

SPORTS

Golf takes a win, volleyball and football struggle
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BANQUET

Miss Northwestern Banquet photos.
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Soccer leads conference

By OAKLEE FIELDER
Editor-in-Chief

The Lady Ranger soccer team took the win against the East Central University Tigers after the game was moved to Enid for weather.

Northwestern won the game in a 2-0 shutout on Saturday afternoon over the winless East Central Tigers. The first goal came from Olivia Staton, her first of the season, in the 33rd minute. Emerson Curd assisted Staton's goal. The Tigers were only able to make three shots in the first half on Taylor Annen in goal, none of them entered the back of the net. The Lady Rangers had six shots into the first half.

In the second half, Staton scored her second goal of the game, and the season, off of a corner. Her kick went up and towards the goal, not hitting anyone or being saved by the Tiger goaltender. Staton's goal gave the Lady Rangers a lead of two in the final half. No more goals were scored in the game, giving the Lady Rangers the win and boosting their record up to 7-1-1.

The Lady Rangers outshot the Tigers 14-5. Annen made two saves, the only



Photos by Tierra Green

Braxtyn Turner goes to kick the ball against Oklahoma Baptist University on Sept. 23 at Ranger Soccer Field. Game ended with a 2-0 win.

two shots given to her all game. The two teams were even on fouls, both with nine. Staton had four shots and

three on goal. Cambell Tabor had two shots and one on goal.

Tabor leads the Lady Rangers in

shots so far this season with 23 and 16 on goal. Tabor also has the most goals with four. Annen is currently the best goaltender in the Great American Conference. Annen has only two goals against her, and has .33 goals allowed a game on average, .62 percent better than the closest goalie in the conference. Annen has 41 saves. With only two goals against her, only .047 shots against her go into the net. Tabor has the second most points, with nine.

The Lady Rangers lead the Great American Conference with a 3-0 conference record. Northwestern leads Ouachita Baptist who has a 2-0-1 conference record. The Lady Rangers are still the only team in the GAC who has a winning overall record. Northwestern has won their last five games.

The next game for the Lady Rangers will be against Harding University on Thursday in Searcy, Arkansas. They will then make a stop in Arkadelphia, Arkansas to play the Ouachita Baptist University Tigers.



The Lady Ranger soccer team huddles together before the match versus Oklahoma Baptist on Sept. 23 as they prepare to defeat the Bison.

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NEWS

WHAT'S UP

October 1-7

01

- Alva Area Wide College Fair 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- Comprehensive Exam for Graduate Students EC 109 1:00 p.m.
- NWOSU Theatre Presents "Monster" Fellers Family Auditorium 7:00 p.m.

03

- NWOSU Theatre Presents "Monster" Fellers Family Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
- NWOSU Upward Bound Saturday Session ACT bootcamp EC 109 8:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.

07

- BCM Worship night Ranger Room 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Homecoming: Night at the Museum NWOSU Museum of Natural History 8-10 p.m.

02

- NWOSU Theatre Presents "Monster" Fellers Family Auditorium 7:00 p.m.

05

- Homecoming: Kickoff Tailgate Ranger Football Field 7-9 p.m.
- BCM FreshMonday Student Center Ballroom 8:00-9:30 p.m.

06

- Career & Internship Fair Ranger Room 1-3 p.m.
- Homecoming Spirit Night Student Center Ballroom 6-8 p.m.

Alva PD under fire after car show

By **Lindy Donley**
Guest Reporter

The Alva City Council met Monday evening for a special meeting to discuss and vote on recent controversial vehicle citations after the car show, and the status of the police chief.

Recent debate has been taking place in Alva after the 25th Annual Big Cruise and Car Show, where numerous vehicle citations were given to competitors. Participants and spectators took to Facebook to share their frustrations and called on the Alva Mayor, Joey Melton, to make the necessary leadership changes in the city police force.

Monday evening, a special city council meeting was held to settle this matter. Melton opened the floor for the public to state their concerns and watch the council to vote on this issue.

The city council voted on two of the citations and ended up striking those citations from the agenda. While being asked by another council member about the revenue made from the city from the citations, Councilman Kelly Parker stated that it is "not a significant amount."

After the tickets were voted on, the floor was opened for public comment. 15 individuals shared their thoughts on the alleges over-policing situation.

Retired Alva City Tourism Committee President, Norville Ritter, shared his concerns on the financial implications that this may have on the community. He explained that tourism has increased greatly

in Alva because of the car show, as well as many other events hosted in Alva, and that over-policing can hurt this growth.

Ritter went on to inform the council that many car show attendees have expressed that they do not plan to return to Alva or the car show because of this situation.

Eric Neilson, a citizen of Alva, explained that this situation has gone on much longer than most realize.

"Let's be real, that might be the final straw that tipped us over," Neilson said. "That's not what started all of this, though, it's been a long time coming."

Neilson and other commenters went on to explain throughout the meeting that the Alva Police Chief, Benjamin Orcutt, primarily lives in Vici, although maintains Alva residency. Later in the meeting, Rebekah Cook, the mother of Jalin Willyard who was shot and killed last year in a police shooting, spoke on this matter.

Allegedly, officer Andrew McVicker was the police officer connected to the shooting if Willyard, and was recently arrested in August 2026 for exploitation of an elderly person and conspiracy. Cook expressed her frustration towards the Alva Police Department in her speech, highlighting these incidents.

After multiple citizens spoke, the council meeting continued into an executive session to decide the fate of the Alva police chief, and the department. After nearly two hours, the executive session ended, and the council invited the public to join the meeting again, where the council members voted to review the status of the current police chief and department.



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NEWS

Ranger Royalty finalists named, freshman queen crowned

By JESSICA SCHIEBER
News Editor

Ranger Royalty finalists and the Freshman Queen have been announced.

At a banquet held on Thursday, I had the privilege of hearing the winner of Freshman Queen and the three finalists for Ranger Queen, as well as the two finalists for Ranger King.

The flower girl for the event, as well as for Ranger Royalty crowning and Miss Cinderella is Ashton Joy Mosburg and the crown bearer is Branch Alan Anderson.

The Ranger King candidates and now finalists are Jordan Banuelos, a sophomore computer science major from Thomas, and Coy Bullard, a senior computer science major.

The Ranger Queen candidates were Elisa Bernardez, a junior from Los Angeles, California who is double majoring in biology and chemistry; Raley Hooper, a sophomore English education major; Katy Jones, a senior health and sports science education major from Cushing; Ava Miller, a junior

from Tuttle double majoring in biology and chemistry; Ameilia Nyambuka, a senior computer science major from Alvarado, Texas; Alaina Pierce, a senior from Alva doubling in chemistry and biology; Megan Spray, a senior media and communications major; and Jamie Torres Franco, a senior criminal justice major from Okeene.

The Ranger Queen finalists are Alaina Pierce, Raley Hooper, and Ava Miller.

The freshman queen candidates were Haley Brown, an elementary education major from Spirito, Kansas; Tannen Erickson, a chemistry major; Milana Jackson, a business administration major from North Richland Hills, Texas; Chandler Ogden, a biology major from Tonkawa; Tofiyinfun Salawu, a psychology major from Dallas Texas; and Aylin Werner, a nursing major from Selena, Texas.

The Freshman Queen is Chandler Ogden.

The Ranger King and Queen will be announced at half time of the homecoming game on Oct. 10.

Voting will open Monday Oct. 5.



Photos by Univeristy Relations

The three finalists for Ranger Queen left, Ava Miller, middle, Alania Pierce, Right Raley Hooper after they were named as finalists. Ranger voting will take place Monday Oct. 5.



The two Ranger King finalist left, Jordan Banuelos and right, Coy Bullard pose together.

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Freshman Queen Chandler Ogden wearing her crown and posing.



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All letters represent the views of the author.

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Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$20.



OPINION

The relevance of “Rent” 30 years later

By ALLISON RUWALDT
Student Reporter

Rent the Musical opened at the West End Theater on Sept. 26, 2026, to celebrate its 30th anniversary, but what is it about, and why is it still relevant today?

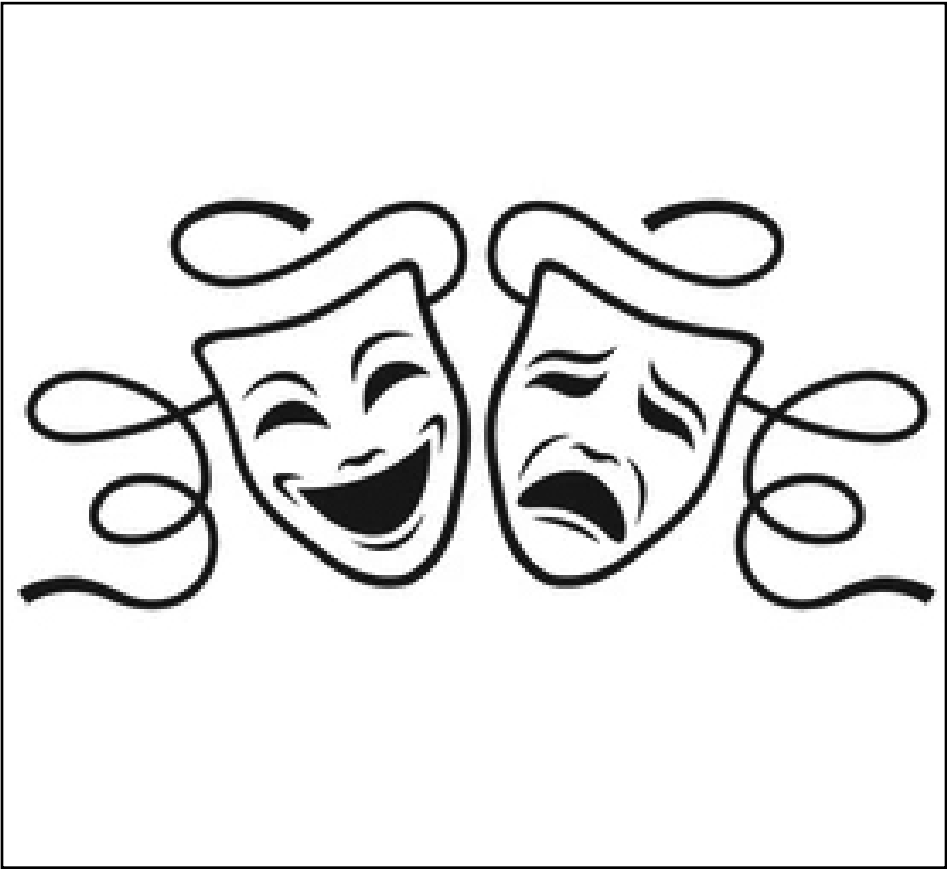
Artists everywhere are struggling to find ways to continue to practice their craft without feeling like they are compromising the meaning of their art. Especially in a world of artificial intelligence, where more and more companies are giving in and replacing human work, the message of this musical stands strong. It promotes an unconventional bohemian lifestyle, where instead of focusing on how to monetize everything, people can focus on creating, simply because they want to make something.

Rent was written by Jonathan Larson and premiered Off-Broadway in 1996, and later that same year it was officially moved to a Broadway stage. The musical was inspired by La Bohème, an opera from 1896, as well as the book on which the opera was based, Scenes of a Bohemian Life. Despite all the work Larson poured into the musical, he never got the chance to see its success, as he unexpectedly died the night before it opened Off-Broadway.

Although it was successful and praised initially, those looking at it with a modern lens can easily see the flaws in the characters and their morals, and find it hard to support many of their actions. The musical starts on Christmas Eve in 1989 and follows the lives of seven young artists who are struggling to live in New York City. Of those seven main characters, four of them are confirmed to have AIDS, and while it was never made official in the Broadway shows, early works implied that the entire group had this disease.

While the flaws should not go unnoticed, I believe they do not diminish the impact and message of the musical. As previously mentioned, this musical focused on the AIDS crisis that affected New York in the 80s and the vastly different lives it impacted, as well as the different approaches individuals had when dealing with it.

The first characters introduced are roommates, Mark and Roger, who start the musical by burning their pieces of art for warmth. Mark is an aspiring filmmaker who often makes references to the documentary-style movie he is making



about his life. Roger is a musician who is also a recovering addict. It is implied that he contracted AIDS by sharing needles with his former girlfriend. April, his girlfriend, left him a note informing him of their shared disease before killing herself to avoid dealing with the hardships that come with it.

The roommates get a call from their landlord and former friend, Benny, saying that he needs all of last year's and this year's rent. Mark and Roger are shocked to hear this, because when Benny married a rich woman and bought the building, he promised they would live rent-free. Sadly, wealth and power brought about changes in Benny. He no longer cares about the homeless people or tent cities, and he cannot keep the one promise he made to the people who were once his best friends.

Benny is not Mark and Rogers only former roommate, though. Maureen, Mark's previous girlfriend who focuses on protest performances and advocacy, also used to live with them, as well as Tom Collins. Collins moved out momentarily to work at MIT as a professor, but was fired because he continued to advocate despite the school's wishes for him to stop. The audience meets Collins on the streets of New York City.

It depicts him getting robbed and beaten, and as he's lying in pain, he meets the next main character, a street drummer who also happens to be a drag queen named Angel. Angel helps Collins get back on his feet, and it is here that we learn that both Collins and Angel have AIDS. Angel invited Collins and his friends to come to a life support

group for other individuals struggling with the disease.

Roger declines, and Mark agrees to meet them there later. Mark leaves to help Joanne, Maureen's new girlfriend, set up for the protest that Maureen is holding tonight. Benny is planning on evicting tent cities and turning them into high-rent apartments, and she is disgusted with the changes he wants to make. Working together is not easy for Mark and Joanne, but eventually, they gain an understanding of each other and make sure everything is in place for the performance.

Roger is still in the apartment, struggling to write his final song. He is determined to write one last song to capture his legacy. Since finding out about his health condition, he has taken a step back from the typical rockstar life. He no longer goes out, even with his friends, and he avoids taking risks. He wants to make every moment he has left matter by putting it all into his final song.

As Roger is working on his ballad, someone knocks on the door. Mimi, the final main character, comes into the apartment asking if Roger has a light for her candle. Mimi is a young dancer at a strip club and a frequent user. She also has AIDS, but chooses an opposite approach to living what may be her final years. Mimi lives every day as her last, seizing every opportunity she can, so she does not feel like she wasted a moment.

Her recklessness reminds Roger of April, his ex, and even though he's intrigued by her, he is just as repelled

FEATURES

Literature: a lesson in life and love

By SHEALYN PRATT
Features Editor

At 16, I thought I knew what it meant to be in love. I was in my first relationship and experiencing emotions so intense that I could not explain them even if I tried. Years later, at 19, I picked up a book I heard about for years and found myself back in that same place. Not because I was in love with someone again, but because I fell in love with a book that taught me to understand something about growing up, falling in love and eventually letting go.

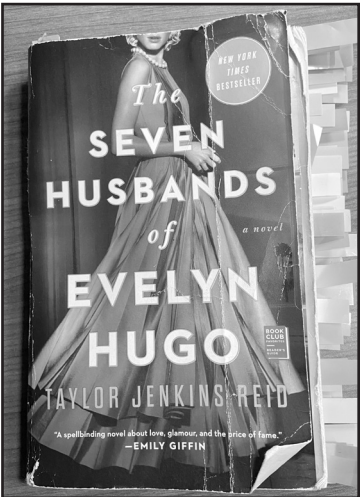
That book was Taylor Jenkins Reid’s “The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo.” I first heard about it when I was 16, during the relationship that would eventually become my first experience with both falling deeply in love and learning what it meant to lose someone.

If no one’s ever told you, or if you’ve never met a 16-year-old girl, the emotions that she carries within herself can be so overwhelming that you might think she is just being dramatic. In reality, the feelings that I felt at 16 were probably the most profound, raw emotions that I had ever experienced. Even now, as I sit here writing as a 20-year-old woman, I still don’t believe that I’ve ever felt the way that I did when I was a 16-year-old girl.

It took me three years to pick up “The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo,” the novel I could not stop hearing about while I was in the previously mentioned relationship.

To be completely honest, I started reading it because I missed being 16 and filled with unexplainable emotions. That’s the powerful thing

about things like music, media and literature. They connect you with people in a way that nothing else can. Words have the power to take you back to a forgotten place or a person.



Maybe that’s why the novel affected me so deeply. It was the first time I read something that met me exactly where I was at. I was reading about love, identity and the versions of ourselves that we become because of the people we love.

As I started reading the first page, I knew that I would be hooked on the story.

Page one is a newspaper article about the main character, Evelyn Hugo. Newspaper articles are scattered throughout the book pages because this romantic drama novel follows a 1960s Hollywood it-girl.

Born Evelyn Elena Herrera, Hugo is the daughter of Cuban immigrants. She grew up in New York City before making her way to Hollywood in 1955. She dyed her hair blonde and rebranded herself as Evelyn Hugo. Hugo quickly became a movie star, but a movie star in the 1960s meant something entirely different than what a movie star means today.

Like Evelyn said about Celia, I was already starting to feel mesmerized.

As I continued to read, I began to fall in love with all of the characters. There was something about each person in the story that deeply resonated with me, especially Evelyn herself, and the writer Monique Grant.

Grant is the point of view readers get opposite of Evelyn Hugo’s. Grant is a biracial magazine reporter who was hired to write Hugo’s biography. It is relatively my dream job to be a magazine reporter who gets asked, randomly and on a whim, to write one of Hollywood’s most beautiful and talented women’s stories.

The novel smoothly transitions between the present and the start of Evelyn’s journey as she navigates Hollywood, fame and love. But for all of the husbands and complicated relationships that filled most of the pages, readers come back to one relationship. The story may be named after the seven husbands but Evelyn’s most significant love was never with a man. It was with someone she could never be with publicly. The true love story lies between her and Celia St. James.

“I have been married seven times, and never once has it felt half as right as this,” Evelyn said in chapter 58. “I think that loving you has been the truest thing about me.”

This story of forbidden love is so well-written and captivating that I finished reading it in three days. At one point, it began to feel like I was watching a film rather than reading words from a page.

It was so good that I read it a second time and annotated Reid’s work. I carefully underlined and dissected the words on the pages. I doted over Reid’s way to explain the complexities of aging and love and fame. The book became thicker as I filled the sides with color-coded tabs. The paperback wrinkled. Pages accidentally torn.

Something Evelyn once said to Celia is how I felt while reading.

“Reading your letter felt like gasping for air after being trapped under water.”

I remember reading it for a third time, this time with my thoughts included. I was no longer rereading a story I loved, I was studying it. I wanted to make sense of why

I felt so connected to these fictional characters. It felt so real, I remember thinking that the story would work exceptionally well in a series or movie adaptation.

So, whenever Anna Kendrick announced that she will be directing the film adaptation of the novel, you can only imagine how I reacted.

The film is currently in production with Netflix and a release date has not been set. When asked on a recent red carpet who will play Evelyn, Kendrick said they were still in the scripting phase and

and the father of her daughter, Harry Cameron, Evelyn’s relationships reveal different versions of what love can be. She often referred to Harry as the man who invented her, as he was her former producer and best friend. When Evelyn wins her Oscar, she publicly thanks “my favorite producer, Harry Cameron” and tells him that “I love you.” Or perhaps it is seen in the lessons that husbands six and seven brought her.

Regardless, each husband isn’t truly what gets at the heart of the story for me. The heart of Evelyn’s story lies

“When you realize you can tell some-
one your truth, when you can show
yourself to them, when you stand in
front of them bare and their response is
“You’re safe with me” -that’s intimacy.”
-Evelyn Hugo

that she couldn’t give much information away. What she did say is that she is desperate to get it right.

“I’m thinking about the fans all the time,” Kendrick said to E!News. “I want to know exactly what gets at the heart of it for people because this book is so moving.”

If Kendrick were to ask me what gets at the heart of this story, I would say it is the perfect depiction of what it feels like to fall in and out of love.

Whether that is shown through Hugo’s first four failed marriages or through one of the most important loves of her life

with Celia.

“My dearest Cece, please never forget that the sun rises and sets with your smile. At least to me it does. You’re the only thing on this planet worth worshipping.”

While I picked up the book looking to be brought back to the 16-year-old girl that I once was, it became something much more important to me. “The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo” is more than a story about Hollywood or a woman that frequented the courthouse. For me, it is a story about what love will do to us and what it will make us do.

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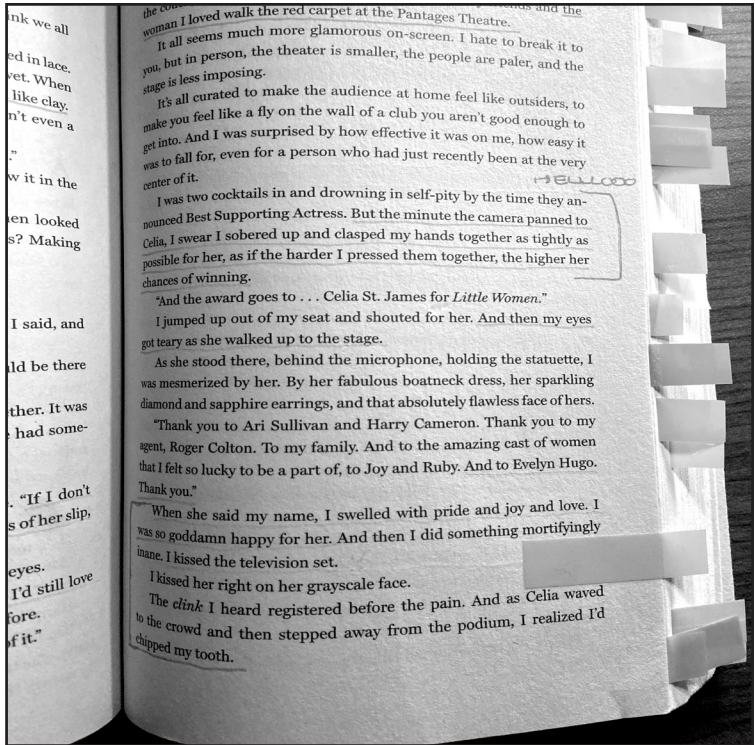
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A royally Ranger banquet



Photo by Allison Ruwaldt



FEATURES

What are Rangers up to?

By **ALLISON RUWALDT**
Senior Reporter

Northwestern students seem to find enjoyment in quiet activities such as going to the gym or park, driving around, and enjoying good food. Some may assume that most college students would rather party than do anything else, but when asked, several students said that they prefer more leisurely activities. Although not all are taking it as slow, plenty of students are enjoying Alva’s small but

lively nightlife scene. “For fun, I’ll usually go to the park, me and my dogs,” said Jacob Johnson, a junior at NWOSU. “I’ll either go fishing or just play with my dogs” Students at NWOSU take advantage of free spaces like the parks and walking downtown. Some also said that they enjoy using the Wellness Center on campus to help pass the time. Although Alva does not have many free spaces, it is important that students and community members continue

to use what is available. This will help display that there is a desire for people to be outside and involved without having to pay. Students Alexas Flores, Kamden Hawkins, and Jazzele Alvarado said that they enjoy doing things on campus, like playing sand volleyball and pickleball, and attending the sporting events. They also mentioned that they enjoy eating at the taco truck by Sonic. “I like to work, eat, and take my dogs to the park,” said Jesse Bland, a junior at

NWOSU. “I think Cancun is the best in town.” Despite gas prices being at a high point, many students said they enjoyed driving around and just wasting gas. Many feel that if they are doing that, at least they are out of the house. NWOSU students also spoke highly about the relationships that they have made while here. Many spoke about how they enjoy hanging out with their friends and partners. Students are also enjoying the nightlife in Alva. Some

mentioned going to the NiteLite, Office Bar, or Troubitor to let loose, while others mentioned house parties with friends. “My favorite thing to do around Alva is party,” said Ashlei Cospers, who is a senior at NWOSU. “That or eat and drive fast, oh, and parking lot talks.” Even though the options are limited in Alva, many students are making the best of it and enjoying the simple pleasures the town has to offer.

Thoughts on Walmart’s new tap-to-pay system

By **JOHN STOWERS**
Design and Photo Editor

NWOSU student employees of Walmart express excitement about the Alva location getting the “Tap to Pay” system. The concept of contactless payment was first introduced in 1997 when Mobil introduced their “Speedpass” payment system based on RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology. The modern version of that system came out in 2002 and was based on NFC (Near-Field Communication) technology. NFC based contactless-payment systems didn’t become regularly used until roughly 2014. Since then, businesses have been adopting some form or another of contactless

pay except for, until recently, Walmart. “I think it’s about time, and that we’re finally caught up with what the rest of the world is doing,” said Giulianna Philips, a freshman Elementary Education major. “I think it should’ve been done a couple of years ago when everyone else was doing it. Walmart was the one that was taking the longest. Even local businesses have Tap to Pay.” Another employee shared what he heard about why Walmart waited to implement Tap to Pay. “Some people said it was because of a lawsuit with Apple, and that’s what took so long to get Tap to Pay,” said Julius Cardonita, a senior Elementary Education major. “I’ve heard that it’s because Walmart wanted its own version of online pay,

[namely] Walmart pay. I think Walmart should’ve just kept up with the times, but maybe it was a legal reason why they couldn’t, but I’m happy now that they have it.” The employees of the local Alva location said that their customers have been excited to see that Tap to Pay has been implemented at the grocery chain. “I would say the feedback I’ve received so far has been pretty positive,” said Hannah Caywood, a sophomore Biology major. “A lot of people seemed excited that we got [Tap to Pay] and astonished to say the least. I, so far, haven’t had many issues with the Tap to Pay either. It’s been pretty positive feedback so far. It makes the transactions go by a lot quicker, and people seem a lot more pleased with that as well.”

Kindness day is approaching

NWOSU will host Kindness Day on November 13. Groups that are planning a kindness project to give back to others and their communities are encouraged to register their activities soon so they can be included in the area’s list of projects. The Day of Kindness web page has a link to the local “Day of Kindness in NW OK area” Facebook group. NWOSU personnel are leading the event locally for the sixth year working to bring together campus communities in Alva, Enid and Woodward. They are also working to bring together other organizations and groups throughout north-west Oklahoma. The effort is part of the larger Day of Kindness organized by United Way of Enid and Northwest Oklahoma. There are a ton of different projects that you, or your club could do. It can be as simple as picking up trash, raking leaves, washing windows, volunteering with a local organization, writing notes of encouragement or collecting

nonperishable food and toiletries for the Alva Food Bank or Campus Cabinet food pantry and Blessing Boxes. Groups or individuals can also participate in existing community projects. In Alva, the Alva Chamber of Commerce is seeking volunteers from 1 to 5 p.m. to help put up Christmas lights in downtown Alva. If you want to spend a little money you can do a random act of kindness and pay for someone else’s meal or purchasing an order at a drive-through for the next person in line. In the past, there have been projects of writing encouraging notes, offering cookies, hot chocolate or popcorn to others, placing inspirational messages on stick notes around the campus, delivering flowers or other treats to nursing home residents and local first responders, reading to children, volunteering at schools and community organizations, painting and displaying kindness rocks and even businesses offering discounts on merchandise or meals for the day.

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ENTERTAINMENT

You are a better writer than AI

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

Throughout the last two years, I have seen a massive influx of AI “content” appearing in every corner of the internet. Whether it is in books, advertisements or even political videos with music in the background that is so obviously made by AI that a deaf person could tell if you just played the first few seconds for her, social media has become flooded with artificial content.

It has gotten to the point where every other advertisement I come across on sites like “Youtube” even includes AI-generated videos or voiceovers that manage the impressive task of being the most ear-piercing jumble of sounds I have ever had the displeasure of hearing in my entire life.

You want to know what it is even sadder, fellow reader? People who make that kind of stuff do not see the problem with it. If anything, they seem to believe they are some kind of innovator or artist. I have heard arguments online of people claiming to be real artists and expecting people to give them mon-

ey for something they did not even make. As if typing a prompt into a laptop and waiting thirty seconds for it to be made in a program is enough to qualify someone on the same level as those of our society who spend decades studying the craft and using their own brain to think for themselves.

It is always the same excuse, too. “I cannot write as well as my AI chatbot can.” I am too dumb to learn how to draw.” The AI does it for me and it looks good, so why even put in the effort of doing it myself?”

What these people fail to understand, it seems, is that most people can see through the laziness of it. Look up any “Reddit” story channel that uses an AI voiceover and you will see what I mean. Everyone I have ever listened to follows the same story almost every time; the main character is someone who is underappreciated by their entitled family or unfaithful romantic partner, they finally stand up for themselves, bad stuff starts happening to the people in the story who wrong them and everyone lives happily ever after.

Should I go further? Should I talk about how AI “art” has become so

easy to spot nowadays because a lot of it looks so similar due to the fact the program is not really “creating” anything, just taking random pieces of data they contain in their database and putting something together that offers nothing new or creative to the art world?

If you are someone who is reading this article who thinks I am wrong, that you could never possibly be a good writer, I want you to do something for me: Grab a piece of paper, open your phone, turn on your laptop, find anything that you could use to write with. Write a story. Just one page, nothing more. Do not worry about how much sense it will make, all I want you to do is put down whatever first comes into your mind.

I can assure you, anything you write, no matter how bad you think it is, will be at least three times better than whatever repetitive slop an AI could churn out. Even the dumbest humans on Earth can have creative or at least funny moments from time-to-time. I can promise you: The worst you have to offer, is likely the best AI ever could.

We have this idea that writing is some intellectual hobby that only

smart people can participate in. That is simply not true. Anyone can write.

You do not even need to major in literature to learn how to do it. Do you know how to read? Do you know how to make words and sentences? Then congratulations, you can pick up a pen and make a story.

I get that college is not easy. Believe me, I do. I remember the late nights I have stayed up tweaking an assignment, beating myself over how to make every sentence perfect. But AI is not the way. Letting a machine make all the decisions for you will not make your life easier, it will just make it easier for the corporations to train their data to take your job.

We all need to learn to have more confidence in ourselves. Do not assume you are to dumb for something because you are not getting the hang of it as fast as everyone else is. Be bold, show the world you are not afraid to let yourself be heard.

Sure, you may never be as good as Hemingway. You may never be as good as Woolf. But, when all is said and then, I can promise you this: You are and will always be a better writer than AI.

Role of existentialism in writing

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

Over the years I have spent studying literature, I have noticed a common correlation between fiction and philosophy. Now, I understand that the term “philosophy” is a broad one, being how it is a study with so many fields and subfields that it would take all year just to give a brief overview of them all. However, the one I am going to be talking about today is existentialism.

Even if you have never heard of this word before, odds are you have

heard of the phrase: “Existential crisis”. This is where someone feels like life has lost all meaning and that nothing they do has any point in the grand scheme of things. This can happen to a person if one is going through anhedonia, loss or perhaps life just has not been kind to them. How do these people find meaning in life if nothing holds meaning anymore?

Some people turn to religion when confronted with this thought. Others try to make the thoughts stop with substances. Some will turn to consumerism, finding what-

ever little shiny object there is in the hopes of it finally making you happy. This is where existentialist philosophers come in.

Existentialists, much like nihilists and absurdists, question the point of our being on this Earth. Why are we here? Did a higher power create us? Were we made to rule over the planet as the dominant species?

These are the questions that we have been debating for thousands of years. Existentialists, however, have an answer to this conundrum: Make your own meaning in life. Some may tilt their heads at this. How can a singular, ordinary person with no unique talents or skills find a reason for living?

the hero? What makes a hero? Is it muscle? Smarts? Courage? Growing up, the protagonist of a story came in many different shapes and sizes; boys, girls, humans, animals, strong, scrawny. You name a hero trope and I have probably seen it before.

Existentialism is an interesting topic to me when it gets introduced into stories because it forces the observer to think of the media they are consuming as more than just a form of entertainment. It makes them question their reason for living. Think about it: Do you feel fulfilled in life? Truly? Are you proud of who you become?

“Adventure Time” was a show on Cartoon Network I used to watch all the time as a kid. It was about this young teenage boy, Finn and his shapeshifting dog companion Jake. Every episode almost always involved them going somewhere and experiencing the wacky reality of the world they live in. I recommend it to anyone who is interested in experiencing existentialism for themselves.

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FOOTBALL

Football mauled by Tigers

By OAKLEE FIELDER
Editor-in-Cheif

The Northwestern Oklahoma State football team lost to the undefeated East Central University Tigers on Saturday night, ending with a score of 42-24.

Defense started strong in the battle between the Rangers and Tigers. Almost the first 10 minutes of the game went scoreless, until a touchdown for the Rangers from Jacob T. Jones. Jones ran 12 yards into the endzone to score the first points of the game in an 11-play 85-yard drive. Almost immediately after, the Tigers responded with a 90-yard rushing touchdown to take the lead by one point after the extra point was scored, as the Rangers did not score an extra point after their opening touchdown.

The Rangers were able to take the lead in the 2nd quarter with a field goal from Kash Shipley from 23 yards out. The Tigers took back their lead after a 74-yard drive across the field, giving them the lead 14-9. Shortly after, East Central scored another touchdown to make it a 21-9 game with not much time left until halftime. The Rangers weren't able to make anything out of the drive with just under three minutes left to go in the first half.

After Jones was sacked for a loss of 14 yards on a 3rd down, the Rangers went to punt. The Tigers' punt receiver made a mistake and allowed the Rangers to get the ball back. Terry McCutcheon was the Ranger who recovered the muffed punt. The mistake from the Tigers' punt returner gave the Rangers a new set of downs further down the field than they were before Jones was sacked.

Working in short time, the Rangers charged down the field in six plays. Jones threw a pass to Royal Kyle, who



Northwestern Ranger Jayce Morgan runs with the ball against Arkansas Tech in the home opener on Sept. 10, ending in a ATU victory. NWOSU Athletics Photo

ran into the endzone just as the clock hit six seconds. This touchdown made it a 5-point game with the Tigers in the lead.

The 3rd quarter only had one scoring play between the two teams. Just 15 seconds into the quarter, the Tigers scored a touchdown with a 72-yard pass to make it a 12-point game. The 4th quarter put the game to bed quickly. Just three minutes into the final quarter, the Tigers scored a touchdown to make it 16-35 with 13 minutes to go.

Not shortly after the Tiger touchdown, Koda Bridges caught a pass

from Jones and scored a touchdown to make it an 11-point game with 11 minutes left on the clock. A response from East Central was not much later, as they scored a touchdown with a 21-yard run to make it a 24-42 game. The Rangers were unable to reel the Tigers back in, and took their 4th loss of the season, still winless.

Jones was a solid quarterback with 215 yards thrown and 20 completions. Jones threw two touchdowns against the Tigers. Jayce Morgan had the most yards for a running back on Northwestern's team with 62 yards

rushed. Morgan ran for an average of 3.4 yards a carry.

Kyle had 77 receiving yards and one touchdown. Cade Reynolds had seven tackles and one tackle for loss. Aiden Lewis had six tackles.

The Rangers remain on the road this week as they play the Southern Arkansas University Muleriders in Magnolia, Arkansas on Saturday. The Muleriders are 1-3 for the year, defeating Southern Nazarene in week two at home. The next home game will be next Saturday against Henderson State

Offensive and defensive Playmakers

GAC Standings

Football Schedule



Jacob T. Jones
215 throwing yards, 2 TD



Cade Reynolds
7 tackles, 1 tackle for loss

1st	East Central (4-0)
2nd	Harding (4-0)
3rd	Henderson State (4-0)
4th	Southeastern (3-1)
5th	Arkansas Tech (2-2)
6th	Oklahoma Baptist (2-2)
7th	Ouachita Baptist (2-2)
8th	Arkansas-Monticello (1-3)
9th	Southern Arkansas (1-3)
10th	Southwestern (1-3)
11th	Northwestern (0-4)
12th	Southern Nazarene (0-4)

L 76-0	@Harding University
L 34-29	vs Arkansas Tech
L 55-37	vs Oklahoma Baptist
L 42-29	@East Central
Oct 3	@Southern Arkansas
Oct 10	vs Henderson State
Oct 17	vs Southeastern
Oct 24	@Southern Nazarene
Oct 31	vs Ouachita Baptist
Nov 7	@Arkansas-Monticello
Nov 14	@Southwestern

SPORTS

Volleyball loses five straight

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Editor-in-Cheif

The Lady Rangers are down two games after losing to Southwestern Oklahoma State and Newman University, both games ending in a 3-1 score.

Northwestern lost to the conference rivals on Thursday night in Percefull Fieldhouse in a highly anticipated game. The Bulldogs came out early in the first set, taking a 4-0 lead to start. The Lady Rangers were able to cut that lead down to two after slowly reeling them in. Then, Northwestern tied it at 10 with a close finish in sight. Unfortunately, that close finish was not going to happen in set one, as the Bulldogs won 25-15.

Set two went a lot better for the Lady Rangers. After giving up the first point, they scored six-straight points to give them the lead 6-1. The Bulldogs scored two to respond to the six straight, but the Lady Rangers didn't fall too far. They kept a solid lead over the Bulldogs throughout the second set. By the end of the set, the Lady Rangers took the win 25-17, tying the game 1-1.

Southwestern took the final two sets and won the game 3-1 over the Lady Rangers. Ivanny Blackwood had the most kills against the Bulldogs with 15. Blackwood also had one ace and three blocks. Celia Mbaya had 10 digs, two aces and seven kills. Katie Wadas had 18 assists. Ryann Eastes had 11 assists and seven digs.

After their loss to Southwestern, the Lady Rangers headed north to face the Newman University Jets in Wichita, Kansas. The Newman Jets

are part of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association. The MIAA has teams in Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and one team in Nebraska. The entirety of Northwestern Athletics has faced many of these teams, including Arkansas-Fort Smith, Central Missouri, University of Central Oklahoma, Fort Hays, Missouri Southern, Nebraska Kearney, Newman, Rogers State and Washburn to name a few.

The meeting with the Newman Jets did not go in the Lady Rangers' favor. The Jets took down Northwestern 3-1 in a match almost identical to the one against SWOSU.

Set one started close, with the two teams trading blows and battling to keep the lead. Tess de Zanet used her skills to earn points for the Lady Rangers, helping keep the Jets within touching distance. Slowly, the Jets pulled away from the Lady Rangers, taking the first set by just five points, 25-20.

In set two, the Lady Rangers started strong. They took the lead, and held it close, but only by a few points. Northwestern would find times to go on small runs, never letting the Jets score more than two points in a row. With an ace from Jadyn Padilla and their inching away, they won set two 25-18.

Set three was an even stronger start from Northwestern. In short time, they had a five-point lead 9-4. After time went on, their lead shrunk one point with the score 21-17. Then, the Jets went on a six-point run to take the lead by two, 23-21. The Lady Rangers fought back, taking the lead again, but by one point, 25-24. The teams must win a set by two points, so the



Photo by Tierra Green
Katie Wadas prepares to hit the ball as Jadyn Padilla and Celia Mbaya prepare to support.

pressure was on the Lady Rangers to score another. Two points from the Jets gave them the lead by one. A bad set from Newman tied it at 26-26. Then, Newman scored two points and won set three, 28-26.

The final set was like the others. The two teams battled and traded the lead back and forth. Eventually, the Jets pulled out and took a lead with a sizeable gap to keep it. The Lady Rangers were unable to reel them in by the time Newman reached 25, and the Jets took the win 3-1.

De Zanet had 20 kills against the Jets. She also had an ace and two blocks. Blackwood had 16 kills and

two blocks. Eastes had 35 assists and five blocks. Mbaya had 11 digs and one assist.

The losses drop the Lady Rangers' record down to 7-11. They sit 9th in the Great American Conference standings, above East Central University and below Southeastern Oklahoma State, who has one more conference win and one less loss.

Next on the schedule will be Henderson State on Thursday and Ouachita Baptist on Friday nights. Both games are home and the Lady Rangers look to end their 5-game losing streak against one of the teams from Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

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Rangers win Battle of the Belt

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Editor-in-Cheif

Northwestern Oklahoma State's men's golf team continues their tear of success as they won the Battle of the Belt in Hot Springs, Arkansas, hosted by Henderson State.

The Rangers had a total score of -5 under par. Henderson State's A and B teams were nowhere near the skill that the Rangers had, as they finished +4 and +15. Pierce Gemin-den and Mathieu Zerwin finished in the top positions.

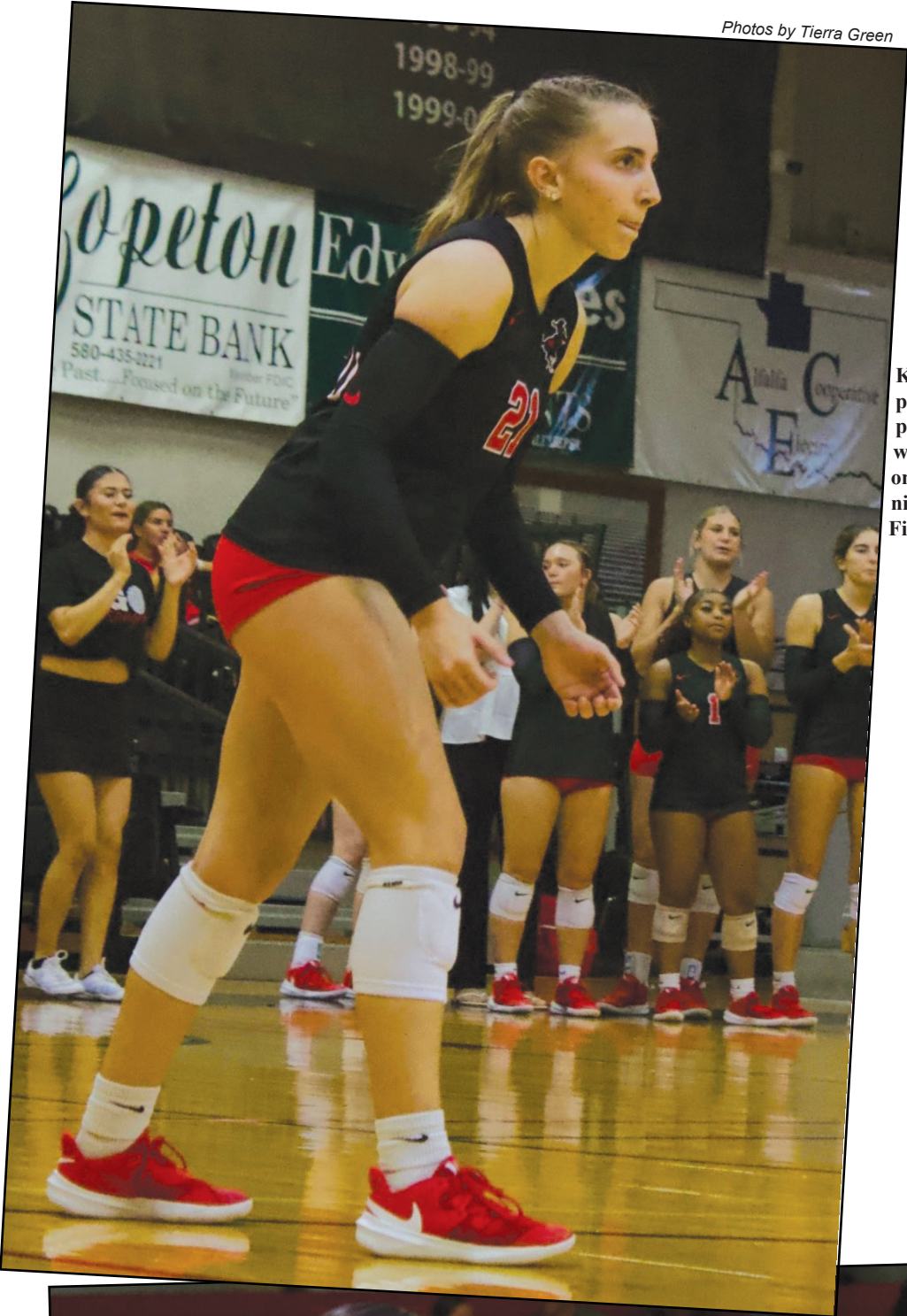
Geminden finished 1st with a

score of -9. Zerwin finished tied for 2nd with two other golfers. Zerwin had a score of -2. Jack Collingswood was the third Ranger to finish with a score of at least even. Collingswood finished tied for 6th scored even. Jonathan Wijanto, who played independently, finished tied for 17th with a score of +8.

Zac Farmer finished tied for 21st with a score of +9. Chris Xiao finished tied for 34th with a score of +13. An-Chieh Tsai, who played independently, scored a tied for 37th finished with a score of +16.

PICTURES

Volleyball versus Bulldogs



Photos by Tierra Green

Katie Wadas prepares to play as Southwestern serves on Thursday night in Perciful Fieldhouse



Up: Fans in the student section cheer and get rowdy after the Lady Rangers scored a point.
Left: The team huddles together after a point was scored, Katie Wadas raises her hands in the air as the others smile.



Left: The volleyball team lines up in pregame for the starting lineup.
Right: Kamelly Baez Miecznikoski and Avery Lane jump to block the ball against Southwestern

