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Smile of the Week



Sophomore Angphurba Sherpa, computer science major, said he is smiling because he enjoys hanging out with friends.

If you'd like to be the Smile of the Week, please send in a photo of you smiling and a short description of why you're smiling to nwnews@nwosu.edu!



Northwestern received approval to offer the first ever doctoral program on Jan. 30. /Courtesy of University Relations

Doctoral program accepted

By TAYLOR MORRIS
Student Reporter

Northwestern Oklahoma State University received approval on Jan. 30 to offer the Doctor of Nursing practice program.

According to President Dr. Janet Cunningham, the university received notification from the Higher Learning Commission on Jan. 30, that its Institutional Actions Council approved the university's request to offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program.

This is the first doctorate degree that the university has ever offered.

Associate professor of nursing Dr. Shelly Wells said, the Doctor

of Nursing program is a program designed to take nurses that are already Bachelor's degree prepared and teach them to be primary care providers in their regions of the state. Moreover, the program allows Northwestern to help address a need that has been identified in the rural parts of Oklahoma.

The overall approval process was not an easy task for the nursing department, however. According to Wells, "We were only approved to offer undergraduate degrees and some master degrees, so when you introduce a doctorate into the mix Northwestern had to be evaluated." Wells said that the approval process was multifaceted as it had to be approved by the State Regents for Higher Education and it had to be approved by the Oklahoma

Board of Nursing and then the Higher Learning Commission.

The Higher Learning Commission is an organization tasked with ensuring universities and colleges are meeting federal standards.

Wells said sight visitors came to the university to confirm that Northwestern had the infrastructure in place to be able to support a doctoral education program. She added, these visitors met with people in the J.W. Martin library to ensure that it was sufficient; they checked that Northwestern's financial aid program was intact and that the university was doing everything possible to ensure that the program would be a success

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Take a Look!



Professor gives back

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Evans overcomes odds

By RACHEL EMERSON
Student Reporter

Each day, she wakes up to the sound of the baby monitor buzzing and the giggles of the girls on the other side.

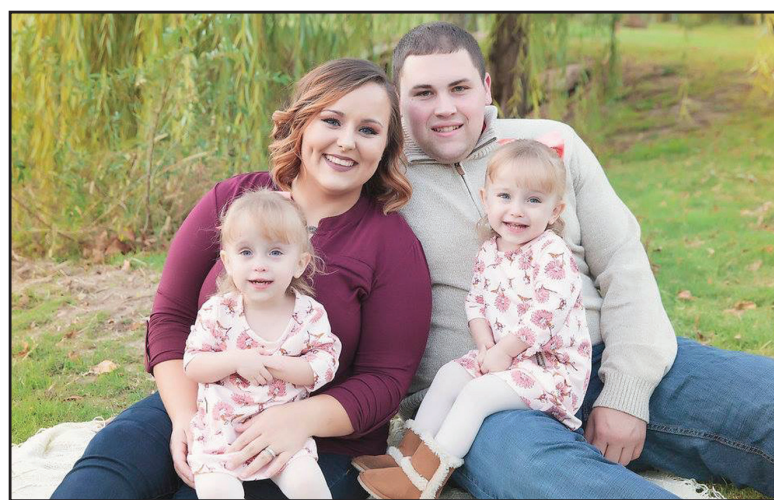
Being a mom to twin toddlers, a police officer's wife and a full-time teacher-in-training makes for some crazy days, but Caitlin Evans, makes the best of them.

Evans is a junior English Education major at Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Enid Campus. When she was 17 years old, she found out she was pregnant with her twins, Allyson and Adalie Evans.

Despite all of the obstacles she faced along the way, she went back to school in 2015 and hopes to graduate in 2018.

"When my parents found out I was pregnant at 17 with twins, they felt it was the end of the world, my world specifically," she said. "They recently told me that I overcame every obstacle they could think of, but I couldn't have done it without them."

Evans said the biggest struggle



Caitlin Evans, her husband Tyler Evans and the twins Allyson and Adalie.

/Photo by Kelly Mastello from Mastello photography

she faces is learning to juggle all of her responsibilities and find balance between spending time with her family and focusing on her school work, but that none of it would be possible without her support system.

"I have an unbelievably amazing support system," she said. "I wouldn't be near this happy and successful without my supportive environment."

Evans loves being a mom for multiple reasons.

"My girls are everything I

could have asked for in children: beautiful, smart, funny, kind, and caring," she said. "The way they tell me, 'You the best mom,' melts my heart."

In the future, Evans wants to teach at Enid High School, her Alma Mater and eventually further her education to become an English professor.

Until then, she'll continue to make the best of each day, knowing that her daughters love her unconditionally.

Visual Arts prepares students for future

By MEGAN MAHARRY
Assistant Editor

The visual art department at Northwestern Oklahoma State University provides students with the opportunity to create and explore their passion for art.

Kyle Larson is Assistant Professor of Art in the Department of Fine Arts. He teaches a variety of classes in the department, such as Fundamentals of 2-D Art, Beginning Painting, Intermediate Painting, Art History, Advanced Studio and Digital Illustration. These classes help students with beginning skills in art, and how they can improve their skills and understanding of art.

Throughout the semester, students have the opportunity to work with professional artists.

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Oklahoma Blood Institute

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News

Workshop scheduled for Sunday

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Natural Science Department will play host to a Science and Religion Workshop on 3 p.m. Sunday in the Science Amphitheater on the Alva campus.

This event is free and open to the public. Dr. Aaron Place, professor of biology at Northwestern, encourages people to attend who are interested to learn more about the relationship between religion and science in an informal gathering.

Place and the Rev. J.F. Wickey of the United Church of Christ will give short talks about the topics. A discussion time will follow the presentations.

Place and Wickey have previously co-authored some children's books over the same topic and have been friends for years.

This event is in conjunction with the national event "Evolution Weekend" through the Clergy Letter Project, which is typically in association with Charles Darwin's birthday, Feb. 10.

According to the Clergy Letter Project (clergyletterproject.org), Evolution Weekend is an opportunity for serious discussion and reflection on the relationship between religion and science.

An ongoing goal has been to elevate the quality of the discussion on this critical topic and to show that religion and science are not adversaries. Rather, they look at the natural world from quite different perspectives to ask and answer different questions.

"This event is not intended to be a debate," Place said. "The point isn't to debate whether or not evolution is true or if it's better or more right than religion; it's about bringing science and religion together to talk about real problems and how we might address them."

"Anyone who is interested in the relationship between science and religion in a philosophical sense, a non-adversarial sense, this is something you would be interested in."

For more information contact Place at (580) 327-8673 or ajplace@nwsu.edu.



Three Northwestern students were awarded the Guthrie Scottish Rite Scholarship by the Guthrie SCottish Rite Charitable and Educational Foundation./Courtesy of University Relations

Three Rangers awarded scholarships for efforts

Three Northwestern Oklahoma State University elementary education seniors were awarded the Guthrie Scottish Rite Scholarship given by the Guthrie Scottish Rite Charitable and Educational Foundation.

Those awarded this semester are Joshua Frazier from Enid; Nikki Gates from Waynoka; and Cinthia Rodriguez from Tonkawa.

Each semester the scholarships are awarded to teacher candidates who are completing their

professional semester.

Dr. Christie Jenlink, associate dean of education and professor of education, Dr. James Bell, associate vice president for academics and dean of faculty, and Dr. Christie Riley, assistant professor of education and director of teacher education for the Division of Education, presented the students their scholarship.

The Guthrie Scottish Rite Charitable and Educational

Foundation works primarily with children with language and/or reading disorders. Recipients are chosen by members of the Teacher Education faculty who have reviewed all applications and voted for the candidate they felt was the best choice.

For more information on the Guthrie Scottish Rite scholarship or the Division of Education contact Jenlink at (580) 327-8450 or email cljenlink@nwsu.edu.

Sororities co-sponsoring blood drive next week

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Alva campus is partnering with the Oklahoma Blood Institute (OBI) to hold a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 14-15, in the Student Center Ranger Room.

Northwestern sorority members from Delta Zeta and Alpha Sigma Alpha are co-sponsoring the event.

All blood donors will receive a free limited edition "Blood

Donor Challenge" t-shirt, free health screenings and donor rewards points.

Donors are asked have a photo ID available to give blood.

OBI is encouraging everyone to accept the "Blood Donor Challenge" to save more local lives in 2017. OBI officials say that one blood donation can save as many as three lives and takes only about an hour to give. Blood donations can be

made every 56 days.

OBI, who is in its 40th year of saving local lives, serves more than 160 hospitals, medical facilities and air ambulances statewide.

To make an appointment, to volunteer or have questions answered please contact Angie Henson, service learning coordinator and administrative assistant for Northwestern's DNP program, at (580) 327-8442 or aahenson@nwsu.edu.

Doctoral

From page 1

by having all the functional pieces to make it work.

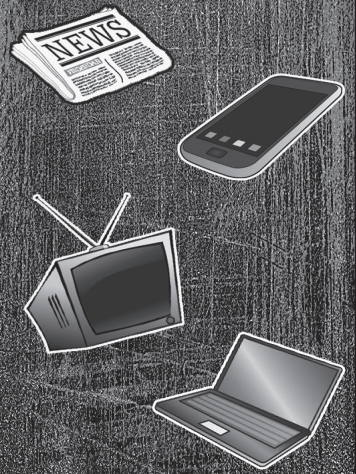
"It was a very carefully designed curriculum and that curriculum went out and had external reviews look and offer feedback to make sure it was a sound a worthwhile curriculum," Wells said. "We had to demonstrate a need for such a program in the state and we had to demonstrate there was a need for family nurse practitioners."

It took a year to get the approval of the Higher Learner Commission and now the program can begin taking students as early as August of this year.

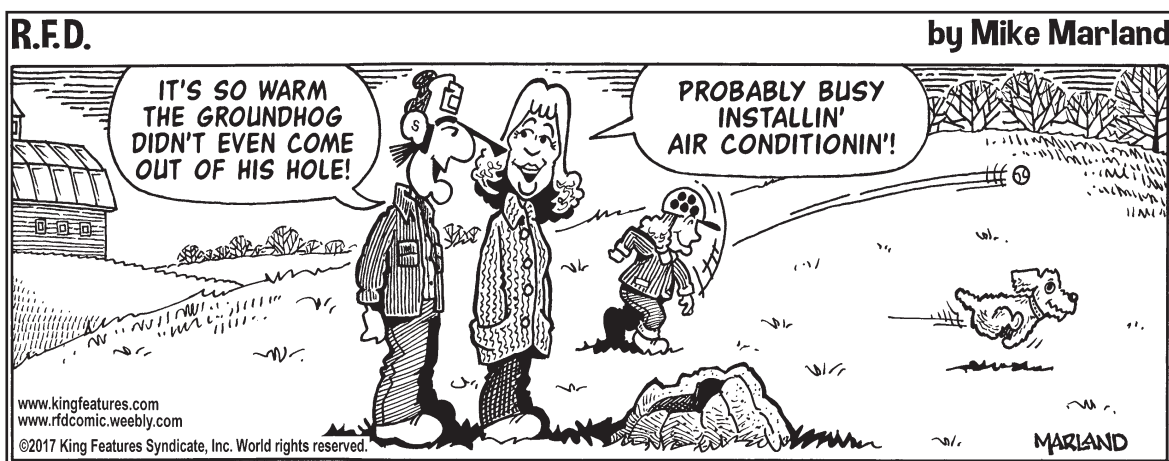
According to both Cunningham and Wells, a lot of thanks and appreciation goes to Charles Morton Share Foundation and the Wisdom Family Foundation for their generous donations to the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. The program will be financially sufficient in the next three to four years and making money. "We are excited about the program. It truly gives Northwestern a place, it's a star in our crown if you will," Wells said.

Northwestern News Media

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Feature

Cowboy completing comeback

By KATY HART
Student Writer

He nods his head. The practice pen chute cracks open. The cowboy swings his rope over the calf's neck, in one swift motion, he is ready for a comeback in the event of calf roping.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University senior, Berk Long has been preparing for months to make his first run back from a five-month recovery after surgery.

"The doctors told me to quit rodeo, but here I am," Long said.

The summer before his last college rodeo season Long had bone spurs removed from his hip joints. The hip surgery caused him to be on crutches for three months. As he went through recovery, Long watched and supported his teammates from the arena sidelines for the first part of the collegiate rodeo season.

"The first thing that came to my mind when the doctors told me I couldn't rodeo," he said. I thought, well that's not going to happen. I'll find a way."

Long is an agriculture business major at Northwestern and competed for three years on the rodeo team as a calf roper.

Transitioning back into riding horses again has been a long road. Long is from the small town of Mutual in northwest Oklahoma where he grew up riding horses.

"I started when I was just 2 or 3 years old," he said with a smile. "My dad made me want to be a cowboy. He competed his whole life and riding horses progressively through the years."

Calf roping and riding horses



Berk Long has faced many obstacles during his time rodeoing, but upon medical clearance, he is now able to continue what he loves to do and pursue his goal of making it to the college rodeo finals later this year. /Photo by Katy Hart

has paid a toll to Long's body at his young age. Just a few months ago the doctors were planning for total hip replacement, but bone spur surgery couldn't wait any longer.

"Surgery was hard on my body, after being out that long," he said.

Long said his hardest un-

dertaking for the new season is getting back into shape. He chose to start again with the basics and has bought new horse to help. His recovery journey is long from over, Long will have to have future surgeries.

He is optimistic about his current abilities even after missing the first four rodeos.

"I'm very blessed to get to come back and rodeo this semester. I spent a lot of time in physical therapy and worked hard to come back. This is all I've ever known and I want to get back to doing it. I feel very fortunate to be able to get to come back and rodeo my last spring."

As Long loads his horse in

the trailer, for his first rodeo of the spring season, he said he is focused and determined to do what he loves. He has goals of making the college rodeo finals this year.

With six rodeos left in the semester, he's free from crutches and ready to make a comeback.

Dorms offer leisure activities

By HAYLEE BATES
Staff Reporter

The hall supervisors and resident assistants on Northwestern's campus try to create a positive living environment for the students living on campus.

"My top priority for the residents is definitely that they feel safe and comfortable, and we want to provide them with a living situation that they are comfortable with," said Morgan Renbarger, hall supervisor for South Hall.

Throughout the course of the semester, each dormitory hosts a series of events for the residents. The hall supervisors and resident assistants try to provide the residents with at least one event opportunity each month. Some events that have been held this year include a spa night, s'mores bar, pool tournament, ping pong tournament and Super Bowl parties.

"We try to provide opportu-



Students in South Hall enjoy the Super Bowl game Sunday night. /Photo by Haylee Bates

nities for them to get involved and get to know other students outside of the classroom," Renbarger said.

Hall supervisors and resident assistants are on call 24 hours a day and seven days a week. If residents have problems, the

housing staff is available to help them with whatever situation arises.

"We try to be there for support as well," Renbarger said. "If they have problems, they know that our door is always open for them, and we're willing to listen

and be that person that they know they can count on."

Resident assistants also work the front desk in each of the dorms during the day. They are available to help residents when needed.

"Getting to interact with

people that I may have never had the chance to before and making a lot of new friends are some of my favorite parts about being an RA," said Clayton Garcia, resident assistant for Coronado Hall.

Each dorm has a set of resident assistants and hall supervisors on staff to try to help students living on campus have a successful stay in the dorms.

"We do have a unique setting where we get to know the residents outside of school," Renbarger said. "This is their home for the semester, so we get to see a different side of them. We try to provide them with different things so they can get their mind off of class and all the stress that comes with that."

For more information about the hall supervisors and resident assistants, students living on campus can visit the front desk in each dormitory or the housing office located in Fine Arts Rm. 131..

The Way We See It *Editorial Section*

Simon says, Bad parenting reason for Millennials behavior

This excerpt comes from a video entitled "Simon Sinek on Millennials in the Workplace." Be sure to check out next week's issue for part two of "Simon Say's."

Part I: "Apparently, millennials as a group of people, which are those born from approximately 1984 and after, are tough to manage. They are accused of being entitled and narcissistic, self-interested, unfocused and lazy - but entitled is the big one.

Because they confound the leadership so much, leaders will say "what do you want?" And millennials will say "we want to work in a place with purpose, we want to make an impact, we want free food and bean bag chairs." Any yet when provided all these things they are still not happy. And that is because there is a missing piece.

It can be broken down into 4 pieces actually. 1 Parenting. 2 Technology. 3 Impatience. 4 Environment.

The generation that is called the millennials, too many of them grew up subject to "failed parenting strategies." Where they were told that they were special - all the time, they were told they can have anything they want in life,



just because they want it. Some of them got into honors classes not because they deserved it but because their parents complained. Some of them got A's not because they earned them, but because the teachers didn't want to deal with the parents.

Some kids got participation medals, they got a medal for coming in last. Which the science we

know is pretty clear is that it devalues the medal and the reward for those who actually work hard and that actually makes the person who comes in last embarrassed because they know they didn't deserve it so that actually makes them feel worse.

You take this group of people and they graduate and they get a job and they're thrust into

the real world and in an instant they find out they are not special, their moms can't get them a promotion, that you get nothing for coming in last and by the way you can't just have it because you want it.

In an instant their entire self-image is shattered. So we have an entire generation that is growing up with lower self-esteem than previous generations.

"The Game" drives athletes

By **MEGAN MAHARRY**
Assistant Editor

"Train, Practice, Play...For the Love of the Game."

Every athlete loves the Game. Playing the Game is the best part of any sport. The Game is both a reward and a challenge. After hours of practice and work have been put in, the Game is a player's reward; a chance for them to show off all they have practiced for.

The Game, however, is also a challenge. The Game is the time to challenge your opponent, and to test yourself—did all my hard work pay off?

As much as every player loves the Game, there is more to being an athlete to just playing the Game. The beforehand work can both enjoyable and

frustrating. At times, the preparation work before a game can feel long and pointless. Practices can drag and seem endless when all you want to do is play the game.

However, if I have learned one thing in my time as a college soccer player, it is that the Training and Practice pieces are what determines the outcome of your performance in a game.

Training is an important part of prep work before a game. To Train is to learn a specific behavior or skill. In soccer, Training begins from the moment we begin playing. Training is all about learning how to play the game.

The physical Training includes how to kick a ball correctly, how to become quick at dribbling and how to train your body to be in soccer shape. The Training, however, is not purely physical. Much soccer Training is

done mentally. Mental Training can sometimes be harder than the physical Training. Training the mind is as important as Training the body.

Mental Training includes having an overall knowledge of the game, knowing what you are to do with the ball before you have even received it and pushing your body to finish every play even when your muscles scream in fatigue.

Practice is a different aspect from Training. While Training is learning skills, Practice is the tool used to perfect these skills. Practice is an essential part of the game preparation.

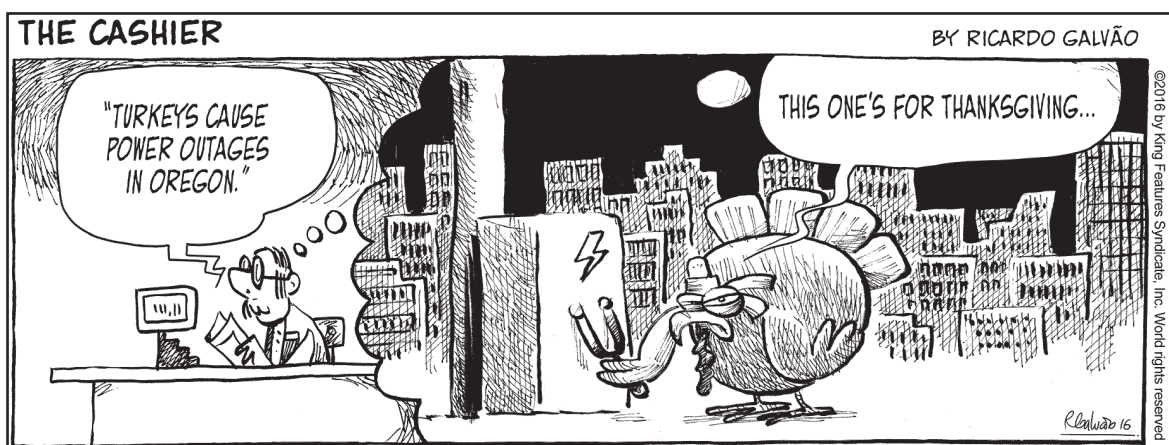
Practice sharpens the Training skills you have already learned. I have known how to kick a soccer ball since I was in elementary school, yet I still practice my kicking every day.

Practice is no easy prep work either. Reviewing previous skills over and over again can become repetitive, especially when all you want to do is play the Game. However, without practice, the Game would not be worth anything.

Finally, it is Game Time. After weeks, months and sometimes years of training and practice, it is time to perform. Game Day is here, and it is one of the best feelings. All the time spent practicing and perfecting your play has paid off. The road to the game is not always easy or fun, but it is always worth.

"Train, Practice, Play...For the Love of the Game."—The quote my coach uses for us Lady Ranger soccer players.

Because ultimately, everything an athlete does in Training, Practice and the Game is for the love of the games itself.



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Letters to the editor shall bear the author's handwritten signature, hometown, classification, title, etc., address and phone number for verification and shall be kept on file. Unsigned letters to the editor will not be published.

Letters must be turned in by noon on Tuesday to the News office in JDA232. Letters via e-mail are acceptable as long as they follow the rules stated above and can be sent to nwnews@nwosu.edu. Please limit submissions to no more than 250 words. The editors reserve the right to condense or edit any letter for grammar, libel and space limitations. All letters submitted may not be used.

All letters represent the views of the author.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$15.00.

Opinion

Power of music

Reason for my headphones

By **NICK VILLALOBOS**
Editor in Chief

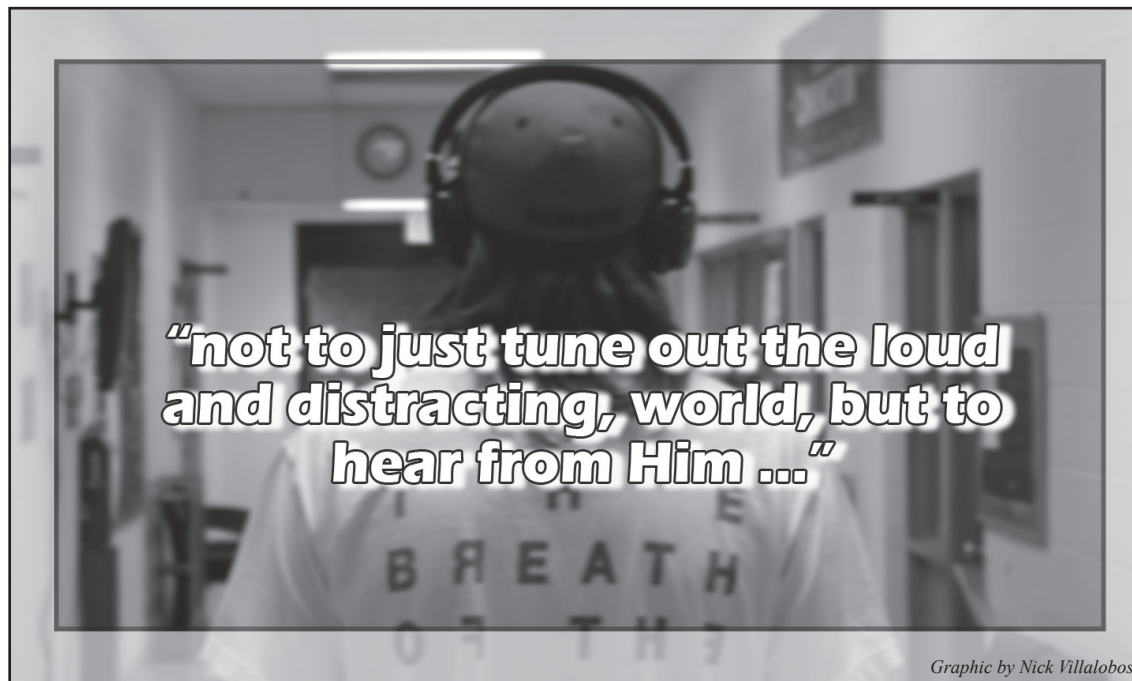
Last week I shared with the readers the song “Shepherd” by the always amazing Crowder and I hope they were able to get something from it, even if it was only the fact that I like that song.

This week, I wanted to not just look at one song, but just music in general and being that I usually only listen to Christian music, that’s the genre I’ll focus on.

The Bible said in Psalm 105:2, “Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts.”

When it comes to listening to Crowder, Rend Collective, Elevation Worship or any of the other 100 plus Christian songs on my iPod, I can’t help but listen to them, and sing them aloud because God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are so, so good, and for me it’s impossible to hold in any type of praise to Him.

For every follower of Christ, the Word of God is the main



Graphic by Nick Villalobos

source of hearing from Him, and that’s the same case for me as well. But, in addition to the Word, He speaks to me through the music I listen to as well.

Those who see me on the daily basis usually notice the headphones, or earphones, that I

wear either on my head or around my neck. The reason they are there is not to just tune out the loud and distracting, world, but to hear from Him as well.

In Galatians 5:16, it said, “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire

of the flesh.” By constantly having my Christian music going throughout the day, I am able to walk by the Spirit, like the Word tells us to. I am also able to share with others about Christ and all of His goodness.

My home church, Oologah

Assembly of God, in Oologah, Ok., [Shout out to the 918!] is a heavy praise and worship driven-church.

Every Sunday, we spend anywhere between 20-30 minutes in worship just lifting our hands and voices to the good Lord above so to hear, and feel, His spiritual presence. With that being said, there is another reason why I spend most of the day listening to Christian music.

I don’t get to go home often while I am back here in college, and by listening to my music constantly it reminds of my church family back home. It reminds me that while I am out here the in northwestern part of the state praising Him above, they are back home in the northeastern part, doing the exact same thing.

Christian music is powerful. It is a way for believers of Christ to connect to the Spirit, whether it be by hearing or feeling it, receive the Word and to share with non-believers the goodness of Him above.

Student press

Colleges speak out on Trump’s latest travel ban

President Donald Trump’s travel ban on Jan. 27 has sparked protests and a lot of discussion in all corners of the United States, including the student press. Here’s what college students around the country have had to say on the topic.

The Rice Thresher, Rice University, Jan. 31

As people who have the privilege of higher education, we can examine the U.S. historically and understand the context of this [travel] ban and the proposed wall [between the U.S. and Mexico].

We have a responsibility to ask: How has our nation, even before Trump, allowed othering to thrive? How is hatred woven into this nation’s history, and how did we create an environment in which such policies can exist?

The State News, Michigan State University, Feb. 7

Thousands took to the streets to protest what many proclaimed was a euphemism for a ban on Muslims.

Here at MSU, the university decided only to follow regulation and code, instead of taking a stand to be more, to do more. ...

President Lou Anna K. Si-

mon’s statement following the ban was little more than a regurgitation of the university’s principles devoid of any strong condemnation of an ignorant, futile ban.

The university could have taken a firm stance against the [Trump] administration in a time of uncertainty, with many looking for America’s proud institutions to keep a stumbling administration in check.

The State News will continue to stand with students of all backgrounds it serves and without question condemns Trump’s ban as puerile, ignorant and against the very values America holds dear.

Northern Star, Northern Illinois University, Feb. 6

Fill in the blank: The immigration ban is _____

The ban is a selfish move because he did not ban countries that it would make sense to restrict access from, such as Saudi Arabia, the origin of the majority of the 9/11 terrorists.

This act that shows much of the presidency could be used for personal gain for Trump and not to help America. ...

The immigration ban is unprofessional. ... The U.S. has become a country of entrepreneurship and progressive think-

ing; however, these ideals are being devalued with a president that is acting unprofessionally. The president is not accurately representing the thoughts of his people in a company he is not the founder of. ...

The immigration ban is the by-product of electing an ill-informed xenophobe to the White House.

Daily Emerald, University of Oregon, Feb. 5

Trump’s order to bar citizens from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Somalia, Libya and Sudan was made with the intention to help protect Americans from terrorists. Instead, it kicks

around Muslims who do not have the bureaucratic representation to kick back. ...

Donald Trump’s refugee ban and travel restrictions go against the very idea that this country was founded upon. This country was built by immigrants. It was built by dreamers who left their home to make a better life in America.

It was built by refugees who feared their own war-torn nation and looked to America for solidarity and acceptance. We’re supposed to be the melting pot. We’re supposed to be the land of opportunity and prosperity.

Currently, we are the land of cowards.

The Collegian, Kansas State University, Feb. 1

Keeping a promise made on the campaign trail isn’t worth much when the policy put forward is unconstitutional. ... Yet even more telling that this ban is unconstitutional is the recent firing of Attorney General Sally Yates for telling the Justice Department not to defend Trump’s ban over doubts of its constitutionality.

Within the first two weeks of this new administration, we may be witnessing a constitutional crisis.

	<p>Alva 518 College Ave. 580.327.3300</p>
	<p>Burlington 580.431.3300</p>
	<p>Enid-Chisholm 801 W. Broadway 580.234.4201</p>
	<p>Bank of Freedom Branch of Alva State Bank Freedom Okla. 580.621.3276</p>

Art showcased at Graceful Arts Center



Earl Kuhn
"Gyph Hill"
Medium: Limited-Edition Print
Cost: \$215



Anjanette Douglas
"Colorado Sunset"
Medium: Photography
Cost: \$175



Anjanette Douglas
"Morning Star Farm"
Medium: Photography
Cost: \$185

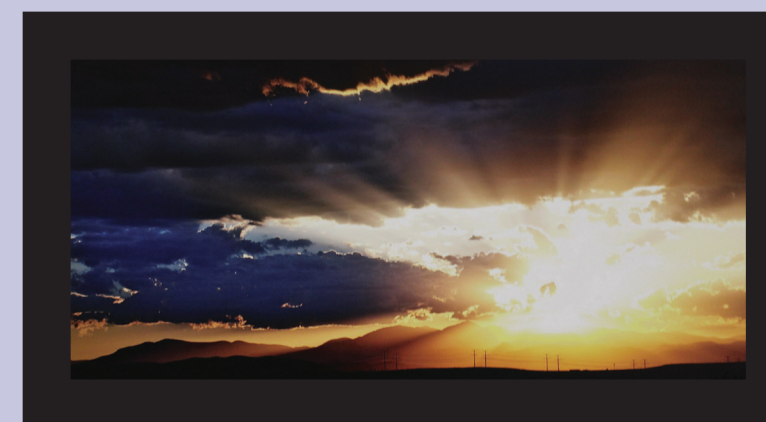


Anjanette Douglas
"Whisper"
Medium: Photography
Cost: \$150

Charla Enns
"Where the Path Disappears"
Medium: Acrylic
Cost: \$285



Earl Kuhn
"Seven"
Medium: Limited-Edition Print
Cost: \$165



Source: Graceful Arts Center

Graphics and Page Design by Haylee Bates

Professor gives back to community

By MEGAN GARNETT
Student Reporter

Having determination and a desire to help others doesn't always lead to the creation of a multi-million dollar corporation.

For Kay Decker, however, that is exactly what has happened.

Decker was born in Alva, in the building which was once Alva General Hospital, but is now the Alva Cherokee Strip Museum.

She attended grade school, junior high and high school in Alva and went on to obtain her undergraduate degree from Northwestern Oklahoma State University in social science. She later received her masters of science and sociology from Oklahoma State University and her doctorate in occupational and adult education from Oklahoma State University, with a minor in anthropology.

Now, she is a professor of sociology and department chair at Northwestern, where she's taught for more than 20 years.

Decker is enthusiastic about teaching even lower level and introduction classes, including social theory, social diversity, intro to sociology and what Decker called "the dreaded research methods class."

"It is the capstone course for social sciences, which I have taught to around 3,000 students and nobody has died from it yet," she said with a laugh. "I like working with students of all ages."

Decker said she enjoys, "Helping [students] achieve their potential by guiding them to understand all the opportunities that exist

in the world."

"I have been at this long enough that I have kids out there who graduated more than 20 years ago, who are now in senior positions in their fields, and it's really a blessing to see that happen," she said.

Decker also mentioned her philosophy for teaching. "I believe that all students can learn, given enough opportunity, time and resources. As educators, it is our responsibility and obligation to facilitate that."

Jordan Evans, a former student assistant for the social science department, has had three classes as her student. Evans is a graduate from Northwestern with a major in history with a minor in business.

"Dr. Decker is kind, generous and genuine," Evans said about learning under Decker. "She pushes her students and faculty to work their hardest."

"Personally, she has helped me improve my writing and research skills," Evans said. "She finds the time to help each student individually. Dr. Decker is one of the best teachers a student could have. She has given me internship opportunities and provided me with experiences that have prepared me for life after school."

Kathy Earnest said she has known Decker "probably for 30 years," she said with a laugh and continued, "Is that long enough?"

Earnest is an assistant professor of English at Northwestern, who also holds a doctorate of education from Oklahoma State University.

Earnest said she and Decker "became buddies" when their children were young. Both families

lived in the country, east of Freedom, Oklahoma.

Earnest said Decker shares characteristics between her personal and professional lives. "She is a very organized person outside of the classroom," she said. "Every project she takes on, she thinks it through carefully. She seems to be able to see how a particular project fits into the big picture, and I think that is probably how she conducts her personal life too."

While Decker's parents and sister, Jo, currently live in Alva, she and her husband Doyle Wardrop currently live west of Alva, near Camp Houston, Oklahoma.

Along with her work at Northwestern, Decker also created Freedom West Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization, in 2002.

Decker said that she realized the need for such an organization in the late 1990s. "I realized then that there were a number of social problems and issues that were not being addressed in our part of the world," she said.

Decker continued to explain that the main problem was that

funding mechanisms to affect change weren't available to the area at the time. Because of that, Decker sought to change the situation.

She began by attending national conferences and talking to people from across the country, which helped her to learn that regions and communities could utilize federal, state and private philanthropy dollars by creating a nonprofit development institute, which could then write grants and administer programs.

"There wasn't any kind of entity that was doing that kind of work in Northwest Oklahoma, trying to bring those federal dollars to this area," Earnest said. "That was really an important first step for Dr. Decker to establish Freedom West as a nonprofit to do that."

Now, Decker's nonprofit organization Freedom West CDC is a multi-million dollar program.

"We started with \$500 and a two-drawer file cabinet in my dining room," Decker said. "Now we are a multi-million dollar, multi-program nonprofit that serves five counties in Northwest Oklahoma."

"She is going to leave our community better than she found it. It doesn't matter what community she touches. She's just that way. It's an honor [to work with her, because] she has done phenomenal things"
-Sonja Williams

hind it and will help you in any way, shape or form. She is the person you want in your corner when you need somebody to fight."

She continued to explain that while Graceful Arts was a large change for Alva as a community, it has not changed her relationship with her sister. "We are both still opinionated in our own ways," she said. "Which causes head butting, but we do seem to manage to keep things going and it is running well."

Kay Decker also attributed Graceful Art's success to her sister because she is "such a creative person as the family artist. Being able to use her art education and art background is a great example of why a place like Graceful Arts is a huge benefit to a community."

Sonja Williams, who began working with Freedom West CDC in 2001, is an Alva native and former Northwestern student who is currently attending Northwestern again to finish her degree.

Williams said she was inspired by the things Kay Decker was doing with her affordable housing project, as well as what she was doing with the arts.

Williams said with the affordable housing project, Freedom West CDC has built homes in Freedom, Cherokee and Mooreland that people can live in.

Williams also mentioned that Decker was "meticulous in helping people that were renting our homes and educating them on getting their credit cleaned up as well as how to become a home buyer. She does things that she doesn't have to do [because she wants to help]."

When she's not busy with her nonprofit work or teaching, Decker

said she would like to spend more time with her children and grandchildren and indulge in some of her hobbies

She is passionate about some of her hobbies. "I'm a growing freak," she said. "I love to grow things. I also love reading. I read everything from cereal boxes to encyclopedias. I like autobiographies and biographies the best."

She also mentioned that in the future, she'd like to work on writing a book of her own as well as find more time for travel. "I love seeing new things," Decker said with a smile.

So far, she has been to Mexico, the Gulf Coast and, "a lot of places east of the Mississippi," she said. "I just got back from spending two weeks in Charleston, South Carolina, and I loved it."

"She likes to be in touch with her family and children," Earnest said. "She's the kind of person who likes to have a plan. But she's spontaneous too. I think she's very thoughtful about how she approaches solving problems and expects people to act at a high level of participation."

Williams had a smile in her voice when she said about Decker, "She's a bull dog and she'll know that's exactly what I would say. You can tell that she is a professor at the college, because she has an academic mind set, but like I said she's still a visionary."

"She is going to leave our community better than when she found it, Williams said. "It doesn't matter what community she touches. She's just that way. It is an honor [to work with her, because] she has done phenomenal things. We are lucky to have her."

Alva community exhibits art center that brings in talent

By HAYLEE BATES
Student Reporter

The Alva community has been home to the Graceful Arts Center for six years.

The Graceful Arts Center is an extension of a nonprofit organization, Freedom West CDC, founded by Dr. Kay Decker.

The Graceful Arts Center allows local and regional artists to display their work in the showroom. These artists create pieces ranging from acrylic to limited-edition print to photography. Some of the pieces can be seen in the graphic at the top of the page.

The art center also offers classes for individuals of all ages. Some of these classes are taught by staff of the art center, and some of these classes are taught by companies and individuals that the art center brings in.

For more information, individuals can visit the Graceful Arts Center website at www.gracefulartscenter.org.

Graceful Arts Center by the numbers

- 1** full-time employee
- 1** part-time employee
- 6** years in business
- 6** volunteers
- 7** program options
- 19** independent art educators
- 97** artists showcased last year

Source: Jo Decker, Graceful Arts Center employee



Photo by Megan Garnett

Dr. Kay Decker posed in front of art pieces, created by local artists, that were showcased in the Graceful Arts Center.



Photo by Haylee Bates

The Graceful Arts Center is located on the downtown square.

Entertainment

Visual

From page 1

These artists live in Alva and create pieces that become part of an exhibition. Students have the opportunity to watch these artists work, as well as interact with them. Larson said there is currently an artist in residency on campus, and two more artists will come to NWOSU this spring.

The visual arts department host several exhibitions throughout the semester. These are chances for students to display the work they have created. The department also puts on a series of workshops throughout the semester that are open to everyone on campus and in the community. The Art Society, a student lead group on campus, also host exhibitions.

Larson said his favorite part about teaching is seeing his students' artwork develop. He enjoys watching how hard they work, and how they are influenced by the artists in residency.

Larson encourages students to visit the department's studios and art exhibitions.

"The Fine Arts department is doing great things," Larson said.

Abbie Haskins is a senior psychology major and a visual arts minor at NWOSU. Haskins's future plans are to teach psychology and eventually be the head of an art department.

Haskins said she loves painting the most. She said her inspiration comes from the things going on around her. She is currently working on her senior art show that will be displayed at the end of the semester. Her senior art show is based on snapshots of life changing moments. She asked family members and friends to provide her with life changing moments, and she is expressing these moments through painting.

She said art is not an easy task. She said art is both a frustrating and relaxing hobby. However, overall, her love for art is undeniable.

"You don't have to think about anything while painting," Haskins said. "It's relaxing."

90s babies reliving good times through fashions

By **CAITLIN COODY**
Staff Writer

Is anybody else feeling nostalgic walking through a crowd of college students? There's just something about all the denim jackets, crop tops and old school sneakers that brings back some of the best memories of the 90s. Memories of friends predicting who you'll marry with a game of M.A.S.H., swapping burned CD's of your favorite songs and beating your friends at Super Smash Brothers on Nintendo 64. Today's fashion amongst millennials has brought back the 90s, whether you realize it or not.

Fashion in the 1990s offered carefree styles which dabbled in rebellion. Grunge and minimalism were the main trends of the decade, along with casual streetwear. Heavy duty, Doc Martens were paired with delicate slip dresses creating a combination of femininity and masculinity. Plaid, layering and low-rise, ripped, wide-leg jeans were also everyday wear. Music and fashion went hand-in-hand as fans copied the unique styles of their musical idols. Pop music and iconic films, such as Clueless, inspired the other end of the spectrum, and it was all capped off with some playful body glitter.

If you think the 90s trend has already faded, then here's some proof. You decided to go with faded jeans, an old T-shirt with

an over-sized flannel and your chucks for your outfit? 90s. That was a Corey Matthews, staple, wardrobe choice... not to mention any young guy in a 90s TV sitcom. What about the funky collared shirt with some jeans? Hello... ever heard of the show Martin or Saved by the Bell? 90s. Okay, okay, so you're going to the club? You've chosen an all-white get up. White shoes, white jeans and a white shirt. Ever heard of a band called N'Sync? All white attire was a common outfit for the boyband.

So, if the 90s are still hanging around, does that mean it's going to stay? Several fashion empires believe so.

New York Fashion Week showcased a tasteful variety of '90s fashions, like matching crop tops and high-waisted skirts, flannels, boldly printed outfits, overalls paired with halter tops, thick wedge shoes, baggy pants, snapbacks, and denim staples, offering inspiration for '90s-inspired fashion with a modern twist.

According to Vogue

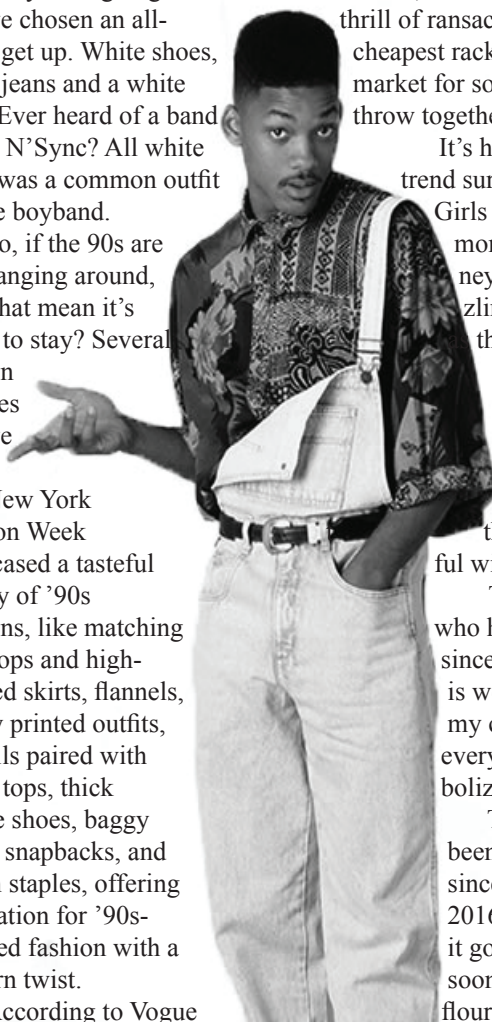
magazine, it's perfectly logical, that so many references to the decade have started to resonate through fashion now. Plus, there's a generation of designers growing up with a rediscovered reverence for the nineties. Fashionistas are looking back on a time in their lives that represented spontaneity, freedom, individuality, and the thrill of ransacking the cheapest racks at the flea-market for something cool to throw together.

It's hard to dismiss the trend surround all of us.

Girls are wearing more and more Britney attire and badazzling as many things they can. Even in trendy stores you can find old patches on denim sleeves and crazy logos covering the backs of colorful windbreakers.

To me, a person who hasn't left the 90s since birth, this trend is welcomed. I loved my childhood and everything that symbolizes my youth.

The 90s have been back in style since the middle of 2016 and I don't see it going anywhere soon. In fact, I see it flourishing even more.



Return to The Walking Dead with season 7

By **NICK VILLALOBOS**
Editor-in-Chief

Sunday will mark the return of the second most popular TV show of 2016; The Walking Dead, and after a relatively slow first half of season 7, the second half should see the action picking up significantly.

When viewers last seen Rick and the group at Alexandria in the season 7 mid-season finale this past November, they were reuniting with fellow group members at the Hilltop Colony [I still get emotional at that part.]

Upon reuniting with Daryl, Jesus, Maggie and the rest of the group, Rick was also reunited with his beloved revolver, which is significant because it means the Rick Grimes of old, is back and ready for war!

Wait war? Oh yes, after dealing with the Saviors for a while now, Rick and the others have reached their limit and will turn their focus on taking down Negan and his cronies which is where the second half will start.

possible spoilers

In the second half of The Walking Dead, Rick and the survivors will be aiming to unite with various groups, two of which include the Hilltop and the Kingdom, in preparation for All Out War with the Saviors.

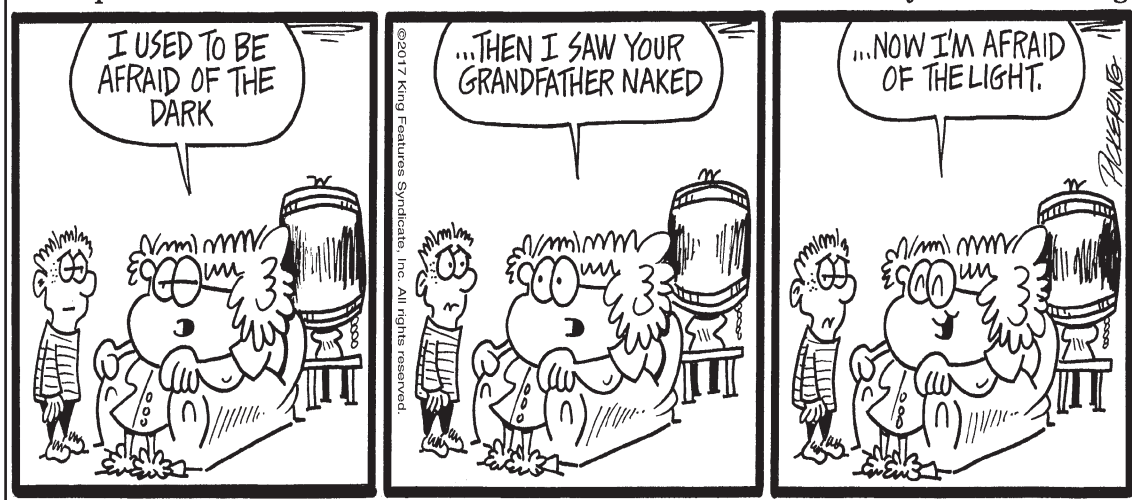
[All Out War should sound familiar to Walking Dead comic book fans because that's the name of the Saviors and Survivors conflict/war in issues 115-126.]

While Rick and the group marches toward war with Negan and the Saviors, the Saviors will be in preparation mode as well, especially after they took Eugene, the one who manufactured the bullet that almost killed Negan in the mid-season finale.

The Walking Dead returns at 8 p.m. Sunday on AMC.

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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Entertainment

top ten
REAL WORDS FROM Harry Potter

1. Dumbledore
2. Muggle
3. Squib
4. Basilisk
5. Hippogriff
6. Nagini
7. Grindylows /Boggarts
8. Mandrake
9. Draco
10. Arithmancy

Source: Merriam-Webster



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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Paid player
 4 Taxi
 7 Expert
 12 Potential syrup
 13 Lennon's lady
 14 Similar
 15 Citric beverage
 16 Underwent reduction
 18 Jeremy of basketball
 19 Tijuana toodle-oo
 20 Rolling stone's lack
 22 Poetic night-fall
 23 Antitoxins -- de deux
 29 Maintenance
 31 Quibblers split these
 34 Senorita's wiggle?
 35 "Rabbit, Run" author
 37 Feedbag morsel
 38 Piratic quaff
 39 Paving goop
 41 "-- is life!"
 45 Con game
 47 Pair
 48 Absolutely
 52 Use a towel
 53 Photoshop company
 54 Reading matter, for short

DOWN

1 Any of 150 in the Bible
 2 Deejay's domain
 3 Starts
 4 Last few notes
 5 Battery terminals
 6 Jim at the Alamo
 7 Church service
 8 "The Greatest" Kin of "i.e." -- out a living
 11 Homer's neighbor
 17 Bourgeois, to Brits
 21 Parsley serving
 23 Revue segments
 24 Conger or moray
 25 Roulette bet
 26 Mimic
 28 Request
 30 Sch. org.
 31 Embrace
 32 Spring mo.
 33 Bachelor's last words
 36 Needle case
 37 Corsage bloom
 40 Point of view
 42 Milk dispenser
 43 Moe's brother
 44 Rulebook compiler
 45 A "Desperate Housewife"
 46 Director
 48 Doo follower
 49 Praise in verse
 50 Took the prize
 51 Peacock network

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King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

B	A	R	A	A	D	D	S	O	F	F	S
I	D	O	S	I	R	I	P	A	R	A	
D	O	U	G	H	N	U	T	U	R	A	L
G	E	R	B	A	I	L	O	U	T		
B	E	H	E	A	D	R	O	E			
E	T	A	M	U	G	U	N	C	L	E	
R	A	G	S	B	O	D	T	O	O	K	
G	L	E	N	N	D	O	T	U	S	E	
W	I	R	E	T	A	P	N	T	H		
O	D	O	R	T	O	U	G	H	I	E	S
E	L	S	E	H	U	R	L		N	O	T
S	E	E	D	E	R	L	E	G	N	U	

Answers from last week



'Split'

By **Richmond B. Adams & Caitlin Coody**

Adam's Review:



'Split' reminded me of Philadelphia (1993), in that it tried to explore several ideas with the result that none received their due. Directed by M. Night Shyamalan and starring James McEvoy, the film centers around Kevin Crumb a man with 23 (and, as it happens, 24) personalities rooted in child abuse, and who kidnaps three teenage girls to serve as "sacred food" for the emerging "Beast" or, in a not successful connection with Friedrich Nietzsche, "Superman" of human evolution.

At least that's how Kevin expresses himself through the various personalities that are both planning the sacrifice and competing with one another.

As Kevin holds the young ladies hostage, in particular Casey Cooke (Anya Taylor-Joy, who played a difficult role with appreciable efforts at understatement), he (or various of his personalities) visits with Dr. Karen Fletcher (Betty Buckley), a psychiatrist whose life work has been an effort to deny that Kevin's dissociative personality disorder has resulted in the emergence of the superhuman and cannibalistic Beast.

In watching Buckley's performance, it became all too easy to see her as Abby Bradford from Eight is Enough, a television show from the late 1970s in which her character emphasized the good despite periodic confrontations with domestic upheaval. Buckley's present portrayal is simply Mrs. Bradford plus forty years, and it blinds her to the monster within Kevin (and, as the film tries to suggest, all of us) who lives just underneath the surface of civilized behavior.

The film lunges to its end with Casey, whose flashbacks to her own childhood abuse frame the way she escapes from the Beast, being escorted through the entrance area to the Philadelphia Zoo as she is overseen (naturally) by statues of lions, apes, and assorted emblems of those fit to survive in the all too human jungle.

Coupled with awareness that Casey may be returned to her abusive uncle, the film muddles itself

even further by never what it wants to do. McEvoy is miscast, and the attempts at horror are simply not frightening. Split is what it conveys: divided and unreconciled.

Coody's Review:



If you're a fan of dark comedy and thrilling puzzles, Split is the movie to see.

The beginning was way different than I thought it was going to be. I'm actually glad it was different because it made the storyline much deeper than the trailer seemed. Once the three girls were kidnapped, they were taken to a mysterious underground building. "Dennis" (James McAvoy), one of the 23 identities, throws the girls into a room together.


From there, the personalities of the three girls are shown more strongly than before. Claire Benoit, Haley Lu Richardson, is shown to be the strongest of the group. She tries to find a way out and brainstorms of ways to attack their capturer. Marcia, Jessica Sula, is Benoit's best friend who only seems to know how to be a shadow. On the other hand, Casey Cooke, Anya Taylor-Joy, stands her ground, even if she's the most-quiet one of the three.

As the movie progresses, the viewers are shown a few of the other personalities that are apart of Kevin Wendell Crumb, the actual person who has the split identity. He has been the primary subject of Dr. Karen Fletcher's, Betty Buckley, research of Dissociative Identity Disorder. Viewers are also shown flashbacks into Cooke's life that makes the film's puzzle even more complex.

The movie was somewhat predictable by midway, as the quiet girl was the inevitable heroine of the movie. However, the viewers could get so wrapped up in McAvoy's acting, the plot line wouldn't matter.


His portrayal of this troubled soul is darkly funny but also unexpectedly sad. Kevin is menacing no matter which personality in control, but the underlying childhood trauma that caused him to create these alter egos as a means of defense clearly still haunts him as a grown man. Flashes of vulnerability and fragility reveal themselves in the film's third act, providing an entirely different kind of disturbing tone.

If you're looking for a thrill, Split is the way to go. It will capture your attention all the way to the end.




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 Saturday: 1:30-6:45-9:00
 Sunday: 1:30-6:45
 Monday: 1:30-6:45
 Feb. 14-16: 6:45 nightly
 Screen 1/ PG/ 105 min.



Nightly at 6:45
 Friday: 6:45-9:00
 Saturday: 1:30-6:45-9:15
 Sunday: 1:30-6:45
 Feb. 13-16: 6:15 nightly
 Screen 2/ PG-13/ 120 min.



Starts Thursday at 10:00pm
 Friday: 6:45-9:15
 Saturday: 1:30-6:45-9:15
 Sunday: 1:30-6:45
 Feb. 13-16: 6:45 nightly
 Screen 3/ R/ 120 min.

*Special showing Thursday night at 10:00pm with beer and wine bar available to purchase. Starting at 8:30 there will be special giveaways and prizes. Must be 18 to attend 21 to

Sports

Baseball splits weekend

By NICK VILLALOBOS
Editor-in-Chief

Game 1: Friday

The Northwestern Rangers baseball team opened its season on Friday with an impressive 4-2 win over the Fort Hays State Lions.

Ranger newcomer, Bryce Tomlin, a junior, right-handed pitcher from Gilmer, Texas, started on the mound for the Red-and-Black defense and managed to collect six strikeouts, allow only one hit and zero runs within the six innings he pitched.

On the offensive side of the ball, Ranger Colton Krokroskia started the scoring for Northwestern after teammate T.J. Kassner tripled to left in the bottom of the third inning.

Then in the sixth inning, Northwestern added two more runs when both Kassner and Garrett Douglas scored following a double by teammate Jorin Van Amstel and a wild pitch by the Lion pitcher.

The Rangers finished their scoring in the bottom of the eighth inning when Douglas crossed the plate for a second time following an RBI single by Ranger Nathan Kane.

Also in the eighth inning, the



Garret Douglas batting for the Rangers. / Photo by Bailey Rankin

Lions managed to add two runs of their own, both of which came unearned off Ranger relief pitcher David Sanchez.

Game 2: Saturday

Following the Rangers impressive win on Friday, the Red-and-Black suffered a devastating 15-0 loss in game two against the Northwest Missouri State Bearcats.

Getting the start for the Rangers in game two was sophomore, Brandon Colbert who would struggle in his Ranger debut as he would

go only 3.1 innings after allowing six hits, four runs and collecting four strikeouts.

Following the exit of the struggling Colbert, Rangers Matt Bickford, Tyler Havener, Collin Fouts and Baron Phillips each shared time on the mound for Northwestern.

Game 3: Saturday

In game three, the Rangers managed to shake off the disappointing loss to Bearcats and crush the Lions of Fort Hays State with a 13-3 win.

Getting the start on the mound for Northwestern was Pat Delano, but due to injury he was replaced with Thomas Sander after only going one-third of the first inning.

Prior to Sander appearance on the mound, the Lions were able to add three runs on the Red-and-Black.

Following Sander's season debut, however, the Lions were unable to get anything past the Rangers defense as Sander would go 1.2 innings, face seven batters, allow only one hit and record two strikeouts.

After the clutch performance by Sander, Ranger Matt Bickford would close out the game for Northwestern. Bickford finished with five innings pitched where he faced 16 Lion batters, collected five strikeouts and allowed only three hits.

On the offensive side of the ball for Northwestern, Ranger's Quincy Tunstall, Steven Deckard, Douglas, Krokroskia, Kane, Kassner and Jacob Long had a stellar day at the plate.

Krokroskia, who was one of four Rangers with at least two runs in the game, finished with two hits and four RBIs.

Game 4: Sunday

After splitting the day Saturday with a loss and win, the Rangers suffered a devastating 8-3 loss to the Bearcats of Northwest Missouri State on Sunday.

Things looked hopeful for the Red-and-Black early on in the contest as they managed to build an early 3-1 lead through six innings, but things would start going downhill in the top of the sixth inning.

After starting freshmen Ranger pitcher, Nick Llorente went five solid innings, throwing four strikeouts and allowing only one run, Northwestern then fell into a pitching slump as they flew through six pitchers in the remaining innings.

Rangers Nick McKinney, Jon Bauer, Sean Rydell, Blake Jones, Fouts and freshman Brandon Nesseralla each made an appearance on the mound and unfortunately allowed seven runs combined.

On the offensive side, Rangers Long, Van Amstel and Deckard each had one run. Van Amstel finished the day with two hits respectively.

Next up for the Rangers is a road trip to Canyon, Texas to take on West Texas A&M starting at 3 p.m. Friday and concluding at 1 p.m. Sunday.



Alonzo Williams shooting a free throw to help Rangers win the game. / Photo Provided

Mens basketball victory

By RANGERS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

The Northwestern Oklahoma State men's basketball team picked up a key win on the road in Magnolia, Arkansas over Southern Arkansas University.

The 77-67 victory was in large part due to the combination of senior Adrian Motley and junior Cody Halvorson. The two Ranger stand-outs netted 25 and 27 points respectively, with Halvorson's 27 points marking a season high. Halvorson converted on 8-of-15 attempts from behind the arc. Motley's solid evening of play included him seeing all 40 minutes of action on the court and ended up just two rebounds short of a double-double with

eight rebounds.

Backing up the efforts of Halvorson and Motley was junior Greg Minor Jr. Minor found his name on the stat sheet in multiple categories with 11 points, four rebounds and three steals. Point guard Brandon Green also had eight points and six rebounds.

As a team the Rangers shot 44.3 percent from the field on 27-of-61 shots. The difference in the ball game proved to be the 11 three pointers the Rangers hit compared to just the five long-range conversions for the Muleriders.

The Rangers led for a total of 37 minutes and extended that lead by as many as 17 at one point in the ball game. Southern Arkansas came back after a 42-36 halftime

deficit and took the lead at the 16:09 mark of the second half. After each team traded buckets, the trio of Motley, Minor and Halvorson built a 10 point lead with 8:50 remaining in the game. Back-to-back buckets from Motley and a couple of solid defensive stands led to a 70-56 advantage. The Rangers defense stepped up and never let the Muleriders gain momentum back into the game.

Unfortunately earlier in the week the Rangers travelled to Monticello, Arkansas to play against University of Arkansas and lost the game 77-87.

Northwestern will return to the friendly confines of Percefull Fieldhouse this Thursday to take on the Savage Storm of Southeastern with tip-off set for 7:30 p.m.

Women's basketball achieves repeat win

By RANGERS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Northwestern Oklahoma State's women's basketball team took down Southern Arkansas for the second time this season, this time around defeating the Lady Muleriders by a final of 77-67.

Northwestern opened up the first half of action against the Lady Muleriders with one of their best shooting performances in a half for the season.

Northwestern hit 14-of-24 shots in the first half for a 58.3 percent mark. Barrios led the way with 14 points in the first half alone to help spur the Lady Rangers to a 10-3 run during the final minutes of the half to establish a 41-30 lead going into the break.

The Lady Rangers continued their solid play, outscoring the Lady Muleriders 16-15 in the third quarter to take a 57-45 lead into the final quarter of action. Four straight Southern Arkansas points to begin the final quarter forced a Northwestern timeout to regroup.

The Lady Muleriders got another basket to go and were threatening to make things in-

teresting with an eight-point run, but a nice steal from Barrios followed by back-to-back three-pointers from Beechum put the Lady Ranger lead back up to 63-51. Beechum had nine of her 22 points in the fourth quarter.

Despite some pressure from Southern Arkansas in the dying minutes of the game, the Lady Rangers held off the late run by hitting 8-of-9 free throws in the final three minutes of the game. The victory will move the Lady Rangers back into a four-way tie for the final spot in the post-season GAC tournament.

This next weekend's games against Southeastern and Southwestern will be crucial in the Lady Rangers pursuit of their first tournament berth since the team's acceptance into the conference.

The Lady Rangers were unable to make such a comeback against Arkansas-Monticello earlier in the week. They lost a tough game 66-74.

Northwestern will return home for a match-up with in-state rival Southeastern Oklahoma State on Thursday evening inside Percefull Fieldhouse with tip-off set for 5:30 p.m.

Sports

Cheer for Ranger pride

By **ASHLEY STREHL**
Student Reporter

“Go Rangers Go!” This line is well heard at any basketball or football game on the NWOSU Campus. Many Ranger fans will find it hard not to clap along to the Ranger song.

There are 21 members on the squad and each of them play an important role in not only supporting our football and basketball teams but getting the audience involved in the games. The Ranger Cheerleaders work hard to make every cheer loud and every stunt safe, and practices are three times a week and they include perfecting stunts and lifts, and each working on their physical strength to improve their technique by participating their conditioning workouts and cardio. Safety is important to the squad and they all work hard to make sure they are strong enough for their stunts and routines.

Briana Fitzgerald is a freshman attending Northwestern who is a base for the squad. “I visit the wellness center every day to run and improve my strength, endurance and flexibility to be a better base,” she said. “I love being a cheer leader because I get to make lots of amazing friends and showcase what I love doing.”

Each Semester brings new things for the squad, and they’ve got a number of things they are looking



The Ranger cheerleaders doing a drill and supporting our basketball team. /Photo Provided

forward to for 2017. The squads coach and captains have especially been preparing for new recruits in the fall. Joel Gonzalez, a co-captain for the cheer squad says that they are especially working on a squad routine for competitions. “The goal is to get to the collegiate level of competition,” Gonzalez said. “We’ve been scouting for new cheerleaders this semester that will strengthen our squad for competitions.”

The coach has been putting together tryout routines for the spring tryouts. Shelbi Mooreland is a fresh-

man here at Northwestern, and she is a base for the ranger cheer squad. “I’m really trying to work on my upper body strength lately, so I can be a better base for the remaining semester,” Mooreland said. “The best part of cheerleading is seeing the kids that look up to you. When you’re on the court and you see little kids jumping up and down trying to imitate your moves is what makes it fun. It’s a good reminder to be someone worth looking up to.”

Gabrielle Cepero is also a freshman cheerleader at Northwestern

who is a base for the squad. “I’m learning to be more versatile in the different spots,” Cepero said. “I just love getting out in front of everyone and showing them the skills that we all work so hard to accomplish during practice.”

Upcoming events include a kids min-cheer camp on February 11, for Pre-K through Junior High. The squad will invite kids to work with the members on a dance and a cheer, and they will then perform at the halftime of a game in the next week.

Softball snags one on road

By **BRYANT VENOSDEL**
Student Reporter

The Lady Rangers Softball started off their season with a busy schedule spanning three days with double-headers each day. Feb. 3 the softball team traveled to Lubbock, Texas where the Lady Chap Invitational was held to face off against Regis University in their first game.

Regis got on the board first with a single in the top of the second, but the Rangers were able to answer back and even things up in the bottom of the inning. That was just the start for Regis however, as they capped off nine runs in the sixth inning alone, resulting in a 12-1 loss for the Rangers.

Game two for the Rangers was up against Colorado Christian University as the Lady Rangers were looking to take down the Cougars. The Rangers game was unfortunately riddled with errors, as Colorado was able to score twice in the bottom of the first after a dropped ball and a throwing error. The Rangers were able to get to the sixth inning only giving up one point, but got six more dropped on them giving the Rangers a second loss of the day, 9-2.

The Rangers started off the

first of two Saturday games against Lubbock Christian. The Rangers were able to get one more run in before the Lady Chaps dropped six more runs in the bottom of the second, leaving the game at 15-2.

The second game of the day pitted the Rangers against Regis University, with the Rangers coming out the gates hot with a 3-0 lead in the top of the second. The Rangers would go on to score again in the fourth but Regis held their own with the Rangers, giving Regis the 7-6 win.

Sunday the Rangers started off their day facing off against Lubbock Christian. The Rangers remained scoreless until the top of the fourth and started gaining momentum going into the fifth inning getting three more runs, but it wasn’t enough to get a victory, with LCU coming away with the win 14-4.

The next and final game of the series had the Rangers looking for the win against Colorado Christian. The Rangers had an astounding 11 runs in the bottom of the fourth, demoralizing the Cougars. The Rangers topped off the secured victory by getting two more runs in the bottom of the fifth giving the Rangers the first win of the Lady Chap Invitational 13-5.



Jordan Haya, former softball player and current student assistant, batting during a game. / Photo Provided

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Athletic Events

February 10

Softball

11 a.m. Rangers vs. Texas Permian Basin in Grand Prairie, Tex.

3 p.m. Rangers vs. Eastern New Mexico Univ. in Grand Prairie, Tex.

Baseball

3 p.m. Rangers at West Texas A&M Univ.

February 11

Softball

1:30 p.m. Rangers vs. Texas A&M Univ. - Kingsville in Grand Prairie, Tex.

3 p.m. Rangers vs. Lubbock Christian Univ. in Grand Prairie, Tex.

Baseball

3 p.m. Rangers at West Texas A&M Univ.

Womens Basketball

1p.m. Rangers at Southern Nazarene Univ.

Mens Basketball

3p.m. Rangers at Southern Nazarene Univ.

February 12

Softball

10 a.m. Rangers vs. Texas Women’s Univ. in Grand Prairie, Tex.

12 p.m. Rangers vs. Tarleton State Univ. in Grand Prairie, Tex.

Baseball

1 p.m. Rangers at West Texas A&M Univ.

February 13

Womens Basketball

5:30 p.m. Rangers at Southwestern Oklahoma State Univ.

Mens Basketball

7:30 p.m. Rangers at Southwestern Oklahoma State Univ.



The Buzz



Happenings at Northwestern



Senior Jordan Haya (left) Freshman Kendall Jones (right) are studying in the library where many other students study throughout the day. /Photo by Nick Perkins



In their final semester, 22 senior education students entered area schools to gain experience through student teaching. /Courtesy of University Relations



The Visual Arts program's Artist-in-Residence Mandy Messina works on a piece of art during her time on campus. /Courtesy of University Relations

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

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