

What's Happening

January 16, 2026

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NOC named Tonkawa “Business of the Year”



NOC was named the Tonkawa Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Thursday night at the Renfro Center. Pictured (L-R): Anita Simpson, Audrey Schmitz, Renna Bowers, Sandy Mulligan, Brad Purdy, President Diana Morris, Sheri Snyder, Cany Oller, Ciera Kirby, Dr. Shelly Mencacci, Kyle Smith, Jalana Cloud, Scott Cloud, Mark Tarrant, Dr. Rick Edgington.

Mavs vs. Jets at Enid on Tuesday

The NOC Tonkawa at NOC Enid basketball games set for Monday, Jan. 19, have been re-scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Mabee Center in Enid.

The women's game between the Lady Mavs (5-11) and Lady Jets (11-4) tips off at 5:30 p.m. while the Mavs (10-7) and Jets (13-5) will tip at 7:30 p.m.

The game will be available on livestream at <https://www.noc.edu/athletics-2/streaming/>



NAPA's Jeremy Owen presented NOC with the Tonkawa Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Thursday night at the 2026 Tonkawa Chamber of Commerce Banquet. Pictured (L-R): Sandy Mulligan, Audrey Schmitz, Mark Tarrant, NAPA's Jeremy Owen, Sheri Snyder, Scott Cloud, President Diana Morris, Renna Bowers, Anita Simpson, Candy Oller, Ciera Kirby, Dr. Rick Edgington, Stacy Burns.

NOC recognized by Tonkawa Chamber of Commerce at banquet

Northern Oklahoma College was named Tonkawa Chamber of Commerce “Business of the Year” at the chamber banquet at the Renfro Center Thursday night.

President Diana Morris said, “It was incredibly gratifying to see the outstanding work the NOC team does each and every day (and night!) recognized by the Tonkawa Chamber of Commerce. I try to tell our Stacutly often how amazing I think they are, but it’s nice for them to receive the external validation as well. The award coming as NOC celebrates 125 years of providing higher education in the Tonkawa community was icing on the cake!”

The following is the narrative read by NAPA’s Jeremy Owen, the 2024 Business of the Year Award Winner recognizing NOC as the Business of the Year.

“Northern Oklahoma College, the State of Oklahoma’s first public community college, has been a pillar of access, opportunity, and service since its founding in 1901. As a multi-campus, land-grant institution, NOC remains dedicated to providing high-quality, accessible, and affordable educational opportunities that create life-changing experiences and prepare students to be effective learners and leaders in their communities within an ever-changing, connected world.

Today, Northern Oklahoma College serves nearly 3,100 students through its campuses in Tonkawa and Enid, the NOC/OSU Gateway Program in Stillwater, and the University Center in Ponca City. NOC’s commitment to affordability and student success is evident: approximately 80 percent of its students receive financial aid and/or scholarships, and an impressive 75 percent complete their degrees with zero student debt. These outcomes reflect the

college’s long-standing focus on removing barriers and expanding opportunity for students from all backgrounds.

Northern Oklahoma College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and offers associate degrees in the areas of Arts, Science, and Applied Science. Its academic excellence is further demonstrated through specialized accreditations, including the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. These recognitions underscore NOC’s commitment to quality instruction, accountability, and workforce relevance.

As NOC approaches a historic milestone—celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2026—the college remains firmly grounded in the mission that has guided it for more than a century. That mission continues to shape not only the institution’s future, but the future of the communities it serves.

Northern Oklahoma College deeply values its relationship with the City of Tonkawa and the Tonkawa area community. That partnership has been vital to NOC’s success and growth, and the college remains committed to strengthening and investing in the community it proudly calls home.

NOC’s impact has also been recognized nationally through a transformational \$17 million unrestricted gift from philanthropist Mackenzie Scott. This investment affirms confidence in NOC’s mission and will help ensure continued strength and opportunity for both the college and the Tonkawa community.

Simply stated, a strong Northern Oklahoma College means a strong Tonkawa—and a stronger future for generations to come.”



Join us at
**NORTHERN
ENCOUNTER**

January 21, 2026 in the Renfro Center

***A day for high school juniors, seniors and their guests
to get an up-close look at what Northern has to offer.***

*Discover Programs, Services,
Clubs and Organizations*

Take a Campus Tour

Meet Faculty and Students

**FREE T-Shirt
& Door Prizes**
Including Tuition Waivers



Registration
9:00-9:30 am
Event 9:30-11:30 am

**SCAN CODE
TO REGISTER**



Contact:
Alondra Becerra
580.628.6668

Tonkawa hosts Northern Encounter Wednesday, Jan. 21 at Renfro

Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa will host a Northern Encounter recruiting event on Wednesday, Jan. 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Renfro Center, giving prospective students an inside look at life and opportunities at NOC.

Designed for high school juniors, seniors, and their guests, Northern Encounter offers an engaging, hands-on experience that showcases what makes Northern Oklahoma College a welcoming and life-changing place to learn. Participants will enjoy door prizes, free SWAG,

a guided campus tour, opportunities to meet with faculty and staff, and a drawing for tuition waivers.

Registration begins at 9 a.m., with the program starting promptly at 9:30 a.m. Students can register online at www.noc.edu.

Northern Encounter allows students and families to explore academic programs, campus resources, and the supportive environment that helps NOC students succeed both in and out of the classroom.

Staculty January Birthdays



Michael Earl	Jan. 1	Suzi Brown	Jan. 15
Dino Rosato	Jan. 4	Adam Kowalski	Jan. 24
Hertin Moses	Jan. 5	Madison Barnes	Jan. 25
Lachelle Bryant	Jan. 6	Kyle Mayo	Jan. 25
Darci Douglass	Jan. 6	Lindsey Copley	Jan. 27
Heather Lott	Jan. 7	Karri Morrill	Jan. 28
Sarah Taylor	Jan. 10	Valarie Wade	Jan. 28
Bart Cardwell	Jan. 11	Malik Owdtollah	Jan. 29
Holly Lee	Jan. 13	Bridget Napoli	Jan. 30
Michael Machia	Jan. 13	Alene Pitts	Jan. 30

NORTHERN OKLAHOMA COLLEGE

ROUSTABOUTS

Homecoming Show

2026

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 | 7:30 PM

KPAC | DINEO HEILMANN AUDITORIUM

NOC TONKAWA

FREE ADMISSION

DMI students participate in 48-Hour Film Competition this weekend

Northern Oklahoma College Digital Media Institute (DMI) program students will be participating in the 48-hour film competition Friday – Sunday.

During the competition, students create a five-minute video in a 48-hour period using a random line of dialogue given to students at the beginning of the 48-hour period.

The 48-hour period begins Friday at 6 p.m.

According to DMI program director Brad Matson, “The film festival is demanding and

encourages a high level of creativity and efficiency in production.”

All brainstorming, filming, editing, special effects and rendering must be done within the 48-hour period. Films may include sound, dialogue and music.

Each film has a crew that includes a director and a number of team members.

The films will be screened Sunday afternoon at 6 p.m.

PTK hosting blanket event Jan. 29

The NOC Tonkawa Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society is sponsoring a ‘Knot Blanket Making’ project on Thursday, Jan. 29, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Renfro Center.

All students are welcome to participate with quilted blankets donated to the local children’s shelter. Students are encouraged to bring community service forms for hours served.

Donations of 1.5 yards of fabric and fleece blankets are needed. Each blanket will be made with two blankets of the same size or two pieces of 1.5 yard of fabric.

Pizza, cookies, and drinks will be provided

Tonkawa Homecoming Calendar

Jan. 20 - Homecoming Voting – Student Affairs Office, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Jan. 21 – Homecoming Voting – Student Affairs Office, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Jan. 26 --Homecoming Voting – Student Affairs Office, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Homecoming Week – Bonfire – Outside Fieldhouse, 8 p.m.

Jan. 27 --Homecoming Voting – Student Affairs Office, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Jan. 28 – Homecoming Wrestling Dual, 6 p.m.

Homecoming 5th Quarter – Immediately Following Dual– Wellness Center
(Food, games, mechanical bull)

Jan. 29 – Homecoming Roustabout Show, KPAC, 7:30 p.m.

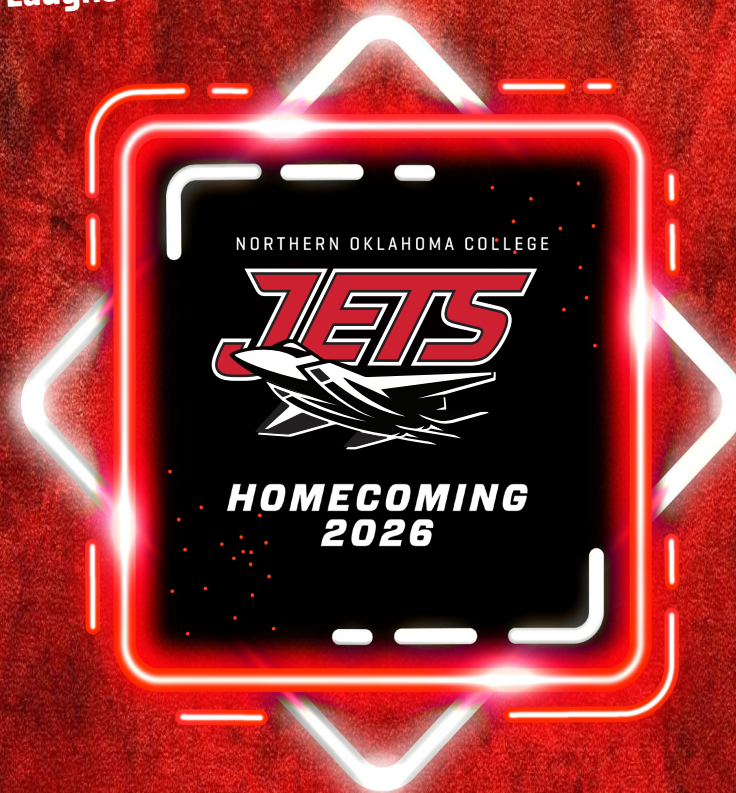
HOMEcoming WEEK ACTIVITIES

Tuesday | February 3

JET-FUELED FUN
7 pm, Briggs Auditorium
Skits and Laughs

Wednesday | February 4

S'MORE FUN!
7 pm at Sand Volleyball Courts
S'mores and Hot Chocolate



Students may pick up their **FREE HOMEcoming SHIRT** at the Home Basketball Games on January 29.
For more information, contact Chance Blackdeer, 580.548.2344 or chance.blackdeer@noc.edu.

Thursday | February 5 | Mabee Center

HOMEcoming BASKETBALL GAMES

VS EASTERN OKLAHOMA

5:30 pm Women / 7:30 pm Men

Food, Music, Games in the small gym after the game

The NOC Star-Gate

A Weekly Portal to the North Oklahoma Sky
Brought to you by the Bert & Janice Mackey
Planetarium at Northern Oklahoma College

This Week's Viewing Conditions:

The Moon: The moon is currently wanning, and the New Moon will occur on January 18, making conditions great for viewing on clear nights. (Note: the Lunar New Year will be the next New Moon on February 17, 2026.)

Weather: Check the forecast! Clear, cold nights are the best for "seeing" as atmospheric stability is often higher in the winter, making the planets look incredibly sharp. This upcoming week is predicted to be mostly clear in Oklahoma, with moderate temperatures, making it a good time to go outside and view.

Highlights for the Week of Friday, Jan. 16 – Jan. 23, 2026

This Week – As it is predicted to be clear, it would be a good time to practice spotting the constellations. The planet Jupiter is still putting on a show and it is clearly visible next to the "twin" stars of Castor and Pollux. Castor and Pollux are the two bright stars in the zodiac constellation of Gemini and are the "heads" of the twins. Pollux is part of the winter hexagon. Using Jupiter as our marker, as it is easy to see, you will see the two stars; Castor will be the one higher above the horizon. Drop down to Pollux and then look for the bright star Procyon below Pollux, this gives you one side of the hexagon. Sirius, the dog star, Rigel, Orion's foot, Aldebaran, and Capella are the other points of the hexagon.

Aldebaran is the "eye" of the bull in the constellation Taurus. If you have a set of binoculars, you might be able to spot another Messier object, the Orion Nebula (M42)

Astronomical Notes

The Orion Nebula (M42)

The Orion Nebula is considered a star nursery, as astronomers watch the birth of stars inside the massive cloud. The nebula is located about 1,350 light-years away. Using a small telescope or high-powered binoculars, look for the "Trapezium Cluster," four bright stars at the center of the nebula.

Citizen Science Corner: The NOC Challenge

This Week's Mission: The Magnitude Comparison

With the Moon completely out of the way on January 18, Castor and Pollux provide a way to test the light pollution levels in your area.

- The Task: Locate Castor and Pollux in Gemini. While they are called twins, they aren't identical. Pollux is slightly brighter than Castor.
- The Observation: Can you see both stars clearly from your backyard? Now, look for the dimmer stars that make up the "bodies" of the twins stretching back toward Orion.
- The Report: On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being "too bright to see anything but Jupiter" and 5 being "I can see the entire stick-figure of the twins"), how dark is your sky? Email your "Dark Sky Rating" and your location to Astronomy@noc.edu.

Pro Viewing Tip

When viewing faint objects like the Orion Nebula, consider "adapting" your eyesight to the

(See **Star-Gate** on Page 6)



KNOT BLANKET MAKING

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY
ALL ARE WELCOME!!

DONATIONS NEEDED:

1.5 yd fabric
fleece blankets
PIZZA, COOKIES, AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED

29 January
6:00-8:00 pm
@ RENFRO CENTER

Each blanket will be made with either two blankets of the same size or 2 pieces of 1.5 yd fabric.
Blankets will be donated to local children's shelter
Bring community service forms for hours served

Star-Gate

(Continued from Page 5)

night sky and moving away from sources of light pollution. For best viewing, allow yourself some time to adjust to the darkness; the stars will start providing the light for viewing. Avoid looking at your phone or other light sources for at least 15 minutes before trying to locate those faint objects. You can use a red-flash light or your phone's "night mode" to help.

Photo Credit: NOC maintains a license with Slooh to capture images with the Slooh Telescopes. This photograph of the Orion Nebula (M42) was taken through the Slooh Telescopes by Dr. Frankie Wood-Black on January 10, 2026 through the Chile Two Telescope.



NOC Calendar

Jan. 17

DMI 48-Hour Film Competition, Friday-Sunday, Tonkawa

Away Lady Mavs Wrestling at York (NE) Open, 9 a.m.

Away Mavs Wrestling at Ozarks (AR) vs. La. Tech/Ozarks, 9 a.m.

Jan. 18

Home Men's Wrestling vs. Cowley (KS), 3 p.m.

Jan. 19

Martin Luther King Day, No Classes/Offices Closed

Jan. 20

Homecoming Voting, Student Affairs, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tonkawa

Free Lunch, BCM, 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., Tonkawa

Home Lady Jets/Jets Basketball vs. NOC Tonkawa, 5:0 p.m./7 p.m.

Away Lady Mavs/Mavs Basketball vs. NOC

Enid, 5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.

The Gathering, BCM, 8 p.m., Enid

Jan. 21

Homecoming Voting, Student Affairs, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., Tonkawa

Northern Encounter, Renfro Center, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Tonkawa

Free Lunch, Wesley House, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tonkawa

Free BCM Lunch, Gantz Center, 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., Enid

Away Lady Mavs/Mavs Wrestling at Murray State, 6 p.m./7 p.m.

The Gathering, BCM, 7:30 p.m., Tonkawa

Jan. 22

Away Lady Jets/Jets Basketball vs. Seminole, 5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.

Home Lady Mavs/Mavs Basketball vs. Redlands, 5:30p.m./7:30 p.m.

Jan. 23

Final Day to Drop with Full Refund

WELLNESS BINGO

STAND UP AND MOVE EVERY HOUR	DO 3 SETS OF 10 SQUATS	GO ON A WALK WITH A COWORKER DURING BREAK	GET 7-8 HOURS OF SLEEP	TAKE THE STAIRS
SPEND 5 MINUTES IN PRAYER OR MEDITATION	Go for a 15 minute walk	PARK FARTHER AWAY AT THE GROCERY STORE	DRINK 64OZ OF WATER TODAY	Do a strength workout
Have lunch or coffee with a coworker	TAKE 10 MINUTES TO STRETCH TODAY	Free Space	WORKOUT OF YOUR CHOICE	THANK SOMEONE WHO HELPED YOU
EAT A MEAL WITHOUT YOUR PHONE	Pack a healthy lunch today	30 JUMPING JACKS	DO SOMETHING FOR YOURSELF TODAY!	HAVE A SCREEN-FREE NIGHT
Give someone a compliment	DO A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS	EAT A VEGTABLE WITH 2 MEALS TODAY	Write down 3 things you're grateful for	PLAN HEALTHY SNACKS TODAY