

HERE FOR YOU

The Campus Cabinet, NWOSU's food pantry, is working to help students who have been impacted by COVID-19. PAGE 11



HOT DATES

Friday is the last day for students to drop 16-week classes. Read about important dates in "What's Up?" PAGE 3



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Cafe implements safety measures

By SEAN DOHERTY
Student Reporter

Safety is a priority every semester, but preparing for the fall 2020 semester posed its own set of unique challenges.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University and its food service provider, Chartwells, worked together to implement new safety precautions and procedures in Coronado Cafe and the Ranger C-Store. Chartwells set out a "Path to Open" in May 2020, a four-tiered program to help universities around the country ensure their students' well-being. NWOSU chose to stay as close to the college experience as possible while safeguarding students and staff from COVID-19, officials said.

"The first step was reducing the number of items students touch," Charles Craddock, Chartwells' director of dining service, said. Craddock estimates items such as serving spoons and tongs run through the hands of hundreds of students a day.

Chartwells and NWOSU tackled this problem in two ways. Chartwells associates now undergo a temperature check before every shift. Also, they wear gloves



Photo by Sean Doherty

Students stand in line to get food during lunch in the Coronado Cafe in this August 24 photo.

and masks while cooking, preparing and serving food.

Craddock and his staff removed all self-serve stations, and placed Plexiglas at every station to protect both servers and Northwestern students and staff.

Waffles are still available at the omelet station, and customers can request pre-packaged salads. The self-serve sandwich station

is gone, but Craddock says various sandwiches will be available throughout the semester.

Although there are fewer stations than before, Chartwells had to hire more staff to keep up with safety demands.

"We've put another 5% of labor into the establishment," Tully Groom, head chef at Coronado Café, said. Chartwells hired three

more serving staff and five more utility personnel. These utility personnel are in charge of keeping the cafeteria sanitary. They wipe down tables after students leave and clean the fountain drink dispenser every 30 minutes with a disinfectant. According to

See CAFETERIA, Page 2

University receives CARES Act funding

By GEORGE SMITH
Student Reporter

An ongoing budgeting process is currently underway at Northwestern as the coronavirus pandemic takes effect on the school's finances.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act provided relief funds for millions of Americans and American companies during the downfall of business and work.

Although the CARES Act had a large market cap, the effects of the Act are not permanent.

"It was stimulus money that helped us meet the cost that we were faced with overnight," Dr. David Pecha, Northwestern's vice president for administration, said.

Northwestern received a total of \$1,506,494 as part of the CARES Act. Half of these funds are designated for direct

See FUNDING, Page 2

Mosburg: We're in this together

Let me start by letting you know how excited I am to see our campus community active again. It is truly an enjoyable site to see students on campus, going to class, building friendships, and eager to be together with their Ranger Family!

We have started this semester in a very unique way with face coverings and social distancing a part of our daily conversations and practices. Northwestern administration, along with employee and student input, worked diligently over the summer to develop the Rangers' Return Plan. This plan was developed with the sole focus of getting our students, faculty, and staff back on campus for the fall 2020 semester. Safety, during this pandemic, was the



Calleb Mosburg

key element we thought about as we focused on the goal. What

See MOSBURG, Page 2

University installs Wi-Fi systems

By LOGAN MERIWETHER
Student Reporter

With a new generation of students coming to Northwestern comes an upgrade to the dorms on campus.

Northwestern upgraded Wi-Fi systems in the dorms over the summer, changing them from cable Wi-Fi systems to wireless ones.

Students wanted a faster network not just for school, but also for video games and different streaming services, officials said. Instead of running around town or doing something outside, most

See Wi-Fi, Page 2



Photo by Jordan Green

Preston Majors Jr. installs Wi-Fi equipment in Coronado Hall Aug. 17.

News

CAFETERIA: Students rate Chartwells' safety practices

Continued from Page 1

Craddock, the disinfectant will kill viruses without being harmful to humans.

"I wouldn't drink it, but it's pretty benign," Craddock said.

After lunch, utility personnel spray the tables and chairs down with a heavier duty disinfectant, then again after dinner.

Serving students is just one piece of the puzzle. What about the periods before and after students get their food?

The C-Store now limits occupancy to 25 people at a time. Customers have to wear masks and practice social distancing.

Coronado Cafe usually seats around 300 people. University officials and Craddock decided to slash that number in half, with only 155 seats now available. Students enter and exit out of different doors, a change likely to stay in place for the foreseeable future, Craddock said.

Chartwells personnel swipe students' meal cards, and students receive their cups and silverware in sleeves. Cups and silverware then go through a washing and packaging process after use.

Craddock and other NWOSU officials are looking at ways to prevent students from standing in long lines to get their food, including adjusting lunch hours and possibly offering outdoor seating.

"If we have to expand lunch hour, we will, to make sure all students get fed," Craddock said.

If students or staff do not wish to sit in the dining area, Coronado Cafe now gives patrons the option to take their meals to-go.

"The to-go option, I think, is the key," Craddock said. "It gives the student more flexibility than they used to have."

Students and staff can specify whether they want their meals to-go after swiping their meal cards. To-go orders come with a paper cup and pre-packaged silverware along with one to-go container. Patrons can then fill their containers with whatever they wish, but each patron may only receive one container per meal. Customers can also buy a reusable container for



Photo by Sean Doherty

A student waits to get food in the Coronado Cafeteria August 24.

\$5.00. Craddock said he urges students not to abuse this option or it will no longer be offered.

STUDENTS VOICE THEIR OPINIONS

An anonymous survey conducted by Chartwells reached 30 students and asked them to rate Coronado Cafe's and Ranger Mart's overall responses to COVID-19. The survey asked students to rate both entities' performance in categories such as cleanliness, service and social distancing. The survey also asked if students used the to-go option.

From a scale of 1 to 5, 63% of students surveyed gave the dining hall and C-Store an overall rating of 5; 13% gave a rating of 4; 23% gave a rating of 3.

For the performance categories, students had five options: "Very poor," "poor," "fair," "good" and "excellent."

For cleanliness, 60% answered "excellent," 36.7% answered "good" and 3.3% answered "fair."

For service, 73.3% answered "excellent," 20% answered "good" and 6.7% answered "fair." In the social distancing category, 43.3% answered "excellent," 33.3% answered "good," 20% answered "fair," and 3.3% answered "poor."

Half of the students answering the survey had not utilized the to-

go option, and two were unaware it was available.

Students said they have varying opinions on the new safety restrictions.

"I like the cafe, and I think they're doing the best they can with COVID-19," Madison Dehlinger, a junior psychology major from Eureka, Kansas, and a member of the NWOSU volleyball team, said.

"It's not much different, it just takes some getting used to," Brody Snow, a junior agriculture major from Maryville, Missouri, and a member of the NWOSU rodeo team, said.

Some students said they did not have positive attitudes towards the dining hall's new rules; however, they said they did not wish to go on the record to discuss them.

Craddock said he is open to suggestions regarding safety procedures, and said that any students or staff members wishing to submit their comments or concerns should read the Text2Chat posters in Coronado Cafe to find contact information.

"We hope that we've reduced the amount of opportunities for anybody to catch the COVID-19 virus or any other disease," Craddock said. "I'm hoping we've made some pretty good advances."

FUNDING: CARES Act does not cover cost of masks, sanitizer

Continued from Page 1

benefits to eligible students enrolled at Northwestern. Some students last semester might have noticed a compensation refund of a portion of their fees and a refund of their housing expenses. Northwestern replenished these lost monies in its budget through this policy.

Northwestern struggled financially as the institution shut down some of its operations and covered the additional costs related to the coronavirus pandemic.

"There certainly have been expenses that Northwestern never planned on having and are not being covered by a part of the CARES money," Pecha said.

The additional expenses are

tracked separately and absorbed through the existing maintenance and custodial budget. In case the federal government decides to provide additional financial relief or compensation, Pecha said he is willing to provide a detailed list of expenses associated with the coronavirus pandemic that would not typically have been purchased.

The masks with the Northwestern logo, the disinfectant spray bottles in every classroom and the disinfectant dispensers at the entrances to the buildings on campus are costs that are currently not being covered from the money awarded through the CARES Act, but could be covered by additional federal aid.

MOSBURG: Face coverings key to keeping in-person instruction

Continued from Page 1

ultimately came out of the plan was policies and procedures that promoted safety while providing access to the outstanding education that is provided in our classrooms.

I want to list just a few items, described in the Rangers' Return plan, that have made it possible for us to be on campus and will hopefully make it possible for us to complete this academic year in the same manner.

1. Wear a face covering inside campus buildings and outside when social distancing is limited. Face coverings are provided to all campus community members and extras are provided in classrooms for those who may need one.

2. Observe proper hygiene by washing your hands, utilizing hand sanitizer provided in the buildings, and not touching our face with your hands.

3. Observe the social distancing seating in the classrooms. Non-seating spaces are marked in the classroom to promote so-

cial distancing.

4. If you feel sick, stay home. If you have symptoms for COVID-19, please get tested.

5. If you do test positive for COVID-19, notify my office immediately by calling or email (Phone (580) 327-8414; Email cnmosburg@nwosu.edu).

6. Communication is key! Students should communicate with the Student Affairs office and with their instructors so they can best assist you.

Please review the full Rangers' Return Plan at <https://www.nwosu.edu/uploads/rangersreturn.pdf>

Once again, I am excited to see our campus community active again and look forward to a successful semester. Thank you for acting responsibly and working together for our return to campus this fall.

Ride, Rangers, Ride!

*Calleg Mosburg
Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management*

Wi-Fi: New systems cost roughly \$450,000

Continued from Page 1

students would rather stay in their rooms with a group of friends and play the newest video game.

Matt Adair, the university's housing director, conducted a student survey last year on what needed to be improved in the dorms. He said he quickly learned that many students weren't even using the cable Wi-Fi and wanted the upgrade.

Vice President for Administration Dr. David Pecha got a request for proposal to do a renovation of the technology in the dorms.

Pinnacle Network Solutions won the bid to install the new high-speed internet systems.

"Pinnacle took a few days lon-

ger to install the Wi-Fi than what we wanted, but they bent over backwards to make sure everything was up and running," Pecha said.

The switch from cable to high-speed internet cost the university around \$450,000.

Disbursed over time, the payments for high-speed internet through Pinnacle will be cheaper than cable through Suddenlink, Pecha said.

Once the contract is paid off, Northwestern will be saving money and getting a better quality of Wi-Fi for many years to come, Pecha said.

Elizabeth McMahan, a sophomore at Northwestern, said she has

seen a big difference in the speed of the Wi-Fi when she is streaming movies on Netflix and HULU.

"It is nice knowing you can go to your room and not have to wait for your movie to quit buffering," McMahan said.

Students that are frequent gamers are enjoying the new Wi-Fi because they are able to play online with their friends without losing connection to the server or having a lot of lag in their game play, they said.

This upgrade has improved the dorm life for many students, and they can't wait to see what improvements will be next on campus, they said.



Photo by Jordan Green

Boxes containing Wi-Fi equipment sit in a room in Coronado Hall in this August 17 photo. The university has installed new Wi-Fi systems in dorms.

News

What's up?

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Here are some important dates you need to remember:

- August 25 is that last date to add a 16-week course.
- August 28 is the last day to drop a 16-week course with no grade required.
- August 28 is the last day to obtain a 100% refund on complete withdrawals. Paperwork must be processed through Student Services.
- August 31 is when a "W" grade will be required on dropped courses.

SEPTEMBER 7:

Employees and students at Northwestern Oklahoma State University will be able to enjoy an extended weekend as the university will close for Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 7.

Classes will resume, and all university offices will open with regular business hours on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

70 STUDENTS ATTENDED PROGRAM:

Northwestern's Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math & Science students began their annual academic summer camp on June 1. This is the 13th year for the program and the first all-virtual camp.

The six-week component of camp ended on July 10. The 70 students from Alva, Aline-Cleo, Burlington, Cherokee, Fairview, Ringwood, Timberlake and Waynoka attended classes online.

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With extended spring break over, students fall into new safety habits

By LANEY COOK
Student Reporter

As spring break finally comes to an end, stretching longer than just the typical week-long break, the town of Alva is slowly filling back up to normal capacity.

With Northwestern's campus being open and classes meeting in-person, people have formed their own opinions on how things should be during the pandemic.

Tierney Cook, a junior ma-

joring in business administration said: "I am excited to be back on campus, to go back to a normal routine schedule and to be able to see new and old faces. I don't mind the masks as much because I look at it that Northwestern is looking out for our safety, but still is eager to be back to normal."

Dawson Maxwell, a junior majoring in criminal justice, said he is excited to be back on campus despite having to wear a mask.

"The mask is going to take some time to get used to, but it's a

small price to pay to be able to be back on campus," he said.

Carson Hannaford is a senior in her final semester for English education. She is a student teacher at Alva High School. She said she is eager to stay in the classroom.

"It's nice to see everyone on campus again, and to be able to be back in the classroom rather than online," she said. "I think the college made a good call to make masks mandatory in order for us to be able to stay on campus."

In Alva, students found ways to keep busy during the summer

By DACODA MCDOWELL-WAHPEKECHE
Student Reporter

Northwestern students returned to campus August 17 for the first time since schools closed in March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Some Northwestern students who stayed in Alva over the summer said they spent their time with friends, held down jobs in town, and lived their lives as normally as possible.

"It was safer here rather than going home," Delia Jackson, a sophomore biology health science major from Norman, said.

Due to the COVID-19 virus, Jackson said she wanted to stay in Alva for the summer rather than return home to Norman, where the coronavirus surged in the spring. Norman Mayor Brea Clark imposed a citywide mask mandate, though the City of Alva never did.

Jackson said she enjoyed spending time with her friends on the university's softball team. Some of them lived in Alva for the summer, and others came

back to Alva to visit Jackson.

She said she spent a lot of time cleaning her house, working at Walmart, and going to rodeos in the area. She also made the Vice President's Honor Roll while taking classes in microcomputer applications, medical terminology, and wellness concepts.

"No one was here, and the classes were rough, so everything was spontaneous and 'go with the flow.' It was tough because nothing was really open."

- Stephen "Scotland" McCluskey

Landry Gaddy, a sophomore political science major from Alva, said the university's closure did not greatly affect her daily life.

This summer, she stayed in Alva with her parents while working at G&G Furniture. She went swimming in the local country club's pool, drove down country roads, and took a trip to Creede, Colorado. Gaddy also took summer classes and received a spot on the President's Honor Roll for completing 10 credit hours.

Stephen "Scotland" McCluskey, a senior health and sports science major, stayed in the United States this summer. With international flights canceled, he could not return to his home in Motherwell, Scotland.

McCluskey quarantined in the Dallas, Texas, area with another Northwestern family. After a few months in Dallas, he returned to Alva to spend the rest of the summer with teammates, friends, and his new dog named Scrappy. He attended a few local rodeos and worked for the university's recruitment office, helping to bring in freshmen students.

"No one was here, and the classes were rough, so everything was spontaneous and 'go with the flow,'" McCluskey said. "It was tough because nothing was really open."

Students who test positive for COVID-19 must report their test results to Mosburg

By DEVYN LANSDEN
Student Reporter

Caleb Mosburg, dean of student affairs and enrollment management, and other faculty members said they worked tirelessly throughout the summer to keep Northwestern open during the coronavirus pandemic.

Everyone on campus is required to wear a mask while in buildings, while sitting in class, and while walking in hallways.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, he or she must notify Mosburg immediately.

The student must quarantine for 14 days.

The student must be tested again and be cleared by the Okla-

homa State Health Department in order to return to campus.

Student activities were modified with social distancing, Mosburg said.

"We used zoom a lot, and it took a lot of planning," he said.

For more information about Northwestern's reopening plan, visit <https://www.nwsu.edu/uploads/rangersreturn.pdf>

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Letters must be turned in by noon on Monday 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.

Editorial

EDITOR'S RANT OF THE WEEK

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Editor-in-Chief

It's my senior year! It's been three years, One more year to go! I am simultaneously counting down the days and also regretting that they're coming by so fast. I can't believe I'm almost done. I can't believe that I have no idea what I will do when I graduate and I can't believe that life is coming so fast.

Four years ago I sat as a senior in high school still having to raise my hand to ask "may I use the restroom" and not being allowed to go out of the school for lunch and now they expect me to know what I want to do, when I want to do it and what my 5-year plan is. Well... I've never been one to plan for the future and that's going to bite me in the butt.

I joined the mass communications major as a freshman in college. I had been an editor of the newspaper on my high school and that was pretty much the only thing that I liked to do but I threw myself into the major. I started as an editor on the newspaper, I immediately started taking major courses and pushed off a lot of my gen. ed's.

Personally, that was a mistake because by the end of my sophomore year I decided that I didn't think this is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life and yet here I am now 3/4 done with school way too far into my major to back out and I still haven't taken general biology.

Better yet, I have a minor in librarian science... If I want to be a librarian I'd have to get a master's degree in library science... But do I want to be a librarian... I don't know.

I know I said I'm counting down the days but yet I'm fearful for what will come afterwards. I am a mass communications major with a librarian science minor, I don't know if I want to do either one and so where does that get me? What's my next step?

Some parts of me wish I would have went into psychology because I really like that and for a while I had a psych minor and I really loved those courses after that I switched to a leadership minor which I liked but the class rotations were a mess compared to my schedule and that's how I landed on the librarian science major.

Even with the stress of life to come I am grateful for all the time I had at Northwestern. I got to spend most of my college experience with two of my sisters and I have made wonderful friends. I've helped start a club, I've learned a lot about myself and college really has been a life-changing experience for me. I may not know what life will bring but I know that I definitely have a place to fall back on. I've made lots of connections and relationships and I know that Northwestern has set me up to do be prepared for whatever comes next.

It's not hard to be kind

Just because you had a bad day doesn't mean you should cause others to have one too

By MCKAYLA HOLSON
Editorial Editor

I'm going to start this year off by saying that it isn't that hard to be kind to people.

I get that people get upset and frustrated, but they shouldn't take it out on others. On Sunday, I had a grown man yell, scream and curse while slamming and throwing things just because I did my job. A grown man. An adult. There was absolutely no reason to act that way. I was called things I've never actually heard come out of a person's mouth before.

It's especially upsetting when someone freaks out on somebody for something they can't control. "Don't kill the messenger." Ever heard that before? I've had people yell at me for rules that someone created and changes they have made who I have never met before.

Chances are, you aren't the

first to yell at the worker for whatever you happen to be upset about. Chances are, it has been reported by the worker dozens of time, if not more.

Just speak to the people in charge about it. Email them, call them, talk to them. And be nice about it. Express your concern, talk about your problem and see if a change is possible.

Don't yell. It doesn't get you anywhere. Be civil and talk like a human. If you think that it just isn't possible to be kind, then walk away. Wait to have the conversation when you aren't upset.

All my life, I have never understood why it is so hard for some people to be kind. I don't think I'll ever understand.

It's not even that hard to be kind. Just be understanding, smile and don't say rude and hurtful things. Find a coping mechanism for anger that isn't harmful to yourself or others.



What about those we don't keep?

Not all the relationships we create in life are ones that we keep. We focus on the relationships that help us progress in life, but what about those that just help us get through a few years?

By MCKAYLA HOLSON
Editorial Editor

Have you ever thought about the relationships you create and don't get to keep?

We always talk about the big, memorable relationships throughout our lives that we develop and use to help us grow and succeed in life, but what about the little ones?

Working as a waitress, I have my "regulars." People who come in often, who I know what they're drinking and who tell me little tidbits of their lives.

I have the man who comes in who always gets a Dr. Pepper and who almost always gets a hamburger.

I have the man who strolls in and has a couple of Keystones before ordering a hamburger slider while he tells me about his day and asks me if I've been staying out of trouble.

There's the man who always wants a water, a diet Dr. Pepper and his "round" burger with no cheese or onions and a side of chips.

I have the couple who always gets a water and a tea, the group of guys who always need a full pitcher of tea, the two who always drink Coronas with lime, the two guys who always come in for a few beers and wings.

I can point all these people out, tell you little tidbits about them and they could probably tell you tidbits about me, but that's as far as those relationships will ever go.

I'll eventually have to move on from my job and leave them.

They'll probably forget about

me, but I will always remember them.

And it's not just that job. I've worked at a state park for over four and a half years now, of course I know almost all the regulars.

There's one guy who likes to tape things to the vehicle I'm driving just to mess with me, the guy who always stops by to tell me how his mom is doing and give me updates on the work he has done on his RZR, the man who has a pet skunk named Sissy and an absolutely adorable dog who is so protective over those two and countless others.

I know a lot about people in the surrounding businesses, I know so much about past employees. But, again, that's where those relationships end.

What do I do with these?

I have all this information for all of these people and I have no idea what to do with it.

I know about the lives of my classmates, random people I see on campus, professors I've only had a class with once or maybe not at all and I don't know what to do with all of that.

I don't think people realize and understand just how many relationships they develop in life. Relationships that won't stick around for forever, but relationships that randomly pop into your head years after you had forgotten all about them.

I'm probably just overthinking all of these random interactions, but I like the idea of everything having reason and meaning.

It's probably weird, but I cherish these relationships. It's like having hundreds of storybooks.

Editorial

My internship at The Oklahoman

By **JORDAN GREEN**
News Editor

My summer internship at The Oklahoman has come to end. But I won't forget the skills I learned at this outstanding publication.

When I began working as an intern at the state's largest newspaper in May, the world was two months into a global pandemic. People were taking to the streets across the nation to protest racial injustices, and President Donald Trump would soon restart his reelection campaign here in the Sooner State.

Thanks to the incredible journalists at The Oklahoman, I was able to cover all three topics – and more. With their help, I wrote features about people who survived the coronavirus, and told the stories of families who lost loved ones to this silent killer. I spoke to Americans of all creeds and backgrounds who stood in front of police departments and government buildings for days to advocate for the changes they feel the country needs to make. I spoke to self-described patriots who cheered as Trump took the stage at the BOK Center in Tulsa on June 20.

The people at The Oklahoman took the time to learn who I am, understand my quirks, and teach me how to be a fair, balanced, ethical journalist. They improved my writing by showing me how to express ideas tightly and neatly, and they improved my reporting by giving me the opportunity to ask different people varied questions. Being able to learn the "art of inquiry" from experienced reporters Chris Casteel and Nolan Clay is not just a gift, but also a privilege, and one for which I am forever grateful.

I am thankful to my editors – Don Mecoy, Ryan Sharp, and Clytie Bunyan – who gave me the opportunity to cover exciting events. Aside from protests and the pandemic, I got to tell the stories of Oklahomans who are making positive differences in the

world. In July, I spoke to a father and son from Altus who helped restore one of possibly two operational B-29 bombers left in the world. Those are the kinds of people who make this state a great one, and I am honored to be able to share their stories with others.

But I hope to make it clear that I would never have had the opportunity to tell these stories without the people at The Oklahoman. Working for the state's largest daily newspaper isn't easy, but the veteran reporters and editors here took the time to help me. My editors found friendly ways to tell me how I can kick my reporting up a notch. I appreciate them greatly. They took a chance on a college freshman from Blackwell, Oklahoma, who has spent the last three years of his life writing for his hometown weekly, and they gave me the opportunity to grow both as a person and as a newspaperman.

I've read The Oklahoman for most of my life, and these people are my heroes. They've devoted their lives to holding the powerful to account and shedding light on some of our state's most significant problems. They inspire me – and more importantly, they tell me what I need to hear. Nolan isn't afraid to say when my stories are too long, and Chris makes it clear that I have to make some personal sacrifices if I really want to be a good journalist. More often than not, those sacrifices are ones of time, effort, and even pride.

My experience at The Oklahoman was a humbling one in many ways, but was also the single most rewarding experience of my life. I love journalism, and the talented reporters at The Oklahoman taught me how to enhance that passion. They cheered me on, fairly criticized me when my work needed improvement, and taught me that journalism is a line of work that one must love.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to The Oklahoman staff and the leaders of the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation for giving me this opportunity. Thanks to them, I'm one step closer to being the best journalist I can.

Rowdy loves his Grandma...Do you?



Graphic by Michelle Willson

*Do you love your grandmother?
Then wear your freaking mask!*

By **MICHELLE WILLSON**
Editor-in-Chief

Why is it such a debate to wear a mask? If scientist are right. You could be saving someone's life and, if they're wrong, you're minorly inconveniencing yourself. Honestly, I like those odds.

I know there are some medical conditions where it makes it difficult to wear a mask. But, I have asthma, my whole family has asthma and a lot of my friends have asthma and wearing a mask does not bother any of us. I hate that people are using that as an excuse.

Having glasses does not classify as a medical excuse to not wear a mask. Yes, it's a little frustrating when your glasses get fogged up, but that does not mean you should risk someone's life by not wearing the mask.

Just look for the type of mask that will fit you best. Personally, I have glasses and I prefer fabric masks or bandanas because they fog up my glasses less. Neither of them affect my asthma.

When I say wear a mask I mean, wear a real mask, not the fake mesh masks that people are coming up with just because they're a face covering. Wear something that will block particles from getting to other people. I don't care if you're outside and it's hot, I think you should be wearing a mask because you don't know who is around you and what their medical conditions are. They could be immunocompromised or they could live with someone who is immunocompromised. Personally, I would probably be OK if I got COVID, but my mom would not be. My sister would also probably get really sick and maybe die, so I have to protect myself so I don't give it to them. I don't know why that's so hard for people to understand. I understand that at some point it starts to get really hot and you might need to go to the bathroom and take it off and take a breather. That's fair, but make sure you are socially distan-

tancing away from people when you don't have a mask on. Anytime you pass someone, or if you're talking to someone, put it back on. It's not that hard to do.

Wearing your mask properly means over your nose and your mouth. Having your nose stick out of your mask does not stop the spread of COVID. Your mask needs to cover your nose and your mouth completely. I personally think we should be abiding by the University's rules about COVID and also going an extra step.

I know it's frustrating that you can't have other people in your dorm room, but you should also be limiting the amount of visitors you have. I don't think you should have your friends over in the lobby every single day. I think you can go a day without seeing your significant other. That's just more contact with other people that can be avoided. Figure out ways that you can stay in contact without being in physical contact with each other. Whether that be video chats, playing games online from your dorm rooms or things like those that you can completely be out of the way of physical contact.

If you got a positive Coronavirus test right now, think back to everything you've done the last two weeks. How many people would the university have to contact? How many people have you been in close contact with? Did you go to Howdy Week? Did you sit by someone at the movie night? Have you hung out with people in the dorms or have you went to The Bull or some other party? Think about everywhere you've been because you have to give the names to the University so they can contact people who would have been in contact with you.

Wear your mask, social distance and help us stay on campus. The fewer cases we have the longer we'll be able to stay on campus. And if all of that doesn't resonate with you... Do you love your grandmother? Then wear your freaking mask!

**Interested in writing?
Share your opinions!**

Contact McKayla Holson

mrholson30@rangers.nwsu.edu

Back in the saddle again: Rangers return to campus



Photo by Michelle Willson

Students were served by SGA members and staff members who wore masks and gloves to protect people from the virus.



Photo by Michelle Willson

Students enjoyed free snowcones from Frosty Joe's at Aloha night.



Photo by Jordan Green

Student Rebecca Wagner played SGA's "speed friendship" game Aug. 19.



Photo by Jordan Green

Students played a socially-distanced form of "speed friendship" on the tennis courts Aug. 19. The event was sponsored by SGA.



Photo by Michelle Willson

Students spent the afternoon playing games like giant Jenga Aug. 17.



Photo by Michelle Willson

Dr. Deana Walker served student Sho at Aloha night.



Photo by Michelle Willson

Student Cody Schmidt eats a hamburger and talks with his friends.



Photo by Michelle Willson

President Janet Cunningham eats a hamburger at Aloha night.

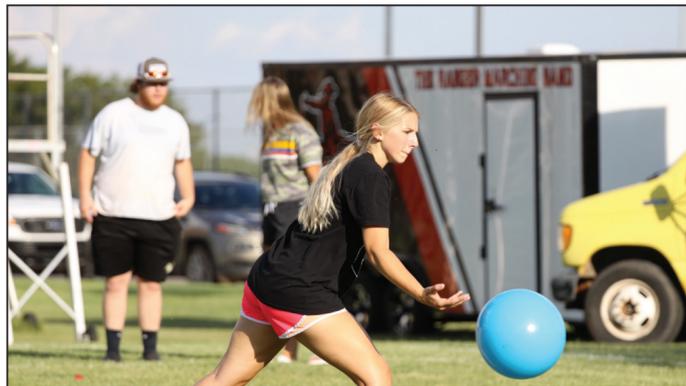


Photo by Jordan Green

Jaden Brunner played kickball on the intramural field at Aloha night.



Photo by Michelle Willson

Students watched "The Sandlot" on the Coronado Hall lawn Aug. 18 for Howdy Week.



Photo by Michelle Willson

SGA made popcorn for students to enjoy while watching "The Sandlot."



Photo by Jordan Green

Students filled out questionnaires and then asked each other questions from the list.

Feature

Rangers' thoughts on NWOSU's response to COVID-19 pandemic

By **KAYLEA BROWN**
Student Reporter



Austin Rankin:

"I feel that the school is acting very responsibly. It's pretty hard to control such a widespread disease, but at the same time, they are limiting the amount of exposure that the school comes in contact to."



Sydnie Lookingbill:

"I'm glad we get to go to class, and I think that the mask in the building, that's an easy accommodation to have to get to go to class and see everybody and still feel like I'm in college."



Kaylin Blatchford:

"I think with a little bit, it's overboard. Like, with the band and how we still wear masks and cover everything because we are outside, and any social event we still go outside, and you can take your mask off as long as you are a safe distance. In band, I feel like we do that anyways, so I think that's a little overboard. Besides that, I like how we do it inside until we understand that everything is clear. I don't think that anything is overboard."



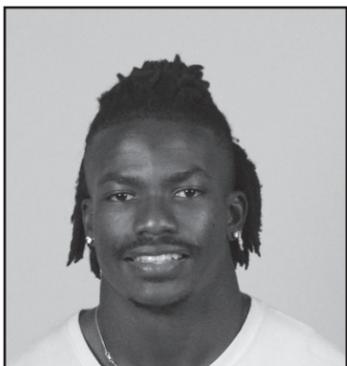
Duncan Brown:

"You can always do more, but there's a line that you don't want to cross when it comes to restrictions. We're not really the age group that's at risk. It's more our family members and certain populations that are at risk, so I think that they found a nice balance."



Landry Gaddy:

"I think Northwestern has done a great job responding to the pandemic by implementing policies to keep students safe while allowing us to have a great experience. I appreciate all the hard work the faculty and staff have put into our campus in order to allow students to participate in in-person classes and campus activities."



Kenny Miller:

"At first, I kind of didn't know how it was going to last because of what we see around. I definitely have faith in it now that we're here. I really think that they did a great job with it. Everybody staying socially distanced in class. You feel safe, and they've even got signs about everybody spreading apart. I definitely think we'll make it through the semester if everyone follows it."



Carys Delaplaine:

"I personally think they could be enforcing the mask policy a little bit more. I think that they should be enforcing it more in public spaces, doing more social distancing because other schools have already gotten shut down because they weren't enforcing it, and enforcing stricter policies on 'if you feel sick, go home and test.'"



Wacey Dorenkamp:

"I think that it's fine up to the point where the masks are a mandate in the buildings. I think that they should roll it back to just recommended for everybody, because we're all young adults here, so why shouldn't we be able to make our own choices and kind of take our health into our own hands? That's kind of the whole point of college is being able to finally be independent."



Kathryn Baugh:

"I think that Northwestern is doing the best that they can with the limited knowledge that they have. I do think that we are a smaller school and we're kind of secluded. The closest large town is an hour and 20 minutes, and that should become a factor handling this pandemic."

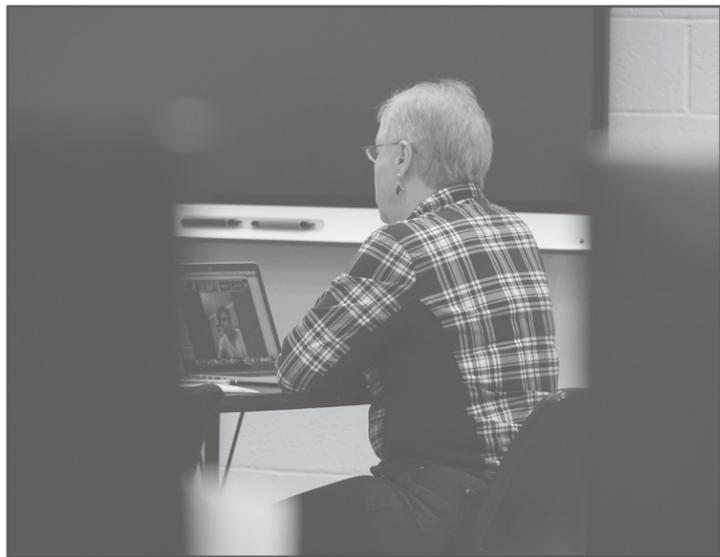


Photo by Jordan Green

Dr. Kaylene Armstrong teaches a class via Zoom in this March photo.

Teaching through a pandemic

Classrooms are different because of COVID-19

By **CONNER GRAY**
Student Reporter

Professors at NWOSU have had to make changes to classroom settings to compensate for students and themselves because of COVID-19.

This means going online, using bigger classrooms, and splitting up classes as ways to practice social distancing with students.

Garret Lahr, a personal finance professor, and Olivia Yandel, assistant director of the Wellness Center, said they have only had to make moderate adjustments for their classes to be taught in-person.

Dr. Stephen Thompson, a biology professor, said he had to take drastic measures for his classes because of his health concerns. Thompson had to move all of his classes to Zoom due to his high risk of getting COVID-19, he said.

Lahr has been able to keep most of his classes in his regular classroom in the Jesse Dunn building — except for his 11 a.m. class on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which has been moved to Carter Hall.

Yandel had to move all of her classes to the second floor of the Student Center for bigger space.

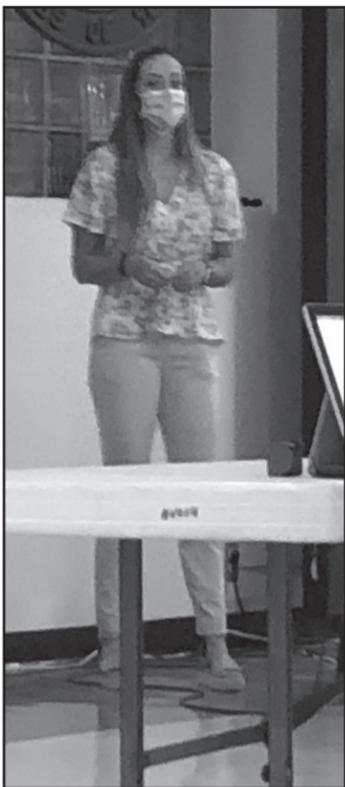


Photo by Jordan Green

Olivia Yandel teaches Wellness Concepts in the student center ballroom Wednesday.

In regards to the changes, Thompson has created measures on Blackboard to help students succeed, he said. He has added Zoom lecture recordings and PowerPoints for exams, and has provided instructions for assignments.

Lahr hasn't had any problems in regards to how his classes are taught, he said. The class that was moved works well for him, so he does not have to do online classes, he said.

Yandel said she is able to "go with the flow" of things. She said she has no issues with where she is teaching her classes.

Entertainment



Umbrella Academy exceeds standards

By **MICHELLE WILLSON**
Editor-in-Chief

The Umbrella Academy exceeded all possible expectations in its new season that premiered July 31 on Netflix.

Normally I'm scared to watch second seasons or movies of popular shows because I feel like they're just trying to ride the financial wave of their predecessors.

I stood corrected with the Umbrella Academy series. There is not a single thing that I could find wrong with the second season of Umbrella Academy.

Each of the Hargreaves children were given different character arcs. Viewers got to see how what they went through in the first season affected their characters going into the second season. The direct links from the first season was evident. It shows how the group of siblings moved on from what had happened and how they used the knowledge they have from the first season

to get through obstacles in the second.

The second season matches how I thought the characters would cope with everything that came up.

The characters ended season one trying to avoid the apocalypse by going back in time using Five's powers. Season two started with each of the siblings falling in different years into 1960s Dallas.

The characters look the same age as they did at the closing of season one. This was kind of upsetting because in the last scene of season one, it looks like they are going to return to their kids' selves. But I can see how that would be hard to write into season two if they already planned that they'd be separated in 1960s Dallas. At least as adults you know they could take care of themselves.

The audience was quickly able to deduce that the Hargreaves didn't know that each other were anywhere near.

When Five shows up, he must

not only try to get his siblings all in the same place but also avoid being hunted by the commission and fight back anything that is to come. The series also has a lot of connection to the first season. I watched the first season four times and there were little things that were said that then made a big difference in the new season.

One of my favorite parts of this season happens in one of the first episodes when you get to see Hazel all grown up saying that he lived his life with the love of his life from the first season. I'm really glad that we got to see how Hazel ended up especially since he ended up as a good guy in the first season.

The second season ends on such a good cliffhanger that I am biting my nails to see what will happen next. I can tell you that I am absolutely excited about how the season came to be, and so I give it a 5 out of 5-star rating. I cannot wait to see what umbrella Academy has planned for season three.

Fans rock to T-Swift album

'Folklore'
comes with
new sound

By **MICHELLE WILLSON**
Editor-in-Chief

Taylor Swift released her new 16-song album on July 24. The album is called "Folklore" and has a new sound unlike what she's done before. Taylor Swift has gone through several musical transitions. She traded her established pop aesthetic for more of a folk-pop sound.

Swift surprised fans by giving them only a 24-hour notice of her new album for dropping it. Many fans were surprised to hear this new sound.

Personally, I absolutely love her new sound. I'm not really into country, and I'm not that into pop, but I can really get down with this new folk-pop she's doing right now.

Swift's new album goes over a wide array of topics that leave the listener wanting more. Still mostly focused on love in relationships, you get to see different points of views of different relationships.

What I feel is most interesting is that there are love songs that appear to be about other girls. Fans have declared Swift's song "Betty" as a new gay anthem.

Some fans even speculate that the whole album was mirrored from lesbian cottagecore on TikTok. Swift has not denied or accepted these allegations. But I can see some correlation between the two.



I have listened to Swift's new album pretty much on repeat since the album dropped on YouTube. I absolutely love the different melodies and the different situations you can see throughout her music.

I like how Taylor Swift is raw with her music, singing about real events and tragedy. It makes the songs easy to relate to and allows listeners to hear her pain and love through the lyrics.

One of my favorite Taylor Swift songs is "Long Live." If you haven't listened to the song, you should. This song sounds like the songs in the new album.

On that note, I give this album a 5 out of 5 for being absolutely amazing with no faults. It gives fans something different. I can't wait to see what Taylor Swift puts out next. I really hope that she sticks with this new sound from the "Folklore" album.

Movie releases you missed during quarantine:

Miss Juneteenth - June 19

You Should Have Left - June 18

Irresistible - June 26

Just Mercy - March 24

The King of Staten Island - June 12

Artemis Fowl - June 12

Scoob - May 15

Capone - May 12

Ending, Beginnings - May 1

Fantasy Island - April 14

Trolls World Tour - April 10

Never Rarely Sometimes Always - April 3

Onward - March 6

The Lovebirds - April 3

Resistance - March 27

Sports

GAC cancels fall sports

A look into how men's basketball is handling the news

By **DAVID THORNTON**
Photographer

The afternoon of August 14 brought disappointment to the athletic community at Northwestern.

Northwestern announced the cancellation of fall sports until January 2021. Coming off his first season here at Northwestern, head coach of men's basketball, Vinay Patel, was disappointed to hear this news.

"Initially, they were disappointed," he said when asked about how his team took the news.

Patel did make it clear to his team that this was the best option to ensure their eligibility for the season. Patel reassured the team that they will play the same amount of games they had scheduled prior to the changes. That information made the team feel a lot better about it.

"We have a chance to have a really fun season," Patel said.

Patel said he knows he has a good group of players this year, and the players themselves know that too. The team is plentiful with new faces, but is also under the leadership of returning seniors of Parrish Hewitt and Jack Peck.

Due to the COVID-19 virus, the NCAA has paused everything. Normal things a college coach would do during the off-

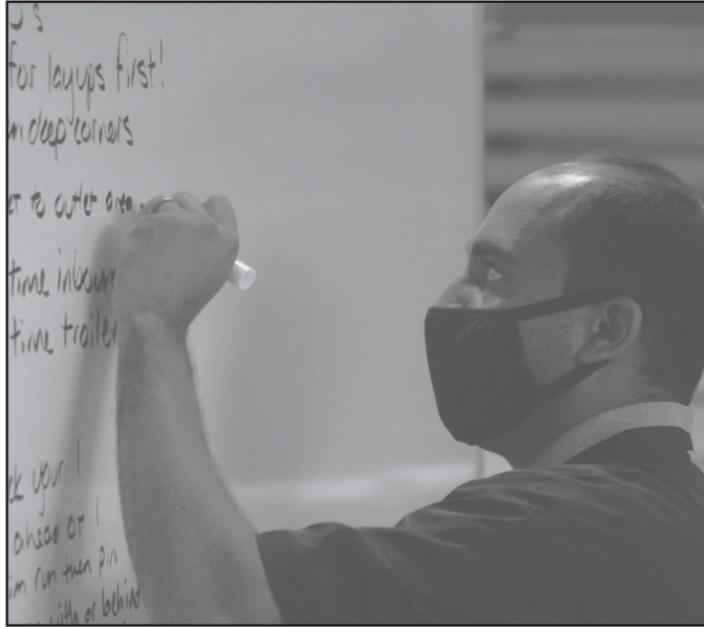


Photo by David Thornton

Vinay Patel draws up the practice plan for how this semester will work.

season became impossible to do. Official tours and home visits for recruitment became obsolete.

Patel rarely saw his team. Yet his excitement and anticipation for the season is higher than ever.

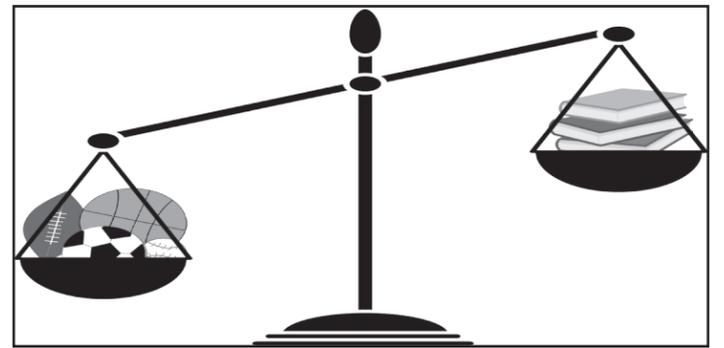
"I'm just excited to get to work with them finally," Patel said.

A lot of the past few weeks consisted of finally meeting his new players face to face. Patel said it has been awesome to finally meet these guys. Patel added that the last time he saw his returning players was spring break. He said that was the longest he has ever gone without seeing his players.

Patel said this year's preseason will be different. The team will do things as safely as possible. This includes wearing masks, social distancing and no contact play for a few weeks.

Regardless of the current situation happening in the world and NCAA, Patel said he still has high expectations for himself and his program. Patel used one word to describe this past month for him and his program: Proactive.

"I've challenged our staff to be proactive instead of reactive," he said, "to be ahead of problems and know that we are doing what's best for our kids."



Graphic by McKayla Holson

NWOSU had 55 student athletes named to the All-American Team.

Athletes honored for All-Academics

By **ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Northwestern had the fourth most student-athletes received the All-Academic Great American Conference honor announced Monday. The GAC honored the conference student-athletes who also excelled in academics with the announcement of the Winter/Spring GAC All-Academic Teams setting a new record, with 552 student-athletes receiving the honor.

The Lady Rangers basketball team led the GAC and the baseball team shared the lead with Ouachita Baptist.

"Division II places the balance of athletic pursuit and academic excellence in its highest regards," GAC Commissioner Will Prewitt said. "We again shattered our record for All-Academic honorees. I commend all of these student-athletes for maintaining their commitment to excellence in the classroom during this unprecedented year."

For student-athletes to be recognized on the Academic All-Conference team, they must have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing (true freshmen and redshirt freshmen are not eligible) and must have completed at least one full academic year at the nominating institution. In addition, their grade-point average must be a minimum of 3.30 based on the 4.0 system. The GPA shall be cumulative for the athlete's entire collegiate career.

A total of 55 Northwestern student-athletes joined a record number 552 GAC All-Academic honorees for the Winter/Spring Sports.

Northwestern recipients include:

Baseball – Parker Base, 3.38, Business Administration; Wyatt Bergner, 3.87, Health and Sports Science; Brady Bowles, 3.76, Biology; Rafferty Brown, 3.57, Psychology; Caden Church, 3.78, Agriculture; Bryce Donovan, 3.54, Criminal Justice; Kaleb Honea, 3.61, Health and Sports Science; Dax Jallo, 3.52, Mathematics; Daschal Johnson, 3.85, Psychology; Preston Lonadier, 3.75, Health and Sports Science; Rafael Lara, 3.34, Biol-

ogy; Blake Manuel, 3.47, Health and Sports Science; Angel Perez, 3.48, Mass Communications; Brock Randels, 3.40, Accounting; Sean Rydell, 3.38, Health and Sports Science; Jeremy Sawyer, 3.34, Nursing; Jake White, 3.50, General Studies.

Softball – Lauran Adcock, 3.79, Health and Sports Science; Abby Detar, 3.92, Psychology; Ariel Forsyth, 3.62, Psychology; Kalie Johnson, 3.44, Health and Sports Science; Morgan La Neve, 3.43, Health and Sports Science; Kailin Lian, 3.58, Nursing; Lindsey McElroy, 3.77, Accounting; Alexa Moses, 3.49, Accounting; Emily Poindexter, 3.93, Health and Sports Science; Shelbie Roberson, 3.45, Biology; Alexia Taylor, 3.31, Health and Sports Science; Morgan Welch, 3.54, Accounting; Bailee Whitener, 4.00, Health and Sports Science; Alli Willis, 3.38, Biology.

Women's Basketball – Bailey Brown, 3.84, Biology; Hillary Hurst, 3.67, Health and Sports Science; Mya Johnson, 3.67, Health and Sports Science; Kalea King, 3.71, Criminal Justice; Kenzi Lamer, 3.57, Health and Sports Science; Kyleigh Leverich, 3.79, Health and Sports Science; Kaylyn Maple, 3.96, Health and Sports Science; Jakeria Otey, 3.45, Adult Education; Presley Payahsape, 3.47, Health and Sports Science; Katelyn Schieber, 4.00, Psychology; Alexis Wall, 3.84, Business Accounting

Women's Track & Field – Camille Lear, 3.42, Biology; Jenny Martinez, 3.31, Agriculture Education; Kaitlyn McClary, 3.33, Health and Sports Science; Selena McDonald, 3.58, Health and Sports Science; Melissa Perez, 3.73, Biology – Health Sciences; Kelsey Swindle, 3.65, Health and Sports Science.

Men's Golf – Juan Gui Angarita, 3.57, Business Administration; Ben Baker, 3.64, Pre-Pharmacy; Tyler Berryhill, 3.47, Pre-Med, Brendan Kates, 3.41, Health and Sports Science.

Women's Golf – Ashley Watts, 3.81, Mass Communications.

Men's Basketball – Elijah Parks, 3.37, Health and Sports Science.



Graphic by Samantha Friday

COVID-19 pushes NCAA fall sports back to spring.

News

A HELPING HAND

Amid pandemic, Campus Cabinet here to help students, faculty in need

By JARA REEDER
Photo Editor

Northwestern's Campus Cabinet can provide some assistance to students who have been affected by the coronavirus.

The Campus Cabinet started two years ago. Since then, it has continued to grow.

It's not just a food pantry with canned food items. It has school supplies, toiletry items, and even pillows and blankets.

Not only is the Campus Cabinet a way to help students, but it is also a way for Northwestern students to help people around them, Angelia Case, the director of the Campus Cabinet, said.

To help keep the Campus Cabinet fully stocked with supplies, dorm residents, campus clubs, faculty, and staff should continue to have food drives and give back to the NWOSU family, Case said.

"Having volunteers come and work with us, I think it sets the student up for greatness later in life," Case said. "When you see a need, act on it. Knowing that you've helped somebody gives you the feeling that you're doing the right thing."

Some Northwestern students



Photos by Jara Reeder

ABOVE: Angelia Case sorts through food items in the food pantry on Friday. AT RIGHT: Cans of food and other items are shown.

say the Campus Cabinet plays an important role on campus.

"The Campus Cabinet is a great organization for the college and a way to bring this community together," Brian Gonzalez, a junior, said.

"I think this will help a lot of students in these struggling times to not have to worry about one less thing," Kaleb Bethel, a senior, said.

The food pantry is in Room

108 in Shockley Hall. It is open on Wednesdays from 5 – 7 p.m. Students who need assistance must submit a request form online by visiting <http://www.nwosu.edu/campus-cabinet>. Students can find more information about the Campus Cabinet on Facebook by visiting the organization's Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/campuscabinetnwosu>, and by visiting its Twitter page, @CampusCabinetNW.



'I hope people think about their neighbors'

Alva community member and an NWOSU student discuss their pandemic experiences

By NICK DILL
Student Reporter

The coronavirus pandemic has affected Northwestern students and community members in Alva.

As of press time Wednesday, Woods County had a total of 24 confirmed cases of the coronavirus, data from the Oklahoma State Health Department shows. Twenty-two of the county's COVID-19 patients have recovered from the virus, leaving two active cases.

The City of Alva has 18 confirmed cases of the virus, though none of them are active, the department reported. No one in the county has died of COVID-19.

Savannah Francis, a sophomore political science major at Northwestern, tested positive in her hometown of Tahlequah in late July and experienced what it felt like to have the coronavirus.

Francis said she felt bad the whole time before and after she tested positive.

"I just stayed home and tried to drink as much water as I could," Francis said. "I basically laid around for two weeks."

She said that she followed all of the safety procedures and stayed in quarantine, but still tested positive. She does not know how she was infected, but she said that her hometown has a rising number of cases.

She said the virus didn't affect her life too much because she was home for the

summer. She said she had been in quarantine all summer because her dad is immunocompromised.

"The whole summer, we stayed in because my dad has diabetes, and he has health issues," Francis said. "We were trying to keep him safe, but he actually ended up testing positive, too."

Francis said she views the virus more seriously after experiencing what it can do to a person's body. She also wants people to know that it affects people differently.

"My dad had to be hospitalized and got pneumonia," Francis said. "They did all the treatments like the antibody plasma. It's a good thing he didn't get sick towards the beginning because they wouldn't have had all those treatments for him. He's doing a lot better now."

The virus has had an effect on community members as well. Bryce Galbraith, a new doctor at Share Medical Center, and his wife, Syre Galbraith, both tested positive for the virus.

They both caught the virus because Bryce was working on the front lines in Denver, Colorado, and they think they got it from one of his patients.

Syre Galbraith found out she tested positive the second week of March while she was in Colorado.

She said she was able to recover quickly and only felt sick for about two days.

"I started feeling ill on a Tuesday morning, and by Wednesday night, my fever was gone," Syre Galbraith said. "I was just severely fatigued, and it was to the point where walking up the stairs made me take a seat. I had to take a breather for a second because it was so much work. By midday

Thursday, I was feeling great."

Quarantine was tough for them because they were living with Bryce's 83-year-old grandmother. Bryce was also in residency and working in an intensive care unit with COVID-19 patients.

"We tried to quarantine anyway because we never knew if Bryce was going to bring anything home, and we were still going to be around him," Syre Galbraith said.

She said that coping with the virus wasn't too bad. She said that her whole family quarantined together and played a lot of board games. She also said she was relieved that they figured out early on that they tested positive.

"It was kind of a relief that we got our positives early on in the process because we were worried if Bryce was going to get us sick or not," Syre Galbraith said.

Bryce's grandmother did become ill, though.

"She spent three days in the hospital," Syre Galbraith said. "She finally did come home, and we quarantined ourselves for two weeks."

Syre Galbraith said she views the virus differently after seeing what it did to Bryce's grandmother.

"The same thing that passed through me in two days sent her to the hospital," she said. "I think it's one of those things that, unless people experience it and had it be severe, then they wouldn't view it seriously. If I had just experienced what I experienced and not seen his grandmother be so severe, I would probably have a different opinion of it."

"I hope people think about their neighbors that are older adults."

BY THE NUMBERS: COVID-19

- Oklahoma had more than 50,000 confirmed cases of the coronavirus as of press time Wednesday.
- In Woods County, state officials report 24 confirmed cases of the virus.
- Eighteen of those cases are in Alva, though all COVID-19 patients in Alva have recovered, officials said.
- No one in Woods County has died from the virus, officials said.
- The United States has more than five million cases of the virus.
- Across the U.S., almost two million people have recovered.

Rangers attend club fair



Photos by Jara Reeder

Student Chris Chauncey talks to other students at the NWOSU Theatre booth at the club fair on Tuesday.



Student Erika Hernandez talks to Alfredo Medina about the food nights the Spanish Club hosts.



Dawson Maxwell and Ethan Sackett speak at the SGA booth.

