

# BRANDING IRON

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## TRAVEL BAN COULD PREVENT STUDENT RESEARCH



Empty loading bay at Laramie Regional Airport. Two people connected to the University of Wyoming were kept from entering the U.S. because of the travel ban. (Photo by Jahshua Sanchez)

**K.D. Eller**

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On Thursday, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the freeze on President Trump's travel ban.

During the time in which the ban was in effect, travelers from seven Middle Eastern countries were barred from entering the U.S.. Two of those travelers were attempting to return to UW.

Many of the students coming to the University of Wyoming internationally already have many obstacles to face to come here, Jill Johnson from the International Students and Scholars Office said.

"Students from these countries are already some of the most scrutinized and well-vetted students entering the U.S.," Johnson said. "Wait times while extensive background checks are performed (can) last up to 3-5 months."

Johnson said these students are important for the university.

"Furthermore, we really value the academic contributions that these students share with their departments and colleg-

es," Johnson said. Many are top scholars on campus."

Some members of UW are still concerned about the potential impact of the travel ban going forward.

"The more immediate concern at this point is for those students, currently at UW, who need to leave the US to perform their graduate research," Johnson said.

Johnson said students may be unable to pursue their research if the decision is overturned, or the ban is reinstated by other means.

"There are a lot of conversations, which will be ongoing, about whether they should leave to do that research," Johnson said. "It would be devastating if they weren't able to return to complete their academic programs."



An airplane sitting on a tarmac in Laramie Regional Airport. President Nichols assures students and staff that the University will do everything they can to support students affected by the travel ban. (Photo by Jahshua Sanchez)

For some graduate students, international research is a requirement for their degrees.

President Nichols said she feels confident that the University of Wyoming staff will be able to assist any students who may have problems concerning the travel ban. She said she has full faith in faculty and staff to assist any student or faculty.

"The administration asks students and faculty from those countries to work closely with the International Programs Office."

The decision was not surprising for one of Wyoming's legislators.

"The 9th Circuit is comprised of a majority of states who voted strongly against Trump, its understandable they would be a leader in opposing many of this policies," Rep. Dan Zwonitzer said.

Regardless of the way in which the ban progresses, Johnson said the university's response will be the same.

"What UW will do, is continue to support our international community and be as responsive to student concerns as possible," Johnson said.

# An RSO to kick it with

**Brianna Reeves**

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Students in Laramie Taekwondo are kicking it up a notch with local opportunities to learn and appreciate martial arts.

Joann Hilman started the Laramie Taekwondo group after studying the art of Taekwondo in South Korea. Upon moving to Laramie, Hilman found that there was not a program available to continue her training. Laramie Taekwondo has provided that opportunity.

“Our mission is to teach the culture and traditions behind taekwondo while

promoting martial arts, self-defense and wellness in the Laramie community,” Hilman said.

Members of the group meet together twice a week to work toward fulfilling this mission. Matthew Lehmitz, two-year member of Laramie Taekwondo, said he joined the group out of a desire to learn and remain physically active in an engaging way.

“I have always been someone who enjoyed athletic activities and exercise but often physical activity is a relatively dull affair involving repetitive movements over long periods,” Lehmitz said. “Taekwondo provided an opportunity to build up a skill set and knowledge base for an activity.”

This semester the group is focusing on technique, form, and methods of self defense. Lessons are set up to give members opportunities to practice what they have learned in a controlled environment.

Lehmitz said Laramie Taekwondo’s approach to martial arts is unique in its approach.

“Unlike many places one might seek to learn a martial art the Laramie group is not overly concerned with doing things strictly by the book,” Lehmitz said. “There is always time to ask questions and have a little fun in addition to the regular practice which covers a range of different skills and allows both the opportunity to learn practical movements and real world solutions.”

Practical application is also a priority for the RSO.

“We get the chance periodically to learn more about how to face an opponent and learn from the skills of others in the group through sparring,” Lehmitz said.

Lehmitz said this experience is enhanced by the social aspects of the club. There are currently ten members of Laramie Taekwondo, and new members are welcome.

“The best part of Laramie Taekwondo is the connec-

tions you make with other members,” Hilman said. “We get to learn a martial art in a safe environment and make lasting connections we make with members here and other martial artists around the state.”

Lehmitz said the group is good for “pursuing social opportunities since it goes beyond just the martial arts aspect and builds a surprising degree of camaraderie among the participants over time.”

Hilman said this camaraderie is one of the main goals of Laramie Taekwondo. Members are involved in community events together, including the Safe Treat Program and special classes through the university.

Future goals of Laramie Taekwondo include expansion and education.

“Our future goals include spreading knowledge of self defense further and Taekwondo further through the community,” Hilman said. “We are also trying to make connections with other Taekwondo schools in the state with the hope of starting programs for at risk youth.”

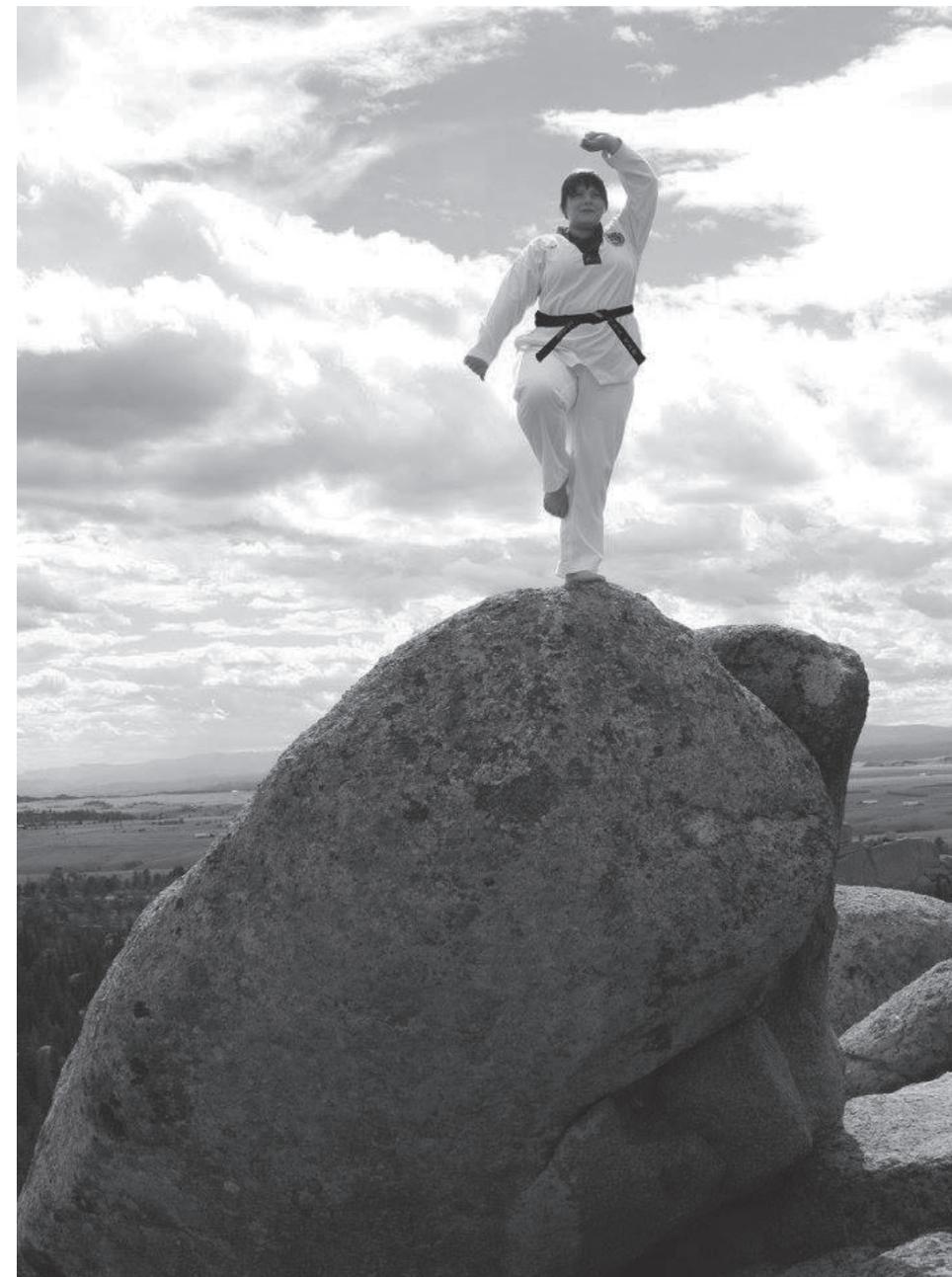
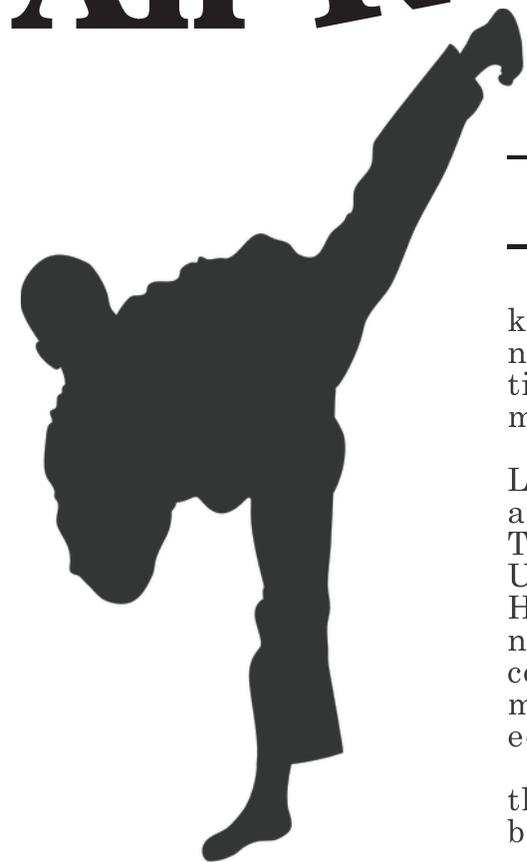
The group is also interested in challenging stereotypes and misconceptions about martial arts.

“We should be more willing to embrace martial arts and contact sports of many kinds,” Lehmitz said. “There is much that they can offer us that we lose if we continue to be too afraid to participate in them.”

Hilman said any students interested in participating in Laramie Taekwondo are encouraged to come to the group’s weekly practices sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. in the education building gym.

“I would recommend you wear good athletic clothing and be prepared for a challenge,” Lehmitz said.

Further information can be found on Laramie Taekwondo’s Collegiate Link page.



Member of Laramie Taekwondo at Vedauwoo. (Photo courtesy of Laramie Bright Path Taekwondo Facebook Page)



Sunset on Lake Chetek in Wisconsin. (Photo by Morgan Roppe)

**WEEKLY MEETING  
TODAY**

**7:00 PM - Senate Chambers Union Room 221**

**New Business**

- **Approval of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) Elections Code: Policy and Rules of the 2017 ASUW Elections**
- **Senate Bill #2536: ASUW Recommendation of Fiscal Year 2018 Tuition Expenditures Policy**
- **Senate Bill #2537: Clarity and Structure Revisions to the ASUW By-Laws**

Full text of legislation available online at [www.uwyo.edu/asuw](http://www.uwyo.edu/asuw)  
ASUW (Associated Students/ University of Wyoming)



*Students Right to Know*

**Senate Resolution #2537  
Title: ASUW Recommendation of Fiscal Year 2018 Tuition Expenditures Policy**

Senate Resolution #2537 would establish an ASUW position in favor of changing the way that the 4% tuition increase will be allocated for FY 18.  
Senate Resolution #2537 will have its first reading on February 14th and will be debated in Committee of the Whole.

**Senate Bill #2538  
Title: Clarity and Structure Revisions to the ASUW By-Laws**

Senate Bill #2538 would change the way that our by-laws are organized to create a document that is more cohesive and clear.  
Senate Bill #2538 will have its first reading on February 14th, and Second Reading and debate February 21st.



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**TODAYS TIP**

**DEEP BREATHING**  
BY SLOWING DOWN YOUR HEART RATE AND LOWERING BLOOD PRESSURE, BREATHING DEEPLY RELIEVES STRESS. TAKE FIVE DEEP BREATHS NOW, AND OBSERVE HOW DIFFERENTLY YOU FEEL



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# BI

# A digital web we weave

**Matthew Fabian**

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In the previous edition of the Branding Iron, we ran an editorial “Student-less Affairs” citing the mistreatment of Student Media and other student groups by Student Affairs. At the end of said editorial, we directed readers towards uwbrandingiron.com to read the emails cited in the piece.

When logging on to the website, readers likely encountered a totally new experience for the Branding Iron online edition. After a whirlwind first semester, the Branding Iron is proud to have the online edition up and running again, under the leadership of co-Online Editors Kip Decastro and Seth Haack. Both former editors on the Branding Iron staff, Kip and Seth have a newfound look and approach to the digital side of the Branding Iron. They

will be providing podcasts, videos, and other digital media opportunities for our staff and student media.

While this is an exciting time for the website, certainly, I am equally delighted for the online edition to work in tandem with the print edition. As we continue to strive to bring the best UW and local news, the online edition can enhance the stories you read in the physical pages of the Branding Iron. Whether that helps put a face to a name in a video interview, or a quick overview of the upcoming news stories, the Branding Iron online will only make your UW news experience better. The online allows the Branding Iron for our staff members to get into new media. As a learning lab, Student Media wants all of our writers and photographers to be ready for real-world experience. With the current shift towards digital media, the online edition allows us to do just that. Writers will be able to try their hand at videos, and

we can better showcase our photographers’ talents with galleries on the website. All of this should add up to a stronger, more robust staff that provides our readers with a greater news experience.

In the same breath, the online edition also gives us a chance to better connect to our readers. Our comments section allows the Editorial Board to better understand how readers are responding to stories, and what kind of content should be going towards future editions of the paper. While not all comments will be kind, or even fair towards the staff and editors, we welcome this open dialogue to create a better publication. I encourage readers to give their criticism or corrections on these comments.

The Branding Iron online edition is bringing exciting and new opportunities for Student Media and the UW campus, and I encourage you to make it part of your internet experience.

As always, Go Pokes.



Photo courtesy of Pixabay

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## No distractions, no problem

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Out of necessity, I ride my bike to campus everyday. Each day I take the same route, east across the bridge and then south to Iverson St. where I take the bike lane to my first class.

I have it down to a science; I can predict how long it will take me given the road conditions and how cold (or warm) it will be. But one thing I cannot predict is the drivers around me.

According to distraction.gov in 2014, 3,179 people were killed, and 431,00 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

Drivers who text and drive are not only a danger to themselves, but a danger to everyone around them.

My generation grew up in a time where handheld technology is readily available and I under-

stand how easy it is to develop this habit. It’s easy to feel like you have enough control to stay on the road while just taking a glance at your most recent text. But most accidents can happen quickly.

In the blink of an eye, you may have swerved a little to the right and forced the cyclist you failed to see into a parked car. Even though the biker was wearing a helmet, he suffered a fractured collarbone and will have to dip into savings to cover expenses. This is an incident I have witnessed and is something I consider each time I hop on my two wheels.

Cyclists hate that they have to share the road as much as those driving vehicles do. I have been honked at, berated and even hit by cars while on my bike. I would ride on the sidewalk, but that is dangerous for pedestrians and even considered illegal in some places.

In an ideal world, every road would have a bike lane and cyclists and drivers could have a comfortable amount of space between them. The issue is that most roads in America were built at a time when bike lanes were not incorporated into city planning, and cities lack the funds and space to replace roads that are not very bike friendly.

There is only so much the government can do to prevent distracted driving. Laws and regulations have already been put into place to prevent accidents, but ultimately it is up to the individual whether he or she will look at their phone while driving in a given moment.

Cyclists can do their part to ensure their safety by being aware of their surroundings and focusing on the road. Cyclists can also wear proper safety equipment, such as helmets and lights, and ride more defensively.

## LETTERS POLICY

The BI welcomes letters from all readers. Letters from university students, faculty, staff and administrators will be given priority.

All letters must include the writer’s name, phone number and school year or university affiliation.

Letters should be kept to 400 words or less. The BI reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, label and accuracy. Letters will run according to order received and the amount of space available.

## CORRECTIONS

## PUBLICATION INFORMATION

The BI is published every Tuesday–Friday during the academic year with the exception of holidays and exam weeks, under the authority of the UW Student Media Board.

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# Tough weekend matchups for UW wrestling

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Despite good overall performances, the men's wrestling team struggled against three ranked conference opponents this weekend.

On Friday, Feb. 10, the Pokes traveled to Oklahoma to compete in a double-header dual against No. 17 Oklahoma and No. 1 Oklahoma State, where they fell 19-18 to OU and 32-3 to OSU.

"I can't imagine things going better than they did to begin with against Oklahoma," head coach Mark Branch said. "We still needed to do something in those upper weights. It's pretty tough to have a top-20 team on the ropes like that and not come away with the upset."

Starting the day off against Oklahoma, the Pokes did well in the lower weight classes, with No. 14-ranked Drew Templeman winning by decision in the 125-weight class, Gunnar Woodburn winning by decision in overtime in the 133 class, and 8th-ranked Bryce Meredith winning by pin in the 141 class. Archie Colgan and No. 16 Branson Ashworth both won their matches by decision, and the Pokes took five out of the six matches to gain an early commanding 15-3 lead over OU. Oklahoma came back strong in the upper weight classes, winning the last four bouts and narrowly gaining the lead at 19-18 and winning the dual.

"I was proud of the efforts from Drew (Templeman), Gunnar (Woodburn), Bryce (Meredith), Archie (Colgan) and Branson (Ashworth). Cole

(Mendenhall) fought hard as well," Branch said.

Although we couldn't come away with the win, there was no doubt a number of positives from that dual."

Later that day, the Pokes had a tough matchup against No. 1 nationally ranked Oklahoma State, who had wrestlers taking up six of the top ten nationally ranked spots.

The Pokes only gained one win throughout the matches, with Colgan winning by decision against OSU's Davey Dolan. Meredith was matched up against #1 overall Dein Heil in a rematch of last year's NCAA championship title bout, and narrowly lost in a 7-5 decision. The Pokes fell to OSU 32-3.

"Against Oklahoma State, I thought we did fight hard," Branch said. "In duals like that, we find out a lot about the individuals. We understood coming in how tough it would be. I don't think we were intimidated as we showed that we did wrestle hard and physical."

On Sunday, Feb. 12, Wyoming hosted Big-12 rival North Dakota State on Senior Day and its last matchup of the season. NDSU came to Laramie ranked 25th overall.

The Pokes started with a decision win by Kyle Pope in the 174-weight class, but lost the next five matches, bringing the score to 21-3 in favor of NDSU. Meredith gained a decisive win against his opponent when he took him down by pin early in the first period.

Despite decision wins by Mendenhall and Ashworth, the Pokes were unable to close the gap and finished the season with a 24-16 loss to NDSU. This loss brought their record to



Redshirt senior Drew Templeman wrestles his last match at home in the UniWyo Sports Complex against North Dakota State. The Pokes lost the dual 24-16. (Photo by Katy Grogan)

7-8 overall and 4-4 in the Big-12 conference. Next up for the Pokes will be the Big-12 Championship in Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 4 and 5. Then the NCAA tournament is set for March 16-18 in St. Louis, Missouri.

"We can still have a good showing [at the Big-12 tournament] and at the NCAA tournament as well," Branch said. "We have guys that, if they believe in themselves and they continue to get better over the next three to five weeks, they can get on the podium there and score points for us. We still have a team that's capable of doing well at the end."

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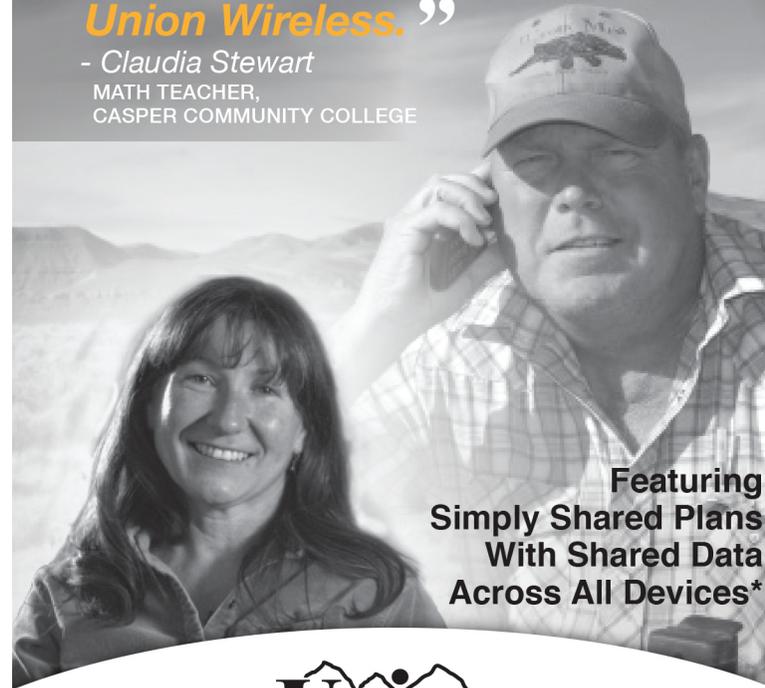
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Sophomore Jordan Naughton dunks at a previous home game. Cowboys lost 41-26 to Utah State Aggies. (Photo by Katy Grogan)

# Pokes lose late at Utah State

**Justin Long**

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Despite hitting 12 three-pointers, the Wyoming men's basketball team lost a tough one on the road against Utah State on Feb. 11 in Logan, Utah. The Pokes were outrebounded 41-26, including 13 offensive rebounds by the Aggies.

Guards Lou Adams and Jeremy Lieberman led the way for the Cowboys with 16 and 11 points, respectively. Jason McManamen had 10 points and two three pointers, bringing him to 184 for his career. He needs 10 more to become UW's all-time leader.

"I thought it was a game for anyone to take and opportunities, they capitalized more on the opportunities presented to them," head coach Allen Ed-

wards said. "We have to do a better job on the glass and have to do a better job defending the three point line. This is a tough place to play on the road and they play well here, but I was pleased with our effort."

The Cowboys shot 46 percent from the field and 40 percent from three-point land, while Utah State shot 45 percent from the field and 85 percent from the free throw line. Wyoming had 13 points off of turnovers while the Aggies had 14.

UW opened the game aggressively, leading 13-10 at the first timeout. Utah State then went on an 11-0 run paced by senior Jalen Moore's six points. The Cowboys fought back to 27-25 with two threes from Cody Kelley and one from Hayden Dalton.

The Pokes took a 35-33 lead with 6:05 remaining in the first half but shot 1-6

the rest of the way to go into halftime trailing 43-42. Both teams had runs in the opening minutes of the second half, with the Cowboys taking a 56-53 lead at the 13-minute mark.

Utah State used UW turnovers to take a 59-58 lead, but forward Alan Herndon hit a three shortly after to tie the game with less than eight minutes left. The Pokes had a brief 65-64 lead, but the Aggies went on a 5-0 run to bring the game to 70-65.

The Cowboys were able to cut the lead to four, but a three pointer from Moore sealed the victory for the Aggies. Moore had 23 points to go over 1,000 for his career.

The Cowboys will return to action on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Arena-Auditorium, hosting Colorado State in the first Border War game of the season.

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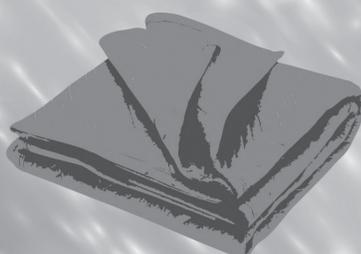
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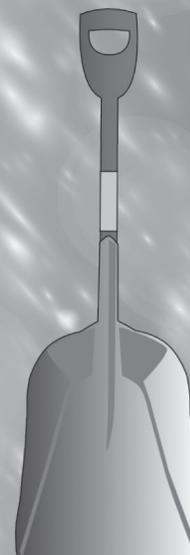
Blanket or Tarp



Tire Chains



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Winter Blues. Macro of a snowflake that landed on a blue car. Winner of the Branding Iron weekly staff photography contest. (Photo by Hanna Fox)

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