

THE LEADER OF THE BAND



Meet Dr. Michael Black, Northwestern's new band director. PAGE 8

SOCC' IT TO 'EM

Northwestern's soccer team won its fifth straight game on Sept. 18 and is heading into conference action. PAGE 11



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September 23, 2021

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BORN TO RUN



Classic cars cruise Alva in annual show

Countless classic and vintage automobiles lined the downtown square Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the annual Big Cruise & Car Show, one of the largest such events in Oklahoma. Awards were handed out to drivers with the hottest hot-rods and coolest classic rides.

ABOVE: A vintage Dodge Challenger races down Barnes Avenue on Saturday night during a competition.

RIGHT: The teal and chrome front of a vintage car is shown on College Avenue on Saturday. For more photos of the show, see Page 6 in this edition of the News.

Photos by Jordan Green



COVID-19

Students voice opinions on mask mandates

By GAVIN MENDOZA
Student Reporter

Some Northwestern students came back to school happier this year because mask mandates have been lifted. But do all students feel that way?

Northwestern joined universities across the nation in the fall of 2020 when it imposed a mask mandate for students, faculty and staff on campus. Many universities lifted those mandates going into the fall semester this year, but some have put them back in place amid rising coronavirus case numbers.

In Oklahoma, state law previously barred schools from implementing new mask requirements, but that law has been blocked temporarily by a judge.

The Northwestern News talked to three Rangers to find out their thoughts on masking.

Brogan Winston, a sophomore health and sports management major, said she feels safe without a mask.

See MASKS, Page 3

Alva Mural Society to host festival through weekend

By COLLIN ZINK
Student Reporter

The Alva Mural Society is hosting a mural art festival Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The event will bring artists into town to paint three murals about Oklahoma. The event will also offer live music, food trucks and a 5K marathon.

"We are hosting this event because it brings art to Alva," said Alva Mural Society member Erin Davis. "We also wanted to bring modern art to attract younger viewers. The murals have been approved by the mural society and the building owners. We want to show that Alva is acceptable to all kinds of art."

Four artists – Kelly and Ty Tompkins, Tox Murillo and Jake Beeson – will come to Alva to paint the murals. Interested

parties can meet the artists Friday at the Graceful Arts Gallery, 523 Barnes St., from 6 – 8 p.m. All day Saturday, people can watch the artists as they paint the murals at City Hall, 415 4th St.; the Farmers CO-OP Supply Store, 401 Barnes Ave.; and Exotic Heatwave, 1016 Noble St.

Also on Saturday, free music and games will be offered in the downtown square from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Food trucks will be downtown all day.

The artists will sign the murals on Sunday at 1 p.m. at City Hall, followed by the Farmers CO-OP Supply Store at 1:20 p.m. and Exotic Heatwave at 1:40 p.m.

MARATHON GIVES VIEWS OF MURALS

The marathon, called the 5K Fun Run,

See FESTIVAL, Page 3

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SPORTS

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NEWS

AFGHANISTAN ANALYZED

Professors discuss withdrawal's impact on Biden's legacy

By **BENJAMIN KIEWER**
Student Reporter

With the United States' withdrawal of military forces from Afghanistan complete, political pundits and keyboard warriors alike are discussing how the effort will define President Joe Biden's legacy for years to come.

The Northwestern News sat down with two Northwestern history professors to get their perspectives on how the historic move will impact Biden's presidency. Their responses have been edited for length and clarity.

DR. ERIC J. SCHMALTZ

Q: How will the withdrawal of military forces from Afghanistan define President Joe Biden's legacy?

A: I agree with both Trump and Biden on the troop withdrawal, but the big question is how it was done. I think this is something that is going to tarnish his reputation when it comes to foreign policy. He was touted in the election that he's got all the foreign policy experience, but this was a major shaking moment for him, a disturbing development. That is something in the long term that is going to affect his legacy when it comes to foreign policy.

Q: This withdrawal has been compared to the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam. What are some of the similarities and differences between the two?

A: In Vietnam, our troops were pretty much out of the fight after 1973. We let the South Vietnamese do the fighting. Then, two years later, the North Vietnamese have this big offensive, and they take the capital Saigon. That is when we evacuated our embassy and any remaining troops, diplomats and civilians, plus some of our Vietnamese friends. This might be even worse because of Afghanistan having a safe haven for terrorist groups going back to the 1990s. In Vietnam, there was no concern about terror squads or flying planes into buildings in the United States. They kicked us



Photo by Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Victor Mancilla/via U.S. Department of Defense
Evacuees wait to board a C-17 Globemaster III during an evacuation at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan on Aug. 30. The United States completed its withdrawal of military forces on that day.

out. That is what they wanted. I think that's the big difference.

Q: How could this withdrawal impact the 2022 mid-term elections?

A: Certainly, the Republicans will hit Biden and the Democrats on that. Although, Biden would argue, and there is some truth, that he was following in the wake of Trump's negotiations to withdraw American forces. The way it was done under Biden – that could have been done differently. So, I think Democrats will pay a price for that.

Q: How has the president's handling of this situation affected America's reputation on the world stage?

A: It sounds like with some of the decisions we made, we didn't consult with the French or British as closely as maybe we should have. I think that hurt our standing with some of our allies. Other allies like Taiwan, they are dealing with mainland communist China. They have these alliances with us, and they're like, "Will they be there when we need them?" On the other hand, our adversaries, I think they are going to be more

emboldened. In fact, they already were before the Afghan crisis.

Q: After this withdrawal, does the U.S. still have the duty of nation-building and being the world's metaphorical hall monitor?

A: We do still play a vital role in the world. We have troops stationed in over 140 countries in the world. We have a Navy that helps keep the sea channels open for trade to fight piracy. So, we are still doing a lot of good when it comes to security.

Q: What effects did previous administrations have on the withdrawal?

A: Obama was the first president to really try to get out of the region, but even he couldn't do that. Trump wanted to pull out badly, too, but even he stayed in. I don't know if there ever would have been a clean ending to Afghanistan, but I think that token force would have at least prevented such a rapid collapse.

DR. ROGER HARDAWAY

Q: How will the withdrawal of military forces from Af-

ghanistan define President Joe Biden's legacy?

A: First of all, some people think it's a bad thing we are withdrawing. Some people think it's a good thing we are withdrawing. You have what is called historical perspective. You won't know what the ramifications of all this is for several years. It may show up in the election next year. It may show up in the election in 2024. It may turn out to be something that makes him very popular, that he ended the war. On the other hand, it may make him very unpopular because maybe the Taliban will take over Afghanistan.

Q: This withdrawal has been compared to the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam. What are some of the similarities and differences between the two?

A: They drew some parallels between the fall of Saigon in the Vietnam War, but the Afghanistan war was not the Vietnam War. The Vietnam War was front-page news every day. People were afraid to flunk a class in college because they're going to get drafted. We don't have that anymore. I just don't think the average ordinary American is going to

worry about this in the long term.

Q: How could this withdrawal impact the 2022 mid-term elections?

A: Every time there's an election cycle, what is the hot button issue at the time? An old standard statement is it's always the economy. I don't think Afghanistan is going to be a big issue one way or the other, but what do I know is that I'm not a prophet. I just think that 99% of the people couldn't find Afghanistan on a map, and it just doesn't affect their daily lives. Now, if you've had a son or daughter that went over there – if you went over there and served yourself – that's a different story. But how many people are there in that boat? One percent of the population, probably less.

Q: How has the president's handling of this situation affected America's reputation on the world stage?

A: I heard that people in Europe are not real happy with us.

Q: After this withdrawal, does America still have the duty of nation-building and being the world's metaphorical hall monitor?

A: That is something we have been wrestling with in both political parties since I've been alive. We can't be the world's policemen. We've tried that, and it is not going to happen. We can be the leader of the free world again. We were, and we could be again.

Q: What effects did previous administrations have on the withdrawal?

A: I don't know. Apparently, Biden couldn't convince Obama to get out. Then Trump comes along and wants to invite the Taliban to come over to Camp David and talk to us, and they canceled that meeting. At one time, it was like we don't negotiate with terrorists, but things change, so maybe it's time to sit down and negotiate with terrorists. Apparently, the Taliban has again kind of sent some signals that "you can deal with us, and we will work with you a little bit."

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: CASE NUMBERS ON CAMPUS AND AROUND THE AREA

STUDENT CASES:

3

active as of Sept. 17.
This number includes cases at Northwestern's Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

EMPLOYEE CASES:

1

active as of Sept. 17.
This number includes cases at Northwestern's Alva, Enid and Woodward campuses.

IN ALVA:

34

active as of Sept. 20.
Alva has had a total of 1,267 cases.

IN OKLAHOMA:

23,533

active as of Sept. 20.
Oklahoma has had a total of 584,692 cases.

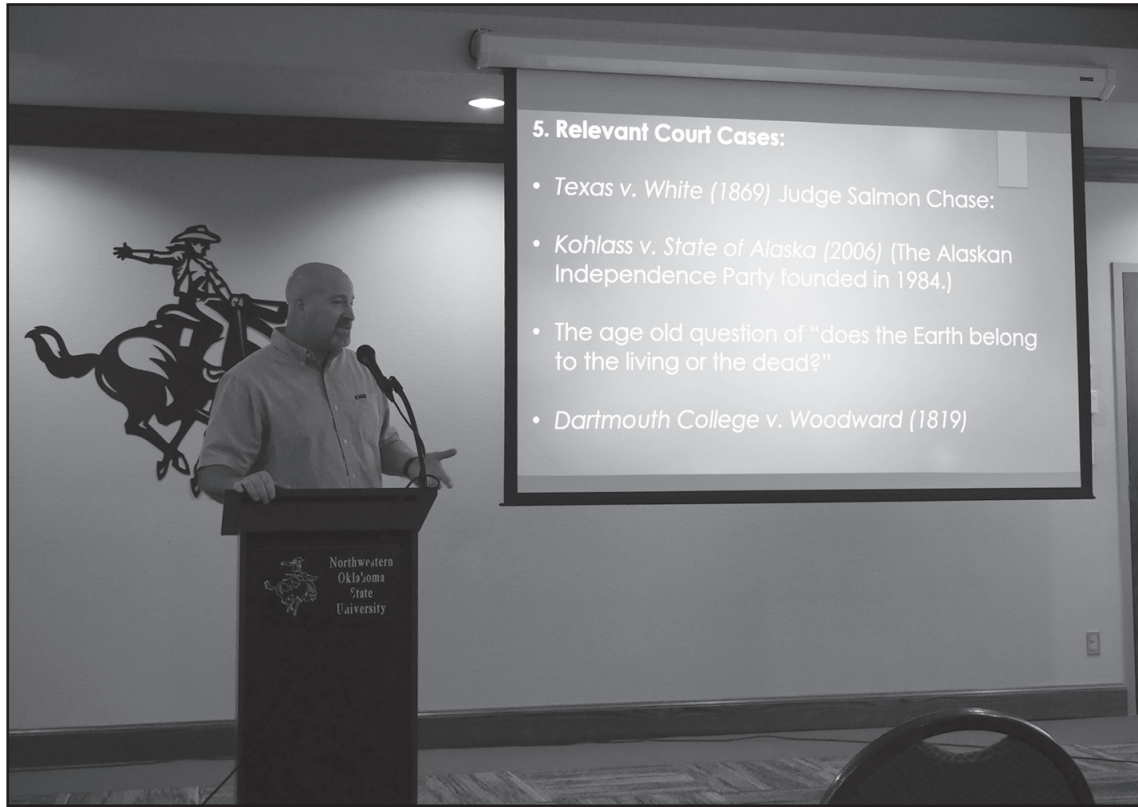
EDITOR'S NOTE: NWOSU reports new active student and employee cases weekly on Fridays at <https://www.nwosu.edu/coronavirus/active-covid-19-cases-nwosu>.

NEWS

Constitution Day celebrated here

Dr. Aaron Mason speaks to students and others in the Ranger Room on Monday as part of the university's celebration of Constitution Day. Mason and Dr. Eric Schmaltz hosted a discussion on the issue of secession, and several students were in attendance.

Photo by Jordan Green



FESTIVAL: 5K offers views of local murals

Continued from Page 1 starts Saturday at 8 a.m. on the north lawn of the Woods County Courthouse, 407 Government St.

“The 5K is ... a scenic route to view the murals.”
— *Juliet Chaloupek*

The course has paved streets that are well-marked and controlled, organizers say. Water will be offered at the midpoint and at the end of the race, and an electrolyte drink will also be offered at the end.

Interested parties can register by completing a sign-up sheet in the Newsgram, a local publication available for free on campus. They can also sign up on the day of the race.

“The 5K is ... a scenic route to view the murals,” said Northwestern student Juliet Chaloupek, who helped organize the run.

The entry fee for the fun run is \$20. Entrants will receive a T-shirt and a medal. The sign-up period on the day of the race is open from 7 – 7:45 a.m. Runners can also register at the Alva Chamber of Commerce, 502 Oklahoma Blvd.

MASKS: Students say they feel safe without mandate in effect

Continued from Page 1

“Even when we had a mask mandate on campus, no one really wore them anyways, so it’s no different,” Winston said. “I feel like they might help a little bit, but not enough to make people wear them.”

Winston said she thinks Northwestern is doing a good job of handling the pandemic.

“I think Northwestern should keep doing what they’re doing, encouraging precautions for you to take to stay healthy, but not

forcing anything on anyone,” Winston said.

Joshua Cobb, a senior health and sports science major, said he believes it should be up to the university whether or not masks are required.

“I feel like that decision depends on the infection rate of the campus,” Cobb said. “If the campus is doing everything right and keeping cases at a minimum, I see no reason why [masks] should be mandated.”

Cobb, like Winston, said he

believes the university’s response to the pandemic has been sufficient.

“Northwestern has handled the pandemic better than most schools in our area,” Cobb said. “We’ve never had to go back to online learning. Professors have cooperated fully with students who have had to quarantine because of the virus. They’ve offered cash incentives to fully vaccinated students and provided students opportunities to get vaccinated on campus.”

Koby Hudson, a junior health and sports science major, said he feels safe without a mandate. He also said he agrees with his fellow Rangers that things should stay how they are.

“Even without the masks, people still maintain a safe distance from each other,” Hudson said.

He said he thinks Northwestern has handled the situation well, but also believes universities should be able to require masks.

“It’s their duty to make sure their students are safe,” he said.

Campus Ministry



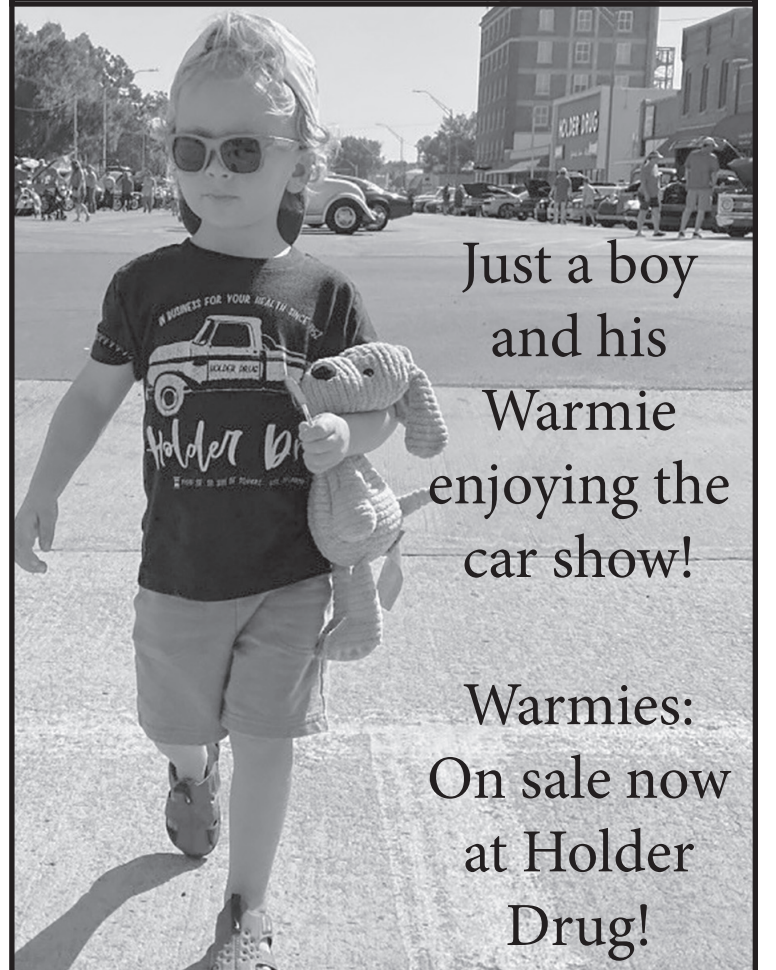
Sacred Heart Catholic Church proudly serves students at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. During the school year, students are welcome to join us to pray the Holy Rosary and Holy Mass in the College Chapel. This spiritual ministry encourages the young people to pursue meaning in their lives and invest in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Open to Catholic and non-Catholic college students.

Place: Northwestern College Chapel, Student Center, Second Floor
Time: Thursdays at 1 p.m.

For more information, contact church office at 580-327-0339 or office@sacredheartalva.org.

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Just a boy and his Warmie enjoying the car show!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor shall bear the author's handwritten signature, hometown, 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 Monday to the News office in JDA232. Letters via e-mail are acceptable as long as they follow the rules stated above and can be sent to nwnews@nwosu.edu. Please limit submissions 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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.

OPINION

It's fall, Y'all

By **DEVYN LANSDEN**
Editorial Editor

The first day of fall was Wednesday.

I cannot believe how fast summer flew by, but honestly, I'm not mad because I am ready for the cooler weather.

For cooler weather, I mean the 60-degree to 70-degree range. Not freezing weather. That is not what I am ready for.

But right now, I am loving the cooler morning temperatures.

I walk to work and enjoy the nice weather, and then by the afternoons, I am hot.

I am noticing the weather starting to cool down, and that ultimately means Halloween, Saturday game days and pumpkins.

I think my favorite weather is whatever the season is; because whenever it is about to be a new season, I am always excited for it.

Fall is such a fun season because of football games.

On game days, everyone is always so happy and excited.

People who don't even know much about football still love football games. The fall semester is the best because we get a lot of breaks in this semester.

There is so much going on in the fall semester because of all the sports.

This year, it means even more because we did not have a very fun fall semester last year. I missed going to football games and being around all the NWOSU students and fans.

Football is what I am most excited for.

This weekend is also Family Day at Northwestern, so the crowd will be full, and the weather is going to be nice — the best combination.

I will have a busy day on Family Day because I am a part of the Northwestern Scholar Ambassadors, and we have to help out.

“This year, fall means even more because we did not have a very fun semester last year. I missed going to football games.”
— **Devyn Lansden**

I am excited to be around people and watch the football game.

The beginning of October is also Homecoming, something I am sure everyone is looking forward to. There is always so much going on.

The month of October is my favorite month. The fall weather really hits us then, and it's my favorite holiday, Halloween.

During fall, I love all pump-

kin flavors of any kind: coffee, dessert, cereal, scents. Anything pumpkin has my name on it.

Everything about fall I love, but what I love most about fall is when the leaves change colors. It makes the campus look more beautiful than it already is.

I think that, this year, fall decorations and the pumpkin flavors came out a lot earlier than in years before.

“What I love most about fall is when the leaves change colors. It makes campus look more beautiful than it already is.”

— **Devyn Lansden**

I am not mad about it. It was actually convenient for me because pumpkin coffee is my favorite.

I will be at all the pumpkin patches this year, living my best life.

One of the little things I love doing during the fall is lighting my fall-scented candles in the morning and just relaxing.

I love going out to my living room, making coffee and my whole house smelling like fall.

There truly is nothing much better than that.

Saturday mornings in the fall will always be my favorite because the next day is Sunday, so no there's school the next day. I know I'll get another day to relax.

Whenever school starts in August, I am always ready for the weather to be cooler.

Walking around campus when it is hot outside is awful. I give tours in the recruitment office, so I look forward to when it is nice and cool outside to give tours. In the summer, it gets pretty brutal to be outside.

But it always is a good excuse to go in almost every building.

Even though winter is my least favorite season, it is still beautiful.

I like the snow only when I can stay home and not be out in it. But I am sure that is how everyone feels about it.

Christmas Day is fun, but honestly, the actual day makes me sad because leading up to Christmas is the best and the most fun.

I love all the Christmas songs and themes, and we are not in school, so that is also another reason I like it.

I get to be with my family and not have a worry in the world.

Especially now that I am older, I appreciate being with my family rather than getting gifts.

I hope everyone is having a great semester. Happy fall.



OPINION

WORTH THE WAIT



Photos by Jordan Green

A BNSF Railway train is passed by another train on an adjacent rail line southwest of Alva in September 2020. This week is National Rail Safety Week, promoting caution for drivers.

When you have a tie with a train at a railroad crossing, you'll always lose

JORDAN GREEN SAYS



JORDAN GREEN

Some things are worth waiting for.

That includes waiting for railroad crossing gates to rise before you try to walk or drive across railroad tracks.

This week is National Rail Safety Week, a public outreach effort designed to educate drivers, pedestrians and others about the dangers of goofing off around railroad tracks.

And the dangers are aplenty.

In the United States, a person or vehicle is hit by a train every three hours, according to Operation Lifesaver, a leading railroad safety advocacy organization. About 2,100 people are injured or killed each year while going over railroad crossings or while trespassing on railroad property.

The moral of the story: If you try to race a train, you'll always lose.

"95% of rail-related deaths involve drivers going through grade crossings or a person on the tracks — and with safe driver and pedestrian behavior, most of these are preventable," the American Association of Railroads says on its website.

"This isn't just another statistic

number; it represents our friends, our family, our neighbors and our community members. We all have a role to play in preventing these accidents, and everyone has a responsibility to be safe around railroad tracks."

Staying safe around trains and tracks isn't hard.

For drivers, here are some important safety messages from Operation Lifesaver that you should pay attention to:

- Always expect a train at a crossing. No matter how desolate or abandoned a rail line may seem, a train can always be just around the bend.

- Trains move faster than you think — and faster than they appear. A train will reach a railroad crossing sooner than you expect, so don't try to race it to the crossing.

- If your vehicle breaks down on the tracks, exit the car immediately and get off the rails. Then, find the blue metal placard on one of the railroad crossing signs and call the number right away. That'll alert railroad employees about the situation.

- Never drive around lowered railroad crossing gates, even if you don't see a train coming or you think the gates are malfunctioning. They're there to protect you.

Some of the same rules apply to pedestrians. They should also



A Blackwell Northern Gateway Railroad locomotive passes through a railroad crossing in December 2019.

remember:

- Walking on or near railroad tracks is illegal. Stay away from tracks. They're not meant to be a shortcut. You should only walk across tracks at a railroad crossing, too.

- Stay off the rocks around the tracks, too. These rocks are rougher than you think, and a bad fall could spell trouble.

- Never climb on railroad equipment, even if it appears to be stationary. If it's not a train on display in a public park, you need

to stay off of it. It could move at any time.

- Bicyclists and people pushing strollers or other wheeled devices should try to go over railroad crossings at a 90-degree angle to prevent wheels from being caught between the rails and the adjacent pavement.

Railroad tracks are not photography studios. Trespassing on railroad property — that includes sitting between railroad tracks for your senior pictures or taking a selfie for a social media post — is

a felony. And it's incredibly unsafe. Besides, those tracks aren't all that pretty anyway.

We live in a world filled with statistics. But you can easily avoid joining the number of people who've been hit by a train.

As someone who has worked on railroads, I can tell you firsthand just how important it is for people to stay safe around railroad crossings — and to stay off of railroad property.

No selfie or shortcut is worth your safety — or your life.

KINGS OF THE ROAD



Scenes from the Big Cruise & Car Show

1



2



4



3

The annual Big Cruise & Car Show rumbled into Alva Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the downtown square.

1. Classic cars lined the streets downtown on Saturday night.
2. Rufus Murray of Hardtner, Kansas, shines his 2010 Chevy Camaro during the car show on Saturday night.
3. A classic Chevy Bel-Air cruises around the downtown square.
4. Patrons of all ages admired the classic cars on display.

Photos by Jordan Green

2021 RANGER ROYALTY

CONTESTANTS

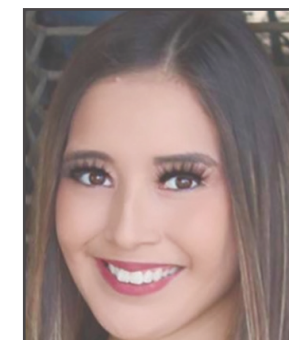
Ranger Queen Candidates

Angie Aguilera



Angie Aguilera is a senior vocal performance major from Woodward. She enjoys singing and songwriting. She loves being with friends.

Jerika Coon



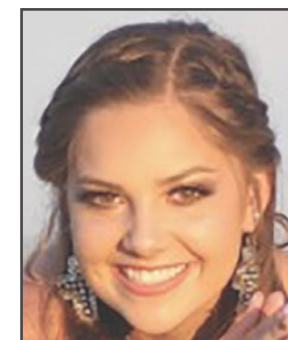
Jerika Coon is a senior elementary education major from Sapulpa. She is in Delta Zeta Sorority, NASA, Forge, cross country and track.

Savannah Francis



Savannah Francis is a senior political science major from Tahlequah. She is a part of NASA, Collegiate 4-H, O.I.L. and track and cross country.

Taylor Graham



Taylor Graham is a junior health and sports science major. She is a part of the Ranger softball team and attends the First Baptist Church in Alva.

Erika Hernandez



Erika Hernandez is a senior elementary education major from Laverne. She is a part of Spanish Club, FCA and the BCM leadership.

Mallory Paruszewski



Mallory Paruszewski is a sophomore mass communication major from Ft. Worth, Texas. She is part of track, cheer and broadcasting.

Freshman Queen Candidates

Kaylin Brown



Kaylin Brown is an ag education major from Woodward. She is a part of the Aggie Club and helps with SGA. She enjoys being with family.

Sagelyn Budy



Sagelyn Budy is an ag communications major from Waynoka. She is a member of the Aggie Club and the President's Leadership Class.

Taylor Ellis



Taylor Ellis is an ag education major from Enid. She is the student assistant for the women's basketball team and is involved in Aggie Club.

Jaydon Mills



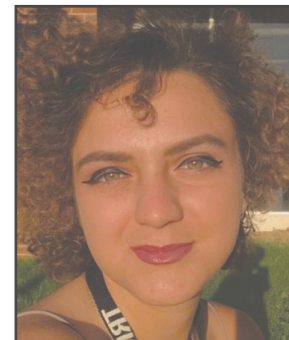
Jaydon Mills is a nursing major from Beaver. She enjoys running and traveling. She is part of the Chemistry Club and the Pre-Nursing Assoc.

Cora Beth Taylor



Cora Beth Taylor is a biology major from Kingfisher. She loves singing and is a member of the President's Leadership Class.

Mariah Thompson



Mariah Thompson is from Midwest City. She enjoys her fundamental two-dimensional art class here at Northwestern Oklahoma State.

Ranger King Candidates

Stephen McClusky



Stephen "Scotty" McClusky is a senior education administration major from Scotland. He enjoys working out and hanging out with friends.

Eric Ragan



Eric Ragan is a freshman nursing major from Visalia, California. He is a part of NASA, Spanish Club, SGA, cross country and jazz band.

Reggie Hinson



Reggie Hinson is a junior health and sports science major from Bristow. His hobbies are cooking and hoop sessions. He enjoys his psychology courses.

Anderson Ramirez



Anderson Ramirez is a junior psychology major from Decatur, Texas. He is part of the university football team and the Writer's Roundtable.

Collin Zink



Collin Zink is a junior health and sports science major from Blackwell. He is president of the Sanctus Catholic Club and helps at a local church.

Voting will be conducted via student email. Check your inbox for voting information soon.

FEATURE



Photos by Jordan Green

ABOVE: Dr. Michael Black, the university's new band director, shown at right, conducts the Northwestern band during band practice on the intramural field on Monday. BELOW: Northwestern band members await instruction from Black (not shown) as they practice on the intramural field for game day on Monday. The band rehearses outdoors a few days each week.

Ranger band marches with a new beat

Dr. Michael Black hopes to inspire Northwestern band

By JASMINE BOWEN
Student Reporter

Northwestern Oklahoma State University has a new band director, Dr. Michael Black.

Black was born in Lompoc, California, and grew up in Sand Springs. He lived there from the time he was in second grade until he went to college. He attended the University of Connecticut and the University of Kentucky. He obtained his doctorate at Franklin College in Indiana.

Black said the students at Northwestern are positive and want to grow and get better.

Black started teaching in 2007 as an undergraduate student. The instrument he primarily played all the way through school was the trumpet.

After being in the field for about 15 years, Black realized something.

"After a while, it became more than something I was just good at," Black said. "It was something that helped me express myself in a way words couldn't."

Black said his teaching style is disciplined.

"I think discipline is very important," Black said. "The way that I accomplish that is just by explaining to the students why it's important, and then trying to inspire them to want to be the best."

Black said he hopes to motivate his students so they will perform at their best, and he wants students to be able to express themselves. He said part of his teaching includes representing underrepresented people through music. He said this is something that is important to him and his students.

Jeff Cher-Aime, a senior band student, said he's seen Black use new technologies to help advance the band. Cher-Aime said Black has brought new and different tastes of music to the ensemble.

"Dr. Black is more of a progressive band director," Cher-Aime said.

April Schultz, the Northwestern band drum major, said band has been fun this year.

"Dr. Black is amazing," Schultz said. "He is on top of things and works with the band really well."

She said students are working hard and eager to learn.



"Dr. Black is extremely personable and easy to talk to," Schultz said. "He also works hard to make a good show for such a small band."

Black said music is more than just notes on a page or sounds from an instrument. He said it has a lot of depth and meaning. He said students inspire him to come to work.

To him, the most rewarding parts of the job are seeing students make connections, seeing students grow and watching students find inspiration.

Black said his biggest goal this year is to develop a foundation for the future of the band.

**Thinking of Moving??
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ENTERTAINMENT

Ragland rocks out with Rangers



Photo by Jordan Green

Singer and songwriter Autumn Ragland, left, and husband Sam Cox, right - two of the three members of the Ragland Band - performed for Northwestern students on the intramural field on Sept. 16. The Northwestern Student Government Association hosted the event.

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

Ghost of Tsushima captivates players

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Assistant Editor

Samurai are legendary warriors who keep the peace and protect the innocent, but what happens when they face an enemy that fights with no honor?

Ghost of Tsushima is a legend being made in real time. The game is Playstation-exclusive, and the creators behind this game are Suckerpunch Productions, based in Bellevue, Washington.

The story follows Jin Sakai, a samurai warrior. After samurai forces lose to the Mongols at the initial invasion spot, Jin is forced to use tactics that are shamed by the samurai code in order to fight back against the invaders and save his home.

The game takes place on the island of Tsushima in 1274 in the 13th century, when the Mongols first invaded Japan. Ghost of Tsushima is a historical fictional

epic of the ghost that fought back against the invaders and sparked hope in Japanese people when the samurai fell. Over the course of the game's story, players make allies with an unlikely group of people and those with whom Jin is familiar.

Khotun Khan leads the Mongol forces as they pillage and ravage the land and its people. Jin feels conflicted with his code of honor. Should he remain true to the samurai code or do what is necessary to save his people? That's the overarching question the game has, and it's a conflict Jin struggles with throughout the game.

Players can either stab their enemies in the back or face them head-on. The game is a mix of samurai and Assassin's Creed, but better than Creed.

There are four types of sword stances that players can unlock over the course of the game that will help fight different enemy

types. Players can use kunais, smoke, sticky bombs and lighting swords on fire using oil as weapons.

Some of these weapons are great for stealth, and some aren't. Players can use black powder bombs, which can kill multiple unsuspecting enemies or lure an enemy away by using a bell chime or firecracker.

Players also can use archery while in combat or stealth to get satisfying headshots on opponents. There are two sets of bows: light and heavy.

As someone who always wanted a more realistic samurai game, Ghost of Tsushima nailed it for me. I was thinking this game was going to be good at best. Instead, it became one of my favorite games of all time.

The game's story is like an Akira Kurosawa samurai film, as it has a game mode called Kurosawa mode, in which it becomes black and white and dubbed in

Japanese, which is the best thing.

Suckerpunch went to many lengths to make the game as historically accurate as possible. Company leaders sent some of their developers over to get real animal sounds, the old architecture and the layout of the island. Suckerpunch became ambassa-

dors for Tsushima because of this game's major success, which is awesome.

Ghost of Tsushima continues to be praised to this day by many people, and is a way to end a console generation. Ghost of Tsushima earns a 10 out of 10 score, and I highly recommend playing it.

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SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Rangers fall to Bison, 56-42

By CADE KENNEDY
Sports Editor

The Northwestern football team lost against Oklahoma Baptist 56-42 Sept. 18 at Crain Family Stadium in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

The Rangers' offense showed improvement against Bison, with the Rangers getting their first three rushing touchdowns of the year.

"We looked at what we were doing and decided to keep the offense simple," said Matt Walter, the head coach of the Rangers.

The Rangers had several breakthroughs on offense, as Tanner Clarkson threw for 413 yards and 3 touchdowns with 36 completions out of 53 attempts. Torrence Stevens also had a big game for the Rangers, as he had 13 receptions for 142 yards and a touchdown. Calion Baker ran for 76 yards and 2 touchdowns on 10 carries, giving him an average of

7.6 yards per carry.

Another positive for the Rangers involved turnovers, as the Rangers only turned the ball over one time, compared to the four turnovers they had against Henderson State.

The defense was still a problem for the Rangers, as Preston Haire, the quarterback for Oklahoma Baptist, threw for 310 yards and 6 touchdowns with 25 completions out of 34 attempts.

The Rangers could not stop Oklahoma Baptist on the ground either, as the Bison ran for 221 yards on 37 carries. Tyler Stuever, the running back for the Bison, ran for 191 yards and 1 touchdown on 23 carries. This gave him an average of 7.8 yards per carry.

The turning point of the game occurred in the second quarter, when Keilahn Harris ran a kickoff back 87 yards for a touchdown for Oklahoma Baptist. The Bison scored 28 points in the second quarter, and the kickoff return

provided the momentum that they needed. That quarter was the difference in the game, as both teams scored 21 points in the second half.

Penalties were once again a problem for the Rangers, as they committed 11 penalties worth 100 yards. Oklahoma Baptist struggled with penalties as well, as the Bison committed nine penalties for 87 yards.

The offensive line was another issue that the Rangers dealt with, as Clarkson was sacked four times for a loss of 32 yards.

The Rangers will play Saturday against the East Central University Tigers at 6 p.m. at Ranger Field.

The Rangers have maintained a 4-4 record against the Tigers since 2012, but have won the last four meetings against East Central.

East Central has a 2-1 record on the season, with wins over Arkansas Tech and Southern Nazarene, and a 28-0 loss to Harding.

Northwestern Football Schedule:

9/25: v.s. ECU, 6 p.m.

10/2: @ Ouachita Baptist, noon

10/9: v.s. Arkansas-Monticello, 4 p.m.

10/16: @ SOSU, 2 p.m.

10/23: v.s. SNU, 3 p.m.

10:30: v.s. Harding, 2 p.m.

11/6: @ Arkansas Tech, 2 p.m.

11/13 v.s. SWOSU, 3 p.m.

Breaking down another crazy week of football

CADE'S CALLS



CADE KENNEDY

It was another crazy week of football, but that appears to be the "norm" for the season.

Starting in Oklahoma, Nebraska traveled to Norman to renew a rivalry with

Oklahoma, and it felt exactly like a rivalry game.

The Sooners got off to a strong start, but it was Oklahoma's defense that saved the day for them. The offense left a lot to be desired, as there were several moments where Oklahoma's receivers had to play defense to prevent the ball from being intercepted.

I thought that the close win over Tulane would be the wake-up call that the Sooners needed, but it appears that they have still not woken up yet. They will have to be ready to play this Saturday against West Virginia, or Oklahoma might suffer an unexpected loss.

For Oklahoma State, the defense once again played well, but the offense struggled to find any rhythm.

The Cowboys were able to get the win on the road, as they defeated Boise State 21-20. The Cowboys play a ranked Kansas State on Saturday, so they need to get their act together before they get a rude awakening.

On the national stage of college football, there were several great games.

One of the games that surprised me was Alabama escaping with a 31-29 victory at Florida. It was the first time all season that Alabama looked vulnerable, as Florida was able to gash Alabama's defense by simply running the ball right at them.

Another game that I kept an eye on was Cincinnati defeating Indiana, 38-24. Cincinnati has looked good so far this year and has shown that it can beat a power five team. The only question left to answer is whether it can beat a Top 25 team, and they will get to answer that question soon when it plays Notre Dame.

Another great game that I watched was Penn State defeating Auburn, 28-20. Anytime Penn State is playing someone in what is called the "whiteout" game, I would recommend that you watch it. Penn State once again proved that its defense is legitimate, and that it is a force to be reckoned with.

The final big game that I want to touch on was BYU defeating Arizona State, 27-17. BYU looks great so far this year and has already picked up some quality wins that will help it with its playoff resume later in the year. I would not be surprised to see BYU in the mix as a "dark horse" playoff contender.

The game that shocked me was Clemson barely defeating Georgia Tech, 14-8. Clemson has dominated Georgia Tech for the past few years, so it was odd seeing them struggle in a game they should have won comfortably.

The other game that surprised

me was Ohio State beating Tulsa, 41-20. The score is deceiving for this game, as Tulsa was able to play a competitive game until the final few minutes.

Ohio State is having several problems this year, with the defense continuing to be a big issue. If they want any chance of being able to compete for a national title, they have to fix the defense.

There were two major upsets that occurred in college football, one that many people predicted.

THE REAL UPSETS

The biggest upset involved Fresno State defeating UCLA, 40-37. This was one of the best games of the week, and it is a shame that not a lot of people got to watch it live. Jake Haener, the quarterback for Fresno State, threw for 455 yards and the game-winning touchdown, all while dealing with an injury.

Another upset that occurred was West Virginia beating Virginia Tech, 27-21. This was an upset that I thought would happen, as I was not impressed by how Virginia Tech had played this year.

Another upset that I predicted was Michigan State beating Miami, 38-17. The main takeaway I had from this game is that Miami was clearly over-hyped at the start of the season. I still do not understand what people saw in this team that made them think that Miami was going to be great.

AROUND THE NFL

College football was not the

only game in town, as the NFL had an interesting week as well.

The biggest surprise in the NFL was Tennessee coming back to defeat Seattle in overtime, 33-30.

I knew that Tennessee had the potential to win games like this, and they were able to show the world that they can still win big games.

Another surprise was seeing Baltimore come back to defeat Kansas City, 36-35. Once Kansas City got up by two possessions, I thought that they would be able to put the game away.

However, Kansas City's defense could not stop Baltimore from scoring in the fourth quarter. I was also impressed by Baltimore's defense in the fourth quarter, as they shut down Kansas City and prevented one of the better offenses in the NFL from putting the game out of reach.

Another great game involved Arizona and Minnesota, with Arizona winning 34-33.

Minnesota was able to control the first third of the game, but the Arizona offense eventually came to life and turned the game into a shootout.

Minnesota had a chance to win the game, but Greg Joseph, the kicker for Minnesota, missed a 37-yard field goal as time expired.

INJURY BUG STRIKES AGAIN

Another point is that several quarterbacks got injured during the games, which will make this week's slate of games odd.

For Chicago, Justin Fields will be the new quarterback for them, as Andy Dalton went down with a knee injury during their 20-17 win over Cincinnati. I would think that Fields would be the starter against Cleveland this Sunday, so it will be interesting to see how it plays out. I believe that this change can help Chicago, as they will have a mobile quarterback that can keep defenses guessing.

Some other injuries that occurred were Carson Wentz of Indianapolis, Tyrod Taylor of Houston, and Tua Tagovailoa of Miami. When a quarterback gets injured, it can drastically change the season.

It also means that some players who might have been overlooked will prove that they are worthy of being a starter.

There will be some great games this week in both college football and the NFL, especially with conference play beginning for most college football teams.

The main games to keep an eye on in college football this week are Notre Dame at Wisconsin and Texas A&M at Arkansas. Both games are at neutral sites, so none of these teams have a home field advantage this week.

In the NFL, the main games I am looking forward to are Tampa Bay at Los Angeles, Green Bay at San Francisco, Philadelphia at Dallas and Seattle at Minnesota. I would also keep an eye on the teams that may start a new quarterback this week, as there is no telling how they are going to play.

Enjoy a great week of football.

SPORTS

SOCCER

Rangers roll during five-game win streak

By **KAYLEE JO NEELEY**
Student Reporter

The Lady Rangers soccer team on Sept. 18 won its fifth straight game before going into conference play.

After beating Oklahoma Christian 2-1, the Rangers will head into their first conference game on Sept. 28.

Head coach Alex Piekarski said he expected a tough game on the 18th, and he said he was interested to see how the Rangers performed before moving into the regular conference season.

"We have become a really competitive team that will give their all for the whole 90 minutes," Piekarski said.

During the game against Oklahoma Christian, the Rangers prevented the Eagles from scoring in the first half. In the second half, the Rangers maintained a solid defensive pace. The Rangers' defense continued to execute the job of keeping the game and the ball in their hands.

"So far this year, we have had great team depth and have done a great job pushing through during the second half," Piekarski said. "We have worn teams down and have been able to rotate more players."

The Rangers are going into the regular conference play with a record of 5-1, with a winning streak compared to their losing streak last year.



Photo by Devyn Lansden

A Northwestern soccer player dribbles the ball down the field during the game against Oklahoma Christian on Sept. 18 at the Ranger soccer field.

"This year, we are a lot closer and are ready to work harder for each other rather than just ourselves," said Caitlyn Bidart, the super senior defender from Gardnerville, Nevada. "Also, I feel like an important part of the change this year is how the group of seniors came in this year and the expectations we wanted to change from last year."

The Rangers are ranked first out of the seven teams in the GAC women's soccer standings

as of Sept. 17.

"I think overall the positive attitudes and our work ethic has been a lot better this year, and I believe our chemistry with each other on the field is a recipe for success," said Reagan Allen, a senior goalkeeper and captain.

After continuing their winning streak on the 18th, the Rangers say they are keeping their expectations high going into conference play.

"Team-wise, I think the best

thing that we can do moving forward is working for each other and taking it day by day, one game at a time and hopefully go undefeated or at least make the playoffs," Bidart said.

Piekarski said the senior class this year could be the most important change for the season.

"I think our senior class, in general, has been great in terms of leadership," Piekarski said. "Caitlyn Bidart, Reagan Allen and Reilly Marks, who are our

three captains, have done a great job leading the younger girls throughout the past few games and during practice."

Piekarski said he believes the team will continue to see growth and improve on every level during the season.

"Our returners have continued to grow in all areas, and we have added some talented players and have done a really good job of jelling and welcoming our new players," Piekarski said.

Rangers fall short, drop two games

By **CONNOR GRAY**
Assistant Editor

The Northwestern volleyball team played two competitive games against Southeastern and Fort Hays.

The Rangers opened up conference play Sept. 14 against Southeastern Oklahoma State in a competitive matchup.

Last time both teams met, the Rangers won in a post-season playoff game in Alva, with a match score of 3-2.

"They were good last year," said head coach Fred Aubuchon. "We barely beat them here last season in a five-set playoff match."

Aubuchon said Southeastern returned all of its primary players from last season, which in turn makes it one of the older teams in the conference.

The match would open up the first set with dominant performances by the Rangers. Kaydee Honeycutt started it off with a kill shot, putting the team up 1-0 and cruising for most of the set with a

score of 25-8 to take set one.

Southeastern would adjust and take the next two sets, with the second set going back and forth and the third set with scores of 25-18 and 25-16, respectively.

"It felt like we had to make changes that did not exist."

— **Fred Aubuchon**

The Rangers responded with a 25-22 win, with Honeycutt and Madison Dehlinger being the standouts in holding off the opposition.

In the final set, the Rangers came up short after tying it. The team got down early and did not respond fast enough, losing 15-9, with the match result of 3-2 Southeastern.

Kaydee Honeycutt had 16 kill shots, and Addison Wimmer had 13 as the standouts of the game.

"It felt like we had to make

changes that did not exist," Aubuchon said in regards to the final set. "We had the right team on the floor, and we just couldn't get the points we needed."

Despite the loss, the Rangers turned their attention to Fort Hays State University. Fort Hays played back-to-back matches against conference opponents on Friday and Saturday before playing Northwestern on Sunday.

Northwestern and Fort Hays were competitive in all four sets. Fort Hays won the match 3-1, winning the first two sets 25-23 and 25-20, respectively.

The Rangers took the next set 25-22, but lost the following one 25-23.

Wimmer had 19 kills; Honeycutt had 12; and Courtney Russel had six. Abby Davis and Abigail Burns had 25 and 18 assists, respectively.

Northwestern's next game will be Sept. 24 when the team plays No. 18-ranked Oklahoma Baptist University.

The last two meetings between them were competitive, with the Rangers losing both times.

Upcoming Home Games:

9/24: Volleyball v.s. OBU

9/25: Football v.s. ECU

9/28: Soccer v.s. SWOSU

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What's up?

THIS WEEKEND: FAMILY DAY

Ranger students and their families will be able to spend the weekend together in Alva for a series of events as part of the Family Day weekend. Here's the schedule for the weekend:

FRIDAY:

- Shopping for Tuition Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at participating merchants (See www.nwsu.edu/family-day for a list)

SATURDAY:

Shopping for Tuition Saturday 10 a.m. to noon at participating merchants (See www.nwsu.edu/family-day for a list)

- Family Day Presidential Pre-Game events for students and

families will be in the Student Center starting at 3 p.m.

- A Tailgate Party on the lawn west of the Ranger Field Fieldhouse will take place at 4 p.m. Food and drinks served for \$3 per person. In case of inclement weather, the tailgate event will be in the Student Center.

- A football game vs. East Central starts at 6 p.m. at Ranger Field.

SEPT. 30 - OCT. 2:

"A Tuna Christmas," the first theater production of the fall semester, will open in Herod Hall. Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 show is at 7 p.m.; the Oct. 2 show is at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$3 for students, \$5 for employees and \$10 for general admission.

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