

Soccer

Soccer remains undefeated.

Read more page 10



September

Childhood cancer awareness takes place in the month of September. Read more on page 3.



NORTHWESTERN NEWS

PRSR.T. STD.
Permit # 5
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Address Service Requested

Volume No. 87, Issue 5

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Oklahoma

September 25, 2025

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Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Supporting students through September

By JAXYN CLOUD
Senior Reporter

To most, a semicolon is just a mark on a page; to others, it is a quiet declaration of “my story isn’t over yet.”

While writing, a semicolon indicates that a sentence isn’t over. Some people attach the same principle to semicolons relating to their lives.

Many people use the semicolon as a symbol of strength and a new beginning.

September is suicide prevention awareness month. During this month, it is important to support people around us who are struggling with their mental health and honor those who have been affected by suicide.

Everyone knows someone who has been touched by this type of tragedy. It is far too common in our society, yet it is still seen as

a taboo topic by some. Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone. They don’t have a type.

Old or young, male or female, rich or poor, mental health struggles don’t discriminate and the pain is often invisible unless you know to look for it.

“I personally know people who have attempted and committed suicide and it is extremely heartbreaking. Not only for them but for everyone in that person’s life that loves them and wants to protect them. I feel like it should never get to that point so counseling, mental health, and anything to help should have a more positive outlook and be way more accessible.” said Kaylyn Aldrich, a junior elementary education major from Okeene, Oklahoma.

It is vital for NWOSU students to remain vigilant in checking on loved ones.

A simple snapchat or text message can make the difference of



Illustration by Sarah Brashears

life or death. People don’t always see the signs of mental health struggles, but being a genuine friend has the potential to save lives.

Students should also stay up-to-date and be aware of the resources available to them on campus to be able to point others in the right direction and walk alongside them on the path to recovery.

covery.

There are times when people don’t know how to help their struggling friend, but taking the time to learn about what NWOSU offers can help prepare you for one of these situations.

“If you or a loved one are in need of support, reach out for help by calling the 988 crisis lifeline,” said Taylor Wilson, Director of Counseling and Career Services

at NWOSU. She also suggested some of the programs that are free to NWOSU students.

All NWOSU students and faculty have access to a program called Timelycare.

This program provides scheduled counseling, scheduled medical help, health coaching, self-care content and TalkNow.

TalkNow is an emotional support program that is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is a Timelycare app or a website.

Links to all of these services are also on NWOSU’s website in the counseling services tab. All that is needed to register is a school email address.

Just like a semicolon, choosing to continue is powerful.

By listening, learning and living a compassionate, genuine life, NWOSU students can help each other feel like their story isn’t over yet.

Big Cruise and Car Show



Photos by Katelyn Findley

Friday night welcomed the Big Cruise and Car show weekend back to Alva.

R.A.C.E. hosted the 24th annual Big Cruise and Car Show for the city of Alva, as well as surrounding areas, over the weekend of Sept. 19 - 21. This Bellair was on display throughout the weekend for many to see.

Read CARSHOW, page 6

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NEWS

WHAT'S UP?

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- **O.I.L. MEETING**
4 p.m., Ranger Perk
- **First Gen Club Hide and Seek**
5 p.m., Student Center
- **Spanish Club Dodgeball Tournament**
5:30 P.M., Percefull Fieldhouse Small Gym
- **Volleyball vs SNU**
6 P.M., Percefull Field House
- **Bible Chair Roundup**
7 P.M., Bible Chair
- **BCM Men's night**
7 P.M., BCM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- **BIOLOGY CLUB BUG PINNING MEETING**
2 P.M., Science Building 206
- **CHEMISTRY CLUB ACS TRIP**
3 P.M.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- **FAMILY DAY**
- **RANGER FOOTBALL V. ECU**
6 P.M., Ranger Field

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- **SANCTUS CATHOLIC CLUB DINNER**
6 P.M., Scared Heart Church

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- **CONSTITUTION DAY**
12 P.M., Student Center Ranger Room
- **WRITERS ROUNDTABLE MEETING**
5:30 P.M., Vinson Hall 213

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- **CHI ALPHA NIGHT**
6 P.M., Student Center Ranger Room

Constitution Day set for Sept. 29

NWOSU institute for citizenship studies and department of social studies are going to host Constitution Day on Monday Sept. 29. From noon - 1:30 P.M. they will be discussing presidential pardons.

The full theme for the event is presidential pardons: a closer look at a second chance. This will be held in the Student Center Ranger Room. They will have free snacks and beverages while they are talking.

The discussion will be led by Co-Founders and Co-Executive Directors of the Northwestern Institute for Citizenship Studies Dr. Aaron Mason, professor of political science, and Dr. Eric Schmaltz, Northwestern Social Sciences department chair and

professor of history and global studies.

They will be discussing the constitutional authority of the Executive Branch to grant pardons, commute sentences and otherwise lessen or eliminate issues of guilt and punishment.

The program will also examine how the public views this unique presidential power and highlight notable historical examples of its use.

They encourage students to stay after the discussion and they will answer any questions that the attending people could have.

The questions will spark a conversation and the answers will bring a new view on to what is happening and why we should be aware.

Family Day takes place Sept. 27

Family Day at NWOSU will be taking place Sept. 27. This event encourages families to come to Alva and spend the day with their college students.

Families are invited to join "shop for tuition" where they can register for \$500, \$300 and \$200 giveaway for the spring semester of 2026. Winners will be presented the award at halftime of the game that evening. Winners must be present at the game to receive their award.

Family Day registration is on Saturday, Sept. 27, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Northwestern Student Center commons area. Families will receive free tickets to the football game and a chance to win additional prizes, including a prize for the family who trav-

eled the farthest. Winners must be present at the Ranger football game to receive prizes.

The Ranger Market will also be open until 2 p.m. for families to shop in and get drinks while they are there. The bookstore will be open noon-4 p.m. for any families looking to receive some Ranger gear to support their team during the game. There is also a store at the field to sell gear.

This year there will be a new activity called the Ranger Race which is a town-wide scavenger hunt that will be held from noon-4 p.m. To register for this event families should head to the Student Center.

The gates for the game will be open at 4 p.m. Kick off for the game will be at 6 p.m.



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NEWS

Childhood cancer, the power of community

By **KEN IRVING**
Senior Reporter

It is estimated that 14,910 children in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer. According to the World Health Organization, 1,590 of them will die from the disease.

Childhood cancer rates are rising in the United States. CNN says that in the past decade alone, there has been an 8% increase in childhood cancer diagnosis.

There isn't a definitive reason for why childhood cancer exists. Childhood cancer stems from genetic mutations that cause cells to grow and divide uncontrollably.

Cancer can progress faster and be more deadly than adults in children, however children tend to respond to chemotherapy better.

As adults, we can process the diagnosis and news of cancer. We have the ability to understand the long term treatment plan and what someone will have to go through to beat cancer.

Children are not so blessed. They tend to wonder why is this happening and they don't understand that they may not be allowed to do certain things that they are used to doing.

Northwestern student Madelyn McReynolds was eight years old whenever she was first diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

"As a kid you don't really understand, why can't I do this, why isn't my body allowing me to do this" McReynolds said.

McReynolds was raised in Lamont, Oklahoma. Her father is a band teacher and minister and her mother works at the bank in Lamont. Her siblings go to school



Photo provided

Madelyn McReynolds and her father attending a formal together while she was undergoing treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

there while McReynolds works at the restaurant.

Lamont is a small town with a population of 417. Everyone knows everyone and everyone supports everyone. During her treatment, she said that everyone was there for her.

"It really helped during my journey. They were always behind me. Anything that our family needed, they were there. They always wanted to help."

Growing up, McReynolds played sports. She was involved with multiple activities and stayed active. Throughout her childhood

she wanted to keep playing and to have fun. She didn't understand at times why she wasn't allowed to do certain things during her treatment.

She had to receive accommodations to help her play sports.

From third grade to fifth grade, McReynolds was absent from class every two weeks to do her treatments.

She said it was hard because those are the years that you grow as a kid. You make your memories and build relationships during those ages. It's hard to do that if you're not around your peers often.

At times, McReynolds felt alone; afraid. She was scared of losing her hair. She was afraid to be away from her family. McReynolds said that her family is what helped her during this time.

Her parents staying with her at weeks at a time is what helped her get through this rough patch. She credits her belief in Jesus, her faith helping her stay strong.

Looking outside, it's easy to feel helpless. It's hard to understand exactly what you need to do to help a child with cancer.

McReynolds said "Just having someone listening to you is a good feeling. As a child, you don't understand how to put your words into emotions, and it feels good to just have someone listen to you."

McReynolds pointed out an important detail that a lot of people tend to miss.

Not only is the person with cancer affected, but the family and loved ones surrounding them are too. She said that a mom with an eight-year-old with cancer may not have time to do laundry or clean the house, so they might need help with that.

Doing little things like that can help ease stress on a family that is already going through a lot. McReynolds talked about going to this camp that hosts kids with cancer.

At this camp, she would see people with worse conditions than you and it really puts things into perspective. It helped seeing kids with the same condition because it made it feel like you were fighting with someone.

McReynolds said if there was one thing she would tell her younger self, it would be that things will get better.

"It's going to get way better. You're going to get past this and

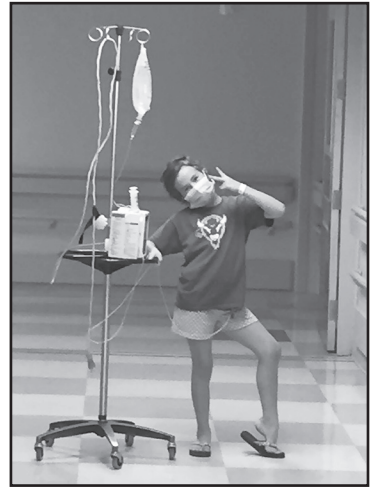


Photo provided

Madelyn McReynolds having fun during her treatment at Mercy.

you're going to meet amazing friends. You're going to meet amazing people, and your story is going to get out there. You're going to do amazing things in high school and college and you're going to get through it," McReynolds stated.

As our interview ended, McReynolds put in perspective the grand scheme of things. She said how amazing it was for these little kids' bodies to fight this disease and get through it.

McReynolds is a reminder that you never know what someone has went through. Her passion and courage for childhood cancer stems from her toughness from defeating it as a child.

September is the month of childhood cancer awareness. Thousands of children are battling cancer, and some may not make it.

Madelyn McReynolds is a stern reminder that the strongest soldiers get the strongest battles and with determination and support, anything can be done; and anything can be beat.


SGA self-defense training



Photo by Victor Kinzie

NWOSU SGA held self defense training with the National Guard Thursday afternoon in the Small Gym of the Health & Sports science building. Students attended to learn how to protect themselves, prevent harm from happening, and overall safety tips. Pictured, we see the National Guard instructor displaying how to protect yourself against an attack from a male. Later, students were able to practice these techniques the instructor demonstrated.

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NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Official Newspaper
Northwestern Oklahoma State
University

709 Oklahoma Blvd.
Alva, OK 73717

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

Fall 2025 Staff

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The News is printed by the Alva Review-Courier

The opinions and comments contained
in the Northwestern News are those of the
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western Oklahoma State University, is
issued by the University as authorized by the
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Four hundred copies have been prepared and
distributed at a cost to the taxpayers of the
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OPINION

Birth control not just for pregnancy

By **RENEE O'CONNOR**
Opinion Editor

Abortion and birth control. One of the
hottest topics today, widely debated amongst
people on both sides of the political spectrum.
But should it be? While many people believe
this is a very black and white topic, it's quite
the opposite.

According to The New York Times, the
Trump administration has destroyed \$10 mil-
lion worth of taxpayer funded birth control,
all of which was meant for women in low-in-
come countries. This seems to stem from this
administration's obsession with women's
pregnancies. Let me make this very clear:
birth control is not solely used for preventing
pregnancies. Birth control is healthcare.

To understand that, we must first under-
stand conditions like endometriosis, polycystic
ovary syndrome (or PCOS), and hormones.
Regardless of the form of birth control, they
can all be used to minimize symptoms of
those conditions and help regulate hormones.

Due to the administration's clear lack of
concern for women's health, there will now
be millions of women who cannot receive the
treatment they so desperately need. Endome-
triosis and PCOS are no joke. Endometriosis
and PCOS causes weight gain, unimaginable
pain, and heavy bleeding that puts many
women in hospitals. Taking away the only
thing that truly helps regulate these painful
conditions is cruel.

Now, this is a subject that is incredibly
important to me. As someone who uses birth
control to regulate my pain and hormones, this
is a terrifying administration to live under. No
other medication has worked for me, and I
know many other women who feel the same
way I do.

My cycle has sent me to the ER, and have
made me cold sweat, shake, cry, throw up, and
faint. When I thought it couldn't get worse,
there was no medication that could ease my
symptoms. Without birth control, that could
be a reality that I live in every month.

Even if birth control was solely for prevent-
ing pregnancies, that should not be banned

either. Having a child born out of rape, in-
cest, or into a family who can't support them
is mean to the child. Why would you rather
have that than for the mother to wait until she
can support it, or furthermore, wants to birth
the child? What is the obsession with regu-
lating women's bodies and choices? We have
fought for our rights, and to see them so easily
stripped is a reality we've never imagined.

Birth control is more than just preventing
pregnancies. The same could be said about
abortions, which is also more than just getting
rid of an unwanted pregnancy. It saves wom-
en's lives who have an unviable pregnancy,
meaning the child is already not going to be
able to be delivered.

Several women living in red states have
lost their lives due to abortion bans. This could
very well be the future for women who need
birth control to regulate their hormones. If this
is the pro-life movement, why do we not care
about the women's lives being lost? America,
please show the women in this country that
you care more about our health than control
over our bodies.

McCarthyism is new democracy

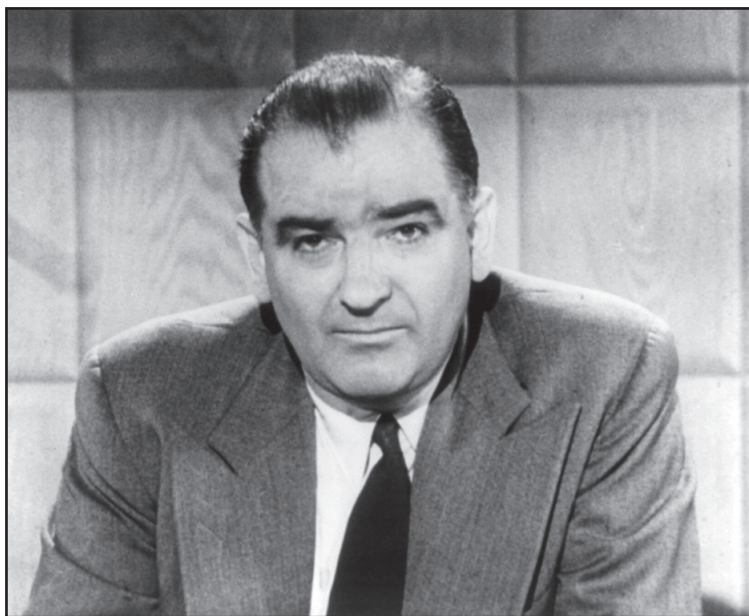
By **RENEE O'CONNOR**
Opinion Editor

What is McCarthyism? Mc-
Carthyism, named after U.S. Sen.
Joseph McCarthy, was the politi-
cal practice defined by political
repression and persecution of
left-wing individuals. McCarthy
spread fear of communist influ-
ence on American institutions.
This was defined as the "red
scare." Many of the accused com-
munists were blacklisted or fired
from their jobs. Most didn't even
align with the communist party.

According to MSNBC, J.D.
Vance recently threatened that
anyone who said anything nega-
tive against Charlie Kirk should
be reported to their jobs, an act
reminiscent of McCarthyism and
certainly an example of the more
recent cancel culture.

The difference between cancel
culture for the right and left
is prominent. The cancel culture
against the right was for those
spewing hateful, racist or ho-
mophobic rhetoric. The cancel
culture against the left is for those
who have been questioning or
condemning those in power.

Of course, this goes without
saying, there's extremists on both
sides. Anyone threatening vio-
lence or being incredibly hateful
to anyone should be reprimand-



United Press, public domain, via wikimedia Commons

Sen. Joseph McCarthy represented Wisconsin from 1947-1957.

ed. But that's not what Vance is
talking about.

According to MSNBC, Jim-
my Kimmel was ripped off the
air for saying, "We hit some new
lows over the weekend with the
MAGA gang desperately trying
to characterize this kid who mur-
dered Charlie Kirk as anything
other than one of them and doing
everything they can to score po-
litical points from it." That's it.
That's the whole quote.

This is the definition of McCar-
thyism. Kimmel lost his job over
this remark. This wasn't in any

way, shape, or form disrespectful
to Kirk himself.

If this was enough for him
to lose his job, I'm terrified for
what the next few years under
this administration will look like.
The reason Kimmel was yanked
off the air was pressure from the
Trump administration to comply
with their standards.

There are more reasons we
should be scared for our country.
The increasing travel restrictions,
birth control being thrown away,
the pressure from our own pres-
ident to be even more divided.

That is something no other pres-
ident in history has done. When
Kirk was killed, Trump immedi-
ately blamed the left, with no
knowledge of the shooter.

We need to come together as a
country and realize we are being
pitted against each other. To fight
against McCarthyism, we need to
stand together. Everyone needs to
come to the realization that our
democracy is being threatened.
Trump has said he plans to run in
2028. When will people realize
he's not joking?

Many people have been threat-
ened with repercussions, as heard
from J.D. Vance, if they dare ex-
ercise their free speech.

Now, according to MSNBC,
Trump is claiming that negative
press opinions about him are il-
legal.

"The stories are 97 percent
bad. They'll take a great story and
they'll make it bad. See, I think
that's really illegal, personally." Is
this not alarming to anyone
else?

We need to protect free speech.
This is an insane attack against
our first amendment, and we can
no longer ignore the consequenc-
es of voting for Trump. Go to
rallies, donate to organizations,
or even write about it in your
school's newspaper. Exercise
your right to free speech while
you still can.



What's on your mind?

Let's hear it.

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OPINION

McCarthyism is back

'The media spawned McCarthyism. Now history is repeating itself'

"Donald Trump's return to the White House has plunged Washington into upheaval and anxiety, bringing loyalty tests and other efforts to purge government employees. This climate of fear recalls the anticommunist paranoia of the 1950s and its crucial turning point exactly 75 years ago—when a famous speech, based on a lie, catapulted a little-known politician to prominence and added a new word to the American lexicon: McCarthyism." - *Time Magazine*

'Modern day McCarthyism: The past and present of our split society'

Like how McCarthy vilified communism, public figures today will often try to use a group as a scapegoat to spark fear within people, often targeting groups that our society doesn't trust or understand, using the threat as an excuse to secure more power for themselves and typically making unfounded claims in the process. - *The La Salle Falconer*

'Trump Loyalty Shakedown: The New McCarthyism'

"Certainly any expectation of cancel culture (social repression) receding can be reasonably put to bed. Cancel culture today has changed hands—a new cultural oppressor is in charge—but whatever gains may have occurred in curbing the excesses of "wokeness" (whatever that means) have been erased by patriotic correctness." - *Outside the Beltway*

Can there be any question that we're in a mad—and loud—new age of McCarthyism?

- *The Nation*

'Loyalty tests and MAGA checks: Inside the Trump White House's intense screening of job-seekers'

Negative social media posts have been enough to derail applications. Those seeking jobs have been told they will have to prove their "enthusiasm" to enact Trump's agenda and have been asked when their moment of "MAGA revelation" occurred. One federal employee said they briefly considered buying Trump's crypto meme coin in case the president's team asked about their voting record.

'Worse than McCarthyism': Historian Ellen Schrecker on Trump's war against universities & students'

"During the McCarthy period, it was attacking only individual professors and only about their sort of extracurricular political activities on the left. ... Today, the repression that's coming out of Washington, D.C., it attacks everything that happens on American campuses," says Schrecker. "The damage that the Trump administration is doing is absolutely beyond the pale and has never, never been equaled in American life with regard to higher education." - *Democracy Now!*

Corrections and clarifications

Editor's note: Northwestern News corrects all confirmed errors that are brought to the reporters' or editors' attention. Corrections appear in print at the earliest possible date.

The opinion piece "Charlie Kirk dead at 31: Too soon to talk gun control?" that appeared in the Sept. 18 issue contained some errors, some statements that require clarification and some exaggerations of facts.

The man arrested and charged with killing conservative activist Charlie Kirk in Utah was not "another conservative" as the article stated. The governor of Utah, who appeared on "Meet the Press" on Sept. 14, characterized 22-year-old Tyler Robinson as having a

"leftist ideology." Officials are continuing to learn more about Robinson and have not verified a motive for the shooting.

The article also indicated four students were killed at the Evergreen High School shooting in Colorado on the same day Kirk was killed.

In reality, according to the Jefferson County, Colorado, officials, only two students were wounded, one inside the school and another outside. The only death was the shooter, who took his own life.

The report that "at least 91 incidents of gunfire [occurred] on school grounds this year" can be disputed, depending on the source consulted and the criteria that

source used. The Northwestern News article should have cited the source for this information.

A search this week turned up at least three sources that regularly track school shootings:

K-12 School Shooting Database lists 174 shootings for 2025. According to k12ssdb.org, "all shootings at schools includes when a gun is fired, brandished with intent to harm, or a bullet hits school property for any reason, regardless of the number of victims, time, or day of the week. ... Unlike other data sources, this information includes gang shootings, domestic violence, shootings at sports games and afterhours school events, suicides, fights that escalate into

shootings, and accidents." This same database lists 3,308 victims, both killed and wounded, at K-12 schools since 1970.

Everytown for Gun Safety listed 91 gun incidents in 2025 at schools where a person was killed or wounded, or a gun was discharged but no one shot.

Education Week (edweek.org) lists 11 school shooting this year that resulted in injuries or deaths. It reports only shootings causing injuries or deaths on school property or buses during school hours or events.

The Northwestern News article also included at least three exaggerations that should have either been clarified or a source cited: "thousands of acts of po-

litical violence toward the left," "hundreds of school shootings that happen right here in the USA" and "hundreds of thousands of school shootings."

These statements were used in an attempt to quantify the growth in violence that is occurring against political figures and also at schools. These should have been reworded to be more accurate.

The statement "why are we only now focused on gun violence?" needs clarification and rewording as well. Gun control has been the topic of discussions after almost every gun incident at a school, in the political arena or in the public sphere, and it has been for decades.

Alva Big Cruise and Car Show



1903 Ford Model T with American flags on the hood ornament. Photo by Victor Kinzie



A 1968 Pontiac Firebird. Photo by Victor Kinzie



1955 Chevrolet Bel-Air steering wheel assembly. Photo by Victor Kinzie



The interior of a 1950 Buick. Photo by Victor Kinzie



The interior of a 1965 Ford Gen Ford Thunderbird. Photo by Victor Kinzie



A 1956 Buick Special. Photo by Victor Kinzie



A custom dragster was brought to the car show. Photo by Victor Kinzie

This past weekend marked the 24th annual Big Cruise and Car Show in Alva. The event is the largest free car show in Oklahoma. The car show featured events like the burnout contest and a drag race on Sunday. Storms temporarily shut the show down Saturday night, but all events were able to be held Sunday.



The interior of a 1937 Ford coupe Steel body. Photo by Victor Kinzie



From left to right: 1968 Ford Mustang Fastback, Ford Mustang 1960's-70's, Chevrolet Chevelle SS 1970. Photos by Victor Kinzie

FEATURE

NHL preseason skates into action

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

I love preseason, I know that seems like an odd statement but one of my favorite times of a season starting is preseason.

It's like when you go home and you get to see all your family, animals and friends that you haven't seen in a while.

My favorite part of preseason is training camp media day. The social teams of all 32 teams come up with the craziest ideas to get people excited for the season.

In New Jersey, the social team of the Devils had multiple players blind rank beagle orders.

In Dallas, the Stars' social team posted a photo of Roope Hintz roping a Dallas Stars cowboy boot.

The Philadelphia Flyers posted a small clip of Jamie Drysdale answering the question of who the worst at Fantasy Football is.

With Preseason starting it also means that preseason games have also started.

Stars vs Blues

The Dallas Stars beat the St. Louis Blues 2-1 Saturday.

The game started off with Radek Faksa won the face-off against Dalibor Dvorsky. Nils Lundkvist's shot was blocked by Dvorsky.

Faksa then had a giveaway,

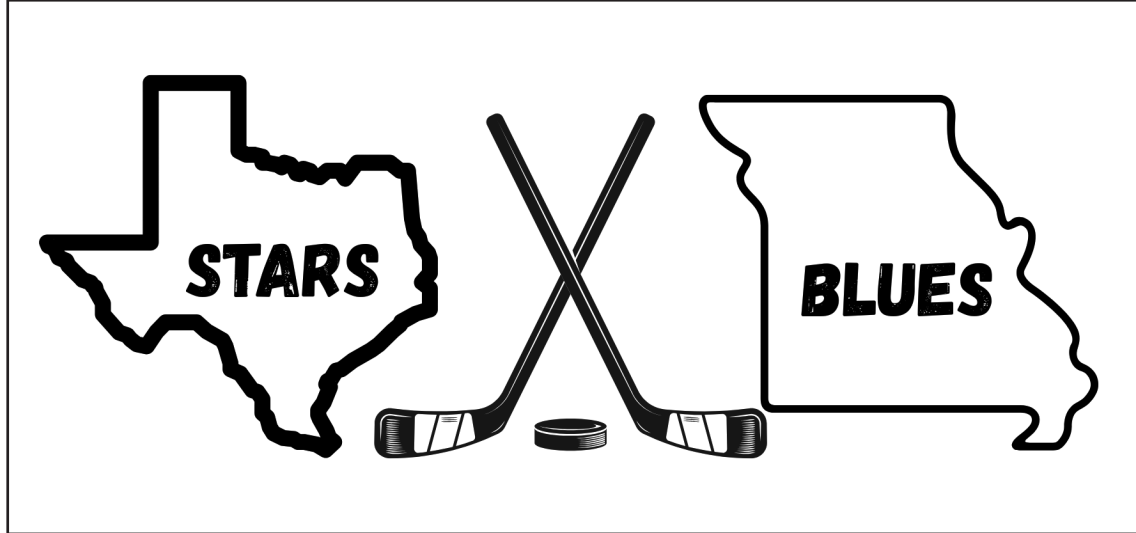


Illustration by Jessica Schieber

which led to Logan Mailloux getting a shot. That shot was missed. Nathan Walker on the Blues landed a hit on Alexander Petrovic.

Soon after that there was an offside call leading the teams to another face-off that was won by Justin Hryckowian.

Shortly after Simon Robertson had a giveaway which Lundkvist tried to take advantage of but that had no fruit as his shot was blocked by Nikita Susuev.

Sam Steel for the Stars missed his shot. Alexy Toropchenko took a shot on goal that the goalie for the Stars stopped.

This led to another face-off that was won by Stars player, Hryckowian.

Right after the face-off Walker

got into a fight against Hryckowian that resulted in both players receiving a 5 minute major.

Afterwards, Stars player Faksa won a face-off against Matthew Peca. Adam Jecho for the Blues missed a shot on Remi Poirier the Dallas Stars goalie.

Dylan Holloway followed with a shot that was saved by Poirier.

After that event offside was called resulting in another face-off. Faksa won it against Peca.

Adam Erne for the Stars took a shot on the Blues goalie, Jordan Binnington.

Nathan Bastian took a shot on Binnington but missed. With 39 seconds left in the first period Trey Taylor took a 2-minute minor penalty for hooking against Alex-

ey Toropchenko.

The second period started with Justin Carbonneau a player on the Blues scoring the first goal of the game.

His goal was assisted by Logan Mailloux and Holloway. With 13 minutes and 46 seconds left to play Antoine Dorion for the Blues received a 2-minute minor for hooking against Colin Blackwell.

Nothing came from the Dallas Stars powerplay however Mavik Bourque scored a goal with 5 minutes and 29 seconds left of the second period.

His goal was assisted by Erne and Petrovic.

Nothing else came from the second period.

In the third period with a tied

score both teams tried to get the win.

Dvorsky started things off good for the Blues by winning the face-off. Petrovic got a takeaway and Taylor attempted to get a shot only for it to be blocked by Matthew Kessel.

With 11 minutes and 30 seconds left in the third period there was an icing call and shortly after that another was called.

Hryckowian was given a 2-minute minor for high-sticking against Toropchenko.

Nothing came out of this and the period ended with a tie bringing the teams to overtime.

In overtime there was no change to the score, so the teams had to end in a shootout. Dvorsky shot first but his shot was saved so the attempt went to Sam Steel and the Stars.

Steel got the goal and then Justin Carbonneau for the Blues had an attempt that was saved.

Mavik Bourque took a shot, but it was missed.

The Blues had one final attempt and Holloway's shot was saved.

This resulted in the Stars winning the first preseason game. This was the only game played on Saturday night and on Sunday multiple teams started their preseason games against one another. Some teams even played one another twice in the same day. The NHL is coming back in full swing.

Let's be real

Connection from voices or screens?

By **SARAH BRASHEARS**
Co Editor-in-Chief

In a world where we are constantly connected, the feeling of loneliness creeps in now more than ever.

We are living in the age that connection is on our fingertips, with the ability to message a friend, keep up with liking our communities digital scrapbooks and scroll through the updates of the world in mere seconds.

When thinking about it, it seems like we would be the most fulfilled with the friendships that sit on our screens.

But truly, when did connection go from the tongue to the fingertips?

This is the paradox of constant connection.

Social media was designed to bring us closer, but somehow it replaced the feeling of genuine connection with endless surface level interactions.

Although we constantly are hearing the notification from the digital world, many admit they feel unseen, unheard and deeply alone.

A comment or double tap sim-



ply can't replace the warmth of sitting across from someone who truly listens.

One of the biggest traps with this online connection is the false scene of intimacy. Highlight reels, Instagram pictures and TikTok's make us feel connected, yet there is no reality of depth.

The illusion of a perfect life through vacations, celebrations and milestones cover the quiet struggles of reality behind them.

Validation through comments

and likes provides a quick confidence rush, but that quickly fades into an emptiness that no amount of scrolling can fill.

We are missing the vulnerability and honesty that forms the foundation of an authentic friendship.

Screen time has increased. Face-to-face conversations have decreased.

Sure, families plan holidays and get together but then sit on the couch and scroll through their phone.

Friends know about the birthday party you went to, but never ask 'How are you really?'

This has led to the culture where comparison, FOMO and anxiety are the main feelings of our hearts. Let's get real, genuine belonging feels harder to find every day.

Yet, we have hope.

Reclaiming a real connection does not require you to delete every app and ban social media.

It simply means being intentional.

Choose quality over quantity friendships. Is 1,000 followers better than 2 genuine and intentional friends?

Put down the phone to share a

meal.

Make time for face-to-face conversations.

Allow yourself to be fully present with the people you love, and to meet new people.

Connection is about creating spaces where authenticity thrives more than the worry of appearance online.

Connect with yourself. Start a journal. Talk yourself into feeling confident. Discover your favorite hobbies that don't require a

screen.

Be intentional.

Let's be honest, true connection can not be downloaded. It is built slowly, with intentional presence, trust and love.

Social media may connect us in moments, but real relationships carry us through life's valleys and mountain tops.

In a world of connection at our fingertips, the bravest thing to do is pause, look up, and connect through the tongue.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Death of books keeps growing

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

Has anyone else noticed how the things we used to enjoy as kids seem to be dying out? Just look outside and tell me how many kids you see walking around with a CD, media player or book?

Speaking of which, can anyone tell me how many children they know that read nowadays?

I swear, every time I scroll through the web, I come across a picture or video of someone who looks barely old enough to be walking, flipping through three different laptops at once.

I'm sure this does not come as much of a surprise to many people my age.

After all, we know better than anyone else just how hopeless this world we live in has become thanks to our dear friend: the internet.

Everything is different from when we were children, and most of it is not in a good way.

"Alright Kevin, if you're so much of an

intellectual, then tell us: Why is it that kids don't read as much as they used to back in your day?" I hear you ask. To that, I would first ask you to rephrase the question in a way to make it sound like I'm not 80 years old, then explain my points of view to you.

The first and most major reason why I feel like children don't read books anymore is due to the decreasing attention span that has been caused by social media.

For example, when you scroll on "TikTok," how long do you wait before flicking your thumb to the next video? Five seconds? Three? One? That's because the dopamine in our brains has been so ruined by social media that if our attention isn't instantly grabbed, we just swipe to the next thing.

Now imagine trying to sit down and reading a three-hundred-paged book. Not easy, is it?

The second problem is the fact that a lot of parents today simply don't want the responsibility that comes with being a parental figure.

I mean, why would anyone want to take the time out of their day to watch their newborn when they can just shove a smart-



phone or iPad in their face and expect the internet to do all the raising for you?

Why bother teaching your son how to read when you can just turn on "Cocomelon" and go to the bar or your weekly book club while your child's legs fall asleep

from countless hours glued to their seat?

The third and final cause that can be attributed to the adults of the future not reading is the fact that if they want to know the story of a book assigned to them by a parent or teacher, they can just go to ChatGPT and ask for a detailed summary of the entire novel.

Students no longer have to spend hours and days reading the entire source when they can have the entire story explained to them within seconds.

Never mind that these summaries are shallow and don't go all that deep into the complex themes and ideas, I know the entire timeline of events; why should I read?

Look, I'm not going to stand here and say I have never been trapped by the never-ending cycle of internet addiction.

The Education System has made it to where it no longer matters how hard you try. You either blow through your degree thanks to cheating, or you try your best and still end up failing.

So, what I guess I'm trying to say is: Do whatever you feel is right to get to where you want. It won't matter in the end anyway.

Former Miss NWOSU Megan Spray makes trip to Miss America pageant

By MEGAN SPRAY
Guest Columnist

Miss America week is filled with tradition, hairspray, glitter, spray tans, and empowering women from every state.

My first week of September was spent in Orlando, Florida, cheering on one of my best friends, Tessa Dorrell, who holds the title of Miss Oklahoma, compete on the Miss America stage.

Growing up, I would always watch the Miss America pageant and be in awe of all the girls that had the courage to be up there. Some of my role models came from watching those women represent their state and seeing the difference they were making in so many people's lives.

It was truly a full circle moment to be able to attend the pageant in person, while having a friend of mine be one of those strong and courageous difference-makers.

I competed in the Miss Oklahoma pageant in 2024, which grew my love for the organization even more. Ever since competing, my aunts, cousin and I have made it a tradition to attend the pageant every year together and make it an annual girl's trip.

On finals night of the Miss Oklahoma pageant, I had said that we should go to Miss America every five or 10 years as we continue the tradition, unless Tessa wins, then we have to go. Low and behold, she won that night and we started planning our trip.

Our Miss America started as

we attended preliminary night one, where each Miss contestant competed in on-stage question, active wear, and evening gown. This first night of competition was so sweet, because we got to cheer on our Miss Oklahoma alongside her family and all share in the pride we have for her. We also got to see her dress for the first time, which was stunning.

The next event was the preliminary talent night, where we watched 104 talents. Our tickets got us into both the teen and miss, where we spent hours watching each girl perform their talent.

The best part was sitting by all the families and watching them cheer for their girl with tears flowing from from the overwhelming amount of pride and love.

One specific talent from the night that was so special was Miss Alaska's teen as she did a beautiful dance on pointe. We sat next to her family, and they were tearing up watching her dance. I pulled out my camera and captured the moment. After the competition, we spoke to them and sent them the video. That's a moment I will cherish forever.

The day before finals, we attended the expo that was filled with all things pageant, such as gorgeous dresses, heels, jewelry and keepsakes. After the expo, we stood in line to meet former Miss Americas and get their signatures.

It was inspiring being in a room with all these women who are the epitome of selfless servants and world changers. Each former signed my program book and took a picture with me. The

little Megan that grew up idolizing these women was in complete awe.

For the teen finals later that night, my family and I piled into the movie room to watch the livestream to see who would be crowned the next Miss America's teen. Miss Alaska's teen won first-runner up and we were all overwhelmed with joy for her! It was amazing having made that connection earlier in the week and being able to celebrate her accomplishments.

Finally, on Sunday it was time to crown a new Miss America. We were sat right in front of the catwalk, just a few rows back. As they called top eleven, then top five, we watched all of the women celebrate one another. Through every phase of competition, each girl left everything they had on the stage, being drove by unwavering support from the crowd and their fellow Miss America titleholders.

Miss New York, Cassie Donagan, won the coveted crown. Watching them call her name and seeing her life change forever was an incredible moment. Confetti cannons went off and we witnessed as she hugged her family and celebrated. While we were leaving, I grabbed some confetti that had fallen around us, so that I could keep a piece from this moment forever.

Miss America week was everything I expected and more. The pageant is my Super Bowl and something I look forward to each year. Being able to experience it in person was a dream come true. I can't wait for our next trip!

'Asylum' play



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Director Gabe Bussinger, left, works with Bella Anguino, center, and Emily Wright during practice Tuesday night in the one-act play "Asylum." It runs Oct. 2 and 3, at 7 p.m. in Herod Hall. Students are \$3; general public \$5. The story of the play, set in the 1970s, focuses on people in the asylum suffering with mental illness. The production is Bussinger's capstone project.

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SOCCER

Soccer stays undefeated

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The NWOSU soccer team had two games played last week. One on Sep 17 and one on Saturday. The first game was against the Newman University Jets, and the second game was against the New Mexico Highlands University Cowgirls.

Game 1

NWOSU 2-1 Newman

The Lady Rangers started with Alexa Flores in goal. The first goal did not come late. After a corner kick, Christi-Anne Mills went for goal and scored. Katy Jo Werner was credited with the assist.

Later on in the first half, the Jets responded in the 29th minute. The rest of the first half continued with no goals scored.

The second half started slower compared to the first half. It went by with no goals scored for the starting portion of the half. In the 60th minute, there was a yellow card on the NWOSU team. Two minutes later, a yellow card was displayed for a Newman University player.



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado
Luana San Miguel, No. 9, plays offense against New Mexico Highlands.

Just one minute later, a yellow card was given to Cassidy Fitzgerald. After the yellow card was

shown to many, the game continued on. With 20 minutes left to play, Christi-Anne Mills scored

again, giving the Lady Rangers the lead in the late stages of the game. With pressure on, Newman University had to find momentum somewhere to tie the game.

Unfortunately, their play began to turn sloppy, and they had four fouls in six minutes. They gave one last charge in the final minutes, but Flores stopped the final shot, and NWOSU won the game against Newman University.

Christi-Anne Mills had a total of five shots and four shots on goal against Newman. She also scored the two goals for the Lady Rangers. Flores had five saves throughout the game.

Game 2

N. M. Highlands 0-2 NWOSU

Taylor Annen was put into the goalkeeper position for NWOSU. Northwestern started aggressively, getting four shots in the first 13 minutes.

In the 18th minute, Werner scored the first goal of the game, the assist was by Christi-Anne Mills. Later in the 37th minute, Luana San Miguel scored a goal for Northwestern. Kamalei Kealoha was credited with the assist.

The second half went by

smoothly for the Lady Rangers. No goals were scored by the Cowgirls.

San Miguel had three shots and one shot on goal. Christi-Anne Mills and Jazelle Alvarado had two shots each. Taylor Annen had three saves in the game against NMHU.

The Lady Rangers' next games are against Oklahoma Baptist University on Wednesday and Southern Nazarene University on Saturday. Both games will be away. The game against OBU was supposed to be a home game, but due to inclement weather, the game was moved to Shawnee, the home of the Oklahoma Baptist University Bison.

The Lady Rangers continue to be undefeated in the 2025 season, with their record being boosted to 5-0-1 after the two wins against Newman University and NMHU.

There seems to be good air around the Lady Ranger soccer team, the change in coaching staff could be the reason.

This is head coach Carla Briscoe's first year as NWOSU's head coach. Whatever changes that she has made seems to be doing NWOSU well.

Soccer Playmakers



Christi-Anne Mills
No. 7
Forward
Senior
7 shots, 4 shots on goal,
2 goals, 1 assist



Katy Jo Werner
No. 10
Midfielder
Junior
3 shots, 1 shot on goal.
1 goal, 1 assist



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado
Emerson Curd, No. 25, tackles a New Mexico Highlands Cowgirl player as they battle for possession of the ball.



Luana San Miguel
No. 9
Forward
Senior
3 shots, 1 shot on goal,
1 goal



Alexa Flores
No. 00
Goalkeeper
Sophomore
5 saves
1 goal against

Christi-Anne Mills was announced as the GAC player of the week after her performances against NU and NMHU.


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SPORTS

Northwestern loses to OBU

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

On Saturday, the NWOSU football team headed to Shawnee to face the Oklahoma Baptist University Bison. It was a low-scoring game with the Bison defeating the Rangers only 8-16. This low-scoring game is a vast difference from their meeting last year, which ended with a Ranger win, 30-28.

OBU won the coin toss and chose to defend the first half.

The Rangers' first drive had good momentum, gaining one first down and advancing 15 yards. The drive ended after an incomplete pass, then the Rangers were forced to punt. The Bisons' first drive went better. OBU charged down the field and ended with points on the board with a field goal.

The first quarter continued as the two teams traded punts and ended the quarter 0-3. The second quarter started with the ball in the Rangers' possession. The Rangers made up a lot of ground on the field, charging to the 24-yard line. The Rangers attempted a field goal, but it missed, giving the Bison the ball.

OBU charged their way down



Photo by NWOSU Athletics

Ranger defense attempts to stop a charging Harding player on Sept 4.

the field, ending the drive with a touchdown, making the score 0-9.

The first half ended with no more points scored from either team.

The third quarter ended scoreless, although there was an amaz-

ing attempt by the Rangers to get a touchdown. The drive started at the 25-yard line on NWOSU's side. In 14 plays, the NWOSU made it to the Bisons' 4-yard line. With two rushing attempts and a passing attempt, the Rangers

were at the 2-yard line.

Caleb Deal attempted to run it up the middle and get the Rangers their first points on the board, but they were stopped just short. The Bison were able to get out of their endzone by the end of the quarter, and the Rangers' charge was just barely stopped.

The fourth and final quarter was a competitive one, with the Bison scoring another touchdown and both teams making good ground on the field. The Rangers' final drive ended very well, giving them a touchdown and a 2-point conversion.

It started at the 50-yard line, and the Rangers charged hard and fast. They got to the 2-yard line, where they had been before. On a fourth and two, Deal threw a short pass to Isaiah Taylor, who ran it into the endzone and got the Rangers' first points of the game. A pass to Ivory Wilright got the Rangers those extra two points to make it 8-16.

With momentum and lots of hope, the Rangers attempted an onside kick, but unfortunately, it failed, and the Bison had the ball to end the game.

This game was a much better showing of the Rangers' abilities. They were able to get close to points many times, but it did not

work out. With the knowledge that they can do it, there may be better games in the Rangers' future.

The Rangers' next game is against East Central University, which will be a home game. The game takes place on Saturday, Sep 27. ECU currently sits at a 2-1 record, defeating the nationally ranked Ouachita Baptist in Week 1 and losing to Southern Nazarene last week.

NWOSU currently sits at the bottom of the Great American Conference rankings. They currently have a 0-3 record.

The University of Arkansas at Monticello Bollweevils sit along side Northwestern in the bottom of the GAC rankings.

Arkansas Tech, Harding, and Henderson State sit at the top of the standings as they are at a 3-0 record.

With just eight games left to play for the GAC, NWOSU looks to improve their rank and attempt to get wins.

The Rangers have rough weeks ahead as they face power-house team after power-house team. After their game against ECU, they play Southern Arkansas. After SAU, they play Henderson State. Then they play Southeastern Oklahoma State.

Cross-country goes to Joplin, Missouri

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The Rangers and Lady Rangers traveled to Joplin, Missouri, where Missouri Southern State University hosts the Southern Stampede Cross Country Meet.

In the women's 5k, NWOSU finished 9th out of the 22 teams that competed.

Celestine Kilborus was the first Lady Ranger to cross the finish line. Kilborus had a time of 19:55, which put her in 74th. Cadence Long-Torres was the second Lady Ranger to finish. Long-Torres had a time of 20:07,

putting her in 78th. Jessica Myers was not far behind as she finished 80th with a time of 20:08. Harley Woody was 93rd with a time of 20:20. Ivy Washington finished in 112th with a time of 20:37. Elizabeth Dorado-Barrera was 139th with a time of 21:18. In 154th with a time of 21:44 was Seriah Vess. Tegan Althouse finished 162nd with a time of 21:57. Elizabeth White finished in 165th with a time of 22:06.

In the men's 8k, the Rangers finished in 14th out of the 26 teams that competed.

Riley Herndon was the first Ranger across the line. Herndon finished 66th with a time of 25:58.

Alan Lares finished 83rd with a time of 26:28. Edward Robledo-Gonzalez had a time of 26:35, putting him in 87th. Coy Bullard was 96th with his time of 26:40. Andrew Scott's time of 26:54 put him in 106th. Jordan Pierce was 115th with a time of 27:11. In 159th was Basheer Suied with a time of 28:06. Tristan Meeker was the next Ranger, finishing in 178th with a time of 28:30. Daxton Williams was not far behind with a finishing position of 182nd with a time of 28:36. Edmilson Perez, Royce Henricks, and Adrian Olmos all finished together in 200th, 201st, and 202nd. Perez had a time of 29:23. Henricks had a 29:15. Olmos had a time of 29:28.

The next meet is on Friday in Lawton at Cameron University.

Volleyball continues to struggle in 2025

The NWOSU volleyball team played 5 teams last week.

Their first game was against East Central University, where the Lady Rangers lost 2-3.

Tess De Zanet led NWOSU in kills with 14. Mikayla White had the most assists with 29. White also had the most digs with 18.

Game two did not go well for NWOSU either. The Lady Rangers lost 0-3 to the University of Central Oklahoma.

Ece Ozdemir had the most kills with 8. Ryann Eastes had 11 assists. Ozdemir led the Lady Rangers in digs with 12.

In game three, NWOSU lost to Fort Hays State 0-3.

Ivanny Blackwood had the most kills with 10. Eastes led Northwestern in assists once again with 14. Jadyn Padilla had the most digs with 9.

Game four gave NWOSU a win. They defeated Newman University 3-2.

Ozdemir had the most kills with 14. White had 33 assists. Padilla led NWOSU in digs once again with 23.

Game five killed all momentum that NWOSU could have had.

The Lady Rangers lost the match between Southeastern Oklahoma State University 0-3.

Naya Danenberg had the most kills as she had 16. White led Northwestern in assists for the third time with 36. Padilla also led the Lady Rangers in digs again with 14.

The next games for the NWOSU volleyball is against Southern Nazarene University and Oklahoma Baptist University.

They will face SNU on Thursday at 6pm. They will face OBU on Tuesday at 6pm.

Game 1	NWOSU 2	ECU 3
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Game 2	NWOSU 0	UCO 3
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Game 3	NWOSU 0	FHSU 3
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Game 4	NWOSU 3	Newman 2
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Game 5	NWOSU 0	SEOSU 3
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NEWS

John Cloud studies abroad in Wales

By **PIPER GALLAGHER**
Senior Reporter

Five months alone in a foreign country would intimidate even the most outgoing people, but that's exactly how John Cloud spent his spring semester.

In fall 2024, Cloud applied for the Brad Henry International Scholar financial aid award that allowed him to go study abroad for the 2025 spring semester. He arrived at Swansea University in Wales in January, and stayed until May while he studied political philosophy and history.

Cloud is a senior at NWOSU getting ready to graduate this December with his degree in computer science.

One of his psychology professors, Mistie Kline, originally approached him about it and encouraged him to apply. After speaking with his family and learning more information about the opportunity, he decided to jump on the opportunity.

"I heard that I received the scholarship in like the first week of October. And I got the email in the middle of class and I dropped my phone," Cloud said.

He arrived in Swansea on January 20th, and he lived in on-campus housing which was covered by the Brad Henry Scholarship, along with his tuition and travel.

Dr. Leslie Collins said Cloud was a standout applicant from the beginning. Collins is on Northwestern's study abroad committee that assists students going through the process of studying abroad.

"He was a great student to work with," Collins said. "He is very organized and wanted to get the most out of the experience, which is I think the ideal student to apply for an opportunity like this."

Leaving home for 5 months can be a bit daunting at first, but with the help from the committee, Cloud's experience was one that he'd never forget.

Studying political philosophy was something that Cloud really enjoyed.

"I learned about a bunch of different political thinkers throughout history, how they affected modern day politics, and where a lot of political ideas that we are very familiar with come from, and so that was probably the most interesting thing," he said.

Cloud also said that the class was structured differently. They were more lecture and discussion based, and he only had two assignments for each of his classes for the whole semester.

"For me, I am someone who values critical thinking," Cloud said. And that is exactly what this program fosters in students



Photo provided

While studying abroad in Wales, John Cloud tours sights while outside of the classroom of Swansea University.

looking to study abroad and experience new cultures. During his time abroad, Cloud got to travel throughout Europe on his breaks and during holidays. He got to see parts of Germany and Ireland in addition to the sites he experienced in Wales during school sponsored hiking and sight seeing trips.

"You get to spend a significant amount of time at this university in Wales surrounded by other students from all over the world," Dr. Wayne McMillin said. McMillin is also on the study abroad committee here at Northwestern.

Not only was Cloud surrounded by a number of international students, but he was also able

to connect with other Oklahoma students from colleges across the state that were on the same program and scholarship he was.

"I'm glad I got that experience. I've always wanted to know what it's like to live away from everyone that I know and kind of see what I could do on my own and with God," Cloud said.

Freshman Frenzy



Photos by Victor Kinzie

Above: Ranger Connection class dresses as The Smurfs and performs a synchronized line dance.

Left: A student dressed up as Vector from the Despicable Me movie performed for the crowd.



Freshman Frenzy took place Thursday night at Ranger Field. This is an annual event, where all freshman Ranger Connection classes compete against each other with a skit, dance or some other performance.