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NWOSU 2025 Homecoming

Retired prof to lead parade

Dr. Ken Brown spent 31 years teaching chem

By KEN IRVING
Senior Reporter



Photo by Ken Irving

Dr. Ken Brown, the parade marshal for the NWOSU and Alva Homecoming parade. He was a chemistry teacher at NWOSU from 1973 to 2004.

Brown began teaching at NWOSU in 1973 before retiring in 2004. Since retiring, Brown has been an active member of the Northwestern community. He will be this year's Homecoming Grand Marshal.

The Grand Marshal at Northwestern is about someone who is being honored for their time that they've dedicated to Northwestern and the support that they continue to give," said Northwestern Director of Marketing Kelsey Martin. "Dr. Brown will lead the parade and guide us toward the football game. The parade Marshal is chosen by the homecoming committee that is comprised of community members and University employees. Dr. Brown was chosen because he's been a long time member of our community, and he is dedicated to our purpose. He's been here for over 40 years and supports our students and represents what Northwestern stands for."

Brown was born in upstate New York and went to school in New Jersey. As a young student, he interned under two chemistry professors. Every day he watched them, taking notes of the professors—thus where his love for chemistry and physics came from.

"Every day I was around the science building a lot," Brown said. "I ended up growing a liking for science and I got into it."

He graduated from Rutgers with his doctorate in physical and inorganic chemistry. He met his wife Dale in his freshman year of college.

"I lived in New York, so I didn't go back home in between semesters," Brown said. "That's when Dale transferred in. ... The dining room was in use in the basement of our dormitory," Brown said. "You would go down the set of stairs to get there. I remember her going down the set of stairs."

He would never forget her smile when he first saw her walking down the steps. During school they spent many nights at the ice

cream parlor where they would talk with each other and further their bond together. In 1961, the pair would get married while Brown was in graduate school.

Dale opened a preschool and daycare center in Alva. Brown describes her as being a caring person who put the feelings of others before herself. Dale was solely responsible for remodeling and keep the Runny Mede open.

Over 30 years ago, the city of Alva wanted to tear down the Runnymede. At the time, Runnymede was a rundown building that used to be a hotel. Dale did not want the city to tear down the building. She got a group of people and fought like a soldier to keep the Runnymede open. It became more than just a hotel. It was a boarding house, a store, a dance studio, hosted weddings and was a place for people to meet.

Dale and Brown were the picture-perfect American family. Over the course of 12 years, the

two moved across the country while making stops at New Jersey and Kentucky before settling in Alva.

"We had four kids by the time we moved to Alva," Brown said. "Two of them were born in New Jersey and two in Kentucky, but if you ask any of them their Oklahomans."

"My greatest accomplishment is not what I have accomplished in the classroom, but it's seeing the person my kids have grown into and become."

- Dr. Ken Brown

Brown raised his family in Alva. While he taught at Northwestern, Dale opened a preschool and daycare center. As a professor, Brown taught chemistry to thousands of students throughout the years. His favorite teaching moment was doing a lab with copper and zinc pennies. He smiled as he talked about how he enjoyed the kid's reaction to seeing the pennies change colors.

Brown said that although that was his favorite lab, he truly enjoyed watching his students grow as people. He specifically talked about a girl and a boy that was in one of his classes. He said that the girl at the time was quieter and more reserved but as they got older, she became more opened and than he became more of a supporter to her. He said that he was proud of that girl for growing into the smart woman that he knew she could be.

Although Brown was a successful professor, his biggest accomplishment was his children.

"I'm just so proud of my children and of who they have become," Brown said. "They all turned out to be pretty good people. It's fun to watch my grandkids grow."

Brown's contribution to Northwestern and his family legacy is a major part to why he is this year's parade marshal. He said he is thankful to be a big part of the parade, and it makes him feel connected to the university and city of Alva. He said that he is excited for his children and family to come back to Alva and for them to spend time with each other.

The parade's path will be around the square with Dale's statue and the Runnymede at the heart of the route.

As Brown leads this year's homecoming parade, surrounded by the city and university he helped shape, it's clear that his legacy and his family's legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

NEWS

Miss Cinderella taking stage

By **PIPER GALLAGHER**
Senior Reporter

The Miss Cinderella Pageant is returning to the Northwestern stage this week!

This pageant that will feature 16 girls from local Oklahoma high schools has been a long standing feature in NWO-SU's homecoming festivities for decades.

Miss Cinderella offers scholarship opportunities to high school senior girls that represent their school in the pageant.

Contestants also get to participate in the homecoming parade.

The pageant opens up with a talent portion of the show on Thursday, October 23rd.

From there the girls will compete again on Friday in interviews and evening gown.

The top five talent winners from the day before will showcase those again on Friday night.

Jessica Davis, current Miss Northwestern and a previous Miss Cinderella winner in 2023 will be emcee for Thursday night.

On Friday, Tessa Dorrell, Current Miss Oklahoma, will emcee for Friday's competition.

"I think it's nice because we've had several girls be in the Miss Cinderella pageant and come to school here, which is a great recruiting tool to get them here because they get to be on campus and enjoy homecoming

and see what Northwestern has to offer for them," Lisa Cline said.

Cline is the director for the Miss Cinderella pageant, and she is the director of LASSO here at Northwestern.

Every participant in the pageant gets a scholarship to attend Northwestern.

This fosters long lasting connections with high school senior girls and encourages them to call Northwestern home for their college years.

Many Miss Cinderella contestants and winners have attended Northwestern, and have since participated in the Miss Northwestern pageant that serves as a preliminary for the Miss Oklahoma competition.

While Miss Cinderella is not affiliated with the Miss Oklahoma pageant circuit, it gives young girls great experience in interview and pageant skills that they can use in the future.

"It's a great opportunity for them to better themselves and then also just work on those life skills that will benefit them in the future," Paige Fischer said.

Fischer is on the committee for Miss Cinderella and she is the pageant director for Miss Northwestern.

The Miss Cinderella Pageant allows young girls to dip their toes into the pageant lifestyle to see if they want to continue doing them in the future.

In a newsgram from November 2nd, 2022, the Alva Review

Courier wrote that, "the most famous Miss Cinderella was Jane Jayroe of Laverne who won in 1963. In 1966 she was crowned Miss Oklahoma, and in 1967 she was named Miss America."

The Miss Cinderella pageant began in 1952 and featured 11 girls from surrounding schools competing in a "queen contest."

The pageant was later renamed to be Miss Cinderella in the late 50s.

It has since evolved from being an extra homecoming activity to being a distinguished opportunity for young girls.

The winner of Miss Cinderella will receive eight semesters of tuition and a room waiver, and the runner-ups receive tuition waivers as well.

The 73rd anniversary of Miss Cinderella kicks off this week. Admission is free with the purchase of a homecoming button.

Without a homecoming button it is \$5 for students and \$10 for adults.

Doors will open at 7pm on Thursday, and homecoming buttons will be available for purchase at the talent night.

On Friday the doors will open at 7:30 pm.

The events will be held in the Fellers Family Auditorium.

This will be the 73 annual Miss Cinderella Pageant.

The pageant is a way for high school students to get some small amount of help if they decide to come to NWOSU.

Past Freshman Queens

- 2024: Brenda Lezama
- 2023: Abby Guff
- 2022: Maria Sosa
- 2021: Sagelyn Budy
- 2020: No winner it was cancelled due to Pandemic
- 2019: Payton Scott



Freshman Queen Crowned Oct. 13

Last year's Freshman Queen Brenda Lezama poses with Emma Franz, the flower girl this year, Luke Martin, the crown bearer of the year, and Abby Elane after crowning her at the Ranger Royalty Banquet on Oct. 13. The Freshman Queen will have her own float in the homecoming parade that will take place in downtown Alva Saturday Oct. 25 at 10 AM.



Photo by Jessica Schieber

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NEWS

What's Up

10/23

- Spanish Club Dia de los Muertos Activity
Vinson Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- FCA Meeting
Ranger Room, 6 p.m.
- Bible Chair Roundup
Bible Chair, 7 p.m.
- Miss Cinderella Talent Show
Fellers Family Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- HOCO Block Party
Street between Cunningham & Coronado, 9:30 - 11:30 p.m.

10/24

- HOCO Ranger Rally
Percefull Field House, Noon
- Red & Black World Series
Myers Stadium, 6:30 p.m.
- Miss Cinderella Pageant
Fellers Family Auditorium, 8 p.m.

10/25

- Ranger Run
Downtown Alva Square, 8 a.m.
- Homecoming Parade
Downtown Alva Square, 10 a.m.
- Soccer vs. ECU
Ranger Soccer Field, Noon
- Massed Band Performance
Ranger Field, 2:40 p.m.
- Football vs. SNU
Ranger Field, 3 p.m.
- Star Gazing
Northwest Technology Center, 7:30 p.m.



10/27

- Writers Round Table
Vinson Hall 213, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

10/28

- Pumpkin Carving Contest
Intramural Field, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Chi Alpha Night
Ranger Room, 6 - 9 p.m.
- Bible Chair Devotion
Bible Chair, 7 p.m.
- Women's Bible Study
BCM, 7 p.m.

10/29

- Worship Night
BCM, 8 p.m.
- Bible Chair Worship
Bible Chair, 7 p.m.
- Pumpkin Carving Contest
Intramural Field, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Sigma Tau Delta/Writer's Round Table Banned Book Reading
Ranger Room, 6 - 8 p.m.

FREE FOOD

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

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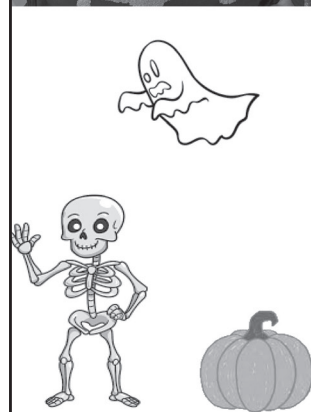
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All letters represent the views of the
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OPINION

Marriage is on the line

By **RENEE O'CONNOR**
Opinion Editor

Remember when Republi-
cans told the left that we were
worrying over nothing? Eat your
words. According to CNN, Indi-
ana GOP Sen. Mike Braun told
local reporters that states should
decide the legality of interracial
marriage.

The reporter asked
Braun if he would "be okay" with
the US Supreme Court leaving
interracial marriage to the states,
to which he replied, "Yes, I think
that that's something – if you're
not wanting the Supreme Court
to weigh in on issues like that,
you're not going to be able to
have your cake and eat it too. I
think that's hypocritical."

Since these comments,
Braun has since stated that he
misunderstood the question and
has condemned "racism in any
form". However, I believe that he
completely understood the ques-
tion. It's important to note that
he didn't apologize—he clarified.
Braun doesn't regret his com-
ment.

How many ways can
you misinterpret the question,
"So you would be okay with the
Supreme Court leaving the ques-

tion of interracial marriage to the
states?" That question could not
be more direct.

To further this point that he
understood the question, he was
later asked about *Griswold v.*
Connecticut, which was the case
that found a constitutional right
to sexual privacy and legalized
contraception for married cou-
ples. Braun's response? "When
it comes down to whatever they
are, I'm going to say that they're
not all going to make you happy
within a given state but that we're
better off having states manifest
their points of view rather than
homogenizing it across the coun-
try, as *Roe v. Wade* did."

While I obviously condemn
his thoughts on *Roe v. Wade*,
Griswold v. Connecticut, and in-
terracial marriage, he has since
retracted his statement complete-
ly, by saying interracial marriage
should not be left up to the states.
He claims that he "wasn't paying
close enough attention" to the
question.

While I think his excuse is
ridiculous, this raises a much
bigger question about marriage
equality and the rise of extreme
conservatism in our country.
Braun's comments paint a much
bigger picture of the current polit-
ical climate in the United States.

The agenda has switched.
The Republicans are condemn-
ing cancel culture and the "woke
left", while threatening to punish
or persecute anyone who makes
comments about Charlie Kirk's
death or against our current ad-
ministration. Cancel culture is
only acceptable when the right
does it.

Marriage equality has always
been a hot topic in our country.
The idea that a man and a wom-
an, or in this case, a strictly white
man and woman has always been
the "perfect image" of a marital
union. How dare anyone threaten
that.

As a lesbian, I am terrified for
my marriage rights going for-
ward. The Trump administration
published their plans online, ti-
tled Project 2025. In this plan,
they highlight their prerogative to
let the states decide the legitima-
cy of gay marriage.

I believe before the end of
Trump's term, *Obergefell v.*
Hodges will be overturned, which
is a terrifying idea. Can you,
reader, imagine not being able to
marry the love of your life? This
is what our federal government
wants. Have empathy. Put your-
self in the shoes of an interracial
or gay couple, who is currently
being told that their love shouldn't

be federally recognized.

How would you feel? Mark
Braun's comments perfectly
highlight the rise in popularity of
conservatism in our country. It's
a terrifying thing to witness. Just
this week, I had a man come into
my work preaching about how
white people are better than any
other race.

The fact that anyone feels
okay to have those views is in-
sane. No one should have their
racism, or in this case, white su-
premacy supported, excused, or
cushioned. The Young Republi-
cans group chat that was leaked?
Another example of racism with
no consequences. No one is in a
complete uproar over that. Why?

Nothing can get worse than
the person we have in the White
House. A racist, misogynistic,
Epstein-befriending, rapist, pe-
dophile. People feel safe to share
their racism because we have the
most evil person as the figurehead
for our county.

I ask you—when did it become
"woke" to have empathy for the
oppressed and marginalized? If
you are a far-right extremist, I ask
you to have compassion. Imag-
ine if you were in the shoes of a
person of color, or a young queer
person in our country right now.
Wouldn't you be scared, too?

Israel-Hamas ceasefire: real or hoax?

By **RENEE O'CONNOR**
Opinion Editor

On October 3, a ceasefire and
hostage deal was negotiated be-
tween Israel and Hamas, signed
by President Trump. This cease-
fire was intended to help end the
war, and release the hostages.

As stated by CBS, the ceasefire
will see Israel withdraw its troops
from western parts of Gaza to a
line agreed by both sides within
24 hours. However, the ceasefire
has already been broken.

NBC writes that Israel
launched airstrikes on southern
Gaza early Sunday morning. Is-
rael states that Hamas had carried
out a "blatant violation of the
ceasefire agreement."

Hamas restated their commit-
ment to the ceasefire, and states
they had no knowledge of a vio-
lation. This is a clear dog-whistle
for Israel to excuse their own ac-
tions.

Hamas has further stat-
ed that they have committed to

Terms of the ceasefire

- The return of the displaced to their areas of residence (*first stage*)
- Exchange of detainees and prisoners (*first stage*)
- Exchanging the bodies and remains of the dead from both sides after reaching them and identifying them (*third stage*)

the ceasefire and full-heartedly
denies any accusations of them
violating it.

They claim that the Israeli
forces have killed bystanders, de-
layed the release of detainees, and
have blocked aid delivery.

This is another example out of
many that Israel has, once again,
continued ruthless violence
against the Palestinians.

While I admire the ef-
forts to start a ceasefire, I am ter-
rified we may never see that come
to fruition.

How many innocent people

have to die for Israel to stop com-
mitting mass genocide against
Palestine? Hamas has stated
again, and again their loyalty to
the ceasefire deal.

Everyone wants this genocide
to stop. Everyday, I see a new
video of the disgusting genocide
being committed against Pales-
tine.

This has to end. One too many
is a valid argument against immi-
grants, but not the lives being lost
in Palestine?

Hamas has stated that if the
ceasefire falls through, it will be

Israel's fault, and I can't help but
believe them.

Seeing in real time the effect
of genocide, it couldn't be clearer
that this is Israel's doing.

Just because Israel is God's
country, doesn't mean we have to
defend its atrocities.

Genocide is never accept-
able. Genocide is never excus-
able. Defense Minister Israel
Katz said that "Hamas will learn
the hard way today that the IDF
is determined to protect its sol-
diers and prevent any harm to
them."

Yet, Hamas has stated how
they have no intentions of violat-
ing the ceasefire.

Imagine, once again, this was
your war.

Put yourselves in the shoes of
an innocent Palestinian, who is
praying the genocide will end.

We must all take a stand
against genocide in every form.

We must be able to recognize
when a country that you may
stand by and support is commit-
ting war crimes.



What's on your mind?

Let's hear it.

Columnists wanted

Contact us at nwnews@nwosu.edu

OPINION

Poetry: How you can learn to love it, too

By **RENEE O'CONNOR**
Opinion Editor

I love poetry! The second I say that, I can practically hear your thoughts, and most of them are filled with judgement. However, I can confidently say that everyone also loves poetry, they just may not know it yet. I believe you all deserve to know that you more than likely consume one form of poetry everyday.

Poetry is a form of literary art that uses aesthetic and often rhythmic qualities of language and it can be found in most art forms. I will cover narrative, lyrical, and modern or slam poetry. Let's cover the one your high school english teacher told you about: narrative poetry

Narrative poetry is exactly what it sounds like; it tells a story. There are thousands of examples of narrative poetry, but we are going to look at some of my favorites and the most notable.

This is the man I'm sure your mind immediately goes to when I talk about poetry. Edgar Allen Poe. Classics like *The Raven*, *The Cask of Amadiato*, and my favorite *Anabel Lee* made him an instant classic.

Anabel Lee is a poem about the enduring power of love, loss, grief and the supernatural. Lines such as "That the wind came out of the cloud by night, Chilling and killing my *Annabel Lee*." Make it still required in high schools across the country.

Unlike Poe, Phillis Wheatley is one of the most inspirational poets, and was the first published Black poet, even though she was enslaved. Wheatley is most known for her writings about slavery and religion. Oftentimes, tying into one another.

In arguably her most famous poem, 'On Being Brought from Africa to America', she writes, "Taught my benighted soul to understand/That there's a God, that there's a Saviour too."

In modern language, she is calling upon the newly re-

ligious that Black people must be included in Christianity.

Taylor Swift! Now that I've got your attention let's talk about music. Or, lyrical poetry. Every piece of music is poetry. To reinforce this idea, I'm going to teach you examples across genres of my favorite poets. Regardless of whatever your opinion is on her, Taylor Swift is widely considered to be one of the greatest lyricists of our time.

Many scholars praise Taylor for her constant uses of metaphors, references to literary works, and clear expansive knowledge of, as Travis Kelce so eloquently puts it, "big words".

While there are hundreds of examples of her poetic lyrics, I've chosen my favorites. Lyrics such as, "My knuckles were bruised like violets / Sucker punching walls, cursed you as I sleep-talked / Spineless in my tomb of silence / Tore your banners down, took the battle underground"

Along with Taylor Swift, Zach Bryan is known for his poetic lyrics, which makes him just bordering on the brink between genres, being folk and country.

Zach Bryan has truly changed what it means to write country music. Most of his lyrics, similar to Swift, are incredibly profound and deal with topics like grief and loss, specifically pertaining to his mom.

Unlike many artists, Bryan includes not just lyrical poetry in his songs, but also spoken word poems in his albums.

Though I love pop music, rap is my favorite genre. And no one does poetry in the rap scene quite like Kendrick Lamar. Rap in itself is inherently poetic, but he takes it to the next level.

Kendrick uses metaphors and historical references to create beautiful songs and art. One of my favorite examples of his poetry is in his song *Mother I Sober*, where he raps, "So I set free myself from all the guilt that I thought I made / So I set free my mother, all the hurt that she titled shame.". This is the purest example of lyrical poetry and he's using metaphors of spirituality to do it.

Honorable mentions for lyrical poetry include Bo

Burnham and Travis Scott, who I didn't have time to include but would be up all night if I didn't at least say their names. Now that you know about lyrical poetry, let's talk about her much angrier sister, slam poetry.

This poetry has no rules—other than the fact that it's rhythmic. It's the only one that doesn't have to rhyme. Similar to the lyrical poets, these poets are performers.

Rudy Fransisco is one of the greatest slam poets of our time. From race, to love, to heartbreak, to art, to Starbucks, he makes his work insanely relatable. Rudy uses his work to promote social change and most importantly, conversations.

His poems will often start comical, then turn darker. In a more serious poem, he writes, "I left notes in random places hoping that you would stumble across them, I carved our names in trees and then prayed that it would jog your memory."

Neil Hilborn is a poet I've been obsessed with since my freshman year of high school. I even have a tattoo based off of one of his poems. In 2024, I got to do the coolest thing ever and meet him. This is the one exception to meeting your idols.

My all time favorite poem was written by him, titled *OCD*. It's the poem my tattoo is based on. In this poem, he writes about his struggles with OCD and how they have seeped into his relationship.

Everything is amazing, until it isn't. He ends the poem with the simple "I leave the door unlocked, I leave the lights on."

Now that we've learned all about the three major types of poetry, let's summarize what we've learned.

In conclusion, poetry takes many different forms and chances are, you interact with at least one of these types every day. Poetry finds itself in every single art form, which I believe is the most beautiful thing about it.

By explaining the differences between narrative, lyrical, and slam poetry, I hope every single one of you can now confidently say, "I love poetry!"

I have taken my motorbike down the pacific 101 and I have stood atop the Empire State Building with my father.

I have ridden the fear although I was afraid every single time.

I have learned that every waking moment is enough and excess never leads to better things it only piles and piles atop the things that are already abundantly in front of you like breathing and chasing and slow dancing and love making, fighting and laughing.

I am unhinged, unworthy and distasteful to mostly everyone I meet, however I am loyal to a fault to anyone I find kindness in. I do not and will not fear tomorrow because I feel as though today has been enough. And I got no hate in my heart for anything, anywhere or anyone. And I think fear and Fridays got an awful lot in common; they're over done and glorified and always leave you wanting.

-Zach Bryan



Zach Bryan, *Fear and Fridays* poem from album "Zach Bryan"

Isolation is not safety,
it is *death*.
If no one knows you're alive
you *aren't*.
If a tree falls in the forest,
and no one is around to hear it,
it does make a sound;
but then the sound is *gone*.
I'm not saying you'll find the meaning of life
in other people.
I'm saying other people are the life to which
you provide the meaning to.
-Neil Hilborn



Neil Hilborn, from his book "Our Numbered Days"

I'm learning
that I don't always
have to make noise
to be seen,
that even my silence has a
spine, a rumble
and says, I'm here in its native
tongue.
-Rudy Fransisco



Rudy Fransisco, from his book "Helium"

Let go of the ones who hurt you
Let go of the ones you outgrow
Let go of the words they hurl your way
as you're walking out the door
The only thing cut and dry
In this hedge-maze life
Is the fact that their words will cut
but your tears will dry
They don't tell you this when you are young
You can't hold on to everything
Can't show up for everyone
You pick your poison
Or your cure
Phone numbers you know by heart
And the ones you don't answer any more
Hold on to the faint recognition in
the eye of a stranger
As it catches you in its lustrous net
How quickly we become intertwined
How wonderful it is to forget
All the times your intuition failed you
But it hasn't killed you yet
Hold on to childlike whims and moonlight
swims and your blazing self-respect
And if you drive the roads of this town
Ones you've gone down so many times before
Flashback to all the times
Life nearly ran you off the road
But tonight your had is steady
Suddenly you'll know
The trick to holding on
Was all that letting go
-Taylor Swift

A poem by Taylor Swift, published in *British Vogue* published Dec. 6, 2017.



Alva gets its spook on for Halloween



This Alva family went all out with their Halloween lawn decorations. They have a skeleton band, a giant boney scarecrow reaper and many other decorations.



A few Alva residents decided to go with the cuter options for their Halloween decorations.



Photos by Emma Gott



A haunted house adorns the front yard of this Alva resident's home.



The Gregory family decorated their lawn and porch with a variety of ghosts, ghouls, creepy crawlies and skeleton hands coming out of the ground.



An Alva resident put up a caged old skeleton as a decoration along with a poster with three skulls behind him.



A dark carriage is pulled by an undead horse and operated by an undead skeleton coach driver at this Alva home.



Three shadow people hold hands on this Alva home's front porch.



A skeleton family yells at their skeleton dogs for getting into the trash while a giant skeleton walks his giant skeleton dogs in this Alva resident's lawn.



Residents at the corner of Ninth Street and Maple decorated their yard with skeletons fishing for baby doll heads. Old dolls have been a part of the Halloween decorations at this home for several years.

FEATURE

Skating into the Grand Prix de France

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

Something many people don't know about me is that I love watching figure skating. I find it to be like poetry on ice.

It's a relaxing sport for me to watch when I find myself totally stressed. I found it randomly one day years ago.

On the ice the performer performs a series of jumps and footwork to a piece of music. They are judged based on how difficult the execution of these jumps are.

I enjoy the sport of figure skating. I have been fascinated with sports on ice ever since I discovered the sport of figure skating.

This week the figure skating

Figure Skating Men Overall Angers, France

1. Ilia Malinin (5010 pts)
2. Yuma Kagiyama (4332 pts)
3. Adam Siao Him Fa (4057 pts)



had the Grand Prix de France 2025.

In this event I got to watch one of my favorite figure skaters, Ilia Malinin.

He is a 20-year-old skater who was chosen to represent the United States of America.

In the free skate, Malinin

scored 321.00. Adam Siao Him Fa followed him with a score of 280.95. The third place in free skate went to Nick Egadze 259.41.

Malinin has talent that to me seems unrivaled in the competition.

He has been nicknamed the

Quad God, this is because he does quad axels.

An axel is a very complex jump within figure skating. Which consists of a jump that launches from a forward edge and a forward takeoff. It requires control, speed, and power.

The skater does a rotation in the air landing backwards on the opposite skate. The complete 1.5 rotations for a single axel.

It is considered one of the oldest and most complicated jumps. Quad axels is the completion of four full rotations of the axel jump.

Malinin also does backflips which was once a forbidden jump in the competitions.

These jumps are so impressive, and it took him a lot of time

to master them.

The backflip jumps are something that made Malinin such a popular skater to fans.

During the Grand Prix de France he had a 10-point lead over all the other competitors. Malinin was followed by Egadze who represented Georgia and Kao Miura who represented Japan.

This is all for the Olympic Winter Games in Milano Cortina 2026. It will take place Feb. 6 through the 22.

These games will also host other sports like snowboarding, hockey, bobsledding, and skiing.

I am excited to watch the hockey because you get to see players who are normally playing against each other work and play together.

Let's be real

You don't have it all figured out

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

Have you ever noticed we live in a world that constantly makes us feel like we are behind in life?

Seeing people our age buying houses, getting married, landing dream jobs, starting a family, and everything in between; yet we are just trying to figure out our next step.

It is really easy to believe that everyone else already has it all figured out. But here's the truth, they don't.

The person that seems confident in every decision? They don't know the next step after their current one. The influencer that posts the perfect routine? They haven't done their routine all week. The people we look up to the most don't even know what comes next, they are just getting through the present.

Throughout life, everyone you meet is still learning, still growing, and often still silently struggling to make sense of this big world.

All these things that make us feel behind, whether getting married or retiring to the Bahamas, are only snapshots of a small moment in time. To get to that snapshot, there is struggle, uncertainty and doubt. But eventually you get to the snapshot moment without even planning it.

The truth is, there isn't an expiration date on discovering your purpose and becoming who you are meant to be.

The seasons that feel confusing or uncertain aren't wasted but instead shaping you in ways you may not see yet.

It is perfectly okay if you don't have all the answers. It is okay if you are still searching for what makes you feel alive.

It's normal for your path to not look like anyone else's. Honestly, your path shouldn't look like someone else's.

Progress is not always loud, or even visible. Sometimes, progress is simply getting up, trying again, and trusting that you are being guided even when things don't make sense.

Let's get real, even the people

that you think have "made it" are still figuring things out. They still question themselves. They still face challenges that stretch them.

Life is constantly changing, as are we. The goal is never to reach a point in time where everything is perfect and predictable. The goal is to grow and learn to live with grace, curiosity, and faith through every stage of becoming.

Take some pressure off yourself. Truthfully, you are not behind. You are not failing.

You are right where you are supposed to be, in process. What a beautiful place to be.

You are learning. You are adapting. You are evolving in real time.

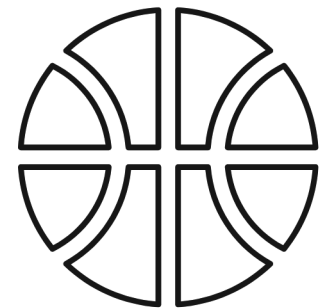
Life isn't about having it all figured out. It is about having the courage to keep showing up when you don't and enjoying the moments as they come.

Maybe that's what it truly means to have it "figured out". Not to know everything, but to faithfully keep moving forward when you don't.

Trusting that clarity will come one step at a time.

NBA Scores

- Thunder beat the Rockets 125-124
- Warriors beat the Lakers 119-109



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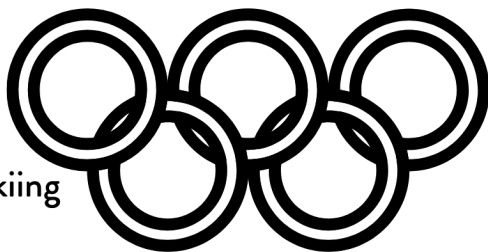
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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood exaggerates prom

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

I don't know if this is as big of a deal as in other countries, but here in America, it feels like both adults and kids alike make a bigger deal of prom than it actually is.

To be honest, I blame the film industry for this.

Every time I see a romantic comedy where the falling action takes place at a high school or college ball, I can't help but roll my eyes at how absurd it is.

Don't get me wrong, I understand that proms are a hallmark

for some people. It represents the turning point for maturity in a lot of teenagers.

It is not just young men and girls who dance awkwardly while deciding if they should pop a kiss on the lips or not. It shows how romance and social hierarchy is viewed from the point of view of the adolescents of our society.

Personally, however, I never really saw the point of it as I was growing up.

First of all, I went to a small school in an even smaller town; counting both staff and students, there were less than two hundred of us.

My graduating class alone was made up of only seven or eight

kids. Needless to say, there were not a lot of girls to choose from, not a lot that would have been interested in a kid that was built like Nikocado Avocado in his prime anyway.

The only girl I have ever taken to a dance was a girl two grades below me, and that was only because her mother asked me to because she wanted someone, anyone, to take her daughter to the dance.

To this day, I am not sure if it was because she felt more sorry for her, or me.

Secondly, I never was one for big crowds, especially ones that involve making a fool of myself on the gym "dancefloor".

If I'm being honest, if someone put a gun to my head and told me to choose between dancing in front of a crowd or digging through a toilet bowl of rusty needles, I would pick the latter.

Here's the thing: I'm not bashing on people who genuinely have fond memories on their prom night.

All I'm doing is pointing out how many movies and television shows make it to be this be-all-end-all, when in the end, most people do not really care.

You know how people who cheat on their partners will say something along the line of "They mean nothing to me?"

That statement is the same

thing I would say about prom, with the only difference being that it's actually true. You know why it's true? Because I have never thought back on my prom night until right now as I'm writing this.

I see how the characters in these movies talk about prom like it is some life-changing phenomenon that everyone will remember forever, and all I am thinking is: "You do realize that you all will barely remember any of this ten years from now, right?"

And while yes, I get that it's supposed to satire, but my argument still stands: Hollywood has exaggerated proms and their importance to the point of comical.

Scalpers invading trading card scene

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

For those of you who don't know, trading cards are a set of rectangle-shaped cards that depict either a professional athlete or a monster from a fiction world, usually collected by kids.

Of course, this is not true for everyone, as I myself like collecting all types of cards from time-to-time. There are only two problems with this, however. One: Inflation has skyrocketed the prices. Two: Scalpers.

For those of you who don't know, scalpers are people who will buy out a new release of cards as soon as stores stock

them, and then charge ten times the price online. Needless to say, these people are seen by the trading card community the same way journalists are seen by victims of tragedy.

That is, parasitical rats who contribute nothing to society except for the reason we have laws that say you can't knock people out unless they swing on you first.

Don't believe me? Look up videos of scalpers causing fights in the store. Either they are ripping it out of people's hands or are literally punching people in the face. Keep in mind, these are the people within my community.

I hope you can see why these people get my blood pressure so high.

And you want to know what the worst part is? These scalpers don't seem to compute the simple rules of supply and demand, and then wonder why they almost never make their money back. See, the trading card community is a small, niche group.

We are not as big as the people who buy fancy cars or watches, so when you are out here trying to sell these cards at three-hundred dollars a box, they are more likely than not just gonna pass on your offer and wait for stores to restock.

Another thing these scalpers don't seem to grasp is that people in small communities like the trading card people talk.

So when I see videos of people

breaking into card stores and stealing thousands of dollars worth of stuff, it never surprises me to see these guys get arrested almost the next day.

When people like us hear about a card store getting broken into, we instantly know what to look out for.

Besides scalpers, another group of people I want to talk to are people who are just now getting into cards, specifically because they have seen those videos online of people pulling cards worth more than their mortgage.

While I understand the dream of changing your entire financial situation, but what you need to understand is that it is not that easy.

Yes, people all over the world draw cards worth a lot of money.

But here's the thing: Those same people have the money to spend a thousand dollars on a single trading card run.

Most people can't afford to do that once a year, much less every other week.

So by all means, get into trading cards. Just don't do it with the mindset of becoming rich.

When you treat a hobby as nothing more than a way to make money, than it stops becoming fun and instead becomes a worthless money pit.

If you really need money, than please, get a second job, sell some of your stuff, do literally anything but become a scalper.

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| <p>"Sublime" by Ash Crites</p> <p>A dragonfly sits on a slacked line Above a mossy lake. A lover clasps their hand in mine.</p> <p>The word swirls in the breeze, Landing in the trees Blazing in the sun.</p> | <p>"Loathsome" By Kevin Kaumans</p> <p>Why do I get up? Why do I bother? My palms shake, skin sweats, I want to go to the slaughter.</p> <p>Do not pity me, a reply I will not bother. For a loathsome cretin like me knows not how to feel.</p> |
|---|---|

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"In three words, I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on."

— Robert Frost

☪

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SPORTS

Volleyball struggles to win

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The Lady Ranger volleyball team played two away and two home games over the break, losing each of them and, in total, only winning one set.

NWOSU 0-3 Henderson St.

The first set started well for the Lady Rangers; they scored seven straight points to get a 6-point lead over the Reddies. They were able to keep the lead over Henderson until the Reddies scored eight straight points to take the lead over the Lady Rangers. After trading points, Northwestern was able to get within one point, 19-20.

The Reddies just barely bettered the Lady Rangers and got to a 4-point lead, 20-24. After two points from Northwestern, the Reddies scored the one point they needed and won the hard-fought set 22-25.

The second set started just like the first, and the Lady Rangers went on a streak to have a five-point lead.

The Lady Rangers were able to keep the large deficit over the Reddies through the middle part of the set. Slowly, the Reddies had caught up, and the score was 16-15.

Northwestern then scored four straight and made it 20-15. The Reddies responded with an identical four straight, and the Lady Rangers were up by just one once again.

After trading points, Henderson State went on a streak and got to 25 before the Lady Rangers. The second set was 22-25.

The third and final set was a doozy for Northwestern. After taking the lead 2-1, the Lady Rangers gave up 17 straight points to Henderson State. After taking the lead 2-18, there was no doubt the Reddies would win the third set, and that they did. The Lady Rangers were able to cut the Reddies' lead down by a bit, but nothing close to save the game. The Reddies won the third set 14-25.

NWOSU 0-3 Ouachita Baptist

At the start of the first, the Lady Rangers were down 1-3, but then they went on a 7-point streak to



Photo by Oaklee Fielder

Lady Ranger No. 3 Mikayla White, sets up No. 15, Ivanny Blackwood in a game between Northwestern and Oklahoma Baptist University on Sept. 30.

take the lead 8-3. The two teams battled hard. Every time one of them would gain on the other, the opponent would match them and bring it right back to how it was.

Ouachita was down 17-15 when they went on a 9-point streak to take the lead 17-23. The Lady Rangers fought back, but not enough. The Tigers won the first set 18-25.

Set number two started with a great battle between the teams. Ouachita Baptist scored four straight right off the bat, but NWOSU responded and crawled back up with them to make it 6-5.

The opponents continued to battle hard, not getting more than two points away from each other until Ouachita scored to be up by three.

The Lady Rangers fought back and took the lead by one, 20-19. Ouachita gave it right back to Northwestern and took the set 21-25.

The third set mirrored the last match. Some points were earned, and then the opponent ran away. With the score 7-9, Ouachita scored 10 straight to make it 7-19. It seemed to crush any momentum the Lady Rangers had as they lost to Ouachita 12-25.

Harding 3-1 NWOSU

The first set between the Bison and Lady Rangers was competitive. The teams battled until they were tied 6-6. Northwestern then went on a run and led the Bison by five.

The teams then started to trade points back and forth, fighting to gain momentum. When the score hit 15-19, the Lady Rangers turned on the afterburners and scored six straight to win the first set 15-25.

The second set was also competitive at the start. Then, Harding went on a run to be up by six. The Lady Rangers were able to fight back, but it wasn't enough to

catch the Bison. The Lady Rangers kept up with Harding, but were too far down with the time they had left to make a comeback. Harding won set number two 25-18.

The Lady Rangers had control of the set early on as they were ahead by one until Harding scored three in a row to take the lead by two.

The two teams battled hard, and then Northwestern scored seven straight to be up by four, 14-17. The Lady Rangers stayed up by three until it was 20-23, and Harding took it and ran. They went five straight to win the third set 25-23.

The fourth set was not as competitive as the others, as Harding was able to take the lead and continued to extend it until they won the fourth set 25-16, and they won the match 3-1.

Arkansas Tech 3-0 NWOSU

The match against Arkansas

Tech was not as competitive as the other matches against the GAC competitors. The Golden Suns won every set by over six points.

There was a little bit of back and forth in the first set, but the Golden Suns extended their lead often and won the first set 25-13. The start of the second set went about the same.

Arkansas Tech won the first seven points and held the lead on the Lady Rangers for a good while.

Eventually, Northwestern was able to get a run going and scored five straight to get within five points of the Golden Suns, 20-15. The third set went much better for Northwestern.

The two teams battled throughout the whole set, but the Golden Suns were able to slowly inch away from the Lady Rangers. Arkansas Tech won the final set 25-17.

Golf takes home ninth at Missouri Southern

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

The NWOSU golf team finished ninth in the Missouri Southern State University Invitational in Joplin, Missouri, with a score of +43.

The Rangers finished ninth out of the 18 teams that competed in the MSSU Invitational, even defeating the host team, Missouri Southern, by six positions.

The University of Central Oklahoma won the invitational by a whopping 33 strokes over Washburn University.

Max Courange was the highest Ranger with a score of +9 in 24th. Mathieu Zerwin had just one more stroke, +10, putting him in 31st. Pierce Geminden was 42nd with a score of +13.

Chris Xiao was 72nd with a score of +19. Zac Farmer had a score of +21, putting him in 83rd.

The next tournament is in Bro-

ken Arrow in the Tulsa Cup.

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SPORTS

Winning streak ends at five

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

Soccer faced its toughest opponents over fall break, facing the other top teams in the GAC and losing its first games of the season.

The Lady Rangers' first game was against the Harding University Lady Bison. Northwestern went into the home game undefeated, and players and fans stated that this would be the toughest game on the schedule.

Harding 3-0 NWOSU

Taylor Annen would be the Northwestern goalkeeper for every game.

The Lady Bison did not hesitate to set the tone early in the game. In the fourth minute, after a corner kick, Harding scored the first goal, putting NWOSU down early. Christ-Anne Mills, Eryn Warren, and Luana San Miguel were able to get shots on the Harding goal, but they were unable to hit the net. Harding scored another goal in the 39th minute, extending their lead to 2. Northwestern had three more shots, but none of them entered the back of the net.

The Lady Rangers were unable to find any offensive momentum in the second half. There were shots on goal, but they were all unsuccessful in adding a tally to the Northwestern score sheet. There was another goal from the Lady Bison in the 86th minute, making it 3-0 with just four minutes left. The Lady Rangers lost the first game of the season against the Harding Lady Bison.

Christi-Anne Mills and San Miguel both had two shots on goal, leading Northwestern. Warren, Jordan Fawcett, Katy Jo Wer-



Photo by Kate McClure

Lady Ranger No. 4, Elie Dang, dribbles the ball in home game against Harding University. Northwestern would lose 3-0 in their first loss of the year.

ner, Cambell Tabor, and Jazelle Alvarado had one shot on goal apiece. Annen had 3 saves.

Ouachita Baptist 1-0 NWOSU

The game started with a quick charge from the Lady Rangers as Fawcett gave a shot towards the goal, but it went just wide. The two teams battled hard in the first half, but the half ended with two perfect goalies as neither team scored any points. Although there were no goals scored, there were lots of shots given, 11 for Northwestern and 5 for Ouachita.

The second half started with a shot from Ouachita and a shot from Northwestern. The two teams fired shots back and forth with no luck in scoring a goal. With time ticking away and the two teams battling hard, there

was a late yellow card against Northwestern. This gave Ouachita Baptist an amazing chance to earn a goal in the 81st minute. The Tigers did just that and scored a late goal to get the upper hand on the Lady Rangers. There were shots from Jenna Mills and Reese Welch in the last five minutes, but they had no prevail. The Tigers defeated the Lady Rangers and gave NWOSU their second loss in a row.

Welch and Christi-Anne Miguel were the shot leaders. Welch had 3 on goal, and Mills had 2 on goal. Annen recorded four saves.

SWOSU 0-0 NWOSU

SWOSU is undefeated in the GAC and currently sits at number one in the standings. This game was a battle between the number one and number two teams in the

Great American Conference.

The two teams fired shots early in the first half, with four in just the first 10 minutes. Those four shots were the only ones in the uneventful first half. There were a few fouls on both teams, but no penalties.

The second half was a bit more eventful. The two teams traded shots in the first minutes of the half. The shot battle continued into the second half, as no goalkeeper would budge, and they continued to be perfect. Shot after shot, neither goaltender gave in, and the game ended in a tie, 0-0.

San Miguel had an incredible five shots on goal, by far the most on the Lady Ranger roster. Christi-Anne Mills had two shots, but only one on goal. Annen had three saves in the game.

Oklahoma Baptist 0-1 NWOSU

The Lady Rangers looked to get back on their winning form again after a drought of wins over the break. They did just that against the Lady Bison. In the 28th minute, Christ-Anne Mills scored the first goal for Northwestern since Oct. 1, with San Miguel getting the assist. In the second half, there were shots, but none of them made it into the net for either team, and Northwestern won their first game after a three-game drought.

Christ-Anne Mills, Jenna Mills, and Fawcett had one shot on goal apiece, the most from the team. Annen recorded an amazing eight saves against Oklahoma Baptist, giving even more impressiveness from her shutout.

Cross country does well in DBU Old Glory Gallop

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

Cross country competed on Oct. 11 in the DBU Old Glory

Gallop, where the men finished 21st and the women 17th.

Kabelo Maja was the highest-placing Ranger in the men's 8k. He was 75th with a time of 25:35. Riley Herndon was the

second Ranger; he finished 94th with a time of 25:52.

In the women's 5k, Celistine Kiborus and Ivy Washington had the same finishing time of 19:55. Kiborus finished in 122nd and Washington finished 123rd, just two tenths of a second behind.

Football struggles

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Sports Editor

Football lost its two games against Henderson State University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University, as the Rangers continue to struggle to produce a win.

The Rangers lost 0-59 in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. The Rangers were able to score against the Savage Storm. Although they did not score in the first half and gave up five touchdowns, they were able to fight Southeastern in the second half. They scored a touchdown in both the third and fourth quarters against the Savage Storm.

Jax Bernard threw 12 for 23 against Henderson State, although he did throw two interceptions. Kaedric Cobbs ran for 65 yards throughout the game, the

longest rush being 13 yards. Ivory Wilright had five receptions and ran for 40 yards. Ben Heidebrecht had the longest reception for the Rangers against Henderson, his only catch of the game, and he went 32 yards. Rock Schomaker had 4 solo tackles and 3 assisted tackles, coming up with a total of seven tackles in the game.

Beck Moss threw 5 for 11 and had a total of 72 yards thrown. Moss threw one touchdown pass and one interception. Cobbs had the most yards rushed against Southeastern as he had a total of 46 gained and a net of 34. Isiah Taylor had two receptions and 61 yards. Merric Judd had four receptions, 33 yards, and one touchdown. Schomaker had the most tackles with 11 total, five solo and six assisted.

The next game for football is the homecoming game against Southern Nazarene University.

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HOMECOMING

Rangers get 'Rowdy Under the Big Top'

By JAXYN CLOUD
Senior Reporter

NWOSU's annual homecoming football game is Oct. 25, and there are many events planned for NWOSU students and the community to celebrate.

Oct. 23 is the annual Miss Cinderella talent show and the Miss Cinderella pageant will take place in Fellers Family Auditorium on Oct. 24.

Young women from across northwest Oklahoma will travel to Alva to compete in two days of competition and ride in the NWOSU homecoming parade Oct. 25.

"Miss Cinderella is a great way to get acquainted with campus and meet new friends while you're still in high school," said Abbey Elam, a past Miss Cinderella contestant.

The Annual Ranger Rally will take place at noon on Friday, Oct. 24, in Perciful Fieldhouse.

There, the top three Ranger Queen and Ranger King candidates will be introduced.

This year's finalists for Ranger Queen are Jaxyn Cloud, Brenda



Photos by Jessica Schieber

Ranger King finalists Tre'von Jones, Jeremy Smith and Nathan Vaughn.

Lezama, and Janie Remple.

The finalists for Ranger King are Tre'von Jones, Jeremy Smith and Nathan Vaughn.

"I've been to the Ranger Rally every year during homecoming," said Kaylyn Aldrich. "It's one of my favorite homecoming events."

This year's homecoming theme "Rowdy Under The Big Top," is giving students a chance to be creative with their circus float designs for Saturday's parade.

"I'm looking forward to help-

ing with the NSA (Northwestern Scholar Ambassador) float and riding in the parade," said Teagen Wright.

While the details of the float aren't being revealed, it is clear that a lot of thought and effort go into creating an on-theme float idea and using teamwork to execute it.

Multiple clubs and organizations compete to win the float contest. Observers of the parade can also expect to see multiple local school's bands marching



Photos by Jessica Schieber

Ranger Queen finalists Ranie Remple, Brenda Lezama and Jaxyn Cloud.

in the parade, the alumni band and the Pride of the Ranger Nation Marching Band. The three Ranger Queen and Ranger King finalists will also be riding in the parade.

The Ranger Run will start at 8 a.m. at the downtown Alva Square in front of the Rialto Saturday morning. Registration begins at 7:15 a.m. and official homecoming t-shirts are given to every runner who registers.

Students and community members are encouraged to par-

ticipate in the 5K or the 1-mile run.

The male and female winner of both races will be given chamber bucks. A group of NWOSU Alumni will give out donuts at 9 a.m. at the North side of the Square.

A collaborative band performance will precede the homecoming football game, with the performance set to start at 2:40 p.m. at Ranger Field. The Ranger football team is playing Southern Nazarene University at 3:00 p.m.

Rangers got spirit



Photos by Oaklee Fielder

The business window design won the homecoming window designs this year for the theme of "Rowdy Under The Big Top" the winners were announced on Tuesday Oct. 21.



Photos by Oaklee Fielder

The Dean of Facility, Graduate Studies, and career services won the homecoming door designs and decorated with a Rowdy standee and a ticket sale door cover.



Photos by Oaklee Fielder

The Chem club won the spirit sheet design for this year's homecoming. They had the periodic table spell out NWOSU and wrote "Lets get fired up" while having a ranger with finger guns firing off CO2.

The Sprit Board winner was the BCM. They painted Rowdy and an elephant together performing an act and the board read "Welcome to the greatest show on turf."



Photos by Oaklee Fielder