



# NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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## You may find ghosts at Alva museum

By **JAXYN CLOUD**  
Senior Reporter

This Halloween, many will dress up as ghosts and paranormal characters for fun, but what if there is a way to experience real paranormal activity, right in Alva?

The Alva General Hospital was built in 1932 and closed in 1972. The building went through a period of vacancy and is now the Cherokee Strip Museum, which is said to be haunted. During the period of vacancy, a few men lived there to watch over the place and ensure that people wouldn't vandalize the building. Although those men aren't up for commenting on their experience, the museum staff pass along their stories.

During the building's gap years between hospital and museum, a large number of hospital equipment was left in the building. This included surgical tools, operating tables and an iron lung, which is a large metal cylinder used to help patients breathe and treat polio. The men who lived in the building told museum staff stories of messing with the surgical equipment and riding the ramps that connect floors in the

museum. The men also warned museum staff that the ghosts don't like the rowdy, loud noises.

The men told a story of an evening they had a few women over at the museum. They were being loud and riding motorcycles down the ramps, when they heard a thud on a door. The group went to investigate, and found a hatchet stuck in the door at the height of a person's head. No one was in the museum, and there was never an explanation for the incident. The slice in the office door is visible to this day.

The museum workers also said that the men warned of the sounds they often heard in the museum with no explanation. This included heavy footsteps running across the floors and crying babies, specifically in the old maternity ward section of the building. They had a great time pushing each other down the ramps in the iron lung, but eventually these inexplicable events incentivized them to move out.

Ghost investigators travel from all over the United States to Alva to see the museum for themselves and they bring all types of tools to detect paranormal activity. Some have even had to leave mid-investigation because they were too scared to continue. The Cherokee



Photo by Jaxyn Cloud

Babydolls for display in the old maternity ward wing of the museum.

Strip Museum allows the building to be rented after hours so people can carry out their investigation without civilians around. Paranormal activity is also said to be more common at night. Elaine Graybill is the business manager at the Cherokee Strip Museum. Upon entering the museum, she will greet you and sometimes lead a tour. She has tagged along on multiple ghost investigations over the years she has worked.

There are two places in the Cherokee Strip Museum that have significant ghost activity.

Alva was home to a maxi-

mum-security prisoner of war (POW) camp during World War II that held up to 6,000 prisoners. The camp was located south of NWOSU's campus by what is now the airport. The top-ranking Nazi officers were sent to Alva at the end of the war.

The museum has a room that holds memorabilia from the POW camp, including furniture and art pieces made during the Nazi's captivity. One of the first ghosts to haunt the museum was a German soldier named Trapper. Trapper made himself known to a visitor of the museum, a girl named An-

astasia. It was around Halloween when Anastasia found a dowsing rod that was left by ghost investigators. A dowsing rod is a tool used to communicate with ghosts. The tool shifts to different locations on its own and can supposedly locate paranormal activity.

Graybill said she had played with the rods, trying to get them to work, but nothing happened. Anastasia then tried to communicate with the ghosts, and she said she visited with Trapper. Anastasia was from Russia and also spoke German. She said Trapper's real name was Felix, but he didn't like his name and preferred people call him Trapper, which was his occupation back in Germany. He trapped animals.

Anastasia told Graybill that Trapper went home with her to her apartment, saying he was moving her things around. Anastasia called the investigators who left the tool behind and a priest. Everyone came to her apartment, performed a cleansing and encouraged him to go back to the museum. No one has reported visiting with Trapper since then.

Another hotspot for alleged paranormal activity in the museum is the surgical room.

See **MUSEUM**, page 2

## Rangers win homecoming



Photo by Victor Kinzie

The Rangers brought home a win for the first time this season, beating Southern Nazarene University 33 - 22 Saturday on home turf as part of the Homecoming festivities. Despite the cold, rainy weather that held one most of the day, fans still turned out to support the Rangers.

See coverage of the game on Page 11.

Find Homecoming photos of the various activities on Pages 6-7.

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# NEWS

## Ghosts haunt halls of Cherokee Strip Museum

By JAXYN CLOUD  
Senior Reporter

Continued from Page 1

Graybill said one night during a ghost investigation, she was standing off to the corner watching, in front of a portrait of the doctor who worked at the hospital for many years, Dr. Alfred Burke Hinkle. He was her doctor while she delivered her daughter. All of a sudden, she felt someone grab her shoulders. "I felt it, and it was heavy," she said. "It wasn't just a brush of a shoulder."

Graybill said she doubted herself, thinking her mind was messing with her. She then felt a rush go through her, from her hips

down to her ankles. She said she didn't know what to do after that, and still wonders about it.

A group called the Paranormal Investigations of Oklahoma has visited the museum many times over the years and is actually planning a visit soon. One time during an investigation, the group was circled around the surgery table in the operating room. One of the members of the group had an expensive headset designed to pick up on paranormal communication. Something grabbed him, and he was so startled he threw the headset off his head, and it broke into pieces. Another member of the team had back problems and said he felt something touch his back in that room.

A little girl visited the museum

and saw the portrait of Dr. Hinkle on display. She pointed and said, "That's the man who was at our house, looking through the windows."

Museum staff later found out the little girl lived in what used to be Hinkle's house on his old farm. The house is no longer standing.

The museum often has things misplaced, like picture frames lying on the floor far away from where they were hung.

There have also been reports of people hearing a woman searching for her child near the old maternity ward.

Another member of museum staff saw a person sitting at the old church pew by the maternity ward, but when he went searching, he couldn't find anyone.



Photo by Jaxyn Cloud

Curator Beth Smith said she saw orbs climbing the walls when looking at footage on the security cameras located throughout the museum.

Beth Smith, the museum curator, recalled her experience while watching the museum security cameras. She said she saw a "school of orbs" climbing the walls of the museum during a ghost investigation. Orbs are clusters of energy that look like tadpoles. Smith said they were traveling from the lobby to the rest of the museum, "like they wanted in on the action of the investigation."

Many NWOSU students have their own experiences as guests at the museum. Nathan Vaughn, a freshman pre-nursing student, visited the museum last year. While his boyfriend was using the restroom in the museum, the lights flipped off, but it wasn't a glitch. "The actual light switch flipped off, like it was physically flipped down," he said.

Dr. Bo Hannaford, the NWOSU president, took this year's President's Leadership Class to the museum. "It was super

creepy, but I'm skeptical if it's actually haunted," said Abbey Elam, a member of the class.

Marshall Howard, a past NWOSU student, used to live in a rented house near Share Medical Center, which is also close to the old POW camp. Marshall said he started having dreams where he saw a figure in the hallway like a negative shadow with no edges.

"It wasn't fear," Marshall said. "It was complete terror."

While this reporter toured the museum with Graybill, Smith suggested looking at a certain display again to see if anything out of the ordinary appeared. It looked like a normal display and nothing stood out. After leaving the room, Smith show security footage where she saw orbs crawling the walls of the room the first time the two looked, but disappeared when they left.

Is the Cherokee Strip Museum really haunted? Only those who walk its halls after dark know.



Photo by Jaxyn Cloud

Paranormal investigators circled around this table in the operating room when two members felt something.

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# NEWS

## WHAT'S UP HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

### OCTOBER 30

**NORTHWESTERN RODEO**

FAIRGROUNDS SOUTH OF ARC

**SGA TRUNK OR TREAT**

5 - 6 P.M., SOUTHWEST CORNER LIBRARY PARKING LOT

**PSYCHOLOGY CLUB PUMPKIN PAINTING AND CARVING**

5 - 6 P.M.

**VOLLEYBALL VS ECU**

6 P.M., PERCEFULL FIELD HOUSE

**CASTLE PLAYERS ZOMBIE PROM**

8 P.M., STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM

### OCTOBER 31

**NORTHWESTERN RODEO**

FAIRGROUNDS SOUTH OF ARC

### NOVEMBER 1

**NORTHWESTERN RODEO**

FAIRGROUNDS SOUTH OF ARC

### NOVEMBER 2

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

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## NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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### Fall 2025 Staff

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Sarah Brashears  
Jessica Schieber

**Opinion Editor**  
Renee O'Connor

**Sports Editor**  
Oaklee Fielder

**Entertainment Editor**  
Kevin Kaumans

**Page Designer**  
John Stowers

**Photo Editor**  
Ingrid Maldonado

**Photographers**  
Media Photography Class

**Advertising Manager/  
Photographer**  
Victor Kinzie

**Circulation Manager**  
Hadley Weathers

**Online Manager**  
Elijah Martin

**Adviser**  
Dr. Kaylene Armstrong

News office: Jesse Dunn Annex 232  
Telephone: 327-8479; Fax: 327-8127  
E-mail: nwnews@nwosu.edu  
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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor shall bear the author's handwritten signature, hometown, classification, title, etc., address and phone number for verification and shall be kept on file. Unsigned letters to the editor will not be published.

Letters must be turned in by noon on Monday to the News office in JDA232. Letters via e-mail are acceptable as long as they follow the rules stated above and can be sent to nwnews@nwosu.edu. Please limit submissions to no more than 250 words. The editors reserve the right to condense or edit any letter for grammar, libel and space limitations. All letters submitted may not be used.

All letters represent the views of the author.

# OPINION

## EDITORIAL

# FIRE condemns censor at IU,UCO

Censoring student newspapers is making the headlines in Indiana AND now in Oklahoma.

On Oct. 16, the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression sent a letter to the president of Indiana University, criticizing the firing of the Indiana Daily Student newspaper adviser because he refused to censor the student newspaper, AND then ordering the newspaper to stop printing.

Fire wrote in the letter to IU: "As a public university bound by the First Amendment, IU may not retaliate against an editorially independent student publication for resisting the university's unconstitutional censorship efforts. There can be no question that administrative actions against

student media in response to what they publish violate any notion of free expression."

In response, the Indianapolis Star reported that alumni had pulled \$1 million in donations.

The University of Central Oklahoma received a similar letter on Monday after UCO banned the 122-year-old Vista student newspaper from printing.

The letter details problems the students faced since 2024 when the administrators "engaged in a campaign designed to suppress negative content in The Vista." At one point, the university stopped the newspaper from using private funds to print the paper, but then said the newspaper could use the funds but only for a promo-

tional magazine for prospective students and donors. To keep the newspaper from publishing, the university removed the newspaper racks around campus.

The newspaper also faced problems with its adviser, who encouraged the students not to report on the university's interference. When the students did report on it, the adviser and another administrator demoted, fired and refused to hire staff members who spoke out against the print ban, the letter said.

In a press release, FIRE said, "As a public university bound by the First Amendment, UCO simply may not meddle with the editorial choices of an independent newspaper."

FIRE Program Officer Dominic Colleti, who wrote the letter to UCO, condemned the actions.

"UCO's campaign against its student media represents a betrayal of its obligation to protect a free press," he said. "And it joins an ignoble list of universities willing to prioritize its prestige over press freedom."

The Northwestern News joins in condemning any administration action at any public university that impacts the freedom of the student press to do its job.

We are also appreciative of our administrators, who understand the role our newspaper plays at NWOSU and support us in accomplishing that every week. Thank you.

# Pageants offer both good, bad

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

Beauty pageants are known to be a world of sparkles, empowerment and motivation. They are also known to be a world of pain, restraint and misery. Just as good has bad and love has hate, beauty has ugly.

Beauty is more than what is on the surface—it has a darkness that's disguised in makeup. Like all issues, however, there is more than one side. There are many benefits that come from beauty pageants.

Regardless of the fact, behind the scenes lies the truth and pain that contestants are forced to experience, further demonstrating that this is not an experience everyone should undergo.

Young contestants can get huge benefits from their participation in beauty pageants, especially with their early start. However, the monetary costs of competing are a burden on both the contestant and family. But the opportunities opened by beauty pageants are undeniable.

Of course, winning the entire competition (and the prize money) are the most recognized rewards. However, successful careers in entertainment, modeling and even politics have been seen many winners and contestants. Some competitions even offer scholarships and grants as prizes.

Though these opportunities possibly await the contestants, pageants are still extremely costly. The entry fee alone can cost between \$20- \$750. Once the outfits, gowns, makeup, coaching, entry fees and travel fees are factored in, costs soar between \$800-\$4,500.

One woman said she spent \$4,000 for the dress, \$400 on entry fees, \$50 for a professional coaching session, and \$300-\$500 for costuming.

Researchers from Harvard found that the average family involved in pageants spent \$100-\$200 per pageant and entered an average of five per year.

This is money that could be devoted to the contestant's future. What if they want to go to college? Even worse, what if they don't win and the family loses thousands of dollars?

Perhaps they'll be pressured to stay in the "beauty pageant contestant life" where they won't have time to dedicate themselves to school or work. The cost of beauty pageants

can put children and their families in debt to the point where their futures could be less than what they deserve

Beauty pageants can surely teach young girls important life lessons, but even a single negative experience can lead to many mental disorders. These competitions encourage its contestants to have motivation- to have dreams and ambitions as well as be good at them.

Many positives can be seen in pageants. Contestants build their self-confidence and worth, discover and explore their skills and talents, overcome issues like stage fright, and learn to express themselves. Along with this, these girls learn maturity and responsibility through rules and schedules.

They also get the chance to experience healthy competition in which they can learn from their mistakes and improve. However, despite the chances that these girls experience the positive emotional impact, they risk dangerous consequences concerning their mental health.

Based on research from West Virginia University, beauty pageants create a "highly competitive atmosphere that could trigger comparisons, body disconformity, anxiety and other mental disorders." The issue arose after

Cheslie Kryst, Miss USA 2019, committed suicide in January 2022. Her mother confirmed that Kryst suffered from depression.

Many girls, specifically teens, were heartbroken because they looked up to Kryst. The pressure the former Miss USA faced, whether due to beauty pageants or appearances on TV, may have contributed to her mental health issues.

Pressure of winning, the pain of losing and every negative emotion in between can lead to bad experiences. Girls may constantly feel the need to be perfect and the stress linked with that.

They may develop depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and much more. Even worse is that these issues can carry on into adulthood. These are not issues anyone, let alone children, should be tormented with.

This is tragic; these young minds are the next leaders. If they are not mentally and emotionally well, they can lead to an adult generation filled with misery.

These women deserve a happy future, and if beauty pageants will change that for them, they shouldn't be a part of them.

## Pageant highlights

**1921:** First Miss America Margaret Gorman (Miss District of Columbia) crowned in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The pageant was basically a "Bathers' Revue," with the women wearing one-piece swimsuits. Judging was based on audience applause and a panel of judges who focused on physical appearance.

**1926:** Norma Smallwood, Tulsa, Oklahoma, wins.

**1935:** Talent competition introduced and made mandatory in 1938.

**By 1948:** Interview and evening gown become categories for judging.

**1950:** Yolande Betbeze, a coloratura soprano from Mobile, Alabama, won and refused to sign a contract that required her to tour in Catalina swimsuits. "I'm an opera singer, not a pin-up," she said.

**1952:** The Miss USA Pageant created by Catalina Swimwear in response to Betbeze's refusal.

**1954:** Miss America Pageant airs on national TV for the first time.

**1959:** First time every state represented at Miss America pageant.

**1967:** Jane Ann Jayroe, Laverne, Oklahoma, wins.

**1968:** First Miss Black America pageant.

**1970:** First Black contestant in Miss America.

**1981:** Suan Powell, Elk City, Oklahoma, wins.

**1984:** Vanessa Williams is first black woman to be named Miss America. Ten months later, Penthouse published nude photos of her taken as a teen, and she stepped down.

**1996:** Shawntel Smith, Muldrow, Oklahoma, wins.

**2001:** First Asian American crowned.

**2005:** Miss America Pageant leaves Atlantic City.

**2006:** Jennifer Berry, Tulsa, Oklahoma, wins the crown.

**2007:** Lauren Nelson, Lawton, Oklahoma, named Miss America.

**2018:** Swimsuit category dumped.

# NEWS

## Jessica Davis to pass down crown

By **PIPER GALLAGHER**  
Senior Reporter

Jessica Davis is gearing up for her goodbye to Miss Northwestern later this week.

This Sunday, Miss Northwestern 2026 will be crowned in the Herod Hall Feller's Family Auditorium. During her time representing the college as Miss Northwestern, Davis accomplished a lot throughout the year.

Davis is a sophomore nursing major from Woodward. Pageants were a relatively new experience for her when she initially competed for the title of Miss NWOSU. During her senior year, she won her local pageant Miss Woodward and went on to compete, and win, Miss Cinderella.

"Not many people get to say that they represent their school," Davis said, "So that's super-duper cool and that's something I'll always hold near and dear to my heart."

Her community service initiative, or CSI, is called Unplugged: Disconnect to Reconnect. Davis found that internet safety and screen time is an issue that faces all age ranges and communities. Screens are ingrained into everyday life.

Davis would travel to various schools and teach kids about the dangers of social media and how to protect themselves.

"It was basically just about balancing your online life with your real life and like having a healthy relationship with social media and technology and stuff like that," Davis said.

The CSI portion of the Miss America system, which Miss Northwestern feeds into via Miss



Photo provided

Jessica Davis, right, and other Miss Oklahoma contestants at the 2025 pageant with evening awards from the day. Davis won Rookie of the Year.

Oklahoma, is a crucial part of a contestant's competition. Every year, the winner of Miss Northwestern goes on to compete in Miss Oklahoma, which occurs in June.

According to Northwestern's website, Davis earned a number of titles at Miss Oklahoma including 3rd Runner-Up and awards for health and fitness and evening gown, which are portions of the Miss Oklahoma pageant. She also was named Rookie of the Year, and she won the Rookie interview and the Community Service Initiative

"On the Rise" award.

"It truly is a once in a lifetime opportunity," Davis said about her Miss Oklahoma experiences. Despite being one of the youngest contestants at the competition, Davis was able to make lifelong friends and have a great experience.

In the talent portion, Davis performs a dance solo. She's been involved in dance since she was three-years-old.

At Miss Oklahoma, she performed a "fiery jazz dance" that she will perform on Sunday during Miss Northwestern.

But of course, she couldn't do it without a great support system. Davis said that Paige Fischer, the director of the Miss Northwestern pageant, was her "biggest hype woman" during her entire experience.

"Jessica has been incredible," Fischer said, "She has truly set Northwestern history in what she was able to go and achieve at Miss Oklahoma."

Fischer aids Miss Northwestern in her preparation for Miss Oklahoma. It involves a lot of hardworking hours in order to get ready for on stage questions,

gown walks, and the overall competition hustle and bustle.

Davis's goodbye will take place at 4pm on Sunday.

Tickets at the door will be \$10, and they are also on sale at the business office for a discounted price if purchased ahead of time.

"I'm super excited for the next girl. It's very bittersweet because it's like so special to me, but I know it's going to be handed off to someone who is going to take just as much care of it as I did," Davis said.

### Alva teen wins Miss Cinderella



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Madeline Ryerson, Miss Alva, is crowned Friday night at the 73rd Miss Cinderella Pageant at NWOSU. She also won talent and interview.

Ryerson won the title of Miss Northwestern Teen last fall, and will pass that title down Nov. 2 at the Miss Northwestern pageant. The Cinderella pageant was part of the three-day NWOSU Homecoming celebration last week. Sixteen high school seniors competed in the pageant. Each participant received a scholarship to attend NWOSU. Ryerson won eight semesters of tuition and a one-year room waiver. For being the talent winner, she received an additional one-year room waiver. She received a book scholarship for winning the interview portion. First runner-up was Leah Taylor, Miss Shattuck; second runner-up Josie Littau, Miss Woodward; third runner-up MaKenzi Hamiul, Miss Taloga.

# Rangers get “Rowdy Under the Big Top”



Marshal Howard crowns Tra’von Johns as the new NWOSU homecoming king.



Jaxy Cloud, winner of Ranger Queen, poses with Tra’von Johns, winner of Ranger King, after they were each crowned the winners of their respective contests.



Abbey Elam poses for a picture with her helpers after winning freshman queen.



The Alva High School marching band marches downtown in the parade.



The football team rode on a Star Lumber truck in the parade, Saturday.



Madeline Ryerson, the winner of the Miss Cinderella pageant, rode in the parade.



A group of students playing a few matches of nine-square at Games and Glow on Tuesday.



Students tearing up a provided car during the homecoming Kick-off Bash that was held on Monday.



Bradley Churchill drives a 1913 international truck in the parade, Saturday.



NWOSU President Bo Hannaford rode with his wife Tara in the parade.



A group of students exploring a hay maze at Bratt’s Menagerie as a part of homecoming festivities.



Dr. Katie Blank cycles past, pointing to the crowd in the parade on Saturday.



A student attempts to ride the bull during the homecoming Kick-off Bash.

# FEATURE

## NBA basketball starts up again

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

The NBA season started on October 21 this marked the start of season number 80 for the league.

Last year the Oklahoma City Thunder won the Championship and their first game this season was the banner raise and the team received their rings.

The Thunder has played five games so far this season they have won all of their games so far.

The first two games of the season they went into double overtime.

The Oklahoma City Thunder played the Houston Rockets on October 21, this was a great start

in the eyes of many Thunder fans because Kevin Durant who many thought would lead the Thunder to a championship now plays on the Rockets.

The fans thought the fact that he had to watch the raising of the first championship banner in Thunder history as an opponent was a huge in your face moment.

The start of the game went slow for the Thunder.

Although they were the first to get points on the board the Rockets met every point right back in response and at the end of the first it was Rockets 30 and Thunder 27.

The second quarter wasn't much better than the first.

The Thunder picked it up at first but it was quickly met back

with a response.

At the end of the half in the first game the score was Rockets 57 and Thunder 51.

By the third the score was Rockets 79 and the Thunder had 75 points.

The fourth is when things started to change the Thunder stepped into action and with one final shot by Shai Gilgeous-Alexander he ties the game with the score being 104 and 104.

The first overtime ended with Alperen Sengun making a two-point putback dunk tying the game at 115.

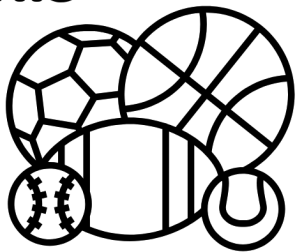
With 2.3 seconds left in the second overtime Shai gets fouled and makes both of his freethrows ending the game at Thunder 125 and the Rockets 124.



Chet Holmgren giving handshakes to fans at the Championship parade.

### Top 5 sports in the world

- 1.) Soccer
- 2.) Cricket
- 3.) Basketball
- 4.) Hockey
- 5.) Tennis



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### Let's be real

## Resetting before the New Year

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

As the days get shorter and the temperatures get lower, there is a new trend emerging among young adults seeking to make the most of the last months of 2025.

Enter the "Winter Arc" – a self-improvement movement encouraging individuals to make the most of the colder season through growth, discipline, and preparation for the year ahead.

The winter arc is a challenge that embraces the last months of the year, where participants focus on building healthy habits and routines before the new year begins.

In contrast from New Year's resolutions, which typically fade by February, the Winter Arc enforces consistency, discipline, and realistic goal setting in time where motivation can thrive.

The Winter Arc was inspired by a concept of a "character arc" in storytelling and allows individuals to view the season as a transformative period.

A time to reflect, reset and emerge stronger. This trend has grown through social platforms, such as TikTok, where users share their journeys and hold each other



accountable

Everyone's Winter Arc will be different, as it is customizable to fit individual goals. However, many include the same practices.

Daily movement, such as a morning walk, home workout or gym session, is a very common goal.

Many have established a routine of waking up at the same time each day to promote structure, began engaging in activities of mindfulness such as journaling

or meditation, focusing on nutrition, and even reducing screen time to achieve a digital detox.

Within the first few weeks, you will start seeing an improvement in your mood, energy levels, and overall well-being.

When you commit to daily habits, you get out of the season slump before it begins and set a positive tone going into the new year.

The Winter Arc trend focuses on shorter, time bound goals, which is effective in establishing lasting habits unlike open ended resolutions.

Starting your own Winter Arc does not require a complete overhaul of your current lifestyle.

Start simple, just identify two or three areas you want to improve and set achievable goals.

As you start, track progress, celebrate the small victories, and adjust where you need.

The Winter Arc is not for perfection; it's a challenge for progress.

As we get closer to the new year, I challenge you to use the Winter Arc as a tool for self-reflection and growth.

Let's get real, by the time January 1 arrives, you will not just be ready for the year ahead, you will be thriving in it already!

## Top 5 greatest music videos

- "Yonkers" by Tyler the Creator
- "Window Seat" by Eryka Badu
- "Wave Twisters" by DJ Q-Bert
- "You're All I Need To Get By" by Mary Blige
- "That's The Way Love Goes" by Janet Jackson

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Has horror lost all its charm?

By KEVIN KAUMANS  
Entertainment Editor

Since Halloween is coming up, I figured it would only be right to talk about our favorite part of October.

No, I'm not talking about the candy or the cheap decorations people keep outside their house.

I'm talking about the horror movies that come out around this month.

You know the type; monsters, slashers, demonic possessions, movies where it turns out there was no monster and the protagonist was just insane all along, those types of movies.

Here's the thing, though: Back

in the early days of movies, violence was like a heavily regulated drug in the sense that it was used as rarely as possible.

Even movies like the 1960 "Psycho", which was considered extremely gory for the time, barely had that much "blood" in it.

Despite this, it is a common theory that - when this movie was first shown in theaters - people were passing out from shock at how gruesome it was.

But in this modern day, it seems like every new horror movie coming out is trying to one-up its predecessors on how much blood and guts it can showcase. Take the "Terrifier" movies, for example.

The plots in the trilogy are

overshadowed by the ridiculous level of torture and severed body parts caused by the star attraction: Art the Clown.

To this day, I never understood the appeal of horror movies whose marketing is in how far they can push that sweet "R" rating.

I mean, I get that Art is a scary character, with his clown makeup making him look like some otherworldly creature.

But I wouldn't by any stretch of the imagination call him the scariest villain in fiction, not even close.

See, in my opinion, what makes someone scary isn't how aggressive they are or how much bloodshed they cause.

Instead, it is how they portray themselves.

If they are easy to anger, I will find them less intimidating and more like a child.

However, take Hannibal Lector, for instance. Sure, he has a lot of violent scenes and sometimes seems unable to control his urge to eat human flesh.

But at the same time, he's very suave and collected. This contrast in his personality versus his actions gives him an unsettling demeanor.

That calm and soft-spoken Dr. Lector is someone who I found way more terrifying than Art's tools of torture ever could be.

Now, at the end of the day, if you find Art to be the most

frightening character in fiction, fine. Everyone has a right to their opinion.

Still, my point stands: A lot of movies in the modern age feel like they focus more on the fear factor of their movies than creating an interesting antagonist.

I suppose I shouldn't be all that surprised. After all, horror movies are rarely held to the same standard as drama or crime movies.

But is it wrong that I do? After all, films are considered a form of art, are they not?

Why is society fine with certain forms being a lower quality than others? Shouldn't we expect the same, equal amount of art from all movies, no matter what genre they're in?

## Kevin's candy list

By KEVIN KAUMANS  
Entertainment Editor

What's the best candy in the world? Second only to abortion and the "Star Wars" prequels, this is probably the most controversial topic in the world.

Sure, there is a lot of good candy out there. But there is also candy that makes you wish it was a law that you had to get a license to make them.

Take candy corn, for example. Despite being the poster boy of Halloween candy, many would describe the taste of it as eating cold wax.

And let's not forget about those black jellybeans.

You know, the ones your parents seem to eat just fine but when you eat them it tastes like charcoal-flavored cardboard.

I don't understand how anyone can go to the store, pick out a bag of black licorice, and eat that inedible abomination like it's the best food gifted to us by God.

They don't pay any mind to the Hershey's or the Reese's, or the Jolly Ranchers or Kit Kats.

No, instead they think to themselves: "You know what? I think I'll pick the candy with the consistency of a steering wheel, that seems like a good choice."

If you were to ask me, I would say that the best candy depends on what you like.

If you have an unhealthy obsession with peanut butter, I would recommend a Reese's fast break.

If you like hard candy, Jolly Ranchers are the way to go.

If you like something sour, I would recommend Mike and Ike's.

### Short story

## 'A Monk's Dreamland'

By KEVIN KAUMANS  
Entertainment Editor

In the land between Na'gurta and the Lake of Gold, a monk lives by himself in a lair older than himself.

He wakes up before the water turns to a golden hue. There is a garden a mile long and ten quarters wide that he tends to.

From five-to-two, he pulls out weeds; from three-to-four, he waters all the Cedar plants, and from five-to eleven, he trims the vines of the Evon trees.

When asked his name, he will tell you that he has none. It is said that the garden is his womb-mother, though he will not confirm nor deny that.

He is thought to be older than most humans alive today, but his true age he will never

say.

For he has taken a vow of silence, and thus will forever remain unknown.

The nearby village from his land will deny knowing who he was before.

They will tell you that he has been tending to the garden before any of them were born.

In this village, the men and women respect the monk. Yet they also find him unnerving.

When the monk goes to bed at night, it is said that he dreams in an endless world.

In this world, no borders ---physical, scientific, or otherwise--- exist.

The skies are a gray brown, with lime-green stars and air that tastes like sweet-flavored candy. Within this world, he is blameless.

He has no friends, no enemies.

It is in this world that he is neither king nor peasant, just an observer.

He is like a child wondering through a midnight forest, having no idea where he'll end up.

It is in this form of imagination that the monk is at peace. He owns few, yet is the pre-decided master of this world.

Do not ask him about it, for he will tell you nothing.

## Why I envy spiders

By KEVIN KAUMANS  
Entertainment Editor

It is a well known fact that - out of all the citizens of the animal kingdom - spiders are one of the most feared among humans.

They are small, yet their eight legs and fangs make one think they are giants with how humans react to them.

They spin houses of webs, which they can do anywhere at

anytime.

When they are in a situation that annoys them, they can almost always just climb away on their invisible strings.

No one bothers a spider. No one tries to mess with one.

This is because -no matter how small one is, no one wants to get bitten.

Ah, but I'm not supposed to think like that, because we humans are supposedly more "civilized" than animals.

### Correction

A cutline under a photo in the Oct. 23 issue indicated erroneously that the picture was of the Business Office for having the winning decorations for Homecoming. However, the picture was of the Financial Aid office, which did not win.

### Expect Fentanyl & Test First

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# SPORTS

## Soccer finds more success

By **KEN IRVING**  
Senior Reporter

Northwestern Soccer is having one of the best seasons in school history. Starting the season undefeated at eight wins and zero losses, the Rangers then dropped two in a row. However, after beating Oklahoma Baptist University and East Central University, NWO-SU is back on track and is 10-2-2 headed into the final stretch of the season.

Led by first year head coach Carla Briscoe, NWOSU has been playing this season with a different mindset for each game.

“The girls described themselves as words like inspiring, unstoppable, energetic and family,” Briscoe said. “I said at our best we’re just solid at all aspects. We’re solid physically, mentally, our culture, how we talk to each other, how we treat each other is just all around solid.”

This is the best team that Northwestern has had in a long time. After back-to-back two-win



*Photo by NWOSU Athletics*  
**Lady Ranger, No. 4 Elie Dang, charges for the ball against SWOSU on Oct 15. Dang was announced as the GAC Defensive Player of the Week.**

seasons, Ranger soccer has immensely surpassed that. Senior forward Luana San Miguel and sophomore goalkeeper Taylor Annen have been an important

part of this year’s success. San Miguel is tied with her teammate Christi-Anne Mills for third in goals made and total points in the Great American

Conference. San Miguel has been the GAC player of the week twice this season.

“We have a completely different mindset this season,” San Miguel said. “We feel more confident this year and winning has played a big part of that. We are a team that never gives up and it shows not just during games but during practice. We work for each other and we are united together.”

In addition to San Miguel, Taylor Annen has been an unstoppable force in front of the goal. She leads the GAC in goals against per game, saves and shut-outs. She is in the top three for saves per game. She has won the GAC goalie of the week twice.

“This season has been going really good,” Annen said. “We’ve won a lot of games and we’re really excited. My defense does an incredible job limiting the amount of shots that I take. They do a great job communicating and stopping shots from happening. All credit goes to my defense honestly.”

Although Northwestern’s sea-

son is a success so far, they have their eyes on one goal: the conference championship. Each year the top four teams get to play in the conference tournament. Northwestern is third and on the cusp of getting in the tournament.

The Conference Tournament talks have come to a halt so far for the Rangers. Right now, the Rangers are solely focused on the next game.

“One thing we need to do is take it one game at a time,” Briscoe said. “There isn’t a lot left but how are conference is, a lot can happen. It can be anyone’s game. The biggest thing is being present and taking one game at a time. Our focus is this game and once we get past that then the next.”

Northwestern will travel to Arkansas to play Ouachita and Harding this week before ending their season against Southwestern and Southern Nazarene. The Rangers will need a strong finish if they want to reach their goals of winning the Conference Tournament.

## Soccer Playmakers

	Goals	Shots	Shots on goal	Saves	Fouls
NWOSU	1	16	7	5	3
ECU	0	7	5	6	7

The Lady Rangers got the goal on the East Central Tigers incredibly quickly in the second half.

In the 45th minute, Christi-Anne Mills scored. Reese Welch had the assist. Taylor Annen had five saves

in this second meeting with East Central. This was her eighth shut out in the 2025 season and she leads the GAC in saves with 61.



**Elie Dang**  
Defensive Player of the Week



**Christi-Anne Mills**  
4 Shots, 2 Shots on Goal  
1 Goal



**Jordan Fawcett**  
3 Shots  
1 Shot on Goal



**Katy Jo Werner**  
2 Shots  
2 Shots on goal



**Taylor Annen**  
5 Saves  
0.000 Goals Against Allowed

## Golf fall season ends in Arkansas

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

The final golf tournament for the fall semester wrapped up with an 11th-place finish for the women and a 14th-place finish for the men.

The Tulsa Cup started on Monday and finished on Tuesday. The women finished with a total score of +97. The men had a score of +27.

Tess Linden was the highest-placing Lady Ranger. Linden had a score of +13, putting her in 20th. Gracie Duke finished in 35th with a score of +17.

Amanda Lane finished 66th with a score of +32. Heather Hunkele was just one spot behind in 67th with a score of +35. Ava Borne finished 97th with a score of -62.

For the men, Mathieu Zerwin was the top Ranger. Zerwin had a 38th-place finish with a score

of +5. Zac Farmer finished 53rd with a score of +7.

Max Courage was 57th with a score of +8. Pierce Geminden finished in 77th with a score of +13. Chris Xiao finished 84th with a score of +15.

This marks the end of the fall semester for the golf teams. They will not have any more tournaments until next semester in the spring.

Expect to see improvements over the long break.

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# SPORTS

## Football wins for Homecoming

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

The Ranger football team won its first game of 2025 in the Homecoming game against Southern Nazarene University on Saturday.

The win against the Crimson Storm boosts the Rangers' record to 1-6 and takes them out of the bottom of the conference standings, and now they are tied with the very team they defeated this weekend.

SNU won the coin toss and decided to receive in the first half. Kale Purvis gave the kickoff, and the game started. The Crimson Storm's first drive amounted to nothing and ended with a punt. Northwestern's first drive started deep in their own end, the 2-yard line to be exact.

The Rangers were able to charge down the field and get to the 43-yard line, but unfortunately, they were forced to punt.

In NWOSU's next drive, the Rangers fumbled the ball and handed it to Southern Nazarene. SNU took the opportunity of being in Ranger territory and scored

a touchdown. Northwestern responded immediately and scored a touchdown on their next drive with a 17-yard rush from Kaedric Cobbs. The quarter ended 7-7 in SNU's possession.

SNU scored two minutes into the half and made it 14-7. NWOSU responded immediately again and made it 14-14 with another rush from Cobbs, but this time only 4 yards. The Rangers stopped the next Crimson Storm drive in just four plays.

Northwestern took that momentum and put it in their offense and scored another touchdown to make it 14-21. It was scored by Cobbs once again, and it was a 5-yard play. The half ended with the Rangers in the lead 14-21.

The second half started with failed drives from both teams. The Rangers scored on their second drive of the half with a 36-yard field goal from Purvis. Northwestern continued its momentum and scored again with a pass from Caleb Deal to Royal Kyle for 10 yards. Southern Nazarene scored on its next drive and made it a 22-30 game.

The fourth quarter started in Northwestern's possession. They



Photo by Kate McClure

NWOSU Ranger defense stops a charging Southern Nazarene offensive play on Saturday for Homecoming.

scored in five minutes with a 22-yard field goal from Purvis. The two teams battled through the final quarter of the game, but no more points were scored, and Northwestern won their first game of the year, 22-33 at home.

Cobbs ran for 115 yards and scored three touchdowns. Caleb Deal passed for 245 yards and threw one touchdown pass. Meric Judd led the Rangers in receiving yards with 72. Kyle received for 58 yards and one touchdown.

Rayshun Callahan had six tackles, three solo and three assisted. Aiden Lewis had one solo tackle and three assisted tackles.

The next game for Northwestern is against Ouachita Baptist University on Saturday.

## Cross country ends season

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

Cross country competed in the GAC Championships, where the women finished seventh out of twelve and the men finished sixth out of eight.

The GAC Cross Country Championships took place on Saturday at the University of Arkansas at Monticello in Monticello, Arkansas.

The women finished with a total score of 216, five points ahead of Southern Arkansas in eighth. Ivy Washington finished with a time of 18:59, putting her in 34th. Celestine Kilborus finished 48th with a time of 19:18. Cadence Long-Torres was 52nd with a time of 19:26. Ava Washington

had a time of 19:38, putting her in 59th. Jessica Myers was 66th with a time of 19:42. Seriah Vess finished 107th with a time of 20:46. Harley Woody had a time of 20:29, placing her in 114th.

The men finished with a total of 162 points. Just behind NWOSU, SNU finished much further behind with 233 points. Riley Herndon led the Rangers across the finish line as he finished 26th with a time of 23:59. Kabelo Maja was not far behind in 30th with a time of 25:38. Alan Lares finished 48th with a time of 26:22. Coy Bullard had a finishing time of 26:31, putting him in 52nd. Andrew Scott was 55th with a time of 26:36. Jordan Pierce was 56th with a time of 26:40. Edward Robledo-Gonzalez was 57th with a finishing time of 26:42.

## Volleyball wins back-to-back

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

The Lady Ranger volleyball team went 2-1 this last week, losing to Southern Arkansas 3-0 and defeating Arkansas at Monticello 3-1 and McPherson College 3-0.

The wins against Arkansas at Monticello and McPherson are the first back-to-back wins of the year for the Lady Rangers.

The first set against Southern Arkansas was incredibly close. It ended 24-26, as teams must win by two. The second set was not as close. Southern Arkansas won 10-25, a large deficit.

The Lady Rangers gave it another charge in the third set, tying it at 24. Southern Arkansas scored two straight and won the set 24-26, and the match 0-3.

After seven straight losses, the Lady Rangers traveled to Monticello to play against the Cotton Blossoms.



Photo by Kate McClure

NWOSU and McPherson players meet at the net to exchange highfives.

The two teams battled hard in the first set, but the Lady Rangers found a rhythm and scored five straight points to take a large lead. The Lady Rangers kept the momentum rolling and won the first set 25-17.

To start the second set, Northwestern scored eight points versus Monticello's one. With that lead, the Lady Rangers very well sealed their victory; they just had to keep pushing on. The Lady Rangers won the second set 25-15.

The Lady Rangers fumbled the third set, as they let the Cotton Blossoms get the upper hand early. NWOSU scored the first point of the set, and Monticello responded with 10 straight points. Monticello didn't look back, although they did let Northwestern catch up a bit, and they won the

third set 25-15.

The fourth set was an incredibly tough fight between the two teams. They battled hard, not letting the other get just two points away from them. Inevitably, one team would find a winning point in the game.

Northwestern scored four straight to be four points up on the Cotton Blossoms late in the game, 22-18. Monticello fought back, but there was not enough time for a comeback.

The boost in confidence was seen against McPherson. The Lady Rangers outscored McPherson 15-25 in the first set, giving them a large lead in momentum.

The second set was closer, but the Lady Rangers pulled through and won the second set 20-25.

The third set ended 21-25, but the Lady Rangers were able to win the final set, and shut out McPherson College.

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# MISS NORTHWESTERN

## Miss Northwestern Contestants



**Jadyn Chancey**

Jadyn Chancey is a junior from Mooreland majoring in psychology. Her talent is an American Sign Language presentation of "You are my sunshine." Jadyn's CSI is honoring and caring for our veterans, and her star is Kaia Kann.



**Kaylyn Aldrich**

Kaylyn Aldrich is a junior from Okeene majoring in early childhood education. Her talent is HERStory. Kaylyn's CSI is advocating help with Northwest Family Services, and her star is Sawyer Lawrence.



**Addison Tucker**

Addison Tucker is a freshman from Piedmont majoring in nursing. Her talent is a monologue, "Impossible to Be a Woman." Addison's CSI is National Fragile X Foundation, and her star is Seraphine "Sera" Hall.



**Abbey Elam**

Abbey Elam is a freshman from Shattuck majoring in media and communications. Her talent is a vocal performance, "She Used to Be Mine." Abbey's CSI is small victories, and her star is Hadleigh Dugger.



**Jamie Torres Franco**

Jamie Torres Franco is a junior from Hennessey majoring in criminal justice. Her talent is HERStory - "He Did It." Jamie's CSI is Be the First to Lead the Way, and her star is Harper Higgins.



**Jessica Goucher**

Jessica Goucher is a sophomore from Waynoka majoring in biology. Her talent is a vocal performance, "Hello." Jessica's CSI is accessible healthcare from the United States to Third World Countries, and her star is Ellie Vermillion.

## Miss Northwestern Teen Contestants



**Olivia Church**

Olivia Church is from Weatherford. Her talent is Baton Twirling, "Run-away Baby." Olivia's CSI is Still Brave: Whispers of Hope.



**Tanith Erikson**

Tanith Erikson is from Weatherford. Her talent is HERStory, "Pink." Tanith's CSI is Our Military Kids (OMK).



**Lauren Thomason**

Lauren Thomason is from Burlington. Her talent is a vocal performance, "My Man." Lauren's CSI is Confidence for Kids.



**Jayce Schultz**

Jayce Schultz is from Okeene. Her talent is HERStory, "Before the Sun Rises." Jayce's CSI is Beef Up Your Knowledge.