

WE NEED TO TOK

Northwestern students use TikTok, though they have mixed opinions about how safe the popular video platform really is. PAGE 3



HARD TO NET

Student Government Association members hosted a volleyball tournament Sept. 17. See photos of the event here. PAGE 7



NORTHWESTERN NEWS

PRSR. STD.
Permit # 5
Alva, OK 73717

Change Service Requested

Volume No. 82, Issue 5

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, 709 Oklahoma Blvd, Alva, OK 73717

September 24, 2020

Visit us online at northwesternnews.rangerpulse.com

Follow us on:

CONQUERING COVID



Photos by Jordan Green

Above: Yosbelli Lora poses for a portrait on the Northwestern campus Sept. 17. Below: In this portrait, Lora smells a flower in a garden after being released from weeks of quarantine.

Lora overcame virus thanks to friends, humor and prayer

By SEAN DOHERTY
Student Reporter

Yosbelli Lora never expected to catch the coronavirus.

Because of her responsibilities as a resident assistant, Student

Government Association officer and student-athlete on Northwestern's track and field team, Lora, a senior psychology major from Ringwood, Oklahoma, arrived a week before the fall semester started.

Despite battling some health

issues in the summer, Lora hoped she could join track and field practice soon.

"I was dealing with the heart thing kind of going on," Lora said. "I'd wake up at three or five in the morning with my heart rate

See LORA, Page 2



While essential, masks make learning more difficult, faculty say

By LOGAN MERIWETHER
Student Reporter

Masks are essential to keep you safe from COVID-19, officials say, but are they hindering students' abilities to learn?

Dr. Dena Walker, a math professor at Northwestern, said she takes the safety of her students seriously. Walker makes sure

that her students have their masks on properly every day. She also believes masks can diminish the ability for some of her students to learn.

Walker enjoys getting to know her students, but having masks on has made getting to know them difficult, she said. She can usually read students' facial expressions when they don't understand something – especially when it comes to a shy

student who doesn't like to talk during class.

Having masks on makes a lot of her students not want to ask questions even when they don't understand what she is teaching, she said. When teaching, her voice is muffled because of her mask, so students in the back of the room may have difficulty hearing what she is saying, she said.

Walker has to provide notes that are

more detailed when she writes on the board in the front of the class, a process that takes up more class time, she said.

Walker also drinks several cups of water every day. With her mask on, she noticed that she was only drinking one cup per day. When it is hot outside, Walker said she struggles because she has had less water. As a result, she has experienced headaches.

See MASKS, Page 3

NEWS

Page 2 & 3

EDITORIAL

Pages 4 & 5

PHOTOS

Pages 6 & 7

FEATURE

Page 9

SPORTS

Page 10

News

LORA: 'I think humor is kind of what got me through all of this'

Continued from Page 1

above 140. It was awful. It was a sick feeling. Then when I came up for my RA training, I was dealing with that as well. And I was like, 'I can't even sit still, like I can't get it together with my heart rate.' It wasn't necessarily anything too crazy, but it was an awful feeling. I dealt with that in June, July and came up into August. I lost 20 pounds. It was a rough ride."

Lora had set up an appointment with an electrophysiologist for Aug. 25, the second Tuesday of the semester.

"I kind of was just waiting on that EP appointment on the 25th of August," she said. "I was like, 'I really just hope it's not a heart condition that affects me in any shape, way, or form, because I really wanted to compete this year.'"

By the end of the first week of the semester, it seemed things were looking up for Lora.

"The Saturday after we started, I noticed that my heart rate was kind of going back to normal," Lora said. "It was in the low hundreds throughout the night, and then Sunday, I noticed that my heart rate was in the nineties. I wasn't waking up at four or five in the morning again with that 160 heart rate. I was like, 'Well, that's weird.' I felt significantly better. It was strange. I thought it was like, God's work or something."

'THIS IS SO WEIRD'

Lora woke up Aug. 24 feeling better, she said. Her heart rate was good. As she prepared to leave her room, she put on some lotion.

"I put some lotion on, and I was like, 'Oh, my lotion smells really good.' And I reached up for my fragrance — one of my favorites, Chanel. I reached up, and I sprayed some on my shirt, and I caught a whiff of it, and out of nowhere, within seconds, I lost my sense of smell — like, couldn't smell anymore. And I was like, 'Well, that's weird. Maybe it's my nasal spray for my allergies that I just started.' I went in for my lotion because I was like, I smelled it five seconds ago. I put it up to my nose, and I couldn't smell it.

"And I was like, 'This is so weird. Like, maybe it is my allergy medicine.' I reached up for some rubbing alcohol on my shelf, and I was like, 'I know this is strong,' and I was like, 'I'm going to take a smell of it or take a whiff of it, see if I can smell it because I know, like, it's a strong scent.'

"I opened it and I pulled it up to my nose, and I could not smell it. It tickled my nose, but like, the sense of smell was just gone. And I was like, 'There's no way. I just had breakfast 10 minutes ago. I could taste the strawberries in my cereal.'

"So I reached for my fruit bowl, and I grabbed an orange, and I was like, 'I'm going to taste this or I'm going to eat this orange. I'm going to taste it, and I'm going to go to class.' And I ate the orange, and it tasted so bitter. I could taste the



Photo by Jordan Green

Yosbelli Lora poses for a portrait Sept. 17 on Northwestern's campus after being released from quarantine.



Photo provided

Lora added a tally mark on her wall for each day she spent in quarantine. She took a test for the virus Aug. 24.

texture of it — like, I knew it was an orange, but I couldn't get it together. And I was like, 'Maybe this orange is defective.' I was kind of in denial.

"I was like, 'There's absolutely no way. I've washed my hands religiously, I've worn my mask. I've done, like, literally everything to, like, make sure I don't catch the virus.' And I went in for the other orange, and I could not taste that one."

THE WAITING GAME

She went and got tested for COVID-19 at Share Medical Center that day. Then the wait began.

"I got back to my dorm," she said. "I was like, 'OK, I can't go anywhere. I'm just going to eat, have some Ramen Noodles.' And I couldn't taste it. So then I kind of started, not necessarily panick-

ing, but pacing back and forth. I was like, 'This cannot be happening to me. Like, it's Yosbelli. This is not happening to me right now.' I don't think that I'm indestructible or anything, but it's just like, it's just me. I mean, what are the odds?"

Lora decided to sleep on it — or at least try.

"As soon as I closed my eyes," she said, "a phone call from Share Medical came."

Lora tested positive and received instructions to isolate for 14 days.

"My stomach didn't drop, my stomach got an Uber," Lora joked. "My stomach was gone. And I kind of just sat there in shock."

Lora, who is also asthmatic, was frightened not only for herself, but for her family as well. Her mother and 13-year-old brother are both immunocompromised.

"I was like, 'Oh, my God, I have asthma,'" she said. "There's a possibility there's something wrong with my heart, and I have a virus that could potentially kill me." Lora said she had been in contact with her mother and five-year-old brother the previous day.

"A million thoughts went through my mind," she said. "What if I gave it to her? How is she going to respond? How is my family going to respond to this? Are they going to ... hate me? Do they? Are they still going to love me?"

Lora called her parents, who were both very supportive, she said. She then contacted her head resident, director of housing Matt Adair, and SGA adviser Olivia Yandel. Lora had attended an SGA event with Yandel and the other SGA officers the previous Friday. She then received a phone call

from Dean of Student Affairs Caleb Mosburg.

"I received, like, 50 different phone calls right after that," she said.

ISOLATION

Then began the process of moving into the isolation dorm rooms on campus. But around 7 p.m., Lora started experiencing shortness of breath and was taken by ambulance to Share Medical Center.

She was brought in through a different door and kept in a special isolation room, disconnected from the hospital's main ventilation system.

"When I got there, I was trying to play it cool," Lora said. "They started asking me, like, a million questions about my symptoms, and how I was feeling right now and whatnot. I was trying to play it cool like I said, flecked with humor a lot. I think humor is kind of what got me through all of this, but deep down, I was scared out of my mind."

Within 20 minutes of being in the hospital, Lora got her first taste of what the next three weeks would hold.

"All these other symptoms just kind of hit me out of nowhere," she said. "It was not only the taste, smell, and shortness of breath, but my throat. I started losing my voice. My sinuses sort of swelled up. I could feel them, like it was like balloons in my face, like in my cheek. It was just an unpleasant feeling out of nowhere. My chest and my back in one spot — especially my back — I felt like there was a knife, like someone had just knifed my chest. It radiated through the other side of my back, and whenever I moved, it would be like a wound. My ear started hurting. I was literally fine, like, an hour ago. If it got this bad this quickly in, like, two hours, how bad how is it going to get through the next two weeks?"

Lora finished up phone calls to her coaches and friends in the hospital, where she stayed for two nights. She was able to have a Telehealth conference with her EP specialist on Aug. 25, who assured her that her condition would not affect her recovery. She returned to campus to quarantine on Aug. 26.

STAYING CONNECTED

Lora started accepting "window visitors" after she settled into her isolation room.

"Every time I had a window visitor, I'd have to play it cool, too," Lora said. "I have an image to maintain. I don't want people freaking out and worrying. But, after I close the blinds, it was like a whole different deal. It was like, 'OK, it's back to normal now.'"

Lora felt as if her health problems this summer somewhat prepared her for isolation.

"Since I was home for five months, I didn't really go out as

See LORA, Page 11

News

CAN WE TOK?

‘Like the stillness of a lizard in danger’: Students call app captivating

By **NICK DILL**
Student Reporter

TikTok is a trending app that many Northwestern students say they are using to entertain themselves and portray their bright personalities. TikTok is an app where users can create and share quick videos about any topic.

Kenlee Netherton, a senior psychology major, says she is a huge fan of TikTok. She loves watching and making videos. Netherton believes TikTok is different from other apps.

“TikTok brings opportunity for artists to express their work and reach a broader audience than many other social media platforms,” Netherton said.

Netherton said she can express her true self on TikTok.

“I’ve always loved to dance, and I’m a huge goofball,” Netherton said. “I use TikTok for humor purposes and to express the ‘goofball’ inside of me.”

She said she uses the app for joy, but she does believe there is some negative content on TikTok.

“I find humor in many of the artists’ work,” Netherton said. “I do think there is a bad side of TikTok, where it may express sexuality and giving young children the viewing opportunity that may be too vulgar and extreme for their eyes.”

Yosbelli Lora, a senior psychology major, uses TikTok as if it is her daily newspaper.

“TikTok truly paralyzes me,” Lora said. “I’ll watch it for 45 minutes in whatever position I was in when I opened it – like the stillness of a lizard in danger. I’m always on it. I’ll be there scrolling away on recipes on how to make a triple-layer pull-apart cheesy bread when I can microwave a pop tart. It’s a great self-esteem booster.”

TikTok is popular because of how entertaining it is, Lora said.

“It’s quite entertaining,” Lora said. “You can pick and choose what kind of content you want. It doesn’t always have to be hu-



Photo illustration by Jara Reeder

Northwestern student Anderson Ramirez uses TikTok on his phone in this photo illustration created Monday. Students say they use the app to express themselves and find entertainment from across the globe.

“TikTok as a whole, I believe, is a good concept for artists to express themselves.”
— Kenlee Netherton

mor. It can be educational as well. I’ve learned a few things here and there and have applied it to my college life. One thing about me is that I’ll be the most awkward person ever, so people feel comfortable being themselves around me. TikTok is the place to do so. Plus, I love entertaining people. It’s fun for me to watch people smile, which is why I make cheesy content.”

Lora agrees with Netherton that TikTok is different from other social media apps.

“I want to say TikTok is sort of like the new Vine. It’s all videos,” Lora said. “With other social media apps, it’s always pictures or posts – nothing wrong with that, but on TikTok, there’s always something interesting on the next scroll. I feel like TikTok ties in all social media. If there’s a trend I don’t understand, I go over to TikTok and scroll to find out.”

Erika Hernandez, a junior business administration major, loves to show her dance moves and share her recipes on TikTok.

“I make TikToks to have fun with my friends and show everyone else my horrible dance moves,” Hernandez said. “I express myself on TikTok by sharing some fun and easy recipes I love.”

“TikTok as a whole, I believe, is a good concept for artists to express themselves and for joy to be shown across the screen,” Netherton said.

“We aren’t having any health issues with people coming in and wearing a mask properly.”
— Olivia Yandel

dents and patrons have to wear masks.

Patrons must wear a mask to enter the wellness center, which students and community members use.

A number of community members are having a hard time following the university’s mask order, and workers in the wellness center are constantly having to remind them to put masks and wear

Continued from Page 1
Walker has resorted to wearing a face shield when she can be six feet apart from students or other teachers. She drinks more water and is able to breathe more freely, all while staying safe, she said.

Olivia Yandel, the assistant director of the J.R. Holder Wellness Center, said she has had more difficulties in her classrooms and in the wellness center because stu-

What’s up?

NWOSU SGA, ART SOCIETY TO HOST BOB ROSS NIGHT

The NWOSU Student Government Association and the NWOSU Art Society will host an outdoor painting activity Sept. 24.

“Bob Ross Night” will take place on the university’s tennis courts at 6:30 p.m.

The organizations will provide all painting supplies for the event.

Organizers say they encourage patrons to wear old, worn-out clothing “that you don’t mind getting paint on,” officials said in a poster announcing the event.

They say the event will help relieve stress.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS RETURN

Students interested in playing intramural sports may sign up to play on a team by Sept. 27, Student Government Co-Adviser Olivia Yandel said Monday.

Students can sign up to play on the university’s intramural cornhole team, sand volleyball team, and kickball team.

Students may sign-up online by visiting <https://www.imleagues.com/spa/intramural/>.

For additional information, contact Andrew Santalangelo via phone by calling 215-316-1686.

Got news?
Send your stories and information to nwnews@nwosu.edu.

COVID ON CAMPUS

Northwestern reports 10 COVID-19 cases

By **JORDAN GREEN**
News Editor

Northwestern Oklahoma State University has 10 active cases of the coronavirus, university officials said Sept. 18.

One university employee has tested positive for the virus. The other nine cases are student cases.

The total number of positive COVID-19 cases among Northwestern students and employees includes cases at all of the university’s campuses in Alva, Enid, and Woodward.

Officials did not identify the people who tested positive for the virus.

Officials first reported on Aug. 28 the number of students

who have COVID-19. At the time, six students had tested positive for it.

University officials will report the number of active COVID-19 cases each Friday on the university’s website.

To see the number of cases on all campuses, visit <https://www.nwosu.edu/coronavirus/active-covid-19-cases-nwosu>.

As of press time Wednesday, the City of Alva had 84 cases of the virus, an increase of 57 since Sept. 17. Twenty-seven of the people who tested positive for the virus have recovered, leaving 57 active cases in the city.

No one in the city has died from the virus, officials said.

Woods County had 96 positive COVID-19 cases as of press time.

them properly, Yandel said.

Yandel and Richard Burdick, the director of the wellness center, have had to make calls to individuals that have memberships at the wellness center, explaining to them that they must wear masks or they can no longer workout.

Yandel said it is frustrating when student workers have to tell adults to put their masks on and wear them properly.

“For the most part, we aren’t having any health issues with people coming in and wearing a mask properly through their whole workout,” Yandel said.

In the classroom, it’s hard to get a “read” on students, Yandel said. Not a lot of them talked or asked questions even before wearing masks, so it is harder now to gauge facial expressions, Yandel said.

MASKS: Wellness center workers ask students, adults to wear masks

NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Official Newspaper

Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Published weekly throughout the school year except during examination periods and holidays and distributed to students and staff.

Fall 2020 Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Michelle Willson

News Editor
Jordan Green

Editorial Editor
McKayla Holson

Sports Editor
Ashley Watts

Assistant Editor
Kevin Ford

Photo Editor
Jara Reeder

Photographer
David Thornton

Advertising Manager
Jayden Dillon

Circulation Manager
Dacoda McDowell-
Wahpekeche

Online Manager
Carson Polk

Adviser
Dr. Kaylene Armstrong

News office: Jesse Dunn Annex 232
Telephone: 327-8479; Fax: 327-8127
E-mail: nwnews@nwsu.edu
The News is printed by the Alva Review-Courier

The opinions and comments contained in the Northwestern News are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the policies or beliefs of the university administration, Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges or the editorial staff. The News gladly accepts submissions but does not promise they will be used.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

This institution, in compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, and other applicable federal laws and regulations, and to the extent required by law, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, genetic information, physical or mental disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services.

Inquiries concerning the application of these programs should be made to Caleb Mosburg, Director of Student Affairs, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, 709 Oklahoma Boulevard, Alva, OK 73717, (580) 327-8415.

This publication, printed by Northwestern Oklahoma State University, is issued by the University as authorized by the Regional University System of Oklahoma. 1,600 copies have been prepared and distributed at a cost to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma of \$368.00.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 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@nwsu.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 \$20.

Editorial



Photo Provided

Vests, backpacks, helmets and weapons that Shannon Nesseralla and her fellow trainees carried on the The Forge. It all weighed about 35 pounds.

Marching on

By SHANNON NESSERALLA
Student Reporter

Eight months ago I left to begin my journey that only 1% of the U.S. population decides to do.

In July of 2019, I enlisted into the Oklahoma Army National Guard. In January, I left to attend basic combat training. Before leaving, I knew it wasn't going to be an easy 10 weeks.

The days consisted of long hours with physically demanding tasks and constantly being pushed to our mental limit. The "break you down to build you back up" process was no joke. I didn't go a day without my drill sergeants yelling at my platoon for something. I couldn't tell you the amount of times we got yelled at for lack of motivation.

One of the most challenging training exercises we did was our very last task, the last thing we had to complete before officially being recognized as soldiers instead of trainees. This training exercise is known as The Forge. It was our third and final ruck march. Ruck marches are simply walking from one point to the next, but what makes it challenging is all the weight being carried on your back and the path consisting of lots of hills, sand and uneven surfaces.

The Forge was four nights and five days of pure exhaustion. The first night we stepped off at 9 p.m. and walked for 12 miles with 35 pounds on our backs. At around 2 a.m. we finally arrived where we were staying for the night. After arriving, we still had to stay up and set up our sleeping system to prepare for the night's sleep on the ground.

The following day consisted of some smaller training that led up to the big event that was happening that night. That night everyone completed the Nick At Nite exercise. This exercise was a low crawl in the sand for the length of a football field with our weapon, weighted vest and helmet on as the drill sergeants shot live rounds above us. The last thing for that night was another 4 mile ruck to a different sleeping location. This was one of the most miserable training days during all of basic.

The Forge consisted of two more days with countless other exercises and eight more miles of rucking. The final night we walked to a field and we had to sleep on the ground with nothing but a wool hat and one extra shirt to try and stay warm in the cold, March night. At 6 a.m. the following morning, we participated in the Soldier Ceremony where we dawned our berets and could officially call ourselves soldiers.

Even though basic training had some of the worst days I've ever went through, the end result was worth it all. I would definitely encourage anyone thinking about joining to go for it.

Interested in writing?

Share your opinions!

Contact McKayla Holson

mrholson30@rangers.nwsu.edu

Have a poem you would like to share? An opinion in need of expressing? A topic you find interesting and think more people should know about? Send it in!

If you would like your work to be shown in the pages of the Northwestern newspaper, don't be afraid to send it in. We'd love to hear what you have to say!

If you would like your work to be shown, email me at mrholson30@rangers.nwsu.edu or the newspaper at nwnews@nwsu.edu.

EDITOR'S RANT OF THE WEEK

By MICHELLE WILLSON
Editor-in-Chief

So lately I have been obsessed with this game called Among Us. Like, playing it nonstop. But one thing that the game shows pristinely is how gullible people are and how strong my mentality really works.

So I've always believed in mob mentality. Being a people pleaser myself, I tend to go with what other people are going with. But in this game, someone will say "it's yellow" and then without question most of the time everyone will vote for yellow. They don't need proof or any sort of evidence they just agree.

I feel like the form of mob mentality spans from wanting to blend in. If you go against the flow, people automatically assume you're suspicious. Why are we so brainwashed that different points of view scare us? Shouldn't people be rewarded for standing up for others? I feel like that is something to think about.

"Why are we so brainwashed that different points of view scare us?"

If someone does ask for evidence, the person who made the original claim normally just says "yellows is acting sus" or "if it's not yellow, vote me" and everyone else just votes yellow.

Once you've played the game, you start to notice the little tricks people pull to get people on their sides. "I am new here, how do I vent like pink." Fully knowing that only imposters can band so they were accusing people without accusing them so then they can play dumb if it's not pink.

It's also kind of scary how well people can lie. This is me kind of calling myself out. I prefer to be the imposter I've got it almost down to a science. Kill, vent, sabotage on the other side of the map so everyone runs that way and you have more time to get away.

It's also cool to see the trust that's formed. When someone realizes that you're not the imposter and they stick by your side so you always have an alibi and someone watching your back.

I wrote a review on Among Us this week because I really do like it (look at page 9 for the review), but it's crazy how such a small game can make you realize how messed up the world is. I feel like Among Us directly relates to our current reality.

Players have to be careful to report a dead body in the game because almost immediately someone will say "self report?" And try to get the reporter voted off.

Now, I'm sure it's not just me who finds a direct correlation to people coming out with their stories and immediately blamed for something that happened. "Well, what were you wearing?" "Did you fight back hard enough?" which are disgusting to even think about. Your first thought should be that you will find out who did it and get them the repercussions they deserve, not victim blaming.

Editorial



Photo Provided

The two-lane Bridgeport Bridge on Historic Route 66 is set to be repaired thanks to a federal BUILD Grant.

Burning bridges? No, repairing them

The Bridgeport Bridge, a two-lane bridge on Historic Route 66 near the town of Bridgeport in Caddo and Canadian counties, will be rehabilitated under the department's BUILD Grant program.

By **JORDAN GREEN**
News Editor

One of Oklahoma's most historic and famous bridges will be renovated thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The Bridgeport Bridge, a two-lane bridge on Historic Route 66 near the town of Bridgeport in Caddo and Canadian counties, will be rehabilitated under the department's BUILD Grant program. Officials use the program, named the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Grant Program, to repair transportation infrastructure across the United States.

The grant provides the Oklahoma Department of Transportation with \$22 million to repair the bridge, officials said.

The Bridgeport Bridge was featured in the 1940 film "The Grapes of Wrath," which tells the story of an Oklahoma family that heads west to California in search of work during the Great Depression. In the film, the Joad family drives across the bridge, and they bury a deceased relative near it.

The bridge is commonly referred to as the Pony Bridge because it was built using 38 steel "pony" trusses, which are trusses that do not connect at the top. The bridge's official name is the William H. Murray Bridge.

Members of Oklahoma's congressional delegation said they helped secure funding for the bridge. Sen. Jim Inhofe sent a letter requesting the funding to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao in May.

"I applaud the selection of the Bridgeport Bridge on US-281/Route 66 for a BUILD grant this year," Inhofe said. "The \$22 million in federal grant funds will ensure this historic, 86-year-old bridge is upgraded to meet mod-

ern day safety requirements. These improvements are urgently needed for motorist safety, freight mobility and regional economic growth, while also supporting the historic nature of the bridge and regional tourism. The Bridgeport Bridge project, which will preserve the iconic pony truss spans, will ensure Route 66 remains an important part of Oklahoma's surface transportation network. Oklahoma alone has the longest drivable stretch of Route 66—also known as Will Rogers Highway—and I am proud to support efforts to ensure this iconic route is taken care of well in to the future."

"The \$22 million in federal grant funds will ensure this historic, 86-year-old bridge is upgraded to meet modern day safety requirements."
— **Sen. Jim Inhofe**

"This administration is making significant investments in infrastructure, and this \$1 billion in BUILD grants will repair, rebuild, and revitalize transportation systems across America," Chao said.

"This grant is great news for Oklahoma drivers and Route 66 enthusiasts worldwide as we approach the centennial celebration of the Mother Road. We are so grateful to Senator Inhofe for his efforts in securing this BUILD grant and for his long-standing commitment and support for improving Oklahoma's infrastructure," Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Executive Director Tim Gatz said.

"This funding will allow us to make the needed improvements to keep our citizens, commerce and the economy moving safely and efficiently while also honoring the Bridgeport Bridge's history as one of the most iconic Route 66 structures in the nation."

"We welcome the news that the Route 66 Bridgeport Bridge project was selected for a BUILD grant," Route 66 Alliance Executive Director and CEO Ken Busby said. "The upgrades and repairs made possible with this \$22 million grant will ensure that Oklahoma's surface transportation network can continue to support economic growth, while at the same time appropriately preserving the bridge's historic and iconic structure. We are glad to have a leader like Sen. Inhofe on our side as we continue to keep Route 66 drivable for years to come."

"Almost as historic as the man it's nicknamed after, Route 66 is a critical part of Oklahoma's highway transportation system," Rep. Frank Lucas, R-Cheyenne, said. "The investment made by the U.S. Department of Transportation to help restore and upgrade Bridgeport Bridge is welcomed news for local traffic as well as freight haulers and Route 66 tourists. While ensuring the urgently needed safety improvements are made, the Bridgeport Bridge project will safeguard the historical elements of the bridge— including, the iconic pony truss spans and parts of the original Route 66 pavement. I thank my U.S. Senators for joining me in support of this project, and I look forward to generations of Oklahomans being able to make the safe trip across Oklahoma along this historic highway."

The BUILD Grant Program has provided a combined \$7.9 billion to 609 projects across the U.S. since 2009, officials said.

Lucky Me

It's the small town magic

People often take small towns for granted, or they don't even realize what they have right in front of them.

By **MCKAYLA HOLSON**
Editorial Editor

Too often, people take small towns for granted. Sometimes, they don't even realize the magical potential that small town has.

We always talk about the lack of opportunities in small towns, but we never talk about what the town does have to offer. We never soak up the magic, we never stop to smell the roses. We focus on what we want, not what we have.

All too often I hear students, or even people in town, say "there's nothing to do in this town, there's nowhere to go." But, there's actually a lot of places to go and plenty to do. And to the people who say there's never anything to eat, there's plenty of options in that department as well.

The activities you do don't have to be extravagant.

You can walk around town. Think that's boring? Well, Alva is rich in history and you can visit the murals and look around at all the beautiful, old architecture. While you're walking around, you could visit the Alva Public Library to borrow a book and then head down to Hatfield Park to sit and read or even just enjoy being outside.

Speaking of books, there's one place I always love walking by and always have to stop for a moment. On The Square, there's a little nook where you'll find this little stand in the shape of a house. It's full of books. There's a sign that says you can take a book and you can add a book for others to read. I just love to see what books are in there and they're always changing.

Alva also has tons of shops around The Square. You're sure to find something that piques your interest.

If you're a small town kid, you'll know this next one pretty well. Just drive around. Kansas is a short drive away, and there are four state parks nearby. You could visit Great Salt Plains and fish, hike, swim or even dig for salt crystals. If you're interested in seeing sand dunes, Little Sahara State Park is the place for you. You could hike the nature trail, walk up the observation tower or even rent a four-wheeler to take for a spin. Alabaster Caverns has a cave you can explore and you can see the bats. Finally, Boiling Springs has a pool, plenty of hiking trails and you can fish. If it's the weekend, you could even camp at any of these spots to get away from town for a bit.

If you're wanting to stay local,

Bradt's Menagerie is an absolute treasure. They have a petting zoo and you can even get a group of people together to play laser tag. If you watch their Facebook page, you can stay up-to-date with everything they do! They create a pretty awesome hay maze around Halloween time.

After all those activities, you must be hungry.

You can eat at The Bull, Chopsticks, 818 Diner, El Maya and several other places. You can even visit Alva's Market, they run lunch specials most days and you can look at their Facebook page to see what they're serving that day. The Bull and 818 Diner also post their lunch specials on their respective Facebook pages. Holder's is also a great place to get lunch. While you're there, definitely grab an ice cream. Holder's has some of the best ice cream I've ever had in my life and they're the home of the Jack and Jill.

Not in the mood for food? You're looking more for a snack? Stop by Rialto. I always get a large, mixed Icee with a blue bag of popcorn. It only comes out to \$5! Rialto also has other treats you can find at a movie theater. That's something else you can add to your "to-do" list. Go watch a movie at Rialto! Comfy seats, great sound and a fantastic environment make it a great place to watch new movies when they come out.

I just got to thinking about all this one day after I saw a couple of guys playing the guitar and singing songs from the roof of their truck in the Walmart parking lot. I mean, you don't really see that in bigger towns. I also had a friend tell me about how him and his friends brought some lawn chairs to the Walmart parking lot and just hung out one evening. I'm not sure you're actually allowed to do that, but I believe it's another small-town quirk.

I just wish people could see all that their town has to offer. It doesn't have to be a huge, bustling city for people to have a good time and for the doors to be opened to opportunities.

You've probably seen the bumper stickers around town that say, lucky me, I live in Alva." Well, lucky me, I live in a small town. I'm not saying big cities are bad, I'm just saying small towns are great.

Finally, I just want to say that I might not live in a small town forever, who knows where life will take me, but I'll always remember the magic of it all.

So soak up that small town magic. You'll miss it if it's gone.



IN-THE-AIR AFFAIR

SGA hosts volleyball tournament



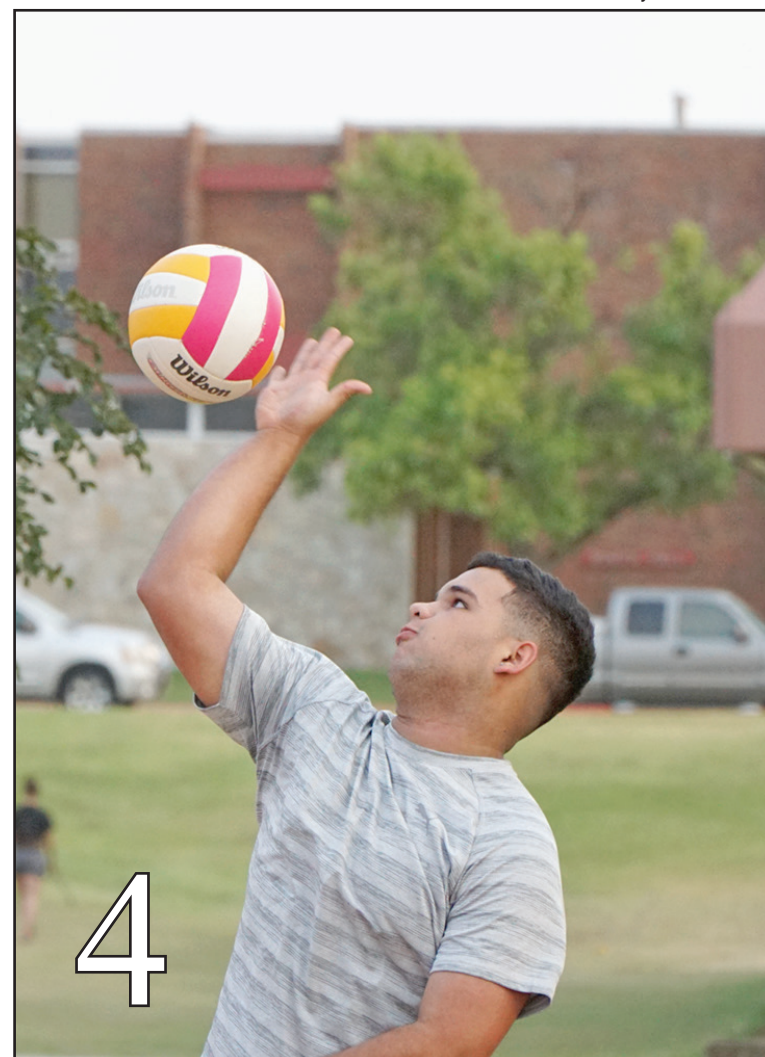
Photos by Jordan Green



The Student Government Association hosted a volleyball tournament at 5 p.m. Sept. 17 at the sand volleyball pit near Coronado Hall. Numerous teams competed in the event, with the Los Mosquitero team winning first place.



1. Teams pass a volleyball over the net shortly after the competition began.
2. Rayne Wherritt serves the volleyball for her team during the tournament.
3. Briley Yunker serves the volleyball for her



team during the tournament.
4. Juan Ginel serves the volleyball for her team during the tournament.

ON THE FRONT PAGE: Shakira Lane serves the ball for her team.
For more information about future Student Government Association events, find the organization's Facebook page — NWOSU SGA — or follow the organization on Twitter using the handle @nwosusga.



Photos by Jara Reeder



The Student Government Association hosted a dodgeball tournament Monday on the university's tennis courts. Numerous teams competed in the event.

1. Students start off the first round of the dodgeball tournament Monday evening.

2. This player was the last one standing for his team.

3. Players toss a dodgeball at the tournament Monday.

4. Members of the women's basketball team wore matching outfits at the dodgeball tournament.

5. Levi Locke prepares to throw a dodgeball.

For more information about future Student Government Association events, find the organization's Facebook page — NWOSU SGA — or follow the organization on Twitter using the handle @nwosusga.



Feature

MEET IN THE MIDDLE

New club on campus aims to foster civil, informative political debate

By SEAN DOHERTY
Student Reporter

If you haven't noticed, it's an election year.

The 2020 election has seen a rising tide of young Americans getting involved in politics. According to the Pew Research Center, Generation Z will make up one in 10 eligible voters this November.

"I think it's very important to understand what is going on and how governing our country works," said Zachary Hutson, a junior political science major from Ponca City, Oklahoma.

Hutson is the founder and president of the Collegiate Independents club at Northwestern. He graduated with an associate's degree in criminal justice from Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa before transferring to NWOSU this semester.

Hutson said he hopes the club will help people find a "middle ground" in political discussions by providing a safe haven for discussion between members of the two main political parties. He also hopes the club will provide an informative segue into politics for students.

"When I say it's a political club, that instantly turns a lot of people off because a lot of people aren't into politics and don't understand politics," Hutson said. "But I think it's very important to understand what is going on and how governing our country works. It's important to know that stuff."

"A lot of people will say it doesn't affect them, but it does. Just like our stimulus checks that came in — there's a prime example, right? And the coronavirus, there's one, and how our government reacted to this and how we could change that going forward," Hutson continued. "We can talk about it all day and night, but that is the club. For people who aren't necessarily into it or don't understand what's going on, they can come to my club, and we kind of just sit and talk about political topics."

The No. 1 rule of Collegiate Independents is simple: no hostility.

"I promote no hostility, no hatred towards one party or towards the other," Hutson said. "I'm very middle ground, and I am Independent myself, so I can go both ways. I can talk with this guy on the right and that guy on the left just as easily as I can with anybody else."

Hutson is serious about his rule.

"If there's any name-calling, any profanity, any physicality, even if I think that you're being petty towards one another —

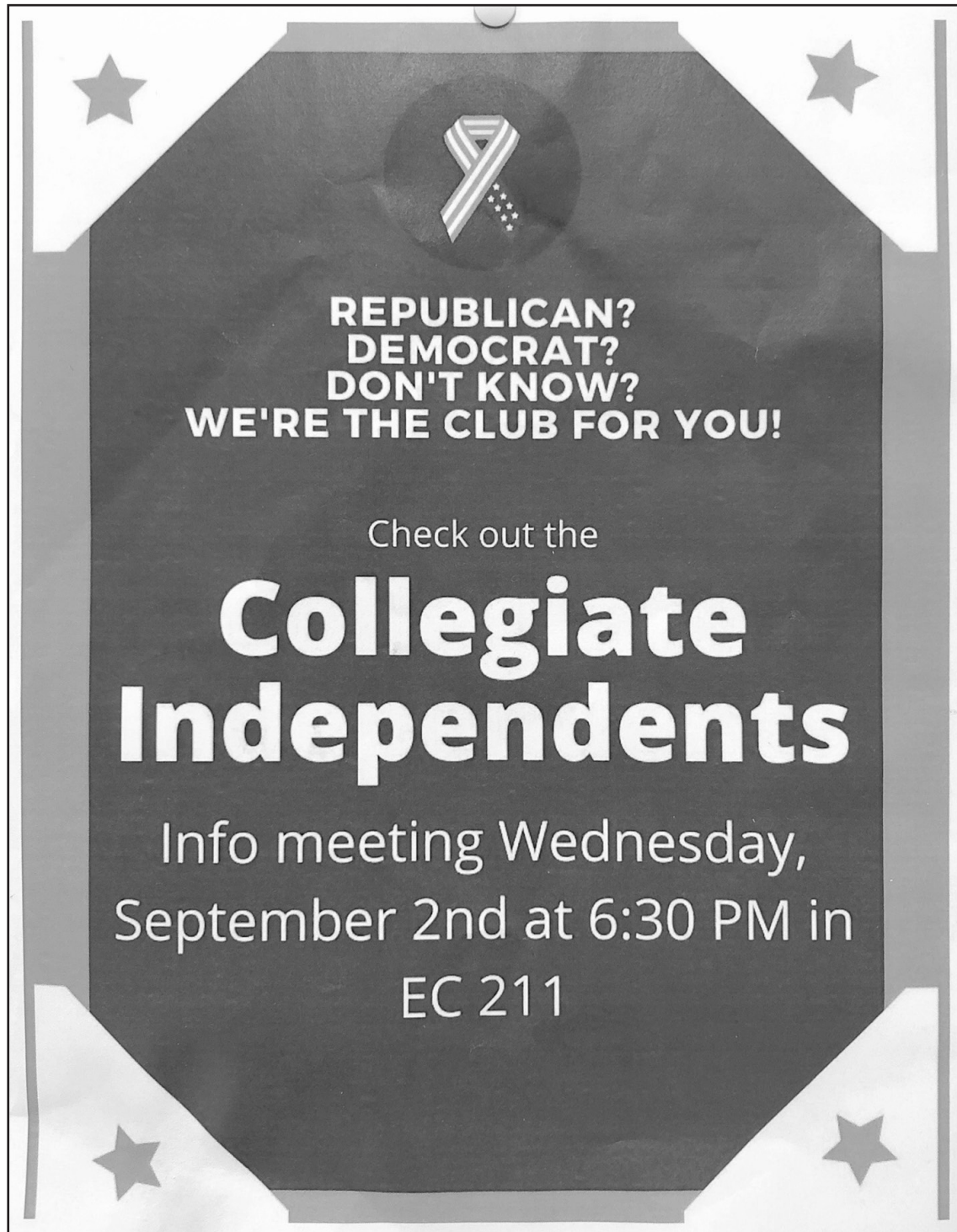


Photo by Jordan Green

Organizers of the Collegiate Independents club used flyers like the one shown to advertise their new club.

whether it be in the club or talking about somebody outside of the club — you're out, you're gone and you're not coming back." Hutson said. "We all know politics can get pretty heavy and can get real heated sometimes. That's exactly what I'm trying to stop because we could have a civilized conversation about anything."

"There's lot of gray everywhere. The polarization of this country is becoming overwhelming," Hutson said. "You say, 'I'm a Democrat,' and people will be like, 'Oh my gosh, so you must believe in abortion, and you must believe in a huge government,' and if you say, 'Well, I'm a Republican,' and people say, 'Oh, well, you must believe in small government and you want taxes for this but not that,' you know. And the list goes on and on."

The club meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the university's education center, Room 211. This week, Hutson invited Kelly Parker, the mayor of Alva, to speak about the importance of voting.

"I don't care who you vote for, I don't care who you like, but it's going to be one of the biggest elections ever. The direction we go after, it's either one way or the other, and it's only getting worse. It starts with people like me that can say, 'Hey, guys, we've got to find common ground.'"

— Zach Hutson

A main goal of Collegiate Independents is to get college students to the polls.

"I'm going to see if I can get some voter registration booths set

up here on campus and get these freshmen signed up to vote," Hutson said. "They sure vocalize their opinions, but when it comes to voting, they're nowhere to be found."

Looking beyond the election, Hutson hopes Collegiate Independents will remain a permanent and active club on campus.

"There's two political clubs in effect right now, College Republicans and College Democrats, and neither of them are active," Hutson said. "This will sound boastful, but when you have a proactive member like me, someone that can go out and get things done — I think I got something really good going here, and something that can be around for a while."

Hutson enjoys the workload and responsibility that comes with being the founder and president of the club.

He is also involved with Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature and recently became a senator in the university's Student Government Association.

"I love to be involved," Hut-

son said. "It's just in my nature. I do as much as I can, I stack as much on my plate as I can, because I feel like, if you're not doing that, then what are you doing? I came to college to better myself, and this is one of the small ways that I can. College is more [than] getting good grades and getting that piece of paper. It's building relationships, it's building friendships, it's building professional relationships, it's building character, it's building a sense of direction, and it's building your morals. It's changing and opening you up to a new ideology."

In his free time, Hutson runs a film review YouTube channel and podcast called Bad Film Critic.

"I got 22 subs, but I will tell you I've only had it for a month, so I think I'm doing pretty good," he said. "I've got 54 views on a video once, so for a month, I'm pretty proud of that. I told myself if I can get 50 subs within the year that I start, like 365 days from the day that I start, then I'm going to commit to it."

Hudson hasn't yet decided what he's doing to do after graduation. He's narrowed it down to three different routes: A) become a high school teacher and teach government while earning his master's degree online in his free time, and then becoming a professor at a college; B) go to law school or C) become a full-time true politician running for office.

"I've always kind of been in the politics, but I kind of just had my opinions," Hutson said. "I've got my opinions on abortion, gun control, all the big things that get people talking, and I've always realized that I'm pretty impartial, and I can kind of find middle ground. I can say, 'Well, I see where you're coming from, but I can also see where he or she's coming from.' I can kind of come to a very sensible approach to things, and I don't meet a lot of people like that. So I said, 'I have a great way to make a change,' and running for public office — that's why people do it."

Right now, Hutson is focused on getting his peers involved in the electoral process and building a bridge between the political right and left.

"I don't care who you vote for, I don't care who you like, but it's going to be one of the biggest elections ever," Hutson said. "The direction we go after, it's either one way or the other, and it's only getting worse. It starts with people like me that can say, 'Hey, guys, we've got to find common ground.'"

"I think it's super important to be in politics. ... They may not like it, but I think they got to know it. I hate doing math, but I got to know a little bit."

Feature

Rankin Reviews: 'After Hours' by The Weeknd

By **BAILEY RANKIN**
Special to the News

Hey guys... Has anyone checked on The Weeknd lately? I mean, I know he's a sad guy, but his album *After Hours* is next level sad.

Take the song *Faith*, which I find to be the saddest song on the album. He sings about losing his faith, but my question is, his faith in what?

I think he's lost faith in himself when he sings, "I've been sober for a year now, it's time for me to go back to my old ways... Thought I'd be a better man but I lied to me and to you."

Then, *Faith* is followed with the most well know song from this album, *Blinding Lights*, and it almost feels uncomfortable.

He just confessed to relapsing, but the fast pace and upbeat instrumental that comes next feels so displaced.

I see it almost as a cover up, like a huge smile you paste on your face after a mental breakdown.

And that's what I find somewhat concerning about this album, his "addictions," suicidal ideations and general unhappiness are on full display, yet the pain is completely covered up with booming baselines and catchy beats.

Then we play these songs on a fun night out with friends.

But maybe this album isn't so much about his sadness, but his disappointment in himself.

Song after song he sings about how he wants to be better for the woman that he loves, but inevitably he breaks the prom-

'After Hours'

ises he makes to her over and over again.

He even encourages her to leave or move on in *Scared To Live*, which opens with what I think are distorted organ chords, like what a bride would walk down the aisle to.

However, when The Weeknd isn't singing about his sadness he's sending out

warnings. *Too Late* says "we're in hell, it's disguised as a paradise with flashing lights." "This place is never what it seems, take me out LA... This place will be the end of me, take me out LA", comes from *Escape From LA*, and *Snowchild* highlights his unhappiness even after achieving a dream. And if that's the case, if he's accomplished his goals and is still disappointed, then what's the point? I suppose he could be warning not to prioritize fame and fortune over an actual passion.

I don't know if you can tell, but this album really got me in my feels, and unfortunately, I can't mindlessly listen to these songs since reading the lyrics.

Although the second half of the album doesn't hold up to the first half, in no way is this a poor album, it just gets a little repetitive at times.



Michelle Willson normally plays as the green character sporting a green fedora with the name "Glitch."

Be 'Among Us'

By **MICHELLE WILLSON**
Editor-In-Chief

If you haven't already downloaded the app "Among Us," you should. It's a murder mystery game where you do tasks while also trying to figure out who the impostor is. Did you play as these little humanoid color characters and you can put different hats, skins and outfits on.

They have three different maps You play in groups of 10 and you can have one to three impostors. The impostors can kill, sabotage, and move through the vents. The crew mates can do tasks, fix sabotages and basically they just try to figure out the impostors before they get killed.

If you do get killed you become a ghost and your only job is to finish the rest of your tasks. If the crew mates finish all of their tasks before the impostors kill enough people then the crewmates automatically win.

Basically you have to have more crew mates left than you have impostors. So if you have one impostor you have to have at least two crew mates and so on and so forth.

You can join different games. You can also chat with the other people playing and discuss who you think the impostors are. In most cases the imposters can lie really well.

Each group has a unique code that friends can put into join the same group you are in. Me and my suite mates play it together all the time.

I would recommend this game to anyone who's played *Mafia* in Ryerson Hall or *Jessie Dunn*. It's basically *Mafia* for your phone.



"Among Us" is a murder mystery game that was first put on the App Store in June 2018.

I was told to download the app by another student and I have been playing it nonstop ever since. I give this app 5 out of 5 stars because it may sound repetitive but it doesn't get boring. Though the object of the game is the same the people in the tasks are different. And you always get yourself into different situations.

For the poetry books

By **BAILEY RANKIN**
Special to the News

If you say you don't know who Hozier is, I bet you know at least one of his songs. Ever heard of *Take Me to Church*? You know, "Take me to church, I'll worship like a dog at the shrine of your lies, I'll tell you my sins and you can sharpen your knife." That's Hozier!

And although you may not have heard much more from him, he actually has two full studio albums. So, strap in Rankin Review Readers, because Hozier is one of my favorite artists. And you? You're my captive audience.

If you're looking for a few song suggestions, I've got those for you, but honestly, I recommend listening to the entire album. Hozier is chalk full of literary references, mentions of Hozier's own musical influences ("Jackie and Wilson"), and direct criticisms of society ("Take Me to Church," "To Be Alone" and "Se-dated").

Not only is he a gifted musician, but he shines as an amazing storyteller by using different points of view, like in "From Eden," when he sings as the snake who tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden. Or in "In a Week," as he

tells the story of two lovers lying in a field...but with a twist.

But Hozier's true gift is his songwriting skills. If his lyrics weren't set to music, they would be printed in a poetry book. And that's why he's one of my favorite artists! To understand Hozier and the message he is trying to deliver through his songs, you have to take the time to actively listen and actually think.

Hozier gives us incredibly loving songs with "Work Song" and the lyrics "when my time comes around lay me gently in the cold dark earth, no grave can hold my body down, I'll crawl home to her." He also delivers with the beautifully tragic "Cherry Wine" which illustrates the on goings of an abusive relationship with, "qualms of guilty thrown at me, all while she stains the sheets of some other, thrown at me so powerfully just like she throws with the arm of her brother," and reminds us that "blood is red and sweet as cherry wine."

Although not always the most upbeat lyricist, Hozier and his accompanying musicians created an amazing album sonically. The underlying organs and church choirs fill the songs out well and help highlight the ethereal harmonies that join in with Hozier's husky baritone.

ALVA VISION CLINIC

Large selection of sunglasses, safety frames, contact and pre- and post-OP Lasix

Mastercard, Visa, Discover, American Express and Care Credit accepted

MON. & THURS. 8A.M. - 5:30P.M.
TUES. & WED: 7:30A.M. - 5:30P.M.
CLOSED FROM 12P.M. - 1P.M.
CLOSED FRIDAYS
5:15PM APPT TIMES DAILY!
FOR AN APPOINTMENT CALL
(580)-327-2393

AFTER HOURS CALL
(580)-829-2026

ACCEPTED INSURANCE:
VSP, PVCS, VISION CARE DIRECT, MEDICARE, SOONERCARE, SUPERIOR, BCBS AND VETERAN'S CHOICE

"Complex contact RX are our specialty"

Dr. Troy L. Smith
504 College Ave

Sports

Running with restrictions

By DAVID THORNTON
Photographer

The biggest comment with the track and field and cross-country teams was “What are we doing next?” Jill Lancaster, head coach of the track and field and cross country teams, said.

Lancaster said she reminded her team that this delay does not change their goals on being the best athletes they can be. The training cycle will change. “We are a youthful team, and in all honesty, these training cycles will pay off for them,” she said.

Lancaster said when the news came around to everyone, “communication was excellent.” She appreciated how the GAC and the athletic department dealt with this issue quickly. “Looking out for our student athletes is superb. And our communication is excellent here at [Northwestern],” she said.



Photo by Jara Reeder

Coach Jill Lancaster and team social distance while at practice.

“You have a purpose,” she said to her team. Personal growth from her athletes is what she is mostly focused on during this time. “Seeing maturity and growth is important,” she said.

Every athlete knew what was possible, and when the season was delayed, it hurt the athletes, she said.

“It sucks, but it’s necessary,” said Alexa Leyva, a track runner and political science major. Leyva was disappointed by the news,

but understood the decision was made to keep students safe.

However, Leyva is happy to be on campus.

“I’d much rather be in class, too many distractions for me if it was online back home,” Leyva said.

Even with the delay, Leyva has high expectations for herself this season. “I do look forward to the season and the opportunities I have to be a better athlete. Especially in long jump,” Leyva said.



Photo by Ashley Watts

The women’s golf team practices around the greens in this photo.

GAC hosts virtual football games

#theGAC MADDEN '21			VIRTUAL SEASON STANDINGS		
	W	L		W	L
DREW WADE	1	0	LUCKY LISANGI	0	1
DENZEL DAVIS	1	0	CHRISTIAN MCGEE	0	1
TOMMY CRUMPTON	1	0	EASTON SEIDL	0	1
DEKENDRICK BENDER	1	0	KOLE POINDEXTER	0	1
ANTHONY DRUMGOOLE	1	0	WILLIE NASH	0	1
LOGAN ENGLE	1	0	JAMES LOVE	0	1

Photo via @GACathletics

With the cancellation of fall 2020 sports for the Great American Conference, the GAC has decided to host a virtual football tournament. Each school has one representative from its football team. This person will play a Madden football game against another person from another school in the GAC conference. This is the second week of playing, and the standings so far are listed above. There will be a total of 11 games played, and all 12 schools in the GAC are competing.



Photo by Jara Reeder

Bailey Brown shoots a basketball during a recent team practice.



Photo by Jara Reeder

Coach Tasha Diesselhorst leads the women’s basketball team members in dance before practice.



Photo by Jara Reeder

The volleyball team has to practice with masks on because of COVID-19 guidelines.

News

LORA: ‘This situation brought me closer to God, that’s for sure’

Continued from Page 2

much,” she said. “Now, granted, if you know me, I’m the most social butterfly you’ll ever meet. So, it was kind of hard not talking to people as much as I usually did.

“If I’m being honest with you, I kind of hit the depression stage with that whole heart thing. I could not go out and live my normal life like I could because I just had this heart thing going on. So when I got corona, I feel like I didn’t hit that depression stage anymore. I was just like, ‘I’ve had other worse things happen to me. Like, I think I’ll be fine.’”

HELPFUL FRIENDS

Lora said her friends brought her food every day. Taylor Wilson, the university counselor, “helped me a lot,” she said.

“She has seen me at my best, and most assuredly has seen me at my worst,” Lora said. “She did an amazing job listening to me and was very supportive during this difficult time. Now, granted, I haven’t told her everything about my life, but I know that I can, and that right there just shows how well she does her job. And I think we’re very fortunate as students to have her at the university.”

Lora said everyone at the university went out of their way to support her.

“I had coaches call me,” she said. “My professors called me from time to time, making sure I was fine. That’s what I like about Northwestern. My professors — they put a student’s well-being first rather than academic rigor.”

For Lora, humor ultimately



Photo by Jordan Green

Yosbelli Lora poses for a portrait Sept. 17 on Northwestern’s campus after coming out of quarantine. Lora tested positive for the virus Aug. 24.

turned out to be the best medicine.

“Humor is one of my biggest values,” Lora said. “It’s a big part of my life. I like being able to laugh at myself and with others. And I think that definitely helped. The memes ... got me through.”

She also started her TikTok career.

“The most productive thing I did was hit 10,000 likes on Tik-

Tok,” she said.

Lora’s symptoms got better and worse over the next three weeks. But her recovery was more than physical.

“It was a good time to get it together,” she said. “This situation brought me closer to God, that’s for sure.

“I asked God. ... ‘I need help. I need patience. I need strength. I need, like, a wake up call, like, I

need my family.’ I got that wake up call. Definitely not in the way I expected it, but it was a good time — spiritually, mentally and physically.”

On the last day of isolation, after she took her second COVID-19 test, she opened her Bible for guidance. It opened to Mark 5:34, the story of a sick woman who touched Jesus’s cloak and was healed.

“I looked at the red lettering, and that was the first thing I looked at when I opened my Bible,” Lora said.

“It said, ‘Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.’ Right after I got done reading that, I got a phone call from Share Medical saying that my test results came back negative and I was free to go.”

IN BRIEF

Oct. 9 serves as last voter registration day

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Oct. 9 is the last day to apply for voter registration to be able to vote in the Nov. 3 election, said Woods County Election Board Secretary Sandra Koehn on Monday.

Koehn said United States citizens who reside in Oklahoma and are at least 18 years old may apply to become registered voters.

Those who aren’t registered or need to change their registration may apply filling out and mailing an Oklahoma Voter Registration Application form in time for it to be postmarked no later than midnight Oct. 9.

Voter registration applications are available at the election board office in the Professional Building, 410 Fourth St., Suite C, and at most post offices, tag agencies, and public libraries in the county.

Applications are also available at <http://www.elections.ok.gov>.

Thinking of Moving??
Think Hi-Lo Apartments, LLC

1 & 2 bedrooms
Within walking distance of campus
School semester leases
Laundromat on site

Sorry, no pets and no smoking in apartments.

Alva State Bank & Trust Company
Older than Oklahoma

Alva Main Office
518 College Ave.
Alva, Ok 73717
580-327-3300

Burlington Branch
PO Box 80
Burlington, Ok 73722
580-431-3300

Enid-Chisholm Branch
801 W. Broadway
Enid, Ok 73701
580-234-4201

First State Bank of Kiowa Branch
546 Main St.
Kiowa, Ks 67070
620-825-4147

Bank of Freedom Branch
1085 Main St.
Freedom, Ok 73842
580-621-3276

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation 1-800-259-2582

Hello, Fall!

HOLDER DRUG

Hallmark 513 Barnes Alva, Ok 73717

580.327.3332
1.800.458.5349
Fax: 327.1848

Students collecting donations for Campus Cabinet

By **KAYLEA BROWN**
Student Reporter

A donation drive benefitting the Campus Cabinet Food Pantry is taking place from Sept. 21 to Oct. 5 across the Northwestern campus in Alva.

The drive came out of an idea for a coronavirus-safe community service project assignment for Kaylyn Hansen's habitudes class.

While students are unable to enter nursing homes and elementary schools, a drive accepting both food and hygiene products is a safe way to give back to an organization that helps the school, event organizers said.

The group consists of four students: Whitney Blanchard, Kaylin Blatchford, Kaylea Brown and Lizzy Webster.

They said it is important that the Campus Cabinet receives donations so that it can continue to assist NWOSU students and employees.

In preparation for the drive, the girls have been reaching out to businesses in and around Alva, talking to their teachers, creating posters to hang up around campus and designing informational graphics for social media.

In addition to getting the essentials of the drive ready, they also came up with a way to build incentive for students in Ranger



Photo provided

Northwestern students Lizzy Webster, Whitney Blanchard, Kaylin Blatchford and Kaylea Brown are collecting donations for the Campus Cabinet.

Connection classes.

The class with the most donations will get either pizza or donuts for winning the competition.

The Campus Cabinet is available for NWOSU employees and students who are in need of assis-

tance.

At this time, it is in need of many different food and hygiene items, officials said.

The items the cabinet needs the most are twin (XL) sheets.

Other items are desperately

needed as well, officials said.

No donation is too small for an organization that assists students and employees of NWOSU as much as the Campus Cabinet does, officials said.

Donation drop-off locations are

in many places across campus, including the entrance to the library and all of the residence halls.

Event organizers said they are encouraging students to donate supplies if they are able to do so.