

## Recipes

See some fun pumpkin recipes that you can make at home  
Page 9



## Miss Cinderella

Did you miss Miss Cinderella? See pictures and the winners.  
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# NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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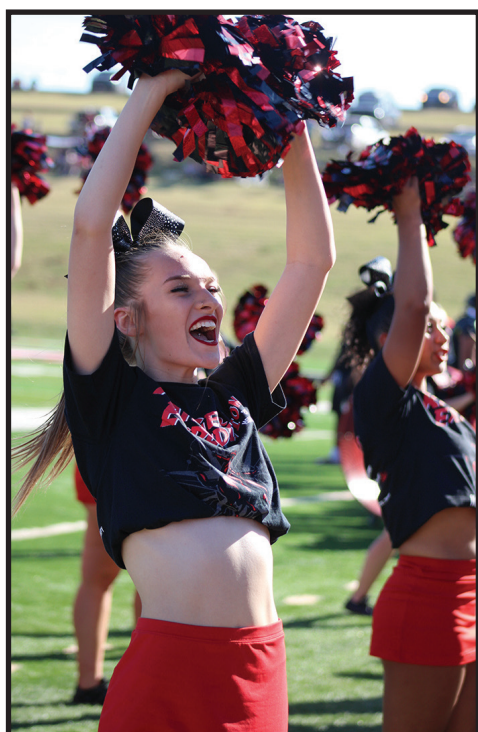
Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Oklahoma

October 10, 2024

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## Homecoming



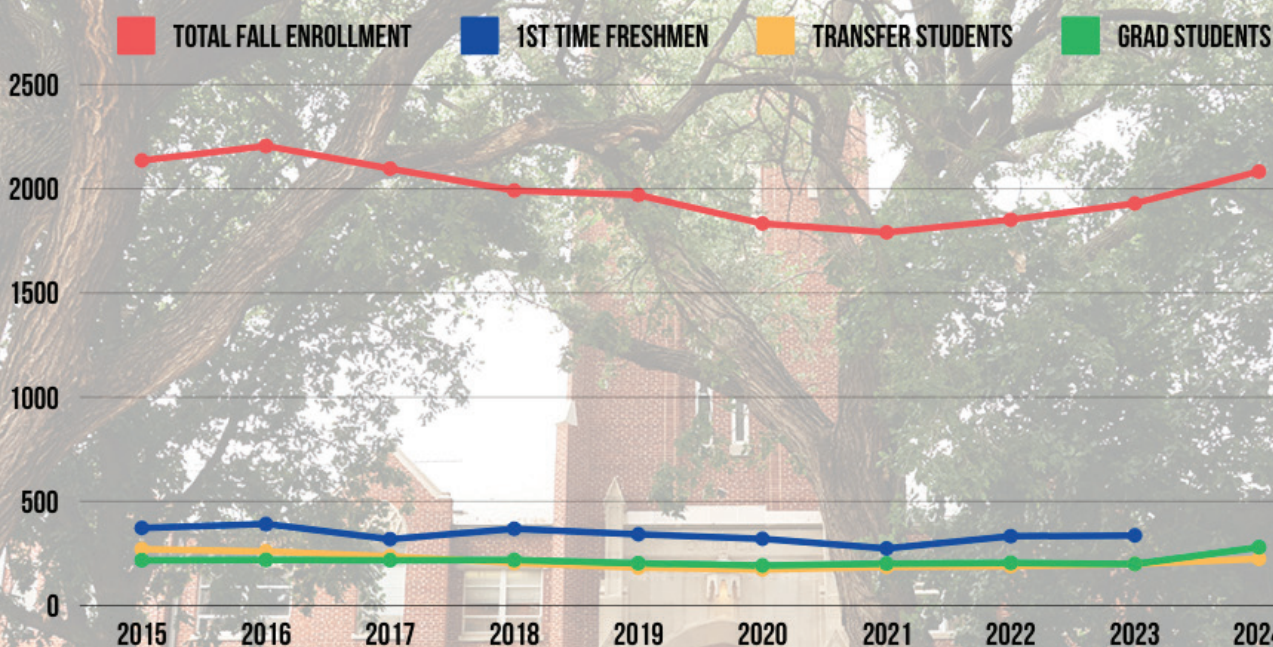
Photos by Alli Schieber

Homecoming was last week with several events, including the football game, parade and mass band performance. Above Left: Anna Curtis cheers on the Rangers during the game.

Above middle: Stella Harman, daughter of basketball coach Robbie Harman, runs to hand candy to other kids at the parade. She was walking with the basketball team. Above

Right: Schools around Alva perform in the mass band before the football game on Saturday. The bands also marched in the parade that morning. See more photos on Pages 6 and 7.

## FALL ENROLLMENT 2015-2024



Northwestern Oklahoma State University saw about an 8% increase in enrollment this fall compared to Fall 2023. The numbers for first-time freshmen, transfers and grad students are also up.

## Enrollment up

NWOSU recently announced an increase of 151 students in enrollment for Fall 2024, bringing the total to 2081 this year.

The university hasn't passed the 2,000 mark for total enrollment since 2017 when it had 2,097 students. This was down considerably from 2,206 in 2016, which was up from 2,136 in 2015.

Other areas are up this semester as well. First-time freshman has increased by 2%, according to a university press release, but final numbers are not yet in on that number in the institutional research office.

Graduate enrollment increased by nearly 48 percent, up to 279. Part of that increase reflects the addition of the masters of business administration program that began in the Division of Business this semester. You can read more on Page 3.

"The increased enrollment is always a positive sign for Northwestern," said Dr. Bo Hannaford, university president, in a press release. "Having this increase shows a great dedication of not only our faculty and staff, but especially the recruitment team. We are proud of the efforts campus-wide and are happy to see these new Rangers on campus."

NEWS

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# NEWS

## What's Up?

October 10

ECOU's Professor Christyn Overstake will be visiting Professor Dave Pointdexter's Fundamentals of Drawing class, giving a brief lesson and talk. Visitors are welcome to attend.  
2pm  
christynoverstake.com

October 15

Writer's Roundtable Meeting  
5-6 pm  
Vincent Hall 200



October 16

OASC District 11 Leadership Conference  
9am - 2:30pm

Woods County Health Department/SNA Flu Shot Clinic  
10am - 2pm

Hamilton Watch Party Hosted by Sigma Tau Delta  
Vincent Hall 200

O.I.L. Club Meeting  
5:30 - 6:30pm  
Education Center 109

October 17

FALL BREAK  
17-20  
Classes Resume Oct. 21



October 22

Spanish Club Presentation Night  
5pm - 6pm  
EC109

Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series - Lucas Ross  
7pm - 9:30pm  
Herod Hall  
Tickets \$20

October 23

O.I.L. Club Meeting  
5:30 - 6:30pm  
Education Center 109



October 24

Sigma Tau Delta Meeting  
5 - 6pm  
Vinson Hall 200

Banned Book Reading  
6:30 - 8:30pm  
EC 109

## From Kermit to 'Divergent': a look at Lucas Ross

By **KAROLINA JURESIUTE**  
Student Reporter

A multifaced talent from Minco, OK, seven-time EMMY winner, is coming to perform in Alva, OK on Tuesday, October 22.

"We always try to bring at least one artist from Oklahoma to participate in the concert series that we have and he's very famous, and he is an entertainer," said NWOSU assistant professor of music, Dr. Eduardo Moreira.

Lucas Ross is a 43-year-old actor, comedian and banjo player. He currently appears as a comic relief on Oklahoma City's NBC affiliate KFOR-TV. He also currently appears alongside Kermit the Frog and has worked with Disney's The Muppets providing the banjo track for Hermit on multiple projects.

Ross has appeared in multiple movies such as "Killers of the Flower Moon," "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," "Divergent," "Iron Man vs Batman" and others. He has also appeared on some TV shows like "Victorious," "Black Ice" and others.

His journey into the world of entertainment began at a young age.

His love for performing was evident early on, and he quickly realized that he had a knack for making people laugh. Ross's natural talent then combined with his passion for music.

Ross won the "Best Comedy Actor" at the National Independent Television Festival for multi-character performances in "Lazy Circles," an Oklaho-

### Northwest Concert Series

**When?** Oct. 22  
**Where?** Herod Hall  
**Who?** Lucas Ross  
**Cost?** \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$5 for NWOSU students

ma-based comedy co-produces with his brother Marcus.

Despite his musical and comedic talents, Ross is also deeply involved in the local arts scene. He participates in community events and supports various artistic endeavors, contributing to the vibrant cultural fabric of Oklahoma.

Whether he is on stage, on screen or in the community, Ross continues to entertain and inspire with his multifaced talent and genuine passion for the arts.

His specialty is bluegrass and folk music. The banjo performances are not just musically impressive but also infused with his comedic style, making them a hit with audiences.

Ross has the ability to blend traditional tunes with his own humorous twist.

"They [people] will have a lot of fun I believe if they like comedy shows with music and if they like the banjo music," Moreira said. "He is very eccentric. He seems to be like a lot of fun. If they [people] want to have a good time and hear some comedy they should come to the show!"

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# NEWS

**75%** of employers from the industries below hired people with an MBA in the last two years.

Consulting  
Energy/Utilities  
Technology  
Government/Nonprofit  
Finance/Accounting  
Products/Services  
Manufacturing  
Health Care/ Pharmaceutical

## NWOSU adds new online MBA program

By **TARA OWEN**  
Senior Reporter

Northwestern now offers an online Master of Business Administration program.

This is the first semester of this program as it became open for the first time for fall enrollment. This semester 24 students are already enrolled in the program. This degree is 33-credit hours, and it is fully online.

The degree offers two options. The traditional MBA along with a Health Care Administration option. The Northwestern division of business partnered with the Charles Morton Share Trust division of nursing to allow for this program at Northwestern.

"I am excited for the opportunity this program will bring to Northwestern as a whole," said Northwestern Division of Business Secretary, Carli Baxter. "This is a great way to attract students to the business department knowing they can continue their education into an MBA degree."

After receiving a bachelor's degree, if Northwestern students are wanting to continue their education, they have the opportunity to enroll in this online degree.

Any business or accounting student interested after graduation with a 2.75 GPA or higher are qualified.

Along with any nursing graduates with a 2.75 GPA or higher are also eligible.

"The professors understand this is an inaugural class and they are super helpful, even though it is completely online, they have done a wonderful job connecting with the students," Baxter said.

There is a full-time completion in 12 months or another option as part-time with a 24-month completion.

The courses are broken down into eight-week classes.

Students are able to pick which course plan is most suitable for them.

"Out of 100 applicants only 14 would have a master's degree, and out of 25% of those, 14 have MBA's so roughly 4 out of 100 applicants have an MBA degree" Baxter said, "This degree really helps you differentiate you from other job applicants and give you an advantage."

For more information regarding the MBA program head to the Northwestern website, <https://www.nwosu.edu/graduate-studies/mba>

## Fun things to do around Alva

By **INGRID MALDONADO**  
Student Reporter

Fall break starts Oct. 17 and there are multiple fun activities for students to do over the break near Alva.

From hiking, surrounding state parks, skating and axe throwing, there are plenty of exciting activities to do over fall break. Just around 36 minutes from Alva, you can visit Alabaster Caverns State Park. Their hours for cavern tours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. seven days a week. They also have hiking trails which are open all hours, seven days a week.

Gloss Mountain State Park is also an excellent choice. This state park is near Freedom, OK and it is a neat hike, considering you are hiking up 150 steps to reach the top of the mountain. You can see towns surrounding the area.

Roman Nose State Park features not only hiking but other activities, such as miniature golf, horseback riding, paddle boating and kayaking. When calling Roman Nose State Park, they said horseback riding is \$50 an hour. They charge per hour for kayaking and paddle boating. During the call, the director of activities said, "they offer a 4-mile, horseback riding hike to the highest point in Roman Nose." Roman Nose also has a restaurant so after hiking, paddling a boat, or camping, you have somewhere



Photo by Alli Schieber  
The Rialto movie theater's sign.

to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner. There is a waterfall spring and plenty of hiking routes. Roman Nose offers not only hiking but many other fun outdoor activities.

The Little Sahara State Park in Waynoka is another wonderful choice. When calling the office of the State Park, they were having an event that day so unfortunately, couldn't get a phone call with them. They did send an email about an exciting event happening during our fall break! The Little Sahara State Park will be hosting their Spooktacular Event, October 19. They will be having games, costume contests, a live band, candy run and a haunted house!

For something more relaxed than being outdoors, Enid Axe Throwing is the place to be.

When calling them, the manager told me about fun events they do throughout the week. On Wednesdays they have a jazz pianist, on Thursdays, its their music bingo night. If you have a talent in singing, Saturdays beginning at 9:30 p.m. its karaoke night.

Although they do not offer student discounts, they do offer \$5 off if you book online. Enid Axe Throwing is open 7 days a week, on Friday and Saturday they close at midnight.

While in Enid, another activity that might take you to the past or give you Stranger Thing vibes is Skatetown. Whether you choose to do rollerblading or roller skates, it is worth the trip. They have a concession stand and as well as an arcade area. October 18 will be 'glo sk8 night' from 7-9 or 8-10 p.m., \$9 for both times and \$6 for one.

If you plan to stay in Alva, the local theatre, Rialto, would be the place to go for a movie. When calling them, they did not know what movies would be playing during the dates of fall break.

They currently are showing Joker: Folie à Deux as well as The Wild Robot. Smile 2 will be coming out October 18 so that could be an option too.

Fall break will be here soon and there are plenty of choices and opportunities to have fun.

**"It always seems impossible until it's done."**

**-Nelson Mandela**

## NWOSU partnership with Nigerian university starting in 2025

By **DERRICK GALINDO**  
Senior Reporter

NWOSU initiated a partnership with a university in Nigeria, which allows Nigerian students to pursue their courses remotely.

Dr. Shawn Holliday, NWOSU's Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, initiated a Memorandum of Understanding with Nile University of Nigeria, located in the capitol, Abuja. By 2025, students from Nigeria will be able to obtain their education from NWOSU through interactive television, online and hybrid formats. NWOSU's office of graduate studies chose Nile University of Nigeria due to almost 100 applications they received from Africa, Holliday said.

"Most of those applications came from Nigeria and Ghana," Holliday said. "I had contacted a university in Ghana that never got back to me. Then we had a professor here at Northwestern, formerly.

"His name is Dr. Nnanna, he is Nigerian, so I reached out to him to see if he had any contacts at any universities in Nigeria. The first name I contacted was up for it, and so he put me in contact with the vice chancellor. It took us about a year, but we signed our Memorandum of Understanding this summer."

These students have opportunities to enroll in the Master of Arts in Heritage Tourism and Conservation program, the Master of Education in Adult Education Management and Administration program, the Master of

Science in General Psychology program or in graduate-level English or literature courses.

"Formerly, if a Nigerian student wanted an American degree, they'd have to actually come here and be considered an international student," he said "And have all these additional steps. This way, they can stay in their home country and receive our education.

"It will be much more cost effective for them than actually having to travel to the United States and live here. I just hope ... professors would be open to having international students in their class, and would try to use that, having them there, to talk about cultural differences or different ideas about the topics being discussed in class. I think it would actually benefit [them]."



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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.

# OPINION

## Excited for what's left of the season

By **ERICK MARTINEZ**  
Guest Columnist

As someone who has actually been on a football field during a game, I can understand the kind of pressure and problems that the Rangers encounter.

So far, I have high hopes for the rest of the season. Unfortunately, though I do see a couple things that might need to be worked on with an example being the energy among the team is always low until after halftime.

It's only when they come back from the locker room that they really start putting a show on for everyone.

Along with this, they lose momentum very quickly and get discouraged easily at the previous game.

They did a little bit better than that because I heard one of the players yelling "onto the next play. Don't worry about that onto the next." It is always a good thing to hear because it shows the want to improve that energy around the team.

Something else that I have noticed is the sideline stays quiet until something happens then they go back to silent. It is very



Ranger Athletics photo

rare that you hear the sideline getting rowdy.

On top of all that, sometimes it seems like some of the players are trying to be the hero when that's not what they should be doing, they should be doing their job.

To throw some good in the negative I've been supporting the Rangers since 2022 and have always loved coming to the games with my favorite experience being 2023 the win against our rival school SWOSU.

The previous game's aspects

started coming back to life with the stands getting more chanting for the team in the sidelines getting loud although the game was lost. It didn't feel like the team lost. When the team can put their max effort and succeed, it is always a very fun watch.

Something that I also have noticed though is the Rangers beat themselves up with penalties almost every three plays there is a false start, offsides, or holding call at some point, those can make or break your game, in the

Rangers case it disoriented them from the game. As for this season right now, I have nothing to complain about.

The team has gotten more physical, which is always good to see in football. It seems as if now there's an urge to hit someone.

I personally would love to see the Rangers have a successful season. But that comes with work and dedication. If the Rangers are willing to put in the work, then they don't have anything to worry about.

## True meaning of Columbus Day

By **LEO ROBLES**  
Opinion Editor

Columbus Day, celebrated on the second Monday of October, marks the anniversary of Christopher Columbus's 1492 arrival in the Americas.

For many, the holiday holds historical and cultural significance, rooted in the notion that it commemorates the "discovery" of the New World. Despite the increasing debates surrounding the holiday's meaning, it remains important to some for multiple reasons.

This event was the reason why the technological advances proceeded to happen in parts of the world where there was a chance that it would take the people longer to discover. Part of these exchange of knowledge also caused diseases to spread wider from both sides.

The impact of diseases due to the arrival of Columbus caused deaths from both the invaders and the indigenous people, but it was the reason why they had to focus on making medicine that had to be efficient enough to not let those diseases eradicate them.

From a global perspective, this marked the dawn of what some historians call the "modern world," creating interconnected societies and economies that continue to shape our world today.

Many Americans might think



Statue of Christopher Columbus points the way to America.

that Columbus Day represents the boldness of exploration and the spirit of discovery.

The entire story of Christopher's journey into finding the new land is an admirable tale. Stories like his are important and iconic to the history of mankind.

Another significant aspect of Columbus Day is its role in celebrating Italian American heritage. Columbus Day not only has an impact into Native American people, but to the other races that were involved as well for example Italian immigrants.

The Italian American community may see Columbus Day as a celebration of their cultural con-

tributions and a reminder of their integration into the American culture.

Parades, community events, and other festivities serve as important ways to honor this aspect of immigrant history.

However, it is important to recognize the complexities of Columbus's legacy, which has been criticized for the devastating consequences his arrival had on Indigenous peoples.

The history of colonization, violence, and exploitation that followed his voyages has led many to question whether Columbus should be venerated at all. In response, some states and cit-

ies have adopted Indigenous Peoples' Day as a way to acknowledge the perspectives of Native Americans and the atrocities they suffered due to European colonization.

Honestly there is not a good side or a bad side of this important event, that is just how history has been made.

Many of us have learned that most of our history was built by very dark ages of humanity and also people sacrificing their life and dreams for a better future. There was a lot of suffering during these time periods.

Until this day, we are still trying to shape human history into something to look up to. At this point, we understand that conflict is always going to be part of human nature, but at least some of us try to make the difference.

Columbus Day remains important for those who see it as a tribute to exploration, the formation of the modern world, and the contributions of Italian Americans.

The holiday's meaning varies depending on one's viewpoint, and its continued observance speaks to the larger cultural debates about how we remember history and which aspects of it we choose to celebrate.

For those who value its traditional significance, Columbus Day is not just about the man himself, but about the broader themes of discovery, perseverance, and heritage.

# OPINION

## Having a successful and fun season

By **BRAD FRANZ**  
Athletic Director

**Q: As the director of athletics what responsibilities are you in charge of, and what does it feel to have the control of the athletic situation in our community?**

**A:** I'm in charge of all athletic performances, and all athletic endeavors that can be from eligibility, game tier experience, recruitment, retention, all the different things that involve athletics.

The buck stops with me, and we've been very fortunate to have a great athletic program that put their effort into making it their best and doing it as productive as they possibly can, and I'm proud to be in charge of it.

**Q: What challenges or difficulties is the football team facing in this season, and what could be a possible solution if there is something they need to improve in?**

**A:** Well Coach Jones is doing a magnificent job at pulling this together. He took over a very downtrend situation a year ago. He wants to get it done and so he got the group rallied last year,

we made a progress all year long, came back and had a tremendous recruiting year.

We are way better than before and we still are getting better than yesterday, the players that came back are more motivated than ever and it just takes a while to build a football team full of supportive members that are all focused on one goal, which is to do great and be the best and that doesn't matter at what level, but the coach has been doing a fantastic job right now.

I listen to every one of his post-game speeches in which he always has some motivation to give, whether we are winning or losing.

I talk to the players all the time and he is doing a great job on building this thing and it takes time.

**Q: In what other sports are you interested in for a new improvement into our athletic program, and are going to get anything new related to a new sports team any soon?**

**A:** Well, we added men track a year ago and we had always had it planned that when we added women's track six years ago that we would add men track when the



Brad Franz

time came, and we added it a year ago and that added 56 student athletes to our athletic department.

We've talked about tennis as a sport, but we talked about wrestling, we talked about men soccer and different things along the way.

We do not have anything in the plans right now of any other sports other than tennis has been one of them because we have some really good tennis courts

over in Enid and we have the courts here.

**Q: Are there any other sports seasons that you are excited for since football and volleyball along with other activities, have already started their seasons, and what you think of the current results and scoreboards of these?**

**A:** I'm excited where we're at. Cross country has had a great run on both men and women side this year. Sterlin Bromfield is doing a great job.

Soccer, under Coach Piekarski, has been battling to win against Arkansa, really had the game won due to a two second call on us where they got a penalty shot, which is hard to do.

We've had great crowds at our soccer matches that been pleased. Volleyball is sitting in maybe the fourth or fifth spot right now.

We've had a six-game winning streak ongoing. Coach Bingesser and the girls have been doing a super good job. We took a tough lost against Southwestern the other day.

SAU and UAM coming in this weekend and they are two important matches against them, and rodeo won against Southeastern the

*This is a busy town, but it is a fun time for all of our student athletes*

other day.

We will host our rodeo in late October and early November, I think the 30 first through the second of November.

Men's and women's golf has been going on, and they won the OBU invite which was a great thing.

The women had the top golfer in the southern Missouri invite champions.

Basketball is just around the corner, they're in full practice mode. First games are on November eight and ninth and that is barely just 30 days away.

It is just at matter of time to be prepared to see our athletes show the potential they have been reserving for all of these practices.

This is a busy town but it is a fun time for all of our student athletes.

## Is religion affected by Halloween?

By **Diego Martinez**  
Guest Columnist

I do not believe that Halloween affects religion. Maybe a rephrase of the question is better. "Is Halloween religious?"

I believe Halloween is not a religious holiday anymore. It used to be, that's for sure, but late-stage capitalism had different plans for the holiday.

The same thing happened to Christmas when Coca-Cola practically created the modern Santa Claus around 1945.

It started out religious, but it hardly seems to be that way anymore. These last three months of the year are a capitalist's paradise. They'll have you buying ghosts, spiders and costumes year after year after year.

It's not all bad though. Lately it seems like trick or treating is a relic of the past. Perhaps it's the economy, or maybe millennials finally succeeded at eradicating child friendly events.

I remember during my six months of Bible study, we learned about its religious roots. That it is a pagan holiday, and we shouldn't celebrate it.

Maybe it's because I myself am not religious, but who cares. I am not Christian, and I am not pagan.

I can celebrate whatever I like to. I celebrate Christmas. I also



celebrate Thanksgiving, and none of my ancestors had anything to do with the first thanksgiving dinner.

In fact, most of my ancestors were Hispanic, and I don't think you have to be pagan to celebrate Halloween because the modern holiday is so far removed from its roots today.

I believe the only major religious holidays that are still largely religious are Hanukkah, Ramadan and Easter. So no, a secular holiday like Halloween and Christmas cannot affect religion. Those holidays are technically celebrated by everyone now.

Maybe I am just bitter that my mom decided to be Christian for a year and didn't let me go trick

or treating at the height of Five Nights at Freddy's popularity. Costumes have also become a lot more extravagant and ridiculous.

A few days ago, I went perusing through the children's Halloween costumes, as you do when there's nothing else to do.

I saw a pile of Minecraft swords and pickaxes. I had a good long thought about what I saw. There weren't pickaxes when I was a kid in 2010. Now parents just buy their kid's costumes, which makes sense to me. Back in the day, my mom would make them for me, but she is a baby boomer.

I wonder how many millennials and Gen Z parents know how to sew even a button! Anyway, I

don't believe it is a religious holiday anymore.

Minecraft Steve surely was not there at the beginning. I don't believe it should be treated as a religious event either.

To me it is a community event that caters to children and face paint corporations. At the end of the day, community is a good thing and it would make kids sad to not get free candy.

Overall, we should enjoy Halloween however we want to, and we should let others celebrate it even if it is not the way we do it.

Nevertheless, we better start getting our costumes ready because we are never too old to go out to trick or treat, and maybe go to a party.

**Monsters are real and ghosts are real too. They live inside us, and sometimes, they win.**

**—Stephen King**

# Homecoming Ranger Expedition 2024



Photo by Victor Kinzie

Freshman Queen 2024, Brenda Lezama, poses at halftime of the homecoming football game with crown bearers Justice Jones and Braxton Lauderdale.



Photo by Victor Kinzie

Above: Marshal Howard and Diamond Hilton take a picture together after winning Ranger King and Queen of 2024. The crown bearers were Braxton Lauderdale and Justice Jones.

Left: The mayor of Alva, Kelly Parker, waves to spectators during the Homecoming Ranger Expedition Parade 2024.



Photo by Victor Kinzie



Photo by Allie Schieber

The theater department students show off their float and hand out candy at the Homecoming Ranger Expedition Parade 2024.



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Morgan Robinette leads cheerleaders in a dance on Friday for the Northwestern Rangers at the homecoming pep rally in Percefull Fieldhouse.



Photo by Allie Schieber

Sophomore education major Janie Rempel and early childhood education major Kaylyn Aldrich cheer on Northwestern Rangers football team against the Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys on Saturday.



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Students dance to "HOT TO GO" by Chappell Roan at the homecoming bonfire.



Photo by Allie Schieber

Above: Braylon Bradt rides a bull from his family's menagerie at the Northwestern Homecoming Parade 2024 on Saturday.



Photo by Allie Schieber

Left: Defensive line coach J. D. Eddy talks to his players about the next play during the homecoming game on Saturday.

# FEATURE

## Where is best study area? Students share their ideas

By **CHRISTIAN FRANKLIN**  
*Student Reporter*

Northwest Oklahoma State University students are excelling in their various fields of study while finding unique places on campus to focus and stay motivated.

From the Wellness Center to the library, students have different preferences for study environments that help them thrive. Here's a look at a few students and their favorite spots to study:

Cameryn Boykin, senior, health & sports science education major from Little Elm, Texas, prefers the Wellness Center, where she can take breaks..

"Studying in the wellness center gives me a sense of balance between mental focus and physical fitness," she said. "The energy there keeps me motivated."

Brianna Brantley, a senior nursing major from Amarillo, Texas, said she loves the back of the cafeteria, where she can grab a snack between her intense study sessions.

"It's a cozy place to settle in after grabbing lunch," she said. "The casual environment helps me concentrate without too much pressure."

Haley Combs, a sophomore health & sports science major from Hinton, said Jesse Dunn Building is her study sanctuary.

"It's always quiet, and I love the history behind the building," she said. "It feels like a perfect



**Are these your favorite study spots? Students have discovered all kinds of places on campus to get their work done.**



*Photos by  
Christian Franklin*

spot for deep focus."

Camille Dates, a freshman psychology major from The Colony, Texas, said she enjoys studying in the university library, where the atmosphere helps her dive into her psychology texts.

"The library is where I can

escape distractions and immerse myself in my reading," she said. "It's peaceful and perfect for focusing."

Maryam Dianka, a junior computer science major from Allen, Texas, said she also prefers the back of the cafeteria for its

blend of noise and comfort.

"I can get food and work on my coding assignments," she said. "It's relaxed but not too quiet, which helps me concentrate."

Riley Herndon, a sophomore business administration major from Elk City, said he finds the Wellness Center works best.

"After a good workout, I feel refreshed and focused," he said. "Studying there helps me maintain a good balance between physical and mental health."

Salat Ibrahim, a senior general studies major from Somalia, said he loves the library for its peaceful environment. "The quiet allows me to concentrate fully on my studies, and it's a space that keeps me productive."

Joseph Kollar, a sophomore business administration - management major, often studies at the Jesse Dunn Building.

"It's quiet, and there's something about the old architecture that makes me feel like I'm in a space dedicated to learning," he said.

Alan Lares, a sophomore health & sports sciences education major from Elgin, said he spends a lot of his study time in the Wellness Center.

"I'm able to focus after a quick workout, and the environment is great for getting work done," he said.

Benjamin Morfin, a senior criminal justice-law enforcement major from Phoenix, said he prefers the library.

"The quiet and the resources here are unbeatable," he said.

### Top 10 books

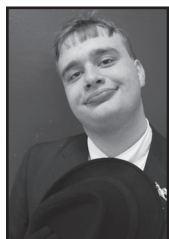
1. "The Dragon Prophecy" by Jonathan Cahn
2. "It Ends With Us" by Colleen Hoover
3. "It Starts With Us" by Colleen Hoover
4. "The Games Gods Play" (deluxe limited edition) by Abigail Owen
5. "Wild Eyes" (standardized edition) by Elsie Silver
6. "Passions in Death" by JD Robb
7. "Good Energy" by Casey Means
8. "Lovely One" by Ketany Brown Jackson
9. "Day Dream" by Hannah Grace
10. "The Cursed" by Harper L. Woods



## Reading can be for everyone

I've been asked on multiple occasions throughout my life why I like reading so much. The people who ask me these questions typically are people who have trouble reading themselves, either due to developmental or learning disabilities or because they just find the process boring. I've tried giving them advice like trying to read often or just find a book with a plot that interests them, but to no avail.

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So that's why, I'll be giving you the best ideas I have for getting into reading novels.

The first and most important step is finding a genre you like. For example, if you're someone who likes action and doesn't care much for complicated plots or lore, I'd recommend authors like Tom Clancy or Richard Paul Evans. Maybe you'd prefer books aimed at teens and young adults.

If you're someone who grew up with parents who'd read you books about mythologies, then I would recommend looking for a fantasy or mythological fiction book to get started. If you're someone who's a fan of stories that are more slow-burn, I'd direct you towards the romance or mystery genre.

The next step when getting into reading is to start with something easy. What I mean by this is say, if

you are someone who likes suspense thrillers, don't buy a book with a complicated plot like "House of Leaves." by Mark Z. Danielewski and expect to enjoy it. Trust me, all that'll do will make you hesitant to pick up your second book.

Instead, start with something that was made for pre-teens and up and slowly work your way up to the harder-to-understand books.

Now you must set a goal in order to make sure you don't forget the promise you made to yourself to read more. Me personally, my set goal is to read at least two pages of the books I'm currently reading once a day. It may not sound like much, but it's enough to encourage me to read in the little free time I have.

Finally, if you're reading a book and you feel yourself getting tired or sleepy and begin to feel like giving up on what you're reading: Take a break. Watch a show you like, hang out with your friends or work on your side project. There's nothing wrong with taking it slow.

Don't beat yourself up just because you are unable to meet your goal of reading a hundred books in a month like all the influencers on social media seem to be doing nowadays.

Believe me when I say that people who look down on others just because they don't read as much or can't read as fast as them are nothing more than pompous dullards who can't look themselves in the mirror without feeling the need to put others down.

### Dad joke of the week

**How do you catch a squirrel?  
Climb a tree and act like a  
nut!**



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# IN THE KITCHEN

## 10 pumpkin dishes

1. Pumpkin Cake
2. Pumpkin Cookies
3. Pumpkin Cheesecake Lasagna
4. Pumpkin Sticky Buns
5. Pumpkin Bread Pudding
6. Pumpkin Spice Goopy Bars
7. Pumpkin Creme Brulee Cheesecake bars
8. Pumpkin Whoopie Pies
9. Pumpkins Muffins
10. Pumpkin Empanadas

### Pecan-Pumpkin Muffins

By Country Living

- 1/4 c. canola oil
- 2 large eggs
- 1 c. granulated sugar
- 1/3 c. water
- 1 c. pure pumpkin puree
- 1 3/4 c. all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 3/4 tsp. kosher salt

- 3/4 tsp. pumpkin spice powder
- 1/4 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1 c. chopped toasted pecans, more for garnish

- For the glaze:
- 1/2 c. confectioners' sugar
  - 2 Tbsp. heavy cream, plus 1 Tbsp. if needed
  - 3/4 tsp. pumpkin spice

**Directions**

**Step 1:** Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a standard 12-cup muffin pan with paper liners. Whisk together oil, eggs, granulated sugar, water, and pumpkin in a bowl. Add flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, pumpkin spice, and vanilla and stir to combine. Stir in pecans.

**Step 2:** Transfer batter to prepared pan, dividing evenly. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 16 to 18 minutes. Cool in pans on a wire rack, 5 minutes. Remove from pans and cool completely.

**Step 3:** Make the glaze: Whisk together confectioners' sugar, cream, and pumpkin spice in a bowl. Drizzle over muffins and garnish with pecans.

### Pumpkin Spice Latte

by Inspired Taste

- 1/2 c. coffee or espresso
- 2 c. milk or non-dairy milk
- 2 Tbsp. pumpkin puree
- 1 Tbsp. sugar or maple syrup
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla
- 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- Whipped cream, optional

1. Slowly heat milk, pumpkin and sugar in a saucepan until hot. Do not boil.
2. Remove from heat and whisk in vanilla, pumpkin pie spice and coffee. Taste and adjust spice and sugar.
3. Divide into two mugs. Top with whipped cream and a sprinkle of pumpkin pie spice.

### Pumpkin:

A large, rounded orange-yellow gourd with a thick rind, edible flesh and many seeds

### 10 pumpkin drinks

1. Pumpkin spice latte
2. Pumpkin apple sangria
3. Spiced pumpkin coffee shakes
4. Pumpkin juice
5. Pumpkin pie milkshake
6. Pumpkin smoothie
7. Pumpkin apple punch
8. Pumpkin apple cider
9. Pumpkin ice cream float
10. Pumpkin spice chai latte

## National Pumpkin Day Saturday, Oct. 26

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### Dad Joke:

What does a queasy pumpkin say?

"I don't feel so gourd."



# Miss Cinderella

**M**iss Cinderella pageant, for the 72nd year, was once again an honored Homecoming tradition for Northwestern. The high school seniors competed Thursday and Friday for scholarship money.



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Jessica Davis, Miss Cinderella 2023, crowns Miss Woodward, Zoey Roberts, as Miss Cinderella 2024.



Photo by University Relations

Miss Pond Creek-Hunter Reagan McReynolds wins Miss Congeniality.



Photo by Alli Schieber

Miss Mooreland, Neely Norman, performs her talent. She won third runner-up at the competition Friday.



Photo by Alli Schieber

Above left: Miss Waynoka, Marlie Pitts, performs her talent. She won fourth runner-up.



Photo by Alli Schieber

Above right: Abbey Elam, Miss Shattuck, performs her talent. She won the interview award and second runner-up.



Photo by University Relations

Miss Laverne, Selah Bentley, plays her flute. She won first runner-up and the talent award at the pageant.

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# SPORTS

## Fall softball

### They don't keep score, just practice

Ranger women's softball was on the field Oct. 2 against Butler, but there's no score to report — nobody was keeping it.

The regular season doesn't begin until February, so in the meantime, the women will be sharpening their skills with practice games — and no scoring.

By the time you read this, the team will have played two more games that occurred after the press deadline on Wednesday. But you can see them Oct. 16 at 3 and 5 p.m. at their field located at the Alva Recreation Center, south of the football stadium.

The women ended the season in April with a 7-26 GAC record and a 17-33 overall record.



Photo by Alli Schieber

A Ranger player swings hard at the ball during a practice game with Butler on Oct. 2. No one knows the score because no one kept it.

## Ranger soccer ties, loses on road

Ouachita Baptist fired twice as many shots as the Rangers at the goal on Oct. 3, but they could only get one past goalie Rachel Brown. They ended up tying the game 1-1.

Then Saturday, Harding did almost the same thing, but three of the shots made it in. They beat the Rangers 3-1.

On Oct. 3, the game remained scoreless until late in the second half. Then Tiara Campbell, a senior forward, took a lob pass from Christi-Anne Mills, a junior forward, and headed in the goal.

With just two seconds in the

game, the Tigers got penalty kicks and found the back of the net to tie the score.

On Saturday, the Bisons made two goals in the first 11 1/2 minutes. Finally, in the 62nd minute, Campbell, with an assist from Jazlyn Norwood, a senior defender, found the net. However, it was the only time the Rangers would be successful.

With under eight minutes left in the game, the Bisons scored a third goal, ending the game 3-1.

The Rangers are now 2-5-3 for the season, and 0-2-2 in the GAC.

### Playmakers



Tiara Campbell

Makes both goals the Rangers earned in two games last week.



Jazlyn Norwood

3 shots against Ouachita, 1 assist against Harding



Jordan Fawcett  
2 shots, 1 SOG



Isabella Mcmillan  
2 shots, 1 SOG



Christi-Anne Mills  
1 shot, 1 SOG, 1 assist

## NWOSU golfers go head to head with SWOSU

Both men's and women's golf traveled to Weatherford for the Perkins Cup sponsored by SWOSU.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University came out the victors in the contest for both men and women

### Results Men's Golf

SWOSU 7.5	NWOSU 3.5
Travis Poole +12	Jack Beaver +11
Caspar Graf +6	Alec Chenard +8
Mariano Racca +2	Niklas Hacker +14
Otto Heden +10	Max Garza +4
Sutton McMillan +6	Caden Holmes +8
Jeric Ortiz +2	Magnus Fabian +9
Lukas Hendricks +5	Noah Capenter +3
Lucas Vidal +4	Mac Courange +4
Ryan Carlisle +4	Davan Smith +5
Jack Phillips -1	P. Geminden +1
C.D. Ermacora +1	Mat Zerwin +9

### Women's Golf

SWOSU 5	NWOSU 2
Lily Stanton +15	Kelsey Hoy-Pollard +13
Faustina Pergolini +7	Addison Furtick +19
London Wilson N/A	Sofia McElroy N/A
Lucia Rivas +9	Kentyn Clark +11
Drew Dodgion -1	Tess Linden +10
Ashlyn Acosta +6	Agathe Lacoste +8
Freya Sala +8	Romane Lacoste +6

NWOSU plays host for the Ranger Invite, Monday and Tuesday at Meadowlake Golf Course in Enid.

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# SPORTS

## Rangers disappoint in HOCO game

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

The NWOSU Rangers had a disappointing 44-21 loss at home in the Homecoming game against the Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys.

It was a slow start for the Rangers as they received the ball for the starting kickoff for the game. They had made four plays and made 19 yards until the ball was fumbled and recovered by Arkansas Tech's Israel Whitmore. Arkansas Tech then scored on their five-play drive to make it 7-0.

On the Rangers' second drive of the quarter, Arkansas Tech intercepted the ball for a 65-yard touchdown. NWOSU's third drive did not get very far either as it ended with a 49-yard punt. Arkansas Tech were able to get a field goal to make the score at the end of the quarter 17-0.

At the start of the second quarter, the Rangers were at a good pace. Almost 4 minutes into the quarter, Rangers' QB Brodey Johnson threw a short pass to Royal Kyle for the first points for the Rangers to make it 17-7.

The Rangers' defense was able to turn the ball over as the Wonder Boys fumbled the ball during a punt attempt. Rangers QB Brodey Johnson was able to keep the momentum going by throwing a short pass to Travis Romar to make another touchdown and make it a close game of 17-14.

Arkansas Tech went 65 yards in 10 plays with a 32-yard pass to score a touchdown and increase the Wonder Boy's lead to 24-14.



Photo by Victor Kinzie

NWOSU senior defensive back Ken Irving tackles Arkansas Tech running back Luke Gall. Arkansas won the game 44-21 Saturday.

NWOSU was not able to produce anything out of their next drive as Brodey Johnson was sacked and the Rangers had to punt. The Rangers were also caught with an unnecessary roughness penalty on the punt to allow Arkansas Tech move forward 15 more yards.

Arkansas Tech were able to score another touchdown against the Rangers to make the score 31-14. The Rangers had another

short chance to make something out of the first quarter but were not able to do anything until the half ended with the score 31-14 Arkansas Tech.

In the second half, NWOSU defended and Arkansas Tech received. It didn't take the Wonder Boys long to score in the third quarter with an 8-yard rush for a touchdown to make it a 38-14 game.

The Rangers did not get far at

all only making 3 plays until they made a 37-yard punt to Arkansas Tech's Diego Sanchez who made a fair catch. Arkansas Tech then went 50 yards and then made a 32-yard field goal with Arkansas Tech kicker Christopher Baldazo. The rest of the third quarter went scoreless and ended at 41-14.

The fourth and final quarter started in the Rangers' hands. They charged from their 19-yard line across the field to score a

touchdown thrown from Brodey Johnson to Bailee Davenport and made the score 41-21.

Kale Purvis made the extra point kick to make his first points as a NWOSU Ranger. The game ended with a score of 44-21 Arkansas Tech.

After the game, tight end Mark Zamora said: "We haven't had a game where we play all four quarters. If we can play all four then we will have a great ball team."

### Homecoming Football Playmakers



Brodey Johnson QB  
18 completions



Royal Kyle WR  
4 receptions, 44 yards, 1 TD



Travis Romar WR  
2 receptions, 39 yards, 1 TD



Chancelor Gill WR  
3 receptions, 57 yards, 1 TD



Mark Zamora TE  
5 receptions, 17 yards

### Sports Schedule — Oct. 10-23

**Oct. 10**  
Volleyball vs UA, Monticello  
**Oct. 11**  
Volleyball vs S. Arkansas  
**Oct. 12**  
Football @ Harding  
Soccer @ East Central  
X-country @ McPherson

**Oct. 14-15**  
Golf @ Enid Meadowlake  
**Oct. 16**  
Soccer vs SWOSU  
**Oct. 17**  
Rodeo @ OSU  
Volleyball @Arkansas Tech

**Oct. 18**  
Rodeo @ OSU  
Volleyball @ Harding  
**Oct. 19**  
Football @ East Central  
Soccer @ Okla. Baptist  
Rodeo @OSU

**Oct. 23**  
Soccer vs East Central

