

Fall enrollment

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NWOSU FALL CLASS SCHEDULE					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 AM	?	?	?	?	?
10:00 AM	?	?	?	?	?
12:00 PM	?	?	?	?	?
2:00 PM	?	?	?	?	?
4:00 PM	?	?	?	?	?

Sports

Teams find success over spring break.
Pages 10 & 11



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Special Sports Reports

Sports scholarships vital



Photo by Ken Irving

Elias Herrera, a senior originally from Venezuela, prepares to throw a pitch for the NWOSU Rangers. Scholarships have made it possible for Herrera to earn a degree and play sports.

Athletic aid can make difference in how students' lives turn out

By MEGAN SPRAY
Senior Reporter

Four years ago, Elias Herrera left Venezuela behind after an athletic scholarship changed his life forever.

For some college athletes, scholarships are more than financial awards – they are access to education, stability and opportunity. At Northwestern Oklahoma State University, athletic scholarships have helped students like Elias Herrera pursue degrees while continuing the sport that shaped their lives. It will do the same for Kylie Adair when she joins the Lady Rangers this fall.

Insight from athletic administration explains the broader impact, including retention and long-term success. Together their perspectives reveal how a single offer can redefine what's possible.

Herrera is a senior right-handed pitcher on the Ranger baseball team at Northwestern. Originally from Venezuela, he came to the United States after being offered an athletic scholarship that made college financially possible.

For Herrera, that opportunity required more than signing paperwork.

Accepting the scholarship meant leaving his home country and adjusting to a new language, culture and academic system. Four years later, Herrera is in his senior year and hasn't seen his father in two years because of visa limitations and the political climate. Herrera said the separation has been difficult, but the hardships are outweighed by his passion for the

game he loves.

Without athletic aid, Herrera said his future would have likely unfolded much differently.

"I'd probably be back home," Herrera said. "I would be working, trying to provide for my family. Not playing baseball. It would be a huge difference in my life."

Instead, the scholarship created access to higher education, advanced training facilities and the chance to compete at the collegiate level. Herrera said it also accelerated his personal growth. He became bilingual, adapted to a new academic system and learned to navigate independence in a foreign country.

While the financial support reduces tuition costs, he said his family still makes sacrifices to cover the remaining expenses – a reminder that scholarships can ease financial burdens to make dreams attainable, but can't always be eliminated entirely.

Nearly four years later, Herrera is preparing to graduate and stay in the States with hopes to pursue coaching, a career goal he said developed during his time in college. He credits the scholarship for not only allowing him to continue his athletic career but for reshaping what he believed was possible for his future.

While Herrera's journey reflects international sacrifice, the impact of athletic scholarships is not limited to international students. The impact can be just as meaningful for students who don't even have to leave home.

See SCHOLARSHIPS, Page 7

Travel sports: Hours on road, eyes on future

By JAXYN CLOUD
Senior Reporter

The sun isn't up yet, but high school students from across Oklahoma are traveling hours for basketball practice. The 7 a.m. call time requires Baron Prock, a 16-year-old from Enid who plays

on a traveling basketball team, to wake up at 4 a.m. to make practice on time in Oklahoma City.

Across the country, travel sports have evolved from a casual activity to a full-time job for children as young as 8 years old. School is done on a computer, then they're off to the gym to get some shots up before prac-

tice. Some coaches argue that this builds skill and discipline, but are kids giving up their childhood to chase an unrealistic dream?

Travel and club sports teams are groups of kids who travel to compete at their game in other areas. Travel sports typically start for kids around 8 to 10 years old and are independently funded by

parents or organizations, unlike school sports that are funded by the public school district.

Over the last 60 years, travel sports have dramatically increased in popularity and how they're viewed by parents. Travel sports have been around for ages, but the likelihood of a child participating has increased drastical-

ly in recent decades. People born in the 1990s were three times as likely to participate in club sports as people born in the 1950s, according to a study in the Journal of Sport and Social Issues.

The amount isn't the only consideration that has changed.

See TRAVEL, Page 6

NEWS

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OPINION

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SPECIAL REPORT

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FEATURE

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SPORTS

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NEWS

23rd Annual Art Show underway



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

On Tuesday, students Janie Rempel, right, and Kaylyn Aldrich admire some of the photography entries in the 23rd Annual Art Society Spring Show now set up in the Martin Library. The show features various media and artistic style created by students, faculty, retirees and alumni. The final day to view the show in

the library is March 31. Judges will name winners in the various categories. Those winners then participate in the Winner's Show during the First Friday Artwalk on Friday, April 3, from 6-8 p.m. at the Runnymede in downtown Alva. People's Choice awards will be given based on attendees' votes.

Campus Briefs

NWOSU marks Social Work Month

The theme for Social Work Month is "Social Work: Uplift. Defend. Transform."

The month celebrates the work of more than 810,000 social workers nationwide and seeks to inform the public, policymakers and legislators about how social workers enrich society.

"To uplift is our calling, to defend is our duty and to transform is our promise because every person deserves the chance to thrive," said Dr. Kylene Rehder, Northwestern Department of Social Work chair and professor of social work in a news release. "During Social Work Month, we urge you to educate yourself about this amazing profession, thank social workers and help support the profession."

Social work major earns stipend award

Itzel Castillo, a senior social work major from Laverne, has been announced as the recipient of the 2026 Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health practicum stipend award.

The practicum opportunity is part of the newly established IEC-MH Training Academy at NWO-SU, funded by a \$40,000 grant.

**Good Advice for the rest of the semester:
You didn't come this far to only come this far.**



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NEWS

WHAT'S UP

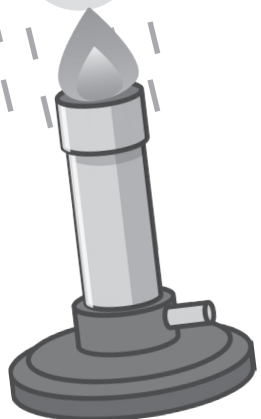


March 27

- Friday Make-n-Take at Graceful Arts Gallery & Studios 3:30 - 5:30
- 11th Annual Citizen's Choice Awards Chamber Gala
- Spanish Paella Day

March 30

- PCL interviews March 30-32 and April 2-3
- Take a Walk in the Park Day



March 31

- Freshman Scholarship application best consideration deadline
- Writers Roundtable meeting
- Bunsen burner Day

April 1

- NSA application deadline
- April Fools!
- Fun at Work Day



April 2

- PCL interviews April 2-3
- Alevian Crumpton senior voice recital
- SGA Meet the Candidate night
- Chi Alpha night
- National Burrito Day

"Success in school is not measured by how you start, but by how you continue—halfway in, keep pushing forward." - Anonymous

Headlines from the AP this week

- US to deploy at least 1,000 troops from the 82nd Airborne Division to the Middle East
- Airport disruptions abound as senators chase deal to end Homeland Security budget standoff
- North Carolina Senate leader, conservative architect Phil Berger concedes primary loss
- Prosecutor conceded lack of criminal evidence in Federal Reserve investigation, transcript shows
- Charlie Kirk's mentor and cheerleading pioneer Jeff Webb dies at 76 after a 'tragic accident'
- New Mexico jury says Meta harms children's mental health and safety, violating state law
- Minnesota sues Trump administration over shootings, including deaths of Alex Pretti and Renne Good
- OpenAI pulls the plug on Sora, the viral AI video app that sparked deepfake concerns
- Green fireball captured on dashcam video as a meteor streaks across the Pacific Northwest sky

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He put a ring on it. Shinery keeps the Bling on it

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Inquiries concerning the application
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leb Mosburg, Director of Student Affairs,
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Letters to the editor shall bear the
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classification, title, etc., address and phone
number for verification and shall be kept
on file. Unsigned letters to the editor will not be
published.

Letters must be turned in by noon on
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ters via e-mail are acceptable as long as they
follow the rules stated above and can be sent
to nwnews@nwosu.edu. Please limit submis-
sions to no more than 250 words. The editors
reserve the right to condense or edit any letter
for grammar, libel and space limitations. All
letters submitted may not be used.

All letters represent the views of the
author.

OPINION

Everyone needs community support

By **INGRID MALDONADO**
Senior Reporter

If there was one thing every town, every
college campus, every church and every per-
son should have, it would be a supportive
community.

The Lady Rangers recently won the 2026
Great American Conference Championship,
which was a milestone not only for the team
but for the university and the town of Alva.
It was in everyday conversations, praising the
team and being excited. It showed how great
the community in Alva is.

Not only were the Lady Rangers succeed-
ing in their season but so were the high school
lady's basketball team, the Ladybugs. They
went to compete at state and they had a lot of
support from the community.

When the Lady Rangers went to compete
nationally, the Rialto Theatre hosted a watch

party so anyone in the community could come
to watch and support them. All that support
can really impact a team's morale, which can
then provide confidence in their playing.

According to Psychology Today, commu-
nity provides belonging, support, identity,
reduces stress and isolation. All of these can
impact the quality of life. If someone is deal-
ing with a stressful situation, it is important to
have people they can depend on.

While it is easy to show the importance of
community, it can be hard to build one and
actually rely on others. Life is fast paced and
everyone wants to achieve success towards
their goals and careers, but many heavily rely
on independence rather than seeking support
from others and building a community.

Many people have busy lifestyles that can
stop them from creating a community and
building relationships. Others have been hurt
in the past and have a hard time trusting so
they believe the only person they can rely on

is themselves.

There are ideas that people believe that
stops them from building a community. For
example, they should focus on themselves,
they have to succeed in everything, they don't
need to worry about anyone else, and they are
never going to be good enough.

Those beliefs stop communities from flour-
ishing. People are social creatures and should
have others they can depend on and rely on.
If someone likes to read, joining a book club
would be a great way to build ones communi-
ty. If someone likes to bike, find those people
to join on a bike ride.

Sometimes, building a community often
means meeting someone randomly who then
introduces the person to more people and be-
ing able to be receptive of them. It is okay to
be fearful of meeting other people, but it is
more important to face fear and potentially
meet amazing people.

Thoughts on Iran conflict

The war may be going better than you think

*From The New York Times, March
24 by columnist Bret Stephens:*

*Stephens compared the current
war to various conflicts since 1987
where the U.S. fared worse than in
this one.*

"I am not blind to the Trump ad-
ministration's failures in planning,
particularly its unwillingness to
make a stronger public case for war
and get more allies on our side be-
fore the campaign began. I am also
purposely comparing the war with
Iran to past wars of similar scale,

rather than our true military fiascos
in Vietnam, Korea and the two world
wars — in which tens of thousands
of Americans died due to poor tacti-
cal planning and bad strategy.

Still, if past generations could see
how well this war has gone com-
pared with the ones they were com-
pelled to fight at a frightening cost,
they would marvel at their posterity's
comparative good fortune. They
would marvel, too, at our inability to
appreciate the advantages we now
possess."

War on Iran driving up fertilizer and fuel costs for OK farmers

OKLAHOMA CITY (KFOR) —
Rising tensions in the Middle East
are having a direct impact on Okla-
homa farmers.

The war in Iran has led to the clo-
sure of the Strait of Hormuz, a criti-
cal shipping route not only for oil
and gas, but also for fertilizers need-
ed to produce the world's food.

"We cannot grow without it. There
is absolutely no way you get around
it," said Stacy Simunek, president,
Oklahoma Farm Bureau.

Simunek is a farmer himself and
says prices have jumped significant-
ly in just weeks.

The price of a nitrogen-based fer-
tilizer called urea has increased by

25% since the end of February.

Simunek says the problem, though,
isn't just price, but its availability.

"I've had many farmers tell me
I can't get it until April 1st, which
starts putting them past the window
of application time," said Simunek.

There is also global demand.

"We're not the only people in the
world that use nitrogen-based fertil-
izer, so there's competition around
the globe for this," said Todd Hubbs,
crop marketing specialist, Oklahoma
State University.

At the same time, farmers are hav-
ing to pay more to run their equip-
ment.

From MSN.com

Trump needs to find the off-ramp of this war with Iran. Fast.

*From USA Today, March 24, by Nicole
Russell:*

"The president is treading on danger-
ous ground, especially if he is serious
— and not just bullying Iran as part of a
strategic move. Deliberate attacks on es-
sential infrastructure are potential war
crimes. It raises questions for me about
the goal of this war and how the United
States is implementing it.

"Is the goal to cripple Iran's nuclear
capabilities or wipe out the entire popu-
lation? Is the goal regime change or de-
stabilizing Iranian citizens? I can't think
of anyone, conservative or liberal, who
would agree with the latter.

"More and more, Operation Epic Fury
is less and less mirroring the Pentagon's
successful operations in Iran in June and
Venezuela in January — those were quick,
decisive and lethal. Trump campaigned
against 'forever wars,' so he must find a
good exit or risk both severe real-world
consequences — gas is \$3.62 in Texas —
and long-term loss of precious political
capital, just ahead of midterm elections
in November. ...

"The bad thing is, it's not clear what's
driving this conflict — Trump's ego or his
campaign slogan, 'America First.' The
good thing is that one would think that
either motive would drive Trump to want
to tie up this war now as quickly as pos-
sible. He must. For his ego, or innocent
Iranians, but most of all for us — former
neocons and our kids — the war must end
soon."

**"We're spending taxpayer money on the war
in Iran at the rate of \$1.3 million a minute."**

— Nicholas Kristof, New York Times columnist

CAMPUS

Students, community learn about poverty

By **INGRID MALDONADO**
Senior Reporter

The Woods County Coalition hosted a poverty simulation March 5 where participants engaged in an interactive experience that brought awareness to poverty.

Participation was open to students, community members and employees. Many faculty from surrounding schools participated as well as nursing students, social work and education majors.

“One of the goals is to spread awareness that poverty is an issue and secondary to make people aware of the struggles that people who are living in poverty are facing and hopefully build empathy towards them,” said Susan Holliday, the Woods County Extension director.

During the event, which started with a presentation and later simulation, participants were given information about poverty. According to Ruby Payne in “Bridges out of Poverty,” poverty is defined as the extent to which an individual does without resources. Resources included include financial, mental, physical and other resources. These resources or the lack of them impacts a person’s ability to handle stressful situations.

Holliday said one thing people can do to help is bring awareness of the resources that are out there in the community. She said people can donate to the food pantry, blessing boxes and the Campus Cabinet. If people can’t donate money or items, they can always

volunteer.

When the simulation part started, participants were asked to pick a random name tag and were assigned with other participants in different families. There were families of all varieties with different types of situations. Participants were then asked to portray their assigned character.

In the simulation, each family was given its family situation, with what bills are due, how much each person in the family made, and more. To visit any of the tables set up as community establishments like a bank, job or store, they needed a bus pass, which costs money.

Toward the end, many participants struggled to keep up, some being evicted from their homes. Many struggled to pay their bills on time, buy weekly groceries and clothing while trying to afford everything. This made many realize how difficult it is to be in this situation.

“I think it’s easy just to look at people and put them in a category, instead of thinking that there’s issues beyond just ‘we’re poor,’” said Tani Tanio, the director of the Clothing Exchange at Bridge 2 Hope in Alva.

Tanio said the simulation helps people see it is not about telling people to get a job or to spend their money wisely but to realize there are other factors involved, other situations one might not realize. She said there are times when people are waiting for resources to become available.

“I know poverty is a huge problem, so this event didn’t really change my view of it,”



Photos by Ingrid Maldonado

Students and community members gathered in the Ranger Room on March 5 for the beginning of a simulation about living in poverty. Later they moved to the ballroom, divided into “families” and had to figure out how to pay bills and survive with not enough money.

said Cathy Buchanan, one of the participants. “I’m just glad they’re bringing awareness to it because I think it’s something that people need to be aware of. Your neighbor may look OK, [but] that doesn’t mean that they are.”

Holliday said this was the first time doing this simulation in Alva, and she is planning to do it again in the future. There was a lot of interest reached a lot of people but have more people to reach, Holliday said.

For more information, contact Holliday at (580) 327-2786 or susan.holliday@okstate.edu



Cathy Buchanan, left, visits the Pawn Shop during the poverty simulation. Some of the “family” participants learned that even pawning many of the household goods did not give them enough money to avoid eviction.

FFA Interscholastic Contest

How well do you know your meat, milk, plants?

About 200 students from more than 25 schools participated in the Agriculture Department’s annual contest Tuesday.

Students could enter 11 career development categories involving food, animal, plant science knowledge as well as other agricultural needs such as wiring up an electricity circuit, set up in Jesse Dunn, and welding/cutting,

conducted at the NWOSU Farm south of campus.

Shown here are, bottom left, students identifying meat species (beef, lam, pork) and cuts. Middle, students taste test milk. At bottom right, a student with her adviser identifies various ornamental plants, and top right, students taste test popcorn.

Six schools also signed up for

the Animal Science Quiz Bowl double elimination tournament, which Kingfisher High School won.

That night, 200 students pre-

sented speeches in 11 categories.

Category winners received plaques and earned points toward a sweepstake win for their school.



Photos by Ingrid Maldonado

TRAVEL: 8-year-olds can chase a dream

Continued from Page 1

Many parents and players say the culture of travel sports is evolving into a monster they do not want to be a part of.

One of the main advantages of playing travel sports is the opportunity to play at a higher level of competition. These students are exposed to skilled teams from across the state, nation or even the globe. This creates a more challenging atmosphere that athletes probably wouldn't experience staying in their home town or school sports. Playing travel sports gives athletes the chance to improve their skills during the off season.

College sports are competitive and require outstanding athletes to make the team. It takes even more talent and skill development to go to a university on a scholarship for athletics. For some students, sports is the only chance they have to get a higher education. This is where travel sports come in.

College recruiters attend these weekend long tournaments in hopes of finding their next star athlete. For students in rural communities, travel sports might be their only chance to get noticed by bigger universities. What all started as an activity for kids to play has turned into networking events that could totally change the trajectory of an athlete's life.

Beyond athletics, travel sports are often credited with building young athlete's character. It helps them to develop life skills like responsibility, cooperation, time management and resilience. Balancing school and travel sports can teach young athletes a lot about commitment and accountability.

Ryann Morton, a Division 1 volleyball player and travel volleyball coach, said, "Travel sports give athletes the chance to compete at a higher level while learning how to handle pressure and responsibility and keep the mindset of college ball."

Morton went on to say that she has seen incredible growth in her athlete's character throughout the last season of travel ball.

"If you're just looking for [physical] activity, this isn't for you," Morton said.

She acknowledged the hardships it creates, including financial, mental and physical challenges for some families and players.

Travel sports can be a heavy burden to carry for some families financially. A parent of a travel baseball player broke down the cost of playing the sport. One child playing baseball requires a helmet, bat, glove, cleats, baseball pants, jersey, belts, socks and a bat bag. All of this gear can cost parents anywhere from \$200 to \$400.

Some parents find a way to alleviate some of the costs by taking hand me downs from older athletes, but without those connections the costs can be high. According to Engage Towson University, the average cost of team fees amongst the top 15 youth sports is \$1,663.

It is clear that not every fami-



Baron Prock, 16 years old, goes up for a shot during a tournament. Prock, who lives in Enid, wakes up at 4 a.m. in order to make the 7 a.m. practice for his travel sports team in Oklahoma City. He completes school work online.

One of the main advantages of playing travel sports is the opportunity to play at a higher level of competition. These students are exposed to skilled teams from across the state, nation or even the globe. This creates a more challenging atmosphere that athletes probably wouldn't experience staying in their home town or school sports.

ly has the financial means to put their kids on a travel sports team. Students from low income house-

holds are three times less likely to be on a club sport team, according to Engage Towson University. The

athletic programs, especially in rural communities.

The drop of participation in multiple sports could eventually cause travel sports programs to get cut because of the lack of participation.

At the same time, travel sports can raise the overall skill level of school athletics. Athletes who participate in high-level travel programs often return to school teams with advanced training, experience against higher competition and stronger technical skills.

Some schools encourage their teams to participate in a travel team together, forming their own way to elevate competition while still building team chemistry. The Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association, has strict guidelines on how schools can go about this. School coaches have strict rules about coaching travel teams, but they are allowed to be in attendance at the games. Teams often use the same plays and positions as they do in school ball.

There are opposing sides to this occurrence. Some believe it is a great opportunity for school teams to improve their skills and teamwork. Others see it as a way to out-cast some members of the school team who can't afford to travel on the weekends. Erin Sandwick, a freshman volleyball player from Enid, said she felt like her travel team, which was all girls from her school team, was time consuming and a big commitment.

Even if families have the means to put their kid in travel sports, not all have the time. Between multiple evening practices during the week

and tournaments on the weekends, it doesn't leave a lot of time for family, friends or anything else. "I won't put my future kids in travel sports because of the time commitment," said Ashlan Light, a former college basketball player. "It leaves no time for family bonding or relaxation, and it's so hard on kids' mental health. They get so burned out."

Extreme pressure is put on children when they are expected to perform to the best of their abilities multiple hours a day without much rest. Many find it difficult to prioritize their school work when they are left with such little time. Baron Prock, a sophomore basketball player, decided to withdraw from his public school and start school online through Epic Charter Schools. This is becoming more common for student athletes who want to prioritize their game. Prock said that his day usually looks like waking up, working on school for two to three hours, then heading to the gym to put some shots up.

Twice a week, he heads to Oklahoma City bright and early in the morning to his team practice. The travel demands often leave little time for school work on practice days. Prock said the time commitment forces him to carefully plan his schedule around both school and basketball obligations.

Prock said every practice and hour in the gym is worth his time. He said he believes that one day, it will all pay off and he'll be glad that he put in the work for so long. "Every tournament is more than play, it's an opportunity for a brighter future," he said

The Price To Play

Elementary Travel Sports

- Team/Club Fees : \$600-\$2,500
- Equipment : \$500-\$1,500
- Travel : \$500-\$1,500
- Gate Fees : \$5-\$40 per person

Source: esportsinsurance.com

Graphic by Jaxy Cloud

SCHOLARSHIPS ease burden but cannot eliminate all need

Continued from Page 1

For Kylie Adair, a senior at Alva High School, the opportunity from an athletic scholarship means something different – staying close to home and continuing the sport in a Ranger jersey that she has dreamt about since she was little.

Adair is a senior guard for the Alva Ladybug basketball team who has signed to play women's basketball at Northwestern beginning next fall. For her, the athletic scholarship represents both financial relief and the chance to continue her athletic career at the collegiate level.

Unlike Herrera, Adair isn't leaving the country to pursue her education; she's not even leaving her hometown. She will stay in the same community where she grew up. Still, she said the scholarship changes the trajectory of her future in measurable ways.

"It just takes a lot of pressure off," Adair said. "It makes college feel possible."

Continuing her education and athletic career at Northwestern is solely because of the athletic scholarship that was offered to her. Had she not received an athletic scholarship to play for the Lady Rangers, the likelihood of her choosing Northwestern was slim.

"If I wouldn't have gotten a scholarship, I don't know that I would have stayed," Adair said. "It would have been really hard to leave, but I don't know that I would have stayed."

Adair choosing to stay home and attend Northwestern also adds additional financial help because her father, Matt Adair, works at the university, which makes her eligible for a tuition break. She said the financial support allows her family to focus less on costs and more on preparing for the transition to college.

Beyond the financial impact, she said the offer validated years of early morning workouts, summers filled with travel ball tournaments and countless hours of offseason training.

For Adair, the scholarship does not simply extend her basketball career. It creates access to higher education without the same level of financial uncertainty many students face. She said the athletic scholarship gives her confidence entering her next chapter, knowing both her academic and athletic futures are secure.

Herrera and Adair represent different journeys shaped by the same opportunity. One scholarship entailed leaving the country, learning a new language and adapting to a new life. The other offers community support and continuity for a homegrown athlete.

Yet both athletes share the same responsibility that comes with athletic aid – balancing performance with academic expectations. Maintaining eligibility requires classroom discipline as much as competitive drive. Both said collegiate athletics come with developing a structure of time management, accountability and maturity.

Their stories show the influence athletic scholarships have, but university officials highlight the broader truth of the scholarships where lasting impact is measured in education, growth and opportunity beyond the sport.

Gretchen Jones, assistant director of athletics for compliance and student athletic services, said scholarships are an investment in student-athlete success. Jones has worked with numerous athletes with diverse backgrounds. She sees athletes that come from unfortunate backgrounds and have a path to a better future through sports more often than not, she said.

"A lot of those kiddos that come in would not have even sought after playing sports because they think 'I can't financially do that,' not knowing if there might be a scholarship opportunity behind it," Jones said. "I think there's a lot of those kids that wouldn't even have pursued coming to college if it wouldn't have been for athletics."



Ladybug Kylie Adair, a senior at Alva High School, said the scholarship she will receive to play basketball at NWOSU this fall will relieve financial stress.

Jones said reducing financial barriers through athletic scholarships allows student-athletes to focus on academics while maintaining the competitive drive and structure required to compete. Eligibility standards, mandatory study hours and academic monitoring are built into scholarship expectations. She said that accountability often strengthens university retention and degree completion.

Brad Franz, vice president for athletics, has coached in collegiate athletics for years before taking the position at Northwestern. He has firsthand experience recruiting players whose college decisions depend on the financial package offered. He said scholarships frequently determine whether talented athletes can attend school at all.

"For a lot of these guys, it's the only way

they can afford college," Franz said. "Without it, they're working full time or they're not here."

Franz said he has watched players grow into leaders and graduates who reach their dreams because of the opportunity scholarship support provides. He said while athletics draws them into the university, the long-term outcome is getting their degree.

Research shows athletic scholarships can influence academic presence as well as athletic participation. A study published in the Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics found significant differences in cumulative grade point average between scholarship and non-scholarship athletes, indicating that access to financial support may correlate with academic performance for the athletes who receive financial aid.

A study by Matthew Arita for the Department of Kinesiology, Sport Studies and Physical Education for SUNY Brockport points to the possibility that scholarship incentives like eligibility requirements and structured support systems can help keep student-athletes engaged in the classroom and their sport.

Whether an athlete is crossing international borders or staying close to home, athletes like Herrera and Adair show how athletic scholarships impact their futures in profound and diverse ways. For some, the financial aid makes college achievable while for others it strengthens confidence and opens doors to opportunity.

"I think there's a lot of those kids that wouldn't even have pursued coming to college if it wouldn't have been for athletics."

— Gretchen Jones, assistant director of athletics for compliance and student athletic services

Administrators say the benefits of an athletic scholarship extend beyond sports by contributing to retention, academic engagement and long-term impact toward a career. In each scenario, the scholarship impacted more than an opportunity to continue an athletic career; it helped define a path toward education, independence and possibility.

As Herrera prepares to graduate this fall, the scholarship that once carried him thousands of miles from home now carries him toward a future he once thought might be out of reach – a testimony that proves that for many athletes, an offer is more than a roster spot; it's the start of a new life.

NCAA COLLEGE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS FINANCIAL COMPARISONS AS OF 2024

Graphic by Megan Spray Source: <https://www.debt.org/students/athletic-scholarships/>

D1 ATHLETIC PROGRAMS	D2 ATHLETIC PROGRAMS	AVERAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most competitive programs & award a lot of scholarships 346 colleges classified as D1 Get the majority of NCAA funding 106,536 D1 student athletes received some form of financial aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically smaller universities & offer fewer scholarships 307 colleges classified as D2 71,306 D2 student athletes received some form of financial aid 	<p>Each year there's around 180,000 athletic scholarships granted in the NCAA D1 & D2 programs</p> <p>D1 ATHLETES Average athletic scholarships for all sports in D1</p> <p>Men: \$14,270 Women: \$15,162</p> <p>D2 ATHLETES Average athletic scholarships for all sports in D2</p> <p>Men: \$14,270 Women: \$15,162</p>

FEATURE

Athletes have many superstitions

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

When it comes to sports, the weirdest parts of people tend to show. From super fans to players in the game, everyone has their own superstitions. I have a few superstitions of my own.

One of mine is that when my favorite hockey team—the New Jersey Devils—play, I must have been or be wearing something from merchandise or their colors all day.

I know what I do has no effect on these people, but when I do it,

the team wins more games.

Many players eat the same meals before every game. The most consistent I've heard is players eating pasta and chicken.

Luke Hughes from the New Jersey Devils has said he even takes a two-hour nap before games.

There are players who take things a little further, however, like Connor Bedard who doesn't let anyone touch his hockey stick once he has it tapped.

He places his stick against the wall with the blade not touching the ground, and no one can touch it until game time.

A Hall of Fame goaltender, Patrick Roy, would have conversations with his goalposts.

Another goalie, Eddie "The Eagle" Belfour, wouldn't let anyone touch any article of his equipment. This superstition was so strong that he was known to threaten anyone who came near or touched his equipment.

The legendary Wayne Gretzky would apply baby powder to his stick before games. He refused to have his hair cut while on the road.

He also had a specific order he put his equipment on. In warm-ups he would purposely miss his

first shot on net wide right. Following warm-ups, he would drink Diet Coke, water, Gatorade, then another Diet Coke.

Sidney Crosby must have each stick cut to a specific length and taped in a specific way.

Many other players have a superstition regarding being the last to leave warm-ups, which leads to some serious stand-offs before games start.

Hockey isn't the only sport to have superstitions either. Patrick Mahomes, who plays for the Kansas City Chiefs football, has admitted to wearing the same pair of red underwear for every game

of his professional career.

In the NBA, there are superstitions regarding lucky clothing and some odd rituals that are believed to influence performance and secure wins.

One of the most well-known is Michael Jordan wearing his college shorts under his NBA uniform.

LeBron James does his chalk toss.

On top of this, many players have a free throw routine they do when they have to shoot them.

Make sure to share your superstitions with us at nwnews@nwosu.edu.

Sidenote:

Your success can be measured in multiple ways

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

What does success look like? How do we measure it? Is success just passing a test, getting the grade, or is it something more? Does success change something within us or just change what's around us?

Everyone says that they are rooting for you to succeed, but what does that mean? No one can tell you. It's different for every-

one.

For some people, success could be getting a stable job. For others, it could be having a family.

Success isn't all about what you do to get a good paying job. It can mean so much more than that to someone. Why are we trying to limit what success is?

Success is all about the joy you have or get from something. Who can tell you that you aren't succeeding if you are happy?

Your joy is how you measure

your success. Let people talk; let them say whatever they want about you. You know your truth; you know what path you are on when no one else does.

You don't have to know it all, have it all or be famous to be successful. When you think about the most successful people in your life, what is the one thing they all have in common?

One thing I've noticed about those people I look up to — and the one thing I can connect between all of them — is that they

all have joy for what they do.

It doesn't matter to them how much money they make or what they can do to get the attention of others; they do the things they do because it brings them joy.

They do things because they want to give back, not because they want to be seen by someone.

Success cannot be measured because it doesn't look the same for anyone; a 70 on an assignment could be someone's great, and it could be another person's failure.

Why do we attempt to mea-

sure what cannot be measured? Why are we trying to reason with something that has no place being measured?

We may be in the middle of our success story; we could be starting it, or we could be seeing the results of it. Keep succeeding, keep pushing.

Your success is up to you, control it. Make your story one that the world won't ever forget, and make the world see you and know that you have joy in being successful.

Many movies choose OK for setting

By **MEGAN SPRAY**
Senior Reporter

Over time, Oklahoma has become a recognizable filming location for major television series and films.

From tornado-themed blockbusters to crime dramas and historical films, the state of Oklahoma continues to attract production companies looking for realistic settings.

One of the most recognizable Oklahoma-based films is "Twister," released in 1996. According to the Oklahoma Film and Music Office, the film was shot across several locations in Oklahoma and helped bring national attention to the states' storm-prone landscape. Production of the film also contributed to tourism interests connected to filming locations.

Nearly three decades later, filmmakers returned to Oklahoma for the sequel "Twisters." Oklahoma Film and Music Office stated that principal photography began in Oklahoma City on May 8, 2023, and continued across multiple communities statewide. The production generated more than \$117 million in economic impact.

The film also involved local workers and businesses through-

out the process. State officials reported that the production used local film infrastructure and provided training opportunities for Oklahoma residents interested in film careers, according to the Oklahoma Film and Music Office. These projects demonstrate how large productions rely on both natural settings and local support systems.

Television has also contributed to Oklahoma's growing presence in the entertainment industry. Season one of the crime drama "Tulsa King" filmed across several Oklahoma cities, including Tulsa, Oklahoma City and Bethany. Filming lasted nearly six months and used both outdoor locations and indoor soundstages, according to the Oklahoma Film and Music Office.

The series became one of the largest scripted television projects produced in Oklahoma under the state's film incentive program. Hundreds of local jobs were created during filming, including positions for crew members and support staff, according to the Oklahoma Film and Music Office. These types of productions help establish consistent employment opportunities within the state's media industry.

Historical storytelling has also played a role in Oklahoma's film growth. The feature film "Killers

of the Flower Moon" was filmed entirely in Oklahoma, including locations in Pawhuska, Bartlesville and Fairfax. Filming began in April 2021 and recreated events tied to the Osage Nation during the 1920s, according to the Film and Music Office.

The production of "Killers of the Flower Moon" had a significant statewide impact. Officials reported more than \$127 million in direct spending during filming, along with additional economic activity generated across local businesses, according to the Oklahoma Film and Music Office. The project also created hundreds of career opportunities and background roles for Oklahoma residents.

In the article from Oklahoma Film and Music Office, Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell shared his take on the film being based in Oklahoma. "The production has changed the film landscape in Oklahoma, signifying to the global motion picture industry what can be accomplished here," Pinnell said. Also included in the article is how the film contributed to the largest economic impact the state has ever seen from a film.

The promotion of Oklahoma as a filming destination is highly considered because of its diverse landscapes and community involvement. Plains, small towns

and historic sites allow productions to create settings that match both modern and historical storylines, according to the Oklahoma Film and Music Office. These features provide filmmakers with flexibility when planning projects across different genres.

As additional productions choose Oklahoma for filming, the state's film industry continues to expand. Large-scale movies and television series bring attention to local communities while also supporting workforce development and business growth. With continued investment and successful projects, Oklahoma remains an active location in the national film and television industry.

Recent movies made in OK

- "I Can Only Imagine" (2018): Filmed in and around Oklahoma City and nearby cities
- "Stillwater" (2021): Filmed in Oklahoma and Marseilles.
- "Sick Girl" (2023): Filmed in Oklahoma
- "Reagan" (2024): Filmed in Guthrie

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ENTERTAINMENT

A short story

'Raindrops on Concrete Ground'

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

It was rainy outside the Seminole Memorial hospital. Jack knew he shouldn't stare out the window. He knew that the rain made him feel down whenever he saw it, made him think about everything he could have been. Despite this, the balding man found himself staring out the window of his hospital room. There was just something so alluring about being so high up from God's Earth.

Hope sat down beside him. She was reading from her Bible that had been passed down to her from her Great-Aunt Martha. The hardback cover had small cracks and creaks from years of usage. "Henry said he'd come and see you today," she said.

"When?" Jack asked.

"At noon."

"Ah."

He stared out the window. It was pouring harder now. The wind was blowing, pushing the trees aside like they were pests

swarming around a picnic.

"They said the baby will be due in a week," Hope said suddenly.

"Who?"

"Who do you think? Henry and Barbra. Did you forget?"

"I suppose I did."

She looked at him, placing her book down. Her eyes were filled with concern. "You sure you don't need me to get the nurse?"

Jack waved his hand. "Not much she can do. I'm already dying."

"I wish you wouldn't say that."

"Why? Am I fibbing? Look at me, Hope. Look at me and tell me I'm not dying."

"Still, you know what it does to me when you say it like that, like it's nothing."

Jack turned back to the window. "We both knew this was coming. The doctor said I could die tomorrow."

"Could die. We don't know for sure. There's still a chance you could ..."

"Don't. We both know what's gonna happen."

She glared at him. "How can you say

that?! Are you that eager to die?!"

Jack looked up at the gray ceiling. "This family's cursed. We've been cursed for a while now. I don't know if it's God's will, the Devil's, or something else man hasn't discovered. But I know it, you know it, everyone left alive in this family knows it. We just don't say it out loud."

Hope backed away from his bed. "What the hell are you talking about?"

Jack laughed, flashing his wife a toothy grin. "You still want to pretend you don't know? Even on my deathbed, you won't even give me the courtesy of admitting it?" He turned his head from her. "Fine, be that way then. Not like I blame ya. For as long as I can remember, I've been pretending as well."

"Jack, sweetheart, you're scaring me."

Jack turned to look at her, his cheery expression replaced with one of surprise. "You're serious? You genuinely don't know what I'm talking about?"

"No, I really don't." Hope said in a meek, soft voice.

Jack sat there for a couple minutes.

Then, just as Hope was about to call for the nurse, he threw his head back and laughed. It was a hearty laugh, the kind Hope had not heard from him since their youth.

"What's so funny?" she asked, feeling a mix of worry and irritation.

"Ah, look at me, talking all silly-like." Jack said, his gruff, deep voice taking on a more gentle tone. "I'm sorry for worrying you, dear. It's this new medicine the doc's got me on. Can't think straight."

"Oh, I..." Hope paused. "Y...you're all right, Jack." She turned to look at the white clock on the wall behind Jack's bed. "It's half-passed 11. You want me to get you something from..."

"Nah, I'm good. You go on ahead."

Jack watched as she left. He thought to himself if he should tell her. Even if he didn't have the courage to tell her out loud, maybe he could write it down, a will that she and the rest of the remaining family could read once he was safe in the ground. By the time she returned, he decided against it. After all, even if they knew, there was nothing they could do about it.

Are concerts worth experiencing despite the cons?

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

Since we recently had a concert here at Northwestern, I figured it would only be fair that I should make an article this week talking about it.

They are not as popular as movies and musicals in our modern-day world. See, movies are often seen by today's youth be-

cause they can just sit from the comfort of their own home instead of paying a huge amount of money to go to a place and see it live.

Musicals, on the other hand, while sometimes only being available in person, are known for their ability to uplift people's moods and make them feel uplifted once they leave the theater.

But what about concerts? After all, they are a lot like musicals,

the only difference being the type of music that is played. Concerts are for all types of people, from those who love classical music to metalheads. Yet, they do not seem as popular as films and musicals.

One of the most negative connotations associated with concerts is how loud they can be. This is a common complaint, especially coming from those who suffer from sensitive hearing.

As someone who suffers from this as well and thus dislikes big crowds, I can say concerts can make me feel like my head is stuck with a bunch of pots and pans in a dryer. Despite this, I would still say it is an experience everyone should expose themselves to at least once in their life.

Concerts can feel a bit over-

whelming to the more introverted of our society. See, the magic of live concerts is how it feels like you are living in the moment.

When you go to a live concert, you are essentially experiencing history right in front of you. In a world where many of us are shut away in our homes scrolling endlessly on your phone, concerts are a nice way of getting out in the world every now and then.

I am not saying you need to go to a concert at least once a month, quite the opposite

I think you should attend a concert no more than once or twice a year. If you go as often as possible, then the experience will seem less special. When that happens, people stop appreciating the privilege of even being able to do

said event.

You have to remember, fellow reader, all that is happening in the world right now; wars are being started, families in countries being invaded are praying every night that their loved ones will live to see the next day; everything is expensive; and political tension between average citizens is higher than it has ever been.

There is already so much pain and fear in the world. People sometimes need to escape from it.


Concerts are a good way for people to do exactly that. You could even meet life-minded people there and have even more experiences.

It is in this way concerts are so-well known for how they bring people together.

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King Cabbage Brass Band



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

King Cabbage made their appearance Tuesday night at Northwestern's Concert Series. King Cabbage is a brass band founded in the summer of 2021 at Crybaby Hill, Tulsa's honky-tonk celebration.

SPORTS

Rangers win three of eight

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The Rangers had eight games over the break, ending with three wins and five losses to the Rangers' record, just over halfway through the season.

The Rangers faced two GAC teams in three-game series and Panhandle State twice.

Southern Arkansas was their first opponent. Their games fell on March 13 and 14. The Rangers won the second game of the three-game series 7-5. Game one against Southern Arkansas ended in extra innings. Game three was a 13-3 loss.

In game one against the Muleriders, the Rangers were able to gain an early, large lead. They scored four in the second inning and two in the third. Unfortunately, Southern Arkansas scored one in the first and three in the third, only giving the Rangers a two-run lead. The Muleriders cut the lead down to just one in the following inning.

By the end of the fifth, the game was tied at seven. NWOSU was able to score twice in the sixth to earn their lead back. Then, in the sixth, the Muleriders scored three runs to take the lead for themselves by one. The two teams traded runs in the eighth, starting the ninth with the score 10-11. In the top of the ninth, Alex Dabrowski stole home to tie the game at 11, sending the game into extra innings.

In the tenth, the Muleriders had a walkoff run to win the game, defeating the Rangers 12-11.

Cole Barton had three hits and two runs scored. Blake Mattern had three RBIs and two hits. Altogether, the Rangers' pitchers only



NWOSU Athletics Photo

NWOSU Ranger, No. 13, Alex Dabrowski, slides back to first base as the Monticello defense tries to get him out.

had three strikeouts throughout the game. Elias Herrera had the most with two.

Game two against the Muleriders ended in a NWOSU win.

The Rangers were able to outscore the Muleriders in every inning but the third.

Brody Harris hit a sacrifice fly to left field, sending Joel Lindahl home and give the Rangers the lead.

Southern Arkansas scored four runs in the third inning, giving them a three-run lead.

In the following inning, the Rangers tied it. Jason McCarty hit a single to the middle sending Chase Gordon home. Then, the Mulerider pitcher walked the next two Ranger batters with the bases loaded, giving NWOSU two free runs.

In the sixth, Mattern hit a sin-

gle up the middle sending McCarty home. Then, Barton hit a groundout to shortstop, allowing Dabrowski to run home and score.

In the seventh inning, McCarty hit a sacrifice fly to centerfield, sending Gordon home. The Muleriders scored one run in the bottom of the seventh, but it wasn't enough.

Mattern, Gordon and McCarty had two hits apiece. McCarty and Mattern both had two RBIs. Logan Sandoval pitched for six innings and had two strikeouts and walked three.

In game three against Southern Arkansas, the Rangers scored twice in the first. Despite this, the Muleriders flipped it, and ended the game in a run-rule after they got a 10-run lead over the Rangers. NWOSU had nine hits.

Matthew Bailey, Lindahl and McCarty each had two. Bailey had two RBIs. Alex Figueroa had the most strikeouts for the Ranger pitchers with two.

After the tough loss against the Muleriders, the Rangers turned around and took it out on Panhandle State, where they defeated the Aggies 21-11.

Northwestern scored four in the second, seven in the third, two in the fourth, fifth and sixth and then scored four more in the eighth to force a run rule on the Aggies.

Barton and Gordon both hit homeruns to help the Rangers win. Gordon had four hits, five runs and four RBIs in his five at-bats. Lindahl and McCarty had three hits, McCarty also had four RBIs.

Karter Simon and Figueroa

had two strikeouts and one walk apiece.

After putting a beatdown on the Aggies, the Rangers stayed home to play against the University of Arkansas at Monticello. The Boll Weevils are currently the best team in the GAC, so the Rangers had a tough three games ahead of them.

Tough is exactly what those games were. The Rangers were outscored throughout the weekend 28-6. The Boll Weevils won all three games, two of them by more than seven. Despite the fact that the games were tough, the Rangers still found some success. Dabrowski had three hits in game one, and scored the only run in the game for the Rangers. In game two, Sandoval pitched for five innings and had eight strikeouts, and in game three, Nathan Nunez and Kaden Spray had four strikeouts apiece, so despite the losses, NWOSU was successful in some ways.

The Rangers faced Panhandle state once again on Tuesday, but this time they were in Goodwell. Northwestern defeated the Aggies 14-3, ending in a run rule again.

The Rangers scored an amazing 12 runs in the fifth and sixth innings combined. There was no real star hitter in the second facoff against the Aggies, as no Ranger had more than two hits. Despite that, Dabrowski had four RBIs and McCarty had three. Kyle Holzer threw three strikeouts in the five innings he pitched.

After the end of spring break, the Rangers sit 10th in the GAC standings, above East Central and below Southwestern. Their next games will be against last place, Southern Nazarene on Friday and Saturday.

Rodeo tops steer wrestling, Men's golf tops GAC teams over break finishes high in Fort Scott

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

Many Rangers finished high in the results of the Fort Scott Community College rodeo, with the steer wrestling event being the best for Northwestern competitors.

The Fort Scott rodeo took place on the first weekend of spring break, March 13-15 in Fort Scott, Kansas. Both teams finished off in the top five of the team standings at the end of the weekend. The men finished in 4th with 340 points. The women finished 3rd with 105 points.

In the tie down event, Hazen Sparks finished in 5th with 60 points. Carter Anderson finished 8th with 35 points.

Bleu Hall was the highest

Lady Ranger in the breakaway. Hall finished 4th with 85 points.

Payton Dingman finished 3rd in the goat tying event, she had 100 points. Tyra Tsosie finished 8th with 20 points.

In the steer wrestling event, five out of the eight points-scorers were from Northwestern, with the top three being Rangers. Tydon Tsosie finished 1st with 140 points. Nathan Duvall was 2nd with 120 points. Emmett Edler finished 3rd with 90 points. Grady Aasby finished 6th with 50 points, and Samuel Daly finished 7th with 25 points scored.

Sage Bader finished 4th in the team roping event. He and another roper from Oklahoma State had 90 points. Colter Snook finished 9th with the help of a roper from Western Oklahoma State, they scored 10 points.

Men's golf had a tournament over the break as the trudge through the season continues.

The men competed in the Oak Tree Invitational on March 16-17 in Edmond. The Rangers finished 13th with a score of +63. They competed against five other GAC teams, and beat two of them, East Central and Southern Nazarene.

Zac Farmer was the highest placing Ranger. Farmer finished in 37th with a score of +14.

Chris Xiao finished 52nd with

a score of +16. An-chieh Tsai finished 60th with a score of +17.

Mathieu Zerwin and Pierce Geminden finished with the same score. The two finished in 72nd with scores of +20.

Max Courange finished 82nd with a score of +24.

The next tournament for the men will be the Tommy Riggs Collegiate Invitational in Pittsburg, Kansas on March 30-31.

After the Tommy Riggs Invitational, the men will head off to play in the Great American Conference Championships.

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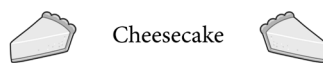
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SPORTS

Softball's season starts to suffer

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The Northwestern softball team lost six of their eight games over the break, lowering their record to 10-21.

Their first three games were against Southern Arkansas University at home, followed by three away games against Arkansas-Monticello.

After the road trip, the Ladies came home to play Fort Hays State University in a doubleheader on Tuesday.

The Lady Rangers were swept by the Muleriders, losing all three games. The first game went into extra innings, but the weekend slowly got worse. Their final game against the nationally-ranked Muleriders ended in an 11-0 loss.

Northwestern was able to take down the Cotton Blossoms on Friday in the second game of the doubleheader. Their win was a two-run, 3-1 win over Monticello. The Cotton Blossoms were able to take down the Lady Rangers in the other two games played.

At home on Tuesday, the Lady Rangers lost to Fort Hays in the first game of the doubleheader which went into extra innings. In the second game, the Tigers were taken down 6-2 in a Lady Ranger win.

In the first, tight game against the Muleriders, the Lady Rangers took an early lead in the first inning after Raelynn Sandlin was walked with the bases loaded. After two scoreless innings, Southern Arkansas finally responded and tied the game at one.

In the fifth, the Lady Rangers scored thrice with a homerun from Jamie Molina to take her and Kaylee Madden home, and a hit from Jazmine Mikel. After the hit from Mikel, there was an error from Southern Arkansas, allowing Giselle Baumbach to run home and score.

In the following inning, Southern Arkansas scored five runs to take the lead by two. Then in the bottom half of the sixth, the Lady Rangers scored three more times after a hit from Delaynie Esterly sent two runners home and a hit from Taygan Graham sent Esterly home, giving the Lady Rangers the lead by one.

The Muleriders tied it in the seventh, and then scored in the extra eighth inning. Northwestern was unable to respond in the bottom of the eighth, and Southern Arkansas won the game 8-7.

Kaitlyn Corn and Sandlin both had two hits apiece. Molina and Esterly had two RBIs apiece. Chloe Brown pitched all eight innings, having two strikeouts and five walks.

The next two games for NWO-SU were rough, as Southern Arkansas allowed only one point scored from the Lady Rangers in both games combined. The one run scored was scored by Corn after a hit from Molina in the second game of the series.

The following games against Monticello were much closer, and gave the Lady Rangers a win.

In game one against the Cotton Blossoms, the Lady Rangers scored first.

In the second, Corn hit a sacrifice fly to send Mikel home. Monticello responded with three runs



Photo by Oaklee Fielder

Lady Ranger pitcher, Chloe Brown, throws a pitch in game two against Fort Hayes State University on Tuesday.

scored in the fourth. In the following inning, NWOSU scored one run to make it a close game. Sandlin made a hit and Molina was able to run home.

The Lady Rangers scored again to tie it in the following inning. An error from the catcher allowed Corn to run home and tie the game at 3.

In the bottom half of the sixth, the Cotton Blossoms scored a homerun to score the winning run and topped the Lady Rangers 4-3.

The Ladies did win the second game of the three-game series after a long, low-scoring game.

Monticello scored in the first,

giving them an early, one-run lead. The game continued scoreless until the final inning, where Aspen Loafman hit a homerun to take her and Katelyn Bezdicek home, taking the lead by one.

Then, Corn hit a homerun to give the Lady Rangers a two-run lead in the final inning. The Cotton Blossoms couldn't answer the call, and they lost to Northwestern 3-1.

In the third game, the Lady Rangers only scored once in a game that echoed the game before. Northwestern scored first, Monticello then scored three times in one inning, winning the game

3-1. The one run scored by Northwestern was a sacrifice fly from Esterly to send Madden home in the first.

The Lady Rangers lost to Fort Hays State University in the first game of the doubleheader 12-9. After the loss, the Lady Rangers turned it around and won the second game 6-2.

Northwestern sits 11th in the standings, above East Central and below Southwestern. Their next opponent, Southern Nazarene, is fifth. The Lady Rangers will face SNU of Friday and Saturday in Bethany.

Women's golf beats two conference rivals

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The women competed on Monday and Tuesday in the Hardscrabble Invitational in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The Lady Rangers finished 8th out of the 14 teams

that played. They had a score of +134. There were four other GAC teams playing, the Lady Rangers beat two, Arkansas-Monticello and Southern Nazarene.

Tess Linden was the best-playing Lady Ranger. Linden finished 9th with a score of +20. Gracie Doke finished 16th with a score

of +25.

Amanda Lane finished 47th with a score of +40. Kelsey Hoy-Pollard finished 60th with a score of +49. Heather Hunkele rounded out the Northwestern golfers as she finished 68th with a score of +56.

The next tournament for the women will be the ABC Supply Invitational on March 30, hosted by NWOSU.

Outdoor season opens in San Antonio, Texas

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

Easton Hamar led the men in the 200m as he finished 9th with a time of 21.35.

Hamar led the men in the 400m as well, finishing 16th with a 49.36.

Travon Johns finished 9th in the 400m hurdles with a time of 1:00.97.

Julian Vess finished 21st in the 800m with a time of 1:59.44. Jamarina Ross finished 21st with a time of 2:26.18.

Cox finished 2nd in the 5000m with a time of 15:47.05. Ross finished 2nd in the women's with a time of 18:37.68.

Brock Bourgeois finished 6th in the shot put with a distance of 15.97m. Brianna Behrendt finished 16th with a distance of 13.09m.

Daniel Becerra finished 16th

in the hammer throw with a distance of 35.39m. Mercedes Glover finished 6th with a distance of 50.33m.

Bourgeois finished 14th in the discus throw with a distance of 43.98m. Behrendt finished 9th with a distance of 45.36.

In the javelin, Ethan Burns finished 11th with a distance of 44.41m. Kaylan Swindle finished 9th in the women's with a distance of 34.41m.

Trevon Hodge finished 9th in the long jump with a distance of 7.11m. Darianne Thompson finished 16th with a distance of 5.04m.

Zachary Bentley finished 7th in the high jump with a height of 1.80m. Monique Cook finished 19th with a height of 1.50m.

T'Antrae Thomas finished 9th in the triple jump with a distance of 14.28m. Jenesis Tomlinson finished 3rd with a distance of 11.24m.

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Come In And Fill Out An Application

What did you do for Spring Break?



Photo by Jessica Schieber

Jessica Schieber, NWNews editor-in-chief, extended her Spring Break a few days to be able to watch her favorite hockey team, the New Jersey Devils, take on the Dallas Stars on Tuesday at the Dallas American Airlines Center. Here the Devils warm up before the game, which they won 6-4.



NWNews photo editor Ingrid Maldonado, back right, snapped this photo with her phone of the three bridesmaids in back and bride Tate Princ, center, while getting ready for the wedding in Sharon Springs, Kansas. Maldonado was the maid of honor.



Photo by Allison Ruwaldt

Allison Ruwaldt, a media and communications major, and her friend Andrea Rosas, a biology major, visited New Orleans for Spring break.



Photo by Victor Kinzie

The BCM group saw an alligator in the water of the Sabine River in Louisiana while on their trip.



Photo by Allison Ruwaldt

Andrea Rosas, a sophomore biology major shown here, and Allison Ruwaldt, a NWNews student reporter, visited New Orleans for Spring Break. They decided Jimmy J's Cafe, located in the French Quarter, had the best beignets in town.



Photo by Tobie Moore

BCM members work on a service project in Lake Charles, Louisiana, during Spring Break. NWNews photographer and ad manager Victor Kinzie is at far left. Edna Riojas, a psychology major, smiles for the camera at right.