

AI all around

AI is everywhere within our world now. Read more on page 5.



Olympics

The Olympics have started and USA is winning gold. Read more on page 8.



NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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Volume No. 87, Issue 17

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Oklahoma

February 12, 2026

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'Insanity of Mary Girard' under the bright lights

By BRAXTYN TURNER
Student Reporter

NWOSU theater students are hard at work rehearsing for the upcoming production of "The Insanity of Mary Girard" that debuts Friday at 7pm.

"The Insanity of Mary Girard" focuses on the true story of a woman committed to a Pennsylvania insane asylum in 1790 by her husband.

Throughout the story, themes like women's rights, the treatment of the mentally ill, and societal roles in the 1700s are subtle but persistent.

The show features unique roles, for example, the main character Mary is surrounded by a chorus of furies who taunt her and represent the madness within her brain.

Emily Wright, a senior media and communications major from Cheyenne was cast as the lead role of Mary Girard.

After taking a short break from theatre, Wright made her comeback by earning her first lead since freshman year.

When asked what she has done

to prepare for the role, Wright explained that her script is full of notes.

She spoke about the importance of separating herself from the character of Mary Girard.

Wright said, "She's not me. I can't act how I would react in the situation, It's got to be her. She was a real person."

This production is different from the many other productions the theatre department has put on throughout the years.

While they often stick with lighthearted plays and musicals, "The Insanity of Mary Girard" was chosen for a senior capstone by Lilith Ferrero, a speech and theatre major from Cordell.

A senior capstone is a production that is fully selected, casted, directed, costumed and designed by a senior theatre major.

Instructor of Technical Theatre, Mickey Jordan said "I find senior capstones incredibly rewarding, because you finally get to see the students do the things that they've practiced."

Ferrero was recommended the production while on the way to watch another production with the theatre program.

She read the entire script



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Students preparing for their roles for senior capstone of "Insanity of Mary Girard" based off a true story.

throughout the drive and halfway through decided that this was the play she wanted to focus on.

She mentioned the song "Labor" by Paris Paloma and how it stuck with her when she first read the play. The song is about women's struggles in the current world

and how they are expected to do everything all at once.

cant progress toward equality, especially for women and feminist



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Group of students on stage practicing their lines before they start their showings for the senior capstone "Insanity of Mary Girard."



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Students working on their parts during rehearsal for "Insanity of Mary Girard" put on by Lilith Ferrero.

It also talks about how men expect woman to take care of every need that they may have in their lives.

Ferrero said, "It's a very intense show and it tells its message very firmly. It doesn't give you the chance to go 'well maybe it means this,' it puts the message in your face and I enjoy that about it. I think it's compelling in that way."

Ferrero explained that although society has made signifi-

movements, people often treat it as if the work is already finished when it is not.

Ferrero said, "That's why this play is still being produced, not only by me but also just in the world."

The Insanity of Mary Girard will be presented Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. in Fellers Family Auditorium in Herrod Hall. Student tickets are \$3 while general admission tickets are \$5.

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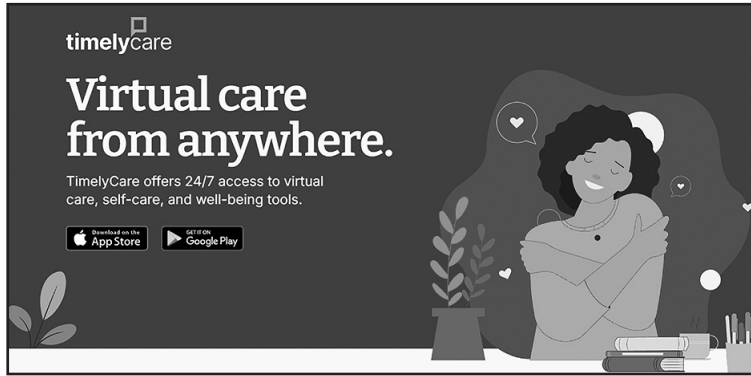
TimelyCare available to NWSU community

By SHEALYN PRATT
Student Reporter

The NWSU campus offers a free 24/7 telehealth program that provides free counseling, medical support and self-care resources for students, faculty and staff.

TimelyCare has allowed Northwestern to expand its mental health resources for its campus community. This program provides on-demand access to mental health and medical support, allowing users to connect with licensed professionals. The website offers unlimited access to self-care modules, six free counseling sessions and medical consultations at no cost to users.

Jadyn Chancey, a student worker for school counselor Taylor Wilson, shared insight on



Need help? www.Timelycare.com/nwsu

how TimelyCare has benefited the campus since its introduction last semester. Chancey said the app has become an important option for those experiencing stress, anxiety or who are simply overwhelmed with college and may be hesitant to seek other immediate crisis services.

“Instead of calling 988, since

it seems like such a scary number, TimelyCare can help you not feel as stressed out when wanting to talk about something important,” Chancey said.

TimelyCare gives students the option to choose someone to speak with who matches their needs and values. Before choosing the provider, students are able

to see a photo of them and their credentials. It offers the options of video session, phone calls, or live text chat, giving flexibility depending on how the individuals are most comfortable communicating. It also has a “talk now” feature if someone needs more immediate help. TimelyCare finds the quickest person to speak with for 20-30 minutes.

Users can also access medical care for non-emergency concerns, which is helpful for students who may not have a primary care provider nearby.

Chancey said One of the most popular features of TimelyCare is its self-care modules, which focuses on a variety of different issues. From things like stress relief, anxiety management, emotional wellness and sleep improvement. Chancey noted that

many students and faculty members have found these helpful in managing day-to-day stress or academic stress.

Signing up for TimelyCare is simple. Students and faculty register with their Northwestern Ranger email, which verifies eligibility for free services. There are no hidden fees or insurance requirements.

Chancey emphasized that TimelyCare is not only for moments of crisis but also for proactive mental health care.

“It’s there whether you’re stressed or just need someone to talk to,” she said.

As mental health continues to be a priority on college campuses, TimelyCare offers an accessible and flexible option for the Northwestern community at any time, she said.

Keep campus crime low; lock your cars

By EMILY WRIGHT
Student Reporter

Low crime rates at Northwestern are low because of the work campus police do to maintain security on campus.

Dennis Kilmer, the chief of police on campus, said in his time at Northwestern, crime on campus has not been an issue. Kilmer added that the biggest issues campus has had recently were vehicle burglaries earlier last semester.

“The biggest thing that students can do is to make sure their

vehicles are locked,” Kilmer said.

He explained that in each instance of burglary pertaining to vehicles, the suspect will check to see which cars are unlocked.

“They don’t break windows to get into vehicles, you know, nothing sophisticated,” Kilmer said.

The people committing these crimes are often looking for money, weapons or items of value.

In order to maintain good surveillance around NWSU, campus police are aiming to slowly replace outdated surveillance cameras and invest in newer and better technology as funding al-

lows, Kilmer said.

“Having as big a campus as we do, having hundreds of video cameras that we have to continuously update and replace, it becomes a funding thing,” Kilmer said.

The college and campus police have a yearly budget to allow for upgrades to surveillance.

Surveillance does not stop crime fully, however. Kilmer said he prefers to walk around campus as a way to maintain security.

“This is one of the biggest things that helps in safety and security anywhere, being out and

being seen,” Kilmer said.

While NWSU has a typically low crime rate, the college has continued to put helpful resources in place to keep the campus safe. This includes the Panic Button. This is a phone app that professors and staff have that can alert numerous people of danger on campus in a matter of seconds. The button can report medical, fire, active shooter or inactive shooters.

The application has not been needed yet, but the college and campus police have run tests and found that the Panic Button

works quickly to alert authorities of emergencies.

Campus police also work with Alva Police Department. The two departments share information about incidents on or near campus and give support at events.

“They’re a good partner — the police department and the sheriff’s department,” Kilmer said. “A lot of the times you’ll see them at our event — basketball games, football games.”

If students need to report crimes or incidents on campus, they can report it to campus police as well as Alva Police.



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NEWS

WHAT'S UP

20 Last day to drop 1st eight-week classes

• Spring Showcase 10 am- 2 pm
 • The Bison Band at Alva Beer Co. 6 pm- 7 pm

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SGA Meeting SGA senate room
 6:30 pm-7 pm

23

• Bob Ross paint night SGA senate room 6 pm-8 pm

24

• Chi Alpha night at Ranger Perk 7 pm-9 pm

26

Rural Roots Digital Literacy AI conference in Student Center Ballroom and Ranger Room 9 am- 5 pm

27

• Oklahoma Herpetological Society Annual Meeting EC 109
 • Alva Annual Polar Plunge at Cory Washburn Family Memorial Swimming Pool check in at 9 am plunge at 10 am

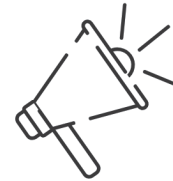
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Photo by Ingrid Maldonado
 Workers replacing air conditioning unit at Percefull Fieldhouse causing classes to be moved out of the Health and Sports Science Building.

Alva Mayor Election Results

Joey Melton: 253 votes 67%
Joe Parsons: 121 votes 32%
Brian L Pharies: 5 votes 1%



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NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Official Newspaper
Northwestern Oklahoma State
University

709 Oklahoma Blvd.
Alva, OK 73717

Published weekly throughout the school
year except during examination periods
and holidays and distributed to students
and staff.

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The News is printed by the Alva
Review-Courier.

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This publication, printed by Northwest-
ern Oklahoma State University, is issued by
the University as authorized by the Regional
University System of Oklahoma. 1,600 copies
have been prepared and distributed at a cost
to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma
of \$368.00.

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OPINION

Was Superbowl LX worth the hype?

By ECE OZDEMIR
Opinion Editor

The 2026 Super Bowl LX, the NFL's big-
gest annual event, sparked widespread debate
about whether it lived up to expectations both
on the field and off. The Seattle Seahawks
defeated the New England Patriots 29-13 to
claim their second Lombardi Trophy. While
some observers felt the game lacked the dra-
matic feel of a classic finale, it remained a ma-
jor talking point in terms of viewership and
cultural impact.

According to Nielsen, average min-
ute-by-minute viewership reached about
127.7 million, marking a steady increase from
previous years.

The data also showed record simultane-
ous viewing during the game and halftime
performance, indicating that the event drew a
massive audience despite high overall expecta-
tions.

From a gameplay perspective, Super Bowl

LX faced some criticism.

Many commentators described the first half
as "stagnant" and "slow-paced." Analysts not-
ed the high number of punts and slower tempo
left some viewers feeling the match lacked the
expected excitement.

Still, these critiques underscore that the Su-
per Bowl is not only about the final score but
also about spectacle and anticipation.

The Super Bowl's cultural and commer-
cial dimensions remained central. Pre-show
events and the halftime performance domi-
nated social and traditional media for days.
Advertisers spent near-record amounts on
30-second spots, reflecting the event's status
as a prime marketing platform.

High budgets and intense competition
demonstrated that Super Bowl LX met expecta-
tions not just as a sporting contest, but also
as a media and advertising phenomenon.

Social reactions to the event were mixed.
Some praised the performances and the cele-
bration of cultural diversity, calling the event
unifying and memorable. Others criticized

certain elements for not appealing broadly
enough to a diverse audience. This range of
responses highlights the Super Bowl's wide
demographic reach and the variety of expecta-
tions viewers bring to the broadcast.

Preseason predictions also influenced per-
ception. The Seahawks' dominant defense ex-
ceeded analysts' expectations, while the Patri-
ots underperformed.

Some critics argued this gap meant the
game did not fully meet preseason forecasts.
Yet, sporting surprises like these are often
seen as part of the NFL's appeal.

Overall, Super Bowl LX largely met ex-
pectations as a high-profile, commercially
successful event. Critics' concerns about
game pace and certain performance elements,
however, illustrate the event's two-dimen-
sional nature.

The Super Bowl is simultaneously a sport-
ing contest, a media spectacle, and a cultural
touchstone, reflecting the multifaceted experi-
ence fans and advertisers alike anticipate each
year.

Bad Bunny for the halftime show

By ECE OZDEMIR
Opinion Editor

At the 2026 Super Bowl LX halftime show,
Puerto Rican rapper and singer Bad Bunny
delivered a culturally resonant performance
that drew widespread attention and sparked
conversation about identity, unity and the
meaning of "America."

The Apple Music-sponsored halftime show
took place on February 8, 2026, at Levi's Sta-
dium in Santa Clara, California, and marked
the first time a Latino solo artist headlined the
Super Bowl halftime show, performing almost
entirely in Spanish.

Bad Bunny's set, which lasted about 13
minutes, went beyond a standard musical per-
formance. It was staged with rich symbolism
rooted in Puerto Rican culture and broader
Pan American identity.

From the outset, the field was transformed
into a landscape reminiscent of Puerto Rico:
sugarcane fields, Caribbean Street scenes and
traditional elements created a visual homage
to the island's heritage.

Dancers dressed as jíbaros, tradition-
al Puerto Rican farmers wearing straw pava
hats, added to the cultural tapestry.

One moment that drew particular atten-
tion was a segment reflecting Bad Bunny's
song "El Apagón," about the island's chronic
power outages and infrastructure challenges.
Performers climbed sparking utility poles
on stage, symbolizing the ongoing struggles

Puerto Rico has faced since Hurricane Maria.

This visual reference underscored the per-
formance's blend of celebration and social
commentary.

Bad Bunny's use of cultural imagery ex-
tended beyond visual elements.

Guest appearances from artists such as
Lady Gaga and Ricky Martin helped under-
score the show's diversity.

Gaga, for example, performed while wear-
ing colors associated with the Puerto Rican
flag, and Ricky Martin joined in a perfor-
mance that resonated with themes of heritage
and connection.

The finale of the performance was struc-
tured around a deliberate redefinition of
"America."

Bad Bunny spoke in English for the only
extended moment of the show, saying "God
bless America," and then proceeded to name
countries from across the Americas — from
Chile and Argentina in South America to
Panama and Mexico in Central America, and
up to the United States and Canada in North
America.

As each name was spoken, dancers entered
carrying the corresponding national flags, vi-
sually reinforcing the breadth of the continent.

Bad Bunny ended by making a direct ref-
erence to his homeland, Puerto Rico.

Afterward, he held up an American foot-
ball with the phrase "Together, We Are Amer-
ica" prominently displayed, a branding that
was also echoed on stadium screens and in
broadcast footage. This moment served as

the culminating message of unity, framing
"America" not as a term limited to the United
States, but as a continental identity shared by
many nations.

Additional messaging appeared on screens
during the show, including the phrase "The
only thing stronger than hate is love," rein-
forcing themes Bad Bunny had articulated
publicly in other forums earlier in the year.

The performance also celebrated the suc-
cess of Bad Bunny's album *Debí Tirar Más
Fotos*, which had gained significant recogni-
tion prior to the Super Bowl.

The set included festive moments, chore-
ography and a mix of musical styles that high-
lighted the global reach of Latin music.

Reactions to the show were mixed in some
quarters.

While many viewers praised the perfor-
mance for its cultural richness and inclusive
message, some political figures criticized it
as inappropriate for the Super Bowl's broad
audience, calling it un-American or overly po-
litical.

Despite such criticism, much of the public
commentary emphasized the show's celebra-
tion of diversity and shared heritage.

Overall, Bad Bunny's Super Bowl halftime
show was seen by many observers as more
than a concert.

It was a statement about cultural identity
on one of the world's largest stages, empha-
sizing the diverse voices that contribute to the
American experience and inviting a broader
conversation about unity across the Americas.

Why too many commercials

By ECE OZDEMIR
Opinion Editor

Super Bowl commercials are
among the clearest examples of
how an event that extends far
beyond sports has become a cul-
tural phenomenon. This creates a
viewing experience that is rare in
the advertising world. For brands,
the night offers more than visibil-
ity; it provides a chance to reach
millions of viewers at the same

time with minimal distraction.

Super Bowl commercials are
widely discussed because they
have evolved from basic sales
messages into large-scale spec-
tacles. These 30-second spots are
often produced like short films,
relying on humor, emotion, nos-
talgia and surprise. Rather than
delivering a direct call to pur-
chase, the commercials focus
on storytelling. As a result, they
become an essential part of the
event and are discussed the next

day almost as much as the final
score.

Advertising during the Super
Bowl also serves as a marker of
prestige. Securing a commercial
slot requires a significant finan-
cial investment and involves
considerable risk. Brands that
participate send a clear message
about their status and ambition.
The primary objective is rarely
immediate sales. Instead, compa-
nies aim to strengthen long-term
brand perception.

A successful Super Bowl com-
mercial can position a brand as
credible, innovative and cultural-
ly relevant.

The impact of these commer-
cials does not end when the broad-
cast is over. In the digital age,
Super Bowl ads spread quickly
across social media platforms,
where they are shared, edited and
debated. Many commercials are
released in advance, while others
are closely analyzed in the days
that follow.

OPINION

AI taking over jobs

By **ECE OZDEMIR**
Opinion Editor

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence has fueled growing debate about the future of work. Automation systems, generative AI tools and machine-learning applications have boosted productivity across many industries, while raising a central question: Are human jobs disappearing? This is not merely a technological concern. It is a complex issue with economic, social and ethical implications. Similar anxieties have accompanied major technological shifts in the past. During the Industrial Revolution, machines were expected to eliminate manual labor. Later, the spread of computers led to predictions that office jobs would disappear. While these transformations did eliminate certain professions, they also created new fields of employment. The current debate over artificial intelligence follows a similar pattern, though the pace and scale of change appear broader than before.

Today, artificial intelligence is reshaping not only physical labor but also cognitive work. Copywriting, data analysis, customer service and even creative fields are increasingly influenced by automation. This has strengthened the perception that white-collar jobs are also at risk.

Algorithms can perform routine and repetitive tasks faster and at a lower cost than humans, leading to a fundamental redefinition of job roles.

Still, viewing this shift solely through the lens of job loss offers an incomplete picture. Many experts argue that artificial intelligence is transforming work rather than eliminating it. As tasks change, demand for new skills grows. Critical thinking, creativity, ethical judgment and interpersonal communication remain areas where human labor retains a clear advantage over machines.

One of the most significant consequences of this transition is the risk of widening inequality. Individuals and institutions that adapt quickly to artificial intelligence stand to benefit, while those left behind may face greater economic vulnerability.

Education systems play a central role in addressing this gap. If education focuses only on preparing students for existing professions rather than equipping them with adaptable skills, inequalities driven by artificial intelligence may deepen.

At the societal level, the key issue is not how advanced artificial intelligence becomes, but how it is managed. Decisions about who benefits from automation-driven productivity gains — and how those gains are balanced with job security and social policy — will shape the outcome.

Artificial intelligence itself is not inherently a threat. The priorities guiding its use are what matter most.

Ultimately, the idea that artificial intelligence will inevitably take over human jobs reflects social choices rather than technological destiny.

With thoughtful policies and inclusive strategies, the transformation driven by AI can represent not only a risk, but an opportunity. The question worth asking is not what artificial intelligence can do but how society chooses to direct its power.

Should AI be allowed to make legal decisions? What is being productive?

By **ECE OZDEMIR**
Opinion Editor

The rapid development of artificial intelligence is raising critical questions beyond technical fields, extending into socially grounded disciplines such as law and ethics. In recent years, the use of AI in legal decision-making has become an increasingly debated issue.

At the center of this debate lies a fundamental question: Should ethical limits be placed on artificial intelligence, or should it be allowed to make legal decisions?

Artificial intelligence is no longer entirely foreign to legal systems. In some countries, algorithms are used to assess risk in bail decisions, recommend sentencing ranges or help reduce court backlogs.

Supporters argue that these

systems can reduce human bias and increase consistency in decision-making. Because human judgment can be influenced by emotion, fatigue or personal experience, proponents claim algorithms may offer more objective outcomes.

This claim of objectivity, however, faces significant criticism. Artificial intelligence systems rely on existing data to generate decisions. When that data reflects historical inequalities, social bias or systemic injustice, algorithms may reproduce — or even reinforce — those patterns.

In such cases, artificial intelligence risks becoming an automated extension of existing inequities rather than a neutral decision-maker.

Another central concern is that legal judgment involves more than the mechanical application of rules. Law requires an assess-

ment of context, intent and human circumstances.

The same statute can lead to different outcomes depending on situational factors. While artificial intelligence excels at processing large volumes of data, it remains limited in distinctly human capacities such as empathy, moral reasoning and an understanding of social nuance.

For this reason, many experts argue that artificial intelligence should serve only as a supporting tool within legal systems, not as a final authority.

AI can assist judges and lawyers by analyzing prior cases, presenting alternative scenarios or identifying possible outcomes.

However, responsibility for legal decisions must remain with humans to ensure ethical accountability and legal transparency.

This is where ethical boundaries become essential. Without

clearly defined limits on how and where artificial intelligence can be used, technology risks overriding legal principles rather than supporting them.

A lack of transparency in algorithmic decision-making further complicates accountability.

When it is unclear how an algorithm reaches a conclusion, challenging that decision becomes difficult, if not impossible.

Ultimately, the question of whether artificial intelligence should make legal decisions is not a matter of technological capability but of societal choice.

Ethical limits are not meant to hinder innovation, but to align it with human rights and the core principles of justice. Artificial intelligence may improve the efficiency of legal systems, but justice itself depends not only on computational power but on human values.

By **ECE OZDEMIR**
Opinion Editor

Today, being productive has become a common goal for many people. Individuals want to accomplish more, manage their time effectively, and feel efficient by the end of the day. However, productivity is not simply about working long hours or filling schedules with tasks. It is closely tied to building effective habits and understanding personal limits.

Setting clear goals is an essential first step. Beginning the day without a plan often results in wasted time and energy. Large goals can feel overwhelming, which is why breaking them into smaller, manageable tasks is an effective strategy. Creating realistic daily or weekly to-do lists helps maintain focus and increases motivation as tasks are completed. Overloading a schedule, however, can lead to stress rather than improved productivity.

Taking breaks is another key factor that is often overlooked. Working continuously may appear productive in the short term, but it can cause mental fatigue over time. Short, intentional breaks allow the mind to reset and improve concentration. Using these breaks to take a brief walk or practice deep breathing is generally more beneficial than scrolling on a phone. Physical and mental health also play a critical role in productivity. Adequate sleep, balanced nutrition, and regular physical activity support energy levels and concentration. A person who is consistently tired or sleep-deprived is unlikely to perform at their best, regardless of motivation. Finally, it is important for people to be patient with themselves. Productivity naturally varies from day to day, and lower-energy days are unavoidable.

Four-day workweek a better model for productivity

By **ECE OZDEMIR**
Opinion Editor

In recent years, as debates over work-life balance have intensified, the four-day workweek has become a widely discussed alternative.

Supporters say reducing workdays without cutting pay can boost productivity, improve employee well-being and modernize traditional business models.

Critics, however, question whether shorter workweeks can maintain consistent productivity across all sectors.

At the center of the debate is a basic question: Is the four-day workweek truly a more efficient model, or simply an idealistic response to a culture of burnout?

One of the strongest arguments for a four-day workweek is its potential to increase employee motivation and focus. A shorter week can strengthen work-life balance

and reduce the risk of burnout. In mentally demanding jobs, employees return to work feeling refreshed and more focused.

That, in turn, can improve the quality of work and positively impact productivity over time. Higher employee satisfaction can also lower turnover rates and strengthen corporate loyalty.

The model may also create pressure to optimize time management.

Employers may need to adjust business processes to achieve the same level of output or service in fewer days. This could encourage innovative solutions, such as reducing unnecessary meetings, prioritizing tasks more efficiently and using technology to speed up workflows. These changes can help ensure that work is completed on time while maintaining quality. Critics, however, caution that the model may not be feasible in all sectors.

Industries that operate around the clock, such as healthcare, safety or manufacturing, may face logistical and financial challenges with shorter weeks. In some workplaces, compressing the same workload into fewer days can increase stress and burnout, rather than reduce it.

Employees may be expected to maintain the same performance at a faster pace, which can undermine the intended benefits.

Economic impacts also remain a subject of debate. Pilot programs suggest that four-day workweeks can boost productivity in small and medium-sized companies.

Large-scale businesses, especially those with continuous customer demand or production schedules, may see limited effects.

The evidence indicates that a four-day workweek is not a universal solution; its success de-

pends on the sector, type of business and organizational structure.

In conclusion, a four-day workweek can offer potential advantages for productivity, but it is not a standalone solution. Successful implementation requires careful planning, flexibility and attention to sector-specific needs.

Balancing employee well-being, employer productivity goals and economic sustainability is key to the model's effectiveness.

The four-day workweek can be viewed as part of a broader effort to create more efficient and healthier work environments.

But it should be designed with consideration for employees, the nature of the work, the sector and the broader social context.

The ultimate question is not simply whether a shorter workweek increases productivity but how such a change can be balanced for employees, employers and society at large.

NWOSU shares the love

Brenda Lezama, a sophomore political science major from Turpin, sends love to her fiancé, Jeremy Smith, a sophomore health and sports science major from Elgin.

Happy Valentine's Day, love. I'm so excited for the future we get to build together and all the memories still ahead of us. I hope your day is filled with so much joy—you deserve it. I love you!

Tylea Jones, a sophomore nursing major from Tulsa, sends love to her girlfriend, Erinn Benjamin, a freshman psychology major from Jenks.

Happy Valentine's day my love.

Aiden Lewis, a senior accounting major from Owasso, sends love to his girlfriend, Mattie Gore, a senior social work major from Taloga.

Happy Valentine's Day Mattie!!! I love you so much!

Diamond Hilton, a NWOSU psychology grad-student from Salpula, sends love to her boyfriend, Royal Kyle, a senior business major from San Antonio, Texas.

SHOUTOUT TO MY MAN!!! Happy Valentine's Day to my favorite person. Thank you for loving me the way you do and always being in my corner. I'm so grateful for you every single day. I love you more than words can say.

Coy Bullard, a junior computer science major from Elk City, sends his love to his girlfriend, Kate Mann, a junior early childhood education major from Enid.

Happy Valentine's Day! I love you!
- Coy

Darianne Thompson, a senior chemistry major from San Antonio, Texas sends love to her boyfriend, Brian Free, from Greensboro, North Carolina.

I wake up every day and thank God for putting us in Alva at the same time. I never knew that I would find a piece of my heart here and I am forever grateful that we were brought together and I look forward to what the future brings for us. Thank you for being you and for loving me every day. I love you forever and always!

The Ranger Cheerleaders send love, now and always, to the Ranger Band.

We love you! Your guys' talent is noticed and appreciated. Thank you for your support and for making all of the games more fun and ROWDY!!

Treyvon Hodge, a sophomore business and marketing major from Copperas Cove, Texas, sends love to his girlfriend, Alaysia Dixie, a sophomore from Choctaw, Oklahoma, majoring in health and sports science.

Alaysia, happy Valentine's Day. I'm proud of you in every step you've taken and I know it was rocky but I'm glad you stuck through it. I love you so much and you are my light.

Travon "TJ" Johns, a senior health and sports science major from Phoenix, Arizona, sends love to Kira Bass, a senior general studies major from Killeen, Texas.

**Kira, on and off the court,
You give it your all every day.
With focus, heart, and discipline
You lead by the way that you play.
Love being a good friend to you, you have a pretty face and smile.
Keep going, chase your dreams, career.
No big speeches, no extra lines,
Just support that's honest and true—
From your number one fan, always cheering,
Proud to be a friend rooting for you.
Happy Valentine's Day**

Shout out to my future husband I'm sure you're great!

FEATURE

Figure skating team takes home the gold

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

The Olympic Games have been going on for five days now. In this time, we have had many events compete.

The one I want to focus on however is the team figure skating event.

This event included the coverage of the men's figure skating, women's figure skating, partner figure skating, and ice dance. Ice dance and partner skating are close to one another, but ice dancing does not have any sort of jumps or throws.

The man that went for the U.S. is a 21-year-old male that is nicknamed the "Quad God" his real name is Ilia Malinin and he has talent that words wouldn't be enough to explain.

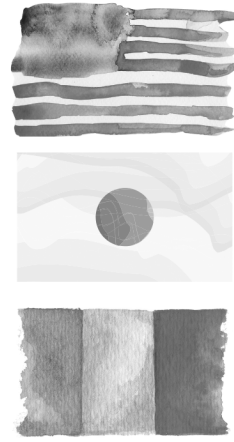
This guy does backflips on ice for fun.

He is the only person to land a quad axel in competition, and he was the only that brought USA to gold in this team event.

During Malinin's free skate he missed a sequence of jumps. He did not let this deter him, however as the next sequence of jumps he decided to add what he missed and after he did another sequence of jumps and his backflip.

Figure Skating Team event points

1. USA: 69 points
2. Japan: 68 points
3. Italy: 60 points



During the team event viewers did not get to see him do the quad axel.

He was the last skater to go on for team USA and his additions to his free skate won the team the gold.

They beat team Japan by one point.

The woman chosen to represent us in the team event was Amber Glenn. She is 26 years old. She is a three-time national champion.

Her performance was stunning, and I also suggest watching it whenever you may find time.

I had to watch the replay of Glenn's performance and it was beautiful.

In the pair skating we had Ellie Kam and Danny O'Shea. These two have only been skating with each other for four years.

A lot of people thought that they just needed to beat one person for the USA to win gold in the team event. These two went

out and gave a performance of a lifetime.

Watching them perform was my first time seeing these two in action and I was shocked.

It didn't look to me like these two haven't been skating that long together at all. They had full trust in one another.

The last event was the ice dance event, which is also a partner event.

There is a Netflix documentary that covers the ice dance events

of the year.

It is a 3-part documentary that focuses on USA's Madison Chock and Evan Bates, Canada's Piper Gilles and Paul Poirer and France's Laurence Fournier Beaudry and Guillaume Cizeron.

Chock and Bates are a married couple and their story wrote itself.

It is something you would have read in a romance novel, I am sure of that.

The couple is adorable together. Chock and Bates have been skating together since 2011.

They have spent 15 years skating with one another and in that time, they fell in love with one another.

Bates was the one who admitted to having feelings first.

In 2017 the couple became official and in 2024 they got married.

The couple perform like no other. They set the bar for ice dance.

In the team event Chock and Bates skated to "Paint it Black" and that performance was one that they have dreamed about doing for a long time.

The performance incorporated Chock's costume. Which had a black skirt with a red underneath.

This crew is now working on individual events which will be taking place through February 19.

Batter up, music on

By **MEGAN SPRAY**
Senior Reporter

It only takes a few seconds of music to turn an entrance into a moment.

Walk-up and walk-out songs have become a defining part of baseball and softball games at the college level, offering athletes a brief chance to express themselves before the game continues.

These songs are only a few seconds, but they bring personality, confidence and energy to the moment.

For Alex Dabrowski, a junior from Phoenix, Arizona playing outfield for Ranger baseball, the right song can change the feel of an at bat.

He steps to the plate as "Who am I" by Snoop Dogg plays on the speakers.

"I like old West Coast rap, and I just thought it would be a song where everyone could get into and kind of get the vibes high right away," Dabrowski said.

Choosing a song was an easy task for Dabrowski.

"I've had a list of songs, and this is the one I've had in the repertoire for a while," Dab-

rowski said. "I was just trying to figure out which genre I wanted, but then I thought, you know, this is the right one. It felt good."

The atmosphere shifts in a different way when a pitcher makes his entrance from the bullpen.

The song can motivate or ease the pitcher as he walks out for a high-pressure moment.

Trey Barkman, a junior right-handed pitcher from Kidron, Ohio, has his walk-out song as "Cue Country Roads" by Charles Wesley Godwin.

His song gives a calm feeling rather than intimidation. Barkman said the song reminds him of home.

"I think a good song gets you in rhythm when you're on the mound, and it just keeps the vibes high and the pressure down," Barkman said. "Kind of calms you down."

Barkman said he spent the summer building a playlist before settling on his final choice.

On the softball side, walk-up songs continue to bring confidence.

Gabby Sanchez is a senior first baseman from Seal

Beach, California, and she steps to the plate as "Here Comes the Money" by Jim Johnston plays.

Sanchez said a walk-up song is about showing personality and making a statement.

"It's like saying, 'Here I am,' and showing everyone I'm here and I'm going to show up and show out and show everybody," Sanchez said.

Sanchez said it took her a couple of days to decide after sorting through songs online.

She said TikTok helped her narrow down her options by watching other players walk-ups and taking inspiration from there.

During walk-out and walk-up songs teammates will clap, dance or chant along as the music plays, turning an individual moment into a shared one.

For fans, the songs add excitement and engagement before the first pitch or at-bat even begins.

While the music only lasts for a few seconds, players say its impact carries into the confidence of playing the game.

Once the song fades, it's time to compete.

You miss 100% of the
shots you don't take.



-Wayne Gretzky

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ENTERTAINMENT

Indie film sparks box office success

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

As I mentioned last week, I did not have much social life outside of school. Besides television, one of my other sources of entertainment was the internet, the main one being YouTube.

As a kid living in a small Midwestern town in the middle of nowhere, it was like being transported into a world that allowed me to explore all types of content, knowledge, culture, and beliefs. Of course, back then, the idea of someone being able to make a full-time career out of this was unheard of.

However, that did not stop people from trying. For example, when I was first getting into YouTube, one of the earliest YouTubers I discovered was a young Asian-American man named Mark Edward Fischbach, or as most of the world knows him by, Markiplier.

Starting his YouTube channel all the way back 2012, back in the Wild West days of the internet, Markiplier became famous for his unique and quirky commentary during his gameplays.

As you and I speak, fellow reader, he

Iron Lung (R)

Survivors of the apocalypse send a convict in a small submarine to explore a desolate moon that's an ocean of blood.

Director: Mark Fischbach
Cast: Mark Fischbach, Caroline Kaplan, Troy Baker, Elsie Lovelock, Elle LaMont, Mick Lauer, Dave Pettitt, Holt Boggs, Isaac McKee

is currently sitting at over 38 million subscribers. As someone who used to watch him religiously as a child, I can safely tell you that he has more than earned every single one of those numbers following him.

Recently, Markiplier has released a movie called "Iron Lung." Its title is from the well-known indie horror game made by the talented David Szymanski in 2022.

The movie is set in a dystopian future

where humanity is on the edge of extinction and a convict is sent out in a small submarine to investigate a blood-filled ocean planet for any signs of life.

Despite being an indie film funded solely by one person, Markiplier's "Iron Lung" adaptation would go on to make over fifteen-million dollars on its opening day with a budget of only three-million USD. As you read this paper, it is predicted that the film will make over thirty-five-million USD by then.

But why is this important? Why should you care that some celebrity made a little vanity project with his own money? Why should you, an average citizen with bills to worry about, care about something like that? To this, I would answer: Because this film represents something that Hollywood should be very, very afraid of.

The fact that this movie is an indie-project, yet is now competing with big budget movies made by so-called "professional" for highest-ranked in the Box Office Chart, gives us a peek into a hopeful future for the film industry.

Instead of having to live with slop being force-fed down our throats every year by the same multi-million-dollar companies, Markiplier shows us that anyone can make

a movie that receives global recognition.

The reason why this should scare the filmmakers at Hollywood is because this soon means they will actually have to put genuine, authentic effort into their films in order to compete with those who decide to make their own works that will inspire and uplift people instead of waiting for big film companies to do it.

We can sit here and argue until the end of time why modern movies are not as good as those from the past.

Because whether you believe it is due to the overreliance on remakes, the politics of Hollywood or the overabundant use of CGI is irrelevant.

Regardless of what your beliefs are, the point we are all trying to get at is that Hollywood is no longer in its golden years and has instead devolved back into its bronze years and has become like a faded movie star drunkenly reflecting on their golden years.

If we ever want that to change, then we need to sober the higher ups at Hollywood and give them more competition in order to get them to put some actual intrigue in their works. Otherwise, will we be seeing ourselves twenty years from now regurgitating the same, tiring tropes.

'A Glass Elegy': A short story of brothers

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

My brother passed away last week. His funeral is planned for Friday. It'll most likely be a small gathering. My brother was friendly with everyone he met, but he didn't have that many people

close to him. I have to work, so I won't be attending.

God, I know how that sounds. I loved my brother, still do. It's not that I wasn't upset when he died. I just wasn't surprised. I wish I could come out of this as blameless. I wish I could look you in the eye and say I didn't notice the signs. Hell, there's a lot of

things in my life I wish happen, both past and present.

Ever since he was born, I knew that my brother was brighter than he let on. He was the only baby I ever knew to learn to run before he learned to walk. He hated it when Mum first sat him down and taught him to read, but once he knew how to he became the top reader in all his classes. Whenever I was with him, it felt like his brain was slowing itself down to keep at the same pace as mine.

When I got accepted into Oxford, Mum and him were so proud of me that they threw me a party when I got home from my senior graduation. Of course, he and I snuck out to watch the stars after stealing a bottle of vodka from the cabinet. My brother hated the taste of drinking straight, so I finished most of it myself. I remember the promise I made to myself that night: To never be looked down on ever again.

I have never been the smartest

student. There had been a couple of times when I ended up nearly flunking. This wasn't because I had bad teachers mind you, but because my mind couldn't absorb the information for the life of me. I had hoped that, having this new start, I would be able to present myself as the professional academic I have always wanted to be seen as.

I still remember the embarrassment of my freshman year. For most of the first semester, I refused to speak even to my suite-mates. I was so ashamed of my country dialect that most of my classmates just assumed I was mute because I would answer only by either nodding or shaking my head.

Eventually, I checked out some textbooks in the campus library on the Oxford dialect. I would stay up for nights on end studying these texts and perfecting my language. In just three months, I had learned to master the academ-

ic accent. I would still have slip-ups where I would pronounce or spell a word in the American dialect, but other than that I was unrecognizable from a British-born gentleman. My brother would go on to enroll at OSU, his major being art. I remember how much I mocked him for that. I remember how I told him he'd never get a job. He wanted to be an animator for that cartoon station we would watch all the time as kids. I can't remember the name. My mind's all fuzz-like.

We promised to call each other at least once a week. For the first few months, we did well to follow that schedule. Before we realized it, we stopped talking altogether. I wouldn't even call what we had a "falling out" because the drift happened between us for no true reason.

When I finally saw him in person a week before his passing, I saw that the cheery young man I once know was replaced by one who had stopped caring. I thought, in that moment, to comfort him. But what right had I? I had lost myself and no longer knew how to express myself truly. So, I did the only thing that felt right in that moment: I gave him a drink and wished him goodnight.

Mum is mad at me. She asks me how I can be so cold, so empty. I don't have the heart to tell her I don't know. She and I aren't talking. I doubt she ever wanted me to come in the first place, despite how sad she sounded when I told her I couldn't make it. But it doesn't bother me, not really.

I just wish I could say his name one more time.

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NEWS

Franz: NWOSU adapts to changing rosters

By **KENNEDY MCGEE**
Student Reporter

The locker room feels different these days, with rosters changing more often and coaches learning to rebuild teams faster than ever.

And the transfer portal that makes it easy for athletes to go to other programs is part of the reason for these changes.

Brad Franz, vice president for athletics at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, said the NCAA transfer portal changed college recruiting but has not drastically altered NWOSU's overall approach.

The transfer portal is an NCAA database that allows athletes to declare their intent to transfer and speak with other schools. Franz said NWOSU experiences the

same reality as most programs — players sometimes leave, and new transfers sometimes arrive.

"I don't think it's had any more effect on us than anybody else," Franz said. "Players can now transfer in, and we get transfers out."

Franz said one of the biggest adjustments for coaches involved team chemistry. With rosters changing more frequently, coaches have to bring players together more quickly than in the past.

"You have to adjust," Franz said. "The game has morphed. As a coach, you have to have the ability to bring teams together quickly because rosters do change."

He said turnover at the Division II level is still not as extreme as it is at larger Division I schools, where dozens of new players might join a program in a

single year. Even so, teams staying together for the duration of college is no longer the norm.

"The day of teams being together for five years is probably not here anymore," Franz said.

Franz, who said he has worked in college athletics for 38 years, views the portal as part of the natural evolution of sports. Rather than resist it, he said he believes programs needed to adapt.

"As coaches, you can either accept the new world and work with it, or fight it, and you're going to struggle," Franz said. "It's just part of the game."

While some worry the portal might drastically change roster sizes, Franz said that has not been the case at NWOSU or most Division II programs.

"It hasn't really affected Division II roster sizes that much at

all," Franz said. "Small college athletics have not been nearly as affected as it has at the Division I level."

Franz said the portal had both advantages and risks. It gave athletes more freedom, but some entered without a clear plan and struggled to find a new school.

"Some young people are fed bad information about going into the portal, and they end up without a school," Franz said. "We try to watch out for young people and make sure we give them the best advice we can."

Looking ahead, Franz said NWOSU would continue recruiting both freshmen and transfers while focusing on athletes who truly want to be part of the university.

"We still recruit quality young people, people that want to be

By the numbers:

4,222

DII/DIII football players nationwide who entered the portal after the 2025 football season

3,270

DII/DIII players still unsigned as of Jan. 27.

Source: Braly Keller, director, Collegiate Services & Insights at Opendorse

here," Franz said. "I think we're going to fare very well."

Brashears: Board considers new elementary

By **ALLISON RUWALDT**
Student Reporter

Alva's elementary schools are in need of a big change, and the school board has decided that, because all three of the current elementary schools are slowly deteriorating, it is time for an update by building a new school.

"Everyone knows it's a need," said Jeremy Brashears, the superintendent of Alva schools. "It's just time we need to do something."

Currently, the school board is planning and detailing a bond

proposal that can help fund a newly built school. This would combine all three current elementary schools into one building.

The school board is still finalizing the proposal before it can be considered by the board of education. No specific date is set for the bond vote.

While no proposal has been passed, the school board has details of the new school planned. There is a floor plan and location. Staff from the previous schools will be moving over.

The new school would have four classrooms for each grade, with the classrooms arranged in

four pods. The school will also have two gyms, a music room and a cafeteria. It will be about 82,000 square feet and will be located on the east side Highway 281 across from VAP and G&G Furniture.

Washington and Longfellow elementary schools will be repurposed though plans are not set.

"They're still good buildings, but I think not having 150-200 kids going through them will extend the life of those buildings," Brashears said. "It can help us expand our educational offerings."

Merging the three current elementary schools into one is not only good for the structural integ-

riety of the buildings, but it will help the students stay on track and help the faculty create a better learning ecosystem.

By moving the schools together, teachers can communicate more easily about what students need to prepare for, as well as the convenience of keeping the music and gym teachers at one school.

The students would also have an easier time staying in the same building while moving grades.

Moving schools can be intimidating for a young child and adds uncertainty when it comes to the content and the teachers.

"It seems like every time kids

move buildings, there's a little bit of an education gap." Brashears said. "We see it a lot between elementary and middle school."

Students will be more comfortable with teachers they have seen in their building, and it can take away a lot of the pressure of not knowing what will come next. Young students will also often feel that they are done with school completely when they graduate from one school to the next, but keeping the schools together will give students academic motivation for the next grade, he said.

Applications due Feb. 15

Don't miss out on department scholarships

By **INGRID MALDONADO**
Senior Reporter

The deadline to apply for department scholarships is approaching, and students are encouraged to go online and apply before Feb. 15.

The scholarships come from donors who are often alumni or family of alumni who want to give back and help students, said Tara Hannaford, the director of financial aid and scholarship at Northwestern. Some donors set their scholarship while they're living, some people do them in memory of someone, maybe a spouse who was a teacher. When they're ready to set up a scholarship, they reach out to the Northwestern Foundation, and they store and handle the scholarship, Hannaford explained.

"We have individuals and donors that are alumni, but then also ones that do not have a degree and tie to Northwestern," said Dr. Leslie Collins, division of nursing chair at Northwestern. "It's

simply they are from the community, their family member maybe was cared for by a nurse, maybe even a Northwestern nurse, but they see the need for the nursing program and wanting to support those students."

Students are always highly encouraged to apply. Natalie Miller is the assistant certification officer in the division of education at Northwestern. She explained these scholarships provide assistance to paying for college. They can help alleviate the pressure to work a job outside of school, so students can focus on their education, Miller explained. She said these scholarships help with a lot of the fees education majors have.



"We probably need more to apply because there is lots of funding that they could benefit from," Miller said. "I would encourage students to get on the scholarship page that gives the descriptions under each department and just read through there."

Some departments struggle to get students to apply, Hannaford said. All the applications are on-

line, where in the past students had to go to their department chair and fill out the application on paper, she explained. Hannaford sends out emails to remind and encourage students to apply.

"We want to give the money away, so apply, even if you're a freshman and you're worried about if we have scholarships for beginning students," said Dr. Jenny Sattler, the department chair of natural science.

While some of the scholarships have different requirements and are specific to certain activities, GPA, etc., the scholarship will benefit the student even if it

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is \$500, Miller explained. Hannaford said she estimates there are around 278 foundation awards, and the amount they can give each year is around \$616,000, which is then split between fall and spring semester.

"We're extremely grateful for the donors and for the ability that they give to the students because the nursing program is rigorous and so being able to take off that

financial pressure or decrease that financial pressure is life changing for students," Collins said. "We have a lot of gratitude toward that."

To apply, students can go to the scholarship information page, and go to the department scholarships for continuing students tab. There they can choose their department and then fill out the application.

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SPORTS

Rangers record turns even

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

Northwestern baseball added three wins and two losses to its record after four games against New Mexico Highlands University and one against Northeastern State University.

They won the four-game series against NMHU with three wins and one loss. The one loss was the start of the doubleheader on Saturday. They lost the game against NSU after going into extra innings and losing by one.

Game one vs NMHU went into many extra innings, making the game last just over four hours.

The first inning had two runs for NWOSU, giving them an early lead. NMHU scored three in the second, which was responded to by two more from Northwestern. The Cowboys scored three in the top of the fourth, and NWOSU scored four in the bottom, leaving the teams with a score of 6-8 headed into the fifth. The Cowboys scored one in the top of the sixth and the top of the ninth, saving their game and sending it into extra innings. The game had five extra innings before one team scored, and it was a walk-off hit from Tyler Hogan to send Matthew Bailey home and win the game.

The next two games were a part of a doubleheader, so the games only lasted seven innings.

NWOSU scored the first run of the game in the bottom of the



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Pitcher Nathan Nunez throwing a pitch in the game against Newman University on Feb 3, the Rangers lost 8-7.

second inning. The Cowboys responded with four at the top of the third. NMHU scored two more in the top of the fifth and won the game 6-1. Hogan had the most hits for the Rangers with two. Starting pitcher Kaden Spray had one strikeout.

In the second game of the doubleheader, the Rangers opened with a run in each of the first two innings. NMHU tied it with two runs of their own at the top of the third. NWOSU scored a run in the following inning to have a 3-2 lead. In the fifth, NMHU scored

one at the top. The Rangers were able to keep their lead by scoring one in the next half inning. The Rangers were able to make up for the previous game and won 4-3. Joel Lindahl had the most hits for NWOSU with two. Logan Sandoval got the win for the Rangers as he had five strikeouts.

The final game against NMHU was on Sunday.

NWOSU opened the game with a run at the bottom of the first. The second and third went scoreless. At the bottom of the fourth, the Rangers scored two to

give them a 3-0 lead. Two more innings went by, and in the seventh, NWOSU scored one run to make it 4-0. NMHU scored their first run of the game in the eighth. NWOSU responded with a run of their own in the bottom. At the top of the ninth, the Cowboys scored two in hopes of catching the Rangers and forcing extra innings. Fortunately, the Rangers pitched and fielded well and closed the game with a 3-5 win over NMHU. Lindahl and Chase Gordan had the most hits for NWOSU with two each. Alex

Dabrowski ran home the most with two runs scored. Trey Barkman had seven strikeouts and was credited with the win.

The game against NSU was on Tuesday in Ponca City.

Another game went into extra innings for the Rangers, this one going to 11.

The Rangers opened the game strong, with two runs scored in the first and five in the second. Northeastern responded with one in the third and one in the fourth. NWOSU scored two runs in the fifth to make it 9-2. The Riverhawks had a lot of slack to pick up to win the game over the Rangers, and they started with one run scored in the sixth. They then scored four in the seventh and four in the eighth to tie the game at 11. The Rangers were unable to score in the final two innings, so the game went into overtime. It only took two innings for a run to be scored. The Riverhawks hit a home run to give them a one-run lead. The Rangers were unable to respond and lost the game 12-11.

Dabrowski had four hits and five runs. Cole Barton had five runs scored and two hits. Both of them and Blake Mattern had two RBIs. NWOSU went through six pitchers throughout the game. Karter Simon had the most strikeouts with two.

The Rangers will open GAC play against Harding University on Friday and Saturday, playing a doubleheader on the weekday. They play Newman University on Tuesday.

Softball loses four to Texas Permian Basin

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The Lady Rangers lost four games against Texas Permian Basin over the weekend, making their record 4-6 to start the 2026 season.

None of the games that the Lady Rangers were a blowout by any means. All but one was a two-score or less game.

NWOSU 1-5 TPB

The first game started out with

a run scored by the Falcons. The game went dead until the top of the fifth, where the Lady Rangers tied it at 1. At the bottom of the sixth, the Falcons went down and scored four runs to make a finishing statement over the Lady Rangers.

Savannah Duran, Katelyn Bezdicek and Mekanalei Lopera all had one hit. Katy Jones threw four strikeouts and only one base on balls.

NWOSU 2-3 TPB

The second game started off with a bang of a first inning. The Lady Rangers scored two, and the Falcons scored three. Unfortunately, those were the only runs scored in the entire game, and the Falcons left with a second win over NWOSU.

Kaitlyn Corn had two hits and one run scored. Grace Hulsey threw two strikeouts and had zero base on balls thrown.

NWOSU 0-TPB 2

The third game and the start of the second doubleheader between the two teams started slow. There were no runs scored in the first three innings. In the fourth, the Falcons hit a double home run

and gave themselves a 2-0 lead. There was no response from the Lady Rangers, and the Falcons won.

Kaylee Madden and Taygan Graham had one hit each, the most for NWOSU. Madelyn Cason threw three strikeouts, and Hulsey had two.

NWOSU 2-3 TPB

The fourth and final game opened like two other ones did, with a run scored by the Falcons. The Lady Rangers responded in the fourth with two runs to give them a one-run lead. In the sixth, though, Permian Basin scored two to take the lead right back and snatch the win from the Lady Rangers' hands.

Madden, Duran, Gabrielle Sanchez, Abby Baglin and Jamie Molina all had one hit. Sanchez and Baglin had one run scored each. Chloe Brown had three strikeouts.

The next games for the Lady Rangers include a doubleheader against Cameron University on Wednesday. Then, they open up conference play against Arkansas Tech University on Friday and Saturday.

Six break records at Missouri meet

Track and field broke six NWOSU records at the Bearcat Invitational meet at Northwest Missouri State: Easton Hamar, men's 200m; T'Antre Thomas, men's long jump; Brock Bourgeois, shot put; Ava Washington, women's 800m; Jamaría Ross, women's 5000m; Gabriella Hall, women's long jump.

Top performances:

Men's 60m: Hamar, 50th, 7.11. Women's 60m: Harmonie Hughes 26th with 7.98.

Men's 60m hurdles: Traevion White, 28th, 8.80 Women's 60m hurdles: Amelia Nyambuka, 32nd, 9.95.

Men's 200m: Hamar, 30th, 22.33; Women's 200m: Hughes, 19th, 25.77.

Men's 400m: Oshea Johnson, 51st, 51.19. Women's 400m: Jada White 1:01.55.

400m invite: Kerr'Yelle Carter, 8th, 1:01.68.

Women's 600y: Alexa Aquino, 22nd, 1:49.69.

Women's 800m, Ava Wash-

ington, 34th, 2:26.72.

1000m: Peyton Read finished 31st with a 3:31.44.

Men's mile: Andrew Scott, 55th, 4:35.55. Women's mile: Ross, 29th, 5:31.55.

Women's 3000m: Washington, 15th, 11:09.29.

Men's 5000m: Zachary Cox, 23rd, 15:39.67; Women's 5000m, Ross, 13th, 18:51.16.

Men's high jump: Jeremiah Anderson, 9th, 1.93m. Women's high jump: Monique Cook, 16th, 1.48m.

Men's long jump: Thomas, 2nd, 7.16m (D2 Provisional Mark). Women's long jump: Gabriella Hall, 13th, 5.15m.

Men's shot put: Brock Bourgeois, 13th, 15.28m. Women's shot put: Brianna Behrendt, 7th, 12.78m.

Women's weight throw: Mercedes Glover, 5th, 16.57m.

4000 DMR, team A, men 13th, 11:00.15. Women's team A, 9th, 13:35.38.

4x400M.: men's team A, 19th, 3:24.71.

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BASKETBALL

Bass scores career-high 40

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The Lady Rangers defeated Henderson State and lost to Ouachita Baptist last week in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, keeping the Lady Rangers in third in the standings.

The first game for the Ladies, against Henderson, was a great win for Northwestern, as they defeated the Reddies 73-59. This win was a good reset for the Lady Rangers after losing two games before Henderson.

The game started close as they were tied three minutes into the game. Then, the Lady Rangers went on a run to score eight straight with no response to gain a large lead over the Reddies early. Henderson responded, but were only able to cut the lead to five. Kira Bass scored two free throws to make it seven, Henderson shot one, and then Bass hit a jumper to end the first quarter 20-12.

The Reddies started the second quarter with a three-pointer. Conley Cayot shot two free throws, and then Henderson made three straight three-pointers to take the lead by two. A layup from Bass tied it at 26 with five minutes left in the quarter. The two teams stayed close, not getting



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

No. 12, Summya Adigun, attempts to score against Harding on Jan 29.

more than two points away from each other for six minutes. A free throw from Jada Shipp allowed the Lady Rangers to have a three-point lead, but two free throws for the Reddies cut it down to just

one.

The first half of the third quarter was closely contested. Neither team got more than one possession away from the other until two free throws from Ca-

mille Pritchard gave Northwestern a four-point lead. Henderson made a three-pointer, which was responded to by one from Kennedy Hight. Then, the Lady Rangers went on a crazy run to earn a 15-point lead over Henderson State by the end of the third quarter.

The fourth quarter was tight, with neither team budging, and Northwestern kept their large lead over the Reddies. The penultimate quarter in the game ended up being the most important, as the large run from the Lady Rangers seemed to be what won them the game.

Bass had 22 points against the Reddies. Bass did not miss a free throw and had an incredible 15 rebounds, the most from Northwestern. Kennedy Hight had the most steals with three.

The second game for NWO-SU did not go as well. They were outscored by Ouachita Baptist in every quarter but the final quarter, in which the Lady Rangers outscored the Tigers by one.

The first quarter started close, with the game being tied at eight just four minutes in. The Tigers did gain the lead and extended it to four, but by the end of the quarter, the Lady Rangers had cut it down to just two.

Ouachita started the second

quarter off right, extending their lead to seven. NWOSU responded, as they were able to shrink that lead to two.

Then, the two teams battled throughout the rest of the quarter, not getting much of an advantage over the other. With 38 seconds left, Bass shot two free throws to make it a one-point game. Then, the Tigers shot a three-pointer to increase their lead to four to head into halftime.

Just like the last game, the third quarter was game-making. Ouachita outscored the Lady Rangers by ten. The Tigers immediately went on a run to earn a large lead over Northwestern. By the halfway point in the quarter, they were up by 12. They ended the quarter up by 14, wrecking the game for the Lady Rangers. The Lady Rangers were not able to come back from the third quarter and lost the game 62-75.

Bass scored an incredible career-high 39 points against the Tigers. She scored 14 field goals and 11 out of 12 free throws. Bass also had the most rebounds for Northwestern with nine. Summya Adigun had the most steals with four.

Bass was announced as the Great American Conference Offensive Player of the Week for her heroics against the Tigers.

Men lose twice during trip to Arkadelphia

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

Ranger basketball lost two games last week to Henderson State and Ouachita Baptist, as the race for a playoff spot in the GAC Championship heats up.

The Rangers traveled to Arkadelphia, Arkansas, to face the two local teams. Henderson State was their first opponent on Thursday, then they faced Ouachita Baptist on Saturday. The Rangers lost both games, putting them in a tough spot in the standings.

The first half against Henderson State was close, as the Rangers were outscored by just one point, 27-28. To start the half, neither team got too far from the other. From the first tip to the 11th minute, neither team was up by more than two.

At the midway mark of the half, the Reddies started giving themselves a lead, but not much of one. With nine minutes left in the half, they were up by six. The Rangers were able to battle back quickly, and two minutes later, they were up by four. The Rangers were able to increase their lead over Henderson over the next three minutes, but the Reddies turned it around and pulled them

right back. In just two minutes, Henderson scored eight points to reel the Rangers in and take the lead by one to end the half.

To start the second half, the Rangers took the lead right back. Northwestern earned a five-point lead. Then, Henderson fought back and shrank the Rangers' lead and earned themselves their own two-possession lead. The Reddies kept their lead and eventually went on a run, which the Rangers could not recover from. Henderson State won the game 75-66.

Keyondre Young had the most points for the Rangers with 19. Max Alexander was a close second with 18. Robbie Armbruster had the most rebounds with nine and had three steals.

The second game of the week against Ouachita Baptist started amazingly for the Rangers. They scored seven straight without an answer. Four minutes in, the Tigers finally responded, making the game 7-2. The Rangers were able to increase their lead over the Tigers as the first half continued. At the halfway mark, Northwestern was up by nine. With eight minutes left in the half, the Rangers were up by 13. The Tigers cut the Rangers' lead down to the single digits by the time the clock stopped, ending the first half 40-

34 with the Rangers up by six.

The Rangers kept their lead throughout the start of the second half, but by the halfway mark, Ouachita cut them down and shrank their lead to just one. Northwestern was able to increase their lead once again, eventually having a nine-point lead with seven minutes left to play. In just two minutes, the Tigers reeled them in and took the lead. Ouachita didn't look back and earned themselves a multi-possession lead over the Rangers with just minutes to play. The Tigers held on and won the game 73-81.

Alexander led the Rangers in scoring with 25 points. Young had 19 points and nine rebounds. Kenny Burns III had three steals and seven rebounds.

The Rangers now sit sixth in the GAC standings. The Rangers are tied with SWOSU, whom the Rangers face next. East Central University sits above NWOSU with two more overall wins, but the Tigers have the same conference record.

The next two games for Northwestern are against SWOSU on Thursday and ECU on Saturday. These two games have a lot of importance when looking at the GAC standings.

Alexander leads the GAC in



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Max Alexander looks to make a pass in a game against Harding on Jan 29.

scoring. He has 479 points scored this season so far. The nearest player is one from Oklahoma Baptist who is 50 points back

from Alexander. Armbruster is 10th with 265 points and third in rebounds with a total of 141 and 7.4 a game on average.