FOOTBALL

Football plays for Senior Day.

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RODEO

Photos of Alva rodeo.

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NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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Mike Mazzei wins election

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

Mike Mazzei was voted to be Oklahoma's new governor after defeating Democrat nominee Cyndi Munson on Tuesday night.

The state of Oklahoma remained in a sea of red, as Republicans won the Senate, House, Governor, Attorney General and the Lieutenant Governor elections. Despite the Republican win in all the elections, there was a swing in every county towards the Democrats. Compared to the 2024 presidential election, the Oklahoma Governor race shifted 28.1 points towards the Democrats. As the results came through Tuesday night, Oklahoma county ran into a wall. Voting machines in multiple locations were causing problems, and were unable to count the votes. Election Board Secretary Doug Sanderson told News 9 that these issues were not unusual, and that all ballots in the machines were in locked bins and will be counted.

Oklahoma county was not the only county to encounter issues. Cleveland and Comanche counties were experiencing technical issues as well, delaying the reports of their results. Around 10:30pm on Tuesday, the Cleveland County Election Board was up and running. When Oklahomans woke up on Wednesday morning, Comanche county's votes had been counted and Mike Mazzei was undoubtedly Oklahoma's new governor-elect.

At 10:41pm Tuesday night, Mazzei posted on Facebook a thank you note to Oklahoma. His note includes him saying the campaign was built by the people of Oklahoma, and if you voted for another person, he wants to be your governor and to earn your trust. Mazzei said Oklahoma has unlimited potential and that he wants to prove it.

The rest of the Oklahoma elections went the Republicans' way. Kevin Hern took the senate over Democrat N'Kiyla Jasmine Thomas. In the house, Mark Tedford took District One, Josh Brecheen took District Two, Frank D. Lucas took District Three, Tom Cole took District Four and Stephanie just barely took District Five after defeating Jana Nelson by just 3,364 votes.

Although Oklahoma ran red, multiple states flipped from Republican to Democrat. Texas, Kansas, Iowa, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina and Maine flipped from Republican to Democrat. Mississippi's election for senate is in a tight race, as Democrat Scott Colom leads Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith the race by just 65 votes with 95% of votes in, as of Wednesday morning. Alaska's Senate race is also unfinished as Democrat Mary Peltola leads Republican Dan Sullivan by 626 votes with 74,000 left to count.



U.S. Senate photo of governor-elect Michael Mazzei from 2011 during his tenure as a senator.

Home rodeo goes well for Rangers

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

The men and women's rodeo teams finished 3rd in the Northwestern home rodeo over Halloween weekend at the new Salt Fork Event Center in Alva.

The men finished with 380 points, just under Panhandle State with 410 points. Fort Hays was the closest below with 260 points. The women finished with 130 points in a tight four-way finish for 2nd place. Northeastern finished in 2nd with 150 points, Kansas State finished 4th with 125 points and Fort Hays was 5th with 120 points.

Hazen Sparks finished 4th in the tie down event. Carter Anderson finished 7th.

In the breakaway event, Savannah Greenfield finished 2nd. Waci Thomson finished 5th and Laynee Ohm finished 6th.

Nathan Duvall finished 1st in the steer wrestling event, two seconds faster than 2nd place Lindon Bemery from Connors State. Samuel Daly finished 5th.

Payton Dingman finished 4th in the goat tying event with a total time of 14.9.

In the team roping event, Payton Blank finished 4th. Colter Snook finished 7th.

Minda Woodward finished 4th in the ladies' barrel racing event. Sadie Rempel finished 6th.

2026 is over for the rodeo team. They will not be competing against until next year in February. On the 18th, they will be in Manhattan, Kansas to compete at Kansas State University.

So far, the Lady Rangers have not finished below the top five except for at Oklahoma State on Oct. 15-17. The men have finished 3rd three times and 6th once.

In the overall standings, the men sit 2nd. Southeastern is 1st with 2005 points, NWOSU has 1385. The women sit 3rd in the overall standings with 576 points.

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NEWS

what's up

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Photo by Victor Kinzie

The Northwestern Treble Choir sings at First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday night.



Photo by Tierra Green

A group of NWOSU students at the Trunk or Treat event on Friday hosted by SGA.

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NEWS

Cowboy's Cheerleaders unionize

By **JESSICA SCHIEBER**
News Editor

The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders are one of the most recognized cheerleader groups in the United States. The announcement of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders union happened on Oct. 23. Being so recognized means they have a lot of rules and restrictions on not only them but on everything they do. Did you know that their uniform is copyrighted?

Their uniform isn't what this story will focus on however; these cheerleaders have unionized after their limited pay, and benefits have been the subject of discussion and controversy for years. The newly formed union is now recognized by the Dallas Cowboys as the collective bargaining representative for the group.

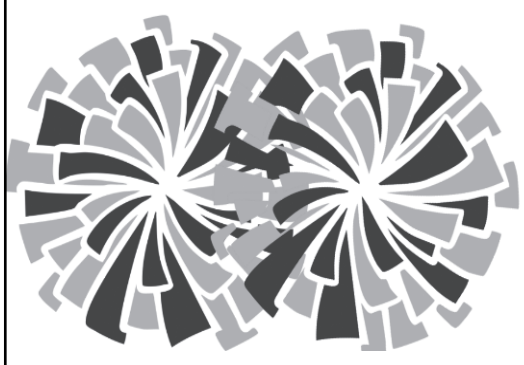
The union is officially named the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Association (DCCA), they gained recognition after a discussion with the Cowboys, which states they are set to start collective bargaining. This makes the Cowboys' cheerleaders the first active NFL cheer squad to be in a union. The Buffalo Jills, a pervious NFL cheer union, disbanded in 2014. Tad Carper, the Cowboys' senior vice president of communications, confirmed the union to The Dallas Morning News, but declined to offer further comments.

The Cowboy Cheerleaders have been in the eye of the world for years and Netflix has made a docuseries called "America's Sweethearts" to focus on them. Because of the docuseries the dancers' salaries were thrust back into the spotlight. And the cheerleaders said they were due to receive a 400% pay raise for the 2025 season, according to The Dallas Morning News.

The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders have been a staple for decades. Their high kicks and their "Thunderstruck" routine are iconic and imitated by young girls who have a dream to become a Cowboy Cheerleader.

Unionization gives the cheerleaders a formal mechanism to negotiate wages, benefits, and working conditions, and to use tools like strikes if necessary.

Salary talk



- From $37,881/year to $50,000-$75,000/season
- Prior to the 400% raise cheerleaders were only making around $15-$2- per hour and roughly $500 per game



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All letters represent the views of the author.

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NORTHWESTERN NEWS

OPINION

Hatred in online games

By **ALLISON RUWALDT**
Senior Reporter

Growing up, video games were incorporated into my entertainment, whether I was watching YouTubers play them or begging my parents to buy me a new game for the family's Xbox 360.

However, as I got older, I became more afraid of trying online games. I was scared that others would notice I was new or bad at the game and make fun of me. I was aware of the more competitive and aggressive side of online games, and it felt intimidating to try and start a game others had been perfecting for years.

My fear did not completely stop me from trying games, but it limited me to mainly story-focused and cozy games, which I still love. I played games like Stardew Valley, Life is Strange, Red Dead Redemption and others, but I stayed away from any online game modes available because they were intimidating.

When I began dating my partner, he encouraged me to try to branch out and play some online games. It started with something simple: playing Fortnite or talking instead of him in the NBA 2K game chat, and then evolved to me playing things like Marvel Rivals and Overwatch.

None of these games are incredibly hard; however, for me, hearing people insult each other in game chat put immense pressure on me to be instantly good at the game. Of course, I was not immediately good at every game I tried, but the more I played, the less I cared about what others were putting in the game chat.

As I have played more, I have grown thicker skin, but I have also seen and heard people treat each other terribly just because of a video game. While many playing online games choose to silently be enraged at others, a loud minority finds it entertaining to degrade others and spread hate.

This group of people is the main reason many people find it hard to get into video games. Although gaming has become a mainstream hobby, there are still many people who do not grow up playing games and then are too intimidated to start. For many, their first exposure to gaming is videos on YouTube and TikTok, and seeing those content creators in the videos talk about how bad others are can discourage them from even trying to start.

The issue goes even deeper when looking at how normalized sexism, racism and homophobia are in a lot of online games. In my personal experience, I have heard people using slurs in voice chat and complain when they hear a woman is on their team. Because players feel more anonymous in-game chat, they feel more comfortable being hateful.

This behavior is often encouraged by others in the game and not punished, and it can turn people away from a game in a second. Whether or not the game is good, if the player base is toxic, it's bound to only entertain those who are okay with toxic behavior.

While some games are constantly updating their game chat rules to make it more inclusive, others have given up on trying to rein in the hateful behaviors that span across the fan base. However, hate always tends to be louder than positivity, so any improvements made to chat rules are often outshone by a new way people have found to be toxic in games.

Even though there are toxic people in game chats, it is important to remember that most people are just playing to have fun, and the clips of those being hateful online are posted for engagement, not to show what an average game is like. It is far more likely for a clip of people fighting to go viral than for a clip of people getting along. Most content creators do not post clips of the positive moments, and if they do, the clips are far less likely to get views.

In my opinion, these behaviors and posts only hurt the game itself by making it look bad. Of course, a post can help shed light on the issue, but it becomes a problem when only negative behaviors are posted. It makes the game seem like it is full of toxic players, which can discourage people from playing. However, these behaviors would not need to be posted if all players were respectful of one another.

Despite the hate posted online, many games can be a fun hobby and allow players to experience things and meet people they would have never known about before, and I believe it should become a more welcoming space overall.

Student parking problems

By **ALLISON RUWALDT**
Senior Reporter

Students at Northwestern Oklahoma State University seem to be in agreement that the campus parking needs improvement.

With the construction continuing on Highway 281, many students are still struggling with parking on campus. Many say that their problems are with the parking lots, while some say that the students who drive cause a bigger issue.

Although the lack of parking spots frequently came up in students' opinions about parking, some were more focused on the people doing the parking. Many students feel their peers struggle to park properly.

"We don't have enough parking spaces for sure," said Giuliana Callahan, a freshman at NWOSU. "Everything is really far apart, and people are horrible at parking."

While not all students on campus are affected by bad parking, some are suffering consequences of others' poor driving. Camree Johnson, a NWOSU student, spoke about how her vehicle was hit recently by another student.

"My car was parked, and a truck reversed and hit it, then he tried to go forward and then smacked it again," Johnson said. "Then he reversed back and just drove off."

The student and his parents did not give their insurance information, so Johnson's only option was to accept the damages to her car.

A main issue students raised was the lack of parking spaces on campus and the fact that they often have to park off campus and cross a busy street. Even though there are crosswalks, many students still feel unsafe crossing the streets to get to campus.

"Personally, I'm not the biggest fan of it because most of it is crossing the highway," said Jacob Johnston, a junior at NWOSU. "And I really don't like that because depending on traffic, you can be late for class"

While it is not common that an accident happens with a student crossing the street, it also is not impossible. And when students are in a rush to class, they are more likely to cross the street with less care.

"I feel like there should be more parking options, but I also feel like there should be more compact-only and truck-only parking," said Nate Vaughn, a NWOSU student. "The one that we have is really inconvenient, especially with the construction."

Vaugh also mentioned that rules for compact or truck-only parking should be clearer and enforced. Oftentimes, large vehicles parked in compact parking are not ticketed, or students driving are not aware that it is compact only.

He mentioned that trucks often block the view or multiple spots, making it difficult for others to park around them. This also increases the chances of accidents on campus, though it is not common.

On every college campus, parking seems to be an issue, whether it is a lack of spots or the distance between a lot and a student's class. However, there does not seem to be an efficient solution.

OPINION

The hard boiled truth

By **SHEALYN PRATT**
Features Editor

Few holiday appetizers can divide people like deviled eggs. Whether they're topped with paprika or bacon, deviled eggs have a way of bringing out strong opinions. For years, I refused to eat eggs. I couldn't eat them scrambled, fried, over easy, boiled or any other way. The texture and taste were something I couldn't get past. But one Thanksgiving afternoon, I picked up one of my Grandma Leona's deviled eggs, and everything changed. As you read this, you may be thinking that a sentiment like that has no place in a conversation about eggs. But I wasn't the only one who felt this way."They're at every Thanksgiving and they get eaten up in like 30 minutes," said my cousin, Skylyn Pratt. "I really look forward to them."I spoke with about 10 people, and all of them said deviled eggs are meant to be eaten around Thanksgiving or Easter. While the Pratt family makes deviled eggs year-round, the Ramsey household is not a big fan of the dish."I hate deviled eggs," said Mikayla Ramsey, a junior at Northwestern. "Eggs should just be salt and pepper, that's about it. Shouldn't be sweet, shouldn't be sour, none of that. And relish? What are we doing? Is it a sandwich or is it an egg?"On the other hand, Emersen Evans, a freshman at Northwestern, enjoys deviled eggs."I love them," said Evans. She said she isn't usually the one making them; her mom does. Her family's recipe calls for mayonnaise, mustard, pickles, paprika, salt, pepper and onion powder mixed into the egg yolks before they are spooned back into the egg whites. Evans' mom finishes with a sprinkle of paprika. While many traditional deviled egg recipes call for similar ingredients, the Herrera household has an addition that may just make its way to my Thanksgiving table."My mom adds bacon on top," said Mariella Herrera, a freshman at Northwestern. Hopefully, my Grandma Leona takes me up on the bacon suggestion. Flavors such as bacon as pickles are what truly changed the game for me when it came to eggs. To this day, I still won't eat scrambled, fried, or any other variation of eggs.

For others, the hesitation comes down to the same thing that kept me completely away from eggs for years. Raley Hooper and Hunter McMillin said their biggest issues with deviled eggs are the texture, smell and taste. If you have never been a fan of eggs, like me, or have never enjoyed deviled eggs, consider giving Grandma Leona's deviled egg recipe a try. You might just change your mind, too.

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Ranger Band search for new members

By **JANESSA RAINVILLE**
Digital Editor

On Halloween, the Ranger Band ended their marching season with their Micheal Jackson show. They performed Thriller, Bad and Billie Jean after a morning of performing pep tunes and the fight song for Ranger Preview.

Now, they ask for more college students to join them for the rest of this semester and for Spring of 2027.

This Wednesday the band opened its doors for anyone who wishes to join. You don't need to audition for entry, just arrive or email Dr. Corey Burton at caburton@nwosu.edu.

The Ranger Band welcomes anyone who wishes to join it! If you missed yesterday, you can still come by Friday at 3:30pm at the First Presbyterian Church after the current band members get their auditions done for chair placements.

The band meets at 3pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

If you have played an instrument and wish to pick it up again, now's your chance! There is also a jazz band that you can join as well. The Ranger jazz band meets at the same time, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at the First Presbyterian Church.



The Ranger Band in front of their trailer after the first football home game this year.

First home rodeo in new arena









Photos by Tierra Green





FEATURE

Sweeney under fire again

By **ALLISON RUWALDT**
Senior Reporter

Sydney Sweeney, an American actress, is receiving backlash over her new campaign ad for her lingerie brand, Syrn.

Sweeney, who owns the lingerie and loungewear brand, released an ad on October 21, depicting her as multiple classic Christmas characters dressed in provocative clothing. The ad started by showing the actress replicating Kevin from Home Alone, watching TV.

On the TV, it shows Sweeney dressed in a low-cut, flowy tank top and a short skirt, with hair that resembles Cindy Lou Who from the live-action Grinch movie. In the next scene, she is still portraying Cindy; however, this time in plaid long-sleeve pajamas.

After that, it shows her with Jack Skellington makeup in black lingerie, and in makeup resembling Emily from The Corpse Bride, dressed in red lingerie. Sweeney, as Kevin, is shown eating ice cream and drooling over the video on the TV. As she continues to switch channels, the ad also shows Sweeney resembling a swan from the ballet Swan Lake, dressed in lingerie, and finally it depicts Sweeney in the snow, with a Santa-like coat under her, dressed in white lingerie, appearing to be Mrs. Claus.

The backlash comes from the actress's depiction of underage characters. Many commenters online believe that the ad contributes to the sexualization of children. Although she has not responded to the backlash, her silence appears to be enough of a statement.

Sweeney's recent approach to engagement is clear: do something people on one side will not tolerate, but not something bad enough that her fan base abandons her. However, this tactic begs the question of when something is bad enough to leave the fandom.

In the past, Sweeney has lost fans for multiple reasons. Some began ignoring her because of the oddly phrased "I have good jeans" American Eagle ad, and others were fed up with her recent Norvig ad that displayed her as naked but covered with only sports-related items.

However, she has also gained fans, as these controversies brought her more attention from different demographics over her career. Her fan base has switched from a more liberal teen fan base, who watched shows like Everything Sucks and Euphoria, to more Republican middle-aged adults, who mainly know her for her roles in things like The Housemaid.

It is well within Sweeney's character lately to release something controversial just for more engagement. While she chose to defend herself in her American Eagle jeans ad, she has stayed quiet about the negative response that has come from her Norvig ad months ago, and this new poor response.

Dressing as underage characters and portraying them as sex symbols can influence young or impressionable minds into seeing those characters as "sexy". Many also point out the fact that the actress could have dressed as different characters from each movie. Martha May, from The Grinch, is already portrayed as a character who was intended to be more "sexy", yet Sweeney chose to dress as the 11-year-old girl.

Many people online are split on the ad and whether or not it is problematic. While some do not see a problem with Sweeney using these characters to model her lingerie, more people online seem to understand the issues that come when children are portrayed in this light.

Although she has gained more attention from the ad, it is important to think about the implications of what she is showing.

Voting? Again? What even are the midterms?

By **SHEALYN PRATT**
Features Editor

Recently, you may have heard a lot about the midterm elections. Hundreds of campaigns have appeared across social media, and you may have even met Oklahoma gubernatorial candidate Cyndi Munson during her visit to campus in October. But what are the midterms, and why do they matter?

Halfway through a president's term, we get the chance to vote again. This time, all members ofthe House of Representatives are up for reelection, in addition to around one-third of the senate. Unlike the president of our country, members of the House of Representatives can be reelected an unlimited number of times.

The House of Representatives is the lower chamber of the U.S. Congress and is made up of 435 members across the 50 states. The House introduces, debates and votes on bills alongsidethe Senate.

The Senate is the upper chamber of the U.S. Congress and holds the exclusive power to confirm presidential nominations. This includes whom the president appoints as ambassadors and other high-ranking officials.

These two chambers work together to form the system we work for and live in. The midterm elections give us the chance to vote on who we want forming that system.

According to Pew Research Center, voter turnout in midterm elections is generally lower than turnout during presidential election years.

Many eligible voters are sitting out on an election that will determine what happens over the next couple of years.

On Nov. 3, all 435 House seats, 35 of the 100 Senate seats and 36 governorships were on the ballot. Two of the 35 Senate seats include two special elections from Florida and Ohio.

This was the first nationwide election since the 2024 presidential race. These election results will help determine who controls Congress for the rest of President Donald Trump's term.

For Oklahoma, Mike Mazzei, Republican canidate, won the gubernatorial race.

Despite Oklahoma being a republican state, democrats won control of the House and Senate. This is the first time that both the House and Senate have been primarily democrats since January 1, 2025.

This midterm election broke previous records. According to the University of Florida Election lab, around 54 million registered voters cast early ballots this election, beating the 2022 midterms by 9 million ballots.

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ENTERTAINMENT

The intrigue of Native American mythology

By **KEVIN KAUMANS**
Entertainment Editor

Many native tribes have existed before the settlers came to claim their land as their own. Even today, despite all the hardships these people have been through over the years, there still remains over 500 tribes that are federally recognized by the US. Since it is the first week of November, which just happens to be Native American History Month, I figured I would talk about some of their mythology this week.

Now, it is important to keep in mind that not every tribe follows the same beliefs and ideas. Just like any other group of people, Native Americans are not bound to the exact same god or philosophical system. To be fully transparent, I do not feel like I can explain it in a way that would not be an oversimplification. Even today, historians do not know how many of these "religions" have existed throughout history.

Growing up in rural Kansas, despite the majority population being White, I was surrounded by bits and pieces of Native American Culture; a few of the people that lived around me were part-Native American, the movie theater had the symbol of a chieftain on it, even the local high school had a chieftain as its mascot.

Whether this is a respectful way of paying tribute to the Kiowa tribe or an offensive mockery of them I will leave up for you to decide, I am just explaining to you what my life was like.

I went to school in a small, Oklahoman town that was even smaller than mine. A few of my classmates and over people in the town also came from Native American descent, though I do not think any of them were full-blooded. A boy I knew growing, for example, had a white dad and a Native American mom. He loved to hunt, and was probably the best sharpshooter in the whole class. I have not seen him in years, but I hope he's well.

Last week, I emailed a peer of mine, Richard. Richard is in his 40s, and has a long ancestry of Native American blood. I told him I was doing research for this article, and asked him if he could volunteer any insight. He was kind enough to email me later that night and offered me some of what he knows.

Even if you yourself, fellow reader, grew up in an urban area or a state not surrounded by many if at all any tribal territories, odds are you have still heard of Bigfoot, or as his name is to the Native Americans: Sasquatch. This creature has become so popular in modern media that almost everyone in the country knows its name.

We also cannot forget about the Thunderbird, a mythical beast that is said to be so powerful that it can create thunder just by flapping its wings. Lightning shoots out of its eyes, and it is often depicted as a towering bird of prey. There are many myths of the Thunderbird, its depictions dating back thousands of years.

A more mysterious creature is the Baykok. It is unknown what his ethics are, though it is said he was an undead warrior who lived an evil life only to be brought back to hunt transgressors of the old ways. It is unclear if this is referring to some dead code a tribe used to live by, or a more natural law. Either way, his arsenal of weapons make short work of anyone he targets.

Local 58, a YouTube horror series

By **JANESSA RAINVILLE**
Online Editor

Local 58, what is it? Local 58 is an analog horror series on YouTube by Kris Straub. It is a series based around it being footage from a fictional public access TV channel, WCLV-TV, in Mason County, West Virginia. It was originally launched in the 1930s, but has been hijacked countless times over the decades.

If you were looking for a good example of analog horror from my last story on CreepCast, Local 58 is the prime example of modern analog horror. For those who don't now, 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, fake news broadcasts and a found footage feel. Seeing that Local 58 is mostly about a fictional news station getting repeatedly hijacked, you can tell how it is a corner stone of the genre.

Now, on to the different videos apart of this series. The first video posted is called "You Are On The Fastest Available Route", briefly showing the Local 58 TV's schedule before cutting to someone's dash cam while driving in the rain. The camera glitches occasionally as the GPS directs the driver into the back roads rather than on the highway. The GPS hen directs the driver to go into roads with "Do Not Enter" signs. Then it tells the driver to turn off their headlights, which the driver complies with. The Audio glitches out loudly and the driver seems to turn around and speed off. The camera glitches before showing the front windshield is broken, the driver has crashed.

Another video that is also well known in the series, "Contingency" is the second video of the series and shows the station getting hijacked and broadcasting something unsettling as they conclude their broadcast day. It broadcast a Contingency Message Reel that is not to be used after Nov. 13th, 1970. It was supposed to be used in the vent of the United States complete surrender to enemy forces. The seal shown on the tape has the words "U.S DEPERTMNT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AMERCAN DIGNITY" surrounding it. While text scrolls on the screen, a distorted sounding version of Star-Spangled Banner plays. The tape tells people to "ACT" and "Let our united resolve echo through history: Even in defeat, we refused to yield". After the hijack, Local 58 takes over again and displays a "Technical Difficulties" screen before telling the public that the tape was a hoax.

One last video for me to tell you about, there are more, but I'll let you watch those. This video is titled "Show For Children" and it opens with a schedule card. On the schedule, this show is apparently being aired at 4:15 am and that's already unusual. The show follows a skeleton named Cadavre and the show tends to focus on him and the smiling moon while Cadavre walks through a graveyard. Eventually Cadavre lays down in an empty grave as the no longer smiling moon passes over him and he is suddenly an inanimate skeleton.

This has been my coverage of Local 58! If you are still in a spooky mood from Halloween, I highly suggest this.

Top 10 movies in 2026

1. Spider-Man: Brand New Day	$2.5 billion
2. The Odyssey	$1.7 billion
3. Toy Story 5	$1.1 billion
4. Michael	$1.02 billion
5. The Super Mario Galaxy Movie	$1.01 billion
6. The Devil Wears Prada 2	$693 million
7. Project Hail Mary	$684 million
8. Pegasus 3	$656 million
9. Minions & Monsters	$528 million
10. Obsession	$525 million

Top 10 shows in 2026

1. Cupertino	79% Audience score
2. Adults	96% Audience score
3. Mel Brooks: The 99-Year-Old Man!	96% Audience score
4. Small Prophets	95% Audience score
5. Colin From Accounts	95% Audience score
6. Avatar: Seven Havens	81% Audience score
7. President Curtis	74% Audience score
8. The Pitt	86% Audience score
9. Furious	89% Audience score
10. Widow's Bay	92% Audience score

SPORTS

Rangers lose final home game

By **AMAYA EVANS**
Student Reporter

The Rangers fell to the Ouachita Baptist Tigers on Saturday for Senior Day after a tight game ended with a score of 31-24.

Northwestern found themselves down by a field goal early, as Ouachita Baptist kicked a 42-yard field goal to open the scoring.

A few possessions later, Northwestern scored on a trick pass from Jayce Morson to Henry Wilson Jr. to take a 7-3 lead late in the first quarter.

Ouachita took the lead again with a touchdown early in the second quarter to make it 10-7.

Northwestern had a chance to tie it late in the second, but missed a field goal and went into the halftime break trailing Ouachita Baptist.

The Senior Day celebrations continued in the halftime break, as Northwestern recognized the band and cheer seniors.

The Tigers opened the second half with a touchdown extending their lead to 17-7 over the Rangers.

Northwestern took their ensuing possession down the field for a touchdown via a Jacob T. Jones rushing touchdown, trimming the Tiger lead to three points at 17-14.

Ouachita added a touchdown midway through the third quarter, making the score 24-14.

Ouachita added another touchdown at the start of the fourth, as Northwestern fell behind 31-17.



Photo by Tierra Green

No. 17 Merric Judd jumps to catch the ball against Ouachita Baptist on Saturday as No. 3 Royal Kyle stands behind ready to catch as well.

The Rangers would not quit as they found the endzone with a Jones touchdown pass to Meric Judd making it a one-score game at 31-24.

After a missed Ouachita field goal, the Rangers had the ball with one minute and fifty-four seconds left in the game but could not come up with a score, falling 31-24.

Soccer just barely misses GAC tournament

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

The Lady Ranger soccer season came to a close with two wins and a tie in their final three games, all to just barely miss the playoffs.

Northwestern faced off against Southern Nazarene on Wednesday, Southwestern Oklahoma State on Saturday and East Central University on Monday. The Lady Rangers defeated SNU and ECU, but tied to SWOSU 0-0. After it was all said and done, the Lady Rangers came up one point short of making the Great American Conference Championship tournament.

The game against Southern Nazarene started quick with a shot from Cambell Tabor in the 2nd minute. After some battling for offensive opportunities, the next shot came in the 11th minute from SNU. The teams traded shots midway through the first half as the action ramped up. Late into the half, the Lady Rangers had three shots from Madalyn Hundt, MacKenzie Hickman and Jazelle Alvarado, but none of the shots were on goal. As the half came to a close, Hundt and Alyssa Hotze gave shots, but they were both saved by the SNU goalkeeper.

In the second quarter, the Lady Rangers and Crimson Storm traded shots back and forth. None of the shots entered the back of the net until the 82nd minute. Cassidy Fitzgerald shot and scored to give the Lady Rangers a late lead. Quickly after the goal, SNU gave a shot but it missed the net, and the game ended with a Lady Ranger win.

NWOSU outshot SNU 14-13. The Lady Rangers had nine shots on goal and SNU only had three on goal. Taylor Annen completed the shutout and saved all three shots against her. Katy Jo Werner, Olivia Staton, Tabor, Hundt and Hickman each had two shots. Staton had the most shots on goal for NWOSU with two.

The game against SWOSU was an impressive showing from Annen. The Lady Ranger goalkeeper had 11 saves against the Bulldogs, stopping every shot that went against her. The Lady Rangers were heavily outshot by the Bulldogs 24-5. NWOSU had five shots against SWOSU's 11. The Northwestern players that had shots were Alvarado, Werner, Jenna Mills, Kamalei Kealoha and Emma Yosten. Mills, Werner and Kealoha had the only shots on goal.

Annen faced four shots in the first two minutes of the game, immediately putting pressure on her. Luckily, she faced every shot and kept the Bulldogs scoreless, avenging the 4-0 loss against SWOSU on Homecoming in October.

The Lady Rangers took down East Central in a 1-0 win over the Tigers.

Northwestern piled on the pressure as the first half started. It took a second, but in the 9th minute, the Lady Rangers gave the first shot of the game. Werner shot towards the goal but it was saved by the ECU goaltender. Alvarado gave a shot in the 14th minute, which was saved as well. Kealoha and Yosten tried for a goal but both missed the net.

A few minutes after Yosten's shot, Tabor scored the only goal of the game in the 28th minute to give Northwestern an early lead. Only two more shots occurred in the first half.

The second half was more offensive from the Tigers, as they had five shots. Luckily, none of them went in and any ball that had a chance of going in was stopped by Annen.

Werner had the most shots with three, all were on goal.

The Lady Rangers missed out on the GAC Championship tournament by one point. SNU had 19 points over Northwestern's 18. Had the Lady Rangers won just one more game that they lost or tied, they would be in the tournament. If they won a game they lost, they would have two more points. If they won a game they tied, they would have 19 points with SNU, but Northwestern has a better overall record, which would put them in the tournament.

With the immediate early success in the season, 2026 may go down as a big "what if" for Northwestern soccer. Was the fall off because of the tough opponents, or was it something the team changed internally?

SPORTS

Volleyball's struggles continue

By **AMAYA EVANS**
Student Reporter



Photo by Amaya Evans

Lady Rangers celebrate after scoring a point against Oklahoma Baptist University on Tuesday for Senior day ending with a NWOSU loss.

On Thursday evening, the Northwestern Oklahoma state volleyball team fell to Southern Nazarene University, 3-2.

The Rangers took an early 6-1 lead over SNU to begin set one, but SNU found momentum and cut their deficit down to one making it 7-6 in favor of the Rangers. With kills by Kemelly Baez Miecznikoski and Tess de Zanet, the Rangers started to punch back making the score 9-8.

With both the Rangers and SNU exchanging points, the Rangers continued to keep their 16-14 lead midway through the set. SNU used kills to continue to keep the score close, but the Rangers fought back harder, adding to their score and taking set one, 25-20.

The Rangers took their momentum from set one and continued it in set two, taking a 6-0 lead over SNU.

The Rangers kept their streak going, extending their lead using kills by Miecznikoski, Kaylah Thomas, Ivanny Blackwood, and de Zanet and making it a 12-3 lead over SNU. SNU started to close the gap and make it a 19-12 match, but Northwestern and SNU both continued to exchange points to give the Rangers set two, 25-20.

To start set three, SNU started off with a 5-1 lead over the Rangers and continued to tack on points to extend their lead over the Rangers, making it 14-5 midway through the set. The Rangers started fighting back and cut their deficit using kills by Miecznikoski and Blackwood to make it a 19-12 game with SNU still leading. SNU continued to stay on top through the set and took set three, 25-19 over Northwestern.

Set four started off with both teams going back and forth, with SNU taking the lead 5-3 over the Rangers. Points continued to be exchanged by both teams to keep the game within one point, with SNU staying on top 9-8. SNU used kills by Hawthorne, Richardson, Wright, and Mosley to keep their lead and take set four, 25-17 over the Rangers.

Set five started with SNU jumping out to an 8-1 lead over the Rangers, with kills from Blackwood and Miecznikoski; the Rangers added to their score making it a 12-4 game. SNU did not back down and continued their fight winning set five, 15-6 and taking the match 3-2.

On Tuesday night, the Rangers had their senior day, celebrating six seniors that are part of the volleyball team.

Oklahoma Baptist and Northwestern battled back and forth, exchanging points to begin set one. Both teams continued to exchange points with the Bisons, finding some momentum taking a 15-12 lead over the Rangers midway through the set. The Rangers used kills by Tess De Zanet, Avery Lane, and Katie Wadas to keep the set withing a seven-point match with the Bisons on top 20-13. The Bison kept their momentum going and extended their lead and took set one, 25-16.

To begin set two, the Rangers took an early 4-1 lead over the Bison using kills by Lane, de Zanet and Kemelly Baez Miecznikoski. Both teams kept the match within three points, with the Rangers continuing their lead halfway through the set. The Bisons started to close the gap and fought back to a one-point match 15-14. Later, Southern Nazarene ended up taking the momentum of the match on a 10-3 run to win set two, 25-23.

Set three started with the Bisons taking a 6-4 lead over the Rangers, and they continued to keep their lead with the Rangers keeping a close gap throughout the match.

The Ragners used kills by de Zanet and Miecznikoski to keep the set within a five-point game.

Both teams continued to go back and forth exchanging points with the Rangers making a small comeback and keeping the set within four.

The Bison pulled it out in the end, winning the set, 25-19, and taking the match 3-0.

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Basketball schedules

Men's 2026 schedule

Nov 13	vs Oklahoma Christian
Nov 14	vs Minnesota Crookston
Nov 17	vs Manhattan Christian
Nov 20	@ Eastern New Mexico
Nov 24	vs Truman State
Nov 28	@ Emporia State
Dec 3	vs Southwestern Ok
Dec 5	@ Oklahoma Baptist
Dec 10	@ East Central
Dec 12	@ Southern Nazarene
Dec 17	vs Southeastern Ok

Women's 2026 schedule

Nov 13	vs Tx A&M Kingsville
Nov 14	vs Tx A&M Inter.
Nov 17	vs Central Christian
Nov 21	@ Missouri Southern
Nov 28	vs Lubbock Christian
Dec 3	vs Southwestern Ok
Dec 5	@ Oklahoma Baptist
Dec 10	@ East Central
Dec 12	@ Southern Nazarene
Dec 17	vs Southeastern Ok

PHOTOS

Senior day for sports





NWOSU Athletics Photos

Top: The volleyball team pose together before their game against Oklahoma Baptist University for Senior day. Volleyball seniors are Jadyn Padilla, Tess De Zanet, Camryn Barclay, Celia Mbaya and Ivanny Blackwood

Middle: Soccer seniors left to right are: Emma Yosten, Emma Gott, Katy Jo Werner, Jenna Mills, Elie Dang, Eryn Warren, Cassidy Fitzgerald and Amaia Stephens

Bottom: The football seniors pose before their game against Ouachita Baptist. Left to right are: Royal Kyle, Ezequiel Luna, Brody Williams, Casen Olson, Jayce Morgan, Henry Wilson, Zane Kukurich, Carter Morris, Ivan Gallegos, Terry McCutcheon, Koda Bridges, Cade Reynolds, Omarion Buckmon, Aiden Lewis, Cameron Copeland, Evin Douglas and Caleb Cornell