

## RED RIOT

Check out photos of the crowd and the action during Monday's action-packed basketball games. PAGES 6 AND 7



## DOGS DOWN

Northwestern's basketball teams swept the Southwestern Bulldogs at home Monday night. PAGES 10 AND 11



# NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

# MAKING RANGER HISTORY



## 1968 Ranger Queen reflects on NWOSU: 'Wonderful' people

By **KRISTEN KIRTLEY**  
Senior Reporter

In the fall of 1968, a girl was working in the reference section at her university's library when an unexpected disruption took place.

Several students ran into the library singing and dancing. Unbeknownst to the girl, the students were coming to celebrate because the university had just named the girl Ranger Queen.

Her name is Mary Elaine Williams Nichols.

Nichols is originally from Oklahoma City and was the first African American woman to

be named homecoming queen at Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

A few months before Nichols began her freshman year at Northwestern, her junior high school principal, Floyd Alexander, drove her and a few of her classmates to Alva to tour the campus.

"I'm a painter, and I thought Alva was a beautiful town," Nichols said. "I liked the town square and everything about it."

Once Nichols began school at Northwestern, she quickly became involved on campus. She became president of the sorority on campus,

See **NICHOLS**, Page 2

TOP LEFT: Mary Williams Nichols speaks at Northwestern's 2017 spring commencement on Ranger Field.

TOP RIGHT: Mary Nichols, then Mary Williams, poses for a portrait for the Northwestern News during the 1968 Homecoming celebration.

ABOVE: The Northwestern News front page announced the news that Mary Nichols, then Mary Williams, was chosen as Ranger Queen. She was the first African American woman to be chosen as Ranger Queen.

Photos provided

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# NEWS



Ranger Queen Mary Elaine Williams, right, rides the 1968 Homecoming float in the downtown parade. She was accompanied by attendants Lee Anne Tucker Shirley Gibson.

## NICHOLS: Educator had positive experiences at NWOSU

### Continued from Page 1

Zeta Phi Delta. Nichols said she thought one of the sorority members should run for homecoming queen because it would be a good way to drum up participation.

After suggesting the idea to her sorority sisters, none of them were willing to run, but one of them suggested Nichols should run.

Once she decided to vie for the title, her mother shipped a formal dress on a Greyhound bus from Oklahoma City to Alva so Nichols would have something to wear for the homecoming events.

Nichols said that winning the title never crossed her mind. It was just important to her for the sorority to participate in the festivities.

"The day they voted, I thought, 'I better get up to the student union to cast my vote so that at least I would have one vote if I voted for myself,'" Nichols said.

Nichols was informed that the polls had closed for the day, but she was able to vote the following day when the polls re-opened.

After receiving the news that she had received the most votes out of all 17 candidates, meaning she would be crowned queen, her mother shipped two more formal dresses to Alva for the crowning and other events.

While attending college, Nichols became a member of the local Methodist church, where she sang in the choir and played the piano. She also sang in the choir at Northwestern. Nichols earned a degree in elementary education with a minor in art and graduated with honors.

Nichols' fondest memory of Northwestern is the people she met.

"I was happy to be in Alva," Nichols said. "My experience



Photos provided

ABOVE: Mary Elaine Williams files books in the university library, where she worked while she was a student at Northwestern.

RIGHT: Student Senate President Randy Murrow crowns Mary Elaine Williams as Ranger Queen in October 1968 on Ranger Field.

from the very start was positive, and the people I met were absolutely wonderful."

Nichols graduated from North-

***"The people I met were absolutely wonderful."***  
— **Mary Nichols, 1968**  
**Ranger Queen**

western and later received her master of education degree from the University of Maryland.

She taught for several years in Oklahoma City, the state of Maryland and the city of Tulsa. She now works as a holistic health coach.

Nichols' talents have also flowed over into the art world. Her handiwork has been exhibit-

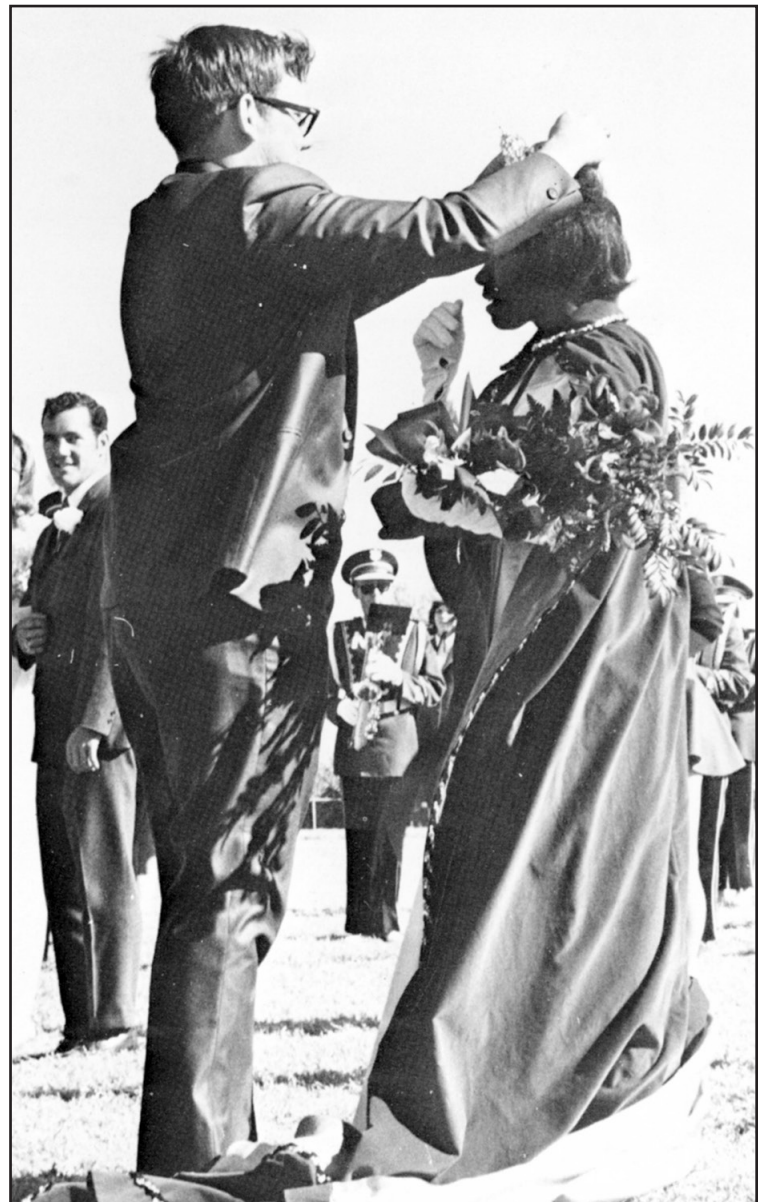
ed in several galleries and on the covers of her hand-painted greeting cards. Some of the articles she has written include: "Poor People's Guide for Rich Language," "Face in the Christmas Tree," "A Crayon Workbook" and more.

Nichols has contributed to the education and art communities outside of the classroom as well. She was appointed to the Oklahoma State Board of Education by former Gov. Frank Keating.

She also served as gallery assistant for the Smith-Mason Art Gallery and Museum in Washington, D.C. In addition, Nichols has served as an artist-in-residence for Oklahoma City Public Schools.

Two additional accomplishments include receiving the Northwestern Alumni Humanitarian Award in 2000 and the National Eagle Forum award.

Dr. Janet Cunningham, former



president of Northwestern, chose Nichols to give the commencement address in 2017 and talked with Nichols during that time. Cunningham said Nichols is gracious, has a positive attitude and is a lovely person to be around.

Carol Janssens, who became friends with Nichols when they were attending Northwestern, has kept in touch with Nichols throughout the years. She said she thinks Nichols' kindness to others

and involvement at Northwestern played a part in her winning homecoming queen.

Janssens said Nichols always calls her on her birthday, never says a bad thing about anyone and is always willing to pray for others.

"She is one of the kindest, nicest people I've ever met," Janssens said. "Mary has always been a very friendly person. It didn't matter who it was."

# NEWS

## Campus talent show organizers hope for student, faculty entrants

### Northwestern has plenty of hidden talent, advisor says

By **CAITLIN HOFEN**  
Features Editor

Rangers Got Talent will take place at 7 p.m. Feb. 23 in the Herod Hall Auditorium.

Sponsored by Northwestern's Student Government Association, the talent show is open to all students, faculty and staff. Olivia Yandel, who sponsors the SGA, encourages people to step outside their comfort zone and try it out.

"We've never had a faculty or staff member enter, so we'd love to have somebody perform," Yandel said. "Everybody competes together, so there aren't individual categories where types of acts are grouped together."

There are 15 slots for which participants can sign up. There will be cash prizes for first place, second place and people's choice. Judges will determine who wins overall, and the audience will vote for people's choice.

Judges will evaluate participants on many criteria, including overall talent, creativity, confidence, entertainment value and more.

Yandel sent the entry form to all Northwestern students on Feb. 6 through their university email. Entry forms are due by Monday at 5 p.m. Any necessary music or supplemental elements should also be listed at this time or the forms will not be processed. All acts must attend a mandatory rehearsal on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

The Student Government Association established Rangers Got Talent in 2019 and originally hosted the event in the ballroom.

"After our first time using the ballroom to perform in, we realized we wanted to expand to a larger stage," Yandel said. "We obviously took 2020 off with the event being indoors. In 2021, we moved it to Herod Hall. It's so helpful that the theater department helps us put this on with lights and sound, so it feels like an actual production."

Rangers Got Talent was established to fill a need SGA thought was necessary.

"We've asked students in the past what type of events they want to see, and so many people said 'a talent show,'" Yandel said. "There are so many talented students on our campus, and people don't realize that. We started it to encourage students who typically don't come to our SGA events to come and showcase their abilities."

Yandel encourages people who don't have a talent to come watch the event and support the participants.

"If you aren't necessarily

*"All the performers do a lot better if they have a big crowd and people supporting them."*

— **Olivia Yandel,**  
**SGA advisor**

someone who wants to be on-stage, still come watch the show," Yandel said. "It is very entertaining. There will be people you had no idea could sing or play an instrument — people you see on

campus every day and would never know. I love watching some kids come out of their shells and put themselves out there. All the performers do a lot better if they have a big crowd and people supporting them.

"When we had the event in 2021, there were so many audience members who were positive and cheered for everyone. I think that helps so much to build the morale around campus. My favorite part is seeing everyone cheer for each other. You see different types of people from our campus come to compete and encourage each other."

Your opportunity to

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## What's up?

### THURSDAY

The Northwestern Regional Science Fair for middle and high school students will take place in the Student Center beginning at 8 a.m. The event is open to the public.

The first theater production of the semester, "The Act of Murder," will begin at 7 p.m. in the Herod Hall Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

### FRIDAY

The first theater production of the semester, "The Act of Murder," will begin at 7 p.m. in the Herod Hall Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Friday is the last day to drop first eight-week classes. Visit the university registrar's office for more information.

### SATURDAY

The first theater production of the semester, "The Act of Murder," will begin at 2 p.m. in the Herod Hall Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

### MONDAY

The Northwestern Oklahoma State University Social Sciences Department and Institute for Citizenship Studies will host former Oklahoma Gov. George Nigh for a lecture on the Alva campus Feb. 20.

Nigh, who served more terms as governor than anyone in Oklahoma history, will give a speech to Northwestern students, staff and community members about the difference between being a politician and a public servant. He'll also take questions from the audience and give a special commencement speech to the university's political science majors.

The forum, which takes place on President's Day, will begin at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Ranger Room. The event is free and open to the public.

### TUESDAY

Northwestern SSS will host a Black History Month project in Library Annex Room 221 at 5:30 p.m. It is open to students in SSS.

## HOLDER DRUG

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Happy

### Mudpie and spring

They just go together

## NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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### SUBSCRIPTIONS

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# OPINION

## SOMETHING TO THINK ON

You were wonderfully made. Let's learn  
to love who we were made to be.

### MENTAL HEALTH

## Drug abuse common in rural areas

By **CHLOE KUNNEMANN**  
Guest Columnist

The topic of this week's men-  
tal health column is opioid and  
stimulant abuse prevention.

Opioid addiction is more preva-  
lent than people may believe  
in the United States. More than  
two million people suffer from  
this disorder. The rise of the opi-  
oid epidemic has been correlated  
with the increased prescription of  
opioids across the country.

However, much like pre-  
scribed opioids, there has also  
been an increase in illicit opioids.  
The CDC has worked with law  
enforcement and healthcare pro-  
fessionals to combat overdoses.  
This strategy is done by creating  
a safety net, connecting individ-  
uals with the correct services and  
utilizing what has been found to  
work in individuals who are ex-  
periencing or have experienced  
an overdose.

In efforts to help prevent the  
misuse and overdose deaths of

psychostimulants, the U.S. De-  
partment of Health and Human  
Services granted \$15 million to  
rural communities. The money  
allotted is used to prevent psy-  
chostimulant abuse and fund  
treatment and recovery services.  
Data has shown that, in compar-  
ison to urban areas, those within  
rural parts of the country have ex-  
perienced more deaths linked to  
psychostimulant overdoses. With  
the money provided, these pre-  
ventions could save many lives  
because of the proper resources

being placed in these rural areas.

If you or someone you know  
needs to talk to someone, dial  
988, a helpline for immediate cri-  
sis and non-emergency assistance  
for mental health and substance  
use issues. For serious medi-  
cal problems or any imminent,  
life-threatening situation, dial  
911.

Northwestern student *Chloe  
Kunemann* wrote this column  
on behalf of the Northwestern  
Counseling & Career Services  
Office.

### WILLIE SPEARS SERIES: 'NOW HIRING'

## Be the first at something good

By **WILLIE SPEARS**  
Guest Columnist

The 57th (LVII) Super Bowl  
was Sunday between the Phila-  
delphia Eagles and the Kansas  
City Chiefs at State Farm Sta-  
dium in Glendale, Arizona. The  
American Football Conference  
champion Kansas City Chiefs de-  
feated the National Football Con-  
ference champion Philadelphia  
Eagles, 38–35.

Both teams finished the reg-  
ular season with a league-best  
14–3 record. The Chiefs were  
playing in their fifth overall Super  
Bowl, having played previously  
in Super Bowls I, IV, LIV and LV.  
The Eagles were looking for their  
second Super Bowl victory after  
Super Bowl LII, having also ap-  
peared in XV and XXXIX.

Three of the previous five Su-  
per Bowls had featured either the  
Chiefs or the Eagles, though this  
was the first time the two teams  
would meet in the championship.  
This was not the only "first" in  
the big game. In 2013, two broth-  
ers coached against each other  
for the first time in Super Bowl  
history: Jim and John Harbaugh,  
head coaches of the San Francis-  
co 49ers and Baltimore Ravens,  
respectively.

This year, two brothers played  
against each other for the first  
time. Jason Kelce is the starting

center for the Eagles, and Travis  
Kelce, one of the best tight ends  
in the history of the National  
Football League, plays for the  
Chiefs.

***"I encourage you to be  
the first. Be the first to  
apologize. Be the first  
to forgive. Be the first  
to initiate. Be the first  
to graduate from high  
school, basic training  
or college."***

— **Willie Spears**

Another first happened right  
before kickoff on Super Bowl  
Sunday. For the first time in NFL  
history, the U.S. Navy flyover  
was piloted entirely by women,  
led by Lt. Peggy Dente. The his-  
toric flyover was right after the  
National Anthem. Lt. Arielle Ash  
and Lt. Saree Moreno led the dia-  
mond formation.

This Super Bowl was also the  
first time two teams featured start-  
ing African American quarter-  
backs. February is Black History  
Month, and these two competitors  
made all Americans proud.

I encourage you to be the first.



Photo provided

Willie Spears is a motivational speaker and a Northwestern alumnus.

Be the first to apologize. Be the  
first to forgive. Be the first to ini-  
tiate. Be the first to graduate from  
high school, basic training or col-  
lege. Be the first to start your own  
business. Be the first not to go to  
jail. Be the first to get married. Be  
the first to love and not hate. Be  
the first.

"Now Hiring" is a weekly ar-  
ticle written by author and public  
speaker Willie Spears, a North-  
western alumnus. He has written  
13 books and travels around the  
country, adding value to the lives  
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## What's on your mind?

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ymous. See our letters to the editor  
policy on Page 4.

# OPINION

## A GOOD WORD

"Always look on the bright side of life."  
— Monty Python

# Fans, players work together for a win

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

Those who attended the Northwestern home basketball games Monday night understand the importance of having a student and community presence at sporting events.

I wrote a story about a year ago on how to increase attendance at sporting events, but not what that attendance means to the players, coaches, faculty and the student body itself. Watching the students and other athletic teams come together in a moment of unity throughout the school was a sight to behold.

Watching Coach Franz celebrate with the student section after such a momentous win could easily be my best moment at Northwestern. Malik Parsons, Chance Love and Marquise Milton showed their love to the crowd for bringing that energy for the entire game.

This does not hold true for just one sport. Sure, driving all the way to Wichita, Kansas, to watch a track meet is probably out of the way.

But going to a home game shows support and will give encouragement to the players on the court or field.

Our student section was highly involved in the game Monday night. The home court advantage is a real thing. When the student section is yelling at and talking to the other team, it throws them off their game. They'll miss free

throws and easy shots and start getting angry, resulting in personal or technical fouls. This is almost always free points for the home team.

It was for us. It seemed as if, every time Southwestern missed a free throw, Northwestern would go down and dunk it and sink a fast break three-pointer or an easy layup. It was like poetry in motion. Everything was going smoothly.

The crowd and team work together. If the team is upbeat and positive, generally the crowd will be, too. And likewise, if the crowd is upbeat and positive, so is the team. This is what happened during the girls' game.

Even when they were up by only two points, everyone was excited, constantly having fun during the game. It resulted in our girls basketball team taking over the game, running up a 30-point lead halfway through the fourth quarter.

The men's game was just as exciting, if not more. We were down by five points with a minute left, sinking shot after shot to take the game into overtime. I was listening to that crowd, hearing how much excitement was in the air as we went into overtime against our rivals.

Northwestern took the lead early. The crowd was roaring, the team was smiling and Southwestern was angry. Students began to chant. "Start the bus" was the main one.

If we're being honest, it was time for them to go home. It



Photo by J.D. Eddy

Pictured above is Malik Parsons (middle) celebrating with the student section after a big win over Southwestern. The author believes that there needs to be more students and faculty showing out to home sporting events.

was probably a long ride back to Weatherford after that one. The men won the game by 10.

The first ones on the court to celebrate were the women's basketball team players. I get it. They started the sweep, and the men finished it.

Then the baseball team joined in, then football, then cheer and finally the remainder of the student body. It resulted in probably

one of the best post-win sports pictures I have ever seen.

I wish the rest of the men's team celebrated more. But I get why the men didn't because I'm an athlete, too. You're tired, and the last thing that you think about is celebrating with anyone but your team. It was a team win after all. I'm not saying they're bad for it at all. I just wish they would have stayed out there a little bit

longer.

More individuals should attend home sporting events, not just students and faculty. Community members who are there make a difference as well. If you feel the same way or feel differently, write a letter to the Northwestern News. The team and I would love to hear your opinions and thoughts on the matter. Ride, Rangers, Ride!

# Let's love others, and ourselves, every day

**JORDAN GREEN SAYS**



JORDAN GREEN

Tuesday was Valentine's Day, a day when people in relationships give flower arrangements, boxes of chocolate and plenty of other items of affection to their significant other. Husbands and wives and boyfriends and girlfriends absolutely need to do things to show love to one another. And in our everyday world, where do we all need to show love the most?

Many people in this world feel like they don't measure up, aren't good enough and, worst of all, aren't really loved by anyone. A 2018 study by Cigna reported that 46% of Americans feel lonely all the time.

If that's the case in the greatest country in the world, imagine what the rate could be in other countries. With seven billion people on the planet, what a tragedy that somehow, somehow, some truly good and decent people think they're unloved.

I think everyone has been in that situation before, and we all know it isn't pleasant. After all, the first thing God ever said was wrong in this world is for

someone to be alone. Chances are, if loneliness is so common, some of our friends and family members may feel that way right now, even though we don't know it.

So, what can we do?

If you Google something about showing love to others, you'll find a litany of blogs suggesting different acts of kindness you can carry out on a day-to-day basis. One that struck me from a list on the website "A Kind Journey" was this: "Be present with everyone you meet." That may be one of the best, and perhaps the toughest, ways to show love to other people. The world has never before been so connected and disconnected at the same time. Thanks to social media, people can talk to one another constantly, yet people seem to meaningfully communicate less than they ever have. We focus on our phones when people are speaking, and even if we look them in the eyes, our minds are elsewhere.

Anyone who has ever shown up to work tired knows it's easy to be physically present and mentally and emotionally absent. So, yes, being an active, engaged listener when other people speak is something to work toward. I've struggled with it myself, but without fail, the most endearing and enlightening conversa-

tions come to those who listen intently. Perhaps someone you know needs to be heard today. You can be the one to lend an ear.

But do you know who else needs a little more love in this world? Maybe it's you.

Maybe you're one of the more than half of Americans who don't love themselves all the time, according to a 2021 research study. Partly because of the pandemic, people were isolated more. Something ironic happened. While people were home, alone by themselves, they focused on themselves more – and came to dislike themselves more. Pointing out our own flaws and dwelling on them is easy when we have no one to help us see the good in our lives.

Yes, it's essential that we learn to love ourselves before we can truly love others. And the greatest teacher of love, without a doubt, is Jesus, who said in Mark 12:31 that famous proverb about loving thy neighbor as thyself. It's a timeless truth that we would do well to follow today. The YouVersion Bible App put it this way in an email on Monday: "When we choose to respect and value ourselves, we choose to honor God. ... When you see yourself the way God sees you, you can love others the way God loves you."

Again, I'm as guilty as anyone of not doing that. So, how can we learn to do better? YouVersion suggests making time – not "finding" spare time – to spend with God in prayer, asking Him to show you how He sees you.

Next, making time to rest is a critical step. And finally, doing things that renew the mind and body are key steps to loving yourself.

Another good point might be this: Learn to respect yourself more by kicking to the curb the bad thought patterns, addictions and pet problems that keep you down on yourself. None of these problems is easy to get rid of, and people cannot do it on their own. If you need help, today is the day to begin seeking it.

I would add to the list: Find a friend, family member or someone who loves you and spend some time with them.

A good word from a good friend makes the heart glad, we hear in the Good Book. If you don't think you've got such a friend, today is the day to start making one.

I'm not here to run down Valentine's Day or send people in love on a guilt trip. My message is this: Let's show love every day to everyone. We all need a little more of it.

# RANGERS BULLDOZE BULLDOGS

## Ranger basketball teams ride to victory, topping rival Southwestern on Monday

See game coverage on Pages 10 and 11

Photos by J.D. Eddy



ABOVE: Lady Ranger Nikya Orange gets ready to shoot the ball during the women's basketball game against Southwestern Oklahoma State University on Monday night in Percefull fieldhouse.

RIGHT: Lady Ranger Camille Thomas attempts a layup.



ABOVE: Lady Ranger Talayah Thomas dribbles past a Southwestern defender.



TOP: Ranger Brian Free shoots a three-pointer during the men's basketball game against Southwestern Oklahoma State University on Monday night in Percefull Fieldhouse.



LEFT: Ranger Malik Parsons dunks the ball.

BELOW: The crowd cheers during the men's game in Percefull Fieldhouse.



LEFT: Ranger Malik Parsons dunks the ball.

BELOW: The crowd cheers during the men's game in Percefull Fieldhouse.

# FEATURE

## Former professor returns to position

By **DAX BENWAY**  
Senior Reporter

Gary Tucker has returned as a professor in the business department at Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

Tucker is going into his 20th year as a professor and has been to a handful of schools.

He first started as instructor of business and department chair at Oklahoma City Community College in Oklahoma City. In January 2009, Tucker accepted a teaching job at Northwestern.

Shortly after, he moved on and took a job at Lone Star College located in Houston, Texas.

Tucker spent the majority of his teaching career at Lone Star University before going to Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas.

This would eventually lead up to Tucker coming back to Northwestern after many years.

"Me and my wife always wanted to come back," Tucker said. "We enjoyed Alva so much, and our time was very limited the

first time we were here.

"When I found out there was an opportunity to get my old job back at this university, I visited with Dr. Garrett Lahr, the head chair in the division of business, and administration. After the long process, I am happy to be back."

With years of experience at multiple universities, Tucker said he never lost his purpose of why he loves to be a teacher and why he wants to continue to teach.

"Being able to take the knowledge I have gained through my experiences of being a businessman and being able to take it to the classroom setting and educate young adults over it is very rewarding for me," Tucker said. "The main thing that keeps me teaching is the connection and relationship I'm able to build with my students, being able to help them through tough challenges and help them get to the goals that they want to reach. That's why I'm still here."

Outside of school, Tucker and his wife, Becky, both have become big fans of cars.

Participating in the hobby is

something they love to do together. They go to car shows and work on cars to take up a lot of their free time.

***"The main thing that keeps me teaching is the connection and relationship I'm able to build with my students."***

**— Gary Tucker,  
business professor**

Tucker's favorite car is his convertible Corvette, which he drives when it is nice enough to have the top down. When he's not teaching and working on cars, another one of Tucker's favorite hobbies is spending time with his wife, his daughter, Rachel and his son, Zachary.

His daughter is finishing her master's degree in history at

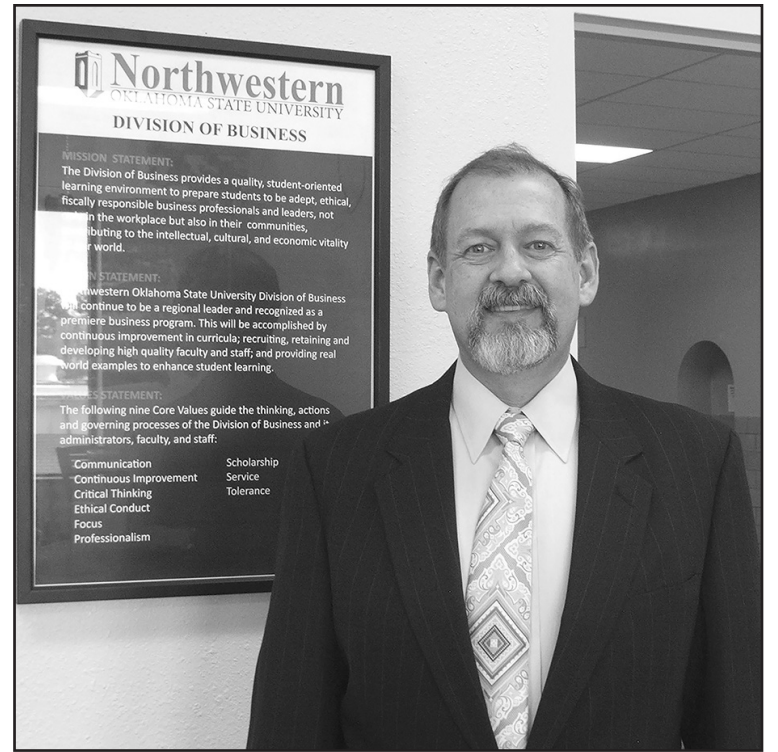


Photo by Rebecca Wagner

Gary Tucker, professor of business, poses for a photo in Jesse Dunn.

Oklahoma University and his son is a senior at Oklahoma State University studying saxophone performance.

Tucker said that, with both of

his children being in college, it is tough to have everybody's schedule line up together, so he values all the time he can get with his family.

## Photography and football: 'a dream come true'



Photo provided

Angelina Marlow poses for a photo on Northwestern's football field. Marlow serves as the football branding and creative media specialist and the athletic communications assistant.

By **TARA OWEN**  
Senior Reporter

Did you think you'd be living out your dream at the age of 19?

Angelina Marlow, a 19-year-old business administration major from Beaver, Oklahoma, said she is doing just that.

Marlow serves as the Northwestern football branding and creative media specialist and the athletic communications assistant.

As a full-time college student Marlow said she is living her dream behind the lens.

Her story began while taking pictures of products for a few small businesses in the area, and in a short time, it led to Marlow's new passion.

It was not long before she had friends asking her to take their pictures.

As her talents quickly grew, she began taking portraits of friends and families throughout the community.

"The rest was history," she said. "I immediately fell in love with it and built my entire business out of portrait photography."

She has created her own photography business called Rural Media.

As her business took off quickly, she began to offer many more services to expand her portfolio.

Marlow now offers family photo sessions, headshots, senior photos and everything in between.

As her business grew more

successful, Marlow began to take on another dream of hers as she took over the title of Northwestern's football branding and creative media specialist.

***"The rest was history. I immediately fell in love with it and built my entire business out of portrait photography."***  
**— Angelina Marlow**

Throughout the journey, Marlow said she has been able to gain experiences that she is forever thankful for.

"I have learned how to shoot motion shots along with seeing the behind-the-scenes of the football program," Marlow said.

She said she now understands just how much time and effort it takes to keep the program afloat day-by-day for both the coaches and the players.

Her favorite memory working with the team was the big win against Arkansas Monticello. She said she was able to capture the most heartwarming photos and videos of the team getting a taste of winning again.

Marlow has recently added wedding photography to her resume and is looking forward to taking two big photography travels to capture photos in Colorado and Mexico.

"This is my dream coming true," Marlow said.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## ‘Facing the Laughter’ tells remarkable life story

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

People far and wide still know the laughter, wide smile and southern drawl of Minnie Pearl, who began her comedy acts with a long, “Hooowww-deee! I’m just so proud to be here!”

Minnie Pearl was one of the most legendary comics of the 20th century, and her story is retold in a new full-length documentary, “Facing the Laughter: Minnie Pearl.”

My family and I were fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of this tremendous 90-minute production when it appeared in theaters Feb. 6.

It was only available for one day, though it will be available on various streaming platforms.

Through a series of interviews with entertainers from virtually all walks of life, one gets the idea that Minnie Pearl — whose real name was Sarah Cannon — had quite an impact on the lives of her audience and her friends.

Country music stars such as Garth Brooks, Brenda Lee and Bill Anderson, among others, had time to share their personal stories of Minnie Pearl and her infectious sense of humor.

The documentary also highlighted how she overcame adversity in the entertainment realm at a time when women didn’t have an easy road to fame.

Through effective uses of

flashbacks and clips of her performances, the documentary cuts through the noise and paints a picture of who Minnie Pearl truly was: honest, humble and loving.

It highlights not only some of her funniest moments, but it also shows clips of other entertainers mimicking her through the years, a testament to her persona’s wide appeal and renown.

The documentary did an excellent job of showing how the Minnie Pearl people saw on stage was the same person off stage.

Her heart was always pure and true.

One of the most unique forms of storytelling incorporated in the documentary was the use of Minnie Pearl’s voice recordings in which she read what seemed like her personal journals.

Whenever these recordings were used, shots of a working vintage tape player were shown as tape passed from one reel to another.

This drew the viewer in to her message, and the use of subtitles clarified any words that yankees might have a hard time understanding.

Of course, the intermittent interviews spliced in between clips of Minnie Pearl’s acts shed a light on her character and soul.

People from all walks of life had a platform to talk about the impact Minnie Pearl had on them and how they still live by the wisdom she shared. Interviews from Amy Grant and others were used

effectively, helping the viewer find reassurance that, unlike some celebrities, Minnie Pearl was as good as she seemed.

These interviews had quite an interesting effect, almost as if they were reassuring people that, sometimes, it’s OK to meet your heroes.

Some are even better than we’d hope. Minnie Pearl was a faithful woman, which was duly highlighted in the story.

I have few complaints about the documentary, though I did disdain how the producers and writers took some artistic liberties with how they believe Minnie Pearl would respond to contemporary social controversies.

Rather than spending several minutes opining about what they want to believe Minnie Pearl would do today on social issues, they should have stayed focused on her life, which was extraordinary.

I also found the use of stock footage and sound effects annoying and out of place.

For example, several scenes of cars driving down highways were clearly filmed in the U.K., and in one scene, the producers used the sound of a diesel locomotive horn when showing footage of a steam engine.

Correcting these minor flaws would have enhanced the realistic quality of the production.

Overall, I would give the documentary four out of five stars and recommend that people over



Photo by Nashville Public Television

the age of 18 give it a watch.

Though it had some minor problems, it was effective at helping preserve the stories that made Minnie Pearl such a dearly be-

loved and motivational figure for people around the world.

When I got to watch “Facing the Laughter: Minnie Pearl,” I was proud to be there.

### ALBUM REVIEW

## ‘SIX: Live on Opening Night’ remixes history

By **REBECCA WAGNER**  
Senior Reporter

It’s history remixed.

The Broadway musical “SIX” tells the story of King Henry VIII and his six wives through their eyes in the form of songs.

The original musical cast produced an original album in 2022 called “SIX: Live on Opening Night.” The musical itself premiered on Oct. 3, 2021, at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre in New York City.

This album became a constant repeat for me when I first heard it.

The upbeat songs and the historical facts caught my attention and left me wanting more.

The album has 18 songs on it, and it takes one hour and two minutes to finish.

The album has many standout songs that one would not usually find in a typical musical, drawing a variety of fans to listen and enjoy.

My favorite song from the album is “Heart of Stone.”

The song “Heart of Stone” is about Jane Seymour, the only

wife that King Henry VIII loved.

The performer who sings the song expresses enough emotion through the song that you can tell what she was feeling in the moment — feeling that she will not get the chance to watch her son grow up.

**“The album has the upbeat music like you are listening to a pop singer, but it is also telling a history story.”**  
— *Rebecca Wagner*

This song I could listen to on repeat for days.

“Ex-Wives” is the opening number, and it was another song that I felt lyrically was catchy, and the instrumentals were also upbeat.

A song I was not really a fan of from the album was “No Way,” which followed Catherine of Ara-

gon, the first wife of Henry VII.

The reason I was not a fan of the song is because I feel like the song was too aggressive, with the beats in the song being very in-your-face, and the lyrics are fast.

“Haus of Holbein” was another song I do not like very much.

The song is very “techno,” and I am not a fan of that form of music. However, lyrically, the song is good.

The performers sing the song in a French accent to tell a story about body standards for woman during the 1500s.

One song that really stands out on the album in my opinion is “MegaSIX.”

This song is one of the last songs that they do at the shows, and it is a mashup of all the songs that the different wives sang.

If a person wanted to get a feel of the musical, “MegaSIX” would be a good song to start with because it introduces all the different aspects of the production.

One thing about this musical is that it is kind of like a concert, and the performers are interacting with the crowd.

I think personally I would rate

this album a 9 out of 10 because I would rather listen to it than any other album.

The album has the upbeat music like you are listening to a pop singer, but it is also telling a historical story.


I am a huge fan of “Hamilton,” and the album “SIX” reminds me of “Hamilton” because of how the writer created the songs to be easy to follow, modern and catchy.

By listening to “SIX,” a person gets a story and good music all in one.

A person does not have to like history to like “SIX;” however, they will learn something regardless.

The album “SIX: Live on Opening Night” shows how the women married to Henry VIII might have felt, getting lost behind the scenes.

They are changing the story.



## ALVA VISION CLINIC

Since 1972, there has been something special about Alva. Here I am, 40-plus years later, with a plethora of memories flooding my mind that include Troy and his love for you, the Alva and Northwest Oklahoma Community. The past three weeks have been devastating to say the least, but I cannot express my gratitude of the incredible outpouring of love, kindness, and support. A simple “thank you” seems to not give my gratitude justice. My family is deeply grateful and completely humbled. From our family to you; our friends, patients, our staff Jennifer and Kristi, the OAOP, volunteer doctors, and the entire community of Alva,

### THANK YOU!

We continue to host volunteer doctors to provide care to Dr. Smith’s patients at this time. At the same time, we are currently seeking an Optometrist who would be an amazing fit for this community and above all you, the patients, to provide the ultimate care that you deserve.

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# SPORTS

## UPCOMING HOME GAME

The baseball team will play at Myers Stadium against Emporia State Tuesday at 2 p.m.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL



Photos by J.D. Eddy

Larry White attempts a layup during Northwestern's game against Southwestern Monday inside Percefull Fieldhouse. The Rangers defeated the Bulldogs in overtime, 91-81. The win moves Northwestern into ninth place in the Great American Conference standings. The Rangers currently have a record of 11-11 and a conference record of 7-11.

## Where the Dawggs go to die

By **CONNOR GRAY**  
Senior Reporter

The Ranger basketball team had a tight schedule with three home games in five days against Ouachita Baptist, Henderson State and Southwestern.

On Feb. 9, the Rangers took on the Tigers of Ouachita Baptist. The Tigers scored the first six points, but the Rangers quickly caught up.

The game went back and forth, as the Tigers struggled to keep a lead and ended the half with a 38-35 lead.

Both teams traded baskets to start the second half, but the Tigers got up by eight.

The Rangers closed the deficit and eventually took the lead, 55-53, over halfway through the game.

From here, the Rangers stayed ahead and kept the Tigers from doing any damage. The Rangers won, 75-70.

The next game was Saturday against Henderson State. The Rangers controlled a fair amount of the first half but blew two double-digit leads. The Reddies hit a buzzer beater to make it a 36-33 Ranger lead at halftime.

In the second half, the Reddies took control, and the Rangers played catch up throughout the

second half.

Marquise Milton and Parsons made clutch shots in the final minutes of the game to tie it at 76. With seconds remaining, the Ranger defense got a stop to send the game to overtime.

In overtime, the Rangers got the lead but did not keep it. The Reddies hit clutch shots and won 91-89 in overtime.

Monday's game against Southwestern was rowdy as the Rangers welcomed the Bulldogs to Alva. The game started off with the Bulldogs getting baskets early and taking a 14-5 lead. The Rangers kept the lead within single digits at the half, 37-30.

The second half started with a 10-0 run by the Rangers. Teams traded baskets for a bit before Southwestern went on a run to make it 59-53.

The Rangers continued to struggle, while Southwestern made it 69-61 with three minutes left.

The Rangers slowly chipped away at the lead, and Free hit a three with 57 seconds left to make it 71-69. Parsons made a layup with 10 seconds left to send the game into overtime.

In overtime, the Rangers forced several turnovers and bombarded the Bulldogs with dunks. The Bulldogs had no answers and the Rangers won, 91-81.



Larry White dunks the ball during Northwestern's game against Southwestern Monday inside Percefull Fieldhouse. The Rangers defeated the Bulldogs in overtime, 91-81. The Rangers currently have an 11-11 record.

# SPORTS

## CLIMBING THE RANKS

The track and field team is ranked 22nd in the USTFCCA rankings for the 60-meter dash.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Lady Rangers tame Lady Bulldogs

#### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Northwestern News

The Northwestern Lady Rangers basketball team caged the Southwestern Lady Bulldogs Monday night in Percefull Fieldhouse, ending a losing streak by a score of 88 - 55.

The Lady Rangers got two layups in the first two possessions of the first quarter, and they ended the quarter with a layup. In the second quarter, the team kept up with a layup run, and the third quarter was marked by a strong offensive effort. The team scored 31 points in that quarter. The team ended the fourth quarter with a 13-0 run.

Prior to Monday's action, the team battled against Ouachita Baptist and Henderson State. The three-game homestand began with a four-point loss against Ouachita Baptist on Feb. 9.

The Lady Rangers started off strong with a pull-up jump shot by Carly Craig. In the second quarter, the Lady Rangers worked on their defense, holding off the

Lady Tigers from scoring in the first two minutes. Lady Rangers and Tigers fought back and forth, leaving the half at 35-28 in favor of the Lady Tigers.

Anna Motycka scored a three-pointer toward the end of the third quarter, giving the Rangers a lead.

In the fourth quarter, Faith Simpson kept finding herself with the ball, making her the leading scorer with 27 points.

Craig shot another three-pointer with 17 seconds left in the game, but it wasn't enough as the Lady Rangers lost, 80-76.

On Saturday, the Lady Rangers ended the losing streak with a win against Henderson State.

Both teams traded scores in the first quarter, which ended with a tie at 14-14. The Reddies didn't score any points for nearly seven minutes in the second quarter, leaving the Lady Rangers in the lead at 33-20 at halftime.

In the second half, the Rangers came in hot as Simpson and T. Thomas got a 14-point lead. The Reddies didn't keep up, and the Lady Rangers finally won, 65-49.



Photo by J.D. Eddy

Faith Simpson shoots the ball during Northwestern's game against Southwestern Monday inside Percefull Fieldhouse. The Lady Rangers defeated the Lady Bulldogs, 88-55.

## One game down, several more to see

### CADE'S CALLS



CADE KENNEDY

Northwestern took care of business Monday night inside Percefull Fieldhouse by sweeping Southwestern, with the women pulverizing the Bulldogs and

the men rallying to win.

While I could go on about certain plays and stats, the main number that stuck out to me was the attendance: 871.

This was by far the largest crowd we had this season for a basketball game, and the impact was noticeable.

For the first time all year, Percefull Fieldhouse felt like a normal arena.

Fans were cheering, clapping and yelling, the band was playing loud and proud and everyone from the students to the season ticket holders were completely invested in the game.

During the entire overtime period of the men's game, everybody was on their feet. It was truly a sight to behold, as the Rangers fed off the energy of the crowd to put the Bulldogs away for good.

While I was thrilled to see such a spectacular sight, I had

one question as I made my way back to my car: Where was this energy and enthusiasm before, and why have we not seen it anywhere else?

When I went to both the softball and baseball home openers, they looked and felt completely different from what happened Monday night.

While I was at the baseball game against Newman, I counted 30 people at the game, and that's including staff such as the scoreboard operators and athletic communications.

I understand that the difference between a Monday night against a rival and a Tuesday afternoon game will have different attendances by default, as people have other tasks to do.

However, it should not be a difference of more than 800 people. If just half of the student body that showed up for basketball went to other games, we could easily have one of the best environments in the Great American Conference.

It only takes 500 people to fill up the baseball stadium and 100 for softball, so both stadiums can be sold out for every game.

By simply showing your support and being rowdy, the players will play better knowing that everyone is behind them, not just a few people.

## Why LeBron is the G.O.A.T.

By JACOB ERVIN  
Senior Reporter

The third quarter is winding down at Crypto.com Arena in downtown Los Angeles, California, as more than 19,000 fans stand waiting to witness history.

LeBron James catches a pass from Russell Westbrook at the elbow with 18 seconds left, sizes up his defender, dribbles to the free throw line, fades, then shoots the shot heard around the world.

On Feb. 7, James scored his 38,388th career point as a player in the National Basketball Association during a regular season game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Oklahoma City Thunder. With this point total, James officially became the NBA's all-time leading scorer.

This record, which was previously held by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, had been thought of as one of the most unbreakable records in all of sports.

Up until the past five years, average fans and many sports analysts alike claimed that it would be next to impossible for James to accomplish this feat, but the kid from Akron, who had been labeled the "Chosen One," once again lived up to the title.

The crowd in the Crypto.com Arena was filled with celebrities and other wealthy people, with some having paid over \$90,000 for tickets to get a close view of

the event. Along with the more than 19,000 fans in attendance, more than 3 million people tuned in to watch James officially become the league's all-time leading scorer.

While this game became the focus of the sports world, James' title of all-time leader in points was not the result of this one game, but rather the cumulation of 20 extraordinary years as a player in the NBA. This is a rare achievement, as only 10 players have ever played 20 seasons in the 75-year history of the NBA.

What is even more impressive is how James managed to take advantage of these years. Since entering the league, James has played 1,410 games and counting; he has scored fewer than 10 points in eight of those games, and the last time he scored fewer than 10 was 15 years ago.

The longevity combined with consistency is something that is unique to James' career that helped him to achieve this historic record and makes him stand out in debates of who is the greatest player to ever play basketball.

Following this once-in-a-generation achievement, the league suspended play between the Thunder and Lakers in order to celebrate his accomplishment.

James has stated that he plans to play several more seasons if he is able to in order to have an opportunity to play in the NBA with his oldest son, Bronny James, and possibly his youngest son, Bryce James. Considering James is currently averaging 30.1 points per game, he still has plenty of time to increase his lead as the all-time scorer in the NBA and increase his resume as the greatest of all time.

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**TRACK AND FIELD**

# Track team working to set more records

By **JACOB ERVIN**  
Senior Reporter

The Northwestern women's track and field team is nearing the end of its indoor track meet schedule that has resulted in several school records, and runners are preparing for outdoor competition.

The Lady Rangers have had multiple athletes set school records in their respective events:

- Brianna Brantley set the school record for the 60-meter dash.
- Tavonyia Lacy set the school record for the 300-meter event.
- Jasmin Garcia set the school record for the 1000-meter event.
- Liberty Goodnow set the school record in the one-mile run.
- Krissalynn Henderson set the school record in the 400-meter dash.
- Machala Hengen, Ladasheray Bell, Lacy and Henderson set the school record in the 4x400-meter relay.

Long-distance runner Goodnow credited the coaching staff for the team's record start to the season and specifically pointed to assistant coach Sterlin Broomfield, who oversees the long-distance runners.

Goodnow, who was not able to compete last season because of injury, is not satisfied with just being the Northwestern record holder for the one-mile run. She has higher expectations for both herself and the team as a whole.

"I want to beat the 3K and the 5K records, too, so I'm working on those next," she said. "As a team, we just overall want to move up

in the conference [rankings] because we've been ranked low for so long, and we're finally moving up slowly, and I think this year, we'll be able to make a big jump."

This enthusiasm is shared by sprinter Brantley, who said the team has become tight-knit this season.

"The team chemistry has been a lot better this season," she said.

Brantley said she believes that, if everyone is on the same page, the team will have a great opportunity to win the GAC track and field meet in May.

Goodnow and Brantley are not the only runners with high expectations for the team.

Assistant coach Derrick Young Jr. said the team could surprise opponents in the Great American Conference.

"It all depends on who shows up that day," Young said. "The expectation is to go in and win it, but we're definitely a Top Four team."

Young said head coach Jill Lancaster built the program up during the past four years. He also credited the Northwestern and Alva communities with giving the team more support.

"It's collective," he said. "It's the whole community: faculty, staff, professors accommodating us as well when we travel. ... It's the whole Alva, the whole Northwestern. Everyone is contributing."

The team's final indoor track meet will be Friday at the Kansas State Steve Miller Invitational. Following this meet, those who qualify will compete in the NCAA qualifying meet that will start Feb. 23.

The team will begin its outdoor season March 18 at Pratt Community College in Pratt, Kansas.

**CAMPUS NEWS**

Photos by Colby Dalton

## Blood drive continues

**ABOVE:** People wait in line to give blood Wednesday morning in the Student Center Ranger Room. **RIGHT:** A poster advertises the blood drive. The blood drive began Wednesday and will continue Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

