

## GAME MUST GO ON

Four Northwestern softball players are OK following a Monday wreck in Alva, and the rest of the team played a scrimmage Tuesday. PAGE 3



**NATIONAL  
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# NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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Alva, OK 73717

Address Service Requested

Volume No. 84, Issue 7

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Oklahoma

October 6, 2022

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## MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK

# Finding peace, acceptance

**Local church leaders say making friends, joining fellowship boost mental health**

By **KRISTEN KIRTLEY**  
*Student Reporter*

Being a part of a church family is beneficial to college students' mental health, local ministers say.

The first week of October is Mental Illness Awareness Week, and Alva clergy say making friends and fellowshiping with other students can improve college students' lives overall.

Dr. Karsten Longhurst, pastor of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Alva and the director of Northwestern's choirs, said the church is a safe place for students to develop a support group and find people who are interested in students' well-being. It's even a place for students to find a home-cooked meal.

"If we look for that spiritual component, you'll find it there through an emphasis on faith, self-development, belief

See **CHURCH**, Page 2



Students at the Baptist Collegiate Ministries, 1020 College Blvd., sit in a circle during a BCM meeting in this Aug. 2021 file photo. Ministers and other faith leaders say making friends and joining fellowship in a faith-based organization is good for a person's mental health.

## NWOSU not exempt from trend: More students seek counseling

By **GAVIN MENDOZA**  
*News Editor*

College students across the nation are seeking mental health services at higher rates than they did in the past, education leaders say.

College students are reaching out to campus counseling centers and their staff to seek help for mental health issues like depression and anxiety. According to [insidehighered.com](http://insidehighered.com), 65% of college students report having fair or poor mental health. Sixty-three percent

See **COUNSELING**, Page 2



Taylor Wilson, Northwestern's director of counseling and career services, is shown in this November 2021 photo. Wilson oversees Northwestern's counseling services and said more students are seeking counseling.

File photo

## Exercise, hobbies, family, friends help students maintain mindset

By **DYLAN WHITELEY**  
*Senior Reporter*

Everybody has one of those days when their mental tanks are empty.

College students are especially prone to stress and anxiety as the semester drags on, and students respond to those challenges in different ways based on their personalities.

Whether introverted or extroverted, some Northwestern students say they have good resources for getting the mental "recharge" they need to keep going.

Saydy Graybill, a senior education major from Alva,

said she talks to her family and friends to boost her mental health.

Other students said merely being around a group of friends usually helps them with any problems they might have. Kylee Weve, a junior from Cherokee, said she enjoys going out and riding horses with her friends.

Other students need a break from those around them. The best thing for them is to have some alone time, read a book or go for a drive to take their mind off of things. Zeth Warren, a senior from Alva, said he enjoys going golfing during

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# NEWS

## CHURCH: Ministers work to create welcoming atmosphere

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in God and sorting out ourselves, finding a place of meditation,” Longhurst said. “Finding a spiritual center and a routine in a spiritual community you can enjoy is so important for students.”



Longhurst

The church, 1467 Thunderbird Rd., meets on Sundays at 10 a.m. Youth groups meet on Wednesday nights.

Nathan Hosier, pastor of Cedar Grove Wesleyan Church west of Alva, said worshipping, praying, singing and studying the Bible with others are some of the benefits of joining a church. He said he believes they can



Hosier

positively impact students' mental health.

People should be welcomed when they walk in the doors of a church, Hosier said. He pointed to his brother's experience during seminary, when church members took in seminary students and cared for them like “adoptable” family members.

Cedar Grove, 35021 Major Rd., meets at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

Katie Hill, pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Alva, said she believes that finding a community, gaining emotional and spiritual support, having a place to hear God's Word and growing in faith are helpful things college students gain access to by joining a church family. Hill said talking to members

and leaders of a local church is a good way for students to get involved.

She said the church aims to talk with college students to meet their needs and pray with them. These are two important roles the church has in making students feel supported, welcomed and loved, she said.

The Methodist Church, 626 College Ave., meets Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

**“When you are out in an unfamiliar place with people you may not know, it's nice to have a group of people to connect with.”**

— Miles Harris

Miles Harris, director of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries in Alva, said the organization aims to help students realize that they are not alone.

“The biggest thing that we try to convey at the BCM is that we rely on Christ to get us through tough times,” Harris said. “This isn't something we say. It's something we try to live out. When you are out in an unfamiliar place with people you may not know, it's nice to have a group of people to connect with.”

“No one likes to feel isolated and separate, and at the BCM, we strive to create an atmosphere that everyone is welcome.”

The BCM, 1020 College Blvd., meets several days each week. Find meeting times by visiting [www.https://nwosubcm.com/](https://nwosubcm.com/).



Photo by Colby Dalton

First United Methodist Church Pastor Katie Hill poses for a portrait Sept. 24 at Hatfield Park following her church's outdoor service. Ministers and other faith leaders say making friends and joining fellowship in a faith-based organization is good for a person's mental health.

## Finding your way

### A guide to campus ministries serving Northwestern in Alva

#### Baptist Collegiate Ministries

1020 College Blvd.  
580-371-5957  
[www.nwosubcm.com/](http://www.nwosubcm.com/)

#### Church of Christ Bible Chair

1108 College Blvd.  
580-327-4511  
[www.alvachurchofchrist.org/](http://www.alvachurchofchrist.org/)

#### The eXtreme

College & Barnes Aves.  
580-327-5433  
[extreme@hopetonchurch.org](mailto:extreme@hopetonchurch.org)

#### Wesley House

1027 Eighth Ave.  
580-371-2046  
[wesleyhousenwosu@yahoo.com](mailto:wesleyhousenwosu@yahoo.com)

## STUDENTS: Going to gym, getting outside can be helpful

Continued from Page 1

his free-time to find relaxation.

Some students say they use facilities on campus for their mental health. Some go to the J.R. Holder Wellness Center to do a workout, while athletes may go to the gym to shoot baskets or go outside for a run to feel better.

Preston Paschall, a sophomore from Burlington, said he enjoys working out when he's feeling down. He said he values his mental health and said others should, too.

“I am big on mental health,” Paschall said. “I think it is really important, especially for guys, since they don't really tend to talk about it to anyone.”

## COUNSELING: Pandemic hurts mental health

Continued from Page 1

of those who say their mental health is poor, rate their college's mental health awareness and services at a C or lower.

Taylor Wilson, Northwestern's director of counseling and career services, said Northwestern has seen a rise in students seeking help.

“There has been a constant increase in students seeking counseling services, especially since the pandemic,” Wilson said.

In a recent survey conducted by student health provider TimeLyMD, students said the pandemic has reduced the quality of their education and has worsened their mental health. Students were not alone when it came to an increase in seeking mental health help. Twenty percent of Americans reported experiencing a mental illness, an increase of about 1.5 million people compared to the year before, according [apmreports.com](http://apmreports.com).

Depression caused by the pandemic is not the only reason students say they visit counselors.

The most common mental health issues college students experience as of 2021 are depression (40.3%), anxiety (34.2%) and suicide ideation (13.2%).

Wilson said students visit her for many reasons.

“Students seek counseling services for various reasons; some of the most common are depression, anxiety and stress,” Wilson said.

Wilson added that Northwestern has increased its mental health resources because of two grants.

“Northwestern was awarded two higher education prevention services grants, one for opioid prevention and the other for stimulant prevention,” Wilson said.

One of the largest reasons students are hesitant to use some mental health resources is the stigma that surrounds mental health across campuses, according to [apmreports.com](http://apmreports.com). However,

**Students are seeking help at higher rates than in the past, Taylor Wilson said.**

er, a recent study conducted by Healthy Minds suggests students are beginning to get rid of the stigma and starting to find it more socially acceptable to talk about mental health.

As more students speak up about their mental health, counseling on campuses is in higher demand than ever before, officials say. Schools have been left scrambling for answers on how to give students treatment the fastest and best ways possible.

Resources provided by Northwestern can be found at <https://www.nwosu.edu/student-services/counseling/mental-health-resources>.

## Need help?

If you or someone you know is in a mental health emergency, help is available 24/7.

The National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline phone number is 988. In the event of an emergency, dial 911.

To obtain counseling services at Northwestern, visit <https://www.nwosu.edu/student-services/counseling>.

# NEWS



Photos by Jordan Green

Northwestern softball players and Alva first responders are shown Monday afternoon at the scene of a four-vehicle collision at the intersection of College Boulevard and Hart Street. Four softball players were involved.

## Softball players OK after wreck; Tuesday scrimmage proceeds

By **JORDAN GREEN**  
Editor-in-Chief

Four Northwestern softball players were involved in a four-car collision Monday afternoon, but that didn't stop the rest of the team from playing a scrimmage Tuesday — with their missing teammates in their hearts.

"They're resilient," Coach Casady Webb said. "They want to play for each other."

Police officers and firefighters responded to a collision at Hart Street and College Boulevard at 4:47 p.m. Monday, according to Woods County emergency dispatch records. No official accident report had been released as of press time.

Softball players Ariana Potter, Cozee Clark, Jaci Oakley and Tatum Winters were driving to softball practice after unloading pumpkins at a pumpkin patch for a community service project.

Two vehicles were preparing to turn left off College Boulevard and onto Hart Street when

another vehicle topped the hill and rear-ended the two vehicles. The impact forced the first vehicle into an opposing traffic lane, and a truck struck the vehicle, said Northwestern baseball player Kyle Gscheidle, who lives at the nearby Aspen Apartments and witnessed the collision.

"I was walking into my apartment, and I just took a glimpse over at the road," he said. "Once the middle car hit that [first] car, it kind of shot out into oncoming traffic and then got hit by the truck that was passing by. It was like pinball, but in a bad way."

Airbags deployed in at least some of the vehicles involved, but players were able to exit their vehicles. College Boulevard was narrowed to one lane while first responders cleared debris and tow trucks removed disabled vehicles.

None of the players involved were taken to the hospital, but they will be off the field until they pass a concussion screening test, likely toward the end of next week, Webb said.

"Their health and safety al-

ways comes first, no matter what, game day or not," Webb said. "I'm just glad everybody is safe and OK. ... God definitely was watching over them yesterday."

Softball practice was canceled Monday night. The next day, though, team members not involved in the wreck were on the field to play against the Cowley County Community College Tigers.

Donning their red and black uniforms, the Lady Rangers were warming up for their scrimmage at the Alva Recreation Complex shortly before 2 p.m. Their energy levels were high. So was their optimism about the situation.

"I hate that [the wreck] happened, but more people are going to get opportunities today," Webb said. "There were a couple starters in there. I know they're happy that their teammates are going to get some opportunities today, too."

"We're out here for them. We're playing for them. It kind of is a reminder of how valuable life can be, to not take the game for granted."

Northwestern softball players and Alva first responders are shown Monday afternoon at the scene of a four-vehicle collision at the intersection of College Boulevard and Hart Street. Four softball players were involved.



## What's up?

### THURSDAY

The Northwestern Medical Sciences Club will meet Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Science Amphitheater. The club is meant to provide Northwestern students who are interested in the medical field an opportunity to become better informed, promote activities related to the medical field and secure intellectual stimulation in the field.

### THURSDAY — SATURDAY

The first theater production of the school year will start Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Herod Hall Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and the show begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, the musical will start at 2 p.m.

The musical is open to the community and all Northwestern students and staff. Tickets are available at the door or online. Tickets cost \$12 for general admission. Tickets for employees cost \$10 and \$5 for students with an up-to-date ID.

### MONDAY

A LASSO Center career coach is hosting a speed-interviewing event in the Student Center Ballroom Monday from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Students looking to improve interview skills for jobs, Miss Northwestern, scholarships or career fairs are encouraged to attend.

### TUESDAY

The Student Government Association will serve pizza to students who attend the Northwestern women's soccer game Tuesday at the Ranger soccer field beginning at 6 p.m. The meal is provided as a part of the Pack the Pitch event.

The second concert series at Northwestern will occur Tuesday in the Herod Hall Auditorium from 7 to 9 p.m. Poor Man's Gambit, a Celtic band, will be playing. Season tickets, as well as individual performance tickets, may be purchased online at [www.nwocs.ludus.com](http://www.nwocs.ludus.com) or from Holder Drug or Graceful Arts Center.

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## NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Official Newspaper  
Northwestern Oklahoma State  
University

709 Oklahoma Blvd.  
Alva, OK 73717

Published weekly throughout the school year except during examination periods and holidays and distributed to students and staff.

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The News is printed by the Alva Review-Courier

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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@nwsu.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



File photo

Pictured above is a burnout during the annual Big Cruise and Car Show. The author believes Alva would benefit from having a racetrack.

## Can Alva live life in the fast lane?

By **J.D. EDDY**  
Editorial Editor

Last week, I discussed how small town are dying because of their leaders' refusal to expand. They lack activities for people who live in town and tourists.

An idea that I had while writing was bringing a small racetrack to Alva.

This can increase tourism while increasing Alva's appeal to new students and potential homeowners.

Several Oklahoma towns have race or rally tracks, including: the Lawton Speedway, Thunder Valley Raceway in Lexington, the Enid Speedway and Hallet Motor Racing Circuit in Jennings.

Thunder Valley has one or more events each weekend from March 5 to Nov. 12. Having

something like this helps to bring more people to the town and gives businesses like motels, grocery stores and gas stations an increase in revenue.

These tracks pay taxes to the town and county governments as well.

These tracks spend money in the communities they serve by buying supplies, like gas. The owners have to have accounting, banking and insurance services for the track, which they'll find in their communities.

This means that a bank, accounting service and local insurance agency in Alva could receive more business, increase revenue and cater to new residents.

That said, having the racetrack does not just benefit the community. It will benefit the college by having this new attraction, which may help increase enrollment.

Alva High School students would benefit by having new activities for students to watch and participate in. Having a racetrack would have positive aspects for everyone. Things like this do not always work, but take the Alva car show, for example.

Most of the town is in attendance for the car show, and so individuals from other parts of the Midwest.

Food trucks and competitions give away free stuff like shirts. A drag race event takes place the day after the vehicles cruise the boulevard, and the cars line up for people to look at or buy throughout the weekend.

I attend community events, and so do other students. Have a race track would give Alva something to do on the weekends other than attend football games or drive to The Bull.

On Facebook, Alva's Rants and Raves and Gossip page has individuals who agree with me. Users on Facebook list some of the same benefits that this racetrack could bring to Alva. If you do not believe me, check for yourself.

The race track would have beneficial or detrimental aspects that I have overlooked. I believe the positives outweigh the negatives in this case, however. It can bring more business to Alva than anything, considering the love that the car show receives. It makes sense that having a small racetrack in town could produce the same feeling.

If you think there is anything I missed, or if you want to voice your own opinion on this topic, please write a letter to the editor. I would love to hear what you think about this for Alva.

## ELECTIONS

# How students can register to vote

By **NASTASSJA GEE**  
Guest Columnist

Conserving Our Ranger Environment wants you to register to vote.

Are you registered to vote? November is quickly approaching, and there are many important races that could be determined by your vote. The good news: C.O.R.E. is hosting a voter registration drive and encourages all students across each Northwestern campus to register as soon as possible so your voice can be heard.

In order to vote in the Nov. 8 election, you must be registered by Oct. 14. Registration forms and a drop box are in the Commons Area on the Enid campus.

However, you can also visit the Oklahoma Voter Portal to find more locations at: <https://oklahoma.gov/elections/voter-registration/register-to-vote.html>.

The voter registration form must be printed off and returned to the county election board. The forms can be mailed to or dropped at the physical locations.

The addresses are found below. C.O.R.E. encourages all to get out and vote.

The following are the addresses of the county election boards in the counties Northwestern campuses are located in.

For the Alva campus, forms should be sent to the Woods County Election Board. The physical address is 427 Barnes Ave., Ste 2, Alva, OK. The mailing address is P.O. Box 184, Alva OK 73717-0184.

For the Enid campus, forms should be sent to the Garfield County Election Board. The physical address is 903 Failing Dr., Enid, OK. The mailing address is P.O. Box 1872, Enid OK 73702-1872.

For the Ponca City campus, forms should be sent to the Kay County Election Board. The physical address is 219 S Main St, Administration Building, Newkirk, OK. The mailing address is P.O. Box 331, Newkirk OK 74647-0331.

For the Woodward campus, forms should be sent to the Woodward County Election Board. The physical address is 1600 Main St, Ste 2, County Courthouse, Woodward, OK. The mailing address is P.O. Box 613, Woodward OK 73802-0613.

*Nastassja Gee is the president of C.O.R.E. at Northwestern.*

# OPINION

## Small newspapers have a big role

**JORDAN GREEN SAYS**



JORDAN GREEN

Even when I'm working long hours and feeling the stress of an impending deadline, I love being a newspaperman. It's the best job in the world because I get to meet people from around

the world.

In the last two weeks, I've interviewed two people I never thought I'd find myself visiting with. For the Northwestern News, I had a story about a German professor who came to Alva to research documents maintained by a university history professor.

For The Blackwell Journal-Tribune, I wrote about a South African man who came to work as a farmhand in Kay County for the summer.

Now, he's competing in a high-speed inflatable boat race in shark-infested waters around the southern cape of Africa.

These are just a couple of the neatest stories I've been blessed enough to tackle here lately – and they're just two examples of the kind of stories you can find in your local newspaper.

This is National Newspaper Week, a time when journalists celebrate America's most important and long-standing mode of media. But this year's celebration comes at a turbulent time for the media industry as a whole.

Public trust in newspapers, TV stations and online news outlets is at an all-time low, surveys show. After bitter and divisive political battles and elections in the last few years, accusations of bias have been leveled more and more against some of the nation's leading news sources.

Without a doubt, some of those accusations are warranted. Some figures in so-called "mainstream media" have abandoned journalistic ethics like objectivity, fairness and balance in favor of shoving propaganda down the



throats of consumers, who have increasingly grown tired of being told they're terrible people for having opinions that don't align with those of journalists.

At the same time, many of those outlets are unjustly accused of being "fake news" for reporting the truth. Too many people call anything they disagree with or do not like "fake." To say facts are false just because you don't like them is dangerous and foolish.

There's fault on both parts in the debate over problems with modern mass media. But while some major outlets are too busy catering to their consumers and vilifying those who aren't, where do newspapers like the one you're reading one fit in?

Small publications like this are not really members of the "mainstream media." We have a few thousand readers, both online and in print – a drop in the bucket compared to nationwide outlets. And we don't cover anything like

the "big guys" do.

While the nation's leading news outlets are watching the White House's every move, we're shining a light on what's happening at City Hall. When political activists make angry statements about national problems, we're writing about an upcoming community fundraiser. And while paparazzi are stalking the mansion of some Hollywood celebrity, we're talking about the sweet little old lady down the street who is making blankets for children in need.

These are some hypothetical examples, but they're the kind of stories you can expect your local newspaper to cover thoroughly and passionately.

The journalists who write the stories, capture the photos and design the pages of hometown newspapers are as invested in their communities as the people who own businesses, serve on school boards and cheer on the baseball team at a home game.

We bring you the news no other outlet does.

Community journalists have no incentive to spread disinformation or incite discord like some on social media and in national media do. Besides, in most small towns, where news spreads like wildfire, there's no way for journalists to get away with publishing "fake news" without being held to account for it.

That's not to say we don't make mistakes. I've made my fair share. But we promptly correct them, humbling ourselves before our readers and vowing to do better next time.

We admit our wrongs and keep plugging along with the best, most accurate news we can provide because we love what we do: proudly serving our communities and striving to make them better places by bringing people together with valuable, useful information.

Even though we're not reporting as much on major polit-

ical battles between Republicans and Democrats, we do still tackle tough stories – shocking tales of crime and corruption from the lowest rungs of the societal ladder to the highest branches of local government.

Folks don't always like or agree with what we write about, but that doesn't keep us from telling the truth. That is, after all, our sole goal.

We're here because we want our newspapers to help folks. To do that, however, small-town papers need your help. Newspapers need revenue from subscribers to survive and keep afloat.

Above all, we want folks to read our work. If you don't regularly read our paper, I'd encourage you to do so. And, if you are one of our loyal readers, I can't thank you enough for supporting what we do.

Thanks to you, countless journalists like yours truly have the best jobs in the world. And we want to keep serving you.

### POLITICS

## Education programs may curb gun violence

By **KANNIN KOEHN**  
Guest Columnist

There is a major issue in our world today: gun-related incidents. You see them almost everywhere, almost every time you turn on your TV or phone.

Some people see the only solution to be legislation and bans, but is this the only solution? I personally believe that this is not the case.

I believe a large part of the issue could be solved with proper firearm safety education. Looking back in history, firearm

safety was taught almost like a tradition between parents and their children. Before I first shot a gun, I had to attend a gun safety class, read the gun manual, read a safety booklet, learn the parts and watch range safety videos. Finally, after this lengthy process, I got to take it to the range and safely shoot it — only after learning to respect the responsibility that came along with it.

I believe the falling out of this tradition is partially to blame for the increase in gun-related incidents. This, as a result, has led to the push for "gun bans" and other legislative initiatives. I believe part of

the solution would be to re-implement the teaching of firearm safety.

***"Before I first shot a gun, I had to attend a gun safety class, read the gun manual, and read the safety booklet."***

**— Kannin Koehn**

Government action has never been the

sole solution to social issues; only society can truly solve these issues. That's why they are called social issues. The use of safe storage devices such as trigger locks, bolt locks and gun safes alone can cut out a significant percentage of gun-related incidents. Imagine what would happen if we gave an in-depth lesson on gun safety. Let's shoot for a better tomorrow with proper gun safety.

*Kannin Koehn is the vice chairman of the Northwestern College Republicans Club. He also serves as Woods County chapter coordinator for the Oklahoma Second Amendment Association.*

# PAINTING THE TOWN

## Annual Mural Fest gives town several fresh splashes of color



LEFT: Muralist Aditi Heins, left, and her husband, Dane, paint a mural in downtown Alva on Saturday afternoon. The mural, titled "Grow Through What You Go Through," was one of four murals created on buildings in downtown Alva during the annual Northwest Mural Fest, hosted by the Alva Mural Society. The mural was one of two painted on the east side of the building at 404 Flynn St.

BELOW LEFT: Muralist Rhiana Deck uses spray paint to create a series of flowers along the side of a building at 404 Flynn St. in downtown Alva on Saturday.

BELOW RIGHT: Muralist Chris Cargill paints a "Ride, Rangers, Ride" mural on panels at Gambino's Pizza, 720 Oklahoma Blvd, across the highway from the university's campus.

Photos by Colby Dalton



Photo by Colby Dalton

Muralist Jason Pawley paints a landscape-themed mural on a wall behind the Woods County Health Department, 511 Barnes St. See Page 7 for a story.



Photo by Jordan Green

Muralist Rhiana Deck uses spray paint to create a series of flowers along the side of a building at 404 Flynn St. in downtown Alva on Saturday. The annual festival took place in conjunction with Northwestern's Family Day events.



Photos by Jordan Green

ABOVE: Alva resident Truman Cookson poses for a portrait next to an unfinished mural behind the Woods County Health Department on Saturday morning during the Alva Mural Society's annual Northwest Mural Fest. BELOW: Cookson points to drawings of himself made by local artist Warren Little. The drawings are displayed near the soda foundation at Holder Drug.

# Double vision? New mural unintentionally, but closely, resembles Alva farmer

By JORDAN GREEN  
Editor-in-Chief

Edmond artist Jason Pawley spent Saturday morning behind the Woods County Health Department painting a mural of a smiling, hat-donning farmer he'd never met. Meanwhile, in the pharmacy next door, 85-year-old Truman Cookson smiled as he sat near the soda fountain.

Cookson, who has farmed and ranched in Kansas and Oklahoma for years, kept his brown sun hat atop his head and his cellphone tucked into a worn pocket on his blue bib overalls as he combed through the morning newspaper. Then, another farmer arrived with a news flash.

"I said, 'Truman, have you seen the character they're putting up on the wall?'" Mark Dubben said. "It's you."

Cookson walked down the alley and took a long look at the mural, inspecting the wide array of colors with his watchful eyes. He let out a hearty laugh.

"Well, there's a resemblance," he said with a wry grin.

### HOW IT ALL STARTED

Pawley was in town as part of the Alva Mural Society's 2022 Northwest Mural Fest, an annual event that brings in artists from across the region to create artwork on the sides of local buildings. Most of the murals have a local

tie, showing significant aspects of Alva.

"Farm life is probably a huge deal out here," Pawley said. "I kind of want to showcase that. Farmers are very important to us."

Pawley wanted to paint a mural featuring the region's signature rolling fields, covered by the orange and blue hues of the rising sun. Then, he needed to add a person. Pawley logged onto Google and searched for photos using the generalized search term "vintage farmer."

"I came up with an image that struck me," Pawley said. "I used it, and I illustrated it, projected it and put it up here."

The image came to life Saturday morning, as the outlines making up the character's cheekbones and thick-framed glasses were filled with color. With caution cones blocking the alley, Pawley climbed atop scaffolding to spread color across the brick wall.

Shades of teal, orange and yellow make up the landscape enveloping the farmer, who smokes a pipe as he looks across the horizon.

"Without the pipe, it's you," Dubben told Truman. "I've never seen him smoke a pipe."

Around 10 o'clock, after hearing Dubben's nearly prophetic words, Cookson came to take a look. He talked with Pawley for a while, sharing his life story.

Pawley is confident that the farmer he modeled the mural after was not Cookson. But he didn't deny the uncanny and unplanned resemblance between the two.



"That guy is as authentic as it gets," Pawley said of Cookson. "It fits the bill."

### TRIED AND TRUE

The wrinkles on the farmer's face in the mural reflect years of intense labor and a life of working on the land. So do the grizzled whiskers and wrinkles on Cookson's.

Cookson has worked around the region as a welder, farmer, rancher and auctioneer.

He worked for Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Co. before he moved to Alva, married his wife and took up ranching. Then he bought a livestock sale barn.

"They said I could never be a success," Truman said. "I kept it for six or eight years and sold it for twice [the purchase price]."

Being in livestock sales wasn't easy, though, as persistent market fluctuations made the business stressful and challenging to predict. Nevertheless, Cookson persevered. He built and sold another sale barn, and he held a real estate license for 35 years, among other vocations. He's planted crops on thousands of acres of land and sold countless farms, too.

Folks like Dubben still respect his work.

"Who knows how many head of cattle that guy has auctioned off. Then, he was a land auctioneer, too," Dubben said. "He was probably the most fair land auctioneer guy I've ever been around. ... When he auctioned, you always knew who had the bid."

With his 86th birthday approaching, Cookson still enjoys meeting acquaintances in the community. And he'll gladly share

some stories from the past — without much embellishment.

"I've had a lot of pitfalls," Cookson said softly in his deep, bass voice. "But through the time, it's been enjoyable. ... I'm not an educated man at all, but in my lifetime, I've done about everything that I ever wanted to do, and I have no regrets."

### KEEPING UP WITH APPEARANCES

Cookson isn't the farmer in the mural, but he's been the subject of a few other artistic endeavors. Alva painter Warren Little has sketched and colored drawings of Cookson on notebook paper that hang on a stainless-steel refrigerator at Holder Drug. Those works look like the mural, Cookson said.

"The only thing about it, the face is a little more long in there than it is in here," Cookson said. "Of course, it's everybody's imagination."

Cookson isn't too concerned with who the farmer in the mural is. As he stood in the alley talking with Pawley, he kept glancing toward the subject.

"You're doing a nice job," Cookson said to Pawley as a grin spread across his face. "It's going to stay there a long time. And if it does look like me, when the people go up and down the alley, they'll say, 'Look at that dumb son of a gun.'"

"That's the spittin' image," Pawley said of the mural. "It's like it was meant to be."

# FEATURE

## Delta Zeta pledges new members

From left to right: Carmae Jones, Jordan Pierce, Emely Medina, Cortnie Dennis, Chancie Davidson and Mikayla Webb pledged to Delta Zeta Do sorority on Sept. 25. The sorority now has 10 members. Women who want to consider joining can contact vice president Allison Schieber at [adschieber37@rangers.nwsu.edu](mailto:adschieber37@rangers.nwsu.edu). The sorority has continuous open bidding so new members can join any time.

Photo provided



## Poor Man's Gambit to perform on campus



Photo provided

Poor Man's Gambit, a Celtic band, will perform in Herod Hall Oct. 11.

By **ALLISON SCHIEBER**  
*Student Reporter*

Do you need a date night plan or maybe just a fun night out with friends?

Poor Man's Gambit, a Celtic band, will perform on Oct. 11 in Herod Hall as the second show of the four-part Northwest Oklahoma Concert series.

Poor Man's Gambit is an Irish-American trio that plays music from the folk genre.

The group formed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 2015 and has released three albums and completed two international tours, according to the group's website.

Performances typically have singing and dancing and feature instruments such as the fiddle, button accordion, guitar, bodhran

and bouzouki.

This increasingly popular Irish-American group performs at many festivals.

Poor Man's Gambit consists of Corey Purcell, who plays the button accordion, cittern, bodhran, sings and dance. Purcell competed in dance for 14 years.

Purcell taught himself the Irish-style button accordion. He said he enjoyed traditional Irish music so much that he branched out to learn other instruments.

Federico Betti plays the guitar and fiddle. Betti grew up in Milan, Italy, and that is where he learned how to play the fiddle. He fell in love with traditional Irish music.

In 1996, Betti co-founded a group called Inis Fail, which became a leader of the Italian Irish music scene.

Betti moved to Ireland in 1999

and lived there for 20 years.

Betti moved to Pennsylvania in 2017, and that's when he joined Poor Man's Gambit.

The last member is Deirdre Lockman, who also plays fiddle, sings and dances.

Lockman has been playing the fiddle since she was four years old. Lockman has held several regional fiddle titles since she started competing. Lockman began Irish step-dancing when she was five years old.

The concert series board chose Poor Man's Gambit to perform because they enjoy folk music, said Dr. Karsten Longhurst, concert series board member.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.nwocs.ludus.com](http://www.nwocs.ludus.com), and tickets will be available at the door. Adult tickets are \$20, senior citizens are \$15 and students and children's tickets are \$5.

## Students make fall break plans

By **TARA OWEN**  
*Student Reporter*

As fall break gets closer, Northwestern students are making plans for their days off.

This year, Northwestern's campuses will be closed October 13 and 14. Cooler temperatures and an extended weekend give students the opportunity to travel back to their hometown or take a mini-vacation.

However, Northwestern still has activities for students to par-

ticipate in during the break.

Students staying on campus can attend a Northwestern Ranger home football game. The Rangers will play the Southeastern Savage Storm on Oct. 15.

Freshman education major Reagan Hiner said she plans to watch a lot of football during her break. Hiner is a member of the Ranger Cheer team and plans to cheer on the Rangers during their game.

Hiner also plans to take a trip back home. As a graduate of Shattuck High School, Hiner said she

wants to watch the rivalry game between Shattuck and Laverne high schools in western Oklahoma.

Secondary science education major Chloe Lehr, a freshman from Alva, will be taking a trip to Colorado. Lehr will be attending a three-day young women's Christian conference. Along with worship, there will be numerous guest speakers. Lehr will also be visiting some of her friends in Colorado.

See PLANS, Page 9

## Thinking of moving?

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# CAMPUS



Photos by Colby Dalton

Families attending Family Day on Saturday registered for the event in the Student Center. They were greeted by university administrators and Northwestern Scholar Ambassadors.

## Families flock to campus

### Breakfast, campus tours, Mural Fest among activities for Ranger families

RIGHT: Pilar Martinez, Julian Sosa and Maria Sosa pose for a portrait in front of a new mural in downtown Alva on Saturday.

FAR RIGHT: Muralist Aditi Heins interacts with viewers as they watch her paint on Saturday.



## PLANS: Campus can be 'quiet'

"I am looking forward to enjoying the nice, cool Colorado weather, and I am excited to attend the Women's Arise Summit," Lehr said. "I will be able to meet other girls my age at the conference that have similar passions as I do."

While this will be an extended break, two days are not enough time for some students at Northwestern to travel home. Sophomore health and sports science major Santiago Sanchez, an inter-

national student from Montreal, Canada, said going home is not an option for him during a short weekend.

As a member of the university baseball team, Sanchez said he is looking forward to relaxing, sleeping in and getting in some extra baseball practice time. Sanchez and his teammates will be directing traffic and parking cars at Ranger Field on Oct. 15.

"Campus is very quiet during breaks," Sanchez said.

**"I am looking forward to enjoying the nice cool Colorado weather, and I am excited to attend the Women's Arise Summit."  
— Chloe Lehr**

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# SPORTS

## FOOTBALL



Photos by J.D. Eddy

Members of the Ranger defensive line get set for a play during Northwestern's game against Ouachita Baptist Saturday at Ranger Field. The Rangers lost to the Tigers, 48-7. This loss puts the Rangers at a record of 0-5, leaving them in last place in the Great American Conference standings. The Rangers play at Arkansas-Monticello on Saturday.

# Tigers trounce Rangers, 48-7



Offensive linemen Jack Shepherd and Zane Potter talk to each other during the game against Ouachita Baptist.

By CADE KENNEDY  
Sports Editor

The Northwestern football team lost to the Ouachita Baptist Tigers, 48-7, Saturday afternoon at Ranger Field.

The Tigers are the toughest opponent that Northwestern has played. The Tigers were No. 6 in the AFCA Division II Coaches Poll.

The Rangers started the game with the ball and came out swinging with multiple big plays. The Rangers marched down the field, with both Darian Gill and Tanner Clarkson having runs of more than 20 yards that put the ball at the Ouachita Baptist five-yard line.

Clarkson took the snap and sprinted up the middle of the field but fumbled the ball one yard short of the endzone. The Tigers recovered the ball, and the Rangers missed an opportunity to take an early lead.

Ouachita Baptist made the Rangers pay for their mistake, as the Tigers drove 99 yards down the field with Riley Harms throwing a 46-yard touchdown pass to Justin Dean to put the first points of the game on the board. As the first quarter ended, the Tigers had a 7-0 lead.

The second quarter had a dif-

ferent story, as the Tiger offense continued to score while the Rangers only punted.

The Tigers ran into the endzone twice in the quarter with two 24-yard touchdown runs, and Harms found Connor Flannigan in the endzone on a 12-yard touchdown pass. When the first half ended, the Tigers had a 28-0 lead and got the ball to start the second half.

The Tigers began to move down the field on their first drive of the third quarter, but they fumbled the ball at the Northwestern 31-yard line to give Northwestern the first stop in four possessions. The Rangers went backwards on their drive and had to punt it away.

The Tigers and Rangers traded touchdowns during the next two drives, keeping the Tiger lead at 28 points. The Rangers had one quarter to get out of a 35-7 deficit.

The damage was done by the time the fourth quarter started, but that didn't stop the Tigers from adding on a touchdown and two field goals to secure a 48-7 win over Northwestern.

The next game for the Rangers is on Saturday, when Northwestern travels to Monticello, Arkansas, to take on the Boll Weevils of Arkansas-Monticello at 2 p.m. at Willis "Convoy" Leslie Cotton Boll Stadium.

# SPORTS

## SOCCER

# Lady Rangers encounter rough patch

By **CONNOR GRAY**  
Senior Reporter

The Lady Rangers are coming off a less-than-desirable four-game stretch where they went 1-2-1.

The Lady Rangers played against Southwestern, East Central, Ouachita Baptist and Harding, and three of the results were not what the team wanted.

On Sept. 16, the Lady Rangers went to Weatherford to play Southwestern. The last time they played was in Alva, and it ended in a tie after going into overtime.

Northwestern and Southwestern battled throughout the game with the Lady Rangers being the aggressor, outshooting the Bulldogs 8-5. Despite the advantage, the Lady Rangers did not score a goal.

Southwestern capitalized on two opportunities, getting a goal before halftime and a second goal at the end of regulation.

“It was a really competitive game against them,” head coach Alex Piekarski said. “It was a disappointing result, but I was pleased with how we played against them.”

The next game took place on Sept. 24 against East Central, and the game went smoother for the Lady Rangers.

The Lady Rangers struggled as they gave up two goals to start the game, but they recovered to tie the game before the end of the half, with goals from Jazlyn Norwood and Tiara Campbell making it 2-2.

In the second half, the game remained scoreless until the final 12 minutes, with Kailani Keoloha getting the third goal off a corner kick. With two minutes left, Aaliyah Acevedo scored the final goal of the game for the Lady Rangers to win, 4-2.

“It was a fantastic win despite going down two goals in the first half,” Piekarski said. “We scored four in a row, and our team kept believing in each other.”

Ouachita Baptist came to town Sept. 29 and got a 3-1 victory despite being out-shot by Northwestern.

The Lady Rangers were the aggressors but did not generate a goal, while the Tigers bided their time and capitalized on mistakes.

The only goal from the Lady Rangers came from Campbell late in the second half.

The last game of the stretch was against Harding on Saturday. The game was a defensive battle, with Northwestern’s Rachael Brown only having two saves.

The Lady Ranger offense did not score despite out-shooting Harding 22-7. The result was a 0-0 tie, Northwestern’s second of the year.

This last stretch of games this puts Northwestern at 4-4-2 on the season.

The Lady Rangers will play at home against Southern Nazarene on Thursday at 6 p.m. and Oklahoma Baptist on Saturday at noon in Shawnee. The last two games of the four-game stretch will be Southwestern on Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. and then East Central at 11 a.m. in Alva.



Photo by J.D. Eddy

Callie Haneborg kicks the ball during Northwestern’s game against Ouachita Baptist Thursday at the Alva Recreation Complex. The Lady Rangers lost, 3-1. The Lady Rangers currently have a record of 4-4-2.

## VOLLEYBALL

# Comeback win, sweeps improve record to 13-7



Photo by J.D. Eddy

Andrea Coady gets ready to hit the ball during Northwestern’s game against Southern Arkansas Thursday at Percefull Fieldhouse.

By **CADE KENNEDY**  
Sports Editor

After a two-loss weekend, the Northwestern volleyball team won three games in a row before losing to Oklahoma Christian on Tuesday.

The Lady Rangers traveled to Lawton Sept. 27 to take on the Aggies of Cameron, and to bounce back after losses to Southwestern and Oklahoma Baptist. Northwestern was in control most of the game, as the Lady Rangers won all three sets to get their sixth 3-0 victory of the season.

On Thursday, the Lady Rangers returned to Percefull Fieldhouse for the first game of a three-game homestand.

Their opponent was Southern Arkansas, which only had three wins on the season. The Lady Rangers found themselves in a 0-2 hole, but won the final three

sets of the game to get a 3-2 win.

The next day, Arkansas-Monticello came to town, and the Boll Weevils had a result like Cameron. The Lady Rangers won two tight sets by scores of 25-23 before winning the final set 25-18 to get another 3-0 victory.

The winning streak lasted until Tuesday, when the Lady Rang-

ers hosted Oklahoma Christian. The Eagles bludgeoned the Lady Rangers early, as they won the first set 25-11.

Northwestern responded by winning the next set 25-16, but it was the last set the Lady Rangers won. Oklahoma Christian won the next two sets and the match, 3-1.

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# NEWS



Photos by Colby Dalton

## New pickle ball court is big dill for students

Following several months of construction, Northwestern students and Alva community members found themselves in a pickle — a pickle ball court, that is — on Monday, when Northwestern hosted an opening ceremony for the new recreational facility. The university's former tennis courts were converted to pickle ball courts using grant funding.

**TOP:** Willie Johnson plays pickleball as Allie Meeks looks on.

**RIGHT:** New pickle ball players pose for a photo Monday.



### NEWS BRIEFS

#### FALL SEMESTER ENROLLMENT RISES

Northwestern's fall enrollment is up for the first time in several semesters, university officials said Tuesday.

The university's total enrollment is 1,849, an increase of 3.4% compared to fall 2021. The university's freshman class is 337, an increase of 20.8% from fall 2021. Concurrent enrollment for high school students increased by 17.7%.

"We are so proud of our recruiters and employees for their hard work," Northwestern President Dr. Bo Hannaford said in a news release. "There is a national trend of decreasing student population in higher education, and we are actively working against these statistics."

The Woodward campus had a 9.3% increase, bringing the number of students at that campus to 153.

Enrollment dropped by 1.8% at the Enid campus, but the number of credit hours students there are taking increased by the same amount.

The enrollment increases break a years-long trend of declining enrollment for Northwestern, one of the state's smaller regional universities.

In fall 2021, the university's

enrollment decreased by 2.5%, which officials attributed, in part, to the coronavirus pandemic. The university had a 7% decline in fall 2020.

The university's enrollment also dipped in fall 2018, spring 2019, fall 2019 and spring 2020.

#### SATTLER NAMED DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Northwestern science professor Dr. Jenny Sattler has been named chair of the Department of Natural Sciences.

Sattler replaced Dr. Steven Maier, who became dean of faculty during the summer. Sattler has taught science courses at Northwestern since January 2014. She oversees the university's science fair and study abroad program.

"As the demands in the science sector are steadily increasing, I want to ensure that the department and Northwestern are growing to meet this need," Sattler said in a news release. "One of my goals as department chair is to recruit more students into science majors."



Sattler