

Do cellphones distract students?

By **KAROLINA JURESIUTE**
Senior Reporter

The constant urge to check notifications, the subtle glow of a screen under a desk, lots of screen tapping during a lecture.

These digital intrusions have become constant challenges not only in Alva High School classrooms but in the whole country. Students are missing instructions, struggling to focus and declining in class engagement all because of the technology.

Seventeen states have laws or policies on K-12 classroom cell-phone usage, while 11 states—Arkansas, California, Ohio, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Utah – have a ban on cellphones in classrooms.

The battle of buzzing, pinging and vibrating cellphones is now at the top of a growing movement to ban phones during learning periods across the state of Oklahoma.

Two similar bills are being discussed in the legislature. A House committee has approved the Senate Bill 139 with an 8-3 vote and a Senate committee has approved the House bill 1276 with a 7-4 vote.

Oklahoma now has to choose which bill they want to pursue as their final choice to be approved by the full Legislature.

If the Senate Bill 139 is approved, Oklahoma schools would first try the phone ban for a year before deciding what to do it permanently.

The policy will be required to be updated and approved annually.

If the House Bill 1276 is approved, schools would be required to adopt a policy that prohibit phones for the entire school



Graphic by Ingrid Maldonado

Tulsa and Union already have phone limit rules or prohibits the use during school hours.

According to a Oklahoma Business Voice article, Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt said cell phones are distractions, and they should be banned in classrooms.

Distraction is not the only problem that phones create, Valerie Rider, Alva High School counselor, said phones are often used to bully other students by posting pictures or mean comments of other students.

Some kids take inappropriate

“Personally, in my classroom, I do not let them have their phones out,” said Crystal Morrow, English teacher at Alva High School. “but when I do see it, I immediately tell them to put it away, and they’re real respectful. They put it away, and then we go on with the lesson,” “But yes, it can be a distraction for those kids because, they want to be on it constantly.”

Mary Tyree, physical science, aeronautics and stem class teacher at Alva High School, said she doesn’t have a lot of problems with cell phones and uses them quite often in her classroom for educational purposes.

“Sometimes it’s helpful for if they need to use it as a calculator real quick, if I’m short a few,” Tyree said. “It’s helpful if they forget their computer; some of them are able to pull up the assignment on their phone. Sometimes, like with the technology side of what I teach, we might use an app, like we use the phones to fly the drones, for example. So, definitely In my class, probably

more than a lot of others, we do use phones.”

Many parents in Alva see the cell phone ban as a positive step toward creating a more focused learning environment for their children.

“I do think that they are a huge distraction in school,” Gretchen Jones, an Alva High School student’s parent, said. “I think that they are used for more of finding the answers to things, rather than the kid actually learning how to do the problem, whether it’s history, whether it’s math, whether it’s whatever. The chat GPT thing is crazy. I mean, now you don’t even have to write your own papers, and it’s available on your phone.”

Jones said there’s a purpose for the ban and for everything.

“I do think there needs to be a block put on there that its only for emergency use only, that type of thing,” Jones said. “If they told my kids they had to leave their phones at home, I would be totally fine with that.”

Tyree said she has about 100

students, and maybe only five of them have an issue with phones. They listen to her pretty well when she asks them to get off of it.

“I think that it would be nice to have a rule that was across the whole school, and so if it was just not allowed, then we wouldn’t have to think about it,” Tyree said. “I would have to change some things that I do, but I think that would help a lot of teachers to just have that support of it being a rule.”

If the law passes, there will have to be lot of new adjustments for the teachers and students themselves.

“It would be an adjustment,” Tyree said. “but also, I’ve had students be relieved whenever I’ve told them they can’t be on their phone because, say their mom is messaging them all the time and they’re like I can just tell her that I can’t be on it, so its nice to have that break. I feel like the benefits would outweigh the negatives.”

See **CELLPHONES**, Page 3

“If they told my kids they had leave their phones at home, I would be totally fine with it.”
— **Gretchen Jones**

day before the 2025-26 academic year.

Many of Oklahoma’s largest school districts like Bixby, Jenks,

pictures of them and send them out to other students. Bullying could be drastically lowered if the phone ban passes the bill, she said.

NEWS

What's Up?

April 30- May 10

1

Jazz ensemble concert at
Fellers Family Auditorium
7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.



2

- First Friday art walk downtown Alva 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.
- Family fun night on the square 6:00 P.M.-8: P.M.
- Embroidery Workshop at Runnymede 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

- Addyson Noyes Senior Recital at First Presbyterian Church 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
- Celeste Alvarado Recital at First Presbyterian Church 4:00 P.M.- 5:00 P.M.
- Patio Pop-up at Vanilla Bean 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M
- Afroman at Night Lite 11:00 P.M.

3

4

Little Red Hens
Scholarship tea party
3:00 P.M.218 Maple
Street
Alva, OK

5

- EFLH end of the year banquet Student Center Ranger Room 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.
- SGA meeting 6:00 P.M.

9

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

- Spring semester ends
- Nursing division convocation ceremony 6:00 P.M- 7:30 P.M.



Spring 2025 Commencement at
Ranger field 10:30 A.M. - 12 P.M



Photo from University Relations

Alumnae get to reconnect with their friends at the annual alumni spring reunion which took place on Saturday.

Alumni visit campus for spring reunion

By Hadley Weathers
Student Reporter

Northwestern Alumni gathered Saturday, April 26, for a special tour of the Fellers Family auditorium.

The auditorium, located inside Herod Hall, underwent major renovations last summer after years of needing updates. The project brought in new, comfortable seating, new flooring and updated lighting fixtures to modernize the space while still keeping its traditional charm. Many of the alumni who toured the building had fond memories of attending events there in the past, and they were excited to see the improvements up close.

The tour allowed guests to walk through the auditorium, see the updates up close and hear from university staff about the hard work and planning that went

into the renovations. The upgraded seating and fresh flooring were big highlights, making the space more welcoming and comfortable for future events.

Later that evening, the Northwestern Alumni Association hosted a banquet where they celebrated the completed renovations, as well as other recent repairs and upgrades made around campus.

During the banquet, university representatives presented before-and-after photos, shared stories about the renovation process, and thanked all the donors and workers who made the improvements possible.

There was also some jazz band students who played at the reunion banquet.

Alumni came to campus for the annual spring reunion and were able to see all of the changes that have been made to the campus since they left.

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NEWS

Cellphones

Focus returns to teachers

Continued from Page 1

Jones highlighted the challenge of transitioning students accustomed to background noise for focus to a silent classroom environment, acknowledging the need to an adjustment.

“I do have a kiddo that she focuses better when she has like music playing in her room, so she has her AirPods in and things like that, but the problem with that is that she’s not focused on what the teacher is telling her,” Jones said. “So, she’s going to have to train herself not to have that.”

With the phone ban in place, it will be hard for students to get used to the new changes, but it will bring lots of good outcomes.

“At the high school level, we’re trying to teach them to be young adults that are gonna be in the workforce,” Tyree said. “So, I think if they can learn to time manage and understand like they’ve got to do their work and

on breaks then they can check their phone. They have to teach themselves to lock in on the lesson and not get on their phone until they’re done.”

Tyree said she thinks the phone ban would help students stay more focused in class.

She has also noticed that each year her students seem to have less ability to stay focused on an assignment as long.

“It could improve their reading skills and maybe even like ADHD would go down and just removing that distraction I think would help them,” Tyree said.

Murrow said she thinks the phone ban will improve the learning.

“I feel like if all the teachers are on the same page,” Murrow said. “and that we are all going to implement the ban, and I think we enforce it as an entire school, I think we will see improvement in their scores and then learning



overall. I think that their focus will be diverted from their phones to the classroom.”

Murrow said at first it is going to be a struggle. She thinks that it’s going to be like a learning curve as with anything. Teachers

will see a little pushback at the beginning, but once they kind of get used to it, it’ll be fine.

Murrow said it’s going to take them a good month or two of getting into the routine of not having the phone.

According to Pew Research

Center, 72% of high school teachers in the U.S. said cell phone is a huge distraction in the classrooms.

The survey also says that 33% of middle school teachers said the cell phone is a significant problem among students.

Success comes just around the corner as students prep for finals

By AJ MEDRANO
Student Reporter

As Northwestern students get ready for their exams there are three common tips on how to prepare for them.

Here are some suggestions from the internet.

Make time to study by developing a realistic schedule that allocates time for each subject and includes breaks to prevent burnout.

Review course materials, create flash cards and summarize key concepts to reinforce learning.

Getting enough sleep is a top priority to ensure optimal brain performance and memory consolidation.

Here is some advie from Northwestern faculty.

“The underline theme is not procrastinating trying to get on top of their studies this week, leading into finals week so that they are not trying to cram last second,” said Dr. Garret Lahr, the chair of the division of business.

He also suggested that it is not wise to stay up all night when students are tired before going and taking a test or give a presentation the next day.

This makes students more exhausted the next day and they aren’t as in tune with their body as they should be while taking the test or giving the presentation.

Reaching out to your in-

structors as well and asking them for their specific type of final and what they believe would be the best way to prepare for that final is a good way for students to prepare.

“If you go in and talk to your instructor before the final exam, or before any test they will help you prep a little bit for it and give you some pointers.” Lahr said.

“Ideally they went to classes throughout the semester and took notes.” said Mistie E. Kline a lecturer of phycology. “The best advice I would say to students is get enough sleep and organize your notes, but sleep is ideal because if you are too tired when you take your exams, you won’t remember things well as you would if you had adequate sleep plus people are in a better mood, and also make sure to take care of yourself, eat healthy, but that way you won’t get sick and going into your finals hopefully prepared.”

She says good luck to the students as they prepare for finals.

Dr. Jennifer Oswald the chair of the division of the education claimed that studying is important and she suggest that students should isolate and make sure to take notes on everything.

She highly suggested on studying the vocabulary and claimed it is 80 percent on passing a test.

She said that knowing your vocabulary, asking questions and making appointments to go in and ask questions to your professors if you need anything is also very important in preparing for your finals.

Students shouldn’t stress when they are dealing with finals.

You already know everything that you’re going to be tested on if you have been going to your classes.

Take your time, review your notes, take a deep breath and go into finals confident that you got this because you do.

You have got this, its all just a recap on what you have learned this semeaster.

Finals aren’t meant to make students feel as if they aren’t ready for the test but it should give them confidence that they have come to know these subjects over the semester.

Students have been preparing for this moment all semester even if they don’t realize it.

If they have been going to classes they have nothing to worry about, they have the knowledge that they need to get through the final. The semester is over but your grade won’t be until the test is put in.

It’s important to realize that this final has the capability to up your grade and you should study for the chance to raise it.

Bahama Breakaway



Photos by Ingrid Maldonado

Students line up at the 505 tacos food truck during Bahama Breakaway which was abruptly ended due to weather on April 24.



Northwestern students try to un-freeze their frozen t-shirts to win the contest and win a prize with it. Students had to wear the t-shirts after they unfroze them to win the contest.

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News office: Jesse Dunn Annex 232
Telephone: 327-8479; Fax: 327-8127
E-mail: nwnews@nwosu.edu
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OPINION

Amazon highlights tariff charge

By CHRISTIAN FRANKLIN
Opinion Editor

There’s never a shortage of
drama in Washington nowadays,
with the latest news between the
White House and Amazon crisis
clashing into new territory chal-
lenging political corporate influ-
ences.

Regarding reports by Shawn
McCreesh and Karen Weiss of
The New York Times, the White
House Secretary Karoline Leavitt
,speaks out on Amazon on Tues-
day. By making allocations of the
company being hostile and using
a political movement response to
the reports, considering display
of the cost of tariffs on its pack-
aging and its product pages.

Amazon continues to deny the
allegation regarding the policy
over its latest stance on its plat-
form.

The incident reveals more than
just corporate communication
disputes.

It exposes the fragile truth in
an increasingly political econo-
my.

The main focus of this drama
is that the economic reality of
tariffs are being paid upfront by
the American consumers and not
foreign governments.

President Trump has contin-
ued his long claim of the oppo-

site, promoting a penalty on Chi-
na to pay tariffs charges.

But for China the math doesn’t
lie, importers passed down the
cost to the supply chain which
in the end is American shoppers,
who are really left with pinching
pennies.

News reported that Amazon is
considering making the fact un-
avoidable by broadcasting tariffs
related charges directly on its site.

Regarding the idea, according
to an Amazon spokesperson, they
discussed only for a niche plat-
form called Amazon haul, which
specifically competes with plat-
forms like Temu and any other
giant Chinese e-commerce.

All while the White House
took the idea and ran with it, us-
ing it to make allegations of Am-
azon launching a political attack
on Trump’s administration.

Leavitt’s response quickly es-
calated, standing alongside Sec-
retary of the Treasury Scott Bes-
sent. She is the one that accused
Amazon of its hypocrisy, trying
to figure out why it never imple-
mented the similar transparency
during inflation spikes under the
Biden administration.

As she continues to bring up
an old headline of Amazon “part-
nering” up with Chinese propa-
ganda, which known companies
are untrustworthy. The agenda
was more clear, and Amazon was

not responding to tariffs, but it
was targeting a political game to
undermine the administration.

Now the narrative is really be-
ing shown here, the White House
continues its investment in main-
taining the illusion that tariffs are
working.

But according to most Amer-
icans, they are not winning the
trade war and that they are feeling
the economic pain. Any challeng-
es to the narrative posed as a po-
tential disruption in the features
tell shoppers they are paying more
because of tariffs, which will lead
up to being a threat, whether Am-
azon intentionally did it or not it’s
still touched a nerve.

Crazy to believe that just after
Jeff Bezos, the Amazon founder
publicly praises the Trump ad-
ministration. At the New York
Times conference deal back in
December, Bezos called Trump
more “confident” then during
his run in the first term and he
is hopeful about the president’s
energy towards deregulation.
Amazon has donated 1 million to
Trump’s administration securing
seats for Bezos and his fiancé at
the Capital.

So what brought up the sudden
hostility from the White House?
The only answer is political ex-
pediency, for Trump’s reelection
campaign as it takes front and
center on economic nationalism.

In its push to bring back jobs and
cracking down on China to shield
American workers.

This moment for consumers
associate higher prices with the
policy taking effect.

Rather than global factors of
greedy corporations, the narrative
only crumbles. With Amazon hy-
pothetical transparency it threat-
ens the storyline which leads to
discretion.

Amazon is far from being in-
nocent with the corporate giant’s
known history of dodging taxes,
undercutting competition and
even exploiting labor.

It now shifts its interest to-
wards displaying charges which
is driven by competitor Temu.

Which doesn’t change the fact
that the White House’s reaction
shows paranoia and projection.

The policy comes with its
challenges and consequences, and
Americans deserve to know how
it will impact their wallets. Since
the beginning, the challenges of
tech companies fighting over who
pays the economic difficulty is
democracy, and it is being filtered
through political alliances .

Whether or not Amazon plans
to display tariff related costs on
this platform is beside the point.

The main thing that matters is
that transparency poses a poten-
tial threat to the government.

Tariff discounts for automakers

By CHRISTIAN FRANKLIN
Opinion Editor

President Donald Trump’s re-
cent decision to relieve some of
the pushing of tariffs for imported
cars and parts, may sound like a
lifeline to struggling automakers.

But in reality, it is a mistake .
Many people assume that the vic-
tories are for US manufacturing
but unfortunately, it is not. When
it is calculated as a walk back in
a self-sufficient wound, meaning
car companies and consumers pay
the price. With this change taking
effect it offers a short term relief
to American automakers, but it
sure does false sort of a long-term
stability that the industry needs.

According to a report by Anna
Swanson and Jack Ewing in the
New York Times, the president
signed two executive orders
aboard Air Force One en route to
Michigan, which granted Limited
exemption from the previous tar-
iff that is being enforced.

The new conditions of the
terms are that car makers will be
able to deduct 15% of import cost
to a vehicle sticker price and 10%
for the next year. Then at that
point the tariffs will resume and
the message is giving automak-
ers, “a little flexibility” meaning

that they have limited time to pre-
pare before they are hit with the
imposed tax. This is not exactly
a vote of confidence in America’s
industry, it is now a threat with a
temporary concession.

The new order does not elim-
inate the original 25% tariff tax,
which is specifically on imported
vehicles reported to be done ear-
lier this month. Also, they don’t
even touch higher prices since
companies must pay for a raw
material like steel and aluminum,
and both have been hit with the
tariff.

With Swanson and Ewing
highlighting that automakers are
still absorbing the cost, and the
totals are already beginning to be
passed onto consumers. The in-
dustry of auto in the United States
has operated through a system
in a global supply chain. Which
means cars simply in Michigan or
Ohio often rely on parts that are
made in Canada, Mexico or Asia.

The taxes being pushed and
forced onto companies which
bring the operation to America
soil, is very costly and unrealistic
to maintain in today’s demanding
economy.

Swanson and Ewing report of
auto makers being lobbied by the
administration in recent weeks
warning that the tariffs will force
job cuts and encourage price



Photo from Pixabay

hikes, resulting in production de-
lays.

Following General Motors,
they recently made a pull and
its 2025 earnings forecast is as-
sumed to be unpredictable be-
cause of the impact of tariffs. The
company even just released the
delay of its first quarter result that
needs to be re-calculated for its
final projections.

Analysis from Bernstein
quoted in the original New York
Times article said plainly. “Rel-
ief today doesn’t fix the long-
term challenge. US car prices are
heading higher just as economic
momentum fades.”

What that means is higher cost
not just for new used cars but also
for insurance and even repair ex-
penses will directly hit the work-
ing and middle class Americans.

The most shocking thing is
that the administration seems
to be more politically pressured

than using economic logic.

Earlier this month in the White
House was called to roll back
tariffs on smartphones after push-
back from companies like Apple.

The case continued with
Swanson and Ewing as they de-
scribed repeated phone calls and
data from Ford and GM, and Stel-
la before Trump’s relented.

American manufacturing de-
serves support, but supporting it
doesn’t mean increasing the eco-
nomic walls and pushing compa-
nies to rely on international trade.

As Swanson and Ewing make
it clear in their reporting that the
tariffs temporary relief may ease
the pain for now, but it does not
fix the problem.

Until the administration em-
braces a more togetherness ap-
proach it leaves American auto-
makers, stuck with rising costs,
and now shrinking global com-
petitiveness.

OPINION

Editor feels grateful for time at NWOSU

By ALLI SCHIEBER
Editor-in-Chief

Goodbyes are always hard, but this one was unexpectedly hard. When I came to Northwestern as a freshman it was not my first choice, I got waitlisted then accepted for the spring semester at another university.

I planned on transferring there eventually but quickly realized that Alva was somewhere I wanted to be.

There are many reasons I fell in love with both Northwestern and Alva, but I think the main reason is the people. My first semester I made a few friends and tried to be involved whether it was studying for news reporting with Tara and Kristen or attending events, I wanted to connect with people.

This is probably one of the reason community is one of the values I cherish most.

When I look back at my time at Northwestern I feel grateful. While here I was able to meet some of my best friends, work with some amazing people, and constantly learn and grow, even outside of class.

Freshman year I joined Delta Zeta, and this organization has brought me so many things from my best friends to new life experiences I would have never seen possible.

Bethany, who joined DZ the same time I did, has been there with me through it all the rough times and the good times. I am glad to have met her through DZ and will always cherish my friendship with her.

Nahi, who I may not see everyday or talk to all the time but, has taught me so much, such as, how to handle a tough situation with grace.

I will never forget whenever we had our DZ dance and we both had a lot of homework, so we sat there chatting and doing homework almost the entire time.

Jerika, who has been a mentor to me through all these years and is someone I will continue to look up to too.



Photo by Alli Schieber

Back left: Sarah Brashears, right, Jessica Schieber, front left: Alli Schieber, right, Jamie Torres Franco pose for a picture at a football game.

Now to the three girls I have recruited and my best friends.

Sarah, I may have just met you last semester, but I am so thankful you joined DZ, you are such a light, and I honestly do not know what I would do without you.

I love our chats in JD whether in the news or DZ room and I cannot wait to watch you grow throughout your years at NWO-SU.

Jessica, I know you are not only my DZ sister but also my biological sister. However, I am so happy you joined and have gotten to see why I love both DZ and Northwestern so much.

Jamie, madam president, I am so glad I was able to recruit you last fall and am so proud of the things you have done and continue to do.

Both in DZ and just in general, you are the most supportive friend I have ever had, and I am

going to miss seeing your smile every day.

I can't wait to cheer you on in your last two years of college even if I won't be there for all the Walmart trips, coffee runs and late-night rants. I am so lucky to be able to call you, my friend.

Lastly, Doc, you are our advisor for DZ and have been since my second semester at NWOSU.

I have so many things to thank you for that I could never type them all, so I will start with this, thank you for always pushing me to be my best and pushing me out of my comfort zone.

Without you I would never have gotten to go to Dallas or Orlando with DZ and I would not have gone by myself. I will forever and always cherish our adventures and hope that even though I am graduating there will still be more.

Delta Zeta is obviously not

the only reason I stayed at Northwestern while I found my friends I also found my passion. I have realized I love marketing and want to market for sports team one day, which is what inspired me to be a mass communication major. I also realized I love capturing memories through photos. Photography is something I have always loved but working with the newspaper and in classes I have realized it is something I really enjoy.

Northwestern News has taught me a lot of things like it's not always easy being the leader although sometimes it is fun.

To the current Northwestern News staff, I want to say you are doing great and I cannot wait to see you all continue to work hard next year.

To Dr. A, thank you for guiding me, believing me and teaching me AP style. You have been

the best advisor and don't worry, I will stay in touch.

This university has taught me a lot and most people will probably never understand just how grateful I am for NWOSU or why I am so grateful but, if you stay here for four years maybe you will realize what all NWOSU has to offer.

Lastly, I would like to say to anyone who is not graduating yet, enjoy it, you are only a college student once so enjoy it as much as you can.

I know that tests and finals are stressful or that sometimes being in Alva can be boring but take advantage of events the dorms or clubs are hosting and just make the most of it.

With that this is my last article for the Northwestern News and I cannot wait to walk across the stage in a couple of weeks, Ride Rangers Ride.

How campus has changed in four years

By ALLI SCHIEBER
Editor-in-Chief

Campus has changed in several ways since I was a freshman four years ago.

Some of these things have been bigger and more monumental than others. One of the biggest ones was the renovation of South Hall and the changing of its name to now be Cunningham Hall.

If you were here two years ago during this you probably remember how crazy it was when

Coronado became a co-ed dorm temporarily. One of the smaller things that have changed include the Just Baked Kiosk that was installed this year.

The outdoor classroom, renovation and renaming of the Fellers Family Auditorium, the track practice field being built and the softball field getting turf are some of the other things that has happened in my time here. The outdoor classroom was added last spring and makes a good place for students to study and get away from their dorm.

One thing remains the same though, no matter how long you have been here or if you went to school here 50 years ago.

The people here have always and I hope will always be filled with Ranger Spirit and you can certainly be proud to be a Ranger no matter for how long you were one. Take time to notice the little things that change like when they repaint the red stairs or if a floor has changed over the summer and be grateful that this university is preparing for many more generations.



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

The outdoor classroom which was finished in spring of 2024. It makes a great place for students to study on nice days.

NWOSU athletics hosts 2025 Annual Northwespy's Awards

By Emma Gott
Student Reporter

Student athletes traded jerseys for dress clothes at the Northwespy's Monday, a night of celebration honoring standout performances and unforgettable moments in Ranger athletics.

The Northwespy's is an annual event at the end of each academic year to honor athletes, teams, and coaches for their success over the year. Some of the awards given are athletes of the year for both female and male, sportsmanship award, scholar athlete, scholar team, coach of the year, fan of the year and a couple others. This event is to recognize all of the teams and athletes' hard work and dedication they put into their sports every single day. The event started with a social in the student center ballroom and then moved on over to the ceremony which was in Herod Hall in the theatre. Baseball was a huge stand-out as they won many athletes of the year for the specific grades, and

they also won coach of the year and scholar of the year. Women's basketball also got a lot of recognition, winning a couple awards as a team and individually as well.

Track and field athletes were also awarded for individual performances as well as women's golf, women's soccer, softball and rodeo.

The overall female athlete of the year was Ashley Low from track and field, but she also participated in volleyball and softball.

The male athlete of the year was Cam McDowell from the men's basketball team. Cam is a standout player and had a standout year on the court. The fan of the year was Rick Brown who is an Alva local and a strong supporter of all Northwestern athletics.

This event is special for athletes to be able to attend and be recognized because being an athlete can be challenging in many ways.

It is always nice to step away from the field or court and put on a nice outfit with all your friends and teammates and celebrate all of ranger athletics.



Cam McDowell won the male athlete of the year award for the year he had on the basketball court. McDowell had a total of 736 points, 53 steals, 19 blocks and 128 rebounds this season.



Ashley Low won female athlete of the year for breaking the school record in javelin. However, Low also plays two other sports, softball and volleyball. Low is a graduate student and played softball for two years at NWOSU before taking on javelin and volleyball this year.



Matt Adair emcees the 2025 Northwespy's. Adair also is an announcer for many NWOSU athletic events.



Ryan Bowman is the baseball coach and won coach of the year this year. Bowman has led the baseball team to the GAC tournament for two consecutive years.



Rick Brown won the fan of the year award for always showing up for Ranger athletics no matter the sport. Brown is an Alva native and always supports the Rangers sports teams.



The women's basketball team won a new award called the Rowdy Ranger award. This award is presented by SAAC and is for the team that shows the most spirit by supporting other teams and posting photos on social media. Women's basketball also won the award for Ranger Excellence which showcases their work on the court but also outside of it. Women's basketball reads to elementary students in schools surrounding Alva during the fall semester.



Right: The women's golf team won the scholar award for how their team does academically and not just on the golf course.



Above: A group of women's basketball players pose for a selfie at the social hosted by SAAC before the Northwespy's. Players include Summya Adigun a sophomore guard, Camille Thomas a senior forward, Kira Bass a junior forward and Jamesha Reece a junior forward.

Right: Jason McCarthy receives the scholar award for maintaining his 4.0 in biology while also being on the baseball team. McCarthy has also taken many chemistry classes just because they sounded fun.

Right: Amanda Lane, a member of the team, also won the individual scholar award for her 4.0 GPA with her biology major while also working an internship and attending many events presenting research.

FEATURE

Choir



Photo by Corky Hall

The NWOSU Choir performs their Masterwork concert Thursday, April 24, at the First Presbyterian Church while a storm comes into town members and guests seek shelter in the church’s basement.

Until next time

Well, here we are, fellow reader. It’s the end of the semester; summer is around the corner and everyone is probably procrastinating and putting off their studies for finals for the last second as I am writing this all out.

WORDS WITH MR. KAUMANS



KEVIN KAUMANS

I say this because I’ve been in the library ever since seven and have barely seen anyone come in or out. It is currently April 27, by the way.

So, what will my last article of my sophomore year be about?

I’m sure many of you are expecting an interview or book critic. However, I will be talking about something much different.

I’m going to reflect on my writing this year.

See, I feel as though my columns have greatly improved since I first started working for the Northwestern newspaper.

My articles have become more

detailed, diverse, and more well-thought out than my past columns.

I have been branching out more, trying to cover as many topics as possible.

When I start my third year here, I hope you all will continue to keep reading my works.

I appreciate every single person who takes what little time they have out of his or her day to read these paragraphs of me just rambling most of the time.

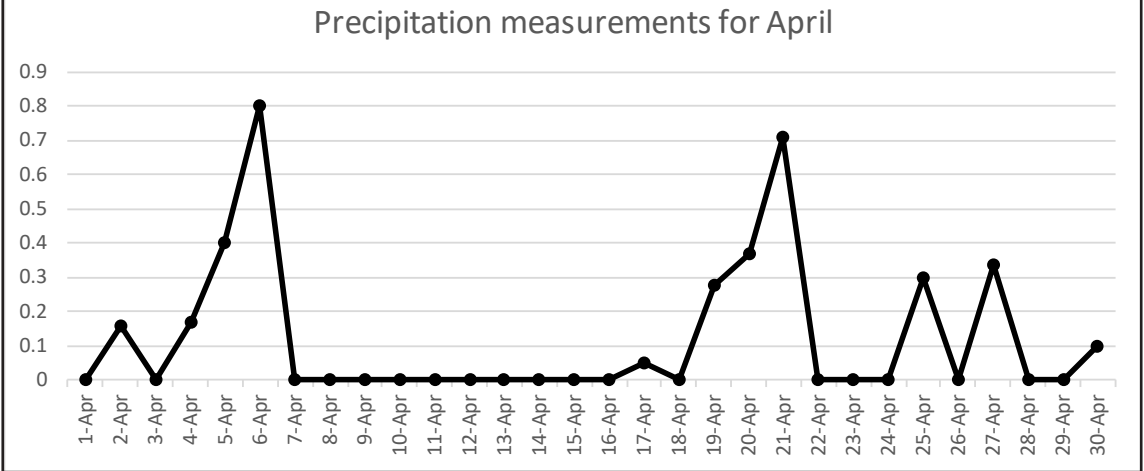
No matter what trials you may come across in your life, I wish nothing more than for each and every one of you to succeed in your goals.

During the next semester, I plan on talking about a wider reach of topics, not just politics and literature.

I only ask that you all stand by and give me whatever feedback you can think of. Do not be afraid of giving me your harshest criticisms, as I am prepared to improve my writing by any means possible.

My name is Kevin A. Kaumans, and until next time friends:

Stay Educated



Storms just miss Alva

By SARAH BRASHEARS
Features Editor

On Thursday, April 24, Bahama breakaway ended abruptly due to a tornado that had touched down 15 miles west of Alva in Freedom. Students were advised to get to their safe place until further notice.

In the dorms, students sat in the hall, which is a central room for all dorms and built with cement walls. This place was the safe spot for most students that live on campus.

The storm continued to build, heading straight east for approximately 15 minutes. The tornado continued to lift, gain more moment, and then touch back down again on and off all night.

The storm eventually turned to the south east, splitting between Alva and Dacoma.

Waynoka got hit with heavy rain and a small hail.

Aside from Freedom being touched with a tornado, Waynoka got the worst of the storm in out area.

Alva got approximately 0.46 inches of rain.

Although, it seemed as though the area got a much greater because it came in very heavily for about 30 minutes.

The winds were high at the same time. For this reason,

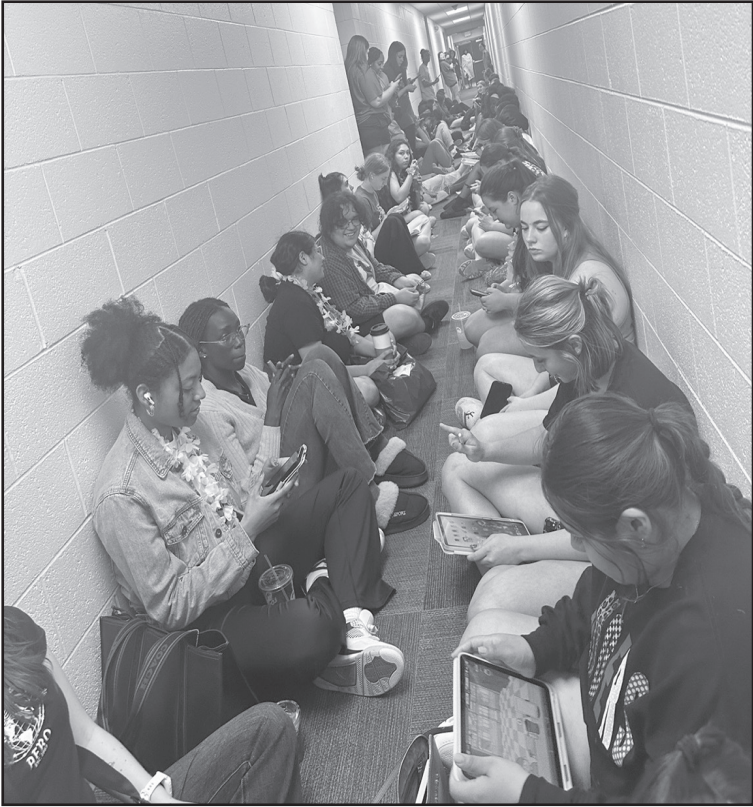


Photo by Allison Schieber

Students sit in the hallways of Cunningham hall on Thursday night to take safety from the storms that were east headed to Alva from Freedom.

the rain did not soak into the ground and left the streets flooded with mud and sticks that had broken off from the trees.

Anytime there is severe weather, it is important to remain calm and be aware.

Always have a plan for a safe spot should the weather turn in a direction it is going to hit where

you are. It is also advised to have a go bag, full of protein bars, water, and an extra set of clothes.

Also, charge your phone and attempt to stay off of it during storms so that you can call in case of an emergency!

NWOSU’s top priority is that all students remain safe in all situations.

DAD JOKE



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ENTERTAINMENT

How to...

Plant large flower arrangements

By SARAH BRASHEARS
Features Editor

Spring has officially sprung and all the plants and pots are on sale at the local stores. If you are anything like me, your green thumb has been waiting for this time of year for months. That being said, as we start a new May, now is the perfect time to buy the oversized pot and a handful of plants, then put together a showstopper flower arrangement for the summer!

Today, we are going to learn the thriller, spiller, and filler method when planting flowers. This method allows for the pot to look full and have color at the same time. The thriller is the plant that is full of color and life. Your spiller will be a plant that grows out of the pot, making it look larger and fuller than it truly is. Your filler will be used to fill the blank space of the arrangement, as well as add a little more texture to the look.

The most important thing to remember when planting multiple plants in a single pot is to plant in odd numbers. This will give the arrangement a full and symmetrical look as it grows over time.

Step one: pick your pot

For me, I used an old feed bucket that has be aged over time. I thought this brought a bit of farmhouse to my look to be cohesive with the style of my house. However, if you are buying a pot, think about what style will match your house.

You can use items you already

have, such as a feed bucket, or you can go buy a pot as well.

You will want this pot to be at least 12 to 16 inches wide for a big arrangement. The larger the pot, the more color and life you can add into it!

Walmart and Atwoods here in Alva both have a large variety of planters. Last time I was in, they were on sale and had the cutest designs that would fit any style.

Step two: pick your plants

We are going for a filler, thriller, and spiller look. The thriller is your first pick. It should be full of color. We are looking for something to make your pot stand out and give it a pop of *WOW*.

My thriller consisted of two different flowers, pink Dianthus and orange and yellow Marigolds. These picks added the perfect touch of color and texture to my arrangement!

Other great choices for our area are Purslane, Petunias, Marigolds, and Dianthus.

As you are making your final decisions on which plants you want, remember to check the climate that the plant must live in, compared to the climate you will be putting it in. Where my pot sits is mostly sun with partial shade, thus I chose plants that would thrive in the heat and full sun.

Next you will pick out your spiller. I chose a Vinca Minor vine that will spill out of my pot and leave the arrangement with a bit of color and texture. My favorite plants for the spiller are vines, personally liking the Vinca Minor



Photo by Sarah Brashears

Arrangement made using Vinca Minor vine, Asparagus vine, Dianthus, and Marigolds to add a pop of color to the front porch before summer.

and Sweet Potato vines, Petunias, or any kind of plant that will grow out and flow over the pot.

The spiller is the piece that makes the arrangement look big as it grows and fills out!

Finally, you will want to pick your filler. The filler you choose should be larger than the other plants you have chosen. In the past, I have used ferns to fill my pot. However, this year I choose to use an asparagus fern, which is similar but looks as though it is a grass stem rather than a leafy stem.

The plant you choose should be big enough to grow and fill out the extra space in your pot, leaving lit-

tle room to see large blank spaces!

Good filler plants will get ride of the blank space at the center or far back of your arrangement. A few other great options are always a type of grass or fern that will grow well throughout the summer!

Step three: arrange your pot

This step is always my favorite part! Once you have all of your plants picked out, as well as your pot, it is time to start planting.

My pot was about 2 feet wide, so I choose to place my fillers in the center. Once the Asparagus fern had been set, I arranged the Vinca Minor, Dianthus, and Marigolds

until I liked the way they were.

Sometimes you will have to move your plants around a few times until you like the way they look. Once you have decided on the placing of your arrangement, you can go ahead and plant! I only had one vine, so I choose to put it in the front to the left side.

My thrillers were two different colors, so I placed them in a pattern so that enough color went around the asparagus fern as a whole.

Before planting, double check that you like the way it looks from a distance as well, not just when you are right in front of it. This will allow you to be able to arrange a pot that you love! Remember to always plant in odd numbers.

You want to place your filler directly in the center, or towards the back of the pot.

If you chose a vine for your spiller, you will want to place that towards the front or side where it can be easily seen and grow freely. This will make your pot look larger and not hide the plant.

For your thriller, you will want to pick a side, or in my case fill the edges, so that there is a pop of color.

As all of your plants grow, you will start to see the arrangement look full and bright!

Buying large arrangements can be costly, and you won't always get what you are looking for. Planting your own arrangement will help you save money, as well as pick out exactly what you want!

This is the perfect budget friendly way to make your porch pop with the wow effect before your summer BBQs start!

TALK ABOUT IT THURSDAY

As the semester wraps up and summer is around the corner, I want to reflect upon the growth over the last two semesters.

Coming into NWOSU, I was hesitant to talk to anyone, did not want to be involved with any organizations, and stayed at my apartment alone most of the time.

Now, I have an amazing group of friends, I am an officer

in Delta Zeta, and I am sitting here writing for the newspaper.

I say all of this to show that it is good to put yourself in situations that may make you uncomfortable. It is in those situations that your grow. That you learn grace. That you find your interests and meet lifelong friends.

I encourage you to get comfortable being uncomfortable.

LET'S LEARN
May!

- The name May comes from the Greek Goddess Maia!
- May Day (May 1st) is a holiday with a variety of traditions, such as celebrating the beginning of spring.
- The month of May is dedicated to Virgin Mary in the Catholic church
- May's birthstone is an emerald, symbolizing success and love
- No other month in the year starts or ends on the same day of the week as May does.
- The Indianapolis 500 and Kentucky Derby are both in May.

Sunshine is here

This semester is coming to an end and finals will be here next week.

How do people feel about school being almost over? Many are ready to be out of school and enjoy their summer, while others feel a bit of sadness.

I am the type of person who feels a bit melancholy as school ends. I always have been even in the past with high school and middle school. While I am glad I won't have homework anymore for a while, I will miss the routine.

I will miss the mornings and getting ready for school. Making coffee and breakfast in the morning. Walking to class and seeing everyone walk to their classes. Going to Starbucks to

get a delicious drink. There are many things that I will miss.


Right now, I can't wait for the day that I will have nothing to do, but I know that will get boring. The first few days without school are amazing, you get to relax, sleep in and plan out your summer. Then it settles in, all the responsibilities you forgot about come rushing to your mind.

Perhaps in the summer you need to get a job or just work more hours. The anxiety starts to begin because you have been a couch potato for the past week since schools been out. Suddenly, you miss the simple routine you had made during school.

Maybe I'm the only one who has experienced this. Either way I am going to miss school for a bit, but I know life will get busy during the summer. I'll be working, enjoying the sun, planning trips, going on trips.

Before you know it, fall semester will be here and I will start to get melancholy because my summer routine is over.

Chats with Ingrid




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SPORTS

Northwestern News MVPs

Baseball

Softball

Track



Carson Wright
Senior
Left fielder
Biology
64 hits,
50 RBI, 39 Runs

Will Kates
Junior
Pitcher
Business Administration
71.2 Innings pitched,
54 SO, 2.51 ERA

Jadyn Muns
Junior
Shortstop
Health & Sports Science ED
.323 Avg,
53 hits, 25 RBI

Chloe Brown
Juienor
Pitcher
Health & Sports Science ED
105.1 Innings pitched,
44 SO, 1.94 WHIP

Kareem Small
Junior
Sprinter
Business Administration
2x GAC
Runner of the Week

Men’s Basketball

Women’s Basketball

Track



Camron McDowell
Redshirt Junior
Guard
3x GAC Player of the Week
245 Fieldgoals,
80 3PT, 736 PTS

Kabeya Tshibangu
Redshirt Junior
Forward
2x GAC Player of the Week
26 Blocks,
20 Steals

Carly Craig
Senior
Guard
4x Nominated GAC POTW
112 Fieldgoals,
69 3PT, 329 PTS

Camille Thomas
Senior
Forward
1x GAC Player of the Week
19 Blocks
48 Steals

Ashley Low
Graduate Student
Javelin
Adult ED Management &
Administration
Set NWOSU Record

Golf

Rodeo



Matheiu Zerwin
2x GAC Golfer of the Week
Sophomore

Romane Lacoste
2x GAC Golfer of the week
Sophomore

Emmett Edler
Agriculture Business
Senior

Payton Dingman
Business
Freshman



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SPORTS

Lady Rangers end season

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

Last weekend, the NWOSU Softball had their final games of the year. They were set to play in an away triple header against the Harding Bison in Searcy, Arkansas. The Lady Rangers were not able to qualify for the 2025 GAC Championships.

In game one, Madelyn Cason started on the mound and she was able to play through the entire game without being subbed.

The first inning went by without any runs being scored. The Lady Bison did leave two runners on base, Lady Rangers left none.

In the second, both teams left one runner on base but no runs were scored. The third inning opened the scoring, as Harding University was able to get a run scored making it 0-1.

In the very next inning, Rachel Sherwood hit a homerun to take her and Macy Spearman home and the Lady Rangers had the lead in the top of the fourth. In the bottom, the Lady Bison were able to get three hits but no runs were scored.

Besides the top of the fifth where NWOSU left one, there were no more runners left on base for the rest of the game. The Lady Rangers won the first game of the series 2-1. Sherwood, Avery Clark, Madeline Pack, Kirby Van Haren, and Makanalei Lapera were all able to record one hit in the game. No player made more than two hits in game one. Cason recorded ninety pitches thrown and twenty-eight batters faced, but no strike-outs.

Chloe Brown opened the game for the Lady Rangers as she was the starting pitcher for game two.

The first inning was scoreless. In the second, Harding Univer-



Photo by Alli Schieber

Lady Ranger No. 25, Kirby Van Haren in her at bat in previous three-game home series agaistn the OBU Bison which ended in losses for NWOSU.

sity was one again the first team to record a run in the game. The third went by with no runs scored.

In the fourth, Kaitlyn Corn hit a double to left center to send Sherwood home and the game was tied at one. The Lady Rangers followed that up with three runs scored in the top of the fifth. Spearman hit a single to the pitcher and sent Lapera home.

Sherwood hit a single up the middle to send Spearman home. Clark hit a single to left center to send Jadyn Muns home. The Lady Rangers were now up 4-1 in the top of the fifth with not a lot of time left in the game.

The Lady Bison were able to hit a single homerun in the sixth to bring the game to two. In the

top of the seventh, Sherwood hit a ground out to pitcher which allowed Devyn Raile run home and make it a three-run game once again.

Cason eventually subbed in for Brown in the final inning. In a stunning turn of events, Harding was able to pull off the miracle and they scored four runs to get a walk-off run in the bottom of the seventh and the Bison won the game 5-6. Muns and Sherwood both had two runs by the end of the game, Sherwood had two RBIs. Brown recorded eighty-three pitches thrown and two strike-outs.

The third and final game of the series and the 2025 season started just the same as the other two in

the series, with a scoreless first inning. Katheryn Jones started on the mound for the Lady Rangers but was replaced by Cason in the second inning.

In the second, Harding scored four runs to take a large early lead.

The Lady Rangers responded quickly in the third as Corn hit a single to center field and sent Spearman home. In the following inning, Clark hit a ground out to pitcher, but there was a fielding error. Clark made it to first and Spearman and Lapera ran home to make it a 3-4 ballgame.

In the sixth, Harding had practically sealed the game as they scored three runs to make it 3-7. The Bison took home game three

of the series and the 2025 NWOSU Softball season was over.

Muns, Spearman, and Lapera all recorded two hits in game three. Jones and Cason had one strike-out a piece.

In the twelve-team conference, the Lady Rangers finished last in twelfth. They finished with an 8-25 GAC record and a 14-36 overall record. The team above them was East Central University who finished with a 10-23 GAC record.

This year overall was a poor showing for the Lady Rangers. Although there were highlights, they just never shined bright enough. Looking forward to next season, they know what work needs to be done.

Three T&F women compete

Three women from Track and Field went to Fort Hays State University to the FHSU Alex Francis Classic.

Kerchan, a sophomore, finished 5th out of 5 with a distance of 4.69 meters.

Tucker, a senior finished 4th out of 8 with a distance of 32.45 meters. Fernandez finished 7th with a distance of 24.75 meters.

On May 1-3, the Great American Conference track meet will occur.

Rodeo ends season on high note

Last weekend, the rodeo team went to Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Guymon to compete in their final competition of the year. The rodeo teams were once again in their dominate fashion. There, a duo of men were able to win an event in their final rodeo for NWOSU.

Hazen Sparks placed in a tie for 7th in the tie down event.

In the breakaway, Katie Ayres was 9th.

Emmett Edler was able to tie for 5th in the steer wrestling event.

Jacob Haren and Rhett Murray together won the team roping event with their total time of 14.5 seconds.

The men's team finished 2nd overall at the end of the rodeo. The women's team were not able to score any points.

To finish off the year, the Rangers all placed high up in the standings in the events they competed in.

Edler is 1st overall in the Steer Wrestling standings, with a total of 915 points. 2nd place has a distant total of 590 points. Sparks was 4th overall in the Tie Down event standings, with a total of 285 points. Kerry Duvall was not far away in 7th with 245 points. Payton Dingman sits in 3rd overall in the Goat Tying standings, with her 570 points scored. Dale Lee Forman sits 12th with 215 points scored. Colter Snook sits 2nd in the Team Roping event as a header. His 285 points puts him in good standings with the rest of the competition. Haren sits 11th with 225 points.

LJ Yeahquo is 7th in the Team Roping event as a heeler with 260

total points scored throughout the year. Murray is not far off with 225 points scored.

Stormi Hopkins is the highest placing Lady Ranger in the Barrel Racing event, with her 60 points scored putting her in 21st.

Edler sits 2nd in the men's standings for the All Around. Edler has scored a total of 1125 points throughout the year. Sparks is 6th with his 476 total points scored.

Although there were some rough patches in the year, the NWOSU Rodeo team as a whole did really well. They started dominate, were consistently dominate, and ended the year dominate. Even with the seniors leaving at the end of the year, next year they will no doubt continue to be their dominate selves in the Central Plains Region Rodeo Standings.

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BASEBALL

Rangers defeat the Dawgs

By OAKLEE FIELDER
Sports Editor

Last weekend, the NWOSU Baseball team faced off against the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Bulldogs in a

Rangers did, and more. Wright hit a ground out to second base but that let Trevor Saire run home to tie the game.
In the next at bat, Connor Green hit a single to send Dylan Bradford home and the Rangers now had the lead in the closing

Game One	Runs	Hits
SWOSU	2	9
NWOSU	4	7

Game Two	Runs	Hits
SWOSU	3	11
NWOSU	7	11

Game Three	Runs	Hits
SWOSU	4	9
NWOSU	8	10

three-game series at home at the Glass Family Field at Myers Stadium. This was their final games of the 2025 regular season.
Logan Sandoval started on the mound for the Rangers.
The game started scoreless in the first inning, as the Rangers left two men on base. In the second, SWOSU scored the first run of the game. The Rangers were

stages of the first game.
In the eighth, Jacob Shaw was subbed for Sandoval. Shaw only pitches to one batter when he was replaced by Dawson Toborg.
In the bottom of the eighth, Bradford hit a ground out to second base which allowed Colby Grace to run home and extend the Ranger's lead to two.
The rest of the game went by



Photos by Alli Schieber

No. 27, Travore Saire slides into homeplate to secure a run in one of three wins against the SWOSU Bulldogs.



Ranger No. 10, Hagen Barcello swings in one of his at bats in an eventual win against the SWOSU Bulldogs.

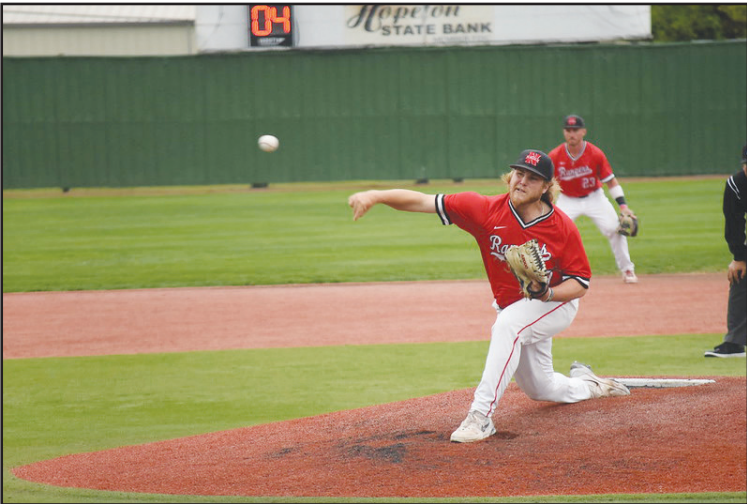
not able to respond as they were three up and three out in the bottom of the second.
In the third, neither team scored, as the Bulldogs left one man on base and NWOSU two. SWOSU extended their lead to two in the top of the fourth, and left two men on base.
The Rangers did not respond in the bottom half of the inning. SWOSU was scoreless in the fifth. The Rangers scored their first run with a single by Carson Wright who sent Harley Shaffer home.
The sixth went by scoreless. The Bulldogs also did not score in the top of the seventh, but the

scoreless and game one ended with a Ranger 2-4 win.
Game two started with Kaden Spray on the mound.
Innings one and two went by with no runs scored, but NWOSU had one hit in both innings. In the top of the third, the Bulldogs scored a run to take the lead of the game by one.
They scored another in the top of the fourth, both scores went unanswered from the Rangers.
Spray was replaced by Elias Herrera in the fourth as well. Both the fifth and sixth went by scoreless.
In the seventh, Connor Green hit a single down the left field line

hit a single up the middle just after that to send Chase Gordon home.
Hagen Barcello hit a single to the pitcher which allowed Connor Green to run home. Grace hit a sacrifice fly out to send Chad Green home. Shaffer hit a single to the right to send Paul Sachen home.
Saire hit a single to right field and sent Barcello home. After all of that, the Rangers were up by four, 2-6 with two innings left in the game.
In the eighth, Sachen was thrown out at first base, but that allowed Connor Green to run home and extend the Rangers

lead to five.
In the top of the ninth, the Bulldogs were only able to take a small nibble out of NWOSU's lead as they scored one run in an attempt to catch the Rangers. The Rangers won 3-7. Kyle Holzer started on the mound for the Rangers in the third and final game of the series.
The Bulldogs did not score in the top of the first. Connor Green hit a single up the middle and sent Sachen and Zach Vetel home to make it a 0-2 ballgame.
Connor's brother Chad was up to bat next and he hit a homerun to take him and Connor home to make it a four-run game in just the first.
In the second, the Bulldogs did not score once again. Vetel hit a ground out but that sent Saire home to make the Ranger's lead five.
In the top of the third, the Bulldogs scored one run. It was responded immediately as Barcello hit a ground out to shortstop which allowed Chad Green to run

home.
In the fourth, Sachen hit a single to right field to send Saire home and make it a six-run game.
Colby Mitchell was subbed for pitcher in place of Holzer.
The Bulldogs scored in the top of the fifth, but a double from Barcello to send Gavin Mendoza home kept the difference at six.
The sixth was scoreless. Shaw was sent in to replace Mitchell. In the top of the seventh, SWOSU made an attempt to reel the Rangers in by scoring two runs, but it was not enough. The Rangers completed the sweep on the Bulldogs.
With these three wins, the Rangers secured their spot in the GAC Baseball Championships as the number seven seed out of eight.
They will face Southern Arkansas on Thursday, May 1, in the double elimination tournament in Enid at David Allen Ballpark.
On Friday, May 2, they will play again. The opponent on who wins and loses in the games.



No. 29, Kyle Holzer pitches with just four seconds left on the pitch clock.