

Car Show

Alva Cruise and Car Show, Sept. 19-21

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Soccer

Soccer wins over University of Sioux Falls.

See story page 11



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Giveaways it's AI generated

By **JAXYN CLOUD**
Senior Reporter

Kate randomly learned how to use em dashes and used them 24 times in her English paper. Jacob used five sources that aren't anywhere on the internet. Tyler didn't sound like himself in his most recent speech. He almost sounded robotic.

For years, artificial intelligence (AI) was thought of as sci-fi movies and robots that take over the world. But in classrooms today, it is not taking over the planet, it's taking over students' homework assignments.

There are some obvious signs of AI usage in the work that students try to pass off as their own. Unusual punctuation, unrealistic vocabulary, the overuse of emojis and em dashes are all commonly associated with artificial intelligence generation.

According to Turnitin, a large AI detection platform, 11% of the papers turned in have at least 20% artificial intelligence writing. Approximately 3% have over 80% artificial intelligence writing. Students are turning to AI to cheat their way through all levels of education.

The problem with this much artificial

intelligence usage among students is that students are not using this tool in an effective way. They are using it as a quick way to get out of a homework assignment. What they fail to realize is that they are committing plagiarism. Even though AI is not a person, its software gets data from somewhere. Students could be ripping off a talented journalist, painter or other type of artist all for the sake of convenience.

Artificial intelligence is not the worst thing to happen to education. It is part of the learning journey now for Generation Z, they just need to use it correctly. Roxie James, the chair of the English, Foreign Language and Humanities department, compared artificial intelligence to a calculator. It makes the work easier, but it is still important to learn the correct way to use it. "The question isn't, 'How do we catch students?' It's, 'How do we teach these students to use it correctly? How do we teach students to still have their own voice even if you're going to use AI to help you clean it up?'" James said.

The ethical way to use AI tools does not include feeding it the instructions to a homework assignment then copy and pasting it without a second thought.

The *MIT Technology Review* said that

Was it AI?

- Was there an overuse of em dashes for one who normally doesn't write with them?
- Is there unusual punctuation?
- How many sophisticated words and emojis are throughout the article?

AI is a tool, not a cheat code!

Illustration by Sarah Brashears

open AI chat sites are a more cost effective alternative to tutors, which can get expensive. Open AI evens the opportunities for people of all socioeconomic backgrounds to obtain a higher level of education.

The first tip for ethical AI usage is double checking all information the platform gives. There have been instances where AI gives fake sources and incorrect facts. If AI is the starting place for research, then it is being used effectively. If that is the only re-

search being done, that is ineffective usage.

The second tip is to give a few different AI sites the same prompt and compare results. Take the time to look into each idea the AI generation service gives.

A third tip for ethical AI use is to use it for structure. AI shouldn't be used as an idea generator. It should be used to help sort out the ideas that the human mind comes up with.

Pumpkin Season is Near



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Shelly Jackson, along with her family, is harvesting pumpkins in preparation for Halloween in October. The family operated patch is just outside of Alva. The Jacksons prepare year round for the fall and Halloween season.

See **PREPPING PUMPKINS**, pg 6

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NEWS

NW Oklahoma Concert Series

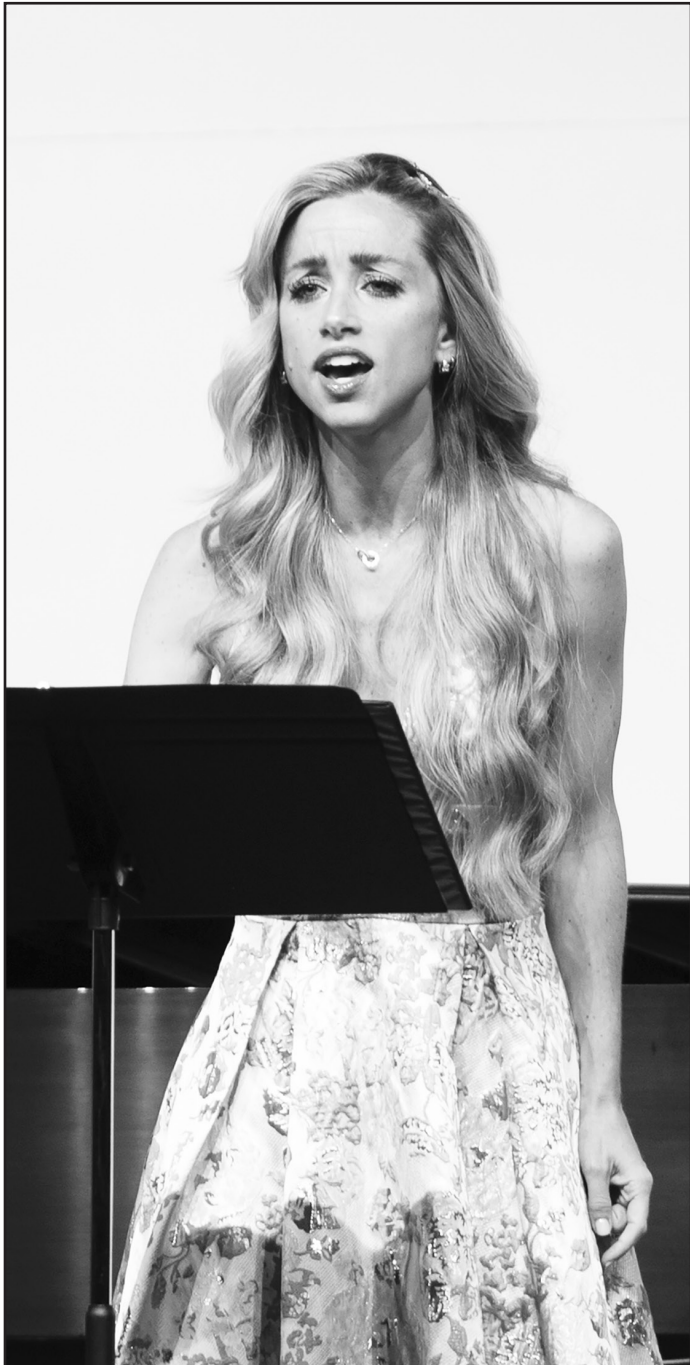


Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Opera singer, Brooklyn Snow, performs "On my Own" from "Les Miserables" at the Concert series Sunday. The series started at 2 p.m. in the Fellers Family Auditorium in Herod Hall.

Alva car show returns

By PIPER GALLAGHER
Senior Reporter

The Big Cruise and Car Show returns to Alva in just a few days.

Friday, September 19th kicks off the first day of Alva's biggest community event, and Oklahoma's largest free car show. The Big Cruise and Car Show brings in visitors from all over the state and surrounding states to experience the cruises and events put on by R.A.C.E., the Racing and Cruising Enthusiasts.

According to the Big Cruise and Car Show website, the event began in 1999 and only had 18 cars in attendance. Now nearly 25 years later, they've had almost 500 cars and thousands of people show up to the event in Alva's downtown square in recent years.

"It's one of the most entertaining things Alva has to offer," said Ronnie Steffens, an event coordinator for Big Cruise and Car Show.

This will be the car shows' 24th anniversary, and it will be jam packed with activities and events for all age groups. Steffens said it's got something there for everyone.

Friday evening kicks off the weekend events with a free cook-out at 5:45pm, with a cruise and a live band to follow. From there, the festivities last all the way until Sunday.

"What makes this year special is we've got the Dyno coming back, which is something that cars can set up on and measure their horsepower and torque," Steffens said. Prizes will also be given out to cars with the most power.

Also joining the lineup this year on Saturday evening is an FMX Stunt Group called Brigade FMX. This group will offer en-



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado Featured in Vol No. 86, Issue 5

tertaining performances by doing stunts and tricks on dirt bikes.

In addition to the multiple cruises and shows going on, there will be lots of events for younger kids as well. These events include a Little Miss Cruise pageant for young girls, pinewood derby car races, and inflatables set up along the square. A full itinerary of their events for the weekend can be found on their website at bigcruiseandcar.com.

Steffens said it takes a village to set up an event like this.

"We have a lot of people that volunteer in the community that help do this," said Katie Franta, another event coordinator. "We start basically right after the show ends, planning for the next year."

This event brings thousands of people right down to Alva's square. Not only do community members get involved, but people travel from out of state to attend. This brings lots of tourism to the

city.

"Another thing that's probably the greatest part of it is that we get to bring so many people here and I know that it benefits the businesses in town a lot also," Franta said.

The foot traffic to local businesses like restaurants and hotels will increase a lot this weekend. Big Cruise and Car will also have food trucks available all weekend long.

Next year will be their 25th anniversary, and the planning has already started for next year's festivities.

"We've had a lot of people step up higher than they have before, multiple businesses have, I think in preparation for what's coming next year because we've been telling them we have twice the list planned for next year," Steffens said.



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NEWS

WHAT'S UP?

September 18:

SGA Self Defense Training, Small Gym, 1 p.m.

Castle Players/O.I.L. Karaoke Night, Student Center Ballroom, 7 p.m.

BCM Men's Bible Study, BCM, 7 p.m.

BSU Wildin' Out, Science Ampitheater, 7 p.m.

Bible Chair Roundup, 7 p.m.

September 20:

Soccer at home, noon

September 21:

Bible Chair women's bible study, 7:30 p.m.

September 23:

Chi Alpha Night, Student Center Ballroom, 6 p.m.

ALVA CRUISE AND CAR SHOW SEPT 19-21

WEEKLY MEETINGS

September 18 - O.I.L, 7 p.m.

September 18 - Chem Club, 5:30 p.m.

September 18 - FCA, 8 p.m.

FREE FOOD

- Bible Chair, Tuesday 11:30 a.m - 1:15 p.m., East of Vinson Hall
- BCM Noonday, Wednesday 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., East of Carter Hall
- Wesley House, Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., West of Shockley Hall

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OPINION

Charlie Kirk dead at 31

Too soon to talk gun control?

By **RENEE O'CONNOR**
Opinion Editor

If you're like me, when you heard the news, you had conflicting emotions. Some rejoiced at the news that Charlie Kirk was shot and killed on the Utah campus; at the hands of another conservative, white man with a gun. While I think that reaction is ignorant, I understand it. You should not feel heartbroken.

You should be mourning the students who saw someone get murdered in front of them. You can mourn for his family. You should also understand that not mourning Kirk himself should be okay. Charlie Kirk is a conservative activist; known for his very backwards takes on abortion, a woman's role in society, and, ironically, gun control.

In fact, Kirk had stated on multiple occasions "I think it's worth to have the cost of, unfortunately, some gun deaths every single year so that we can have the Second Amendment to protect our other God-given rights." But this of course was in reference

to the hundreds of school shoot-
ings that happen right here in the
USA. So that then begs the ques-
tion; why are we only now fo-
cused on gun violence? Why are
we not mourning the thousands of
children murdered at the hands of
unchecked ownership of firearms,
but instead, solely focused on the
gun violence used towards the
white supremacist?

On Sept. 10, there was another
school shooting in Colorado. The
day that Charlie Kirk was killed.
We are so much more appalled at
this murder, than the shooting at
Evergreen High School where at
least four students were murdered
on the same day.

At the time of writing this,
there have been AT LEAST 91
incidents of gunfire on school
grounds this year just in the United
States alone. Resulting in 39
deaths and 81 injuries. So why
now do we care?

Earlier this year, Representa-
tive Melissa Hortman, a Minne-
sota Democrat and leader of the
state House Democratic caucus,
her husband Mark, and their dog
were murdered. This murder was
an act of political violence. These,

however, were two democrats.
The Pulse nightclub shooting—
targeting young queer people.
Another instance of one in thou-
sands of acts of political violence
toward the left. Why didn't you
care then?

If we as a nation are against
political violence and murder, we
should be against it in all forms.
We should not be allowed to brush
it off and become so desensitized
to it that it doesn't even phase us
anymore. I need you, reader, to
understand that this could have
all been prevented.

No one is trying to take away
anyone's rights, but isn't it weird
that we are the only country in
the world with these kinds of gun
laws, or, lack there of? Do you
not feel embarrassed that other
countries are more upset about
the school shootings happening
in America than its own citizens?
We need background checks. I, a
19 year-old, am allowed to buy a
gun, but not a case of beer. Is that
not embarrassing?

We as a country should be in
an uproar for all of the children
and political activists on both-
sides killed at the hands of gun

violence. Selective outrage isn't
moral clarity—it's hypocrisy.

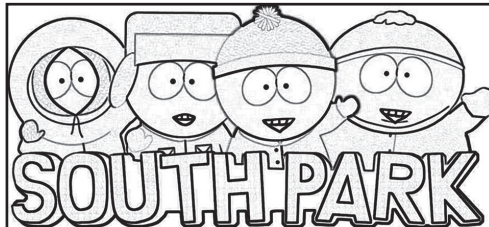
Every single person I have
seen post about their sympathy
and "prayers" for Charlie Kirk
have been, you guessed it, white.
Why? Kirk was adamant for his
belief that the Civil Rights Move-
ment was a mistake and how
Black people commit most of the
crimes in America. Seeing his
face in a side-by-side post next
to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is
disgusting and cruel. Kirk hated
MLK.

If Charlie Kirk couldn't say
nice things while he was alive,
he doesn't deserve nice things to
be said after his death. Howev-
er; he should still be alive today.
Kirk would still be alive today,
if any presidential administration
in the last decade would've taken
a legitimate stand against gun vi-
olence. But now, it's Trump's turn
to take action.

If the hundreds of thousands of
school shootings haven't caused
gun reform, maybe this will. Un-
til we grieve all the victims, we're
not solving the problem, we're
fueling it. So I say to you; is it too
soon to talk about gun control?

'South Park': No line is too sacred

By **RENEE O'CONNOR**
Opinion Editor



Let's be honest: "South Park" has never
been polite company.

For nearly three decades, the animated
series has been the loud kid in the back of
the classroom, cracking jokes that make the
teacher blush and the principal sweat. Few
shows in television history have stirred the
cultural pot quite like "South Park."

Since its debut in 1997, the animated series
created by Trey Parker and Matt Stone has
made a name for itself by playing jumprope
with crossing lines, mocking celebrities, and
diving headfirst into the most sensitive topics
of the day.

For some, it's incredible satire. For others,
it's offensive for the sake of being offensive.
But one thing is certain: "South Park" has
never shied away from controversy.

Take, for example, the infamous 200th epi-
sode, "200," which aired in 2010. The episode
featured a storyline involving the Prophet Mu-
hammad—an act that led to threats from ex-
tremist groups and resulted in Comedy Central
heavily censoring the episode. The censorship

itself became a flashpoint in the debate over
free speech and the limits of satire.

Scientology, Mormonism, and Catholicism
have all been skewered. The episode "Trapped
in the Closet" mocked Scientology and its ce-
lebrity endorsers, including Tom Cruise. The
backlash was swift, with Isaac Hayes (the
voice of Chef and a Scientologist himself)
quitting the show in protest.

Politics? No one is safe. Whether it's Al
Gore's crusade against "ManBearPig" (a met-
aphor for climate change denial) or the show's
brutal takedown of both Donald Trump and
Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election arc, South
Park has made a career out of lampooning the
left, the right, and everything in between.

Even the COVID-19 pandemic became
a huge joke. In the "Pandemic Special" and
"Vaccination Special," the show tackled mis-
information and vaccines, which truly paints

how ridiculous and stupid people were acting
during this time (has that changed?). Recently,
Trump supporters have been outraged at the
newest season's target: Donald Trump him-
self.

The season premiere, titled "Sermon on the
Mount," doesn't just poke fun at Trump—it
goes full scorched earth. Trump is depicted
using real photos superimposed onto an ani-
mated body, a technique fans might remember
from the show's portrayal of Saddam Hussein.
I would tell you the rest, but I don't think I
would ever be allowed to write for the news-
paper again (look it up on your own time).

But is "South Park" still relevant in this age
of sensitivity and cancel culture?

In one word: yes. This show could not be
more relevant. We need South Park now more
than ever.

This show has always provided comfort
and maybe even a few laughs to many dark
times. At least for me, we could learn a thing
or two from "South Park." Life and the state
of our country can be so dark and therefore,
we should be allowed to make fun of it. S

top taking everything so seriously. If you
ever get offended by an episode of "South
Park," pay attention. It was made for you.



What's on your mind? Let's hear it. Columnists wanted

Contact us at nwnews@nwosu.edu

OPINION

STAFF EDITORIAL

More free speech not violence

The assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk on Sept. 10 in Utah spawned an immediate barrage of comments and memes on all sides of the political spectrum.

The most extreme commentary blasted Kirk, sometimes saying he got what he deserved. The other end of the spectrum praised Kirk as a martyr for free speech. Others fell in between, and many called for an end to political violence.

At least two journalists have lost their jobs because of comments they made following Kirk's death.

Washington Post columnist Karen Attiah, who said she was the only Black full-time opinion columnist at the paper, told The Guardian that she was fired after 11 years for "speaking out against political violence, racial double standards, and America's apathy toward guns" after Kirk was killed. "They rushed to fire me without even a conversation."

Variety reported MSNBC political analyst Matthew Dowd was fired for comments

he made when an anchor Katy Tur asked him a question about "the environment in which a shooting like this happens."

His response: "He's [Kirk has] been one of the most divisive, especially divisive younger figures in this, who is constantly sort of pushing this sort of hate speech or sort of aimed at certain groups. And I always go back to, hateful thoughts lead to hateful words, which then lead to hateful actions. And I think that is the environment we are in. You can't stop with these sort of awful thoughts you have and then saying these awful words and not expect awful actions to take place. And that's the unfortunate environment we are in."

MSNBC President Rebecca Kutler apologized for the comment.

Dowd also apologized and condemned violence. He still didn't get his job back.

Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, speaking on the NBC Sunday morning program Meet the Press, said no one person can stop the politically motivated violence that seems to be escalating throughout the country.

"People keep waiting for somebody to lead us out of this," Cox said. "I think that's a mistake. ... I don't think anyone can change the trajectory of this. It truly is about every single one of us."

He pointed to the shooting death of Kirk at a Utah Valley University event as much like the political violence in the '60s and '70s, and noted one serious difference between then and now: the internet.

"I can't emphasize enough the damage that social media and the internet is doing to all of us," he said. "The most powerful companies in the history of the world have figured out how to hack our brains, get us addicted to outrage ... and get us to hate each other."

He said Americans need to take back the agency they have lost to "the conflict entrepreneurs" who revel in the discord.

"We have to get back to community, caring about our neighbors, the things that make Americans great, serving each other, bettering ourselves, exercising, sleeping, all the things that it [conflict] takes from

us," Cox said.

As a newspaper, we also condemn the political violence that caused Kirk's death and killed or injured other political figures in recent months. Violence is not the way to make any change happen.

We also encourage more free speech. Instead of trying to stop speech one doesn't like—especially through violence like that seen last week—we should turn to Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis' counter speech doctrine from almost a century ago: Counteract the message with "more speech, not enforced silence" in the marketplace of ideas.

Preserving the right to speech with which some or even many disagree also protects the free speech rights of the rest of us to speak and write about whatever we want.

If the government were allowed to censor speech based on the message, it could eventually turn that power toward any unpopular opinion, and that might include positions we support.

Other student voices

Opinion: Charlie Kirk's death is a threat to campus discourse

"Perpetrators of political violence commit these acts to put an end to speech they dislike. They see an assassination as a legitimate solution to political issues. In reality, all the violence does is intensify existing political animosity, limit genuine forms of political discourse and encourage more extreme violence. The last thing MSU [Michigan State University] needs is a further poisoning of its already toxic political climate."

—Jack O'Brien, columnist for The State News at Michigan State University, Sept. 15, 2025

The Daily Princetonian

Charlie Kirk's death shows why conservatives fight for free speech

"The killing of Charlie Kirk should make us all reflect on our individual duties to love one another and speak the truth as we can best see it. In the aftermath of his death, people should find renewed zeal for the truth, not fear."

—Zach Gardner, publisher of The Princeton Tory, in a guest column written for The Daily Princetonian student newspaper at Princeton University, Sept. 14, 2025

"Part of free speech is that, naturally, people aren't always going to agree. I've seen a lot in the wake of Charlie Kirk's killing — condemnations of his messages. If we're saying that Charlie Kirk left behind a legacy of free speech, that is an extension of it — for people to criticize his message after he's gone."

—Sydney Richardson
deputy editor of the Columbia Chronicle,
Columbia College Chicago, as part of a panel on
WTTW television on Sept. 15, 2025

St. Augustine Record quoted students at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida

"We lost a piece of the First Amendment when he was killed. People, including myself, are going to fear public discourse. People won't have the freedom to step up to the mic. The events will become regulated to the point of restricted freedom or

they won't happen at all."
—Jack Tanner, junior

"We can't keep killing people we disagree with. Lives matter even if the life is lived differently than your own."
—Olivia Delatorre, 19

In the wake of Charlie Kirk's assassination, Vanderbilt must stand for free speech

"In reflecting on the life and legacy of Charlie Kirk, his politics are secondary. He should be remembered for his relentless commitment to critical thought and open forums for free expression. His memory should remind us that defending free speech is perilous, but essential to preserve our American identity and values and prevent us from diving deeper into the darkness of political violence. It is the only way to fight our society's deep isolation, polarization and vilification of each other. At this crossroads in our history, as individuals and a collective at Vanderbilt, we must take the high road, supporting free speech in every way possible in our lives, on our campus, and, by extension, in this nation."

—Frederik Schutz, staff writer for the Vanderbilt Hustler at Vanderbilt University, Sept. 15, 2025

Charlie Kirk visited OSU this spring

The O'Colly staff at Oklahoma State University covered Charlie Kirk's visit there on April 1, 2025. The following are some of the observations they reported under the headline "Kirk's visit to Oklahoma State causes mixed reactions among students, other attendees."

Kirk, founder and executive director of Turning Point USA, stopped at OSU as part of his "The American Comeback Tour."

... He made a last-minute stop in Stillwater, with OSU's Turning Point USA Chapter announcing his visit only five days before. Kirk was scheduled to speak from noon to 3 p.m., but students gathered at the tent labeled "PROVE ME WRONG" hours before Kirk assumed his post behind the mic.

... One student, Stone Lambert, heckled Kirk with a megaphone before the debates even began, while others cheered as Kirk

entered.

... Two signs depicting Kirk as the devil stared down a "Jesus Loves You" sign, a juxtaposition of the personalities that came to hear Kirk speak.

... As Kirk made his way through a cheering crowd and spoke into the microphone for the first time, Lambert spoke into his as well, insulting Kirk and making crude jokes.

... Another student made his

beliefs heard from the crowd, but he didn't use a megaphone, and his message wasn't about Kirk's visit.

William Gibson stood toward the outside of the crowd holding a sign that said "Jesus Loves You," which earned him both dirty looks and fist bumps.

... Despite Kirk's sometimes volatile debates and social media posts, many OSU students maintained a respectful discourse.

Prepping for pumpkins at the farm



The Jacksons have been prepping for pumpkins for several months now. In May, they planted a variety of pumpkin seeds and have been harvesting those pumpkins since late August. Taking care of this

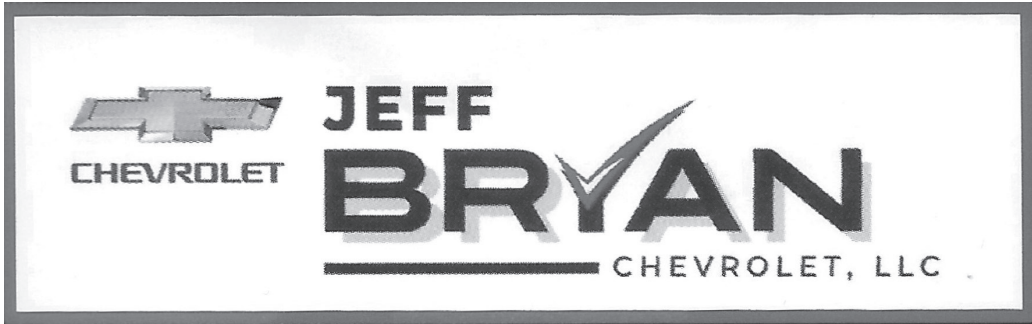
pumpkin patch is an entire family operation. While Shelly and Kevin Jackson, above, are the owners of the pumpkin patch, even Rynlie Ingraham, their 1-year-old great niece, likes to tag along and be a part of the fun. The

pumpkins begin to sell during this time as fall is near and Halloween is just around the corner. Check out their pumpkins two miles east and 1 mile north of Alva on County Road 470.

Photos by Ingrid Maldonado



The 24th Annual Big Cruise and Car Show!



<p>Friday September 19, 2025</p>	<p>Saturday September 20, 2025</p>	<p>Sunday September 21, 2025</p>
<p><u>Pre Registration</u> 5:45 PM - 8:00 PM Free Cookout 5:45 PM - 8:00 PM <u>Rules and Meeting for Friday</u> <u>Night Cruise</u> 7:50 PM <u>Big Cruise</u> 8:00 PM - 8:30 PM Closed Rout: Downtown, No. 4 Wheelers Everything Else that Runs! 8:30 PM - 8:30 Oklahoma Boulevard: HW 64 - Street Legal Only Band Starts at 8:30</p>	<p><u>Registration</u> 9:00 AM - Noon Act One Building <u>Graceful Arts Gallery Exhibition</u> 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM <u>Kids Pit Stop</u> 10:00AM - 5:00PM <u>SideWalk Art Contest</u> 10:00AM - Noon In Front of Graceful Arts <u>Car Show</u> 10:00AM - 4:30PM <u>Little Miss Cruise & Car Show</u> 10:00AM - 2:30 PM Courthouse Stage <u>Pinewood Derby</u> 1:00 PM - 3:30PM The Extreme Youth Center <u>Auto Cross</u> 3:00 PM - 4:00PM <u>FMX Show By Brigade FMX</u> 5:00 PM - 5:45PM <u>Go & Whoa</u> 6:00 PM - 6:30PM <u>Trophy Presentation</u> For Auto Cross & Go and Whoa 6:00 PM - 6:30PM R.A.C.E. Award, Best of Awards Throughout the Evning <u>Brunout Contest - Amateur</u> 6:40 PM - 7:30PM <u>Burnout Contest - Pro</u> 8:00 PM - 8:30PM <u>Trophy Presentation</u> For Burnouts 6:00 PM - 6:30PM <u>Cruise the Boulevard</u> Street legal only - Band on Blvd</p>	<p><u>Free Breakfast</u> 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM The Exteme Youth Center <u>Chapel Service & Fellowship</u> 7:50 AM The Exteme Youth Center <u>Car Show</u> 9:00 PM - Noon <u>Trophy Presentaion</u> Courthouse Stage 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Class Trophies, ECT. <u>Driver's Meeting</u> 11:30 PM <u>Fun Run / Grudge race</u> Battle on Barnes Noon - 4:00PM <u>Youth Races</u> Bicycle Drags 1:30PM During Intermission of Fun Run</p> <p>There is <u>NO</u> entry fee for any event</p> <p>Bands playing at this event: The Northwest Outlaws Trench Monkey.</p>



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ENTERTAINMENT

Cars in movies, games

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

You know, having been a licensed driver for almost four years now, I can confidently say that it is nothing like the movies or video games.

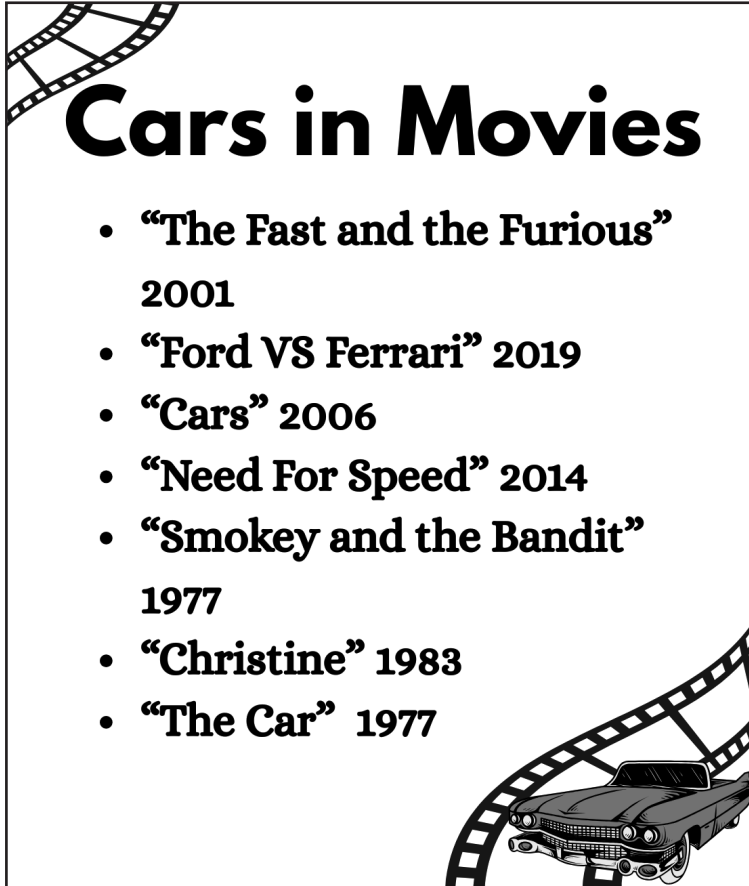
Some might be confused as to what I am saying, so let me explain.

Have you ever noticed how action movies will have a guy shooting a handgun -not a shotgun, not a high-powered rifle- at a car?

Do you remember when said car then blows up like a missile launcher was just fired at it?

What about when the main characters drive off a ramp that lets them go fifty feet across to the other side of a cliff?

Or when they flip the vehicle over and are usually able to climb out with no brain damage whatsoever.



Cars in Movies

- **“The Fast and the Furious” 2001**
- **“Ford VS Ferrari” 2019**
- **“Cars” 2006**
- **“Need For Speed” 2014**
- **“Smokey and the Bandit” 1977**
- **“Christine” 1983**
- **“The Car” 1977**

I mean, the “Fast & the Furious” movies constantly show the cast doing the most cartoonish stunts that rarely result in anything more than a few scratches and bruises.

Also, have you ever noticed how in video games, the driving mechanics either feel like your car weighs twice the legal road weight limit or is as light as a feather?

What about the games that don’t feel as though there should be cars in them but they still have them?

I swear, when “Cyberpunk 2077” was first released, I could not for the life of me steer my car without it taking me two minutes just to get the thing to turn.

Now, I am no game designer, but something tells me that it wasn’t supposed to be that way.

In other games they seem to be very particular about hit boxes for vehicles.

For example, if you have a

rocket launcher stand just a few inches away from your car, you’ll be grand.

But if you so much as sneeze while driving, you would get blown up and have to restart at the beginning of the mission. Same way with how guns will sometimes go from not damaging your car, to tearing through it like wet paper.

I guess I cannot fault video games and movies too much for not being entirely accurate for their depiction of automobile physics though.

Afterall, I doubt anyone has gone to a “John Wick” or “Mission: Impossible” movie for the proper car physics.

It would not be hasty to say that they probably did not really care all that much because they know no one really cares.

But hey, what else do you guys read me for than to see what insane ramblings I have come up with this week.

Let’s be real

Happiness is not lifestyle

By SARAH BRASHEARS
Co Editor-in-Chief

The pressure to be happy Smile. Be grateful. Count your blessings. Find the silver lining.

Everywhere we turn, there is a phrase, comment, or joking suggestion to tell us to be happy – but what if we aren’t?

What if trying to be happy is exactly what is making us miserable?

Friends, family, books, podcasts, society overall sells us that happiness is the ultimate goal in life.

Living in a social media culture, we are brainwashed to believe the curated joy that we consume every time we open our phones, leading us to question why we can’t have that life, memory, or happiness.

The self-help industry is also not doing us any favors. We are pushed to “just think positive” affirmations and messages.

I am not saying that these tools aren’t helpful or important. We train our brain to affect our attitude throughout the day.

What I am saying, is that these factors thrown at us 24/7 puts the pressure to be perfectly happy all the time, leading to the feeling of failure if we aren’t.

The idea of constant happiness, I’m talking happiness that never ends, is unrealistic. Emotions are honestly cynical; they

are not permanent.

Life comes with grief, stress, uncertainty - normal, not “broken.”

The state of happiness is just that, a state. It is not a lifestyle.

Forcing this into a lifestyle festers a feeling of guilt and shame, often asking “What’s wrong with me that I can’t be happy?”

When you push away reality to feel happy, there is a toxic emotion that ignores real struggles.

While you’re smiling on the outside, you are hurting on the inside and running away from those struggles.

How many times have you sat and smiled through the pain, only to realize that the pain is growing the more you ignore it?

This is where anxiety, burnout, and isolation begin to build. Authentic joy is harder to access when you don’t allow yourself to process how you truly feel.

Here’s where we get real. You have to allow yourself the permission to feel the full range of emotions.

Pushing off emotions does not make you happy, it makes other people happy.

At what cost does someone else’s happiness come over your own emotional health.

Shift your focus from happiness as a lifestyle, to happiness as peace and authenticity.

When an inner emotion that

is not happiness is present in your heart, feel it.

In the moment, it may severely hurt. But the authenticity you show yourself and the world builds a community of connection and love.

When you build this community on this authentic foundation, then you find your happiness.

Embrace small moments of joy rather than the permanent state of joy. It’s okay to say, “Today I’m not okay – and that’s okay.”

It is completely okay to feel a certain way. If you feel it, then feel it. Sit in it. But don’t stay in it.

If you feel it, then allow yourself to process it. Face it. Then move on.

Build on little moments of happiness, not a permanent emotion of your mind.

Happiness is not the finish line. Real freedom comes when you stop chasing it.

You do not have to force your mind into a fake emotion at the price of the world’s happiness.

Be honest with yourself and allow space for every emotion. Even if the emotions aren’t always pretty.

Happiness is not your lifestyle and it should not come with pressure. Any and your emotions come with authenticity.

Be happy on your own accord, not upon the worlds.

Video Games about Cars

“Burnout Revenge” 2005

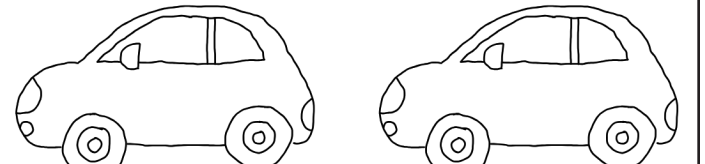
“Assetto Corsa” 2013

“Forza Horizon 4” 2018

“Daytona USA” 1994

“Gran Turismo” 2017

“Super Mario Kart 1992



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SPORTS

Rangers fall to Wonderboys

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

Last week, the NWOSU Ranger football team went on the road for the first time this year and traveled to Russellville, Arkansas, to face the Arkansas Tech Wonderboys.

Coming off a 49-7 loss to Harding University, the Rangers hoped to get momentum rolling to get their season on the right track.

The Rangers won the coin toss and chose to defend in the first half. Almost immediately, the Wonderboys scored the first touchdown of the game. The Rangers' first drive did not go as well, as they had four plays and punted.

Arkansas Tech kept the offense pounding and scored on their next drive, making it 0-14. The first quarter had no more points scored as the two teams did not go far on any of their drives and punted back and forth.



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Ranger defense attempting to stop Harding's offense on Sept. 4. NWOSU lost the game 42-7 against the Bison.

In the second quarter, the back-and-forth punting continued for a time until Arkansas Tech made another touchdown. The Won-

derboys attempted a two-point conversion, but they failed. The back-and-forth punting continued into the end of the second quar-

ter, until the end, where Arkansas Tech made a field goal to make the game 0-23.

The Rangers started with pos-

session to get the second half started. The Rangers made three first downs until a fourth and three, where it was thrown incomplete and the ball was turned over on downs. The next possession, the Wonderboys attempted a field goal and missed, giving the Rangers the ball.

The Rangers struggled offensively all game, and continued to struggle as the game continued. Their next drive ended in a punt. The Wonderboys then took the ball and scored another touchdown to make it 0-30.

The fourth quarter started with a punt by NWOSU, followed by a punt by Arkansas Tech. The next drive for Northwestern ended in a pick-six, giving the Wonderboys another touchdown. NWOSU had the ball again and threw back-to-back pick-sixes, handing Arkansas Tech a 0-44 win.

The Rangers head to Shawnee on Saturday to play against the Oklahoma Baptist University Bison.

Volleyball struggles, only has one win

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The NWOSU volleyball team had five games played this past week. They traveled to Hays, Kansas, to play four teams. After those four games, they had the first GAC game of the year against East Central University.

The first match was against Augustana University.

The first set went to Augustana 16-25. In the second set, the Lady Rangers fought back and won the set 28-26. The third set was incredibly close, with the score ending 20-25 in the Vikings' favor.

The Vikings continued their momentum and won the fourth set 17-25, winning the match 1-3. The Vikings outperformed the Lady Rangers in every statistic. Ece Ozdemir led the Lady Rangers in kills with fourteen. Mikayla White led the Lady Rangers in assists with twenty-eight.

Their second match in Hays was against Bethel College.

Bethel College won the first set 15-25. The second set did not go much better for the Lady Rang-

ers, only getting eighteen points against Bethel's 25. There was no stopping Bethel College by the time they got to the third set. The Lady Rangers lost the third set 13-25, ending the match 0-3. Tess De Zanet led the Lady Rangers in kills with eleven. White led the Lady Rangers in assists with twelve.

The third match was against Fort Hays State University.

The Lady Rangers did not perform well in this match either. They lost the first two sets, both 14-25. In the third, the Tigers continued their domination and won the final set 15-25.

De Zanet led the Lady Rangers in kills with ten. White had twenty-one assists.

The fourth and final game in Hays was against New Mexico Highlands University.

NMHU had the first set won by a large margin, 25-11. The second set was much closer, with NWOSU scoring twenty-four and NMHU twenty-six. The Lady Rangers won the next two sets, set three 24-26 and set four 17-25, forcing a fifth and final set.

Although Northwestern had momentum, NMHU found some-

thing to get the upper hand on the Lady Rangers and won the final set 15-5. Ozdemir had the most kills in the match with twenty-one. White had the most assists with forty-one.

The Lady Rangers had their first conference game against ECU on Tuesday.

This was a close match between the Tigers and the Lady Rangers, as the first set ended in the Tigers' favor 23-25. The Lady Rangers fought back and won the second set 20-25. The two teams then traded sets, the Tigers winning set three 16-25, and NWOSU winning set four 25-18, forcing a fifth and final set.

The Lady Rangers started the final set off well, getting up to eight points before stalling out and allowing the Tigers to catch up. The two teams then battled to twelve points before the Tigers set sail, and after an official review, the Tigers won the final set 12-15 and the game 2-3.

The next two matches are against the University of Central Oklahoma Bronchos. They then face Fort Hays State University Tigers once again after the 0-3 loss against Fort Hays this week.

Golf does well

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The NWOSU golf teams had two tournaments at different locations. The women went to Cameron University in Lawton, and the men went to Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.

The Rangers finished 10th out of twenty teams.

Mathieu Zerwin finished in fifth, tied with four other competitors. Zerwin's score was eight under par.

Zac Farmer was 31st, tied with eight others, with a score of one over par.

Max Courange tied for 49th with a score of four over par.

Pierce Geminden finished in 55th with a score of five over par.

Chris Xiao finished 77th with a score of eight over par.

The Lady Rangers finished fifth out of seven teams.

Gracie Duke was the highest scoring Lady Ranger in third with a score of five over par.

Tess Linden was 19th with a score of seventeen over par.

Heather Hunkele finished 22nd with a score of nineteen over par.

The next Lady Ranger was Amanda Lane in 26th with a score of twenty-two over par.

Ava Borne was the lowest Lady Ranger, ending up in 35th with a score of thirty-four over par.

On Monday, the golf team will be in Newton, Kansas, at Newman University.

This was a strong showing for the men's team. Although they finished in sixth last year in the same competition, there are new players on the team.

The women did not improve either. The tournament increased numbers from five to seven teams.

Cross country

Cross country went to Bethel College to compete.

Both the men and women finished fourth in their competitions.

The men competed against eleven other schools, the women against eight.

Kabelo Maja was the first

Ranger to cross the finish line in 14th with a time of 27:38. Andrew Scott was 17th with a time of 27:44.

Jessica Myers was the first Lady Ranger, she finished 17th with a time of 20:46. Harley Woody was 23rd with a 21:06.

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SPORTS

Soccer off to amazing start

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The Lady Rangers continued their season in Kearney, Nebraska, as they faced one opponent in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and another in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

Their first opponent was the University of Sioux Falls Cougars. They defeated the Cougars 0-1 with a goal from Christi-Anne Mills in the 87th minute. Taylor Annen had two saves in the game. Mills had a yellow card given to her just three minutes before her goal.

The Lady Rangers had a total of two shots in the game against the Cougars' six. NWOSU had four fouls and two corner kicks.

The second game was against the Black Hills State Yellowjackets. The game ended in a tie at 0-0. Black Hills had a total of five shots on goal while NWOSU had three.

Annen had an excellent performance against the Yellowjackets, racking up five saves. The two teams were even on fouls, both having five apiece.

Jazelle Alvarado had the most shots on goal for the Lady Rangers as she had two. Christi-Anne Mills had the other shot on goal for NWOSU.

The Lady Rangers are now sitting with a 3-0-1 record. This is the best starting record from the first two weeks since the 2004 season, when they also sat at a



Photo by NWOSU Athletics

Lady Ranger, No. 19, Cambell Tabor, runs toward the ball in a game against the Eastern New Mexico University Greyhounds on September 9.

3-0-1 record. It is also NWOSU's best record since they joined division II competition.

This is no doubt a great look for the Lady Rangers at the start of this season.

The undefeated Lady Rangers are set to face Newman University in Wichita, Kansas, on Wednesday. Their next game is against New Mexico Highlands University on Saturday. Last

year, NWOSU defeated Newman University 0-2 and tied against NMHU 2-2.

The Lady Rangers currently sit in second in the GAC standings, although there have been no con-

ference games played across the entire conference.

Annen was nominated for the GAC goalkeeper of the week with a shutout against Sioux Falls and a .25 goals against average.

Soccer Playmakers



Taylor Annen
GAC Goalkeeper of the Week
7 total saves



Christi-Anne Mills
1 solo goal
2 shots on goal



Jazelle Alvarado
Game 2
2 shots on goal



Reese Welch
Game 1
1 shot

Rodeo has a great first competition

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

Thursday, the NWOSU Rodeo team traveled to Colby, Kansas, to compete at Colby Community College.

The men's team finished fifth and women's team finished seventh out of seventeen teams.

Carter Anderson tied for fourth out of nine in the tie-down event with 70 points.

In the breakaway event, Ken-

dyl Miller tied for second out of the ten that scored points. She had 90 points.

In the tie down, Grady Aasby and Nathan Duvall tied for second, both scoring 115 points, five first place. Riley Smith was fifth with 50 points. Tydon Tsosie tied for seventh with 30 points.

In the goat tying, Trinity Kruse tied for third with 80 points. Payton Dingman tied for fifth with 50

points.

In team roping, Tyler Altmiller, with the help of a competitor from Panhandle State, won the event with 160 points. Colter Snook finished fifth, with a competitor from Western Oklahoma State, they scored 30 points.

Waci Thomson was the only Lady Ranger with points in the barrel racing. She finished eighth with 20 points.

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FEATURE

NFL season starts off strong

By **JESSICA SCHIEBER**
Co Editor-in-Chief

The NHL season has just recently started. Week two of the season has come to an end on Monday night.

So just how confident are you in your team this year? Well, my own team didn't start off too hot with a 0-2 start of the season, but I have faith that it will start to turn around.

The NFL Superbowl last year was won by the Philadelphia Eagles who beat out the Kansas City Chiefs 40-22.

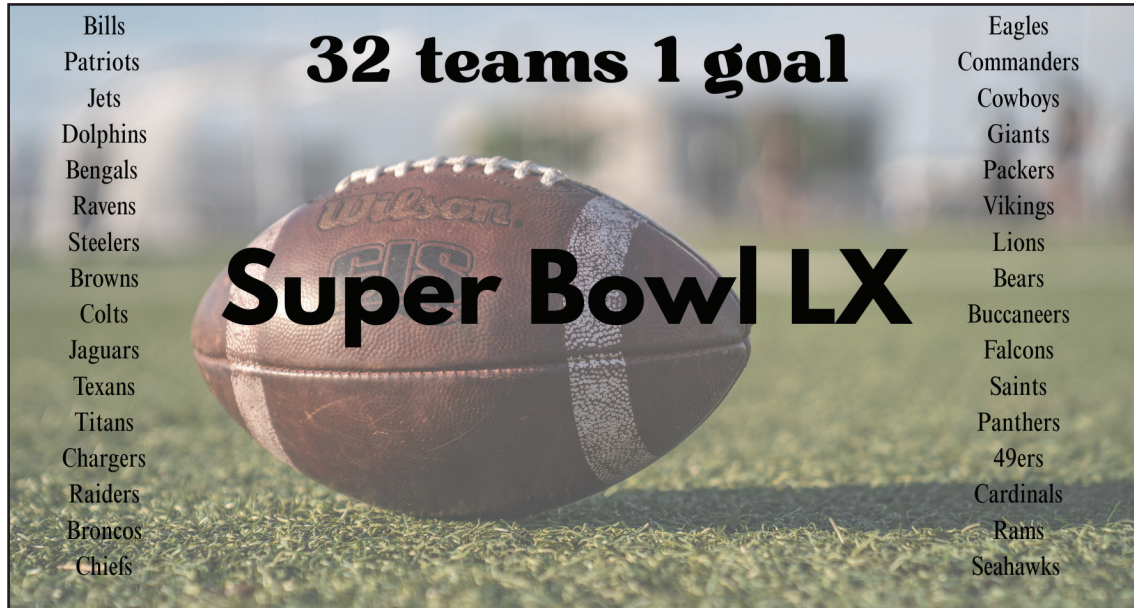
This year the Superbowl will be held in San Francisco Bay Area in 2026.

This event will take place on Sunday Feb. 8.

Are you a fan who devotedly watches every game?

How many different subscriptions do you have for your team?

Let's take a moment to just think about all the different places a game can be shown. There's ESPN, YouTube TV, DirectTV, Xfinity, Spectrum and Hulu and that's only a few of the many providers.



On YouTube TV you can watch out-of-market Sunday afternoon game. You can watch both conferences in the National Football League.

Those conferences being the AFC and the NFC.

However with the NFL Sunday Ticket there are limits. You cannot view in-market local games that are broadcast on local CBS and

Fox affiliates, prime time games, postseason games and international games.

If you have the Disney+ Bundle that includes ESPN+ you can watch a variety of sports including college football and playoffs, NBA, WNBA, tennis, and the NHL.

In the AFC East the standings are Buffalo Bill with a 2-0 start,

New England Patriots with a 1-1 start, New York Jets with a 0-2 start and Miami Dolphins with a 0-2 start.

The AFC North is led by the Cincinnati Bengals 2-0 with a 2-0 start, the Baltimore Ravens with a 1-1 start and the Cleveland Browns with a 0-2 start.

The AFC South has the India-

napolis Colts with a 2-0 start, the Jacksonville Jaguars with a 1-1 start, the Houston Texans with a 0-2 start, and the Tennessee Titans with a 0-2 start.

In the AFC West the Los Angeles Chargers have a 2-0 start, the Los Vegas Raiders with a 1-1 start, the Denver Broncos with a 1-1 start, and the Kansas City Chiefs with a 0-2 start.

In the NFC East Philadelphia Eagles lead with a 2-0 start, Washington Commanders with a 1-1 start, Dallas Cowboys with a 1-1 start and the New York Giants with a 0-2 start.

NFC North is led by the Green Bay Packers with a 2-0 start, the Minnesota Vikings with a 1-1 start, the Detroit Lions with a 1-1 start and the Chicago Bears with a 0-2 start.

The NFC South is led by Tampa Bay Buccaneers with a 2-0 start, the Atlanta Falcons with a 1-1 start, the New Orleans Saints with a 0-2 start and the Carolina Panthers with a 0-2 start.

The NFC West is led by the San Francisco 49ers with a 2-0 start, the Arizona Cardinals with a 2-0 start, the Los Angeles Rams with a 2-0 start and the Seattle Seahawks with a 1-1 start.

The Emmy Awards take the screen

By **JESSICA SCHIEBER**
Co Editor-in-Chief

The Emmy awards took place on Sunday night. The Emmys held their 77th Emmy Awards at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles, California. It was hosted by Nate Bargatze.

The award for outstanding drama series went to "The Pitt". This series won over "Andor", "The Diplomat", "The Last of Us", "Paradise", "Severance", "Slow Horses" and "The White Lotus".

The lead actor in a drama series went to Noah Wyle for his performance in "The Pitt". He beat Sterling K. Brown and his performance in "Paradise", Gary Oldman and his character in "Slow Horses", Pedro Pascal and his role in "The Last of Us" and Adam Scott and his performance in "Severance".

Lead actress in a drama series was won by Britt Lower in "Severance". She won over Kathy Bates and her performance in "Matlock", Sharon Horgan in "Bad Sisters", Bella Ramsey and her performance in "The Last of Us" and Keri Russell in "The Diplomat".

Outstanding supporting actor in a drama series was won by Tramell Tillman in "Severance".

He won over Zach Cherry and his performance in "Severance", Walton Goggins in "The White Lotus", James Marsden in "Paradise", Sam Rockwell in "The White Lotus" and John Turturro in "Severance".

In the outstanding comedy series "The Studio" took the award. The series won over

"Abbott Elementary", "The Bear", "Hacks", "Nobody Wants This", "Only Murders in the Building", "Shrinking" and "What We Do in the Shadows".

Lead actor in a comedy series was given to Seth Rogen in "The Studio".

He beat Jeremy Allen White in "The Bear", Adam Brody and his performance in "Nobody Wants This", Jason Segel in "Shrinking" and Martin Short and his performance in "Only Murders in the Building".

Lead actress in a comedy series was awarded to Jean Smart in "Hacks".

She won the award over Uzo Aduba in "The Residence", Kristen Bell and her performance in "Nobody Wants This", Ayo Edebiri in "The Bear" and Quinta Brunson and her performance in "Abbott Elementary".

Outstanding supporting actor in a comedy series was won by Jeff Hiller and his performance in "Somebody Somewhere".

He won over Ike Barinholtz in "The Studio", Colman Domingo in the Four Seasons", Harrison Ford and his performance in "Shrinking", Ebon Moss-Bachrach in "The Bear", Michael Urie in "Shrinking" and Bowen Yang and his performance in "Saturday Night Live".

The Limited or anthology series was won by "Adolescence". This won over "Black Mirror", "Dying for Sex", "The Penguin" and "Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Mendez Story".

Lead actor in a limited or anthology series or movie was won by Stephen Graham in

"Adolescence". He beat Colin Farrell and his performance in "The Penguin", Jake Gyllenhaal in "Presumed Innocent", Brain Tyree Henry and his performance in "Dope Thief" and Cooper Koch with his performance in "Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story".

Lead actress in a limited or anthology series or movie was won by Cristin Milioti and her performance in "The Penguin". She won over Cate Blanchett in "Disclaimer", Meghann Fahy and her performance in "Sirens", Rashida Jones in "Black Mirror" and Michelle Williams in "Dying for Sex".

Outstanding talk series was won by "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" beating "The Daily Show" and "Jimmy Kimmel Live!"

Outstanding reality competition was won by "The Traitors" it beat "The Amazing Race", "RuPaul's Drag Race", "Survivor" and "Top Chef".

Noteworthy Mentions

- Alexis Bleidel and Lauren Graham spoke onstage
- "Survivor" host Jeff Probst did double duty at the Emmys
- Nate Bargatze offers to start a swear jar

Top 5 on Netflix

- Canelo Álvarez vs. Terence Crawford
- Wednesday: Season 2
- Beauty in Black: Season 2
- My Life With the Walter Boys: Season 2
- Love Con Revenge: Season 1