their dissatisfaction, as they now face additional expenses that were previously avoidable.

The decision has also raised concerns about the future of Southwest's customer-focused reputation, as it shifts from being a standout for its free baggage policy to one that now charges for what was once complimentary. With many travelers now reevaluating their choices, this change is making waves in the airline industry.

## Female athletes required to take DNA test

By **CHRISTIAN FRANKLIN**  
*Opinion Editor*

World Athletics has announced a controversial new policy requiring chromosome testing for women's track and field athletes, a decision that has sparked intense debate across the sporting world.

This will make women's track and field the first Olympic sport to require DNA testing.

While track and field may be the first, it is likely other women's sports will follow suite.

The governing body argues that the rule is necessary to ensure fairness in women's competitions by establishing clear biological criteria for eligibility.

This decision is just the latest in many that spark a debate on whether or not transgender women and gender non-conforming athletes should be allowed in women's sports.

Under this policy, athletes will have to undergo genetic testing to confirm that they meet the requirements to compete in female events.

Supporters believe this move addresses concerns about athletes with naturally high testosterone

levels, which some argue provide a competitive advantage in certain disciplines.

They contend that maintaining distinct categories based on biological differences is essential for preserving the integrity of women's sports.

However, the policy has been met with significant backlash, with critics calling it discriminatory and an invasion of privacy.

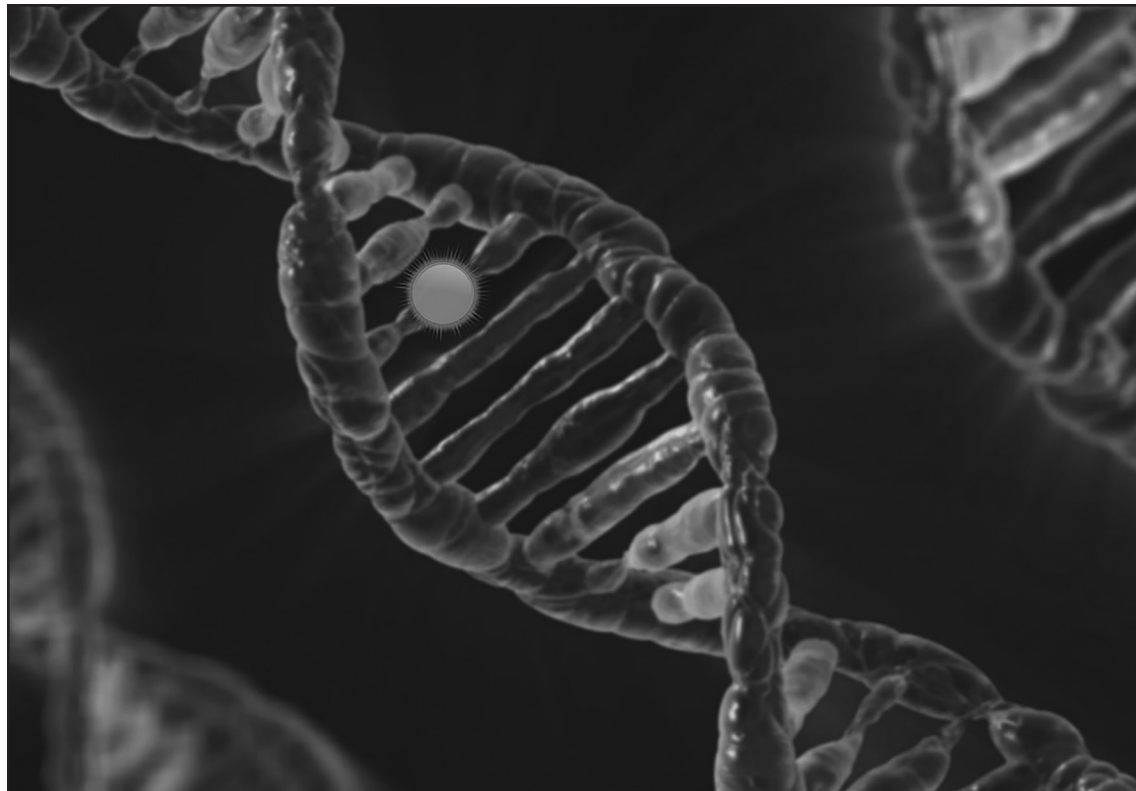
Many argue that such testing is an outdated and overly rigid approach to defining gender in athletics.

The rule has reignited discussions about the complexities of biological diversity and its implications for competitive fairness.

Opponents of the policy emphasize the potential harm it could cause to affected athletes, both emotionally and psychologically.

They argue that requiring genetic testing reinforces narrow and exclusionary definitions of gender, marginalizing individuals whose biological traits do not fit conventional standards.

Critics also warn that the rule could disproportionately impact athletes from regions where gender diversity is less understood or



From Pixabay

accepted.

The policy raises ethical questions about bodily autonomy and whether sports organizations should have the authority to enforce genetic classifications.

Some experts worry that it could discourage participation in

women's sports, as athletes may fear being subjected to invasive testing.

Advocacy groups have also pointed out that fairness in sports is influenced by numerous factors beyond genetics, such as access to resources and training oppor-

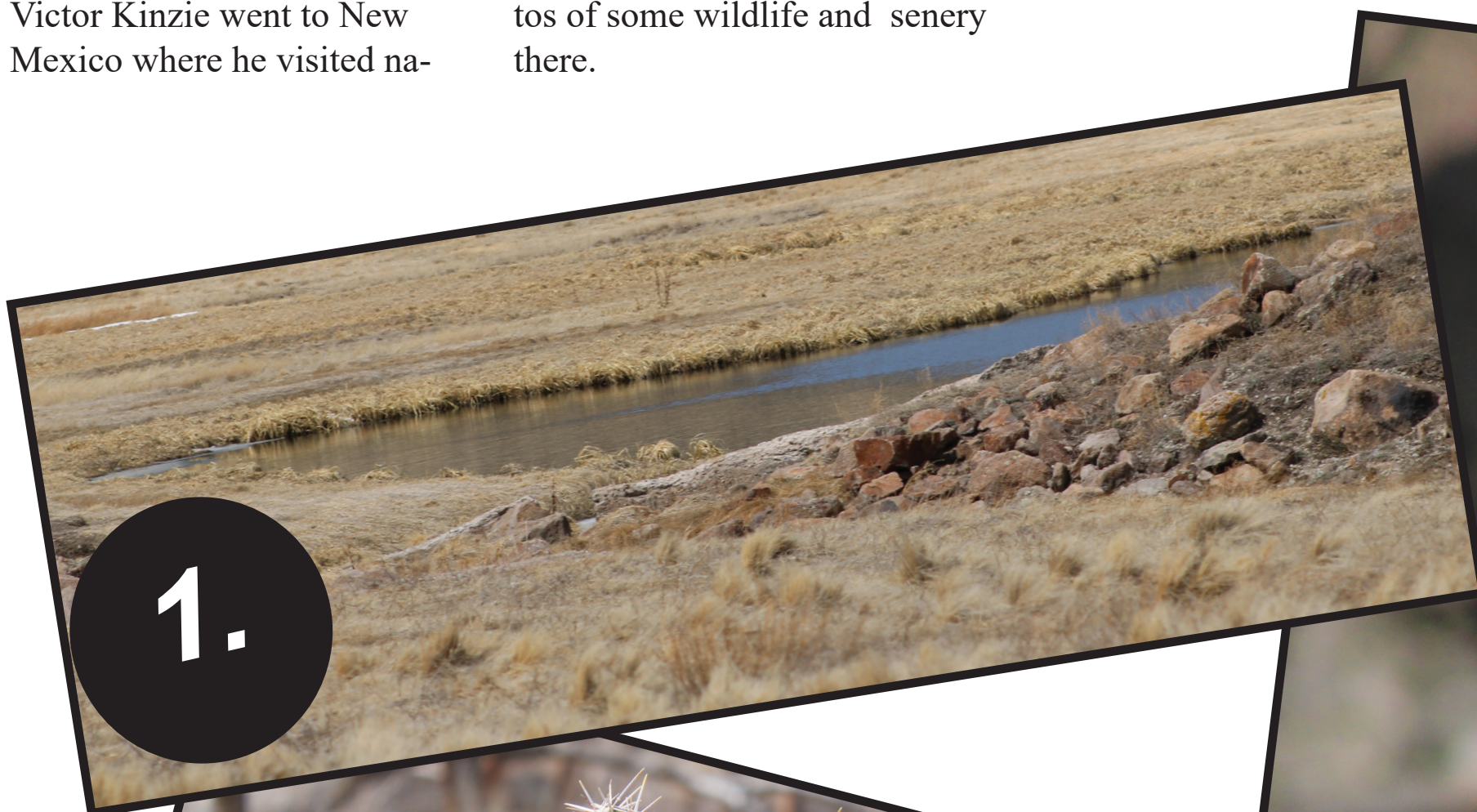
tunities. With the rule set to take effect, legal challenges and public outcry are likely to intensify.

The debate underscores a broader conversation about the intersection of science, gender identity and the evolving landscape of competitive athletics.

# Spring Break in the wild: photo essay by Victor Kinzie

Over spring break freshman Victor Kinzie went to New Mexico where he visited na-

tional parks and captured photos of some wildlife and scenery there.



- 1. A pond in Valles Caldera National Preserve just outside of Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- 2. A cactus at Bandeleir National Park in New Mexico
- 3. a herd of elk stare at the camera at Valles Calderes National Park.
- 4. and 5. A deer munches on some grass at Bandeleir National Park.

# FEATURE

## Who started April Fools Day?

By SARAH BRASHEARS  
Features Editor

April Fools' Day is known for the practical jokes and silly pranks played on April 1st around the world. However, have you ever stopped to wonder how this day truly came about? For this, we can blame the French.

As history tells it, the French New Year used to begin at the end of March or the beginning of April, marking spring as the first of the new year. This celebration often involved feasting and festivities, coinciding with the arrival of the new season.

The idea was that spring symbolized the start of a new cycle, bringing with it renewal and growth. However, in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII introduced the Gregorian calendar, which moved the new year from April 1st to January 1st. The Gregorian calendar was designed to improve the alignment of the dates with the solar year, but not everyone was quick to adopt the change.

While the new calendar was officially adopted in many countries, a significant number of people either didn't receive the news in time or refused to accept the new date for the start of the year. These people, particularly in rural areas or smaller communities, continued to celebrate the new year on April 1st.

They were seen by those who adopted the Gregorian calendar as out of touch with modern times or as ignorant of the new system. As a result, they became

the targets of playful pranks. It was a time when anyone who still celebrated the old tradition was viewed as the butt of jokes, and their "foolishness" was mocked in a lighthearted manner.

The concept of the "April Fool" quickly became ingrained in French culture and spread to other parts of Europe as the centuries passed. By the 18th century, the tradition of tricking others on April 1st had spread across the continent.

The French, in particular, had a unique way of mocking those who were tricked. They would attach paper fish to the backs of unsuspecting individuals, which is how the term "Poisson d'Avril" (April Fish) came to be. The practice involved quietly sticking a paper fish to someone's back without them noticing, symbolizing their foolishness. The person would then walk around unaware of the prank, and once they discovered it, they were seen as an "April Fool." This tradition of playing pranks in the form of the paper fish is still a part of French customs today, and children especially enjoy this playful trick.

Over time, the origin of the calendar change faded, but the tradition of mischief and pranking remained. As the custom spread to other cultures, it was adapted in various ways. In England, the term "April Fool" became widely used, and jokes on this day became an annual event eagerly anticipated by everyone. In the United States, the tradition took root in the early 19th century, and it soon became a part of American culture, with people playing light-



Pope Gregory XIII that changed the calendar from April 1 to January 1.

hearted pranks on friends, family, and even strangers. From simple tricks like telling someone that their shoelaces are untied to elaborate hoaxes, April Fools' Day became a time for creativity and harmless deception.

In today's modern world, April

Fools' Day has become a global phenomenon, transcending cultural and geographical boundaries. People across the world—from the United States to India, from the UK to Australia—celebrate the day by pulling pranks and sharing laughs. Media outlets,

businesses, and social media platforms often participate, creating elaborate hoaxes or fake stories to fool their audiences. While the modern-day celebration of April Fools' Day is mostly lighthearted, there have been some memorable and ambitious pranks in history.

One famous example comes from 1957, when the BBC aired a segment about Swiss farmers harvesting spaghetti from trees, which led many viewers to believe it was true. In 1985, a well-known American company, Taco Bell, announced that it had purchased the Liberty Bell and was renaming it the "Taco Liberty Bell." The announcement caused an uproar among many Americans, only to reveal later that it was a well-crafted joke. The creativity and elaborate execution of these pranks are often a big part of the fun of April Fools' Day.

Though the exact origin of April Fools' Day may be uncertain, one thing is clear: it has evolved into a day universally recognized for humor, surprises, and a sense of playful trickery. The origins tied to the French calendar change may have been long forgotten, but the spirit of mischief continues to thrive on April 1st every year.

Whether you're the one pulling the prank or the one caught off guard, April Fools' Day remains a beloved tradition where laughter, creativity, and fun reign supreme. The holiday has become a unique part of our global culture, a day when the world collectively embraces the joy of laughter and the thrill of a good-natured trick.

## Helping without fear: What good samaritan laws mean for students

By OZGE YAVUZ  
Guest Columnist

Helping someone in an emergency can sometimes raise complex legal and ethical questions. If I accidentally harm someone while trying to help them in an accident or medical emergency, will I be liable? That's where Good Samaritan Laws come in.

These laws aim to encourage charity in society by protecting well-intentioned individuals from legal liability.

Good Samaritan Laws are laws that protect individuals who witness an accident, injury, or other medical emergency and decide to help from legal liability.

These laws ensure that the person assisting is not held legally liable unless they intentionally caused harm or were grossly negligent.

This means that a person who tries to save or help someone does not have to worry about being sued simply for making a

mistake.

As college students, we often attend social events and can encounter different emergencies. In cases of alcohol poisoning, drug use, accidents, or sudden health problems, it is common for a student to want to help a friend.

However, sometimes people hesitate to help out for fear of legal issues. Good Samaritan Laws aim to alleviate these concerns and encourage helping.

Students can use Good Samaritan Laws to act safely in emergency situations.

When they realize that someone needs help, it is important to immediately call 911 or local emergency services to get professional help.

If they have first aid knowledge and are able to intervene, they can help with awareness and caution.

However, they should not risk their own safety while helping and remember that the situation should be turned over to professional medical teams. It is also important to provide accurate and complete information

to the paramedics and authorities who arrive at the scene.

In this process, Good Samaritan Laws reduce students' hesitation to help by ensuring that individuals are not held legally responsible for their good-intentioned attempts to help.

These laws do not protect the individual providing assistance in cases of gross negligence, intentional harm, or failure to fulfill professional responsibility.

For example, legal liability may arise if an individual without medical knowledge acts incorrectly and causes harm to a patient.

Good Samaritan Laws encourage individuals to act more courageously in emergencies by promoting a culture of cooperation and solidarity.

As college students, knowing these laws and taking the right action in emergencies is crucial for both individual responsibility and social awareness.

Learning more about these laws and developing emergency response skills is a critical step for both our own safety and the health of others.

## TALK ABOUT IT THURSDAY

Success begins when we stop making excuses and start owning our choices. Andy Andrews' first principle—"The buck stops here"—reminds us that while we can't control everything that happens to us, we can always control how we respond.

Taking responsibility isn't about placing blame on ourselves—it's about taking charge of our lives and our future.

Harry Truman understood that true leaders don't pass responsibility onto others—they own their

decisions, good or bad. The same applies to us.

When we shift from blaming circumstances to seeking solutions, we move forward. Growth comes when we stop waiting for change and start creating it.

Every challenge is an opportunity to learn, adapt, and improve. The moment we take responsibility for our actions and attitudes, we gain the power to shape our future. No more excuses—just action. Because the buck stops with you.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## A love of photography *How to...*

# Get into reading

Being a portrait photographer is very rewarding.

To be a photographer some might say you just need eyeballs and a camera, but I think to be a great photographer you need to see the beauty in everything. Some photographers can make a rock in the middle of a dirt road look amazing.

*Chats with Ingrid*



INGRID MALDONADO

I specialize in portrait photography. I have always loved it and even growing up I would take self-portraits. Taking my own self-portraits really helped improve my own self-confidence, I learned my best angles, and I learned posing is important.

I realized that I always looked way better in my own self-portraits rather than the photos my mom would take of me. Why is that? The reason is that in my self-portraits I had control of where my camera was placed, how high, what angle and because I had learned the poses that I liked, that captured me in a good way.

I learned that the reason why I had never liked the way I looked in photos was not because I am

the definition of ugly, but because of the person taking the photo. This is exactly why I am a portrait photographer.

When I first began, I wasn't taking the best portraits ever, I practiced and practiced my art. I learned different types of poses to help different types of body shapes, and I learned how to get my subjects comfortable. That being said, I am always learning and making sure to practice because I can always be better.

I am a portrait photographer because I am here to capture the beauty that I see right in front of my camera. I am a portrait photographer for those who are self-conscious and have no reason to be because they are gorgeous. I am a portrait photographer to help people feel confident.

I grew up loving all sorts of arts from singing, painting, drawing, to then photography and even doing graphic design. I started photography by just capturing little, small details that caught my eye like trees sparkling in the sun. But what started my love for photography was taking photos of my friends, having people in my photos.

Although there are times when I am highly critical of my art and feel like an imposter, it is always refreshing and worth it hearing my clients tell me how they hadn't felt that confidence in a while and how they react to the photos I take of them.

I love creating art and taking gorgeous photos, but I love making people realize how truly beautiful they are even more.

By SARAH BRASHEARS  
*Features Editor*

Today, we are living in a world of digital distractions. For most, making the time to sit down and read a book can be daunting; however, reading is, in my opinion, one of the most rewarding habits one can develop. Whether you have been wanting to escape into a new world, learn a few new facts or hobbies, or just sit and relax to unwind, there's a perfect book out there for you! Let's get started and find the perfect read for you.

### Find the right books for you

The biggest struggle when starting out is losing the motivation. This often stems from picking books you won't enjoy. Instead of forcing your way into reading until you find the perfect book, start with books that align with your genuine interests!

Think about your interests. Do you love mysteries? What about fantasy or horror? Are you more into self-improvement at this stage? Reflect on your favorite hobbies, tv shows, movies, and interests, then pick a book that falls into that genre!

You also want to pick something engaging. Many start with thrillers, memoirs, or young adult fiction. All of these options tend to be fast-paced and keep you hooked throughout the entirety of the book.

If you are still struggling with a place or book to start with, check out best seller lists or recommendations from friends that are readers! Goodreads is an app that has millions of recommendations and reviews.

TikTok, which has been given

the nickname BookTok for this subject, has millions of recommendations for almost any genre! The plus side is, once you enter the BookTok side on your for you page, the recommendations will be endless.

Another site that is known for popular books and sales is the New York Times best seller list. You can almost never go wrong with the top books on this list!

### Start small and build up

If it has been a long time since you have indulged in reading, or even if you are completely new to it, diving into a long and difficult book can be discouraging. Rather, start with shorter books. Novellas, short stories, and graphic novels can help you find your interests while also obtaining the start small theory.

You could also try audiobooks. Listening to books while communicating or doing chores can help you get used to the stories you like without the feeling of being overwhelmed. Regardless of if you are listening or reading the book, you do not have to finish cover to cover in one setting. Reading 10 to 15 minutes a day is a good starting goal and will still allow your mind to relax a bit.

### Develop reading into a habit

Just as any habit happens, reading becomes easier when you do it consistently. Set a reading goal. Whether it is a number of pages a day, or reading for ten minutes before bed, set a small goal to make reading a fun habit!

Another great opportunity with reading is the ability to replace screen time and doom scrolling with mind activating hobbies. When you get bored, read a chapter instead of scrolling on social media.

Reading is an extremely relaxing habit. Find a cozy place to escape reality! A comfortable spot, like a reading chair or patio at sunset, can make reading more enjoyable.

### Eliminate distractions

If you struggle to focus while reading, try these tricks:

Use the pomodoro technique. Read for twenty-five minutes, then take a five minute break. Reading can be fun, but also tiring. Try not to overuse your brain.

Put your phone away. Notifications will pull you out of the story and keep your mind on other topics.

Take a break from the screen completely and leave it in the other room!

Read at a time when you are relaxed. Reading when you are stressed will keep you from focusing on the story and enjoying the plot. Before bed or early in the morning can be great times to read without any distractions from the events of the day.

### Don't force it

Not every book is for everyone, and that's okay! If you're not enjoying a book, don't feel bad for quitting. If that book isn't engaging you then move on to another one. You could also try a different format. Some books are better as audiobooks or e-books. Most importantly, read what makes you happy! There is no "right" way to be a reader!

Reading is a personal and enjoyable experience, and there's no pressure to read a certain way. Reading is a way to relax, engage your mind, and unwind by escaping reality. By starting small, choosing the right books, and making reading a habit, you'll soon find yourself hooked!

## Houses

Under the water of the tub  
I can hear the heartbeat of the house  
Water circulating through pipes  
And vents breathing in and out  
We created brand new beasts to live inside  
We use the fluid flowing through them to sustain ourselves  
And they hold us beside their organs  
With no complaint  
Everything inside can be changed on a whim  
Replaced and restored  
Torn down and thrown out  
Parasites to our own design

Poem by: Rose Negelein

## Current events happening around America

Two weeks ago, I did an interview with Dr. Aaron Mason, the political science professor at Northwestern. I questioned him about the current events going on in America. This is the first interview I have ever done concerning politics.

Now, let me be clear: I consider myself to be a decently private person; I don't use social media very often, I don't go out often, and I prefer hobbies that are in their nature somewhat isolating.

I believe that a man's political beliefs are for the debates he has with those that are closest to him and is no one else's business. Because of this, this interview contains none of my own opinions whatsoever. This interview will just be Dr. Mason's professional view of the current state of American politics, such as what could happen in the future and what's been trending lately. We have tried our very best to remove all bias from this interview.

The first topic we discussed was Trump's tariff taxes. For those of you who are unaware,

the president wishes to raise the prices of tariffs in order to boost US manufacturing. According to Dr. Mason, "Tariffs can certainly accomplish the things he wants, but whether or not our allies respond the exact way he wants them to, now that's a different matter entirely."

I then questioned him on what he thinks about the Russo-Ukrainian War, in which he comments, "There is a good chance that-even with the help of American soldiers-Ukraine might not win this war, at least not in the since we usually think. As for what I think about the negotiations, I cannot comment on that, as I am unable to say for sure what Trump's goal is, as I am not one of his men behind the scenes."

When I asked him about his opinion on Trump's court: "I will abide by the court." Dr. Mason, say this: "This is a good thing. As a matter of fact, I think every president should listen to their court. Last time I checked, the word "President" doesn't mean

"Autocrat"." When it came to discussing Elon's being a member of Trump's government despite not being elected, we both agreed that this unless the president keeps a close eye on every decision he makes in order to make sure Elon doesn't have too much power.

Finally, we talked about how to stay informed with all the fake news and clickbait titles in this country. Dr. Mason encourages anyone reading this paper to get their sources from both sides of the political spectrum. He also says to watch who it is that are sponsoring these stations, as they themselves often have something to gain from certain stories being pushed.

WORDS WITH MR. KAUMANS



KEVIN KAUMANS

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# CAMPUS LIFE

## Students win awards at NAS Art Show

First place winners will receive \$10 and all winners will be able to attend the Winners' Show at the

Runnymede during their First Friday Artwalk in April.

The Best of Show winner will receive \$50 and People's Choice award will receive \$25 those awards received their ribbon Wednesday evening.

With more than 100 pieces in the art show there were several winners in both students and non-student categories.

Anyone is welcome to go by the art show located in the library to see all of the winners.

The art show will be going on until April 1.



"Colored Memory" by Katelyn Findley won first place for her painting in the elements of design category at the Northwestern Art Society Art Show.

"Dichotomy of Light" by Jade Campbell won first place in the photography light category.

Emma Curry won first for entry in the student photography category with her picture "The Hunt Begins."

Bentley Cox won first for the "Samurai" in the printmaking category.

## Birthday trip inspires student to become bartender part-time

By **KAROLINA JURSIUTE**  
Senior Reporter

The clink of ice against glass was the Nite Lite's lullaby, and for Savannah Mingus it was just another Thursday night.

Beneath the dim bar's vintage lamps, she's pouring one drink after another.

Mingus, a junior health and sports science major from Okarche, said her favorite thing about working as a bartender is to see all the people and be social while still listening to music.

Mingus' interest in her new hobby began relatively recently.

"For my 21st birthday, my mom and I, took a few of my friends and we went to Nashville, and we barhopped, and I just thought my gosh, how cool would it be." Mingus said, "And then I got my [bartender's] license."

Mingus has met lots of new people and has hundreds of interactions with different customers throughout the nights.

"One time, this guy ordered 15 shots at once, and I made five of them, and I went to make 10 more, and it was a perfect pour, and everyone went crazy, and they were so hype for me, so that was fun," Mingus said.

Working in a loud environment is not a problem for Mingus.

She said she is good with remembering faces and what they usually order and also is good at lip reading.

If all else fails, she just asks the customers to shout in her ear.

Mingus loves her job and her co-workers; her favorite parts of the shift are opening when she gets to set everything up for the night and closing because that's when she gets to chat and recap the night with her team while they clean up the place.

### Dad Jokes:

How do cows learn about current events?

**They read the moo-spaper**

Where do fruits go on vacation?

**Pearis**

## Baseball players share their opinions on spring break

By **MEGAN SPRAY**  
Student Reporter

Northwestern Ranger baseball players share how they feel about spring break and whether it's a time to relax before the second half of the semester.

Ranger baseball has been on campus all week, starting and ending its break at the ballfield. The team is in the middle of its season, so the schedule doesn't allow for a break.

Instead, the week consisted of a home conference series against Southern Ark., practices, a JV game, team meals, trips to the

trainer, long bus trips, and a conference series against Monticello, Ark.

Colby Mitchell, a senior health and sports science major, is a left-handed pitcher for the Rangers and has thrown many innings for the team over the years. He said he enjoys spring break because it's a break from schoolwork, allowing him to focus solely on the conference games coming up.

"It's nice to have a break from schoolwork. This part of the year can be tough sometimes trying to juggle it all during season, but nothing we can't handle," Mitchell said.

Kaden Spray, a sophomore health and sports science major, agrees with Mitchell's outlook on the break. Spray said he has played baseball for most of his life, so nearly every spring break has been spent on the baseball field.

"I don't know Spring Break to be any other way. It's always been filled with baseball and a break from school," Spray said.

Both Mitchell and Spray said that while the team may not be able to leave campus for break, they still appreciate the break from school, which is what they prefer during the season.

Elias Herrera, a junior from

Panama City, Panama, and a pitcher for the Rangers, said that spring break is still a relaxing time, even with their baseball schedule.

"I enjoy Spring Break because after practice we'll hang out together and don't have to worry about anything else," said Herrera.

Herrera said that it's nice to be able to leave practice and go watch a movie or play video games without worrying about homework or due dates.

Ranger baseball will continue their season into the second half of the spring semester following spring break.

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# SPORTS

## Baseball wins three of eight

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

Over the last two weeks, the NWOSU Baseball team had eight games to play, many while we were on spring break. They had a three-game series against Southern Arkansas, on March 15 and 16.

They were scheduled to play against Panhandle State University in March 18, but due to incredibly high winds, the game was postponed. The game will be played on March 31.

They then went to Monticello, AR to play in a three-game series against the University of Arkansas at Monticello on March 21 and 22. Their final game to be played was against the Newman University Jets on March 25.

### SAU 3-NWOSU 0

The first inning was scoreless for both teams, as they both left one man on base. In the top of the second, the Muleriders were able to get a run scored. The Rangers did not respond and left one man on base. The third was scoreless with nobody on base for both.

The fourth was scoreless, but NWOSU left one man on base.

In the fifth, Southern Arkansas scored another run to extend their lead to two. The Rangers were not able to respond and left a man on base.

In the sixth, no runs were scored. SAU left one man on base.

The seventh was almost the

same exact story as the sixth, no runs scored, one man on base for the Muleriders.

In the eighth, the Muleriders scored another run to make it a three-score ballgame. NWOSU left one man on base but did not score any runs. The ninth was scoreless and the game ended 3-0 for Southern Arkansas.

### SAU 3-NWOSU 9

In the first inning, the Muleriders scored a single run to take an early lead. A double from Chad Green to send Bradford home tied the game at one.

The second inning was scoreless. In the third, Southern Arkansas scored two runs to take the lead once again. The Rangers responded quick and hard. Chad Green was walked with the bases loaded. Mendoza hit a single up the middle and sent Connor Green home to tie the game. Grace hit a single up the middle and sent Barcello home to take the lead from the Muleriders. Gordon hit a sacrifice fly out to send Chad Green home and make it a two-run ballgame.

In the fourth, Chad Green hit a single to right field and sent Bradford home.

The fifth was scoreless for both teams.

In the sixth, Chad Green hit a double homerun to send he and Barcello home and made it a five-run game. Mendoza also hit a homerun, but he was alone.

The game ended in the seventh inning 3-9 for a Ranger win.

### SAU 8-NWOSU 14

In the first, the Muleriders scored three runs. NWOSU responded with a double homerun from Wright to send he and Bradford home. Chad Green hit a double to send Mendoza home and the game was tied. The second was scoreless.

In the third, Southern Arkansas scored one run and took the lead by one run. For the Rangers, Barcello hit a triple homerun to take the lead and extend it by two.

In the fifth, the Muleriders tied the game at six. They then took the lead in the next inning, all without a response from the Rangers.

In the seventh, Grace hit a ball to third base and the baseman made an error and allowed him to make it to first. Mendoza made it home throughout the chaos and the game was tied once again at seven.

In the eighth, the Muleriders scored a run to take the lead late in the game, but only by one. The Rangers responded with a slap in the face. Connor Green hit a triple homerun. Grace hit a single to shortstop and sent Barcello home. Vetal hit a single to right field and sent Sachen home. Shaffer hit a single to right center and sent Grace home. Bradford hit a ball to second base, which made an error and allowed Vetal to run home. After the eighth inning, the game was 8-14.

Nothing happened in the ninth and the game ended there.

### NWOSU 3-UAM 4

The first two innings were

scoreless.

Connor Green hit a single to right center in the top of the third. That hit sent Vetal home and the game was 1-0 NWOSU.

In the fourth, Bradford hit a single and sent Grace home to extend the Rangers' lead to two. The fifth was scoreless. In the sixth, the Boll Weevils scored a single run to tie the game at two.

In the seventh, Shaffer was walked with the bases loaded and the Rangers had the lead 3-2.

In the bottom of the ninth, the Boll Weevils saved their game with a run to tie the game at three and sent the game into extra innings. In the tenth, Monticello hit a walk off run and won the game in extra innings 3-4.

### NWOSU 4-UAM 8

In the first, the Boll Weevils scored three runs to take the early.

In the second, Grace hit a ground ball which sent Barcello home. In the bottom of the second, the third, and the fifth innings, Monticello scored five runs and it was a 1-8 ballgame.

In the top of the seventh, Vetal hit a double to right center and sent Grace home. Bradford hit a sacrifice fly to send Shaffer home. Wright hit a ball to second base and the baseman made an error and that allowed Vetal to run home.

Although the Rangers had momentum, it fizzled out and they lost the game 4-8.

### NWOSU 2-UAM 13

The final game against the Boll Weevils started with a triple

home run for Monticello.

NWOSU didn't respond until the third, scoring two runs with a single from Wright who sent Hamilton home, and Connor Green hitting a sacrifice line out and sent Bradford home.

The Boll Weevils scored ten unanswered runs throughout the rest of the game.

### NWOSU 12-NEW 2

The Rangers had one more game to play, and it was against Newman University Jets.

In the first, Chad Green hit a double to right field to send Wright home. Mendoza hit a ground out to short stop and sent Connor Green home. Barcello hit a fly ball to left field. The fielder made an error and allowed Barcello to get to first and Chad Green ran home. It was responded with two runs from the Jets.

In the second, Mendoza was walked with the bases loaded.

In the third, Grace hit a single home run. Bradford made it to first on an error from second base which sent Vetal home, and Mendoza hit a grand slam homerun to send he, Chad Green, Wright, and Bradford home and took an eight-run lead in the top of the third. In the fourth, Bradford was balked and Hamilton went home. Wright hit a single to right field and sent Bradford home.

The NWOSU Baseball team will play against SNU twice on March 28 and once on March 29.

They will also play their make-up game against Panhandle State on March 31.

## Golf struggles to find footing nearing end of spring season

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

This week, the men's and women's golf teams went to their respective competitions. The women went to Fort Smith, Arkansas to compete in the Hard-scrabble Invitational at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith.

The men competed in the Mid-western State Invitational at Mid-western State University Texas in Wichita Falls, Texas.

The women placed in thirteenth out of seventeen teams with a score of +127.

Romane Lacoste finished at the top of the board in first out of ninety with a score of +8.

Tess Linden finished fifty-third

with a score of +36.

Agathe Lacoste finished sixtieth with a score of +37.

Sofia McElroy finished seventy-seventh with a score of +46.

Heather Hunkele finished eighty-sixth with a score of +56.

The women's golf team will travel to Afton, Ok to compete in the Spring Regional Preview at Rogers State University & Central Missouri on April 7-8.

The men placed twelfth out of fourteen with a score of +67.

Max Courange finished in fortieth with a score of +13.

Mathieu Zerwin finished fifty-seventh with a score of +17.

Pierce Geminden finished in sixty-first with a score of +28.

Caden Holmes finished in sixty-ninth with a score of +22.

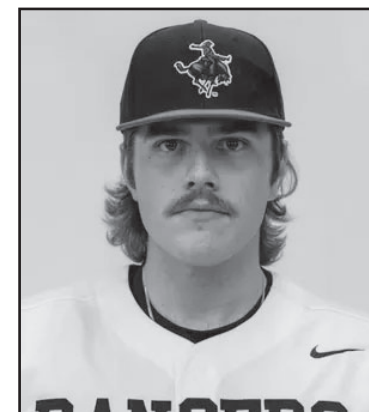
Max Garza finished seventieth with a score of +23.

The men will next compete in the FHSU Tiger Classic at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas. It will be on March 31-April 1.

## Baseball Playmakers



**Carson Wright**  
13 hits 5 RBIs  
13 put outs



**Chad Green**  
11 hits 7 RBIs  
8 put outs



**Jacob Wiltshire**  
9 strike-outs  
9 base-on-balls



**Connor Green**  
9 hits 5 RBIs  
47 put outs

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# SPORTS

## Softball goes on losing streak

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

The NWOSU Softball team had ten games to play before, during, and after spring break. Their first three were at Southern Arkansas on March 14-15. They then went to Fort Hayes State University to play the Tigers twice on March 18. They then came home to play the University of Arkansas at Monticello three times on March 21 and 22. After that they went to Newman University to play them twice on March 25.

### NWOSU 0-SAU 8

The Lady Rangers had an incredibly rough first game against the Muleriders, as they were shut out and the game ended in six innings. Southern Arkansas scored five runs in the fifth inning.

### NWOSU 2-SAU 3

The second game against Southern Arkansas started off much better than the previous.

In the top of the second, Madeline Pack hit a double homerun to start the game off strong for NWOSU. It was responded with a double homerun of Southern Arkansas' own and the game was tied at two. The rest of the innings were scoreless, so it went into extra innings. In the bottom of the eighth, the Muleriders scored a walk-off run to win the game in extra innings.

### NWOSU 0-SAU 4

The third game for the Lady Rangers against Southern Arkansas was another rough one. They were once again shut out by the Muleriders. Madelyn Cason and Chloe Brown both had two strike-

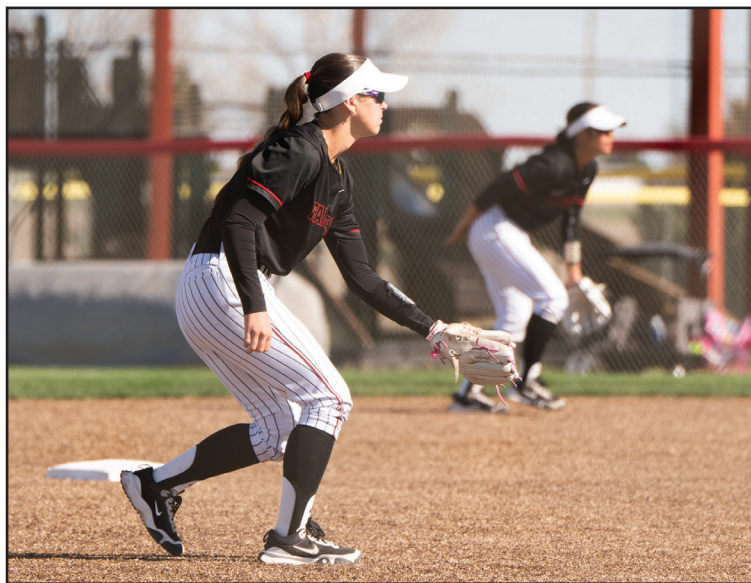


Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

**Jadyn Muns prepares to catch the ball against University of Arkansas at Monticello.**

outs.

### NWOSU 1-FHSU 2

After a rough two days in Arkansas, the Lady Rangers headed to Hays, Kansas to face the Tigers in two games. The Tigers scored two runs in the bottom of the third and had the early lead. In the top of the fourth, the Tigers threw a wild pitch, Muns ran to first and throughout the chaos, Corn ran home and scored Northwestern's first run of the game. Unfortunately, it was the only run scored in the game.

### NWOSU 2-FHSU 4

In the first and second innings in the final meeting of the day, the Tigers scored three runs and it was 0-3.

In the sixth, Sherwood hit a double homerun to take her and Chloe Prentiss home and make it a one-run game. The bottom of the same inning, the Tigers scored a single run and made it a two-run game. That was all either team

had in store for the other and the Lady Rangers continue their losing streak.

### ARK 4-NWOSU 3

The Lady Rangers came home to play against the Cotton Blossoms. It started with a scoreless first inning. In the second, Spearman hit a single to left field which sent Clark home and the Lady Rangers took the lead.

In the third, Van Haren hit a double to left center and sent Clark and Pack home to make it a three-run ballgame. In the sixth and seventh, the Cotton Blossoms scored four runs to take the lead away from Northwestern and win the game by one run.

### ARK 1-NWOU 4

The Lady Rangers' losing streak was now up to six. As they had the early lead last game, they had a better chance than ever to keep their momentum moving and get a win against Monticello.

In the second, Rivera hit a

double to left center and sent Pack and Muns home to score two runs and take the lead for the Lady Rangers.

In the sixth, Van Haren hit a double down the right field line to send Graves and Raile home to extend their lead to four. With a large lead and only one inning left, the Lady Rangers were looking at ending their losing streak and get their first win in thirteen days. The Cotton Blossoms were able to score a run in the bottom of the seventh, but one wasn't anywhere near enough to get the comeback. The Lady Rangers end their losing streak at six and look to the next day to play the Cotton Blossoms one more time.

### ARK 5-NWOSU 6

The first three innings of the game were scoreless. In the fourth, Muns hit a triple to right field and sent Corn home to get the lead for the Lady Rangers.

In the fifth, Sherwood hit a single up the middle and sent Clark home to make their lead two. In the sixth, Monticello hit a triple and scored two runs to tie the game. In the bottom, Esterly hit a single to right field and sent Muns home to take the lead for Northwestern again. In the seventh, Monticello scored three runs to take the lead and have two runs up on the Lady Rangers.

With the pressure on and not lots of time left, Rivera hit a double down the left field line to send Graves and Raile home and it was a tie game at six. The Lady Rangers were then able to load the bases and Lopera was next up to bat. She was then walked with the bases loaded and the Lady Rangers won their second game in a

row with a walk-off run.

### NWOSU 6-NEW 5

In the top of the second, Van Haren hit a sacrifice fly to send Muns home and score the first run of the game.

In the fourth, Lopera was walked with the bases loaded and that sent Corn home. Caine then hit a sacrifice fly and sent Rivera home to make it a three-run game. In the fifth, Van Haren was walked with the bases loaded. Lopera hit a single to second base and sent Corn home to make it a 6-0 game. Newman University was able to score five runs in the final three innings, but did not finish off their comeback and the Lady Rangers started a winning streak.

### NWOSU 6-NEW 7

Sherwood hit a double to center field and sent Clark and Muns home to get the early lead. Corn then hit a double to center field and sent Sherwood home to make it a three-run game. Newman was able to score five runs in four innings and had the lead by two, 3-5.

In the seventh, Spearman hit a triple to center field and sent Graves home to make it a one-run game. Caine then hit a sacrifice bunt and sent Spearman home to tie the game at 5-5. The game went into extra innings and the eighth was scoreless. In the ninth, both teams scored a single run to keep it tied and send it to a tenth inning.

Newman was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded and won the game with a walk-off run. The Lady Rangers will play SNU next at home three times on March 28-29.

## Track and Field continue to set school records

This week, the NWOSU track and field team traveled to Texas. The men went to West Texas A&M University in Canyon, TX. The women went to Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, TX and both teams set school records and some individuals qualified for nationals.

Kareem Small set a school record in the 100M with a time of 10.37. That time met the mark to qualify for nationals. That time currently sits him in second in the GAC and sixth in DII overall. Trevor Montanye finished in tenth with a time of 10.68, Dwight Hamblin was eleventh with a time of 10.75.

Montanye placed ninth in the 200M dash with a time of 10.37, Hamblin was behind with a time of 21.27.

Harrison Stapleton finished seventh in the 400M dash with a time of 49.83. Oshea Johnson was eleventh with a time of 50.69.

Christian Franklin placed at

the top of the board in the 800M run with a time of 1:56.88. Riley Herndon was fourth with a time of 2:00.76.

In the 1500M run, Herndon was tenth with a time of 4:14.04. Edgar Reyes was seventeenth with a time of 4:26.45.

In the 5000M run, Zachary Cox was fourth with a time of 16:20.93. Andrew Scott was just behind him with a time of 16:34.28.

In the 110M hurdles, Mikell Hamilton-Thompson was fifth with a time of 15.81.

Hamilton-Thompson was fourth in the 400M hurdles with a time of 56.96. Tra'von Johns was in seventh with a time of 59.85.

Devin Blackwell was third in the high jump with a height of 1.88 meters.

Kaleb Woolery was sixth in the pole vault with a height of 3.95 meters.

In the long jump, Trevon Hodge was eighth with a distance

of 6.74 meters. Trejon Crump was in twelfth with a distance of 6.60 meters.

Wadleigh Valmyr was seventh in the triple jump with a distance of 12.29 meters.

In the shot put, Brock Bourgeois was fourth with a distance of 14.03 meters.

In the discus throw, Bourgeois was seventh with a distance of 40.29 meters.

Ethan Burns was fourth in the javelin throw, with a distance of 36.92 meters.

The men's 4x100 team also set a new school record with a time of 40.97. This team is made up of Kareem Small, Trevor Montanye, Treyvon Crabtree, and Dwight Hamblin. That time out them in second in the GAC.

The women also set records and one individual qualified for nationals.

In the 100M dash, Harmonie Hughes was seventh with a time of 12.43. Brianna Brantley was in

twelfth with a time of 12.65.

In the 400M dash, Krissalynn Henderson was fifth with a time of 1:00.58.

In the 800M dash, Cadence Long-Torres was eighth with a time of 2:33.70.

Long-Torres set a new school record in the 1500M dash with a time of 5:12.34. She placed second in the event.

In the 100M hurdles, Olivia Sipos was fifth with a time of 16.58.

In the 200M hurdles, Diamond Hilton placed ninth with a time of 25.93.

Mariya Hamlin was fourth in the high jump, with a height of 1.53 meters.

Olivia Saner was third in the pole vault with a height of 2.90 meters.

In the long jump, Hannah Betts was second with a distance of 5.28 meters. Sipos was fourth with a distance of 5.11 meters.

In the shot put, Samantha

Grimes was fifth with a distance of 9.67 meters. Livia Bwakali was one spot behind her with a distance of 8.66 meters.

In the discus throw, Grimes was fifth with a distance of 29.80 meters. Temi Michaels was sixth with 29.49 meters. Bwakali was seventh with 28.76 meters.

Kaylan Swindle was second in the hammer throw with a distance of 38.00 meters. Michaels was third with 34.84, Bwakali was fourth with a 31.86-meter throw.

Ashley Low set a new school record and qualified for nationals in the javelin throw. She threw for 42.92 meters. Jordyn Tucker was second with a distance of 35.94 meters.

In the 4x100 meter relay, Hughes, Hilton, Hall, and Thompson was second with a time of 47.76.

In the 4x400 relay, Engermann, Hughes, Buchanan, and Henderson were fourth with a time of 4:09.45.