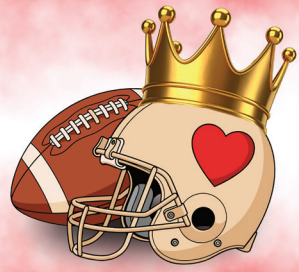


## Ranger Royalty

Ranger Royalty voting is open Oct 9 through Oct 10!

See Candidates page 12



## Soccer climbs the latter

Soccer remains undefeated.

Read more page 10



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# Beer creates buzzing atmosphere

By **KEN IRVING**  
Senior Reporter

For the first time in NWOSU history, vendors are selling beer at football games.

Five weeks into the season and after three home games, fans have been raving about the beer.

"I believe this is such a great thing to do," Katy Jones said. "It makes the games feel more fun and actually feel like a real football game. I don't think I have ever seen the stands more packed. I noticed that there was a lot more people at the stands than before, like this weekend it was stacked."

"I think the football games have pulled in more crowds and energy has been through the roofs," Zachary Thomas said. "Beer has definitely been a great change. Fans are more excited and happy now that beer is being served."

The fans have been enjoying

the sale of beer at NWOSU football games.

It allows them watch football and enjoy the game while drinking a beer.

It also allows them to stay longer as well.

More people want to come to the games because they know that they can atleast drink beer and enjoy themselves.

Since this is the first time that NWOSU has sold alcohol at games, there were a lot of concerns for safety for students and underaged individuals.

So far, there has not been any incidents at any of the games.

"No, we have not had any problems so far," said Chief of Police Dennis Kilmer. "I have not seen a difference at all. ... There isn't any concerns about underage drinking because the people that serve the beer, they're licensed to make sure that doesn't happen. That's one of the things that they look for and oversee. Now

if someone of age buys the beer and gives it to someone underage, then it comes back on the person that gave it to them and we have laws against that, that we will enforce if that were to happen."

Kilmer also said that mostly everybody was excited for the sale of beer.

"Not really many people were against it. There were a few positives but really it was just like them offering something else as a concession. It would be like if people wanted nachos, then the next year they sold nachos."

Kilmer also congratulated the fans for not causing problems.

"Most of our fanbase is family oriented and they're not going to come up to the games just to get hammered or drunk at the games. It's nice for them to come enjoy the game with a beer while they're there. Nobody is really taking advantage of it and we haven't had any negatives so far."

Before the season started, fans



Photo by Victor Kinzie

Ranger football fan enjoying a cool beverage from the Alva Beer Co. during season opener against Harding university on Sept. 4.

were uneasy about the sale of beer at the games.

Now after five weeks and three home games, the jitters should be put to rest.

As long as everyone drinks responsibly and continues doing what they're doing, then NWOSU should not have any major incidents this season.



Photo by Victor Kinzie

NWOSU paired with Alva Beer Co. owners Cody and Karly Williams to preview beer for sale for the first time in NWOSU history to kick off the 2025 Rangers football season.

**NEWS**

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**OPINION**

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**SPORTS**

Pages 10 & 11

# NEWS

## Fitness ring saves lives

By **PIPER GALLAGHER**  
Senior Reporter

A new fashion forward fad has hit the technology and fitness world.

And it comes wrapped around your finger. Multiple brands have released their own version of something called a smart ring. A small band-like ring that can track health, sleep, stress and more, in addition to being a fashionable piece of jewelry.

The first break into the smart ring world happened with a company called Oura, when they released what was essentially, a fitness tracker in ring form.

According to Oura's website, they launched a successful crowd funding campaign and released their first model in March 2015. From there, the major brands that rule the industry now consist of Oura, Ultrahuman, Ringconn, and most recently,

Samsung.

Features of these rings, which have evolved immensely since the first launch, consists of heart rate tracking, skin temperature, sleep tracking, movement, recovery, and even blood oxygen levels. And it does all of this without a screen. The metrics and measurements can be found on a phone app that directly syncs with the ring.

Every brand brings something slightly different to the table.

For example, Oura is still the most successful company and maker of smart rings, but a lot of consumers get turned off by the monthly subscription you have to pay for in order to use the ring. Some prefer the slimmer fit of the Ultrahuman Ring Air, or Samsung users may prefer the Samsung ring for easy compatibility.

Not only do celebrities and athletes make up the users for smart rings, but any average person can benefit from using one. Athletes especially find them useful during

training and recovery.

"I like my Ultrahuman Ring because it helps me keep in tune with my body during training. It allows me to understand my biometrics and how external factors influence my body and performance," Cadence Long-Torres said. Torres is a junior psychology major from Moore, Oklahoma, and she's also on the cross country team here at Northwestern.

She says that the smart ring has actually helped her make changes to her day to day life to better her health and performance as an athlete.

Some claim that these rings have actually helped alert them to real medical emergencies. According to Canadian Running Magazine, Hunter Woodhall's Oura ring saved his life.

Woodhall is a paralympic athlete who competes for Team USA. His ring alerted him that something was seriously wrong with his body, and he sought medical at-

tention at a hospital where he found out he needed emergency appendix surgery.

Unfortunately, there's some speculation that Ultrahuman and Ringconn rings may disappear from the market soon. Behind the scenes, Oura has been involved in a patent lawsuit against both of these companies.

Oura, who has recently won the initial patent lawsuit over their design elements. Forbes magazine says that Ultrahuman has filed a countersuit, but they will have to stop importing rings into the United States by October 21st.

Ultrahuman themselves have issued a lengthy statement, saying that they will continue to update their firmware for existing customers, and that their rings will continue to be available on Amazon and other resellers for purchase.

There are still more legal decisions and battles to come, but options in the smart ring world may become more limited soon.

## Students explore college fair at NWOSU



Photo by Jaxyn Cloud

NWOSU hosted the college fair Oct. 6 in the ballroom from 1 to 3 p.m. Students came from schools across northwest Oklahoma to visit the campus and explore future academic options.

The picture shows students having fun and expressing interest in Northwesterns athletics program. Austin Rankin is explaining the benefits of attending NWOSU and exploring all degree options, along with scholarship opportunities through NWOSU.

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# NEWS

## WHAT'S UP

10/9

- OIL Meeting  
4 P.M., Ranger Perk
- Medical Sciences Suture and Skills Night  
5:30 P.M., Science Building 206
- Soccer vs. Harding  
6 P.M., Ranger Soccer Field
- FCS Meeting  
6 P.M., Ranger Room
- Men's Bible Study  
7 P.M., BCM
- Bible Chair Round Up  
7 P.M., Bible Chair

10/11

- Soccer  
11 A.M., Ranger Soccer Field

10/12

- Miss Cinderella Orientation  
2 P.M., Ranger Room

10/13

- Writer's Roundtable Meeting  
5:30 P.M., Vinson Hall 213
- NWOSU Fall Choir Concert  
7 P.M., Presbyterian Church

10/14

- Chi Alpha Night  
6 P.M., Ranger Room

## 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 p.m.,  
East of Carter Hall
- Wesley House,  
Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.,  
West of Shockley Hall

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## NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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# OPINION

## Was flotilla just symbolic gesture?

### From the Internet

The people aboard the ships carried bread, medicine, and an insistence that the world cannot look away from Gaza; their voyage was an act of conscience and solidarity that sought to pierce a siege many regard as unlawful and unbearable.

The Global Sumud Flotilla grew from a long history of maritime attempts to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza, a tactic activists say is aimed at delivering humanitarian aid and forcing international attention on a humanitarian catastrophe.

The mission's name, Sumud, signals Palestinian steadfastness and links the flotilla to decades of nonviolent resistance and solidarity campaigns that have sought to challenge restrictions on Gaza's sea access, according to Middle East Eye, a digital news organization based in the United Kingdom.

Organizers said the flotilla carried symbolic yet vital supplies — food, water, medicines — while prioritizing the political message that the blockade must end and ordinary people will not remain passive in the face of mass suffering.

Dozens of vessels and hundreds of participants from more than 40 countries set out from ports across the Mediterranean, a multinational convoy escorted in parts by friendly navies and tracked by independent observers and livestreams that documented the journey in real time.

Organizers reported harassment and two drone strikes against flotilla vessels while still in Tunisian waters before the main departure, events they characterized as attempts to intimidate and disrupt a peaceful mission.

As the flotilla approached what activists described as a "danger zone," the Israeli navy moved in to intercept, using warnings, close

maneuvers and communications jamming before detaining participants and taking control of the ships.

The interception sparked a broad international reaction: governments, human rights groups, unions, and street movements denounced the seizure in varying degrees and demanded the safe return of detainees and the delivery of aid.

Several states publicly criticized the action and called for consular access to their nationals; other governments urged activists to avoid confrontation while some domestic political actors defended the flotilla's right to humanitarian passage.

Human rights organizations framed the flotilla as a response to an escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza and urged states to use leverage — sanctions, arms restrictions, trade measures — to pressure Israel to allow unimpeded relief and to end policies that they say amount to collective punishment.

Participants ranged from doctors and lawyers to well-known public figures and relatives of historical icons, all holding banners and chanting for immediate relief and political accountability.

The flotilla's symbolism invoked historical parallels where ships became moral catalysts for political change; organizers argued this voyage aimed to transform public outrage into diplomatic and legal pressure to lifting the siege and protecting their route, shared testimonies of overcrowded hospitals and starving neighborhoods in Gaza, and insisted that the material cargo mattered less than the message: Palestinians in Gaza are not invisible and the world must act now.

Activists documented their route, shared testimonies of overcrowded hospitals and starving neighborhoods in Gaza, and insisted that the material cargo mattered less than the message: Palestinians in Gaza are not invisible and the world must act now.

Intangibly, it offered Palestinians a visible display of global solidarity and reminded citizens that civil society can mobilize when official channels fail. Human rights advocates used the flotilla to underline persistent allegations of deliberate starvation and other breaches of international humanitarian law, and they have renewed calls for accountability mechanisms and targeted measures against officials responsible for policies that restrict lifesaving aid.

The political aftershocks will play out in courts, parliaments, and public squares: demands for independent investigations, for the return of detainees, and for reliable, unconditional aid corridors to Gaza will intensify. The flotilla has shifted the terms of debate by centering civilian suffering and by framing blockade policy as not merely a security decision but a moral and legal question that implicates states that enable or ignore it.

The Sumud Flotilla demonstrates how moral solidarity and peaceful direct action can force a reassessment of entrenched policies and revive a global conversation about human rights and international law. By sailing together, the participants turned humanitarian supply into a political instrument aimed at ending a siege that has produced catastrophic levels of death, displacement, and deprivation in Gaza.

Greta Thunberg and other activists were taken hostage by the Israeli government. Greta was allegedly dragged by the hair through an Israeli prison, forced to kiss the Israeli flag, and tortured. She and 170 other activists were deported Monday.

The international community must now decide whether it will translate outrage into sustained policy change that guarantees safe, regular and sufficient humanitarian access for civilians in Gaza, or whether the flotilla will remain a symbolic gesture without durable consequences.

## Government shutdown

# What's open, closed, still paying?

Planning to visit some of the National Parks for fall break? Here's some information from the New York Times about what's open and closed.

### Closed

- Gateway Arch in St. Louis
- Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona
- Underground attractions: Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico, Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, Wind Cave in South Dakota
- Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, National Archives Museum, Washington Monument, National Arboretum, tours of the Capitol Building and Pentagon
- White Sands National Park, New Mexico

### Open

- California national parks: all nine open with limited service.
- Colorado parks: eight National Parks that collect fees will remain open until funding from the fees runs out.



National Park Service photo

The Gateway Arch in St. Louis is closed during the government shutdown, but many other National Parks remain open with limited services.

- Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona: no entrance fees, visitor centers closed
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Sevier County, Tennessee
- Utah National Parks: Zion, Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef and Bryce Canyon

- Washington, D.C., many museums and monuments, open at first but may close

### Other shutdown impacts from Politico.com

#### Travel

- Air traffic controllers and TSA's baggage screeners are working without pay.

#### Student loans

- Bills still going out.
- Education Department will still disburse federal direct loans and Pell Grants, and process FAFSA.

#### Military

- More than 1 million working without pay
- No new contracts or programs.
- Most commissaries closed.
- Elective surgeries and procedures in military medical and dental facilities postponed.
- Operation Atlantic Resolve, which conducts exercises in Europe and helps in getting equipment to Ukraine, re-

mains active.

#### IRS

All employees still on the job, for now.

#### Health care

- Remaining on the job: employees who support Medicare, Medicaid, and respond to public health and national emergencies at Health and Human Services, most of Food and Drug Administration.
- National Institutes of Health furloughing three-quarters of staff; CDC furloughs two-thirds.

#### Veterans Affairs

- VA health centers stay open but support services do not, including regional VA benefits offices, career counseling and transition assistance programs.

#### Food

- Agriculture Department food safety inspectors remain on the job without pay.
- WIC program still working until it runs out of money.

# OPINION

## Lola Young: brimming with talent

By **RENEE O'CONNOR**  
*Opinion Editor*

Her name may not ring a bell, but I guarantee her music does. Lola Young's song "Messy" went viral on TikTok and was on top of the Billboard Hot 100s for weeks. However, she has other songs, too. Her new album "I'm Only F— Myself" is one of my favorite albums to drop this year.

Watching Lola Young perform "Messy" and even hearing her vocals on the track, it's very apparent she is incredibly talented. The way she is able to effortlessly belt her songs live and in the album is astonishing. Lola is brimming with talent.

On this album, "I'm Only F— Myself," she is also credited as the main writer for her songs. So not only is she incredibly vocally gifted, she is also a lyric powerhouse.

Let's talk about my favorite tracks on the album and ones I recommend everyone listen to. Songs like "SPIDERS," "Penny Out of Nothing," "Post Sex Clarity," "CAN WE IGNORE IT? :(," "why do i feel better when i hurt you?" and "who f— cares?" are some of my favorite hard-hitting tracks.

Showcasing her incredible lyricism, in her song "Penny Out of Nothing," she writes, "Create a penny out of nothing/take the bullet out a gun/ I'll make a fool out of a man/I'll make a man fall out of love/I'll make an atheist forgive/get on his knees and pray to God." This might be my favorite chorus in the entire album.

These songs are so profoundly raw and emotional, topped with a rock-indie-esque beat. Her lyrics take the cake, but it's the pure emotion and her powerful voice that truly make the songs.

Lola Young's more fun or less

### Who is Lola Young?

- 24-year-old English singer, songwriter
- Sleeper hit: "Messy" in 2024, "an ADHD anthem," she told Metal Magazine
- Named Ivor Novello Award rising star in 2025; ASCAP London Music Vanguard Award in 2025; No. 1 Singles Award from the Official Charts Company in 2025
- Produced a new album each year for the past three years
- Opening act for Billie Eilish tour in 2025
- Suing U.S. producer, songwriter Carter Lang, who claims writing credits on four of her songs. He was one of four producers on "Messy."

intense songs are just as powerful. Songs like "d£aler," "Walk All Over You" and "SAD SOB STORY! :)" have a more upbeat tempo, but still have hard-hitting lyrics and meaning.

"d£aler" is a song where she opens up about her addiction, depression and relationship with her

drug dealer. The lyrics are funny, but the meaning is clear. It's direct.

The most fun songs on the album include "One Thing," "Not Like That Anymore," and the first track on the album. These are all fun, upbeat songs that really uplift your mood. The lyrics are

simple and the beat is fun.

Spotify describes Lola as a pop artist, but I couldn't disagree more. As an avid music lover and analyzer, I have no idea what genre she could be classified under. She uses elements of rock, pop, indie and alternative genres to create a unique and distinct sound.

Lola Young currently has 33.5 million monthly listeners on Spotify. While I wouldn't classify her as a small artist, she is nowhere near the size of other artists at the moment. I truly believe this will change within the next few years.

I expect to hear more of her songs on the radio and maybe even headlining big music festivals in the future. Her talent is undeniable and this album is one of the examples of it. I truly believe we will see her face everywhere.

Note: The spelling, capitalization and use of symbols in the titles of the songs are the artist's.

## Renee Rapp album wins over this Renee

By **RENEE O'CONNOR**  
*Opinion Editor*

First getting her start on Broadway in the musical adaptation of "Mean Girls," Renee Rapp has been in the public eye since she was in high school. Her talent was just as clear back then, as it is in her new album "BITE ME."

While Lola Young's album is a close second, this album is my favorite to drop this year. It is incredible throughout, top to bottom, zero skips. This album is fun and, as the title would imply, biting. The album is filled with upbeat radio pop, and it also has deep and meaningful ballads.

I love the radio pop songs on this album. "Mad," "Kiss It Kiss It," "Good Girl" and "Shy" are just a few of my favorites. They are all sarcastic, upbeat and what you would expect from a pop album, while also giving you the opposite.

"Shy" is about being a naturally sarcastic, outgoing and outspoken person, but having someone suddenly make you feel shy. This is a sentiment I think a lot of people can resonate with, making her music

### Who is Renee Rapp?

- 25-year-old American singer, songwriter and actress
- Broadway: Played Regina George in the musical "Mean Girls," 2019-2020
- Film: Reprised the role in 2024 musical film version of "Mean Girls"
- HBO MAX: "The Sex Lives of College Girls," 2021-2024
- Won GLAAD Media Award as outstanding music artist in 2024 for "Snow Angel" album
- Won Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Award for favorite breakout artist.
- Albums: "Snow Angel" and "Bite Me"
- "Bite Me" Tour is in progress now throughout the U.S. and Canada through Oct. 29, before going to Europe in the spring for seven performances.

relatable.

The lyrics on these songs are nothing to write home about, but the melody, beat and vocals definitely are. They are better than the average autotuned pop music you may hear on your drive to work. She uses euphemisms and real-life experiences to make these songs fun.

Renee is most known for her ballad songs, and this album delivers there, too. "Why Is She Still Here?" "Sometimes"

and "I Can't Have You Around Me Anymore" are so incredibly profound and touching. All of these songs are not accompanied on piano, subverting what we know when we think of ballads.

"I Can't Have You Around Me Anymore" might be one of my favorite songs of all time. It deals with the real struggle of being in a committed relationship with someone, but falling in love with one of your friends, a taboo subject, that, unfortu-

nately, a lot of people secretly relate to. It's emotional and real.

"Sometimes" is also a story about being in a relationship with someone where it's strictly casual, but you want more. She acknowledges that she knows what she signed up for, but she can't do it anymore.

Renee Rapp on her album, "BITE ME," makes her Broadway roots clear. Her vocals are unmatched with anyone in the pop genre right now. They are raw and unfiltered, but that has always been her prerogative.

Along with Chappell Roan, Renee Rapp is one of the most popular examples of women-loving-women killing it in the pop scene right now. They are both fantastic representations for the LGBTQ community, and we love to see it.

Renee Rapp was not one of my favorite artists before the release of this album. In fact, I didn't like her. "BITE ME" won me over entirely. It's pop music while also being sensitive and deep, something I've only seen Taylor Swift master so far. I hope to see Renee get the acclaim she so deserves. While Broadway wanted her, the pop genre needed her.

## Young, Rapp on social media

Facebook announcement on Sept. 30 from Lola Young after she collapsed on stage in New York three days earlier.

**I'm going away for a while. It pains me to say I have to cancel everything for the foreseeable future.**

**Thank you for all the love and support. I'm so sorry to let anyone down who has bought a ticket to see me, it hurts me more than you know. Obviously you will be entitled to a full refund.**

**I really hope you'll give me a second chance once I've had some time to work on myself and come back stronger.**

**Love you all, Lola x**

### Instagram: Rapp fans praise new 'Bite me' album



Photo from Rapp Instagram Page

# Student Life at NWOSU



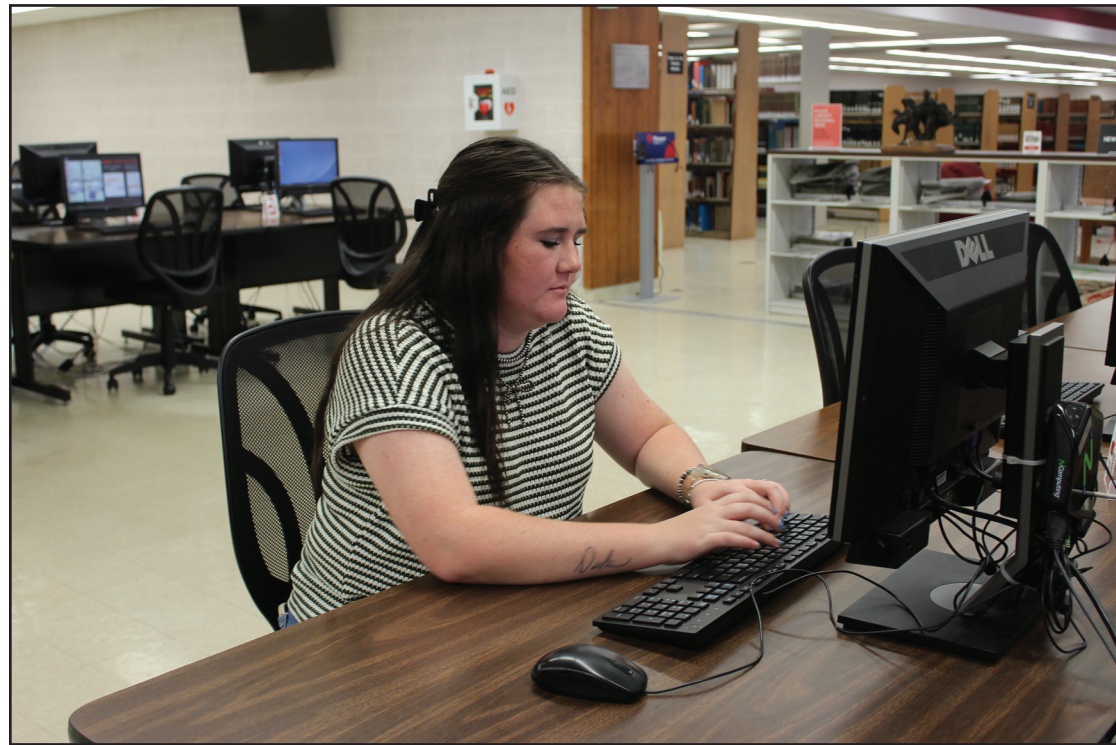
Freshman Renee Hamm gets a slice of pizza during her Ranger Connection class after being a part of the winning team of Freshman Frenzy on Sept. 18.



Tara Owens informs her class about the upcoming Ranger2Ranger event. Owens, an NWOSU graduate, works in the Alumni Office.



Students find comfortable armchairs in the library make a good place to relax, study or just read during break between classes.



Junior Ryan Duke works on homework in the library. The library computers are available all day.



Sophomore Ava Miller works in the housing office. Many students find campus jobs fit their schedules.

By JAXYN CLOUD  
Senior Reporter

For me, college has always been about stepping outside of your comfort zone and making the most of these four years. Going for every opportunity that comes your way, even if it's a lot on your plate at once sometimes. That's what college is about.

I used to walk around campus and wonder what people were doing, what motivated them, where their place was. I also used to be way too preoccu-

pled with what others thought of me. News flash, these people don't really care that much. And if they do notice you? That's okay. Be a person who is noticeable. Be expressive about your passions and the people you love.

Here at NWOSU, I've had the opportunity to participate in a lot of different on-campus organizations. I was a part of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Government, Northwestern Scholar Ambassadors, President's Leadership Class, cheer, pageants and more.

There were times it felt overwhelming, like I put

way too much on myself at once.

Now in my senior year, I realize that this is what college is about. Doing more than you ever thought possible, making a lasting impact and occasionally drinking too much caffeine to accomplish these goals you set for yourself.

If I could go back and tell my freshman-self something, it would be to keep getting involved. Keep trying to find your space and your people. It will all be worth it by the end of it, when you look back and wonder how four years went by so fast. You'll be glad you made those years count.



Being on a small campus like NWOSU means it's easy to run into friends and classmates during the day.



Biology major Carson and Teagen Wright, an elementary education major, chat outside between classes.

Photos by Jaxyn Cloud

# FEATURE

*Let's be real*

## Adulting is not what you imagined

By SARAH BRASHEARS  
Co Editor-in-Chief

Adulting.

What a fun word to throw around as much as we do. However, this word is often followed with a sigh, eyeroll or sense of dread. Because, honestly, let's get real.

Adulting is hard. Whether you just graduated high school or college, are starting your first "real" job or you've been at it for years, the challenges of navigating adulthood rarely come with a manual. Here's a spoiler alert for you, no one truly knows what they are doing. Social media paints a pretty picture of what adulthood is.

There are perfectly decorated and cleaned homes, successful careers, and the picture-perfect family moments. But do you want the reality?

Adulting is messy. It's juggling

bills you barely understand. It's being overwhelmed by endless responsibilities.

Sometimes, it's even trying to remember if you ate at all during the day.

The truth of adulting means dealing with things that your younger self never cared about, or honestly even thought about.

Things like insurance, policies, taxes, grocery shopping and cooking and learning to budget so you don't feel like your paycheck pulls a disappearing act as soon as it hits the bank.

They don't teach you to adult in school, which is why it is so hard.

One of the hardest things about adulthood is the pressure to have it all figured out. But, again being real, no one does.

Every adult that you look up to has faced moments of doubt, made mistakes and had to course-correct. The difference is they often don't talk about it

openly. Growing up is a continuous process.

You may try something, it may not work, so you adjust and move forward. It may be messy, but that's what makes it real and human.

First, give yourself some grace. Adulting is not about perfection. It's about progress. Celebrate your small wins, even if it looks like paying a bill on time, cooking a decent meal, or making it to work on time Monday morning.

These small victories still matter. It is also okay ask for help when you need it. If you are feeling overwhelmed, talk to someone. It doesn't matter if it is a friend, family or a professional, reach out.

This is a sign of strength not weakness. Break up big tasks into smaller steps. Feel like you're facing a mountain? Break the mountain into pieces. Instead of "doing taxes," find last years W-2, then

download the software and so on. Small steps will add up.

Also, create a budget that works for you. Budgeting doesn't have to be complicated. Make a log tracking where your money goes for a month. From there, create simple spending limits. It's also okay to budget for fun, not just expenses.

One of the most important things is to practice self-care. Adulting demands physical stamina. Start prioritizing sleep, moving your body and taking downtime. It is not a selfish habit; it is a necessary one.

Adulting is a wild ride full of unexpected challenges and moments of growth. It's okay to feel lost, confused or exhausted. That only shows that you are human. The key is to keep showing up for yourself, learn as you go and remember that no one has it all figured out. We are all doing our best, just one day at a time.

Here is to embracing the mess-



Photo provided

Sarah with her first adulting purchase on her own, a Ford Fusion.

iness, celebrating the small wins, and giving yourself permission to not be perfect.

At the end of the day, adulting is not about having the answers. It's about having the courage to keep asking the questions.

## Off the ice, into the sun

By JESSICA SCHIEBER  
Co Editor-in-Chief

The NHL season started Oct. 7 for the 25-26 season.

I have already talked about the preseason, so I want to talk about things that have happened over the course of the offseason.

The New Jersey Devils signed Luke Hughes a contract that gives him nine million each year for seven years. Luke Hughes is a 22-year-old defenseman.

He has two brothers that also play in the NHL. One of his brothers plays for the New Jersey Devils with him.

He signed an eight-year contract for eight million a year. Jack is currently in year four of his contract.

The last brother plays for the Vancouver Canucks.

Mitch Marner was traded to the Vegas Golden Knights from the Toronto Maple Leaves.

Marner was a huge piece of the Leaves team, and the news of

his trade came to a shock to a lot of the hockey community, almost as much as a trade that happened during the season.

The Boston Bruins traded their captain Brad Marchant to the Florida Panthers.

He was a big part of the Bruins team and the fact that they have traded such big players proves that everyone can be replaced.

The salary cap increased from \$88 million to \$95.5 million for this season.

Many teams let go of players to free up space in their salary caps or just because they weren't fit for the team.

The New Jersey Devils let go of some players I have grown to really enjoy.

These players included Curtis Lazar, Erik Haula, Kurtis MacDermid and Nathan Bastian.

Another player I enjoyed watching play was playing for the Dallas Stars. He was traded to the Seattle Kraken this offseason.

Then there's the marriages that took place.

Many players got married to

their partners.

Some of the marriages that happened were the Heiskanens, the Lundkvists, the Hamiltons, and the Siegenthalers.

Some changes that have not been made for this season yet but will be for the next season are the introduction of mandatory neck guards, a salary cap for playoffs, and an expanded regular season.

The Stanley Cup winners, the Florida Panthers, got their rings.

On the rings they got the team's rally cry "we apologize to no one" engraved on the interior.

They also had a rat engraved on the interior to honor the fan tradition of throwing rats on the ice after a victory.

The Panthers are back-to-back winners of the Cup.

The Panthers beat out the Oilers in the Stanley cup finals.

I personal wasn't a fan of either team in the finals but I still watched the games because I really didn't want to see the Oilers win the Stanley Cup.

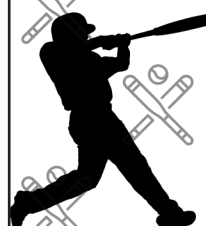
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- Die With A Smile
- BIRDS OF A FEATHER
- Beautiful Things
- Tears
- Ordinary
- Sapphire
- The Dead Dance
- WILDFLOWER
- Espresso

## It's Cybersecurity Awareness Month



## World Series starts Oct. 24



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Have horror movies lost their charm?

By KEVIN KAUMANS  
Entertainment Editor

Do you ever feel like horror movies nowadays have lost their charm? Don't get me wrong, there are some good modern-day films every now and then. But the problem with a lot of horror movies now is how they present themselves.

And when I say that, I don't necessarily mean that the writing is bad or that the actors are terrible (though that is true with most of them). No, my friends, I'm referring to how a lot of them rely solely on jump scares and gore in a sad attempt to scare their audience.

Sure, it can make you jump out of your seat when a ghost or demon-like figure comes out of nowhere and screams at the screen at the same decibel as a starving infant. But two seconds later, you're no longer scared, are you?

No, it's much more likely that you are now annoyed and glaring at the screen. You want to know why that is? Because, no matter how you phrase it, you weren't frightened out of your seat because the scene before you was actually scary; instead, it was due to having a loud noise shoved into your face.

It is like sneaking up behind your friend with two cymbals in your hand and slamming them together as loud as you can. While you might think it was a clever

way of getting a reaction out of them, your friend knows that what you did was nothing more than a cheap way of scaring someone. So there you are, looking like a talentless hack with your friend looking like they want to break your shins with those cymbals in your hand.

Now there's the subject of gore. It is no secret that movies these days are ten times more violent than they were a hundred years ago. To be fair, this statement does not only apply to horror movies. A lot of action movies, for instance, seem to be unable to go fifteen minutes without someone somewhere raining gunfire everywhere.

So trust me when I say that I am not solely blaming horror

movies for the spike in violence we see in the media.

However, what I am criticizing is the overabundance of blood and torture within these movies. Take "Terrifier", for example. Can anyone even remember the so-called plot of that movie, or can they only remember the scenes where Art the Clown was cutting people up and slicing their faces off?

Just to be clear, I'm not saying those movies from the 1900s never had any blood, people getting cut or people having their head blown off.

But you can't sit here and tell me that it hasn't gotten worse over the years. I swear, with every new horror movie coming out, it feels like that the directors are forgoing plot in exchange for guts

and shock value.

And here's the thing: I do not care that movies today are more violent. After all, I love movies like "Nobody" and "Saw". I have always prided myself in being a supporter of the First Amendment.

I truly believe that no one should be allowed to tell another person what they can or can't make.

However, the problem is that a lot of horror films use jump scares, gore and nothing else.

Maybe I'm just being a prude. Maybe I'm just a boomer trapped in a gen-z's body.

Fine, let people say that about me. I know that I'm right, and honestly that is all that matters to me.

## Xbox has caused its own downfall

By KEVIN KAUMANS  
Entertainment Editor

Recently, there has been talk about how the console company Xbox is on the verge of dying. The kicker? They are doing it to themselves. Apparently, the current C.E.O. Phil Spencer stepped down and decided to name Mr. Krabs as his successor. You may think I'm joking, but that is the only logical reason I can think of for why this company has made the decisions they've made.

Take the game pass prices, for instance. They have massively hiked up the prices, with the ultimate tier being 29.99 USD.

Naturally, this caused a tsunami of customers to flood to the official website and begin unsubscribing.

Now, a normal human being with an I.Q. higher than that of a rock would probably say to themselves: "Wow, I guess people who work lower-to-middle-class jobs don't want to spend a quarter of their paycheck so they can play online. We should probably cut down our prices and make sure our P.R. team issues an apology by the end of the day."

But not our good friend Mr. Krabs, oh God no. After all, he may have retired from T.V., but he still has to stay in character according to his contract.

See, instead of apologizing for being money-grubbing bellends, Xbox decided it would be a good idea to get their sugar daddy "Microsoft" into the fray.

When asked to speak on the massive price spikes, Microsoft's director of gaming and platform communication supposedly said that changes in subscriptions are "never fun for anybody", but in-

sists that it is a necessary evil. A lot of people have been blaming Trump's tariff taxes for this, but if you ask me, that's the company equivalent of saying "My dog ate my homework".

Look, I get the economy in our great, one-nation-under-God country is currently in shambles. I get that some businesses have no choice but to raise their prices in order to make ends meet.

That being said, there is no excuse to charge this much when you are already one of the biggest gaming companies in the world.

If we as American citizens want change in our country, then we need to learn to stop bending the knee to them. We need to stop excusing their greed by just sucking it up and complying with their ridiculous demands.

I know it will be hard to give up on a company who you have been a loyal customer to for years, trust me, I do.

I used to be obsessed with my Xbox as a child. I remember how I would want to spend every waking moment with my games. But that is in the past, back when companies like "Microsoft" used to care about their fans.

So, try and understand me when I tell you that I'm not just furious at these new prices, I'm disappointed.

I'm disappointed, because I realize that the company I grew up with never cared about people like me, people who cannot afford to throw away money willy-nilly. People who make minimum wage and still can't afford to move out of their parents' house.

But most of all? I'm disappointed that I'm finally old enough to know this now. I'm disappointed and upset that I have to accept this reality now that I am going to be old enough to drink.

## Concert Series



Photo by Hadley Weathers

The Hot Pickin' 57s Bluegrass Band from Austin, Texas, performed classics like "Turkey in the Straw" and Hank Williams' "Mind Your Own Business" on Tuesday as part of the Northwest

Oklahoma Concert Series. The band consists of five men. The three shown here are Shawn Spiars, left, playing banjo, Vance Hazen on bass and Michael Montgomery on fiddle.

*"I think we're all mentally ill. Those of us outside the asylums only hide it a little better."*

—Stephen King, horror author

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# SPORTS

## Soccer remains undefeated

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
*Sports Editor*

The undefeated NWOSU soccer team traveled to Ada to play against the East Central University Tigers as the Lady Rangers looked to continue their win streak.

Northwestern started with Taylor Annen in goal.

There was a surprise score for Northwestern as Christi-Anne Mills scored just 45 seconds into the game. The early goal set the

tone for the game, as the Lady Rangers gave shot after shot against the ECU goalkeeper. The first half went on with no more goals scored, although NWOSU kept the pressure on the Tigers throughout the half.

In the second half, there was another surprise for ECU. Luana San Miguel scored just four minutes into the half. Just seven minutes later, San Miguel scored again in the 56th minute. The momentum stayed in the Lady Rangers' favor. Northwestern stopped

every attempt at a goal or offensive movement the Tigers had.

There were no more goals in the game, as NWOSU defeated ECU 3-0.

This was an amazing showing for the NWOSU soccer team as they are currently 3-0 in conference play, and they shut out a GAC team for the first time this year. Annen recorded three saves in the shutout.

NWOSU had 16 shots in the game, and Christi-Anne Mills had four of them. She, San Miguel,

and Jordan Fawcett had all had two shots on goal to their names.

The Lady Rangers are currently top of the GAC standings. They are currently above Southwestern State University, which also has a 3-0 conference record. NWOSU is the only undefeated team in the GAC.

Their next games are against Harding University on Thursday at 6 pm and Ouachita Baptist on Saturday at 11 am.

On Tuesday, it was announced that Luana San Miguel was nomi-

inated as the GAC Offensive Player of the Week for the second week in a row and Taylor Annen as the GAC Goalkeeper of the Week. San Miguel's brace against ECU is credited for her award. Annen's .905 save percentage and five shutouts are credited for her's.

NWOSU is currently the cleanest playing team in the GAC. The Lady Rangers only have 48 fouls counted against them. Northwestern also has the highest save percentage in the conference.

## Soccer Playmakers



**Luana San-Miguel**  
Senior  
Cochabamba, Bolivia



**Taylor Annen**  
Sophomore  
Plano, Texas



**Christi-Anne Mills**  
Senior  
Basseterre, St. Kitts



**Jordan Fawcett**  
Senior  
Fallbrook, California



**Reece Welch**  
Senior  
Highlands Ranch, Colorado

## Golf starts to show signs of struggle in Edmond

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
*Sports Editor*

The golf team struggled in the Skip Wagon Invitational and the Grace Shin Invitational in Edmond on Monday and Tuesday.

The men finished 11th out of the 18 teams that competed. The men had a combined score of

+15.

Mathieu Zerwin finished even on the scorecard, putting him in 22nd.

Zac Farmer was 34th with a score of +4.

In 50th was Pierce Geminden with a score of +7.

Max Courange finished with a score of +9, putting him in 64th.

Chris Xiao was the low-

est-placing Ranger, finishing in 79th with a score of +12.

The women finished with a combined score of +69. They finished in 16th out of 19 teams.

Tess Linden and Gracie Doke both had a score of +13, placing them in 46th.

Amanda Lane was 60th with a score of +16.

Heather Hunkele finished 82nd with a score of +27.

Ava Borne had a score of +48, putting her in 100th.

Next for the Northwestern golf teams is the Perkins Cup, where they will face off against Southwestern Oklahoma State in a match-play competition. The two teams have golfers play head-to-head, whoever has the lowest score earns their team a point.



**Mathieu Zerwin**  
Scored even

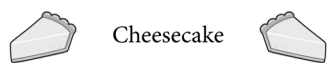


**Gracie Doke**  
+13



*Photo by NWOSU Athletics*

Tess Linden was a highest placing Lady Ranger with a score of +13.



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# SPORTS

## Rangers out ridden by Muleriders

By OAKLEE FIELDER  
Sports Editor

The Rangers looked to change their luck as they stayed home last weekend and faced the Southern Arkansas University Muleriders.

NWOSU has not had a very good season as they sit with a 0-5 record. They went against the 4-1 Muleriders, a tough opponent on the Rangers' schedule.

The Rangers won the coin toss and decided to defend in the first half.

Northwestern was able to stop Southern Arkansas' first drive, and they received possession quickly in the first quarter. Not only did NWOSU earn possession, but they scored. The Rangers charged towards the Muleriders' endzone and walked away with a field goal scored by Kale Purvis. The two teams continued in the quarter, struggling to find scoring opportunities. The first quarter ended with the Rangers up 0-3.

Both Southern Arkansas and Northwestern failed in their first two drives in the second quarter. Eventually, the Muleriders were able to find themselves, and they scored a touchdown with four minutes left in the half, making it 7-3. With 51 seconds left, the Rangers kicked a punt to end their possession, but when Southern Arkansas muffed the ball, John Fonseca scooped the ball to give NWOSU possession at the end of the quarter.

A 12-yard rush by Ezequiel



Photo by Victor Kinzie

Northwestern Ranger No. 94, Kale Purvis, punts the ball as the Southern Arkansas special teams fights to get to the ball in hopes of blocking the punt.

Luna gave Northwestern a touchdown and the lead at the end. Just when the Rangers thought they were going to be up at the start of the second half, Southern Arkansas charged down the field with just 45 seconds left on the clock and scored a touchdown to respond and make it 14-10 with 18 seconds left. The Rangers ran

one play, but the half ended with Northwestern down by four.

The Rangers started with possession in the third quarter, but nothing came from it. Northwestern struggled to get any offense moving, which sparked something for the Southern Arkansas team, and the Muleriders scored two touchdowns in the third quarter, giving SAU the lead 28-10 to

head into the final quarter of the game.

The fourth quarter started very well for the Rangers. Another rush from Luna gave Northwestern another touchdown, making it 28-16. Southern Arkansas took the quick touchdown personally and responded with a 57-second drive to score a touchdown and push the lead back to three scores.

The quarter continued for a while without any points until SAU scored another touchdown with just a minute left in the game. The game ended with a 41-16 loss for the Rangers.

Northwestern's next game is against Henderson State University on Saturday in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

## Bulldogs defeat Northwestern in Weatherford

By OAKLEE FIELDER  
Sports Editor

Volleyball only had one game to play this week, and they faced off against school rivals Southwestern Oklahoma State.

The first set was competitive, as the two teams ended with just five points between them. The Bulldogs won the first set 20-25.

The game only went downhill from there for the Lady Rangers. The second set ended with a 15-25 win for the Bulldogs. The third set ended 13-25, giving the Bulldogs the sweep and the 0-3 victory.

Tess De Zanet let Northwestern in kills; she had seven. Naya Danenburg was second in kills as she had four.

Ryann Eastes had the most as-

sists with 17. Jadyn Padilla and Ivanny Blackwood both were second with two.

Padilla and Eastes both had the most digs; they had 17 apiece. Blackwood had the third most with nine.

The Lady Rangers' next match is against Henderson State University on Thursday Baptist University on Friday.

NWOSU sits 11th in the Great American Conference standings out of the 12 teams.

## Rodeo continues to perform well

By OAKLEE FIELDER  
Sports Editor

The rodeo team was in Stillwater last Friday and Saturday, where the women finished second and the men finished seventh out of seventeen teams.

Carter Anderson finished 6th in the tie-down event, earning 50 points.

In the breakaway event, Brylee Zook finished in first, earning 155 points. Lexi Graham finished 9th, earning 5 points.

Nathan Duvall placed first in the steer wrestling event, earning 150 points. Tydon Tsosie was 5th, earning 60 points.

Payton Dingman was the runner-up in the goat tying event, earning 125 points.

Colter Snook, with the help of a Western Oklahoma State competitor, finished 6th in the team roping event. Snook earned 55 points.

Savannah Greenfield finished

runner-up in the ladies' barrel racing event. She earned 130 points for NWOSU.

The rodeo team comes home for the next competition. On Oct 30-Nov 1, the NWOSU rodeo will take place at the Woods Country Fairgrounds.

The mens team currently sits fifth in the team standings with 490 total points. The men are in a tight battle with Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in fourth with 495 points, Panhandle State University in sixth with 475 points and Southwestern Oklahoma State University in seventh with 465 points. Fort Scott Community College currently leads with 1145 points.

The women are sixth with 150 points. Murray State is fifth with 190 points and Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College is seventh with 120 points.

Payton Dingman is in the hunt for the women's all-around. Dingman sits fifth in the all-around with 135 points.

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# RANGER ROYALTY

Ranger royalty voting Oct 9 and 10

## Students throw in hat for royalty



**Jaxyn "Jaxy" Cloud**

Jaxyn Cloud is a Ranger Queen candidate from Seiling, OK. She is a senior majoring in media and communications. Jaxyn's candidacy is sponsored by NWTV7.



**Darianna Thompson**

Darianne Thompson is a Ranger Queen candidate from Universal City, TX. She is a senior majoring in chemistry and biology. Darianne's candidacy is sponsored by Chemistry club.



**Brenda Lezama**

Brenda Lezama is a Ranger Queen candidate from Turpin, OK. She is a sophomore majoring in political science. Brenda's candidacy is sponsored by Ranger Cheer.



**America Rios**

America Rios is a Ranger Queen candidate from Alva, OK. She is a senior majoring in business. America's candidacy is sponsored by Hispanic America Leadership Organization.



**Janie Rempel**

Janie Rempel is a Ranger Queen candidate from Forgan, OK. She is a junior majoring in elementary education. Janie's candidacy is sponsored by Northwestern Scholar Ambassadors.



**Zachary "Zach" Thomas**

Zachary Thomas is a Ranger King candidate from Alva, OK. He is a senior majoring in health and sports science. Zachary's candidacy is sponsored by SAAC.



**Tra'von "TJ" Jones**

Tra'von Jones is a Ranger King candidate from Phoenix, AZ. He is a senior majoring in health and sports science. Tra'von's candidacy is sponsored by men's Track and Field.



**Jeremy Smith**

Jeremy Smith is a Ranger King candidate from Elgin, OK. He is a senior majoring in health and sports science. Jeremy's candidacy is sponsored by BCM.



**Nathan Vaughn**

Nathan Vaughn is a Ranger King candidate from Norman, OK. He is a freshman majoring in nursing. Nathan's candidacy is sponsored by Pre-Nursing.



**Marlie Pitts**

Marlie Pitts is a Freshman Queen candidate from Waynoka, OK. She is majoring Nursing. Marlie's candidacy is sponsored by Aggie club.



**Abbey Elam**

Abbey Elam is a Freshman Queen candidate from Shattuck, OK. She is majoring media and communications. Abbey's candidacy is sponsored by Presidents Leadership Class.

The first round of voting opens Oct 9 at 8 AM and will remain open until 5 PM on Oct 10. The top three Ranger Queen and King candidates will be selected to move forward into round two of voting. After the first round of voting, the Freshman queen will be selected. The second round of voting will be Oct 20 at 8 AM and will remain open until Oct 21 at 5 PM.

The selection of Freshman Queen will be announced Oct 13 at the Ranger Royalty Banquet. Ranger Queen and King will be announced at halftime of the Homecoming football game. The game kicks off at 3 PM.