HALLOWEEN

Alva homes decorate for the spooky season.
See pages 6 & 7



SPORTS

Teams struggle throughout the season.
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A fresh start for Ament Hall

By **SHEALYN PRATT**
Features Editor

Residents have moved into Ament Hall following a five-month renovation that brought new laundry facilities, updated living spaces and improvements to the building's heating and air conditioning systems.

Ament Hall has been under construction since last spring. By the end of this week, residents will have completed their move into the renovated residence hall.

The five-month renovation project began around May 15, 2026 and was largely completed in early October. This week, residents moved from Coronado and Cunningham halls into the renovated building.

The renovations added laundry rooms on each floor, water bottle refill stations in the hallways, moveable furniture in the rooms and newly furnished and redesigned lounge areas. Improvements to the heating and air conditioning systems, along with other technical upgrades, were also made to create a safer, more comfortable living environment.

"I know the process has taken a little bit of time and a little bit longer than we expected, and that kind of seems to be the case with a lot of construction projects," said Calleb Mosburg, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management and Title IX coordinator. "However, we are excited the guys can get in there, we are excited the space is, for the most part, brand new."



Photo by Kennedy McGee
One of the renovated lounge spaces in Ament Hall after the brand new renovations.



Mosburg explained that the bathrooms were among the few areas left largely untouched during the renovation because they had been updated just a few years ago.

"We hope that they get a chance to really enjoy the space the rest of this fall, the spring and the future years," Mosburg said.

For now, both men's residence halls are overseen by resident assistant Ken Irving. Although moving in the middle of the semester could present challenges, residents appear pleased with their new space.

"I honestly like it a lot more than the old building," said Kennedy McGee. "It's a lot nicer and cleaner, I like the ability to move the furniture around and get the room set up how I like it."

Midterm elections approaching

By **REAGAN McREYNOLDS**
Guest Reporter

As the 2026 midterm elections approach, Democrats are getting attention across the country as national polls show growing support for the party in congressional races. The numbers have raised questions about whether traditionally Republican areas could become more competitive and whether Democrats could regain control of Congress.

Although the presidential election will not take place until 2028, President Trump remains a major factor in the midterm campaign. Voters are evaluating the direction of the country, the economy and the administration policies as prepared to cast their ballot on November 3.

According to Morning Consult's Oct. 18 midterm tracking report, Democratic congressional candidates lead Republican candidates by seven percentage points nationally among likely voters. Democrats receive 50% support, compared with 43% for Republicans, while 6% of voters remain undecided. The survey included 17,706 likely voters.

The results suggest Democrats have an opportunity to make gains in Congress. However, national polling does not guarantee that individual state congressional districts will follow the same pattern.

What does a blue wave mean? The term "blue wave" describes a significant electoral gain for Democrats, whose party color is blue. During a wave election, one party can win races in places where it has traditionally struggled, potentially changing the balance of power in government.

In 2026, political attention is focused on whether Democrats can win enough to take control of the House of Representatives and Senate. Republicans currently holding narrow majorities in both chambers, making competitive races important to the future of the president's legislative agenda.

According to Reuters, democrats need a net gain of four seats to control either chamber under the current party breakdown. If Democrats gain control of the House or Senate, they would have greater influence over legislation, federal spending, and congressional investigations.

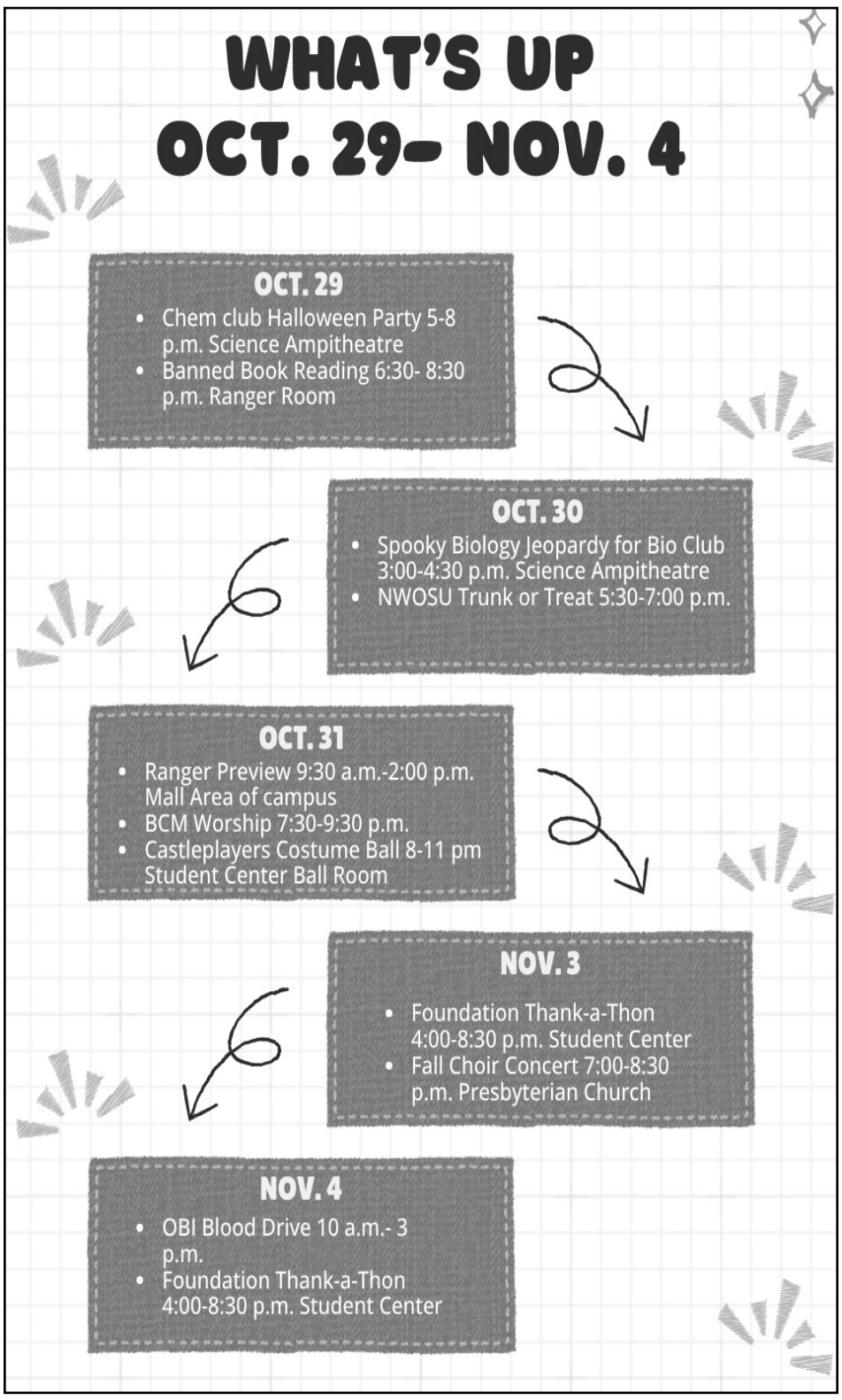
The possibility of a democratic wave has drawn attention to states that have traditionally favored Republicans. Texas, Ohio, Iowa and other states have competitive congressional or Senate races that could influence which party controls Washington.

However, a state becoming more competitive is not the same as officially

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NEWS



Bradt's Menagerie closes for season after long drought

By **JESSICA SCHIEBER**
News Editor

Bradt's Menagerie is closing for the remainder of the year, and their "Haunted Hay Maze" has been canceled due to dry harvest conditions.

One of Northwestern Oklahoma State University students' favorite pass times around this holiday season is going out to Bradt's Menagerie to attend their "Haunted Hay Maze."

This year, however, there will be no hay maze for the students to go out and enjoy.

Bradt's Menagerie has had Oklahoma's largest round bale hay maze for ten years.

The first hay maze that the menagerie had was in 2015.

This year, the owners of the menagerie have decided to take a reset and rest this fall.

The menagerie will not be open to the public over the fall. They will reopen in March of 2027.

One of the driving reasons for the menagerie not being open this year is the fact that they couldn't harvest.

According to the Oklahoma farm report, July had 30 of the driest days and 20 of the hottest days on record. During the summer more than 25% of Oklahoma was categorized in extreme or exceptional drought, which are the two most critical levels on the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Because of the heat and the dryness of the summer, many ponds and stock tanks have dried up.

Farmers and ranchers in the western half of the state had to haul water and feed supplemental hay to sustain their livestock, and major reservoirs in Western Oklahoma dwindled down.

According to News 9, cattle farmers were forced to buy feed after the drought had taken a toll on wheat crops. The heat of the summer lead to the decision to not open the well-loved menagerie. However, there were some premade agreements that the owners have committed to upholding.

Because of the lack of harvest, and the lack of being able to have a good harvest, many farmers and other places like the menagerie are not able to open and are struggling to get by.

While the menagerie won't be open to the public this fall, they are still keeping their animals for when they open back up in the spring.

The menagerie, while the workers, owners and animals rest are also preparing for a great start up in the spring.

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NEWS

Midterms approaching

Continued from Page 1

turning blue. Election results, rather than pulling a loan, determine which party wins an election.

Why voters may be shifting. Several issues are shaping voter opinions, ahead of the election, including the economy, healthcare, immigration, and the cost of living. For many Americans, the cost of everyday necessities remains a concern. Housing, groceries, gas, and medical expenses can place pressure on household budgets, particularly for young adults and college students who are balancing tuition, rent and employment.

Reuters reported in October that affordability is a major issue in the midterm campaign. Democrats have emphasized reducing living expenses and expanding access to affordable healthcare, while Republicans have appointed tax cuts and their policies on immigration and the economy.

Public opinion about the president can also influence congressional elections. Midterms often serve as a referendum on the administration and power, allowing voters to express approval or dissatisfaction through the choices for Congress.

Political experts told Northeastern University that the president's approval ratings and the condition of the economy are more important factors in the midterm outcomes. Historically, the party holding the White House often lost congressional seats during the midterm election.

That pattern could create challenges for Republicans, but it does not guarantee democratic victories. Local candidates, campaign strategies, voter turnout, and individual states can all affect results.

National polling shows that Democrats are leading in congressional preferences, the political map remains divided. Some states have consistently supported Democratic candidates, while others continue to favor Republicans.

Competitive states are particularly important because relatively small changes in voter preferences can determine the outcome of close races. Candidates in these areas often focus on persuading independent voters and residents who have not firmly committed to either party.

Texas has received particular attention because it has a large population and a substantial number of electoral votes in presidential elections. Although democratic candidates have become competitive in some Texas races, the state has not officially changed its political status based on the polling.

The same distinction applies nationally. A democratic lead in congressional polling does not mean Democrats would automatically win the presidential election or that most states have shifted toward the party.

Presidential elections are decided through the Electoral College, while midterm elections determine congressional representation and numerous state and local offices. The two types of elections measure different contests, even though national political attitudes can influence both.

For college students, the midterm elections could influence policies affecting education, employment, healthcare, and student finances.

Federal lawmakers help determine government spending priorities, while state officials make decisions involving public universities, workforce training and other education programs. Changes in tax policy and federal financial assistance can also affect students and their families.

Students who are eligible to vote. Can research candidates' positions, compare proposals and review their state's election information before voting. Understanding the difference between national polling and actual election results is also important when evaluating political news.

As Nov. 3 approaches, both parties are working to motivate their supporters and persuade undecided voters. The outcome will determine whether the Republicans maintain their congressional majority or Democrats gain control of one or other chambers.

For now, Democratic strength and national polling have made a potential blue wave a major topic of discussion. Whether that support translates into victories across traditionally Republican states will depend on the voters who participate in the election. The result will provide a clear picture of the country's political direction as the United States moves toward the next presidential election in 2028.

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NORTHWESTERN NEWS

OPINION

How Flock Cameras Work

By **ZOE CHAMBERS**
Guest Reporter



Flock cameras, also known as automated license plate readers, provide law enforcement with the technology to quickly track down vehicles and find missing people.

Flock safety is a company that manufactures technology to help police and communities stay safe and solve crimes more efficiently. Cameras are typically mounted on poles close to the road and near parking lot entrances. ALRPs capture still images of the back of vehicles and license plates and do not record live video. They also do not have facial recognition or continuously track people.

The cameras use artificial intelligence to log the license plate number and the state it was issued from, as well as the vehicle's make, model and color. ALRPs can also detect distinct vehicle characteristics like damage or bumper stickers. Lastly, the cameras keep track of the time and location of the sighting. All of the data is stored in an encrypted cloud and is run against records like AMBER Alerts, stolen vehicle reports and warrant lists. The data is only able to be accessed by authorized people.

"Access and permissions are determined by our partners, which include cities, police agencies, businesses and neighborhoods," Flock Safety website reads.

Flock cameras are intended to keep people safe and solve crimes. The Flock Safety website says each year there are more than 600,000 missing people reported. In 2025 alone, Flock cameras played a role in finding 10,000 of those missing. These cameras have allowed law enforcement to get alerts and find vehicles with lost children quicker. It's been reported by Flock Safety that 76% of abducted children who are killed, die within the first three hours of being kidnapped. This shows how urgent it is for police to have access to roadside vehicle detection.

"I think Flock cameras can be extremely beneficial," said Aubrey Warehime, a Northwestern Oklahoma State University student. "I've listened to many different missing person cases and have seen it help track down where the missing person went or where the particular suspect went. I do think in that case it is extremely important helping track down missing people and/or different suspects involved in crime."

ALRP data has completely changed the dynamic of solving crimes by allowing the police to quickly receive alerts regarding possible vehicles involved in illegal activity. However, due to AI mistakes, there have been cases where vehicles were misidentified and innocent people were pulled over or arrested. It has been reported that the system often mistakes similar-looking numbers and letters.

"I think there are some issues with Flock cameras being incorrect," Warehime said. "However, I do think they should continue to use them to aid in finding concrete evidence because a defense could get rid of the evidence in a trial due to its unreliability."

This technology is made to be used as a lead for law enforcement; it does not directly determine whether someone is guilty or not. Police are supposed to verify the information of the vehicle before making a traffic top or initiating an arrest. Many cases often go cold due to the lack of evidence the police have, but Flock cameras have been provided to give authorities a small lead that helps them track down the perpetrator.

The camera data systems are heavily protected in order to keep the public secure. There are detailed logs kept of who has accessed data in the system. These logs are permanent and can not be altered for the purpose of keeping records safe and protected. On the other hand, the images taken by the cameras are only kept for seven days unless flagged by the system.

There are no official maps posted by the Flock Safety website, but all cameras are placed in plain sight and in a fixed location.

According to the 2025 Flock camera impact census, which surveyed 700 law enforcement agencies, the camera's technology aided in nearly 1 million nationwide investigations and helped solve nearly 20% of cleared cases. Additionally, the systems fast-alerting technology has helped recover a large number of stolen vehicles.

According to the North Carolina Criminal Law Blog, there are many people concerned that Flock cameras might violate the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which protects people against unreasonable search and seizure. Some argue that having so many ALRPs placed all over cities allows for the tracking of people's patterns of work, school and church. The question is whether this counts as a warrant-less search. So far, the courts have agreed with law enforcement that the cameras are not in violation of the Fourth Amendment. Flock Safety and the authorities defend the system saying they are not a violation of people's privacy because the cameras are stationary and only take still shots as opposed to live footage.



OPINION

Have frats taken it too far?

By **ALLISON RUWALDT**
Senior Reporter

Students at Northwestern Oklahoma State University seem to be split on their opinions of fraternities and sororities across America.

While some students feel strongly about things like their party culture and hazing incidents, others are indifferent. As these organizations have been a part of Greek life for what feels like centuries, and there have been new laws put in place, some students see it as something that just comes with the title.

"I feel like it's been toned down," said Lance Fish, a sophomore at Northwestern. "I don't hear much about frats."

Although a handful of people agree, others feel that frats and sororities often take things too far. Students say that for many joining these houses, it is their first time living on their own, so they should be under more care and supervision.

"I do think frats and sororities go too far with certain things, since this is the first time most teens are stepping away to live away from their parents," said Andrea Rosas, who is a junior at Northwestern. " They are not aware of what they will really be stepping into."

Students feel that there is not enough control or supervision in frat and sorority houses. Because the students who are a part of these groups are usually between 18 and 22, and it is their first taste of freedom, and they tend to party intensely. While this does not have to be a bad thing, many students on campus feel that it has become something extreme that should be limited.

"I don't think they have guidelines; I think they need an adult that can help direct them," said Savannah Mingus, a student at Northwestern.

Mingus also brought up how she believes sororities can often set unrealistic expectations. She mentioned that seeing members constantly buy new outfits and show off the expenses for their formals can be harmful.

Many students feel the organization does more to separate people than bring them together. While the original intention of the groups was to ensure community, students feel now that they are more divisive. Because opposing groups typically do not get along, students not involved in Greek life often feel disconnected from those who are.

"I think that frats and sororities have gone too far. I feel like their purpose was to get people to connect and have relationships that can help them after college," said Lexi Keply, a grad student at Northwestern. "And they kind of go beyond that now with parties and dangerous hazing activities."

Northwestern does have one sorority, Delta Zeta, but it does not have any form of fraternity. Students spoke highly of those involved in the on-campus sorority and cited it as a good example of positive Greek life.

"I know personally, after talking to other sorority members and leaders in the sorority about it, that the hazing and everything has gone way too far," said Cortnie Dennis-Wilfinger, a senior at Northwestern and member of Delta Zeta. "We do anti-haze week and stuff, and it's nation-wide, but it's still so hard to stop it in other places."

While sororities and fraternities are gaining a bad reputation, there are still many who believe good can and has come from them if they have rules.

Eagles under investigation from NFL

By **JESSICA SCHIEBER**
News Editor

Blood clots are a semisolid or gel-like mass made of platelets, red blood cells and fibrin, which is a protein mesh that forms inside blood vessels to stop bleeding when a vessel is damaged. A blood clot that forms in the lung is called a pulmonary embolism (PE), and it is a blockage in one of the pulmonary arteries in the lungs, usually caused by blood clots that travel to the lungs from the legs or other parts of the body. When a blood clot occurs inside the blood vessels, it may lead to serious medical conditions.

Blood clots can be a life-threatening condition, with appropriate treatment and lifestyle modifications that reduce the risk most people live with.

Hurts injury timeline

Oct. 4-Hurts "cleated" in leg against Rams

Oct. 8-Medical evaluation requested

Oct. 9-Hurts flies to London

Oct. 10-Ultrasound discovers bloodclot

Oct. 11-Plays against Jacksonville, flies back to US

Oct. 12-13-Hurts recieves medical treatment

Oct. 15-Hurts ruled out against Carolina

Oct. 16-Hurts out for the season

Why is this important? Eagles star quarterback Jalen Hurts recently announced that he had these blood clots. His clots were so bad that he was not allowed to sleep for roughly 36 hours. After staying awake for those 36 hours, Hurts was cleared to not only fly to London but to also play in the game.

This has caused many fans to talk, and not only are the fans upset. The NFL Players Association has called for a "full investigation" into how the NFL and the Eagles handled Hurts' medical care.

The NFL will not punish the Eagles for how they handled the process. The Eagles have not made their medical staff available to reporters, and head coach Nick Sirianni deflected multiple questions, deferring to the team's statements, including its joint statement with Hurts' agent.

Hurts' injury had been building up for a while, and many believe that he was not given the proper care that he needed. On Oct. 4, Hurts played against the Rams and got cleated in the calf. On Oct. 8, Hurts reports of calf injury to training staff.

On Oct. 9, the Eagles add Hurts to injury report, and the Eagles fly to London. On Oct. 10 The Eagles and NFL arranged Hurts' visit to a London hospital, and the clot was discovered. On Oct. 11 Hurts played against the Jaguars and flied back to Philadelphia. On Oct. 14 Hurts went to practice and had a follow-up ultrasound revealed clot movement. On Oct. 15 the Eagles disclose the blood clot and rule Hurts out vs. the Panthers. On Oct. 16 Hurts missed practice while seeking second opinions. On Oct. 17, the Eagles placed Hurts on injured reserve. On Oct. 19, Eagles and Hurts' agents disclose blood clots in his lungs. On Oct. 20 NFL says the Eagles handled process 'appropriately' and the NFLPA (NFL players association) calls for a 'full investigation.'

On Oct. 21 NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell responded to NFLPA. Goodell told reporters at NFL's league meetings, "We welcome that. That's part of our process. That's fine. Our chief medical officer has been through the protocols that were followed. So, we welcome that. If they did that, they have that right." And on Oct. 25, the NFL and the NFLPA confirmed a joint review of Hurts' medical care.

Since his injury Hurts' mom, who is a teacher, had students who wrote get well cards for him. Many people wish for the best recovery for Hurts. Schools in Philadelphia that received HVAC units from Hurts have held pep rallies to show their support for him whilst he remains out. A mural of Hurts has been transformed into a massive get-well card for him.

From all of these wishes one thing becomes obvious; Hurts is well cared for. He may not know all these people, but his impact on and off the field has led him to become adored by the citizens of Philadelphia and beyond.

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Alva's spooky Halloween decorations

Below: On the corner of Locust and Noble ther are giant skeletons and creepy figures all over the yard with a path for trick-or-treaters.



Right: A pumpkin filled yard on 12th and Locust with a few ghosts and a tower of spooky, but silly, characters.







Photos by Oaklee Fielder

Corner of 1st and Church shows two skeletons carrying an unsuspicious bag across the yard.





House on the corner of Maple and 7th shows off ghosts, cats, pumpkins, spiders and a witch riding a bike.



Top: A house on Church shows giant skeletons and their pets with a much smaller skeleton duo dancing to the left.
Left: A spooky home on Center with ghouls, a pumpkin person, a witch in the air and a big cat skeleton.

FEATURE

From Ranger to runway

By **SHEALYN PRATT**
Features Editor

"You'll find yourself in a room that makes you feel inexperienced… But being in that room, it means you earned your place there," said Gillynne Dasco. That sentiment holds especially true when your first professional modeling experience is with Victoria's Secret.

Former Northwestern track and field athlete Riley Midgett made it to the top five of Victoria's Secret six-part YouTube docuseries, which followed the nationwide search for the brand's newest 2026 runway Angel.

The Victoria's Secret Fashion show is a part of girlhood that has been around for decades.

In 1995, the brand launched the Victoria' Secret Fashion Show and broadcast it on national television. In 1997, the brand introduced the idea of "Angels," using spokesmodels such as Heidi Klum, Tyra Banks and Adriana Lima. The show's third annual installment marked the beginning of the elaborate wings worn on the runway. As the shows continued throughout the years, the size of the wings began to signify the status of the models wearing them. Models such as Elsa Hosk and Bella Hadid have worn wings weighing more than 50 pounds as they strut down the runway.

But you don't just throw on the wings and walk in a Victoria's Secret show. The modeling industry is a demanding one. Some models spend years perfecting their walks and practicing their techniques. While some were practicing how to strut in heels, Riley was at another kind of practice.

She spent her freshman year of college as a collegiate athlete on Northwestern's women's track and field team. She was recruited by former coach, Derrick Young Jr.

"I really enjoyed the coach," Riley said. "I actually liked Alva."

She returned to her home state of New Mexico and finished her college track and field career at Eastern New Mexico University. Although she only spent a year at Northwestern, she said she was happy to have spent her first year in college as a Ranger.

"I'm glad that I went there for my freshman year because it definitely taught me college life outside of the state," she said. "Living in the dorms and being uncomfortable in a place that you're not used to, that's good because when you leave high school that's kind of hard."

In high school, she finished second in the state in the 100-meter dash. During her time at Northwestern, she set program relay and sprint marks before transferring to Eastern New Mexico. There, she went on to earn honors such as the Lone Star Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll, an All-LSC bronze finish in the 4x100 relay and a 24-second finish in the 200-meter dash.

"What I took from track and put onto the runway is work ethic and self discipline," she explained. "When you're on the track and when you're at practice, you're being coached the entire time. You have to have a strong growth mindset to learn new things from your coach… the way that I was so eager to learn how to get faster in track is how I did that on the runway and they definitely saw that. The judges saw that I was coachable."

Riley went on to explain that self-discipline helped as she began to learn different runway walking techniques, especially because "Angels Among Us" was her first experience preparing to walk in a show.



Riley had done photo shoots with local photographers in her hometown but said she had never taken modeling seriously. On April 1, she saw Victoria's Secret's post for the open casting call and decided to apply.

"I was like, you know what, I'll just do it, I was going to graduate and I was done with track. I just wanted to see what happened." Riley said.

She attended the open casting call in Chicago before receiving a message from IMG Models scheduling her for an over the phone interview with the judges. Two weeks later, she was scheduled for a zoom call with Adam Selman, the producer of the 2026 Victoria's Secret runway show.

"Getting the call from Adam, saying that I made top 10, was crazy," Riley said. "I was trying not to cry because I knew they were recording the whole thing for the show."

Riley said her first modeling job, especially one with Victoria's Secret, was challenging.

"It was kind of like, I'm with pros. These girls, the other nine, are pros," she explained. "It was just me and three other girls that have never walked in our lives. I've done photo shoots before, but it was nothing compared to this level. I got to experience how Victoria Secret show's are."

During "Angels Among Us," Riley was flown to New York City, home to the Victoria's Secret Global Flagship Store, the largest Victoria's Secret Store in the world. There, she received modeling tips from some of the industry's best. She received runway coaching from prominent Italian fashion casting director Piergiorgio Del Moro and was styled by French art director, fashion editor and stylist Carlyne Cerf De Dudzelle. Her makeup was done by Pat McGrath's team. Vogue magazine once referred to McGrath as "the most influential make-up artist in the world.

As the docuseries unfolds, contestants are eliminated as the judges narrow the field to one model who will appear in this year's show. Riley couldn't believe that she made it to the top five, especially after nearly deciding not to attend the open casting call in Chicago.

"I knew in my head that I wasn't going to win," Riley said with a laugh. "Out of 100,000 girls... I am so happy about top five, I really, really am because I personally did not expect to make it that far. Especially with how horrible my walk was," she joked. "I'm really proud and grateful that Adam gave us that opportunity."

Riley plans to continue modeling after this experience. She said agencies have already begun reaching out following the docuseries premiere.

"This whole experience taught me confidence," she said proudly.

Riley encourages everyone to pursue their dreams, even if they involve something they have never done before.

"We only live once and nothing is stopping you," she said. "If I had never taken that jump, none of this would've happened, so honestly just go for it."

From the track to the runway, Midgett's journey proved that sometimes the biggest opportunities are the ones that are most unexpected.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Looking for a creepy podcast to listen to this Halloween?

By **JANESSA RAINVILLE**
Online Publication Manager



Have you been searching for something spooky to listen to? I suggest the podcast CreepCast. They post new episodes every week and the stories range from Creepypastas to Japanese horror stories. Some of you may be wondering what a Creepypasta is, while others who have ventured into the odd corners of the internet are likely very familiar with them. A Creepypasta is a horror story that gets repeatedly copied and pasted around the internet. The name originates from the term "copypasta," a slang term during the early internet days referring to blocks of text that are copied and pasted widely across different forums, social media and message boards with Creepypasta merely being for horror-based versions.

CreepCast is run by two YouTubers; Wendigoon and MeatCanyon. Wendigoon's actual name is Isaiah Nichols and his main channel does video essays that compare analog horror to the horrors of real life on YouTube. Some of the horrors that he has covered on his own channel are cryptids, such as Big Foot and the Backrooms. MeatCanyon is named Hunter Hancock and has several channels. If you like Magic the Gathering, then you can go to Meaty Magic. If you like coverage on various topics like times people have actually put stuff in Halloween candy, then you can go to Papa Meat. Hunter's main channel is MeatCanyon, the channel makes cartoons that are in a satire like format to being a slight sitcom feel depending on the cartoon.

CreepCast covers new stories every Sunday on YouTube, Apple Podcast and Spotify. Two of my favorites are "Tales From The Gas Station" and "I Was An Air Traffic Controller".

"Tales From The Gas Station" covers a man who works at a gas station where every night his co-worker works, stock goes missing in disturbing amounts, specifically the oil. He stays up one night to watch the security tapes for his boss, and nothing seems to happen. That is until he notices that the same customers keep coming in and buying the same thing and later in the night his co-worker appearing and staring at the camera with out there being any footage of him entering the store again before that. This episode is one of the longer ones at around three hours, but is a good one regardless.

"I Was An Air Traffic Controller" covers the story where a man works at a small rural airport where most of the planes that come through are small two person trainer aircraft. The main character works the night shift because there always has to be someone there for emergency landings. On one winter night, he lands someone due to the weather being particularly rough, however her notices that there is also a woman on the runway. The woman talks to the pilot who had just landed and the pilot bolts to his plane, leaving immediately after while radioing the Air Traffic Controller to run as he does so. The woman then starts towards the control tower and bursts through the bottom door with surprising strength as the man hides in the bathroom. He goes unharmed that night but the woman destroys the main control room and keeps coming back through the nearby farm field. This story is a little under two hours of listening time and leaves you still wondering what the woman was.

CreepCast also does segments on YouTube about analog horror videos called CreepTV. Analog horror is a genre of YouTube videos that take on a quality of the late 20th century media, such as VHS tapes. This horror typically uses low-quality visuals such as static, distorted audio, staged news broadcasts and a found footage feel that is inspired by something like "The Blair Witch Project".

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The Red Staircase: a short story

By **KEVIN KAUMANS**
Entertainment Editor

I've never been scared of the dark. Even when I was a kid, I can't really recall a time I was uncomfortable when the lights got turned off. Whenever a blackout happened, I would just go to bed and sleep until the power came back on. Now that I think about it, I never had any nightmares about the dark either.

As a matter of fact, I used to prefer the nighttime to the daytime. I had been jogging for the last ten years up to this point. I find it a lot more peaceful to run in the dead of night than the morning. For one thing, there's a lot less strangers walking around. Second, there's also less noise. It felt nice, being able to get my steps in without dealing with crazy drivers or other joggers trying to talk to you while you're trying to clear your head.

I probably sound like a mean guy, don't I? I'm sorry, I didn't mean to come off as mean. I don't hate people, not at all. It's always fun meeting new people that interest me. But I have my limits, you know? Sometimes, I like to feel like I can breathe again, even if it is just an hour.

I lived on campus, so whenever I was bored and felt the need to move, I would just throw on a coat and jog around the college for a couple of laps. I considered myself a good runner at the time. I was by no means an Olympic athlete, but I would like to think I made some progress over the years.

The college I went to was small, so I never had to worry about getting mugged or jumped since the crime rate was so low. The town it was in was very rural, so the people who lived there were mostly friendly. The only problem I had really when I was out running late was this staircase that led to my dorm building.

The staircase was a red, spray-painted metal walkway that was a good bit off the ground. The lights around it had this habit of flickering off every few hours. This wouldn't be an issue, if not for the fact the steps were separated so far apart that your legs could easily fall through the openings if you are not watching where you're going.

As far as I was aware at the time, no one had ever seriously injured taking the stairs at night.

SPORTS

Soccer ties on Senior Day

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Editor-in-Chief



Photo by Tierra Green

Lady Ranger Mylee Yuill battles a Harding defender as Northwestern plays for their seniors for Senior Day on Saturday ending in a 0-0 tie.

Northwestern soccer lost one to Ouachita Baptist on Thursday and tied against Harding University on Saturday for Senior day.

Taylor Annen was quickly thrown into the fire as she had two saves within the first 10 minutes of the game. The Lady Rangers had chances early too, but nothing came from them. The teams battled and took shots and made moves, but the game stayed scoreless from the first whistle to the halftime whistle.

The second half started, and the Lady Rangers had chances with shots from Mylee Yuill and Jenna Mills. Those chances didn't turn into anything, and the game stayed scoreless. The next shot of the game broke the scoreless streak. Ouachita Baptist's Lennon Porter scored in the 69th minute to give the Tigers a 1-0 lead. Eryn Warren and Alyssa Hotze gave shots to try for a Northwestern goal, but neither of them entered the back of the net and Ouachita defeated the Lady Rangers by one.

Yuill had the most shots for the Lady Rangers with three. Mills had two. Annen recorded four saves and had one goal against her.

Senior day started off incredibly offensive. In the first 15 minutes, Northwestern had two shots and Harding had three. Almost immediately after Harding's third shot in the 14th minute, they gave Annen two more shots and both were saved. There were no more shots until the 34th minute, where Hotze tried a shot, but it was saved by the Harding goalkeeper.

In the second half, the Lady Rangers struggled to keep the Bisons out of their zone. Harding had 16 shots in the second half against Northwestern's two. Despite having 16 shots, none of them entered the back of the net and Annen stopped every ball that was shot.

Hotze had the most shots with two. Emma Yosten, Katy Jo Werner and Mills were the other Northwestern players that had shots against Harding. Annen had 10 saves.

The game against Harding was the final home game of the season for the Lady Rangers. Their next games will be away against Southern Nazarene and SWOSU. Both teams are close conference rivals in the standings. The Lady Rangers are in 5th. SNU is 4th and SWOSU is 3rd. These upcoming games will be critical and will have heavy implications on the post season.

Football loses to SNU, still winless

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Editor-in-Chief

The Rangers' winless season continues in 2026 after a loss to the Southern Nazarene Crimson Storm in Bethany with a final score of 60-37.

Northwestern came out of the gates slow, giving up a touchdown two minutes in, and throwing an interception from Jacob T. Jones. Jones' interception was returned for a touchdown, and SNU was up 14-0.

After both teams punted on their next drives, the Rangers found themselves with points on the board. Northwestern made 65 yards in just six plays and scored a touchdown followed by a two-point conversion.

SNU didn't slow down despite giving up a touchdown, scoring two more touchdowns of their own to make it 31-8. Northwestern was down but not out, as Jones threw multiple passes to charge down the field before running it five yards into the end zone for a Ranger touchdown. The first half ended with SNU up 31-15.

In the second half, the Crimson Storm kept pounding. SNU scored a safety and two touchdowns to make it a 47-15 game heading into the fourth quarter, with the Ranger offense stalled out.

The Ranger offense kicked it back up in the fourth quarter, scoring a touchdown quickly, making it 47-22. SNU responded with a touchdown, trying to snuff Northwestern's flame. Northwestern continued to score as they tried to claw back up. Jones threw a pass to Koda Bridges, who scored a touchdown, and it was a 24-point game, 54-30. The shootout continued as the Crimson Storm scored another touchdown, making it a 60-30 game.

With one minute on the clock, the Rangers scored a touchdown with a 20-yard pass from Jones to Royal Kyle. The clock ran out, and the Rangers lost to SNU 60-37.

Jones threw for 295 yards and went 24 for 38. He had two passing touchdowns and two interceptions. Jones also had the most rushing attempts with 18. Jones ran for 51 yards and had two rushing touchdowns. Kyle had nine receptions and 102 yards. Kyle and Jayce Morgan had one touchdown each.

Aiden Lewis had the most tackles with nine: six solo and three assisted. Haiden Thompson had seven solo tackles and one assisted. Wyatt Potter recorded an interception along with two solo tackles.

Next up on the Rangers' schedule is Ouachita Baptist University on Saturday. This will be the final home game with three games left on the schedule. The Rangers sit at the bottom of the Great American Conference standings, the only winless team remaining in the conference. After the game against Ouachita, the Rangers will face Arkansas at Monticello. This will be their next, and maybe final, chance to win this season. After Monticello, it will be Southwestern.

SPORTS

Volleyball loses two, swept in both

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Editor-in-Chief

Northwestern volleyball was swept by East Central University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University this week.

The Lady Rangers' first opponent was East Central University, where the Tigers won 3-0.

Set one started in favor of Northwestern, as the Lady Rangers took a 5-1 lead. Just as fast as the lead was built, it was taken away. The Tigers tied the game at 5, and the two teams started trading points after that. The tug of war continued from 5-5 all the way up to 14-14. Then, the Tigers scored three to give them a 17-14 lead, a small buffer. The Lady Rangers battled back and made it a one-point game at 18-17. The Tigers just barely outperformed the Lady Rangers in the final points and took the first set 25-21.

Set two started back and forth, with the two teams battling hard. The Tigers got the upper hand after scoring three straight to make it 7-3. After trading points with ECU, the Lady Rangers scored five straight points, making the score 9-8. ECU scored four, and then Northwestern scored three, tying it at 12. Another streak of four for ECU gave them a 16-12 lead. The Tigers slowly but surely extended their lead as the set went on and took set two 25-18.



Photo by Oaklee Fielder

Ryann Eastes serving against Oklahoma Panhandle State University on October 20 in Alva.

The third set was heavily in the Tigers' advantage. East Central took the lead early and never looked back. ECU took set three by 12 points with a final score of 25-13.

Tess De Zanet had the most kills against the Tigers with 13. De Zanet also had five kills. Jadyn Padilla had 18 digs and two assists. Ivanny Blackwod had seven kills and two blocks.

Southeastern was the Lady Rangers' second opponent this week.

The Savage Storm swept Northwestern 3-0 in a rough game for the Lady Rangers.

Southeastern opened the game by scoring three. Northwestern scored one and was responded by a nine-point run from Southeastern. The Savage Storm dominance continued throughout the first set as they won by 15 points, 25-10.

Set two opened with the Savage Storm taking the lead again, 5-3. Southeastern's lead continued to grow throughout the set. Slowly, the Lady Rangers reeled the Savage Storm into a three-point lead, 15-12. Southeastern extended their lead as the set went on, scoring two or three points in a row regularly until the end, where Southeastern won set two 25-20.

Set three went a lot better for the Lady Rangers, as they took the lead quickly into the set. After being down 2-5, Northwestern scored seven points in a row to make it 9-5. The Savage Storm battled back and took the lead back after time went by to make it 13-12. Then, the two teams traded points back and forth in a tug-of-war match to hold control of the set. Late into the set, it was tied 20-20. Southeastern shut down the Lady Rangers and scored five straight to win the third set 25-20.

De Zanet had the most kills again, this time with six. De Zanet also had one ace, one block, two assists and eight digs. Katie Wadas had 13 assists. Celia Mbaya had 10 digs.

The Lady Rangers sit 10th in the Great American Conference standings. In order to make the playoffs, they have to win their final three games. East Central and Henderson State have to lose at lease twice for the Lady Rangers to have a shot to make it to the tournament.

The next games on the schedule are against 6th place SNU and 1st place Oklahoma Baptist University. In the last matchup against SNU, the Lady Rangers lost three sets to one. Oklahoma Baptist defeated the Lady Rangers in September 3-0.

Men's golf finishes on the podium, women finish 11th

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Editor-in-Chief

The golf teams were in Tulsa where the men finished tied for 3rd and the women finished 11th.

The men's team finished tied for 3rd with a score of +6 with Arkansas Tech University.

Pierce Geminden was the top Ranger. Geminden finished tied for 14th with a score of +1. Mathieu Zerwin, Jack Collingswood and Zac Farmer all had the same score. They had scores of +2, putting them all tied for 20th. Further down the order was Chris Ciao in 78th with a score of +16.

The women's team had a score of +113, putting them in 11th.

Veronica Rodriguez was the top Lady Ranger. Rodriguez had a score of +19, putting her tied for 23rd. Heather Hunkele was tied for 49th with a score of +30. Amanda Lane finished tied for 64th with a score of +35. Olivia Platow had a score of +36, putting her tied for 67th. Kelsey Hoy-Pollard finished tied for 77th with a score of +43.

The tournaments in Tulsa were the final ones of the year and golf will be back in February in San Antonio, Texas.

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NEWS

Miss Northwestern crowned

By **SHEALYN PRATT**
Features Editor

On Sunday evening, the crowning of a new Miss Northwestern took place in Fellers Family Auditorium. This marked 60 years of the Miss Northwestern pageant here on campus.

Raegan Blything, originally from Pea Ridge, Arkansas, took home the award for Best Evening Gown and the title of Miss Northwestern 2027.

Blything has been in the pageant world since she was 12 years old. Most recently, she was named National American Miss Arkansas 2026. After years of competing in national pageants, she decided it was time for a new experience.

"I grew up in the NAM system and I have all the love for NAM, but I was ready for a new adventure, and I thought that Miss Northwestern would be the perfect fit," she said.

As the titleholder of Miss Northwestern 2027, Blything will go on to compete in the Miss Oklahoma pageant in June. Beyond the pageant itself, Blything hopes to use her new title to make a difference in her community. For her community service initiative, she created "Feeding Futures," a project focused on addressing food insecurity on Northwestern's campus. Through the initiative, Blything hopes to establish at least two new food boxes on campus and encourages students to embrace a "take what you need, leave what you can," mindset.

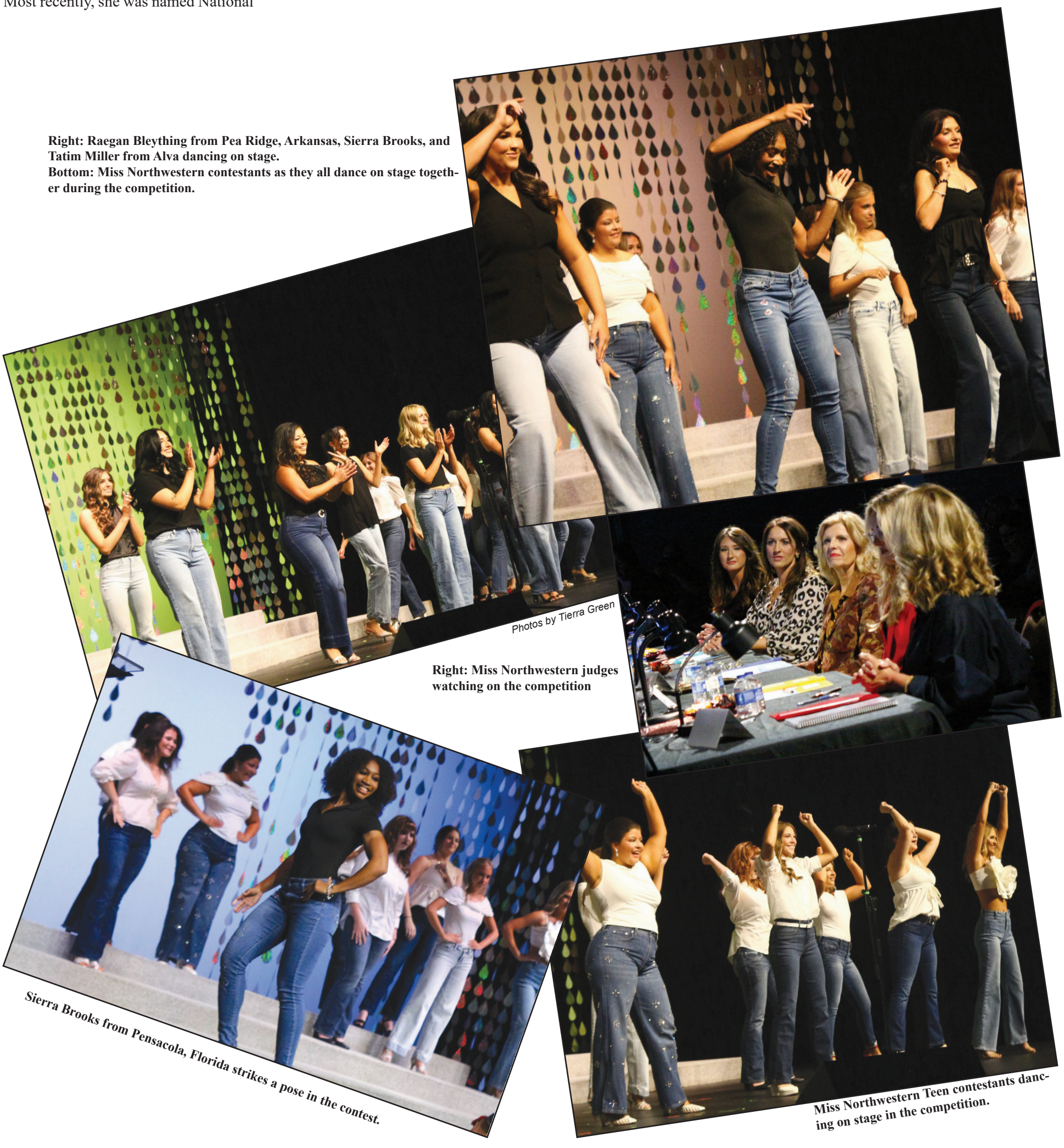
While earning the title of Miss Northwestern 2027 was a major highlight of the evening, the day held another special meaning for Blything. October 25 was not only pageant day but also her 22nd birthday.

"It was truly the best birthday gift," she said. "When I woke up yesterday, I didn't think, 'Oh my gosh, it is my birthday.' I was like, "It's Miss Northwestern day,' so I kind of forgot that it was even my birthday until everyone started singing to me."

After the crowning, the celebrations continued, as the Miss and Teen contestants sang "Happy Birthday" to Blything before contestants took photos with friends and family.

The evening marked both a personal milestone and the beginning of her journey as Miss Northwestern 2027.

Right: Raegan Bleything from Pea Ridge, Arkansas, Sierra Brooks, and Tatim Miller from Alva dancing on stage.
Bottom: Miss Northwestern contestants as they all dance on stage together during the competition.



Photos by Tierra Green

Right: Miss Northwestern judges watching on the competition

Sierra Brooks from Pensacola, Florida strikes a pose in the contest.

Miss Northwestern Teen contestants dancing on stage in the competition.