

Food drive tonight

Why is the campus hosting a food drive?
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Baseball

The Rangers played at home.
Read more on page 11.



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SALT FORK EVENT CENTER

Alva's bright future

Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Larry Milbourn, the executive director of the new Salt Fork Event Center in Alva, giving a tour of the arena, which will host the Alva Bull Battle in April.

By **INGRID MALDONADO**
Senior Reporter

The 173,033 square foot Salt Fork Event Center in Alva is set to be completed in late March, bringing a 20-year-long vision to life.

With the first event being the Bull Battle in early April, many are eager to see what has been in the works over the past 10 years.

"When you walk in there [Salt Fork Event Center] and you walk up the grandstands and you look out over the arena floor, you could be sitting in Fort Worth, Texas at the rodeo, and you would not be in any nicer venue than what we're going to have right here in Alva, Oklahoma," said Daren Slater, a member of the Alva Arena Authority.

According to an Alva Review-Courier article, Alva Arena Authority member Todd Holder,

said it was in April 2014 when the idea came up again about an event center and the original location was going to be at the county fairgrounds.

The original idea came from Jim Holder, Todd Holder's father, Slater said. The idea was first for the Northwestern college rodeo team as Northwestern at one point had the largest college rodeo team in the college sector, he explained. It was bringing many people to town that were involved in rodeo and those people stayed in Alva.

The facility at the fairgrounds for the rodeo was dated, Slater said, so the safety concerns grew, and a group got together to see what they could do to help the rodeo team as well as the community. From there, it grew beyond the idea of a rodeo or equestrian facility into a broader vision of how a multi-use center could impact Woods County and the surround-

ing region, Slater explained.

"How did we bring all of the entities together, the county fairgrounds, the stock show, the FFA departments, the rodeo teams, the agriculture community, the need for meeting space, everything that was going on at the fairgrounds and then how did we pull all of those people together to create one large project?" Slater said.

At first, they thought about remodeling the fairgrounds but because of how old the buildings are it was not possible, Slater explained. At the fairgrounds, the land is so flat it causes drainage issues, which is why they decided not to build it there. He said due to this, they had to look for a new location and with the assistance of the Mackey family, they found its current location.

"The event center is operated by the Arena Trust, but the two beneficiaries of the arena is the city of Alva and Woods County,"

Slater said.

While the Alva Authority is a 501 C3 trust, a non-profit entity, the event center is a for-profit because it needs to make money to pay bills like labor, electricity and all operational costs, Slater said. Its organizational structure would be non-profit but as a facility it does need to make money, he explained.

According to an article in the Northwestern News and a later article in the Alva Review-Courier, the Arena Authority applied to make the surrounding land a Tax Increment Financing district and is now a TIF district. This means if property values go up in that area, the extra tax money will help fund the arena and the city won't lose any of its regular tax income.

Melinda Barton, a member of the Alva Arena Authority, expressed the impact the event center will have on Alva. She said it

will bring business to restaurants, hotels and the retail community.

Barton brought up one of the first events that will be taking place at the event center and that's the Southern Plains Grasslands Summit in late May. This summit will bring a lot of people to Alva. About 300 to 500 people will be attending for three days, she said. This will increase business not only in restaurants, but hotels and the retail businesses Barton expressed, and the timing couldn't be better.

"It'll be a lot of people in town at a time when, it'll be right before harvest and after the college students leave in the summer, so that's going to be really great for our community," Barton said.

Larry Milbourn, the executive director for the arena, said even though Alva is a rural town, people will drive to the events.

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NEWS

Event Center: Opening soon

“People drive, but they’re used to driving long distances,” Milbourn said. “People don’t have a problem driving 70 miles to go to supper, so that can work in reverse too.”

Milbourn said the rodeo culture is evident in Northwest Oklahoma, and the event center is designed to cater to the rodeo community. People not only participate in rodeos, but they also like to watch rodeos and that will have a great economic impact and economic development, he said.

Milbourn has 35 years of experience in running facilities that are like the Salt Fork Event Center. He worked as the assistant ground superintendent for Cheyenne Frontier Days in Wyoming. He said he had a two-month retirement and is now here in Oklahoma.

“I like variety and this is a very fun thing because, like I said, the variety of events we can have in here, there’s always something different,” Milbourn said.

Milbourn said he has already seen interest in booking events. He has connections back in Wy-

oming with possible rodeo events and even a renaissance fair, he said. He also mentioned trade shows and anime conventions. He said many people want to book wedding receptions there.

The event center is capable of hosting all sizes of events. From rodeo and ag shows to anniversary celebrations, Milbourn said. The event center has the arena but as well as an exhibit banquet room and a livestock pavilion expo room. He said he hopes in the future these rooms will have designated names.

Milbourn said the exhibit banquet room will be able to hold upwards of 500 people. It has big, tall ceilings with duct work painted black. Included is a service window for catering. Milbourn said they will be adding paneling on the walls for sound, two big monitors for conferences, and they plan to add a center stage in there as well.

The livestock pavilion expo center will be able to hold around 700 people, Milbourn said. Pens will be able to be setup, with show rings, and a wash rack as

well, he said.

It will feature 31 RV hookups, a covered practice arena and a stall barn. The grandstands in the arena can hold 1,500 people, but with other events like concerts, it can hold around 5,000 more but haven’t gotten an exact capacity from the fire marshal, Milbourn said.

Slater said his mother, who was 80, grew up in Dacoma and when they moved to Alva in 2009, his mother showed him the Woods County fairgrounds and told him it looked the same as it did when she was a kid. Slater then explained his mother graduated high school in 1963, showing how the county fairgrounds have stayed the same all these years.

“The fairgrounds and the events held there have always been a big deal here in Woods County, and looking to the future, we now have the opportunity, with our new facility, to leap forward 60 years, maybe 70 years into a immaculate first class, multi-use facility that can host events for Alva and Woods County for the next 80 years,” Slater said.



Photos by Ingrid Maldonado

The arena has dirt flooring with no concrete underneath it and the grandstands hold 1,500 people.



The outside of the newly built Salt Fork Event Center.



Photo on the left is the exhibit banquet room which can hold upwards to 500 people. Photo on the right is the livestock pavilion expo center which will be able to hold around 700 people.



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NEWS

WHAT'S UP

MARCH

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Delta Zeta blanket making event Student Center Ranger Room 6 pm-9pm

MARCH

3

Writers Roundtable Meeting Vinson Hall 5:30 pm-6:30 pm

MARCH

5

- Comprehensive exam for graduate students EC 109 at 1 pm
- Woods county poverty simulation 1 pm-5pm
- Mr. Northwester/ Rangers got talent Fellers Family Auditorium 7 pm-9pm

MARCH

9

- W or F on dropped 16 week courses
- SGA meeting SGA senate room 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

MARCH

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- President Lectureship Series Student Center Ballroom 1pm-5pm
- Concert band and Jazz band concert Fellers Family Auditorium 7pm-8:30 pm



Bob Ross paint night



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Maci Flowers and Kate Mann enjoy painting at Bob Ross paint night hosted by NWOSU SGA.

USA medal count

Gold medals: 12
 Silver medals: 12
 Bronze medals: 9
 Total count: 33



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Is it grillig season yet?

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OPINION

Liu's comeback gold medal

By **ECE OZDEMIR**
Opinion Editor

In the world of sports, success is often defined by results: medals, records, rankings and championships. However, sometimes an athlete's greatest achievement is understood not by the medals they win, but by the decisions they make. American figure skater Alysa Liu is one of the most remarkable athletes of recent years in this respect. Her story shows not only how to reach the top, but also how to stay there and prioritize one's own mental health—how powerful a choice this can be.

Liu's career began with an exceptionally early rise. Winning national championships at a very young age transformed her into a figure of great expectation in the sports world. Great achievements at a young age often inspire admiration; however, behind these successes lies increasing pressure, constant expectations of performance and public attention. Liu, too, became the center of this intense attention and expectation at a very young age. While her career appeared to be that of a rising star from the outside, it began to carry an increasingly heavy bur-

den internally.

At this point, Liu's decision was a turning point that broke with established norms in sports culture. Early in her career and at one of her most successful periods, she announced her retirement from the sport. In the world of sports, a retreat by an athlete nearing the pinnacle is often seen as difficult to understand; success is frequently viewed as a path to be maintained. However, Liu's decision was a powerful message reminding us that the sustainability of performance depends on mental well-being. For her, quitting the sport was not a failure, but a form of self-preservation.

One of the things that makes Liu's story significant is her openness to speaking about mental health. In elite sports environments, psychological strain often remains invisible; athletes are perceived only through an image of strength, resilience and control.

Therefore, expressing strain can be interpreted as weakness. Liu, however, broke this silence. Her approach to the process of quitting sports, linking it to experiences of burnout and pressure, had a normalizing effect on young athletes. Her openness made the human experience behind performance visible. Even more signif-

icant is the way Liu returned to sports. Her return was not due to external pressure or compulsion, but was voluntary and based on renewed enjoyment. This change showed that her perspective on sports had also transformed. The performance-centered approach was replaced by an understanding of enjoying the process and finding balance.

The top-level achievements she subsequently attained concretely demonstrated how performance can develop on a mentally healthier foundation. Thus, Liu's career became an example showing that not only results but also psychological approach shapes success.

Even more significant is the way Liu returned to the sport. Her comeback wasn't due to external pressure or compulsion, but rather her own will and renewed enjoyment of the sport. This change demonstrated a transformation in her perspective on sports. A performance-centered approach was replaced by an understanding of enjoying the process and finding balance.

Her subsequent peak achievements concretely illustrated how performance can develop on a mentally healthier foundation. Thus, Liu's career became an

example showing that not only results but also psychological approaches shape success. Liu's impact on the world of sports stems not only from the titles she won but also from the values she represents. She is an important point of reference for young athletes who face the burden of expectations.

She shows that stopping, changing direction or retreating are also legitimate options on the path to success.

This perspective aligns with the growing awareness of mental health in sports culture. Liu's story reminds us that psychological resilience is not just about enduring hardship, but also about setting limits when necessary.

In conclusion, Alysa Liu's story is a powerful narrative reminding us that sport is not just about results. Her career reveals the fragility of a conception of success that disregards mental health and the power of an approach that prioritizes psychological well-being.

Liu is not only an Olympic champion but also an athlete who makes the importance of mental health visible. Therefore, her story is valuable as one of the rare examples that contributes to redefining success in the modern world of sports.

Youth violence rises

By **EMILY WRIGHT**
Student Reporter

Reports of rising violent behavior in teens and young adults has been a continuous trend for the past several decades. Research as far back as the 1980s can be found discussing the topic of violence in the youth of the United States, as well as research discussing reasons as to why this is occurring. Despite decades of research and discussion of the issue, violent behaviors have become an increasingly prevalent issue among younger generations.

Psychologists, teachers and parents have long argued what the causes might be, with the most prevalent factors discussed being video games, social media and television.

While research shows these all do play a factor into emotional desensitization, which can be a prevalent factor in people who exhibit violent behaviors, fictitious violence isn't the only factor in fostering violent behaviors in young people. Emotional desensitization is described as what happens when an individual has been repeatedly exposed to a stimulus, such as violence, resulting in a lessened response over time.

Exposure to violence in neighborhoods, homes and schools can

be where desensitization starts for young individuals in the United States. For children who are exposed to violence at ages 11 to 13, violent behavior is more likely to become normalized to them, resulting in the individual exhibiting violent tendencies by age 18.

Exposure to violence this young becomes a real issue in real-life scenarios partially due to gang recruitment. However, it is difficult to gauge if real-life violence has the same effects to desensitize people as fictitious violence does because of the reduced chance for habitual consumption. Real-life violence also tends to be linked to more symptoms of depression, anxiety and trauma.

One of these experiments showed that when shown violent movies, a group of college students initially felt increased depression and anxiety symptoms, but over time as they consumed more of the content those symptoms decreased.

In recent years, this desensitization has become more prevalent in our society as news is instant and often involves coverage of wars and violence around the world.

Through the internet there is easy access to information about violent crimes, and early access to this information or consuming true crime content without the basis of critical thinking skills has shown to have effects on younger

people. This can be seen through school shooters like Adam Lanza or Ethan Crumbley, who both reportedly were fascinated with mass murders, idolized serial killers and violence in general.

In discussion of mass shootings, this is unfortunately another violent act that the United States sees almost daily which adds to the desensitization to this problem. Social media has become a growing issue as well, as users will post graphic content that bypasses moderation on social media platforms.

As of February 2025, this began to happen again on Instagram. Meta cited an error in its recommendation algorithms to be the cause. Another aspect of desensitization to violence are gore websites. These sites open people up to more violence and emotional desensitization as these sites host ISIS propaganda videos of executions, footage of murders, industrial accidents and more graphic content.

On these sites individuals can search by category and watch graphic footage as much as desired. Typically, these sites are sought out once violence stimuli are not as stimulating to a person anymore.

To combat violence, researchers have encouraged the understanding of media literacy and learning critical thinking skills for the young people in America.

Celebrating student press freedom day

By **CORKY HALL**
Senior Reporter

Every year, student journalists across the country pause to recognize Student Press Freedom Day. Armed with a notebook, a camera and determination, they attend city council meetings, interview professionals, and ask hard questions at press conferences. At Northwestern Oklahoma State University, the community of Alva is home to students who are practicing real journalism. When student journalists are trusted to report without interference, to form their own questions and follow their own instincts, they start to believe they have something worth saying. But beyond the policy conversation, it is a good reason to celebrate new journalists coming into their own. There is joy in chasing a story down until it finally makes sense. There is joy in finding the right word, a headline that lands, a photograph that captures a real moment. The stories published in student newspapers are read by real people, remembered by real communities. So this Student Press Freedom Day, consider it a reminder of why this work matters and why the people doing it deserve both the freedom and the recognition.

OPINION

Does high GPA mean higher salary?

By **ECE OZDEMIR**
Opinion Editor

University life is a crucial period for young people to get to know themselves, discover their interests and determine their future direction. However, this discovery process is often overshadowed by a single criterion: grade point average (GPA). For many students today, academic success is almost entirely defined by GPA. There is a strong societal belief that a high GPA will lead to a good job, a high salary and a secure future. Therefore, university students feel intense pressure not only to learn but also to appear “successful” numerically. Yet, in real life, success is far more multifaceted than can be reduced to a single average.

The belief that there is a direct and guaranteed correlation between high GPA and high salary leads students to constantly compare themselves. When grades drop, many students perceive it not just as an academic result but as an indicator of personal inadequacy. Implicit messages such as “average students live average lives” are ingrained in university culture. This perception increases students’ fear of making mistakes and transforms the learning pro-

cess from a natural area of development into a performance competition. Thus, the university becomes more of a measurement system than a place of discovery.

However, when we look at the realities of the business world, it is clear that GPA alone does not determine career success. Employers value not only academic knowledge but also qualities such as communication skills, problem-solving ability, responsibility, adaptability and initiative. In fact, in many sectors, these skills can be more important than the numbers on a transcript. A student who focuses solely on grades during university may miss the opportunity to develop these skills. Conversely, a student whose GPA is not perfect but who gains experience, works on projects, volunteers or develops themselves in different areas may be in a stronger position after graduation.

The fact that grade point average has become the sole measure of success negatively impacts students’ mental health. Anxiety, burnout and feelings of worthlessness are becoming increasingly common among university students. One significant reason for this is the linking of self-worth to academic performance. When grades rise, individuals feel competent; when they fall, they feel worthless. This conditional

perception of self-worth creates constant performance pressure. Students may feel guilty even while resting because they believe that every moment they don’t study will lower their average. In such a mental environment, learning, curiosity and creativity are relegated to the background, replaced by anxiety and comparison.

The goal of university education is not solely to produce high grades. The real aim is to develop an individual’s way of thinking, to gain different perspectives and to understand real-life problems. Grade point average (GPA) is only a limited indicator of this process.

Moreover, academic performance is influenced by many factors, such as the difficulty of the department, teaching methods, evaluation systems and the student’s living conditions. Therefore, viewing GPA as the sole measure of individual competence is both reductionist and misleading.

True success is linked to sustainable development in the long term. Many individuals who advance in their careers state that learning habits, curiosity and adaptability are more important than their university GPA. This is because the business world is dynamic, not static; information changes, sectors transform and new skills are required. Those who succeed in this environ-

ment are not only those with high grades but also those who can continue learning. This is more about mindset than grades.

Therefore, it is neither fair nor does it allow university students to evaluate themselves solely based on their GPA, as this limits their development. GPA is certainly important; it provides information about discipline, responsibility and academic competence.

However, it does not alone determine an individual’s value, potential or future success. Students who dedicate their university years solely to raising their GPA may miss out on opportunities for multifaceted development.

Ultimately, a high GPA is only one path to success; it is not the only one. The university experience is a complex and multifaceted developmental process that is not solely measured by numbers. Students’ value cannot be limited to the average on their transcripts.

True success is a long-term journey where knowledge, skills, curiosity and resilience develop together. Therefore, it would be healthier and more realistic for university students to evaluate themselves based on their entire learning process rather than defining themselves solely by their GPA.

Balancing sports and academics

By **ECE OZDEMIR**
Opinion Editor

Today, sports are seen as an important area that supports the physical development of young people and instills discipline and team spirit, while academic success remains one of the fundamental criteria shaping an individual’s future. However, pursuing both areas simultaneously often presents a more challenging process than it seems, especially for student athletes. Balancing sports and academia is not only a matter of success but also a critical requirement for protecting the

mental health of young people.

Student athletes have much busier and more structured daily lives compared to most of their peers. They live in a cycle of early morning training, followed by school, studying and then returning to evening training. While this pace can improve time management skills, the constant expectation of performance creates significant pressure. The combination of the need to succeed on the field and the anxiety of not falling behind academically creates double stress for student athletes.

Over time, this can lead to mental health issues such as burn-

out, anxiety disorders and loss of motivation.

In competitive sports environments, success is often measured by wins or rankings. However, for student athletes, success is not solely about athletic performance; it also involves fulfilling their academic responsibilities. Yet many education systems and sports programs do not provide the flexibility to support the balance between these two areas.

For example, an athlete who has to prepare for exams during intense seasons may experience a decline in performance in both studies and sports if they do not have sufficient rest time.

This can lead to a loss of self-confidence and the feeling that “I am not good enough in any area.”

However, balancing sports and academics supports the multifaceted development of students.

Research shows that students who regularly participate in sports have stronger skills in focus, discipline and stress management.

But for this positive effect to occur, sports shouldn’t overshadow academic life, nor should academics suppress sports. When balance is achieved, sports become a factor that supports academic success; otherwise, they feel like two competing burdens.

In conclusion, establishing a balance between sports and academia is a process that requires not only time management skills but also psychological resilience for student athletes.

When this balance is achieved, young people can develop both on the field and in the classroom; if it is not achieved, the pressure to succeed can turn into mental exhaustion.

When we, as a society, evaluate student athletes not only by their performance but also by the multifaceted burden they carry, it will be possible for sports and education to become areas that reinforce each other.

Dealing with stress can be hard

By **ECE OZDEMIR**
Opinion Editor

University years are often idealized as the most free and enjoyable period of youth. New friendships, independence, future plans and opportunities for personal development are highlighted as the positive aspects of this time. However, behind this rosy narrative lies an unseen but intensely felt reality for many university students: constant stress.

When academic responsibilities, anxieties about the future, economic difficulties, social expectations and uncertainties combine, university life can become a mentally exhausting experience. Therefore, stress management

skills are not a luxury but a vital necessity for university students.

Exams, projects and pressure to get grades create an academic burden, while career choices and post-graduation uncertainty increase anxiety about the future. In addition, economic problems, adapting to living away from family and maintaining social relationships create an emotional burden.

This multifaceted stress structure can affect not only students’ mental energy but also their motivation and self-esteem. Long-term stress can lead to serious consequences such as burnout, anxiety disorders and difficulty concentrating.

Stress itself isn’t always negative; a certain level of stress

can even improve performance and motivate individuals. Many university students don’t receive systematic training in stress management skills. Therefore, when stress increases, unbalanced responses such as avoidance, procrastination or overworking may develop instead of healthy methods.

Stress management skills directly impact a student’s quality of life, regardless of their academic achievement. Time management, emotional awareness, setting healthy boundaries and resting habits form the basis of these skills. For example, a student who can realistically plan their time avoids chronic pressure because they don’t leave tasks until the last minute. A student who

can recognize their emotions can regulate anxiety instead of suppressing it. A student who can set boundaries prevents overloading. And a student who accepts the need for rest can maintain their productivity. These skills play a protective role not only during university years but throughout all stages of life.

Many students hesitate to openly express that they are struggling because they assume everyone around them is handling the situation well. However, the reality is often different: many students struggle with similar pressures. The importance of coping with stress is not limited to mental health; it is also directly related to learning capacity.

Under high stress, the brain fo-

cuses on the perception of threat, making deep learning more difficult. Conversely, a balanced stress level supports attention and memory. Therefore, stress management is not an alternative to success but rather its foundation. For university students, developing stress management skills means developing self-protective skills. This process doesn’t mean achieving perfect balance; it means learning to manage ups and downs. Planning time, taking breaks, seeking social support, setting realistic expectations and seeking professional help when needed are all parts of this skill. These steps may seem simple, but when practiced regularly, they significantly increase mental resilience.

Rangers earn player of the week honors



Kennedy Hight runs to get past the Southern Arkansas Mulerider defensive players.

Photos by Oaklee Fielder



Kira Bass attempts a layup as a Mulerider defender tries to stop Bass from scoring. Bass earned WBCA-D2CIDA National Player of the Week honors for her work.



Robbie Armbrester (79), a 6-foot-5 senior, dunks the ball against the Muleriders on Thursday. He earned 7 points.



Summya Adigun (12) shoots a 3-pointer as a Mulerider attempts to block. NWOSU won 75-68. The Lady Randers are assured a berth in the Great American Conference Tournament next week, March 5-8.



Max Alexander pushes a midair Mulerider as he attempts to score a layup on Thursday night.



Max Alexander (1) shoots and makes a three-pointer late in the game against Southern Arkansas on Thursday at Percell Fieldhouse. Alexander earned the GAC Offensive Player of the Week for his efforts in wins against both Southern Arkansas (75-73) on Thursday and Monticello (75-57) on Saturday.

FEATURE

A smile the world will remember

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

The Olympics ended Sunday. The USA men's hockey team played Canada in the gold medal game. USA won the game in overtime with a goal by Jack Hughes.

Jack Hughes plays hockey for the New Jersey Devils. Jack Hughes is an alternative captain for the team.

Hughes is expected to be back with the New Jersey Devils on Wednesday to start playing in their game against the Buffalo Sabres.

To get to the finals USA had to beat out both team Sweden and team Slovakia which had players that Jack Hughes normally plays with.

The bronze medal game was played between Slovakia and Finland with Finland winning.

During the gold medal game Jack Hughes got chipped by a high stick.

He continued playing and was the one to win the game for the USA.

The game began with Matt Boldy making the beginning goal



Photo by Jessica Schieber

Jack Hughes the Olympic golden goal scorer preparing to take a shot at a game in Dallas versus the Dallas Stars on March 14, 2024. He had 27 goals and 47 assists in the 23-25 season in the season. This season he currently has 12 goals and 24 assists. In his career he has 153 goals and 234 assists.

for the USA team. Boldy was the only goal until one minute was left in the second period. Cale Makar scored a goal for Canada. This brought the game to 1-1 and

made the game go into overtime. With 1:41 left in overtime Jack Hughes scored his golden goal. This win was the first win for USA hockey since the Mircale on

Ice team. That was 46 years ago. The USA won't forget Hughes' goal for a long time.

The game wasn't just about team USA though. In 2024 the

hockey team lost a very important member to them, Johnny Gaudreau known as "Johnny Hockey" was in a motorcycle accident with his brother and neither one made it out alive.

The team USA had a Gaudreau hockey in the locker room the entire Olympic games. At the end of the game two members of the team went and got the hockey out and brought it onto the ice. When the team was taking pictures two members went into the stands and got Gaudreau's kids from their mom and took pictures with them on the ice.

This moment touched the hearts of not only the Gaudreau family but also the American hockey fanbase.

Every hockey fan knew that this game would be a fun game to watch and the teams did not disappoint.

USA had some bad blood with Canada from the Four Nations games last year. Canada won the Four Nations and USA took that personally.

During the Four Nations some Canadian fans booed the USA national anthem and USA was not going to let that stand for anything.

Sidenote

Hidden struggles that students face

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

It gets hard being a student sometimes and not everyone sees the struggles we as students have.

No one sees the episodes of depression because you've been stuck in the dorm or library getting assignment after assignment done.

No one sees you struggling to communicate with your friends because your schedules are so different. No one knows how long it's been since you have been able to go and see your family.

Things that students must do on a weekly basis add up many of us have jobs that demand hours of our lives, we have assignments that require more than just a simple glance and there's test that we can study all week for and still never pass.

That's all without extracurricular activities.

Students are involved with a lot, even if it's not sports.

There are clubs for everyone on campus and many people take advantage of those clubs. Things aren't as black and white as they seem.

Everyone is going through something but not everyone knows how to express their needs to people.

What may look like lack of

interest to a professor could just be that a student's personal life is demanding more of them and they are running on thin ice.

Many students can feel like they are drowning alone while trying to swim through the ocean of college.

Students stand on a tight-rope trying to balance school, work, and personal lives and it is never easy.

I have never met a student who wasn't struggling with something because of how demanding their lives are.

Another thing that students must face are people who ask why they're even going to school.

As an English major I have been asked multiple times why I'm going to college or what I can do with my degree when I get it.

The truth is, I don't know what I'm going to do next when I graduate next fall, and truthfully that is one of the furthest things from my mind.

I am focused on assignments; I am focused on communicating with my family and friends and I'm trying my best to get through work when I have it.

Life isn't easy for a college student, and many are just struggling alone. It doesn't matter what you're going through you are not alone when you are going through.

You have your friends, your family and even your professors. It doesn't matter how you feel if you reach out someone will be there to grab your hand and help you out.

Life gets hard, but you are strong. You have made it this far and how beautiful is that?

You will grow to be stronger, to have a stronger will than anyone has ever expected.

You are an amazing person and no matter what you are going through you will be amazing.

Life may seem to be a lot right now, and that's okay. You're allowed to feel overwhelmed.

You're allowed to question what you're doing here, the important thing is that you keep going even through your questions.

You may have nights that you have some breakdowns, you may have the depressive episodes of not doing anything for a week but don't let those moments control you.

You have so much support behind you, you are much stronger than you appear.

This life was not meant to be easy. The choices you made aren't suppose to come natural.

If you aren't questioning what is going on then you aren't doing something right, questioning is a part of life. Don't be afraid to question.

Fire

**As bright as you are, you cannot see.
The damage that you do to me. You do
not forgive so easily.
You burn and take all that you want,
without a care for what is gone.
So bright you give off a false sense of
hope,
my fire you burn and I cannot stop.**

"Hold fast to dreams, for if
dreams die, life is a broken-
winged bird that cannot fly."

-Langston Hughes

ENTERTAINMENT

Why sci-fi is important and amazing

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

On multiple occasions, I have cited fantasy as being my favorite genre. However, besides horror and classical literature, I realized I have not talked very much about other genres I like. For example, Sci-fi is one I find to be particularly intriguing.

Imagine this: You wake up in a medical bay. You look around, wondering why you are here.

You try to remember the last thing you did before you fell asleep, but no matter how hard you try, your mind is drawing blanks. You stand up, feeling light-headed.

Slowly, you walk to the mirror. You are wearing a skin-tight, white bodysuit. You look towards the door of the medical bay,

only to see that it looks nothing like you have ever seen before. As you walk up to it, the door automatically opens, allowing you to peer into the white hallway.

You see a human in an all-black suit of armor holding a gun that looks like it came from another world. The human is talking to this orange-skinned humanoid with black, pupilless eyes whose thin head reaches the ceiling. The orange creature replies to the human in a series of clicks you have never heard from any animal in your entire life.

You start to back away in a mix of shock and confusion, only to feel yourself bumping your back into someone. You turn around and see no one there. Suddenly, you hear an "ahem". You look down and see a tiny, blue alien with three ears who barely comes up to your heels. The blue alien

was wearing some sort of colonel's outfit. In a squeaky voice, the colonel hands her a document in a hieroglyphic-like language, with your name at the bottom. "Welcome to your new ship, Captain."

You look at the document, confused. You look out the window, and your eyes widen. You see nothing but a black sky with tiny white specs. The realization hits you like a truck: You are in space.

The Sci-fi genre is one with a vast number of authors and universes. Whether you prefer movies, in which case you might be familiar with franchises like "Avatar" or "Alien", or video games, suggesting you might know "Halo" or "Mass Effect". Not to mention the millions of famous books out there relating to Sci-fi.

With how big of an impact, it has on the media, I would not even blame someone

reading this if they love Sci-fi, but did not know what it was called until now. It is not like one needs to be knowledgeable in science to enjoy Sci-fi either. Quite the opposite actually.

See, fellow reader, growing up, science was one of my worst subjects. I loved the class, and I loved the teacher. However, when it came to absorbing the material. Despite this, I consider myself a lover of Sci-fi movies, even if I may not know how accurate the actual science is.

The Sci-fi genre has been around for a long time, and I highly doubt it will be going away any time soon. It is a form of media that offers endless amounts of creativity for its authors. If you are reading this article and you have not read any Sci-fi books yet, I would recommend how you do so as soon as possible.

If you have your own short story you'd like to read here, contact editor Kevin Kaumans: kakaumans60@rangers.nwsu.edu

Just make sure to have your story ready by Tuesday morning.

Various lengths OK. Under 600 words preferred.

'Birdy': A fictional short story of reflection

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

I was on a walk through the park yesterday. I sat down at this old wooden bench at the edge of the woods, watching the morning sky. It was partly cloudy, the sun half-naked.

A yellow bird landed next to me, its feather clean and smooth. As it opened its beak to sing, an orange bird flew by and landed on my head, picking at it for a bit before flying off as I reached to pet it.

I looked back at the yellow bird, who had now jumped to the ground before me.

Though I knew the thought was childish, I could have sworn I saw a small smirk on its face.

Ever since I was a boy, I knew birds had an attraction towards me. I remember when my nana used to take me and my cousins for walks outside during the Summertime.

Without fail, a green bird would always zoom ahead of us, way too far out of reach for any of us to catch it. Year by year, the green bird would always fly a lit-

tle bit slower as it passed me, but would never let me reach the end with it.

Behind us, a tall, black bird would circle around us. It never bothered us, but it would never fully leave our sight either.

As I get older, the black bird circles closer, never letting me forget about it. When I was a child, just thinking about the black bird scared me.

But now that I'm looking back on it, I doubt that was ever the poor creature's intentions.

Besides the orange bird, the only other one that has ever got-

ten close enough to let me touch them were these small, blue birds that would appear every once in a blue moon.

They would land on my shoulders, letting me scratch their chins or rub their heads. They would never stay for long though, coming and going at random.

As I leave the park, I spot out of the corner of my eye a white bird following me to my car. Its old wise eyes watched as I got inside and started the engine. I rolled my window down to say something at first, then changed my mind.

FYI: 2 weeks to Spring Break!

CELEBRITY NEWS

- Influencer Philip DeFranco went off on Republicans for defending the killing of Alex Pretti. In his YouTube short, DeFranco argues that if a man refusing to cooperate was enough to deserve getting shot, then the riots that took place at the White House when Biden was elected "would have looked like a f@*#!ng bloodbath!"
- Speaking of Republicans, Texas representative Tony Gonzales is currently facing pressure to resign after allegedly coercing sex from one of his staff members who would later go on to kill herself. So far, Gonzales continues to insist his innocence.
- Actor Eric Dane died Feb. 19 from ALS at the age of 53. Dane is perhaps most well known for his six-year role of Dr. Mark Sloan (nicknamed Dr. McSteamy) on ABC's long-running "Grey's Anatomy." The character was written off the show in Season 9 after his character died in a plane crash. He had said leaving the show was not his choice but a financial decision by the show's management. He also played in "Charmed" and other TV shows.
- American rapper Luci4 died Sunday, at the age of 23. Despite his young age, Luci4 had a number of hit songs, such as "BodyPartz," "Dead n' Gone" and "NUK3."
- Disney star Robert Carradine died Monday, at age 71. During his long life, Carradine was involved in a multitude of shows, such as "Lizzie McGuire" and "King of the Nerds." According to news articles, his cause of death was suicide following a long battle with his bipolar disorder.
- Former access Meghan Markle and Prince Harry were in Jordan this week as part of a two-day humanitarian trip to support vulnerable communities in the region affected by conflict and displacement.

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"Never back down, never give up."

— Hysuzi
hip hop,
rap artist

NEWS

Bring food donations to Thursday basketball

By MEGAN SPRAY
Senior Reporter

Northwestern student-athletes are partnering with the Campus Cabinet to expand outreach and support for students and employees facing food insecurity and financial hardship.

The Student Athlete Advisory Committee is working with the Campus Cabinet, a campus pantry that provides free nonperishable food, hygiene products, clothing and other necessities to Northwestern Oklahoma State University students and employees. The partnership will be showcased at the last home basketball games on Thursday. Those who donate two or more items for the pantry receive free admission into the games.

The Campus Cabinet opened Jan. 16, 2019. Campus Cabinet Coordinator Angelia Case said no one came on the first day, but awareness grew over time through word of mouth and campus involvement.

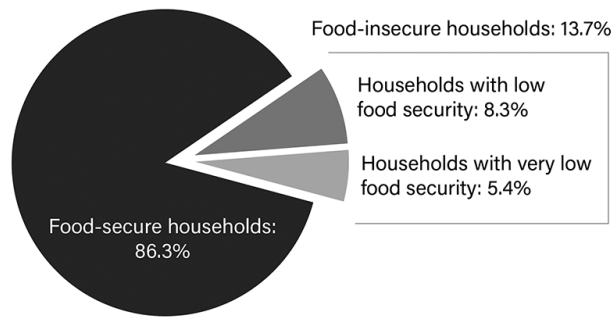
Since then, the pantry has remained open every week the university is open.

Case said more than 300 people have registered to use the pantry and about 37,000 pounds of food have been distributed since the beginning.

"We've not used any university funds to do this," Case said. "It's all donation."

The pantry first operated with walk-in hours but after the COVID-19 pandemic, it shifted to an appointment system to reduce traffic and improve efficiency. The appointment system is still in place today.

U.S. households by food security status, 2024



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2024 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data.

Case said partnerships with student organizations like SAAC help increase awareness for the pantry. It can also reduce the stigma around asking for help.

"It is absolutely amazing," Case said. "There will be more people that hear that there is a pantry."

Gretchen Jones, who oversees SAAC, said the committee encourages student-athletes to serve others and stay involved on campus outside of competition.

Cadence Long, SAAC vice president, said the partnership allows student-athletes to use their platform to support classmates who may be struggling.

"We're here to basically strengthen the bond between athletes and students," Long said. "We're giving back to an organization on campus that does so much for the university and the students here."

SAAC President Zac Thomas, said the group wanted to create a way for athletes to give back to fellow students in a meaningful way.

"We wanted to partner with our local Campus Cabinet and just raise food, snacks and sup-

plies for our local Campus Cabinet and just help support them and their needs," Thomas said. "We're here to support those who support us."

In addition to food and hygiene items, the Campus Cabinet offers a coat closet for students who may not have proper cold weather clothing.

Case said volunteers with the Campus Cabinet often ask visitors if they have coats, hats or cold weather essentials during extreme temperatures.

Case said one of the biggest challenges is encouraging students to take the help. Some have shared with her that they were nervous before their first appointment.

"The hardest part is just getting here," Case said. "Everyone needs a little help at some point."

She said the pantry's goal is to support students while they focus on school and encourage them to help others in the future when they are able.

By partnering with SAAC, Case said she hopes more students will learn about the Campus Cabinet and feel more comfortable using its services if needed.

What items should I donate?

What to donate:

- **Donate non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items** to college food banks, focusing on high-protein, nutritious, and shelf-stable foods. Choose healthy, versatile options that students can quickly prepare in dorms or apartments.
- **Proteins:** Peanut butter and nut butters, canned tuna, chicken, salmon, and beans (lentils, chickpeas).
- **Meals & Starches:** Dry pasta (whole grain preferred), rice (brown preferred), ramen cups, macaroni and cheese, canned soup, stew, and chili.
- **Breakfast & Snacks:** Granola bars, protein bars, oatmeal, cereal, dried fruit, nuts, crackers.
- **Cooking Essentials:** Pasta sauce, cooking oil (olive or canola), spices, condiments.
- **Canned Goods:** Fruits (in juice or water), vegetables (low sodium), and apple sauce.
- **Other:** Shelf-stable or powdered milk, coffee, tea, and baking items.
- **Consider Hygiene:** Unopened hygiene items like soap, toothpaste and shampoo.
- **The Campus Cabinet also needs bedding, pillows and school supplies.**
- **Money is also appreciated!**

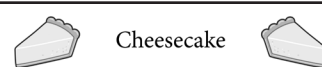
What NOT to donate:

- **Items needing refrigeration**
- **Expired food**
- **Leftovers**
- **Food with packaging concerns:** This includes food with damaged packaging such as dented or bloated cans, packaging that is al-

ready open, or even items in glass containers, which can shatter and cause food safety concerns for any other food they're stored near. A good rule of thumb is if you wouldn't consider buying it new, don't donate it.

• Baked goods

—Sources: various online sites.



Cheesecake

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Regional Science Fair

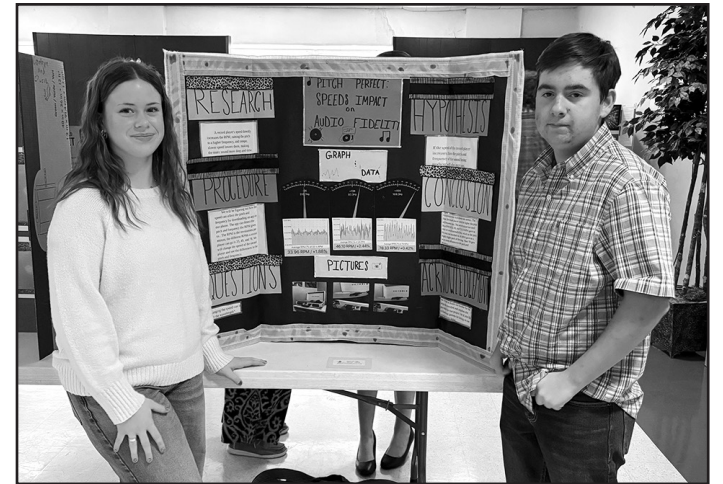


Photo by Kate McClure

MaryElla Kaiser and JD Casteel from Covington-Douglas, explain their project "Pitch Perfect: Speed's Impact on Audio Fidelity" at Regional Science Fair conducted at NWSU on Feb. 18. The project took third in Physics and Astronomy for high school students. Six area schools brought 92 projects and 131 students to compete to move on to Stillwater on March 27; 21 projects made the cut.

Spring Showcase



Photo by Victor Kinzie

Members of Student Support Services — Trio explain the services available to prospective students during the annual Student Showcase Saturday. The event was a chance for high school and transfer students who missed the fall Ranger Preview to visit the campus and receive a scholarship to attend NWSU this fall.

Art show entries due soon

By KENNEDY MCGEE
Student Reporter

The 23rd Annual NWSU Spring Art Society Art Show will run March 13–31 at the J.W. Martin Library.

Participants must complete an online entry form by March 2. Artwork drop-off dates are March 9, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and March 10, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the library.

Entries are free. The event is

open to current students, alumni, faculty and staff.

Those interested can find detailed category requirements and entry information at www.nwsu.edu/art under the Spring Art Show tab.

Cash prizes will be awarded to students to encourage participation. Alumni, faculty and staff receive ribbons and other prizes.

Organizers will also host a winner show at the Runnymede downtown during the First Friday Art Walk on April 3.

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SPORTS

Season start strugglings

By **BRAXTYN TURNER**
Student Reporter

Ranger baseball continued conference play with three losses at home in their three-game series against the Arkansas Tech University Wonderboys.

The Arkansas Tech Wonderboys were ranked first in the Great American Conference pre-season poll, while the Rangers were ranked seventh.

In game one of the series, Will Kates started on the mound for the Rangers. The Wonderboys began the game with a two-run home run in the top of the first inning, gaining an early lead.

The Rangers answered in the bottom half when Blake Mattern singled and advanced to second. Chase Gordon followed him with a walk and Cole Barton hit a ball through the gap allowing Mattern to score a run, shortening the Wonderboys lead to 2-1.

Arkansas Tech added a run in the third to extend its lead to 3-1. The Rangers attacked again as Matthew Bailey singled and Gordon drew a walk to put a runner in scoring position. Barton delivered another single to bring home a run and close the gap to 3-2 at the end of the third.

The Rangers took the lead in the fourth with a two-run home



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Outfielder, Number 13, Alex Dabrowski, prepares to bunt the ball for a hit against Arkansas Tech University.

run from Alex Dabrowski, giving the Rangers a 4-3 lead. However, The Wonderboys quickly tied the game in the fifth on a solo home run.

By the seventh inning, Arkansas Tech gained the lead once again, scoring twice. The Rangers fought the rest of the game, putting runners in scoring positions, but were unable to capitalize and Arkansas Tech held on for the 6-4

victory.

Barton led the Rangers with two hits and two RBIs. Dabrowski also drove in two runs.

In the second game of the series, Trey Barkman started on the mound for Northwestern.

Both teams stood scoreless for the first 2 innings until the Rangers made a breakthrough in the third starting with a double from Jailon Goodfellow.

Brody Harris followed with a single and Grady Thomas laid down a bunt towards the first base side for a single then advanced to second on an error, giving Northwestern a 3-0 lead.

The lead didn't last long though, Arkansas Tech responded with a six-run fourth inning to take control of the game.

The Rangers posed some threats throughout the fifth in-

ning, but were unable to get any runs in. The Wonderboys added two more runs in the sixth to extend their lead.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, Northwestern responded with two runs. Alex Dabrowski delivered a single, and Matthew Bailey followed with a double. Joel Lindahl added a single to help get a run in.

Arkansas Tech held on for the rest of the game for an 8-5 victory.

In the final game of the series, Logan Sandoval started on the mound and Arkansas Tech took full control early, scoring five runs in the first inning.

Northwestern was unable to make a breakthrough until the third inning, when Grady Thomas and Alex Dabrowski each singled to a base.

Matthew Bailey followed with another single, allowing Thomas to run home and trim the deficit for the Rangers.

The Wonderboys continued to add runs throughout the game, but the Rangers struggled to do the same. The game ended with a score of 7-2, the third and final victory of the series for the Wonderboys.

Northwestern baseball is back in action Friday at 6 p.m., taking on East Central University at home.

Women's golf opens 2026 season with 17th place finish in Texas

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

Women's golf finished 17th out of 17 in the Women's Rattler Invitational hosted by St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas to start off 2026.

The first tournament for the NWOSU women's golf team ended with a last place finish. The total score for the Lady Rangers was +141, 23 strokes more than 16th place team UT Permian Ba-

sin.

Gracie Doke was the highest placing Northwestern competitor, she finished 58th with a score of +24.

Tess Linden was the second Lady Ranger, finished in 70th with a score of +28.

Ava Borne finished 87th with a score of +45. Amanda Lane finished 91st with a score of +50. Heather Hunkele finished 93rd with a score of +56.

The next tournament for the Lady Rangers is March 2.

Rodeo starts at Kansas State in Manhattan, Kansas

By **SHEALYNN PRATT**
Student Reporter

Northwestern's rodeo team is back in full swing after months of preparation and training.

Our rodeo team opened up its spring season with momentum, earning multiple top finishes at a four day competition at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

The weekend marked the team's first rodeo since October and showcased months of preparation, with both women's and

men's teams placing in several events and signaling a competitive start to the spring season.

"They have not stopped since October. We don't just quit because the season is over for the fall. Those kids keep working all the way through it," said coach, Cali Griffin.

During the rodeo, students competed in individual and group events.

Nathan Duvall, a junior from Henrietta, Oklahoma, took first place in steer wrestling.

His earnings were \$218.40 coming from a total score of 55 points.

Colter Snook, a junior from Ford, Kansas placed first in the team roping event. His total earnings were \$258.72 coming from a total of 35 points.

"I think our men's team proved that they can hang with the rest of the schools in our region. I've been waiting for that to happen and that was really exciting. We showed up as a whole," Griffin said when asked what excites her about the next rodeo.

Several members of the women's teams also placed in events.

Tyra Tsosie, a sophomore from Crownpoint, New Mexico, took

first place in goat tying. Her earnings were \$144.00 coming from a total of 35 points.

Maggie King, a freshman from Granville, New York, placed second in the event. Her earnings were \$86.60 coming from a total of 7.5 points.

Trista Regner, a sophomore from Apple Valley, California, placed fifth in the event. Her earnings were \$595.20 coming from a total of 50 points.

When asked who she thought improved most from last season, coach Griffin said the improvement has not come from a single person.

"This is such a different group of kids. They are different from most groups, they all work together and work hard. I think individually and as a whole they have improved because they have not stopped working since October," Griffin said.

"For our spring rodeo to start like that, that was really exciting. We just keep our momentum up and keep working as a team and keep making ourselves better."

Northwestern's rodeo team will be having their next rodeo March 13-15 in Fort Scott, Kansas.

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SPORTS

Lady Rangers make playoffs, Kira Bass named national D2 player of the week

Rangers win, have playoff hopes

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The Lady Rangers punched their ticket to the GAC Championships after defeating the University of Arkansas at Monticello and Southern Arkansas University last week.

The Lady Rangers defeated Southern Arkansas 75-68 on Thursday and defeated Monticello 83-63 on Saturday. After those two wins, they sealed their fate to go to the playoffs. After the two wins, Kira Bass was named as the WBCA/D2CIDA player of the week. Across the three games, she averaged 24.7 points, 12 rebounds, 2.3 assists and one block a game in the three wins.

In the win over Southern Arkansas, Bass had 32 points and 11 rebounds. The Lady Ranger with the second most points was Kennedy Hight with 13. Bass and Summya Adigun made every free throw they attempted.

The second half of the game was the hardest for NWOSU, as they were outscored by three in the third quarter and had an even number of points scored as the Muleriders in the fourth. Luckily, they scored enough in first and second quarter that it didn't matter at the end of the day.

The win over Monticello was much easier. The Lady Rangers outscored the Cotton Blossoms in every quarter of the game.

Jaida Shipp had a great game against Monticello. She scored 22 points and had five rebounds. Shipp also recorded one block and one steal. Bass recorded the most points again, with 25. Bass also had seven rebounds and steal.

The Ranger basketball team won two games over Southern Arkansas University and the University of Arkansas at Monticello, boosting the Rangers' record up to 11-15.

The Rangers defeated the Southern Arkansas Muleriders 75-73 in a close battle that ended in overtime. Then, they defeated the Boll Weevils 74-57 in an easy win for the Rangers.

Max Alexander was announced as the GAC Offensive Player of the Week for men's basketball. Alexander averaged a league-high 24 points per game and had a 55.4 percent shooting across the two wins. Alexander had 26 points against SAU and 18 against Monticello.

In the win over Southern Arkansas, Alexander scored the game-winning jumper with just six seconds left on the clock.

SAU 73-75 NWOSU

The incredibly close game between the Rangers and Muleriders was sent to overtime after Southern Arkansas scored a 3-pointer to tie the game and send it to OT. After a timeout, Alexander attempted to score in the final three seconds, but failed.

The first half started close, but eventually the Muleriders found a rhythm and were able to put some distance between them and the Rangers. A four-minute scoring drought for the Rangers from the 7th minute to the 11th minute was the factor that allowed Southern Arkansas to run away. The drought was broken with a layup from Cam'ron Brown, followed by a layup from Robbie Armbruster. As soon as that drought ended, the Rangers were



Photo by Victor Kinzie

Ranger Number 0, Cam'ron Brown, attempts to fake out an Arkansas-Monticello defender on Saturday.

back to themselves and matched pace with Southern Arkansas. Although they got back to their regular selves, the Rangers were not able to reel in the Muleriders to end the first half and entered the second down by 10.

In the second, the Rangers started off as they ended the first, keeping pace with the Muleriders and not letting them extend their lead. Then at the halfway point in the half, the Rangers started to reel Southern Arkansas in. With eleven seconds left, the Rangers were up by three, but Southern Arkansas tied it and sent to OT.

In OT, the Rangers were up the whole time, until two free throws for the Muleriders tied it. Alexander made a jumper with six seconds left and sealed the win for NWOSU.

UAM 57-74 NWOSU

The second game of the week for the Rangers was a much eas-

ier win, as they defeated the Boll Weevils from Monticello by almost 20 points.

Alexander led in the scoring for NWOSU, with 18 points scored. Armbruster was a close second with 15 points, followed by a close Kenny Burns III with 13 points. Brown with 11 points shows just how talented each of the players and especially starters are for NWOSU. They continue to be leaders in the GAC statistics.

Despite having a large win deficit, the first half was quite close. The Rangers ended the half only being up by four over the Boll Weevils. NWOSU would have moments of pulling away from Monticello, but the Boll Weevils were able to pull them right back. The Rangers really showed up in the second half, pulling away from Monticello quickly and holding a multi-score lead over Monticello. By the

halfway point in the final half, the Rangers were up by 12. Six minutes later they were up by 23. To close the game, NWOSU was up by 17 to earn another win and boosting their chance to have a playoff spot.

Two games remain on the schedule as we enter the final week of the regular season. The Rangers face #7 nationally-ranked Oklahoma Baptist University on Thursday in the final home game. Then, they face Southern Nazarene University on Saturday, who is fourth in the GAC.

NWOSU sits tied for sixth with Southwestern Oklahoma State University as they both have the same record.

SWOSU's upcoming games include East Central and Southeastern Oklahoma State, an easier schedule than NWOSU. This puts pressure on the Rangers as they face a do or die situation to make the playoffs.

Indoor season ends in Lincoln, Nebraska

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The indoor season for track and field ended last week as they competed in the Lincoln Tune up in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Jeremiah Anderson finished well in the long jump with a 3rd place finish. Anderson's jump was 6.62 meters.

Easton Hamar broke the school record in the men's 400 meter. Hamar's time of 50.36 put him in 4th.

Travon Hodge jumped for 13.82 meters in the triple jump. His distance put him on the podium in 2nd.

Hamar finished 2nd in the 200M with a time of 22.3. He

was followed by another Ranger, Anotida Madonado, who finished 3rd with a time of 22.35.

The women also performed well in Nebraska.

Madyson Organ finished 7th in the 60 meter with her time of 7.98. Not far behind was Camille Dates in 9th with a time of 8.09.

Gabriella Hall finished on the podium in the long jump. Hall jumped for 5.56m, putting her in 2nd.

Jada White and Aaliyah Cobb finished 3rd and 4th in the 400 meter. White claimed the school record time of 59.07, three-thousandths of a second faster than Cobb.

Jamaria Ross broke another school record in the 3000m with a time of 10:46.03.

Softball losing streak reaches nine straight

The Lady Rangers lost all games in a three game series against Arkansas Tech University.

After losing three in the conference play opening series against the Golden Suns, they now have a losing streak of nine straight games.

After winning four of their first six games in the Branson Lead-off Classic earlier this month, it seemed there would be hope for Northwestern softball after a tough 2025 season last year. Now, though, the Lady Rangers have entered a time of struggle as they

have not won a single game since.

It was known that Arkansas Tech would be a tough game for the Lady Rangers, as the Golden Suns were seeded 5th in the GAC Preseason Poll against NWOSU's 12th out of twelve.

They face ECU on Friday.

Game 1	1	2	3	4	5	R
NWOSU	0	0	0	0	0	0
ATU	0	2	2	4	-	8

Game 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R
NWOSU	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
ATU	1	1	2	0	0	0	-	4

Game 3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R
NWOSU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ATU	0	0	4	0	1	0	-	5