

## Exercise

You can never be too old to be in shape.  
Read more on page 5



## Baseball

The start of the season is here.  
Read more on page 12.



# NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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# Mayor election set Tuesday



Photo by Oaklee Fielder

Joey Melton pauses while working on a roof downtown.

## Joey Melton

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Student Reporter

Joey Melton says Alva is the only place that is home after living in different states and some of the biggest cities in America.

Melton is running for mayor of Alva in the Tuesday election. Melton said his history and experience are his biggest strengths for his campaign.

The Melton family has been in Alva since before Oklahoma was a state, in 1895. Melton was born in the old hospital, which is now the Cherokee Strip Museum on 14th Street. He has lived in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Tampa Bay, Florida, but they didn't feel like home.

"Nobody waved at anybody, nobody knew anybody," Melton said. "At the end of the day, as beautiful as they were, it just wasn't home."

Melton grew up in Alva, where his family owned a business for generations. After his time away, he said he realized the small town means everything to him.

See **MELTON** on Page 10



Photo provided

Councilman Joe Parsons hopes to take over the mayor's job.

## Joe Parsons

By **JOHN STOWERS**  
Student Reporter

Joe Parsons said that the fix for Alva's financial problems might come in the form of the new arena and the money it would bring.

As the Alva mayoral race comes to a close on Tuesday, a lot of issues have come up during this campaign. One of those issues has been the city's finances. Last year saw only 38% of the projected revenue coming into city hall, and the citizens of Alva had lots of questions.

Mayoral candidate Joe Parsons answered those questions in an interview Friday. Parsons said the reason for the discrepancy is because the city bases its projections only on last year's sales tax collections, and sales tax fluctuates.

"Oklahoma is the only state in the nation that only gets sales tax and fees for services for general operations," Parsons said. "When you're dealing with sales tax as your funding mechanism, it's never consistent because sales fluctuate."

See **PARSONS** on Page 2



NWOSU Athletics Photo

Brian Pharies cheers at a Ranger football game in 2023.

## Brian Pharies

By **BRAXTYN TURNER**  
Student Reporter

A current candidate for mayor, has big ideas for the future of Alva; Brian Pharies, also known as "Unc," could be considered a celebrity on Northwestern's campus.

"I guess you could say I'm the Donald Trump of Alva," Pharies said,

Originally from Los Angeles, Pharies wrote for newspapers, skated roller derby and trained horses. It wasn't until later in his life that he relocated to Alva to be closer to his relatives buried at Sacred Hearts Cemetery. Now, Pharies has decided to run for mayor in the 2026 election.

When asked what he viewed to be the Top 3 priorities for him as mayor, he said, "Find out where the city's budget has gone, fix waterlines and provide more transparency to the citizens of Alva."

Transparency is the largest focus of Pharies's campaign, and he emphasized the importance of having no "Yes men" throughout his potential term.

See **PHARIES** on Page 2

# What you need to know about voting in mayoral race

By **CORKY HALL**  
Senior Reporter

Registered voters who live within Alva city limits will vote in a special mayoral election on Tuesday at polling locations across the city beginning at 7 a.m.

Polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Only voters

whose registration address falls within Alva city limits are eligible to participate.

The election is being held to fill an unexpired mayoral term after the previous mayor, Kelly Parker, resigned before completing the term. In March, he will take over as city manager. An interim mayor, council President Greg Bowman, was appointed to

serve until voters could elect a replacement.

According to the Woods County Election Board, the county currently has 4,955 registered voters. However, turnout for city-only elections is typically much lower than in statewide races.

In the April 2025 city election, only 545 voters cast ballots. By comparison, 3,639 voters par-

ticipated in the November 2024 general election, which included federal, state and local races.

Woods County Election Board Secretary Holly Blevins said voter eligibility depends not only on registration address, but also on county residency.

"This election is specific to the city of Alva," Blevins said. "If you live in Woods County but

outside the city limits, you will not be eligible to vote."

The voter registration deadline for the Feb. 10 election passed on Jan. 23. However, voters can confirm their registration status, polling location and district information through the Oklahoma Voter Portal or by contacting the Woods County Election Board office.

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# NEWS

## PARSONS: Street issues

Continued from Page 1

Parsons was also asked about road conditions in town not having been improved even when there have been financial plans in place to fund those projects for several years.

“Yes, there’s a \$5 street maintenance fee on utility bills that was put into place by the vote of the people ... probably 15 years ago,” Parsons said. “Five dollars on every water meter does not add up to as much as people would think it would. You look at the cost to do a mile of asphalt; it’s just astronomical. So it’s not that the money for that isn’t being used on streets. ...

“Also, something that the council has said is if there’s a street that needs to be replaced, and there’s waterlines under-

neath that street, we’re not going to replace that street until we replace those waterlines that need replaced too because it’s fiscally irresponsible to put a new street down and then a year later you’re ripping that street up to replace those waterlines. So, we want to make sure that we’re doing it in the right order. ...

“I mean that’s \$100 million worth of waterlines and streets that need to be done.”

Parsons was then asked if he thinks that the utility fees need to be higher in order to generate more revenue for the city.

“No,” Parsons said. “No, I’m not saying that at all. That’s not the answer. I think our utility bills are where they need to be,”

The mayoral election will take place on Feb. 10.

## VOTING:

Continued from Page 1

Voters are required to bring a valid form of identification when voting. Acceptable forms include a state-issued photo ID or a voter identification card, which may be obtained from the Woods County Election Board office.

As of Dec. 2025, Woods County had 4,999 registered voters. Blevins expects strong participation in the mayoral election due to high community interest.

For official and up-to-date information, voters may contact the Woods County Election Board by phone, the Facebook page or using the Oklahoma Voter Portal.

Election results will be certified on Feb. 13, after which the newly elected mayor may be sworn in at the next city council meeting.

## Weird News

### That stick is a tool?

Scientists say a stick about 2.5 feet long found in Greece was a digging tool 430,000 years ago. Another chunk of wood found at the same time was used to shape stone tools, according to an article released last week in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

### The Wienermobile is back!

All six of the Oscar Mayer Wienermobiles are competing in the Indianapolis Motor Speedway 2.5-mile oval in the Wienie 500 on May 22.

Last year’s race was such a hit, organizations decided to do it again.

### Here’s your next pet — maybe

Officials in Rocky Point, New York, about 70 miles east of Manhattan on Long Island, are trying to find homes for hundreds of pet rats found in a condemned house. A local animal hospital is nursing the abandoned rats back to health. Really?

### No more Mr. Potato Head?

For decades, Rhode Islanders have been able to choose Mr. Potato Head to adorn a specialty license plate. Then Hasbro, the toy company that makes the iconic toy, decided to move its headquarters to Boston. Now two lawmakers want to jettison the license plate option. Revenge much? Stay tuned for the vote this year.

### Vagrant bird

Scientists on a research vessel off the California central coast, recently spotted an albatross — 3,000 miles from home. The bird never usually travels north of Central America. They believe the same bird was seen off the coast of northern California in October. Does that make the bird a snowbird? LOL. Asking for a friend.

### Leaving rehab

A loggerhead sea turtle that lost a flipper to a shark has spent months in rehabilitation in Florida. When Pyari was reintroduced into the Atlantic Ocean recently, she went with a satellite tracker on her back. Scientists want to see how she fares with only three flippers.

### Help! My emu is missing

A county deputy had to corner and then handcuff the legs of an emu that got away from its owner recently in St. Johns County, Florida. Usually the flightless birds live in Australia. They can grow over 6 feet tall and can run up to 30 mph.

### Looking at cosmic photos

AI looking through the 100 million snapshots from the Hubble Space Telescope archive has found hundreds of anomalies that scientists haven’t had time to look at. It only took AI 60 hours to flag 1,300 anomalies that would have taken a human a lifetime.

## PHARIS: Make Alva great again

Continued from Page 1

Continuing on, he shared his feelings toward the current leadership of the city, claiming there is a large amount of corruption throughout the community.

“I’m an outside influence,” Pharies said. “I’m not tied to anybody. ... I don’t owe anybody in this city any favors, and I don’t want to owe anybody any favors. I will be a mayor that marches to the beat of my own drum and shows transparency. If you feel that my policy is wrong, please speak up.”

When discussing his leadership qualities, Pharies mentioned his drive to go the distance and his ability to make things happen. He emphasized that he would work relentlessly to change Alva for the better, mentioning things like bringing more and larger businesses into the city.

“I can sell ice to the Eskimos,” Pharies said. “I’m just that darn good ... If I can just get into Gov. Stitt’s ear, even if I have to go to Donald Trump. If I can get that far, then I’ll be asking him for money and sell him on the great city of Alva that needs to be

saved.”

He also brought up using the city’s budget to introduce more activities and events for residents, as well as NWOSU students, to gather at in the community.

When asked what success would look like for him at the end of his term as mayor, Pharies said, “I want to have brought in revenue, cut waste and have made Alva great again.”

The election to determine who wins the title of Alva mayor will be Tuesday. All registered voters who live within the city limits of Alva are eligible to vote

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# NEWS

## WHAT'S UP

9

SGA meeting 6:00-6:30 PM

- W or F issued on dropped 1st 8 week classes
- Chi Alpha night Student Center Ranger Room 6-8 PM

10

12

WINGO! Student Center Ranger Room 6-8 PM

- Theatre production "The Insanity of Mary Girard" Fellers Family Auditorium 7 PM

13

14

- Theatre production "The Insanity of Mary Girard" Fellers Family Auditorium 2 PM
- Nation ACT Exam EC 109 8 AM- 1 PM

Departmental Scholarship Applications Due

15

17

- Summer 2026 enrollment opens
- Writer's Roundtable Meeting VH 200 5:30-6 PM

OBI Blood Drive Student Center 10 AM- 4 PM

18

19

- OBI BLOOD DRIVE STUDENT CENTER 10 AM- 4 PM
- NWSU REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM 8 AM-7 PM

### FREE FOOD

Tuesday: Bible Chair 11:30 AM-1:15 PM East of Vinson Hall

Wednesday: BCM 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM East of Carter Hall

Thursday: Wesley House 11:30 AM-1:00 PM West of Shockley Hall

# FOOOD!!!

## Overcomer

Lindsey Vonn, from Saint Paul Minnesota, will compete at the 2026 Winter Olympics in skiing despite suffering a serious knee injury in a crash on Friday. She suffered a "completely ruptured" ACL.



-From KOCO5 News

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# OPINION

## Time management or mental load?

By ECE OZDEMIR  
Opinion Editor

For university students, time management has become a problem that almost everyone admits to struggling with, but no one seems to know exactly how to solve. Caught between classes, assignments, exams, social life, sports and future, students often summarize this situation with the phrase, "I don't have enough time."

However, the issue isn't always a lack of time; often, the problem is trying to use time efficiently when you're already mentally exhausted. Time management is often associated with discipline, planners and hour-by-hour schedules.

University life doesn't always proceed so smoothly. Unexpected assignments, extended classes, mental fatigue, or simply a bad day can disrupt even the most perfect plan. At this point, time management ceases to be merely a matter of productivity and becomes directly linked to mental health.

Because for someone who is mentally exhausted, anxious or overwhelmed, "managing

time well" is almost impossible. Many students start blaming themselves when they feel they can't manage their time effectively.

Procrastination is often seen as laziness but it is usually a result of mental overload. The sheer volume of tasks, high expectations, and the feeling of "I have to do everything" push the student into inaction.

The inability to start is often not due to unwillingness, but rather not knowing where to begin.

This increases anxiety, creating a vicious cycle. Another problem frequently experienced by university students is the fragmentation of time. There are short gaps throughout the day but these gaps are not "consolidated" enough for rest or focused work.

This constantly divided attention reduces academic performance and increases mental fatigue.

There seems to be time available but there is no mental energy. At this point, the problem is not about the number of hours but about the mental burden carried by the mind.

To align time management with mental health, a shift in perspective is necessary. The goal isn't to accomplish everything perfect-

ly, but to realistically plan what can be done. Taking small, sustainable steps instead of aiming for grand goals increases productivity and reduces anxiety. Even twenty minutes of focused work is more valuable than doing nothing. Progress is more important than perfection.

Furthermore, accepting that rest is not a waste of time is a crucial part of this process. The constant pressure to be productive causes students to feel guilty even when they are resting.

However, rest is a part of time management; it's impossible to use time efficiently without protecting mental health. Giving yourself space leads to a more balanced and healthy university life in the long run.

In conclusion, the time management problems experienced by university students often stem not from a lack of skill but from mental overload. The way to better manage time is to be more understanding towards ourselves.

We don't have to start every day perfectly; what matters is being able to continue. Time management is less about controlling the clock and more about learning to move forward while prioritizing mental health.

## Working in college can be hard

By ALLISON RUWALDT  
Student Reporter

Working in college adds so much to one's character, but it causes just as much distress.

For many students, college is the first thing they have to pay for themselves. Despite Northwestern Oklahoma State University being relatively cheap, it's still thousands of dollars that the average student doesn't have.

In my first semester of college here, I was prompted to create a payment plan in the first or second week. Without putting too much thought into it, I set up my payment plan.

However, what I didn't know was that my financial aid was supposed to cover all of my college expenses. So I spent \$1,500 that I didn't have in my first week of college, and when I checked with the finance office, everything seemed right.

After speaking to more people in the schools' Trio service, I learned more about my financial aid and was given a refund for the money I had spent.

That experience could happen to many other students, and unfortunately, a lot of them are stuck paying. I understand why there's urgency to set up a student's payment plan, but that also causes misinformed students to set it up without thinking and put themselves in unnecessary debt.

During my week of uncertainty, I requested more hours and mentally prepared myself to suffer. As far as I knew, I was going to have to pay for my school, as well as for every other necessity, and still put money away for savings.

However, I got lucky because I did qualify for financial aid. Unfortunately, half the students at Northwestern do not qualify for any and have to pay for their tuition, board, meal plans, books and fees.

With all of those adding up, students often feel pressure to work more hours and push themselves to work more than is possible. On top of paying for school, students have to pay for personal things that can happen, like car troubles, moving out of the dorms, gas for going home and so much more.

Not to mention jobs around Alva claim to work with schedules, but will lie, or continue to encourage students to put off school and prioritize work. In my experience working a part-time job in Alva, there will always be someone who works there as a career who expects everyone else to also take their part-time jobs as seriously.

This can cause competition and stress in the workplace that distracts students from their main purpose right now. Being in a competitive work environment can make a student feel that only the job is important, and he or she will stop putting the same effort into

school and primarily focus on work.

Working is necessary for continuing in college, but it also makes it feel almost impossible to put effort into school. I was working 40-hour workweeks last semester, and I know of 4 other students in my department alone who were also full-time.

Most weekdays, I would get out of class 10-15 minutes before I was scheduled to clock in, and I would be there until sometime between 8-10, depending on the day, leaving no time to talk to teachers or meet with tutors for help. I would constantly do my homework at my job and try to complete whatever I could on my phone.

It hasn't been all bad. Working provides a lot of structure, and I truly believe that people are better when they've worked from a younger age. I started working in high school, but I know most students don't need to, so they will wait until college.

A student needs to be realistic about how much work they can do in a week, because it can all pile up very quickly. Students should be encouraged to prioritize school work and work when they are able to.

It is also crucial for professors to be understanding that many students are working full-time. In my experience, being open with teachers will give them a better understanding of the workload I have, and they will help when I need it.

## 5 tips for managing your time

1. *Prioritize tasks*
2. *Plan with a calendar & to-do list*
3. *Minimize distractions*
4. *Use time blocking & techniques*
5. *Learn to say "no" & delegate*

from the internet

# OPINION

## It's never too late to exercise

By **ECE OZDEMIR**  
*Opinion Editor*

Many of us postpone starting to work out with the same phrase: "I will start next Monday."

When we have more time, when we are going through a less stressful period, when life settles down a bit...

As if working out is a habit that is only worth when everything is going well. Yet, it might be one of the things we need most precisely when things are not going well.

The idea that working out is healthy is almost universally accepted. It's good for heart health, strengthens muscles and helps with weight control.

These things are true. But they're also incomplete. Because defining working out solely as a physical activity doesn't explain why we find it so difficult to start. Perhaps the problem isn't that we're starting exercise too late; it's that we're placing it in the wrong context from the very beginning.

Most people think that working out requires being motivated. They also think that thinking to start working out when they "feel like it" or when they "ready" is going to make it better. However, researches and peoples experience's show the opposite: motivation is not a prerequisite for action but rather a result of it.

In other words, we often act first, and then the desire follows. There is no motivation waiting for you to start exercising; there is a momentum that builds as you move. When we ignore this fact, exercise becomes increasingly daunting and gets postponed.

Another often overlooked fact is this: sports are not just about the body; they directly affect the mind. Regular physical activity increases attention span, raises the threshold for coping with stress and strengthens decision-making mechanisms.

In other words, sports are associated not only with being "fitter," but also with a clearer, more focused mind. Despite this, reducing sports to merely an aesthetic goal

or a display of discipline makes it inaccessible for many people.

Additionally, exercise is often viewed with an "all or nothing" mentality: If you can't do an hour, it's not worth it; if you don't go regularly several days a week, it's pointless. However, even short bursts of activity have positive effects.

Even 10 or 15 minutes of exercise can be part of the process. But, when exercise is presented as a major decision rather than a natural extension of daily life, it loses its sustainability.

For many, the real challenge isn't starting but being consistent after starting.

The thought of "I'll just quit again" makes staying inactive seem safer.

This raises an important question: Are we too late to start exercising or are we approaching it from the wrong perspective? Does exercise have to be a turning point? Can it be done without completely overhauling one's life?

Perhaps exercise isn't a habit added after everything is good but rather a small

piece that gradually builds structure into one's life.

"Being late" is often a mental concept not a biological one. Things left undone in the past devalue the present, while the body is only concerned with the present moment.

There is no specific age for sports; we only act as if there is because of the meanings we attach to it.

We're not late to start working out. We're just squeezing it into an all or nothing mindset.

But working out isn't about a perfect start; it's an irregular but repetitive practice. Perhaps the issue isn't starting, but rather approaching sports with less pressure on ourselves.

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## You can't see everyone's disabilities

By **EMILY WRIGHT**  
*Student Reporter*

The words unity, equality and culture greet me every morning I walk to campus from my apartment. The word equality, painted on the wall of Vinson Hall's parking lot, stands out for me each time, not because it is painted in red. Students with invisible disabilities and chronic illnesses tend to have a strange relationship with equality.

From my own personal experience, it can feel hard or unthought of to ask for more equal treatment. After all, I look physically well. However, the reality for students like me is more com-

plicated than that. Accessibility at Northwestern remains to be seen as an issue.

Requests for change have been made all four years I've attended NWOSU, with little to show for it. Concerns about the reliability of elevators or lack of elevators and ramps for mobility aides, have been continuously mentioned as issues as it makes getting to classes an incredible struggle. Using mobility aides becomes harder to do. In some cases, it can discourage students from using an aide on campus. For example, students can still walk around campus; it changes when longer distances, sudden changes in abilities and unsteady terrain make using a wheelchair,

cane or other aide a necessity for students with invisible disabilities.

Options become further limited in certain buildings like Jesse Dunn, and changing class locations to accommodate a student's mobility aide can take weeks to complete. Students with invisible disabilities also experience not being believed and being labeled as dramatic.

People with such disabilities are often perceived as having less serious complications than those with visible disabilities, as you cannot look at us and know immediately what we struggle with. This leads to students feeling as if they cannot speak up or ask for assistance from friends, profes-

sors or administrators out of fear of not being believed.

One student told me about how they have fainted while preparing for classes on several occasions; with a few of these events causing them to be absent from class. They admitted that they do not email or inform professors when this happens to them out of embarrassment, or the lingering fear of not being believed. These students know that accommodations are offered and that they are allowed to seek them.

However, students with invisible disabilities typically do not seek them. This can be because of anxiety, of feeling they having to prove they are disabled and need assistance, or because attempts at

getting accommodations goes nowhere. This can be caused by the college's lack of resources to accommodate students or because accommodation is not seen as needed for some student's cases.

In my opinion, I feel a separate administrative department could help students with disabilities, whether they be visibly or invisibly disabled. This department could advocate for students and help students with disabilities advocate for themselves. This department could specialize in all areas of disability, so the student body can be adequately supported by the college. This could help us in being more productive, feeling motivated and valued by our Northwestern family.

## Being international student has its struggles

By **ECE OZDEMIR**  
*Opinion Editor*

Being an international student in America is often described as a great opportunity. The academic possibilities, cultural diversity, and opportunities for personal growth are undeniable.

However, this narrative often only covers the visible aspects of the experience. Being an international student also brings with it some subtle but persistent challenges.

These challenges are usually not dramatic; on the contrary, they are quiet situations embedded in daily life that are expected to be managed.

One of the most prominent aspects of this process is the constant need for adaptation. Even with high language proficiency, academic and social communication proceeds through established cultural codes. Issues

such as speaking up in class, participating in discussions, email etiquette, or communicating during office hours are not only related to language skills but also to cultural familiarity. For international students, this learning process is not a one-time event but a continuous one.

A similar situation exists in the academic environment. The American university system encourages active participation, self-expression and defending one's ideas.

However, these expectations are not taught in the same way in every education system.

Even small details encountered in daily life can create an additional mental burden for international students. Official procedures, the healthcare system, banking matters, or visa-related responsibilities, which may be commonplace for local students, are processes that require attention and knowledge for international students.

These issues are often not considered part of academic life; however, they directly affect the student's time and energy.

From a social perspective, international student life can create a sense of distance within crowded environments.

Although the campus environment is socially vibrant, differences in cultural references can make it difficult to form long-term bonds.

Being an international student in America is not a one-dimensional experience. At this point, the importance of the support mechanisms offered by our university becomes clear.

The International Office at our university plays a crucial role in meeting the academic, administrative and daily life needs of international students.

Our dedicated advisors guide students on many issues, from visa processes to academic guidance, making this process more manageable.

## More than tests are challenge

By **ECE OZDEMIR**  
*Opinion Editor*

University years are an exciting yet anxiety-provoking time for many students. Between classes, clubs, social life, and exams, career plans after graduation also occupy our minds.

Questions like, "Am I choosing the right path? Will I be ready when I graduate? Are my goals realistic?" can be the source of many sleepless nights and anxieties for students. These questions are not only related to academic success; they often directly impact a student's mental health.

The uncertainty of plans is a growing source of anxiety, especially as graduation approaches. The pressure to consider career opportunities on the one hand, and the desire to explore one's own passions and interests on the other, can lead to mental exhaustion. Some students may even feel a pressure to "do everything

right," a perfectionist mindset that can lead to problems such as stress, loss of motivation, and lack of self-confidence.

Mental health is just as important as academic success; a healthy mind allows for clearer and more manageable plans and for the future.

Fortunately, our university reminds us that we are not alone in this process. Students can benefit from counseling services to support not only their academic or career goals, but also their emotional and mental health. Our counselors help students understand their feelings of anxiety and uncertainty, develop coping strategies, and set personal goals. It is possible to harmonize mental health with career planning. Internships, volunteer work can help us gain experience and feel more confident.

In conclusion, future uncertainty is a normal and even invisible experience for university students.

# What Rangers do at the game



Rowdy Ranger watches the men's team warmup before their game against the Harding Bison on Jan. 29.



Fans cheer for the Lady Rangers basketball team against the Lady Bisons at the Jan. 29 game. Harding won 58-51.



Ranger cheerleaders do the Ranger pistols hand sign as the team shoots a free throw at the game Feb. 29.



Reagan Hiner cheers on the Rangers at the game Jan. 29 against Harding.



Mikayla Ramsey, a Ranger cheerleader, signs the back of young basketball player's shirt at the Jan. 29 game.



Hunter McMillin, Northwestern recruitment secretary, competes in an event during halftime for a chance to win tickets to a Travis Porter concert at the NiteLite.

Photos by Ingrid Maldonado, photo editor

# FEATURE

## Oklahoma breaks the ice

By **JESSICA SCHIEBER**  
Editor-in-Chief

Big things are happening for hockey in Oklahoma.

I wish I could announce something as huge as an NHL team coming here but unfortunately, we are not on that point yet.

Oklahoma State University has plans to add NCAA D1 hockey to their sports roster and they have plans to build a new arena by 2030.

This traction is huge for Oklahoma; it steps into the direction of if Oklahoma can bring in hockey.

With the plans of Oklahoma City building a new arena for Thunder there could be a conversation about adding a hockey team.

Now this is not guaranteed, and Oklahoma already has an ECHL team that plays in Tulsa. That team is called the Tulsa Oilers, and they are affiliated with the Anaheim Ducks.

It is also important that I stress that there have been no conversations about NHL coming to Oklahoma, that is just a dream that I would love to see come true.

The chance of this happening is not a high probability at all considering there are no current plans to add another team to the 32 hockey teams there already are.

This is also with the recent

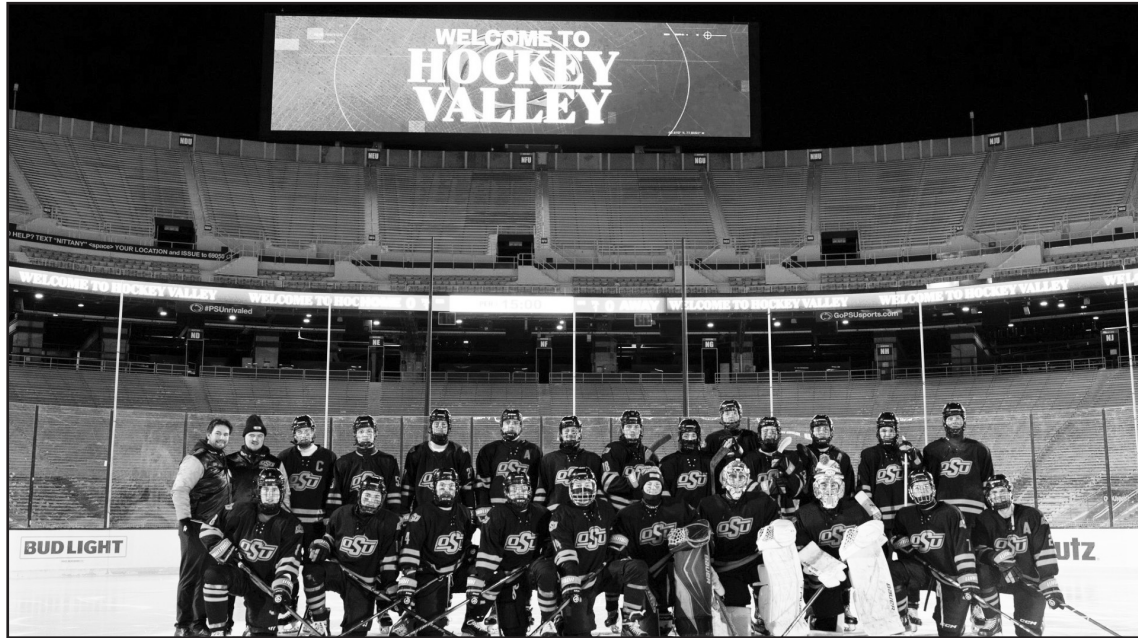


Photo by Sydney Martens

Oklahoma State University Hockey club at Beaver Stadium before an outdoor game in below freezing weather.

change from the Arizona Coyotes to the Utah Mammoth.

Things could certainly change with this addition of D1 hockey to OSU.

Oklahoma State University has a hockey club that has been active since 2021, but it dates to the 1990s.

The hockey club itself is sponsored by the Tulsa Oilers and the Oilers Ice Center with many other brands.

This team is part of the American Collegiate Hockey Association.

On the cowboy hockey team

shop they say, "Let's build the future of hockey in Oklahoma—one goal, one game and one supporter at a time."

It appears that OSU hockey has big plans for Oklahoma and hockey all together.

With the building of an arena and the addition of D1 hockey OSU will start to make a name for itself and the state of Oklahoma in the coming years.

This will lead to a state that will have more interest in ice sport and will bring in the attention of major hockey states.

How long will it be until an

Oklahoma player joins the ranks as a legend?

Even if you have no care in the ice, skates, pucks, sticks or fights this is exciting news for Oklahoma.

OSU hockey will have a bedlam on ice game versus OU hockey at the BOK center in Tulsa.

The tickets bought for this game will also allow those who purchase them to get into the Tulsa Oilers game later that night. The event is set to happen February 28.

This week OSU will be playing at Tennessee on Friday and

Saturday. On Feb. 13 and 14 they play at home versus Nebraska.

January 31 they played in Beaver Stadium at Pennsylvania State University.

The team went on a trip last in 2025 and had to opportunity to meet Sidney Crosby, a huge name in the hockey world.

Crosby plays for the Pittsburgh Penguins and is the captain of the team.

Crosby will be playing for team Canada in the Winter Olympics.

This team has been on the up since they started the hockey club.

Right now the team has to travel to play and practice since Stillwater does not have any ice facility.

If the plan to build a stadium for them goes through at OSU this team will have one less problem.

The team is built from players all over the nation.

Patrick Sexton is a junior who wears the number 10 and is from Cashion, Max Williams is a freshman who wears number 12 and is from Clinton, Joel Gilstrap is a senior who wears number 13 and is from Broken Arrow, Connor Wehmuller afreshman who wears number 19 and is from Edmond and Nathan Hill is a senior who wears number 55 and is from Leedey. There are other players who also call Oklahoma home.

## Construction keeps students from crossing street

By **INGRID MALDONADO**  
Senior Reporter

Construction on highway 281 has affected local communities like the College Hill Church of Christ, the Baptist Collegiate Ministry and Northwest Nutrition.

With construction, students are often afraid to cross the street to go to these local areas and others from the community completely avoid the street.

"We've seen a little bit of decline just because before we had a lot of students that would walk across the street from the college, and now with construction, I think some of them are a little hesitant to walk across the construction area," said the owner of Northwest Nutrition, Jeramie Bradford.

When walking across the highway, students have to press the button to signal they are walking so cars can stop to let them pass. Now, students have to be aware of their surroundings even more with the construction.

"I think what it has done, has made it more dangerous for people to go across the crosswalk because they have orange flashing lights all the time," said Miles Harris, the director of the Baptist



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Construction on College Boulevard has been impacting drivers and businesses. Construction started last year.

College Ministry at Northwestern. "And then when you push the crosswalk light, it's just another yellow light going off, and I don't think people pay attention

as much as they used to."

It not only affects students' walking but as well as car traffic. Bradford said there has been a decline not only from students

walking to Northwest Nutrition but also from people who drive there. He explained having multiple entry ways to the building has helped but some people don't

know that and it has affected his business.

Steve Hamm, the minister of College Hill Church of Christ said it hasn't impacted the amount that goes to church on Sunday or the free Tuesday lunches. It has impacted the parking situation the most, he said.

"It pushes people to park along this north side, but they extend it into the road, the driveway that we have," Hamm said. "So, they'll park all the way to the alley, so we can't get through."

Hamm explained this all began last year when they were doing construction in the alley for piping.

People couldn't get into their parking lot and then with the rain it, they had a lot of mud, he said. Neither Hamm, Harris or Bradford knew construction was going to happen.

"I didn't get any letters from the city, the state, or phone calls or nothing that said it was going to happen, the same thing with the alley," Harris said.

Harris said construction has not affected the number of students going to the BCM but explained crossing the highway has become more dangerous and how construction has made the area look rough.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Weird foods in fiction and their style

By KEVIN KAUMANS  
Entertainment Editor

Last week, during my meeting with Northwestern News, I was eating crunchy peanut butter out of the bowl. I had not had supper yet, and was desperate for anything to cure my hunger. As I was still eating, Dr. Armstrong turned to me and asked me what I would be writing for next week. Now, my original plan was to talk about why protagonists in literature in the post-modern era are so different from protagonists in old literature.

But as I was eating my unusual meal, I got an idea; as a child, I did not have that many friends in the small town of Kiowa.

Sure, I got along with my classmates. But I went to a school twenty minutes away from town, and my mom did not know any of their parents, so it was not like I could just ask to stay over at their house.

Anyway, the point is, I did not have much social interaction outside of school. Because of this, one of my only sources of entertainment was television. Looking back on it, it got me thinking: Foods in fiction are nothing short of strange.

One of the cartoons I used to watch as a kid was "Regular Show". It is an absurdist show with even more absurd characters, if you were to ask me to explain it. One of the episodes, I recall, introduced a food item called the Every Beef Burrito. The burrito is said to contain over 27 types of meats,

including exotic ones like alligator and ostrich.

Another weird food item I remember from my childhood is the everlasting gobstopper from "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." In theory, the candy was supposed to be something for children with not a lot of money.

It can change flavor and never gets smaller no matter how long you chew it for. Of course, the science behind such a candy is absurd. Nonetheless, it is an interesting concept for a mythical candy.

Honestly, I find it inspiring, all the creative ways authors come up with strange foods in the culinary culture of the world they create. Whether it is Lembas Bread from the elves, or the Senzu Beans Goku

and his friends love to eat, some of the most random food names in pop culture come from these books and shows.

At the end of the day, whether it is a fantasy world, a cartoon world or a world that mirrors our own in some way, I encourage authors to be as creative as possible with their food creations.

Do not be afraid to be strange. Do not be afraid to be outlandish. This life we humans live is short.

Sometimes life can be stressful. Sometimes it can be depressing. Fiction helps us escape from it. Most people are not going to pick up something they know to be make-believe and expect it to be realistic. Have fun with your world, whether it be food or otherwise.

### 'Love of Sight'

By Kevin Kaumans

Third day hungover,  
Raw pasta for breakfast.

First to class,  
Last to leave,  
Please don't look at me.

Going home,  
Broken tech,  
Just another day.

Going home soon,  
Should be glad,  
Won't be the same,  
Never see you again.

Why can't you stay?  
Without you I'll be astray,  
My Love! Don't Go!

## Dear Diary: She turned me down hard

By KEVIN KAUMANS  
Entertainment Editor

Continued from Jan. 22

I got turned down. Hard. She was nice about it, of course. That is something I can admire about Sa-rang.

She was always nice, even to those that don't deserve it. She then proceeded to excuse herself to the bathroom. I didn't see her for the rest of the night.

I took me nearly three hours to get a ride home. My phone died and my card was almost maxed out. I eventually ended up getting a ride home from a hippie named Dan.

When we got into his car, it took him like 30 minutes to start it. I then had to endure a hundred different detours because he kept picking up his friends and dropping them off a thousand miles away from my apartment.

When we finally did get to my apartment, I was so tired that I thought I was going to pass out on the stairs.

When I got to my room, I checked my laptop to see if it would work. Of course, it crashed like usual, and I ended up chucking it out of the window. I'm probably going to get a fine for littering again.

Oh well, it's not like I care anymore. Everything I once held dear had already been lost long



before I ever met Sa-rang. May my nights forever be cold...or whatever it is that one guy says.

Point is, I kind of knew it would end up with me getting turned down.

To be honest, I can not even remember what it is I even found so attractive about her in the first place. I guess I was just more in love with the idea of her.

Everything is fading. I'm gonna go to bed. I'll probably chuck this journal in the river when I wake up tomorrow.

December 18

It has been over a month since

I last wrote in this journal. I wish I could say that my life has turned out well.

I work fifty hours a week at a job I could not care less about. I sometimes steal fries from the machine before it finishes.

I am constantly stressed, I do not get any sleep. I am constantly killing myself with caffeine.

But I will say this: Despite all of this, I do not blame Sa-rang for how I turned out.

I blame myself. I do not really have much else to say. I wish there was a happy ending to this story, but hey, at least I am still alive. That's good, right?

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## Entertainment news

### Wuthering Heights buzz

The new film adaptation of the Emily Bronte novel "Wuthering Heights" opens in theaters on Feb. 13. The Hollywood Reporter said the movie had its first screenings for press on Tuesday, "and the early reaction suggests the film starring objectively hot Aussie pair of Margot Robbie and Jacob Elordi is, well, hot." The book has been adapted for

screens many times over the last century. This version is rated R.

### The Naked Dress

They call it naked dressing, and it's not new, but it certainly got headlines after the Grammys on Sunday where several artists sported extremely sheer and form-fitting dresses. Chappell Roan was the show stopper, however. Her gown, designed by

Thierry Mugler, featured draped burgundy chiffon suspended from two nipple rings (pasties covered the nipples). The dress was one of three Roan wore throughout the night, but the one for the Red Carpet arrival was the only "naked" dress.

### New Disney CEO

Disney announced Tuesday that Disney Experiences Chairman Josh D'Amato will become the CEO of The Walt Disney Company on March 18. He follows long-time exec Robert A. Iger. Disney has only had three CEOs in the last 40 years, according to Forbes.

### Talk show ending

After seven years, "The Kelly Clarkson Show" will wrap up this season with the final episodes airing into the fall, NBC Universal announced Monday. Clarkson said she needs to "prioritize my kids." Her former husband Brandon Blackstock died of melanoma six months ago. The couple have two children.

## Expect Fentanyl & Test First

### What is fentanyl?

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# NEWS

## NWOSU Sports Hall of Fame class join other greats



The Sports Hall of Fame Class was honored on Jan.31. This year's class had four new members. Those members were Greg Johnson who played football and did track from 1979-1983, Melvin Swift who played basketball from 1987-1989, Mario Woodson who played Basketball from 200-2002 and Jeff Allen who played Baseball from 1983-1987. They were honored at a luncheon in the Student Center ballroom earlier that day and were formally inducted during halftime of the men's basketball game against Arkansas Tech University.

NWOSU Athletics photo

## MELTON: Enjoys helping

Continued from Page 1

He raised a family in Alva, and his kids started families in Alva, continuing the long-lasting Melton name in Alva.

Melton said his favorite part of Alva is the fact that everybody knows everybody. With that, having good connections with all parts of Alva is incredibly important. Melton said he's most connected with the working class of Alva, especially considering that he owns a business. With that said, he still feels connected with every class in Alva and enjoys helping them.

"I'm always right there strengthening my community wherever I can and helping people," Melton said. "Growing up in a service industry, you just live to be of service; it just becomes a part of your DNA."

Melton said he wishes the people of Alva were more involved in local government, although he understands the many reasons people are not involved.

"When you're in your 20s, you've got a lot more on your mind than voting," Melton said. "You've just got a lot more on your plate."

Melton never aspired to become a politician. After working a full-time job and living as many people do, he said he has the knowledge and capabilities to be a good mayor for Alva. Melton doesn't want to be mayor for an incredibly long time; he wants to serve four years and then leave.

Melton said he wants more businesspeople to play a hand in local politics. He said people with a business or a full-time working background are better qualified to be politicians than those who

dedicate their lives to politics. Growing up in a family that owns a business has given him wisdom, learning lessons in many ways, good and bad, he said.

"I want to see other like-minded, accomplished and capable businesspeople to go 'you know what, I want to put my four years in and make a difference,'" Melton said. "I think that would benefit the town in its entirety."

One of Melton's big goals is to change how the financial meetings are handled. Melton said he attempted to attend one but was not allowed. He thinks no matter how uncomfortable it is, they must be held in public.

"It's important for the people because we're just the stewards of their money," Melton said. "It's not our money, it's not our equipment, it's not our building down there. It's the people's, and we're just the stewards of it."

Melton said he sees a large gap between the city government and public input.

"I went to the last city council meeting, and I was the only citizen there," Melton said. "You typically won't see people at a city council meeting unless you have a bunch of people that are mad. It's somewhat the people's fault and the city government's fault, but that gap is not closed."

Melton does not have all the answers for the gap, but he said he has the resources to find those answers.

Melton said he thinks Alva is in a bad economic state and Alva's zoning laws are a tragic mess. He does not think the answer is turning to large industry. Alva should focus on the small local businesses, he said, to but he does have a plan to get to large

industries.

"Large industry is not the answer right now because Alva does not have the workforce," Melton said. "So really the first step is for the small businesses to get to the point where they can open up. Start building families and the population, and eventually we can start looking at large businesses or bigger."



After his time in Tampa Bay, Melton said living in a small town such as Alva has all the benefits in the world.

"Everybody knows everybody," Melton said. "And we have a lot of the safeties that big towns do not have."

Sometimes, Alva has a mentality where they like to see people fail instead of succeed, Melton said. He said he thinks it needs to be addressed, and Alva should try to be a more helpful community, but he mostly wants to see people get out there and vote.

"Be involved, get up and vote," Melton said. "It's the beauty of the American way. You may not think your voice matters, but every little bit counts."

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## News in Quotes

**President Donald Trump on the disappearance of Today host Savannah Guthrie's mother:**

**"I think it's terrible. I'm going to call [Savannah Guthrie] later on. I think it's a terrible thing. ... Very unusual situation, but we're going to find out."**

**Jimmy Kimmel in Feb. 2 monologue:**

**"Mark my words right now, if 'Melania' gets nominated for an Oscar, I will host that show. Whether they ask me to or not. I will insist on it."**

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# SPORTS

## Harding wins, Wonderboys lose

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

The Ranger basketball team faced two teams from Arkansas, losing to the Harding University Bison and defeating the Arkansas Tech University Wonderboys.

### Harding 68-63 NWOSU

The Rangers faced a tough opponent on Thursday, the Harding Bison. The Rangers entered the game sitting number five in the conference, while Harding was number three.

The Rangers made it clear that they came to play, and they made sure everyone knew it early. The two teams battled tightly and physically. Harding started with a slight lead throughout the first minutes of the first half, but the Rangers bounded back and had it tied at 10 with 12 minutes left. Harding earned their slight lead back, but Northwestern battled and kept them within touching distance.

After being down by a few points for a couple of minutes, the Rangers took the lead by one with five minutes left in the half. Harding responded by taking the lead by three, but a three-pointer from Justin Norris gave the Rangers an even playing field with two minutes left. The two teams trad-

ed layups, and the game was tied at 22 at the end of the first half.

To start the second half, the Bison immediately went to work and earned themselves a lead of five.

Free throws from Cam'ron Brown, a jumper from Kenny Burns III and three-pointers from Max Alexander got the Rangers back within one. With 15 minutes left, the two teams were within one, but then Harding scored a three-pointer to give them a four-point lead. Harding continued to push a little bit and had a lead of six with 12 minutes left. Although the Rangers fought to get close, the Bison scored with every chance they had in the closing minutes of the game and secured their win over Northwestern.

### ATU 63-76 NWOSU

The next game for the Rangers would be an important one, considering the season is in the closing stages, and playoff pushes are in the works.

The game opened with a great first half from the Rangers. They took the lead and never looked back. The Rangers slowly inched away from the Wonderboys, as they had a 10-point lead with nine minutes left in the half. The Rangers increased their lead as time went on and had a 16-point lead with one minute left in the



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Cam'ron Brown communicates with Robbie Armbruster against Harding.

half. The Wonderboys were able to shrink their lead to 12, but the damage had already been done.

The Rangers kept their lead at the start of the second half, until Arkansas Tech pushed in the

midway point of the half as they attempted to get the game back within reach.

With 15 minutes left, they were able to shrink the Rangers' lead down to just five. Two minutes later, the Wonderboys took the lead by one point with a three-pointer. The two teams traded scores, then a layup from Robbie Armbruster gave the Rangers the lead back.

Then, the Rangers were able to earn their large lead back as the game entered the end stages. With one minute left, the Rangers were up by 18, basically securing the win. The Wonderboys attempted to score a few more points, but it was nothing to give them a chance at the win.

In the Arkansas Tech game, Max Alexander hit 1,000 career points at Northwestern. Later in the week, he was announced as the GAC Offensive Player of the Week for his play against the Bison and Wonderboys.

Now, the Rangers sit fifth in the GAC standings, under Harding and over Henderson State. Henderson has one fewer win than the Rangers, and they are next on their schedule on Thursday. Northwestern will then play Ouachita Baptist on Saturday to end the weekend in Arkansas.

## Ladies lose to Harding and Arkansas Tech

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

The Lady Rangers dropped a ranking in the GAC standings after losing their two games this week against the Arkansas-based teams.

Their first game was against Harding University, which they lost 58-51.

After ending the first quarter even 11-11, the Bisons just outscored the Lady Rangers 14-11, giving them the lead 25-22.

The Lady Rangers led most of the way throughout the first quarter, but the Bison were able to

catch up and even it up. In the second quarter, the Bison started to get away from the Lady Rangers. In the closing minutes of the quarter, NWOSU was able to close the gap with a layup from Summya Adigun and a three-pointer from Camille Pritchard.

The third quarter started just like the first quarter, close. The Lady Rangers closed the gap to just one with free throws from Pritchard. After the Bison extended once again, Northwestern went on a run to even it up at 30.

The game came crashing down on the Ladies in the final quarter, as Harding outscored them 26-15 to take the lead in the closing

stages.

The game against Arkansas Tech went into overtime, after an incredibly close four quarters.

The first quarter ended with the Lady Rangers down by five, then Northwestern outscored the Golden Suns in the second by four to make it just a one-point game.

A dead-even third quarter ended with the Lady Rangers down by one. Northwestern had the lead in the final minutes, but after missing a free throw to give them the lead by three, the Golden Suns scored a layup to tie it and send it to overtime.

In overtime, Northwestern scored three versus Arkansas Tech's four and the Golden Suns won the game by just one point.

## Softball opens season with three wins, lose two

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

The Lady Ranger softball 2026 season got underway in Branson, Missouri, where they faced six non-GAC teams to give them an insight into the season.

The Lady Rangers won four of their six games in the Branson Lead Off Classic.

In the first game against Minnesota Crookston, Savannah Duran and Kaylee Madden led the Lady Rangers in hits as they both had two. Katelyn Bezdicek had the most RBIs in the game with three. Makaanlei Lopera had the most runs scored with three. Katy Jones and Madelyn Cason both had three strikeouts. The Lady Rangers won the game 8-4.

In the 9-5 loss against Newman University, Duran and Abby Baglin had the most hits with two apiece. Kaitlyn Corn and Delaynie Esterly each had one RBI. Duran, Madden, Gabrielle Sanchez, Esterly and Baglin all had one run scored to their names. Chloe Brown had three strikeouts, Bezdicek had one.

The 1-0 win over the University of Sioux Falls was not a very offensive game for either team, as the game went into overtime, even at zero. Duran led the Lady

Rangers in RBIs with the single one in the game. Duran, Sanchez, and Taygan Graham all had one hit apiece. Grace Hulsey had five strikeouts, no bases on balls, only had four hits on her and faced 27 batters.

In the win over Upper Iowa, the Ladies won by one once again. Madden and Esterly both had the most hits for the Lady Rangers with two. Raelynn Sandlin had one. Jones had four strikeouts.

In the game against McKendree, the Lady Rangers lost 1-0. Aspen Loafman had the most hits for NWOSU with two. Cason struck five batters out.

NWOSU beat Missouri S&T 10-0 in a seemingly easy game for the Lady Rangers. Madden had three RBIs and two hits. Corn had two hits and one base on balls. Brown had three strikeouts and only had two hits on her.

The next games for Northwestern are on February 7 against Texas Permian Basin. They will be on the road for the next week as they go to Odessa, Texas to face TPB.

Then, on February 11, they will be in Lawton to face Cameron University.

February 20 is the conference opener for the Lady Rangers against the Arkansas Tech University Golden Suns.

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# SPORTS

## Baseball season starts slow

By MEGAN SPRAY  
Senior Reporter

### Game 1 against CCU

The Rangers opened the series with an 11-5 win in the season opener.

CCU was first to get on the board, taking a 1-0 lead in the second inning. The Rangers responded with Dabrowski and Gordon both getting on base by walks and Amari Goodfellow singled to tie the game at 1-1 to end the third inning.

The Cougars took the lead 2-1 in the bottom of the third. After a scoreless inning, the Rangers tied the game 2-2 in the fifth by a single from Gordon that sent Barton home. Colorado Christians offense stayed steady, taking the lead 5-2 in the bottom of the sixth.

The Rangers continued to answer the Cougars offense, scoring in both the seventh and eighth in-

low to put the Rangers up 10-5. The final run from the Rangers was a hit by Jailon Goodfellow to send a runner home and secure the win, 11-5. Herrera finished the game with four strikeouts in his 3.2 innings pitched.

### Game 2 against CCU

Northwestern dropped game one of the doubleheader 11-6 after multiple big innings. Dabrowski homered in the first inning to give the Rangers an early lead, but CCU responded with two runs in the bottom of the first.

The Rangers briefly regained the lead in the second following a single from Jailon Goodfellow with an advance to second on a wild pitch and an RBI double from Cole Barton. Gordon and Amari Goodfellow both walked, contributing to the lead.

The Cougars had no response in the second and third innings but scored four in the fourth inning and another four in the fifth, extending their lead 10-4.



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Northwestern Ranger No. 12, Tyler Hogan, is set to catch the ball as the Rangers attempt to throw a runner out.



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Head coach Ryan Bowen talking to his infield players against Newman

nings, tying the game at 5-5. Elias Herrera came into the game in the seventh, shutting down the Cougars at the plate.

Northwestern continued to rally with an RBI from Gordon and a strong hit from Amari Goodfel-

Jailon Goodfellow scored two in the seventh with a double. The Rangers could not complete the comeback, losing 11-6.

### Game 3 against CCU

Northwestern fell 8-5 in Saturdays second game despite an

early offensive stride. Dabrowski singled and stole second to open the game. Amari and Jailon Goodfellow drove in runs to give the Rangers a 2-0 lead.

CCU answered with a three-run home run in the second inning and added runs in the third and fifth to pull ahead. Dabrowski homered in the seventh inning, but the Rangers were unable to complete the comeback.

### Game 4 against CCU

Northwestern closed the series with a comeback win Sunday afternoon, defeating CCU 14-10 to split the four-game series.

The Rangers struck first with early pressure on the base paths. Dabrowski opened the game with a single and stolen base, while Chase Gordon drew a walk. Amari Goodfellow doubled to left center to drive in the game's first run.

The Rangers continued to build momentum in the second inning, extending the lead to 4-0

from an RBI single from Goodfellow and Tyler Hogan.

Starting pitcher Trey Barkman executed quickly in his first two innings on the mound, striking out four. Northwestern added to the lead in the third inning with back-to-back homeruns from Matthew Bailey and Levi Joyce.

Colorado Christian responded with four runs in the fourth inning and added four more in the fifth to erase the deficit and take an 8-7 lead. The Cougars extended the lead to 10-7 with a two-run homerun in the seventh inning.

The Rangers answered in the eighth with a grand slam to right field by Blake Mattern.

Northwestern entered Sunday looking to bounce back after dropping both games of the Saturday doubleheader.

### vs Newman University

The Rangers lost to Newman, 8-5, in an extra inning.

Northwestern's offense was the first to attack, 2-0, in the

second inning by a double from Matthew Bailey and a single from Joel Lindahl to score base-runners. The Rangers tacked on two more runs in the third inning with offensive plays from Amari Goodfellow and Tyler Hogan.

Newman scored in the fourth and fifth innings, making the score 2-4. Northwestern answered in the fifth with a single from Cole Barton, including Alex Dabrowski and Goodfellow getting on base, extending the lead to 5-2.

The Jets responded, scoring in the sixth and seventh innings, tying the game at 5-5. The Rangers had opportunities to take the lead, but left runners stranded, unable to bring them home in both the eighth and ninth innings.

Newman took the lead in the tenth with a three-run inning, making the score 8-5. Northwestern was unable to respond in the bottom of the tenth, leaving the Jets to secure the win.

## Indoor track and field starts 2026 season at Wichita State University

By OAKLEE FIELDER  
Sports Editor

The Northwestern track and field teams were in Wichita, Kansas to compete in the Coach Wilson Invitational at Wichita State University.

This is the second meet for the indoor season and the first for the Rangers in 2026.

In the 60m, Easton Hamar finished 27th with a time of 7.15. Mayson Organ finished 12th for the women with a time of 7.95.

In the 200m, Camille Dates finished 10th with a time of 26.93. In the men's, Traevion White fin-

ished 34th with a time of 23.93.

Russel Anderson finished 2nd in the 400m for the men. He had a finishing time of 50.64. Jada White finished 4th in the women's with a time of 1:02.56.

In the 600m, Alijah Roper finished 11th with a time of 1:27.22. Alexaa Aquino finished 22nd for the women with a time of 1:57.99.

Ava Washington finished 10th in the 800m with a time of 3:31.17. Julian Vess finished 11th with a time of 2:03.29 for the men.

Cooper Bell set a school record in the 1000m with a time of 2:35.30, putting him in 2nd. Ali Bennett finished 16th for the

women with a time of 3:37.36.

Jamaria Ross finished 5th and set a school record in the 3000m with a time of 10:54.19. Andrew Scott finished 12th in the men's with a time of 9:13.48.

Aubrey Warehime finished 9th for the women in the 5000m with a time of 21:23.12. Zachary Cox finished 3rd for the men with a time of 16:03.68.

In the 60m hurdles, Traevion White finished 15th with a time of 8.98. Amelia Nyambuka finished 9th for the women with a time of 9.85.

The men's Team A finished 2nd in the 4x400m relays with a time of 3:28.85. The women's

Team A finished 3rd in their race with a 4:12.48.

In the 4x800m relays, the men finished 3rd with a time of 8:19.39.

Monique Cook finished 3rd in the high jump event with a height of 1.53m. Malakhi Straker finished 11th with a height of 1.87m.

Charlotte Benavides was the only Ranger to compete in the pole vault events. She finished 10th with a height of 2.94 meters.

Jeremiah Anderson broke another school record in the long jump as he finished 13th with a distance of 6.80m. Gabriella Hall finished 4th with a distance of 2.94m.

T'Antrae Thomas finished 3rd in the triple jump with a distance of 14.51m. Gabriella Hall finished 4th for the women with a distance of 5.51m.

Brock Bourgeois finished 7th in the shot put and set a school record with his distance of 14.82m. Reagan McReynolds finished 22nd in the women's competition with a distance of 10.23m.

Mercedes Glover set a school record in the weight throw event with a distance of 15.78m. Bourgeois finished 21st with a distance of 12.61m.

Ethan Burns competed in the heptathlon. He finished 7th with 2490 points.