

SPORTS

Teams struggle throughout the week
Pages 10 & 11



HOCO Winners

Homecoming decoration winners for Red, White and Rowdy
Page 12



Security cameras on campus

By **REAGAN McREYNOLDS**
Guest Reporter

Students at Northwestern Oklahoma State University can expect to see updated security cameras and safety lights around campus as officials work to improve the campus safety and security.

Chief of Police Dennis Kilmer and Officer Deontre Thomas recently discussed the new camera system, explaining why the older cameras are being replaced, where they are being installed, and how to ensure student privacy will be protected.

The new cameras will give campus law enforcement better coverage of the university and provide another resource when investigating incidents.

According to campus police, the cameras can be used to investigate situations involving student misconduct, criminal activity and property damage.

The main reason for replacing the previous cameras is that electronic equipment eventually becomes outdated. Campus officials said the new system is intended to provide better technology and coverage throughout campus.

A large number of the new cameras are being installed around and inside residence halls. Officials said the locations were selected in part because students live in those buildings and the cameras can provide additional protection.

The cameras will be available 24 hours a day, allowing officials to review footage if an incident occurs.

“The ones in the dorms, those are because we have students living there,” Kilmer said. “That is for their protection.”

The increased use of cameras has also raised questions among students about privacy and who will be able to access the footage. Campus police said access to the system will be limited rather than being available to all university employees.

Law enforcement will have full



Photo by Oaklee Fielder

Northwestern student walks by a security camera as he goes about his day at the front entrance of the health and sports science building.

access to the camera system.

Certain university officials, including individuals involved with Title IX, housing and information technology, will also have access for specific purposes.

Officials explained that checks and balances will be put in place to prevent unrestricted access to the entire system.

The cameras will also be placed only in public areas. According to campus police, the cameras will not be positioned to see inside students’ rooms, or other personal areas, helping protect the privacy of students living on campus.

Although installation is already underway, the new system is not yet completely operational. The company installing the cameras is still working

on the system, and campus police said they do not currently have full access.

Officials said they are also working to establish rules, policies and procedures for the system before giving full access to campus personnel.

The goal is to make sure the system is implemented properly instead of rushing the process.

The cameras are not the only safety improvements being considered on campus.

University officials are also working on updating existing safety lights and installing additional lights in areas around campus.

Some students have noticed that certain lights around campus have stopped working, including areas near the red stairs outside the Health

and Sport Science building. Students who walk across campus early in the morning or late at night have raised concerns about visibility in those areas.

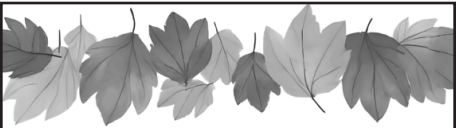
Campus officials are also working to increase the number of student workers around campus.

Having more ununiformed student workers present would provide additional visibility and help create a greater sense of security.

As the new camera system and other safety improvements continue to be developed, campus officials said their goal is to provide students with a safer campus while also establishing clear guidelines for the use of security technology.

An exact completion date has not yet been determined.

NEWS



WHAT'S UP

OCTOBER 8-15

8

- Advising Students Roadshow Enid Campus 11 am- 12 pm
- Spanish club meeting VH 200 6-7 pm
- Miss Cindrella Judges Reception Ranger room 6:00-7:30 pm
- Miss Cindrella talent show and pagent 7:30 pm- 10 pm
- Stars and Streets Percefull Fieldhouse parking lot

9

- End of first 8 weeks!
- Ranger Rally Percefull Fieldhouse 12:00 pm-1:30 pm
- Miss Cindrella President's Dinner Student Center Ballroom 6-8 pm
- Miss Cindrella talnet show and pagent 7:30-10:00 pm

10

- Homecoming Luncheon/Ranger Run/Breakfast/Football game tent Downtown Alva 8 am- 5pm

12

- W or F issued on dropped courses for 16-week classes
- Beginning of 2nd 8 week classes
- BCM FreshMonday Student Center Ballroom 8:00-9:30 pm

14

- BCM Worship Ranger Room 7:30-9:30 pm

15

- Fall Break Starts



Name change given to Division of Buisness

From University Relations

The NWOSU Division of Business has been renamed to honor a major donor family.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University administrators honored Dave Johnson and his wife, Louise, during a recent ceremony to rename the Division of Business to the Johnson Family Division of Business.

Johnson also received an honorary Doctorate of Science and Business Leadership, the first honorary doctorate issued by Northwestern, and only the fifth honorary degree issued in the university's history.

The decision to change the division's name came after the Tulsa businessman, and long-time advocate of Northwestern, made a total investment of \$1 million, which went into scholarships, physical building updates in Jesse Dunn and technology updates.

A native of Alva, Johnson earned two years of credit at Northwestern before transferring to and graduating from the University of Oklahoma.

Despite earning his degree elsewhere, he has always considered Alva and Northwestern home.

Upon graduating, Johnson passed the Certified Public Accounting (CPA) exam and spent six years working in public accounting.

In 1982, he moved into the private sector achieving extraordinary suc-

cess across multiple industries, including oil and gas, commercial real estate and trucking and equipment.

Johnson's investment in scholarships will continue to support many students throughout their academic careers at Northwestern.

"The David Johnson Scholarship has been a huge financial relief for me and has allowed me to focus more on my academics and involvement on campus rather than worrying about financial stress," said Barrett Brown, a junior Business Administration major from Liberty. "It has also given me encouragement to continue pursuing my goals in business and make the most of my time at Northwestern. I'm very grateful for Mr. Johnson's generosity, and having had the opportunity to meet and talk with him a few times, I know how deserving he is of this recognition. He is a great guy who genuinely cares about Northwestern and its students, and I'm thankful to be one of the students who has benefited from his generosity."

Building updates feature new ITV room equipment, so professors can give instruction to students at the Enid, Woodward and Ponca City locations.

Additional enhancements include new furniture, carpet and paint for classrooms and faculty offices.

"This is a wonderful gift that will help our students achieve their goals here at Northwestern Oklahoma State University," said Dr. Bo Hannaford, president of NWOSU. "The Johnsons are all in with Northwestern and I can't thank them enough for this investment in our students and facilities. Students in business administration and accounting are in high demand across the state. This investment will put our students in a great position moving forward."

Johnson joins only four other individuals throughout Northwestern's nearly 130-year history to be awarded an honorary degree.

The previous four all received Master of Laws degrees.

The first went to Harold Hamm, an oilman, philanthropist and higher education advocate formerly of Enid, in May 1997. In May 1998, three additional men were awarded this honorary degree: Larry Hammer, a longtime Cherokee newspaper publisher and co-founder of the Jiffy Trip convenience store chain; Bert Mackie, a longtime Enid banker, community leader and higher education advocate; and Bob Reneau, a retired Alva businessman and long-time stalwart of the Northwestern Foundation.

To learn about degrees available and more, visit the Johnson Family Division of Business at Northwestern webpage, or contact Dr. Garret Lahr, chair and assistant professor of business, at 580-327-8510 or galahr@nwosu.edu.



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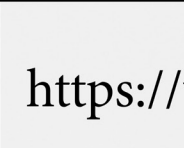
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Entertainment

Theater student directs one-act

By ALLISON RUWALDT
Senior Reporter

The Northwestern Oklahoma State University theater program presented the student-directed play *Monster*, from October 1 to 3. *Monster* is a one-act historical fiction that follows five authors as they spend three nights trapped in a house due to a storm. The story mainly follows the tumultuous romance between Mary and Percy Shelly and how their dynamic unfolds.

NWOSU senior Jaden Matthis directed this dramatic and spooky story. She said she wanted a scary play for her Capstone because she knew it would be in October. Everyone in the cast had great things to say about Matthis's directing. Aiden Slater, a sophomore at NWOSU who played Lord Byron in *Monster*, said she was always prepared and fantastic to work with.

"She is fantastic, you're gonna hear that from every single person," Slater said. "There was never a moment where I was afraid of how the production would end up."

As previously mentioned, Slater played the play's antagonist, Lord Byron. Byron is an obnoxious



individual and the owner of the house everyone is trapped in. He was a talented author who wrote under a pseudonym about controversial and somewhat radical topics for the time. "He is very antagonistic, and he is very cruel in some ways," Slater said. "He can be problematic in some ways, and I think a lot of that stems from his upbringing."

Slater spoke about how he did not relate to the character easily, as Byron was not the best person, but at the end of the day they share a similar goal. Slater spoke about the research he did that helped him connect, and he realized that Byron pushes everyone in the show as a way to show that he can love them.

"That's basically the reason he's chasing everything," Slater said. "No

matter what's happening, I always said he was chasing the love in the scene."

In total, the story follows five people: Mary Shelley, Percy Shelly, Lord Byron, John Polidori, and Claire Clairmont. The group members share ghost stories through the nights, and try to work through complicated dynamics. Although the play has its comedic moments, it displays tragedy and loss in serious ways. The story follows the romantic dynamics between Mary, Percy and Percy's first wife, Harriot. He left her to run away with Claire and Mary, and she was left heartbroken. She began writing letters to him, which are read periodically throughout the play.

Lily Post, a junior at NWOSU, played Harriot. She spoke about how she was fascinated with the role and the depth that she got to portray. She spoke

fondly about the person and how she wanted to bring honor to the portrayal of Harriot. "Becasue I mean she was a real person, and I don't wanna discredit her character and who she was," Post said. "She was always described as a very kind and intelligent woman." Post spoke highly of the show in its entirety, saying that everyone involved gave it their all, and that is what made it a great show. She mentioned that *Monster* was many students' first production, but they did so well that she would not be able to tell if she did not know.

"I'm so proud of everyone involved because they've all done great work," said Post. "They have taken it and gone above and beyond and it's fantastic."

Matthis spoke about how her favorite part of the show was Saturday night, when she got to enjoy the show with family and friends. She also spoke about how she enjoyed her adjudication on Friday.

"I felt really prepared for it, I know my show front and back," Matthis said. "Every choice that I made a reason behind it, and I know my team did good work."

The show was spoken very highly of by those who watched, and it is clear that there is no lack of creative talent in the NWOSU Theater Department.

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OPINION

Gen Z lonlieness epidemic

By ALLISON RUWALDT
Student Reporter

Over the years, Gen Z has become increasingly lonely, but at the same time, has more ways than ever to connect.

The Gen Z loneliness epidemic is something that is heavily spoken about, mostly by digital creators. Personally, I have seen plenty of think pieces, blogs, and video essays explaining the phenomenon; however, I hardly see people in my everyday life trying to change this norm.

An obvious cause of new age loneliness is advancements in technology and social media. Phones, more specifically social media, have become a central part of the Gen Z cultural identity. It essentially grew up with us, and because of that, it has engraved itself into almost everyone’s lives.

While having a way to connect with anyone anywhere is a positive, the excessiveness of it has harmed real-life socialization standards. I have had so many instances where I texted someone big news, or posted a rant on a private story, but then I would see the same friend in real life and not have anything to talk to them about. The conversation becomes more repetitive because the discussion has been had, but the connection never formed.

While this does not always happen, it is a contributing factor in why we as a generation feel so disconnected. Another factor has been the erasure of small talk. I’ve heard people say countless times that they hate small

talk, but small conversations are the first steps to connection.

In my opinion, younger people get frustrated with small talk more, because they long for connection so deeply. They want to skip the pleasantries and rush to the connection, usually because they are used to the instant gratification that they get from social media. So many see small talk as useless interaction, but in reality, those small moments are what build the base



of a relationship.

Social media has also made Gen Z culture more parasocial. Parasocial describes a relationship, usually between a celebrity and a fan, where the fan feels like they know the celebrity on a personal level, when in actuality, they do not.

I have had so many conversations asking if someone knows another person, and they will respond with something along the lines of “no, but we follow each other.” On another side of that, I have plenty of old friends that I do not speak with regularly, but I still feel like I am updated on their lives because I see what they post.

As much as I hate to admit it, though, I know that liking someone’s Instagram story is not enough of an interaction to build a strong relationship. However, it is so much easier and less intimidating to just leave a comment or like than it is to go up to someone intentionally and ask how they are.

Everyone is so scared of someone responding poorly or embarrassing themselves somehow that they are too scared to try. It is important to remember, though, that anyone you strike up a conversation with is also a part of this culture. Simple things like asking someone how their day is going, complimenting more people, or even just saying hello can help shift the culture socially.

Next time you are in class, instead of just looking away from that person you made eye contact with, say good morning or ask how they are. Although we are all incredibly different, some things universally unite us, and wanting connection will always be one of them.

Limited Entertainment in Alva

By GAGE HALL
Guest Reporter

For Northwestern student athletes, finding things to do outside of practices and classes often means spending time with teammates or going into Alva with friends.

While there are some entertainment options available, some students say they would like to see more things to do around town.

Reuben Robinson, a NWOSU baseball players, said he usually spends his free time doing activities with his teammates. One of the things he does for entertainment is play pool. Robinson said the Nite Lite is one of his favorite options in town. Despite that, Robinson mentioned that he doesn’t think that Alva has enough entertainment options for college students.

“Entertainment is important because it gives people a way to connect with

each other,” Robinson said.

Robinson said he would like to see some sort of dirt bike circuit added to the area.

Max Courange, a NWOSU golf player, said he usually goes to The Nite Lite with friends when he wants to go out. Some of his other avorite entertainment options are the golf course or the movie theater. Cournage said he goes out for entertainment about once a week.

Cournage also said he does not think Alva has enough entertainment options for college students. One thing he would like to see come back is the bowling alley. He said occasional rodeos and midget bull fighting also catch his attention.

Cournage added that he would rather go into town because most campus events are not very interesting to him. However, he said he does enjoy going to sporting events on campus.

For Cournage, social activities are an important part of his college

experience. He said having things to do and people to spend time with makes college more enjoyable.

“I think social activity has been extremely important to my college activities because without the social aspect I wouldn’t have anything to do here,” Cournage said.

Both students mentioned the Nite Lite as one of the main entertainment options. The venue offers live music and other events for students and people in the community.

Although Robinson and Cournage have different ideas about what they would like to see added, both students said having entertainment and social activities is important.

For Northwestern students, entertainment can be more than just finding something to do outside of class. It can also give students a chance to spend time with friends, meet new people and make memories while they are in college.

OPINION

Born for the Big Screen

By SHEALYN PRATT
Features Editor

Movie sets and paparazzi are unfamiliar territory for most people, but for the children of Hollywood stars, they were simply childhood memories.

Nepotism is the practice of people in power giving advantages to their family members, regardless of qualification. The term “nepo baby” has become a popular phrase in the media, used to describe an actor or celebrity whose parents are also actors or celebrities.

For example, actress, model and singer Zoë Kravitz, who starred in the series adaptation of “High Fidelity,” is the daughter of award-winning musician Lenny Kravitz and Emmy-nominated actress Lisa Bonet, best known for her role on “The Cosby Show.”

Actress Maya Hawke, best known for her role in “Stranger Things,” is the daughter of actress Uma Thurman, known for her collaborations with Quentin Tarantino and her role in “Pulp Fiction,” and actor Ethan Hawke, who acted alongside Robin Williams in “Dead Poets Society.” Both of Hawke’s parents have been in the industry for decades.

Or consider one of the most well-known nepo babies: Drew Barrymore.

Her Hollywood connections run deep into the 19th century, as both the Barrymore and Drew families have British-American acting dynasties.

The one thing that all of these actresses have in common is that

they come from a lineage of people working in Hollywood. They were raised around cameras, noise, lights and drama. They are no stranger to red carpets or paparazzi.

Despite all of these women being monumental figures with accolades attached to their names, Dakota Johnson is a nepo baby in a lane of her own.

Johnson is an American actress and film producer. Many people know her from her role in the “Fifty Shades” trilogy, but she actually began her acting career when she was 10 years old in the 1999 film “Crazy in Alabama,” which starred her mother, Melanie Griffith.

Johnson’s stepfather, Antonio Banderas, was a film writer for the movie. Her biological father, Don Johnson, is no stranger to the camera either. He is best known for his role in the 1980s television series “Miami Vice,” which won a Golden Globe and received a Primetime Emmy Award nomination.

But being born into Hollywood did not mean Johnson remained in the shadow of her parents. She began a career of her own that would take her far behind family connections.

Dakota Johnson’s filmography consists of 34 credited roles, both in film and television.

Her 2010 appearance in “The Social Network,” in which she played Amelia Ritter, marked one of her early film roles. The film is a biographical drama following the creation of

Facebook by Mark Zuckerberg. At the 83rd Academy Awards, “The Social Network” received eight nominations and won three, including Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Original Score and Best Film Editing.

As her career continued, Johnson began appearing in increasingly recognizable films. Often supporting roles, before eventually landing the part that would make her a household name.

Two years later, Dakota appeared in another supporting role as Fugazy in “21 Jump Street.” Three years later, her identity as Anastasia Steele came to audiences in the “Fifty Shades” series.

Although this series became a defining role of Johnson’s early career, it was not the only role that demonstrated her range as an actress.

She appeared in a number of other movies and series from 2018-2025. One of my favorite films she acted in was the 2024 film “Am I OK?” I mention this film because Johnson not only starred in it but also served as a producer, and it was when I saw the most depth in her as an actress.

The film follows Johnson as Lucy, a woman navigating her friendships, sexuality and adulthood. The story feels less like you’re watching a movie and more like you are getting a look into a friend’s life.

In 2019, Johnson launched her own production company, TeaTime Pictures. In many of her projects, she has served as both a star and producer.

She recently starred in the upcoming

film “Verity,” an adaptation of the Coleen Hoover novel published in 2018. “Verity” is a psychological romantic thriller that follows Johnson’s character, Lowen Ashleigh, as she navigates a ghost-writing job for an award-winning writer who loses her ability to create. There isn’t much else I can say about this novel without spoiling the entire thing. I finished reading the fast-paced story within two days, and there were moments that the words on the pages left me staring at my ceiling for 30-minute increments.

You may not know Dakota Johnson’s name off the top of your head, but whether it is her nepotism or her talent, she has made a name for herself both in front of and behind camera.

With that, Johnson’s career raises a larger question about the nepo babies of Hollywood: how much should an actor’s family name matter when evaluating the career, they have built for themselves in the industry?

That can really be said for any of the previously named actresses. Nepotism has such a strong negative connotation. When I think of nepotism, I truly think about the legacy that some of these actresses are leaving behind in Hollywood.

Whether you’ve seen any of these actresses’ work in films, seen them on the runway, know of their parents or maybe don’t know them at all, one thing can’t be denied: these women are part of Hollywood legacies that continue to shape the entertainment industry.

Are motorsports, such as NASCAR and F1, sports?

By OAKLEE FIELDER
Editor-in-Cheif

Is racing a car around for laps and laps a sport? How could it be? There’s billions of people who do it every day, not everyone can play football, basket-

ball or soccer every day.

There are arguments that could sway anyone in either direction on if motorsports are actually sports.

The biggest thing about racing is that you need a good car. With a good car, you don’t need to try as hard, or it will be more reliable than worse teams’ cars.

A good enough car can make a bad driver great. You see it all the time. A driver will have a good finish, get hired by a top team and finish well. When that driver is replaced by another, possibly better, driver, they seem to slow down because they’re in worse equipment.

Drivers aren’t doing many athletic movements or actions. Drivers are sitting for hours on end, just using their arms and legs to steer and brake. NFL players are running, jumping, throwing, catching, kicking and tackling. All are considered to be more athletic compared to sitting and driving.

Another argument is that the teams making strategic actions and tuning the car are doing more than the drivers.

Despite these arguments, some still find ways to say motorsports and racing are sports.

It certainly meets the common definition of sport. Teams fight others to get to a goal, or finish, before the competition. There is physical exertion by teams, not just the drivers, in an attempt to be the best.

Despite only sitting, steering and pushing pedals, the drivers undergo large amount of physical strain and exertion. Inside the car can get up to +130°F. The drivers pull high G-forces that can be compared to fighter pilots. Drivers require high neck, arm and leg strength to pilot cars going +190mph.

Skills, strategies and mental demands also play a hand in racing. Teams have to decide when to pit, how to pit, what car to pit, how to set up a car and so many more strategic calls.

Elite top drivers in the highest motorsports are, usually, lean with low body fat and a muscular build.

An argument can be made for both sides. I think racing is not a sport, it’s its own individual thing.

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Northwestern gets Red, White and Rowdy



Left: The J.R. Holder Wellness Center decorated haybales to look like Rowdy Ranger. The wellness center won the award for window decorations located in the entrance.
Top: The NWOSU Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature’s board celebrating 30 years.



Left: The NWOSU Catholic Club’s colorful Spirit Sheet in the student center.
Top: The NWOSU Disc Golf Club, Delta Zeta and the Spanish Club’s Spirit Boards on the walkway between the library and science buildings.
Right: The NWOSU FCA’s Spirit Sheet in the student center says “FCA wants you” and has the Red, White and Rowdy theme written on the bottom.



FEATURE

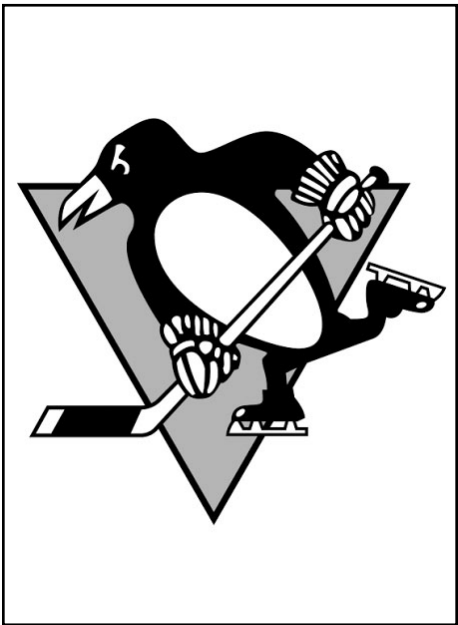
NHL Season Starts Up

By JESSICA SCHIEBER

News Editor

Hockey has officially started and there has been no shortage of fun events that have happened. The season started on Sept. 29.

On Sept. 29 The Florida Panthers took on the Carolina Hurricanes, the Panthers won the game 1-0 in overtime. The Montreal Canadiens had a 3-2 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs. The Boston Bruins beat the New York Rangers 3-0. The Vancouver Canucks had a 6-5 overtime win against the



Edmonton Oilers. The Vegas Golden Knights beat the Blackhawks 5-0.

On Sept. 30 the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Philadelphia Flyers 7-0. The Maple Leafs beat the New York Islanders 2-1. The Los Angeles Kings lost to the Colorado Avalanche 4-8 in which Nathan MacKinnon a player on the Avalanche got into a fight with Brandt Clarke a player on the Kings. Which had many fans talking online



because MacKinnon is one of the best players and goal scorers for the Avalanche.

Oct. 1 was the New Jersey Devils first game of the season and their home opener, in which the Devils beat the Flyers 3-2 in overtime. The Minnesota Wild beat the Nashville Predators 3-1. The Panthers lost to the San Jose Sharks 3-4. The New York Rangers got a win over Tampa Bay Lightning 5-1. The Columbus Blue Jackets won against the Buffalo Sabres 6-3. The Seattle Kraken beat the Calgary Flames 6-1. The Utah Mammoth beat the Blackhawks 6-0. And the Oilers beat the Canucks 9-7.

On Oct. 2 the Washington Capitals beat the Hurricanes 5-2. The St. Louis Blues beat the Dallas Stars 4-0. The Rangers got a win over the Detroit Red Wings, ending in 2-0. The Bruins beat the Winnipeg Jets 4-3. The Anaheim Ducks won 4-3 over the Golden Knights.

On Saturday the Islanders dominated the Devils in a 6-0 win. The Lightning beat the Capitals 3-1. The Hurricanes won in overtime over the Flyers 3-2. The Predators beat the Stars 2-1. The Wild beat the Bruins 4-1. The Sharks won over the Kings in an overtime win 5-4. The Blackhawks lost to the

Sabres 3-4. The Ottawa Senators beat the Maple Leafs 3-2. The Penguins beat the Canadiens 6-5. The Mammoth had a 4-1 win over the Blue Jackets. The Oilers beat the Kraken 3-1. The Avalanche beat the Blues 6-1. And the Flames lost against the Canucks 1-4.

Overall, this season is going to be an exciting one with new faces and stronger teams. This race to the Stanley Cup is going to be a fun one to watch.

This off season there were two announcements made over who the captain of the Sharks, and the captain of the Blackhawks would be. Both named captains are young players.



Connor Bedard was named the captain of the Blackhawks, Bedard is 21 years old and he has played 3 seasons in the NHL. He has played 219 games and has accumulated 203 points.

The Sharks named Macklin Celebrini their captain in the off season. He is 20 years old and has played 2 NHL seasons, he is in his third season. Celebrini is the youngest active captain in the NHL.



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ENTERTAINMENT

“Registration Day”: a short story

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

Mary groaned as the sunlight hit her eyes through the blinds of the bedroom window. It was almost noon. She had been in her bed for over twelve hours now. She reached beneath the covers, running a hand through her graying black hair. Her other hand searched underneath her pillow for her vape. She took a hit, the smoke obscuring her face.

Her entire body felt like hell; her joints ached, her head was pounding, her throat was dry like she’d been asleep for years, her eyes had dark circles under them.

The chicks from the sparrow’s nest outside her window had woken up long before her. Their chirps rang through her ears in a rhythmic orchestra. It reminded her of the songs played at her mother’s church.

She remembered how her and her mother used to go to the Westminster Baptist Church every Sunday. She remembered how she would always wear her little yellow sundress, the one with all the pretty little sunflowers on it. She remembered how her mother teased her about wearing the same dress over and over again.

The pastor always handed out extra candy to her after mass. The woman’s bible study praised her mother for raising such a pretty and respectful little girl. Some of the elders even

suggested she was an angel reborn.

She was fourteen when her mother signed her up for her first shoot. Her mother’s friend knew a woman that worked as a talent scout, and had apparently given her a photo of Mary. There was nothing special about it, just a quick photo of her in her white church dress in a spring-themed background.

Mary didn’t see it as a job at the time, moreso her helping a family friend with a project. As she got older, as her curves became more mature and her body more athletic, her mother began her to meet with an agent. She introduced Mary to David when she was eighteen. He was an older man in his forties, with light-brown hair and a perfect jawline.

When Mary first saw him, David looked to be everything she wanted. He spoke with soft words, bought her her favorite things, and even promised to buy her a ring once his divorce from his third wife was settled.

She moved in with him two years later. His apartment was located in the middle of Oklahoma City. The chandeliers were made from twenty-four karat gold.

The walls were plastered with paintings from France, Italy, Romania, and even Japan. The balcony had a perfect view of the whole city and even some of the countryside.

Her mother didn’t approve of the marriage. She pleaded with Mary to reconsider, to think about what people in their town would say. But Mary had

long stopped caring about what anyone from her old life thought of her. She quickly realized that all that praised she was given growing up was conditional.

No one really loved her like David did, they just expected her to carry on the rest of her life pretending she was still that innocent little girl who would sing in church while turning her cheek to all the perverted and degrading comments whispered by the adults.

Everything was fine. The decades may not have been perfect, but she didn’t them it to be. She had David, and he promised to take care of her for the rest of his life. At least, that is what he said before Mary caught him in their bed with his assistant, then he decided she was getting too old for him and that he much preferred the college-aged blonde.

She made the decision to completely throw herself into work once the papers were filed. She exercised more often, trying every diet known to man.

As she reached thirty, she came to the conclusion that the best way to keep her body beautiful was to stop eating entirely. Botox, tummy tucks, and implants became a part of her monthly schedule. For the first time in a long time, she finally felt like her life gave her back the reins.

Her boss at the agency pulled her in last week. It was the day after her forty-fifth birthday, and he explained to her that the board had a meeting and concluded she outlived her prime. She was an old lady now, and she could

either retire gracefully or drag this out and make an ass of herself.

Mary rubbed her eyes. Her mind was back in the present now. She opened walked to the bathroom mirror, staring at the wrinkles on her face. What had she done wrong? She did everything she was supposed to, didn’t she?

She played by the rules. She did what the suits asked of her. She never complained. She never mentioned the touching or what was happening to the younger models.

She opened her phone, writing an email to her lawyer. She wanted him to send a letter to her agency to let them know she would be resigning. She told him to make sure the letter was as polite and respectful as humanly possible. She told him to let them know how grateful she was for all they had done for her.

Once the email was sent, Mary put her phone gently down on the floor next to the bathtub. She turned the water on, making sure the temperature was just how she liked it. She then locked the door behind her, her expression suddenly bright and joyful.

She stripped down slowly, closing her eyes and leaning her head back as she felt the water against her skin. The nerves had left her, and she was the most peaceful she had ever felt in years.

The police walked into the bathroom and found her body six days later.

The increase of violence in movies and video games

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

Violence has always been a popular topic in the media. War movies, fighting games, spy thrillers, even children’ s cartoons have been known to push the boundaries of what can be put on television. However, the level of violence we see today has not always been this extreme.

During my film class with the former vice president Dr. James Bell in Fall 2024, I got the opportunity to learn a lot about the history of movies in America.

See, back when film and novels were first created, the world was a lot more conservative than it is today.

Now, this was not always the case. At first, many films could show what they want with little pushback. However, after 1939, many film production companies had to follow a strict set of rules.

By that, I mean that directors and writers were often heavily restricted on what they could or could not show. This included adult themes just as



cursing, sex and how much blood could be shown.

Take Hitchcock’s 1960 “Psycho”, for instance. While the graphic content in the film (specifically the iconic shower scene) may not seem all that controversial by today’s standards, audiences were horrified when it first came out.

The idea of being attacked somewhere you would be naked and vulnerable along with to the eerie soundtrack and obscured face of the

killer, made for what was considered one of the scariest scenes in history at the time according to many audience members that were shocked by how unexpected and gory it was.

But it was not only the moralistic censorship that held films back from being more violent. Special effects, while impressive for the time period, is nowhere near as making it hard for directors to show violence in a convincing way without hurting their actors.

I am sure you have seen the fake blood used in those older movies. You know, the kind that is so bright red it looks more like ketchup than something that would come out of a human body.

It all may sound ridiculous in the year 2026. After all, we live in a day and age where you can see a kid playing a mature-rated game without anyone batting an eye.

I personally speak from experience on this part; growing up, my younger cousin and I constantly played “GTA V” on his Xbox all the time. I even purchased the game last December for my PlayStation so I could finally own it myself now that I am an adult.

Looking back on it, we were probably much too young to be play a video game like that. But I do not believe it made me into a violent person. Instead, I think it helped me understand that there are a lot of factors that decide how a person turns out in life.

I do not think our media becoming more violent is a bad thing, but I would not call it a good thing either. Merely, it is just the way the world is now.

SPORTS

Volleyball wins and loses

By OAKLEE FIELDER

Editor-in-Cheif

The Lady Rangers took down Henderson State and lost to Ouachita Baptist this week as they win their first conference game against the Reddies.

Northwestern has been struggling as they have not won a game since the Rosella Meier UNK Fall Classic in mid-September. This week, that losing streak has ended after they took down Henderson State at home in Percefull Fieldhouse.

The game started with back-and-forth action as they traded points ending with the Lady Rangers up 5-3. Then, Henderson went on a six-point run to take the lead 9-5. Then the two teams went back and forth and eventually, by slowly reeling in the Reddies, the Lady Rangers took the lead by one. Just as fast as Northwestern took the lead, the Reddies took the lead again. The Rangers were unable to hold onto the Reddies, and Henderson took set one by five 25-20.

Set two started with a short run from the Reddies after the Rangers scored one. With the score 5-1, the Lady Rangers scored twice to close the gap, but Henderson scored three in response. Following in pattern, Northwestern then went on a 10-3 run to make it a 13-11 game. The two teams fought hard as neither of them scored more than four in a row after that run. The game was tied at 19 when Henderson scored two. Northwestern responded with three, followed by a Henderson point, tying it at 22. Northwestern scored three points against Henderson's one after the tie at 22, giving the Lady Rangers set two.

The next two sets were not anywhere close compared to the two sets before. The Lady Rangers went on a 12-point tear midway through the third set to give them a lead of eight, 19-11. The Reddies were unable to recover from that large run the Lady Rangers had, and Northwestern took set three.



Kaylah Thomas prepares to serve against Southwestern on Oct 1 in Percefull Fieldhouse.
Photo by Tierra Green

Set four wasn't as aggressive from either team, as they traded points back and forth. While the teams were battling, the Lady Rangers were slowly earning a lead. The lead would slowly grow by the end of the final set, ending with a win for Northwestern 25-16. The set win ended the match, with Northwestern taking the win 3-1.

Ivanny Blackwood had the most kills in the game with 17. Celia Mbaya and Tess De Zanet both had 11. De

Zanet also recorded two blocks. Ryann Eastes had 45 assists and 15 digs. Jadyn Padilla had 22 digs and four assists. Kemelly Baez Miecznikoski had five blocks.

The game against the other Arkadelphia twin, Ouachita Baptist, did not go as well for the Lady Rangers as they lost the match 3-0.

Despite losing every set, the Lady Rangers gave a good fight throughout the match. None of the sets had an

ending score of more than six.

In set one, the Tigers got out to a great start, giving them a 5-1 lead. Eventually, the Lady Rangers reeled them back into a 13-12 difference between the teams. Ouachita Baptist responded by increasing their lead again, but the Lady Rangers swung back and made it a close match at the end. Unfortunately, the Tigers' lead was just too much for Northwestern, and Ouachita took set one 25-20.

Set two was a lot closer, but started in another fall from Northwestern. The Lady Rangers dropped the start and were down 5-1. Northwestern then put together a run to reel in the Tigers to make it a tie game at 10. The two teams proceeded to battle, throwing punches and tugging at the lead. Ouachita seemed to put the set in the bag by making it a 22-20 game as set two was in its twilight. Then, the Lady Rangers put together a small quick run to make it 24-22 over the Tigers. Ouachita stumbled, but picked themselves back up and scored four straight to take the win in set two over Northwestern 26-24.

The final set did not go as well for the Lady Rangers. It started with another tug-of-war for the lead, but then the Tigers went on an 8-1 run to take the lead 11-5. The Tigers slowly but surely kept extending their lead, and eventually went on a short run to make it 20-15. Northwestern fought back, but the Tigers put the game to bed and swept the Lady Rangers in their match.

Baez Miecznikoski had 13 kills and three blocks against Ouachita Baptist. Blackwood had 11 kills and two blocks. Eastes had 28 assists and 1 ace. Andrea Djordjevic had 14 digs, two blocks and one ace.

Next on the Lady Ranger schedule is Harding University. They will play on Thursday night in Searcy, Arkansas. Northwestern is 10th in the Great American Conference standings.

Women thrive, men struggle in XC

By OAKLEE FIELDER

Editor-in-Cheif

Women's cross country finished 4th and the men finished 24th in Arkansas for the Chile Pepper Festival hosted by the University of Arkansas.

Reshila Curley was the top Lady Ranger in Arkansas out of 222 runners. Curley finished 22nd with a time of 19:07. Jessica Myers was the second-best Northwestern runner as she finished 41st with a time of 19:41.

Senior Cadence Long-Torres finished 48th with a time of 19:49. Emilia Cenicerros and Ava Washington fin-

ished next to each other in 75th and 76th. Cenicerros had a time of 20:27 and Washington had a time of 20:28.

Ana Rojas was not far behind Cenicerros and Washington. Rojas finished 79th with a time of 20:31. Ivy Washington finished 90th with a time of 20:45. In 108th was Jaidyn Frantz with a time of 21:05. Camila Espore had a time of 21:09, putting her in 114th.

Milana Jackson finished 151st with a time of 22:22. Grace Stark finished in 168th with a time of 22:58. Reina Gonzales finished in 175th with a time of 23:22.

The men didn't have as good of

a race as the women as they finished 24th out of 26.

Riley Herndon was the best Ranger in the Chile Pepper Festival as he finished 68th with a time of 25:51.

Andrew Scott was the second Ranger to cross the finish line. Scott had a time of 26:23, putting him in 107th. Coy Bullard finished 129th with a time of 26:41.

Freshman Matthew Manning finished in 189th with a time of 27:56. Fellow freshman Brayden Cowan finished 196th with a time of 28:11. Tristan Meeker finished 211th with a time of 28:38. Donald Kosgei and

Boyd Hamby finished hip to hip. Kosgei was 219th with a time of 28:55. Hamby finished 220th with a time of 28:57.

Daxton Williams finished 225th with a time of 29:00. Kaleb Madden finished 242nd with a time of 29:46. Seth Crouse and Joseph Kollar finished together in 250th and 251st with times of 30:16.

Boomer Mendenhall and Johnny Rushing were another duo of Rangers that finished together. They finished 257th and 258th. Mendenhall finished 31:10 and Rushing finished a second behind.

SPORTS

Football loses by three

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

The Ranger football lost to Southern Arkansas this weekend after a final score of 30-27 on Saturday in Magnolia, Arkansas.

The loss adds onto the Rangers' losing streak and gives them a winless record, 0-5. With this loss, the Rangers are the only winless team in the Great American Conference and puts them at the bottom of the standings.

Quickly, the Rangers fell behind the Muleriders after Southern Arkansas scored a touchdown just two minutes into the game. The Rangers were unable to score on their next drives, going three and out on them both. With two minutes left in the first quarter, the Muleriders scored another touchdown to make it 14-0.

At the start of quarter two, the Rangers had one play and made seven yards until it was fumbled by Bailee Davenport. Southern Arkansas recovered the fumble and earned possession just seven seconds into the second quarter. The Muleriders made

it down to the 19-yard line before they were stopped by the Ranger defense. On fourth down, Southern Arkansas went for it, and the Northwestern Defense stopped them. This turnover gave the Rangers momentum into their next drive. With that momentum, Northwestern charged down the field from their 18-yard line. On a second and two on the 9-yard line, Jacob Jones made a short pass to Henry Wilson who ran it into the endzone to put points on the board for the Rangers.

After the Ranger touchdown, Southern Arkansas scored two touchdowns, making it 21-7. The Rangers had the ball on their 32-yard line with five minutes left in the second quarter. The Rangers drove down the field with a pass from Jones to Davenport for 42 yards and short gains. The Rangers' eight play, 68-yard drive ended with a touchdown from Ezequiel Luna. Kash Shipley went to kick the extra point but it was blocked by a Mulerider. The Southern Arkansas defense scooped up the ball and scored on the other side of the field, giving them two points for a recovered PAT.

It didn't take long for the Rangers

to score in the second half. On their first drive, the Rangers charged down the field, making up 71 yards into the endzone, scoring a touchdown with a pass from Jones to Wilson to make it a 10-point game.

After the Northwestern defense stopped the Muleriders quickly, the Rangers received a punt and went back on the offense on their seven-yard line. The Northwestern offense went to business and knocked down all 93 yards they needed to go. With two minutes left in the third quarter, the Jones made a pass to Brody Williams. Williams made the 24-yard throw in the endzone and scored a touchdown. Shipley's extra point kick was good and it was a 3-point game heading into the final quarter.

The final quarter started slow, with neither team earning many yards and unable to score any points. With nine minutes on the clock, the Muleriders took their time going down the field as they had the lead and did not want to risk anything. Their slow drive eventually made it to the redzone. They made it as far as the one-yard line. On a fourth down and one yard

to the touchdown, Southern Arkansas attempted to squeak into the endzone. The Ranger defense stopped them, and gave the Northwestern offense the ball.

The offense didn't make it far, and with one minute on the clock, tried to get out of their far side of the field. On a third and 17, Jones went to make a pass, but it was intercepted and that ended the game.

Jones threw for 322 yards and had three touchdowns. Jones made 74% of his throws, but was intercepted twice. Jayce Morgan had the most rushing carries with 22. Morgan had 62 yards and didn't lose a single yard. Koda Bridges and Royal Kyle did well in the receiving end of the game. Bridges had 7- yards and eight receptions. Kyle had five receptions and made 64 yards. Wilson had two touchdowns and 58 yards.

Wyatt Potter had 11 tackles, five solo and six assisted. Jayden Page had nine tackles, two solo and seven assisted. Aiden Lewis had nine tackles, four solo and five assisted, and had one tackle for loss.

For homecoming, the Rangers are set to face Henderson State University.

Soccer loses two, falls to fourth in standings

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

The Lady Rangers' win streak ended in Searcy, Arkansas after a loss to Harding University, followed up by a loss to Ouachita Baptist University.

Both losses ended in scores of 1-0. These two losses dropped the Lady Rangers from first to fourth in the Great American Conference standings. The two teams Northwestern lost to sit 1st and 2nd in the standings.

The game against Harding was a battle between the defenses. The first half went by without a score, but Harding had 11 shots against Northwestern's two. It wasn't until late in the second half that a goal was scored. Harding scored in the 76th minute, 14 minutes until the final whistle. That goal was the only one of the game. Harding had nine shots in the second half, the Lady Rangers had one.

Harding got the best of Northwestern offensively as they had nine shots on goal and three corners. The Lady

Rangers had only two shots on goal and had one corner, showing they weren't able to get much momentum on the offensive side of the game.

The two shots on goal for the Lady Rangers came from Cambell Tabor and Olivia Staton. Taylor Annen recorded eight saves in the duel against the Lady Bisons.

After their loss to Harding, the Lady Rangers stayed in Arkansas for their battle against the Tigers from Ouachita Baptist in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

The game against the Tigers was a match between the goalkeepers. Once again, there was only one goal scored in this game. In the first 10 minutes, the two teams had shots on goal. In the first half, the Lady Rangers outshot the Tigers 8-7, but neither team were able

to finish their shots.

Shortly after the second half started, the Tigers scored. With 41 minutes on the clock, the Lady Rangers tried and tried to get into the Ouachita goalkeeper's box, but struggled to. Northwestern only recorded three shots in the second half, five less than the first half. The Tigers heavily outshot the Lady Rangers in the second half as Ouachita had 13.

The Lady Rangers only had two of their shots on goal. Ouachita had eight on goal. Taylor Annen recorded seven saves against the Tigers, giving her 15 over the weekend. Mylee Yuill and Staton had the two shots on goal. Alyssa Hotze gave the most shots with three.

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Golf competes in Edmond

The golf teams traveled to Edmond to compete in the Skip Wagon Invitational and the Grace Shin Invitational where the men's tear seemed to slow down.

The men finished 8th with a score of -13.

Mathieu Zerwin's streak of great finishes continued as he finished tied for 3rd with a score of -12. Jack Collingswood finished tied for 15th with a score of -7. Further down the order were Pierce Geminden, Chris Xiao and Zac Farmer. Geminden and

Xiao finished tied for 71st with scores of +7. Farmer finished tied for 76th with a score of +8.

The Lady Rangers struggled, as they finished 19th out of 21 with a score of +86. Veronica Rodriguez was the top Lady Ranger. Rodriguez finished tied for 61st with a score of +15. Heather Hunkele was next. Hunkele finished tied for 84th with a score of +22. Amanda Lane finished tied for 87th with a score of +23. Olivia Platow and Kelsey Hoy-Pollard finished tied for 104th with scores of +29.

PHOTOS

HOCO decorations winners



Top Left: The Art Society’s winning Spirit Board.



Top Right: The Woodward Leadership Advisory Board’s first place Spirit Sheet.

Middle: J.R. Holder Wellness Center’s award winning window decorations.

Bottom Left: The Lasso Center won the door decorations with their Red, White and Rowdy door.

Bottom Right: The front of the J.R. Holder Well-ness Center, showing off their front door in red, white and blue.

Photos by Oaklee Fielder

