FOOTBALL

An interview with a coach and player talking about the team's performance
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SPORTS

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Severe drought closes in on six years

By **JOHN STOWERS**
Senior Reporter

Oklahoma is nearing six years of a drought that saw some of the hottest and driest conditions on record with Northwest Oklahoma being hit hardest.

Over the summer, Oklahoma experienced several weeks of extreme heat and drought conditions without very much temperature or rain relief to speak of. The extreme conditions combined with their prolonged nature caused detrimental damage to crop yields and livestock numbers. However, this drought did not start this summer, rather starting in late September, 2021. Dean Scarbrough, Professor of Agriculture, and Chair of the Agriculture department, said that he thought the drought might've broken in late 2023 or early 2024, but the rainfall amounts from that season we not enough to bring us out of the drought.

"We felt like the drought that we'd been going through in the 2021-22 time period had maybe been broken in the early summer of 2023, but then we've just had a couple years where we've had intermittent rainfall at different times," Scarbrough said. "This summer started off well in the early part of the summer and then really got intense as we got the heat and that dry period, so I don't know if we've ever gotten out of the drought completely that's been going on since 2021 or so."

A severe but short drought can usually be weathered by most farmers and ranchers, but when a drought this severe goes on for this long, it becomes a gamble for producers on whether or not they will have a successful harvest, or a good breeding season for the herd. If anything goes wrong, like a planted field that doesn't have enough water and can't grow anything, or a herd's primary drinking source dries up and a few of the cows won't calf or the prize bull of the herd dies from dehydration or a heatstroke, the farmer or rancher is putting his or her entire operation on the line.

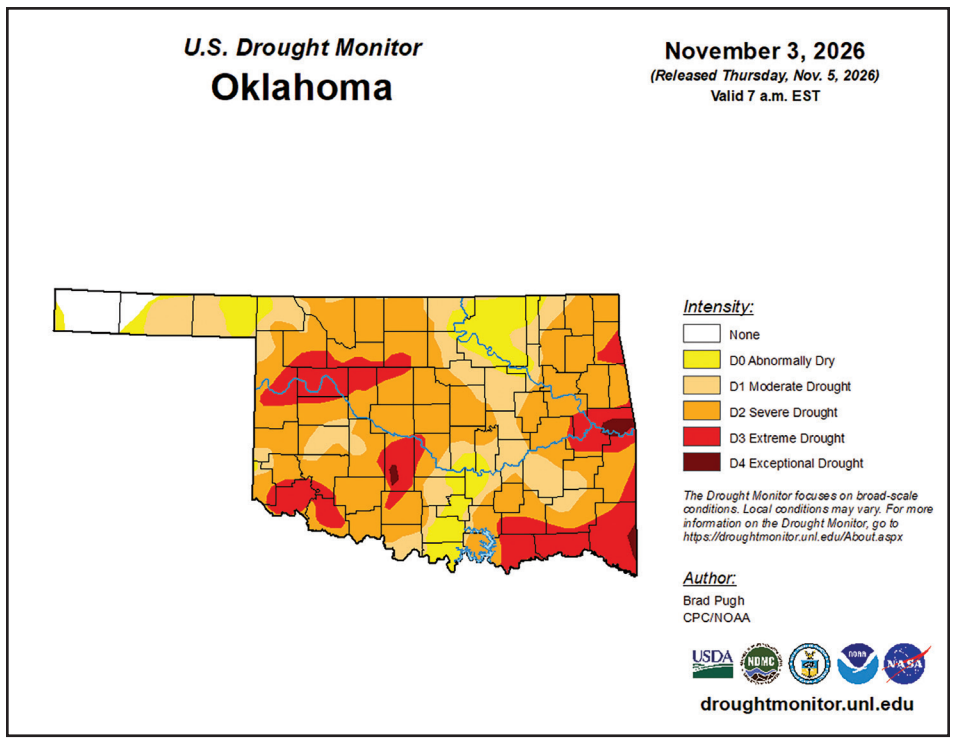
"Producers, a lot of the time, can weather short term disruptions, but the longer it goes, the harder it is to effectively manage that," Scarbrough said. "A drought for any time period can hurt regular production cycles, but the longer it goes on, the more it forces producers to make decisions that may affect their long-term production abilities. My concentration is more on the animal science side, and where we've seen things really play out are in — as an example — cow numbers. We're at the lowest number of beef cattle in the United States in the last 75 years, and it is that progressive drought that we've seen that has played a huge role in that."

Scarbrough also gave an example of why these numbers have gotten so low.

"If you think about a cattle producer that starts to pare down his cow inventory, he starts with older cows, sick cows, cows that haven't had a consistent breeding history, and then as things continually stay bad with the drought, you start to have to cull your better cows. Once you start to dig that hole, the only way you dig back out of it is to retain heifers and cows to breed, but we're in a situation where that long term drought has dug us a deep hole."

Kent Martin, Assistant Professor of Agriculture, explained how an extended drought period affects crop production during and after a drought and that it takes more than a few spring showers to come out of a drought.

"With extended drought you expend essentially all of the moisture, and you get to a point where the amount of moisture is not sustainable for the land and the land-use characteristics," Martin said. "For example; if I have a yard, or a crop, and there's not enough rainfall to sustain that crop, then that crop will use all of the available moisture in that soil and you'll enter drought conditions where the plant is not able to survive. If we have an extended drought, … the amount of rains that we get is not replenishing the moisture in the soil. High-intensity, short-term rainfall events tend to rain faster than the soils can take it in, which then affects moisture movement deep down in the soil profile. Certainly, when you look at rainfall intensity, a long duration of moderate intensity



allows for soil intake of water to replenish that in a much deeper zone. When you get into the geology it becomes a little bit more challenging, and when you look at certain areas of the country that depend on aquifer retention and recharge, that's another dynamic of what the geology allows you to do."

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, despite the rains that almost pulled Oklahoma out of the drought in late 2023 and early 2024 and the rains that have come into Oklahoma in the latter part of this year, we have been in a drought for almost six years now. As Martin said, that's because the technical definition that the U.S. Drought Monitor runs off of can sometimes differ with our perception of the effects of a drought.

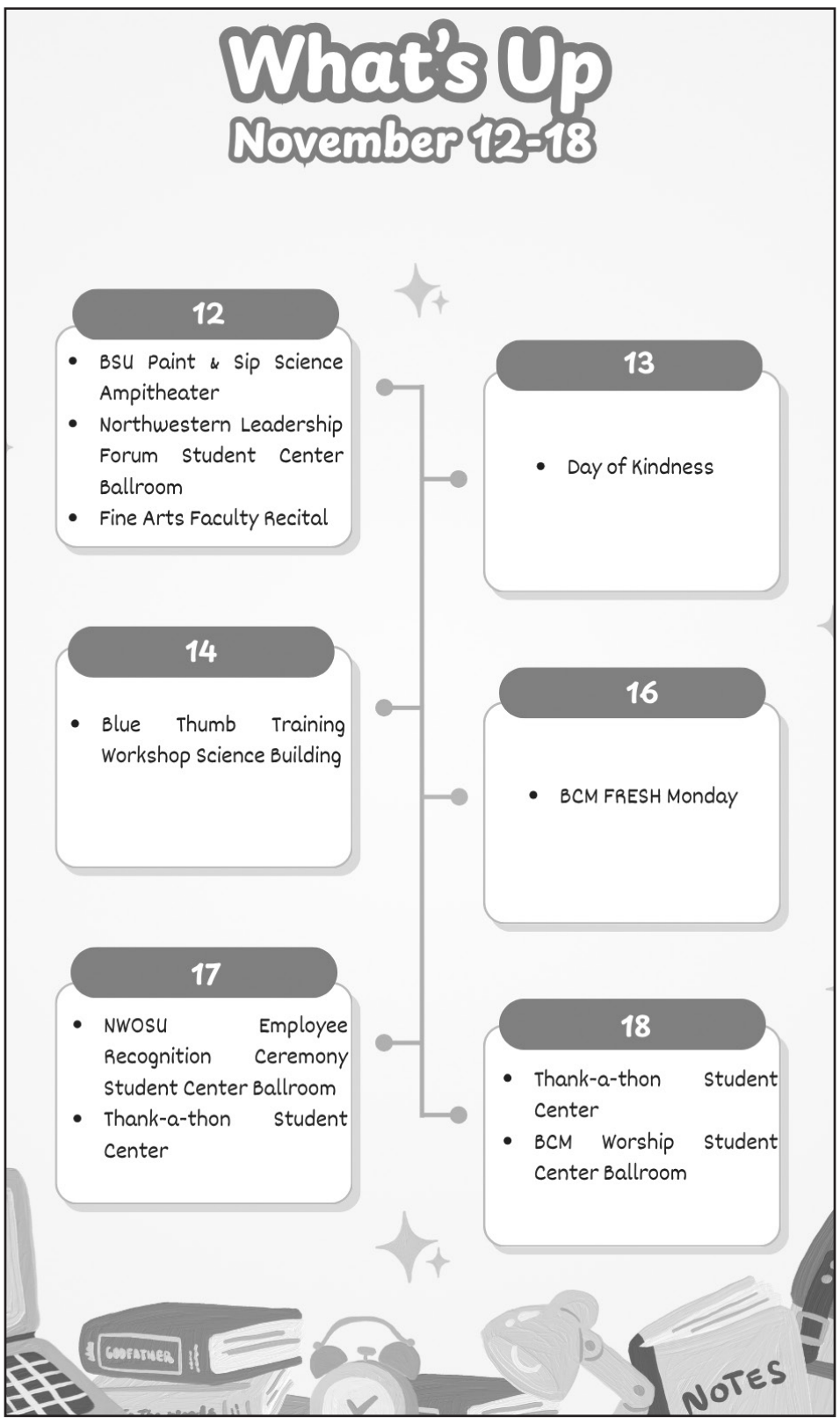
"When we talk about practical drought, people look more on the short term; are we noticing the effects of a drought on the environment around us," Martin said. "On the perception of a drought it is 'did I have decreased crop yields, did I have a brown yard, does the landscape around me look like its burning up and dry' like we saw this summer. I think part of the challenge that we have is we think about rainfall, but we don't always think about intensity of rainfall and the amount that has actually done us good. When we have these short-term, high-intensity rainfall events, our perception may be that we've had enough rainfall to get us out of a long-term drought, but the reality is that the soil structure, both in the topsoil and subsoil — but then even geologically deeper in the ground — that the ability of the water to move in versus moving off is different. We'll have moisture movement off of the soil laterally, which is good for us in some ways. If you're a rancher you'll say 'I need moisture runoff because I need ponds to fill and creeks to run so my livestock has water to drink,' but at the same time we see wells going dry, and wells going dry is an impact of years of drought in the past because we have this gap. Even if we were in a high-rainfall scenario for several years, that gap is still going to be there because of the amount of time it takes for that moisture to get down and replenish that."

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, there are four types of drought that currently apply to Oklahoma; meteorological drought, agricultural drought, hydrological drought and ecological drought. A meteorological drought is determined by a lack of precipitation and how conditions like temperature and winds affect moisture levels.

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NEWS



Northwestern student selected for international scholarship

From University Relations



Belinda Garvie was selected to be a Brad Henry International Scholar in 2027.

Belinda Garvie, an English major at Northwestern Oklahoma State University was selected by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to be a Brad Henry International Scholar.

Garvie is a junior from Tuttle and will spend the spring 2027 semester studying at Swansea University in Swansea, Wales, United Kingdom.

The Brad Henry International Scholarship will fund Garvie's tuition and lodging for a full semester with an additional stipend for expenses such as airfare to and from the UK, passport fees and textbooks.

This scholarship program was established in June 2008. A committee of State Regents' staff selects recipients based on their excellent academic performance, outstanding communication skills, exemplary character, and exceptional leadership, maturity and judgement.

Garvie's is planning to attend law school after graduating from NWOSU. She has been in multiple leadership roles at Northwestern that include being president and founder of the Pre-Law Society at Northwestern, vice president and a senator in Northwestern's Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature delegation, secretary of the Writer's Roundtable, being a member of the Student Government Association and being a member of the Psychology Club.

Last summer, Garvie interned with the Oklahoma Counter Public Defender's Office and she is currently working as a library student employee at Northwestern. She has worked at the Tuttle Public Library.

Gavie was recommended by Charity Lyon, an adjunct instructor of communication at Northwestern, and Dr. Taylor Randolph who is an assistant professor of psychology at Northwestern.

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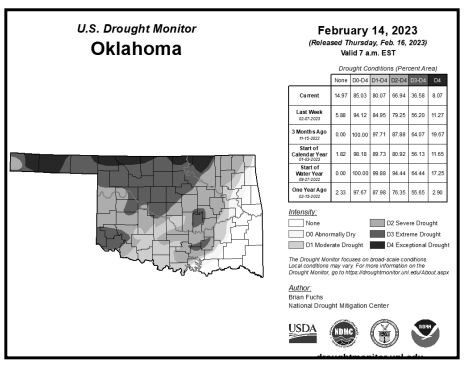
Drought continues in Oklahoma

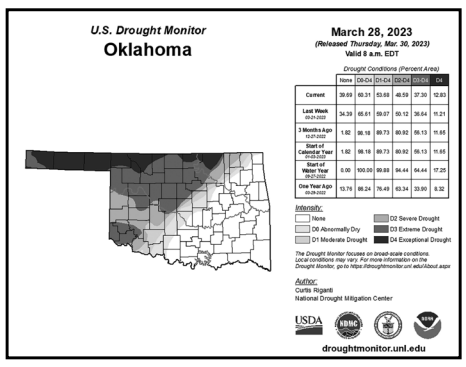
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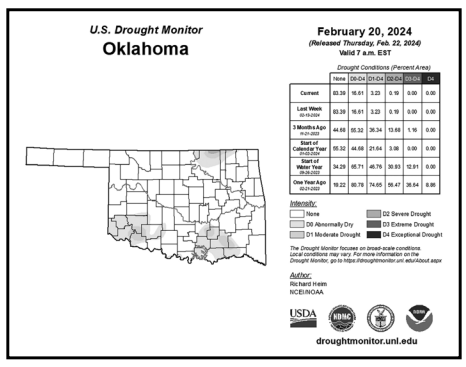
It is region-specific and expressed in relation to a region's average historical conditions. An agricultural drought focuses on precipitation shortages, soil moisture deficits, and evaporative demand, and its severity depends heavily on soil properties, plant types and stages of plant growth. A Hydrological Drought refers to the effects of rain shortfalls on streamflow, groundwater, and reservoir or lake levels. Because it takes longer for precipitation deficiencies to show up in larger hydrological systems, this type of drought is often "lagging" behind other types of drought. (i.e., the 2003 Pathfinder Reservoir shortage). The type of drought that currently applies most to Oklahoma is an ecological drought, which occurs when prolonged and/or widespread shortages in naturally available water supplies create multiple cascading stresses across ecosystems (i.e., ponds drying up and impacting cattle).

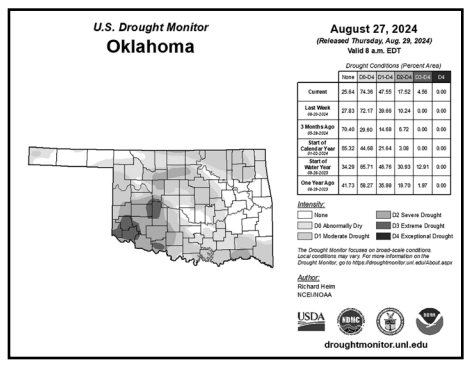
But Kent Martin said farmers and ranchers can get a little bit of a break from the drought every so often, and that they still have a chance to do well even in a drought season.

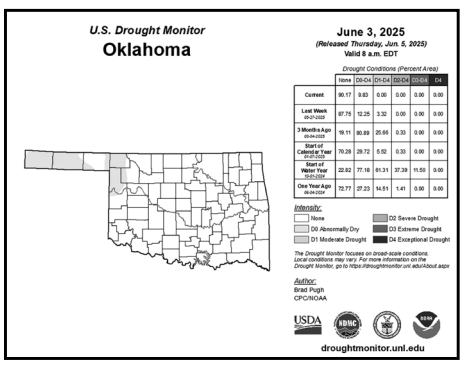
"In a practical perspective we are always in and out of a drought," Martin said. "We tend to look at that as a crop cycle or a growing season. You look in your yard and your perspective is things grow from spring to fall, but from an agricultural perspective, we look at the winter crop season and the summer crop season. From a practical standpoint we get … temporary relief from a long-term drought. Seasonally we may get a temporary relief like the summer crop season of 2024 and 2025 that were really good, but then there was the summer crop season of 2026 that really was not very good. … I had grain sorghum planted this summer. I had two fields with a planting date separated by about a week and a half. The flowering dates of those two fields were obviously differed. Because we had one rain that came around the time of flowering, and because of where one of those fields was in maturity versus the other, it made a 20-bushel difference in yield because it hinged upon that one rain giving us a very very short-term relief when flowering occurred. It's an example of how even in the intensity of a drought as intense as we were this summer, one little rain made a huge difference because of the timing."

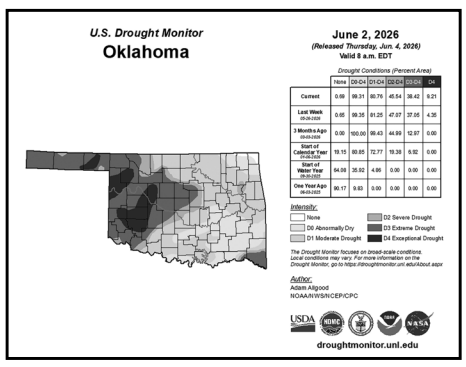


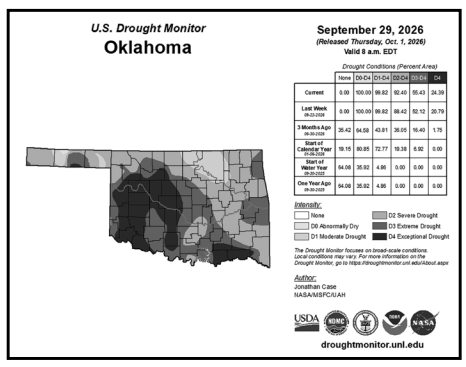


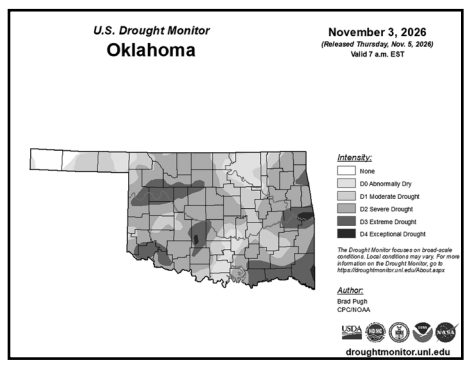












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NORTHWESTERN NEWS

FEATURE

A sweet new addition to Alva

By **SHEALYN PRATT**
Features Editor

Zangi Masumba, a psychology major from Fortworth, Texas, recently brought a sweet new addition to Alva. While living in Texas, she briefly offered beauty services. However, after moving to Alva, she wanted to begin a new adventure.

"I'd make sweet treats for my family and stuff, when we had parties going on, I'd be the one making the sweets," Masumba said.

Starting a business can be difficult, especially as a full-time student. However, Masumba said her love for baking makes the experience easier.



"With baking, it's something I genuinely look forward to doing," Masumba said. "Even when I don't have orders, I'll make stuff for my team at work or my friends and stuff because I genuinely enjoy doing it."

When she is not baking, Masumba works as a student worker for Northwestern's counseling services. Despite enjoying both jobs, she said baking holds a special place in her life.

"Being creative is something that has brought me fulfillment," she said. "Even with the few orders that I have gotten so far, people have trusted me to bake exactly what they asked. Baking to people's preference or to precision has been one of the best things."

Masumba said one of the biggest challenges of starting her business has been gaining recognition. Despite using word-of-mouth and maintaining a social media presence, attracting customers has been difficult.

Regardless, she plans to continue to bake and encourages others to start a small business if it's something they feel passionate about.

"Don't get tired of putting yourself out there," Masumba said.



If your sweet tooth sneaks up on you this holiday season, you can place an order @zangis_sweetest_edition on Instagram.



The history of Veteran's Day

By **AMAYA EVANS**
Student Reporter



A veteran's memorial outside the student center's front doors on Northwestern's campus.

Many people know why we celebrate veterans' day, but they do not know the full history of veteran's day. It was originally called "Armistice Day" in 1918.

November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory..." The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

U.S. Congress officially recognized the end of WWI when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words: "Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far-reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the U.S. of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed..."

An Act (52 Stat, 351: 5 U.S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday - a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor Veterans of WWI.

In 1954, after WWII had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the Veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American Veterans of all wars.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators.

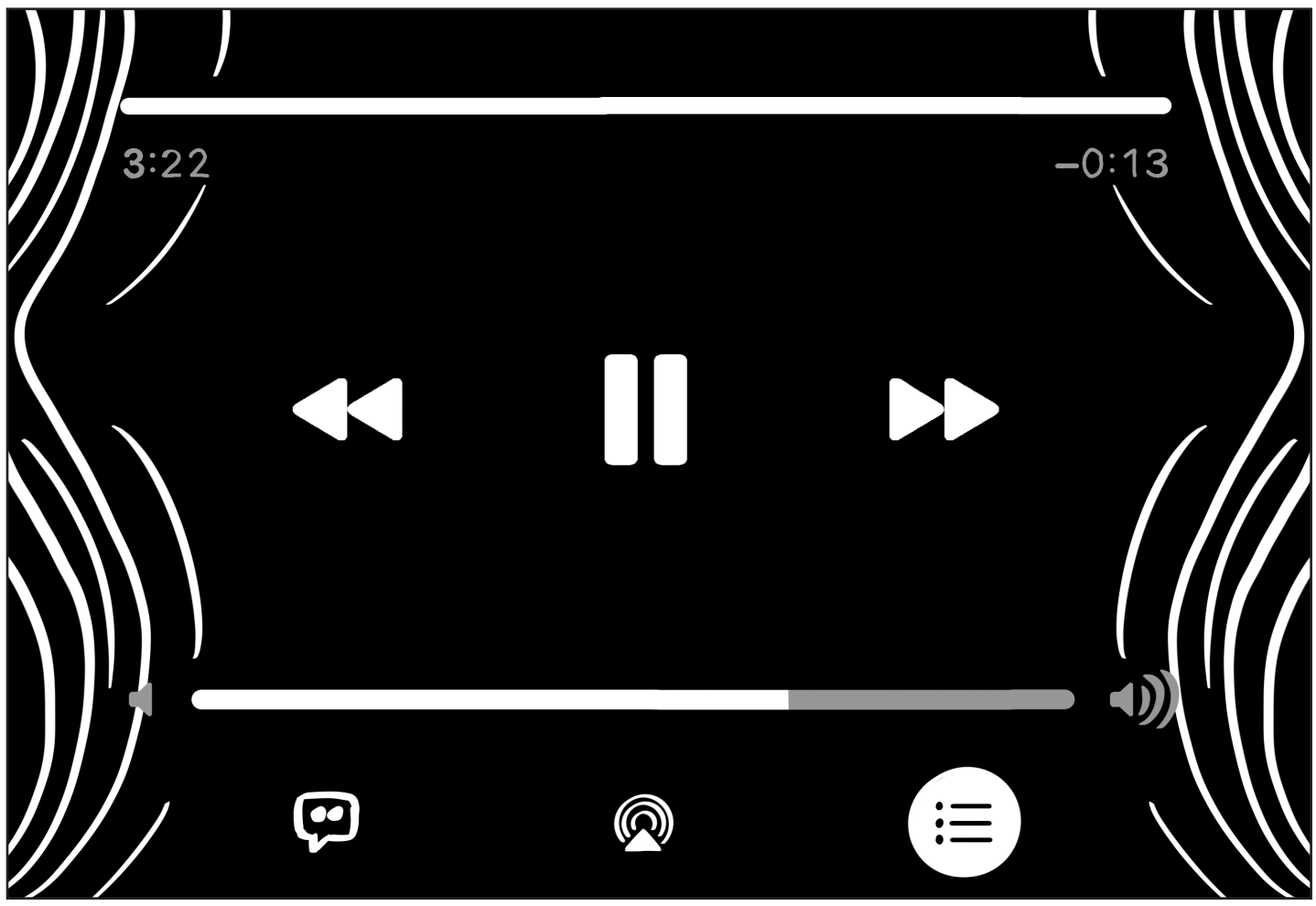
The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day Weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

OPINION

What students are listening to

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



Music has a wide variety of choices that you can listen to. Students at Northwestern's music taste is almost just as diverse.

One would think that pop or rock would be what college kids are listening to, but two students answered with something most people are not listening to.

"Frederic Chopin," Destiny Vaughan said. "He's a classical musician. I'm currently listening to his ballad number one in G minor."

Chopin was a Polis composer born on March 1, 1810. Most of Chopin's works are made for the piano, although he made some works for orchestras. Chopin was given the name "The Poet of the Piano" for his ability to make moving music on the piano.

The piano technique called tempo rubato was invented by Chopin. Tempo rubato is the playing of the accompaniment in a steady pulse while the melody flows and bends rhythmically.

Another student, Allie Cearley, gave another answer that may be unexpected by college students.

"What I'm listening to is Lin-Manuel Miranda," Cearley said. "I'm listening to Hamilton. I'm listening to the song "Alexander Hamilton.""

The musical "Hamilton" was released on Jan 20, 2015, and is a biographical on-stage musical about American Founding Father Alexander Hamilton.

The musical was based on a biography written by Ron Chernow in 2004. In 2008, while on vacation, Miranda read the biography and imagined the hip-hop-styled story of the Founding Fathers, specifically Hamilton. Eventually, production started, and Miranda spent years working on it, and now, it is a billion-dollar musical, earning $1.2 billion on Broadway alone.

Shaylin Petty brought country into the mix.

"The artist that I'm listening to the most right now is Blake Tyler," Petty said. "Specifically the song Cowboy Killer, and Blood Ain't Thick."

Tyler is a country artist from Cincinnati, Ohio. Starting in 2021, Tyler has quickly made an impact on the country music scene. Tyler was a college athlete when he started performing and started to gain local fame. Very quickly, he made a name for himself and within a year was singing at major music festivals and events such as the Country Concert in Fort Loramie, Ohio.

Tyler is now appearing with his name next to major country stars such as Morgan Wallen, Carrie Underwood, Lainey Wilson, Jason Aldean and Riley Green. After being an opener for artists like Bailey Zimmerman and Hardy, he is starting to become a solo act and work independently.

The music choices on campus show just how wide of a variety there is to be listened to, and how big the world of music is. People you walk by every day could be listening to music on the other side of the spectrum compared to what you listen to. What makes music beautiful is the fact that you have so many similarities to that person, and you listen to something different.

Even if you aren't similar to those around you, they are still a Northwestern student, just like you.



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Photos by Tierra Green



FEATURE

The boys are starving

By **SHEALYN PRATT**
Features Editor

The Ranger football team has had a season marked by losses and adversity. The Rangers are the only football team in the Great American Conference at the NCAA Division II level without a win this season.

While the record may speak for itself, several factors play into the team's performance this season, including the rebuilding of the football program.

The start of the season brought in an entirely new coaching staff. The only returning coaches were running backs coach John Flores, wide receivers coach Kobe Martin and cornerbacks coach Ken Irving.

That begs the question: Do our current standings reflect the coaching staff, or is it the players?

One player's season stats speak for themselves. Starting quarterback Jacob T. Jones has served as the primary signal-caller and leading rusher for the Rangers this season. For passing, Jones has 158 completions on 253 attempts for 1,670 yards and 13 touchdowns. For rushing, he has 405 yards on the ground with six touchdowns.

Although Jones has put up strong individual numbers, the Rangers' struggle extends beyond any one player. Jones said the season has been a learning experience for both the players and the new coaching staff.

"This is a rebuild," said quarterback Jacob T. Jones. "Learning how to coach your players, learning how to play for your coaches. It's a lot, especially out here in Alva, being below a lot of other teams in the conference. The staff is coming from NAIA, D1, just learning how D2 works and how this conference works."

The current head coach of the Rangers football team, Jerry Partridge, has been coaching since 1986, when he served as a graduate assistant for the University of Missouri. He later became the head coach at Missouri Western State University, where he led the program to a 149-83 record during his tenure from 1997 to 2016.

With a coaching staff that brings decades of experience, the question remains: What is making it so difficult for us to get a win this season?

Coach Irving highlighted the difference between football and other sports when it comes to scoring and gameplay.

"For instance, with volleyball, they'll play three different sets so it's like, they have three times to beat a team once," Irving said. "In basketball, you have two times to beat a team once. You play thirty games. With soccer, there's 20-something. So, you have more chances. With football, you look at the end-all-be-all score."

With fewer chances to make up for a loss, football teams are often judged by the game's final score rather than the progress players have made throughout the season. Irving pointed out that this has its effects.

"Sometimes they look at the guys like zoo animals and look at them as lesser when that's not the case," Irving said. "If we were a sport that played 30 games and we sat here and won 7 of them, it's not as obvious."

While the record may not show it, the coaching staff continues to recognize the progress the players and the program have made throughout the season.

"You look at the wins and losses and it looks like they didn't do anything good but if you just look at their progression throughout the whole year, you know, I keep telling them that for overall development and progression, the wins and losses aren't going to show that," Irving said.

One thing that I was primarily interested in was how the coaching staff manages to hold the team accountable for its losses this season while maintaining the players' confidence. How does the team continue to prepare for its first win?

"Not going away from what you are supposed to do," Irving said. "Holding your standard, even if you're not winning, you're still trying to hold your standard."

Well, what exactly is the Ranger standard? While they couldn't exactly say, Irving did say that what has been seen this season, is most certainly not it.

"This season has to be an anomaly." Irving said.

While that is all we can hope for, Northwestern has yet to have a winning season since joining the NCAA Division II and the Great American Conference. The last winning season the NWOSU football program saw was in 2010, when it finished with an 8-3 overall record.

"THIS SEASON HAS TO BE AN ANOMALY."

— KEN IRVING

Despite being the only team in the conference without a win, the Rangers continue to look ahead. As the season comes to an end, Jones said only one word can describe how he is feeling.

"Hungry," Jones said.

Hungry, starving even, is the only thing to be when the final game is a rivalry matchup against the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Bulldogs.

The final game of this season will be played in Weatherford, Okla., at the Milam Stadium.

Someone has to do the dishes

By **ALLISON RUWALDT**
Student Reporter

Recently, I was having a conversation with my mom where we were talking about things we are struggling with, and then she said something that stuck with me.

"Someone still has to do the dishes, man."

These words really meant something to me. Since starting college and growing into adulthood, I have faced many challenges, and throughout it all, a lesson I have continued to learn is that life does not stop when bad things happen.

This lesson has been both positive and negative in my experience. When I have struggled with a new financial burden or am overwhelmed with work and school, the hardest part is continuing to get little things like chores or self-care done.

These struggles make small things like the dishes or laundry seem incredibly daunting, and when I spoke to my mom, she spoke about how she feels the same pressure. Talking to her made me reflect on a lot of situations where I was struggling in high school, and she chose to take on the burden of doing the little things around the household.

It also inspired me to keep on pushing forward. Growing up, I watched her take care of our home despite our financial trouble, her losing family and friends and helping fix all four of her children's problems. She was also working full time, and yet still somehow managed to push through the stress and take care of her house.

Now that I live on my own, I have come to appreciate my parents' emotional strength much more. I have lost a few people in my life over the past couple of years, but no matter how sad or lethargic I was feeling, there was still laundry that someone had to do. This year I have had to deal with a truly overwhelming workload and figure out how to work and earn a livable wage, while also studying for tests and writing weekly, while still taking care of myself and my house.

Throughout it all, things like chores and self-care felt so hard, but with encouragement and help from my loved ones, I got through it. As well as doing my best to help them get through the same or similar struggles.

Saying it does not get easier is discouraging, but it is true. What I also believe is true, though, is that as things get harder, I have gotten stronger. Going through hard things and continuing to live a happy life is not a simple task, but with experience, it has gotten easier.

Life does not stop when bad or hard things happen; it keeps moving, and dishes and laundry still need to be done. And as I have faced hard things, life still moving has become an encouragement. It almost feels like motivation; if life can keep moving, so can I.

It is important to remember to take the good with the bad; sometimes life can cause strife, but it also brings immense joy, and no matter what, someone still has to do the dishes.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Aestheticism in literature

By **KEVIN KAUMANS**
Entertainment Editor

When we think of aesthetics, we tend to think about it in terms of social media or decoration. Think about it: How many teenagers on "Instagram" or "TikTok" do we see showing off their latest "aesthetic"?

We have the minimalist aesthetic, a lifestyle where a person survives with the bare minimum of essentials. Then we have the cyberpunk aesthetic, which has vibrant colors and punk-style clothing.

But what about aesthetics in literature? Has anyone ever heard of aestheticism? "Art for art's sake.", as Théophile Gautier puts it.

It is where you write descriptive and beautiful detail for the sake of writing, regardless of whether it adds anything to the overarching story or not.

Edgar Allan Poe was a big fan of this idea, which explains how a lot of his stories go into great detail when explaining any setting or character in his stories.

You could almost compare this somewhat to the naturalists, authors whose stories often take place within the beauty of nature and involve the protagonist retreating away from urbanization and consumerism.

A common example of this type of writing would be Jack London, whose stories usually take place in the Alaskan Wilderness. The main difference between this and aestheticism is that the latter focuses on the beauty of everything, rather than just nature.

It is a very beautiful style of writing. Especially when the author is someone who possesses an abundance of creative talent.

It is also a good writing exercise to help clear one's head. Simply grab a piece of paper and start describing the area around you.

aestheticism noun

aes-thet-i-cism es-ˈthe-tə-ˌsi-zəm is-

1 : a doctrine that the principles of beauty are basic to other and especially moral principles

2 : devotion to or emphasis on beauty or the cultivation of the arts

The many ways of judging a story

By **KEVIN KAUMANS**
Entertainment Editor

How do we decide if a story is good or not? Everyone has their own opinion on what makes a plot interesting, what makes a character well-written and what makes the writing stand out from all the other tales. Who gets the final say in if a book, movie, or television show is the greatest piece of media ever created or the worst garbage known to man?

Does this authority lie with the academics and their Ph.D.s? Does it go to the people of that region the story is based in? There are too many variables that go into deciding how trustworthy a person needs for their critics to hold weight. In the old days, only the well-read could publish essays on the works of literature. Nowadays, however, anyone on the internet with basic editing skills can make a 3-hour long video essay on any subject of media they want.

There's New Criticism, which is where the reader looks at a work of fiction without any outside sources or knowing anything about who the author is. Simply put, they look at the story for what it is and decide whether it holds up as a good story all by itself. While it is a very popular method of criticism, there are not really any academic articles or any sources at all to back up the critic's argument.

Deconstructionism is a lot more difficult and is usually only used by more experienced critics. It is a very meticulous way of looking at a work, allowing the reader to basically come to any conclusion they want. But like I said, if you are just getting into literary criticism, this is probably not the school of thought for you.

New Historicism is one I'm actually going over now in one of my classes. The opposite of New Criticism, it involves actually researching the time period a story is written or takes place in. Think of historical fiction; critics are always fact-checking how accurate the story is to the time it takes place in. For example: When watching a movie about the Wild West, something tells me the audience would have a hard time feeling immersed if the characters are driving Toyotas or Fords.

There are many more ways to look at a story, such as gender and feminist criticism, though I did not talk about those two today since they're not schools of thought I have much experience with unless I'm reading something where those two topics are the central theme. At the end of the day, there is no "best" way to criticize something. Sure, you can argue that some types of critical theories are better than others, but it is really up to you to decide which works best for you

Top 10 Charts

1	Choosin' Texas by Ella Langley
2	Thriller by Michael Jackson
3	Dracula by Tame Impala & JENNIE
4	Housewife by Tate McRae
5	Boston by Stella Lefty
6	Been By Now by Morgan Wallen
7	Nicole Kidman by ADELA
8	Bby WOW by Karol G With Judeline & rusowsky
9	Hate That I Made You Love Me by Ariana Grande
10	Stupid Song by Olivia Rodrigo

Top 10 Podcasts

1	The Joe Rogan Experience
2	The Daily
3	This Past Weekend with Theo Von
4	Crime Junkie
5	The Shawn Ryan Show
6	Good Hang with Amy Poehler
7	Up First from NPR
8	The Tucker Carlson Show
9	The Diary of A CEO with Steven Bartlett
10	Matt & Shane's Secret Podcast

SPORTS

Volleyball drops last game

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

The Northwestern volleyball team's final game was played on Thursday night which ended in a 3-0 loss to Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

The Bulldogs won all three sets, with each set growing in points difference.

The first set ended 25-21 with the Lady Rangers just coming up short in the end.

The set started with Northwestern going up by one point after dropping two. Eventually, the set was tied 5-5. The Bulldogs slowly inched away from the Lady Rangers, earning a 10-6 lead. Northwestern responded with an 8-3 run to take the lead by one, 14-13. The Bulldogs scored three straight to make it 16-14, keeping it close as the set neared the final points. After scoring four points and dropping one, the Lady Rangers gave up six straight points, allowing Southwestern to take the largest lead of the set, 23-18. Northwestern tried to keep up by scoring three to make it 23-21, but SWOSU sealed the set by scoring two and ending the set with a nail-biting finish.

Set two started as set one ended, with the Bulldogs rolling with momentum. SWOSU went on a 10-3 run to start the set, putting Northwestern down early. The Lady Rangers battled back, scoring back-to-back points, but it seemed like no matter what Northwestern did, Southwestern equaled. By the time the game was within touching distance, 20-15, it was almost too late. With just five more points needed for the Bulldogs to take set two, it seemed it was going to be over quickly. The Lady Rangers did all they could, but the difference was just too great, and SWOSU took set two to make it a one-set game.

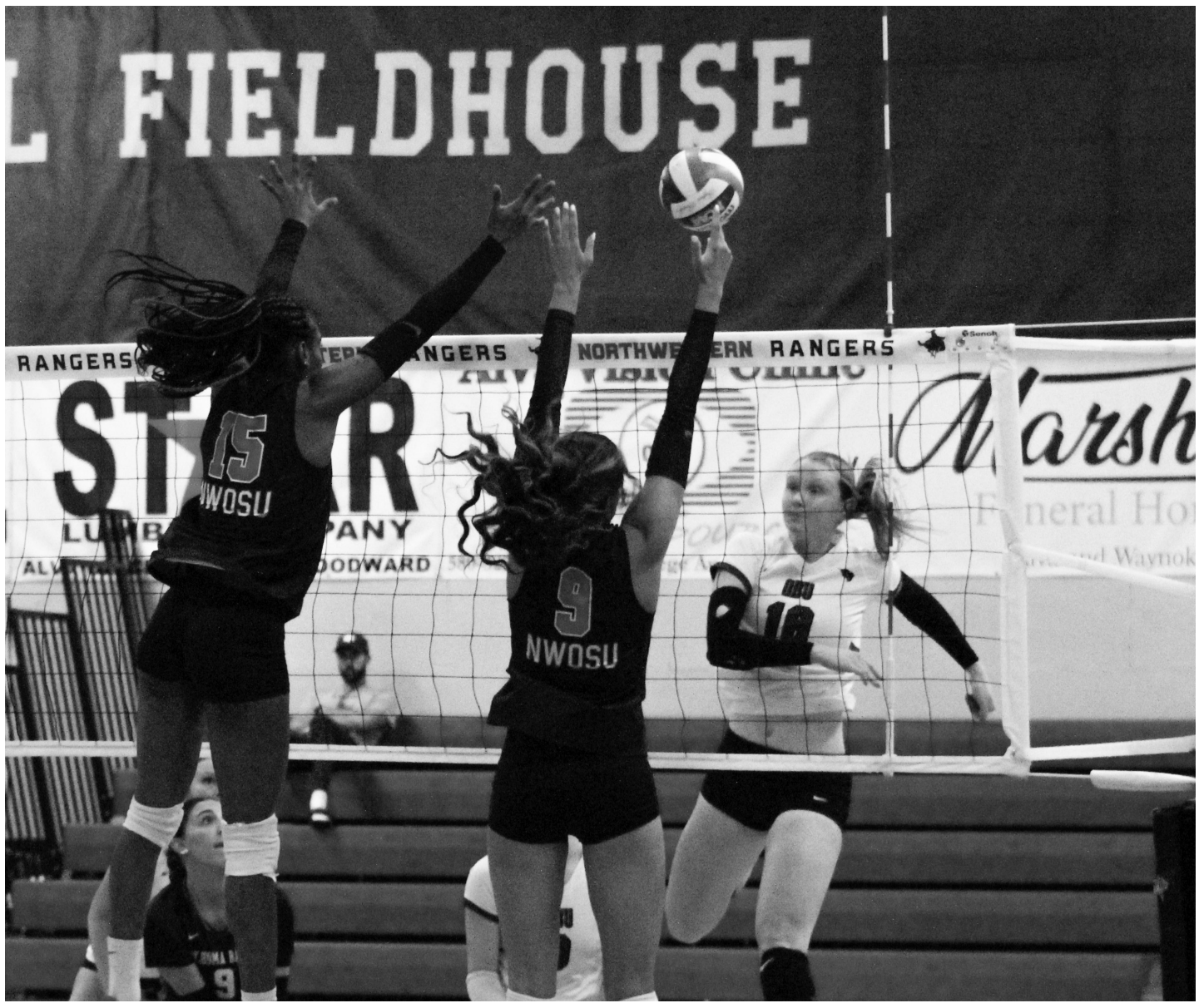


Photo by Amaya Evans

Ivanny Blackwood and Jayla Adams jump to block an attack from Oklahoma Baptist in the final home game on Nov 3 ending in a NW loss.

The Lady Rangers started set three the way they needed to. Three straight points gave Northwestern some much needed momentum entering the final set of the season. The Bulldogs fought back and made it a one-point set, 4-3. Then the teams traded points back-and-forth until it was 7-5, when Southwestern went on a five-point run to make it 10-7 over Northwestern. Despite giving up those points, the Lady Rangers were not far behind. They battled back for a few quick sets until the Bulldogs scored seven straight points to make it 18-10. The Lady Rangers fought back, but it was too late and Southwestern had too big of a lead. The Bulldogs took set three 25-14, and the Lady Ranger's season was over.

Tess De Zanet had the most kills in 2026 with 316. Ivanny Blackwood was a close 2nd with 277. Kemelly Baez Miecznikoski was 3rd with 223.

Ryann Eastes had the most assists with 561. Katie Wadas had 362 and Jadyn Padilla had 79.

Padilla had by far the most digs with 425. Celia Mbaya was 2nd with 246. De Zanet had 217.

Baez Miecznikoski had the most blocks with 107. De Zanet had 69 and Blackwood had 59.

De Zanet and Andrea Djordjevic had the most service aces with 21 each. Padilla had 16 and Mbaya had 14.

To end the 2026 season, Blackwood and De Zanet were named in the All-GAC team list. The two Lady Rangers made the honorable mentions team as they were two of the best Lady Rangers this year.

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XC competes in GAC Championship

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

The GAC Championship meet was on Saturday where the men finished 5th and the women finished 8th.

Riley Herndon topped the Rangers with a 27th place finish with a time of 26:24. Donald Kosgei finished 31st with a time of 26:38. Andrew Scott finished 41st with a time of 26:46. Coy Bullard and Boyd Hamby finished together in 53rd and 54th. Bullard was given a time of 27:25 and Hamby a time of 27:29.

Julian Vess and Tristan Meeker were close as they finished 74th and 75th. Vess had a time of 28:26 and Meeker had a time of 28:27. Matthew Manning finished 77th with a time of 28:41. Daxton Williams finished 80th with a time of 28:52. Kaleb Madden finished 85th with a time of 29:28 and Brayden Cowan was 86th with a time of 29:34. Johnny Rushing had a time of 29:44, putting him in 88th.

Reshila Curley was the top Lady Ranger as she finished 49th with a time of 19:35. Ivy Washington was not far behind in 50th with a time of 19:38. Jessica Myers was 58th with a time of 19:42. Ava Washington finished 60th with a time of 19:43. Cadence Long-Torres had a time of 20:09, putting her in 70th.

Next is the NCAA Regional Championship in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

SPORTS

PWHL expands in offseason

By **JESSICA SCHIEBER**
News Editor

The Professional Women's Hockey League has announced the team names for its four newest expansion teams. Those teams are the Detroit Clutch, the Hamilton Havoc, the San Jose Sea Lions and the Vegas Vanguards.

This makes 12 teams in the league. In the Eastern Conference the teams are the Boston Fleet, the newly added Hamilton Havoc, the Montreal Victoire, the New York Sirens, the Ottawa Charge and the Toronto Scepters.

In the Western Conference are the other three newly added teams the Detroit Clutch, Las Vegas Vanguards and the San Jose Sea Lions. The other teams in the conference are the Minnesota Frost, the Seattle Torrent and the Vancouver Goldeneyes. These teams will begin their season on December 5.

Normally with an addition to the league there would be an expansion draft, however the league replaced the expansion draft with a multi-phase player distribution and signing process that was designed to maximize player autonomy. The PWHL was founded in June 2023. There have been three completed seasons so far, the 2024 season, the 2024-25 season and the 2025-26 season. This season will be the fourth season.

The top players in the PWHL are Marie-Philip Poulin a forward who plays for the Montreal Victoire, Aerin Frankel a goaltender who plays for the Boston Fleet, Kelly Pannek a forward who plays for the Minnesota Frost, Taylor Heise a forward who plays for Minnesota Frost, Renata Fast a defender who plays for the Toronto Sceptres, Daryl Watts a forward who is now playing for Detroit Clutch and Hilary Knight a forward who plays for the Boston Fleet.

Poulin is widely known as "Captain Clutch" or the GOAT of the league. She won the 2026 Ilana Loss Playoff MVP and is the leader of all-time regular season points in the league.

Frankel is a Billie Jean King MVP and Goaltender of the Year award winner. She has the single-season record with 19 wins and eight shutouts.

Pannek was honored as the PWHL Forward of the Year after she had a record-breaking 33-point campaign.

Heise is a marquee star and a former playoff MVP. She is one of the league's most dangerous offensive threats.

Fast is recognized as one of the premier two-way defenders in women's hockey. She has elite transition and zone-control skills.

Watts is a dynamic, high-scoring winger. She commands attention on the ice whenever she is playing.

Knight is a perennial superstar who is known for her lethal scoring touch and elite off-the-puck awareness. She is also the captain of the United States women's national ice hockey team. Knight hold numerous records and has been a dominant force in both international and professional hockey.

Knight has won ten gold medals at the IIHF World Women's Championship, which is the most ever by any hockey player, and holds the tournament records for goals, assists and points. She is a five-time Olympic medalist, winning gold in 2018 and 2026. She won silver in 2010, 2014 and 2022. She even had the honor of being a flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the 2026 Winter Olympics.

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2026-27 PWHL teams

Boston Fleet
(i) Detroit Clutch
(i) Hamilton Havoc
Minnesota Frost
Montreal Victoire
New York Sirens
Ottawa Charge
(i) San Jose Sea Lions
Seattle Torrent
Toronto Sceptres
Vancouver Goldeneyes
(i) Vegas Vanguards

(i)-Teams part of the 2026-27 PWHL expansion

FOOTBALL

Football falls to Monticello

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



Photo by Tierra Green

The Ranger defense stops a Ouachita Baptist University offensive player on Oct 31 at Ranger Field ending in a Northwestern loss to the Tigers.

The Northwestern Oklahoma State Football team was taken down by the University of Arkansas at Monticello Boll Weevils 51-26 on Saturday afternoon in Alva.

The Rangers were in a hole early into the game. Monticello scored on their first drive and added to their lead with a field goal late in the 1st and another touchdown early in the 2nd. The Rangers' first drive of the game was a three and out as they were forced to punt on a 4th and 16. Northwestern's next drives went a bit better, as they earned first downs.

In the 2nd quarter, the Rangers got the ball, but it started rough. On the 2nd play of the drive, Jax Bernard was sacked for a loss of six yards. On a 3rd down and 17 yards to go, Bernard made a pass to Royal Kyle, who caught the ball and ran for 37 yards, earning a first down and giving Northwestern momentum. The Rangers made small gains with rushes from Ezequiel Luna and passes from Bernard to Merric Judd.

On a 2nd and 6 in Boll Weevil territory, the Rangers were caught with an illegal block in the back, sending them back 15 yards and putting them in another 3rd and long situation. Bernard made the pass to Koda Bridges who ran for 28 yards and gave Northwestern another high pressure first down. The Rangers continued on with the drive when two plays later, Monticello was caught with a pass interference penalty, giving Northwestern 15 extra yards.

Deep into Monticello territory, the Rangers had to score on this drive. Northwestern made it to the 9-yard line where Bernard made a pass to Bridges who ran into the end zone for a Northwestern touchdown. Sean Kallauner scored the extra point kick, and the Rangers were on the board with the score 17-7.

Following the Ranger touchdown, both teams went three and out, punting after just three plays. Monticello caught the Ranger defense on their back foot, and after a pass interference penalty against Northwestern, the Boll Weevils found themselves with a chance to extend their lead. Monticello scored the touchdown four plays after the penalty, and the Boll Weevils were up 23-7 to end the 1st half.

Monticello scored a touchdown three minutes into the second half after both teams went three and out. After their touchdown, the Rangers fumbled the kickoff and lost the ball to the Boll Weevils. In one play, Monticello scored another touchdown and gave themselves a 30-point lead, 37-7.

Monticello scored another touchdown on their next drive to make it 44-7, a practically impossible score to come back from for the Rangers.

On the Rangers' next drive, they found themselves on 4th down when a Boll Weevil was caught with a holding penalty, giving Northwestern a free first down. That penalty bit Monticello's rear, as Northwestern scored a touchdown that very same drive. A huge play by Luna giving Northwestern 49 yards put the Rangers on the 3-yard line. Luna ran it in for a touchdown and made it a 44-13 game after the point after attempt was missed.

The 3rd quarter ended and the 4th quarter started in Northwestern's possession. The Rangers started the final quarter on the 41-yard line. A pass from Bernard to Weston Tucker made up 37 yards to give Northwestern great field position on the 4-yard line. Luna tried to run it into the end zone but was stopped. The Rangers tried it again and this time Luna made it into the end zone and scored the touchdown making it 44-20.

Northwestern scored another touchdown on their next drive with a short pass from Bernard to Judd, who ran it 21 yards to the touchdown, 44-26.

With five minutes on the clock, the Rangers had to make a stop after an interception. Monticello ran it to the left and made it past all the Ranger defenders to score a touchdown making it 51-26.

The Rangers tried on their next drive, but failed to convert on a 4th and 10, ending the game in Boll Weevil possession.

Bernard went 14 for 26, a 53% completion rate. Bernard threw 2 touchdowns and 218 yards. Luna had 16 carries and ran for 103 yards with two touchdowns. His longest run was 49 yards. Weston had the most yards for a receiver with 52 yards in just two receptions. Bridges had 5 receptions, 39 yards and one touchdown. Judd had four receptions, 41 yards and one touchdown.

Aiden Lewis blew the Monticello offense out of the water as he as 12 tackles, all solo. Cade Reynolds had the second most tackles with half of what Lewis had. Reynolds had five solo and one assisted tackle. Terry McCutcheon had five tackles, all solo.

Northwestern has one more game on the schedule. The Rangers face Southwestern Oklahoma State on Saturday in Weatherford. If the Rangers can take down the Bulldogs, they save their season from being 100% winless.

GAC Football Standings

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

*SWOSU and SNU postponed their game earlier this year and will play it later this month