

Photos

See photos from Ranger Preview, Kindness Day and Thank-a-Thon Pages 6 & 7



Sports

Volleyball team heads to GAC Tournament Page 10



NORTHWESTERN NEWS

PRSR.T. STD.
Permit # 5
Alva, OK 73717

Address Service Requested

Volume No. 86, Issue 12

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Oklahoma

November 21, 2024

Visit us online at northwesternnews.rangerpulse.com

Follow us on:

Part 2 of 3: New image of sports

Is NWOSU offering NIL deals?

By TARA OWEN
Senior Reporter

For Northwestern Men's basketball player, Cameron McDowell, a name, image and likeness deal began early.

While a freshman at a Division 1 school, he received his first NIL paid partnership with Dodge.

This was a time that he was able to learn about business and NIL as a freshman. Getting his first ever NIL deal months after NIL was approved.

NIL refers to the legal rights of individuals controlling how their image is used for promotional purposes.

College sports refer to it in the way that athletes can now receive financial compensation just for the use of their name, image, and likeness.

"As a freshman and receiving an NIL deal that large, I felt like I was on top of the world," McDowell said.

Years later he continues to receive NIL deals throughout his athletic career.

"They [his current NIL deal]



Photo provided

Cameron McDowell holds the ball during a game last season. McDowell has received NIL deals from both Northwestern and his previous schools.

had been to a couple of games and felt like I was the one they wanted to give NIL to, and I was thankful for that," McDowell said. NIL got approved through the NCAA in July of 2021, just

months before McDowell's first NIL experience.

For the first time in the history of college sports, players could now benefit from their name, image and likeness alone.

Signing autographs, selling apparel and corporate partnerships are all forms of NIL.

However, previously any form of favoritism or payment was not allowed in any college sports.

"We have around 10 to 15 students receiving NIL, none of those are anything big or large contracts," said Gretchen Jones, assistant athletic director of compliance.

For Northwestern students, the NIL options may be limited, the Division 1 schools have seen a much larger change and impact on the teams.

As for Northwestern, the changes might not be visible now but are coming.

"As I look at that, NIL hasn't changed Northwestern Athletic, as it hasn't changed most of the Division 2 schools," said director of athletics Brad Franz.

For a smaller Division 2 school, the athletes have the community to rely on.

Whereas some larger schools do not have the community atmosphere.

"This community is by far the best I have ever been in," McDowell said. "This is a community that is extremely hands on, they really care about us at Northwestern."

For Northwestern students athletes like McDowell, he explained how thankful he is to be able to receive benefits for attending a smaller school.

"The students that are recruited here are wanting a small-town feel, and some of them come here and think they can go somewhere else and get a better deal, when in reality it was better here," Jones said.

Not only is that seen as an advantage for Northwestern, but also the community.

For students like McDowell, the community is able to provide financial benefits that larger See NIL Deals, Page 12

How is NIL Used?

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT

72% of NIL deals are posting social media content

AUTOGRAPHS

2% of NIL activity is athletes giving autographs

INSTRUCTIONS

5% of NIL activity is the athlete giving instructions such as a camp or lessons

ENDORSEMENTS

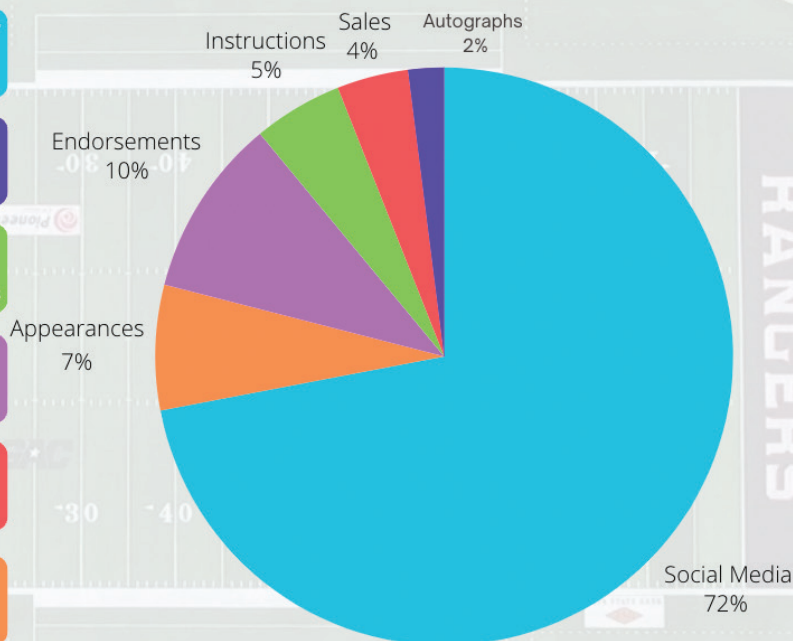
10% of NIL deals relate to endorsements

SALES

4% of NIL activity is in sales of merchandise

APPEARANCES

7% of NIL deals relate to athletes showing up for appearances



Graphic By Tara Owen

Source: studentathleteinsights.com

NEWS

Pages 2 & 3

OPINION

Pages 4 & 5

PHOTOS

Pages 6 & 7

FEATURE

Page 8 & 9

SPORTS

Pages 10, 11 & 12

NEWS

Ranger Research Day changing location last minute

By **DERRICK GALINDO**
Senior Reporter

NWOSU's nineteenth annual Ranger Research Day begins Friday, and students will showcase their papers, posters or other presentations of their findings.

Due to meals being served in the Student Center Ballroom the location of Ranger Research Day has changed.

Previously being held in the ballroom the morning session of the event will be held in 2nd floor library annex and the afternoon portion will be held in the Industrial Education building Room 129.

Ranger Research Day is when Northwestern's student body and faculty members of many disciplines gather to share their results after spending time researching a topic.

From 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., posters will be set up in, and research papers will be presented starting at 1:30 p.m..

Of the 60 participants who signed up, 36 projects will be featured.

"These are our largest numbers since 2017," said Dr. Shawn Holliday, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and member of the Ranger Research Day committee.

Holliday worked with Ranger Research Day since 2010. He said that when he started working for research day, there was a lot of participation.

However, a lot of participation dwindled due to COVID-19.

"During COVID, we still did, and a couple years afterwards, research day, but it was online," he said. "One year we might have had seven participants, and that's been slowly building.

"I'm just happy to see that we now have faculty members in the sciences sponsoring again when they kind of dropped off. My American Studies students, we have eight presentations where in the past we didn't have too many - if any. We have a faculty member in Business who is presenting ... and it's kind of refreshing because we haven't had a faculty representative present for several years."

Holliday said the importance of NWOSU's research day comes from NWOSU being a teaching institution.

"We learn a lot through the research we do. We learn new things and we pass that on to the students. You can be a pure teacher, of course a lot of our faculty are lifelong learners, because you're taking on a certain research topic or task. It might take you down unexpected avenues and you'll learn things you might not have ever considered."

Jaden Brunner, looking back on her experience making her research day project, said that a lot of the project's work was a positive experience.

"It was really cool to kind of lean on somebody else as well

and build that rapport," Brunner said, "because a lot of our classes are online or we meet once a week. It was really nice to get together with another student that has different ideas and of different background than you, and work collaboratively to come up with such an impactful piece and leave a statement."

Brunner, along with partners Alyssa Overpeck and Paige Swatek, are presenting a poster "The Heart of the Problem, An Art Piece."

She is getting her masters in Heritage Tourism and Conservation and Dr. Steven Mackey is sponsoring her for research day.

M'Cheila Rader, who worked on her paper titled "Frank Norris's Numbing Pain: What Dental Anesthesia Depicts About Human Desire" over the fall semester, said that while she was nervous about speaking in front of others, she had plenty of time to prepare.

"The paper was initially assigned at the beginning of September," she said, "and there was also the incentive, of course, where if I did present at Ranger Research Day, then I wouldn't have to take my final. That was a good incentive for me to want to participate.

"I feel really well prepared, so something that would initially make me a little nervous, I feel like I've had enough time and enough mentorship from Dr. Holliday to feel really well prepared for the event."

Power outage brings Rangers to Student Center Ballroom



PHOTOS BY DERRICK GALINDO

From left to right: Johnathan Ylitalo, Ray Chavira, Andrew Scott and Jordan Pierce are together eating lunch in the student center ballroom after Coronado lost power because of an electrical fire.



Students play their playstation in the Student Center while their power is out at Coronado Hall.

On Monday a transmitter outside of Coronado Hall blew causing an electrical box in the Coronado Cafeteria to also blow according to Dr. David Pecha. At this time students are still having to eat in the ballroom on the second floor at the student center.

It is unknown why the transmitter blew and what the damage was to the cafeteria or how long it will be until students can enjoy meals in the newly renovated cafeteria again at this time.

What's up?

NOVEMBER

21ST- THE SECRETS OF APA STYLE: 12 PM: J.W. MARTIN LIBRARY ANNEX, ROOM 221 AT NOON

22ND- RANGER RESEARCH DAY: 8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M.

23RD- WIZARD OF OZ PERFORMANCE: FELLER'S FAMILY AUDITORIUM IN HEROD HALL: 2 P.M.

27TH- NO SCHOOL FOR THANKSGIVING

28TH- FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER AT THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ALVA: 11:30 A.M.-1 P.M.

DECEMBER

2ND- CLASSES RESUME

3RD- AHS CHRISTMAS CONCERT: ALVA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 6 P.M.

5TH- JAZZ ENSEMBLE CONCERT: FELLER'S FAMILY AUDITORIUM. 7 P.M.-9 P.M.

HOLDER DRUG

Hallmark 513 Barnes Alva, Ok 73717

580.327.3332 1.800.458.5349 Fax: 327.1848

Gift with purchase begins
 November 20th.
 It's gonna be great!

NEWS



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Left, Jady Hendrickson, who will play Dorothy in the “Wizard of Oz” on Saturday. Middle, Sam Grinder, who will play Tin Woodman in the play and right, Lucas Wood who will play the scarecrow in the play.

Theater stages Oz for 85th anniversary

By TARA OWEN
Senior Reporter

The Northwestern department of fine arts will be performing “The Wizard of Oz” on Nov. 23 at 2 p.m.

This production will also be presented to children of local schools Nov. 21 and 22. The children’s play will be in the Feller’s Family Auditorium in Herod Hall.

“We are excited to be back in the space and do what we do,” Mickey Jordan, Instructor of Technical Theatre said.

As the auditorium has previously been under construction, the department has been unable to have production this semester. However, Kimberly Weast, Fine Arts department chair explained in some ways she is excited to start with the children’s show.

“It really is my favorite production to direct, I love the response of 400 kids in the audience,” Weast said. “I always love their interactions so that always makes me happy.”

Some of the inspiration for the section of “The Wizard of Oz” as this year’s children’s play was the fact that this year marks the 85th anniversary. The movie “Wicked” will also be coming out the same week that this will be performed.

Jady Hendrickson will be playing the role of Dorothy, she shared how she grew up watching the movie.

“I even had a pair of ruby

slippers I used to wear as a kid, this is a real dream come true for me,” Hendrickson said.

There are many important lessons in the storyline of “The Wizard of Oz.” Each audience member can walk away with different life lessons.

Showtimes

Date: Nov. 23
Time: 2 p.m.
Place: Feller’s Family Auditorium

Nov. 21 and 22
Shows for local elementary schools will be held during the day.

“I think the most important message is that going out on your own isn’t such a bad thing and it’s important to find your way,” Hendrickson said.

Weast explained how “The Wizard of Oz” is a story of acceptance. Along with the need to rise to the occasion we often find ourselves in situations to get out of our comfort zones.

“I want children and teachers to walk out and think what fear we are living in and how do we help each other overcome that,” Weast said.

For more information about the fine arts department head to www.nwosu.edu/fine-arts.com

Holiday gifts made easy: A college girls guide to the perfect Christmas

By JAXYN CLOUD
Student Reporter

For most, Christmas season is a time of joy and peace. People are enjoying their escape from everyday life and spending time with their loved ones.

Many look forward to the holiday, eagerly awaiting its arrival.

There are certain people who don’t feel this way about the holiday, and they are findable in most retail stores during the days leading up to Christmas.

Every year, many boyfriends are unsure of what to get their girlfriends for the special holiday.

These men are faced with the same dilemmas every year: what to get their girlfriends who seem to have everything they need.

A mix of uncertainty and overthinking cause gift-giving to be a seemingly impossible task.

Procrastination kicks in and they find themselves stressing over the gift just days before Christmas.

The classic gift idea of flowers is a great option but taking it a step further makes a huge difference, according to senior NWOSU student, Addie Hoeme.

She suggests a flower bou-

Trendy Christmas list items:

- Giftcards to local boutiques
- Flowers
- Fuzzy socks and blankets
- Jewelry
- Travel bags
- Candles
- Highlighters and pens
- Picture frames



Source: NWOSU Students
Graphic by: Jaxyn Cloud

quet subscription, so the gift can keep giving all year long.

Some girls said that they enjoy gifts relating to their hobbies.

Crochet needles, comfortable running shoes and study Bibles were offered as options for Christmas presents.

Ella Bouse said she enjoys making her own coffee, and a few syrups and flavors would be a great gift.

Jewelry is a tried-and-true option for a Christmas gift, but many men get it wrong in one area, the color.

Ashlan Light, a NWOSU math education student, said it is important to know if your girlfriend has a preference between silver or gold.

A lot of girls have a strong

preference toward one, and knowing which she likes can make or break a gift.

Brenda Lezama said that personalized gifts are a sweet option.

The NWOSU freshman said the possibilities are endless.

Makeup bags, water bottles, t-shirts, backpacks and picture frames can all be personalized with names or sayings that girlfriends would love.

The main factor that makes a gift special is that the girl feels like her boyfriend put time, thought and effort into the gift, said Kaylyn Aldrich, a sophomore at NWOSU. Ultimately, the best gift isn’t always the most expensive or trendy gift, it’s the gift that makes her feel seen, known, and loved.

Decorating your dorm

By PIPER GALLAGHER
Student Reporter

Ready or not, here Christmas comes!

Soon everywhere you look there will be lights strung across streets, ornaments on trees, and festive inflatables in people’s yards. But there are ways to bring that holiday cheer into your own dorm room.

There’s no need for your beige walls to be sad during the most wonderful time of the year, so here are the best ways to add some Christmas magic to your room.

First, the easiest and most obvious way to get a dorm room ready for Christmas is a tree. Mini trees can be found at stores like Hobby Lobby or online on Amazon. They can be found in a variety of colors and can be decorated with shorter strings of light and mini ornaments. A tree around three or four feet is suitable for dorms.

Another easy and affordable way to spruce up those bland



Photo by Piper Gallagher

Haley Combs and Piper Gallagher’s Christmas tree in their dorm last year.

dorm walls is with Christmas lights. Lights can be strung with command hooks around the top of the walls and can also be found in a wide range of colors and patterns.

Even better, they can be left up after the holidays as extra everyday dorm decor.

This decoration can sometimes

be slightly more costly, but a door mat can have festive designs that match the holidays.

These can be left right outside or inside your dorm entrance.

Finally, a less conventional way to add holiday ambience is with window clings. These are holiday shaped gels that stick to mirrors, walls, doors, and of course, windows.

Putting these on the mirror in the shared living space in the dorms is the perfect way to add unique decor for any holiday!

“I really like decorating the bathroom area in the Cunningham Hall dorms for the holidays,” Olivia Saner, a junior health and sports science major from Dawson, Nebraska said. “My roommate and I have light up signs of our initials that change colors, so we always match the colors to the holidays. We also like putting lots of gel window clings on the mirrors.”

Most of the decorations listed can be reused every year, or for multiple occasions, which can be super convenient and cost effective.



THE DAISY VILLAGE SHOPDAISYVILLAGE.COM
Since 1940 Alva, Oklahoma 506 FLYNN ST ALVA, OK 73717
580-327-3467



NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Official Newspaper
Northwestern Oklahoma State
University

709 Oklahoma Blvd.
Alva, OK 73717

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

Fall 2024 Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Alli Schieber

News Editor
Jadyn Hendrickson

Editorial Editor
Leo Robles

Sports Editor
Oaklee Fielder

Features Editor
Katelyn Findley

Assistant Editor
Kevin Kaumans

Photo Editor
Ingrid Maldonado

Photographer
Victor Kinsie

Advertising Manager
Logan Hicks

Circulation Manager
Allie Stoddard

Online Manager
Jaylee Ross

Adviser
Dr. Kaylene Armstrong

News office: Jesse Dunn Annex 232
Telephone: 327-8479; Fax: 327-8127
E-mail: nwnews@nwosu.edu
The News is printed by the Alva Re-
view-Courier

The opinions and comments contained
in the Northwestern News are those of the
writers and do not necessarily reflect the poli-
cies or beliefs of the university administration,
Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges or
the editorial staff. The News gladly accepts
submissions but does not promise they will
be used.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

This institution, in compliance with
Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act
of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amend-
ments of 1972, sections 503 and 504 of the
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans
with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of
2008, and other applicable federal laws and
regulations, and to the extent required by law,
does not discriminate on the basis of race, col-
or, national origin, sex, age, religion, genetic
information, physical or mental disability, or
status as a veteran in any of its policies, prac-
tices, or procedures. This includes, but is not
limited to, admissions, employment, financial
aid, and educational services.

Inquiries concerning the application
of these programs should be made to Cal-
leb Mosburg, Director of Student Affairs,
Northwestern Oklahoma State University,
709 Oklahoma Boulevard, Alva, OK 73717,
(580) 327-8415.

This publication, printed by North-
western Oklahoma State University, is
issued by the University as authorized by the
Regional University System of Oklahoma.
Four hundred copies have been prepared and
distributed at a cost to the taxpayers of the
State of Oklahoma of \$368.00.

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. Let-
ters via e-mail are acceptable as long as they
follow the rules stated above and can be sent
to nwnews@nwosu.edu. Please limit submis-
sions 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

Having a successful ending

By Tara Owens
Senior Reporter

As the end of the fall semes-
ter begins to approach, many stu-
dents are feeling extremely over-
whelmed.

From a large growing list of
assignments, exams, projects and
much more. Where other students
might even be feeling stressed by
the distractions of the holidays
approaching.

However, this is actually the
ideal time to regroup and focus
and reflect on the semester so far.
By taking some time to reflect
and evaluate where you stand can
be beneficial to how you finish
the semester.

Taking time to review goals
set and the use of managing time,
this can allow for a successful
way to close out the semester. As
we begin to enter the final month
of the semester it is important to
make plans to improve yourself.

By setting realistic and timely
goals is a great way to do that.

Creating set goals that can be
achieved in the allotted time in
the semester is a way to improve
your semester. It is always good
to start with easy goals. For ex-
ample, setting up your routine
and plan your next step.

Completing projects early,
improving grades and becoming
better organized are just a few ex-
amples of timely goals.

Other ways to get the most
out of your semester, improving
time management and prioritiz-
ing are both great tactics. Balanc-
ing school with athletics, work or
anything else can be challenging.
However, by the end of the se-
mester it can be even more chal-
lenging to stay organized.

Prioritizing tasks based on
deadlines and important dates
can be a difficult task, but it can
improve your time management
skills. It is important to be aware
of your sleeping schedule and
how much rest you are getting.

One area that can also improve
during the 'burn out' time in the
semester is celebrating. As this
might not sound the way to im-

prove studies, this is highly en-
couraged to allow students to not
get burnt out during the end of the
semester.

An important tip to be aware
of is that we are in a campus with
a supporting student community,
with multiple ways to get help
and advice from people who have
been in your spot before and from
those who may be currently strug-
gling with the same challenges.

Recognizing small victories
and celebrating them can be a dif-
ficult task.

Getting a good test grade or
completing a difficult project are
examples of reasons to celebrate.
It is always about motivation and
determination. Reminding your-
self of improvements is also an
important reason to give yourself
credit.

As the holiday season ap-
proaches, remember to take this
time to rest and reflect. Along
with genuinely taking a break
from work and studies. Sur-
rounding yourself with loved
ones can also be very beneficial
during your next semester.

If you
can
change
your
mind,
you can
change
your life
—William
James

Most iconic holiday in human culture

By Leo Robles
Opinion Editor

Christmas stands out as one of
the most iconic holidays globally,
celebrated across cultures, reli-
gions and continents in various
forms.

Its deep cultural significance
has made an impact in traditions
and universal themes of love,
generosity and gathering make it
a cornerstone of holiday celebra-
tions.

From its religious roots to its
simple expressions, Christmas
transcends boundaries, embody-
ing a spirit that resonates with
millions, if not billions, of people.

Christmas has deep histori-
cal and spiritual importance. For
Christians, it marks the birth of
Jesus Christ, a moment of pro-
found significance in their faith.

This religious impact has in-
spired countless traditions, music
and art that continue to shape cul-
tural practices worldwide.

However, the holiday's appeal
extends far beyond its religious
context, transforming into a sea-
son of goodwill and shared hu-
manity.

Its ability to shape religious
and unique themes contributes to
its enduring relevance and iconic
status.

One of the defining aspects of
Christmas is its emphasis on joy
and gatherings. The holiday sea-
son is synonymous with family
reunions, festive meals and cher-
ished traditions like decorating
Christmas trees, exchanging gifts
and singing carols. These cus-
toms create a sense of unity and
nostalgia, reinforcing the bonds
between loved ones.

For many, Christmas is a time
to pause and reconnect in a mean-
ingful way, making it a much an-
ticipated period of warmth and
celebration.

The universal themes associ-
ated with Christmas further en-
hance its iconic nature.

At its heart, the holiday em-

bodies values like generosity,
kindness and compassion. The act
of giving gifts, for instance, sym-
bolizes thoughtfulness and care,
reminding people of the joy that
comes from both giving and re-
ceiving. Charitable acts often in-
crease during this season, as indi-
viduals and communities rally to
support those in need, spreading
the Christmas spirit far and wide.
This need of giving and goodwill
transcends through religious and
cultural boundaries, making the
holiday meaningful to diverse
groups.

Christmas is also iconic due to
its rich visual and auditory sym-
bols, which have become deeply
ingrained in popular culture. From
twinkling lights and snow-cov-
ered landscapes to iconic songs
like "Jingle Bells" and "Silent
Night", the holiday's imagery and
music provoke a unique sense of
magic and wonder.

Movies, advertisements and
literature further reinforce the
cultural significance of Christ-

mas, marking its global appeal.

Christmas has a global reach
unparalleled by most other holi-
days. While celebrated differ-
ently across regions whether it's the
traditional feast in Italy, fireworks
in Latin America or Santa Claus
parades in the United States; its
spirit is universally recognizable.
Even in countries where Christ-
mas is not a public holiday, its
symbols and customs often find
a place in local celebrations or
commercial activities, showcasing
its international influence.

Christmas is arguably the most
iconic holiday due to its rich tra-
ditions, universal themes and
cultural adaptability. It combines
religious significance, festive joy
and acts of kindness into a single,
globally recognized celebration.

Whether one views it as a spir-
itual event or a time for family
and giving, Christmas continues
to inspire hope, generosity and
connection, embodying the best
of humanity during a season of
light and love.



OPINION

A reflection about living as a student

By **Leo Robles**
Opinion Editor

Since High School, we learn that college is one of the biggest decisions our lives.

We are often told to study hard to be able to apply to college, and we are also told that we won't be able to be successful and life will be hard if we do not go to college. Nobody can tell if this is true.

We are close to the end of the year and many of us are ready to

while we deal with our every day-life and it prepares us for reality, but we always need to get back up and get things done. It is difficult to do almost the same routine every day for years, but it is important that we all have one thing in common as college students which is being here and showing up.

We do what we do not only for our family or money, but we also do this to grow as a person and stimulate ourselves into achieving higher goals and accomplish-

to see ourselves and think if we are good enough to be where we are, but it requires time to get to that point in yourself.

Finding your way through life is difficult, but it is important to stay sharp because we are building our own generation and legacy, and we need to show the rest of the world that we are ready to define the next generation of adults.

It has been difficult to grow up surrounded by social media and all this technology, but we have come a long way and some of us are not wasting our time looking at Tik tok.

With all the factors that we grew up with, we managed to make our own ways of life, our own generational jokes, our own fears and our own society. Some people may not be proud of our own generation, but we are still marking our path in life, and we should be proud of that at least.

NWOSU has a great student community in which we all can fit in. College means a lot to us, and we appreciate the people who have organized and given their time to have the events. Some students may have not realized that thanks to those in responsible of these events have given us beautiful memories that we have done. Thanks to those for making our student life be joyful and colorful even if we have a lab that is due at 11:59 p.m. on the same day as the event.

There are many little details in our student life that we may see them as meaningless, but we should think of those more often.

Thanks to college, it unifies us and makes us meet people with different stories, beliefs and goals. With college unifying students from different places, it makes us be more empathetic to others and even challenge our own beliefs. Maybe that is what college is about.

You learn to get up for class, be organized, check your due dates and keep track of your grades, but we also learn how to live with each other physically and mentally. Sooner or later, we realize our strength and weaknesses, and still manage to be fine with who we are.

Some of us are still thankful for having NWOSU as the student experience that we may not want, but we need. The student experience is always present once we are stepping into campus. Being part of the student community can even mean the only motivation that some of need to keep moving forward

College may not be the key for everyone's life, but it is a big step to take for those who have challenge themselves into reaching for higher goals.

There are days in which we just wake up and do our every day routine, but with no enthusiasm of

Believe in yourself and all that you are. Know that there is something inside you that is greater than any obstacle.

—Christian D. Larson

There is no elevator to success, you have to take the stairs.

—Zig Ziglar

enjoy our thanksgiving break. It is relevant to say that many students have had a joyful semester, and others may have a stressful one, but none of the semester is ever easy. Some students still have many more semesters coming up, while others are about graduate.

Every single student at NWOSU have made a great effort into achieving their education and stay positive, responsible, mature and optimistic for what their future semester awaits while others just want to it over with as soon as possible.

We as students may not be realizing all the goals we have achieved so far. If it is only on class that we managed to pass; it still counts as one of our goals. Our instructors surely know the efforts we put in each day.

Wake up, get ready for class, show up, do your work and go to bed may be a tiring routine, and it is fine to sometimes crumble and feel like giving up. Some students hardly seem to realize that by being here, they make sacrifices. A few students may sacrifice money, time, mental and physical health, trips and their chance to have a full time job.

College manages to push students into difficult schedules

ing our dreams. We do this for a better future and because everyone in life wants to be a winner and achieve their own definition of success. So, if you feel alone, you need to realize that it is not only you that is fighting for a better life.

We all have our own stories and our own challenges in our lives, and we should be proud to look ourselves in the mirror and be proud of who we see in that reflection.

Life has many turns in each one of our paths. What if one day a student drops out of their education. What if a student fails a class or the semester.

We never know what life has for us, but one thing for sure is that we need to stand up for ourselves and be proud of who we are and what have we done. Each one of our goals counts.

After high school, life is not easy for college students, but that is part of how things usually go which is finding our way in the adult life while being a college student. We all know some people that still behave like highschoolers and may not be ready for real life, but we all get our reality check sooner than others.

For some of us it may be hard

what the day might have for us. Students get to the point in which they do not even know why they keep showing up to class and doing all their work, but those moments are the ones that make you think if just giving up right now will make it worse. Do people ask themselves "Is all of what I have done and learned worth it?" It is challenging for every human being able to find their motivation and their passion again. Some of us do not have our lives already prepared for the moments we are going through, but each day we learn and learn to keep our faces straight and have the guts to sit in those classrooms and be exactly like any other student.

College is worth it. Some of us hate it, but eventually all of

the skills we have been learning throughout the years will pay off.

Everything we do is relevant to our own student experience and each of us shape our own definition of what is college.

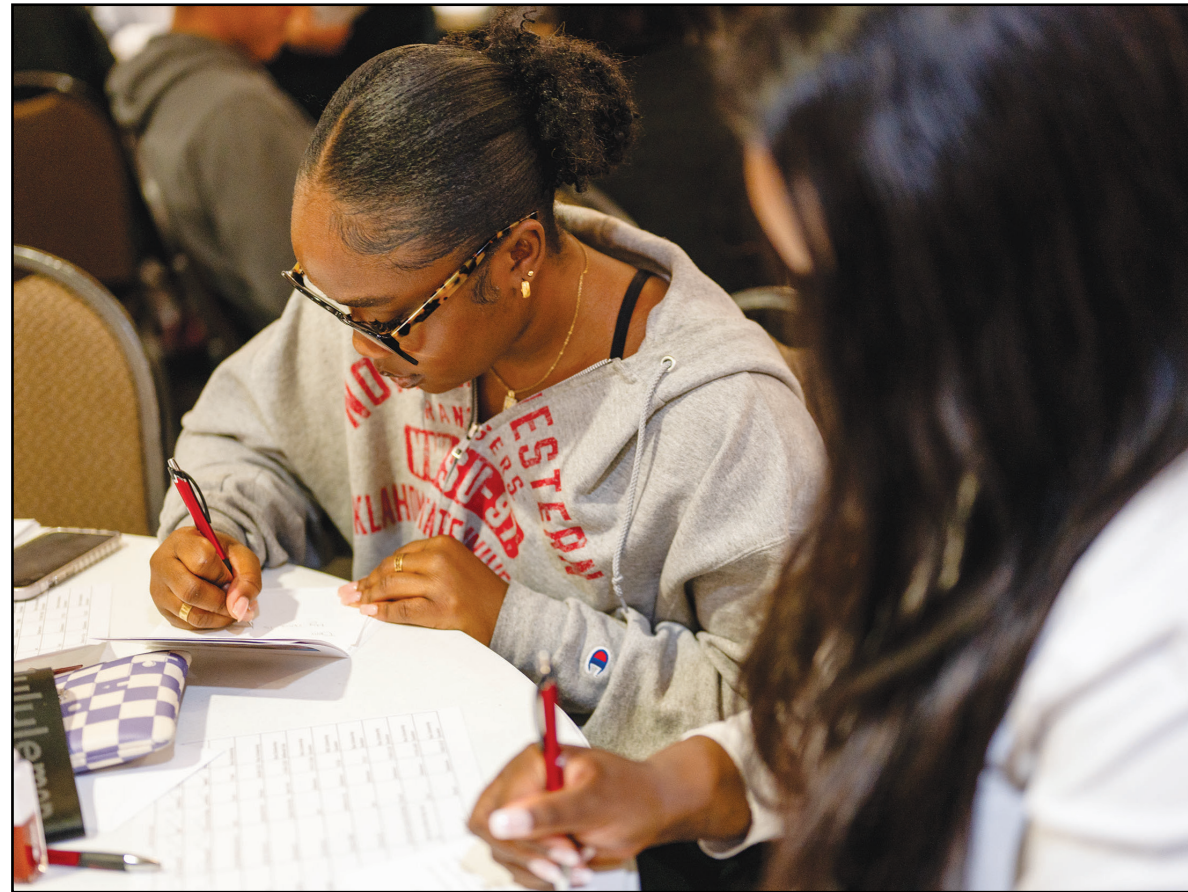
No matter how much we study, how much we stress, how much struggle and how much effort it has been put in this opinion, we all need to keep pushing ourselves every day until we get to our definitive goal.

So, let's stop laying around and work hard every day. Let's have fun as long as we are still young. Let's have fun while we are college students. Let's make some new memories and learn new things each day, and let's just simply enjoy life itself with its good and bad moments.

Education is one thing no one can take away from you.

—Elin Nordegren

Thank-a-thon, Kindness day, Ranger Preview



NWOSU student, Temi Michaels, writes thank you letters at the Thank-a-Thon.



During Kindness Day, Friday, Hispanic American Leadership Organization hands out hot chocolate to students and faculty in the Student Center.



A campus club hands out ducks to students to bring them joy on kindness day.



Photos by Ingrid Maldonado

Photo 1; Confetti was released at Ranger Preview when the Ranger fight song ended to begin the preview.
Photo 2; Students help release the confetti poppers onto the gym.
Photo 3; Prospective students and their families fill NWOSU campus during Ranger Preview.
Photo 4; Thomas Cornell talks with prospective student.
Photo 5; Brooklyn Parker sings her solo with NWOSU University Singers at Ranger Preview.
Photo 6; Members of HALO Cynthia Samaniego and Estrella Martinez, speak to prospective students.



FEATURE

What inspires a writer

When we read books or watch a movie, most of the time we never think much of the person who wrote the story we are watching unfold before us.

We rarely ever ask ourselves why the author decided to write the story they wrote, or where they got their ideas from.

This is because of the phrase “separating the art from the artist,” in which we as the audience tend to focus more on the media a person presents to us rather than the person themselves, whether it would be their character, their upbringing or their beliefs.

Take C.S. Lewis for example. Anyone who has read any of his books in the “Narnia” series can clearly see the Christian allegory within his writings.

This even makes more sense if you research Lewis’ backstory. The man had lost his faith

in God after his mother’s death when he was young, only for his friend, J.R.R. Tolkien, to bring him back into the religion.

C.S. Lewis is a good example of how an author’s upbringing can influence what they write.

If a person grew up surrounded by racism, sexism or other forms of bigotry, that is most likely going to be what they write about in their stories, or at the very least contain it as a theme.

If a white person grows up in an all-white small town, then it is easy to understand if most of the characters featured within their stories are going to be white people.

The same rule would apply with a black person growing up in Nigeria or Kenya having his main characters be African or at least of African descent.

Let us say you have an author that grew up in an abusive household.

It would not be illogical, therefore, to assume that said author will write books where abuse is brought up at least once with one of the characters in the stories they write.

All of these examples that I have shown you, fellow reader,

proves one thing: People tend to write what they know.

Now, this is not some law of the universe set in stone. Obviously you can have white authors featuring non-white protagonists in their books, and vice versa.

You can also have an author who grew up with parents who were unfaithful to each other never bring up the theme of adultery in their books. But these instances tend to be exceptions to the rule, rather than something that outright debunks its existence.

I believe the English and film professors of Northwestern should include the backstories of authors or directors they talk about in their classes more often.

Yes, I also believe we can separate the art from the artist. But at the same time, we shouldn’t overlook the facts either.

Now, I’m not claiming I always know what a writer or filmmaker is trying to represent in their stories, as I am not omniscient.

At the end of the day, only the storytellers themselves know what the true meaning is within their works, but their beliefs and upbringings is not something we should overlook.

History of Thanksgiving

By KATELYN FINDLEY
Features Editor

It is said that the first thanksgiving feast of the colonies then known as the autumn harvest was celebrated in 1621.

It was celebrated by England and the Native American Wampanoag people.

In 1623 the second Thanksgiving was held after a long drought had ended. However, in 1863 during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln set Thanksgiving to be held each every november.

In 1817 New York became the first state to adopt the holiday. There is still much controversy surrounding the Thanksgiving story.

Americans and Native Americans believe the celebration of thanksgiving hides the real truth of oppressions and bloodshed.



Some scholars are skeptical on whether or not the feast at Plymouth actually acted as the first thanksgiving in the United States. There are predated ceremonies recorded to the Pilgrims’ celebration.

Don’t forget to be thankful this holiday

By KATELYN FINDLEY
Features Editor

There are many things to be thankful for this season that are usually forgotten.

During this time it is easy to get wrapped up in making plans, cooking the perfect dish and Holiday festivities, that we forget to really look at what this day was supposed to represent, which is hope and Thanksgiving.

America with all of her faults can be a nice place to live that allows us to have many freedoms and opportunities to be grateful for.

For example: freedom of speech and religion, ability to have education at all ages of life, the ability to choose your own career, etc.

These are just a few examples of things to take in consideration to be thankful for as the holiday becomes closer.

10 Turkey Day Movies

- “Free Birds” (2013)
- “A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving” (1973)
- “Jim Henson’s Turkey Hollow” (2015)
- “Thanksgiving” (2023)
- “The Thanksgiving Movie” (2020)
- “Love at the Thanksgiving Day Parade” (2012)
- “A Waltons Thanksgiving” (2022)
- “The Blind Side” (2009)
- “Turkey Day” (2020)
- “Garfield’s Thanksgiving” (1989)

Macy’s parade facts

This year is the 98th annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. The Parade first took place in New York City in 1924.

This parade is still the most famous and largest. With a crowd of 3 million people and many more watching from the comfort of their tvs.

The Parade is a 2.5 miles route featuring, celebrating floats, performers and marching bands.

The parade features more than 700 clowns, 32 balloons, 17 of them being giant helium balloons, 11 marching bands and 10 performance groups, as well as musical stars and of course Santa Clause.



Traditional Thanksgiving dishes

- Green bean casserole
- Sweet potato casserole
- Mac and cheese
- Pecan pie
- Brussel sprouts
- Turkey
- Stuffing
- Mash potatoes
- Cranberry sauce
- Pumpkin pie
- Dinner rolls
- Cornbread
- Glazed carrots
- Apple pie

Dad joke of the week
If April showers bring
May flowers, what do May
flowers bring?

Pilgrims

Thinking of moving?

Think Hi-Lo Apartments, LLC
636 Linden St.

- 1- and 2-bedroom apartments available
- Within walking distance of campus
- School semester leases
- Laundromat on site
- No smoking and no pets allowed

Call 580-748-0157

THANKSGIVING

Try classic recipes for your feast

Fresh Herb Stuffing

From Country Living

Ingredients

- 3 Tbsp. olive oil, plus more for pan
- 1 loaf bread, cut into 1/2-inch pieces (about 12 cups)
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 3 c. chicken stock
- 1 c. fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- 2 tsp. fresh thyme leaves
- 2 large eggs, beaten

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Oil a 2-quart shallow casserole dish (or 3 quart if not stuffing the turkey). Place bread on a rimmed baking sheet and toast,

stirring once, until golden brown, 15 to 20 minutes.
 2. Meanwhile, heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onions and season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until very tender and beginning to turn golden brown, 6 to 8 minutes. Add celery and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, 6 to 7 minutes. Add stock and bring to a boil. Stir in the parsley and thyme.
 3. Stir together bread, vegetables, and eggs in a bowl. If desired, stuff half the mixture into the main cavity of the turkey; transfer the remaining half to the prepared baking dish (if not stuffing the turkey, transfer all the mixture to the prepared baking dish).
 4. Cover baking dish with foil and bake for 10 minutes. Remove the foil and bake until golden brown, 15 to 20 minutes.

Apple Cranberry Sauce

From Pioneer Woman

Ingredients

- 1 (12-oz.) bag fresh or frozen cranberries, thawed
- 1 3/4 c. granulated sugar
- 1 c. apple juice or cider
- 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored, and cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 orange, zested and juiced

Directions

1. In a medium saucepan over medium-low heat, combine the cranberries, sugar, apple juice, apple, orange zest, and orange juice.
 2. Cook, stirring frequently, until the mixture has thickened but the fruit is still chunky,

12 to 15 minutes. Remove the mixture from the heat and let it cool completely. It will thicken more as it cools.
 3. Spoon the mixture into an airtight container and store in the refrigerator until ready to eat. Serve chilled or at room temperature.
 Enjoy!

Slow Cooker Green Beans

From Pioneer Woman

Ingredients

- 8 slices thick-cut bacon, sliced 1/2-inch thick
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1/4 c. chicken broth
- 1 (15-oz.) can diced tomatoes
- 1 (8-oz.) can tomato sauce
- 2 1/2 tsp. kosher salt, plus more to taste
- 1 1/2 tsp. paprika
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- 2 lb. fresh green beans, trimmed
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar

Directions

1. In a medium skillet over medium-high heat, cook the bacon until crispy, 7 to 9 minutes. Transfer to a paper towel-lined plate, reserving the drippings in the skillet. Add the onion to the skillet and reduce heat to medium. Cook, stirring frequently, until the onion is softened and lightly golden, about 3 minutes. Add the garlic and cook until fragrant, 30 seconds. Add the broth and scrape up any browned bits. Add the mixture to a 6-quart slow cooker.
 2. To the slow cooker, add the tomatoes, tomato sauce, salt, paprika, oregano, black pepper, red pepper flakes, and half of the bacon, stirring well to combine. Stir in the green beans.
 3. Cover and cook on low for 6 hours or on high for 3 hours.
 4. Stir the vinegar into the green beans and taste for salt. Cover and cook for 1 hour until the beans are tender.
 5. Hold on warm for up to 4 hours. Serve with remaining crispy bacon.
 Tip: This dish can be made all the way through up to 2 days in advance. Remove the beans from the crock and allow to cool completely before refrigerating. Place the beans back in the slow cooker and cook on high for 1 to 2 hours until hot. Keep on warm for up to 4 hours. Crisp up the reserved bacon in a skillet, if you like.

Waldorf Salad

From Pioneer Women

Ingredients

- 1/2 c. mayonnaise
- 2 Tbsp. plain yogurt
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice, plus more to taste
- 1 tsp. honey
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt, plus more to taste
- 1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1 medium Granny Smith apple, diced
- 1 medium Honey Crisp apple, diced
- 3 ribs celery, sliced
- 1 c. red seedless grapes, cut in half
- 3/4 c. coarsely chopped toasted walnuts
- 1/4 c. golden raisins (optional)
- Boston bibb lettuce or butter lettuce, for serving

Directions

1 In a large bowl, whisk together the mayonnaise, yogurt, lemon juice, honey, salt, and pepper. Fold in the apples, celery, grapes, walnuts, and raisins, if using. Taste the salad for lemon juice and salt, adding more as necessary.
 2 Serve chilled, spooned over lettuce leaves, if you like.

Dad Joke

Why did Mom's turkey seasoning taste a little off last year?

She ran out of thyme.



What's your favorite Thanksgiving dish?



"Mash potatoes. My family has a competition every Thanksgiving to make the best mash potatoes."

— Allie Stoddard

"Strawberry cheese cake."
— Jamesha Reece

"Stuffing." — Leo Robles

"Green bean casserole. I make a dish every year."
— Sarah Decker

"Cornbread."
— Mason Powders

"Mash Potato Salad (grandma's recipe)."
— Jocalynn Gilbert

ALVA VISION CLINIC

Large selection of polarized sunglasses, daily / monthly contacts with multifocal and astigmatism.

Dr. Scott McEachern

Pre- and post-op lasik and cataract surgery.



Bring in your student ID and receive 20% off of sunglasses.

Monday, 8:00 am - 5:30 pm
 Tuesday, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
 Wednesday, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
 Thursday, 8:00 am - 5:30 pm
 Closed from 12:00pm - 1:00pm
CLOSED FRIDAYS
 FOR AN APPOINTMENT CALL
 (580)-327-2393
 AFTER HOURS CALL
 (580)-829-2026
 504 College Ave.

ACCEPTED INSURANCE:
 VSP, PVCS, Medicare, Vision Care Direct, Aetna, SoonerCare, BCBS, Eyemed, Healthchoice, and ask about others.
 Mastercard, Visa, Discover, American Express, and Care Credit and checks accepted.

Top Knot STUDIO

By appointment only Salon: (580)-748-8023
 524 Flynn St., Alva



SPORTS

Women's BB wreck Bethel

By **KAROLINA JURESIUTE**
Senior Reporter

Northwestern Lady Rangers played against Bethel College Threshers on Nov. 13. The Lady Rangers won the game by 53 points with a score 98-45 and

now is 2-1 in the season. The Threshers are now 0-5.

The Lady Rangers had four players in double digits. Kennedy Hight led the team with 15 points and seven assists, Payton Jones had 13 points, Tegan Jones 12 and Jaida Shipp finished with 10 points. Kira Bass led the team

in rebounds with nine. Everybody on the team scored at least two points.

The first quarter of the game started off with The Threshers scoring one free-throw, but on the next possession Jones had a three pointer and a layup following the next possession.

The Lady Rangers went on a 21-0 run until the next four Threshers points. The remainder of the first quarter the Threshers remained scoreless, and The Lady Rangers went on a 12-0 run to finish the quarter with a 33-5 score.

The second quarter started with a Lady Rangers 10-0 run. The Threshers finally got their first points of the quarter by making a layup and a three pointer, however they only scored nine points in the second quarter. Northwestern Lady Rangers extended their lead to 41 points at the end of the second and the score was 55-14 at the end of the first half.

The third quarter, The Threshers scored the most – 20 points. They started off with five quick points and shrunk the Lady Rangers' lead to 35 points, but they just could not keep up with The Lady Rangers as they were answering back. At the end of the third, The Lady Rangers was in front of The Threshers by 42 points 76-34.

The Lady Rangers once again had a great scoring fourth quarter, scoring 22 points while The Threshers scored only 11. The lead just kept growing for The Lady Rangers and by the end of

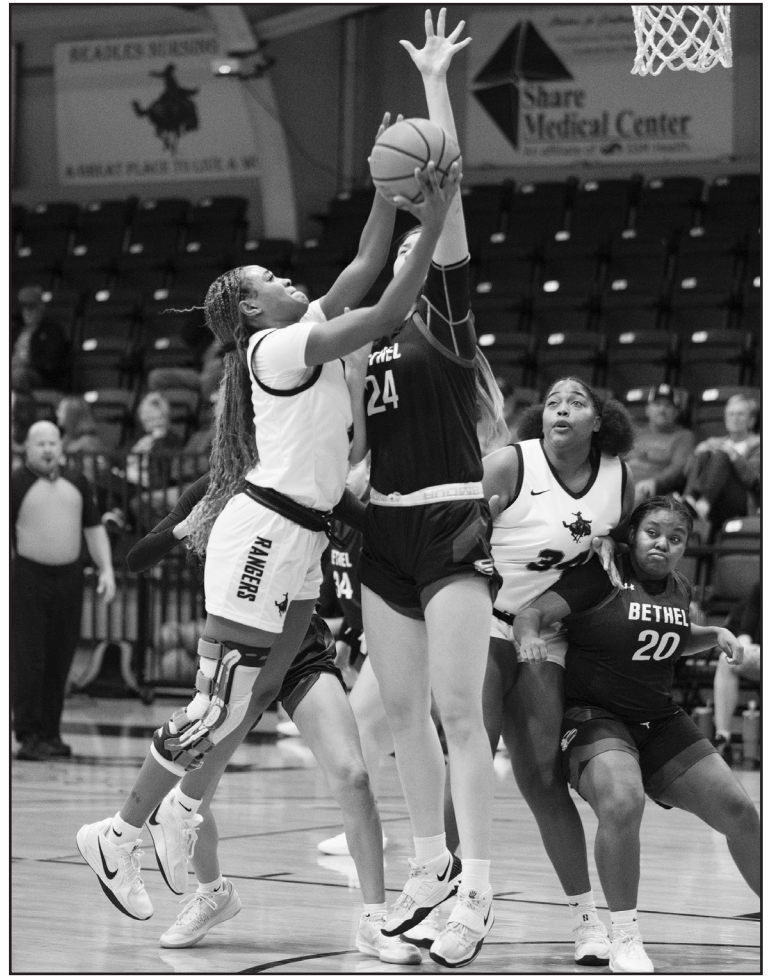


Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Ranger Camille Thomas makes a layup while the Bethel Threshers attempt to defend. NWOSU won the game 98-45.



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Senior Payton Jones makes a layup against Bethel University on Nov. 13. She scored 13 points on six field goals and one 3-pointer.

the game the score was 98-45, just two points shy of a 100-point game.

The Threshers had a total of 36 turnovers in the game and The Lady Rangers outrebounded them 54-31.

The Lady Rangers are back in action tonight at Pittsburg, Kan-

sas playing against The Pittsburg State University Gorillas for their first away game of the season.

Then they will be playing at Lawton, Oklahoma against The Cameron University. The Lady Rangers will be back at home to play their last non-conference game Nov. 30 at 1 p.m. at home.

Women's fall basketball

- Nov 8 vs Winona State (75-66 W)
- Nov 9 vs University of Minnesota Duluth (78-84 L)
- Nov 13 vs Bethel College (98-45 W)
- Nov 21 @ Pittsburg State
- Nov 25 @ Cameron University
- Nov 30 vs Friends University
- Dec 5 vs Arkansas Tech
- Dec 7 vs Harding University
- Dec 12 vs Southern Nazarene
- Dec 16 @ Southeastern Oklahoma State
- Dec 19 vs East Central

Men's basketball fall schedule

- Nov 8 Northeastern State University (90-86 W)
- Nov 9 @ University of Central Oklahoma (92-77 L)
- Nov 12 vs Barclay College (99-70 W)
- Nov 20 vs Cameron University
- Nov 23 vs Adams State University
- Nov 26 vs Friends University
- Dec 5 vs Arkansas Tech
- Dec 7 vs Harding University
- Dec 12 vs Southern Nazarene
- Dec 16 @ Southeastern Oklahoma State
- Dec 19 vs East Central

Volleyball in GAC Championship

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The NWOSU Ranger volleyball team will head to the GAC Championship on Thursday in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

The Rangers are seeded in seventh. They will play against Harding University, who is seeded in second. The Rangers have a 7-9 conference record this season, losing the last four games they played.

This season, they played Harding once on Oct 18 they were away. They lost 3-1, winning the second set by two points.

Mariela Jimenez led the Rang-

Leaders



Erika Asencio Soriano
363.5 Points



Hennesys Llano
592 Assists

ers in scoring that game with 18.5, Erika Asencio Soriano was a close second with 15 points.

This year is a slight improvement from the 2023 season. They have one more win and are in the

GAC Championship tournament.

Last year they did not make the tournament and ended with a 6-10 conference record.

Soriano leads the Ranger's in points this season with 363.5 points. Mariela Jimenez is second with 303.5 and Ece Ozdemir is third with 241 points. Hennesys Lalane leads the team in assists with 592. Mikayla White is second with 253 and Brianda Diaz in third with 87.

The NWOSU volleyball team has a lot of work to do if they are going to beat Harding University and move on in the tournament.



580.327.0258

Schedule an Appointment with us Today!

Hair on the Square

507 College Avenue • Alva, Oklahoma

Now Hiring!

Waiting Staff



Smok Shak

Highway 64 & 4th, Ingersoll, OK 73728

(580) 596-3584

Come In And Fill Out An Application

SPORTS

Rangers get bit by Dawggs

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

Last Saturday was the final game for the NWOSU Ranger's 2024 football team, and it ended in a crushing loss, 0-50.

The Rangers went into Weatherford, looking to end the season with a win after a 78-0 loss to Southern Arkansas. Both the Rangers and Bulldogs went into the game with a 2-9 record.

Last year, NWOSU shut out the Bulldogs 41-0 at home.

In the first quarter the Rangers kicked off to the Bulldogs and went on the defense. It wasn't long until something happened.

NWOSU's Tate Robards intercepted a pass and ran it eleven

yards to get the Ranger offense going.

Unfortunately, the Rangers weren't able to do much and they attempted a field goal but it was no good. SWOSU was able to score two touchdowns by the end of the quarter, and took the lead into the second.

The second quarter was nothing special at all and had no scores. The first half ended 0-14 SWOSU

The second half started in NWOSU's hands. They weren't able to do much and were intercepted at the 47-yard line.

Later the Bulldogs scored again to make it 0-21. The next possession for the Rangers did not go well at all. The ball was fumbled on the first snap of the



Photos by Victor Kinzie

Ranger Aaziah Flores, No. 56, jumps to block a kick against the Bulldogs at Weatherford on Saturday. The Rangers lost this final game and ended the season 2-9.



NWOSU Ranger offensive lines up against the SWOSU Bulldogs on Saturday. The Bulldogs won, 50-0.

drive and was scooped up by the Bulldogs and they scored making it 0-28.

They followed that up with another score and made it 0-35.

The fourth and final quarter of the 2024 football season started in Brodey Johnson's hands and he threw a short pass to Michal Arceneaux II.

Eventually, the Bulldogs got the ball and scored making it 0-43. SWOSU had no pity and scored one last touchdown in the

final minute of the game. The game ended 0-50 SWOSU.

At the end of the season, NWOSU finished with a 2-8 record and sat in the 11th rank out of 12.

This year, Darien Gill lead the Rangers in net yards in rushing with 366 yards. Brodey Johnson had 1,106 yards thrown and 8 passing touchdowns.

Travis Romar lead the team in receiving yards and touchdowns with 332 yards and had 5 touch-

downs.

Both Wilson Cal and Aaziah Flores had 2 sacks, the most of the team. Bashu Delco had the most interceptions with 3.

Kale Purvis had the most field goals made, 6 attempted and 4 made. Two of those from beyond 40 yards.

This season was a bit of an improvement from the last. The 2023 season ended with a 1-9 record with their only win against SWOSU.

How did Rangers do?

The fall seasons are over (or starting tournament, like volleyball), and here's how the Rangers did this year in the Great American Confer-

ence sports. The GAC does not list standings for cross country or golf. Rodeo is not a GAC sport.

Football	2-9, tied with OK Baptist for last place
Soccer	0-6-6, last place (seven teams)
Volleyball	7-9, seventh place (12 teams)

Highlights...

- Soccer** had the most saves in the GAC: 134
- Volleyball** had the best blocking average in the GAC: 2.33
- Football** made every PAT this season: 15/15

Teams prepare for spring sports

By **ELY NOBLE**
Senior Reporter

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's baseball and softball teams are gearing up for the upcoming season with high hopes and plenty of hard work behind them. Both teams are focused on improving in the Great American Conference this year.

The Rangers baseball team has been hard at work during fall practices, focusing on sharpening their pitching rotation, tightening up defense and building a stronger offensive lineup. Head coach Ryan Bowen said this year's group has shown commitment

and energy.

"This group is ready to play," Bowen said. "We've got a good mix of young talent as well as experience. I think our fans will be pleased with what they see this season."

One player to watch is junior outfielder David Cronister. Known for his leadership on and off the field, Cronister said the team is determined to succeed.

"This is the hardest-working team I've been a part of," Cronister said. "We're all focused on the goal, and that's to win. I can't wait to get out there and compete with the guys and show everyone."

The lady Rangers softball team is also preparing for an exciting

season, focusing improving their batting averages and tightening up their defensive play.

Head coach Casady Webb said the team's chemistry and work ethic have been their biggest strengths.

"Our focus has been on staying consistent," Webb said. "This team has the heart and rive to compete at a high level. I think we'll surprise a lot of people this year."

With a blend of returning players and new faces, the Lady Rangers hope to start strong in non-conference games before diving into GAC play.

With both teams ready to take the field, there's plenty of excitement at NWOSU.

Fans are eager to cheer on their Rangers and Lady Rangers as they aim for big seasons

For the baseball and softball programs, these seasons are more than just about wins and losses, they're about representing Northwestern Oklahoma State University with pride.

"We want to make our school and community proud," Cronister said. "This season is about more than just us; it's about everyone who supports Rangers athletics."

Alva State Bank & Trust Company

Older than Oklahoma

<p>Alva Main Office 518 College Ave. Alva, Ok 73717 580-327-3300</p>	<p>Burlington Branch PO Box 80 Burlington, Ok 73722 580-431-3300</p>
<p>Enid-Chisholm Branch 801 W. Broadway Enid, Ok 73701 580-234-4201</p>	<p>Bank of Freedom Branch 1085 Main St. Freedom, Ok 73842 580-621-3276</p>
<p>First State Bank of Kiowa Branch 546 Main St. Kiowa, Ks 67070 620-825-4147</p>	

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation 1-800-259-2582

Jeremy Nichols
580-748-1534

Devin Hamlin
580-327-7968

hometownservices74@gmail.com

NIL Deals

NIL: a new era in sports

See NIL, Page 12

schools will not offer from the community, along with more scholarship opportunities for the student athletes.

“The community has donated tons of money toward Northwestern athletics throughout the years but not necessarily just towards NIL,” Franz said.

However, many times donations go toward the whole program or school, not individual students. Where NIL gives the opportunity for individual athletes. According to Sports Epreneur website, one of the pros to NIL is the financial empowerment that comes with this program.

“I think NIL is a good thing for the athletes, as it gets them more involved in the community because they have to get themselves out there and out of their comfort zone,” Jones said.

NIL has provided life-changing amounts of money to college students, just in the few years it has been around.

While some people think that NIL was long overdue and deserving to the students, others think that this is a loss of passion and will lead to irresponsible decisions, along with many other problems in the future.

“A lot of people get really angry about the NIL, but really what has gone on is just the money is bigger...” Franz said. “Personally, I don’t have a problem with it.”

According to Sports Epreneur



website, 98 out of 100 top NIL ranking receiving students are either football or basketball players. Along with an unclear balance of men and women sports.

Another concern in the future for NIL is that the students receive-

ing large sums of money at such a young age could become a distraction.

Along with the fact that there is more pressure to perform at a higher level.

However, one of the most common forms of NIL is paid partnerships.

“For a small community like us, the NIL we see most of, it’s businesses trying to get their name out there, so they will use the college athletes for social media post and little things like that,” Jones said.

In Northwestern’s case, some see a disadvantage because students might be thinking they could receive more NIL in a larger town, which causes more transfer students and changes.

In the future, some athletes may not receive their degree if credit hours are not accepted at each institution.

“The con of NIL is these athletes are always going to be thinking they could be doing better somewhere else, or get more money somewhere else,” Jones said.

In some cases, with larger NIL deals, these students are taking away time from their academics and athletic obligations to fulfill NIL deals.

Academics and their athletic obligations should be their main priorities.

According to SportsBusiness Journal, in 2024, Catlin Clark, a women’s basketball player made over \$3 million from NIL, and there were others who made much more than her.

Bronny James, a men’s basketball player made \$4.9 million in NIL deals in 2024.

He also had NIL deals with Nike and Google.

In 2023, more than 58% of NCAA student athletes were on scholarships, not including NIL deals.

In 2022, NIL had only been around for a year, and 17% of college athletes were receiving NIL deals.

As NIL is still considered new, the future of it is uncertain.

“I think the NIL is a great opportunity for students, but there again,” Jones said. “I don’t want to see them chasing that when their education should be what they are chasing.”



Brad Franz, director of athletics, said people get mad about NIL but he does not see a problem with it.



Cameron McDowell runs during a basketball game earlier this month.

“The con of NIL is these athletes are always going to be thinking they could be doing better somewhere else, or get more money somewhere else.”

— Gretchen Jones



Gretchen Jones assistant athletic director of compliance, oversees name, image and likeness on Northwestern’s campus.