

Ranger football wins

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Ranger preview

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# NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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Alva, OK 73717

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Volume No. 87, Issue 11

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Oklahoma

November 13, 2025

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## Undocumented Students Lose Tuition Breaks

By **PIPER GALLAGHER**  
Senior Reporter

Instead of being greeted with open arms back to their campuses this fall, many students found their education being ripped out from under their feet.

Being faced with the choice to pay up or drop out has left students scrambling to find ways to stay in school after a federal judge struck down an Oklahoma law that allowed undocumented students to attend colleges and universities at in-state tuition rates.

According to [usafacts.org](http://usafacts.org), in 2024 Oklahoma was home to about 272,000 immigrants, both documented and undocumented. But now, regardless of their home address, undocumented students are now forced to pay out of state tuition prices.

This comes after states across the country are implementing similar policies due to President Donald Trump's crackdown on immigration.

The Justice Department began suing states who allowed undocumented students to have out-of-state tuition waivers, or in other words, going to school at in-state-tuition prices.

The Justice Department began with suing Texas in June, and then followed with other states such as Kentucky, Minnesota, Florida and of course, Oklahoma.

At least 21 states have laws that offer tuition waivers for undocumented students, and one by one the Justice Department is striking down those laws on the basis of them being unconstitutional.

President Trump issued an executive order back in April of this year saying that states will face "sanction" if

they allow undocumented student tuition waivers.

According to the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, Oklahoma has long ignored a federal law that says, "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an alien who is not lawfully present in the United States shall not be eligible on the basis of residence within a State (or a political subdivision) for any postsecondary education benefit unless a citizen or national of the United States is eligible for such a benefit (in no less an amount, duration, and scope) without regard to whether the citizen or national is such a resident."

These tuition waivers would be applied to students under various circumstances, like if they had graduated from Oklahoma high schools, or if they resided in Oklahoma for a certain number of years, regardless of document status.

This decision affects students whether they are going into their first year of school, or their last. It also affects both undergraduate and graduate students.

The deadline for students to pay up or drop out was Oct. 7. KOCO 5 News estimates that around 400 students across the state of Oklahoma are being affected on various campuses.

The Higher Ed Immigration Portal estimates that 1.3% of Oklahoma students are undocumented.

The Associated Press estimates more than 510,000 students without legal status are enrolled in universities across the country.

We reached out to Calleb Mosburg, the vice president for student services and enrollment management for information about how many students this has affected on our campus and what resources we have to offer, but we did not hear back.

At Northwestern, the tuition rate for in-state students

is \$7,072.50. For an out-of-state student, it is \$8,422.50. That's over a thousand dollars in price difference per year.

At universities like University of Oklahoma or private institutions, the price hike can be much steeper.

Some students are looking to take legal action against the policy. KOCO 5 News says that the group Oklahoma Students for Affordable Tuition (OSAT) is representing students and defending Oklahoma's state laws.

A judge will decide whether or not OSAT has permission to intervene or not, something the organization is concerned about.

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund are also trying to take legal action on behalf of students.

They argue that since the state of Oklahoma will not intervene or push back, they should be allowed to.

Resources to help students being faced with tuition hikes are scarce, but there are some organizations that are trying to help. LULAC, the League of United Latin American Citizens is an organization based out of Oklahoma City that is asking for community assistance for students that have reached out to them.

After the October deadline passed, many students either had to take out large loans to pay for schooling, or drop out altogether.

Some high school teachers worry how this will affect younger students looking to go to college.

Will the price increase prevent some students from pursuing higher education? Will they stop paying attention in their classes? Will high school dropout rates increase?

All of these are valid questions being asked by many school educators.

See **STUDENTS**, page 2

### Rangers defeat University of Arkansas at Monticello



Photo by Victor Kinzie

No. 22 Marcus Sims, TE, lifts No. 0 Justin Jones, RB, after a touchdown against the University of Arkansas at Monticello Boll Weevils. The Rangers defeated the Boll Weevils 7-40 in a dominant win for Northwestern. The win came as a slight surprise as Arkansas at Monticello defeated the number two team in the Great American Conference standings, Arkansas Tech University. With the win, Northwestern's record is boosted to 2-8.

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# NEWS

## Shutdown causes SNAP benefits to halt

By JAXYN CLOUD  
Senior Reporter

The government shutdown has caused vital programs to come to a halt this November, and college students are struggling because of it.

A government shutdown happens when Congress doesn't pass bills regarding funding to keep federal agencies operating. This means nonessential services temporarily close while the government tries to resolve the issue. During a government shutdown, many employees are put on temporary unpaid leave. This causes heightened financial stress for many families across the United States.

One of the programs effected by the government shutdown is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's website, SNAP is a program designed to improve the quality of groceries for low-income Americans. It is designed to



A line of cars for pickup outside of the Alva Wesleyan church food bank Nov 6 to receive donated food items.

Photo by Jaxyn Cloud

be an aid to groceries, not outright replace groceries.

The College SNAP Project website says that over 60,000 college students in Oklahoma meet the criteria to be eligible for SNAP benefits. This includes income, work and participation re-

quirements. Without this program for college students, many are worried for the future and anticipating the end of this government shutdown.

The Alva Wesleyan Church operates a food bank twice a month. The first pick-up day after

the SNAP benefits were cancelled was Nov 6. Amelia Bushman, the Food Bank Director, said they were prepared to give people twice the portion they usually do in order to balance the loss of SNAP benefits. They saw an increase in the amount of food tak-

en as well as how many families were being served.

There is also an on-campus option for those seeking assistance. The Campus Cabinet is located in Shockley Hall room 109. This is a food bank for students to access on Wednesdays or by setting up an appointment with Angelina Case.

Local food pantries are seeing an increase of need and adjusting accordingly, but so are groups of students on campus. Ella Bowers, a psychology major, had an idea to help community members through this trying time.

Bowers is a peer leader at NWOSU, and she had the idea to hold a food drive for her Ranger Connection class. Every Ranger Connection class has to participate in a service project, and Bowers decided on gathering food items to donate to the Campus Cabinet.

"We know that there's a need right now," said Bowers. "With the government shutdown and food stamp shortage, we just wanted to help out however we could."

## Students face tuition hikes

Continued from Page 1

This law change also may affect some scholarships. Many universities offer scholarships to students from a certain area, and these could be taken away for undocumented students too.

It is unclear how many students have chosen to drop out due to the price increase.

The law change not only affects students who have no proof of legal status, but also students who are in the process of receiving said legal status.

Non-full-time students, like students who are participating in dual enrollment to earn college credits during high school, something many students do to get ahead in

their studies and do it at a cheaper rate are also experiencing price changes.

All of this paints an even bigger picture, however. Getting a higher education is expensive.

The College Board's Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid report came out on Nov 6, and it stated that from 2024 to 2025 tuition and fees at 4-year public universities increased by 2.9%.

The report also stated that the number of Hispanic high school graduates has also increased. Hispanic students are largely the group most affected by this law change.

When adjusted for inflation, the cost of Oklahoma universities has risen by 33% from 2008 to 2024 according to

the OCPA. Unfortunately, Oklahoma's per capita income has only grown by 5% when adjusted to inflation.

With rising costs and tuition waivers being taken away, what options are left for students being affected? LULAC has been hosting fundraisers and is encouraging students to look for scholarship opportunities not tied to residential status.

Many small communities are trying to help local students being affected by ways of GoFundMe accounts and other scholarship funds.

Immigration and organization lawyers are still trying to take legal action against these law changes as well.



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# NEWS

## NWOSU observes World Kindness Day

By **JESSICA SCHIEBER**  
Features Editor

World Kindness Day is observed on Nov. 13 however local organizations have decided to observe it on Nov.14.

The United Way of Northwest Oklahoma has been observing this day full of random kindness acts since 2015. The Northwestern campuses and the city of Alva have been celebrating this day since 2020. This would mark the fifth annual Day of Kindness on NWOSU campuses.

This day was introduced in 1998 and is celebrated all around the world. Countries like Austria, Canada, Italy, Japan and India

all celebrate this holiday alongside others all around America.

Last year nearly 40 groups with a variety of projects signed up for the Day of Kindness events.


Not all activities on world Kindness Day need to be dramatic action to get some attention. You could do something as simple as calling someone you care for and reminding them that you love them. You could write an encouraging word to your friends via text or even just handing them a handwritten letter.

These actions may not seem like a lot to you, but to those who you care for they can make a world of a difference. This day is all about caring for others and making them feel seen.

### Northwestern leadership forum



The Northwestern Foundation and Alumni Association hosted a leadership forum Nov 6. The panel consisted of four NWOSU graduates who hold high leadership and management positions: Jana Walker, CPA; Roland Pederson, OK Senator; Adam Jordan, Beadles New Beginnings and Beadles Rest Home administrator; and Connie Sturgeon-Hart, owner of Enid Chick-fil-a. One thing each of these leaders repeated to the audience was to have a good work ethic, keep your media clean, and be personable always.

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November 15



**14.** Day of Kindness 8 AM- 5 PM  
• Logan Ryan at Nite Lite 8-11:30 PM



**15**  
• NWOSU vs SWOSU Ranger field 3 PM  
• Jared Hard at Alva Beer Co. 6-8 PM

**18.** Chi Alpha Night Ranger Room 6-9 PM



“Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree.”

-Emily Brontë

## NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Official Newspaper  
Northwestern Oklahoma State  
University

709 Oklahoma Blvd.  
Alva, OK 73717

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

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The News is printed by  
the Alva Review-Courier

The opinions and comments contained  
in the Northwestern News are those of the  
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western Oklahoma State University, is  
issued by the University as authorized by the  
Regional University System of Oklahoma.  
Four hundred copies have been prepared and  
distributed at a cost to the taxpayers of the  
State of Oklahoma of \$368.00.

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# OPINION

## Ways to change your life

### Signs you lack self-discipline

**Editor's note:** The opinion editor has been ill (feel better, Renee!), so we decided to let Chatgpt do the work and come up with 10 ideas about several things that may just improve your life.

Surprisingly, the AI program provided good ideas in many areas.

Enjoy!



## Make that apology really count

### 1. Acknowledge what you did wrong

Be specific about the action or words that hurt someone. Example: "I'm sorry for raising my voice during our argument."

### 2. Take full responsibility

Avoid excuses or blaming others. Example: "I was wrong, and I take full responsibility."

### 3. Express genuine regret

Show that you truly feel sorry for the impact of your actions. Example: "I feel terrible that I hurt your feelings."

### 4. Avoid conditional apologies

Don't say "I'm sorry if you felt hurt." It sounds like you're shifting blame. Instead: "I'm sorry I hurt you."

### 5. Show empathy

Let the other person know you understand how they feel. Example: "I understand why you're upset, and I'm sorry for causing that."

### 6. Make amends

Offer a way to fix the mistake or prevent it from happening again. Example: "I'll make sure to double-check my work next time."

### 7. Keep it short and sincere

Avoid long-winded explanations that can dilute your apology. Focus on clarity and sincerity.

### 8. Timing matters

Apologize as soon as possible, but make sure the other person is ready to hear it.

### 9. Use appropriate tone and body language

Maintain eye contact, a calm voice, and open posture. Your delivery should match the sincerity of your words.

### 10. Learn from the mistake

Apologizing isn't just about words—commit to improving your behavior. Example: "I've learned from this and will handle things differently next time."

— Chatgpt

### 1. Constantly procrastinating

You always delay important tasks, even when you know it will cause stress or consequences later.

### 2. Struggling to stick to routines

You start new habits or schedules but quickly abandon them after a few days or weeks.

### 3. Making excuses often

Instead of taking responsibility, you justify why you didn't follow through — "I was too tired," "I forgot," or "It wasn't the right time."

### 4. Giving in to temptations easily

Whether it's junk food, social media, or impulse spending, you often choose short-term pleasure over long-term goals.

### 5. Poor time management

You waste time on unimportant things, then rush through meaningful tasks or miss deadlines.

### 6. Lack of follow-through

You start projects or goals with enthusiasm but rarely finish them.

### 7. Difficulty saving money

You spend impulsively or can't resist buying things you don't need, even when you have financial goals.

### 8. Addicted to distractions

You can't focus without checking your phone, scrolling social media, or multitasking constantly.

### 9. Emotional reactivity

Instead of staying calm or thoughtful, you react impulsively with anger, frustration, or discouragement.

### 10. Inconsistent commitment to goals

You frequently set new goals but abandon them when results aren't immediate or challenges appear.

— Chatgpt

## Reach for healthy snacks

### 1. Almonds

**Why it's good:** Packed with healthy fats, protein, and fiber, almonds help you feel full longer and support heart health. They also contain vitamin E, which is great for skin and brain function.

### 2. Apple slices with peanut butter

**Why it's good:** Apples give you fiber and natural sweetness, while peanut butter adds protein and healthy fats — together they keep blood sugar steady and prevent cravings.

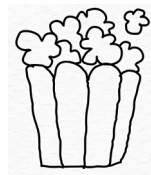


### 3. Carrot/cucumber sticks with hummus

**Why it's good:** Crunchy veggies are low in calories and high in vitamins, and hummus adds plant-based protein and healthy fats from chickpeas and olive oil.

### 4. Greek yogurt with berries

**Why it's good:** Greek yogurt is rich in protein and calcium; berries add antioxidants and natural sweetness without added sugar.



### 5. Air-popped popcorn

**Why it's good:** It's a whole grain snack high in fiber and low in calories (as long as you skip the butter!). Great for satisfying a salty craving in a healthy way.

### 6. Hard-boiled eggs

**Why it's good:** Eggs are one of the best sources of complete protein, plus they contain choline, which supports brain health and energy levels.

### 7. Banana with almond butter

**Why it's good:** The combo of natural carbs from the banana and healthy fats from almond butter provides quick energy and steady focus.



### 8. Whole-grain crackers with cheese

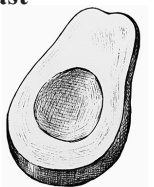
**Why it's good:** Offers a balanced mix of complex carbs, protein, and calcium — perfect for a mid-afternoon energy boost.

### 9. Trail mix (nuts, seeds and dried fruit)

**Why it's good:** Delivers a combo of healthy fats, protein, and natural sugars for quick, sustained energy. Just watch portion size — it's calorie-dense!

### 10. Avocado on whole-grain toast

**Why it's good:** Avocados are rich in heart-healthy monounsaturated fats and fiber, while whole grains provide complex carbs and steady energy.



— Chatgpt, Illustrations:Freepix

## 10 habits to improve mental health

### 1. Meditation or mindfulness

Even 5–10 minutes daily reduces stress, increases focus and improves emotional regulation. Apps like Calm or Insight Timer make it easy.

### 2. Journaling or gratitude writing

Writing for a few minutes each day helps organize thoughts, track goals and boost positivity. Can also reduce anxiety and improve self-awareness.

### 3. Short workouts / HIIT

Quick 10–20 minute workouts release endorphins, improve energy and enhance studying focus.

### 4. Speed Reading or daily article reading

Builds knowledge quickly, stimulates the brain and helps with exam prep. Even reading 5–10 minutes daily can improve comprehension.

### 5. Creative outlets (drawing, doodling, music)

Reduces stress, increases problem-solving ability and provides a mental break from schoolwork.

### 6. Healthy cooking or meal prep

Preparing meals helps you eat better, saves money and improves focus and energy for classes.

### 7. Time-blocking or planner use

Turning scheduling into a hobby helps improve productivity

and reduces procrastination. Fun to experiment with color-coding, stickers and planning techniques.

### 8. Podcasts or educational audiobooks

Boosts knowledge, encourages new ideas and improves concentration during downtime.

### 9. Plant care or gardening

Caring for a plant reduces stress, promotes mindfulness and improves your living environment.

### 10. Brain games or puzzles

Crossword puzzles, Sudoku, or logic games strengthen focus, memory and problem-solving skills. Can do between classes.

— Chatgpt

# NEWS



Members of the Alva community on Sunday lined the sidewalk on Flynn and Fourth across from the Alva police station to protest the shooting death of Jalin Willyard on Nov. 3.

## Protesters seek justice in police shooting

Community members gathered downtown Sunday afternoon in a protest seeking justice for a 26-year-old Alva man who police shot and killed after he pointed a pistol at officers.

The man, Jalin Scott Willyard, died Nov. 3 at his home near North Second Street and Mill Street in Alva.

Officer body cam footage released a few days later show officers entering Willyard's home and then firing when Willyard raised a gun and pointed it at

them.

Both Woods County deputies and Alva police officers went to Willyard's home after his mother called 9-1-1 and requested a welfare check late Nov. 2.

Officers attempted to speak with Willyard when he opened the door, but Willyard walked away from the door, so officers followed him into the home.

Seconds later, Willyard appeared to be sitting on the couch when he raised the gun and pointed it at the officers, re-

sulting in the shooting. He was dead at the scene.

In a statement, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation said the investigation continues, but no charges have been filed against the responding officers.

Several people on Facebook noted that Willyard's posts on his own page indicated he was struggling mentally at the time.

Signs at the protest called for #Justice4Jalin. One sign read "Men's Mental

Health Matters" and "I just need help, don't shoot!"

Willyard worked as a mechanic in Alva and as a volunteer fireman with the Greenleaf Fire Department. He and his widow, Kyra Profit, have two children: a 1 1/2-year-old daughter and a 1-month-old son.

Services are scheduled at 2 p.m. Saturday at Alva High School with burial in the Alva City Cemetery.

## Don't believe all Chatgpt says

# Quotes can inspire, no matter who said it

Ask Chatgpt for some inspirational quotes, and it will provide you with plenty, even citing the author and offering tips on how to use the quote in your own life.

A recent search through this artificial intelligence chatbot turned up 30 inspiring quotes, but some cannot be traced to the author Chatgpt says they belong to.

As always, verify whatever AI finds for you. Remember, it searches the internet for stuff and reports even the wrong stuff out there.

Still, the inspirational quotes are thought provoking, no matter who said them. And the tip Chatgpt provided can help you make it a quote to live by.

—Quotes by Chapgpt

"The best way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing."

—Walt Disney

(Disney.com says he said it.)

*Tip: Write down one small action you can take today toward your goal — then do it before the day ends.*

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."

— Winston Churchill

(Widely attributed to Churchill but the International Churchill Society claims he never said it.)

*Tip: When you fail, write down one lesson learned before moving on. It helps turn setbacks into growth.*

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life."

— Steve Jobs

(Really said it at 2005 Stanford University commencement.)

*Tip: Reflect weekly on whether your actions align with your own goals or someone else's expectations.*

"Little by little, one travels far."

— J.R.R. Tolkien

(Tolkien did NOT say this)

*Tip: Track small wins — progress compounds when you recognize it.*

"You are one decision away from a completely different life."

— Mel Robbins, author, lawyer, podcast host  
(She says this on her podcast a lot.)

*Tip: Make one intentional choice today that moves you toward your goal.*

# Fall begins to settle in across Alva



Photo by Braxtyn Turner

Jim Pfeiffer's CPA office decorated for fall with pumpkins, square bales, a stool and other rustic decorations.



Photo by Emma Gott

711 Ninth Street has decorated for fall with flowers, pumpkins and rustic decorations.



Photo by Allison Ruwaldt

This local Red maple tree displays vibrant colors of red, orange and hints of yellow in front of this Alva home.



Photo by Emma Gott

The trees throughout the town of Alva have begun to change color as winter starts to near in the next few months.



Photo by Ece Ozdemir

An Oak tree's leaves start to turn orange in front of NWOSU Ryerson Hall, welcoming guests to a warm and beautiful campus.



Photo by Braxtyn Turner

Fall begins to take its effect at Northwestern Oklahoma State University as all of the trees begin to lose their leaves.



Photo by Emma Gott

The tree in front of 329 Church Street has begun its winter preparations as its leaves change from green to yellow and drop.



Photo by Braxtyn Turner

Autumn takes full effect on campus as the leaves begin to fall, coating the ground with color.



Photo by Allison Ruwaldt

The fall season takes hold in the Alva park as the trees surrounding the park start to turn yellow and fall off.

# FEATURE

## Collecting cards regardless of cost

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

Since becoming a fan of hockey, I have gotten into a certain hobby, card collecting.

Card collecting is something I have done in the past but not in a sports way.

I used to collect Pokémon cards, but over the past two years I have really been interested in hockey cards specifically.

Now I started collecting cards because I wanted to get a certain player on a card, at the time he was my favorite player.

Since I've gotten to know my team more my favorite player has changed.

The player whose card I had been chasing was none other than Jack Hughes.

Jack Hughes is a very well-known player in the hockey community so the fact that his card took me around two years to find wasn't surprising.

Once I got one it seemed like I got three more after.

What has surprised me is how long it took me to get a Timo Meier card.

Meier is my current favorite player, and it took me up until Nov. 7 to get one of his cards with him in a New Jersey Devils jersey.

sey.

I have had other Meier cards, but they were of him in his San Jose Sharks jersey.

I also got my first patch card on Nov. 7. This was a Seamus Casey card, who was a rookie for the Devils last season.

Now I have talked a lot about my New Jersey Devil cards, but I collect cards from all the teams.

One of my favorite cards is an UD Canvas card from UPPER DECK. It's a Canada juniors' program of excellence Brandt Clarke card.

I also enjoy getting the checklist because they have two different players on them.

Another card I have that I enjoy is my Sidney Crosby card that is shaped like a slice of cheese, on the card it says the cheddar.

More fun cards I have are the city satellites cards, it's their time cards and the debate days cards.

I don't have any expensive cards in my collection yet, but I don't care about the price of the cards.

I care more about the joy I get from opening boxes than the price of the card itself.

I enjoy reacting to the players whose cards I get. I think my family enjoys my reaction to opening cards too.

I have certain players that I



Photo by Jessica Schieber

Cards that Jessica Schieber considers to be some of her favorite cards that she has collected over the past two years. The most recent card she has in this display is the City Satellites Jack Hughes card (on the bottom).

just can't stand, and this leads to me reacting a certain way to their cards.

My family enjoys when I get these cards due to my reaction

that I have when I get them.

My favorite thing about collecting cards however has to definitely been the different photos that get showcased throughout

the series of the season.

The cards also come in different styles like some are verticle and others are horizontal. They also can come in odd shapes.

### Let's be real

## Holidays don't have to break you

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

The holidays are supposed to be "the most wonderful time of the year," right?

But, if we are being honest, they can also be the most exhausting.

Between the pressure to be cheerful, the endless to-do lists and the feeling that everyone else is having a picture-perfect season, it is easy to end up overwhelmed, drained and just counting down the days until it is over.

The holidays are a time meant for enjoying family and friends, making lifelong memories.

Let's get real, the holidays do not have to break you!

You do not have to do it all, have it all or feel guilty for not loving every minute.

Do what you can do to make this season work for you.

Not the other way around.

Stop chasing "perfect." The perfect holiday does not exist. Those hallmark cards and movies are simply snapshots of a romanticized moment in time.

The pictures, the parties, the matching pajamas... they are all pictures of a moment, not real life.

In all honesty, the real holiday moments are messy, but turn into the best memories.

The moments such as spilling hot chocolate everywhere.

The moments of burning the cookies at midnight and having to start over, but your family makes it into a party.

The moments of "oh" when you realize you are forgetting to buy gifts.

The moments when you wait until last minute to wrap all the gifts, because life was just too busy.

This is a typical holiday, messy and chaos. Let that be okay!

The best memories usually come from the imperfect moments, anyway.

Set your limits early.

You do not have to attend every get together or buy a gift for everyone in your contacts list.

If I did, that is 233 gifts and parties I have to attend. That is just not possible!

Set some time aside to rest the same way you set time aside to run errands.

Know that it is okay if you have to tell someone no.

Protect your peace.

That is just as important as anything else you put in your calendar.

Keep your routine sane.

During this season, it is so easy to let sleep, meals and rest slip during the busyness.

Try not to let that happen!

Eat something real, drink

some water, get outside and move a little.

You will handle the stress better and have more energy to enjoy the moments that matter.

Focus on your connections, not your performance. People remember how you make them feel, not what you served them or how perfect your house looked.

Laugh during the chaos!

Let go of trying to impress and lean into the people who make you feel safe and loved.

Lastly, give yourself some grace.

If this year feels heavy, whether its because of stress, loss or just life, let that be real, too.

You don't owe anyone a constant smile.

Take a breath, slow down and remind yourself that you are doing enough.

You are enough.

The holidays will come and go.

The lights will fade and the wrapping paper will disappear.

What is left are the moments that felt genuine.

Not the perfect moments, but the honest and loving ones.

So, this year, let's be real.

Choose calm over chaos. Choose presence over perfection. Choose yourself over expectations.

That is the kind of holiday worth remembering.

What do you call a pumpkin that works at the beach?

*A life gourd*



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## No one understands classic literature

By KEVIN KAUMANS  
Entertainment Editor

I have said this multiple times in the past, but it is a common fact that people -especially those of the younger generation- don't really read all that much, if at all. But what about those that do read?

Sure, at least they make an effort to expand their horizons, but with what? Modern day fiction? Contemporary literature?

Don't get me wrong, there is good contemporary literature out there. "Percy Jackson & the Olympians", "Six of Crows", "Wings of Fire" (the first thirteen books anyway), are all good examples of what 21st century literature can be. That being said, however, I can't help but notice how.....what's a nice way to say this?.....simplistic books seem to be nowadays.

Some may think I'm just being mean for the sake of trying to come across as a sophisticated literature critic, but hear me

out. When you open a book from a hundred years ago, what is the first thing you notice?

That's right, the hard-to-understand dialect. We have dumb down our language so much that reading anything published before the year 1980 feels like learning a dead language.

Another grievance I have with modern readers is their seeming inability to read between the lines. What do I mean by this? Every time I go onto Goodreads and see reviews of a member of the classic literature canon, it always feels as if our intelligence is evolving backwards.

There was this one time -about a couple of years back- where I was reading some reviews for "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. I can't remember the user's name, but what I can remember is how irrational this certain reviewer's one-star review was.

One of the major arguments of this review was asking why the book told a story

of southern American racism from a white family's perspective instead of a black one's.

What the reviewer didn't seem to understand was that the author herself grew up in a community that was hostile towards African-Americans.

It seems to have never occurred to him or her that perhaps Lee was trying to write about how someone from the non-receiving end comes to realize how much of a problem racism in this country is through observation much like she did.

There was another time where someone had left a one-star review of "Blood Meridian", by Cormac McCarthy. This reviewer argued that the book was outdated due to the book's use of slurs.

Conveniently, however, the reviewer leaves out the fact that the main characters of the book are scalp hunters that are hired to kill indigenous people. It apparently never occurred to this person that perhaps the author had these characters use bigoted

words to showcase just how terrible these people were back in the old west.

I can go on and on until the sun dies out, but I'm sure you get the point by now. In my English classes, we are taught to first read the text literally, then between the lines.

So, either these reviewers were never taught that second part, or they just skimmed through these stories instead of actually reading them.

Look, fellow reader, if you and I don't like the same books, that's fine. There are authors out there that a lot of people enjoy that I think are overrated, and vice-versa.

But if you're gonna criticize something, make sure you at least pay attention to the material.

I'm hoping that's the case with these reviewers, because God forbid these people actually did pay attention and yet they still didn't understand it. That would just prove my theory that we as a society are devolving.

**"All that we were has lead to where we are, but tells us little of where we're going. Memories are a weight we can never shrug off."**

**---Steven Erikson**

### 'The Shadowman of Harrowfeild', Vol.1

By KEVIN KAUMANS  
Entertainment Editor

A note from the Northwestern News entertainment editor: This text, while fictional, is meant to be less so of a story and more like a piece of historical text that was written in the alternate world of Ethna. This essay was written by Dr. Laura Normer, a professor of anthropology at Varna University from 1948 to 1960.

Within the rural areas in the country of Canatha, there exists an urban legend of a male humanoid called the Shadowman of Harrowfeild.\* Harrowfeild was the name of a city that was built during the Middle Ages that was burned down some time in the 17th century.

The cause for the city's destruction is unknown, as all its papers and documents were lost in the fire, and the kingdom wasn't made aware of what happened until months later when the royal household failed to receive their annual money from the city's taxes.

Throughout the years, many scholars have tried to figure out the mystery of Harrowfeild. The most famous theory among the common people of Canatha, however, is that of the Shadowman.

The tale tells of the lord of the city and his two sons. The eldest was an elitist, lazy child who had no desire to improve his knowledge or skills.

Meanwhile, the youngest son excelled in all subjects; from history, to philosophy, to sword fighting, to even politics. Because of this, the lord decided to hand his title to him instead of his next of kin.

As the two boys turned into men, the youngest would go on to write many essays, become the most killed fighter in the land, and even marry the most beautiful

women in the city.

Enraged with envy, the older brother hatches a scheme to kill him. Using old spell books hidden within the basement of his father's mansion, the older brother began teaching himself all sorts of magic in secret.\*

One night, while the younger brother's wife and kids leave the mansion to go visit her family, the older brother waited for his kin to go to bed before casting a fireball on the door of his room. The plan was to only kill his little brother and frame it as an assassination.

However, not having much practice with casting spells, the older brother underestimated just how much power he put into the blast.

Instead of the fire only spreading into the younger brother's chambers, it had covered the whole fourth floor of the mansion. Before the older brother could do anything to minimize the damage, the flames had moved to the outside of the building and the ones around it.

Realizing that all of Harrowfeild would burn down and he'd have nothing to inherit, the older brother had fled into the mansion's underground tunnel. What happened next is heavily dependent on which version of the folk-tale one is exposed to.

In one, the older brother is unable to escape in time before the ceiling collapses on him. Another interpretation has the lord himself run down the stairs as well.

Upon seeing his eldest son down there and realizing what he had done, the old man falls into a blind rage and strikes his son, causing him to fall against a torch on the wall and getting engulfed in flames.

An extremely popular telling of the story has the wife come home early with the kids. Seeing the fire from the outside, she

tells the children to stay put and runs inside. She finds all the upper floors covered in flames and runs to the tunnel in the desperate hopes that her husband had made it in time.

When the older brother sees the spouse of the brother he killed running down the stairs, he comes to the thought that she'll find out that he had been responsible for the fire and tell the whole kingdom.

Lunging himself at her, he begins to strangle her. During their struggle, the two knock over a barrel of ale, soaking them both.

Grabbing a nearby torch, the younger brother's wife had managed to push the older one away before throwing it at him.

Whatever version one reads, the ending result is always the same, with the older brother getting set on fire and dying a slow, horrible death.

According to the legend, he then awoke to find himself in a circle of fire. Standing before him was Salazzard, a demon of the Cotakis Pantheian\* who is said to be responsible for all chaos and destruction in the mortal world.

Salazzard made a deal with the man: He would send him back to the land of the living. In exchange, he would dedicate the rest of his existence to causing as much pain and suffering as possible.

**To be continued....**

\*1:Pronounced: "Heh-row-fed"

\*2: In the middle ages, magic of any kind was illegal in Canatha and was punishable by banishment if not outright death.

\*3: A polytheistic religion, Cortakian is one of the biggest human-founded religions in the world of Ethna.

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# SPORTS

## Soccer makes GAC playoffs

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

The pressure was on the Lady Rangers this week as they found a way to make the GAC tournament, and now have a chance to bring it home.

The Lady Rangers had the toughest last four games on their schedule, one after another. After a loss to Ouachita Baptist and Harding University, the Lady Rangers had tons of pressure to make the playoffs after a spectacular comeback 2025 season.

The two teams left on their schedule were Southwestern Oklahoma State and Southern Nazarene University. The last meetings with the two teams provide great insight into the latest games. The Lady Rangers and Bulldogs tied at zero on Oct 15. NWOSU defeated SNU 3-2 on Sep 27.

Taylor Annen was the goalkeeper for the Lady Rangers in both matches.

### NWOSU 0-1 SWOSU

The game started with early action. Just 11 seconds into the game, there was a foul on Northwestern, giving the Bulldogs the ball. Southwestern gave an early shot on goal, but Annen saved it from going in, and the Lady Rangers were in the attack. Kamalei Kealoha had Northwestern's first two shots.

Neither entered the back of the

net. Jordan Fawcett also gave an attempt, but there was no luck for the Lady Rangers.

The action did not stop there; the two teams continued to give shots toward their opponents' goalkeepers, but the goalies stayed perfect, and no goals were scored. The two teams were incredibly offensive, as they continued to shoot shots throughout the first half. The first half ended tied at zero.

The second half was a bit of a slower start compared to the first half. It took a few minutes for a shot to be taken, but eventually one was.

The Bulldogs gave the first shot of the half in the 49th minute and continued their pressure. SWOSU found a way to shut down the Northwestern offense. The Lady Rangers only gave the Southwestern goalkeeper one shot to save in the entire second half.

In the 67th minute, SWOSU scored the only goal of the game, putting the Lady Rangers down in the closing stages of the game. In the 89th minute, Christi-Anne Mills gave a shot in hopes of tying the game in the final minute, but it was saved by the Bulldog goalkeeper.

Christi-Anne Mills had three shots in the game, two on goal. Fawcett and Kealoha had two each, none on goal. Annen had seven saves against the Bulldogs.

### SNU 1-1 NWOSU



Photo by Ece Ozdemir

Lady Ranger, No. 32 Jazelle Alvarado, runs to gain possession of the ball against Southern Nazarene defenders.

The Lady Rangers and Crimson Storm battled through strong winds on Saturday, with wind speeds being recorded from 20 mph to 40 mph throughout the game.

Going into the game, the two teams were close in points, with NWOSU up by three in the GAC standings. Although they were close, the Lady Rangers had practically punched their ticket to the

GAC Championships.

The Crimson Storm struck first in the windy game. After the two teams had given three shots apiece, SNU scored in the 29th minute to give them some hope of stealing NWOSU's ticket. The first half didn't see much more action, a few shots and some fouls, but no balls entering the nets.

Just six minutes into the second half, Fawcett shattered

SNU's hopes and scored to tie the game at one in the 51st minute.

The two teams continued to battle hard, with many shots being taken and fouls being given, but neither goaltender allowed another goal.

With the tie, the Lady Rangers punched their ticket to the Great American Conference Championships to give them a chance to win the championship.

## A preview to 2025 Ranger basketball season

By **KEN IRVING**  
Senior Reporter

Last year, the Rangers were 14-15 and lost in the first round of the GAC Tournament. Redshirt, sophomore point guard, Max Alexander, played a major role in the Rangers' success. During the 2024-2025 season, Alexander averaged 20 points, four assists and three rebounds per game. He was selected to the All-GAC second team.

"I think Max Alexander is considered the leader of the team," said head men's basketball coach Robbie Harman. "He was an all-conference player here last year and we haven't named a captain, but he's kind of just taken the role of it. The guys know that."

Alexander isn't the only Ranger from last year's team to return. NWOSU brought back 11 players this year, which is a high number of returners for college basketball.

"We brought back 11 returners," Harman said. "That is an insanely high amount of returners, especially in today's college basketball. Usually, you bring back one or two, so 11 is really high.

We're excited about that and they're excited about playing."

Not only did NWOSU retain a lot of their core from last year, but they have also added to it with high star power from the portal.

"We got guys that have played at highly competitive levels," Harman said. "We got guys that have a thousand points in their career, guys that have played at division one and high tournament level."

Harman says fans should be excited for the style of play that this year's squad will perform at. He says that they will play a fast, high scoring style of basketball while pressuring their opponents on defense.

Not only did the Ranger men's basketball team revamp their roster, but the women's basketball team did as well.

"I think we were looking for the pieces that we needed," said head women's basketball coach Tasha Diesellhorst. "The transfers that we brought in had specific skill sets or played a specific position that we felt like would fit in to what we were doing. I feel like they have done really well with their roles and they will continue to fit in to what we do."

In addition to bringing in

transfers, the Lady Rangers returned most of their players that played last season. Team leaders such as Kira Bass and Jaida Shipp are set to be a cornerstone for this year's squad.

"We have kids that have experience," Diesselhorst said. "Jaida Shipp, Kira Bass, Summya Adigun and Kennedy Hight all played for us last year. We have two transfers that played in the conference last year so it won't be surprising for them."

The Lady Rangers completed their exhibition games this past weekend. Coach Diesselhorst says that the scrimmage games are exciting, and their first non-conference games should really show what the Lady Rangers are made of.

On Wednesday, the Lady Rangers are flying to Minnesota to play the University of Minnesota Duluth and Winona State University. Their home opener is against a tough Pittsburg State team on Nov 14.

Last Saturday the Ranger men's basketball team opened their season against Division 1 opponent Missouri State University. The Rangers lost 57-106 to the Tigers. Max Alexander had 17 points for the Rangers.

## Cross country goes to DII regional championships

The women finished 23rd.

Ivy Washington was the first finishing Lady Ranger, with a time of 23:30 in 125th. Ava Washington was not far behind in 132nd with a time of 23:41. Celestine Kilborus finished 141st with a time of 23:55 Cadence Long-Torres and Jessica Myers finished together, Long in 166th and Myers in 167th with times of 24:38 and 24:39. Seriah Vess finished in 26:05, placing her 201st. Elizabeth Dorado-Barrera finished 205th with a time of

26:14.

The men finished 21st.

Riley Herndon finished 72nd with a time of 32:46. Kabelo Maja was 76th, with a time of 32:52. Andrew Scott finished 124th with a time of 33:58. Alan Lares had a finishing time of 32:17, placing him 136th. Edward Robledo-Gonzalez finished 147th and had a finishing time of 34:34. Coy Bullard finished 161st with a time of 34:50. Jordan Pierce finished 177th with a time of 35:53.

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# SPORTS

## Rangers squish Boll Weevils

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

The Rangers won their second game of this tough 2025 season over the University of Arkansas at Monticello Boll Weevils in a dominant win, 7-40.

The Rangers entered the game 1-8, the Boll Weevils 2-7. Monticello pulled off a miracle win over the Arkansas Tech Wonderboys earlier in the year, whom the Rangers lost to in the second game of the Rangers' 2025 campaign, 44-0.

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

The Rangers didn't get far on the first drive. They only had three plays, and then they punted. They were able to force Monticello to do the same, and the Rangers earned possession again. On the next drive, the Rangers charged down the field into the Boll Weevil's territory. Unfortunately, as soon as they crossed the 50-yard line, they had to punt.

On the next Monticello drive, the Rangers forced them to punt. On the punt, Ranger Rayshun Callahan blocked the punt and then scooped the ball up. Callahan ran to the Monticello endzone and scored the first touchdown of the game in an incredibly exciting manner.

The next drive from Monticello ended in a turnover on downs after they attempted to get a first down on a fourth-and-one. NWO-SU's drive started, and they had a great field position to end the first

quarter.

As the field flipped, the Rangers put their heads down and charged down the field. After a pass from Caleb Deal to Brody Williams, the Rangers gained 28 yards to get into the redzone. After short plays from the Rangers, they ended up at the two-yard line. With a rush from Ezequiel Luna, the Rangers scored another touchdown, but this time from the offense. The Rangers attempted a two-point conversion but failed. The score, 0-13.

The next drives from both teams were three plays, then punt. The Boll Weevils were able to get some momentum going on their next drive, but the Rangers were able to stop them in their tracks to regain possession. Starting on their 39-yard line, the Rangers stormed down the field, gaining first downs every other play.

Just barely in the Monticello redzone, the Rangers threw an 18-yard pass from Deal to Isaiah Taylor to score yet another touchdown. The PAT was good, and the Rangers were up 0-20 with just under three minutes left in the half. Although they had good momentum, neither team was able to add points to their scorecards, and they ended the half 0-20 with the Rangers in the lead.

The Boll Weevils started with the ball in the second half, but the Ranger defense was a brick wall and actually pushed them back to their 11-yard line. After gaining possession, the Rangers made a mistake and fumbled the ball, handing the Boll Weevils possession just 24 yards from the North-



Photo by Jaden Bridges  
Ranger QB, Caleb Deal, prepares to throw a pass against the Boll Weevils.

western endzone.

With pressure on Monticello to get control of the game, the Boll Weevils handed the ball right back to the Rangers. The Monticello running back dropped the ball, and Chism Watson picked it up and ran ten yards before he was tackled. The tackle from Monticello was not clean, and they were caught with a horse collar penalty, allowing the Rangers to go 15 more yards from where Watson was tackled.

After all that, the Rangers went from their 31-yard line to the Monticello 30-yard line, a whole 40 yards from the fumble. Although the Rangers weren't able to score a touchdown, Kale

Purvis kicked a 41-yard field goal to extend the Rangers' lead to 23.

The Boll Weevils were finally able to find a source of momentum, and they scored a touchdown on their next drive to cut the Rangers' lead to 16.

The third quarter ended without any more points being scored, and the Rangers held the lead 7-23.

The Rangers held possession at the end of the third and continued to have it in the fourth. They were able to get down the field to the 24-yard line, but were forced to try for a field goal. Purvis made the 41-yard field goal and kicked it off to the Boll Weevils.

The Ranger defense stopped

the Boll Weevil offense. On a fourth-and-ten play, Monticello tried to go for it, but failed, giving the Rangers the ball on their 25-yard line. The Rangers jumped at the opportunity to score another TD, and scored with a pass from Deal to Bailee Davenport for 25 yards and extended their lead to 7-33.

The next drives from both teams did not end with any points, as the Ranger defense continued to be a brick wall to Monticello.

With 11 minutes left in the game, the Rangers charged down the field, pushing for another touchdown. On a first-and-17 on the Northwestern 47-yard line, Jahhim Mahmoud ran 48 yards to get the Rangers into the Monticello redzone with a chance to extend their lead. After two rushing attempts from QB Deal, the ball was handed off to Mahmoud to run just two yards and score the Rangers' fourth touchdown of the game and make it 7-40.

The Ranger defense stepped up one more time and forced the Boll Weevils to give the ball back to Northwestern. With three minutes left on the clock, it was just a waiting game for the Rangers. Northwestern was able to gain the right amount of yards and used enough time to end the game.

This is the Rangers' second win of the season, and by far their most dominant one in a while. With SWOSU on their schedule for the final game of the season, the Rangers just need to keep their momentum, and they'll be able to put down the Dawgs to cap the year on a good note.

## Volleyball loses two games, is set to face SWOSU in final game

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

The Lady Rangers lost two games this week. One to the Southeastern Oklahoma State Savage Storm and the other to the Oklahoma Baptist Lady Bison.

The Lady Rangers lost both matches three sets to none. The

tough season for the Lady Ranger volleyball continues as they push on to their final game of the season against Southwestern Oklahoma State on Thursday at 6 pm in Percefull Fieldhouse.

**NWOSU 0-3 SEOSU**

The Lady Rangers battled the Savage Storm hard on Thursday, although being shut out.

NWOSU was able to get close

to Southeastern in those sets. In the first set, the Lady Rangers scored 20 points. In the second, 16 and the third, 18. Ece Ozdemir led the Lady Rangers in kills with 13.

**NWOSU 0-3 OBU**

The Lady Rangers struggled hard against the Lady Bison. They were not able to keep up with Oklahoma Baptist in any of the sets besides the final one where they lost 25-15.

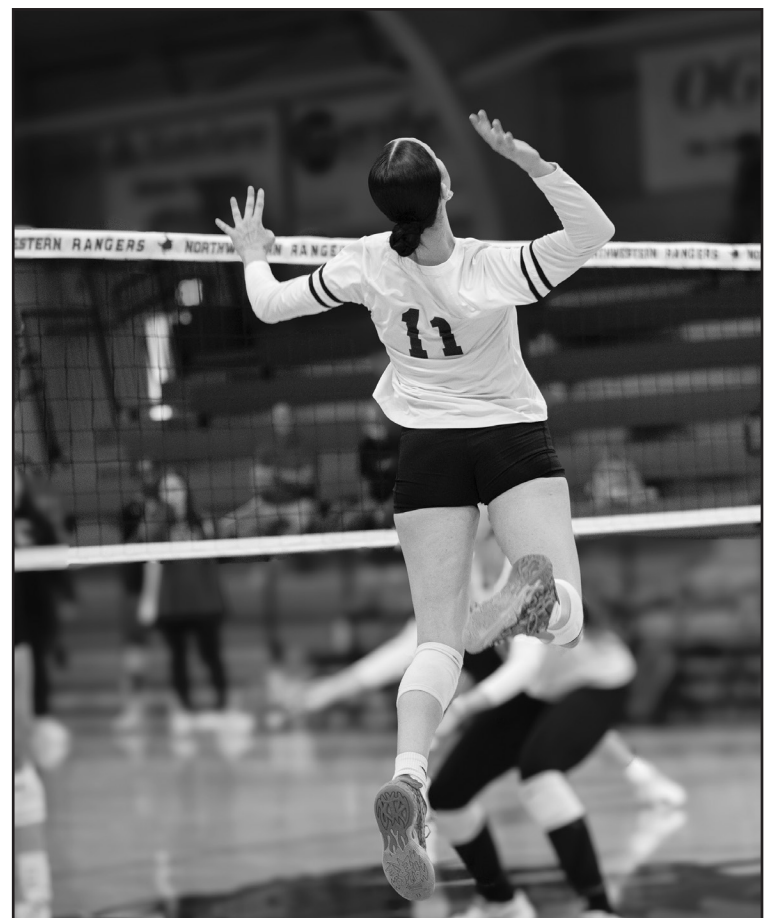


Photo by Ingrid Maldonado  
Lady Rager No. 11 Ece Ozdemir, jumps to hit the ball against Southeastern Oklahoma State University Savage Storm on Nov. 6.

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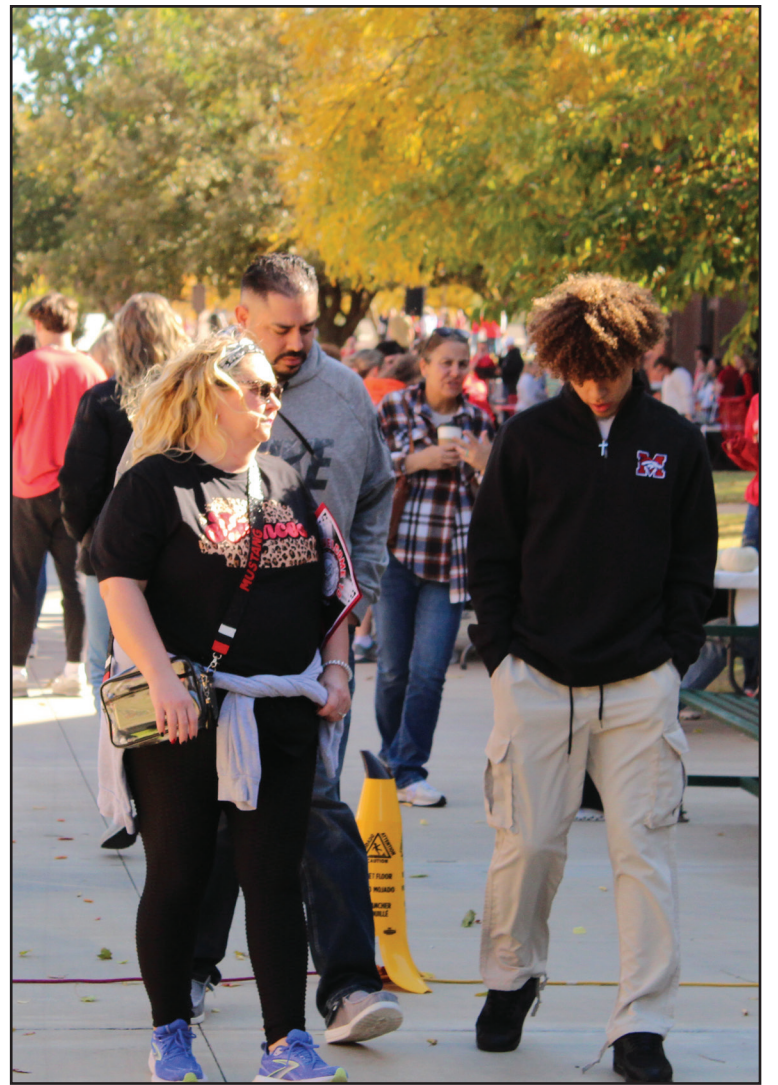
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# RANGER PREVIEW



High school seniors visited Northwestern Saturday for the annual fall Ranger Preview. These students were able to tour campus and visit various departments, enjoy lunch at Coronado Cafe and meet the Ranger faculty and staff, all while earning a \$600 scholarship to Northwestern for attending the event. They talked with many organizations, such as the BCM, the Miss Northwestern and Miss Northwestern Teen title holders, Castle Players and many others around campus. When talking with Dean of Student Affairs and Recruitment, Matt Adair, he reported the event went well this year, saying, “Numerous excited seniors and their families created a gym full of enthusiastic future Rangers.”

Photo by Victor Kinzie

