



**NORTHERN**  
Oklahoma College  
TONKAWA | ENID | STILLWATER

[www.noc.edu](http://www.noc.edu)

# What's Happening

## February 6, 2026

NOC Public Information Office 580.628.6444

[news@noc.edu](mailto:news@noc.edu), [scott.cloud@noc.edu](mailto:scott.cloud@noc.edu)

# Baker, Davis named Enid Homecoming Royalty

NOC Enid crowned Gloria Baker and Blaine Davis as the 2026 Homecoming queen and king Thursday night at the Mabee Center.

Baker, is sophomore from Pawhuska, Oklahoma studying Athletic Training while Davis is a sophomore Education major from Ft. Cobb, Oklahoma.

Queen candidates included Kenley Lemons and Alyssa Harvey while attendants were Kelt-en Payne and Bryan Williams.

Kenley Lemons represented women's basketball. She is a sophomore from Duncan, Oklahoma, majoring in Behavioral Science. She plans to be a Pediatric Therapist with a minor in Therapy play. She is the daughter of Jake and Sarah Lemons.

She was escorted by Blaine Davis. Davis is a pitcher for the Jets Baseball team. He is a Sophomore from Fort Cobb, Oklahoma majoring Education. He plans to play baseball as long as possible and eventually become a successful coach. He is the son of Elizabeth and Bryce Davis.

Gloria Baker is a sophomore from Pawhuska,

Oklahoma, and is majoring in Athletic Training. Gloria represented Jets Women's Softball. Her career aspirations are to become an Athletic Trainer, a coach, and a teacher. She is the daughter of Tabitha and Randy Baker.

She was escorted by Kelten Payne. Payne is a sophomore from Enid, Oklahoma majoring in Arts Science. He plans to become a Chemical Engineer when he finishes his studies. He represented NOC's Student Government and is an active member of Student Government and the BCM. He is the son of Tangee and Chris Lee.

Alyssa Harvey represented Women's Soccer. She is a sophomore from Duncan, Oklahoma, and is planning to obtain her Kinesiology degree at Southwestern Christian University, while continuing her athletic career. She is the daughter of Brooke and Rob Harvey.

Harvey was escorted by Bryan Williams. He is a sophomore from Midwest City, Oklahoma, majoring in Business, his career aspirations are to become a GM of a sports organization. He is also a member of the Jets Baseball team and the son of Wendy and Bryan Williams.

*More Homecoming Pics on Page 2*



NOC Enid Homecoming King Blaine Davis and Queen Gloria Baker

## Enid Homecoming Queen, King candidates



Blaine Davis and Kenley Lemons



Bryan Williams and Alyssa Harvey



Kelten Payne and Gloria Baker

## Baseball home openers this weekend

Baseball opens this weekend for both Tonkawa and Enid.

The Mavs host Iowa Lakes on Friday afternoon in Ponca City and then on Saturday at noon in Tonkawa. There are doubleheaders each day.

Both Jets and Mavs Softball are in Texas this weekend to open the 2026 season. The Jets face Weatherford and Cisco while the Mavs face Hill on Friday.

A promotional poster for the Northern Oklahoma College Roustabouts Homecoming Show 2026. The poster features a red and black background with a starry effect. The text 'NORTHERN OKLAHOMA COLLEGE' is at the top, followed by 'ROUSTABOUTS' in large, bold, black letters, and 'Homecoming Show' in a cursive script. Below that is the year '2026'. The poster includes three small video stills showing performers on stage: a band, a dance group, and a solo performer.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 | 7:30 PM

KPAC | DINEO HEILMANN AUDITORIUM

NOC TONKAWA

**FREE ADMISSION**

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Northern Oklahoma College Foundation!

**Thank-a-Thon 2026**

**Come and Go**

**Students will call donors, write thank you cards, take photos, record a "Thank You" video, and enjoy some pizza.**

**Scholarship Recipients, You're Invited**

RSVP to Kayla Wooderson  
kayla.wooderson@noc.edu or 580.628.6473

Dear [redacted]  
Thank you for your generous contribution to the Northern Oklahoma College Foundation!

Students will call donors, write thank you cards, take photos, record a "Thank You" video, and enjoy some pizza.

Thank you - Sage Wilcox

## February Staculty Birthdays



Brenda Pennington	Feb. 12
Jeff Ray	Feb. 13
Lauren Kennedy	Feb. 14
Bradley Klump	Feb. 20
Audra Biggs	Feb. 23

Jimmy Dickinson	Feb. 24
Jeremy Hise	Feb. 24
Tony Barnes	Feb. 25
Harley Morton	Feb. 28

**Steinway D  
Concert Grand Piano  
Rededication**

A Four-Hand Concert with local favorite Jerry Steichen and Tulsa native Cathy Venable

**Sunday, February 15, 2026**

Doors open at 7:00 pm | Concert begins at 7:30 pm  
Dineo Heilmann Auditorium  
Kinzer Performing Arts Center  
NOC Tonkawa

Free Event | Open to the Public

**Ancestors and Spirit Guides**  
Paintings by Sharon Allred and Romney Nesbitt  
Join us before the concert in Eleanor Hays Art Gallery located in the lobby of KPAC  
Reception 5:00 - 6:30 pm | Artist's Talks at 5:30 pm

# NOC Piano Re-dedication set for Feb. 15 in the KPAC

Northern Oklahoma College and Tonkawa's extended artistic community are invited to celebrate the rebuilding, return, and re-dedication of NOC's 9-foot Steinway D concert grand piano during a free concert on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026, inside the Dineo Heilmann Auditorium at the Kinzer Performing Arts Center.

Local favorite Jerry Steichen and Tulsa native Cathy Venable will join forces to present a special four-hand piano concert demonstrating the power, flexibility, and virtuosity of the newly refurbished instrument. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the concert beginning at 7:30 p.m.

NOC's 9-foot Steinway concert grand piano has long been a crown jewel of the Kinzer Performing Arts Center since the facility first opened. After more than 25 years of constant use, the instrument was in need of extensive care and maintenance.

"Thanks to the tireless efforts of Emeritus Fine Arts Chair Dineo Heilmann, along with the leadership of President Diana Morris, Vice President for Financial Affairs Anita Simpson, the NOC Fine Arts Division, NOC's Board of Regents, and countless community arts supporters, NOC was able to commit to the refurbishment of this grand instrument," Steichen said.

According to Steichen, the Steinway Company transported the piano in July to its facility in New York, where it underwent a comprehensive restoration. The refurbishment included new tuning pins, strings, hammer action, and felts. The piano's case was sanded and refinished to its original luster, lettering was replaced, and the interior was completely cleaned.

"What gives each grand piano its unique sound is the relationship between the wooden soundboard — the 'soul' of the piano — the

iron plate that bears 18 to 20 tons of string pressure, and the wooden outer frame, which is carefully aged before assembly," Steichen explained. "All of these essential elements were preserved in NOC's piano. It is still our piano — but now with a new and greatly extended life expectancy."

The piano was delivered back to NOC in early January. Steichen noted that newly restored pianos require time to "settle back in" to their environment, followed by repeated tunings and mechanical adjustments before reaching optimal performance condition.

The Feb. 15 program will include Gabriel Fauré's evocative *Dolly Suite*, a four-hand sona-



Jerry Steichen



Cathy Venable

(See Piano on Page 5)

# Ben Johnson Statue

*Hugh and Dr. S.J. Pickens Museum Presents  
the Art of*

## John Dale Free Sr. ≈ Sculptor ≈ and Yatika Starr Fields ≈ Painter ≈



*Ben Johnson Statue*





**Artists' Reception ≈ Come and Go  
Wednesday, February 18 ≈ 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.  
Open to the Public  
Brief Remarks at 1:00 p.m.**



**NOC**

Pickens Learning Commons  
Vineyard Library-Administration Building  
1220 E. Grand Avenue, NOC Tonkawa

Scan Code to Livestream the Event



Livestream at <https://www.noc.edu/athletics-2/streaming/noc-events-streaming/>

# Ben Johnson statue unveiling at Pickens learning Common Feb. 18

A statue for famed actor and rodeo cowboy Ben Johnson will be unveiled on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa.

Johnson's statue, created by sculptor John Dale Free, Sr. and painted by Yatika Starr Fields will be unveiled at the Pickens Learning Commons in the Vineyard Library/Administration Building on Feb. 18, from 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. with brief remarks at 1 p.m. The event is free to the public. The event will be livestreamed by NOC.

The art is sponsored by the Hugh and Dr. S.J. Pickens Museum.

## Ben Johnson

A native of Foraker, Oklahoma, Johnson was an American film and television actor, stuntman, and world-champion rodeo cowboy. Johnson brought authenticity to many roles with his droll manner and expert horsemanship. The son of a rancher, Johnson arrived in Hollywood to deliver a consignment of horses for a film. He did stunt-double work for several years before breaking into acting with the help of director John Ford. Johnson also operated a horse-breeding ranch throughout his career. Although he said he had succeeded by sticking

to what he knew, shrewd real estate investments made Johnson worth an estimated \$100 million by his later years.

## John Dale Free, Sr.

Born in Pawhuska in 1929, John Dale Free grew up on his grandfather's ranch near McAlester, Oklahoma. There, he earned a lifelong admiration of cowboys and the ranching lifestyle. By 1971 he had his first one-man show at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame (now the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum) in Oklahoma City and was becoming recognized for his talent. Many of his creations depicted American Indian subjects, reflecting his Osage/Cherokee heritage. In 1981 Free founded the Bronze Horse Foundry, a fine arts bronze foundry, to provide himself and others a convenient facility for casting their sculptures. This successful enterprise continued into the twenty-first century as a family business under the management of John Dale Free, Jr.

## Yatika Starr Fields

Yatika Starr Fields, is a Painter and Muralist. While attending the Art Institute of Boston

(See Ben Johnson on Page 6)

# Piano

(Continued from Page 4)

ta by Beethoven, an arrangement of Bach's *Sicilienne* from *Flute Sonata BWV 1031*, Piazzolla's *Libertango*, and a jazz-inspired sonata by Russian composer Nikolai Kapustin. Venable and Steichen will also perform solo works. The program will conclude with favorite novelty pieces including Leroy Anderson's *Fiddle Faddle* and Arthur Benjamin's *Jamaican Rumba*.

Earlier that day, the Eleanor Hays Art Gallery will host artists Sharon Allred and Romney Nesbitt for an Artist Talkback at 5 p.m. as their exhibition *Ancestors and Spirit Guides* continues.

Both events are free and open to the public.

**DONOR CHAMPIONS**  
*More than ice in our veins*

**NOC Tonkawa**  
**Blood Drive**

**Thursday, February 12**  
**10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**Student Union**

**Get community service hours for giving blood!**

**STEP UP. GIVE BLOOD. EARN OUR EXCLUSIVE DONOR CHAMPIONS T-SHIRT.\***

877-340-8777 • obi.org  
Photo ID required. \*While supplies last.

**SCAN TO SCHEDULE**

**SCAN TO PLAY**  
*Tip Off Trivia*

**Our Blood Institute**



A statue honoring famed actor and rodeo cowboy Ben Johnson will be unveiled Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa. The statue, created by sculptor John Dale Free Sr. and painted by Yatika Starr Fields, will be displayed in the Pickens Learning Commons at the Vineyard Library/Administration Building. (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC)

## Ben Johnson

(Continued from Page 5)

from 2000 to 2004, he became interested in Graffiti aesthetics, which has been integral to his knowledge and process along with Landscape painting- and continues to influence his large- scale projects and studio works. Fields is from Oklahoma and currently living and working in Tulsa in conjunction with the Tulsa Artist Fellowship. Fields has spent the last decade on the East Coast, New York City and most recently Seattle where the energy of urban life inspires and feeds the creative force in his artwork. He seeks to influence his viewers to rethink and reshape their relationships to the world around them. His canvasses and Murals

are alive with movement and filled with images that rely on vibrant colors and swirling patterns to build narratives that carry the eye.

### Pickens Museum

Pickens Museum is a fine arts museum with exhibition spaces at three locations in North Central Oklahoma: Pickens Learning Commons in the Vineyard Building at Northern Oklahoma College, Pickens Museum at City Central in Ponca City, Oklahoma, and Pickens Art Gallery at Woolaroc Museum in the Osage Hills of Northeastern Oklahoma between Barnsdall and Bartlesville.

# Northern Oklahoma College

*Join us at*

## NORTHERN ENCOUNTER

**ENID**  
February 4 | Gantz Student Center  
E.J. Taylor 580.548.2353

**STILLWATER**  
February 11 | Commons Area  
Janet Jarvis 580.628.6904

**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.**  
**Campus Tours.**  
**Meet Faculty and Students!**

**FREE T-Shirt  
& Door Prizes**

***Including Tuition Waivers***

Registration 9:00-9:30 am  
Event 9:30-11:45 am  
Event Link to Register or Scan QR Code  
<https://d1u0000013v6ouaq.my.salesforce-sites.com/events/#/list>

SCAN CODE  
TO REGISTER



Courtlyn Traxler, a freshman Biological Science/Pre-Med major from Tuttle, was awarded the Leo Canaday Memorial Scholarship for the 2026-27 academic year at Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa. The scholarship honors the legacy of longtime NOC coach and administrator Leo Canaday. (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC)

## Courtlyn Traxler named Leo Canaday Memorial Scholarship winner

The Leo Canaday Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Maverick Women's Basketball Player Courtlyn Traxler as the recipient for the 2026-27 academic year.

Traxler is a freshman Biological Science/Pre-med major from Tuttle, Oklahoma.

Leo Canaday attended Northern Oklahoma Junior College in 1954 and was a member of the Maverick Football team. Leo returned to NOJC in 1963 where he served as Athletic Director and Physical Education Department Chairman for 30 years, retiring in 1993. While at Northern he coached football, men's and women's basketball, track, tennis and golf. His women's basketball teams won seven conference championships, one regional championship, a 3rd place finish at the 1975 National Tournament and were National Champions in 1979. He was named conference Coach of the Year seven times, and was named Regional and National Coach of the Year in 1979. In 2004 he was honored with the Northern Oklahoma College Distinguished Alumni Award.

Following his death in 2004, the Leo Canaday Memorial Scholarship was established by

Leo's wife Pat. Through the generous support of family and friends, this scholarship provides students an opportunity to pursue their educational goals at Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa.

Representing the Canaday family for the presentation were Leo's daughter, Vicki Canaday Hardesty and husband Allen, and their grandson Leo Hardesty.

Assisting the Canaday family in the scholarship certificate presentation were NOC President Diana Morris, Vice President for Development and Community Relations and Foundation Executive Director Sheri Snyder, NOC Athletic Director Alan Foster and Lady Maverick's Head Coach Greg Krause.

Traxler was joined on the court by her parents, Jennifer and Billy Traxler; Grandparents Mark and Tonna Shoffit, and Jack and Barbara Traxler, Sister-in-law and nephew Nicole Traxler and Wyatt Traxler, and her Aunt Rhonda Walker.

"Courtney exemplifies a true student-athlete along with the character traits that Coach Canaday respected," said coach Greg Krause.

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**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**

**February 12** 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**



Northern Oklahoma College men's basketball player Jaxton Bobik was awarded the Jared Weiberg Endowed Memorial Scholarship Monday night prior to the Mavericks' game against Murray State. Bobik, a sophomore from Edmond, received the \$1,000 scholarship honoring the legacy of former NOC Maverick Jared Weiberg. (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC)

## Jaxton Bobik receives Jared Weiberg Memorial Scholarship

Northern Oklahoma College Men's Basketball player Jaxton Bobik was awarded the Jared Weiberg Endowed Memorial Scholarship Monday night before the NOC men faced Murray State.

The Jared Weiberg Endowed scholarship is presented to a walk-on player or student assistant manager of the Maverick Men's Basketball team, or a team member whose qualities include a strong work ethic, loyalty, unselfishness, and a passion for basketball. Bobik is a Sophomore Arts and Sciences Major from Edmond who plays forward for the Maverick basketball team. He will receive a \$1,000 scholarship award.

Presenting the scholarship award certificate were Mick and Vina Weiberg, parents of Jared Weiberg. Mick was the NOC Maverick Men's Basketball Coach from 1987 until he retired from coaching the Mavs in 2006. Assisting with

the presentation were NOC President, Diana Morris, Maverick Men's Head Coach Brandon Gossett, Vice President for Development and Community Relations, Sheri Snyder, Director of Development and Planned Giving, Candy Oller, NOC Athletic Director, Alan Foster and Dean of Students, Ryan Paul.

Bobik's name will be inscribed on the Jared Weiberg Memorial Plaque which is on display in the Vineyard Library/Administration Building.

"Jaxton was the recipient of the Weiberg scholarship as he has upheld what it means to be a Maverick basketball player on and off the floor," said coach Brandon Gossett. "He is a great asset to the program and is a hard worker."



# NOC ENID SPRING 2026 STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## Join Us!

January 21	KARAOKE NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
January 28	BINGO FOR FOOD	Gantz Center 7pm
February 2-6	HOMECOMING WEEK	Times Vary
February 11	CROCHET NIGHT	Gantz Center 7 pm (Making Woobles)
February 18	MOVIE NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery 7 pm Students pick the movie
February 25	BOB ROSS PAINT NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
March 4	CUP PONG TOURNAMENT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
March 11	BINGO FOR FOOD	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
March 25	TRIVIA NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
April 3	GOLF SIMULATOR	Mabee Center Racquetball Courts 7 pm
April 8	BOWLING NIGHT	Oakwood Bowl 7 pm
April 14	BOARD GAME NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
April 22	ARTS & CRAFTS NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
April 29	PING PONG TOURNAMENT	Jets Residence Hall Lobby 7 pm



Members of the NOC Foundation Board of Trustees, NOC Board of Regents and NOC Executive Council Team participated in a day-long NOCF Strategic Planning Retreat on January 28 led by facilitator Lisa White, Autry Technology Center Workforce and Economic Development Specialist. Special notes of appreciation to Jason Grace and Lee Evans/Evans and Associates for hosting us at their scenic Big Fork Ranch Retreat Center and to Brad Purdy/First National Bank for providing the continental breakfast catered by The Baker's Table and lunch catered by Stagecoach Catering & BBQ.

## *Tonkawa Phi Theta Kappa 'Knot Making Feb. 12*

The NOC Tonkawa Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society is sponsoring a 'Knot Blanket Making' project on Thursday, Feb. 12, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Renfro Center.

All students are welcome to participate with 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.



**NORTHERN**  
Oklahoma College



# YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO COLLEGE ALONE

Don't worry,  
we've got  
you covered.

**Your college experience is your own — but that doesn't mean you have to go through it alone.**

TimelyCare is here to support you: your health, your goals, and everything life throws your way. Whether you need to talk, ask a medical question, get sleep and nutrition tips, or just take a break, our care is built for you.



### FEELING OFF?

Talk to a mental health professional 24/7.  
No waiting, no stress!



### SICK AT 2 A.M.?

Doctors are on call anytime.  
Even weekends!



### SPIRALING?

Same. Your classmates are, too.  
Jump into the community right from your phone.



### TRYING TO GET IT TOGETHER?

Self-care journeys are always just a tap away.

Having a backup plan...  
**ALWAYS SMART.**



**100% FREE \* NO INSURANCE NEEDED \* 100% FREE**

**SIGN IN NOW**

**NORTHERN OKLAHOMA COLLEGE**  
**STAR GATE**  
 COURTESY OF THE BERT & JANICE MACKEY PLANETARIUM

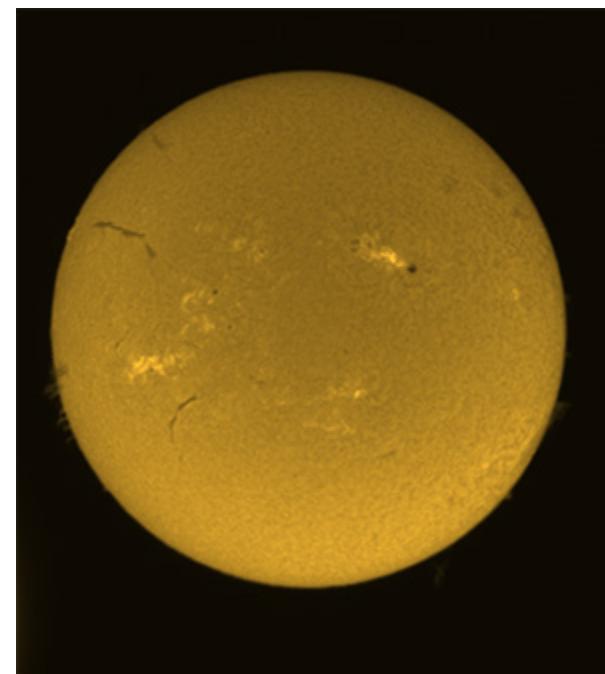
**The NOC Star-Gate****A Weekly Portal to the North Oklahoma Sky**

*Brought to you by the Bert & Janice Mackey Planetarium at Northern Oklahoma College*

**This Week's Viewing Conditions:**

**The Moon:** The Moon is waning. It is going to drop from its current 80.4% illumination to less than 18% by the end of the week. This is going to make viewing easier as the dimmer stars will now be visible.

**Weather:** Check the forecast! The next week is going to be fairly temperate making it easier to spend time outside. While there are some clouds predicted it should be relatively clear. A good week for viewing.



The constellation of Orion will be between Uranus and Jupiter.

**Astronomical Notes**

**This Week –** The planets are going to put on a parade this week. If you look to the southwest just after sunset, you will be able to see Venus. Mercury is going to be close by and will climb higher each night, with Saturn close by. Jupiter which has been prominent for the past few weeks is still with us, and will be easy to spot. Neptune and Uranus are also visible as well. Using Venus and Jupiter as markers, the planets will line up with Mercury closer to Venus, Saturn and Neptune will be side-by-side and Uranus will be closer to the star Aldebaran.

**Citizen Science Corner: The NOC Challenge**

(See Star Gate on Page 11)

**FREE TAX PREPARATION**

**FREE E-FILING** for Students, NOC Employees, and the Public

**PLEASE BRING**

- Photo ID for taxpayer and spouse
- Social Security cards and birthdates for taxpayer, spouse and dependents
- W-2 forms
- 1099 forms
- Receipts for childcare costs, education expenses and other deductions
- Checking account and routing number for refund
- 1095-A or healthcare coverage or exemption

**VITA**  
 VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

**FEATURING**  
 Certified tax preparers provided by  
 Northern Oklahoma College Business Division

**Income limit of \$75,000 or less**

**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY THURSDAYS:**  
**February 12th and 26th,**  
**March 12th and 26th,**  
**and April 9th**

Call 580.628.6340  
 or email [carolyn.johnson@noc.edu](mailto:carolyn.johnson@noc.edu)  
 to schedule an appointment.

**Cultural Engagement Center**  
*Vineyard*  
 Library-Administration Building  
 NOC Tonkawa

**Sponsored by**



# Star Gate

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(Continued from Page 10)

## This Week's Mission: The Planetary Colors

Take some time to view the “colors” of the planets in the solar system. Are they the same color? The colors of the planets tell us something about their atmospheres. Venus tends to appear brilliant white, as it has a thick cloudy atmosphere. Saturn tends to appear pale-yellow or gold, while Jupiter has a creamy color.

### Pro Viewing Tip

For this week, it is best to start your viewing as soon as the sun drops below the horizon, as that will give you the markers of Venus and Mercury. As the sky darkens you can find the other planets.

Photo Credit: The Sun on February 5, 2026 taken through the Slooh Telescope Canary Five, by Dr. Frankie Wood-Black

## Stillwater Northern Encounter Feb. 11

Northern Oklahoma College Stillwater will host a Northern Encounter recruiting event Wednesday, Feb. 11, offering prospective students an inside look at campus life through classroom experiences, faculty interaction and student panels.

The event runs from 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the NOC Classroom Building, with registration beginning at 9 a.m. Activities include door prizes, free swag, a campus tour, meetings with faculty and staff, and a drawing for tuition waivers.

According to Marsh Howard, Vice President for NOC Stillwater, the event is designed to be student-centered and mirror a typical day for NOC Gateway students.

“Upon arrival, students will be provided a schedule, much like an average NOC student’s schedule,” Howard said. “After a brief welcome and introduction from NOC President Diana Morris students will attend mini-classes delivered by NOC faculty and Stillwater community stakeholders.”

Each of the five 20-minute sessions will focus on topics connected to NOC’s academic offerings while highlighting faculty expertise and

instructional quality, Howard said.

“Each of the lectures will showcase our outstanding faculty’s passion projects, the quality of NOC instruction and what it feels like to be a student on our campus,” he said.

Mini-class topics will range from deductive reasoning and critical thinking to forensic accounting. The program will also include a question-and-answer panel featuring present NOC students, covering college, career and community topics.

“Our plan is to give visiting students a glimpse into the average day at NOC-Stillwater,” Howard said. “We’re confident that students attending this year’s Northern Encounter will recognize the individual attention, direct and high-quality instruction they receive on our campus and will return as part of the NOC Gateway family in the fall of 2026.”

Students may register for Northern Encounter at [www.noc.edu](http://www.noc.edu) or by calling 580-628-6904. For additional information, contact NOC’s Enrollment and Recruitment Office at 580-628-6910.

The NOC Stillwater Classroom Building is located at 615 N. Monroe.

# NOC Calendar

### Feb. 7

Home Mavs Baseball vs. Iowa Lakes, noon/2:30 p.m.  
Away Jets Softball vs. Cisco (TX), 1 p.m./3 p.m.  
Home Jets Baseball vs. Northeast (NE), 1 p.m./4 p.m.  
Away Lady Mavs/Mavs Basketball vs. Eastern, 2 p.m./4 p.m.

### Feb. 8

Home Jets Baseball vs. Northeast (NE), noon/3 p.m.  
BCM Open House, 8 p.m. – 10 p.m., Tonkawa

### Feb. 9

Begin Late 12-Week Courses  
Away Lady Mavs/Mavs Basketball vs. Western, 5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.  
Away Lady Jets/Jets Basketball vs. Murray, 5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.  
Pizza, Pool/Air Hockey, Student Union, 7:30 p.m., Tonkawa

### Feb. 10

Free Lunch, BCM, 11:15 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tonkawa  
Thank-A-Thon 2026, Gantz Center 100, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
The Gathering, BCM, 8 p.m., Enid

### Feb. 11

Northern Encounter, 2nd Floor Commons, 9 a.m. – 11:45 a.m., Stillwater  
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  
Home Mavs Softball vs. Pratt (KS), 1 p.m./3 p.m.  
Home Lady Mavs Basketball vs. Crowder (MO), 5:30 p.m.  
Roustabout Homecoming Show, KPAC, 7:30 p.m., Tonkawa  
Crochet Night, Gantz Center, 7 p.m., Enid

### Feb. 12

OBI Blood Drive, Student Union, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tonkawa  
Away Lady Jets/Jets Basketball vs. NEO, 5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.  
Phi Theta Kappa, Renfro Center, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Tonkawa

### Feb. 13

Final Day to Add/Log On to L12-Week Courses  
Final Day to Drop L12 Courses with Full Refund  
Away Jets Softball vs. McCook/North Central Texas at Denison (TX), 9 a.m./11:15 a.m.  
Home Mavs Baseball vs. Southwestern (IA), noon/2:30 p.m.